

**Please answer all FIVE questions. Each question carries six marks and the break-up for each specific query is in parentheses. Please structure your answers for which you might want to use a page for ordering your thoughts while keeping an eye on the time.**

**5Qs x 6marks = 30; 90 minutes**

1. The question of the relevance of Gandhi is best addressed, when the most powerful critiques against Gandhi are perused with care. Given below are two critiques by Kancha Ilaiah and Arundhati Roy. Examine and rationalize your views on either one of the two critiques.

Ilaiah says that Gandhi is irrelevant to Dalit-Bahujan people on two counts. First, the Gandhian symbol of the semi-naked body was unnecessary as the Dalits had already starved and suffered for three thousand years. Second, while Gandhi emphasized vernacular education, the Indian elite send their children to English medium schools dressed in Western clothes. These reveal the inconsistency of those people who try to own Gandhi philosophically, while disowning him practically. Assess Ilaiah's critique of Gandhi.

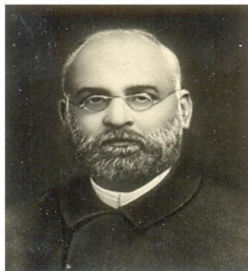
OR

Roy mentions that the South African experience "shaped and defined Gandhi's views on caste, race and imperialism". Roy criticizes Gandhi on many counts, including:-

- Although Gandhi was ejected out of the "Whites only" compartment of the train in 1893, he was not offended by racial segregation rather he was offended by Indians merchants in South Africa being treated on par with native Black Africans
- Gandhi sought to distinguish (and distance) Indian merchants from indentured workers
- Neither the Phoenix Settlement nor the Tolstoy Farm ever had a black African
- Gandhi attempted to collaborate with the colonial regime in South Africa

As this year (2015) is being commemorated as the centenary of Gandhi's return from South Africa, examine Gandhi's views on race and imperialism in the context of his experience in South Africa.

2. What were the arguments raised by Gandhi's critic against writing his autobiography?(2) How did Gandhi get around this criticism? (2) What was Gandhi's purpose in writing the autobiography? (2)
3. It is often said that the Mahatma was made in South Africa. But, Gandhi also forged the Indian identity in South Africa while laying the foundation for anti-colonial struggles. What is your own assessment of Gandhi's work in South Africa between 1893 and 1914?
4. How do the two interlocutors in the *Hind Swaraj* - the "reader" and "editor" - understand the term "swaraj"?
5. Please write a brief note explaining the reasons and the urgency with which Gandhi feverishly wrote the *Hind Swaraj*, partly with his left hand. Your narrative could identify the role of the individuals and their instruments (from the images given below) that were integral to the context within which the *Hind Swaraj* was written.



**INDIAN SOCIOLOGIST**  
A JOURNAL OF INDIAN SOCIOLOGY AND POLITICAL ECONOMY  
EDITED BY DR. B. K. BHATTACHARYA  
PUBLISHED BY THE INDIAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
1915

