

(d) Anu and Aparna met an old sadhu \_\_\_\_\_  
to Benares. (Walking/Walk)

(e) A \_\_\_\_\_ child dreads the fire.  
(burnt/burning)

Or

9. Using the information given below in the input,  
invite your friend on the wedding of your elder  
brother. (5)

(Lunch on 3<sup>rd</sup> November – departure from  
Kanyakumari at 6 p.m. – do join the marriage  
party).

NOVEMBER 2024

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Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

SECTION A — (15 marks)

1. Choose the appropriate option that gives the  
correct meaning. (5)

- (a) Evanescent – difficult easy effortless short-lived  
(b) Instigate – dissuade induce stop discourage  
(c) Pursue – seek satisfied quit ignore  
(d) Rancid – clean fresh tasty contaminated  
(e) Presage – foretell forfeit comfort lie  
(f) Ere – after before near far  
(g) Offend – annoy comfort jealous proud  
(h) Beneath – above over under superior  
(i) Sneaky – frank straight secretly trustworthy  
(j) Insane – rude polite mad tame  
(k) Unpredictable – reliable steady certain unreliable

2. Read the following passage and correct the errors.  
(10)

In order to assist communities to understands  
these linkages, we developed a citizen education

program, during which people identify their problems, the causes and possible solutions. They then make connections among their own personal actions and the problems they witness in the environment and in society. They learn that our world are confronted with a litany of woes: corruption, violence against women and children, disruption and breakdown of families, and disintegration for cultures and communities. They also identify the abuse of drugs and chemical substances, especially between young people. There are also devastating disease that are defying cures or occurring in epidemic proportions. Of particular concern are HIV/ AIDS, malaria and diseases associated in malnutrition.

SECTION B — (20 marks)

3. (a) Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow. (5)

Come, my friends,  
 'T is not too late to seek a newer world,  
 Push off, and sitting well in order smite  
 The sounding furrows; for my purpose holds  
 To sail beyond the sunset, and the baths  
 Of all the western stars, until I die.  
 It may be that the gulfs will wash us down:  
 It may be we shall touch the Happy Isles,  
 And see the great Achilles, whom we knew.

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Are a peroxide blond. Friction, caused--  
 Foolishly, madam--by sitting down, has turned  
 My bottom raven black--One moment,  
 madam!"--sensing  
 Her receiver rearing on the thunderclap  
 About my ears--"Madam," I pleaded, "wouldn't  
 you rather  
 See for yourself?"

- (i) What was the speaker's reaction to the landlady's question about their skin color? (3)
- (ii) What metaphor did the speaker use to describe the landlady's question about skin color? (2)

8. Fill in the blanks with suitable participles. (5)

- (a) \_\_\_\_\_ the lion's roar, the hunter took aim. (Hear/Hearing)
- (b) There was only a single \_\_\_\_\_ star in the sky. (shining / shined)
- (c) Kamala saw her son \_\_\_\_\_ a book. (read/reading)

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Omnibus squelching tar. It was real! Shamed  
 By ill-mannered silence, surrender  
 Pushed dumbfounded to beg simplification.  
 Considerate she was, varying the emphasis-  
 "ARE YOU DARK? OR VERY LIGHT?"  
 Revelation came.  
 "You mean--like plain or milk chocolate?"  
 Her assent was clinical, crushing in its light  
 Impersonality. Rapidly, wave-length adjusted,  
 I chose. "West African sepia"--and as  
 afterthought,  
 "Down in my passport." Silence for  
 spectroscopic  
 Flight of fancy, till truthfulness clanged her  
 accent  
 Hard on the mouthpiece. "WHAT'S THAT?"  
 conceding  
 "DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT IS." "Like  
 brunette."  
 "THAT'S DARK, ISN'T IT?" "Not altogether".  
 Facially, I am brunette, but, madam, you  
 should see  
 The rest of me. Palm of my hand, soles of my  
 feet

- (i) Who is the speaker of the above lines? (2)  
 (ii) In what way, this stanza be seen as a call to action for individuals faced with uncertainty or challenges in their lives?(3)
- (b) Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow. (5)
- Did you want to see me broken?  
 Bowed head and lowered eyes?  
 Shoulders falling down like teardrops,  
 Weakened by my soulful cries?
- Does my haughtiness offend you?  
 Don't you take it awful hard  
 'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines  
 Diggin' in my own backyard.
- You may shoot me with your words,  
 You may cut me with your eyes,  
 You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
 But still, like air, I'll rise.

(i) What has happened to the speaker in the above stanza? (2)

(ii) In what ways you think the poem challenges societal expectations of how individuals should respond to adversity and discrimination? (3)

(c) Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow. (5)

A man hath a body, and that body is confined to a place; but where friendship is, all offices of life are as it were granted to him, and his deputy. For he may exercise them by his friend. How many things are there which a man cannot, with any face or comeliness, say or do himself? A man can scarce allege his own merits with modesty, much less extol them; a man cannot sometimes brook to supplicate or beg; and a number of the like. But all these things are graceful, in a friend's mouth, which are blushing in a man's own. So again, a man's person hath many proper relations, which he cannot put off. A man cannot speak to his son but as a father; to his

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HASMUKH : I didn't read it. I didn't need to, because the answer was no.

Aim: He didn't like it because it was my project.

HASMUKH : I didn't like it because it was my money. If I let him have his way, we would all be paupers. Twenty-three years old and he is one his way to bankruptcy. My bankruptcy. He was bankrupt up here (points to his head) the day he was born. God just forgot to open and account for him.

(i) Name the character and their role in the above paragraph. (2)

(ii) What is Ajit asking for on the phone, and what does he intend to do with it? (3)

(c) Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow. (5)

"HOW DARK?" ... I had not misheard.. "ARE YOU LIGHT

OR VERY DARK?" Button B, Button A.\* Stench Of rancid breath of public hide-and-speak.

Red booth. Red pillar box. Red double-tiered

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HASMUKH: Do you blame me for not listening to him? If I paid any attention to even one of his crackpot schemes, I wouldn't be around to listen to anybody.

AJIT: After all, I am the joint managing director

HASMUKH: Believe me, appointing him as the JMD was a big mistake.

AJIT: And, after all, I am his son...

HASMUKH: That was an even bigger mistake. What makes it worse is knowing that I actually prayed to get him. Oh God! I regret it all. Please let him just drop dead. No, no. What a terrible thing to say about ones own son. I take it back. Dear God, don't let him drop dead. Just turn him into a nice vegetable so he won't be in my way. Ever since he entered my factory, he has been in my way.

Aim: Seventeen lakhs. Seventeen lakhs and government help is all I need to diversity into manufacturing electronic typewriters.

I even made out a project report for him.

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wife but as a husband; to his enemy but upon terms: whereas a friend may speak as the case requires, and not as it soreteth with the person. But to enumerate these things were endless; I have given the rule, where a man cannot fitly play his own part; if he have not a friend, he may quit the stage.

In what way friendship provides a sense of freedom or liberation that is difficult to achieve in other types of relationships? (5)

4. (a) Use the following phrasal verb in sentences of your own. (2)
- (i) look after
  - (ii) take down
- (b) Use the following idiomatic expressions in sentences of your own. (2)
- (i) crocodile tears
  - (ii) a fish out of water
- (c) Fill in the blanks with the right choice of auxiliary verb. (1)

Rahim \_\_\_\_\_ his home work daily.  
(do/does)

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SECTION C — (20 marks)

5. (a) Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow. (5)

After violating my wife, the robber, sitting there, began to speak comforting words to her. Of course I couldn't speak. My whole body was tied fast to the root of a cedar. But meanwhile I winked at her many times, as much as to say "Don't believe the robber". I wanted to convey some such meaning to her. But my wife, sitting dejectedly on the bamboo leaves, was looking hard at her lap. To all appearances, she was listening to his words. I was agonized by jealousy. In the meantime the robber went on with his clever talk, from one subject to another. The robber finally made his bold, brazen proposal. "Once your virtue is stained, you won't get along well with your husband, so won't you be my wife instead? It's my love for you that made me be violent toward you."

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- (i) Name the characters mentioned in the above paragraph. (2)

- (ii) Which incident made Jamell to compel her husband to become a diviner? (3)

- (b) Read the following dialogue and answer the questions that follow. (5)

The lavish house of Hasmukh Mehta. .

There are three spaces: the fancy dining-cum-living room, the bedroom belonging to Hasmukh and Sonal Mehta and the hideously trendy bedroom of their son, AJIT, and his wife, PREETI.

AJIT is in the living room, talking on the phone. Preeti is drifting in and out of the kitchen, loading the table with food for dinner. She is pregnant. Hasmukh enters through the main door with his walking stick.

AJIT (on the phone) Five lakhs. That's all. Give me five lakhs and I'll modernize the whole bloody plant. That's what I tell my dad. I mean, come on, five lakhs is nothing!

HASMUKH (to the audience). My son, the business man. Just listen to him.

Ajit. I mean, it's not as if I want the money for myself. It's for his factory. But he just won't listen to me. I don't think he has ever listened to me in his entire life.

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That was enough for Ahmed. But it was not enough for Jamell.

One day, as she often did, Jamell went to the public bath to wash herself in the hot pool and chat with the other women. But at the entrance, the woman in charge told her, "You can't come in now. The wife of the King's Royal Diviner is taking the whole place for herself."

"Who does she think she is?" protested Jamell. "Just because her husband tells fortunes!" But all she could do was return home, fuming all the way.

That evening, when Ahmed handed her his wages for the day, she said, "Look at these few measly coins! I won't put up with this any longer. Tomorrow you'll sit in the marketplace and be a diviner!"

"Jamell, are you insane?" said Ahmed. "What do I know about fortune telling?"

"You don't need to know a thing," said Jamell. "When anyone brings you a question, you just throw the dice and mumble something that sounds wise. It's either that, or I go home to the house of my father!"

While the criminal talked, my wife raised her face as if in a trance. She had never looked so beautiful as at that moment. What did my beautiful wife say in answer to him while I was sitting bound there? I am lost in space, but I have never thought of her answer without burning with anger and jealousy. Truly she said,.. "Then take me away With you wherever you go".

(i) Highlight the complex nature of human emotions in the face of betrayal. (2)

(ii) How does the text explore the interplay of love, anger, and the desire for control within the context of the narrative? (3)

(b) Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow. (5)

WHAT is this life if, full of care,

We have no time to stand and stare? —

No time to stand beneath the boughs,

And stare as long as sheep and cows:

No time to see, when woods we pass,

Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:

No time to see, in broad daylight,

Streams full of stars, like skies at night:

No time to turn at Beauty's glance,

And watch her feet, how they can dance:

No time to wait till her mouth can

Enrich that smile her eyes began?

A poor life this if, full of care,

We have no time to stand and stare.

- (i) Considering the poem's tone, how it might resonate with modern audience. (2)
- (ii) How does the poem's imagery contribute to its message about the importance of taking time to appreciate the simple beauties of nature? (3)
- (c) Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow. (5)

Anxiety, Anxiety-

you creep, you lurk, you worry me

Mangy monster under my bed

on all my fears you must be fed

and when I try to starve you out

you stab me with a blade of doubt

You sneaky, scurrilous, savage beast

I don't hate you, but I like you least!

You are not cute or cuddly

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why do I let you cling to me?

You're ugly and you're worrisome

you drain my joy and leave me glum

Anxiety, Anxiety-

I hear you've achieved notoriety

evidently I'm not the only one-

you'll hassle them all before you're done!

"Though, I don't see how you find the time

to carry out your heinous crime...

- (i) How did the speaker express the intensity of anxiety and its effects? (2)
- (ii) How does anxiety taunt the poet? (3)
6. Write a letter to the Police Commissioner, complaining against the rising incidents of chain-snatching and pick pocketing in your area. (5)

#### SECTION D— (20 marks)

7. (a) Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow. (5)

Once, in the royal city of Isfahan, there lived a young man named Ahmed, who had a wife named Jamell. He knew no special craft or trade, but he had a shovel and a pick — and as he often told his wife, "If you can dig a hole, you can always earn enough to stay alive."

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