

B.A.(Honours) / B.Mus.(Honours) Examination, 2016
Semester-I
Alternative English
Course – I

(For Regular and Back Candidates)

Time: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 40

Questions are value as indicated in the margin.

Answer *all* questions

Group-A

1. Write an essay on **any one** of the following topics: 10
 - (a) What Diwali Means to Me
 - (b) Cell Phones : Uses and Abuses
 - (c) My Favourite Movie
2. Write a précis of the following passage: 10

Live close to nature and your spirit will not be easily broken, for you learn something of patience and resilience. You will not grow restless, and you will never feel lonely.

My relationship with the natural world has sustained and inspired me over the years. It is a relationship that has grown stronger and more meaningful ever since I came to live in the hills half a century ago.

‘Is Nature your religion?’ someone asked me recently. It would be presumptuous to say so. Nature doesn’t promise you anything – an afterlife, rewards for good behaviour, protection from enemies, wealth, happiness, progeny, all the things that humans desire and pray for. No, Nature does not promise these things. Nature is a reward in itself. It is there, to be appreciated, to be understood, to be lived and loved. And in its way it gives us everything – the bounty and goodness of the earth, the sea, the sky. Food, water, the air we breathe. All the things we take for granted.

And sometimes when we take it too much for granted, or misuse its generosity, Nature turns against us and unleash forces that overwhelm us – earthquake, tidal wave, typhoon, flood, drought. But then it settles down again and resumes it generous ways.

For it is all about renewal-seasons and the weather, sunlight and darkness, the urgency of growth, the fertility of the seed and the egg. Governments rise and fall, machines rust away, great buildings crumble, but mountains still stand, rivers flow to the sea, and the earth is clothed with grass and nature.

P.T.O.

(2)

Group-B

Answer *any two* from the following questions

10×2=20

3. (a) Why do you think the speaker of 'Dream Deferred' answers questions with questions?
 - (b) Comment on the figure of the mother in the 'Night of the Scorpion'.
 - (c) What effect does the reaper's song have on the poet in 'The Solitary Reaper'?
 - (d) Is the kind of life portrayed in 'The Law of Life' too harsh in your opinion? Discuss.
 - (e) Critically comment on the central idea of Larkin's poem 'The Trees'.
 - (f) Why is 'The Eyes are not Here' titled so?
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