

SET – 2

Series : SSO/C

Code No. 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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- 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 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 !

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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 of 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, confined mostly to its old neighbourhoods. They have something in common apart from their poverty. All of them hail from the countryside. All of them wear the lungi to work, perhaps for better mobility. Almost all of them are elderly ; I am yet to see a young man hand pulling a rickshaw. It can be a heart-rending sight to watch a man almost as old as your father panting his way through the roads clad 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 judgment 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 an inadequate 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.

3



SECTION – B

30 Marks

WRITING SKILLS

4. You require a teacher to teach maths and science to your son at home who is in class 10. Draft an advertisement in not more than **50** words giving all your requirements. You are Arun/Aruna. Contact No. 93xxxxxxx. **4**

OR

Fireworks and crackers are known to create pollution during festivals. As an environmentalist design a poster in about **50** words to create awareness of their ill effects.

5. The drinking water supplied to your locality Anandlok Colony, Kanpur has a dirty colour and foul smell. As secretary of the Residents Welfare Association, write a letter in **120-150** words to the Chief Engineer, Water Authority, Kanpur complaining about the problem and requesting him to take necessary action at the earliest. **6**

OR

You would like to join NDA coaching classes. Write a letter in **120-150** words to the Director Model Coaching Centre, Andheri, Mumbai to enquire about the coaching classes for the next examination. Ask for all necessary details. You are Sunita / Suraj, 4 Grant Road, Dadar.

6. It is said that if you educate a boy, you educate a person and if you educate a girl you educate a family. Write an article in **150-200** words on the importance of educating women. You are Suresh / Shobha. **10**

OR

Nowadays, students attend coaching classes early in the morning or after school hours. You feel that this trend makes them tired, affects their health and so their grades. Write an article in **150-200** words to make the students understand how this is not very helpful in improving their grades and is a waste of their precious time. You are Ram / Rani.

7. The Prime Minister's campaign, 'Swachh Bharat' has become popular throughout India. Inspired by this, you, the principal of a reputed school decide to address the students on 'The value of cleanliness'. Write your speech in **150-200** words. **10**

OR

You have always been proud of being a citizen of the country which shows love and care for elders. However, now this value is found to be disappearing : Write a speech in **150-200** words on 'Difficulties faced by the senior citizens.'

SECTION – C

40 Marks

LITERATURE : TEXT-BOOKS AND LONG READING TEXT

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

Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching : yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits.

- (a) Name the poem. **(1)**
- (b) Give one cause of human suffering. **(1)**
- (c) What moves away the pall from our lives ? **(1)**
- (d) What does the word, 'gloomy' mean ? **(1)**

OR

1/2

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— — — — 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---

- (a) Name the poem. (1)
- (b) What was the poet's childhood fear ? (1)
- (c) What does her smile signify ? (1)
- (d) What does the word, 'ache' mean ? (1)

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

- (a) At the crofter's home, why did the peddler feel very happy ?
- (b) Why does Derry stay away from people ?
- (c) How are aunt Jennifer's tigers different from her ?
- (d) Who killed the 100th tiger ? Why ?
- (e) Why did Bama reach home late after school ?
- (f) Why did Gandhiji agree to 25% compensation ?

10. Answer the following in **120 – 150** words :

How did a visit to Champaran become a turning point in Gandhi's life ? How does this show Gandhi's love and concern for the common people of India ? **6**

OR

Every teenager must dream big. Yet the dream should also be rooted to the ground.

Write a character sketch of Sophie in the light of this remark.

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

What were the precautions taken by the prison officers to prevent Evans from escaping ?

6

OR

How does Jo react to the skunk story ? Why ?

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

How did being invisible prove to be a handicap for Griffin ?

6

OR

Describe the circumstances under which Silas had to leave Lantern Yard.

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

Write a note on Mrs. Hall.

6

OR

Bring out the character traits of William Dane as he appears in the novel, 'Silas Marner'.



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