



Series : WXYZ/S

Set – 4

Q.P. Code

28/S

Roll No.

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

ENGLISH (Elective)

Time allowed : 3 hours



Maximum Marks : 80

- Please check that this question paper contains **15** printed pages.
- Q.P. Code 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 **13** questions.
- **Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book at the given place before attempting it.**
- 15 minute 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 candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

#

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

- This question paper has **13** questions. **All** questions are **compulsory**.*
- This question paper contains **three** sections — Section A, B and C. Section A : **Reading**, Section B : **Grammar and Writing**, Section C : **Literature and Fiction**.*
- Separate instructions are given with each part and question, wherever necessary.*
- Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

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P.T.O.



SECTION A
Reading

(20 marks)

1. Read the following passage given below carefully :

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Recently, when I visited the US, I had to speak to a crowd of both students and highly successful people. I always prefer interacting with the audience, so I opened the floor to questions.

After several questions were asked, a middle-aged man stood to speak. 'Ma'am, I believe that you have studied abroad as you are very confident and clear in communicating your thoughts. You are absolutely at ease while talking to us...'

My mind went back to 1968. I was a seventeen-year-old girl with an abundance of courage, confidence and the dream to become an engineer. I came from an educated, though middle-class, conservative Brahmin family. My father was a professor of obstetrics and gynaecology in Karnataka Medical College at Hubli, while my mother was a schoolteacher before she got married.

I finished my pre-university exams with excellent marks and told my family that I wanted to pursue engineering. I had always been fascinated with science, even more so with its application. Engineering was one of those branches of science that would allow me to utilize my creativity, especially in design. But it was as if I had dropped a bomb inside our house.

My grandfather, a history teacher and my first guru to teach me reading and writing, only mildly opposed it. 'My child, you are wonderful at history. Why can't you do something in this field ? You could be a great scholar one day.'

My mother, who was extremely proficient in mathematics, said, 'You are good in math. Why don't you complete your post-graduation in mathematics and get a job as a professor ? You can easily work in a college after you get married instead of being a hard-core engineer struggling to balance family and work.'



My father, a liberal man who believed in education for women, thought for a moment and said, 'I think that you should pursue medicine. You are excellent with people and languages. To tell you the truth, I don't know much about engineering. We don't have a single engineer in our family. It is a male-dominated industry and you may not find another girl in your class. What if you have to spend four years without a real friend to talk to ? Think about it. However, the decision is yours and I will support you.'

However, I didn't care. As a student of history, I had read Hiuen Tsang's book *Si-Yu-Ki*. Hiuen Tsang was a Buddhist monk and scholar who travelled to India in 629 A.D. Before Tsang's travel to India, everybody discouraged him from making the journey on foot, but he refused to listen and decided to go. In time, he became famous for his seventeen-year-long journey to India. Taking courage from Tsang, I told my family, 'I want to do engineering. Come what may, I am ready for the consequences of my actions.'

I filled out the application form for B.V.B. College of Engineering and Technology, submitted it and soon received the news that I had been selected to the college on the basis of my marks. I was ecstatic, but little did I know that the college staff was discomfited by this development.

The Principal at the time was B.C. Khanapure, who happened to know my father. They both met at a barber shop one day and the Principal expressed his genuine anguish at what he perceived to be an awkward situation. He told my father, 'Doctor Sahib, I know that your daughter is very intelligent and that she has been given admission only because of merit, but I'm afraid we have some problems. She will be the only girl in college. It is going to be difficult for her. First, we don't have a ladies' toilet on campus. We don't have a ladies' room for her to relax either. Second, our boys are young with raging hormones and I am sure that they will trouble her. They may not do anything in front of the staff but they will definitely do something later. They may not cooperate with her or help her because they are not used to talking to girls. As a father of four daughters, I am concerned about yours too. Can you tell her to change her mind for her own sake ?'

My father replied, 'I agree with you, Professor Sahib. I know you mean well, but my daughter is hell-bent on pursuing engineering. Frankly, she's not doing anything wrong. So I have decided to let her pursue it.'

'In that case, Doctor Sahib, I have a small request. Please ask her to wear a sari to college as it is a man's world out there and the sari will be an appropriate dress for the environment she will be in. She should not talk to the boys unnecessarily because that will give rise to rumours and that's never good for a girl in our society. Also, tell her to avoid going to the college canteen and spending time there with the boys.'



My father came back and told me about this conversation. I readily agreed to all of the requests since I had no intention of changing my mind.

Eventually, I would become friendly with some of the boys, but I always knew where to draw the line. The truth is that it were these same boys who would teach me some of life's lessons later, such as the value of keeping a sense of perspective, the importance of taking it easy every now and then and being a good sport. Many of the boys, who are now older gentlemen, are like my brothers even after fifty years! Finally, it was the lack of ladies' toilets on campus that made me understand the difficulty faced by many women in India due to the insufficiency or sheer absence of toilets. Eventually, this would lead me to build more than 13,000 toilets in Karnataka alone!

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any *twelve* out of the fifteen questions given below : $12 \times 1 = 12$

- (i) Why did the speaker open the floor to questions ?
 - (A) Felt at ease while talking to a crowd of people
 - (B) To break the ice
 - (C) To begin an inactive session with the audience
 - (D) To make an open floor plan
- (ii) A middle-aged man believed that she had studied abroad because the speaker was _____ and _____.
- (iii) The speaker's parents were
 - (A) mathematicians
 - (B) nature lovers
 - (C) educationists
 - (D) philanthropists
- (iv) At seventeen, the speaker exhibited certain outstanding personality traits. What are they ?
- (v) The speaker realized the difficulty faced by many women in India due to the insufficiency or sheer absence of toilets. Was it her sympathy or empathy that led her to build 13,000 toilets in the state of Karnataka ?
- (vi) What does the speaker mean when she says, 'I had always been fascinated with science, even more so with its application' ?
 - (A) Engineering uses science to solve problems and she was interested in that.
 - (B) She was happy to challenge the status quo.
 - (C) She did not like studying the humanities.
 - (D) She had a great love for math and wanted to apply for that course.



- (vii) The speaker's determination to pursue engineering shows that she was :
- (A) keen to follow the footsteps of her parents.
 - (B) very daring and loved challenges.
 - (C) easily influenced by conservative ideas.
 - (D) a fighter for equal rights and equal pay.
- (viii) 'I want to do engineering. Come what may, I am ready for the consequences of my actions.'
- This statement by the speaker shows she is
- (A) arrogant
 - (B) docile
 - (C) casual
 - (D) determined
- (ix) Which of the following is **not** true about Hiuen Tsang ?
- (A) He travelled to India in 629 AD.
 - (B) He was a Buddhist monk and a scholar.
 - (C) He is famous for his seventeen-year long journey.
 - (D) Everybody encouraged him to make this journey on foot.
- (x) State whether the following opinion is True or False.
- 'The speaker had read Hiuen Tsang's book' '*Si-Yu-Ki*', and it influenced her decision-making.'
- (xi) The Principal of B.V.B. College of Engineering and Technology explained some of the problems the daughter would face because she would be the only girl student in the college. What are they ?
- (xii) What were the conditions the speaker had to follow as the only girl student of B.V.B. Engineering College ?
- (xiii) Select an idiom from the passage which means "to set a limit on what one is willing to do or allow to happen".
- (xiv) The following are the various themes on the speaker's everyday struggles and victories, large and small, except for :
- (A) Courage, self-confidence and a dream to be an engineer
 - (B) Breaking barriers
 - (C) Reading Hiuen Tsang's travel to Asia
 - (D) Life's lessons learnt from classmates



- (xv) Some of the lessons learnt by the speaker from her classmates and the college campus are :

Statement 1 : The value of keeping a sense of perspective, importance of taking it easy every now and then and being a good sport.

Statement 2 : Lack of ladies' toilets on college campus increases dropout rates among students.

- (A) Both 1 and 2 are correct.
(B) Both 1 and 2 are incorrect.
(C) 1 is correct and 2 is incorrect.
(D) 1 is incorrect and 2 is correct.

2. Read the poem 'The True Knowledge' by Oscar Wilde given below :

4

The True Knowledge

Oscar Wilde

Thou knowest all; I seek in vain
What lands to till or sow with seed –
The land is black with briar and weed,
Nor cares for falling tears or rain.

Thou knowest all; I sit and wait
With blinded eyes and hands that fail,
Till the last lifting of the veil
And the first opening of the gate.

Thou knowest all; I cannot see.
I trust I shall not live in vain,
I know that we shall meet again
In some divine eternity.

Based on your understanding of the poem, answer **four** out of the five questions given below : 4×1=4

- (i) What is the mood in the first stanza of the poem ?
- (A) optimism and jubilance
(B) despair and lack of purpose
(C) trust and hope
(D) solace and resolution



- (ii) “The land is black with briar and weed” is a metaphor for :
- (A) guidance and counselling
 - (B) helplessness and despair
 - (C) resolution and peace
 - (D) uncertainty and resolution
- (iii) What is the difference in the mood of the first stanza of the poem and the last stanza of the poem ?
- (iv) Complete the sentence appropriately.
‘Despite the desperation, the speaker does not give up _____ .
- (v) True knowledge is :
- (A) to know the value of time
 - (B) to learn and observe
 - (C) a quest for purpose and reliance on a higher power
 - (D) to have an open mind and desire to enjoy all the material comforts

3. Read the passage given below :

4

The elephant population in India stands at 25,000 to 30,000, earning the species an “endangered” status. Their range today is estimated to be only 3·5% of what it was earlier, being restricted to the Himalayan foothills, the northeast, some forests of central India, and hilly forests of Western and Eastern Ghats.

Frequent movement of elephants between their habitable zones brings them into contact with roads and railway lines. The range of a female elephant covers about 500 sq. km, and travelling over so much distance in the age of fragmented habitats makes a road or railway crossing very likely.

In a Canadian study attempting to mitigate animal-train collisions, train-triggered warning systems comprising flashing lights and bell sounds were installed at various locations along the tracks. These signals, activated 30 seconds before train arrival, were aimed at conditioning animals to associate the warnings with approaching trains.

The Indian Railways has a vast network of optical fiber cables. These support telecommunications and carry data, and importantly transmit signals for train control. In a recently introduced system called Gajraj, geophonic sensors on these OFC lines are tuned to pick up the vibrations of the deep and resonant footsteps of passing elephants.



This AI-based intrusion detection system analyses data from the sensors, extracting relevant features such as frequency components and duration of vibration. If elephant-specific vibrations are detected, an alert is promptly sent to locomotive drivers in the area, and train speeds are reduced. The system is now operational in the Alipurduar area of north West Bengal, which has been the site of several tragic accidents in the past.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any **four** out of the five questions given below : $4 \times 1 = 4$

- (i) To mitigate animal-train collisions in Canada, _____ were installed along the tracks.

(A) Train-triggered warning systems
(B) Optical fiber cables
(C) AI-based intrusion detection systems
(D) Vibrators

- (ii) *Statement 1* : Frequent movement of elephants between fragmented habitats is common.

Statement 2 : A female elephant covers about 500 km between their habitat zones, makes a road or railway crossing very unlikely.

(A) Both 1 and 2 are correct.
(B) 1 is correct and 2 is incorrect.
(C) Both 1 and 2 are incorrect.
(D) 1 is incorrect and 2 is correct.

- (iii) The word 'intrusion' suggests :

(A) withdrawal (B) encroachment
(C) confrontation (D) abandonment

- (iv) Complete the sentence appropriately.

'Geophonic sensors on optical fiber cable lines are tuned to pick up the vibrations of the deep and resonant footsteps of passing elephants.'

This new system is called _____ .

- (v) State a point in support of the given opinion.

'AI helps the locomotive drivers to reduce speed when elephants cross the railway lines.'



SECTION B

Grammar and Writing

(28 marks)

4. Transform the following sentences according to the instructions given against each one. Attempt any **eight** out of the ten questions that follow : $8 \times 1 = 8$

- (a) He said to me, "What are you doing ?"
(Begin : He asked me _____)
- (b) The guard refused us entry till he _____ (examine) our pass.
- (c) He had been reading a novel.
(Begin : Had _____ ?)
- (d) He was ill. He came to the class.
(Begin : Despite _____)
- (e) A cadet (he plays the trumpet) has not come today.
(Begin : The cadet _____)
- (f) Correct the following sentence.
"Neither the rain or the subsequent landslide was able to destroy the spirit of the people."
- (g) Complete the following sentence.
Scarcely _____ he (step) out, when it began to rain.
- (h) Complete the following sentence.
Our followers are but _____ handful.
- (i) Correct the following sentence.
"They walked besides each other in silence."
- (j) When we saw him last he _____ to catch a bus.
(Choose the correct option)
(A) ran (B) was running
(C) has run (D) could be running

5. Attempt any **three** of the following four questions in 120 – 150 words each : $3 \times 5 = 15$

- (a) Handwriting has deteriorated after the arrival of computers and mobile phones. The decline started with the advent of photocopiers, word processors and PowerPoint. Poor handwriting can affect the creativity of children. Good handwriting instils confidence and pride in children. It is linked to cognitive processes like memory comprehension and concentration.
Write an article expressing your views to be published in a local daily on the importance of handwriting in education today. You are Kamey/Kanish.



- (b) Climate change can encourage unprecedented weather, precipitating heavy rains, landslides, flooded rivers, clogged drains, etc., resulting in death and destruction. A recurring issue is an abject lack of advance warning and emergency preparedness. Big cities getting flooded has become a routine. Haphazard constructions and failure to desilt drains add up to the problem.

As a concerned citizen, write a discursive essay on “The Impact of Climate Change”. You are Janet/Jackey.

- (c) The massive growth of e-commerce in India is causing social disruption and has a detrimental effect on employment and consumer welfare. The presence of e-commerce is inevitable today, but its growth needs to be ‘orderly’ and ‘citizen-centric’. According to a study, for every job created in e-commerce, four and a half jobs are lost by traditional retailers. The scenario that is unfolding is a matter of great concern for the citizens of India.

Write an article on ‘The Detrimental Effect of Rapid Growth of e-commerce in India.’ You are Karuna/Kavi.

- (d) The International Energy Agency (IEA) estimates that there are 2 billion air-conditioning units in the world today heating up the globe. This figure is set to rise to over 5.5 billion by 2050 and China and India will have more than 45% of the total A.C. units available globally. Increased use of electricity increases greenhouse gas emissions and the tendency of people to buy less efficient A.C. units heats up the globe further and adds to the problem.

Write an article illustrating the role of ‘air-conditioners’ in global warming and the measures to be taken to mitigate it. You are Gamini/Garv.

6. Read the following questions and attempt any **one** of them in 120 – 150 words : 1×5=5

- (a) Addressing income inequality is a serious national challenge which requires different strategies to find a more suitable way to a faster, more equitable society. Progressive tax policies, access to education, skill development, enforcing labour rights, minimum wages, investments in infrastructure etc. are some of the areas which need serious consideration to ensure that all benefit from economic growth. Using the cues and your own ideas, write a speech on “The Challenges of Rising Income Inequality in India.” You are Tanya/Tanish.



- (b) The Prime Minister led the nation in celebrating the 78th Independence day from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort in Delhi on 15th August, 2024. He unfurled the National Flag and delivered the customary address to the nation. Foreign dignitaries, ministers, members of the Parliament and 6000 special guests from diverse backgrounds graced the occasion. You were one of the special guests invited to participate in this programme. As a student correspondent of the school magazine write a report. You are Indu/Irin.

SECTION C

Literature and Fiction

(32 marks)

7. (I) Attempt any **one** of the two extracts (a) and (b) given below : 6

- (a) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

6×1=6

I glanced over his shoulder, and it was true. Three tables away sat an intrepid woman in an old-fashioned felt hat and a purple scarf, eating without haste and staring at him. I recognised her right away. She had grown old and fat, but it was Frau Frieda, with the snake ring on her index finger.

She was travelling from Naples on the same ship as Neruda and his wife, but they had not seen each other on board. We invited her to have coffee at our table, and I encouraged her to talk about her dreams in order to astound the poet. He paid no attention, for from the very beginning he had announced that he did not believe in prophetic dreams.

‘Only poetry is clairvoyant,’ he said.

- (i) What was the motive for the author to glance over the poet’s shoulder ?
- (ii) Who was curious to look at the author and stare at him ?
- (iii) How did she look in her appearance ?
- (iv) Why didn’t the poet pay attention to Frau Frieda’s talking about her dreams ?
- (v) Why does Pablo Neruda say “Poetry is clairvoyant” ?



- (vi) What is the synonym of 'clairvoyant' ?
- (A) A person with a higher level of intelligence
 - (B) A short-sighted person
 - (C) A palm reader
 - (D) A fortune-teller

OR

- (b) Dr. Solomon Margolin took a last look in the mirror and left the house. He felt refreshed by the half-hour nap he had after dinner. Despite his age, he still wanted to impress people with his appearance — even the Senciminers. He had his illusions. In Germany he had taken pride in the fact that he looked like a *Junker*, and in New York he was often aware that he could pass for an Anglo-Saxon. He was tall, slim, blond, blue-eyed. His hair was thinning, had turned somewhat grey, but he managed to disguise these signs of age. He stooped a little, but in company was quick to straighten up. Years ago in Germany he had worn a monocle and though in New York that would have been too pretentious, his glance still retained a European severity. He had his principles. He had never broken the Hippocratic Oath.
- (i) What was the reason behind Dr. Margolin's decision to leave his house ?
 - (ii) Explain – 'even the Senciminers'.
 - (iii) 'He had his illusions.' What is referred to here ?
 - (iv) What were the signs of age which Margolin managed to disguise ?
 - (v) Why had he never broken the Hippocratic Oath ?
 - (vi) A monocle is _____.
 - (A) a single-celled organism
 - (B) a pocket watch
 - (C) a circular lens
 - (D) a bow tie



(II) Attempt any **one** of the two extracts (a) and (b) given below : 6

(a) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :
6×1=6

What needs my *Shakespear* for his honour'd Bones,
The labour of an age in piled Stones,
Or that his hallow'd reliques should be hid
Under a Star-ypointing *Pyramid* ?
Dear son of memory, great heir of Fame,
What need'st thou such weak witness of thy name ?
Thou in our wonder and astonishment
Hast built thy self a live-long Monument.

- (i) What does the poet mean by 'his honour'd Bones' ?
- (ii) What do you infer from the line 'his hallow'd reliques' ?
 - (A) Souvenir (B) Holy corpse
 - (C) Memento (D) Antique
- (iii) What is a star-ypointing Pyramid ?
- (iv) What does the poet call as 'weak witness of thy name' ?
- (v) How has Shakespear built himself a 'live-long Monument' ?
- (vi) What is the literary device used by the poet in the phrase 'weak witness' ?

OR

(b) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

Pity would be no more
If we did not make somebody Poor;
And Mercy no more could be
If all were as happy as we.

And mutual fear brings peace,
Till the selfish loves increase:
Then Cruelty knits a snare,
And spreads his baits with care.

He sits down with holy fears,
And waters the ground with tears;
Then Humility takes its root
Underneath his foot.



- (i) The poet says 'pity has become a necessity' because _____.
(A) man has become selfish
(B) man is hard hearted by nature
(C) man has created poverty
(D) man is helpful by nature
- (ii) The poet says "And Mercy no more could be" if _____.
(iii) How long can peace exist ?
(iv) Explain 'Cruelty knits a snare, And spreads his baits' ?
(v) Only fears and tears can humble man. Do you agree ?
(vi) What is the synonym of bait ?
(A) Alarm (B) Repellant
(C) Cajolery (D) Trap

8. Answer any **one** of the following questions in 30 – 40 words : 1×2=2

- (a) Why does Ingmar Bergman say 'The moment I lose this freedom I will cease to be a filmmaker' ?
(b) Cutting false distinctions between religions and cultures, why does the poet in the poem 'The Divine Image' say God lives in all human beings irrespective of their religious beliefs ?

9. Answer any **one** of the following questions in 40 – 50 words : 1×3=3

- (a) Why did Gretl decide not to attend Sylvia's wedding ?
(b) What did the Portuguese ambassador say about his housekeeper Frau Frieda who died in the Havana Riviera disaster ?

10. Answer any **one** of the following questions in 120 – 150 words : 1×5=5

- (a) Marx spent his life proving that there is no extremity of selfish cruelty at which the slavery of man to man will stop, if it be not stopped by law. Do you agree with his argument ?
(b) While shooting a film, why does the author stress on the importance of cancelling out conflicts through working together ?



- 11.** Answer any **one** of the following questions in 30 – 40 words : 1×2=2
- (a) What did Swamiji announce to Tiger Raja on the advent of his old age ? What was his plan ?
 - (b) Why did Margayya refuse to part with his purse in exchange for Dr. Pal's manuscript ?
- 12.** Answer any **one** of the following questions in 50 – 60 words : 1×3=3
- (a) While all living creatures avoided the tiger, there was one which he took great care to avoid. Who was it and why ?
 - (b) Why did Mr. Murti, the Arithmetic and English teacher accept to be the home tutor of Balu ?
- 13.** Answer any **one** of the following questions in 120 – 150 words : 1×5=5
- (a) What was the jungle superstition about how the tiger came to have stripes and whom did he blame for it ? Why did the tiger feel helpless in tackling it ?
 - (b) Margayya says "People did everything for money. Money was man's greatest need, like air or food." Why was Margayya fascinated by the power and influence of money in his life ?