***TEST 1 2024***

***S.6 LITERATURE***

***P310/1***

***TIME : 3 HOURS***

***INSTRUCTIONS***

* *Attempt* ***ALL*** *the questions in all the sections*

**SECTION I**

**Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:**

The print media of our times has been called a champion of freedom of expression and the sword – arm of democracy. It is an institution which commands awe and respect of nations as well as individuals, because it is the most powerful investigative machinery that exposes their misdeeds. In a world where politicians are busy looting their countries, where the drug mafia and crime syndicates are generating human misery and anarchy, and where ordinary human beings having no links with power – lords have been reduced to a state of helplessness only the print media champions the cause of the have nots and acts as a balm on their wounds.

The print media does much good by highlighting many ills of society such as nepotism, cronyism and corruption in institutions which should be virginal and puritanical in their make and behavior and by carrying on a relentless campaign against them. But sometimes it also does much harm when it spoils human relations and international harmony with its biased and propaganda laden criticism. The press has acquired this potential for mischief, because in some countries it is not free in the true sense of the term. It is controlled by media barons, inductrial houses and governments wielding dictatorial powers.

All these media lords use the press to serve their interests which are always at odds with humanitarian considerations and which often fuel fires of hatred, strife and anarcy, instead of cementing bonds of love and brotherhood among people belonging to different nations, classes or creeds. Under the protective arm of these overlords flourish many types of parasitical individuals including writers and would be seekers of power, name and fame. It is no secret that many media men are hand in glove with politicians, bureaucrats, educationists and guardians of law and order. Their editorials and write ups justify all acts of omission and commission of their patrons and protégés. Some change colour like the chameleon as they praise the actions of a man in power or of a party inching its way to power today, and denounce their former favourite a couple of weeks later. Such shifts, twists and somersaults can be traced in the editorials of many newspapers.

There is no doubt that the institution of the press has been instrumental in causing the downfall of ruthless dictators and oppressive regimes in many countries of the world. Editors and writers of articles against the excesses of men in power have been jailed, tortured and humiliated for asserting freedom of expression and freedom of the voice of conscience, upholding humanitarian causes and giving support to struggles for the emancipation of enslaved people.

They have unearthed political scandals, kickbacks received by highly placed men in countries like Japan and Italy which led to their downfall, security scams of stockbrokers and even sex aberrations of men and women who had cleverly shrouded their nefarious deeds in apparently transparent and spotless apparels of lechery. Some journalists and editors have sacrificed their lucrative jobs to uphold certain cherished principles by refusing to toe the line of their bosses. Some fearless journalists have defied censorship laws to expose the misdeeds of rulers. The American press and also the British press have established their reputation as the most fearless champions of freedom of expression. All these are highly commendable achievements of the print media.

But all is not well under the towering roof of the structure of journalism. It overshadows and dwarfs many institutions of society which have their usefulness to man. Newspapers with a few exceptions reflect partisan attitudes, sectarian outlook and biased individualism, and some carry on a war with their rivals on issues that generate heat and harm national interests. Codes of conduct framed by associations of journalists are violated and old scores are settled in the name of freedom of expression. Many editors perch themselves on high pedestals from which they preach sermons to both the high and low. They claim that they can predict the colour of coming events with oracular accuracy.

This mantle of preachers and prophets gives the aura of dignity to their highly intellectual frame, and they need not cast it off. But what they say should be impartial, non – partisan and universally acceptable. There are some cherished values associated with clean journalism and these should not be bartered with opportunistic gains.

There was a time when the press was a champion of the rights of the oppressed, of sound principles of morality, of justice to those who were illegally and arbitrarily denied what was due to them, and of many other noble causes.

How many modern newspapers are not champions of their own commercial interests? How many do not boost their sales by reviving old hatreds and enemities between classes and countries? What most papers give their readers is simply sensation – creating stuff. They publish stories about the private lives of princes and presidents and photographs of female nudity to pander to the morbid and vulgar demands of readers, and peeping Toms. A glaring instance of the misuse of freedom of the press in the west is the growing tendency of some British papers to publish sex live. There is a circulation war going on in the corridors of “Fleet Street”, to figure as victors in this war they publish articles on the “sexcapades” of the famous and not so famous. Both highbrow dailies and breast – baring tabloids are vying with each other to regale the public with sex scandals involving politicians and their mistresses, actresses and their lovers. In fact the world’s print media as a whole does not feel any pricks of conscience while dealing with matters relating to sex. It regards modern morality as synonymous with sex – openness. Some of our Indian papers are beginning to catch the plague of this sex – openness. You can see not less than a dozen photographs of actors and actresses displaying their semi – nudities in various flesh – uniting postures in many dailies of Northern India.

(From The Sterling Book of Essays by B.N Kakkar)

**Questions**

1. Suggest a suitable title for the passage  *(02 marks)*
2. (i) Which good does the media do according to the writer? *(08 marks)*

(ii) How harmful has the media been according to the writer? *(06 marks)*

1. What sacrifice have journalists made in their line of work?  *(04 marks)*
2. How relevant is the passage to our society?  *(04 marks)*
3. Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage:
4. Balm  *(01 mark)*
5. Cronyism  *(01 mark)*
6. Protégés  *(01 mark)*
7. Scams  *(01 mark)*
8. Cherished  *(01 mark)*
9. Pedestal  *(01 mark)*
10. Aura  *(01 mark)*
11. Vying  *(01 mark)*
12. Postures  *(01 mark)*
13. Obsessed *(01 mark)*

**SECTION II**

**Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:**

Fellow countrymen and women, thank you for sacrificing this time to come to this rally. Once again my name is Bikopo Ben, a Ugandan, 45 years of age, holding a university degree in Law from Makerere. I am married with a family of six children: three girls and three boys. First and foremost, I acknowledge the moral support of my dear wife, friends and you as an entire community in particular that you have been able to give me such a large audience which I had never expected. Thank you very much!

Ladies and gentlemen, to get one of our own sons becoming the president of our country, Uganda, there are major tasks which we have to undertake as many of you may have seen in my election manifesto. There are some major aspects which have not been given attention to and are affecting us; and yet have affected us for such a long period of time. Let me attempt to mention some:

Poverty: As we are aware, 90% of the entire national population lives below the poverty line. One wonders about the cause of this situation and how it has spread quickly to reach all corners of this country! And how does it come about? Living below poverty line means people being unable to compete favourably with the international standards: how many can afford to cater for needs like medical bills, school fees for their children above the Universal

Primary Education Programme, sustain their family needs, access good infrastructures like good roads, schools, hospitals and marketing centres?

My dear friends, the root cause to the above problem has been due to entrusting the economy into the hands of foreigners and their agents. The foreigners being non-Ugandans, all the profits they make are deposited in foreign banks. Not only that but even most of the top jobs in parastatals are owned by foreigners and filled up by foreigners leaving us the ordinary Ugandans to be casual labourers and squatters - whose working conditions, as you all know are considered inhuman.

Gentlemen, as if having a foreign-controlled economy is not insult enough, our local communities are advised and encouraged to keep on growing crops like coffee, cocoa, vanilla and cotton whose markets are determined try foreigners; yet most of the prices of these crops have consistently fluctuated at the world market over and again - besides taking long to mature. The one-million dollar question is: How are we, the ordinary Ugandans expected to survive?

My dear Comrades) we need to unite and i make sure that the innumerable teething problems in our midst are considered urgently and correctly addressed. We must make sure that every sub-county has access to not only the basic human needs but also to other necessities that can facilitate us to plan for the future of our children, grand children, and great grand children.

For example, there is need for a multi-purpose hospital with all the necessary medical supplies. There is need to revamp and reinstate the income-generating projects and industries which have almost collapsed. Once this is done, there should be a period of grace in which no interest is imposed on the capital-say for the first two financial years. We should also make sure that the few learned Ugandans are given the juicy top posts in the government private parastatals owned by foreigners, so that those few can share the profits from those companies; and hence invest their salaries back home in their villages. As a long term solution to this problem we will make sure that crops of paramount importance for our people like maize, beans, ground nuts, sim sim are marketed together with the colonial crops - coffee, tea, cotton vanilla- so that the health standards of the people is up lifted - as you all know we need to have a healthy mind.

Corruption: Though some of you may not be able to recognize this evil, this is one of the major problems which have not been tackled due to reasons best known to the powers-to-be. Comrades, corrupt-ion covers a wide area, i.e. abuse of office," misuse of power, greed, influence peddling, unexplained accumulation of wealth etc. With your support, I will make sure that- corruption is weeded out of our country for improved service delivery.

Comrades can you imagine someone taking a relative to hospital and she is denied entry by the gatekeepers. The very gatekeepers then grab the dead body and rush it to the mortuary in disguise that they are helping the relative of the deceased. Then they tell her to wait for doctors to give a "post mortem report”.

Hours later she is told to pay a lump sum of money before the body can be released.

As a long term solution to this problem of corruption, I will make sure that the public declaration of wealth is enforced; committees shall be set up to oversee all state duties; and freezing of properties of those corrupt officers, who will be made pay back tax payers money to the cent.

Education: Ladies and gentlemen, despite the mass education programme of the current government, many children go to school but they are not taught.

This is the root cause of having many job-seekers instead job - makers. With guidance from UNESCO, I will make sure that our educational curriculum is changed to suit the mortem world of science and technology, Instead of spending more time studying about Magellan, Grant, Stanley and Speke. Under the above plan all Ugandans will be accorded the basic education necessary to exploit talents and diverse raw materials that have not been utilized.

Ladies and Gentlemen: corruption, education and poverty shall be tackled head-on; but once again ladies and gentleman I wish to stress what I hinted on earlier; if we are to survive - we should live in peace and unity; for united we stand and divided we fall.

Give the vote to the able and most competent man Bikopo Ben - A man for change, and transformation; a man for the betterment of our country, and man of transparency and result-oriented leadership. Thank you very much.

**Questions**

1. Explain the occasion on which the speech is delivered. *(08 marks)*
2. What is the speaker’s audience?  *(04 marks*)
3. Describe the atmosphere in the passage. *(03 marks)*
4. Comment on the effectiveness of style as employed.  *(18 marks)*

**SECTION III**

**Read the poem below and answer the questions that follow.**

**Prayer Before Birth *(by Louis Macneice)***

I am not yet born; O hear me.

Let not the bloodsucking bat or the rat or the stoat or the

club- footed ghoul come near me.

I am not yet born, console me.

I fear that the human race may with tall walls wall me,

with strong drugs dope me, with wise lies lure me,

on black racks rack me, in blood-baths roll me.

I am not yet born; provide me.

With water to dandle me, grass to grow for me, trees to talk

to me, sky to sing to me, birds and a white light

in the back of my mince to guide me.

I am not yet born; forgive me

For the sins that in me the world shall commit, my words

when they speak me, my thoughts when they think me,

my treason engendered by traitors beyond me,

my life when they murder by means of my

hands, my death when they live me.

I am not yet born; rehearse me

In the parts I must play and the cues I must take when

old men lecture me, bureaucrats hector me, mountains

frown at me, lovers laugh at me, the white

waves call me to folly and the desert calls

me to doom and the beggar refuses

my gift and my children curse me.

I am not yet born; O hear me,

Let riot the man who is beast or who thinks he is God

come near me.

I am not yet born; O fill me

With strength against those who would freeze my

humanity, would dragoon me into a lethal automaton,

would make me a cog in a machine, a thing with

one face, a thing, and against all those

who would dissipate my entirety, would

blow me like thistledown thither and

thither or hither and thither

like water held in the

hands would spill me.

Let them not make me a stone and let them not spill me.

Otherwise kill me.

**Questions**

1. What is the poem about?  *(09 marks)*
2. Who is the speaker in the poem?  *(02 marks)*
3. Describe the quality of the speaking voice in the poem.  *(04 marks)*
4. To what effect are the poetic devices employed?  *(18 marks)*

**END**