

B.A./B.Sc. PART I EXAMINATION 2020

COMPULSORY ENGLISH

Full Marks - 50

1. Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow:

Nearer and nearer came the galleon. The crew of the brig found their joy turned to sorrow, for a flag appeared at the masthead, the hated and feared Jolly Roger. The white skull and crossbones stood out clearly against the black flag.

There was not a moment to lose! The brig's crew sprang to life, and hurried below for weapons. They came on deck again with a mixed collection – cutlasses, pikes, swords, daggers and pistols. The brass gun in the bows was loaded, and the muzzle pointed towards the pirate which was now very near indeed. It was to be a battle between David and Goliath.

No one expected any mercy if they fell into the hands of Fork-Beard and his band of ruffians. Walking the plank! That was the way many a crew had met its fate when captured.

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| a) Why did the crew of the brig suddenly become sad? | 5 |
| b) Where did the Jolly Roger fly? | 5 |
| c) What did the pirates' flag look like? | 5 |
| d) What were the weapons the crew got from below the decks? | 5 |
| e) How were captured sailors often put to death by pirates? | 5 |
| f) (i) give the antonyms of the following words – nearer, sorrow | 2 + 2 = 4 |
| (ii) give the present tense of the following words – sprang, captured | |
| (iii) find the word in the given passage which means 'pity' | |

2. Attempt any one of the following: (Word limit of body of the letter is 200) 20

- a) Write a letter to your principal asking him to arrange for a larger stock of reference books in the college library.
- b) Write a letter to a friend telling him about your experiences in the new city where you have gone to pursue higher studies.