

# IHS - Literature Exam

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## Question 3

The reality of life in our reality is that some of us are more fortunate than the others. The nature of education and access to it has always been attached with a sense of luxury even though it should never be. Education, even nowadays, remains accessible to the relatively more wealthy and those born into the higher class of society. This slowly creates a chasm between the two as the educated get more educated and widen the gap. The educated make more money, plain and simple, and as this education gap increases, so does the wealth gap. This chasm then fundamentally creates a divide in almost everything - especially culture. Throughout history there have been many examples of a "working class" culture for those that lack education. The segregation creates so many possibilities for a difference in culture as a kind of enmity is formed between the two classes since those in power, administrators, politicians are normally those with more education. Enmity creates a powerful passion for unity among the working classes leading to various cultural phenomena such as working class fashion - denim jeans originally were developed for labourers, The origination of sea shanties as a method to coordinate tasks on a boat and square dancing among the farmers in the US, rap as a form of rebellion to the upper classes, graffiti art on the streets. All of the aforementioned arose from the divide brought about by education.

The upper classes being more educated tended to deviate towards forms of culture that seemed to need more of a deeper appreciation. Impressionism, photorealism and such came from the need to entertain and to put up on the walls of the rich. Opera was often only accessible to the wealthy and seen only by them. Orchestral music along with that has arisen from its availability only to the rich.

As such the divide between the educated and uneducated creates so many different forms of culture.

## Question 1

Culture is the way a society or a group of people, usually limited by geography, act and live. The culture of a society is the way they dance, sing, play, dress and anything else. Culture is so much more than just all of the aforementioned but to a layman this is all it is.

In reality, culture is the way we live, breathe and think. The manners we follow and beliefs we hold as a society, our laws and arts and the interactions we have with those in our group. In a way it is a culture that lends a group of people their identity. The people of, say, Assam are characterised more by their language, music and arts rather than the way they look or where they live. Even still though, a culture thrives more at its geographical origin as the people will more likely be among people of their own group.

Even still, culture doesn't live in a particular place. It goes wherever the people go. The Asian population of New York city have set up their own little Chinatown as a wonderful example that culture goes wherever in the world as long as the people there continue to live it.

## Question 2

In the modern day status quo, literacy doesn't quite block access to literature as much as it seems. Movies and songs are at the heart of the culture of almost every person in this country. As the information age gets into full swing, there isn't much that doesn't reach a majority of people. The censorship of media and art is therefore quite decisive at the hands of governments. Any sentiments that don't quite align with the direction that the government wants to take the country often do get censored in many administrations across the world.

Given that art forms such as film, song and art are often used as a vector in rebellion and uprising it isn't surprising that the tyrannical act of censorship is still rampant on this planet. It is often the ideas behind a piece of one of these media that incite such feelings among the population. An immediate example is the music from the band Rage Against the Machine. Almost all of their tracks are characterised by rebellion and

criticism of those in power.

Another example discussed in class was that of the movie *Udta Punjab* that was critical of the current situation of the state of Punjab. The Indian Government was quick to censor the movie to an extent that changed the story's direction.

#### **Question 4**

The British took over the Indian people, the Indian Economy. But they failed to completely remove Indian culture. When the British started administration in India, they were somewhat condescending of the "uncivilised" Indians and attempted to "civilise" us with British culture and language. They pushed upon us their music and art and expected us to learn their language.

This upset a lot of people. The persons that valued Indian culture the most rose up in rebellion and made sure that Indian culture remains an integral part of the region. Rabindranath Tagore was one of the earliest champions of the anti-British-culture movement that swept the nation. He wrote the national anthem of our country which remains one of the greatest symbols of unity and of India that still remains.

All in all, the British still succeeded in a way - The official languages recognised by India to this day remain both Hindi and English. And a majority of the country is educated in western ideas and concepts, thanks in part to globalisation but also because of our history with the British.

#### **Question 5**

As technology developed in the west - VHS, television and such, reached India and into the hands of the Indian population, the popularity of movies and TV exploded as people had another method to watch movies rather than just at the theatre. The economy of India also started to slowly develop as we became more global and the average person started to have more purchasing power. In short more people owned TVs than ever before. Similarly, the number of people that were enabled with making movies and TVs reached new highs as equipment became cheaper. Art cinema experienced a boom and the censor board had more work than ever. Actors started becoming the veritable gods they are today as people like Amitabh Bachchan entered the mainstream. Iconic movies released around this time still remain classics as a witness to the impact this era had on the industry and on culture.