

Series BVM

Code No. 28

Roll No.

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Candidates must write the Code on the title page of the answer-book.

- Please check that this question paper contains **11** 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 **9** questions.
- **Please write down the Serial Number of the question before attempting it.**
- 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

ENGLISH (Elective) – (N)

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

General Instructions :

- (i) Question Nos. 1 – 4 are **compulsory**.
- (ii) Attempt either question no. 8 or 9.
- (iii) Your answers should be to the point. Stick to the given word limit.

1. (A) Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow : 10

1 Mano Majra is a tiny place. It has only three brick buildings, one of which is the home of the money-lender, Lala Ram Lal. The other two are the Sikh temple and the mosque. The three brick buildings enclose a triangular area with a large peepul tree in the middle. The rest of the village is a group of flat-roofed mud huts and low-walled courtyards, which open into narrow lanes that spread out from the centre. Soon the lanes turn into footpaths and get lost in the surrounding fields. At the western end of the village there is a pond ringed round by *keekar* trees. There are only about seventy families in Mano Majra, and Lala Ram Lal's is the only Hindu family. The others are Sikhs or Muslims, about equal in number. The Sikhs own all the land around the village; the Muslims are tenants and share the tilling with the owners. There are a few families of sweepers whose religion is uncertain. But there is one object that all Mano Majrans — even Lal Ram Lal — worship. This is a three-foot slab of sandstone that stands upright under a *keekar* tree beside the pond. It is the local deity, the 'deo' which all the villagers — Hindu, Sikh, Muslim or pseudo-Christian — visit secretly, whenever they are in special need of blessing.

- 2 Although Mano Majra is said to be on the banks of the Sutlej River, it is actually half a mile away from it. In India villages cannot afford to be too close to the banks of rivers. Rivers change their moods with seasons and later their course without warning. The Sutlej is the largest river in the Punjab. After the monsoon its waters rise and spread across its vast sandy bed, touching high up the mud embankments on either side. It becomes an expanse of muddy turbulence more than a mile in breadth. When the flood subsides, the river breaks up into a thousand shallow streams that wind sluggishly between little marshy islands. About a mile north of Mano Majra the Sutlej is spanned by a railroad bridge. On the eastern end the embankment extends all the way to the village railroad station.
- 3 Mano Majra has always been known for its railway station. Since the bridge has only one track, the station has several sidings where less important trains can wait, to make way for the more important ones.
- 4 A small colony of shopkeepers and hawkers has grown up around the station to supply travellers with food, betel leaves, cigarettes, tea, biscuits and sweetmeats. This gives the station an appearance of constant activity and its staff a somewhat exaggerated sense of importance. Actually the station-master himself sells tickets through the pigeon-hole in

his office, collects them at the exit besides the door, and sends and receives messages over the telegraph ticker on his table. When there are people to notice him, he comes out on the platform and waves a green flag for trains which do not stop. His only assistant manipulates the levers in the glass cabin on the platform, which control the signals on either side and helps shunting engines by changing hand points on the tracks to get them on to the sidings. In the evenings, he lights the long line of lamps, on the platform. He takes heavy aluminium lamps to the signals and sticks them in the clamps behind the red and green glass. In the mornings, he brings them back and puts out the lights on the platform.

- 5 Not many trains stop at Mano Majra. Express trains do not stop at all. Of the many slow passenger trains, only two, one from Delhi to Lahore in the mornings and the other from Lahore to Delhi in the evenings, are scheduled to stop for a few minutes. The others stop only when they are held up. The only regular customers are the goods trains. Although Mano Majra seldom has any goods to send or receive, its station sidings are usually occupied by long rows of wagons. Each passing goods train spends hours shedding wagons and collecting others. After dark, when the countryside is steeped in silence, the whistling and puffing of engines, the banging of buffers, and the clanking of iron couplings can be heard all through the night.

(slightly adapted)

- (a) Name any two brick buildings in Mano Majra. 1
- (b) Where are the *keekar* trees growing ? 1
- (c) What type of trains stop at Mano Majra ? 1
- (d) Which common object of worship is visited by all the villagers ? 1
- (e) Why did people not build their houses on the banks of the rivers ? 1
- (f) What do the shopkeepers around the railways station sell to the travellers ? 1
- (g) What additional job did the station master perform in addition to selling tickets and sending and receiving messages over the telegraph ticker ? 1
- (h) What breaks the silence of the village at night ? 1
- (i) Find the word from the passage which means the opposite of 'broad' (para 1). 1
- (j) Find the word from the passage which means the same as 'lazily' (para 2). 1
- (B) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow : 10

(From "The Passing of Arthur"; Alfred Lord Tennyson)

And slowly answer'd Arthur from the barge:

'The old order changeth, yielding place to new,

And God fulfils Himself in many ways,

Lest one good custom should corrupt the world.

5 Comfort thyself: what comfort is in me ?

I have lived my life, and that which I have done

May He within himself make pure ! but thou,

- If thou shouldst never see my face again,
 Pray for my soul, More things are wrought by prayer
- 10 Than this world dreams of. Wherefore, let thy voice
 Rise like a fountain for me night and day.
 For what are men better than sheep or goats
 That nourish a blind life within the brain,
 If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
- 15 Both for themselves and those who call them friend ?
 For so the whole round earth is every way
 Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.
- 18 But now farewell.
- (a) What does the expression ‘The old order changeth, yielding place to new’ signify ? 2
- (b) What does the speaker ask the listener to do if he fails to return ? 2
- (c) Identify and name the figure of speech in lines 10 – 13. 2
- (d) What makes human beings different from animals ? 2
- (e) (i) Which word in the extract means the same as ‘giving’ ? 1
- (ii) Which word in the extract means the opposite of ‘foe’ ? 1

Creative Writing

2. (a) It is said that 'well begun is half done'. Applying this to 'Swachh Bharat Mission' we can safely assume that praiseworthy success has been achieved under this Mission. But much more remains to be done yet. Write a speech in 80 – 100 words on the need to intensify this drive. You are Raunaq/Asmeeta, Secretary, Environment Conservation Club in your school. 5
- (b) Trees are the biggest source of oxygen. They help us control pollution. We should not only not cut the trees but we should also plant more and more trees in our neighbourhoods. Write an article in 80 – 100 words on the topic, 'Plant more Trees' for your school magazine. You are Promila/Primal. 5
3. You are Amrit/Amrita. You are participating in a debate. Write either *for* or *against* the topic 'In today's world only wealthy people can afford to be healthy.' (150 – 200 words) 10

OR

One of the biggest problems of our society is frequent cases of missing small children. Write an article on the topic, 'The Rising Crime of Child Lifting' for a newspaper. You are Ankul/Avantika. (150 – 200 words)

Applied Grammar

4. (a) Read the following sentences carefully and then rewrite them as per instructions given in the brackets : 1×5=5
- (i) The teacher said, "The Earth rotates round the Sun."
(Change the narration)
- (ii) Who broke the table ? (Change the voice)
- (iii) As soon as I entered the room the alarm went off.
(No sooner ... than)
- (iv) What a sweet voice ! (Assertive sentence)
- (v) If you do not work hard, you will not clear the exam.
(Use lest ...)

- (b) Read the conversation given below and complete the paragraph that follows : 1×5=5
- Ram : Hello Shyam, where are you going ?
- Shyam : To meet my uncle.
- Ram : Where does your uncle live ?
- Shyam : At Elgin Road.
- Ram : You seem to be very excited.
- Shyam : Yes, my uncle returned from the U.S. and he has brought a few gifts for me.

Ram greeted Shyam and asked him (i) _____ going. Shyam replied that he was going to meet his uncle. At this Ram wanted to know (ii) _____. Shyam's answer was that he lived at Elgin Road. Ram observed that Shyam (iii) _____ excited. Shyam agreed and said that (iv) _____ the U.S. and that (v) _____ for him.

SECTION C — (Literature Textbook : Kaleidoscope)

30

5. Choose **any two** of the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow in 50 – 60 words each : 4×2=8
- (a) ... Tao Ying takes out her own tape measure and insists on measuring him again.
- 'I don't want to ! Everybody says I am tall enough except you. It's because you don't want to buy me a ticket, don't think I don't know. If you measure me I am bound to get shorter again. I don't trust you ! I don't trust you !'
- The yellow tape in Tao Ying's hands has turned into a poisonous viper.
- (i) What prompts Tao Ying to measure the height of her son ? 2
- (ii) What makes the son feel that the yellow tape in Tao Ying's hand has turned into a poisonous viper ? 2

(b) Her name meant nothing to me when I read it in the newspaper, but I was intrigued by the snake ring and its emerald eyes. I could not find out, however, on which finger she wore it.

(i) Who is the woman being talked about ? Where and how had the writer met her ? 2

(ii) What is special about the ring she wore ? 2

(c) Pity would be no more

If we did not make somebody Poor;

And Mercy no more could be

If all were as happy as we.

(i) What is the relationship between Pity and Poverty ? 2

(ii) What kind of society does the poet visualize in these lines ? 2

6. Answer **any two** of the following questions in 80 – 100 words each : $5 \times 2 = 10$

(a) Who was Raizel and how was she connected to Dr. Margolin ? Where did she meet Dr. Margolin and in what form ?

(b) What are the ways in which individual freedom gets restricted ?

(c) What aspects of Indian society and history get highlighted in the poem “Blood” by Kamala Das ?

7. Answer **any two** of the following questions in 120 – 150 words each : $6 \times 2 = 12$

(a) Does Amartya Sen see argumentation as a positive or a negative value ? Give a reasoned answer.

(b) What is the role of Mother in Prakriti’s self-realisation ?

(c) Describe the conflict of emotions felt by Eveline on the day she had decided to elope with Frank.

Note : Attempt either question no. 8 or 9.

8. (a) Answer **any two** of the following questions in 80 – 100 words each :

5×2=10

- (i) Why did the villagers begin to guard their cattle ? Which official did they approach for help ?
- (ii) How did Captain learn how to run a circus ?
- (iii) How did the Swamiji (Master) convince the crowd about his plan to bring down the Headmaster from the loft ?

(b) Answer **any one** of the following questions in 150 – 200 words :

10

- (i) How did Raja's life change after he was captured ?
- (ii) What was the reaction of the crowd when the Master emerged from the school gate with the Tiger ?
- (iii) What do you know about the previous life of the Master (Swamiji) before he became a sanyasi ?

9. (a) Answer **any two** of the following questions in 80 – 100 words each :

5×2=10

- (i) Under what circumstances did Margayya meet Dr. Pal ?
- (ii) What takes Margayya to the Madman's House at Madras ? Describe his interview with him.
- (iii) What is Margayya's dream about his son ? What steps did he take to realise it ?

(b) Answer **any one** of the following questions in 150 – 200 words : 10

- (i) Margayya is certainly guilty of employing unfair means to become rich. Comment.
- (ii) Who was responsible for Margayya's ruin — Margayya himself or/and Dr. Pal ?
- (iii) Write a note on the character and the role of Margayya's wife, Meenakshi in the novel, "The Financial Expert".

