

# NANI BHATTACHARYA SMARAK MAHAVIDYALAYA

Affiliated to North Bengal University  
Enlisted under Sec. 2(f) & 12(B) of UGC. Act.



## Department of English

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### ENGLISH SEC PRACTICAL EXAMINATION NOTICE – 2023.

1<sup>st</sup> Semester, Paper: SEC, Total Marks: 20

All the concerned students of 1st semester major (under FYUGP) of the department of English of NBS Mahavidyalaya are hereby informed to submit their assignment paper as a part of SEC practical on 4th January 2024 between 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The question paper is given below.

Sd/-

Dr. Avijit Chakraborty

Head of the Dept.

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## FYUGP (SEM 1) N.B.S. MAHAVIDYALAYA

### ASSIGNMENT (UENGSEC11001) (S E C)

FM: 20

Q1. Read the following passage and answer the questions: (6x2=12)

On average, national income per adult has increased 60 percent in the U.S. since 1980, but most of those gains have accrued to those at the top. People at the bottom half of the income distribution are making, on average, \$16,000, while the average pre-tax income of the top 1 percent of adults is about \$1.3 million. In the 1980s, the top 1 percent of adults earned 27 times more than the bottom 50 percent. Now, they earn 81 times more.

America is becoming a more unequal society. But does it matter that the rich are making more money than they once did?

The problem is less with the existence of extreme wealth than with how it is created and preserved. For one thing, people at the top are able to use their ample resources to help their children get ahead and stay in their parents' income bracket. People on the lower rungs of the economic ladder can't access the same resources. As children make their way through the education system, their parents' financial situation tends to inform how successful they are: A child with a nanny, access to pre-school, a tutor, and paid-for college tuition will likely have more professional success in life than a poor child.

But it's not just access to resources that's important. Perhaps more important is the power the wealthy have in shaping societies. Because they have access to private schools, elite colleges, and homes in good neighborhoods, for example, wealthy parents have little incentive to back spending on public education, affordable housing, and other services they don't use. Without support, these services fall by the wayside in poorer neighborhoods, yet it is those services that often do the most to increase social mobility: Access to early childhood education and good schools in safe neighborhoods have been shown, time and again, to improve children's life prospects. In a higher inequality society, there is more of a chance that public policy will be skewed to reflect the preferences of those who have more voice."

#### Questions:

1. The statistics in paragraph (1) show that in the past forty years,
  - a. The rich have gotten richer but the poor haven't become poorer.
  - b. The gap between the rich and the poor has increased.
  - c. The gap between the rich and the poor has decreased
  - d. Tax laws have favored the rich.
2. What does it mean in paragraph (3) when the author says, "The problem is less with the existence of extreme wealth than with how it is created and preserved"?
  - a. That wealthy people are skilled at finding new investment opportunities

- b. That financial intelligence is key to life success
- c. More protection should exist for preserving everyone's savings
- d. That creating and preserving wealth doesn't typically benefit those who are less well off

3. The author's overall purpose is to show:

- a. How the poor aren't really at a disadvantage.
- b. How extreme wealth reinforces the cycle of poverty.
- c. The American Dream is still real.
- d. Social mobility is possible if only the poor pursue education.

4. Which is more important, according to the author?

- a. The power the rich have to decide public policy
- b. The resources the rich have to send their children to good schools

5. The reason the poor tend to stay poor, according to the passage, is that:

- a. They don't try hard enough to succeed
- b. Public policy puts them at a disadvantage.
- c. They don't know how to access the resources they need to succeed.
- d. They are raised to believe school isn't important.

6. The author poses the question, "But does it matter that the rich are making more money than they once did?" (Paragraph 2). The author's answer to this question is:

- a. Yes
- b. No

Q2. Write a summary and add a critical comment to the following poem. (8x1=8)

You think it horrible that lust and rage  
Should dance attention upon my old age;  
They were not such a plague when I was young;  
What else have I to spur me into song?