

**APRIL 2025**

**71283/200L3Z/  
200H3Z**

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**Time : Three hours**

**Maximum : 75 marks**

**SECTION A — (15 marks)**

**1. Choose the appropriate option that gives the correct meaning : (5)**

- |                  | (a)         | (b)        | (c)       | (d)            |
|------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|----------------|
| (i) Loath        | – unwilling | willing    | eager     | enthusiasm     |
| (ii) Crave       | – dislike   | aversion   | stop      | to long for    |
| (iii) Excruciate | – satisfy   | agony      | relieve   | ignore         |
| (iv) Assent      | – denial    | dissent    | agreement | request        |
| (v) Gamester     | – gangster  | gambler    | plumber   | carpenter      |
| (vi) Peers       | – enemies   | neighbours | relatives | contemporaries |
| (vii) Haughty    | – annoy     | humble     | timid     | contemptuous   |
| (viii) Beneath   | – above     | over       | under     | superior       |
| (ix) Brawl       | – fight     | straight   | secretly  | trustworthy    |
| (x) Mumble       | – rude      | polite     | murmur    | distinct       |

2. Read the following passage and correct the errors : (10)

She finds it at last. It surely had been made for Jim and no one else. There is no other like it in any of the stores, and she had turned all of them inside out. It was a platinum fob chain simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not by meretricious ornamentation — as all good things should do. It was even worthy of The Watch. As soon as she saw it she knew that it must be Jim's. It was like him. Quietness and value — the description applied with both. Twenty-one dollars they took from her for it, and she hurried home to the 87 cents. With that chain in his watch Jim might be properly anxious on the time in any company. Grand as the watch was, he sometimes looking at it on the sly on account of the old leather strap that he used in place of a chain.

## SECTION B — (20 marks)

3. (a) Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow : (5)

Come, my friends,  
T is not too late to seek a newer world.  
Push off, and sitting well in order smite  
The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds  
To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths  
Of all the western stars, until I die.  
It may be that the gulfs will wash us down:  
It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles,  
And see the great Achilles, whom we knew.

- (i) Who is the speaker of the above lines? (2)  
(ii) In what way this stanza be seen as a call to action for individuals faced with uncertainty or challenges in their lives? (3)

- (b) Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow : (5)

Did you want to see me broken?  
Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,  
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?  
Don't you take it awful hard  
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise.

- (i) What has happened to the speaker in the above stanza? (2)  
(ii) In what ways do you think the poem challenges societal expectations of how individuals should respond to adversity and discrimination? (3)

- (c) Read the following paragrpah and answer the questions that follow : (5)

The second fruit of friendship, is healthful and sovereign for the understanding, as the first is for the affections. For friendship maketh indeed a fair day in the affections, from storm and tempests; but it maketh daylight in the understanding, out of darkness, and confusion of thoughts. Neither is this to be understood only of faithful counsel, which a man receiveth from his friend; but before you come to that, certain it is, that whosoever hath his mind fraught with many thoughts, his wits and understanding do clarify and break up, in the communicating and discoursing with another; he toseth his thoughts more easily; he marshalleth them more orderly, he seeth how they look when they are turned into words: finally, he waxeth wiser than himself; and that more by an hour's discourse, than by a day's meditation. It was well said by Themistocles, to the king of Persia, That speech was like cloth of Arras, opened and

put abroad; whereby the imagery doth appear in figure; whereas in thoughts they lie but as in packs. Neither is this second fruit of friendship, in opening the understanding, restrained only to such friends as are able to XXVII - Of Friendship 91 Foundations of Western Thought give a man counsel; (they indeed are best;) but even without that, a man learneth of himself, and bringeth his own thoughts to light, and whetteth his wits as against a stone, which itself cuts not. In a word, a man were better relate himself to a statua, or picture, than to suffer his thoughts to pass in smother.

- (i) What is the second fruit of friendship according to Francis Bacon? (1)
- (ii) How does friendship affect a person's understanding according to the text? (2)
- (iii) What would be the consequence if one not sharing one's thoughts, according to the text? (2)

4. (a) Use the following phrasal verb in sentences of your own. (2)
- (i) come across  
(ii) looking back.
- (b) Use the following idiomatic expressions in sentences of your own. (2)
- (i) magic carpet  
(ii) salad days
- (c) Fill in the blanks with the right choice of auxiliary verb. (1)

There \_\_\_\_\_ only three students in the class yesterday. (are/were)

#### SECTION C — (20 marks)

5. (a) Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow : (5)

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. Had the Queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out the window some day to

dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts. Had King Solomon been the janitor, with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard from envy.

- (i) What are the valuable possessions of Jim and Della? (2)
  - (ii) How does the text illustrate the value of material possessions to Jim and Della? (3)
- (b) Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow : (5)

WHAT is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare? —  
No time to stand beneath the boughs,  
And stare as long as sheep and cows:  
No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:  
No time to see, in broad daylight,  
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:  
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,  
And watch her feet, how they can dance:  
No time to wait till her mouth can

Enrich that smile her eyes began?

A poor life this if, full of care,

We have no time to stand and stare.

(i) What is the main theme of the poem?

(2)

(ii) How does the poet suggest that we should interact with nature? (3)

(c) Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow : (5)

Anxiety, Anxiety-

you creep, you lurk, you worry me

Mangy monster under my bed

on all my fears you must be fed

and when I try to starve you out

you stab me with a blade of doubt

You sneaky, scurrilous, savage beast

I don't hate you, but I like you least!

You are not cute or cuddly

why do I let you cling to me?

You're ugly and you're worrisome  
you drain my joy and leave me glum  
Anxiety, Anxiety  
I hear you've achieved notoriety  
evidently I'm not the only one  
you'll hassle them all before you're done!  
Though, I don't see how you find the time  
to carry out your heinous crime.

- (i) What effect does anxiety have on the speaker's emotions? (2)
- (ii) How does the poetess describe anxiety? (2)
- (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ is a phrase which best describes the poetess' attitude towards anxiety? (1)
6. Write a letter to the Police Commissioner seeking permission for a cycle rally which will be conducted by your college in connection with Anti-Drug Awareness. (5)

## SECTION D — (20 marks)

7. (a) Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow. (5)

Once, in the royal city of Isfahan, there lived a young man named Ahmed, who had a wife named Jamell. He knew no special craft or trade, but he had a shovel and a pick — and as he often told his wife, “If you can dig a hole, you can always earn enough to stay alive.”

That was enough for Ahmed. But it was not enough for Jamell.

One day, as she often did, Jamell went to the public bath to wash herself in the hot pool and chat with the other women. But at the entrance, the woman in charge told her, “You can’t come in now. The wife of the King’s Royal Diviner is taking the whole place for herself.”

“Who does she think she is?” protested Jamell. “Just because her husband tells fortunes!” But all she could do was return home, fuming all the way.

That evening, when Ahmed handed her his wages for the day, she said, “Look at these few measly coins! I won’t put up with this any longer. Tomorrow you’ll sit in the marketplace and be a diviner!”

“Jamell, are you insane?” said Ahmed. “What do I know about fortune telling?”

“You don’t need to know a thing,” said Jamell. “When anyone brings you a question, you just throw the dice and mumble something that sounds wise. It’s either that, or I go home to the house of my father!”

- (i) What was Ahmed’s profession or trade? (2)
- (ii) Why was Jamell upset when she returned home from the public bath? (2)
- (iii) Ahmed took forty \_\_\_\_\_ and placed them in a jar. (1)

- (b) Read the following dialogue and answer the questions that follow : (5)

The lavish house of Hasmukh Mehta.

There are three spaces: the fancy dining-cum-living room, the bedroom belonging to Hasmukh and Sonal Mehta and the hideously trendy bedroom of their son, AJIT, and his wife, PREETI.

AJIT is in the living room, talking on the phone. Preeti is drifting in and out of the kitchen, loading the table with food for dinner. She is pregnant. Hasmukh enters through the main door with his walking stick.

AJIT (on the phone). Five lakhs. That's all. Give me five lakhs and I'll modernize the whole bloody plant. That's what I tell my dad. I mean, come on, five lakhs is nothing!

HASMUKH (to the audience). My son, the business man. Just listen to him.

Ajit. I mean, it's not as if I want the money for myself. It's for his factory. But he just won't listen to me. I don't think he has ever listened to me in his entire life. HASMUKH: Do you blame me for not listening to him? If I paid any attention to even one of his crackpot schemes, I wouldn't be around to listen to anybody. AJIT : After all, I am the joint managing director.

HASMUKH: Believe me, appointing him as the JMD was a big mistake. AJT: And, after all, I am his son...

HASMUKH : That was an even bigger mistake. What makes it worse is knowing that I actually prayed to get him. Oh God! I regret it all. Please let him just drop dead. No, no. What a terrible thing to say about one's own son. I take it back. Dear God, don't let him drop dead. Just turn him into

a nice vegetable so he won't be in my way. Ever since he entered my factory, he has been in my way. Arr : Seventeen lakhs. Seventeen lakhs and government help is all I need to diversity into manufacturing electronic typewriters.

I even made out a project report for him.

HASMUKH : I didn't read it. I didn't need to, because the answer was no.

Aim : He didn't like it because it was my project.

HASMUKH: I didn't like it because it was my money. If I let him have his way, we would all be paupers. Twenty-three years old and he is one his way to bankruptcy. My bankruptcy. He was bankrupt up here (points to his head) the day he was born. God just forgot to open and account for him.

- (i) Name the character and their role in the above paragraph. (2)
- (ii) What is Ajit asking for over the phone, and what does he intend to do with it? (3)
- (c) Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow. (5)

“HOW DARK?”....I had not misheard...  
“ARE YOU LIGHT OR VERY DARK?”  
Button B, Button A.\* Stench

Of rancid breath of public hide-and-speak.  
Red booth. Red pillar box. Red double-tiered  
Omnibus squelching tar. It was real!  
Shamed

By ill-mannered silence, surrender  
Pushed dumbfounded to beg simplification.  
Considerate she was, varying the emphasis-  
“ARE YOU DARK? OR VERY LIGHT?”  
Revelation came.

“You mean--like plain or milk chocolate?”  
Her assent was clinical, crushing in its light  
Impersonality. Rapidly, wave-length  
adjusted,

I chose. “West African sepia”— and as afterthought,  
“Down in my passport.” Silence for spectroscopic  
Flight of fancy, till truthfulness clanged her accent  
Hard on the mouthpiece. “WHAT'S THAT?” conceding  
“DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS.” Like  
brunette.”  
“THAT'S DARK, ISN'T IT? “Not altogether.  
Facially, I am blonde, but, madam, you  
should see  
The rest of me. Palm of my hand, soles of  
my feet  
Are a peroxide blonde. Friction, caused –  
Foolishly, madam – by sitting down, has  
turned  
My bottom raven black – One moment,  
madam!”— sensing  
Her receiver rearing on the thunderclap  
About my ears--”Madam,” I pleaded,  
“wouldn't you rather  
See for yourself?”

- (i) Who is the writer of this poem? (1)
- (ii) How does the conversation take place? (1)
- (iii) How does the poem convey the speaker's feelings and the landlady's insensitivity? (3)
8. Rewrite the following sentences using the Gerund form : (5)
- (a) Yuva hopes to get a job in the harbour.
  - (b) Elaya is afraid to go near an elephant.
  - (c) Saroj at last got the opportunity to meet the Mayor of Coimbatore.
  - (d) To eat too many sweets is bad for health.
  - (e) To help the poor is service to God.

Or

9. A pen-friend of yours is visiting India in summer. Using the information, given below in the input, send an invitation to him to spend a few days at your farm house at a village in Pollachi. (5)
- (Invited to farm-house at a village in Pollachi – pollution free atmosphere – will have nice fun – traditional food items)
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