

SET – 2**Series : SSO/1/C**Code No. **1/1/2**

Roll No.

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Candidates must write the Code on the title page of the answer-book.

- Please check that this question paper contains **11** printed pages.
- Code number given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions.
- **Please write down the Serial Number of the question before attempting it.**
- 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

ENGLISH (Core)

Time allowed : 3 hours]

[Maximum Marks : 100

General Instructions :

- This paper is divided into three Sections : A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.*
- Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.*
- Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

SECTION – A**30 Marks****Reading**

1. Read the passage given below :

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- (1) Suspense was over when my high school results finally came out. But I was upset. I hadn't done as well as I had expected. My father tried to console me. "Why are you worried ? You have done very well my dear." "No, I haven't, Baba," I protested, controlling my tears, and wondering if I had disappointed him. "It doesn't really matter," he assured me. "Do you know what I got when I finished high school ?" I looked into Baba's face and waited for the answer to

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his own question. “You know,” he told me. “I’ve never told you this. I got just a third division. But, look at me, I’ve done quite well.” Baba got a third division ! I was almost in shock, but the thought of my having done a lot better than that made me realize that I had no reason to complain. I certainly felt better ! “Everything is under control !” said Baba, smiling. That was his favourite phrase. Posted in Kolkata, my father was then a senior official in the Indian Railway Service, and an expert in goods traffic operations. He was soon to become a director with the Railway Board. By the time he retired in 1981, he was general manager of the Central Railways. By the time Baba passed away in November 2000, his name had found place in several hearts as well. He was open, easy to know, and full of life. We were extremely close, but I had so much more to learn about him from many things I came to know after his death.

- (2) In September 2000, he was in hospital for treatment of cancer and given just two months to live. When he found out, his reaction was an extremely rational one. He asked me to fetch files from his cupboard, so that he could explain the details of my mother’s pension. He also dictated his will from his hospital bed. “Everything is under control !” After Baba’s death, Satish, our old family retainer, was inconsolable. We tried to cheer him up. “Your Baba had scolded me only once in all these years !” he cried. Satish pointed to the watch on his left hand. “I had been coming late for work and everyone in the family was complaining about it,” said Satish. “Then, one day, your Baba gave me this watch and told me, ‘now that you have a watch, you can’t be late’.” That was the scolding Satish received. On the fourth day after Baba’s death, my sister and I had to perform a ceremony. Since several relatives were expected, we decided to order lunch from a caterer in our locality, reputed for his home cooked food. But, when we went to pay the owner, we got a surprise. He refused to accept any money ! “When I wanted to start my catering business, it was your father who lent me money,” he told us. It seems Baba never asked for it back. Now, after four or five years, the caterer wanted to repay that debt. Of course, we made him accept the full payment for the fine food and service. ‘It was Baba’s gift and it ought to remain so,’ I told him.

(3) Some days later, there was yet another piece of information as we were preparing for the main ceremony. Vikram, my brother drove me to the local market. On recognizing our car, the parking assistant, in his twenties, came running towards us and asked why he had not seen its owner for long. We had to break the news to him and to our utter surprise, he started crying. We were really surprised by this reaction from a stranger – until the man told us that Baba used to pay his daughter's school fees and buy her books. It seems, it was on my father's advice that he'd even started sending the child to school. More than three years after Baba's death, as we were looking into Baba's personal things, we came across an old file with Baba's certificates and I found among them, his high school diploma from 1937, the one he'd told me about 30 years earlier, about the third division that had made no difference in his life or career. It had made me see beyond mere marks and first classes as the main road to success. But there was one more fact. Baba had actually got a first division, a rare achievement in his day. Today, years after his passing, when I think of Baba, I see a man who was able to sympathise with others so easily and touch their lives in such a special way.

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options. **1 × 4 = 4**

(a) Why was the narrator in tears when her school results came out ?

- (i) She did better than she expected.
- (ii) She did not do as expected.
- (iii) Her Baba had not done well.
- (iv) Her Baba had done better than her.

(b) On knowing the result, how did the narrator's father react ?

- (i) He scolded her.
- (ii) He beat her.
- (iii) He consoled her.
- (iv) He made fun of her.



- (c) Why did the narrator say that she had nothing to complain ?
- (i) She had done better than her father.
 - (ii) She had done as well as her father.
 - (iii) She had topped in her school.
 - (iv) She had not worked hard at all.
- (d) Choose the option that is not correct.
- (i) Baba was a senior official in the Indian Railway Service.
 - (ii) Baba was to become a director with the Railway Board.
 - (iii) Baba was the general manager of the Central Railways.
 - (iv) Baba had got a third division in high school

1.2 Answer the following :

1 × 6 = 6

- (a) Why did the narrator's sick father want her to fetch files from his cupboard ?
- (b) Why did Baba buy Satish a watch ?
- (c) Why did the caterer not want to take money from the narrator ?
- (d) Why were the narrator and her brother surprised on meeting the parking assistant ?
- (e) Today years after his passing away what has the narrator realized about her Baba ?
- (f) What was the story that Baba had invented on the day the narrator's results were published ?

1.3 Find words from the passage that mean the same as the following : **1 × 2 = 2**

- (i) tension/anxiety (para 1)
- (ii) servant (para 2)

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

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- (1) As dusk falls the neon lights of the jewellery shops in Bowbazaar come alive but the lights have no effect on the face of Mahadeo Yadav who is seated on the footrest of his rickshaw that is parked by the road, feeling very sad. He is sitting on his feet, hugging his knees to keep himself warm in the biting cold, so weakened and lifeless as if he had been dead for days without anyone noticing.
- (2) Who would after all notice a rickshaw puller, to check whether he is breathing or not ? Yet when the same rickshaw puller goes about his work pulling his rickshaw like a horse, he becomes the most noticed man in Calcutta. He makes a great subject for photographers, writers and film-makers. He is the symbol of poor Calcutta. Many a famous actor has pulled the rickshaw in films set in the city.
- (3) Calcutta is said to have about 6000 rickshaw pullers running on its roads, running mostly in its old neighbourhoods. They have something in common apart from their poverty. All of them come from the country side. All of them wear the lungi to work, perhaps for better movement. Almost all of them are elderly; I am yet to see a young man hand pulling a rickshaw. It can be a sad sight to watch a man almost as old as your father struggling his way through the roads dressed only in a vest and a lungi and often barefoot.
- (4) Mahadeo Yadav, the rickshaw puller is in his seventies and has been pulling the same rickshaw in and around Bowbazaar for fifty years. For him, fifty years, half a century is not an achievement, but merely the time that has passed ever since he came to Calcutta to earn a living.
- (5) He lives all alone in Calcutta, in a room in a nearby lane, paying a monthly rent of fifty rupees. He is out with his rickshaw between three in the afternoon and ten at night, sometimes earning sixty or seventy rupees a day and sometimes nothing. Every month without fail he sends ₹ 300 to his wife back home, and once every year visits her. "I will pull the rickshaw as long as I can", he says, "this is my only source of livelihood. These days I tire easily. Sometimes my feet hurt and sometimes my back. But do I have a choice ?" He answers all my questions without looking at me even once, but continued to stare ahead blankly, his arms folded around his knees. I take a good look at his rickshaw : the two – the rickshaw and the rickshaw puller – make quite a pair.

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2.1 Choose the correct alternatives from the options given below : $1 \times 2 = 2$

(a) A rickshaw puller is noticed only when he

(i) acts in a film.

(ii) becomes a subject for photographers.

(iii) sits all alone.

(iv) is old and tired.

(b) Pick out the statement which is not true.

(i) Most rickshaw pullers are old.

(ii) The rickshaw pullers earn very little.

(iii) Many renowned actors are rickshaw pullers.

(iv) They are neglected by people.

2.2 Answer the following questions: $1 \times 6 = 6$

(a) Why does Yadav “stare ahead blankly” ?

(b) Why are rickshaw pullers known as the icons of poor Calcutta ?

(c) Which instance tells you that Yadav loved his family ?

(d) Where does Yadav stay ?

(e) What comparison does the writer draw between the rickshaw and its puller ?

(f) What do the rickshaw pullers have in common ?

2.3 Pick out words from the passage that mean the following : $1 \times 2 = 2$

(a) well-known (para 2)

(b) income (para 5)



3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

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Although stupidity is commonly defined as ‘a lack of normal intelligence’, stupid behaviour is not the behaviour of a person lacking in intelligence but the behaviour of a person not using good judgement or sense. In fact, stupidity comes from the Latin word that means ‘senseless’. Therefore, stupidity can be defined as the behaviour of a person of normal intelligence who acts in a particular situation as if he or she isn’t very bright. Stupidity exists at three levels of seriousness.

First is the simple, relatively harmless level. Behaviour at this level is often amusing. It is humorous when someone places the food from a fast food restaurant on the roof of the car while unlocking the door and then drives away with the food still on the roof. We call this absent-minded. The person’s good sense or intelligence was temporarily absent. At this level, other than passing inconvenience or embarrassment, no one is injured by the stupid behaviour.

The next type-serious stupidity-is more dangerous. Practical jokes such as putting sugar in the salt shakers are at this level. The intention is humorous, but there is a chance of harm. Irresponsible advice given to others is also serious stupidity. An example is the person who plays psychiatrist on the basis of an introductory psychology course or doing a TV program on psychiatry. The intention may be to help, but if the victim really needs psychiatric help an amateur will only worsen the situation.

Even worse is the third kind of stupidity. Kind people, who would never injure another living being, stupidly throw away a box of six-week-old kittens along a country road. Lacking the heart to kill the poor things, they sentence them to almost certain death from wild animals, infections, exposure or the wheels of a passing vehicle. Yet they are able to tell themselves that they will find nice homes’ or ‘animals can get along in the wild’. Another example of this kind of stupidity is the successful local businessman who tries to have as many office affairs as he can get away with. He risks the loss of his business and his home. He fails to see that what he is doing is wrong. His is the true moral stupidity of a person not willing to think about the results of his actions or take responsibility for them. The common defence of a person guilty of stupidity is – ‘But I didn’t think..... ‘This, however, is not a proper excuse, especially when serious or harmful stupidity is involved.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary.

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(b) Write a summary of the passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title.

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SECTION – B

30 Marks

Advanced Writing Skills

4. An inter class drama competition is to be held in St. Stephens School, Visakapatnam. As Akash, Head Boy of the school draft a notice to be put up on the notice board inviting entries. Provide all necessary information in about 50 words. **4**

OR

You have cleared your IIT Entrance Exam and so want to sell off the reading material you have with you. Write an advertisement to be placed in the 'For Sale' columns of a local daily giving all details of the material you have with you in not more than 50 words. You are Mohan/Mohini. Contact No. 9811111111.

5. Pradeep Kumar of 25, Mount Road, Chennai has seen an advertisement for the job of Computer Engineer in a reputed Computer firm Galaxy Infotech, 112 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi and decides to apply for it. As Pradeep Kumar apply in **120-150** words for the job giving all relevant information including your biodata. **6**

OR

You are Ramesh Kumar, librarian of Aryamba Public School, Fort Road, Kochi. Write a letter in **120-150** words to Academic Book Centre, Mount Road, Chennai, placing an order for books you need for the library. Ask for a discount and a quick delivery of the books.

6. You are Dikshit, a sportsman, You are worried about the decreasing interest of students in sports and games. Write an article in **150-200** words to be published in a magazine on the need for sports and games. You are Amit/Anita. Use the hints given below. **10**

- sitting most of the time
- excessive use of internet
- most don't walk to the school
- more importance to examination results

OR

The rising prices of essential commodities make life difficult for the common man. As a concerned citizen write an article in **150-200** words on 'Rising Prices'. Suggest solutions to solve this problem. You are Amit/Anita.

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7. Outside the gate of your school there are a few food carts. They don't observe strict hygienic standards. You have observed that so many of your students go to them immediately after the school is over. This can create health problems. As Principal write a speech in **150-200** words on 'Healthy Food' to be delivered in the morning assembly. **10**

OR

Today's children are not yet aware of many opportunities awaiting them after they complete their school education. As an academic counsellor give a talk to the students of St Antony's School on the need for career guidance and how knowledge of the available careers can benefit the youth. Write the speech in **150-200** words.

SECTION – C

40 Marks

Literature : Text Books and Long Reading Text

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow : **4**

'It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.'

- (a) Which exotic moment is referred to in these lines ? **(1)**
(b) Why would that moment be strange ? **(1)**
(c) What does the poet advocate in the poem ? **(1)**
(d) What does the poet mean by the word, 'engines' ? **(1)**

OR

And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

- (a) Name the poem. **(1)**
(b) Who are the 'mighty dead' referred to here ? **(1)**
(c) What is the endless fountain of immortal drink ? **(1)**
(d) What does the word, 'brink' mean ? **(1)**

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9. Answer any **four** of the following questions in **30-40** words each : **3 × 4 = 12**

- (a) Why did Derry insist that he would go back to Mr. Lamb ?
- (b) How did M. Hamel display his love for the French language ?
- (c) How does the map on the wall tempt the slum children ?
- (d) How did Jo want the skunk story to end ?
- (e) How was the peddler received by the crofter ?
- (f) Why did the Maharaja ban tiger hunting in his state ?

10. Answer the following in **120-150** words : **6**

“All we have to fear is fear itself.” Describe Douglas’s experiences which led to the making of this statement.

OR

What did Gandhiji do to remove the cultural and social backwardness in the Champaran villages ?

11. Answer the following in **120-150** words : **6**

It was sheer negligence on the part of the prison staff that helped Evans to escape. Comment.

OR

How did the arrival of the prisoner destroy the peace of Sadao’s home ?

12. Answer the following in **120-150** words : **6**

How did the invisible man meet his associate, Thomas Marvel ? What help did he expect from him ?

OR

How did Dunstan blackmail his brother, Godfrey ?

13. Answer the following in **120-150** words :

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After reading the novel, "The Invisible Man", what opinion do you form of Dr. Kemp ?

OR

Attempt a character sketch of Dolly Winthrop.



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