



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KHARAGPUR

End-Autumn Semester 2018-19

Date of Examination : _____ Session (FN/AN) _____ Duration 3 hrs Full Marks 50
Subject No. : HS00001 Subject : PREPARATORY ENGLISH
Department/Center/School : Humanities and Social Sciences
Specific charts, graph paper, log book etc., required : N.A.
Special Instructions (if any) : N.A.

Q.1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

(2+3=5 marks)

The present industrial age is steadily placing into our hands power and instruments which are expected to relieve us of mechanical drudgery and give us more time for cultural and artistic pursuits. Machines have undoubtedly lightened human toil but have also added somewhat to human misery. Modern industrialization based on a minute subdivision of labor has robbed the worker of the sense of beauty and craft. The craftsman has become a mechanic, a mere tool for the ends of greater production. The development of intelligence and character, which skillful creative work produces, is now sought in other activities. The workers seek their pleasure outside their work. They claim higher wages and more leisure with more opportunities for recreation and relaxation. But the leisure won after so much effort is wasted in costly amusements. Leisure is seldom used for the noble pursuits of the mind.

Besides, the industrial age has made us worshippers of wealth. In the social hierarchy, anyone who has the luck or the ability to make money occupies a high place. Before the Industrial Revolution, we had different standards of social valuation. Saints, men of learning, poets and philosophers were at the top of the social scale. The days when human values like honesty, sympathy, understanding, justice and service were considered the most desirable qualities in man are over. Money-making has become one of the most popular industries of the modern world, and material progress has resulted in the creation of new wants. The consumer's appetite grows by what it feeds on. To want more and to get more is the way of material progress. By means of this exciting competition we are concealing from ourselves the barrenness of life.

The most serious consequence of the industrial movement is the degradation of the values of the home. We see it in many western countries. Parents pursue their own pleasures with little consideration of their duties to their children. The poverty of an empty life drives the children into undesirable channels. Unless some corrective measures are adopted to reverse this trend, we may see, in the not so distant future, a total disintegration of the family.

- (a) Suggest a suitable title to the passage.
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 150 words.

Q. 2. After graduating you are applying for a job. Prepare a CV which you intend to send for the job. (5 marks)

Q.3. Answer two questions out of 4. Answer each question in 350 words. (10X2=20 Marks)

A. Nations are not independent entities; their fate is determined by external agencies. Do you agree? Answer with reference to Amitav Ghosh's "In an Antique Land"

B. The progress of our nation will depend on how effectively we toy with the symbols we use to express it. India in that sense is "In an Antique Land" frozen in time. Justify the title of Ghosh's fiction in the light of these two statements

C. The essence of our nation lies in how we market it! Justify with reference to Ghosh's "In an Antique Land"

D. The writer Amitav Ghosh positions grownups as "political entities" at odds with our world meant for children and animals. Explain with reference to Ghosh's "In an Antique Land"

Q 4. Correct the prepositions in the following sentences: (10 marks)

- a. I looked on my roof.
- b. She looked under the hill.
- c. I leaned with the window.
- d. We went beside the car.
- e. We ran over the bushes.
- f. We walked into the stairs.
- g. My friend took a walk beneath the block.
- h. She is out trouble with her parents.
- i. The man sat into top of the historic rock.
- j. The football was just into of reach from the boy.

Q.5. Fill in the blanks with appropriate verb forms: (10 marks)

- a. We _____ them at a restaurant last week (meet).
- b. I _____ the contents of the contract tomorrow (read).
- c. Where _____ your last holidays? (you spend)
- d. He _____ a glass on the floor (just throw).
- e. In the past two years she _____ a very nice person (become).
- f. He _____ his homework. He can go out now. (just do)
- g. Our cows _____ more milk recently (give).
- h. It was hot yesterday. The children _____ swimming. (go)
- i. Since his departure to France I _____ any news from him (not hear).
- j. The ball _____ me on the head and I went to the ground (hit).