

**SUBJECT : ENGLISH (SET-I)****Time : 3 Hrs.****M.M.: 80****General Instructions :**

1. *This paper is divided into three sections, A, B and C. All the sections are compulsory.*
2. *Separate instructions have been given for each section and each question. Read them carefully and follow them meticulously.*
3. *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

**SECTION-A (READING)**

Q1. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : (12)

1. The Everest was discovered in 1852, but political barriers deprived keen mountaineers from exploring it. In 1921, the first expedition team set out and walked 300 miles from Darjeeling to the mountain, climbing hill ridges, crossing gorges and labouring across the snow. The ascent was tough and an able mountaineer, Dr. Kellas, died while another had to be sent back home due to ill-health. At a point, till what they could manage to climb, the mountaineers viewed, the peak and described it as a 'white fang' jutting out of the jaws of the world! This view was seen from a height of 16000 feet and the 'white fang' was still far away. After a detailed study for about two months, the mountaineers climbed upto 22,000 feet and viewed a high saddle of snow at 23,000 feet. They climbed till there, and then they had to climb another ridge to reach the summit. Lack of equipment and oxygen compelled the mountaineers to return. The following year, two of the mountaineers, Mallory and Andrew Irnia, made another attempt. A companion, Odell, saw them last about 800 feet below the summit at 12.50 p.m. and around 2 p.m., a blizzard struck which lasted for about two hours. Unable to complete the mission, the two brave mountaineers died.
2. The British did not give up. They improved their equipment, tents, sleeping bags, wireless, etc. Attempts in 1933, 1935 and 1936 again proved to be unsuccessful. But, with each expedition the mountaineers learnt more and more. In 1933, the mountaineers faced fierce barriers and they had to literally struggle for their lives, failing strength brought them back.
3. In 1953, another attempt was made by a team of 14 mountaineers, led by Colonel John Hunt. This team included Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay, a Nepalese Sherpa tribesman. The equipment that they carried was the best and had been tested in the Alps. It included two kinds of oxygen apparatus, nylon weave tents, double-down sleeping bags, special jacketed stoves that would conserve heat. Kapok lined boots - all tested in a blizzard.
4. On 29 May, at 4 a.m., with claws fastened to boots and three pairs of gloves covering their hands, Hillary and Tenzing began the final climb. At 9 a.m., they were at a point from where a 40 foot vertical climb had to be made. Gasping for breath, grappling for support, Hillary led and Tenzing followed. Finally, they were up at the summit at 11.30 a.m. They had completed their mission successfully. And at that moment the highest place on the earth belonged to them! Tenzing made a sacrifice of food to the mountain - Chomolunga - as called in the Tibetan language. It means 'Goddess Mother of the world', while Hillary buried a small crucifix given to him by his leader, Col. John Hunt.

Victory resulted not only due to the efforts of Hillary and Tenzing but also due to all those who had attempted to climb the Everest from 1921 onwards.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, answer the following questions :
- (i) What factors hindered the success of the mountaineers? (2)
  - (ii) List the equipments the successful mountaineers carried. (2)
  - (iii) In 1933, the mountaineers proved to be unsuccessful. Comment. (2)
  - (iv) In which year was Mount Everest first conquered? (1)
  - (v) What did Tenzing and Hillary do once they had conquered Mount Everest? (2)
- (b) Find words from the above passage which mean the same as : (3x1=3)
- (i) hindrance (para 1)
  - (ii) a severe snowstorm (para 3)
  - (iii) to breathe hard/struggle for air (para 4)

Q2. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : (8)

Egotism is the most common fault of mankind. Product of the perfectly natural desire to display oneself, egotism, which is an exaggerated form of self-display, can take such a variety of shapes that it is not always easy to discern. Beyond any shadow of doubt, however, it is a personal defect that ought to be constantly hunted down and scotched, for it impairs the personality, and frustrates all efforts at self-improvement. This is the easily recognizable form of egotism that is evidenced in the person who continually talks of his own affairs. You all must have met the kind of man who is never happy save when recounting his exploits and experiences in life; and whatever subject he may begin discussing you feel quite sure that he will sooner or later arrive at himself. Although such a blatant kind of egotism is apparent to the onlooker, it may not be easy for the egotist himself to recognize his fault. But if he can put on his guard - and it behoves each one of us to examine carefully whether we are entirely immune from this canker - there is always hope of a cure. On the other hand, there is a type, not uncommon, which evidences its egotism by affecting a humility that is certainly not felt, and ostentatiously avoiding the use of the pronoun 'I' in speech and in writing. Such affectation is an infallible sign of egotism, and it is all the more reprehensible because it is deliberately assumed by the person.

Next we come to the individual who holds strong opinion and insists on forcing these opinions on to others. He constantly lays down the law, he knows and he jolly well insists that you shall accept his viewpoints. Here again, there is not a great difficulty in recognizing the aspect of his conduct, although it is not easy to remove such a defect, for a person of this kind is generally possessed of a fiery temper - but again, it can be done and recognition of the defect is the first step towards its cure.

There are two other well known types of egotists - the over-precise person and the officious one. The former offends by his meticulous habits, his insistence on having every thing just right - just right generally connoting the way he personally succeeds in making himself most disliked because of his detestable habit of always showing or telling other people how to do things. He will appeal to duty he will continually find fault with another's way of doing things and point out the immense superiority of his method. In his own eyes, he is always right.



- (a) On the basis of your reading of the given passage make notes on it, using recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. Also suggest a suitable title. (5)
- (b) Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. (3)

### SECTION-B (ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS)

- Q3. You have a three bedroom flat in Dwarka, which you want to let out on rent. Draft an advertisement in about 50 words to be published in "The Times of India", under the classified columns.

OR

Write an informal invitation to your friend Amit/Amita inviting him/her to the Golden Jubilee celebrations of your parent's marriage. (4)

- Q4. You are Shekhar/Swati a resident of Model Town, Chandigarh. You find that garbage is being dumped in the park meant for children to play. The foul smell and the unhygienic condition of the park has made it impossible for the residents to use it. Write a letter to the editor of 'The Tribune' highlighting the problem and its effects in not more than 150 words. Also give some suitable suggestions to improve the situation.

OR

As the proprietor of M/s Bombay Fashions Pvt. Ltd., Kanpur, write a letter of complaint to M/s Indiana Apparels Ltd., International Textile Park, Ahmedabad Road, Surat (Gujarat) complaining about the supply of poor quality of dress materials. (6)

- Q5. You are Rohini/Rehan. Your school KRM Senior Secondary School, Gurgaon organised a workshop on how to conserve energy. A number of CBSE schools participated in it and many eminent personalities addressed the students. Write a report in 150-200 words for your school magazine.

OR

The constant instability in our political system seems to be weakening our country, causing social unrest and financial drain. Write an article in 150-200 words on the topic "Steady Leadership - The Need of the Hour". (10)

### SECTION-C (TEXT BOOKS AND LONG READING TEXT)

- Q6. Read the given lines and answer the questions that follow :

Silence surrounds us. I would have  
Him prodigal, returning to  
His father's house, the home he knew.  
Rather than see him make and move  
His world. I would forgive him too,  
Shaping from sorrow a new love.

- (i) Explain "Silence surrounds us". (1)
- (ii) Why is the father not ready to see his son "make and move his world"? (2)
- (iii) How does the father expect his forgiving attitude to affect his son? (1)

OR

Now she's been dead nearly as many years  
As that girl lived. And of this circumstance  
There is nothing to say at all.  
Its silence silences.

- (i) Who is the 'girl' in this context? (1)
- (ii) What is the 'circumstance' mentioned above? (1)
- (iii) Explain : "Its silence silences". (2)

Q7. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each : (4x3=12)

- (a) How was Wavewalker prepared for the voyage?
- (b) Why did Zahi Hawass state that Carter had marred Tut's mummy?
- (c) How did Andrew Manson save Susan Morgan?
- (d) What was Albert's source of comfort in Munich?

Q8. Man has today started responding to the distress calls of the ailing planet. With the initiation of the Green Revolution and conscientious efforts of various environmental agencies he has today realized the wisdom of shifting from a system based on domination to one based on partnership. In reference to the chapter, 'The Ailing Planet : The Green Movement's Role', write a speech to be delivered in the morning assembly in the school on the topic, 'Need to conserve the planet for future generations' in about 120-150 words. (6)

Q9. Answer any one of the following questions in about 150 words : (6)

What message does the poet wish to convey to his readers through the poem "The Tale of Melon City"?

OR

Describe the disaster that struck the voyagers on 2 January. How did the author and the crew fight against it?

Q10. What happened on 17 August when the ghost made another attempt to frighten the Otis family? (150 words) (6)

Q11. Based on the reactions to the gift of jewels given to Virginia by the ghost, comment on the characters of Mr. Otis and Lord Canterville in about 150 words. (6)