

R.M.

**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**IIT Kharagpur**  
End-semester examination, Spring 2016  
**Indian Society, Literature and Culture (HS30040)**

Students: 42;

Time: 3 hours;

Marks: 50

**Attempt all the questions**

- I. A. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow: 1x5 = 5

It's dark, pitch-black.  
One hand cannot see the other;  
still, things are visible,  
strangely, clearly:

The growing mob of murderers,  
with prying and preying eyes,  
sharp, piercing weapons in hands  
and their cheeky outfits;  
their zeal to kill, spill, not spare,  
their measured steps,  
and motivated moves.

Tools, plans, or eyes;  
no, we have none  
to dismantle darkness.  
Still, somehow,  
we can see clearly.  
It is strange that  
even in pitch-black darkness,  
we can see things clearly  
like a scene in a play  
on a dim-lit stage.

Our souls emit no light,  
our conscience, no radiance:  
Oh, we are living in strange times;  
and with no light of hope  
anywhere around,  
we are lost totally  
in the thick pool of darkness.

But at the same time,  
we can clearly see  
what's happening around:  
Could there be light  
even in times of darkness?

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1. The overall tone of the poem is that of:
  - a. Pessimism
  - b. Nihilism
  - c. Dogmatism
  - d. Optimism
  
2. Identify the figure of speech here: "like a scene in a play..."
  - a. Metaphor
  - b. Simile
  - c. Onomatopoeia
  - d. Oxymoron
  
3. "our souls emit no light" suggests:
  - a. No guidance available
  - b. Souls are dark
  - c. Time to meditate
  - d. No courage to fight
  
4. 'prying' in stanza 2 means:
  - a. Hunting
  - b. Chasing
  - c. Probing
  - d. Daring
  
5. Identify the figure of speech here: "...zeal to kill, spill..."
  - a. Onomatopoeia
  - b. Oxymoron
  - c. Alliteration
  - d. Irony

**B.** Write a short critical appreciation of the untitled poem given above in not more than 100 words: 5x1=5

II. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in not more than 300 words each: 20x2=40

1. What picture of Indian society and caste discrimination do you get after watching the documentary 'India Untouched'?
  
2. How does Bakha try to overcome the oppression unleashed on him by the caste Hindus in the novel by Mulk Raj Anand?
  
3. In the context of the poem, "The Submerging Town" by Mishra and the article, "The Road to Harsud" by Roy, comment on the notion of development through displacement.