



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY

B.A./B.Com. Programme 3rd Semester Examination, 2020, held in 2021

ENGMCOR01T-ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH (MIL)

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 50

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.
Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.*

1. Comprehension:

Read the given passage and answer the questions given below:

Sequoyah was a young Cherokee Indian, son of a white trader and an Indian squaw. At an early age, he became fascinated by “the talking leaf,” an expression that he used to describe the white man’s written records. Although many believed this “talking leaf” to be a gift from the Great Spirit, Sequoyah refused to accept that theory. Like other Indians of the period, he was illiterate, but his determination to remedy the situation led to the invention of a unique eighty-six-character alphabet based on the sound patterns that he heard.

His family and friends thought he had become mad, but while recuperating from a hunting accident, he diligently and independently set out to create a form of communication for his own people as well as for other Indians. In 1821, after twelve years of work, he had successfully developed a written language that would enable thousands of Indians to read and write. Sequoyah’s desire to preserve words and events for later generations has caused him to be remembered among the important inventors. The giant redwood trees of California, called ‘sequoias’ in his honour, will further imprint his name in history.

- (a) Why would Sequoyah be remembered as an important inventor? 3
- (b) Mention the importance of “the talking leaf” in the young Cherokee Indian’s life. 3
- (c) Find words in the passage that mean: 5
- (i) Woman (ii) Enchanted (iii) Recovering (iv) Earnestly
- (v) Protect
- (d) State the antonym of *illiterate*. 1
- (e) What is the verb form of the word *inventor*? 1
- (f) Mention the noun form of *successfully*. 1

- (g) Make a sentence of your own with the word *imprint*. 1
2. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper, expressing your concern regarding the increasing stress level among the younger generation and some measures which can be adopted by the youth to overcome stress. 15
3. Write a precis of the passage given below and add a suitable title. 10
In Austen's *Mansfield Park*, Henry Crawford, who has, according to his sister, made most of the women that he has met fall in love with him, sets out to make the heroine of the novel, the shy, the retiring and the morally determined Fanny Price, follow this path. In many ways, we might judge Henry's decision to do this as actually worse than the act itself; he is simply bored in the country and decides that since he has nothing better to do, he will 'make Fanny Price fall in love with me'. In this decision, he establishes the beginning of a long trail of cold-hearted villains who embark on paths of crime or seduction in order to amuse themselves or to enlarge their own sense of capability. Equally, we might see Henry Crawford as the first of the great figures in fiction who troubled by *ennui*, turns to the corruption of virtue to offer some interest to the mind that is satiated by the boredom of the everyday and the familiar. Henry Crawford seeks 'sensation', that appeal of the unknown or the different, to the person whose life is little challenge, a way of life which is a defining characteristic for the lives of generations of those living in wealth and without need.
4. (a) Write a short story entitled "The Priceless Gift." 10
- OR**
- (b) Write a newspaper report on the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in your locality. 10

N.B. : *Students have to complete submission of their Answer Scripts through E-mail / Whatsapp to their own respective colleges on the same day / date of examination within 1 hour after end of exam. University / College authorities will not be held responsible for wrong submission (at in proper address). Students are strongly advised not to submit multiple copies of the same answer script.*

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