

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ENGLISH
Admission Test 2017

Part 2 will only be assessed if you qualify in part 1. Answer all questions. There are no negative marks.
 Part 1 must be completed before attempting part 2.

Full marks: 30 + 100.

Time: 2 hours 30 minutes

Part I

(Please circle clearly your choice of answer, i.e. a, b, c, or d)

1. At the beginning of *The Adventures of Huck Finn*, Mark Twain wrote: 'Persons attempting to find a motive in this narrative will be prosecuted; persons attempting to find a moral in it will be banished; persons attempting to find a plot in it will be shot.' Which of the following statements follow from Twain's warning notice?
 - a. Twain was fond of lawsuits.
 - b. Twain was an enemy of gun control.
 - c. Twain wanted his readers to enjoy his novel.
 - d. Twain was a deeply moral individual.
2. A *bildungsroman* is 'a novel dealing with one person's formative years or spiritual education'. Which of the following is not one?
 - a. *Pather panchali*
 - b. *Emma*
 - c. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*
 - d. *The Catcher in the Rye*
3. Choose the right sequence of words to fill in the blanks of this passage: 'Apocalypse, end of days, yugantar, the _____: call it what you will, but you will find all _____ advanced cultures have a _____ for violent _____ change.'
 - a. Shining, majorly, yen, hysterical.
 - b. Rapture, hopelessly, appetite, primordial.
 - c. Changeling, inordinately, passion, catastrophic.
 - d. Millennium, sufficiently, phrase, historical.
4. Which of the following sentences is not correct?
 - a. The committee comprised of older people.
 - b. The committee was comprised of older people.
 - c. The committee comprised older people.
 - d. Older people comprised the committee.
5. Which of these is the correct way to write the name of a novel?
 - a. 'Great Expectations'
 - b. *'Great Expectations'*
 - c. Great Expectations
 - d. *Great Expectations*
6. Which of these is the correct use of the word 'literally'?
 - a. I literally did not know the answer to the question.
 - b. There is literally no chance that I will pass this examination.
 - c. When she went to accept the award she slipped and literally fell on her face.
 - d. I am stunned that you do not think I could literally wipe the floor with you

Scrutineer's signature	Total Marks	30	100	Examiner's signature
Date	Marks Secured			Date

7. 'Scholars are hesitant to make unqualified claims about the historical facts of the Buddha's life. Most accept that he lived, taught and founded a monastic order during the Mahajanapada era during the reign of Bimbisara (c. 558– c. 491 BCE), the ruler of the Magadha empire, and died during the early years of the reign of Ajatsattu, who was the successor of Bimbisara, thus making him a younger contemporary of Mahavira, the Jain tirthankara'.
Which of the following statements is correct?
- Mahavira was younger than Buddha.
 - Ajatsattu founded the Magadhan empire.
 - Bimbisara died before attaining his seventieth year.
 - Buddha died during the reign of Bimbisara.
8. The French painter Georges de la Tour lived from 1593 to 1653. Which of the following statements is correct?
- He was a painter of the 14th century.
 - He was a painter of the 15th century.
 - He was a painter of the 16th century.
 - He was a painter of the 17th century.
9. These sentences are jumbled up. Choose which sequence is correct from the options below. i. Then, you must acquire the skills necessary to carry it out. ii. For instance, the goal of cleaning a house is to make a healthy space to live and work in. iii. These skills are hierarchical: first you need to know how to identify dirt and mess discriminate it from useful stuff before you can remove it. iv. If you wish to do a good job of something, first you must understand the ultimate goal of the activity. v. Finally you need to know how to clean it up and dispose of it.
- ii, iv, i, iii, v.
 - iv, ii, i, iii, v.
 - iv, i, ii, v, iii.
 - iii, ii, i, iv, v.
10. Choose the right word to fill the blank in this sentence: 'In parts of the Arctic, the land grades into the landfast ice so _____ that you can walk off the coast and not know that you are over the hidden sea.'
- Permanently
 - Imperceptibly
 - Precariously
 - Irretrievably
11. Which of the following pairs of words stands in the same relationship as 'ship' is to 'clipper'?
- Bicycle is to wheel.
 - Automobile is to gear.
 - Aircraft is to biplane.
 - Train is to compartment.
12. It has been recently reported that the latest Nobel Laureate for Literature lifted portions of his Nobel acceptance speech from Sparknotes. If true, which of the following words most closely describes his behaviour?
- Plagiarism.
 - Quotation.
 - Adaptation.
 - It Ain't Me Babe.
13. Read the following passage and identify which of these statements follows most logically from it. 'There is no denying that climate change is a reality. We have meteorological data of great complexity and fullness extending back at least till the beginning of the nineteenth century, and we can chart global fluctuations in temperature fairly accurately for this period. Even in literature we have Dickens telling us that the Thames used regularly to freeze over solidly enough for Londoners to ice-skate on it in large numbers. This is not a pastime that today's urban kids will get to savour.'
- Hence we can infer that Londoners no longer know how to ice-skate.
 - Therefore we must immediately campaign for artificial freezing of the world's urban rivers.
 - However, writers are notorious for making things up and we need not worry about fiction.
 - The world is surely getting warmer, but the cause of this change is a little harder to figure out.
14. In Sukumar Ray's Pagla Dashu stories, when charged with bursting crackers in the classroom, Pagla Dashu defended himself by asking, 'Why was Ramapada not giving me sweets?' This is an example of
- QED.
 - Non sequitur.
 - Eureka.
 - Habeas corpus.
15. P.G. Wodehouse once wrote that one of the things that a writer would have to guard against was falling into the 'saga habit'. Which of these definitions do you think might fit the term 'saga habit' most closely?

- a. A series of novels containing a very long story.
 b. A mixture of song and *raga*.
 c. A novel featuring sages and hermits.
 d. A novel whose action sags from time to time.
16. 'Mira now faces a choice. She has an offer to go abroad, but that will mean years of hard work before she sees any benefit. Or she could take up the job offer she has closer to home. That would mean an income, and less dislocation in her life. How will she choose?' Which of these metaphors best describes Mira's dilemma?
 a. She has to choose between the frying pan and the fire.
 b. She can spread her wings and fly, or she can build a nest.
 c. She can sink or swim.
 d. She can kill two birds with one stone.
17. 'Boy meets girl. Boy misunderstands girl. Boy loses girl.' This is an example of
 a. Precis.
 b. Resume.
 c. Storyboard.
 d. Plot summary.
18. Identify the sentence in which the meaning of the underlined word is not made clear in the sentence:
 a. He wrinkled his nose at the malodorous air in the garden shed.
 b. The notorious criminal was known to the police of five continents.
 c. His pomposity did not make him popular among his friends.
 d. The prisoner languished in jail for decades before being brought to trial.
19. Which of the following would you not see on the back cover of a book?
 a. Blurb.
 b. ISBN.
 c. Cover credits.
 d. Copyright notice.
20. In a small and sleepy police station, the following report was filed. 'The car in question skidded off the road and left the tarmac due to frozen ice decreasing the friction and making slippery the road surface.' On this evidence, would you say the writer of the report was addicted to
 a. Persiflage.
 b. Tautology.
 c. Hyperbole.
 d. Hubris.
21. Which of the following pair of words does not stand in the same relationship as 'medicine' is to 'illness'?
 a. Soap is to dirt.
 b. Food is to strength.
 c. Education is to ignorance.
 d. Proofreading is to misprint.
22. Choose the right sequence of words to fill in the blanks of this passage: 'There is a historical _____ against texts which use pictures to _____ meaning. The _____ of the written word, as carrier of meaning, system of record and mystical power of the elite has _____ itself into Western culture.'
 a. Hope, build, grooves, cut.
 b. Feeling, supply, piquancy, stuffed.
 c. Bias, convey, primacy, ingrained.
 d. Movement, unfurl, slipperiness, sidled.
23. 'Farmers are victims of plenty just as much as they are harmed by dearth. When nature gives too much, they suffer as much as when she is miserly with her riches. It is no accident that farming is one of the least popular activities around the world. This does not bode well for world food security.' Which of the following sentences follows logically from this passage?
 a. The world should be worried about what happens to farmers.
 b. Nature is the farmers' enemy.
 c. There are too many people to feed around the world.
 d. Farming is unpopular because people see it as a low status job.
24. Choose the most appropriate sequence of words to fill in the blanks. 'In fiction, when we say, "All this _____, more or less," we aren't _____. Because fiction is about what might have happened, it can _____ those dodgy areas of the truth which have been hidden, or forgotten, or just not _____ through by the stream of events we call time.'
 a. Passed, dreaming, ignore, galloped.

7. b. Ended, misrepresenting, scramble, dripped.
 c. Transpired, testifying, handle, eavesdropped.
 d. Happened, lying, explore, flowed.
25. Which of the following works was originally written in English?
 a. *The Little Prince*.
 b. *The Revolt of Islam*.
 c. *My Name is Red*.
 d. *The Wretched of the Earth*.
26. These sentences are jumbled up. Choose which sequence is correct from the options below. i. What is it about literature that makes us human? ii. Why do we count literature as one of the humanities? iii. To answer this question, we need to know what 'human' is. iv. Then we shall discover that we cannot grasp an idea of the 'human' without appealing to 'story': true or imaginary, old or new, everything we know about ourselves is, at some level, a narrative, a text. v. If we consider that a 'humanity' is a discipline that makes us human, we should ask ourselves the following question.
 a. ii, v, i, iii, iv.
 b. iii, iv, i, ii, v.
 c. ii, iii, iv, v, i.
 d. i, iii, ii, iv, v.
27. Read the following passage and pick the sentence that most accurately sums up the argument of the passage. 'A pain which is in someone else's head is a pain that, for you, does not exist. However, humans are clever at putting their pain into other people's head. It's called empathy. We've been doing it for millennia, and we get better at it all the time. Probably this is why we haven't died out yet, but don't take any bets on our future.'
 a. Humans don't like pain.
 b. Humans need empathy to survive.
 c. Empathy gives you a headache.
 d. Humans are too clever for their own good.
28. The bark of the birch tree, also known as *bhurjapatra*, was one of the earliest surfaces used for writing in south Asia. Which of the following was not a writing surface?
 a. Papyrus.
 b. Parchment.
 c. Vellum.
 d. Cuneiform.
29. 'You have hissed the mystery lectures'. What is this an example of?
 a. Malapropism
 b. Spoonerism
 c. Neologism
 d. Pleonasm
30. Identify the sentence in which the meaning of the underlined word is not made clear in the sentence:
 a. Her shopping binge left her with a pile of new shoes, a maxed-out credit card and a big headache.
 b. The data was questionable as most of the respondents came from the same class and age group.
 c. I am not sure that prevarication is a good solution to your problems.
 d. The press release was full of equivocal language that neither confirmed nor denied the rumour.

Part II

1. Read the poem, and answer the questions which follow: $10 \times 4 = 40$

I, too, dislike it: there are things that are important beyond
 all this fiddle.

Reading it, however, with a perfect contempt for it, one
 discovers that there is in
 it after all, a place for the genuine.

Hands that can grasp, eyes

that can dilate, hair that can rise

if it must, these things are important not because a

high-sounding interpretation can be put upon them but because
they are
useful; when they become so derivative as to become
unintelligible, the
same thing may be said for all of us—that we
do not admire what
we cannot understand. The bat,
holding on upside down or in quest of something to

eat, elephants pushing, a wild horse taking a roll, a tireless
wolf under
a tree, the immovable critic twinkling his skin like a horse
that feels a flea, the base-
ball fan, the statistician—case after case
could be cited did
one wish it; nor is it valid
to discriminate against “business documents and

school-books”; all these phenomena are important. One must
make a distinction
however: when dragged into prominence by half poets,
the result is not poetry,
nor till the autocrats among us can be
“literalists of
the imagination”—above
insolence and triviality and can present

for inspection, imaginary gardens with real toads in them,
shall we have
it. In the meantime, if you demand on the one hand, in defiance
of their opinion—
the raw material of poetry in
all its rawness, and
that which is on the other hand,
genuine, then you are interested in poetry.

- a. Write in your own words the poet's views regarding “half poets” and that which is “not poetry”.
- b. What are the poet's views on the function of interpreters and critics?
- c. Do you think the poet is being prescriptive regarding the writing and reading of poetry? Give reasons for your answer.
- d. Explain these lines from the poem:
 - a) “these things are important not because a/high-sounding interpretation can be put upon them but because/they are/ useful”; and
 - b) “imaginary gardens with real toads in them”

2. Write an essay on any *one* of the following:

50

- a) A walk to remember.
- b) If you could go back in time, which literary period would you want to visit and why?
- c) ‘A child who grows up with a pet evolves as a better person.’ Argue for and against this view.
- d) Importance of the conservation of the East Kolkata Wetlands.

3. The sentences in the passages given below have been jumbled up. Read the passages and rearrange the sentences in the sequence in which they would originally have been written.

5 x 2 = 10

- a) Three married sisters also lived in the house at this time, together with their respective husbands and children. The eldest was twenty-seven years old, the second twenty-five, and the third twenty-two. In 1909, when our story begins, the estate was owned by three brothers with equal shares. They were known as kumars, princes. All three brothers were married and lived in the family mansion – the Jaidebpur Rajbari.

The reason for the visit was Ramendra's health. Ashutosh Dasgupta, the family doctor, was also in the party. He was accompanied by his wife Bibhabati, Bibhabati's elder brother Satyendra, and a retinue of twenty-one servants. On April 18, 1909, Ramendra Narayan Roy, the second kumar, left Bhawal for Darjeeling by train, arriving at the hill station on the twentieth.

- b) Besides, passengers get sea-sick--grow quarrelsome--don't sleep of nights--do not enjoy themselves much, as a general thing;--no, I never go as a passenger; nor, though I am something of a salt, do I ever go to sea as a Commodore, or a Captain, or a Cook. For to go as a passenger you must needs have a purse, and a purse is but a rag unless you have something in it. No, when I go to sea, I go as a simple sailor, right before the mast, plumb down into the forecabin, aloft there to the royal mast-head. Now, when I say that I am in the habit of going to sea whenever I begin to grow hazy about the eyes, and begin to be over conscious of my lungs, I do not mean to have it inferred that I ever go to sea as a passenger. I abandon the glory and distinction of such offices to those who like them.