

**BDP Term End Examination
December-2017 & June-2018**

Elective Course

ENGLISH

(Old Syllabus)

8th Paper

**Essay and unseen : EEG-8
(Enrolled up to July, 2014)**

Time : 4 Hours

Full Marks : 100

Weightage of Marks : 70%

**Special credit will be given for accuracy and relevance
in the answer. Marks will be deducted for incorrect
spelling, untidy work and illegible handwriting.
The weightage for each question has been
indicated in the margin.**

1. Write an essay on any *one* of the following topics : 40 × 1 = 40
- a) Women's Place in Indian Society
 - b) Nature in Romantic Poetry
 - c) The Power of Advertisements
 - d) Victorian England
 - e) Novel in the 20th century
 - f) Short story.

2. Write the substance of the following passage and add a critical note on its theme and prose style :

20 + 10 = 30

Culture, in human societies, has two main aspects ; an external, formal aspect and an inner ideological aspect. The external forms of culture, social or artistic, are merely an organized expression of its inner ideological aspect, and both are inherent components of a given social structure. When this structure is changed or modified they also help and influence such changes in their parent organisms. Cultural problems, therefore cannot be studied or understood or solved in isolation from social problems *i.e.* problems of political and economic relationships. The cultural problems of the underdeveloped countries, therefore, have to be understood and solved in the light of larger perspective, in the context of underlying social problems. Very broadly speaking these problems are primarily the problems of underlying social growth ; they originate primarily from long years

of imperialist-colonialist domination and the remnants of a backward outmoded social structure. This should not require much elaboration. This is seen in the European Imperialism caught up with the countries like Asia, Africa or Latin America between sixteenth to nineteenth centuries. Some of them are fairly developed feudal societies with ancient traditions of advanced feudal culture. Others had yet to progress beyond primitive pastoral tribalism. Social and cultural development was frozen at the point of their political subjugation and remained frozen until the coming of political independence. The culture of these ancient feudal societies, in spite of much technical and intellectual excellence, was restricted to a small privileged class and rarely intermingled with the parallel unsophisticated folk culture of the general masses. Primitive tribal culture, in spite of its child like beauty, had little intellectual content. Both feudal and tribal societies living contagiously in the same homelands were

constantly engaged in tribal, racial and religious or other feuds with their tribal and feudal rivals. Colonialist-imperialist domination accentuated this dual fragmentation, the vertical division among different tribal and national groups, the horizontal division among different classes within the same tribal or national groups. This is the basic ground structure, social and cultural, bequeathed to the newly liberated countries by their former overlords.

3. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below :

The story of Robinson Crusoe, few people know, is based on a real life incident. The son of a cobbler, Alexander Selkirk was a wayward young man, with little respect for authority. Abject conditions at sea and the cruelty of the captains made sailors miserable in those days. It was not surprising that Alexander became rebellious and malevolent when he became a sailor.

In 1704, he was sailing Master on a ship ; when it anchored for repairs near the desolate island of Juan Fernandez about 650 kilometres west of

Chile. They were looking for gold which they often got by plundering other ships. In the days that followed Alexander hatched a conspiracy. He instigated the other sailors to leave the ship and remain on the island. They would declare a mutiny. Perhaps, Alexander reasoned, that the Captain would accept their demands if he believed that his men would refuse to sail otherwise. Unfortunately for Alexander, the crew played the Judas. The Captain getting to know of Alexander's part in the mutiny, left him behind on the island as he was a bad influence on the men. He was provided with a few necessities, among them a copy of the Bible.

Alexander, marooned on an island populated only by mild cats and goats became adept at hunting and his food soon comprised of fish, turtles and meat. He also made clothes with goat skin. Although a cobbler's son he could not make shoes. Running barefoot after goats had hardened the soles of his feet. He read the Bible again and again and slowly took to reading it aloud. He spoke and sang to the cats and learnt to milk goats.

Once, during his stay on the island, a Spanish ship anchored near the island and the crew rowed in. Alexander was petrified and hid in the thick foliage. In those days Spain and England were at daggers drawn. Fortunately the Spanish left after a brief fest.

In February, 1709, two English ships sailed in to collect fresh water and shoot goats. Alexander rushed to them for succour. He looked strange with his unkempt hair, beard and goat skin clothes. His rescuers understood him with great difficulty. His speech had changed a great deal. His vocabulary had shrunk and he had to grope for words. They did however manage to understand his story finally.

Alexander took a job as a sailor on one of the ships and reached London in 1711. He returned home with a large fortune. However he ran out of his fortune in two years and had to return to sea. Alexander's adventure became well-known.

Eight years later, Daniel Defoe gave the story a new shape with many twists, calling it *The Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*. It was now the story of a man who was shipwrecked on an island and lived alone for an unbelievable twenty eight years.

Questions : 6 × 5 = 30

- a) Give the meaning of each of the following words as used in the passage : (2 × 3)
- i) instigated
 - ii) marooned
 - iii) unkempt.
- b) Why did Alexander become reckless and malevolent when he became a sailor ? 6
- c) What was the conspiracy that Alexander hatched ? Why did he do so ? 6
- d) How did the crew play the Judas ? 6
- e) Mention two points of difference between Alexander's actual story and Defoe's version. 6
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