

2014

ENGLISH

Full Marks : 100

Pass Marks : 30

Time : Three hours

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

**(FOR THE CANDIDATES OF
OLD & NEW SYLLABUSES)**

SECTION A

(Reading Skills : 10 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully :

1. At 4.30 P.M., Abha brought in the last meal he was ever to eat; it consisted of goat's milk, cooked and raw vegetables, oranges and a concoction of ginger, sour lemons and strained butter with juice of aloe. Sitting on the floor of his room in the rear of Birla House in New Delhi, Gandhi ate and talked with Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister of the new government of Independent India. Maniben, Patel's daughter and secretary, was also present. The conversation was important. There had been rumours of differences between Patel and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. This problem, like so many others, had been dropped into the Mahatma's lap.
2. Abha, alone with Gandhi and the Patels, hesitated to interrupt. But she knew Gandhi's attachment to punctuality. Finally, therefore, she picked up the Mahatma's nickel-plated watch and showed it to him. 'I must tear myself away', Gandhi remarked, and so saying he rose, went to the adjoining bathroom and then started towards the prayer ground in the large park to the left of the house. Abha, the young wife of

Kanu Gandhi, grandson of the Mahatma's cousin, and Manu, the granddaughter of another cousin, accompanied him; he leaned his forearms on their shoulders. 'My walking sticks', he called them.

3. During the daily two-minute promenade through the long, red-sandstone colonnade that led to the prayer ground, Gandhi relaxed and joked. Now, he mentioned the carrot juice Abha had given him that morning.
4. 'So you are serving me cattle fare,' he said, and laughed.
5. 'Ba used to call it horse fare', Abha replied. Ba was Gandhi's deceased wife.
6. 'Isn't it grand of me, Gandhi bantered, 'to relish what no one else wants?'
7. 'Bapu (father),' said Abha, 'your watch must be feeling very neglected. You would not look at it today.'
8. 'Why should I, since you are my timekeepers?' Gandhi retorted.
9. 'But you don't look at the timekeepers,' Manu noted. Gandhi laughed again.

On the basis of your reading of the passage answer the following questions :

(a) What did Gandhi eat in his last meal?

2

- (b) Who were the persons present when Gandhi ate his last meal? 2
- (c) What was the problem that had been dropped into Gandhi's lap? 2
- (d) Why did Abha show Gandhi the nickel-plated watch? 2
- (e) Who were the timekeepers of Gandhi? 1
- (f) What is the cattle fare referred to? 1

SECTION B

(Advanced Writing Skills : 25 Marks)

2. Write a poster in not *more than 50 words* stressing the need for improving the physical health of the students for a better and happier life. 5

OR

You are Rima / Rahim, a resident of House No. 16, Bapujee Nagar, Tinsukia. You have lost your suitcase containing valuable documents while travelling from Tinsukia to Jorhat by train. Draft an advertisement in *not more than 50 words* for publication in an English daily giving details of the suitcase, when you had lost it and giving your contact address requesting the finder to return it to you.

3. Write a report on a road accident giving imaginary details of the serious accident and the immediate steps taken by the authorities concerned towards medical relief to the victims. (word limit : **125 words**) 10

OR

Write an article on 'Television : advantages and disadvantages' to be published in the college magazine. (your article should not exceed **135 words**) 10

4. Write a letter to the editor of an English daily drawing the attention of the authorities concerned to the poor condition of the roads in your locality. You are Manav / Manashi living in Mirza, Kamrup. 10

OR

You are Arunabh / Mandira. You have seen an advertisement for the post of receptionist in a Multi-National Company in Bangalore. Write a formal application for the post in response to the advertisement.

10

SECTION C

(Grammar : 20 Marks)

5. Change the form of narration in the following sentences :

2×2=4

- (a) The lady said to the salesman, "What is the price of this Barbie doll?" The salesman said to her, "It is a bit expensive. But I can give it to you at a 20 per cent discount."
- (b) One day Mohan told me that he would become a doctor and leave Assam. I asked him if he knew anything about medicine.

6. Change the voice of **any three** of the following sentences :
1×3=3

(a) The student was told to leave the room.

(b) Guwahati is called the gateway to the North East.

(c) They laughed at us.

(d) My umbrella has been stolen.

(e) The thief was beaten up by the mob.

(f) You will be asked to deliver the letters.

7. Rewrite **any five** of the following sentences using the verbs given in brackets in their correct tense forms : 1×5=5

(a) I wish I (know) her.

(b) The meeting (begin) when we arrived at the auditorium.

(c) The First World War (last) for four years and ended in 1918.

(d) As soon as I came in she (leave) the room.

(e) I usually (go) to bed at 11 O' clock.

(f) To hate man (be) the biggest crime.

(g) Please stop singing because I (try) to work.

8. Rewrite **any four** of the following sentences filling in the blanks with appropriate prepositions: 1×4=4

(a) The train arrived _____ the station a minute ago.

(b) My birthday is _____ 24 August.

(c) The office is closed _____ the second and fourth Saturdays.

(d) Our school is _____ Chandmari.

(e) We have been staying _____ a hotel near the bus-stop.

(f) The girl standing _____ the two boys is their sister.

9. Rewrite **any four** of the sentences as directed: $1 \times 4 = 4$

(a) This is the best book on the subject.

(Change into comparative degree)

(b) No other boxer is as great as Mary Kom.

(Change into superlative degree)

(c) None but Anita can do the sum.

(Change into affirmative)

(d) I know his name.

(Change into a complex sentence)

(e) Everybody must admit that Tendulkar is a great cricketer.

(Change into negative)

(f) I shall never forget you.

(Change into interrogative)

SECTION D

(Text books : 45 Marks)

10. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow :

(a) “but after the airport’s
security check, standing a few yards
away, I looked again at her, wan, pale
as a late winter’s moon and felt that old
familiar ache, my childhood’s fear,
but all I said was, see you soon, Amma,
all I did was smile and smile and smile”

Questions :

- (i) What did the speaker do after the security check? 1
- (ii) Why did the poet compare her mother’s face to a late winter’s moon? 2
- (iii) What was the poet’s childhood fear? 1

OR

(b) "But soon
put that thought away and looked out at Young
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling
Out of their homes"

Questions :

- (i) Who looked out at the young trees? 1
- (ii) Which thought did the speaker put away? 1
- (iii) What do young sprinting trees signify? 1
- (iv) What did the poet see the children doing? 1

11. Answer **any three** of the following questions in **30-40**
words: 2×3=6

- (i) What is the kind of pain and ache that the poet feels?
- (ii) Explain the statement : "I saw my mother her face
ashen like that of a corpse".

- (iii) What is the message that Keats wants to convey through "A Thing of Beauty".
- (iv) Which things irritated the passersby who stopped at the roadside stand?
- (v) What is 'this sadness' that Neruda talks of?

12. Answer **any five** of the following questions: 1×5=5

- (a) "I started for school very late that morning." Who is the "I" here?
- (b) Who is the author of "Lost Spring"?
- (c) What does the author of "Lost Spring" find Saheb doing every morning?
- (d) Where is Champaran situated?
- (e) How was the Y.M.C.A. pool?
- (f) Who is the writer of "Going Places"?

13. Answer **any five** of the following questions in **30-40** words :

2×5=10

- (a) Why was the lesson called the last lesson ?
- (b) What had been put up in the bulletin board ?
- (c) What does Saheb look for in the garbage dumps ? Where is he and where has he come from ?
- (d) Is Saheb happy working at the tea-stall ? Why ?
- (e) What does Roventree often talk of in 'Memoirs of a Chota Sahib' ?
- (f) Give a brief description of Peacock Island.
- (g) What theme does the story 'Going Places' explore ?

14. Answer **any one** of the following questions in **80-100** words :

5

- (a) Describe the miserable plight of the people of Firozabad ?

OR

(b) Describe the efforts made by R. K. Shukla to persuade Gandhi to go to Champaran.

15. Answer **any one** of the following questions in **125-150** words :

7

(a) Draw a character sketch of the Tiger King in your own words.

OR

(b) Why is Antarctica the place to visit for understanding the earth's present, past and future?

16. Answer **any four** of the following questions in **30-40** words :
2×4=8

(a) What did the chief astrologer predict about the Tiger King?

(b) How did the narrator reach Antarctica?

(c) How do people comment so painfully about Derry's face? And Why?

- (d) Why did Zitkala-Sa feel uncomfortable in the dining room ?
- (e) Why did Bama feel terribly sad and provoked ?
- (f) Who should be friends, according to both Derry and Mr. Lamb ?

— x —