

2017

ENGLISH

Full Marks : 90

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions*

SECTION—A

( Reading )

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

Look at the opposition between the pen and the sword. The sword can only destroy; ideas also can destroy—the ideas of Bolshevism destroyed Czarism; the ideas of Voltaire and Rousseau destroyed the French aristocracy. But ideas can also build, whereas the sword can only destroy.

It is in fact the power of ideas which has brought us out of barbarism into such civilization as we have been able to achieve. "In what", asked Aristotle, "does man differ from the animal?" and answered, "it is by virtue of reason." The greatness of man consists in his thinking. The universe is vast, and man is tiny, but man has one advantage over the

universe. He knows it is vast and he is tiny, but the universe does not.

In this sense, that it is to ideas and not to violence, to the pen and not to the sword, that man owes whatever has distinguished him from animals, whatever has enabled him to rise above a purely savage condition. For the pen is the vehicle of thought, and it is by thought that man is enabled to voyage through the infinite in philosophy, to unlock the secrets of the universe, to create beauty and to commune with God.

*Questions :*

- (a) (i) What destroyed Czarism? 1
- (ii) Who were responsible for the fall of the French aristocracy? 1
- (iii) What has brought humankind out of barbarism into civilization? 1
- (iv) What does the pen represent here? 1
- (v) How do ideas and the sword differ from each other? 2
- (vi) What, according to Aristotle, makes man different from the animal? 2
- (vii) What is the one advantage that man has over the universe? 2
- (b) Pick out words from the passage that mean the following :  $1 \times 2 = 2$
- (i) People of noble birth or rank
- (ii) Primitive condition

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

1. How does television affect our lives? It can be very helpful to people who carefully choose the shows that they watch. Television can increase our knowledge of the outside world; there are high-quality programmes that help us understand many fields of study such as science, medicine, the arts, and so on. Moreover, television benefits very old people who cannot often leave the house as well as patients in hospitals. It also offers non-native speakers the advantage of daily informal language practice. They can increase their vocabulary and practise listening.

2. On the other hand, there are several serious disadvantages of television. Of course, it provides us with a pleasant way to relax and spend our free time, but in some countries, people watch the 'boob-tube' for an average of six hours or more a day. Many children stare at a television screen for more hours each day than they do anything else, including studying and sleeping. It's clear that the tube has a powerful influence on their lives and that its influence is often negative.

3. Recent studies show that after only thirty seconds of television watching, a person's brain 'relaxes' the same way that it does just before the person falls asleep. Another effect of television on the human brain is that it seems to cause poor concentration. Children who view a lot of television can often concentrate on a subject for only 15 to 20 minutes.

4. Another disadvantage is that television often causes people to become dissatisfied with their own lives. Real life does not seem as exciting to these people as the lives of actors on the screen. To many people, television becomes more real than reality and their own lives seem boring. Also, many people get upset or depressed when they cannot solve problems in real life as quickly as television actors seem to.

5. Before a child is 14 years old, he or she views eleven thousand murders on the tube. He or she begins to believe that there is nothing strange about fights, killings and other kinds of violence. Many studies show that people become more violent after certain programmes. They may even do things that they have seen in a violent show.

6. The most negative effect of the 'boob tube' might be people's addiction to it. People often feel a strange and powerful need to watch television even when they do not enjoy it. Addiction to a television screen is similar to drug or alcohol addiction. People almost never believe they are addicted.

*Questions :*

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it, using recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary. Add a suitable title to it. 5

(b) Make a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. 3

SECTION—B

( Writing )

3. You are arranging an excursion trip to Shillong planned in the last week of April. Write a paragraph on your preparations to your classmates in about 100 words giving all relevant details. 6

Or

Your school/college observed the Human Rights Day recently. Prepare a report on the daylong programme in about 80 words to be published in a local daily.

4. Write a speech to be delivered in the school/college assembly on 'Importance of Discipline in Life'. 6

Or

Write an article for your school/college magazine on the need to fight environmental degradation in our country.

5. You are Ranjan/Ragini. You have seen an advertisement in *The Assam Tribune* for the post of Assistant Teacher in an L. P. School in Goalpara. Write an application to the Headmaster of the school in response to the advertisement. Mention all relevant details. 8

Or

Write a letter to the Editor of a local English Daily drawing attention of the authorities concerned to the nuisance of loudspeakers in your area.

SECTION—C

( Grammar )

6. (a) Fill in the blanks with suitable determiners :  $\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$

(i) Do you need \_\_\_\_\_ help? (some/any)

(ii) \_\_\_\_\_ of the boys was given a pen. (Every/Each)

(b) Rewrite the following sentences with the correct form of the verb given in brackets :  $\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$

(i) Football (play) all over the world.

(ii) She behaves as if she (know) everything.

(c) Fill in the blanks with appropriate modal auxiliaries (the sense of the sentence is indicated in the bracket) :  $\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$

(i) He \_\_\_\_\_ pay his dues before he can be allowed to sit at the examination. (compulsion)

(ii) He \_\_\_\_\_ listen to what his parents say. (moral duty)

(d) Correct the following :  $\frac{1}{2} \times 2 = 1$

(i) Guwahati is one of the oldest city in the country.

(ii) This city is known for its beautiful sceneries.

7. (a) Complete the following piece of conversation by choosing the correct alternative from the brackets : 2

I said to her, " \_\_\_\_\_ (How/When) are you?" She replied, "I'm fine. It's so nice to see you \_\_\_\_\_ (returned/back/come) in our village again."

(b) Rewrite the following sentences as directed :  $1 \times 2 = 2$

(i) Stephen Hawking is the most famous scientist of this generation.

(Use the comparative degree of 'famous')

(ii) She knows my address.

(Make it a complex sentence)

8. Rearrange the words in the following to form meaningful sentences :  $1 \times 2 = 2$

(a) Shyam not know swim does to how.

(b) He came I had left after place the.

SECTION—D

( Textual Questions )

9. Read any *one* of the stanzas given below and answer the questions that follow :

(a) The cardboard shows me how it was  
When the two girl cousins went paddling  
Each one holding one of my mother's hands,  
And she the big girl—some twelve years or so.  
All three stood still to smile through their hair  
At the uncle with the camera,

(i) What does the cardboard show the poet? 1

(ii) How did the girls go to the sea beach? 1

(iii) Why did the two girl cousins hold one of the poet's  
mother's hands? 1

(iv) Who clicked the three girls in the cardboard? 1

(v) What kind of a childhood do the quoted lines  
project? 4

(b) I do not understand this child  
Though we have lived together now  
In the same house for years. I know  
Nothing of him, so try to build  
Up a relationship from how  
He was when small.

(i) Where do these lines occur? 1

(ii) Why does the speaker say that he does not know  
'this child'? 1



- (iii) For how long have the father and son lived together? 1
- (iv) What does the speaker try to build? 1
- (v) What idea do you form about the relationship between the father and son from the quoted lines? 4
10. Answer any *two* of the following questions : 3×2=6
- (a) How is the cyclic movement of rain brought out in the poem, *The Voice of the Rain*?
- (b) The poet's mother laughed at the snapshot. What did this laugh indicate?
- (c) What, according to the poem, *Childhood*, is involved in the process of growing up?
- (d) How is the father's helplessness brought out in the poem, *Father to Son*?
11. Answer any *five* of the following questions : 2×5=10
- (a) What are the different ways in which we come to know that the author's grandmother was a deeply religious person?
- (b) Contrast the Chinese view of art with the European view.
- (c) What does the notice 'The world's most dangerous animal' at a cage in the zoo at Lusaka, Zambia, signify?

(d) Why did the author Verrier Elwin say that he was an unconventional visitor?

(e) Mention three ways in which the author's grandmother spent her days after he grew up.

(f) What does Verrier Elwin have to say to the hill people of Assam?

12. (a) "The earth's vital signs reveal a patient in declining health." Elucidate.

6

Or

(b) Describe the changing relationship between the author Khushwant Singh and his grandmother. Did their feeling for each other change?

13. (a) "English integrates India as a nation." Discuss with examples from the story, *Ranga's Marriage*.

6

Or

(b) What do you make of Einstein's nature from his conversations with his history teacher, his mathematics teacher and the head teacher?

14. Answer any *two* of the following questions in brief :  $2 \times 2 = 4$

(a) Why does Einstein think that learning facts is no education at all?

- (b) What were Ranga's views on marriage?
- (c) How does the example of Einstein prove that the school system ends up by curbing individual talent?

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