

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 minutes 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 — (Reading)**

**20**

**1.** Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : **12**

- 1 The effects of plastic bags on the environment are really quite devastating. While there are many objections to the banning of plastic bags based solely on their convenience, the damage to the environment needs to be controlled.
  
- 2 There is no way to strictly limit the effects of plastic bags on the environment because there is no disposal method that will really help eliminate the problem. While reusing them is the first step, most people don't do that. These are bags not durable enough to survive numerous trips to the store. The best that citizens can do is to reuse them.
  
- 3 The biggest problem with this is that once they have been soiled they end up in the trash, which then ends up in the landfill or is burned. Either solution is very poor for the environment. Burning emits toxic gases that harm the atmosphere and increase the level of VOCs in the air while landfills hold them indefinitely as part of the plastic waste problem throughout the globe.
  
- 4 One of the greatest problems is that an estimated 300 million plastic bags end up in the Atlantic Ocean alone. These bags are very dangerous for sea life, especially those of the mammal variety. Any hunting mammal can easily mistake the size, shape and texture of the plastic bag for a meal and find its airway cut off. Needless deaths from plastic bags are increasing every year.

- 5 The environmental balance of the waterways is being thrown off by the rate of plastic bags finding their way into the mouths and intestinal tracts of sea mammals. As one species begins to die off at an abnormal rate, every other living organism in the waterways is impacted.
  
- 6 The indefinite period of time that it takes for the average plastic bag to break down can be literally hundreds of years. Every bag that ends up in the woodlands of the country threatens the natural progression of wildlife. Because the breakdown rate is so slow the chances that the bag will harmlessly go away are extremely slim. Throughout the world plastic bags are responsible for suffocation deaths of woodland animals as well as inhibiting soil nutrients. The land litter that is made up of plastic bags has the potential to kill over and over again. It has been estimated that one bag has the potential to unintentionally kill one animal per every three months due to unintentional digestion or inhalation.
  
- 7 While it's a noble thought to place the plastic bags in the recycling bin every week, studies have proven that there are very few recycling plants that actually recycle them. Most municipalities either burn them or send them off to the landfill after sorting. This is because it can be expensive to recycle this type of plastic. It doesn't melt down easily and is often not fit to be reused in its original form.
  
- 8 The premise of recycling these bags is nice. Yet funding for the upgrading of the recycling units just has not happened and thus less than 1% of all bags are sent to recycling plants worldwide. Most are left to become a pollution problem in one way or another.

9 There are always alternatives to plastic bags and the search for more alternatives continues. Paper bags are a possible option but they also take their toll on the environment. The use of trees to increase the production of paper products will also have a negative environmental effect.

10 Reusable plastic bags are being introduced to regions that want to outlaw the plastic bags altogether. These are stronger and more durable and can be used for three to five trips to the store. Of course, the reusable cloth bag is fast becoming a favourite among environmental supporters. While thus far no bag is without its issues, these are the bags that are currently recommended for use to help protect environmental concerns.

- (a) (i) Why do some people object to the banning of plastic bags ? 1
- (ii) Why is reusing plastic bags not considered practical ? 1
- (iii) Why is the disposal of plastic bags considered damaging to the environment ? 2
- (iv) How do plastic bags endanger the life of animals in the sea and on land ? 2
- (v) What factors discourage recycling of plastic bags ? 2
- (vi) What, according to the writer, is the best possible alternative to plastic bags ? 1
- (b) Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following : 3
- (i) remove (para 2)
- (ii) choking (para 6)
- (iii) costly (para 7)

2. Read the passage given below :

8

The outcasts were not allowed to mount the platform surrounding the well, because if they were ever to draw water from it, the Hindus of the three upper castes would consider the water polluted. Nor were they allowed access to the nearby brook as their use of it would contaminate the stream. They had no well of their own because it cost a lot of money to dig a well in a hilly town. Perforce they had to collect at the foot of the upper-caste Hindu well and depend on the bounty of some of their superiors to pour water into their pitchers. More often than not there was no upper-caste Hindu present. Most of them were rich enough to get the water-carriers to supply them with plenty of fresh water every morning for their baths and kitchens, and only those came to the well who were either fond of an open-air bath or too poor to pay for the water-carriers' services. So the outcasts had to wait for a chance to bring some upper-caste Hindu to the well, for luck to decide that he was kind, for Fate to ordain that he had time — to get their pitchers filled with water. They crowded round the well, congested the space below its high brick platform, morning, noon and night, joining their hands in servile humility to every passer-by; cursing their fate, and bemoaning their lot, if they were refused the help they wanted; praying, beseeching and blessing, if some generous soul condescended to listen to them, or to help them.

When Sohini reached the well there were already about ten other outcasts waiting. But there was no one to give them water. She had come as fast as she could to the well, full of fear and anxiety that she would have to wait her turn since she could see from a distance that there was already a crowd. She didn't feel disappointed so much as depressed to realise that she would be the eleventh to receive water. She had sensed the feeling in her brother's soul. He was tired. He was thirsty. She had felt like a mother as she issued from her home to fetch water, a mother going out to fetch food and drink for her loved ones at home. Now as she sat in a row with her fellow-sufferers, her heart sank. There was no sign of anyone passing that way who could be a possible benefactor. But she was patient. She had in her an inbred fortitude, obvious in her curious reserve, in her docile and peaceful bearing.

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

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

3

**SECTION B — (Advanced Writing Skills)**

**35**

3. Your friend, Manish Tripathi has invited you to attend his wedding anniversary. You cannot attend it as you have a family get-together on the same day. Write a polite letter, in not more than 50 words, expressing your inability to attend the function and wish him all the happiness on this joyous occasion. You are Mita/Mahendra Juneja of 25, Vasundra Colony, Patna.

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**OR**

You are Tripti/Trilok Lahiri, Secretary, ABL School Cricket Association. It has been decided that a meeting of all the members of the school cricket team be held to discuss plans and strategies for the coming Zonal Tournament. Write a notice in not more than 50 words informing the members of the team about the meeting and requesting them to attend it.

4. Members of the Social Activities Club of your school recently visited an orphanage run by a well-known N.G.O. Members of the club were greatly impressed with the atmosphere in the orphanage. Write a report in 125 – 150 words, giving details such as clean surroundings, nice and caring staff, well-fed children with glowing faces, toys and games for kids, etc. You are Nutan/Naveen, President of your school's Social Activities Club.

10

**OR**

The members of Saraswati Residents Welfare Association held a protest rally at the District Park against the decision of the Municipal Corporation to cut down trees for widening of roads to ease traffic congestion. Write a report on the rally in 120 – 150 words. You are Puneeta/Pramod, the President of the Association.

5. The youth of the country are very vigilant these days and feel concerned about the problems being faced by the people. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily urging him to highlight the role of the youth in eradicating the problems of poverty, unemployment and corruption. You are Rani/Rohit, 15 Gulbarga Society, Surat. 10

**OR**

Your town has been badly hit by floods due to enormous rains. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily giving a detailed account of the loss of life and property. Also make an appeal to the people and the government to provide help and succour to the afflicted. You are Sucheta/Sunil, 15, Tilak Nagar, Murshidabad.

6. Failure and setbacks are normal part of life. They make us aware of our shortcomings and encourage us to conquer them. Write an article in 125 – 150 words on “Failure is a stepping stone to success”. You are Gopal/Gopika. 10

**OR**

Friendship and happiness are closely connected. We all need friends to share our joys and sorrows. A true friend stands by us in difficult times. He inspires and motivates us and loves us selflessly. Write an article in 125 – 150 words on “The Value of Friends”. You are Prityush/Prityusha.



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

Some shape of beauty moves away the pall

From our dark spirits.

- (a) How does beauty help us when we are burdened with grief ? 2  
(b) Explain : “Some shape of beauty.” 1  
(c) Identify the figure of speech used in the above lines. 1

**OR**

If we were not so single-minded

about keeping our lives moving,

and for once could do nothing,

perhaps a huge silence

might interrupt this sadness

of never understanding ourselves

and of threatening ourselves with

death.

- (a) Whom does ‘we’ refer to in the above lines ? 1  
(b) Why does the poet want us to ‘do nothing’ for once ? 2  
(c) What is the ‘sadness’ that the poet refers to in the poem ? 1

8. Answer any **two** of the following questions in 30 – 40 words each :  $2 \times 2 = 4$

- (a) Which words/phrases in the poem, “An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum” show that the slum children are suffering from acute malnutrition ? (any two)
- (b) Which images in the poem, “Keeping Quiet” show that the poet condemns violence ?
- (c) What do the parting words of Kamala Das and her smile signify ?

9. Answer any **six** of the following questions in 30 – 40 words each :

$6 \times 2 = 12$

- (a) Why does M. Hamel reproach himself for his students’ unsatisfactory progress in studies ?
- (b) In what sense is garbage gold to the ragpickers ?
- (c) What did Douglas feel and do when he was pushed into the swimming pool ?
- (d) What made the Lieutenant-Governor drop the case against Gandhiji ?
- (e) What gave the astrologers the greatest surprise of their life while they were studying the horoscope of the ten-day-old prince ?
- (f) Why did Dr. Sadao treat the American soldier even though it was an unpatriotic act on his part ?
- (g) Why did Roger Skunk go to visit the owl ?

10. Answer *one* of the following in 100 – 125 words :

5

What precautions were taken by the prison authorities for the smooth conduct of the examination ?

**OR**

What activities did Bama witness on her way back home from school ?

11. Answer the following in about 100 words :

5

Desire, determination and diligence lead to success. Explain the value of these qualities in the light of Douglas' experience in "Deep Water".

12. Answer the following in about 125 words :

8

Why do we feel sympathetic towards Miss Stapleton and Laura Lyons ?

13. Answer the following in about 125 words :

7

Who was Seldon ? How did he meet his end ?