

Series SSO

Code No. 212

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 **11** 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 (Elective) — (C)

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

The Question paper is divided into three sections :

Section A — Reading	20 marks
Section B — Writing and Grammar	40 marks
Section C — Literature	40 marks

General Instructions :

- All the questions are **compulsory**.*
- You may attempt any section at a time.*
- All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.*

SECTION A

(Reading)

20

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

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- 1 Hewlett-Packard Company or HP (styled as *hp*) is an American multinational information technology corporation headquartered in Palo Alto, California, United States. It provides hardware, software and services to consumers, small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs) and large enterprises, including customers in the government, health and education sectors.
- 2 It specializes in developing and manufacturing computing, data storage, and networking hardware; designing software and delivering services. Major product lines include personal computing devices, enterprise and industry standard servers, related storage devices, networking products, software and a diverse range of printers and other imaging products. HP markets its products to households, small- to medium-sized businesses and enterprises directly as well as via online distribution, consumer-electronics and office supply retailers, software partners and major technology vendors. HP also has services and consulting business around its products and partner products. In 2013, it was the world's second-largest PC vendor by unit sales.
- 3 During the late 1990s, HP, the second largest computer manufacturer in the world, faced major challenges in an increasingly competitive market. In 1998, while HP's revenues grew just by 3%, competitor Dell's rose by 38%. HP's share price remained more or less stagnant, while competitor IBM's share price increased by 65% during 1998. Analysts said HP's culture, which emphasized teamwork and respect for co-workers, had over the years translated into a consensus-style culture that was proving to be a sharp disadvantage in the fast-growing Internet business era. Analysts felt that instead of Lewis Platt, HP needed a new leader to cope with rapidly changing industry trends. Responding to these concerns, in July 1999, the HP board appointed Carleton S. Fiorina (Fiorina) as the company's CEO. Fiorina implemented several cost-cutting measures to streamline the company's operations. Some of the measures included forced five-day vacation for the workers and the postponement of wages' hikes for three months in December 2000. In January 2001, HP laid off 1,700 marketing employees.

- 4 In April 2001, Fiorina announced that HP's revenues would decrease by 2% to 4% for the quarter ending April 30, 2001 due to decrease in consumer spending. In yet another move to cut costs, in June 2001, employees were forcibly asked to take pay-cuts. More than 80,000 employees volunteered saving the company \$ 130 million. Things became worse when the HP management announced that it would lay off another 6,000 workers in July 2001, the biggest reduction in the company's 64-year history. The management also sent memos saying that the layoffs would continue and that the volunteering for pay-cuts would not guarantee continued employment.
- 5 In September 2001, HP and Compaq Computer Corporation announced their merger. According to company insiders, once the merger was implemented, Fiorina was likely to lay off another 15,000 to 30,000 employees as part of a major cost saving drive. The merger was expected to yield cost savings upto \$ 2.5 billion primarily because of layoffs. The steps taken by Fiorina surprised analysts. They said that these steps were a major departure from HP's organizational culture — 'The HP way' of promising lifelong employment and employee satisfaction.
- 6 According to the company insiders, though change was necessary, employees' morale had suffered badly. Many employees had lost faith in Fiorina's ability to execute her plans. They also felt that her changes were destroying much of the company's cherished culture. HP Vice-President for Human Resources, Susan Bowick admitted, "Morale statistics are lower than we have ever seen them." They also explicitly communicated their beliefs and values to the employees.

- 1.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. Use a format you consider suitable. Supply a suitable title. 6
- 1.2 Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. 4

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

- 1 Three years ago, Martin Scorsese, the New York director who has made street violence one of his signature traits, teamed up with Harvey Weinstein, co-chairman of Miramax Films and something of a street fighter himself. The goal was to make a stylized epic film about gang warfare in pre-Civil War Manhattan with enough mass appeal to score at the box office.
- 2 But the making of that movie, *Gangs of New York*, has turned into an epic of its own. Stars like Robert De Niro and Willem Dafoe have come and gone. Costs have overshot the original budget by about 25 percent to soar above \$ 100 million. Weinstein has fought for a streamlined, more commercial version. All the while, Scorsese has tried to stick to his artistic guns as the two have battled over taste and length.
- 3 With hopes of promoting the film next month at Cannes, Miramax executives are pushing to have the final editing completed in the next few weeks so the complex task of mixing sound with film can begin. But Scorsese is still not satisfied with the ending. He has been considering reshooting it, some people involved in the film say. The film was initially supposed to hit theatres last December, but now is expected to be released later this year.
- 4 Scorsese has not had a box-office smash since *Cape Fear*, which earned \$ 79 million domestically in 1991. Weinstein, a domineering personality who, by his own admission, is spurned in Hollywood despite championing eclectic hits like *The English Patient* and *Goodwill Hunting*, has come under financial pressure of his own. In January, he shut *Talk* magazine and more recently he shed 75 Miramax employees and contract workers to trim costs.
- 5 Conflicts arise any time a director's vision collides with pressures to make a commercial hit. But Saul Zaentz, the producer who battled with Weinstein over money after working with him on Academy Award-winning *The English Patient*, said it was especially true with such strong-willed personalities.
- 6 "Marty is only interested in making the right picture," Mr. Zaentz said. "He will make it no matter what he has to do. And he is strong enough to fight for what he believes in. Harvey's interest, on the other hand, is not the same as Marty's. It is about making money."

7 The budget for “Gangs” has ballooned to more than \$ 103 million from the original \$ 83 million – some of which is being paid for by Mr. Scorsese and Mr. Di Caprio, who plays the lead character, according to two people involved in the film. At that price – high even by today’s standards – it would be the most expensive movie in Miramax’s 22-year history. Mr. Weinstein and Mr. Scorsese declined to be interviewed but released this statement : “As the only two decision makers on *Gangs of New York* we would be happy to discuss this film in the context of an art versus commerce article when the story is an informed one, which clearly hinges on the final film being screened.”

2.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following in your own words :

- (i) Why did Martin Scorsese team up with Harvey Weinstein ? 1
- (ii) What was the reason for the difference of opinion ? 1
- (iii) What was the reason for the expected delay of movie release ? 1
- (iv) In what way did they, ‘the two decision makers’ decide to answer the queries regarding the film ? 1
- (v) Why were they both under financial pressure ? 1

2.2 Choose the meaning of words/phrases given below from the options that follow :

- (a) Streamlined 1
 - (i) shaped it right
 - (ii) made it effective
 - (iii) in a straight line
 - (iv) left alone
- (b) Battled over 1
 - (i) end of a battle
 - (ii) fought over
 - (iii) decided
 - (iv) overcame

- (c) Spurned 1
- (i) supported
 - (ii) rejected
 - (iii) specialised
 - (iv) fasted
- (d) Championing 1
- (i) cunning
 - (ii) playing
 - (iii) leading
 - (iv) supporting
- (e) Hinges 1
- (i) hangs
 - (ii) kept high
 - (iii) depends on
 - (iv) hinders

SECTION B

(Writing and Grammar)

40

3. You are President of Civic Club, Delhi. The Club has decided to organize a walk in several parts of Old Delhi to create awareness of sanitation and cleanliness. Draft a notice inviting members to join this walk, giving all the necessary details in 50 – 60 words. You are Ravi/Sarita. 4

OR

You are the President of Literacy Club, Kanpur. You want to create awareness of the importance of voting in an election. You wish to invite Mrs. Neelima Sharma, the local MLA to speak to the members of the Club. Draft a formal invitation in 50 – 60 words. Give all the necessary details. You are Rohan/Seema.

4. You are Amit / Amita, a Class XII student, of Saavan School, Agra. You feel that after leaving school, you are not equipped to handle any job as you lack certain skills. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, mentioning the problems in the system. Give suggestions as to how we can make education more relevant to practical life and work. (Write in 120 – 150 words)

6

OR

You are Devika / Dev, living at 21 Mount Road, Coimbtore. You placed an order for some gadgets like iPod, calculator, etc. after reading an advertisement in a newspaper. On delivery, you discovered certain problems in the things received. Draft a letter of complaint to the manager of the company, Online Shopper's Dream at their office address, 34 Curzon Road, Chennai, giving details of the problems and what you would like him to do. (Write in 120 – 150 words)

5. Your school, Manav Vikas Public School, Gurgaon, hosted a cultural extravaganza which lasted a week. Various activities like painting, debating, singing and writing saw enthusiastic participation. Around twenty-five schools took part in it. Several prizes were given to honour all the winners. As Cultural Secretary of the school, write a report on the event for the school magazine. You are Manish/Manisha. (Write in 150 – 200 words)

10

OR

As Sports Captain of the school, Gyan Vidyalaya, Gurgaon, you are concerned to see a steep decline in the number of students opting for sports activities. You feel that gadgets like computers, mobile phones, etc. and academic pressure are responsible for it. Prepare a speech to motivate the students to participate in sports and offer suggestions to improve the situation. (Write in 150 – 200 words)

6. There has been a sudden spurt in violence and juvenile crimes. It has resulted in educationists introducing value education in schools. How far do you think such initiatives actually help to change the scene ? What other measures do you feel can be effective in dealing with the situation ? Write an article for a newspaper expressing your views about it. You are Anuj / Anuja. (Write in 150 – 200 words)

10

OR

A large amount of tax-payers' money is spent on building memorials or naming streets or places after leaders. You feel that there are better ways to remember them and we should not waste money on such things and rather work on public welfare schemes. Write an article expressing your views on it. You are Raghu / Reema. (Write in 150 – 200 words)

7. (a) Rearrange the following words and phrases into meaningful sentences.

3×1=3

- (i) I'm prudish / daddy / that's / always says / and vain / not true / but /.
- (ii) I am / I / been told / have not / often / that / pretty /.
- (iii) I looked / once / so attractive / when / a boy said / laughed / I /.

- (b) You are going to meet a friend who is pursuing education in a university in Singapore. You are interested in joining the same university. Frame six questions that you would ask your friend before you take a decision. Use the clues given below.

3

- eligibility for admission
- dates of admission
- courses available
- fee structure
- boarding and lodging
- freeships available

- (c) The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each of the lines. Write the error and the correction in your answer book against the correct blank number. Remember to underline the word that you have supplied.

$$8 \times \frac{1}{2} = 4$$

	<i>Error</i>	<i>Correction</i>
Success rests in the ability	(a) _____	_____
in get real, lasting satisfaction	(b) _____	_____
of life. It means	(c) _____	_____
be positive, practical and	(d) _____	_____
constructive in his thoughts.	(e) _____	_____
It means forward look	(f) _____	_____
in attitudes. Success mean	(g) _____	_____
constructive action that turned	(h) _____	_____
it into reality.		

SECTION C

(Literature)

40

- 8.** Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow : **10**

(a) Their dreams that drip with murder; and they'll be proud
Of glorious war that shatter'd all their pride
Men who went out to battle, grim and glad;
Children, with eyes that hate you, broken and mad.

- (i) Why did 'their dreams' drip with murder ? **1**
- (ii) What shattered their pride ? **1**
- (iii) Pick out the figure of speech in the above extract. **1**
- (iv) What are the two contrasting feelings depicted in the soldier's expression ? **1**
- (v) What turned the 'men who went out to battle' into children ? **1**

(b) Is it so easy, then ? Goodbye no more than this
Quiet disaster ? And is there cause for sorrow
That in the small white murder of one kiss
Are born two ghosts, two Hamlets, two soliloquies,
Two worlds apart, tomorrow ?

- (i) Name the poem and the poet. 1
- (ii) What 'disaster' has been referred to in the above extract ? 1
- (iii) Who are the two ghosts referred to and why are they called ghosts ? 1
- (iv) Why have the two worlds grown apart ? 1
- (v) Explain the reference to 'two Hamlets, two soliloquies'. 1

9. Answer the following in 50 – 60 words : 4

- (a) Why has Lady Weston referred to Mr. Caesar as 'Mr. Brutus' ? What are the parallels that you can trace between the two ?

OR

- (b) What was the attitude of the White family towards the monkey's paw ?

10. (a) Answer any **two** of the following in 80 – 100 words each : 5+5

- (i) In the lesson, 'The Judgement of Paris', why did Suzanne leave the judgement to the public to decide who was the better actor ? Do you think justice was done ?
- (ii) In the lesson, 'The Last letter', why does Pandit Nehru say, "danger seems terrible from a distance : it is not so bad if you have a close look at it" ? How can danger add zest and spice to life and does it teach anything ?
- (iii) In the lesson, 'I Can Play Schools', how was 'school' being played at the beginning and how did it change towards the end ? What were the reasons for the change ?

(b) Answer the following in 120 – 150 words :

In the lesson ‘The Hum of Insects’, what attributes make some insects noble ? How can humans sometimes be indirectly responsible for causing irritation to the insects ?

6

OR

A conservative society associates certain qualities with a son or daughter. How does Rakesh’s character conform to these perceptions ?

11. Answer the following in 150 – 200 words :

10

The novel, ‘The Invisible Man’ is a message for humanity and cautions us against indiscriminate dabbling in science. How does the central character prove this to be true ?

OR

The cloak of invisibility gave Griffin unlimited power but also brought about loneliness, isolation and his downfall. Explain in the context of the novel.

OR

What is the significance of Silas Marner’s “near sightedness” ?

OR

Compare Silas’ love of money with his religious faith.