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Name.....

Reg. No.....

**FOURTH SEMESTER B.VOC. (PROGRAMME) DEGREE EXAMINATION
APRIL 2025**

Common Course

A04 ZEITGEIST - READINGS ON CONTEMPORARY CULTURE

(2019 Syllabus)

Time : Two Hours and a Half

Maximum : 80 Marks

I. Answer the following questions in two or three sentences. 2 marks each :

- 1 What is more powerful than bombs and weapons ?
- 2 What is the significance of the asylum in the story 'Toba Tek Singh' ?
- 3 What does Seattle want the white man to teach their children ?
- 4 Explain the sarcasm in the words of Seattle when he says 'I am a savage and do not Understand.'
- 5 What was the family's response when Reuven asked Aaron to take the goat to town ?
- 6 Why was Zlateh astonished when Aaron led her out on the town road ?
- 7 Why was great care taken in breaking the news of her husband to Mrs. Mallard ?
- 8 How did Bentley Richard escape the rail road accident ?
- 9 What was the feeling of the speaker in 'Refugee Blues' when he went down the harbour and stood upon the quay ?
- 10 Why couldn't the narrator go often to the court to follow the trail of her potential husband ?
- 11 What did the teacher do when he saw the narrator apparently doing nothing in the class the next day of the picnic ?
- 12 What are the objectives of the Constitution set by the Preamble ?
- 13 'My prayers are now getting stuck in my throat.' Why did the speaker fear so ?
- 14 What does Adrienne Rich mean by 'students demand to be taken seriously' ?
- 15 Why could Parshya not go to picnic ?

(Ceiling 25)

Turn over

II. Answer the following questions in a *paragraph* of 100 words. 5 marks each :

- 16 What proves Gandhi's righteousness ?
- 17 Images of Colonialism in "Freedom."
- 18 What is the message of on killing a tree ?
- 19 Compare the character of Zlateh and Aaron.
- 20 Write a note on the boyhood phase in "What It's like to be Transgender."
- 21 The medieval man and modern man is essentially the same in the scale of happiness. Argue.
- 22 The significance of Preamble in the constitution of India.
- 23 Explain the significance of the title "Toba Tek Singh."

(Ceiling 35)

III. Write essays on any *two* of the following questions in 200 words :

- 24 Analyze Toba Tek Singh as a caustic satire on the absurdity of partition.
- 25 "On Killing a Tree" describes man's cruelty and violence to nature – discuss.
- 26 Critically evaluate Adrienne Rich's concept of education ?
- 27 "Refugee Blues" is a documentation of the denial of the human rights of the migrant population of the world. Discuss.

(2 × 10 = 20 marks)