

**2023**  
**ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH**  
**Full Marks – 80**  
**Time – 3 Hours**

**General Instructions :**

- (i) This question paper is divided into four sections - A, B, C and D.
- (ii) All the sections are compulsory. Answer all the questions.
- (iii) Write the number of the question before attempting it.
- (iv) Figures in the margin indicate marks.

**SECTION – A (25 marks)**

**GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION**

1. Identify the parts of speech of the underlined words in the following sentences :  $5 \times 1 = 5$ 
  - (a) He is a good cook. (adverb / adjective)
  - (b) She went to the market but did not buy anything new. (preposition / conjunction)
  - (c) My teacher asked me to complete the homework tomorrow. (preposition / adverb)
  - (d) Let me know when you are ready to leave. (conjunction / adverb)
  - (e) My mother told me to water the plants. (verb / noun)
  
2. Punctuate the following :  $6 \times \frac{1}{2} = 3$ 

don't kill me said Chuchundra almost weeping
  
3. Make sentences using the following idioms and phrases to bring out their meanings :  $5 \times 1 = 5$ 
  - (a) a piece of cake
  - (b) once in a blue moon
  - (c) let the cat out of the bag
  - (d) in the nick of time
  - (e) to be down with

4. Write an essay on *any one* of the topics in about **120 –150** words :

(a) Importance of Self-discipline

**OR**

(b) My Last Day at School

5. Write a précis of the following passage. Give a suitable title.

6

The noblest deeds that have been done on Earth have not been done for gold. It was not for the sake of gold that Lord Jesus came down and died on the cross. The Spartans looked for no reward where they fought and died at Thermopylae. Socrates the wise asked no pay for his countrymen but lived poor and barefooted all his days only caring to make them good and noble. And there are heroes even in our own days also who do noble deeds but not for gold.

### SECTION – B (20 marks)

#### POETRY

6. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

“One shade the more, one ray the less,  
Had half impair'd the nameless grace.  
Which waves in every raven tress  
Or softly lightens o'er her face ;”

(a) The extract is taken from –

1

(i) The Old Woman

(ii) She Walks in Beauty

(iii) The Slave's Dream

(iv) A Fine Day

(b) The poet is –

1

(i) H.W Longfellow

(ii) Joseph Campbell

(iii) Lord Byron

(iv) Michael Drayton

(c) What is meant by 'raven tress'?

1

(i) a black bird

(ii) black hair

(iii) black leaves

(iv) black feather

7. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

“My spirit flew in feathers then  
That is so heavy now”.

(a) Name the poem and the poet.

1+1=2

(b) Explain the above lines.

3

8. Write the substance of the following :

4

‘Is this, is this your joy ?

O bird, then, I, though a boy,

For a golden moment share

Your featherly life in air !’

9. Answer *any four* of the following questions :

4×2=8

(a) Why did the slave ride through the plain like a king in his dream ?

(b) What does the poet want to offer to his country in the poem ‘I vow to Thee, My country’ ?

(c) Describe the character of the woman in ‘She Walks in Beauty’.

(d) Give a brief outline of the picture of a fine day drawn by Michael Drayton in his poem.

(e) “Who climbs with toil, wheresoe’er, shall find wings waiting there”. Do you agree with the poet ? Briefly explain why you agree / not agree with him.

### SECTION – C (25 marks)

#### PROSE

10. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

4×1=4

“One word of ridicule stirs a man more than ten words of counsel”.

(a) Name the author –

(i) Rudyard Kipling

(ii) Prabhat K. Mukhopadyay

(iii) Oscar Wilde

(iv) Stephen Leacock

- (b) Nalini was angry at Kunjabala because –
- (i) She made sarcastic comments about him
  - (ii) She was a bad sister-in-law
  - (iii) They did not meet eye-to-eye
  - (iv) She was against her sister marrying him

(c) Nalini was ridiculed for his –

- (i) appearance
- (ii) behaviour
- (iii) job
- (iv) height

(d) Another word for ridicule is –

- (i) approval
- (ii) compliment
- (iii) derision
- (iv) jesting

11. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

4×1=4

‘Tragedy upon pitiful tragedy, and while I listened the ground round my feet was strewn with flowers’.

(a) Who is the speaker ?

- (i) Nalini
- (ii) Jim Corbett
- (iii) The Swallow
- (iv) The Happy Prince

(b) What is the tragedy the speaker speaks about ?

- (i) Wars
- (ii) Many people have been killed
- (iii) People fell ill
- (iv) People died of accidents

(c) Who caused the 'tragedy' ?

(i) A tiger

(ii) A leopard

(iii) A lion

(iv) A wild bear

(d) Why was the ground strewn with flowers ?

(i) Flowers fell from trees

(ii) People threw flowers at each other

(iii) People offered flowers for thanks giving to the speaker

(iv) People decorated the ground with flowers.

12. Answer *any one* of the following in about **100 –120** words :

6

(a) "Yet from an early age, strange conflicting qualities warred within his nature". Elucidate the strange conflicting qualities of Tolstoy's nature.

**OR**

(b) How, according to Hilaire Belloc is fame acquired ? Which form of fame is most enduring ?

13. Answer the following questions in about **50 –75** words :

(a) Why did the Swallow not leave the prince and go to Egypt ?

3

(b) Describe how the hill people show gratitude to Ibbotson and Corbett.

3

14. (a) Why did the Swallow cry when the Happy Prince asked him to pluck out one of the sapphires ?

2

(b) What did G.K. Chesterton learn when he had to stand one leg because of his sprained foot ?

3

## SECTION – D (10 Marks)

## RAPID READER

15. Answer *any three* of the following in about 20–30 words :

3×2=6

- (a) What profession did David's aunt suggest for him ?
- (b) Describe Dora as a wife ?
- (c) Why did Miss Betsey want to have a niece, not a nephew ?
- (d) How did David lose everything he owned in the world ?

16. Write a brief character sketch of Uriah Heep in about 40–50 words.

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