

Time: 2 Hours 45 Minutes

Marks: 40Marks

Section – A: Reading Comprehension**(Questions 1-7): Read the following conversation from ‘The Dear Departed-I’****Mrs. Slater** : (*sharply*) Victoria, Victoria! D'ye hear? Come in, will you?**Mrs. Slater** : I'm amazed at you, Victoria. I really am. Be off now, and change your dress before your Aunt Elizabeth and your Uncle Ben come. It would never do for them to find you in colours with grandfather lying dead, upstairs.**Victoria** : What are they coming for? They haven't been here for ages.**Mrs. Slater** : They're coming to talk over poor grandpa's affairs. Your father sent them a telegram as soon as we found he was dead. (*A noise is heard*)*(Henry Slater, a stooping, heavy man with a drooping moustache, enters. He is wearing a black tailcoat, grey trousers, a black tie and a bowler hat.)***Henry** : I'm wondering if they'll come at all. When you and Elizabeth quarrelled she said she'd never set foot in your house again.**Mrs. Slater** : She'll come fast enough after her share of what our father's left. You know how hard she can be when she likes. Where she gets it from I can't tell.**Henry** : I suppose it's in the family. (pause) Where are my slippers?**Mrs. Slater** : In the kitchen; but you want a new pair, those old ones are nearly worn out. (Nearly breaking down) You don't seem to realize what it's costing me to bear up like I am doing. My heart's fit to break when I see the little trifles that belonged to father lying around, and think he'll never use them again. (Briskly) here! You'd better wear these slippers of my father's now. It's lucky he'd just got a new pair.**Henry** : They'll be very small for me, my dear.**Mrs. Slater** : They'll stretch, won't they? I'm not going to have them wasted. (She has finished laying the table.) Henry, I've been thinking about that bureau of my father's that's in his bedroom. You know I always wanted to have it after he died.**Now, answer the following questions. Each question has four choices. Choose the correct answer and write (A), (B), (C) or (D) in your answer booklet. (4x1=4 marks)****1. In The passage ‘D’ye hear?’ means...**

A. Daddy and you hear

B. Do you hear?

C. Dear boy hear?

D. Deaf or dead hear?

2. What do you mean by 'they' in the expression "What are they coming for?"

- A. Amelia and Slater
- B. Slater and Jordan
- C. Victoria and Abel
- D. Elizabeth and Jordan

3. Where was the bureau?

- A. In the hall
- B. In Abel's bedroom
- C. In Slater's bedroom
- D. In Jordan's drawing room

4. What type of text is this passage?

- A. Biographical sketch
- B. Description
- C. One act play
- D. narration

Answer the following questions in two or three sentences. (3x2=6 marks)

- 5. Who sent a telegram? To whom he sent that?
- 6. Mrs. Slater had been thinking about a furniture item of her father's what was that?
- 7. Do you support the behaviour of Slater's couple? Why or Why not?

(Questions 8-12): Read the following passage.

This morning she bought green 'methi' in the market, choosing the freshest bunch; picked up a white radish, imagined the crunch it would make between her teeth, the sweet sharp taste, then put it aside, thinking it an extravagance, counted her coins out carefully, tied them, a small bundle into her sari at the waist; came home, faced her mother-in-law's dark looks, took the leaves and chopped them, her hands stained yellow from the juice; cut an onion, fine and cooked

the whole thing in the pot
over the stove,
shielding her face from the heat.
The usual words came and beat
their wings against her: the money spent,
curses heaped upon her parents,
who had sent her out
to darken other people's doors.

- Ms. Imtiaz Dharkar

Now, answer the following questions. Each question has four choices. Choose the correct answer and write (A), (B), (C) or (D) in your answer booklet. (3x1=3 marks)

8. Why did the woman crouch on the floor?

- A. because there is no one to support her B. It is a custom in Eastern Countries
C. because of poverty D. In order to protect herself

9. The phrase 'as usual' suggests...

- A. not useful B. repeated usage C. useless D. regular

10. The symbolism of the poem depicts

- A. a low class woman B. a middle class woman
C. a high class woman D. a feminist

Write answers for the given questions in one or two sentences

(2x1=2 marks)

11. What does the phrase 'mother-in-law's dark looks' suggest?

12. "The usual words came and beat.." (line 18). Where did the words come from? Why?

Section – B: Vocabulary & Grammar

(Questions 13-17): Read the passage carefully. Each number indicates some error in the sentence. Edit the passage by making necessary changes in the underlined part of each sentence and write the changes you have made in your answer sheet. (5x1=5 marks)

(13) Father wanted to say something or the bus started moving. (14) I saw my father gradually receding in the distance. (15) I saw that the road we had come by look on a giant motionless rope. (16) Father would use the same road go back to home. (17) Simultaneously our journeys started in two opposite directions, with me seated in the luxurious seat of a bus and Father walk back with weary legs on the pebble-strewn road.

(Questions 18-22): Complete the passage choosing the right word from those given below box. Each blank is numbered. Write the correct word in your answer booklet. (5x ½ =2 ½ marks)

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The story (18) is woven around the love of Sasirekha- Abhimanyu. With Krishna and Balarama (19) difference of opinion over it, their wives too take sides as is inevitable in any family. To introduce the theme , the director (20) a magic box, (an equivalent of a TV screen) which displays whatever is dear to the viewer's heart.

Sasirekha (21) sees Abhimanyu and Balarama gets to see his *sisya*, Duryodhana on it. His wife laps up the sight of an array of jewellery and (22) audience laughed heartily because they knew that someone back home was equally attached to the riches.

(Questions 23-27): Some words in the given passage are underlined. Rewrite the underlined words in your answer booklet as directed (5x ½ =2 ½ marks)

The members of this board were very wise (23) and philosophical men. As they turned their attention to the workhouse, they discovered that it was a regular place of public entertainment (24) for the poorer classes. It was the place where they had breakfast, dinner, tea and supper (25) all the year and free; where it was all play and no work. This was really shocking state of affairs, they were of the opinion that the poorer (26) should be given only two alternatives: Either to starve quickly outside the workhouse, or gradually inside the house. View, they decided that the inmates of the workhouse would be issued (27) three meals of thin gruel a day, with an onion twice a week.

23. Choose an appropriate antonym from the given options.
24. Choose the verb form from the given options.
25. What is the appropriate meaning for the word 'supper'?
26. Choose the correct form of the word.
27. Choose an appropriate synonym from the options.

Section C: Creative Writing (Discourses)

(Question 28): Read the passage given below.

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house-building business to live a more leisurely life with his wife and enjoy his extended family. He would miss the pay check each week, but he wanted to retire. They could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favour. The carpenter agreed. But over time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end a dedicated career.

When the carpenter finished his work, his employer came to inspect the house. Then he handed the front-door key to the carpenter and said, "This is your house... my gift to you."

The carpenter was shocked!

What a shame! If he had only known that he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently.

So it is with us. We build our lives, a day at a time, often putting less than our best into the building. Then, with a shock, we realize we have to live in the house we have built. If we could do it over, we would do it much differently.

But, you cannot go back. You are the carpenter, and every day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. Someone once said, "Life is a do-it-yourself project." Your attitudes, and the choices you make today, help build the "house" you will live in tomorrow. Therefore, build wisely!

Write the story as one act play.

(10 marks)

Or

Write the same story with different ending.

Answers:

- 1-B
- 2-D
- 3-B
- 4-C
5. Mr. Slater sent telegram. He sent to Elizabeth and Jordan.
6. She had been thinking about a bureau. That was her father's and it was in his bedroom.
7. I don't support their behaviour. They were interested in sharing properties but not responsibilities.
8. A
9. D
10. B
11. 'Mother-in-law's dark looks' suggest that she was angry with daughter-in-law that she spent more than needed.
12. The words come from the heart of mother-in-law to beat daughter-in-law.
13. but
14. into
15. looked like
16. back home.
17. walking back
18. itself
19. having
20. uses
21. naturally
22. the
23. foolish
24. entertain
25. night meal
26. poorest
27. served