



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY
B.A./B.Com. Programme 3rd Semester Examination, 2022-23

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. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

Secularism is the very soul of Indian society and democracy. India has a tradition of co-existence, tolerance, cooperation and mutual respect between all its social and religious groups. Islam came to India with Muslim conquerors. A large number of natives turned Muslims over the period and presently they make up the second-largest community of our nation. The contribution of Islam to Indian culture and civilization has been spectacular. It added variety, colour and richness to native heritage. Islam enriched India with architectural wonders, the most precious being 'Tajmahal', the symbol of aesthetic India. Christianity had preceded Islam to India. St. Thomas, the disciple of Christ arrived in India to preach his message when St. Peter was in Rome. Parsis came to India in the 8th century to escape from religious persecution in Iran. They brought Zoroastrianism. Jews sailed to India 2000 years ago to settle down in Mumbai, Pune, Kochi and Delhi. Hinduism itself was a religious conglomeration of thousands of sects having distinct beliefs, rituals, customs and practices. Three nearly different religions branched out of it, namely, Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism having separate places of worship and holy books. In all, India remained a shining example of unity in diversity, nowhere else found in the world.

Honouring this eternal spirit of India, our Constitution makers declared our nation to be a secular state without any discrimination. Although the people of our country are deeply religious yet they don't harbour any ill will or intolerance against other faiths. Even during the freedom struggle, the leaders who led it made secularism a basic policy to rally all the people against the British. The secular polity was fiercely strengthened by Mahatma Gandhi. Himself a deeply religious Hindu, he had great respect for all other religions and faiths.

- (a) Which religions came to India from abroad? 3
(b) How has Islam enriched India? 3

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- (c) How has Hinduism proved to be a “religious conglomeration”? 3
- (d) Find the words in the passage that mean: 5
- (i) Striking
 - (ii) Oppression
 - (iii) Valuable
 - (iv) Multiplicity
 - (v) Bias
- (e) What is the noun form of “declare”? 1
- (f) Make a sentence of your own with the antonym of “strengthened”. 1
- (g) “Although the people of our country are deeply religious yet they don’t harbour any ill will or intolerance against other faiths.”— Rewrite the sentence beginning with “In spite of...” 1
- (h) Write adjective form of “democracy”. 1
- (i) “The secular polity was fiercely strengthened by Mahatma Gandhi”. — Change to active voice. 1
- (j) What is the verb form of “contribution”? 1
2. Write a letter to an English Daily expressing your anxiety about the erosion of social and moral values among the people now-a-days. 15
3. Write a report on a Film Festival organized in your college. 15