

Mid-Semester Examination, Autumn 2015-16
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kharagpur

Subject: Preparatory English (HS50001)

Full marks: 50
Students: 37

Q. 1. Answer the following questions. (2x12.5=25 marks)

(A) Why and in what context does P Lankesh say that 'poetry is...sparrow's nest'?

(B) Searching for God leads Gautama to reach people; and, in it, is the story of Siddhartha becoming the Buddha. Comment.

Q. 2 Write the main idea of the passage in about 30 words. (5 marks)

There are hundreds of superstitions which survive in various parts of the country, and the story of them is rather amusing. We are told, for example, that it is unlucky to point to the new moon or to look at it through glass, but if we bow nine times to it we shall have a lucky month.

Now suppose you tell a scientist that you believe a certain superstition – let us say that the howling of a dog is a sign of death. The scientist will immediately require evidence before he can accept your belief. He will want figures to prove it. It will be useless to quote two or three cases; he will want hundreds. Moreover, he will want to know (a) if it ever happens that the howling of dogs is not followed by a death, (b) if ever a person's death is predicted by the howling of dogs. The answer to the former question is in affirmative, and to the latter in the negative. Your superstition will not bear investigation. It may impress an ignorant person, but it cannot face the light of facts. Your case would not carry conviction in a court of law.

Apart from this process of testing by results, any intelligent man will want to know the 'reason why'. What connection can there be between a howling dog and an approaching death? Can it be that the dog has a gift of foreseeing such events? Or is the dog the instrument employed by some uncanny power that moves invisibly in our midst?

Q.3. Add a tag question to each statement below. (10 marks)

- (i) A spirit of unrest was in the air.
- (ii) Suspicion always haunts the mind of a person who is guilty.
- (iii) He will achieve everything if he works hard.
- (iv) He confessed that he was guilty.
- (v) They never speak their thoughts.
- (vi) While there is life there is hope.

- (vii) He has acted admirably.
- (viii) The source of the river was difficult to discover.
- (ix) He could clearly remember the incidents.
- (x) You won't go out in the night.

Q. 4. Identify the auxiliary element(s) and the main verb in each sentence. Write them in their proper order. The first sentence has been done for you. (10 marks)

- (i) The bus fell into the river. (Past tense + fall as the main verb)
- (ii) The thief has been caught.
- (iii) They disappeared immediately after the event.
- (iv) None can do this for a long time.
- (v) They will be arriving shortly.
- (vi) He might have been interested in the work.