

**JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY  
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH  
ADMISSION TEST 2018**

Full marks: 100.

Time: 2 hours

1. Write an essay on **any one** of the following topics: 50
- a) A writer is a foreign country.
  - b) We learn from history that we do not learn from history.
  - c) No matter how thin you slice it, there will always be two sides.
  - d) Poetry is an echo, asking a shadow to dance.
  - e) The bookshop at the end of the universe

2. Read the poem, and answer the questions that follow.

Bespoke for weeks, he turned up some morning  
Unexpectedly, his bicycle slung  
With a light ladder and a bag of knives.  
He eyed the old rigging, poked at the eaves,

Opened and handled sheaves of lashed wheat-straw.  
Next, the bundled rods: hazel and willow  
Were flicked for weight, twisted in case they'd snap.  
It seemed he spent the morning warming up:

Then fixed the ladder, laid out well honed blades  
And snipped at straw and sharpened ends of rods  
That, bent in two, made a white-pronged staple  
For pinning down his world, handful by handful.

Couchant for days on sods above the rafters,  
He shaved and flushed the butts, stitched all together  
Into a sloped honeycomb, a stubble patch,  
And left them gaping at his Midas touch.

- a) Why did the man turn up 'unexpectedly'? 5
- b) What do you think the man does for a living? What are the tools and materials of his trade? 5
- c) What skills should a man of his profession possess? How are they exercised in the poem? 10
- d) What phrases are used to describe his finished work, and how apt are they? 5
- e) Explain the phrase 'his Midas touch'. 5

3. Write short notes on **any four**: 5 x 4

*Guernica*, Chittaprosad, little magazines, Lila Majumdar, *The Blue Lotus*, *The Divine Comedy*,  
Lalon Shah, Earthsea, Long John Silver, memes, *Chandalika*, Falstaff.