GEA S2

Alternative English

SEMESTER- II

BLOCK 1

KRISHNA KANTA HANDIQUI STATE OPEN UNIVERSITY

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BACHELOR OF ARTS
ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH
BLOCK-1

DETAILED SYLLABUS

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Unit 1: **E.P. Gee: "The Rhino of Kaziranga"** **7-21**
E. P. Gee: Life and Works, Explanation of the Essay,
Style and Language

Unit 2: **The King James Bible: "The Story of Creation"** **22-29**
The Story of Creation, Major Themes, Style and Language

Unit 3: **Salman Rushdie: "Imaginary Homelands"** **30-48**
Salman Rushdie: Life and Works, Explanation of the Text,
Major Themes, Style and Language

Unit 4: **Bertrand Russell: "Prologue" To *Autobiography*** **49-59**
Bertrand Russell: Life and Works, Text of the Prologue,
Explanation of the Prologue, Major Themes, Style and Language

Unit 5: **Matthew Arnold: "Literature and Science"** **60-68**
Matthew Arnold: Life and Works, Explanation of the Text,
Major Themes, Style and Language

Unit 6: **Richard Kearney: "On Stories"** **69-82**
Richard Kearney: Life and Works, Explanation of the Text,
Major Themes, Style and Language

Unit 7: **Martin Luther King: "I Have a Dream"** **83-95**
Martin Luther: Life and Works, Context of the Speech,
Explanation of the Speech, Style and Language

Unit 8: **Lord Chesterfield: Letter to His Son** **96-112**
Lord Chesterfield: Life and Works, Text of the Letter,
Explanation of the Text, Major Themes, Style and Language

COURSE INTRODUCTION

The Alternative English Course has been designed for learners not opting for the study of a subject in any Modern Indian Language (MIL) offered by the University. The Course aims to provide the learners with a broad idea on various categories or literary forms of English literature such as essays, letters, speeches, novels and travel writing. This course has two Blocks comprising fifteen units in total.In the first Block, the learners will gain a comprehensive idea of several significant essays while reading through their thematic emphasis on various aspects. It also comprises a landmark speech and extracts from the Prologue of an Autobiography. The learners shall also get to read a letter by a famous writer and become familiar with the story of Creation from the Bible.The second Block consists of extracts from various significant texts, a Nobel Prize speech, a novella and two novels which have been selected in keeping with the interest of the learners and the significance of these literary works. Dwelling upon diverse aspects and varied themes, this course aims to familiarise the learners with the different shades of literature.

BLOCK INTRODUCTION

Block 1 consists of eight units and shall introduce the learners to a few of the notable writers and famous personalities. The details of each of the units are as follows:

Unit 1: This unit introduces the well-travelled E.P. Gee and one of his informative and interesting essays, “The Rhino of Kaziranga” which describes the habits and habitats of a unique creature that is relatively unknown to many even today. It emphasizes on ‘knowledge’ as the first step towards conservation of animals.

Unit 2: This unit deals with the “Story of Creation” of the Holy Bible. The learners will be able to familiarize themselves with the Biblical extract on the story of God and His creation of Mankind from their reading of the unit.

Unit 3: This unit deals with Salman Rushdie’s “Imaginary Homelands”, one of the popular essays that explore issues like cosmopolitanism,diasporic consciousness, etc. among others.

Unit 4: This unit deals with the “Prologue” of Bertrand Russell’s *Autobiography* which is widely accepted as the most impressive and precise record of his own life. Stating the three influential

factors that has shaped his life, namely, “the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind”, Russell writes in a simple yet elegant manner.

Unit 5: This unit discusses Matthew Arnold’s essay “Literature and Science”. In this essay Arnold emphasises on the interconnection between literature and science and lays down their importance in the enriching of human knowledge.

Unit 6: This unit throws light on Richard Kearney’s “On Stories”, an essay which deals with the significance of story-telling, as well as, the various elements of a story.

Unit 7: This unit contains the famous speech of Martin Luther King Junior “I Have a Dream” that was delivered from the steps of Lincoln Memorial, Washington on August 28, 1963, in which he called for racial equality and an end on discrimination. It was the defining moment of the American Civil Rights Movement.

Unit 8: This unit deals with one of the letters of Lord Chesterfield addressed to his son. Although Chesterfield’s letters were meant to be primarily a piece of advice to his son, his letters became widely popular as they give the readers an insight into the writer’s views on social manners prevalent in the eighteenth century.

While going through a unit, you may also notice some text boxes, which have been included to help you know some of the difficult terms and concepts. You will also read about some relevant ideas and concepts in “LET US KNOW” along with the text. We have kept “CHECK YOUR PROGRESS” questions in each unit. These have been designed to self-check your progress of study. The answers to these questions are given at the end of the unit. We strongly advise that you answer the questions immediately after you finish reading the section in which these questions occur. We have also included a few books in the “FURTHER READING” which will be helpful for your further consultation. The books referred during the preparation of the units have been added at the end of each Block. However, this SLM is not an end in itself and the learners are strongly advised to consult the books and other resources recommended for reading.