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First Semester B.Com./B.B.A. Degree Examination, December 2018

(CBCS Scheme – Freshers – 2018-19)

General English – I

LANGUAGE ENGLISH

Time : 3 Hours]

[Max. Marks : 70

Instructions to Candidates :

- 1) Answer All the Sections.
- 2) Write the correct question numbers.



SECTION – A

(PROSE AND POETRY – 40 marks)

I. Answer any **FIVE** in one or two sentences each : **(5 × 2 = 10)**

1. _____ and _____ were the two artists who owned the studio in the lesson *The Last Leaf*.
2. Where did the grandfather and the cook finally leave the python?
3. Mention any two things a man does when he plants a tree.
4. How much was the value of Deepa's father's assets? How much was Deepa's share?
5. According to Kahlil Gibran, what is it to work with love?
6. What was the gift of the teacher to Helen Keller? Who had sent it?
7. How did the narrator feel when he saw five to ten thousand books at a time?
 - (a) The sweet smell of the decaying paper attracted him
 - (b) He felt bored and sick
 - (c) He felt joyful in their company
8. What was the reader's first remark on the narrator's book during his conversation with the narrator?

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II. Answer any **FOUR** of the following in about one page each : (4 × 5 = 20)

1. What was bothering Johnsy as she lay on her sick bed in 'The Last Leaf'?
2. How did the grandfather finally succeed in caging the python in the lesson 'All Creatures Great and Small'?
3. Discuss how planting a tree contributes towards the nation's growth as narrated in the poem 'Heart of the Tree'.
4. Why was the summer of 1887 special for Helen Keller? How did Helen learn the joy of nature?
5. Deepa's brothers were only an extension of their father's mind set. Explain with reference to the lesson 'Daughter'.
6. Comment on the types of people who visit the narrator's bookshop in George Orwell's 'Bookshop Memories'.
7. Why wasn't the narrator satisfied with his own book in the lesson 'A Conversation with a Reader'?

III. Answer any **ONE** of the following in about two pages each : (1 × 10 = 10)

1. How is the 'The Last Leaf' by O. Henry a story of hope, friendship and sacrifice?
2. Work is love made visible. Explain this with reference to Kahlil Gibran's 'The Ploughman'.
3. "Humour is not merely laughing at other, but also laughing at one self" Explain with reference to the lesson 'A Conversation with a Reader'.



SECTION - B

(GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION - 30 marks)

IV. Read the following passage and answer the questions set on it :

The low, swampy land of South Florida's Lake Okeechobee teems with exotic subtropical wildlife- a naturalist's paradise. One summer morning, two American College students Jack Pickett and Fred Stahl, shouldered heavy packs and headed into the dense growth in search of parasitic plants. As they were walking along the sandy bank of a small, nearly dry stream, Pickett, who was in the lead suddenly cried out, 'It's soft up here! Stay back!'

He had stepped into what looked like dry, sub-baked sand. But the caked surface crumbled oddly beneath his boots, and he sank up to his ankles.

Trying to reach firm ground, he floundered forward a few more steps. But with each step he sank deeper, until the strange marshmallowy sand had engulfed him up to his knees.

'It's quicksand!' he shouted. 'Help me!'

Stahl knew it would do **no good** to plunge into the quicksand and try to rescue his friend. Both would **then be trapped**, and there was nobody for miles around to help them. He **ran into the brush** where he saw a long-fallen tree branch.

1. The region **south of Florida** is known for its _____. (1)
2. Why did the **two American** students go to the dense growth? (1)
3. What made **Pickett** think he was in quicksand? (1)
4. Why didn't **Stahl** plunge into the quicksand? (1)
5. Why did **Stahl** run into the brush? (1)

V. (a) Choose the correct homophone to complete the sentence : (2)

1. The woman went _____ a lot of difficulty after the death of her husband.
(threw, through)
2. A family that _____ together stays together.
(praise, prays)

(b) Choose the correct synonym for the underlined word : (2)

1. The boy's achievements were laudable.
(i) pleasant
(ii) flattering
(iii) commendable
(iv) powerful
2. The child had chronic illness.
(i) severe
(ii) slight
(iii) recent
(iv) small



- (c) Choose the correct form of the verbs given in the brackets : (1)

The teacher cleverly _____ the naughty students in the class.

(manage, manages)

- VI. (a) Do as directed :

1. What enquiries would you make in the following situations? You want to know the departure time of the Shatabadi Express to Mysore. (1)

2. How do you introduce your friend to your sister? (1)

- (b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles/prepositions : (3)

_____ Andamans are _____ group of islands _____ the Bay of Bengal.

- (c) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate tense form of the verb given in the brackets : (3)

1. Many animals were _____ to death by the cold. (freeze)

2. She _____ for eight hours last night. (sleep)

3. He has _____ this fact all along. (know)

- VII. Develop a short story by using the hints given below and suggest a suitable title for the same : (4)

Two friends — came across a bear — one climbed on a tree — the other fell flat on the ground — bear smelt him — thought dead — went away — friend came down — asked what the bear whispered — replied, 'Never rely upon a false friend'.

VIII. Write an essay any **ONE** of the topic given below about a page : (4)

1. Pleasures of reading
2. Social work and students



IX. Summarise the following passage in about 120 words : (4)

Man is forever changing the face of nature. He has been doing so since he first appeared on the earth. Yet, all that man has done is not always to the ultimate advantage of the earth or himself. Man has, in fact, destroyed more than necessary. In his struggle to live and extract the most out of life, man has destroyed many species of wildlife; directly by sheer physical destruction, and indirectly by the destruction or alteration of habitats. Some species may be able to withstand disruptions to their habitat while others may not be able to cope.

Take the simple act of farming. When a farmer tills a rough ground, he makes it unsuitable for the survival of certain species. Every change in land use brings about a change in the types of plant and animals found on that land.

When man builds a new town, this means the total destruction of vast areas of farmland or woodland. Here, you have the complete destruction of entire habitats and it is inevitable.

It follows therefore, that every form of human activity unaboidably upsets or changes the wildlife complex of the area. Man has destroyed many forms of wildlife for no reasonable purpose. They have also made many great blunders in land use, habitat destruction and the extermination of many forms of wildlife.

Man's attitude towards animals depends on the degree to which his own survival is affected. He sets aside protection for animals that he hunts for sport and wages a war on any other creature that may pose a danger or inconvenience to him. This creates many problems and man has made irreversible, serious errors in his destruction of predators. He has destroyed animals and birds which are useful to farmers as pest controllers. The tragedy that emerges in that all the killing of predators did not in any way increase the number of game birds.

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Broadly speaking, man wages war against the creatures which he considers harmful, even when his warfare makes little or no difference to the numbers of those he encourages. There is a delicate predator and prey equilibrium involving also the vegetation of any area, which man can upset by thoughtless intervention.

Therefore, there is a need for the implementation of checks and balances. the continued existence of these animals depends entirely on man and his attitude towards his own future.

