

BE 2nd Semester Final Examination ,May 2013
Professional Communication in English (Hu-1201)
(Civil, Mechanical, Metallurgy & Mining)

Full Marks- 35

Time: 2 hours

Answer all questions.

1. Campus violence has become a defining feature of academic life in West Bengal. As a student you have observed certain recurrent features. You, as the Secretary of the University Students' Union have been requested to submit your recommendation on the basis of a survey conducted among fellow students.

Write a technical report with the title page, index, list of annexures, introduction (about 150 words) and one annexure worked out fully. [1+5+2+3+2]

2. Make a tree diagram note from the following :

[8]

The strength in this respect in our country is the declaration in its constitution that India is a secular state. The State in our country has no religion. Even though religion continues to hold sway over a large number of our people, the redeeming feature is that, in many areas and on many occasions, religion has played no part in public affairs. For example, a large number of appointments that have been made or continue to be made in the country to various positions, are made on a secular basis. There is an increasing tolerance of inter-religious marriages. And we have a substantial number of highly vocal and influential people who are truly secular in their outlook- just as there are a large number of those who are just the opposite.

What about our weaknesses in this regard? One of the greatest of our weaknesses has been that the practice of secularism has been often identified or equated with tolerance. Secularism as practiced in India has been far from negation of religious dogma. It has not even been real tolerance or equal regard for other religions; it has been, in fact, a

respectable license for practicing and propagating one's own creed without any bar or restraint. . Identifying oneself with one religion totally, therefore, cannot but make you antagonistic to another religion; any claim to tolerance can only be superficial. A multi-religious society can function well, without invoking religion-based emotional responses that can be destructive, only to the extent to which people are willing to give up their beliefs in their religion's dogma. Similarly, teaching religion as a fact of history is one thing, while teaching religion, with all its dogma, as a desirable way of life is another. The former is a part of liberal education; if such teaching is coupled with teaching of science and the scientific method, one is left free to make one's own judgment and arrive at one's own decision in regard to beliefs; the chances are that if one is thus left to one's own wits, most people would find it difficult to accept most of the religious dogmas that circumscribe our thinking today. On the other hand, if religion is taught as a package which, along with all its dogma, is considered as the desirable way of life, implicit in such teachings is a denial of science and of all other religions, and the talk of equality of all religions in such teachings becomes a mere farce. From this point of view, unfortunately, we have failed.

The irony is that even though we are committed in our constitution to secularism, the greatest failure in this regard has been of the government and the political machinery. For example, the entire concept of reservations as practiced in the country today is unscientific and non secular. In fact, continuance of such reservations in service after more than four decades of Independence is an indication of the failure of the government and the political machinery in respect of universalizing the concept of secularism within the State. In fact, it looks like a virtual conspiracy, for whatever reasons there might be, to keep the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes very nearly where they have been before Independence, instead of closing the gap between them and the rest of the people of the country. If we were truly secular, our efforts would have been to provide the under-privileged with at least equal opportunities if not greater facilities, and not to perpetuate inequality in regard to standards through the system of reservations. Today, a person belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe knows that he does not have to achieve high standards that the others would need to for obtaining a certain position or privilege.

Therefore, what would be the source of his/ her motivation for achieving excellence? The fact is that, in the long run, real success in life is related to merit and meritorious performance. The perpetuated system of reservation, as we have today, is an insurance against effort which would lead to the development of such merit and, eventually, to meritorious performance. By lowering the standards for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for decades after Independence, we are only relabelling them, rather than removing the label. Even the highly restrictive meaning attached to secularism generally in our country would not justify such discriminatory policies.

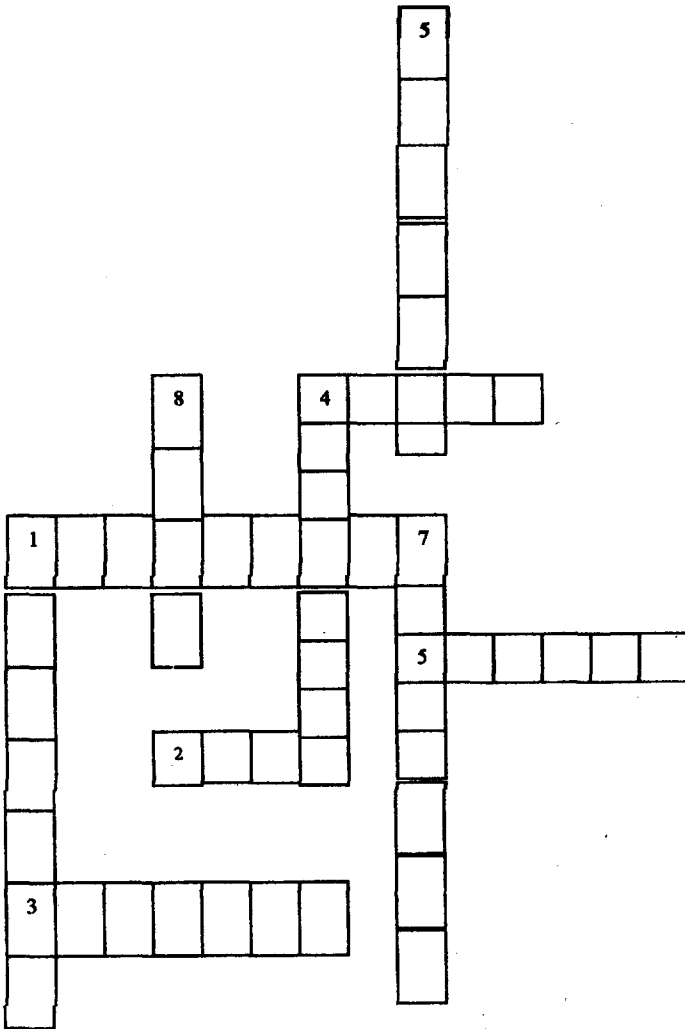
Therefore, it is no surprise that the first identity that people seek in our country even today, is an identity based on circumstances of birth, such as religion, language, the State they come from, or the caste or the sub-caste they belong to, or their social status. The national identity or the identity as a citizen of the world gets relegated far into the background. We have not realized that poverty and communal or religious identity to hand-in-hand in the world of today. Religion is the opium of the poor. What has not been understood is that secularism is their salvation.

Why this situation? If one were to record one important reason, it would be the lack of scientific temper. And scientific temper is not something that you inculcate overnight. It is something that grows on you and grows with you. It is something that we imbibe from the environment- the environment in the house, in the family, and at school. Indeed, this has been one of our greatest failures. India cannot be secular without its people having a spirit of secularism. The most effective weapon we have to fight these forces with is scientific temper. The sooner we learn to do so, the more assured would our future be.

3. Female engineers have been barred from appearing for certain jobs during campus interviews. Post your views on this issue (200 words). [6]

4. Copy the crossword and fill in the blanks.

[8]



Across

1. Disguised name
2. Synonym for food.
3. Hedonist
4. Perfume
5. One who reveres God.

Down

1. Cure for ailment
4. Rule
7. Opposite of fatherly
8. Excess
5. Used for finding words.