

**2015**  
**ENGLISH**

**Full Marks : 100**

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**Pass Marks : 30**

**Time : Three hours**

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

**(FOR THE CANDIDATES OF  
OLD & NEW SYLLABUSES)**



## SECTION A

(Reading Skills : 10 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully :

So the ships were brought into the dock and the passengers began to go ashore. But Mr. Escombe had sent word to the captain that, as the whites were highly enraged against me and my life was in danger, my family and I should be advised to land at dusk, when the Port Superintendent Mr. Tatum would escort us home. The captain communicated the message to me, and I agreed to act accordingly. But scarcely half an hour after this, Mr. Laughton came to the captain. He said: 'I would like to take Mr. Gandhi with me, should he have no objection. As the legal adviser of the Agent Company I tell you that you are not bound to carry out the message you have received from Mr. Escombe.' After this he came to me and said somewhat to this effect: 'If you are not afraid, I suggest that Mrs. Gandhi and the children should drive to Mr. Rustomji's house, whilst you and I follow them on foot. I do not at all like the idea of your entering the city like a thief in the night. I do not think there is any fear of anyone hurting you. Everything is quiet now. The whites have all dispersed. But in any case I am convinced that you ought not to enter the city stealthily.' I readily agreed. My wife and children drove safely to Mr. Rustomji's place.



With the captain's permission I went ashore with Mr Laughton. Mr. Rustomji's house was about two miles from the dock.

On the basis of your reading of the passage answer the following questions :

- (a) Who is the speaker in this passage ? 1
- (b) What word had Mr Escombe sent to the captain of the ship ? 2
- (c) Why did Mr Laughton come to the Captain ? 2
- (d) What did Mr Laughton say to the speaker ? 2
- (e) The speaker readily agreed to Mr Laughton's suggestion. What does it tell us about the speaker's character ? 2
- (f) Find a word from the passage that means "moving secretly or moving like a thief". 1



## SECTION B

(Advanced Writing Skills : 25 Marks)

2. Write an attractive poster for a cultural show in your village / town. 5

OR

You are the Personal Manager of Hotel Taj International, Guwahati. You need two lady receptionists and five security guards for the hotel. Write out an advertisement for the posts which is to be published in an English daily.

3. Your School / College has recently celebrated "Cleanliness week", organising a number of programmes and competitions. Write a report in about **125** words to be published in a local newspaper. 10

OR

Write an article on "Mobile Phones : Uses and Abuses" to be published in your School / College magazine. (maximum **135** words)

4. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper on reckless driving. You are Roshan / Divya living in Duliajan. 1



OR

You are Firoz/Meena. You have seen an advertisement for the post of Sales Executive in a multi-national company. Write a formal application for the post in response to the advertisement.

SECTION C

(Grammar : 20 Marks)

5. Change the form of narration in the following sentences :

2×2=4

(a) "Where do you go every Sunday?" I asked the girl. She replied, "I go to the church".

(b) The teacher asked Rumi if she had read the Bible. She replied that she hadn't.

6. Change the voice of **any three** of the following sentences :

1×3=3

(a) She bought the baby a doll.



(b) They were refused admission.

(c) He was found guilty of murder.

(d) The leader was welcomed by the people.

(e) My watch has been stolen.

7. Rewrite **any five** of the following sentences using the verbs given in brackets in their correct tense forms:

1×5=5

(a) I usually — (go) to bed at 10 O'clock.

(b) The teacher — (know) the boy was lying.

(c) He — (work) here since 2009.

(d) When I reached the station, the train — (leave).

(e) I — (go) to Delhi tomorrow.



(f) I — (write) an essay now.

(g) When I went to her house, she — (sing) a song.

8. Rewrite **any four** of the following sentences filling in the blanks with appropriate prepositions: 1×4=4

(a) I have heard a lot about you — your class teacher.

(b) His father is a principal — a school in Jorhat.

(c) Please sit down — a few minutes.

(d) Tom is addicted — gambling.

(e) Don't be afraid — telling the truth.

(f) Sheila is proud — her beauty.



9. Rewrite **any four** of the sentences as directed : 1×4=4

(a) Kolkata is the most populous city in India.

*(Change into comparative degree)*

(b) No other boy is as intelligent as Raju.

*(Change into superlative degree)*

(c) No sooner did he see me than he began to quarrel.

*(Change into affirmative)*

(d) I know where he was born.

*(Change into a simple sentence)*

(e) He tried all plans.

*(Change into negative)*

(f) I shall never forget you.

*(Change into interrogative)*



## SECTION D

(Text books : 45 Marks)

0. Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow :

(a) " ... 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..."

### Questions :

- (i) What was the childhood fear that now troubled the poet? 1
- (ii) What do the poet's parting words suggest? 2
- (iii) Why did the poet smile and smile? 1



OR

- (b) "Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victory with no survivors,  
and walk about with their brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing."

**Questions :**

- (i) What are the different kinds of wars mentioned by the poet in the passage? 1
- (ii) What kind of victory do they achieve? 1
- (iii) What should the warmongers do? 1
- (iv) Find the words in the passage that mean 'those left alive' and 'win'. 1

11. Answer **any three** of the following questions in **30-40** words : 2×3=6

- (i) Why has the mother been compared to the 'late winter's moon'?



- (ii) What is the sadness that the poet refers to in the poem "Keeping Quiet"?
- (iii) What is the legend on which the poem 'A Thing of Beauty' is written?
- (iv) What, according to Keats, never 'passes into nothingness'?
- (v) What is 'in the news' as mentioned in 'A Roadside Stand'?
- (vi) Why do the people who are running the roadside stand 'ask for some city money'?

12. Answer **any five** of the following questions :

1×5=5

- (a) What did M Hamel write at the end of the class?
- (b) What does the author of 'Lost Spring' find Saheb doing every morning?
- (c) What does Mukesh want to be?



(d) Who is the 'Chota Sahib' in the 'Memoirs of a Chota Sahib'?

(e) What did Shukla want Gandhi to do?

(f) Who was Sir Edward Gait?

(g) Did Sophie really meet Danny Casey?

(h) Where was it most likely that Sophie and her friend would find work after school?

13. Answer **any five** of the following questions in **30-40** words :  
2×5=10

(a) What was Franz expected to be prepared with for school that day?

(b) What was the commotion that Franz anticipated in the classroom?

(c) What explanation does the author of 'Lost Spring' offer for the children not wearing footwear?



- (d) What is Firozabad famous for and why?
- (e) What was the belief about the dividing channel between Peacock Island and the main land of Guwahati?
- (f) What does Roventree state about the large 'Bheel' close to the bungalow at Rajapara?
- (g) What other dreams does Sophie have besides having a boutique?

14. Answer **any one** of the following questions in **80–100** words :  
5×1=5

- (a) Give a detailed account of the scene in the classroom on the day of the last lesson.

**OR**

- (b) 'The battle of Champaran is won', Gandhi exclaimed. Explain the context in which this was said.

**OR**

- (c) Describe the miserable plight of the people of Firozabad.



15. Answer **any one** of the following questions in **125-150** words :  $7 \times 1 = 7$

What impression do you form of Mr Lamb? How does he look at life?

**OR**

Describe Tishani's journey to the end of the earth — the Antarctic region, and her experiences during that journey.

16. Answer **any four** of the following questions in **30-40** words :  $2 \times 4 = 8$

- (a) How did the Tiger King celebrate the killing of the hundredth tiger?
- (b) Why is Antarctica the perfect place to study changes in the environment?
- (c) Why and how did Derry enter Mr Lamb's garden?
- (d) How and why do people comment so painfully about Derry's face?



(e) When did Bama experience untouchability?

(f) Why did Zitkala-Sa feel uncomfortable in the dining room?

Mukto Akakh