

PRESIDENCY UNIVERSITY, KOLKATA

**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
ADMISSION TEST 2012**

MODEL QUESTION PAPER

Write Question Nos. 1, 2 & 3 either in English or in Bengali, and Question No. 4 only in English.

1. Write a précis of the following passage :

The state must play a moral as well as an economic role; and the alleviation of the malaise of the modern world must be sought in measure which are in general moral rather than economic. The dominant position of the authority of religion in former types of society provided all strata with a horizon for their aspirations, counselling the poor to accept their lot and instructing the rich in their duty to care for the less privileged. While this order was repressive, containing human actions and potentialities within narrow bounds, it nevertheless gave a firm moral unity to society. The characteristic problem facing the modern age is to reconcile the individual freedoms which have sprung from the dissolution of traditional society with the maintenance of the moral control upon which the very existence of society depends.

The existence of authority as such cannot be taken as the only criterion for indicating the presence of political organization. A kinship group, for instance, while it might have a definite individual or group in authority, such as a patriarch or a council of elders, is not thereby a political society. The development of fixed and clearly demarcated territories is a late occurrence in history. While it is characteristic of advanced societies, it cannot be taken of essential importance in defining whether or not a society is a political society. This would be to deny any political character to the great nomadic societies whose structure was sometimes very elaborate. Conversely families have often possessed strictly demarcated territories of their own. (25 Marks)

2. Read the following passage and give answer to the questions below :

‘ The characterization of people as wild has in most western thought been about placing them before or outside civilization. Wild peoples were everywhere. They were the women, lower classes, and crowds in western societies. They were repressed selves within every civilized person. And most of all ... they were savages, primitives and barbarians or natural men of non-western societies.’

- a) Who are wild people?
b) Are they uncivilized?
c) Do you agree that civilization cannot attain unity with wildness?
(25 Marks)

3. Match the pairs and make two columns. Write a short note on any one of the pairs.

A

B

Helen

Bharatmata

Abanindranath Tagore

The Last Supper

Sri Aurobindo

The Wings of Fire

Leonardo da Vinci

Cleopatra

A.P.J Abdul Kalam

Savitri

(25 Marks)

4. 'Man's increasing power of construction has been closely paralalled by the growth of his power of destruction .' – Discuss. (25 Marks)