



COOCH BEHAR PANCHANAN BARMA UNIVERSITY
UG NCCF FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATIONS, 2023

ENGLISH

COURSE: AEC-1

ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH

PAPER CODE: ENG-AEC1

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 35

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.
Special credit will be given for brief and pointed answer.*

1. Read the passage below and do as directed:

Sri Aurobindo, original name **Aurobindo Ghose**, Aurobindo also spelled **Aravinda**, Sri also spelled **Shri**, (born August 15, 1872, Calcutta [now Kolkata], India — died December 5, 1950, Pondicherry [now Puducherry]), yogi, seer, philosopher, poet, and Indian nationalist who propounded a philosophy of divine life on earth through spiritual evolution.

Aurobindo's education began in a Christian convent school in Darjeeling (Darjiling). While still a boy, he was sent to England for further schooling. He entered the University of Cambridge, where he became proficient in two classical and several modern European languages. After returning to India in 1892, he held various administrative and professorial posts in Baroda (Vadodara) and Calcutta (Kolkata). Turning to his native culture, he began the serious study of Yoga and Indian languages, including classical Sanskrit.

From 1902 to 1910 Aurobindo partook in the struggle to free India from the British raj (rule). As a result of his political activities, he was imprisoned in 1908. Two years later he fled British India and found refuge in the French colony of Pondichéry (Puducherry) in southeastern India, where he devoted himself for the rest of his life to the development of his "integral" yoga, which was characterized by its holistic approach and its aim of a fulfilled and spiritually transformed life on earth.

In Pondichéry he founded a community of spiritual seekers, which took shape as the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in 1926. In that year he entrusted the work of guiding the seekers to his spiritual collaborator, Mirra Alfassa (1878-1973), who was called "the Mother" in the ashram. The ashram eventually attracted seekers from many countries throughout the world.

The evolutionary philosophy underlying Aurobindo's integral yoga is explored in his main prose work, *The Life Divine* (1939). Rejecting the traditional Indian approach of striving for moksha (liberation from the cycle of death and rebirth, or samsara) as a means of reaching happier, transcendental planes of existence, Aurobindo held that terrestrial life itself, in its higher evolutionary stages, is the

real goal of creation. He believed that the basic principles of matter, life, and mind would be succeeded through terrestrial evolution by the principle of super mind as an intermediate power between the two spheres of the infinite and the finite. Such a future consciousness would help to create a joyful life in keeping with the highest goal of creation, expressing values such as love, harmony, unity and knowledge and successfully overcoming the age-old resistance of dark forces against efforts to manifest the divine on earth.

Aurobindo's voluminous literary output comprises philosophical speculation, many treatises on yoga and integral yoga, poetry, plays, and other writings. In addition to *The Life Divine*, his major works include *Essays on the Gita* (1922), *Collected Poems and Plays* (1942), *The Synthesis of Yoga* (1948), *The Human Cycle* (1949), *The Ideal of Human Unity* (1949), *Savitri: A Legend and a Symbol* (1950), and *On the Veda* (1956).

Choose the correct option from the given alternatives and write

1×10 = 10

- (i) When was Sri Aurobindo born?
 (a) 1950 (b) 1872 (c) 1894 (d) 1905
- (ii) The present name of Pondicherry is
 (a) Puducherry (b) Bangaluru (c) Chennai (d) Madras
- (iii) Christian convent school is in _____.
 (a) Puducherry (b) Kolkata (c) Darjeeling (d) Cambridge
- (iv) Sri Aurobindo was graduated from
 (a) Harvard University (b) Oxford University
 (c) Cambridge University (d) None of these
- (v) Sri Aurobindo returned to India in
 (a) 1892 (b) 1950 (c) 1947 (d) 1982
- (vi) Aurobindo partook in the struggle to free India from the British raj
 (a) From 1922 to 1934 (b) From 1902 to 1910
 (c) From 1905 to 1910 (d) From 1903 to 1908
- (vii) As a result of his political activities, Sri Aurobindo was imprisoned in
 (a) 1907 (b) 1905 (c) 1906 (d) 1908
- (viii) Sri Aurobindo Ashram is in
 (a) Kolkata (b) Puducherry (c) Darjeeling (d) London
- (ix) Who was called "the Mother" in the Ashram?
 (a) Mirra Bai (b) Mirra Yogi (c) Mirra Alfassa (d) None of them
- (x) Sri Aurobindo's famous book *Essays on the Gita* was published in
 (a) 1921 (b) 1922 (c) 1942 (d) 1949

2. Answer any *five* of the following questions from the passage given in Q. No. 1: 3×5 = 15

- (a) Write a few lines about the schooling of Sri Aurobindo.
 (b) What do you know about the political career of Sri Aurobindo?

- (c) What was the original name of Sri Aurobindo? Where was he born?
- (d) Why did Sri Aurobindo found his Ashram?
- (e) What is the evolutionary philosophy underlying Aurobindo's integral yoga?
- (f) Who was Mirra Alfassa? What role did she play in the Ashram?
- (g) What is *moksha* according to Sri Aurobindo?
- (h) What is the real goal of creation according to Sri Aurobindo?
- (i) What according to Sri Aurobindo is the process of attaining the divine?
- (j) Name some books written by Sri Aurobindo.

3. Answer any *two* of the following:

5×2 = 10

(a) Attempt a precis of the following passage and add a suitable title to it:

We can define poverty as the condition where the basic needs of a family, like food, shelter, clothing, and education are not fulfilled. It can lead to other problems like poor literacy, unemployment, malnutrition, etc. A poor person is not able to get education due to lack of money and therefore remains unemployed. An unemployed person is not able to buy enough and nutritious food for his family and their health decline. A weak person lacks the energy required for the job. A jobless person remains poor only. Thus we can say that poverty is the root cause of other problems. For measuring poverty United Nations have devised two measures of poverty — Absolute and relative poverty. Absolute poverty is used to measure poverty in developing countries like India. Relative poverty is used to measure poverty in developed countries like the USA. In absolute poverty, a line based on the minimum level of income has been created and is called a poverty line. If per day income of a family is below this level, then it is poor or below the poverty line. If per day income of a family is above this level, then it is non-poor or above the poverty line. In India, the new poverty line is Rs 32 in rural areas and Rs 47 in urban areas. According to the Noble prize winner South African leader, Nelson Mandela — “Poverty is not natural, it is man-made”. The above statement is true as the causes of poverty are generally man-made. There are various causes of poverty but the most important is population. Rising population is putting the burden on the resources and budget of countries. Governments are finding difficult to provide food, shelter and employment to the rising population. The other causes are — lack of education, war, natural disaster, lack of employment, lack of infrastructure, political instability, etc. For instance — lack of employment opportunities make a person jobless and he is not able to earn enough to fulfill the basic necessities of his family and becomes poor. Lack of education compels a person for less paying jobs and it makes him poorer. Lack of infrastructure means there are no industries, banks, etc. in a country resulting in lack of employment opportunities. Natural disasters like flood, earthquake also contribute to poverty.

- (b) Lodge an FIR to the local police station on the theft of your Bi-cycle.
- (c) Write a report on the Blood donation camp recently held in your college.
- (d) Write an application to the manager of a company for the post of Office Manager.

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