

Pre-Final Test Examination, 2021

H.S. Second Year (Arts)

English

Full Marks : 100

Time: 3 hours

(The figures in the margin indicate full for the questions.)

Section A

(Reading skills 10 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

(a) My father gets a far away look in his eyes that's unmistakable. As he looks towards the horizon and his eyes seek out the bright flashes of snow-capped peaks, we all know what he's thinking. Mountain tops have always had that magnetic on him.

(b) As I grew up I inherited some of my father's restlessness. I know many people think there must be some compulsion for the son of Edmund Hillary to climb mountains. They assume that I need to compete, or measure up as if there was some strong mark on stone that says "Thou shalt climb mountains" - and in particular Everest, whether you like it or not. But for me it's simpler than that. I think families are like factories: some manufacture lawyers while others produce gardeners. The Hillary family is a limited production mountaineering establishment.

(c) today, at the age of 48, I am a determined mountain man: love to climb them, love to dream about them. I have been no more than 30 minutes mountaineering expeditions, from the Himalayas to Antarctic. And yes, I have climbed Everest twice. I treasure the same things that drew my father to climbing - great feeling of friendship and trust among people who work together, sense of pleasure and excitement, especially in dangerous places where your life depends upon making the right call. I guess I am luckier than most because I can fall back on all that my father has taught me. One devastating day in 1995 this advice saved my life.

(d) Just below the summit of the mountain known as K2 or the "savage mountain" of the Himalayas there is a steep ice channel called "The Bottleneck". I was among a party of eight climbers heading for the summit, with just 400 metres left to climb. Perched there, 8200 metres above the sea level and looking east along the northern edge of the Karakoram Mountains to the Tibetan Plateau, I noticed curls of ominous cloud began to move in suddenly and quickly with great force.

(e) As the weather worsened, I became concerned. I stopped. Something didn't feel

right. At that moment I clearly heard my father's voice. Down. Go down. Stick to your guns, Peter.

(f) Then from the above me, I heard another voice - a woman's "Come on up. Use the red rope." Alison Hargreaves, a fellow climber, was encouraging me to join her. Note for you, Peter. Was that my father's voice again? The unsettled feeling in me grew stronger. Finally I told Jeff Lakes, my climbing partner that I was going down. He too was feeling unsure, decided to go on ahead. As I looked back at Jeff a couple of time, until a thick, threatening cloud a-thick, threatening cloud blocked the view, soon the same fast moving cloud would engulf the summit and plunge me into an isolated world of terror.

(g) Don't be afraid to make your decisions. Don't be afraid to stand alone. That was my father's voice.

(h) Alone in body but not in spirit I descended. But with fear tapping upon my shoulders, I was caught in the Frightening situation of the rising storm. The flanks of the mountain were out of control and so, perhaps, was I.

(i) Fear makes you careful. Fear makes you good. Fear, my father told me, is not something you manage. So I seized on what I could control: a well-clipped descender and a taut rope.

(j) When I awoke in my tent the next morning, it was silent, sunny, still. I alone had successfully descended from the summit pyramid of K2 that night.

The seven above were dead.

(k) Life in a famous family has its sad vantage and disadvantages. Lunch with Indira Gandhi or a trip to the North Pole with Neil Armstrong are one - although a rather extraordinary - side of the coin. The other can be a battle with identity and independence. When I am 80 years old myself, I know I will more than likely still be greeted with, "Wait a minute, you're Ed Hillary's son! "but my father is quite a man and I am proud of him.

Questions:

A. Answer the following questions briefly:

- | | |
|---|---|
| (i) What does the son read in his father's eyes? | 1 |
| (ii) What is "The Bottleneck"? | 1 |
| (iii) What was the fate of the seven companions who climbed the K2 summit? | 1 |
| (iv) In what way does the author consider himself more fortunate than other mountaineers? | 1 |
| (v) State any two qualities that the speaker has inherited from his father. | 2 |

(vi) "The Hillary family is a limited production mountaineering establishment." What does the speaker mean by this? 2

(vii) What was the father's opinion about 'fear'? How did it help the author? 2

Section B

(Advanced writing skills 25 marks)

2. You are Krishan of Jalukbari, Guwahati. You want to sell off the property since you have decided to buy a flat. Write an advertisement to be published in a national daily, giving all the necessary details. 5

or

You lost your hand bag in your college. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words giving details of the same to be placed on your college notice board. You are a student of class XII of Excellent Academy, Goalpara. Sign as Rani/Ram.

3. You witnessed a fire accident in a slum area near your colony on Saturday night. You were very much disturbed at the pathetic sight. Write a report in 100-125 words for your school magazine. You are Lakshmi/Lakshman, a student of P.D.K. College, Guwahati. 10

or

You are Arun/Aruna. You have seen an advertisement for the post of Sales executive in a multi-national company. Write a formal application for the post in response to the advertisement.

4. Assam is a tourist's dream destination. Give your views on the tourism potential of India in an article in 150-200 words. You are Neeraj Navita. 10

* places of worship - religious tourism

* foreigners-places of historical interest

* the rich - hill stations during summers

- the sun-kissed beaches in winters

- leisure tourism

or

Write a letter to the Editor, 'The Hindu', Chennai about the preventive measures during covid-19 pandemic by the people in your city. You are Kamal/Kakali.

Section C

(Grammar 20 Marks)

5. Change the narration of the following sentences: 2x2=4

a) "Where do you go every Sunday?" I asked the girl. She replied, "I go to the Church".

b) The teacher asked Riju if she had done her homework. She replied negatively.

6. Change the voice of any three of the following sentences: 1x3=3
- Strangers are bitten by the dog.
 - When will they finish the work?
 - The road has been swept.
 - Why are you making a noise?
 - The boys are playing football.
7. Rewrite any five of the following sentences using the verbs given in brackets in their correct tense form: 1x5=5
- I (meet) him in the market yesterday.
 - He (write) a letter before they arrived.
 - I am (work), don't disturb him.
 - He (do) the work just now.
 - They (play) since four o' clock.
 - You ever (be) to London?
 - I (go) to Delhi tomorrow.
 - If it (rain) I (not go) to play in the field.
8. Rewrite any four of the following sentences filling in the blanks with appropriate prepositions: 1x4=4
- Please wait a few minutes.
 - We congratulated him his success.
 - My friend sent me the parcel post.
 - He gave me the letter hand.
 - Tom is addicted gambling
 - We take pride her intelligence.
9. Rewrite any four of the following sentences as directed:
- Kolkata is the biggest city in India. (Change into positive degree)
 - He tried all plans. (Change into negative without changing meaning)
 - He was too poor to purchase a new dress. (Change into complex sentence)
 - I know where he was born. (Change into simple sentence)
 - Who has not heard of Shakespeare? (Change into assertive sentence)
 - It is a beautiful flower. (Change into exclanatory sentence)

Section D

(Text books 45 marks)

10. Answer any one of the following questions:

- (a) "... and felt that old familiar ache, my childhood's fear, but all I said was, see you soon, Amma,

all I did was smile and smile and smile. . .”

Questions:

- a) What was the childhood fear that now troubled the poet? 1
- b) What do the poet’s parting words suggest? 2
- c) Why did the poet smile and smile? 1

or

“Those who prepare green wars,
Wars with gas, wars with fire,
Victory with no survivors,
And walk about with their brothers
In the shade, doing nothing.”

Questions:

- a) What are the different kinds of wars mentioned in the poem? 1
 - b) What kind of victory they achieve? 1
 - c) What should the warmongers do? 1
 - d) Find the words in the passage that mean ‘those left alive’ and ‘win’. 1
11. Answer any three of the following questions: 2x3=6
- a) What are the different kinds of war the poet referred to in “Keeping Quiet”?
 - b) Why has the mother been compared to ‘The late winter’s moon’?
 - c) Why are the young trees described as ‘Sprinting’?
 - d) What is the function of a huge silence in the poem “Keeping Quiet”?
 - e) What should the warmongers do?
12. Answer any five of the following questions: 1x5=5
- a) What was the name of the peasant who came to meet Gandhi?
 - b) What did M. Hamel carry under his arms?
 - c) Who summoned Gandhi in June?
 - d) Where did Gandhi stay at Muzzafarpur?
 - e) Where is the Peacock Island situated?
 - f) What did M Hamel write at the end of the class?
 - g) What could be seen easily from the bungalow?
13. Answer any five of the following questions in 30-40 words: 2x5=10
- a) What were the topics M. Hamel taught on the day of the last lesson in “The Last Lesson”?
 - b) Why was Gandhi not allowed to draw water from the well?
 - c) Who were responsible for Franz’s inability to read and write his own language?
 - d) Why is Rajkumar shukla called as being resolute?
 - e) How did the campers clean the dirty water?

- f) What did the narrator say about the north bank in "Memoirs of A Chota Sahib"?
- g) Why is the lesson called the last lesson?
14. Answer any one of the following: 5x1=5
- a) Draw the character sketch of M. Hamel as described the last lesson.
 - b) Why do you think Gandhi considered the Champaran episode to be a turning point in his life?
 - c) Explain Rowntree's experiences of the floods on the North Bank of the Brahmaputra during the monsoon.
15. Answer any one of the following questions in 125-150 words: 7x1=7
- a) How did the hundredth tiger take revenge upon the king?
 - b) How was the hundredth tiger found and hunted down?
 - c) Discuss the forms of discriminations projected in the narration of zitkala-Sa and Bama.
16. Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words: 2x4=8
- a) How was the hundredth tiger found out and hunted down?
 - b) When did Bama experience untouchability?
 - c) What was the miracle that took place in the royal palace?
 - d) Why was Zitkala-Sa against the idea of cutting her long hair?
 - e) Why did Zitkala-Sa feel uncomfortable in the dining room?
 - f) How did the Maharaja celebrate his victory over the killing of the hundredth tiger?

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