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Reg. No.....

Name.....

C.B.C.S.S. DEGREE EXAMINATION, OCTOBER 2011

Third Semester

Common Course—English

REFLECTIONS ON INDIAN POLITY, SECULARISM AND SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

[For Model I B.A./B.Sc., Model II B.A./B.Sc./B.Com., and Model III B.A. English Literature and Communication Studies Programmes]

Time : Three Hours

Maximum Weightage : 25

Part A

Answer all questions from this part.

Each bunch of four questions carries a weight of 1, choose the correct answer from the following.

- I. 1 Why is a federal system of government suitable for a pluralistic society ?
 - (a) It ensures the participation of each group in the political process.
 - (b) It gives scope for the domination of one group over the others.
 - (c) The diverse groups in the society will have absolute freedom.
 - (d) The states have the freedom to secede from the Union.
- 2 Why was Gandhiji reluctant to preach his doctrines in the Western World ?
 - (a) His doctrines were so simple and they did not require preaching.
 - (b) The west would not, any way, understand his doctrines.
 - (c) The west already knew the principles, but would not follow them, being enslaved to things and not willing to take risks.
 - (d) Gandhiji was partial to the people of India.
- 3 What is the amusing spectacle mentioned in the poem "Exciting views".
 - (a) Sight of the boats lying nose down.
 - (b) Beauty of the backwaters.
 - (c) Dark human forms bathing and exerting in the murky pool.
 - (d) Calm night.
- 4 What should the British Government learn from history according to Gandhiji ?
 - (a) The rebellion of the people for legitimate demands is short-lived.
 - (b) The government cannot oppose the rebellion of the people for legitimate demands.
 - (c) Being aware that two government can tolerate open rebellion, Gandhiji gives his consent to the British Government to use force.
 - (d) Gandhiji expresses his regret at having instigated the Civil Disobedience Movement.

Turn over

- II. 5 Which of the following is not a characteristic quality of our species, as mentioned in "The Gandhian Way" ?
- (a) The power of self-sacrifice.
 - (b) Moral virtue and godliness.
 - (c) Non-attachment to the self.
 - (d) Political power.
- 6 What is usual about the behaviour of victims of accidents according to Sakina Beegum ?
- (a) They are violent.
 - (b) They prefer death to pain.
 - (c) They are extremely quiet.
 - (d) They are indifferent to how they are treated.
- 7 Which of the following is true about Indian nationalism ?
- (a) It is based on languages.
 - (b) It is based on ethnicity.
 - (c) One can be many things and one thing at the same time.
 - (d) It is based on religion.
- 8 Why did Amma refuse to go to Pakistan ?
- (a) She was worried about the uncertainty of settling in a new place.
 - (b) She did not believe in the reports of cheapness of essential goods in Pakistan.
 - (c) She did not want to be uprooted from the place where she gave birth to her children and where her husband was buried.
 - (d) She was senile.
- III. 9 Why does smoke emerge with the poet's sighs ?
- (a) because of her illness.
 - (b) it is symbolic of evil.
 - (c) because she is standing in the kitchen exposed to smoke.
 - (d) because she has smoked cigarettes.
- 10 Why are we unable to solve the problems which harm the biosphere and human life ?
- (a) because they are far too complex for us to solve easily.
 - (b) because we have not studied them in isolation in order to understand them properly.
 - (c) because a change in the perception of reality is required to solve them and that has not happened.
 - (d) because political leaders are unwilling to face them.

- 11 What does the poet mean by the "invisible snake" ?
- (a) the snake she encounters at home.
 - (b) the snake which may be lying hidden in the mango-grove.
 - (c) the wind felt on her legs.
 - (d) the green snakes seen in the lake.
- 12 Why did the shepherd boy shout H.N. Bahuguna as the author's taxi passed him ?
- (a) There was a meeting attended by H.N. Bahuguna.
 - (b) The boy mistook the author for a staunch supporter of H.N. Bahuguna.
 - (c) He was showing his dislike for the rich people coming from the plains.
 - (d) The boy was making collection for H.N. Bahuguna.

IV. 13 What made old Kos Koosh feel panicky ?

- (a) Sit-cum-to-has neglect.
 - (b) being left alone while the other's shifted.
 - (c) the absence of food.
 - (d) the feeling that he was close to death.
- 14 What does the poet mean by "the five-haired beard of wisdom" ?
- (a) the hair growing from the lower jaw of the fish.
 - (b) the poet is referring to the hair on his chin.
 - (c) The poet is referring to the five pieces of fish-line with the hooks which indicate the hard times the fish has been through and hence are signs of wisdom.
 - (d) The five pieces of fish-line refer to the poet's determined struggle to catch the fish.
- 15 What condition will Chief Seattle make if he accepts the President's offer ?
- (a) The white men should give to the Indians part of the profit they make on this land.
 - (b) They should treat the beasts of the land as brothers.
 - (c) They should not cut the land into pieces.
 - (d) They should not bring heavy machinery into his land.
- 16 Why did the poet choose to build the house on the sea coast ?
- (a) land was cheap there.
 - (b) he was looking for a safe hide-out.
 - (c) he wanted to be wholly surrounded by the elements.
 - (d) he was looking for a place where he would not be disturbed.

(4 × 1 = 4)

Turn over

Part B

Answer any five of the following, each in a sentence or two.

- 17 What according to Dr. Rajendra Prasad, is special about the choice of the official language?
- 18 In what sense is diversity healthy and desirable?
- 19 How did the carpenters make money after the death of Gauri?
- 20 What is the poet's attitude to religion and caste in the poem "Can You Make Out"?
- 21 What harm did the English do to India before leaving?
- 22 What is the Poet's attitude to the story about the origin of the Champak trees?
- 23 How does the cobra respond to the people worshipping it?
- 24 How apt is the image of the rotting apple to describe the world?

(5 × 1 = 5)

Part C

Answer any four of the following each in about 100 words.

- 25 Write a short note on the preamble to the Constitution of India.
- 26 How does Gandhiji combine in himself the virtues of the great souls?
- 27 How according to Gandhiji can religious harmony be re-established in India?
- 28 What is the role of Roshan in "smaller Gandhis"?
- 29 Write a short note on the Chipko Movement.
- 30 How does the poem "Can You Make Out" draw attention to the fact that our numerous superficial identities fade into insignificance in the face of death?

(4 × 2 = 8)

Part D

Answer any two of the following in about 200 words.

- 31 Give an account of Shashi Taroor's views on the pluralism of Indian Society.
- 32 Examine the questions of justice that the story "Brother Abdul Rahman" throws up.
- 33 How does Seattle establish the view that man's exploitation of nature will lead to the end of living and the beginning of survival?

(2 × 4 = 8)