

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY

BA ENGLISH ADMISSION TEST 2023

Time: 2 hours

Full Marks: 100

1. Write an essay on any *one* of the following. (40)

- i) No person is an island
- ii) An afternoon with Alice
- iii) "We don't need no education"
- iv) Where have all the sparrows gone?
- v) Life in a city

2. Write short explanatory notes (approximately 150 words each) on any *two* of the following. (2x10=20)

- i) No living language is "pure"
- ii) Borders are essentially shadow lines
- iii) Object and image may not necessarily be identical
- iv) Architecture tells the stories of civilizations
- v) Memory is like a sieve

3. Read the following poem carefully and answer *all* the questions that follow. (4x10=40)

On the fifth day
the scientists who studied the rivers
were forbidden to speak
or to study the rivers.

The scientists who studied the air
were told not to speak of the air,
and the ones who worked for the farmers
were silenced,
and the ones who worked for the bees.

Someone, from deep in the Badlands,
began posting facts.

The facts were told not to speak
and were taken away.
The facts, surprised to be taken, were silent.

Now it was only the rivers
that spoke of the rivers,
and only the wind that spoke of its bees,

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while the unpausing factual buds of the fruit trees
continued to move toward their fruit.

The silence spoke loudly of silence,
and the rivers kept speaking
of rivers, of boulders and air.

Bound to gravity, earless and tongueless,
the untested rivers kept speaking.

Bus drivers, shelf stockers,
code writers, machinists, accountants,
lab techs, cellists kept speaking.

They spoke, the fifth day,
of silence.

- i) What do you think is meant by the “unpausing factual buds”?
- ii) Do you think “silence spoke loudly of silence” makes sense? Justify your answer.
- iii) What is the significance of the fifth day as given in the poem?
- iv) What do you think is the theme of the poem?