

2019

ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH

Full Marks : 100

Pass Marks : 30

Time : Three hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.

Q. No. 1 & 2 UNIT-I	15
Q. Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 UNIT-II	50
Q. Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 & 18 UNIT-III	20
Q. Nos. 19 & 20 UNIT-IV	15

Total = 100

UNIT-I

(READING AN UNSEEN PASSAGE AND A POEM)

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

It began in a forest rest house. My father died when I was ten, and for the next few years books became a scarce commodity, for my mother and stepfather were not great readers. In my lonely early teens I seized upon almost any printed matter that came my way, whether it was a girls' classic like *Little Women*, a *Hotspur* or *Champion* comic, a detective story or *The Naturalist on the River Amazon* by Henry Walter Bates. The only books I baulked at reading were collections of sermons (amazing how often they turned up in those early years) and self-improvement books, since I had not the slightest desire to improve myself in any way.

I think it all began in a forest rest house in the Siwalik Hills, a subtropical range cradling the Doon Valley in northern India. Here my stepfather and his gun-toting friends were given to hunting birds and animals. He was a poor shot, so he cannot really be blamed for the absence of wildlife today; but he did his best to eliminate every creature that came within his sights.

On one of his shikar trips we were staying near the Timli Pass. My stepfather and his friends were after a tiger (you were out of fashion if you weren't after big game) and set out every morning with an army of paid villagers to beat the jungle, that is, to make enough noise with drums, whistles, tin trumpets and empty kerosene tins to disturb the tiger and drive the unwilling beast into the open where he could conveniently be despatched. Truly bored by this form of sport, I stayed behind in the rest house, and in the course of the morning's exploration of the bungalow, discovered a dusty but crowded bookshelf half-hidden in a corner of the back veranda.

Who had left them there? A literary forest officer? A memsahib who'd been bored by her husband's camp-fire boasting? Or someone like me who had no enthusiasm for the 'manly' sport of slaughtering wild animals, and had brought his library along to pass the time?

Or possibly the poor fellow had gone into the jungle one day as a gesture towards his more bloodthirsty companions, and been trampled by an elephant or gored by a wild boar, or (more likely) accidentally shot by one of his companions — and they had taken his remains away but left his books behind.

Anyway, there they were — a shelf of some fifty volumes, obviously untouched for several years. I wiped the dust off the covers and examined the titles. As my reading tastes had not yet formed, I was ready to try anything. The bookshelf was varied in its contents — and my own interests have remained equally wide-ranging.

Anyway, back to the rest house. By the time the perspiring hunters came back late in the evening, I'd started on M. R. James' *Ghost Stories of an Antiquary*, which had me hooked on ghost stories for the rest of my life. It kept me awake most of the night, until the oil in the kerosene lamp had finished.

Next morning, fresh and optimistic again, the shikaris set out for a different area where they hoped to locate the tiger. All day I could hear the beaters' drums throbbing in the distance. This did not prevent me from finishing a collection of stories called *The Big Karoo* by Pauline Smith — wonderfully evocative of the pioneering Boers in South Africa.

My concentration was disturbed only once, when I looked up and saw a spotted deer crossing the open clearing in front of the bungalow. The deer disappeared into the forest and I returned to my book.

Dusk had fallen when I heard the party returning from the hunt. The great men were talking loudly and seemed excited. Perhaps they have got their tiger! I came out on the veranda to meet them.

'Did you shoot the tiger?' I asked. 'No Ruskin', said my stepfather 'I think we'll catch up with it tomorrow. But you should have been with us — we saw a spotted deer!'

There were three days left and I knew I would never get through the entire bookshelf. So I chose *David Copperfield* — my first encounter with Dickens — and settled down in the veranda armchair to make the acquaintance of Mr. Micawber and his family along with Aunty Betsy Trotwood, Mr. Dick, Peggotty and a host of other larger-than-life characters. I think it would be true to say that *Copperfield* set me off on the road to literature. I identified with young David and wanted to grow up to be a writer like him.

But on my second day with the book an event occurred which interrupted my reading for a little while.

I'd noticed, on the previous day, that a number of stray dogs — some of them belonging to watchmen, villagers and forest rangers — always hung about the bungalow, waiting for scraps of food to be thrown away. It was about ten o'clock in the morning (a time when wild animals seldom come into the open), when I heard a sudden yelp coming from the clearing. Looking up, I saw a large, full-grown leopard making off with one of the dogs. The other dogs, while keeping their distance, set up a furious barking, but the leopard and its victim had soon disappeared. I returned to *David Copperfield*.

It was getting late when the shikaris returned. They looked dirty, sweaty and disgruntled. Next day, we were to return to the city, and none of them had anything to show for a week in the jungle.

'I saw a leopard this morning,' I said modestly.

No one took me seriously. 'Did you really?' said the leading shikari, glancing at the book in my hands. 'Young Master Copperfield says he saw a leopard!'

'Too imaginative for his age', said my stepfather. 'Comes from reading so much, I expect.'

I went to bed and left them to their tales of the 'good old days' when rhinos, cheetahs and possibly even unicorns were still available for slaughter. Camp broke up before I could finish *Copperfield*, but the forest ranger said I could keep the book. And so I became the only member of the expedition with a trophy to take home.

Questions :

(a) State true **or** false :

$\frac{1}{2} \times 4 = 2$

- (i) Writer's stepfather was an expert shooter.
- (ii) The writer imagined that he had seen the leopard.
- (iii) At that time animal hunting was a fashion.
- (iv) The narrator wanted to become a writer like Dickens.

- (b) At what age the narrator lost his father? 1
- (c) In which place of India the forest rest house was situated? 1
- (d) What did the paid villagers do in a shikari troop? 2
- (e) Mention the names of two characters from *David Copperfield*. 2
- (f) How did the narrator become the only member of that expedition to take a trophy? 2
2. Read the poem given below and on the basis of your reading answer the questions that follow :

Fable

The mountain and the squirrel
 Had a quarrel,
 And the former called the latter 'Little Prig'.
 Bun replied,
 'You are doubtless very big;
 But all sorts of things and weather
 Must be taken in together,
 To make up a year
 And a sphere.
 And I think it no disgrace
 To occupy my place.
 If I'm not so large as you,
 You are not so small as I,
 And not half so spry.
 I'll not deny you make
 A very pretty squirrel track;
 Talents differ; all is well and wisely put;
 If I cannot carry forest on my back,
 Neither can you crack a nut.'

- (a) What is the meaning of the word 'prig'? 1
- (b) Who is 'Bun' referred to here? 1
- (c) Find a word in the poem which means "active or lively". 1
- (d) What do the last two lines of the poem signify? 1
- (e) Write down from the following statements the one that does not tell us the theme of the poem : 1
- (i) Mere size is not everything.
- (ii) None is superior or inferior in this world.
- (iii) It is all right to judge merely by appearances.
- (iv) Everyone is gifted with different talents.

UNIT-II

(POETRY AND PROSE)

3. Answer **either** (a) **or** (b) :

(a) The waves beside them danced, but they

Out-did the sparkling waves in glee :

A Poet could not be but gay

In such a jocund company !

I gazed—and gazed—but little thought

What wealth the show to me had brought :

I. Answer **any two** of the following :

1×2=2

(i) Who is the "I" here ?

(ii) What does the word "waves" refer to here ?

(iii) What is the meaning of the word 'sparkling' ?

- II. Describe in your own words the 'jocund company' that the poet speaks about. 3

Or

Describe the 'wealth' mentioned in the above lines. How does the 'wealth' benefit the speaker?

(b) And he smote upon the door a second time ;

'Is there anybody there ?' he said.

But no one descended to the Traveller ;

No head from the leaf-fringed sill

Leaned over and looked into his grey eyes,

Where he stood perplexed and still.

But only a host of phantom listeners

That dwelt in the lone house then

Stood listening in the quiet of the moonlight

To that voice from the world of men :

- I. Answer **any two** of the following : 1×2=2

(i) What did the traveller ask while knocking at the door?

(ii) Who are the listeners to the traveller's call?

(iii) What is the meaning of the word 'perplexed'?

- II. What was the response to the traveller's call? 3

Or

What time of the day is described in the poem? Mention *one* word from the poem which suggests the time.

4. Answer **any one** of the following questions in about **80** words : 5
- (a) Write a note on Faiz Ahmed Faiz's attitude to nature as revealed in his poem "When Autumn Came".
- (b) State how the poem "Once Upon a Time" mocks and ridicules some of the common behavioural patterns of modern life.
5. Answer **any three** of the following within **25** words each : 3×2=6
- (a) What resemblance does the poet find between the stars and the daffodils?
- (b) What happens to the birds when autumn comes?
- (c) What was the effect of the traveller's second call?
- (d) What frightens the poet when he sees his smile in the mirror?
6. Answer **any two** of the following : 3×2=6
- (a) Why has the poet described solitude as being blissful?
- (b) What does the phrase "Grey Eyes" implicate in the poem "The Listeners"?
- (c) What is the poet's experience when he goes for the 'twice' to anyone's home?
7. Answer **any three** of the following in **one** sentence each : 1×3=3
- (a) Who was dancing along with the daffodils?
- (b) What did scatter over the ground in the poem "When Autumn Came"?

(c) Who are the listeners in the poem "The Listeners"?

(d) To whom does the poet appeal for help in the poem "Once Upon a Time"?

8. Answer **either (a) or (b)** :

(a) "The truth is that I never read Blue-books for pleasure. I read them for the very humble purpose of turning an honest penny out of them."

(i) Who is "I" referred to here? 1

(ii) What is a 'Blue-book'? Why does he read them? 1+1=2

(iii) What is meant by 'turning an honest penny out of them'? 2

(b) "The loss of bio-diversity is a direct attack on their very survival. For this part of humanity, the ship is already sinking."

(i) Who are the people being suffered by this loss? 1

(ii) What does the word 'ship' signify here? 1

(iii) How does the bio-diversity help those people? 3

9. Answer **any one** of the following : (80 words)

5×1=5

(a) Who does Mr. Cox suspect is using his staff? Quote evidence from the play to support your answer.

(b) Briefly explain the exchanges between Pyotr Petrovich Milkin and Kondrashkin.

(c) Do you believe that 'individual liberty leads to social anarchy'? Give reasons for your answer.

10. Answer **any two** of the following questions within **25** words each :

2×2=4

(a) Why did Fituyev refuse to certify Pyotr as insane, despite being his friend?

(b) Why should we not feel offended when stopped by a traffic policeman?

(c) What is referred to as 'flagship' species?

(d) Though both Box and Cox start cooking breakfast, neither of them gets to eat anything. Why?

11. Answer **any two** of the following questions within **40** words each :

3×2=6

(a) How is Mrs. Bouncer's idea of renting out the same room to two sets of lodgers 'a capital idea'?

(b) How did the narrator feel to the motorists' deliberately bullying horn?

- (c) What would be the situation when there is no variety in life?
- (d) "When are you going to throw your stag party?" Who is the speaker here? What is a 'stag party'?

12. Give the meaning of **any five** of the following words : 1×5=5

- (a) appalled
- (b) banality
- (c) resilience
- (d) aggravating
- (e) bravado
- (f) accommodate

UNIT-III

(GRAMMAR)

13. Make sentences with **any two** pairs of words to illustrate the difference in meaning between them. 2×2=4

accept, except; refuge, refuse; tamper, temper; loan, lone;
amiable, amicable; die, dye.

4. Fill in the blanks with the suitable form of the verbs given in the brackets :

(any three)

1×3=3

(a) The train _____ (start) before I reached the station.

(b) If I _____ (be) rich, I could own that bungalow.

(c) If it _____ (rain), I shall not go out.

(d) We _____ (live) in this place for the last ten years.

(e) I met him while he _____ (go) to his office.

15. Add tag questions to the following : **(any four)**

$\frac{1}{2} \times 4 = 2$

(a) He won't mind if I use his laptop, _____ ?

(b) She speaks English fluently, _____ ?

(c) The boy can play football, _____ ?

(d) Everyone liked the movie, _____ ?

(e) You weren't listening, _____ ?

(f) She has no interest for western music, _____ ?

(g) Neither of them approached the Principal, _____ ?

16. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions : **(any six)**

$\frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 3$

- (a) He has no ability _____ hard work.
- (b) We should not boast _____ our fortunes.
- (c) Perseverance is the key _____ success.
- (d) One must abide _____ one's promise.
- (e) I have not seen him _____ February.
- (f) Our school starts _____ 10 a.m.
- (g) He congratulated her _____ her success.
- (h) Last night a thief broke _____ my house.

17. Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles where necessary : **(any six)**

$\frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 3$

- (a) _____ monkey is a clever animal.
- (b) She is _____ M.A. in English.
- (c) _____ cows are useful animals.
- (d) There is _____ university in Shillong.
- (e) _____ Brahmaputra flows through Assam.
- (f) This is _____ one rupee note.
- (g) There is _____ Hotel nearby.
- (h) I met _____ Mr. Baruah yesterday.

18. Identify **five** nouns and **five** adjectives in the sentences given below :

$\frac{1}{2} \times 10 = 5$

The soft rhythm of liturgical chanting wafted through the breeze, making him turn to his right. A small group of people walked solemnly in the distance, wearing robes of blue, the holy colour of the divine. It was an unusual sight these days. Along with wealth and power, the citizens of the Sapt Sindhu had also lost their spiritual ardour. Many believed their gods abandoned them. Why else would they suffer so?

UNIT-IV

(CREATIVE WRITING SKILL)

19. Write a paragraph about in **180** to **200** words on **any one** of the following :

8

(a) Asian Games, 2018

(b) The profession you want to take up

(c) The role of social media in the present society

(d) Facebook.

20. Develop a story from the given outline :

7

A king thought he was sick — doctors found nothing wrong with his health — they were punished — a doctor said the king would be cured if he wore the shirt of a happy man — no happy man was found — a beggar said he was happy — he had no shirt.

Or

Write a substance of the passage given below :

7

Reading daily is one of the best habits one can possess. It develops your imagination and provides you with a fortune of knowledge. Once you start reading, you experience a whole new world.

Reading can help you grow and give a new perspective about life. Good books can influence you positively and guide you towards the right direction in life. Reading develops language skills and vocabulary. Reading books is also a way to relax and reduce stress.

Reading increases creativity and enhances your understanding of life. It also inspires you to write and one can fall in love with writing as well. Reading plays a vital role in the optimistic growth and development of a person.

Reading leads to self-improvement. One needs to read to experience the joys of reading.

— x —