

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2019
ENGLISH AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS
THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : ALLIED CORE
PAPER : LITERATURE AND IDEAS
TIME : 3 HOURS
MAX. MARKS: 100

SECTION A

I. Write short essays for any five of the following questions in about 150 words each.
(5x4 = 20 marks)

1. “Man is born free, but he is everywhere in chains.” Elucidate this idea with reference to the text *The Social Contract*.
2. Differentiate between a synthetic judgment and a priori judgment.
3. Define phenomenology as perceived by Hegel.
4. Why does Marx consider art and literature as the superstructure of any society?
5. Establish Schopenhauer as an existentialist thinker.
6. Discuss the paradox of freedom that Sartre explains in his text.
7. How according to bell hooks can feminism be a movement to end sexist oppression?

SECTION B

II. Answer any four questions in about 650 words each. (4x15= 60 marks)

8. Justify the statement “Consciousness is not a completed institution, it is constructed, transformed to become other than itself.”
9. What characteristics of *The Prelude* show that it is correctly classified in the Romantic period of English literature?
10. Differentiate id, ego and superego according to Freudian thought.
11. “Tiger Psalm” is a celebration of the violence of the natural world juxtaposed with modern human warfare.
12. The main thematic conflict in *Hard Times* is between utilitarianism and humanism. Substantiate.
13. Explain the metaphor of the ‘marsh’ and its relevance to the dying languages as used by Atwood.

SECTION C

III. Analyse the following passage with relevant ideas and concepts. (1x20=20 marks)

Under certain circumstance there are few hours in life more agreeable than the hour dedicated to the ceremony known as afternoon tea. There are circumstances in which, whether you partake of the tea or not – some people of course never do, -- the situation is in itself delightful. Those that I have in mind in beginning to unfold this simple history offered

an admirable setting to an innocent pastime. The implements of the little feast had been disposed upon the lawn of an old English country-house, in what I should call the perfect fiddle of a splendid summer afternoon. Part of the afternoon had waned, but much of it was left, and what was left was of the finest and rarest quality. Real dusk would not arrive for many hours; but the flood of summer light had begun to ebb, the air had grown mellow, the shadows were long upon the smooth, dense turf. They lengthened slowly, however, and the scene expressed that sense of leisure still to come which is perhaps the chief source of one's enjoyment of such a scene at such an hour. From five o'clock to eight is on certain occasions a little eternity; but on such an occasion as this the interval could be only an eternity of pleasure. The persons concerned in it were taking their pleasure quietly, and they were not of the sex which is supposed to furnish the regular votaries of the ceremony I have mentioned. The shadows on the perfect lawn were straight and angular; they were the shadows of an old man sitting in a deep wicker-chair near the low table on which the tea had been served, and of two younger men strolling to and fro, in desultory talk, in front of him.

The old man had his cup in his hand; it was an unusually large cup, of a different pattern from the rest of the set and painted in brilliant colours. He disposed of its contents with much circumspection, holding it for a long time close to his chin, with his face turned to the house. His companions had either finished their tea or were indifferent to their privilege; they smoked cigarettes as they continued to stroll. One of them, from time to time, as he passed, looked with a certain attention at the elder man, who, unconscious of observation, rested his eyes upon the rich red front of his dwelling. The house that rose beyond the lawn was a structure to repay such consideration and was the most characteristic object in the peculiarly English picture I have attempted to sketch.

It stood upon a low hill, above the river – the river being the Thames at some forty miles from London. A long gabled front of red brick, with the complexion of which time and the weather had played all sort of pictorial tricks, only, however, to improve and refine it presented to the lawn its patches of ivy, its clustered chimneys, its windows smothered in creepers.
