

2025
ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH

Total Marks: 80

Time: 3 hours

General instructions:

- i) *Approximately 15 minutes is allotted to read the question paper and revise the answers.*
- ii) *The question paper consists of 23 questions divided into 3 sections A, B, & C.*
- iii) *Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.*
- iv) *General and Internal choice have been provided in some questions.*

N.B: *Check that all pages of the question paper is complete as indicated on the top left side.*

SECTION – A (LITERATURE)
PROSE

1. **Choose the correct answer from the alternatives given:** **4x1=4**
- a. Nehru says that _____ gives a complete and dogmatic answer to the quest of mankind.
 - (i) science
 - (ii) religion
 - (iii) philosophy
 - (iv) history
 - b. According to Bertrand Russell there are several factors that contribute to wisdom. The factor he considers first is _____.
 - (i) a sense of proportion
 - (ii) comprehensiveness
 - (iii) emancipation
 - (iv) awareness of the ends of human life
 - c. Which followers are full of inconvenience and taint business through want of secrecy?
 - (i) Costly followers
 - (ii) Glorious followers
 - (iii) Espials
 - (iv) Ordinary followers
 - d. Who brought an old primer to the class in ‘The Last Lesson’?
 - (i) The former postmaster
 - (ii) The former Mayor
 - (iii) Franz
 - (iv) Old Hauser
2. Why does Nehru see man’s story as being more important than those of other beings? **2**
3. According to Russell, why is comprehensiveness alone not enough to constitute wisdom? **2**

4. How was M. Hamel dressed on the last day of the French lesson? Why was he leaving? 2+1=3

5. a. Explain with reference to the context:
“With every increase of knowledge and skill, wisdom becomes more necessary, for every such increase augments our capacity of realizing our purposes, and therefore augments our capacity for evil, if our purposes are unwise.”

Or 4

b. What does M. Hamel say about the importance of French language?

6. a. *The mind has carried man a long way in his voyage of discovery. As he has learnt to understand Nature more he has utilized it and harnessed it to his own advantage, and thus he has won more power. But sadly he has not always known how to use this new power, and he has often misused it. Science itself has been used by him chiefly to supply him with terrible weapons to kill his brother and destroy the very civilization that he has built up with so much labour.*

- (i) What has led man to the voyage of discoveries? 1
 - (ii) How did science become a bondage of destruction? 1
 - (iii) Give any two reasons on how man misused the new power. 2
 - (iv) Based on the given lines, what can be the synonym of the word ‘civilisation’? 1
- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| a. Advancement | b. Society |
| c. Ambition | d. Excellence |

Or

b. *It is good discretion not to make too much of any man at the first; because one cannot hold out that proportion. To be governed (as we call it) by one is not safe; for it shows softness, and gives a freedom to scandal and disreputation; for those that would not censure or speak ill of a man immediately will talk more boldly of those who are so great with them...*

- (i) What does the speaker mean by ‘good discretion’? (1)
- (ii) An apt antonym for the word ‘hold’ is (1)
 - a. save
 - b. release
 - c. keep
 - d. protect
- (iii) What does the speaker mean by ‘too much of any man at the first’? (1)
- (iv) What kind of freedom to scandal and disreputation is the speaker talking about? (2)

POETRY

7. **Choose the correct answer from the alternatives given:** **2x1=2**
- a. John Donne in his poem ‘Death Be Not Proud’ presents _____ and _____ as the pictures of Death.
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| (i) poppy and charms | (ii) kings and desperate men |
| (iii) rest and sleep | (iv) poison and war |
- b. What are the weavers weaving at the fall of night?
- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (i) Robes of a newborn child | (ii) Dead man’s funeral shroud |
| (iii) Marriage veils of a queen | (iv) Plumes of a peacock |
8. “And all the men and women merely players.” Why are the men and women merely players? **2**
9. What is the significance of the reference to the statue of Neptune by the Duke? **2**
10. **Critically analyse the lines given below in about 60-90 words. Answer any one (1).** **1x4=4**
- a. *And then the justice,
In fair round belly with good capon lined,
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise saws and modern instances;*
- b. *Weavers weaving at break of day,
Why do you weave a garment so gay?...
Blue as the wing of a halcyon wild,
We weave the robes of a newborn child.*
11. a. *Death, be not proud, though some have called thee
Mighty and dreadful, for thou art not so,
For those whom thou think’st thou dost overthrow,
Die not, poor Death, nor yet canst thou kill me.*
- | | |
|---|----------|
| (i) Identify the poetic device used for the word ‘Death’. | 1 |
| (ii) What does the speaker mean by ‘dost overthrow’? | 1 |
| (iii) How does the speaker condemn death? | 2 |
| (iv) Why does the speaker say ‘nor yet canst thou kill me’? | 1 |
- Or**
- b. *Or blush, at least. She thanked men, - good! But thanked
Somehow – I know not how – as if she ranked
My gift of a nine-hundred-years old name
With anybody’s gift. Who’d stoop to blame.*
- | | |
|---|------------|
| (i) Who is ‘she’ referred to here? | (1) |
| (ii) What does ‘My gift of a nine-hundred-years-old name’ mean? | (1) |

- (iii) What do these lines tell us about the character of the Duke? (1)
- (iv) Why is the speaker displeased with the woman being referred to? (2)

DRAMA

- 12. What was the reaction of Uncle James towards Philip at the beginning of the play and why? **2**
- 13. *Well, I think that Philip's four years out there have made him more of a man; He doesn't seem somehow like a boy who can be told what to do.*
 - a. Who is the speaker here? **1**
 - b. What does the speaker mean by the above statements? **2**
- 14. **a.** Give the character sketch of Aunt Emily. **5**
Or
b. Explain the generation gap in society in the context of the conflict between Uncle James and Philip regarding the latter's employment.

FICTION

- 15. Who is Estella's biological mother? **1**
 - 16. Describe the convict in the marshes. **2**
 - 17. What was Pip's great expectation? Why did he want to achieve that? **1+2=3**
 - 18. **a.** *Break their hearts, my pride and hope,
Break their hearts and have no mercy.*
 - (i) Who said this and to whom? **1**
 - (ii) By 'their hearts', whose hearts is the speaker referring to? **1**
 - (iii) Why does the speaker say the given statement? **2****Or**
b. *Yes, Pip, dear boy, I've made a gentleman on you! Its's me wot has done it! I swore that time, sure as ever I earned a guinea, that guinea should go to you. I swear afterwards, sure as ever I spec'lated and got rich, you should get rich. I live rough, that you should live smooth; I worked hard that you should be above work...*
 - (i) "I've made a gentleman on you!" Here who is 'I' referred to? (1)
 - (ii) What does Pip learn from the speaker? (1)
 - (iii) Why does the speaker confess about his earnings to Pip? (2)
19. **a.** Give a character sketch of Pip. **5**
Or
b. Explain the theme of 'social class' from the novel 'Great Expectations'.

SECTION – B (GRAMMAR)

20. **Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions:** **3x1=3**
- a. _____ the rains, we had a great evening.
 - b. Sentilong settled at Kohima _____ Nagaland.
 - c. I have not spoken to her _____ a month.
21. **Insert correct conjunctions:** **3x1=3**
- a. Kevi ran fast, _____ he could not win the race.
 - b. Please wait for me _____ I return.
 - c. It has been long _____ I met her.
22. a. **Correct the following sentences and rewrite them:** **2x1=2**
- (i) I will meet you on the evening.
 - (ii) He knows how to cook but his wife don't.
- b. **Choose the right word given within the brackets to complete these sentences:** **2x1=2**
- (i) Where did you (lose/loose) your bag?
 - (ii) She has been denied (access/excess) to a lawyer.

SECTION – C (READING)

23. **Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**
1. While there is no denying that the world loves a winner, it is important that you recognize the signs of stress in your behavior and be healthy enough to enjoy your success. Stress can strike anytime, in a fashion that may leave you unaware of its presence in your life. While a certain amount of pressure is necessary for performance, it is important to be able to recognize your individual limit. For instance, there are some individuals who accept competition in a healthy fashion. There are others who collapse into weeping wrecks before an exam or on comparing mark sheets and finding their friend has scored better.
2. Stress is a body reaction to any demands or changes in its internal and external environment. Whenever there is a change in the external environment such as temperature, pollutants, humidity working conditions, it leads to stress. In these days of competition when a person makes up his mind to surpass what has been achieved by others, leading to an imbalance between demands and resources, it causes psychological stress. It is a part and parcel of everyday life.
3. Stress has different meaning, depending on the stage of life you are in. The loss of a toy or a reprimand from the parents might create a stress shock in a child. An adolescent who fails an examination may feel as if everything has been lost and life has no further meaning. In an adult, the loss of his or her companion, job or professional failure may appear as if there is nothing more to be achieved.

4. Such signs appear in the attitude and behavior of the individual as muscle tension in various parts of the body, palpitation and high blood pressure, indigestion and hyperactivity. Ultimately the result is self-destructive behavior such as eating and drinking too much, smoking excessively, relying on tranquilisers. There are other signs of stress such as trembling, shaking, nervous, blinking, dryness of throat and mouth and difficulty in swallowing.

5. The professional under stress behaves as if he is a perfectionist. It leads to depression, lethargy and weakness. Periodic mood shifts also indicate the stress status of the students, executives and professionals.

6. In a study sponsored by World Health Organisation and carried out by Harvard School of Public Health, the global burden of diseases and injury indicated that stress diseases and accidents are going to be the major killers in 2020.

- a. Why is it important to recognize the signs of stress in your behavior? **1**
- (i) To recognize your individual limit
 - (ii) To score better marks
 - (iii) To enjoy success
 - (iv) Because stress can strike anytime
- b. What cause psychological stress? **1**
- (i) Changes in external and internal environment
 - (ii) When a person decides to surpass an existing achievement leading to imbalance in demands and resources.
 - (iii) Factors such as temperatures, pollutant, humidity, working condition, etc.
 - (iv) Changes in occupation
- c. What are the signs of stress? **1**
- (i) A person is always in a happy mood
 - (ii) A person becomes a workaholic
 - (iii) A person becomes despondent
 - (iv) A person becomes self-destructive
- d. Select the most suitable title for the above passage. **1**
- (i) Stress: Understanding the impact on your mind and body
 - (ii) Importance of mental health
 - (iii) The stress epidemic
 - (iv) Stress management

- e. Find the antonym of the word 'praise' from paragraph 3. **1**
- f. Complete the sentence with appropriate inference with reference to the following: **1**
Stress can have _____ meaning depending on the person's age.
- g. Mention two consequences of stress. **2**
- h. Find the synonyms of – **1+1=2**
 - (i) Beat (paragraph 2)
 - (ii) Depending (paragraph 4)
