

Series SSO

Code No. 1/2

Roll No.

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Candidates must write the Code on the title page of the answer-book.

- Please check that this question paper contains **8** printed pages.
- Code number given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- Please check that this question paper contains **11** questions.
- **Please write down the Serial Number of the question before attempting it.**
- 15 minutes time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the student will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer script during this period.

ENGLISH (Core)

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

General Instructions :

- This paper is divided into three Sections : A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.*
- Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.*
- Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow : 12

1 The role friends play in our lives has become significantly greater than at any other time in our history. Today many of us live and work at great distances from where we were born or we grew up and are separated from our original families. The pain we feel when we are away from our families can be significant.

2 The happiness of the individual relies on friendships which form a necessary human connection. It is perfectly normal to need and want friends and depression is more prevalent among those who lack friends. They lack the intimacy and richness friends can bring into our lives. Frequently friends reflect similar values to us. Yet these values are often different from the ones we grew up with; they are the values we created for ourselves in our adult lives.

3 Communication skills are fundamental in all friendships. The more friends and acquaintances one has, the greater are one's communication skills. Some call these, people skills.

4 Like watering a plant, we grow our friendships (and all our relationships) by nurturing them. Friendships need the same attention as other relationships, if they are to continue. These relationships can be delightfully non-judgemental, supportive, understanding and fun.

5 Sometimes a friendship can bring out the positive side that you never show in any other relationship. This may be because the pressure of playing a 'role' (daughter, partner or child) is removed. With a friend you can be yourself and are free to change. Of course you are free to do this in all other relationships as well, but in friendships you get to have lots of rehearsals and discussion about

changes as you experience them. It is an unconditional experience where you receive as much as you give. You can explain yourself to a friend openly without the fear of hurting a family member. How do friendships grow ? The answer is simple. By revealing yourself; being attentive; remembering what is most important to your friend and asking them about it; putting yourself in their position; showing empathy; seeing the world through the eyes of your friend, you will understand the value of friendship. All this means learning to accept a person from a completely different family to your own or perhaps someone from a completely different cultural background. This is the way we learn tolerance. In turn we gain tolerance and acceptance for our own differences.

6 Friendships are made by being considerate which means all the communication skills come into play: active listening skills, questioning skills, negotiation skills, reflecting content skills, reflecting emotion skills, and editing yourself.

7 Friendships offer a great opportunity to learn about yourself because a friend can reflect back to you 'how you come across in the world'. They also allow you to practice skills in dealing with 'personal boundaries' by looking after yourself as well as your friend. They help you develop resilience in relation to the wider social world beyond your family.

- (a)
- (i) Why do friends play a more significant role today than ever before ? 2
 - (ii) Why is friendship considered an essential human need ? 2
 - (iii) How is friendship different from other relationships ? 2
 - (iv) Mention two essential human values that help friendship to grow. 1
 - (v) Which communication skills help in building friendship ? 2

(b) Pick out words from the passage which mean the same as each of the following :

3

- (i) basic essential (para 3)
- (ii) mutual discussion to reach an agreement (para 6)
- (iii) chance (para 7)

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

8

Effective speaking depends on effective listening. It takes energy to concentrate on hearing and to concentrate on understanding what has been heard. Incompetent listeners fail in a number of ways. First, they may drift. Their attention drifts from what the speaker is saying. Second, they may counter. They find counter arguments to whatever a speaker may be saying. Third, they compete. Then, they filter. They exclude from their understanding those parts of the message which do not readily fit with their own frame of reference. Finally they react. They let personal feelings about speaker or subject override the significance of the message which is being sent.

What can a listener do to be more effective. The first key to effective listening is the art of concentration. If a listener positively wishes to concentrate on receiving a message his chances of success are high.

It may need determination. Some speakers are difficult to follow, either because of voice problems, or because of the form in which they send a message. There is then a particular need for the determination of a listener to concentrate on what is being said.

Concentration is helped by alertness. Mental alertness is helped by physical alertness. It is not simply physical fitness, but also positioning of the body, the limbs and the head. Some people also find it helpful to their concentration if they hold the head slightly to one side. One useful way for achieving this is intensive

note-taking, by trying to capture the critical headings and sub-headings the speaker is referring to.

Note-taking has been recommended as an aid to the listener. It also helps the speaker. It gives him confidence when he sees that listeners are sufficiently interested to take notes; the patterns of eye-contact when the note-taker looks up can be very positive; and the speaker's timing is aided — he can see when a note-taker is writing hard and can then make effective use of pauses.

Posture too is important. Consider the impact made by a less competent listener who pushes his chair backwards and slouches. An upright posture helps a listener's concentration. At the same time it is seen by the speaker to be a positive feature amongst his listeners. Effective listening skills have an impact on both the listener and the speaker.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. 5
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. 3

SECTION B : ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS 35

3. You want to sell your newly built flat. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be inserted in the classified columns of 'The Hindu' giving all necessary details. You are Niranjana, 247, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore. 5

OR

As Secretary of the 'Eco Club' of St. Anne's School, Ahmedabad, draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing the club members about the screening of Al Gore's film, 'Inconvenient Truth' in the school's audio visual room.

4. The Eco Club of your school launched a special cleanliness drive in the school and its neighbourhood. As Secretary of the club, write a report in 100 – 125 words giving details of the programme. You are Karan of A.M.M. High School, Hyderabad. 10

OR

Write a factual description of the scene at the park in your locality in the morning hours in 100 – 125 words. Include activities like walking, exercising, children at play etc.

5. You are Jolly of Class XII. You are interested in pursuing a course in visual communication. You have seen an advertisement issued by National Institute of Communication, Pune, offering courses in Media and Communication. Write a letter to the Director seeking information about their courses, fee structure, placement opportunities, etc. 10

OR

Write a letter to the Manager, Furniture World, Chennai, complaining about the poor quality of office furniture you recently purchased from them. Give details of the nature of complaint, date of purchase, details of invoice, etc. and seek immediate repair/replacement. You are Mr. S. Reddy, Principal, P.S. Public School, Chennai.

6. Children living in cities are rarely seen playing outdoors in the neighbourhood. Being busy with other attractions like the television and computer games, they miss the joy of outdoor play. Write an article in 150 – 200 words for the magazine, 'Kids Talk' highlighting the need and value of outdoor games. You are Vidya / Vinod. 10

OR

Today the 24-hour television news channels give us instant news from every nook and corner of the world. But the fact remains that the importance of the newspaper remains intact. Write an article in 150 – 200 words expressing your views on 'The Relevance of Newspapers'. You are Sunil / Sunita.

SECTION C : LITERATURE

45

7. (a) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

4

The little old house was out with a little new shed
 In front at the edge of the road where the traffic sped,
 A roadside stand that too pathetically pled,
 It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread,
 But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports
 The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.

- (i) Where was the new shed put up ? What was its purpose ? 2
 (ii) Why does the poet use the word 'pathetic' ? 1
 (iii) Who are referred to as 'the flower of cities' ? 1

OR

Now we will count to twelve
 and we will all keep still.
 For once on the face of the Earth
 let's not speak in any language,
 let's stop for one second,
 and not move our arms so much.

- (i) How long does the poet want to stay still ? 1
 (ii) What does he hope to achieve by keeping quiet ? 2
 (iii) What does the poet mean by 'not move our arms so much' ? 1

- (b) Answer any **three** of the following questions in 30 – 40 words each :

2×3=6

- (i) How does the world depicted on the classroom walls differ from the world of the slum children ?
 (ii) According to Keats, what makes man love life in spite of all its problems and miseries ?
 (iii) Why did Aunt Jennifer choose to embroider tigers on the panel ?
 (iv) What do the poet's parting words to her mother signify ?

8. Answer the following questions in 30 – 40 words each : 2×5=10
- (a) Do you think Saheb was happy to work at the tea stall ? Answer giving reasons.
 - (b) How did Gandhiji help the peasants of Champaran ?
 - (c) Why was Douglas keen to overcome his fear of water ?
 - (d) Why was Subbu considered number two at Gemini Studios ?
 - (e) What does the title, 'Lost Spring' convey ?

9. Answer the following question in 125 – 150 words : 10
- Jansie is just as old as Sophie but she is very different from her. Bring out the contrast between the two friends citing relevant instances from the story, 'Going Places'.

OR

What did the French teacher tell his students in his last French lesson ? What impact did it have on them ? Why ?

10. Answer the following question in 125 – 150 words : 7
- What are the similarities in the lives of Bama and Zitkala though they belong to different cultures ?

OR

How did the Tiger King meet his end ? What is ironical about his fate ?

11. Answer the following questions in 30 – 40 words each : 2×4=8
- (a) Why is Antarctica and its understanding important for the survival of the world ?
 - (b) Why did the General spare the American soldier ?
 - (c) What qualities of Mr. Lamb attracted Derry to him ?
 - (d) How did the wizard help Roger Skunk ?