



ST. LAWRENCE HIGH SCHOOL

A JESUIT CHRISTIAN MINORITY INSTITUTION

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08/08/19



PRE TEST EXAMINATION

Class – XII

Full Marks: 80

Subject: English 'B' Solution

Duration: 3 hours 15 minutes

Date: 02.08.2019

PART – A

(Marks – 20)

1. Choose the correct alternative to complete the following sentences: (1x4=4)
- a) The girl was relieved to know that the journey was a _____ one.
i) happy ii) memorable iii) short iv) adventurous
Ans. The girl was relieved to know that the journey was a _____ one. iii. short
- b) "At night you can sit in front of a log fire and drink a little
i) tea ii) coffee iii) wine iv) brandy
Ans. "At night you can sit in front of a log fire and drink a little iv. brandy
- c) Kalam was convinced that there exists a _____ power.
i) political ii) divine iii) natural iv) mysterious
Ans. Kalam was convinced that there exists a _____ power. ii) divine
- d) After returning from the coconut grove, Kalam's father would have his
i) breakfast ii) snacks iii) lunch iv) dinner
Ans. After returning from the coconut grove, Kalam's father would have his i. breakfast
2. Answer **any four** of the following questions, each in a **single** sentence: (1x4=4)
- a) How did the narrator try to initiate a conversation with the girl?
Ans. The narrator had tried to initiate a conversation with the girl by asking whether she was going all the way to Dehra.
- b) According to the narrator how do girls react to flattery?
Ans. According to the narrator few girls could resist flattery.
- c) What game did the narrator play with his fellow travellers?
Ans. With his fellow –traveller the narrator played the game of pretence of being a sighted person.
- d) Why did the man look puzzled?
Ans. The man had looked puzzled when the narrator had asked him the question whether the girl co-passenger kept her hair long or short.
- e) What, according to Kalam's father, does prayer make possible?
Ans. According to Kalam's father, prayer made possible the communion of the spirit between people.
- f) According to Kalam's father what do human beings do in their loneliness?
Ans. Whenever human beings find themselves alone, they start looking for company.
- g) How would Jainulabdeen start his day?
Ans. Jainulabdeen started his day at 4 a.m by reading the namaz before dawn.
- h) In what has Kalam tried to emulate his father?
Ans. Kalam had tried to emulate his father in his own world of science and technology.
3. Choose the correct alternative to complete the following sentences: (1x4=4)
- a) What will rise from close to the ground?
i) flowers ii) twigs iii) leaves iv) seeds
Ans. ii) Twigs will rise from close to the ground.
- b) The killing of the tree is described as a _____ act.
i) wicked ii) innocent iii) stupid iv) deliberate
Ans. The killing of the tree is described as a _____ act. iv. deliberate
- c) The soldier lies with open
i) mouth ii) eyes iii) ears iv) wound
Ans. The soldier lies with open i. mouth
- d) Whom does the poet request to keep the soldier warm?
i) Sun ii) Earth iii) Nature iv) God
Ans. The poet requested iii) Nature to keep the soldier warm.

4. Answer **any four** of the following questions, each in a **single** sentence: (1x4=4)
- a) What will not kill the tree alone?
Ans. Hacking and chopping will not kill the tree alone.
- b) How is the root of the tree described?
Ans. The root of the tree is described as the strength of the tree.
- c) What scorch and choke the tree after it is extracted?
Ans. The sun and the air scorches and chokes the tree after it is pulled out.
- d) When does the bleeding bark heal?
Ans. The bleeding bark heals with time.
- e) How is the valley illuminated?
Ans. The valley is illuminated by sunlight.
- f) Why does the soldier look pale?
Ans. The soldier looked pale as he was dead.
- g) To what is the soldier's smile compared?
Ans. The soldier's smile is compared to that of an infant.
- h) What is the soldier's pillow made of?
Ans. The soldier's pillow is made of fern.

5. Choose the correct alternative to complete the following sentences: (1x4=4)
- a) Chukubov is a
i) lawyer ii) doctor iii) merchant iv) landowner
Ans. Chukubov is a iv) landowner
- b) Lomov is Chubukov's
i) son ii) friend iii) neighbour iv) enemy
Ans. Lomov is Chubukov's iii) neighbour
- c) When Lomov arrived, Chubukov was surprised by his
i) shyness ii) dress iii) anger iv) politeness
Ans. When Lomov arrived, Chubukov was surprised by his ii) dress
- d) Hearing Lomov's proposal, Chubukov was
i) overjoyed ii) shocked iii) angry iv) amused
Ans. Hearing Lomov's proposal, Chubukov was i) overjoyed

PART - B

(Marks - 60)

1. Answer **any two** of the following questions, each in about **100 words**: (2x6=12)
- a) "Why don't you say this to the people who come to you...? Who says this and to whom? Who comes and why? What is referred to by 'this'?"
Ans. The above line is said by A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to his father Jainulabdeen.
The people who are referred here are those who find themselves in difficulty and are in need of help and advice.
Kalam's father believed that 'Adversity always present opportunities for introspection'. When troubles come, one must try to understand the relevance of their sufferings and problems.
- OR**
- b) Describe the locality where Abdul Kalam lived his childhood?
Ans. Kalam lived in the island town of Rameswaram in their ancestral house which was built in the middle of the 19th century. It was a fairly large pucca house, made of limestone and brick on the Mosque street in Rameswaram. Their locality was predominantly Muslim, but there were quite a lot of Hindu families too who lived amicably with their muslim neighbours. The famous Shiva temple of Rameswaram was about a ten-minute walk from their house.
- c) "Her voice had the sparkle of a mountain stream." Who thought so? Whose voice is referred to here? Why did the voice become so special for the speaker?
Ans. The blind narrator thought so.

The voice of the blind girl who was the narrator's co-passenger and who boarded the train from Rohana is referred here.

The voice became special to the narrator as he had liked the girl's voice and wanted to know more about her. The narrator was depressed due to his blindness. Thinking about the girl and talking to her was a way to spend his time during the train journey. He played the game of pretence of being a sighted person. He was prepared to sit in the train compartment for almost any length of time just to listen to her talking.

OR

- d) "She would forget our brief encounter." Who said this and to whom? What is the brief encounter referred to here? Why did the speaker think so?

Ans. The narrator said this to himself.

The 'brief encounter' referred here is the narrator's association with the blind girl in the train compartment from Rohana to Saharanpur.

The narrator was prepared to sit in the train compartment for almost any length of time to listen to the blind girl talk. The narrator was so much taken in by the girl that he felt that the girl would forget their brief encounter but it would stay with him for the rest of the journey and for some time after.

2. Answer **any two** of the following questions, each in about **100 words**: (2x6=12)

- a) "Not a simple jab of the knife will do it." Where is this line taken from? What does the phrase 'a simple jab of the knife' mean? What can't a simple jab of the knife do and why? What is the poet trying to imply by this?

Ans. The above line has been taken from the poem 'On Killing A Tree' by Gieve Patel.

'A simple job of the knife' refers to the injury to the tree caused by the jabbing of a sharp knife on it with an intention to kill it.

The injury to the tree caused by the knife is mild. It hurts the tree, makes it bleed but it can never kill a tree.

The tree is full of life and has the power to rejuvenate itself. Thus a jab of a knife fails to kill it.

The poet infers that the jab of a knife can never succeed to kill a tree.

OR

- b) "And the strength of the tree exposed." Where does this line occur? What is described as the strength of the tree and how is it described? Why do you feel it is the strength of the tree? How is it exposed?

Ans. The above line occurs in the poem 'On Killing A Tree' by Gieve Patel.

The root of the tree is described as the strength of the tree.

The root resides inside the earth cave. It is white and wet as it remains under the soil. It absorbs the water and nutrients from the soil thus its white and wet. It is the most sensitive part of the tree and it remains hidden for years inside the earth.

When the tree is uprooted only then the root becomes exposed. Only then by scorching and choking, browning and hardening it gets killed.

- c) "The humming insects don't disturb his rest." Where does this line occur? Who rests and where? What put him to rest? How does he rest? Why can't the insects disturb his rest?

Ans. The above quoted line occurs in the poem 'Asleep In The Valley' by Arthur Rimbaud.

The dead soldier rests in the valley.

The injury received from two bullet wounds put him to rest.

He is lying on a thick undergrowth with a pillow of fern under his head and flowers near his feet. He is in his eternal sleep with one hand on his breast and two bullet wounds on his side.

The insects cannot disturb his rest as he is dead.

OR

- d) "His smile...without guile." Where do you find this line? Mention the figure of speech used here. What does the poet want to imply by this line?

Ans. The above line is extracted from the poem 'Asleep In The Valley' by Arthur Rimbaud.

The figure of speech mentioned in the above quoted line is personification.

The poet wants to imply that the smile of the dead soldier lying on the valley was like that of an infant, without guile or malice. The innocence of the young soldier is referred here.

3. Answer **any one** of the following questions, in about **100 words**: (1x6=6)

- a) "...Shan't give him any. What is it my beauty? Who is the speaker? Why does he speak like this? What features of his character are revealed here?"

Ans. The speaker is Chubukov.

Being a typical bourgeoisie we find a duality in his character. His thoughts and his words don't match. He is over cordial but his true intentions are not revealed.

When Lomov had visited Chubukov's house with a request, Chubukov felt that Lomov intended to borrow money from him. He made up his mind not to lend money but outwardly he called Lomov 'my beauty', giving Lomov the wrong impression that he was over eager to help him.

- b) "Now you know, you shouldn't forget all about your neighbours, my darling." Who says this and to whom? Why is the speaker surprised? Comment on the approach of the speaker.

Ans. The above line has been extracted from Anton Chekov's play 'The Proposal'.

Chubukov said this to Lomov.

The speaker Chubukov was surprised because Lomov had visited him in evening dress, gloves etc.

The speaker was overfriendly having a dual personality and very deftly hiding his true intentions. His primary objective was self gain.

- c) "I've come to ask the hand of your daughter in marriage." Who is the speaker? To whom does the speaker say this? What was the reaction of the person spoken to?

Ans. The speaker is Lomov.

The person spoken to is Chubukov.

Chubukov on hearing the marriage proposal was overjoyed. The proposal was so unexpected that Chubukov embraced and kissed Lomov. His sheer joy even made him shed a tear. He was absolutely off balance. Chubukov expressed that it was his continual desire to receive such a proposal from Lomov. He had hoped for it for a long time.

4. a) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each: (1x6=6)

- i) She said, "I did not know anyone else was here." (Change the mode of narration)

Ans. She said that she didn't know that anyone else was there.

- ii) His smile is like an infant's. (Change to negative sentence)

Ans. His smile is not like an adult's.

- iii) Not a simple jab of the knife will do it. (Change to interrogative sentence)

Ans. Will a simple jab of the knife do it?

- iv) This is not a correct approach and should never be followed. (Change to simple sentence)

Ans. Being an incorrect approach this should never be followed.

- v) The couple saw her off. They were probably her parents. (Join into a complex sentence)

Ans. The couple who saw her off were probably her parents.

- vi) I moved easily along the berth. (Use the adjective form of 'easily')

Ans. I moved along the berth with ease.

- b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles and prepositions: (1/2x6=3)

I have endeavoured to understand the fundamental truths revealed to me by my father and feel convinced that there exists a divine power that can lift one up from confusion, misery, melancholy and failure.

- c) Correct the error in the following sentence by replacing the underlined word with one from the options given below: (1x1=1)

In short, you alone can help me, though I don't deserve it, of course and haven't any right to count on your assistant.

[Options: existence, assurance, assistance]

Ans. In short, you alone can help me, though I don't deserve it, of course and haven't any right to count on your assistance.

5. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

How long I remained in the room with the cobra I cannot say. My servant said later that it was only half an hour and no sound has ever been more welcome to me than the sounds I heard as my servant laid the table for dinner. I called him to the bathroom door and told him of my predicament to fetch a lantern and a ladder. After another long wait, I heard voices followed by the scraping of the ladder against the outer wall of the house. When the lantern had been lifted to the window ten feet above the ground, it did not illuminate the room, so I told the man who was holding it to break a pane of glass and pass the lantern through the opening. The opening was too small for the lantern to be passed in upright. However, after it had been relit three times it was finally inserted into the room and feeling that the cobra was behind me, I turned my head and saw it lying at the bottom of the bedroom door two feet away. Leaning forward very slowly, I picked up the heavy bath mat, raised it high and let it fall as the cobra was sliding over the floor towards me. Fortunately, I judged my aim accurately and the mat crashed down on the cobra's neck six inches from its head. As it bit the hood and lashed about into its tail, I took a hasty stride to the veranda down and in a moment was outside among a crowd of men armed with sticks and carrying lanterns, for word had got round the railway quarters that I was having a life and death struggle with a big snake in a locked room.

a) State whether the following statements are true or false. (1x4=4)

- i) The incident narrated in the passage is thrilling.
 Ans. The incident narrated in the passage is thrilling. True
- ii) The speaker was locked inside his bedroom.
 Ans. The speaker was locked inside his bedroom. False
- iii) The narrator's house is located in a railway quarter.
 Ans. The narrator's house is located in a railway quarter. True
- iv) The protagonist asks his servant to bring a ladder.
 Ans. The protagonist asks his servant to bring a ladder. False

b) Answer each of the following questions in **two or three sentences**: (2x3=6)

- i) What were the problems that the speaker faced?
 Ans. The problems which the speaker faced was that he didn't have a lantern or a ladder. He had to wait long for help to arrive. The lantern had been lifted to the window ten feet above the ground, it did not illuminate the room. The opening was too small for the lantern to be passed in upright. It had to be relit three times.
- ii) What did the narrator do with the bath mat?
 Ans. The narrator had picked up the heavy bath mat, raised it high and let it fall as the Cobra which was sliding over the floor towards him. The mat had come crushing down on the Cobra's neck six inches from its head.
- iii) What did the protagonist see outside when he finally escaped?
 Ans. When the protagonist finally managed to escape he saw a crowd of men armed with sticks and carrying lanterns. They had arrived to help the protagonist escape the deadly snake.

6. Answer **any one** of the following:

- a) 'Expression 2019' was recently conducted in your school. Write a report on it for the school magazine **within 150-200 words**. (10)

Ans. Reporting an event : 'Expression 2019'

Title : Expression 2019 (2 Marks)

Content : 8 Marks

Start with an indent

Title

.....

.....Content.....

Date :

Reported By
 Name Surname
 Designation

OR

b) Write a précis of the following passage and add a suitable title:

(10)

A carefully chosen career would make the young mind explore his potential and would make the career rewarding mentally, spiritually and financially. That is what a well chosen career needs to do and shall do if rightly chosen. Job satisfaction to a job seeker makes him devoted to his job. The job becomes enjoyable and agreeable to him. The nation benefits out of his interests if the right man is chosen at the right place. Then the output of the work can create a vibrant society and improve the economy of the country. But such a career needs the help of professional counsellors and parents. Parents can play a vital role by judging the potential and predilection of their child. A successful son/daughter is the pride and joy of parents while a disgruntled, frustrated youth is a liability not only to himself but also to his country. Such a situation needs to be guarded against as a nation needs young people to shine in their life. The choice of a career is, therefore, both challenging and important in the life of a youth. (183 words)

Ans. Précis writing

Title : 2 Marks, Content : 8 marks

Points to remember while writing the précis:

- i. Quoting of lines not permissible
- ii. Word limit is (1/3)rd of 183 words i.e 61 words
- iii. The précis should be written in ones own words.

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