

2024

ENGLISH — HONOURS

Paper : SEC-B-1 and SEC-B-2

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

*Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words
as far as practicable.*

SEC-B-1

(Creative Writing)

Full Marks : 80

1. Answer **any one** of the following questions (within **600** words) : 15
 - (a) Define 'Creativity', pointing out its various dimensions.
 - (b) What does 'inspiration' refer to, in the context of creativity? Explain with appropriate illustrations.

2. Compose a poem in not less than 10 lines on **any one** of the following themes : 20
 - (a) Nature
 - (b) Friendship.

3. Write a short story beginning with : 20
 - (a) Once a gentleman was travelling by train...

Or,

 - (b) Ending with :
He never stole again, and came to be known for his integrity in his later life.

4. Write an article for an English newspaper on **any one** of the following issues and prepare it for publication : 15
 - (a) The rise of fraudulent online financial transactions in recent years.
 - (b) Free and compulsory education for children.

5. Answer **any one** of the following questions (within **300** words) : 10
 - (a) What are the challenges that a creative writer encounters?
 - (b) What is the importance of creative writing in the academic world?

Please Turn Over

SEC-B-2

(Academic Writing and Composition)

Full Marks : 80

1. Create citations for *any five* from the following data following the MLA stylesheet, 8th or 9th edition. Pay attention to formatting, punctuation, capitalization and arrangement. 2×5
 - (a) "An Image of Africa : Racism in Conrad's Heart of Darkness" by Chinua Achebe in Massachusetts Review. 1977. Ed. Robert Kimbrough, London : W. W. Norton and Co., 1988, page 251-261. Heart of Darkness.
 - (b) Theogony and Works and Days, Hesiod, translated by Catherine M. Schlegel and Henry Weinfield. U.S.A 2006.
 - (c) "Faith and the Sense of Truth" authored by Constantin Stanislavski in, *An Actor Prepares*. Translated by Elizabeth Reynolds Hapgood. Harmondsworth : Penguin, 1967.
 - (d) *Brecht on Theatre : The Development of an Aesthetic*. Edited by John Willet. Published in London : Methuen, 1992.
 - (e) *The Love Queen of Malabar : Memoir of a Friendship with Kamala Das* by Merrily Weisbord. Published by McGill – Queen's University Press. Montreal 2010.
 - (f) *Black Skin, White Masks* authored by Frantz Fanon. Translated by Charles Lam Markmann. Published in 2008, by Pluto Press London.
 - (g) *Women Writing In India 600 B.C. To The Present*. Volume II. Edited by Susie Tharu and K. Lalitha. Published by The Feminist Press at The City University of New York, 1993.
 - (h) *Key Concepts in Literary Theory* by Julian Wolfreys, Ruth Robbins and Kenneth Womack. Published by Edinburgh University Press. London. 2002.
2. Attempt a critical appreciation of *any one* of the following verses : 20×1
 - (a) When the parting happens,
There is a strange feeling
That the initial meeting
Never happened-
And the ending
Renders the beginning
So unreal.

(3)

Unreal
Because it is over.
And the parting?
Because
It is forever.

- (b) Oh! Death will find me, long before I tire
Of watching you; and swing me suddenly
Into the shade and loneliness and mire
Of the last land! There, waiting patiently,

One day, I think, I'll feel a cool wind blowing,
See a slow light across the Stygian tide,
And hear the Dead about me stir, unknowing,
And tremble. And I shall know that you have died,

And watch you, a broad-browed and smiling dream,
Pass, light as ever, through the lightless host,
Quietly ponder, start, and sway, and gleam—
Most individual and bewildering ghost!—

And turn, and toss your brown delightful head
Amusedly, among the ancient Dead.

3. Write a substance with a critical note on *any one* of the following passages :

12+8

- (a) The great majority of men and women, in ordinary times, pass through life without ever contemplating or criticising, as a whole, either their own conditions or those of the world at large. They find themselves born into a certain place in society, and they accept what each day brings forth, without any effort of thought beyond what the immediate present requires. Almost as instinctively as the beasts of the field, they seek the satisfaction of the needs of the moment, without much forethought, and without considering that by sufficient effort the whole conditions of their lives could be changed. A certain percentage, guided by personal ambition, make the effort of thought and will which is necessary to place themselves among the more fortunate members of the community; but very few among these are seriously concerned to secure for all the advantages which they seek for themselves. It is only a few rare and exceptional men who have that kind of love toward mankind at large that makes them unable to endure patiently the general mass of evil and suffering, regardless of any relation it may have to their own lives. These few, driven by sympathetic pain, will seek, first in thought and then in action, for some way of escape, some new system of society by which life may become richer, more full of joy and less full of preventable evils than it is at present.

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- (b) The digital revolution provides huge opportunities to improve private and public life, and our environments, from health care to smart cities and global warming. Unfortunately, such opportunities come with significant ethical challenges. In particular, the extensive use of increasingly more data — often personal, if not sensitive (Big Data) — the growing reliance on algorithms to analyze them in order to shape choices and to make decisions (including machine learning, AI, and robotics), and the gradual reduction of human involvement or oversight over many automatic processes, pose pressing questions about fairness, responsibility, and respect of human rights. These ethical challenges can be addressed successfully by fostering the development and application of digital innovations, while ensuring the respect of human rights and the values shaping open, pluralistic, and tolerant information societies.

4. Write an essay on *any one* of the following topics :

30

- (a) Use and abuse of 'artificial intelligence'
 - (b) Advertisement and women empowerment
 - (c) Spoken English, a challenge to regular grammar
 - (d) India emerging as an alternative global power.
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