

- Please check that this question paper contains 5 printed pages.
- Code number given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- Please check that this question paper contains 12 questions.
- Please write down the serial number of the question before attempting it.

ENGLISH (Elective)

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

General Instructions :

- Answer all questions.
- Your answers should be to the point. Stick to the word limit where given.

1. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow :

(a) Amrita, who was herself a blending of the Orient and the Occident, was looking for more than new forms; nor was she seeking just harmony. She was a herald of the spiritual equilibrium between Europe and Asia, a new synthesis, a step towards the age of world-art.

- What was the most striking feature of Amrita's personality ? 1
- What did she look for in art ? 2
- How was her art 'a step towards the age of world-art' ? 2

OR

For those whose will is weak, whose purse is slender, and whose acquisitiveness or generosity is highly developed, London is, at the moment, no safe city. Such recently has been the multiplication of curiosity shops and the improvement in the taste of their proprietors, that it is wisest to bandage one's eyes or stay indoors altogether.

- For whom is London not a safe city ? 2
- What changes have taken place recently in London ? 2
- Why is it an act "of wisdom to keep one's eyes closed or stay indoors ? 1

(b) The freedom of the press is one of the highly guarded and valued privileges of democracy. There are laws to protect the privacy and rights of the individual, and the security of the country but no man is too important, no office too high to escape comment. A well informed press carrying all degrees of opinion is a vital part of our heritage.

- (i) What is one special privilege of democracy ? 1
- (ii) What purpose are the laws framed for ? 2
- (iii) What is the significance of a well informed press ? 2

OR

I think the essence of wisdom is emancipation as far as possible, from the tyranny of the here and the now. We cannot help the egoism of our senses. Sight and sound and touch are bound up with our own bodies and cannot be made impersonal. Our emotions start similarly from ourselves.

- (i) What is the essence of wisdom ? 2
- (ii) Which sense perceptions cannot be made impersonal ? 1
- (iii) What is the similarity between our emotions and sense perceptions ? 2

2. Answer the following questions in about 150 words each :

(a) Why does the author say that the books on success are absurd and need to be condemned and discarded ? 6

OR

When did the earthquake in Gujarat occur ? How did it 'put the clock back by fifty years' ?

(b) Why did some people tremble to think of the abolition of the half-time system in the factories ? 6

OR

What kind of water pollution does the author consider to be most damaging ?

3. Answer the following questions in about 60 words each :

(a) Why, according to the author, is it stupid and dangerous to argue that people like "simple (even basic) English", and therefore it ought to be kept up ? 4

OR

Which sense perceptions help the blind ants find their way home ? How ?

(b) Why does the author say that no laws can be laid down about the choice of books to be read ? 4

OR

What are the reasons given by the author to get rid of the militarists ?

4. Answer the following question in about 150 words :
What idea did the tiger have of the human beings while at circus ? Why did this idea change when he roamed through the streets of the town ? 10

OR

Why was the master not allowed to enter the headmaster's room where the tiger was resting ? What arguments took place between the master and the chairman ?

5. Answer the following questions in about 60 words each :
- (a) How did the state of hopelessness seize the townspeople when the tiger roamed through the streets ? 3
- (b) Why did the tiger follow the children to school ? 2

6. Answer the following question in about 150 words :
Columbus has been described as "a mad man, his head stocked with visions" by his crew. Why ? Give reasons in support of your answer. 10

OR

Discuss the title of the play, '*The Rising of the Moon*', in the light of this statement :
"It's those that are down would be up and those that are up would be down."

7. Answer the following questions in about 60 words each :
- (a) What is the reaction of the members living in the Grange farm after the death of the master ? 3
- (b) How does the family react to Mrs. Pearson's new personality ? 2

8. (a) Do as directed : 5
- (i) The man was sitting opposite to me. He offered to lend me the newspaper.
(Rewrite using a non-finite clause as post modifier)
- (ii) Who will look after the children while their mother is in hospital ?
(Identify phrasal verb)
- (iii) Some motorists prefer to travel by night. (Identify 'head' and 'modifier')
- (iv) It is not very warm today. (Add the appropriate tag)
- (v) The rate of inflation rose after a marginal dip last week.
(Change into interrogative clause)

- (b) Do as directed :
- (i) Break the following words into separate syllables by putting a dot or slash(. /) after each syllable : 2
accidental; contain; beneficial; knowledge
- (ii) Mark the 'stress' on the following words : 2
absent (as verb); migrate; composition; absent (as adjective)
- (iii) What is the rising tone ? Give an example of the rising tone. 1

9. Read the passage given below and answer in your own language, the questions that follow :

Death is a mystery. It is impossible to define life without death. Up to its very last link, life is a bio-chemical chain reaction. Once life is launched, like a bullet it must reach its final destination, which is death.

Death is less frightening when we concede that life attains maximum fullness only when it is guided by an ideal, by something for which we are willing to die if necessary. Whatever incites us to die also incites us to live with greater intensity. That's why the lives of heroes, mystics and martyrs are more intense than the life of an ordinary mortal. That's also why love and the pleasures of the senses are felt more intensely by people who are facing death in a war or revolution. When I was young, a World War II veteran who was lucky to escape many bomb attacks in Burma (now Myanmar) told me that for those of them who were living in the expectation of dying at any moment, everything — a day of sunshine, the warm clasp of a friendly hand, a pretty face, a colourful bird, a rose — acquired a sublime and unexpected value.

A noble example of a serene attitude towards death is to be found in the last letters that Dr. Wilson, physician, naturalist, artist and Antarctic explorer, wrote to his wife from the icy wastes of the South Pole. The men in Scott's ill-fated expedition — of which Dr. Wilson was a member — were starving, had no fuel with which to keep warm. Dr. Wilson's letters were found near his ice-sheathed body. "Don't be unhappy," he wrote, "We are playing a good part in the great scheme arranged by God himself We will all meet after death, and death has no terrors"

The roots of fear of death are fear of pain and of the feeling of anguish that is implicit in dying, and the sadness of leaving loved ones and joys that bind us to the world. Third, and perhaps most important, is fear of the unknown.

Death, with exceptions, is not accompanied by physical pain. Rather, it is suffused with serenity, even a certain well-being and spiritual exaltation, caused by the anaesthetic action of carbon dioxide on the central nervous system. Science reveals that the sensation of dying is like that of falling asleep. And if a person accepts his death as an act of service to an ideal, or as the end of his life's work, it could be a blessing. It could be accepted more willingly if we knew that we had fulfilled our duty in life.

Just as we cultivate the will to live, we should cultivate the will to shed our mortal coils properly. We desire death only in moments of utter desperation. Were we to deem it a physiological necessity like hunger or thirst, we would aspire to die, as Nietzsche said, "like a torch which dies exhausted and gluttoned with relief."

Even as a coin attains its full value when it is spent, so life attains its supreme value when one knows how to forfeit it with grace when the time comes.

- (i) When does death become less frightening ? 2
 - (ii) Why do people facing death in a war or revolution feel love and pleasures of the senses more intensely ? 2
 - (iii) What, according to the writer, are the roots of fear ? Mention any two. 2
 - (iv) How should we cultivate to embrace death properly ? 2
 - (v) How does life attain its supreme value ? 2
10. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow ;
- I think I could turn and live with animals, they are so placid
and self-contained;
I stand and look at them long and long.
They do not sweat and whine about their condition;
They do not lie awake in the dark and weep for their sins;
They do not make me sick discussing their duty to God;
Not one is dissatisfied — not one is demented with the mania of
owning things;
Not one kneels to another, nor to his kind that lived thousands
of years ago;
Not one is respectable or industrious over the whole earth.
- (i) Why does the poet wish to live with animals ? 1
 - (ii) How do the animals react to their condition ? 1
 - (iii) What makes the poet sick ? 1
 - (iv) No animal is dissatisfied. What is the reason ? 1
 - (v) How do the animals behave with one another ? 1
11. The decision of the Government of Delhi to let the markets remain open till 11 p.m. has received mixed reaction. Write a report in 100 - 125 words, expressing the merits and demerits of such a move and the opinion of the cross section of the people. You are the reporter in a newspaper. 5
12. Write an essay in 200 — 250 words on any *one* of the following topics : 10
- (i) Pleasures of Childhood
 - (ii) Need for Empowerment of Women
 - (iii) Role of Students in Reconstruction of Society