

## PRESIDENCY COLLEGE

### Department of History

#### Admission Test 2007

*Use separate sheet for each answer. Do not leave any identification mark on the answer- scripts. Answer Question No.1 in English and the rest either in English or in Bengali. Try not to exceed the suggested word limit.*

Q1. "The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting."

--- Milan Kundera

Do you think the above statement implies that social memory preserves what the state tries to obliterate?

Marks : 25 (300 words)

Q2. The lynching of a goon by a group of women in a place in Kolkata has sent a chilling message. The women lynched the goon, a notorious anti-social, and celebrated the killing. This is a rare case of women taking the law in their hands.

Write an imaginary dialogue between one of these women who lynched the goon and Munnabhai (a fictitious character from a popular film).

প্রশ্ন। কোলকাতার কোন এক অঞ্চলে কয়েকজন মহিলা দলবদ্ধ ভাবে একজন কুখ্যাত দুষ্কৃতিকে গণপ্রহারের মাধ্যমে হত্যা করে। শুধু তাই নয়, তারা এই ঘটনার উল্লাস প্রকাশ করে। এই ভয়াবহ ঘটনা মহিলাদের নিজেদের হাতে আইন তুলে নেওয়ার এক বিরল দৃষ্টান্ত। এই ঘটনার পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে গণপ্রহারকারিণি মহিলাদের একজনের সঙ্গে মুন্নাভাই এর (একটি জনপ্রিয় সিনেমার কাল্পনিক চরিত্র) একটি কাল্পনিক সংলাপ রচনা কর।

Marks : 25 (300 words)

Q3. "I found it impossible to decide which of the two countries was my homeland - India or Pakistan? Who was responsible for blood, which was being so mercilessly shed everyday? ...Now that we were free, had subjection ceased to exist? Who would be our slaves? When we were colonial subjects, we could dream of freedom, but now that we were free, what our dreams be? Were we even free? Thousands of Hindus and Muslims were dying all around us? Why were

they dying?

All these questions had different answers.... Every question had an answer, but when you tried to look for truth they were no help. Some said if you were looking for the truth, you would have to go back to the ruins of the 1857 Mutiny. Others said, no, it all lay in the history of the East India Company. Some went back even further and advised you to analyze the Mughal Empire. Everybody wanted to drag you into the past, while murderers and terrorists marched on unchallenged."

---Sadat Hasan Manto (*Kingdom's End and Other Stories*)

Answer the following questions :

- Do you believe that if you try to find the truth you have to necessarily look into the past?
- Does the end of subjection mean beginning of freedom?
- Do you think that colonialism, communalism and patriotism are synonymous?
- Can partition create homelands?

নিম্নলিখিত প্রশ্নগুলির উত্তর দাও :

- তুমি কি বিশ্বাস কর যে সত্যকে খুঁজতে হলে অবশ্যই ই অতীতের দিকে তাকাতে হবে ?
- পরাজিততার শেষ কি স্বাধীনতার শুরু ?
- তুমি কি মনে কর যে ঔপনিবেশিকতা, সাম্প্রদায়িকতা ও দেশপ্রেম সমার্থক ?
- দেশবিভাগ কি স্বদেশ তৈরী করতে পারে ?

Marks : 5+5+7+8

Q4. Match the pairs and make two columns. Write a short note on any one of the pairs.

প্র৪। যুগলের মধ্যে মেলবন্ধন ঘটাও এবং দুটি তালিকা প্রস্তুত কর। কোন একটি যুগলের উপর সংক্ষিপ্ত টীকা লেখ।

Florence Nightingale, Ian Fleming, George Lucas, Chitrangada, Draupadi, Indra, Rama, Zeus, Cleopatra, Boghas Khoi, Gilgamesh, Manuscript, James Bond, Eva Braun, Star Wars, Partha, Inscription, Crimean War, Hitler, Navasasankacharitam.

Marks : 10+15 (150 words)