

Total No. of Printed Pages—16

HS/XII/A. Sc. Com. V/E/OC/26

2 0 2 6

ENGLISH

(Old Course)

Full Marks : 100

Time : 3 hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

General Instructions :

- (i) Write all the answers in the Answer Script.
- (ii) Attempt Part—A (Objective Questions) serially.
- (iii) Attempt all parts of a question together at one place.

(PART : A—OBJECTIVE)

(Marks : 50)

SECTION—I

(Marks : 20)

- 1.** Complete the following sentences using the right word from the alternatives given in the brackets (any *five*) : 1×5=5

(a) Rajkumar Shukla followed Gandhi to his Ashram near _____.

(Cawnpore / Ahmedabad)

(2)

(b) He telegraphed Rajendra Prasad to come from Bihar with _____ friends.

(inconspicuous / influential)

(c) But half an hour later the rattrap peddler stood again before the _____.

(door / window)

(d) The fire boy shovelled charcoal into the maw of the _____ with a great deal of clatter.

(fireplace / furnace)

(e) Travelling across the _____ I have seen children walking barefoot, in cities, on village roads.

(world / country)

(f) There is no _____ among them, no one who could help them see things differently.

(master / leader)

(g) I went to the pool when _____ one else was there.

(no / every)

(h) Bit by bit I shed part of the panic that seized me when my _____ went under water.

(nose / head)

(3)

2. Write whether the following statements are *True* or *False*
(any *five*) : 1×5=5

- (a) Shukla was sitting on his haunches at the appointed spot in Patna when Gandhi arrived.
- (b) Gandhi remained in Champaran for an initial uninterrupted period of seven months.
- (c) The ironmaster assumed that the peddler felt embarrassed because of his miserable clothing.
- (d) The crofter was in a hurry to milk his goat.
- (e) The bangle makers are aware that child labour is illegal.
- (f) Food is more important for survival than an identity.
- (g) The YMCA pool was safe because its drop was gradual.
- (h) Douglas' aversion to water started when he was ten or eleven years old.

(4)

3. Complete the following sentences using the right word from the alternatives given in the brackets (any five) : 1×5=5

(a) Fishermen in the cold sea would not _____ whales.
(kill / harm)

(b) Perhaps a huge silence might interrupt the _____ of never understanding ourselves.
(sadness / sorrow)

(c) Its loveliness increases, it will never _____ into nothingness.
(pass / fade)

(d) Trees old, and young, _____ a shady boon
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils.
(spreading / sprouting)

(e) I ask sometimes why these small animals
With _____ eyes, why we should care for them.
(bitter / sad)

(f) Attend to the _____ beasts.
(unnecessary / irrelevant)

(g) The dust of unlettered years _____ instant recognition.
(blurring / clouding)

(h) Later, each one pulled, sitting cross-legged on the _____ of the choultry.
(stairs / steps)

(5)

4. Write whether the following statements are *True* or *False*
(any five) : 1×5=5

- (a) Neruda wants those who prepare wars to put on clean clothes and walk about with their brothers in the shade, doing nothing.
- (b) Neruda tells us to stop for twelve seconds, and not move our arms so much.
- (c) The poet believes that a beautiful object is a treasure that only grows in worth.
- (d) Keats defines beauty as transient.
- (e) In *Caring for Animals*, the poet questions the sky and the serene blue waters.
- (f) The poet makes an appeal for better treatment to all of God's creatures.
- (g) Cousins arrive in Tiruchanur in overcrowded public buses.
- (h) Sundari squirrelled up and down a forbidden coconut tree.

(6)

SECTION—II

(Marks : 30)

5. Answer any *five* of the following questions in not more than 2 sentences each : 1×5=5

(a) Who did Rajkumar Shukla want to speak to about the injustice in Bihar?

(b) Why is Rajkumar Shukla described as being 'resolute'?

(c) From where did the peddler get the idea of the world being a big rattrap?

(d) What did Edla Willmansson learn about at church?

(e) Name the two boys that represent 'stolen childhood'.

(f) What explanation did the children offer the writer for not wearing shoes?

(g) What handicap did Douglas suffer from?

(h) When did Douglas decide to learn swimming?

(7)

6. Answer any *five* of the following questions in not more than 2 sentences each : 1×5=5

- (a) Why does Neruda want us to 'do nothing' for once?
- (b) What does the line "the man gathering salt would look at his hurt hands" suggest?
- (c) What does the line "Therefore are we wreathing a flowery band that binds us to the earth" suggest?
- (d) What does Keats mean when he says that 'a thing of beauty' will never pass into nothingness?
- (e) Mention all the creatures in the poem, *Caring for Animals* that are misused by man.
- (f) What are the qualities that are developed in a person by caring for animals?
- (g) Who is Sundari?
- (h) What was the general feeling of the family members at the reunion?

(8)

7. (a) Rewrite the following as directed :

1×8=8

(i) He speaks too fast to be understood.

(Remove 'too')

(ii) Misery is the greatest mystery of all.

(Change into comparative degree)

(iii) A little learning is a very dangerous thing.

(Change into exclamatory sentence)

(iv) Jim was never late.

(Change into affirmative sentence)

(v) He leaped into the water as soon as the ship touched the shore.

(Use 'no sooner')

(vi) One cannot gather grapes from thistles.

(Change the voice)

(vii) Nobody can take failure with an easy mind.

(Change into interrogative sentence)

(viii) The cargo contained goods that were apt to break.

(Use one-word substitution for the underlined words)

(9)

(b) Change the following into direct/indirect speech :

1×4=4

- (i) She asked us whose book that was.
- (ii) He said to Mohan, "Help me, please."
- (iii) I said that I am an early bird.
- (iv) He said, "It may rain today."

(c) Rewrite any *three* of the following sentences in the correct form :

1×3=3

- (i) It is raining for a week.
- (ii) This matter should be discussed strictly between you and I.
- (iii) He has kept his words.
- (iv) Investigate into the matter.

8. Answer any *five* of the following questions in not more than 2 sentences each :

1×5=5

(a) Who was Simon?

(b) What did Simon see behind the shrine?

(10)

- (c) What happened when the woman with the two little girls went away?
- (d) What were the three truths that God wanted Michael to learn?
- (e) What was Meghalaya millions of years ago?
- (f) What is Meghalaya blessed with?
- (g) Name Meghalaya's three most well-known caves.
- (h) What features made Meghalaya right for cave formation?

(11)

(PART : B—DESCRIPTIVE)

(Marks : 50)

9. Answer any *two* of the following questions : 5×2=10

(a) Champaran was the first victory for civil disobedience in India. Discuss. 5

(b) What was the peddler's parting gesture? What does this tell us about him? 2+3=5

(c) What is Saheb looking for in the garbage dumps? How was work at the tea stall different from ragpicking? 2+3=5

(d) What positive action did William Douglas take to overcome his fear of water? How did the swimming instructor help Douglas gain his confidence in swimming? 1+4=5

10. Answer any *two* of the following questions : 5×2=10

(a) Explain why, according to Neruda, 'keeping quiet' is essential to a more harmonious, peaceful world.

(b) Keats believes that 'a thing of beauty is a joy forever'. What are the ways in which 'a thing of beauty' can give us happiness?

(12)

- (c) What is Jon Silkin's message in the poem, *Caring for Animals*?
- (d) Describe the atmosphere and activities during the family reunion as depicted in the poem, *And So it Eventually Happened*.

11. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 10

- (a) "Caves are regarded as natural museums." Substantiate this statement.
- (b) Describe the geological birth of Meghalaya.
- (c) How do we know that both Simon and Matrena were kind-hearted people and that they believed in God?
- (d) Who was Michael? Why had he come to earth? Why did he say that he had smiled three times in all the while that he had been with Simon and Matrena?

2+4+4=10

12. Write an essay on any *one* of the following topics : 10

- (a) Health is wealth
- (b) Dignity of labour
- (c) The role of human beings in protecting the environment
- (d) Your idea of a happy life

(13)

Or

Write a letter to the Editor of a local newspaper, showing concern about the unauthorized construction of shops on the pavements and parks in your city.

Or

As Cultural Secretary of the school, you are organizing an inter-house skit competition to sensitize students about child labour. Draft a notice informing the students about the competition.

- 13.** Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow :

Why does a person become overconfident? The reason lies in overassessment of his capabilities. Sometimes people overassess their competence and jump into situations that are beyond their control.

Napoleon Bonaparte who became emperor of France would say that the word 'impossible' was common only amongst fools. The overconfident Napoleon invaded Russia in the winter of 1812. This proved to be a big disaster.

Overconfidence generally leads people into misadventures, endangering their chances in life. It is wisely said that any achievement is a result of two factors—one's personal planning and support from the external world. People, take into account only their planning, generally ignoring external factors. As a result they are unable to foresee future developments. Hence, a great risk of failure.

Then there is the question : how can one manage overconfidence? The formula is very simple. Before taking a decision discuss the matter with other informed people with an objective mind and when it is proved that you are about to go off the path, accept reality and say without delay, "I was wrong".

Overconfidence is a flaw characterizing people who lack the virtue of modesty. Modesty makes you a realist; you become a person who is cut down to size. People of this kind become very cautious; before taking an action they assess the whole situation. They adopt a realistic approach.

Overconfident people live within their own thoughts. They know themselves but they are unaware of others. Living inside their own cell they are unable to make use of the experiences of others. This kind of habit is highly damaging to all concerned.

There is a saying that the young man sees the rule and the old man sees the exception, with a slight change, I would like to say that the overconfident person sees the rule and the confident person sees the exception. Overconfident people are always at risk. It is said that taking risk is good but it must be well calculated otherwise it becomes very dangerous.

Questions :

- (a) Why does a person become overconfident? 1
- (b) What does overconfidence generally lead people into? 1

(15)

(c) How can one manage overconfidence? 1

(d) What kind of a person does 'modesty' make you? 1

(e) What kind of habit do overconfident people have that is highly damaging to all concerned? 2

(f) Choose the correct meaning of the given words from the options given in context to the passage : 1×4=4

(i) Misadventure (Para 3)

1. Mishap
2. Unlucky
3. Unhappy
4. Unpleasant

(ii) Endangering (Para 3)

1. Reckless
2. Imperil
3. Risky
4. Threatening

(iii) Assess (Para 5)

1. Assemble
2. Acquire
3. Evaluate
4. Accept

(16)

(iv) Objective (Para 4)

1. Obedient
2. Servile
3. Honest
4. Impartial

★ ★ ★