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**HS/XII/A. Sc. Com/Ae/24**

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**ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH**

*Full Marks : 100*

*Time : 3 hours*

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions*

*General Instructions :*

- (i) Write all the answers in the Answer Script.
- (ii) Attempt Part—A (Objective Questions) serially.
- (iii) Attempt all parts of a question together at one place.

( PART : A—OBJECTIVE )

( Marks : 50 )

SECTION—I

( Marks : 30 )

- 1.** Fill in the blanks by choosing the right word from the alternatives given in the brackets (any *five*) :  $1 \times 5 = 5$

- (a) While Major was speaking \_\_\_\_\_ large rats had crept out of their holes and were sitting on their hindquarters, listening to him.

( three / four )

( 2 )

(b) The fields were full of weeds, the buildings wanted roofing, the hedges were neglected, and the animals were \_\_\_\_\_.

( underfed / unfed )

(c) Sethji was \_\_\_\_\_.

( shocked / aghast )

(d) The poor fellow was \_\_\_\_\_ flying on the wings of religion.

( veritably / variably )

(e) He turned to the other Indians for \_\_\_\_\_.

( corroboration / collaboration )

(f) It was an age-old method of accustoming a cat to a \_\_\_\_\_ home.

( new / strange )

(g) Jenny was \_\_\_\_\_ and had lately taken furiously to reading.

( ten / twelve )

(h) Quick felt a sense of \_\_\_\_\_.

( sadness / stuffiness )

( 3 )

2. Write whether the following statements are *True* or *False*

(any *five*) :

1×5=5

- (a) Snowball was a large, rather fierce looking boar.
- (b) Mr. Jones went into Willingdon and did not come back till mid-day on Saturday.
- (c) Rod decided to use persuasion to get the jaguar inside the cage.
- (d) The Indians believed that the jaguar would return by the same trail.
- (e) A farmer owed Sethji ten rupees.
- (f) Sethji used to go out in a palanquin carried by sixteen attendants.
- (g) Jane Martin was the Chairman of the Welfare Committee.
- (h) Kate seized Mr. Quick by the collar as if to strangle him.

3. Fill in the blanks by choosing the right word from the alternatives given in the brackets (any *five*) :

1×5=5

- (a) For my \_\_\_\_\_ soul would drain Earth's utmost bitter, utmost sweet.

( satiate / insatiate )

- (b) Life is a prism of My \_\_\_\_\_,  
And Death the shadow of My face.

( love / light )

( 4 )

(c) And \_\_\_\_\_ born of murmuring sound  
Shall pass into her face.  
( beauty / silence )

(d) While She and I together live  
Here in this \_\_\_\_\_ dell.  
( lovely / happy )

(e) He has his Winter too of pale \_\_\_\_\_.  
( misfeature / misfortune )

(f) On mists in \_\_\_\_\_ to let fair things  
Pass by unheeded as a threshold brook.  
( laziness / idleness )

(g) A \_\_\_\_\_ crowd of little hope.  
( struggling / straggling )

(h) A section claimed its \_\_\_\_\_ to leave the group.  
( liberty / freedom )

4. Write whether the following statements are *True* or *False*  
(any five) : 1×5=5

(a) Sarojini Naidu entreats God to bless her only with  
the good things of life.

(b) God is ready to listen to the prayer of the poetess.

(c) The adult loves to ruminate on youthful thought.

(d) Keats believes that lusty Spring is the time of fanciful  
ideas and imagination.

( 5 )

- (e) Nature will teach Lucy to be stormy as the storm.
- (f) Lucy died when nature had fulfilled her promise.
- (g) The pilgrims passed by three cities where a sage had taught.
- (h) The expectations of the pilgrims were not fulfilled.

5. Answer any *five* of the following questions in 2/3 sentences each. Choose either Group—A or Group—B. 2×5=10

GROUP—A

- (a) Why did the convict say that he was a man once but was transformed into a beast?
- (b) Why did the gendarmes bring the convict to the Bishop's house?
- (c) What crime had the convict committed leading to his imprisonment?
- (d) Why did the Bishop save the convict from the police?
- (e) Before leaving, the convict asks the Bishop to bless him. What brought about this change in him?
- (f) What were the convict's reasons for wanting to go to Paris?
- (g) Explain the phrase "this poor body is the temple of the living God".

( 6 )

GROUP—B

- (a) What did Macbeth see before killing Duncan?
- (b) Why couldn't Banquo sleep?
- (c) What did Lady Macbeth do with the bloody daggers?
- (d) What did Banquo and Macduff decide to do after their king's murder?
- (e) "My hands are of your colour; but  
I shame to wear a heart so white."  
Why did Lady Macbeth say so?
- (f) Why were Malcolm and Donalbain suspected of being their father's murderer?
- (g) Why did Macbeth leave for Scone?

SECTION—II

( Marks : 20 )

6. Answer any *five* of the following questions in  
2/3 sentences each : 2×5=10

- (a) What is the nature of life of the animals according to Old Major?
- (b) What was the first sign of the jaguar's presence?

( 7 )

- (c) Describe the ekka driver's wife.
- (d) How can you tell that Kate and Jenny loved their father?
- (e) "Speak, Master, and reveal to me." Who is the speaker and who is she speaking to? What does she want revealed?
- (f) In which places does Nature plan to educate Lucy?
- (g) In the poem, *Enterprise*, what did the pilgrims "observe and put down"?
- (h) Describe the period of Autumn in the poem, *The Human Seasons*.

7. Rewrite the following sentences as directed : 1×10=10

(a) Only he can do it.

( Replace 'Only' by 'None' )

(b) He was elected leader.

( Change the voice )

(c) The fact is so evident that it requires no proof.

( Replace 'so' by 'too' )

( 8 )

(d) Hard as he worked, he failed the examination.

( Use 'though' )

(e) She would not go home during the holidays.

( Use a question tag )

(f) The Prime Minister's speech was loudly cheered by  
the assembly of hearers.

( Supply a single word for the  
underlined words )

(g) Kalidas is \_\_\_\_\_ Homer of India.

( Insert an appropriate article )

(h) He is blind \_\_\_\_\_ his own faults.

( Use the correct preposition )

(i) The three friends never quarrelled between  
themselves.

( Correct the sentence )

(j) I must have a reply without \_\_\_\_\_ delay.

( Choose the correct word to fill up the blank :  
further / farther )

( 9 )

( PART : B—DESCRIPTIVE )

( Marks : 50 )

8. Answer any *two* of the following questions : 5×2=10

(a) What do you understand by the term 'Animalism'?  
Where did its seed germinate? What were the  
different reactions of the animals to Animalism?  
1+1+3=5

(b) What are the suggestions given by the natives to Rod  
in order to capture the jaguar? Why was birdlime the  
best option?  
2½+2½=5

(c) Describe the meeting between Seth Chetaram and  
the Ekka driver's wife. 5

(d) Why did Robert Quick decide to go to the club? What  
did he plan to do? 2+3=5

9. Answer any *two* of the following questions : 5×2=10

(a) Critically analyze the poem, *The Soul's Prayer*.

(b) Justify the title of the poem, *The Education of Nature*  
with evidence from the text.

(c) What are the traits that best describe the 'Summer'  
and the 'Winter' of a man's life?

(d) How does Ezekiel use imagery and metaphor to  
convey his message in the poem, *Enterprise*?

( 10 )

10. Explain with reference to the context (any *two*). Choose either Group—A or Group—B. 5×2=10

GROUP—A

( **The Bishop's Candlesticks** )

- (a) Well for my part I believe that charity begins at home.
- (b) I'm too old a bird to be caught with chaff.
- (c) I will not stand by and see you robbed.
- (d) You have your soul to lose, my son; it is of more value than my heart.

GROUP—B

( **Macbeth** )

- (a) "Lest our old robes sit easier than our new!"
- (b) O horror ! horror ! horror !  
Tongue nor heart, cannot conceive nor name thee !
- (c) I, go, and it is done; the bell invites me.  
Hear it not, Duncan; for it is a knell  
That summons thee to heaven or to hell.
- (d) What will you do? Let's not consort with them:  
To show an unfelt sorrow is an office  
Which the false man does easily.

- 11.** Write a précis of the following passage and give a suitable title : 8+2=10

Every man, be he rich or poor, is fond of building castles in the air. The poor man dreams of prosperity, the rich man of increasing wealth. Nor need we wonder at this, for all men are forever under the magic spell of hope. As the poet has written : Hope springs eternal in the human breast. In youth it blooms like a flower, delicate and fragrant, shedding over the golden years of childhood the sweetness of its perfume. To the old it offers strength in hours of weariness. But air is an unstable element; castles in the air are worse than houses built on sand. They are frail structures, more delicate than a spider's web.

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

Silence is unnatural to man. He begins life with a cry and ends it in stillness. In the intervals he does all he can to make a noise in the world, and there are a few things of which he stands in more fear than of the absence of noise. Even his conversation is in great measure a desperate attempt to prevent a dreadful silence. If he is introduced to a fellow-mortal, and a number of pauses occur in the conversation he regards himself as a failure, a worthless person, and is full of envy of the emptiest headed chatter-box. He knows that ninety-nine percent of human conversation means no more than the buzzing of a fly, but he longs to join the buzz, and to prove that he is a man and not a wax-work figure. The object of conversation is

not, for the most part, to communicate ideas; it is to keep up the buzzing sound. There are, it must be admitted, different qualities of buzz. Most buzzing fortunately is pleasing to the ear, and some of it is agreeable even to the mind. Very few human beings join in a conversation in the hope of learning anything new. Some of them are content if they are merely allowed to go on making a noise into other people's ears, though they have nothing to tell them except that they have seen two or three new plays or that they had bad food in a Swiss hotel.

*Questions :*

- (a) How does the author prove that silence is unnatural to man? 2
- (b) When does a man consider himself a worthless person? 2
- (c) How does the author characterize human conversation? 2
- (d) What, according to the author, characterize human conversation? 2
- (e) What is the object with which most people join in a conversation? 2

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