HS 2ND YEAR
PRE-FINAL EXAMINATION, 2024
ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH

Full Marks: 100   Time: 3 Hours

SECTION A: READING SKILL

Q. 1. Read the following passage carefully   5

In the 16th century, an age of great marine and terrestrial exploration, Ferdinand Magellan led the first expedition to sail around the world. As a young Portuguese noble, he served the king of Portugal, but he became involved in the quagmire of political intrigue at court and lost the king's favor. After he was dismissed from service by the king of Portugal, he offered to serve the future Emperor Charles V of Spain.

A papal decree of 1493 had assigned all land in the New World west of 50 degrees W longitude to Spain and all the land east of that line to Portugal. Magellan offered to prove that the East Indies fell under Spanish authority. On September 20, 1519, Magellan set sail from Spain with five ships. More than a year later, one of these ships was exploring the topography of South America in search of a water route across the continent. This ship sank, but the remaining four ships searched along the southern peninsula of South America. Finally, they found the passage they sought near 50 degrees S latitude. Magellan named this passage the Strait of All Saints, but today it is known as the Strait of Magellan.

One ship deserted while in this passage and returned to Spain, so fewer sailors were privileged to gaze at that first panorama of the Pacific Ocean. Those who remained crossed the meridian now known as the International Date Line in the early spring of 1521 after 98 days on the Pacific Ocean. During those long days at sea, many of Magellan's men died of starvation and disease.

Later, Magellan became involved in an insular conflict in the Philippines and was killed in a tribal battle. Only one ship and 17 sailors under the command of the Basque navigator Elcano survived to complete the westward journey to Spain and thus prove once and for all that the world is round, with no precipice at the edge.

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions:

1. The 16th century was an age of great __ exploration.
    a. cosmic
    b. land
    c. mental
    d. common man
    e. None of the above

2. Magellan lost the favor of the king of Portugal when he became involved in a political _____.
    a. Entanglement
    b. Discussion
    c. Negotiation
    d. Problem
    e. None of the above

3. The Pope divided New World lands between Spain and Portugal according to their location on one side or the other of an imaginary geographical line 50 degrees west of Greenwich that extends in a ____ direction.
    a. North and South
    b. Crosswise
    c. Easterly

d. South east

e. North and west

4. One of Magellan's ships explored the _____ of South America for a passage across the continent.

    a. Coastline

    b. Mountain range

    c. Physical features

    d. Islands

    e. None of the above

5. Four of the ships sought a passage along a southern _____.

    a. Coast

    b. Inland

    c. Body of land with water on three sides

    d. Border

SECTION B: ADVANCED WRITING SKILL
15

Q. 2. You are Tanish/Taniya, Director of Urjaah Classes, an institute that provides coaching to students for appearing in various competitive examinations. Write an advertisement for publication in a newspaper. Word limit: 50 words.   5

Q. 4. Write a letter to the manager of a bank reporting the loss of your passbook and requesting him to issue a duplicate one.   10

SECTION C: GRAMMAR
10

Q. 5. Add question tags: 1x5=5

    a. You like a lot of sugar in the milk, _____.

    b. She does not speak Spanish, _____.

    c. Every dog has its day, _____.

    d. Don't ignore your parents' _____.

    e. There will be a strike tomorrow, _____.

Q. 6. Correct the errors in the sentences and rewrite them: 1x5=5

    a. She sings delightful.

    b. One of the boy was crying.

    c. At last the detective founded the clue.

    d. I has a mobile.

    e. Rita is much younger than me.

    f.

SECTION D: TEXTBOOK

Prose: 40 marks

Q.7. Give answers in full sentences: 1x5=5

    a. Who is Miss Smith?

    b. With which dance form of Kamrupa was Yakuma Natun compared?

    c. Where did Hazarika buy his Rolleiflex camera?

    d. What is vestry?

    e. Who translated the assamese story 'Bina Kutir' into English?

Q. 8. Answer the following questions: 2x5=10

    a. Write a short note on the significance of the title 'A CUP OF TEA'.

b. Make a list of the regular customers visiting Rama's stall

c. How does Philip react towards Miss Smith?

d. Present your impression of the neighborhood where Bina Kutir is located.

e. Name the two places associated with Buddhism as mentioned by Dr. Hazarika.

Q. 9. Answer the following: 3x2=6

a. Who, according to you, is the martyr in the chapter? Give reasons.

b. What was the new vicar's talent?

Q. 10. Answer in detail: 5x2=10

a. Describe how Rama's business was finished.

b. Does the verger regret his inability to read and write? Is it impacting his life in anyway?

Q. 11. Explain with reference to context: 4x2=8

a. And suddenly it seemed to Rosemary such an adventure. It was like something out of a novel by Dostoevsky, this meeting in the dust.

b. He always said there was a great deal too much education in the world for is taste.

POETRY: 30 MARKS

Q. 12. Answer in full sentences: 1x5=5

a. Who did the narrator of 'Ozymandias of Egypt' meet?

b. Name the poet of 'Because I could not stop for Death'.

c. At which moment did the spaker realize that he was in hell?

d. Who is Alexander Selkirk?

e. Where is Innisfree located?

f.

Q. 13. Answer briefly: 2x5=10

a. How do you assess the symbolism of the carriage that death brings for the poet?

b. What are Tippet and Tulle?

c. Define war poetry. Give an example.

d. What is the significance of the 'bee-loud glade'?

e. Mention any two wishes expressed by the peasants to help the mother tolerate the pain.

Q. 14. Answer the following: 3x2=6

a. How does 'Strange Meeting' challenge the traditional view of war as noble and heroic?

b. What poetic device does W.B. Yeats use in the poem? Name three.

Q. 15. Answer in detail. 4x2=8

a. What does the mother's reaction to the scorpion's sting suggest about her character?

b. Bring out the central idea of 'Strange Meeting'.

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