

West Bengal State University
B.A./B.Sc./B.Com. (Honours, Major, General) Examinations, 2014
Part - II

ENGLISH — GENERAL
Paper - II

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.

1. Answer any six of the following questions : 6 × 2 = 12
- a) What happened to the mansion that great grandmother Mrs. Field looked after ?
 - b) Why does Lynd say that two is a serious age ?
 - c) What does Benson mean by "the essence of the essay in soliloquy" ?
 - d) What was the elephant doing when Orwell reached the place where it had killed a man ?
 - e) How did Mrs. Thurlow care about her money ? Where did she keep the money ?
 - f) When did the boy in 'Araby' reach the fair ? What did he buy from it ?
 - g) What is meant by the cellars at Windsor Castle ?
 - h) What did Wilson say about leisure and work ?

2. Answer any one of the following questions : 1 × 16 = 16
- a) Comment on the autobiographical elements in Lamb's essay *Dream Children : A Revevie*.
 - b) With close reference to the text narrate what Orwell feels about the nature of British Imperialism in an eastern colony and his role as an agent of it.
 - c) Would you call Lynd's *Seaside* a reflective essay ? Justify your answer.
 - d) Analyse, after Benson, the chief elements of the art of the essayist.
3. Answer any one of the following questions : 1 × 16 = 16
- a) Examine Joyce's use of symbolism in *Araby*.
 - b) "Katherine Mansfield's short story *The Fly* is interesting for its deep psychological interest." Discuss.
 - c) Analyse the character of Mrs. Thurlow and comment on the appropriateness of comparing her to a beast of burden.
 - d) How appropriate is the title of the story *The Lotus Eater* ?
4. Answer any one of the following questions : 1 × 16 = 16
- a) Comment on Hardy's treatment of nature in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.
 - b) Discuss the plot-construction of *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.
 - c) Critically comment on any two major social problems that Dickens discussed in *Oliver Twist*.
 - d) Write a note on Dickens' art of story-telling with reference to *Oliver Twist*.

5. Explain with reference to the context : $2 \times 10 = 20$
- i) a) "I missed his kindness and I missed his crossness and wished him to be alive again."
- OR
- b) "The round ball is the symbol of perfection and man is never so carefree as when in pursuit of it."
- OR
- c) "The essayist is therefore to a certain extent bound to be a spectator of life."
- ii) a) "Her image accompanied me even in places the most hostile to romance."
- OR
- b) "The horrible danger was over; it had escaped; it was ready for life again."
- OR
- c) "She now felt as if she were pushing forward into nowhere."

6. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below : $4 \times 5 = 20$
- Education means unfolding the personality of man and woman. It broadens his emotions and rid him of his prejudices and narrow loyalties. A sound system of education emphasises the importance of the harmonious growth of all the faculties of a student. Every student, whether he studies Arts or Science must acquire what is called liberal education — liberalises the mind, widens the outlook and creates an interest in things of human interest. Real education

means that a student must think independently about all things and must take and intelligent interest in the entire environment.

In the modern age, there is a craze for scientific knowledge. The knowledge of science and engineering provides scope to employments and so students are attracted to them. As a result scientists, economists, technologists, engineers and doctors are in great demand. But humanities promote the values of life, a cultural outlook without which knowledge of different subjects becomes meaningless. There is an incompleteness in the educational equipment of a student if his mind is stored with knowledge and information of a few subjects and if he has developed only his skill and abilities. Liberal education means complete education which includes Science and Humanities and which aims at the promotion of skills and cultural values. With this education, a man can be a good citizen. He can utilise his knowledge for creative and noble purposes of life. He acquires a broad vision of life and cherishes the values of life. The modern erosion of values among students may be attributed to the loss of interest in literature, philosophy and religion.

Questions :

- a) What does education mean ?
 - b) What is real education ?
 - c) Why is there a craze for scientific knowledge in the modern age ?
 - d) What is liberal education ?
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