

B.A. 1st Semester Examination 2023

Sub. : English

Paper Code : SEC 0105203

Paper Title : Grammar and Composition Skills

Total marks : 45

Time : 2hrs.

(The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.)

1. Rewrite the following sentences as directed :

1x10=10

- (a) Daisy _____ (leave) home for school at 9A.M. *(Fill in the blank with correct tense of the verb given in the bracket)*
- (b) How _____ you be so unkind? *(Fill in the blank with appropriate modal auxiliary)*
- (c) He _____ M.A. in English. *(Insert appropriate determiner)*
- (d) He loves walking alone by the sea-side. *(Pick out the noun phrase)*
- (e) This is a quotation _____ (of/from/by) Milton. *(Choose the right preposition)*
- (f) Niva is my younger sister. *(Frame a question beginning with 'who')*
- (g) Every rose has a thorn. *(Change into a negative sentence)*
- (h) Slowly and we near silently the target moved. *(Rearrange the words to form a meaningful sentence)*

(Turn Over)

(2)

(i) This is the best book on the subject. (*Change into comparative degree*)

(j) It is raining since morning. (*Correct the sentence*)

2. Answer any five of the following : $2 \times 5 = 10$

(a) The lady said to the salesman, "What is the price of this Barbie doll?" The salesman replied, "It is a bit expensive. But I can give it to you at a 20 per cent discount." (Change the form of narration)

(b) Mayor asked the Piper if he had killed the rats. The Piper replied that he had, and requested the Mayor to let him have the bag of gold. (Change the form of narration)

(c) If you _____ (go) out with your friends tonight, I _____ (watch) the football match on TV. (Complete the conditional sentence)

(d) If we _____ (read) the book, we _____ (understand) the film. (Complete the conditional sentence)

(e) I said to him, " _____ (what/when) are you doing now?

He replied, "I am writing a few essays as part of my _____ (preparing/preparation) for the examination. (Complete the conversation by choosing the correct alternative from the brackets)

(f) Frame a sentence using 'eligible' and 'illegible' to show their difference in meaning.

3. Write an application in response to an advertisement published in *The Assam Tribune* for the post of the Public

(3)

Relations Officer in a newly opened 5-star hotel in Guwahati. Invent necessary details. 5

OR

Write an application to the Principal of your college asking for leave of absence to attend the marriage ceremony of your cousin in Mumbai.

4. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper about the activities of anti-social elements in your locality. 5

OR

You are the proprietor of a book store in Guwahati. Write a letter to a book distributor in New Delhi placing a bulk order of textbooks for the new academic session.

5. Write a precis of **any one** of the passages given below and give a suitable title. 5

(a) While wealth is a great factor for ensuring happiness of human life, it is easily liable to be employed by one set of people against others. Besides, wealth has a tendency to concentrate in the hands of a few, with the result that the rich become richer and the poor poorer. In the existing conditions of society, we find that there are classes of people who are miserable and unhappy, while there are others who are rich, well-fed and comfortable. Such differences in economic conditions are mainly due to the wrong distribution of wealth in society. In considering the welfare of the society, we must not refer to individual fortunes or conditions of life. By human welfare we are to mean the greatest good of the greatest number.

(b) To get great ideas we require great teachers. These teachers may be living person with whom we come in

(Turn Over)

daily contact. They may be dead, and yet reach us through great books which they have given to the world. In whichever way it comes, the teaching required is that which guides us to gain a large outlook. Yet, after all, it is only to a limited extent that the teacher, be he living, or one who, though dead, yet speaks and can mould his student. There is no royal road to learning. The higher it is, the harder is the toil of the spirit that is required for its attainment. But this toil brings with it happiness. As we advance along the path, we see more and more new territory to travel new heights. In all this there is much of the sweet in the sad, and the sad in the sweet. Yet the mere endeavour, even apart from the resultant, bring its reward.

6. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

My father gets a very far away look in his eyes that's unmistakable. As he looks towards the horizon and his eyes seek out the bright flashes of snow-capped peaks, we all know what he's thinking. Mountain tops have always had that magnetic effect on him.

As I grew up, I inherited some of my father's restlessness. I know many people think there must be some compulsion for the son of Edmund Hillary to climb mountains. They assume that I need to compete, or measure up as if there was some strong mark on stone that says, "Thou shalt climb mountains"—and in particular Everest, whether you like it or not. But for me it's simpler than that I think families are like factories: some manufacture lawyers while others produce landscape gardeners. The Hillary family is a limited production mountaineering establishment.

Today, at the age of 48, I am a determined mountain man: love to climb them, love to dream about them. I have

been on more than 30 mountaineering expeditions, from the Himalayas to the Antarctic. And yes, I have climbed Everest twice. I treasure the same things that drew my father to climbing—great feeling of friendship and trust among people who work together, sense of pleasure and excitement, especially in dangerous places where your life depends upon making the right call. I guess I am luckier than most because I can fall back on all that my father has taught me. One devastating day in 1995 this advice saved my life.

Just below the summit of the mountain known as K2 or the "savage mountain" of the Himalayas there is a steep ice channel called "The Bottleneck". I was among a party of eight climbers heading for the summit, with just 400 hundred metres left to climb. Perched there, 8200 metres above sea-level and looking east along the northern edge of the Karakoram Mountains to the Tibetan plateau, I noticed curls of ominous clouds began to move in suddenly and quickly with great force.

As the weather worsened, I became concerned and I stopped. Something didn't feel right. At the moment I clearly heard my father's voice. Down Go Down. Stick to your guns, Peter.

Then from above me, I heard another voice, a woman's, "Come on up. Use the red rope," Alison Hargreaves, a fellow climber, was encouraging me to join her. "Not for you, Peter," Was that my father's voice again? The unsettled feeling in me grew stronger. Finally, I told Jeff Lakes, my climbing partner, that I was going down. He too was feeling unsure, but decided to go on ahead. As I looked back at Jeff a couple of times, until a thick, threatening cloud blocked the view, soon the same fast-moving cloud would engulf the summit and plunge me into an isolated world of terror.

(Turn Over)

(6)

Don't be afraid to make your own decisions. Don't be afraid to stand alone. That was my father's voice.

Alone in body but not in spirit I descended. But with fear tapping upon my shoulders. I was caught in the frightening situation of the rising storm. The flanks of the mountain were out of control and so, perhaps, was I.

Fear makes you careful. Fear makes you good. Fear, my father told me, is not something you manage. So, I seized on what I could control: a well-clipped descender and a taut rope. For hours I continued to go down rope.

When I awoke in my tent the next morning it was silent, sunny still. I alone had successfully descended from the summit pyramid of K2 that night. The seven above were dead.

Life in a famous family has its advantages and disadvantages. Lunch with Indira Gandhi or a trip to the North Pole with Neil Armstrong are one – although a rather extraordinary – side of the coin. The other can be a battle identity and independence. When I am 80 years old myself, I know I will more than likely still be greeted with, "Wait a minute, you're Ed Hillary's son!" But my father is quite a man and I am proud of him.

Questions :

- (a) What does the son read in his father's eyes? 1
- (b) What is "The Bottleneck"? 1
- (c) What was the fate of the seven companions who climbed the K2 summit ? 1
- (d) In what way does the author consider himself more fortunate than other mountaineers ? 1

(7)

(e) State any two qualities that the speaker inherited from his father. 2

(f) "The Hillary family is a limited production mountaineering establishment." What does the speaker mean by this? 2

(g) Pick out the words in the passage that mean -

(i) Sitting on a high and dangerous position. 1

(ii) Tight and completely stretched. 1

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