

National Institute of Technology, Hamirpur

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End Semester Examinations

Communication Skills (Course code: HS 126)

B. Arch (2nd Semester) (Sections: Z)

Max. Marks: 50

Time: 03 Hours

PART: A

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below. Also, you are advised to answer the questions in your own words.

The history of human growth and development is at the same time the history of the terrible struggle of every new idea heralding the approach of a brighter dawn. In its firm hold on tradition, the Old has never hesitated to make use of the foulest and cruelest means to avoid the advent of the New, in whatever form or period the latter may have asserted itself. We need not retrace our steps into the distant past to realize the enormity of opposition, difficulties, and hardships placed in the path of every progressive idea. The rack, the thumbscrew, and the knout are still with us; so are the convict's garb and the social wrath, all conspiring against the spirit that is serenely marching on. Anarchism could not hope to escape the fate of all other ideas of innovation. Indeed, as the most revolutionary and uncompromising innovator, Anarchism must meet with the combined ignorance and venom of the world it aims to reconstruct.

The strange phenomenon of the opposition to Anarchism is that it brings to light the relation between so-called intelligence and ignorance. And yet this is not so very strange when we consider the relativity of all things. The ignorant mass has in its favor that it makes no pretense of knowledge or tolerance. Acting, as it always does, by mere impulse, its reasons are like those of a child.

"Why?" "Because." Yet the opposition of the uneducated to Anarchism deserves the same consideration as that of the intelligent man. What, then, are the objections? First, Anarchism is impractical, though a beautiful ideal. Second, Anarchism stands for violence and destruction, hence it must be rejected as vile and dangerous. Both the intelligent man and the ignorant mass judge not from a thorough knowledge of the subject, but either from hearsay or false interpretation.

A practical scheme, says Oscar Wilde, is either one already in existence, or a scheme that could be carried out under the existing conditions; but it is exactly the existing conditions that one objects to, and any scheme that could accept these conditions is wrong and foolish. The true criterion of the practical, therefore, is not whether the latter can keep intact the wrong or foolish; rather is it whether the scheme has vitality enough to leave the stagnant waters of the old, and build, as well as sustain, new life. In the light of this conception, Anarchism is indeed practical. More than any other idea, it is helping to do away with the wrong and foolish; more than any other idea, it is building and sustaining new life.

The emotions of the ignorant man are continuously kept at a pitch by the most blood-curdling stories about Anarchism. Not a thing too outrageous to be employed against this philosophy and its exponents. Therefore Anarchism represents to the unthinking what the proverbial bad man does to the child—a black monster bent on swallowing everything; in short, destruction and violence.

Destruction and violence! How is the ordinary man to know that the most violent element in society is ignorance; that its power of destruction is the very thing Anarchism is combating?

Nor is he aware that Anarchism, whose roots, as it were, are part of nature's forces, destroys, not healthful tissue, but parasitic growths that feed on the life's essence of society. It is merely clearing the soil from weeds and sagebrush, that it may eventually bear healthy fruit. Someone has said that it requires less mental effort to condemn than to think. The widespread mental indolence, so prevalent in society, proves this to be only too true. Rather than to go to the bottom of any given idea, to examine into its origin and meaning, most people will either condemn it altogether, or rely on some superficial or prejudicial definition of non-essentials.

1. The above passage is primarily concerned with— 01
 - a) identifying the contribution of the old ideologies to the present world
 - b) exposing the dubious character of the intelligent men
 - c) the novelty value of the idea of anarchism and its understanding
 - d) revealing the untimely death of progressive ideas
 - e) expressing support for the basic idea of violence and destruction
2. Find synonyms for the words— “advocates” and “inactivity”— from the above passage. 01
3. Why is the author outraged by the judgment of anarchism from both the ignorant and the intelligent men? 03
4. How does the author perceive anarchism? 03
5. Summarize the passage in about **70-80 words** and give it an appropriate title. 04

PART: B

Note: Answer the following questions:

1. Comment on the interconnectedness of listening and speaking skills in the process of language learning. (300-350 words) 10
2. Write a paragraph/ multiple paragraphs on the impact of extracurricular activities on the student's holistic development. (300-350 words) 10

PART: C

1. Briefly explain **ANY THREE** of the following: **(200 words approx.)** (06x3=18)
 - a) Important stages in the preparation for interviews
 - b) Interpersonal skills
 - c) SWOT analysis
 - d) Monophthongs (with examples)