

West Bengal State University
B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2013

PART – II
ENGLISH – GENERAL

Paper – II

Duration : 3 Hours]

[Full 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) How does Lamb describe his sense of loss at his brother's death ?
 - b) Mention two works by Sir Thomas Browne.
 - c) What, according to Benson, are the basic merits of a good essay ?
 - d) Bring out the significance of the character of Mangan's sister in Joyce's *Araby*.
 - e) Where was the narrator of *Shorting an Elephant* posted ? What was his official designation ?
 - f) How is Woodfield related to the boss ?
 - g) "Perhaps he died of the beauty of that sight". Explain.
 - h) What is the attitude of Mrs. Thurlow's children towards her ?

Answer any one of the following questions 1 × 16 = 16

- a) Bring out the elements of Romanticism in Charles Lamb's *Dream Children, A Reverie*.
- b) How does Orwell bring out the attitude of the Burmese subjects towards the European masters ?

- c) How does Lynd describe the activities of the holiday makers at the sea-side ?
- d) Bring out the significance of the story with which Benson begins his essay.

3. Answer any *one* of the following questions 1 × 16 = 16

- a) Bring out the significance of the title of the short story *The Ox*.
- b) How does Joyce bring out the intricacies of the adolescent psychology in *Araby* ?
- c) How does the 'Fly Episode' bring out the conflict in the Boss' mind ?
- d) What impression do you have about Wilson's character in *The Lotus-Eater* ?

4. Answer any *one* of the following questions 1 × 16 = 16

- a) How does Hardy bring out the contrast between the characters of Henchard and Farfrae ?
- b) Write a short essay on Hardy's philosophy of life as it comes out in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.
- c) Bring out the significance of Nancy's character in *Oliver Twist*.
- d) How does Dickens portray child psychology in *Oliver Twist* ?

5. Explain with reference to the context 2 × 10 = 20

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

OR

- b) "... such a distance there is between life and death..."

OR

- c) "The only thing necessary is that the thing or the thought should be vividly apprehended, enjoyed, felt to be beautiful, and expressed with a certain gusto."

- ii) a) They are like tram cars travelling forever on selfsame rails.

OR

- b) For the life of him, he could not remember.

OR

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

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

The last, and chiefest danger which I would indicate, is one to which I have already referred—the risk of a failure at the commencement of the enterprise. I must insist on it. A failure at the commencement may easily kill outright the newborn impulse towards a complete vitality, and therefore every precaution should be observed to avoid it. The impulse must not be over-taxed. Let the pace of the first lap be even absurdly slow, but let it be as regular as possible.

And, having once decided to achieve a certain task, achieve it at all costs of tedium and distaste. The gain in self-confidence of having accomplished a tiresome labour is immense.

Finally, in choosing the first occupations of those evening hours, be guided by nothing whatever but your taste and natural inclination.

Questions

- a) What does the author indicate as the last and the chiefest danger ?
- b) What harm can a “failure at the commencement” cause ?
- c) What is the ‘gain’ even when something is pursued at the cost of “tedium and distaste” ?
- d) What should be the guiding factors behind choosing the most important occupation for the evening hours ?

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B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2013
PART-II

ENGLISH — General
Paper-III

Duration : 3 Hours

Full 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.

GROUP - A

1. Answer any six of the following questions 6 × 2 = 12
- a) "Beware the ides of March."
 — Who is the speaker ? What is the significance of the ides of March in the play ? 2
- b) "Let me have men about me that are fat."
 Who is the speaker ? Whom does he have in mind while making this remark ?
- c) "How many times shall Caesar bleed in sport."
 Who is the speaker ? Explain the expression : "Bleed in sport".
- d) "... he doth bstride the narrow world like a colossus."
 Who is the speaker ? Who is being compared to colossus and why ?
- e) "But though I am daughter to his blood,
 I am not to his manners."
 Who is the speaker ? What does she mean by this statement ?

- f) Why did Antonio borrow money from Shylock ?
- g) "You teach me how a beggar should be answered." Who is the speaker ? What is the context of the speech ?
- h) "If I live to be as old as Sibylla, I will die as chaste as Diana ...". Who is the speaker ? Why does the speaker refer to Sibylla and Diana ?
- i) "Which of the six is the real man ? Who is the speaker ? What are the six personalities referred to here ?
- j) Why does Nicola want Louka to marry Sergius ?
- k) "Some soldiers, I know, are afraid to die."
Who is the speaker ? How does the person listener respond to this statement ?
- l) "Gentle folk are all alike." Who is the speaker ? What does the speaker mean by this statement ?

GROUP - B

2. Answer the following questions : 2 × 16 = 32

- a) i) Write a short note on the significance of the Trial Scene in Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*.

OR

- ii) Would you agree with the view that Portia is the main character in Shakespeare's play, *Merchant of Venice* ? Justify your answer.

OR

- iii) Write a brief note on the character of Julius Caesar as portrayed by Shakespeare in his play, *Julius Caesar*.

OR

- iv) Describe briefly Act I of Shakespeare's play, *Julius Caesar* and indicate how this Act serves as an exposition of the play.

- b) i) Bernard Shaw's play, *Arms and the Man* is subtitled, "An Anti-romantic comedy in Three Acts". Comment on the significance of this subtitle.

OR

- ii) Write a brief note comparing the characters of Raina and Louka in Shaw's play, *Arms and the Man*.

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

- a) "If to do were as easy as to know what were good to do, Chapels had been Churches and poor mens' cottages princes' palaces."⁴

- b) "If Hercules and Lichas play at dice

Which is the better man, the greater throw

May turn by fortune from the weaker hand."

- c) "O, he sits high in all the people's hearts

And that which would appear offense in us

His countenance, like richest alchemy

Will change to virtue and to worthiness."

- d) "He shall but bear them as the ass bears gold

To groan and sweat under the business."

- e) "I can't make you see it

from the professional point of view."

- f) "What a man ! Is he a man !"

GROUP - C

4. Write an essay on any *one* of the following topics 1 × 20 = 20
- a) Literature and society
 - b) Literature in the age of technology
 - c) Your favourite book
 - d) Relevance of teaching English in India.
5. Write notes on any *five* of the following 5 × 4 = 20
- a) Imagery
 - b) Ode
 - c) Soliloquy
 - d) Lyric
 - e) Ballad
 - f) Dramatic Monologue
 - g) Elegy
 - h) Sonnet.