

**Q.No.7** Make a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title. (20 Marks)

Benedict Anderson's definition of nationalism as an "imagined political community" resonates with Muhammad Iqbal's vision of a unified and vibrant national identity. Iqbal's nationalism was a dynamic and inclusive force, like an electrician harnessing diverse energies to power a single, cohesive whole. He believed that Islam was not only a religion but also a dynamic and inclusive worldview that could accommodate diverse cultures and traditions, much like a master electrician integrates various wires to create a harmonious circuit. Iqbal's nationalism was deeply rooted in his Islamic faith, but also engaged with modern Western ideas, reflecting the reciprocally enriching dialogue between different intellectual traditions. He argued that Muslims needed to transcend their sectarian and regional differences and come together as a single, homogeneous nation, much like a skilled electrician merges disparate wires into a single, functioning unit. This was a call to *joindre les deux bouts* bridging the gaps between different communities and creating a unified whole. Iqbal was heavily influenced by Western thinkers such as Friedrich Nietzsche, Henri Bergson, and Oswald Spengler, whose ideas on individualism, creativity, and cultural evolution he incorporated into his nationalist thought. This synthesis of Islamic values and modern principles of self-determination and democracy gave Iqbal's nationalism a unique vibrancy, like a spark of electricity illuminating the path to progress. However, Iqbal was critical of Hindu nationalism, which he saw as exclusivist and oppressive, like a mordant acid corroding the fabric of society. He argued that Hindu nationalism was based on a narrow and sectarian definition of Indian identity, which marginalized Muslim and other minority communities, making them feel like malleable, expendable components in a larger machine. In contrast, Iqbal's nationalism was inclusive and pluralistic, recognizing the diversity of Indian cultures and traditions. He believed that expediency and pragmatism should not guide nationalist movements, but rather a commitment to justice, equality, and the well-being of all citizens. By embracing this vision, Iqbal's nationalism continues to inspire and illuminate the path to a more harmonious and vibrant national community, where *l'union fait la force* is the guiding principle.

# Precis writing

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title:- Iqbal's Vision of Nationalism

Iqbal's concept of nationalism engulfed a dynamic and inclusive political community. It embraced cultural diversity while integrating modern philosophical concepts of individualism and democracy. He urged Muslims to overcome regional and sectarian divides to form a unified, progressive nation by combining Islamic values with western democratic principles.

Furthermore, Iqbal strongly criticized Hindu nationalism, viewing it as a narrow-minded ideology. In contrast, he advocated for a pluralistic nationalism driven by justice, equality and public well-being. Ultimately, his vision continues to inspire a harmonious society where unity is the driving force.