

General Instructions:

- This paper consists of 3 sections: A, B and C. All sections are compulsory.
- Follow the specific instructions given with each question.
- Do not exceed the prescribed word limit.
- Do not split the sections



SECTION A { READING } 30 MARKS

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (12 marks)

Rabindranath Tagore raised the stature of our country in the eyes of the world. A versatile genius, a literary artist, an educator, a composer, a singer, an actor, Tagore had all gifts of Nature and Fortune in his favour. Born into a renowned Hindu family, Tagore pleaded not only for concord with the past but also for freedom from the past. All healthy growth needs continuity and change. We are not free unless our minds are liberated from dead forms, tyrannical restrictions and crippling social habits. Tagore condemned the corruption of many of our social practices. He believed that the essence of life was perpetual renewal and rededication to self-development.

Tagore did not live in an ivory tower. He had led a procession in 1905 through the streets of Calcutta singing his song, "Are you so mighty as to cut us under the bond forged by Providence?" Millions of voices, down the ages, have sung the National Anthem '*Jana Gana Mana*,' reminding ourselves to cherish and nourish the unity of our country and to be devoted to it. He was not only a playwright but a novelist and a story teller, a nationalist and an internationalist. As if these activities were not enough, he turned to painting towards the end of his life. He rejected traditional canons and experimented with new forms and colour compositions. We honour him not only for his many sided genius, but also for the guidance that his life and work have gifted us in this troubled world. Tagore's mission was one of reconciliation between the East and the West, in a spirit of understanding and mutual enlightenment. For India, unity is truth and division is evil. The poet's name is symbolic of the light of the day - the sun - which dispels the mist of darkness and the clouds of suspicion, restoring health to the human system.

Though his work was rooted in Indian soil, his mind roamed over the whole world and hence has a universal appeal. Tagore's writings have been translated into many languages, but even the best translations do not bring out the music and the melody or the force of the original. Born during a turbulent era, when India was in a revolutionary mood, Tagore participated in the freedom movement revolting against social, political and religious institutions and dogmas. He was at all times, convinced of the validity and vitality of the fundamental ideals set forth by the seers and saints of India. Tagore's philosophy was one of wholeness and unity. For Tagore, God, Man and Nature were bound together into a single entity. He was neither a dreamer nor a visionary. He kept constant vigil over the world. He was a great sentinel, as Gandhi called him. He believed



the moral health of a nation depended on the inspiration the people derived from their poets and artists.

Asceticism for Tagore meant self-control and not abstention from world activities. Very early in his life, when he was hardly seventeen, he had learned the need to control his emotions. He was not an unworldly saint. He had a tough earthly quality. He believed that the ideals of social life, economic pursuits, and the enjoyment of beauty should be cultivated equally. Water surrounds the lotus flower but does not drench its petals. Just so, human beings should work in this world, surrounded by all its worldliness, without being affected by it. For Tagore, as for Gandhi, the measure of a man's greatness was not in his material possessions, but in whom there was a happy blend of contemplation and action. Tagore's voice was the conscience of our age. He bequeathed to the country and to the world a life which had no littleness about it.

1.1 On the basis of your reading, choose the correct option: (2)

- a) Tagore's name is symbolic to
i) The moon iii) The stars
ii) The sun iv) The daylight
- b) Asceticism for Tagore meant
i) Abstention iii) Self control
ii) Pursuit of goals iv) contemplation

1.2 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions: (7)

- a) What is the message given in the National Anthem composed by Tagore? (1)
b) What does the poet's name symbolize? (1)
c) How should human beings work in this world? (1)
d) Tagore was a versatile genius. Elucidate (2)
e) What was Tagore's mission in life? (2)

1.3 Pick out words from the passage that mean: (3)

- a) Never ceasing (Para 1)
b) Unstable (Para 3)
c) Left behind (Para 4)

2. Read the poem carefully and answer the questions that follow : (10)

The Howler of the Purple Planet

*Far beyond our Solar System
Where exists no ray of light,
Spins the fog – wrapped Purple Planet
In an endless night.*

*Space Police, when passing Purple-
On the watch for Killer Zeds –
Heard a fearsome, ice – cold howling
Deep inside their heads.*

*Men had never been to Purple –
Never flown down through its fog.
Was the howling caused by gales
Or by a mutant dog?*

*As the probe – ship hurtled onward
Leaving Purple far behind,
So the howling echoed madly
Through each spaceman's mind.*

*One man's blood was turned to water,
Three more were quite soon to die,
All because they'd heard that ghostly
Disembodied cry.*

*Far beyond our Solar System
Where exists no ray of light;
Spins the fog – wrapped Purple Planet
In an endless night.*

2.1 On the basis of your reading, choose the correct option: (4)

- 1) The Purple Planet is
 - i) Close to the Solar System
 - ii) Of short days
 - iii) wrapped in fog and darkness
 - iv) spinning away from Earth
- 2) The Space Police were when they passed the Purple Planet.
 - i) Patrolling space
 - ii) Checking the security system
 - iii) chasing killer Zeds
 - iv) trying to identify a strange sound
- 3) The synonym of '*fog – wrapped*' is :
 - i) Murky
 - ii) Cloudy
 - iii) Misty
 - iv) Dusty
- 4) After leaving the planet behind, the spacemen
 - i) Lost consciousness
 - ii) Went mad
 - iii) still heard the howling
 - iv) started howling

2.2 Answer the following questions: (6)

- 1) Where is the Purple Planet located ?
- 2) What sort of howling did the spacemen hear ?
- 3) Where did the spacemen feel the echo of the howling ?
- 4) What was the aftermath of hearing the howling?
- 5) Give a synonym from the poem for the word '*storm*'?
- 6) Which word in the poem means '*move at a great uncontrollable speed*'?

3. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow: (8)

The small village of Somnathpur is home to an extraordinary temple, built around 1268 A.D. by the Hoyasalas of Karnataka – one of the most prolific temple-builders. Belur and Halebid are among their better-known works. While these suffered during the invasions of the 14th century, the Somnathpur temple stands more or less intact in its near-original condition.

This small temple captivates us with the beauty and vitality of its detailed sculpture, covering almost every inch of the walls, pillars and even the ceilings. It has three shikharas and stands on a star-shaped, raised platform with 24 edges. The outer walls have a profusion of detailed carvings: the entire surface is run over by carved plaques of stone. These are vertical panels depicting exquisite figures of gods and goddesses in their varied incarnations.

There were nymphs too, some carrying an ear of maize; a symbol of plenty and prosperity. The elaborate ornamentation, very characteristic of Hoyasala sculptures, is a remarkable feature. On a closer look- and it is worth it – the series of friezes on the outer walls reveals intricately carved caparisoned (ornamental covering) elephants, charging horsemen, stylized flowers, warriors, musicians, crocodiles, and swans. The temple's sculptural perfection is amazing and it includes the doors of the temple and the three elegantly carved towers.

The temple was actually commissioned by Soma Dandanayaka or Somnath (he named the village after himself), the minister of the Hoyasala king, Narasimha III. The temple was built to house three versions of Krishna.

In the darkness of the sanctum sanctorum, I tried to discern the different images. The inner centre of the temple is the *Kalyana Mandapa*. Leading from here are three corridors, each ending in a shrine, one for each depiction of Krishna – *Venugopala*, *Janardana* and *Prasanna Keshava*, though only two remain in their original form.

3.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Give a suitable title. (5)

3.2 Write a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words, using the notes made. (3)

SECTION B {ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS } 30 MARKS

4. You are Reva /Rehan, the secretary of the cultural club of Nalanda Public School, Nagpur. Your school is organising an inter-house English Essay Writing Competition on the topic . '*Use of Mobile Phones - A Boon or a Bane*' on the occasion of YUVA Cultural Week. Draft a notice for school Notice- Board informing the students about the competition, in 50 words.

OR

You are Gagan/Gitika of A-69, Yojna Vihar, Delhi. You have been invited to attend the birthday party of your friend's brother on 23rd Jul. 2017. Draft in about 50 words, an informal reply to the invitation, regretting your inability to attend it.

(4)

5. You Are Sheena, C-4, Postal Colony, Goa. You bought an Usha Lexus automatic iron from M/s. Home Front, North Round, Goa. Within a week it started giving problems. Write a letter, to the dealer, complaining about the defects and ask them to replace the piece.

OR

You are Anuj /Anita living at # 9/2, 5th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore. You are very much pained to know about the current state of affairs with regard to corruption and scandals in the Indian political scene. Write a letter, in about 100 words, to the Editor of *The Hindu*, showing your concern about the falling standards in today's democracy.

(6)

6. Write an article in not more than 175 - 200 words on the topic '*The Power Crisis and its Impact*' with regard to the frequent power break down and load shedding operations in your city and many other cities in India.

OR

A recent survey showed that there are still many communities in India which do not welcome the birth of a girl child. Can a country which does not give equal rights to all its citizens even dream of becoming great? Write an article in 175-200 words giving your views on the above issue and the steps we could take to solve this problem.

(10)

7. Rising income among the middle class families are leading to obesity among their children. Poring over books for hours; an addiction to junk food coupled with the lure of TV and the Internet has led to a sedentary life style. Draft a speech to be delivered during the school assembly on the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.(175-200 words)

OR

Many people are of the view that the electronic media will bring about the end of the print media. Draft a debate in about 175 – 200 words either for or against this view.

(10)

SECTION C { TEXT BOOKS & LONG READING TEXT } 40 MARKS

8. Read the lines given below and answer the questions which follow: (4)

*'..... 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.....'*

- Who looked wan and pale and why?
- What childhood fear did the poet have?
- What do the parting words suggest?
- Pick out and explain a poetic device from the lines.

OR

*' On sour cream walls, donations. Shakespeare's head.
Cloudless at dawn, civilized dome riding all cities.
Belled, flowery, Tyrolese Valley. Open-handed map
Awarding the world its world.'*

- What does the colour of the classroom walls suggest?
- Which pictures do the classroom walls have?
- Explain: '*Civilised dome riding all cities.*'
- Why does the poet refer to the 'Tyrolese Valley' in these lines?

9. Answer any Four of the following questions in about 30-40 words: (4 x 3 =12)

- What does the poet mean by saying, '*let their tongues run naked into books*' in the poem '*An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum*'?
- How does Mukesh's grandmother view the family occupation of bangle making and its inherent poverty?
- How did the Champaran episode change the plight of the peasants?
- Why did Maharaja order the Dewan to double the land tax?
- How did Gandhiji teach his followers a lesson in self-reliance?
- Why does M. Hamel hold parents and himself responsible for students neglecting their studies ?

10. Answer any One of the following in 120 – 150 words: (6)

- 'A simple act of mercy and kindness can bring about a change of heart.'*
Discuss the significance of love and kindness with reference to the story '*The Rattrap*'.

OR

- ' Piece by piece, he built a swimmer.'* How did the instructor help the author to become a swimmer and overcome his fear of water?

11. Answer any One of the following in 120 – 150 words : (6)

- 'The Tiger King' is a satire on the conceit of people in power. How is the device of dramatic irony employed in the story?

OR

- 'An adult's perspective of life vastly differs from that of a child'. Elucidate with reference to 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy'.

12. Answer the following in 120 – 150 words : (6)

- Give an account of the panic and confusion that ensued in Iping when the Invisible Man lost his temper.

13. Answer the following in 120 – 150 words : (6)

- Give a brief character Sketch on Mr. Hall

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