

PRSIDENCY UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
ADMISSION TEST
FIRST YEAR HISTORY HONOURS, 2012-13

Sample Question Paper

Total Marks: 100

Instructions

1. *Answer Question number 1, in English only; other Questions can be answered either in English or in Bengali.*
2. *Do not put any identification mark on your answer sheets.*
3. *Use separate sheet for each Questions.*

1. “Why do some women in India reach the pinnacles of public power and recognition, why women in general have kept out of large areas of public life?” (Ashis Nandy, quoted in Nita Kumar ed. *Women as Subjects*) Discuss. 25 Marks
2. “Now, to understand what I have been trying to do, in my small way, I will take you, in imagination, to India. ...I will at least try to give you a little picture of what India is like. It is like a gigantic building all tumbled down in ruins. At first sight, then, there is little hope. It is a nation gone and ruined. But you wait and study, then you see something beyond that. The truth is that so long as the principle, the ideal, of which the outer ma is the expression, is not hurt or destroyed, the man lives, and there is hope for that man. If your coat is stolen twenty times, that is no reason why you should be destroyed. You can get a new coat. The coat is unessential. The fact that a rich man is robbed does not hurt the vitality of the man.... The man will survive. Standing on this principle, we look in and we see – what, India is no longer a political power; it is an enslaved race. Indians have no say, no voice in their own government; they are three hundred millions of slaves –nothing more! The average income of a man in India is two shillings a month. The common state of the vast mass of the people is starvation, so that, with least decrease in income, millions die. A little famine means death. So there, too, when I look on that side of India I see ruin –hopeless ruin. But we find that the Indian race never stood for wealth, although they acquired immense wealth, perhaps

more than any other nation ever acquired, yet the nation did not stand for wealth. It was a powerful race for ages, yet we find that the nation never stood for power, never went out of the country to conquer. Quite content with their own boundaries, they never fought anybody. The Indian nation never stood for imperial glory. Wealth and power, then, were not the ideals of the race. What then? Whether they were in wrong or right –that is not the question we discuss – that nation, among all the children of men, has believed, and believed intensely, that this life is not real. The real is God; and they must cling to that God through thick and thin. In the midst of their degradation, religion came first.... Each nation has a mission for the world. So long as that mission is not hurt, that nation lives, despite every difficulty. But as soon as its mission is destroyed, the nation collapses.” (Swami Vivekananda, *My Life and Mission*, delivered at the Shakespeare Club of Pasadena, California, January 27, 1900)

- a) What is the picture of India depicted by Swami Vivekananda? 15Marks
 - b) What does Vivekananda mean by the word ‘coat’? 10 Marks
3. Write an imaginary dialogue between a person trapped in the recent tsunami in Japan and foreign correspondent who came to report on the situation. 25 Marks

OR

Visuals from colonial or contemporary history to be contextualized and explained.

25 Marks



4. Indicate the meaning of the two words given in each pair. Write a short note on any of these. 20+5 Marks

- a) Comity and committee
- b) Hegemony and power
- c) Sex and gender
- d) Restoration and renovation
- e) Classic and classical
- f) Autocratic and tyrannical
- g) Bloc and block
- h) Invention and discovery
- i) Stationary and stationery
- j) Boundary and frontier.