

2021

ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH

(Syllabus – 2011-12)

(Commerce Group)

Full Marks : 50

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

*Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words
as far as practicable.*

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below :

They pass me everyday, on their way to school — boys and girls from the surrounding villages and the outskirts of the hill station. There are no school buses plying for these children : they walk. For many of them, it's a very long walk to school. Ranbir, who is ten, has to climb the mountain from his village, four miles distant and two thousand feet below the town level. He comes in all weathers, wearing the same pair of cheap shoes until they have almost fallen apart.

Ranbir is a cheerful soul. He waves to me whenever he sees me at my window. Sometimes he brings me cucumbers from his father's field. I pay him for the cucumbers; he uses the money for books or for small things needed at home.

Many of the children are like Ranbir—poor, but slightly better off than what their parents were at the same age. They cannot attend the expensive residential and private schools that abound here, but must go to the government-aided schools, with only basic facilities. Not many of their parents managed to go to school. They spent their lives working in the fields or delivering milk in the hill station. The lucky ones got into the army. Perhaps Ranbir will do something different when he grows up.

Up to a few years ago, very few girls in the hills or in the villages of India went to school. They helped in the home until they were old enough to be married, which wasn't very old. But there are now just as many girls as there are boys going to school.

Bindra is something of an extrovert—confident fourteen years old who chatters away as she hurries down the road with her companions. Her father is a forest guard and knows me quite well. I meet him on my walks through the deodar woods behind landour. And I had grown used to seeing Bindra almost everyday. On one such occasion she said she was going to watch cricket.

Cricket, once the game of the *elite* had become the game of the masses. On any holiday, in any part of this vast country, groups of boys can be seen making their way to the nearest field, or open patch of land, with bat, ball and any other cricketing gear they can cobble together. Watching some of them play; I am amazed at the quality of talent, at the finesse with which they bat and bowl. Some of the local teams are as good, if not better, than any from the private schools, where there are better facilities. But boys from these poor or lower—middle class families will never get the exposure that is necessary to bring them to the attention of those who select state or national teams. They must continue to play for the love of the game.

Please Turn Over

- (a) What has been said about Ranbir, the boy of the hill station in the passage? 5
- (b) What has been said about the game of cricket at the hill stations? 5
- (c) Answer the following questions : 1×5
- (i) Which word in the passage means ‘belonging to the gentry’?
 - (ii) Give the noun form of the word ‘residential’.
 - (iii) Make a sentence of your own with the word ‘extrovert’.
 - (iv) Pick out a word in the passage which means ‘self assured’.
 - (v) Give the verb form of the word ‘exposure’.
2. (a) Write a letter to the Principal of your college seeking permission to hold a badminton match on the premises of your college for one day. 10
- Or,**
- (b) Write a job application to the Manager of a Marketing Company for the post of a Sales Executive with your complete CV. 10
- Or,**
- (c) Write a paragraph on Digital Teaching and your experiences as a student. 10
3. Answer **any two** of the following questions : 5×2
- (a) “Ah, darling, it’s Behrman’s masterpiece”— What is being referred to here? Why is it called Behrman’s masterpiece?
 - (b) Why was the man with a scar on his face subjected to a court-martial?
 - (c) Why does Tagore describe Raja Ram Mohan Roy’s life as ‘lonely’?
 - (d) What does the poet mean by a ‘drooping treasure’?
 - (e) In what sense did the lizard teach the poet and his companion ‘patience’?
4. Answer **any five** of the following questions : 2×5
- (a) Why was Johnsy counting the leaves?
 - (b) What has been said about Mr. Pneumonia in ‘The Last Leaf’?
 - (c) How did the scar faced man make his living?
 - (d) Describe the woman who came to meet the man with the scar.
 - (e) Why does Tagore feel that Ram Mohan Roy is among the ‘great messengers of truth’ that the country has produced?
 - (f) Why has the fifth petal been called a ‘Book’?
 - (g) What was the ‘aim’ of the lizard according to the poet?
 - (h) How is ‘Hope’ represented by the poet in the third stanza of the poem ‘Life’?

5. Answer *any five* of the following questions :

1×5

- (a) Describe the last leaf which stuck to the tree even after the storm.
 - (b) What was Sue sketching when she found Johnsy was counting leaves?
 - (c) What game did the man with the scar play to spend the night at gaol?
 - (d) How did the man get the scar?
 - (e) Whom does Tagore refer to as a 'rare personality' in the essay of your syllabus?
 - (f) What did the poet and his companions find when they awoke the next morning?
 - (g) What kind of energy does the lizard possess?
 - (h) What does the 'limp hand' stretch towards?
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