

West Bengal State University

B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2011

Part - II

ENGLISH — GENERAL

Paper - II

Duration : 3 Hours

[Maximum Marks : 100

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

1. Answer any *six* of the following questions 6 × 2 = 12
 - a) Who attended the funeral of Mrs. Field ? Why was Mrs. Field popular ?
 - b) What is meant by 'plage' ? How are the tents described ?
 - c) How does an essayist differ from a philosopher ?
 - d) How did the Europeans react to the killing of the elephant ?
 - e) What did chalice mean ? What is its connection in the story ?
 - f) What was the only relaxation of Mrs. Thurlow and how did she enjoy it ?
 - g) Why did the boss invite Mr. Woodfield to taste the wine ?
 - h) Where and in what natural surrounding did the author meet Wilson ?

2. Answer any *one* of the following questions 1 × 16 = 16
 - a) Give an account of how Lamb enjoyed in the great lone house as given in 'Dream Children : A Reverie'.
 - b) With close reference to the text, narrate what Orwell feels about the nature of British imperialism in an eastern colony and his role as an agent of it.
 - c) How does Lynd describe the activities of the holiday makers at the seaside ?
 - d) Enumerate after Benson the qualities of an essayist.

3. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 1 × 16 = 16
- a) Comment on the significance of the fly-episode in *The Fly*.
 - b) How does Joyce blend symbolism with realism in *Araby* ?
 - c) Justify the title of the story *The Ox*.
 - d) What impression do you have about the character of Thomas Wilson from the story, *The Lotus-Eater* ?
4. Answer any *one* of the following : 1 × 16 = 16
- a) Comment on Hardy's tragic view of life as reflected in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.
 - b) Describe the picture of the life of the Wessex people in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.
 - c) How does Dickens portray Oliver in *Oliver Twist* ?
 - d) What picture of the London underworld do you find in *Oliver Twist* ?
5. Explain with reference to the context 2 × 10 = 20
- i)
 - a) "I missed his kindness, and I missed his crossness, and wished him to be alive again, ... "

OR

 - b) "There are those who would dispose bathing under such a tutelage of trumpeters."

OR

 - c) " This looks as if someone had been doing it himself."
 - ii)
 - a) "They are like tram-cars travelling forever on the selfsame rails."

OR

 - b) "Gazing up into the darkness saw myself as a creature driven and derided by vanity, and my eyes burned with anguish and anger."

OR

 - c) "All the same, we cling to our last pleasures as the tree clings to its last leaves."

6. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below : 4 × 5 = 20

Nobody who has not tried to write an advertisement has any idea of the difficulties presented by this form of literature — or shall I say of 'applied literature'. The problem that confronts the writer of advertisements is an immensely complicated one, and by reason of its very difficulty immensely interesting. It is far easier to write ten passably effective poems than one effective advertisement that will take in a few thousand of the uncritical buying public. In writing a poem one need think only of oneself ; if one's readers find one boring or obscure, the fault will be theirs. But in writing an advertisement one must think of other people. Advertisement writers may not be lyrical or in any way obscure. They must be universally intelligible. A good advertisement has this in common with drama and oratory, that it must be immediately comprehensible and directly moving. Now the orator can turn all round his subject ; he can repeat. But the advertiser has no space to spare ; he pays too dearly for every inch. He must play upon the minds of his audience and of course persuade them to part with their money, with a small and limited instrument. With what care you must weigh every syllable ! What infinite pains must be taken to fashion every phrase into a barbed hook that shall stick in the reader's mind and draw from its hiding-place within his pocket the reluctant coin. One's style and ideas must be lucid and simple enough to be understood by all ; but at the same time they must not be vulgar. Could any problem be more fascinatingly difficult ? Surely writing a poem is child's play compared to this.

Questions :

- a) What is the problem that an advertisement writer faces ?
- b) What makes the writer think that writing a poem is far easier than advertisement writing ?
- c) Why does the writer describe advertisement as 'applied literature' ?
- d) What should be the style of an advertisement writer and why ?

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Part – II

ENGLISH — GENERAL
Paper - III

Duration : 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks : 100

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GROUP – A

1. Answer any six of the following questions : 6 × 2 = 12
- a) "Why doth the Jew pause ? Take thy forfeiture." Who is the speaker ? What is the 'forfeiture' ?
- b) Why did Antonio borrow money from Shylock ?
- c) "He hath refus'd it in the open court ;
 He shall have merely justice, and his bond."
 Who is the speaker ? What was the 'bond' ?
- d) "... I shall end this strife,
 Become a Christian and thy loving wife."
 Who is the speaker and who is being spoken to ?
- e) What were the 'Ides of March' ? Who warns Caesar about them ?
- f) "Thy spirit walks abroad, and turns our swords
 Into our own proper entrails."
 Who is the speaker and whose spirit is he speaking to ?

- g) What message did Artemidorus wish to convey to Caesar ?
- h) Mention any two of the legacies stated in Caesar's will.
- i) How did Bluntschli and Raina meet ?
- j) What did Nicola plan to do after leaving the service of the Petkoffs ?
- k) Why did Sergius challenge Bluntschli to a duel ?
- l) Why did Raina call Bluntschli her 'chocolate-cream soldier' ?

GROUP - B

2. Answer the following questions 2 × 16 = 32

a) Give an account of the Trial Scene in 'The Merchant of Venice'.

OR

ii) Comment on the portrayal of Portia in 'The Merchant of Venice'.

OR

iii) Analyse the role of Brutus or Cassius in 'Julius Caesar'.

OR

iv) Describe the Assassination Scene in 'Julius Caesar'.

b) i) Discuss the characterization of Raina by Shaw in 'Arms and the Man'.

OR

ii) Consider 'Arms and the Man' as an anti-romantic comedy.

3. Explain with reference to the context any *two* of the following : 2 × 8 = 16

a) "The quality of mercy is not strained,
It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
Upon the place beneath."

b) "Away then ! I am locked in one of them :
If you do love me, you will find me out."

c) "O pardon me, thou bleeding piece of earth,
That I am meek and gentle with these butchers."

- d) "Mischief, thou art afoot.
Take thou what course thou will."
- e) "Yes : that's Don Quixote : not a doubt of it."
- f) "Yes : sell your manhood for thirty levas, and buy me for ten."

GROUP - C

4. Write an essay on any *one* of the following topics : 1 × 20 = 20
- a) Commercialization of art — its advantages and disadvantages.
 - b) Literature and the Visual Media.
 - c) Classroom teaching and distance education.
 - d) Power of Science over Nature.
5. Write notes on any *five* of the following : 5 × 4 = 20
- a) Ode
 - b) Symbol
 - c) Elegy
 - d) Imagery
 - e) Soliloquy
 - f) Dramatic Monologue
 - g) Climax
 - h) Lyric.