

[This question paper contains 6 printed pages.

2662

Your Roll No.

B.A. (Programme) / I

D-II

ENGLISH DISCIPLINE : Paper I

(Individual and Society, An Anthology)

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 100

*(Write your Roll No. on the top immediately
on receipt of this question paper.)*

Attempt All questions.

1. (A) Read the given passage and answer the questions
that follow : (20)

(a) This is not a tale of innocence lost but power
gained : I would not be Sisyphus,
There were things that I should learn to break.

(i) Name the poem and the poet, and explain
the context of these lines. (5)

(ii) Explain "I would not be Sisyphus."
(7)

P.T.O.

- (iii) "There were things that I should learn to break." Elaborate the line as the central idea of the poem. (8)

OR

- (b) Pyarimohan was much disturbed by this news. If women began to read and write, novels and plays would soon make their way into the home and it would be hard to uphold the household virtues. Moreover, he had, by special reflection, evolved an exceedingly subtle theory. He said that the power of the female and the power of the male together produced the sacred power of the conjugal relationship; but if the power of the female was vanquished through education and study, the power of the male alone would be paramount. Then male power would clash with male power to produce so terrible a destructive energy that the power of the conjugal bond would be completely destroyed, and so the woman would become a widow.

- (i) Identify the story and its writer, and explain the context. (5)

(ii) Why was Pyarimohan disturbed? Why was he more concerned about 'the household virtues' rather than appreciating women's participation in reading and writing? (7)

(iii) What is the significance of the 'subtle theory' evolved by Pyarimohan? Do you think this theory is an attempt to suppress the voice of a woman? (8)

(B) Read the passage and answer the questions that follow: (20)

(a) We were shouting slogans as we marched: hoary Gandhian staples of peace and brotherhood from half a century before. Then, suddenly, we were confronted with a starkly familiar spectacle, an image of twentieth-century urban horror: burned-out cars, their ransacked interiors visible through smashed windows; debris and rubble everywhere. Blackened pots had been strewn along the street. A cinema had been gutted, and the charred faces of film stars stared out at us from half-burned posters.

- (i) Identify the passage, name its author and explain the context. (5)
- (ii) Do you think that the 'Gandhian staples of peace and brotherhood' become irrelevant in a riot situation? How does the narrator position himself in such a situation? (7)
- (iii) Discuss the implication of 'an image of twentieth-century urban horror' portrayed in the passage. (8)

OR

(b) The last days of war are always the most fearful. They are dangerous and unpredictable. During those days, men are tempted to use weapons that are only meant to threaten. It doesn't matter then if a city like Hiroshima burns; at least the fighting comes to an end. The victors are satisfied; the defeated are lost in their sorrow. At Kurukshetra, it was Ashwatthama who acted foolishly and used the Brahmastra.

- (i) Identify the passage, name its author and explain the context. (5)

- (ii) Explain the reference to Hiroshima and Kurukshetra. (7)
- (iii) Write a paragraph on war psyche as mentioned in the passage. (8)

2. Wole Soyinka's "Telephone Conversation" is an unusual conversation or even a serious dialogue between a landlady and her tenant. Explain the poem as protest against colour prejudice and a critique of racism. (20)

OR

Analyze the ways in which race, class and gender affect the balance of power between the two people in the story "Blackout". Illustrate from the text.

3. Does Premchand's story "Deliverance" bear out the truth of Jotirao Phule's claim that Sudras are mentally enslaved by caste system? (20)

OR

Compare and contrast Mumani's behavior towards Kallu, the servant boy and Kalim Saheb, the deputy collector in Ismat Chughtai's "Kallu". Does this reflect a positive social change or merely her own change of heart?

P.T.O.

Analyze the cultural and generational gaps in Indian immigrants as depicted in Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's "Indian Movie, New Jersey". (20)

OR

What analysis does Barthes make of French toys in his essay "Toys".