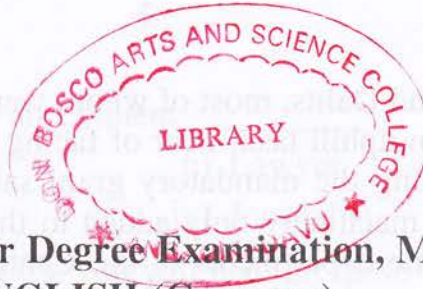




Reg. No. :

Name :



Second Semester Degree Examination, May 2010

ENGLISH (Common)

**Course No. 2 : 2A03 ENG : Readings on Indian Constitution, Secularism
and Environment**

Time : 3 Hours

Max. Weightage : 30

I. Answer **any one** of the following in about **200** words :

- 1) What do you think of the discrimination suffered by Kumud Pawde in her early life ?
- 2) What is Meena Alexander trying to convey through Meera ? (1×4=4)

II. Answer **any one** of the following in about **200** words :

- 3) What idea of the Constitution, Centre and States do you get from Palkhivala's speech ?
- 4) What is the significance of Green School Contest ? (1×4=4)

III. Attempt **any one** of the following in about **200** words :

5) Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper on the large-scale, indiscriminate sand mining from the river beds in your area.

6) Analyse the passage given below :

A large number of elected Dalit and women panchayat presidents suffered humiliation at the hands of the vice-presidents and co-members and even government officials. In many cases it was found that the Dalit presidents had to take orders from caste-Hindu leaders and that a substantial number of women presidents were proxies for their husbands or other men of their families. The provision in the Act that the president and the vice-president should sign cheques jointly was often used by the vice-presidents to put pressure on the presidents. In fact, in 1997, caste-Hindu hostility led to the massacre of six Dalits including Murugesan, president of the Melavalavu village panchayat in Madurai district (*Frontline*, July 25, 1997). Caste-Hindu panchayat presidents who were sympathetic to Dalit causes were also not spared. One such panchayat chief was hacked to death in Coimbatore district (*Frontline*, April 12).



For rural women and Dalits, most of whom were elected to these posts for the first time, it was an uphill task. Fear of facing hostile people prevented them from even convening the mandatory gram sabha meetings. The police and the administrative machinery only added to their woes. The only redeeming factor was that some departments of the Central and State governments and numerous non-governmental and inter-governmental agencies, besides some political parties and Dalit/women's organisations, tried to help them, through workshops and training and capacity-building programs, to overcome the impediments.

Six years after the three-tier panchayati raj institutions were put in place and nearly a year after the second round of elections to them were held, the ground situation with regard to the empowerment of Dalits and women appears to be changing for the better, albeit slowly. This seems to be the case at least in the southern districts of Tirunelveli and Madurai, which constitute the epicentre of caste-based atrocities against Dalits. While it is true that elections could not be held in five villages in this region and the elected panchayat chiefs of two villages had to lay down office, a churning process is very much visible in a number of other villages. There is a perceptible rise in the level of Dalit assertion, many Dalit and women panchayat presidents today speak with greater confidence than was the case a few years ago, and they are more aware of their rights and responsibilities.

At the other end of the spectrum, people from the dominant caste-Hindu communities and from the village orthodoxy have also indicated a change in their mindset. They possibly realise that continued hostility will not help, and fear that their villages will be left out in the process of development, howsoever slow it may be.

(1×4=4)

IV. Answer **any four** of the following, **each** in a paragraph of about **80** words :

- 7) How does the poet frustrate the landlady in her game of racism ?
- 8) Patriarchal logic against women's education presented in 'The Exercise Book'.
- 9) The drowning incident described by Kottarathil Sankunni.
- 10) The early life of Medha Patkar.
- 11) What does Mahapatra convey through his poem ?

(4×2=8)

V. Answer **all** questions, in the **four** bunches choosing the correct answer from the options given against **each** :

- 12) a) Protection of life and personal liberty are ensured by _____
- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| i) Right to equality | ii) Cultural and Educational rights |
| iii) Right against exploitation | iv) Right to freedom |



- b) 'Ali Raja' is a distortion of _____
- i) Raja Mohammed Ali ii) Arakkal Raja
iii) Raja of Ali family iv) Ruler of the seas
- c) The Princess married a Muslim and embraced Islam because _____
- i) of forced conversion ii) resentment towards her family
iii) of strategic reasons iv) of her desire to uphold tradition
- d) _____ captured Maldives for the Kolathiri.
- i) Ali Moosa ii) Muhammed. Ali
iii) Aryankulangara Nayar iv) None of these
- 15) a) The criteria for development should be _____
- i) exploitation of nature ii) employment generation
iii) economic benefit iv) sustainability and justice
- b) In private schools, the main problem is the _____
- i) fixation over marks ii) discipline
iii) high fees iv) all these
- c) Baba Amte is _____
- i) The leader of Chipko movement ii) A journalist
iii) Gandhian human rights activist iv) Medha Patkar's disciple
- d) Ramanujan was enraged over the Champak tree because _____
- i) he was not a lover of nature
ii) Champak trees were useless
iii) the flowers smelt unpleasant
iv) the flowers gave his mother migraine. (4×1=4)

VI. Answer **any six** of the following, **each** in **two** or **three** sentences :

- 16) Why did Kamala Das say that she and her brother were neglected children ?
- 17) Which are the two temples described by Basavanna ?
- 18) Who is Uma ? What was her obsession ?
- 19) What was the World Bank's decision in the wake of NBA movement ?
- 20) What does Raju Solanki mean by the 'thorny weeds of hate grown in the garden of your mind' ?
- 21) Who were Arakkal Rajas ?
- 22) How does the society domesticate girls and introduced them to roles they are to perform in later life ? (6×1=6)