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and propose new ideas. This freedom from orthodoxy – or the freedom to question and explore new ideas – is indeed a great achievement of modernity... It is in this sense that we see modernity in Galileo when he questioned the religious belief regarding the centrality of the earth in the universe. We see modernity in Luther and Calvin. And we see modernity in Rammohan Roy when he fought against orthodox pandits, and pleaded for a ban on the practice of sati. We see modernity in B. R. Ambedkar when he burnt a copy of Manusmriti, and raised his dissenting voice against the age-old caste system. And we see modernity in young Gandhi when he disobeyed the verdict of the caste association, and chose to visit abroad. In other words, modernity, because of this critical or Kantian thrust, is experienced as an emancipatory quest which, it is argued, is qualitatively different from the taboos of traditionalism. Indeed, in everyday life, modernity is often celebrated as freedom : when, to use analogies from our own society, a young girl from rural India commits herself to a cross-religious marriage, or young boy from Bihar overcomes the parental pressure, refuses to accept dowry, and chooses his life-partner from an altogether different community (Pathak, A. 2006).

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Ex/CBCS/SOC/SEC/3.5/2024

**BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION, 2024**

**(2nd Year, 3rd Semester)**

**SOCIOLOGY**

**PAPER : SOC/SEC/3.5**

**( Skill Enhancement Course )**

**( Reading, Writing and Reasoning For Sociology )**

*Time : Two Hours*

*Full Marks : 30*

Answer *either* in English *or* in Bengali.

All questions carry equal marks.

Use separate scripts for each answer.

Answer **any two** of the following questions : 15×2=30

1. Rewrite the following passage in your own words. 15

Plato relates a myth which illustrates this. We call it the Myth of the Cave. I'll retell it in my own words.

Imagine some people living in an underground cave. They sit with their backs to the mouth of the cave with their hands and feet bound in such a way that they can only look at the back wall of the cave. Behind them is a high wall, and behind that wall pass human-like creatures, holding up various figures

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above the top of the wall. Because there is a fire behind these figures, they cast flickering shadows on the back wall of the cave. So, the only thing the cave dwellers can see is this shadow play. They have been sitting in this position since they were born, so they think these shadows are all there are.

Imagine now that one of the cave dwellers manages to free himself from his bonds. The first thing he asks himself is where all these shadows on the cave wall come from. What do you think happens when he turns around and sees the figures being held up above the wall? To begin with he is dazzled by the sharp sunlight. He is also dazzled by the clarity of the figures because until now he has only seen their shadow. If he manages to climb over the wall and get past the fire into the world outside, he will be even more dazzled. But after rubbing his eyes he will be struck by the beauty of everything. For the first time he will see colors and clear shapes. He will see the real animals and flowers that the cave shadows were only poor reflections of. But even now he will ask himself where all the animals and flowers come from. Then he will see the sun in the sky, and realize that this is what gives life to these flowers and animals, just as the fire made the shadows visible. The joyful cave dweller could now have gone skipping away into the countryside, delighting in his new-found freedom. But instead, he thinks of all the others who are still down in the cave. He goes back.

Once there, he tries to convince the cave dwellers that the shadows on the cave wall are but flickering reflections of 'real' things, but they don't believe him. They point to the cave wall and say that what they see is all there is. Finally, they kill him. (Sophie's World, 2015, pg 76-77)

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2. What are the common plagiarism methods? How can plagiarism be avoided? 7+8
3. Review a book of your choice. 15
4. Review in your own words the following passage and provide a suitable title to it. 15

There are many definitions of modernity. And there are many culture-specific articulations of modernity. These diverse projects of modernity notwithstanding, there is a set of core values which, I believe, every adherent of modernity seeks to privilege. And possibly even the most adamant critiques of modernity would find it difficult to negate the liberating potential of these values. To begin with, I wish to speak of these positive experiences of modernity. Modernity, it's adherents argue, is invariably related to the spirit of freedom. This freedom is rooted in the critical consciousness that it generates. It means : 'Don't take things for granted. Question it, verify it, and subject everything to critical scrutiny'. There is nothing which is beyond critical examination. Instead, everything – including the most sacred – has to be observed, verified and interrogated. No wonder, this fundamental Enlightenment spirit, which was evolved through the historic Renaissance and Reformation, broke the static/taken for granted world : a world often legitimated by social customs, religious sanctions and institutionalized divine order. This breakdown led to the ever-expanding discoveries, innovations and experimentations in every field of social life. In a way, modernity gave one the confidence to question the most cherished/established beliefs