

ENGLISH - B
(New Syllabus)
2025

Total Time : 3 Hours 15 minutes]

[Total Marks : 80

- ★ *Special credit will be given for answers which are brief and to the point. Marks will be deducted for spelling mistakes, untidiness and bad handwriting. Figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.*

INSTRUCTIONS :

- This Question Booklet consists of 24 pages.
- Attempt the questions as per the instructions given therein.
Write the answers only in the Main Answer Script, nowhere else.

This Question Booklet is sealed by Reverse Jacket. The candidate has to cut the jacket to open the booklet shown on the opening side of the Question Booklet.



The questions related to MCQ and SAQ should be answered in the specific printed TABLE accordingly in the Answer Script.

(Multiple Choice Type Questions)

1. Complete each of the following sentences, choosing the correct option from the alternatives provided : $1 \times 12 = 12$

PROSE

- (i) The eyes of the narrator were sensitive to

(A) light (B) shadow

(C) light and darkness (D) darkness

- (ii) 'Strong Roots' is taken from

(A) Ignited Mind (B) The Luminous Spark

(C) Wings of Fire (D) Mission of India



(iii) 'Mrs. Jones put a half-nelson about his neck'

A half-nelson is

(A) come out with force

(B) kick on the right leg

(C) a slap

☒ (D) a wrestling hold

(iv) '... The hermit unfastened the man's clothing.' —

The word 'unfastened' means

(A) tied

(B) unlocked

(C) locked

☒ (D) untied



POETRY

(v) "Nor shall death brag thou wander'st in his shade" —

The figure of speech used in this line is —

- (A) paradox (B) onomatopoeia
(C) simile (D) personification

(vi) To a drowsy man, the chirpings of the cricket is a reminder of —

- (A) the song of the cuckoo among the Hebrides
(B) the music of a professional singer
(C) the music of the Grasshopper in the summer months
(D) the music of a prattling brook



(vii) 'Leprous hide' in 'On Killing a Tree' refers to —

- (A) rough bark of a tree
- (B) skin of a dead leopard
- (C) smooth bark of a tree
- (D) a disease that is related to the skin

(viii) "... gentle, without guile." — Here 'without guile' means —

- (A) pure and innocent
- (B) kind and childlike
- (C) harsh and cruel
- (D) manly

DRAMA

(ix) The name of Lomov's dog is —

☒ (A) Guess (B) Squeezer

(C) Patridge (D) Marvsinsky

(x) While sleeping, Lomov might get a 'pull' for —

(A) twenty-five times

☒ (B) twenty times

(C) twenty-six times

(D) twenty-one times

(xi) Chubukov says that a weight is off his shoulders because —

(A) the argument is over

(B) Lomov has left his home

☒ (C) Lomov and Natalya are getting married

(D) Lomov has accepted all the accusations made against his family

(xii) According to Natalya, Lomov's aunt was a —

(A) gambler

(B) drunkard

(C) lunatic

☒ (D) backbiter

(Short Answer Type Questions)

2. Answer any *four* questions from PROSE and *four* questions from POETRY, of the following questions, each in a complete sentence :

 $1 \times 8 = 8$ PROSE

- (i) Who broke into the narrator's reverie in 'The Eyes Have It' ?
- (ii) What remark did the narrator make about people with good eyesight in 'The Eyes Have It' ?
- (iii) Why did Roger want to snatch the large purse of Mrs. Jones in 'Thank You, Ma'am' ?
- (iv) When and where did Roger and Mrs. Luella Bates Washington Jones meet ?

- (v) In 'The Three Questions' why did the Tsar put on simple clothes ?
- (vi) Where did the Tsar crouch down ?
- (vii) In which town was Kalam born ?
- (viii) How did Kalam's father convey complex spiritual concepts ?

POETRY

- (ix) How does the poet describe the soldier's bed ?
- (x) Which part of the tree is the most sensitive ?
- (xi) Who or what shakes the 'darling buds of May' ?
- (xii) According to Keats, what is ever continuous ?
- (xiii) According to Shakespeare, what has 'all too short a date' ?



(xiv) What does Rimbaud say about the soldier's age ?

(xv) What has the tree been absorbing for years ?

(xvi) Who continues the poetry of earth in winter ?

(Subjective / Descriptive Type Questions)

3. Answer any *two* questions from PROSE, *two* questions from POETRY and *one* question from DRAMA, of the following questions. Each answer, inclusive of sub-parts, should not

exceed 100 words :

$6 \times 5 = 30$

PROSE

(i) "Yes, October is the best time."

(a) Who is the speaker here ?

(b) On what occasion is the remark made and to whom ?

✓(c) Why is October the best time ?

1 + 2 + 3

(ii) "The woman did not ask the boy anything about where he lived ..."

✓(a) Who is the woman ?

✓(b) What is the name of the boy ?

✓(c) Why did the woman not ask the boy anything about where he lived ?

(d) What did the woman say instead ? 1 + 1 + 2 + 2

(iii) (a) What was the first question of the Tsar ?

(b) How did the learned men give the answer to the first question ? 2 + 4



(iv) "This remained his routine even when he was in his late sixties."

- (a) Who is the speaker ?
- (b) Whose routine has been mentioned here ?
- (c) What routine has been referred to ?
- (d) What attitude of the person, whose routine has been mentioned here, can be found in this context?

1 + 1 + 3 + 1

POETRY

(v) Give a brief description of the valley in the poem 'Asleep In The Valley'. 6

(vi) (a) What happens when the root is entirely pulled out ?

(b) How does the exposed root gradually decay ? 2 + 4

(vii) What is the central idea of the poem 'Shall I Compare Thee' ?

(viii) (a) Briefly describe how the Grasshopper continues the poetry of earth in summer.

(b) Where do the birds rest when they get tired ?

(c) From where does the Cricket's song shrill ? 3 + 2 + 1

DRAMA

(ix) "Go, there's a merchant come for his goods."

(a) Who said this and to whom ?

(b) Who is the merchant ?

(c) What is referred to as 'goods' ?

(d) In what ways does it bring out the attitude of the person and the society at that time ? 2 + 1 + 1 + 2

(x) Sketch the character of Natalya Stepanovna.

(xi) "Forgive us, Ivan Vassilevitch, we were all a little heated."

- (a) Who is the speaker ?
- (b) Who are referred to by 'us' ?
- (c) Why were the persons referred to as 'a little heated' ?
- (d) Why does the speaker ask for forgiveness ?

$$1 + 1 + 2 + 2$$

4. (a) Do as directed :

$$1 \times 6 = 6$$

- (i) "I wanted a pair of blue suede shoes," said the boy.

(Change the mode of narration)

- (ii) I do not recall the exact number of people she fed everyday.

(Rewrite as an affirmative sentence)

- (iii) She did not release him.

(Change the voice)

- (iv) Seeing the Tsar, he greeted him and went on digging.

(Rewrite as a complex sentence)



(v) The window was open, and I faced it.

(Split into two single sentences)

(vi) Good neighbours don't behave like that, Stepan !

(Rewrite as an interrogative sentence)

(b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles and/or

prepositions :

$$\frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 3$$

But the Tsar did not give him(i)..... spade, and continued to dig. One hour passed, and another. The sun began to sink.....(ii).....the trees, and(iii)..... Tsar at last stuck the spade(iv).....the ground, and said : "I came(v)..... you wise man,(vi).....an answer to my questions. If you can give me none, tell me so, and I will return home."

- (c) Correct the error in the following sentence by replacing the underlined word with the right one from the options given

below :

$$1 \times 1 = 1$$

“Was I bother you when I turned that corner ?”

[Options : bothering, bothered, bothersome]

5. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

I follow the peacock into a shady grove. It is quite tame and does not fly away. It leads me to a small boy who is sitting in the shade of a tree, feasting on a handful of small green fruit.

I have not seen the fruit before, and I ask the boy to tell me what it is. He offers me what looks like a hard green plum.

'It is the fruit from the Ashoka tree,' says the boy. 'There are many such trees in the garden.'

'Are you allowed to take the fruit ?'

'I am allowed,' he says grinning. 'My father is the head gardener.'

I bite into the fruit. It is hard and sour but not unpleasant.

'Do you live here ?' I ask.

'Over the wall,' he says. 'But I come here everyday, to help my father and to eat the fruit.'

'So you see the Taj Mahal everyday ?'

'I have seen it everyday for as long as I can remember.'

'And I am seeing it for the first time ... you're very lucky.'

He shrugs, 'If you see it once, or a hundred times, it is the same.

It doesn't change.'

'Don't you like looking at it, then ?'

'I like looking at people who come here. They are always different.

In the evening there will be many people.'

'You must have seen people from almost every country in the world.'

'That is so. They all come here to look at the Taj. Kings and queens and Presidents and Prime Ministers, and film stars and poor people too. And I look at them. In that way it isn't boring.'

'Well, you have the Taj to thank for that.'

(a) State whether the following statements are *True* or *False*.

Write 'T' for True and 'F' for False. (You need not write the sentences, write the numbers only)

$$1 \times 4 = 4$$

- (i) The narrator was talking with the gardener.
- (ii) The narrator saw the Taj Majal for the first time in his life.

(iii) The peacock flew from one branch to the other.

(iv) Only people from India visit the Taj Mahal.

(b) Answer each of the following questions in about 30 words :

$$2 \times 3 = 6$$

(i) Mention the different kinds of people who come to visit the Taj Mahal.

(ii) Why does the narrator consider the boy to be lucky ?

(iii) Why is the boy more interested in watching the people rather than looking at the Taj Mahal ?

6. (a) Write a report on a 'BLOOD DONATION CAMP' organised by your school. The report is to be published in your school magazine. (Word limit : 150 words)

$$2 + 8 = 10$$

OR



- (b) Write a letter to the Headmaster / Headmistress of your school requesting him/her to include more reference books in the school library. (*Word limit : 150 words*) $2 + 8 = 10$

OR

- (c) Write a précis of the following passage. Add a suitable title :

$8 + 2 = 10$

When human communities began to settle down and cultivate the land, instead of wandering over it with their flocks and herds, the division of labour increased, and people specialised in crafts and trades. Most men specialised in growing or producing something, of which only a very small portion was necessary for their own wants. So they had to get rid of their surplus. In exchange for it they wanted something which would give them the power to

choose what they wanted from the surpluses of other people.

A few transactions might take place in straightforward exchange, or barter, but only certain things could be treated in this way. It would be more convenient if there were some other objects that would always be useful to both parties involved in the transaction.

