

Total No. of Printed Pages—16

**HS/XII/A. Sc. Com. V/E/NC/26**

**2 0 2 6**

**ENGLISH**

**( New Course )**

*Full Marks : 80*

*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 all parts of a question together at one place.
- (iii) This Question Paper has **8** questions. All questions are compulsory.
- (iv) This Question Paper contains three Sections :  
Section—A : Reading Skills, Section—B : Grammar and Creative Writing Skills and Section—C : Literature.
- (v) Attempt all questions based on the specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your Answer Script.
- (vi) Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.

( 2 )

SECTION—A

( **Reading Skills** )

( Marks : 20 )

1. Read the given passage carefully :

While there is no denying that the world loves a winner, it is important that you recognize the signs of stress in your behaviour and be healthy enough to enjoy your success. Stress can strike anytime, in a fashion that may leave you unaware of its presence in your life. While a certain amount of pressure is necessary for performance, it is important to be able to recognize your individual limit. For instance, there are some individuals who accept competition in a healthy fashion. There are others who collapse into weeping wrecks before an exam or on comparing mark-sheets and finding that their friend has scored better.

Stress is a body reaction to any demands or changes in its internal and external environment. Whenever there is a change in the external environment, such as temperature, pollutants, humidity and working conditions, it leads to stress. In these days of competition when a person makes up his mind to surpass what has been achieved by others, leading to an imbalance between demands and resources, it causes psycho-social stress. It is a part and parcel of everyday life.

Stress has a different meaning, depending on the stage of life you are in. The loss of a toy or a reprimand from the parents might create a stress shock in a child. An adolescent who fails an examination may feel as if everything has been lost and life has no further meaning. In an adult, the loss of his or her companion, job or professional failure may appear as if there is nothing more to be achieved.

Such signs appear in the attitude and behaviour of the individual, as muscle tension in various parts of the body, palpitation and high blood pressure, indigestion and hyperacidity. Ultimately the result is self-destructive behaviour such as eating and drinking too much, smoking excessively, relying on tranquilizers. There are other signs of stress such as trembling, shaking, nervous blinking, dryness of throat and mouth and difficulty in swallowing.

On the basis of understanding the passage, answer the following questions :

- (a) Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option : 1
- Nobody can deny that
- (i) this world loves a winner
  - (ii) this world respects a rich person
  - (iii) this world worships the mighty
  - (iv) this world worships the rising sun
- (b) Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option : 1
- A certain amount of pressure is
- (i) not necessary for performance
  - (ii) necessary for under-performance
  - (iii) necessary for performance
  - (iv) necessary for fashion
- (c) Select the option that conveys the same meaning as the word 'reprimand'. 1
- (i) Rebuke
  - (ii) Lethargic
  - (iii) Loss
  - (iv) Shock

- (d) Which of the following is a common physical symptom of stress? 1
- (i) Excessive tiredness
  - (ii) Smoking excessively
  - (iii) Mood changes
  - (iv) Bloating problems
- (e) Select the correct option for the following : 1
- The meaning and experience of stress
- (i) is a part and parcel of our life
  - (ii) does not change at all
  - (iii) changes according to the behaviour of an individual
  - (iv) changes depending on a person's stages of life
- (f) What causes psycho-social stress? 1
- (g) When can stress strike a person? 1
- (h) What happens to individuals who do not accept competition in a healthy fashion? 1
- (i) List the symptoms of stress. 1
- (j) What is stress? 1

**2. Read the passage carefully :**

In recent years, there has been a surge in both group and solo travel among young adults in India. A survey conducted among young adults aged 18–25 aimed to explore the reasons behind their travel preferences and recorded the percentage variation for 10 common points that influence travel choices.

Among those who prefer solo travel, the most common reason cited was the desire for independence and freedom (58%), followed closely by the opportunity for introspection and self-discovery (52%). Additionally, solo travellers appreciated the ability to customize their

itinerary to their preferences (44%) and the chance to meet new people on their own terms (36%).

On the other hand, those who prefer group travel often cited the desire for socializing and making new friends (61%) as their primary reason. Group travel also provided a sense of security and safety in unfamiliar places (52%) and allowed for shared experiences and memories with others (48%). Additionally, group travellers enjoyed the convenience of having pre-planned itineraries and organized transportation (38%).

Interestingly, both groups had similar levels of interest in exploring new cultures and trying new experiences (40% for solo travellers, 36% for group travellers). Similarly, both groups valued the opportunity to relax and escape from the stresses of everyday life (36% for solo travellers, 32% for group travellers).

However, there were also some notable differences between the two groups. For example, solo travellers placed a higher priority on budget-friendly travel options (38%) compared to group travellers (24%). Conversely, group travellers were more likely to prioritize luxury and comfort during their travels (28%) compared to solo travellers (12%).

Overall, the survey results suggest that both group and solo travel have their own unique advantages and appeal to different individuals, based on their preferences and priorities.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

- (a) Give two possible ways that the survey mentioned in the first paragraph could be beneficial.

2

- (b) Which travel choice point of the survey would influence tour operators to incorporate group dinners, social events and shared accommodations in their itinerary? 1
- (i) Freedom to customize the itinerary
  - (ii) Luxury and comfort
  - (iii) Security and safety
  - (iv) Desire for making new friends
- (c) What do the top choices in the survey, for travelling solo and in a group, suggest about young adults? 2
- (d) Which of the following is an example of an opportunity for self-discovery, as mentioned in the second paragraph? 1
- (i) Trying new cuisine
  - (ii) Hiring a tour guide
  - (iii) Purchasing local artifacts
  - (iv) Advance booking travel tickets
- (e) How might the differences in budget priorities between solo and group travellers impact the types of accommodations and activities offered by the travel industry in India? 2
- (f) Complete the sentence appropriately : 1
- The similarities in the percentage of both solo and group travellers who are interested in exploring new cultures and trying new experiences may be due to \_\_\_\_\_.
- (g) State True or False : 1
- The title, "Wanderlust : The Solo Travel Trend among Young Adults in India", is appropriate for this passage.

( 7 )

SECTION—B

( Grammar and Creative Writing Skills )

( Marks : 20 )

( Grammar )

3. Answer the following as directed : 1×10=10

(a) You were not being deceived by him.  
(Change the voice)

(b) He said, "May I speak to your father?"  
(Change the speech)

(c) She sat among her two friends and chattered away to them.  
(Correct the sentence)

(d) It is foolish of him to throw stones at buses.  
(Change into exclamatory sentence)

(e) The wind was ferocious when we reached the desert.  
(Replace the underlined word with a synonym)

(f) Some of their customs are barbarous.  
(Write the opposite of the underlined word)

(g) The film got the approval from the sensor/censor.  
(Choose the correct option to complete the sentence)

(h) He is too poor to buy a meal. (Remove 'too')

( 8 )

- (i) The barn was bigger than a church, and the fall's fresh hay \_\_\_\_\_ ( bails/bales) were stacked to the roof of the side mows.

(Choose the correct option to complete the sentence)

- (j) the temple/architecture/form an/sculptures/and/ paintings/of/essential/part

(Rearrange the jumbled words to form a complete sentence)

( Creative Writing Skills )

4. Attempt any *one* from (a) or (b) or (c) :

10

- (a) As a President of the school's dramatic club, you have organized a one-act play to be staged on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee Celebration of the school. Write a notice for the School Notice Board inviting students to participate in the event.

**Or**

- (b) Plastic bags are harmful. They pose risks to life, contaminate soil and water, contribute to air pollution and posing risks to human health. Write an e-mail to the Chairman of the State Pollution Control Board on the need to reduce plastic waste.

**Or**

- (c) Your school recently organized a workshop on the benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI). As the Secretary of the Organizing Committee, write a report of the event to be published in your School Magazine.



( 9 )

SECTION—C

( **Literature** )

( Marks : 40 )

5. Multiple-choice questions (Attempt *all* questions) : 1×10=10

- (a) What prompts M. Hamel to take the final lesson in the story *The Last Lesson* ?
- (i) Occupation of Alsace and Lorraine by Germany
  - (ii) His love for the French language
  - (iii) French Revolution
  - (iv) School celebration
- (b) Who said, “It is his Karam, his destiny”?
- (i) Mukesh
  - (ii) Saheb’s grandmother
  - (iii) Mukesh’s grandmother
  - (iv) The narrator
- (c) Why did Gandhi decide to go to Muzaffarpur?
- (i) To have detailed information of the share-croppers of Champaran
  - (ii) To have information about the lawyers
  - (iii) To know the capacities of the people
  - (iv) To have a personal bond with the people
- (d) What was Asokamitran’s job in the studio?
- (i) To arrange pancakes
  - (ii) To arrange makeup kits
  - (iii) To serve water
  - (iv) To cut out newspaper clippings

- (e) The old crofter welcomed the peddler because
- (i) he was an old man without wife or child
  - (ii) he got someone to talk to in his loneliness
  - (iii) he could play a game of cards with him
  - (iv) All of the above
- (f) In the poem *A Thing of Beauty*, 'clear rills' are the
- (i) clean windows
  - (ii) streams of clear water
  - (iii) clear thoughts
  - (iv) clear solutions
- (g) What is the significance of the title *My Mother at Sixty-Six* ?
- (i) The poet's fear of losing her old mother
  - (ii) The poet's fear of growing old
  - (iii) The poet's inability to express her feelings
  - (iv) All of the above
- (h) According to Neruda, what will men do instead of preparing wars?
- (i) Talk about peace
  - (ii) Fight with words
  - (iii) Take rest at home
  - (iv) Put on clean clothes and walk about with their brothers
- (i) 'Green wars' in the poem *Keeping Quiet* refers to
- (i) army camouflage
  - (ii) nuclear wars
  - (iii) political rivalry
  - (iv) environmental destruction

(j) What do Aunt Jennifer's tigers represent in the poem?

- (i) Fear
- (ii) Male dominance
- (iii) Freedom
- (iv) Wisdom

6. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow : 2×5=10

(a) "No one can imagine how sad and monotonous life can appear to such a vagabond, who plods along the road, left to his own meditations. But, one day, this man had fallen into a line of thought, which really seemed to him entertaining. He had naturally been thinking of his rattraps when suddenly he was struck by the idea that the whole world about him—the whole world with its lands and seas, its cities and villages—was nothing but a big rattrap. It had never existed for any other purpose than to set baits for people."

(i) Who "had fallen into a line of thought"? 1

- (1) The rattrap peddler
- (2) The old crofter
- (3) The ironmaster
- (4) The master blacksmith

(ii) What according to the peddler is a big rattrap? 1

- (1) The whole world
- (2) Islands and seas
- (3) Cities and villages
- (4) All of the above

(b) “At last, around four in the afternoon, the poet (or the editor) arrived. He was a tall man, very English, very serious and, of course, very unknown to all of us. Battling with half a dozen pedestal fans on the shooting stage, The Boss read out a long speech. It was obvious that he too knew precious little about the poet (or the editor). The speech was all in the most general terms but here and there it was peppered with words like ‘freedom’ and ‘democracy’. Then the poet spoke. He couldn’t have addressed a more dazed and silent audience—no one knew what he was talking about and his accent defeated any attempt to understand what he was saying. The whole thing lasted about an hour; then the poet left and we all dispersed in utter bafflement—what are we doing? What is an English poet doing in a film studio which makes Tamil films for the simplest sort of people?”

(i) What kind of an audience did the poet address? 1

(ii) How did the people disperse? 1

(c) “Usually, when school began, there was a great bustle, which could be heard out in the street, the opening and closing of desks, lessons repeated in unison, very loud, with our hands over our ears to understand better, and the teacher’s great ruler rapping on the table. But now it was all so still! I had counted on the commotion to get to my desk without being seen; but, of course, that day everything had to be as quiet as Sunday morning. Through the window I saw my classmates, already in their places, and M. Hamel walking up and down with his terrible iron ruler under his arm. I had to open the door and go in before everybody. You can imagine how I blushed and how frightened I was.

But nothing happened. M. Hamel saw me and said very kindly, "Go to your place quickly, little Franz. We were beginning without you".

- (i) How did Franz enter the classroom? 1
- (ii) How did M. Hamel react when Franz was late for school? 1
- (d) "but after the airport's security check, standing a few yards away, I looked again at her, wan, pale as a late winter's moon and felt that old familiar ache, my childhood's fear, but all I said was, see you soon, Amma, all I did was smile and smile and smile ...."
  - (i) What does the poet compare her mother to? 1
  - (ii) What were the parting words of the poet to her mother? 1
- (e) "What I want should not be confused with total inactivity. Life is what it is about; I want no truck with death. If we were not so single-minded about keeping our lives moving, and for once could do nothing, perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness of never understanding ourselves and of threatening ourselves with death."
  - (i) How is silence the true solution against violence and insensitivity? 1

( 14 )

(ii) What is the meaning of “I want no truck with death”?

1

7. Answer any *ten* of the following questions : 1×10=10

(a) What were the only medicines available to the people of Champaran?

(b) Why did Gandhi go to Lucknow?

(c) Why was Franz afraid when he was going to school that day?

(d) What did M. Hamel tell the people in the class about the French language?

(e) From where did the old crofter get the thirty kronor?

(f) Who brought an end to the talented actress's career in the film industry?

(g) Who was Mukesh? What was his dream in life?

(h) Where is the poet Kamala Das going and who is with her?

(i) In the poem *Keeping Quiet*, what should the fishermen in the cold sea not do?

( 15 )

(j) What does the poet ask us to do while he counts up to twelve?

(k) What are the things that give pain to John Keats?

(l) What is 'lovely' according to Keats in the poem *A Thing of Beauty* ?

(m) What does the poet suggest will happen to Aunt Jennifer's tigers after her death?

(n) In the poem, why is Aunt Jennifer unhappy?

8. (a) Answer any *one* of the following questions : 5

(i) Why was Kothamangalam Subbu considered No. 2 in Gemini Studio? 5

(ii) Discuss the theme of regret and realization in *The Last Lesson*. How does Franz's attitude towards learning change? 3+2=5

(iii) Describe the peddler's meeting with the iron-master. Why did he decline his invitation? 3+2=5

(b) Answer any *one* of the following questions : 5

(i) What emotions does Kamala Das experience while observing her mother? How does she express her fear? 3+2=5

( 16 )

- (ii) What is the central message of the poem *Keeping Quiet*? Why does the poet ask people to 'keep quiet'? 3+2=5
- (iii) Examine the contrast between Aunt Jennifer and her tigers as presented in the poem. 5

★ ★ ★