

(4)

5. Read the following poem given below and answer the questions that follow. 4+4

Then we began to ride. My soul
Smoothed itself out — a long-cramped scroll
Freshening and fluttering in the wind.
Past hopes already lay behind.
What need to strive with a life awry?
Had I said that, had I done this,
So might I gain, so might I miss.
Might she have loved me? just as well
She might have hated, who can tell!
Where had I been now if the worst befell?
And here we are riding, she and I.

- (i) Explain the first four lines of the poem.
(ii) Explain the extract given and also explain what philosophy you think the poet is trying to preach here.

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Ex/CBCS/ENG/UG/Core-1.2(Old)/2024

BACHELOR OF ARTS EXAMINATION, 2024

(1st Year, 1st Semester)

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

PAPER : UG/Core-1.2 (Old)

(Academic Writing Core)

Time : Two Hours

Full Marks : 30

Answer **question 1** and *any two* other questions.

1. Write an essay on **any one** of the following topics : 14
- (i) Digital or print libraries — give your preference and reasons for it
- (ii) Discuss any classic of English Literature of any early period and justify its relevance for today's world
- (iii) Importance of being fluent in English language to study its literature
- (iv) Importance of Nature in English poetry
- (v) Science fiction or detective fiction — which do you prefer and why? Justify your choice with examples from texts of your choice
2. Write a precis of the following passage in one-third of the total no of words. Remember to add a title and mention the no. of words of the precis at the end : 8

(2)

On the few occasions when Nagaraj visited his brother at the village, he noticed Tim going to a ‘pyol school’ — that was a sort of mud platform canopied with thatch and straw and presided over by the local pedagogue who conducted his classes by shouting and flourishing his cane at the children who squatted before him. This teaching method was much appreciated by the village elders, who based their educational philosophy on the proverb, ‘The unbeaten child will remain unlearned’. Nagaraj felt sickened : a far cry from St Stephen’s in Malgudi, which was a coveted school where Tim was admitted by Nagaraj when the brothers lived together in Kabir Street as an undivided family; and definitely worse than the derelict municipal school in which he and his brother had studied as children. He did not talk about it for fear of irritating Gopu. Luckily the shed collapsed during a storm, and the platform was washed off; the pedagogue could not rebuild it.

Thus ended the educational career of the village children, who turned to performing odd tasks on their farms. Gopu, however, sent Tim to town school five miles away. The boy had to walk a mile to catch a highway bus after waiting for it under an avenue tree. It was tedious. Some days, if the bus arrived late, he missed it deliberately, since he did not like to be caned for going late to his class. So he just dawdled and wandered about and marked time till he could go back home. Some days, if a bus going in the direction of Malgudi came up, he jumped into it and secretly visited his uncle at Kabir Street. He enjoyed his visits to his uncle and he was received with warmth and feted in their house. Nagaraj saved the boy embarrassment by not questioning him too closely about his movements but took care to return him to his village in the evening bus. (Total no of words : 325)

(3)

3. Read the passage given and answer the questions that follow :
4+4

Aziz fell ill as he foretold — slightly ill. Three days later he lay abed in his bungalow, pretending to be very ill. It was a touch of fever, which he would have neglected if there was anything important at the hospital. Now and then he groaned and thought he should die, but did not think so for long, and a very little diverted him. It was Sunday, always an equivocal day in the East, and an excuse for slacking. He could hear church bells as he drowsed, both from the Civil Station and from the missionaries out beyond the slaughterhouse — different bells and rung with different intent, for one set was calling firmly to Anglo-India, and the other feebly to mankind. He did not object to the first set; the other he ignored knowing their inefficiency. Old Mr Graysford and young Mr Sorley made converts during a famine, because they distributed food; but when times improved they were naturally left alone again, and, though surprised and aggrieved each time this happened, they never learned wisdom.

- (i) Was Aziz “pretending” to be ill or was he really ill?
(ii) Why does Aziz ignore the bell that was rung by the missionaries?

4. Write a critical appreciation of the poem extract given below and include the scansion and a discussion of the various figures of speech :
8

O young Lochinvar is come out of the west.
Through all the wide border his steed was the best;
And save his good broad sword, the weapons had none,
He rode all unarm’d and he rode all alone,
So faithful in love, and so dauntless in war,
There never was knight like the young Lochinvar.