

B.A./ B.Sc./B.Com. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2008
FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE : FOUNDATION CORE
PAPER : ADVANCED READING SKILLS
TIME : 2 HOURS
MAX. MARKS : 50

SECTION A

I Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: (30 marks)

THE ANGLO-INDIANS

By Irwin Allan Sealy

1. The Anglo-Indians are the first modern Indians. Before the Victorian Hindu renaissance, before the Nawabi itch for things European, before the Frankish musings of the Great Mogul, there appears this already committed community of Westerisers who will speak the father's tongue, yet eat the mother's salt. The first mother must have felt this alien child move in her and wondered at the future she contained: would the child look like her, she must have asked, or like the father, that pale ravisher unlike any she had known. Or might it be a mixture of the two, or something else again?
2. The first births across the country would have been fraught, by novel events. As the novelty wore off, practicalities would have arisen: who would pay for the child's keep? What would he war? Might the father be persuaded to acknowledge his child? If not to take it on, at least to take an interest in its progress? But very likely the father has disappeared, moved on with his regiment, or his ship, or his convoy, and every so often in the streets of any city there might appear this startling cuckoo, a fair skinned child in native clothes.
3. Let a generation pass by. During this time, such children would have been raised by the other if not taken on by an interested father. But lately, by an order of state, military orphanages have been instituted that take in such off spring regardless of their colour. Here the children are raised and taught by the East India Company. They eat with knives and forks, not always a diet the father or mother would approve; they wear hats. They study and play and quarrel in the foreign tongue. There is no record of their dreams but we might fairly guess that whatever their imagery, they are already in English.
4. Now let seven years pass. The child who was brought in is educated and ready to step out into the world. If it is a young man he will very likely become what is known as a writer, or as we would say today a clerk, keeping books for the Company. But he could just as easily be an outdoorsman, become a soldier or a surveyor in the same honorable service. A young woman of marriageable age will immediately find a husband from among the European community where there is no shortage of reluctant bachelors. A European complexion would be an asset, but a dark skin would not necessarily be a liability, for she would meet all the other expectations of language, religion, customs and habits of a prospective husband. It would of course be tempting for her to reach as high as she could among her suitors and this might see her absorbed into European society without a trace of her origins. It would be harder for

the male, especially the dark skinned male, to compete, in spite of his hat. But the school leaver might equally marry for love, one of his or her own kind, and set up home in the European manner. In this way a new community, next to but apart from the Europeans takes shape. In the early years, they were called the East Indians.

5. The East Indians, by virtue of their colour spectrum, merge with the Europeans at the fair end of the scale and with their own darks at the other end. Even when the fair got to the fair and the dark to the dark, such is the nature of genes that neither can be at all certain of the colour of their progeny. But already by the middle of the eighteenth century, the great majority are marrying among themselves without the slightest thought for the colour of their offspring. This is in itself a trait so modern that most other Indians have still to acquire it in the twenty-first century.
6. It is not only modern trait. Unlike the great mass of their countrymen, the new community expect and offer no dowry; they do not favour sons or lament daughters or stigmatise widows. They are largely educated, to varying degrees and effect, and unless destitute, are imbued with civic notions well beyond the mainstream.

1. Why does Allan Sealy call the Anglo-Indians the “first modern Indians”? What are the attributes of modernity that he identifies with the Anglo-Indian community? (5)
2. What do you think is Allan Sealy’s tone when he speaks of the ‘modernity’ of the Anglo-Indians? In what words or phrases does the tone emerge? (5)
3. What is the effect of the use of questions in the first two paragraphs? Why do you think there are no questions in the subsequent paragraphs? (3)
4. In the context of the passage, explain the italicized phrases / words in any three of the following: (3x3=9)
 - a) “speak the father’s tongue and yet eat the mother’s salt”
 - b) “it would be harder... for the dark skinned male, to compete, in spite of his hat”
 - c) “there might appear this startling cuckoo, a fair-skinned child in native clothes”
 - d) “whatever their imagery, they are already in English”
5. What is / are the tense / tenses used from paragraphs I to IV? What is the effect of the use of this tense? (4)
6. Which of the following adjectives do you think best describes the way in which Allan Sealy treats his subject? Explain why you think so. (4)
 - a) historical
 - b) personal
 - c) expository
 - d) argumentative

SECTION B

Given below are two bar diagrams related to sales percentage and amount spent on advertising for six companies – X, Y, Z, A, B and C for three years. Answer the questions that follow the diagrams. (20 marks)

1. Which companies have shown the greatest increase in sales form 2005 to 2006? How would you describe these companies' growth from 2006 to 2007? (2)
2. The sales of which company have declined most form 2006 to 2007? (1)
3. Which company has most significantly increased money spent on advertising from 2006 to 2007? Which company has most significantly reduced the amount?
4. From the above two graphs, can you draw any conclusions regarding the relationship between advertising and sales? Assume that the effects of advertising can be seen the same year. Your answer should contain examples drawn from the graphs. (3)
5. What are the advantages and disadvantages of presenting the above data in the form of bar diagrams as against any other form of diagrammatic data representation? (2)
6. You are the sales manager of Company Z. Write a report asking for a change in the budget allocation for advertising. You should draw upon the statistics of at least three other companies in your report. (10)

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