

JL – 14/14

English

Paper – II

Time : 3 hours

Full Marks : 200

The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.

Answer all questions.

1. Write an essay in about **1,200** words on any one of the topics given below : 60
 - (a) We learn from our failures and our successes
 - (b) "The love of economy is the root of all virtue"
 - (c) Those who know, do. Those who don't, teach.
 - (d) The power of literature
 - (e) Be the change that you want to happen

2. Prepare a precis of the following passage in **200** words : 40

'Secularism', as defined in dictionaries, means 'the belief that the state, morals, education etc.

should be independent of religion'. Secularism is a system of social ethics, a Western concept which emerged from the situation where the Church and the State came into collision on several issues and matters. In the medieval period, this struggle in Europe was at its height when the Church had overriding powers, and the King had to remain subservient to the Church. The Church of England, for example, used to play a dominant role in the governance of the country. This hegemony was challenged during the Renaissance and the Reformation period. It was gradually with the scientific advancement that rational thinking took up the stage and religion remained outside the ruling of the country. This was the onset of secular thinking. Thereafter, Religion and State ran in a parallel course, the one not interfering with the other, both working independently in their own field.

Secularism has origins in the West but has long ceased to be its property. It is a global

phenomena

religious reforms and the Protestant Reformation, the birth of the modern nation-state, Enlightenment philosophy, and agents whose goal was to institutionalize secularity and the ideas of secularism in law, education, politics and economics.

According to a view that has long dominated academic discourse, the history of secularism in the West is a battle of reason, progress and modernity against religion, conservatism and tradition. The real story is, as usual, much more complex. The increased focus on life here and now did not result from the victory of, for example, science over religion. In **The Theological Origins of Modernity**, Michael Gillespie proposes that modernity's goal was to redefine, not to abolish, the place of religion in the context of a new but still theologically shaped understanding of the world.

While George Holyoake introduced the term "Secularism" only in 1851, the structural reality of

secularism has a longer history. It has always embraced a spectrum of ideas wherein the historical, the analytic and the normative merge. The issues that secularism concerns itself with are : the emphasis on what is moral as opposed to what is miraculous in religion (Immanuel Kant); the view that the Church is the caretaker of souls and ought to be separated from the state that is concerned with worldly matters (John Locke) ; the anticipation of a radical transformation of religions with progress (Thomas Jefferson) ; the call for replacing traditional religions with the new religion of humanity (Auguste Comte) ; the critique or rejection of traditional religions, especially Christianity, as obstacles to human freedom and power (Nietzsche) ; the predictions as well as concerns about the disenchantment of modern societies (Emile Durkheim and Max Weber) ; and the prophecies about the disappearance of religion at the end of history (Karl Marx).

3. Read the passage below and answer **all** the questions that follow : 30

In regard to propaganda, the early advocates of universal literacy and a free press envisaged only two possibilities : the propaganda might be true, or it might be false. They did not foresee what in fact has happened, above all in our Western capitalist democracies – the development of a vast mass communications industry, concerned in the main neither with the true nor the false, but with the unreal, the more or less totally irrelevant. In a word, they failed to take into account man's almost infinite appetite for distractions.

In the past, most people never got a chance of fully satisfying this appetite. They might long for distractions, but the distractions were not provided. Christmas came but once a year, feasts were "solemn and rare," there were few readers and very little to read, and the nearest approach to a neighbourhood movie theatre was the parish church, where the performances, though infrequent, were somewhat monotonous.

For conditions even remotely comparable to those now prevailing we must return to imperial Rome, where the populace was kept in good humor by frequent, gratuitous doses of many kinds of entertainment — from poetical dramas to gladiatorial fights, from recitations of Virgil to all-out boxing, from concerts to military reviews and public executions. But even in Rome there was nothing like the non-stop distraction now provided by newspapers and magazines, by radio, television and the cinema.

In Brave New World non-stop distractions of the most fascinating nature are deliberately used as instruments of policy, for the purpose of preventing people from paying too much attention to the realities of the social and political situation. The other world of religion is different from the other world of entertainment ; but they resemble one another in being most decidedly "not of this world." Both are distractions and, if lived in too continuously, both can become, in Marx's phrase,

"the opium of the people" and so a threat to freedom. Only the vigilant can maintain their liberties, and only those who are constantly and intelligently on the spot can hope to govern themselves effectively by democratic procedures. A society, most of whose members spend a great part of their time, not on the spot, not here and now and in the calculable future, but somewhere else, in the irrelevant other worlds of sport and soap opera, of mythology and metaphysical fantasy, will find it hard to resist the encroachments of those who would manipulate and control it.

In their propaganda, today's dictators rely for the most part on repetition, suppression and rationalization — the repetition of catchwords which they wish to be accepted as true, the suppression of facts which they wish to be ignored, the arousal and rationalization of passions which may be used in the interests of the Party or the State. As the art and science of

manipulation come to be better understood, the dictators of the future will doubtless learn to combine these techniques with the non-stop distractions which, in the West, are now threatening to drown in a sea of irrelevance the rational propaganda essential to the maintenance of individual liberty and the survival of democratic institutions.

- (a) What is the author's view of propaganda ?
Why has the author taken that stand with regard to propaganda ?
- (b) What does **never got a chance of fully satisfying this appetite** (Paragraph 2) mean ?
- (c) Enunciate the idea expressed in **Only the vigilant can maintain their liberties** (Paragraph 3).
- (d) The author refers to "Brave New World" as a fictional example of what kind of society ?
- (e) Discuss the dangers of propaganda for common man as pointed out in the text.

4. Write a report on the last Refresher Course on English literature and language conducted by your college that you coordinated. 30
5. Prepare a brochure of the academic courses offered by your institute along with the extra-curricular activities for students to be admitted to the +2 course. Use about **500** words. 30
6. Choose the correct option from the choices to fill in each blank to complete the sentences :

1×10 = 10

- (a) And now for this evening's main headline, India _____ (won / has won / have won) today's ODI at Barabati Stadium.
- (b) He _____ (loaded / was loaded / was loading) the stolen cartons of wine onto the back of the lorry when the police arrived.
- (c) Either pebbles or sand _____ (has to be / have to be) used to fill the hole in the wall.

- (d) Someone _____ (drinks / has been drinking / drank) my special sports drink. The bottle's half empty !
- (e) We're late. By the time we get to the cinema, the film _____. (has started / will start / would have started)
- (f) If we _____ (recharged / had recharged / would have recharged) the battery, we _____ (will have had / would have had / have had) enough power during the storm.
- (g) If you _____ (had closed / closed / have closed), it _____ (would not have been / had not been / would not have been) so cold inside.
- (h) When the data for 2012 and 2013 _____ (was / were) compared, the police found an increase in crime rate.

