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No. of Questions – 28

No. of Printed Pages – 11

SS-02-English (C)

ENGLISH (COMPULSORY)

SENIOR SECONDARY EXAMINATION, 2020

Time : 3¼ Hours

Maximum Marks : 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO THE EXAMINEES :

- (1) Candidates must first write their Roll Nos. on the question paper.
- (2) **All** the questions are compulsory.
- (3) Write the answer to each question in the given answer-book only.
- (4) For questions having more than one part, the answers to those parts are to be written together in continuity.
- (5) This paper is divided into three Sections A, B and C. All Sections are compulsory.
- (6) Separate instructions are given for each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
- (7) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION – A**(READING)**

(1 – 9) : Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

A priest, of a famous temple on a high hill in Assam was widely known and respected to be a great scholar. When he was on his death-bed, he called the trustee of the temple and told him to select and appoint only a ‘human being’ as his successor.

After his death, a day was set for the selection of the new priest. On the scheduled day, starting at dawn, the aspirants started trekking the steep and torturous climb to the temple. As the route to the temple was difficult; full of thorns and stones, many aspirants got minor cuts and bruises on their feet and hands.

After breakfast, the selection process started. The trustee asked all the aspirants to recite difficult ‘Shlokas’ or verses from the sacred texts. He explained them various procedures of priesthood. By afternoon, as the selection process was about to end, one young man walked slowly into the temple. The trustee noticed him and asked, “Young man, you are very late. What took you so long ? Why are your clothes torn ? Why are your feet and hands bleeding badly ?”

The young man replied, “I know, Sir, I am late and so I cannot participate. But please let me rest a while and let my wounds be treated. Then I will go back.”

But the trustee was curious. He asked again, “But how did you get hurt so badly, did you follow the same route as the others ?”

“Yes, Sir, I did”, replied the young man, “But I thought, I must remove all the thorns and sharp stones from the path so that when people come to pray in this temple, they must not get hurt. That is why I got late and hurt myself badly. I apologize for the delay and it will not be fair to the others if I participated.”

The trustee heard him intently, smiled and said, “Congratulations ! You have been chosen. You are a true ‘human being’ to be the successor of our holy priest.”

This statement infuriated the other participants. They demanded, “What do you mean ? Are we not human ?”

The trustee replied, “Our old priest used to say that even animals know how to watch for their self-interest; they know how to avoid dangers, how to search food and so on. Only a ‘human being’ knows how to care for others. This young man not only thought about others but he cleared also the path so that no one would get hurt. So he qualifies as a ‘human being’ to be the successor of the great old priest.”

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| 1. | Where was the famous temple situated ? | 1 |
| 2. | When did the selection process start ? | 1 |
| 3. | What did the trustee ask to do in selection test to the aspirants ? | 1 |

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 4. | How did the young man get hurt badly ? | 1 |
| 5. | Why were the aspirants infuriated ? | 1 |
| 6. | Why was the young man selected as the new priest of the temple ? | 1 |
| Find out words from the passage which mean – | | |
| 7. | The persons who are ambitious and want to aspire something. | 1 |
| 8. | A person who follows next in order. | 1 |
| 9. | Make excuses for by reasoning or express regret. | 1 |

(10 – 11) : Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

Agriculture has always been celebrated as the primary sector in India. But the reality is that Indian farmers have to face extreme poverty and financial crisis, which is driving them to suicides. What are the grave adversities that drive the farmers to commit suicide at a time when Indian economy is supposed to be gearing up to take on the world ?

Indian agriculture is predominantly dependent on nature. Irrigation facilities that are currently available do not cover entire cultivable land. If the farmers are at the mercy of monsoons for timely water for their crops, they are at the mercy of the government for alternative irrigation facilities. Any failure of nature, directly affects the fortunes of the farmers.

Secondly, Indian agriculture is largely an unorganised sector. There is no systematic planning in cultivation. The farmers work on lands of uneconomical sizes. Institutional finances are not available and minimum purchase prices of government do not in reality reach the poorest farmers.

Added to this, the cost of agriculture inputs have been steadily rising over the years, farmers' margin of profits have been narrowing because the price rise in inputs is not complemented by an increase in the purchase price of the agricultural produce. Even today, in several parts of the country agriculture is seasonal occupation. In many districts, farmers get only one crop per year and for the remaining part of the year, they find it difficult to make both ends meet.

What then needs to be done to prevent this sad state of affairs ? There cannot be one single solution to end the woes of farmers. Temporary measures through monetary relief would not be the solution. The government efforts should be targeted at improving the entire structure of the small farmers wherein the relief is not given on a drought to drought basis, rather they are taught to overcome their difficulties through their own skills and capabilities. Social responsibilities also goes a long way to help the farmers. General public, NGOs, Corporate and other organizations too can play a part in helping farmers by adopting drought affected villages and families and helping them to rehabilitate.

10. On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. 4
11. Write a summary of the passage and suggest a suitable title. 2

SECTION – B (WRITING)

12. Your friend Rashmi or Rajat has invited you to attend the wedding ceremony of his or her brother. Write an informal reply expressing your inability to attend the ceremony due to unavoidable reasons. (Word limit – 50 words) 4

OR

Your school is going to publish its 25th annual magazine next month. Write a notice inviting the articles from students. (Word limit – **50** words)

13. Yesterday, two robbers robbed the Punjab National Bank of your city. Write a report on it in about **100** words. You may use the following outline. **7**

(PNB – robbed – two robbers – 11.30 a.m. – customers – cash counter – Manager – pistol – guard – injured – telephone line – masks – safe – fifty lakh rupees – police – investigation)

OR

Write a report to be published in a newspaper on the Annual Function of your school.

Here is given outlines for your help. [Word limit – **100** words]

(25th annual function – decoration – guests – principal – report – cultural programmes – folk dances – songs – drama – speech – chief-guest – prizes – clappings – appreciated)

14. You are Rehana or Rahim living in Kota and persuing M.B.A. Write a letter to the C.E.O, Oracle India Pvt. Ltd., Surat applying for the post of a software engineer giving your resume. **7**

OR

You are Ankush or Anu living at 3-Basant Vihar, Ajmer. Write a letter to the Editor, the Times of India, Jaipur expressing your views on the topic, 'Influence of mobile and internet on students'.

15. Your Principal has asked you to deliver a speech on the topic 'Water Conservation' in your school prayer assembly. Write a speech on it in not more than **100** words. **7**

OR

Write an article in about **100** words on the topic, "Women Empowerment".

SECTION – C

(TEXTUAL QUESTION)

(16 – 17) : Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

“Then a soldier.

Full of strange oaths and bearded like the pard

Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel

Seeking bubble reputation,

Even in the cannon's mouth.”

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16. How does a soldier play his part in this age ? 2
17. Why is a soldier ready even to go in cannon's mouth ? 2

OR

“From the blue-tit on the sloe

To the eagle on the height,

Uncaged they come and go

For my delight.”

16. Which birds does the poet mention in this extract ? 2
17. How does the poet feel when he looks at birds flying uncaged ? 2
18. Answer any **three** of the following questions in **30-40** words each.
- (a) What is the theme of the poem, ‘The Snare’ ? (*The Snare*) 2
- (b) How does hope affect the gloomy ways ? (*The Hope*) 2
- (c) Why is a lily better than an oak ? (*The Noble Nature*) 2
- (d) How does a man play his role in the last age ? (*The Seven Ages of Man*) 2

(19 – 22) : Answer the following questions in **30-40** words each :

19. What can be the cheapest form of transport in India ? (*Water*) 2
20. Who suggested the room size 10×8 and to whom ? (*A Room 10 \times 8*) 2
21. Why did Gandhiji scold the lawyers ? (*Indigo*) 2
22. Why is Antarctica a crucial element in the debate of climate change ?
(*Journey To The End of the Earth*) 2
23. Answer the following question in about **125** words : 7

What are the merits of purity ? (*Purity is Power*)

OR

Mention the qualities of a great book and how is its greatness determined ?

(*On Reading in Relation to Literature*)

24. Answer the following question in about **125** words : 7

Attempt a character sketch of the peddler. (*The Rattrap*)

OR

Write a character sketch of author's grand-mother. (*The Portrait of a Lady*)

(25 – 28) : Answer the following questions in about **30-40** words each :

25. Why was Sherlock Holmes interested in getting the letters and photograph at the earliest ?
(*Trouble in Bohemia*) 2
 26. Who killed Mahesh and why ? (*Drought*) 2
 27. What was the King's offer to the man who could beat his daughter in whistling ?
(*Svayamvara*) 2
 28. How much money did the Tiger King pay to the British jewellers for rings ?
(*The Tiger King*) 2
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DO NOT WRITE ANYTHING HERE