

**THE UNIVERSITY OF BURDWAN**  
**M. A. Part I Examination 2020 (DDE)**  
**SUBJECT: ENGLISH**  
**PAPER IV**  
**(Non-Fictional Prose)**

**Time: 2 hours**

**Full marks: 40**

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.*

*Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.*

1. Answer *any three* of the following: 3X10=30

- a. Explain how Hazlitt, by providing suitable examples, defines the concept of gusto in his essay "On Gusto".

Or

"... there is nothing so very blessed in merely doing as one likes, that the worship of the mere freedom to do as one likes is worship of machinery..." Elucidate Arnold's idea of "doing as one likes" in the context of the above statement.

- b. How does George Orwell substantiate his claim that the English language has declined? Discuss with suitable references to the essay "Politics and the English Language".

Or

Why does Aldous Huxley consider Homer and Fielding as writers who "preferred to tell the Whole Truth"? Explain with reference to the essay, "Tragedy and the Whole Truth".

- c. Elucidate Virginia Woolf's views on James Joyce in the essay "Modern Fiction".

Or

Comment on the theme of "breakdown" that Doris Lessing discusses in "Preface to the Golden Notebook".

- d. In "Free Thought and Official Propaganda", Russell's political philosophy is rooted in democratic values. Discuss.

Or

Discuss E. M. Forster's 'What I Believe' as a defence of democracy and secular values.

- e. What, according to Nirad C. Chaudhuri, are the aspects and stages of political decadence in India? Explain with reference to the essay by Nirad C. Chaudhuri in your syllabus.

Or

Critically analyse R. K. Narayan's discussion on censorship of writings and writers in 'A Writer's Nightmare'.

- f. Explain Meenakshi Mukherjee's analyses of Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* and Ghosh's *Shadow Lines* in her essay, "The Anxiety of Indianness".

2. Answer **any two** of the following: 2X5=10

- a. In what context does Hazlitt refer to Michael Angelo in the essay, "On Gusto"?

Or

Explain briefly Arnold's definition of culture in "Doing as One Likes".

- b. Discuss briefly, with suitable examples from "Politics and the English Language", Orwell's notion of dying metaphor.
- c. In what context does Virginia Woolf use the word "materialists" in "Modern Fiction"?

Or

Explain briefly the following statement by Doris Lessing: "We get used to what we have, and forget that the artist-as-exemplar is the new theme".

- d. Why does Russell plead for a scientific temper in the essay, "Free Thought and Official Propaganda"?
- e. Comment briefly on the ending of R.K. Narayan's essay, "A Writer's Nightmare".
-