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HS/XII/A/e/OC/26

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ELECTIVE 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. State whether the following statements are *True* or *False* :

1×6=6

- (a) Raju's love for Nalini is selfless until the end.
- (b) Velan's brother was about twenty-one, a semi-moron who had grown up as a dependent in Velan's house.

(2)

- (c) “If there is one good man anywhere, the rains would descend for his sake and benefit the whole world,” quoted Raju’s mother from a Tamil poem.
- (d) Marco stayed for over a month at Peak House.
- (e) Raju’s father owned a small shop in the Mempi railway station.
- (f) The novel, *The Guide*, is told in a straight forward chronological narrative.

2. Name the speaker and the person spoken to : 1×6=6

- (a) What would you do, most noble Empress?
- (b) I quite agree with your account of yourself. You are a romantic idiot.
- (c) What am I looking for? Sleep-danger-don’t know.
- (d) My orders! Why should I order you to bring Captain Bluntschli’s luggage out here?
- (e) Louka! Are you mad, Sergius? Why, this girl’s engaged to Nicola.
- (f) I sent her away. I wanted to be alone.

(3)

3. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words : 1×8=8

(a) In _____ and around Rome the disease was until recently a curse.

(Europe / Holland / Greece)

(b) Manson and Ross defeated the tiny flying insect which until the beginning of the _____ century was the most dreaded enemy.

(twentieth / nineteenth / twenty-first)

(c) It was like a _____ groaning out some banal song of long ago.

(trombone / barrel-organ / horn)

(d) And still of a _____ night, they say, when the wind is in the trees.

(moonlit / cold / winter's)

(e) They heard a Highland girl singing in _____ at her reaping.

(Arabic / Gaelic / English)

(f) *On His Blindness* was written in _____.

(1608 / 1655 / 1674)

(g) Milton's poem, *On His Blindness* is _____.

(an octave / a sestet / a sonnet)

(h) When I _____ how my light is spent.

(think / ponder / consider)

(4)

SECTION—II

(Marks : 30)

4. Answer any *ten* of the following questions in 2 or 3 sentences each : 3×10=30

- (a) Briefly describe the village dispute in Mangala that arose between the shopman and his customer.
- (b) Compare the personalities of Marco and Rosie, and explain how their differences affect Rosie's life.
- (c) Why does Louka defy her fiancé, Nicola's warning?
- (d) What is the practical thing that Bluntschli carries in his cartridge belt instead of bullets? Why?
- (e) How do those who 'best bear His mild yoke', serve God?
- (f) What is the question the poet ('I') fondly asks?
- (g) What are the two types of stories Wordsworth guesses the Highland song might be about?
- (h) Explain the meaning of the final lines : "The music in my heart I bore, Long after it was heard no more".
- (i) How did critics react to Sir Ronald Ross's experiments with mosquitoes?
- (j) Why does Gardiner call liberty 'a social contract'?

(5)

- (k) Give a few humorous examples of 'social anarchy' from A. G. Gardiner's essay.
- (l) What is the role of Tim the ostler in the tragic love story of the Highwayman and Bess?
- (m) How did the soldiers treat Bess and her father?

(PART : B—DESCRIPTIVE)

(Marks : 50)

5. What is the foundation of social conduct? Cite examples from A. G. Gardiner's essay. 5

Or

How did Manson's work on filariasis influence Ross's research on malaria?

6. Show with examples how the ballad, *The Highwayman* blends love, sacrifice and tragedy. 5

Or

Explain the biblical allusion of the 'Talent' and its significance in the poem.

Or

What is the significance of nature and memory in Wordsworth's *The Solitary Reaper*?

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

- (a) *Arms and the Man* ends in marriage(s). Is Shaw's subtitle 'An Anti-Romantic Comedy' appropriate to the play?
- (b) Describe the famous 'photograph scene' in Act III as a moment of high comedy and crucial dramatic irony.
- (c) Write short notes on any *two* of the following : 5×2=10
 - (i) Louka
 - (ii) Nicola
 - (iii) Catherine

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

- (a) Give a character sketch of Raju as a rogue and fraud in R. K. Narayan's *The Guide*.
- (b) How is the theme of religion portrayed in *The Guide*?
- (c) Write short notes on any *two* of the following : 5×2=10
 - (i) Raju's mother
 - (ii) Gaffur
 - (iii) James J. Malone

9. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow : 10

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh! I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence :
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Questions :

- (a) Why does the speaker choose the second road? 2
- (b) How does the speaker feel about their choice of road at the end of the poem? 2

(8)

- (c) What does the speaker see in the yellow wood? 2
- (d) How does the speaker describe the second road? 2
- (e) What decision does the speaker make regarding the roads? 2

10. Write an essay in about 250 words on any *one* of the following topics : 10

- (a) Is technology making us more connected or more isolated?
- (b) The role of kindness in daily life.
- (c) How natural disasters remind us of nature's power?
- (d) The writer I admire the most and why.
