

Total number of printed pages-10

32 ALT (xvi)/Im/25

2025

ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH

Full Marks: 100

Pass Marks: 33

Time: Three hours

Read carefully the direction given for each question.

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

Answer the question in your own words as far as practicable.

SECTION-A (PROSE)

1. Answer the following question in about **120** words :

- (a) 'It was the last on the vine. Still dark green near its stem, but with its serrated edges tinted with the yellow of dissolution and decay, it hung bravely from a branch some twenty feet above the ground.'
Comment on the significant role played by the ivy plant to the life of Johnsy. 8

Or

- (b) "Leave it open", said the old woman in a voice that for all its weakness carried an air of command such as the Baroness had never heard before from her lips.'
In what situation made the old woman produce that tone of command over the baroness? 8

P.T.O.

2. Answer the following questions in about **60** words:

- (a) "There is no good feeling between us. His nephew, Watson — I had suspicions of foul play and I allowed him to see it. The boy died horribly."

Why wasn't there good feeling between Sherlock Holmes and Culverton Smith? 4

Or

- (b) "Why, Your Honour, we peasants have been unscrewing nuts for a good many years now and the good Lord has protected us."

Why did Denis make that remark? 4

3. Answer the following questions in about **50** words :

Why did Siddartha, a prince of royal house, leave the palace surrounded by all comforts and luxury? 3

4. Answer the following questions in about 35 words each.

- (a) Why does Nehru say that religion often makes the people to behave like beasts? 2

- (b) Why did Sherlock Holmes prevent Dr. Watson from examining him? 2

5. Answer the following questions in one sentence each.

- (a) Which religion, according to Nehru, has the largest number of followers in the world today? 1
- (b) At what distance could Sherlock Holmes deceive Dr. Watson? 1
- (c) What did Conrad say about the death-music to the Baroness? 1
- (d) Which Article of the Penal Code may lead a man to exile with hard labour for jeopardizing the passage of a train? 1

6. Answer the following questions by choosing the right option from the given alternatives.

- (a) Sue said, "I'll not be gone a minute. Don't try to move till I come back." 1
 - (i) Sue went to call Behrman up to be a model.
 - (ii) Sue went to take some broth for Johnsy.
 - (iii) Sue went to leave the doctor into the hallway.
 - (iv) Sue went into the workroom to cry a Japanese napkin.
- (b) "All is in order and this is your man," said Sherlock Holmes. 1
 - (i) The man referred to here is Dr. Watson.
 - (ii) The man referred to here is Victor Savage.
 - (iii) The man referred to here is Culverton Smith.
 - (iv) The man referred to here is Mrs. Hudson.

SECTION-B (POETRY)

7. Explain the following extract with reference to the context:
- (a) Unsolicited reply
To a babbling wanderer sent;
Like her ordinary cry,
Like — but oh, how different! 8
- Or
- (b) “The darkness drops again but I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle.
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?” 8
8. Answer the following question in about 60 words:
- (a) “And its look, rude, unbending, lusty, made me think of myself.”
Why did the poet think of himself on seeing the live-oak? 4
- Or
- (b) “I shot at him as he at me and killed him.”
Elaborate the above statement of Thomas Hardy in his poem,
The Man He Killed, in the light that ‘chance favours only a few.’ 4
9. Answer the following question in about 50 words:
“Breaths there the man with soul so dead”.
Why does the poet refer to the man as having a soul ‘so dead’? 3
10. Answer the following questions in about 35 words each:
- (a) Explain the significance of ‘warp’ in the poem, ‘Blow, Blow Thou
Winter Wind.’ 2

- (b) How does the image of the trees suggest blankness of mortality in the poem, 'A Wind Flashes the Grass'? 2

11. Answer the following questions in one sentence each:

- (a) "This life is most jolly." Why is forest life most jolly? 1
(b) What does the poet, Ted Hughes, mean by 'below words' in his poem, 'A Wind Flashes the Grass'? 1
(c) How does a patriot's heart feel when he turns homeward from a foreign land, according to Walter Scott? 1
(d) Why does the poet warn the rose to be careful in his poem, 'To The Rose'? 1

12. Answer the following questions by choosing the best option from the given alternatives:

- (a) "Go, happy rose, and interweave with other flowers." The rose is called happy rose because
(i) it is going to be with the lady.
(ii) it is sent by the poet.
(iii) it will be supported by myrtle rods.
(iv) it can resist the angry looks of the lady.
(b) "They serve Him Best." Who serve God the best according to John Milton?
(i) those who blame him.
(ii) those soul which bent more.
(iii) those who bear his mild yoke.
(iv) those who are gifted.

SECTION-C (COMPREHENSION)

13. Read the following given passage and answer the questions that follow:

Some of the nicer places to eat in Bombay are not restaurants, but canteens. They are also the cheapest places to eat in. The old *Free Press Journal* at 21, Dalal Street, had an interesting canteen. It was located between the case room and the press, rather dark and dingy and smelling strongly of machine grease. But you do not have to eat in it since there is no room. You could ring and order the food upstairs in the editorial rooms at no extra labour.

You could get upma in the morning and strong South Indian coffee. On some days it was prepared so early in the morning that you could have your upma and coffee before leaving the office after night duty.

There was a sort of a rice-plate, but that was ordinary, but there were snacks throughout the day, fresh vadas with hot sambar, and onion and potato bhajis in the late afternoons. The canteen boys, little knee-high fellows when they first arrived, or were brought from Udipi and started working, started going to night schools, playing football, and they had their own football team. Some of them later became clerks in the Free Press, issuing salaries among other things. At least one of them became a good club standard football player and was recruited by State Bank.

Late in the night, for tea, one came out of the Free Press office and went to the CTO (Central Telegraph Office) for tea. It was all very convenient. After night duty, you came out into the balmy night as Bombay was as safe as it is now, walked to the CTO, had a cup of tea, and then took the last tram from Flora Fountain. It used to arrive there at 1.30 a.m. most of the days and then fly through the empty streets of Girgaum and Charni Road, its wheels clattering waking up the dead.

- (a) What kind of food items was available at the FPJ canteen? 2

- (b) Why was the FPJ canteen said to be interesting? 2
 (c) What was special about the CTO canteen? 2
 (d) How were the canteen boys treated at the FPJ? 2
 (e) The writer says that the clattering wheels of the tram seemed to wake up the dead. What does he mean by his statement? 2

SECTION-D (COMPOSITION)

Note:-All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose only.

14. Write an essay on any one of the following given topics in about 150 words: 8
 (a) Ecological Imbalance in Manipur
 (b) Unity is Strength
 (c) Role of students in the changing environment.
15. (a) You are Debid/Debita, a student of class XII (sc), The Little Star Higher Secondary School, Nambol. You hope you will do well enough at the higher secondary examination-2025 but fear that your parents won't be able to afford you for your higher studies. Now, write a letter to the branch manager of the State Bank of India, Nambol Branch, requesting him to grant you an educational loan of rupees five lakhs so that you can continue your studies. 8

Or

- (b) Yaiphaba/Yaiphabi of Sagolband Sayang Leirak has witnessed the use of unfair means and malpractices in the examination hall of a school at Kangpokpi District. He/she is helpless but report the matter to relevant authorities. So, he/she writes a letter of complaint to the Controller of Examination, COHSEM. Reproduce the probable form of the letter by providing necessary details. 8
16. Write a poem in eight lines about your love for your motherland. 4

17. (a) You are Sanatombi/Sanatomba, the Magazine Secretary of the Divinity Public School, Porompat. You are to publish the Annual Magazine-2025 of your school. Write a notice to be put up to the school notice board informing all concerns to submit their magazine items in time. (Provide necessary details of the notice.) 4

Or

- (b) Jamesbond/Florance is celebrating the happy occasion of Christmas at his/her home. He/she writes an invitation to his/her friends and relatives to attend the grand ceremony. Reproduce the probable form of the invitation. 4
18. Read the following passage and give your answers as directed against each question.

Now look at the opposition between the pen and the sword from another point of view. The sword can only destroy; ideas also can destroy – the ideas of Bolshevism destroyed Czarism; the ideas of

Voltaire and Rousseau destroyed the French aristocracy. But ideas can also build, whereas the sword can only destroy.

It is in fact the power of ideas which has brought us out of barbarism into such civilization as we have been able to achieve. "In what," asked Aristotle, "does man differ from the animals?" and answered, "It is by virtue of reason." The greatness of man consists in his thinking. The universe is vast, and man is tiny, but man has one advantage over the universe. He knows it is very vast and he is tiny, but the universe does not.

In this sense, the sense that it is to ideas and not to violence, to the pen and not to the swords, that man owes whatever had distinguished him from animals, whatever has enabled him to rise above a purely savage condition. For the pen is the vehicle of thought, and it is by thought that man is enabled to voyage through the infinite in philosophy, to unlock the secrets of the universe, to create beauty and to commune with God.

- (a) Make notes of the main points of the given passage. 3

- (b) Develop the main points into a summary. 3

SECTION-E

(FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR)

19. (a) Two sentences are given below. Combine these two sentences to make a simple sentence. 1
She was very foolish. She could not understand it.
- (b) Five sentences are given below. Combine these five sentences to make a simple sentence only. 1
An old farmer had three sons. They were idle. He called them around him. He was also bedridden. He wanted to tell them a secret.
- (c) One sentence is given below with an underlined word in it. Rewrite the sentence by using the noun form of the underlined word. 1
The girl is confident of success.
- (d) Change the voice of the following sentence: 1
The milk is boiling in the pot.
- (e) Complete the following sentence with the correct form of the verb given in the bracket. 1
The president of India (arrive) tomorrow at 9 a.m.
- (f) Insert a suitable determiner in the following sentence and rewrite the sentence. 1
Mr. Alex came here to see you.
- (g) Arrange the following broken sentence in the right order to make a meaningful sentence. 1
Is it about prayers so many to it that people attracts what?
20. (a) Four sentences marked (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) are given below. One sentence is incorrect. Sort out the incorrect sentence. 1
(i) She belongs to a club that holds its meetings on Fridays.
(ii) She is looking worried about something.
(iii) Neither my husband nor I have ever visited them.
(iv) The workmen did what they could to repair the building.

(b) A sentence with a blank space in it is given below. Four alternatives marked (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) are also given. Sort out the best option from the alternatives to complete the sentence. 1

His victory his passions is really praiseworthy.

- (i) with (ii) on
- (iii) at (iv) over

(c) The following sentence has four sections. The sections are marked as (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv). One section has a grammatical mistake. Point out the section. 1

The principal of the school was / angry with me / and asked me / why was I late.

- (i) The principal of the school was
- (ii) angry with me
- (iii) and asked me
- (iv) why was I late
