

**B.A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Examination, 2024**

**Sub. : English**

**Paper Code : SEC 0203903**

**Paper Title : English Reading & Comprehension**

**Total Marks : 45**

**Time : 2 hrs.**

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

1. Read the passages given below and answer the questions that follow (*any two*): 15x2=30

a. Father, when he passed on,  
left dust  
on a table of papers,  
left debts and daughters,  
a bedwetting grandson  
named by the toss  
of a coin after him

a house that leaned  
slowly through our growing  
years on a bent coconut  
tree in the yard.

- (i) Who is the speaker of the above lines? 1  
(ii) What happened to the father? 1  
(iii) Name the poet of the above passage. 1  
(iv) What was the state of the house of the speaker? 2

(v) "Father, when he passed on/left dust/on a table of papers,/ left debts and daughters, /a bedwetting grandson/named by the toss/ of a coin after him..."

(Turn Over)

- Rewrite in your own words. 2
- (vi) What does the expression "bedwetting grandson" imply? 2
- (vii) How do you read the poet's association of debts and daughters? 2
- (viii) How was the grandson named? 1
- (ix) Why is the poem so titled? 2
- (x) Suggest an alternative title for the poem. 1
- b. Although not quite seven, Kallu did the work of grown man. He was shaken out of his sleep early in the morning and, dressed only in an old, tattered shirt in winter with Abba's old woollen cap pulled down over his ears, looking like a midget, dripping at the nose, he promptly set to work. Scared off by the cold water, he was always reluctant to wash his face, and just once in a while he would carelessly rub the tips of his fingers over his teeth which remained permanently coated with a thin film of mildew.
- (i) How old was Kallu? 1
- (ii) What was his role in the household? 1
- (iii) Does he like to get up from his sleep early in the morning? 1
- (iv) What else did he not like to do in the morning? 2
- (v) What is the meaning of the word 'midget'? 1
- (vi) Name the title of the short story of which the above passage is an extract. 1
- (vii) Kallu worked like a (child/ adult). Choose the correct option. 1
- (viii) Which word in the passage means a kind of fungus? 1
- (ix) Kallu liked to wash his face with cold water. State true or false. 1

- (x) Rewrite the above passage in your own words. 5
- a. To be an Indian from Trinidad is to be unlikely. It is, in addition to everything else, to be the embodiment of an old verbal ambiguity. For this word "Indian" has been abused as no other word in the language; almost every time it is used it has to be qualified. There was a time in Europe when everything Oriental or everything a little unusual was judged to come from Turkey or India. So Indian ink is really Chinese ink and India paper first came from China. When in 1492 Columbus landed on the island of Guanahani he thought he had got to Cathay. He ought therefore to have called the people Chinese. But East was East. He called them Indians, and Indians they remained, walking Indian file through the Indian corn. And so, too, that American bird which to English-speaking people is the turkey is to the French *le dindon*, the bird of India.
- (i) An Indian in Trinidad is called (native/immigrant). Choose the correct option. 1
- (ii) Which word in the passage means representation or realization? 1
- (iii) What is the opposite of Oriental? 1
- (iv) Explain the expression "verbal ambiguity". 2
- (v) Name the author of the above passage. 1
- (vi) Name two countries belonging to the Orient. 2
- (vii) What mistake did Columbus make in 1492? 1
- (viii) Which word has been abused often in the language? 1
- (ix) How do the English-speaking people and the French

refer to the American bird mentioned in the passage?

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(x) What is the central idea of the above passage? 3

2. Imagine someone close to you passed away recently. Write a tribute to him for the obituary column of a newspaper. 5

*Or*

Having read the story 'Kallu', briefly summarize the story in your words from the point of view of the titular character.

3. In light of the texts you have studied in the course, write an essay on *any one* of the following: 10
- (a) Migration and immigrants
  - (b) Father-son relationship
  - (c) Social status and discrimination