

West Bengal State University

B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. ( Honours, Major, General ) Examinations, 2015

PART - II

ENGLISH - General

PAPER - II

( New and Old Syllabus )

Duration : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 100

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

( New Syllabus )

1. Answer any one of the following questions in about 500 words : 1 × 15 = 15
  - a) Are the women characters of "David Copperfield" stereotypical or realistic ?
  - b) Discuss the autobiographical elements in "David Copperfield".
  
2. Answer any one from the following in about 500 words : 1 × 15 = 15
  - a) Discuss the significance of the title of 'The Fly'.
  - b) Analyse the resilience in the character of Mrs. Thurlow.
  - c) Comment on the ending of 'The Lotus Eater'.
  - d) Discuss the psychological aspects of D. H. Lawrence's "The Prussian Officer".

3. Explain any *two* of the following, each in about 200 words, with reference to the context. 2 × 5 = 10
- "I think on the whole we get what we deserve, but that does not prevent its being rather horrible."
  - "Six years ago, six years... How quickly time passed ! It might have happened yesterday".
  - "The bodies of the two men lay together side by side ... "
  - "Slopping along beside it, flat, heavy feet pounding painfully along under mud-stained skirts, her face and body ugly with lumpy angles and bone, she was like a feast of burden."
4. Answer any *one* question from the following, in about 400 words : 1 × 10 = 10
- Why according to Bacon one must travel ?
  - Bring out the autobiographical elements in Charles Lamb's '*Dream Children : A Reverie*'.
  - Why did Orwell decide not to shoot the elephant ? What made him change his decision ?
  - Enumerate after Addison, the aims of the Spectator Papers.
5. Explain any *two* of the following, each in about 200 words, with reference to the context : 2 × 5 = 10
- "Feelings like these are the normal by-products of imperialism, ask any Anglo-Indian official, if you can catch him off duty."
  - "We are not of Alice, nor of thee, nor are we children at all."
  - "Such a distance there is betwixt life and death ..."
  - "As for the job I was doing, I hated it more bitterly than I can perhaps make clear."

6. Write short notes on any *five* of the following each in about 100 words. :

5 × 2 = 10

Narrator, Gothic novel, Irony, Realism, Sub-plot, Epistolary novel, Bildungsroman, Picaresque.

7. Read the following passage and answer any *three* of the questions that follow :

3 × 5 = 15

In the sphere of intellectual life, the obvious effect of war is to turn the thought of a large part of the nation towards military and naval topics. Inventors busy themselves with those physical and chemical researches which provide results profitable for us. Such researches may incidentally lead to discoveries of value in other fields, just as the practice of military surgery in the field may advance surgical science in general. But the main effect must be to distract from pure science, and from the application of science to industry, minds that might have done better work for the world in those fields of activity. In general, the thought of a people that delights in war will be occupied with material considerations and while the things of the body will be prized, the things of the mind will be disparaged, some in so far as they make for military success. A fighting caste will be formed imposing its peculiar ideals of the people; the standards of value will become more and more practical and the interest in pure truth and in thought and art for their own sake may decline.

These are conditions not favourable to progress in the higher forms of literary and scientific work. Against them is to be set that stimulus which a great war is held to give to the whole life of a people. When it rouses them to the maximum of effort and gives them the strongest consciousness of national unity, it may also, so we hear it argued — invigorate them for intellectual creation. It would be rash to deny this possibility, but no one seems to have succeeded in tracing any casual relation between war and the production of great work in art and letters. They have often coincided, but each has often appeared without the other.

- a) What according to the author is the main effect of war in the spheres of intellectual life ?
- b) What example does the author give to illustrate the general effect of war on the minds of the people ?
- c) What incidental benefits come from scientific researches related to war ?
- d) Does the author agree with the view that war may invigorate the people for intellectual creation.

8. Write a short original story in about 500 words beginning with the following words :

15

"The news came as a pleasant surprise ..."

**( Old Syllabus )**

1. Answer any *six* of the following questions : 6 × 2 = 12
- a) Why did Orwell shoot the elephant ?
  - b) Briefly explain the significance of the word "Araby".
  - c) What does Lamb mean by 'bachelor arm-chair' ?
  - d) How does Benson discuss the elements of the essayist's art ? Discuss any one element in brief.
  - e) What is the attitude of Mrs. Thurlow's children towards her ?
  - f) How is Woodfield related to the boss ?
  - g) What is the meaning of the term "lotus eaters" ?
  - h) Analyse any *one* description of the sea-side as given by Lynd.
2. Answer any *one* of the following questions: 1 × 16 = 16
- a) Show how Lamb's essay blends the personal with the universal.
  - b) "Shooting an Elephant" reveals traces of Orwell's character and personality. Discuss.
  - c) How does Lynd describe the activities of the holiday makers at the sea-side ?
  - d) Bring out the significance of the story with which Benson begins his essay.

3. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 1 × 16 = 16
- a) What does the fly episode convey in the story by Katherine Mansfield ?
  - b) Do you think that the theme in "Araby" is a search for ideal beauty ?
  - c) Bring out the significance of the title of the short story "The Ox".
  - d) What impression do you have about Wilson's character in "The Lotus Eater" ?
4. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 1 × 16 = 16
- a) How does Hardy bring out the contrast between the characters Henchard and Farfrae ?
  - b) Write a short essay on Hardy's philosophy of life as it comes out in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.
  - c) Discuss the world of crime as depicted by Dickens in *Oliver Twist*.
  - d) Discuss the significance of the minor characters in *Oliver Twist*.
5. Explain with reference to the context : 2 × 10 = 20
- (i) a) But my body was like a harp and her words and gestures were like fingers running upon the wires.
- OR
- b) Poor old chap, he's on his last pins, thought the boss.
- OR
- c) Wilson's plan was all right, there was only one flaw in it and this, I suppose, he could not have foreseen.

- (ii) a) The essayist then is in his particular fashion an interpreter of life, a critic of life.

OR

- b) The crowd grew very still, and a deep, low, happy sigh as of people who see the theatre curtain go up at last, breathed from innumerable throats.

OR

- c) "We are not of Alice, nor of thee, nor are we children at all. The children of Alice call Bartrum father. We are nothing; less than nothing, and dreams ... ."

Read the following passage and answer the questions given below :  $4 \times 5 = 20$

Our real problem in India is not political. It is social. This is a condition not only prevailing in India, but among all nations. I do not believe in an exclusive political interest. Politics in the West have dominated Western ideals, and we in India are trying to imitate you. We have to remember that in Europe, where peoples had their racial unity from the beginning, and where natural resources were insufficient for the inhabitants, the civilization has naturally taken the character of political and commercial aggressiveness. For on the one hand they had no internal complications, and on the other they had to deal with neighbours who were strong and rapacious. To have perfect combination among themselves and a watchful attitude of animosity against others was taken as the solution of their problems. In former days they organized and plundered, in the present age the same spirit continues — and they organize and exploit the whole world.

- a) What, according to the author, is the real problem in India ?
- b) What was the situation in Europe from the beginning ?
- c) What was the nature of the neighbours in Europe ?
- d) What happens in the present age in Europe ?