

B.A./B.Com FYUGP 2nd Semester Examination, 2025

Name of Subject : ENGLISH

Name of the Paper : English Reading & Comprehension

Paper Code : SEC 0203903

Full 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

- | | |
|---|---|
| (i) Who is being referred to in the stanza? | 1 |
| (ii) What was left on a table of papers ? | 1 |
| (iii) Name the poet of the above passage. | 1 |
| (iv) What financial burden did the father leave behind? | 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..."
Rewrite in your own words. | 2 |
| (vi) What was the condition of the grandson mentioned? | 2 |
| (vii) How do you read the poet's association of debts and
daughters? | 2 |
| (viii) Was the grandson named deliberately or by chance? | 1 |

P.T.O.

- (ix) Why is the poem so titled? 2
 (x) What is the tone of the speaker in this stanza? 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

c. The East Indian, to the Negro, was a man who wore a turban, who smoked a hookah, who ate strange food, who was clannish, who beat his wife, and who had too many children. The East Indian to the white man was a man who could be trusted to work hard, not to strike, and not to demand too much. He was therefore a valuable economic unit.

- (i) How did the Negro perceive the East Indian's headwear ? 2
 (ii) What did the East Indian smoke, according to the Negro stereotype? 1

- (iii) How was the East Indian's food described ? 1
 (iv) Which personal habit of the East Indian was seen negatively?1
 (v) How was the East Indian viewed in terms of family size ? 1
 (vi) How did the white man view the East Indian's work ethic? 1
 (vii) What action did the East Indian reportedly avoid in the workplace? 2
 (viii) What kind of demands did the East Indian avoid making, according to the white man ? 2
 (ix) Why was the East Indian considered valuable economically?2
 (x) Which two groups held contrasting views of the East Indian?2

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 essay 'East Indian', briefly summarize Naipaul's views in your words.

3. In light of the texts you have studied in the course, write an essay on *any one* of the following : 10

- (a) Racial discrimination in Indian society.
 (b) Father-son relationship.
 (c) Exploitation of domestic workers.