

Jadavpur University
Bachelor of Arts in English
First Year Second Semester Examinations, 2025
Common Value Added Course: Understanding India

Time: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 30

CO1: The students will be able to envision the idea of the nation as expounded by the early and late nationalists.

Answer *any one* of the following questions:

(1 x 10= 10)

1. Examine the interplay between religious symbolism and political ideology in shaping the vision of nation as espoused in *Anandamath* by Bankimchandra.
2. Comment on Tagore's vision of India as propagated in his essay, *Bharatbarsher Itihas* ('History of India').

CO2: The students shall explore the myriad interconnections between British colonialism and the rise of Indian nationalism.

Write a short note on *any one* of the following:

(1x5= 5)

1. Vidyasagar's 'Banglar Itihas' ('History of Bengal) as a colonial reading of history
2. Tagore's reading of history in 'Siraj-ud-Dowla'
3. Contradictions in Indian Renaissance

CO3: The students will learn to understand the connection between English literary studies and Indian Renaissance.

Write a short note on *any one* of the following:

(1x5= 5)

1. Raja Rammhan Roy as a proponent of freedom of press in colonial Bengal;
2. Ambedkar's idea of caste;
3. Nehru's 'idea of India' in *The Discovery of India*

CO4: The students will be able to trace the inception and growth of Indian modernity, its contribution in spreading literacy and championing issues concerning women's liberation and empowerment.

Answer *any one* of the following questions:

(1x10= 10)

1. What, according to you, were the key elements of Derozio's impact on the 'Young Bengal' group? Elaborate with illustrations.
2. How does Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain respond to the 'women's question' in *Sultana's Dream*? Discuss with references from the text you have read.
