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ENGLISH — Paper II

Time Allowed : $2\frac{1}{2}$ Hours]

[Maximum Marks : 80

- Note :
- i) Answer *all* the questions in the answer-book given separately.
 - ii) Read the questions carefully and try to understand them fully before answering them.
 - iii) Write down the question numbers correctly in the margin in your answer-book.

I. Answer any *two* of the following in about 200 words each : 2 × 10 = 20

1. Discuss the importance of the Trial Scene in the play "The Merchant of Venice".
2. Attempt a character sketch of Portia.
3. Account for Antonio's melancholy in the opening scene of the play. What do his friends comment about it ?
4. Trace the circumstances that led to the signing of the bond.

II. A) Answer in essay form any *one* of the following in about 200 words :

1 × 10 = 10

1. "Word is Power" — Discuss its validity in relation to the short story "The Doctor's Word".
2. "Life is full of numerous meetings and partings. It is a harsh reality of life." How is this portrayed in Rabindranath Tagore's story "The Post Master" ?
3. Relate how the wheel of fortune turned for Hughie in Oscar Wilde's "The Model Millionaire".

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B) Choose the correct responses from the options given below against each question : 5 × 1 = 5

1. When Fateh Chand became furious and desperate, the Sahib was
 - a) ready to undergo the humiliation
 - b) prepared to face facts and ask for forgiveness
 - c) adamant and refused to apologise
 - d) not at all perturbed.
2. Mrs. Clifford said that her son was a soldier
 - a) in Calcutta
 - b) in India House
 - c) in Lambeth
 - d) on the North West Frontier.
3. The little bird opened its wings and flew right away into
 - a) the palace
 - b) September's Hands
 - c) the blue
 - d) the cage.
4. Mr. Field was the assistant cashier at
 - a) Mr. Saddler's shop
 - b) The Tourney's
 - c) Smithson's shop
 - d) St. Blair's.
5. Which of the following statements is *True* ?
 - a) Mr. Sappleton with Mrs. Sappleton's two brothers was engulfed in a treacherous piece of bog
 - b) They went shooting snipe three years ago
 - c) They returned safely after their shooting
 - d) They never went hunting.

III. A) Write an essay on any *one* of the following in about 200 words : 1 × 10 = 10

1. A visit to a place of historic importance.
2. Laughter — the best medicine.
3. The impact of Television on today's youth.

- B) Expand the following outline into a readable story of about 100 words : 5

A hermit planted olive saplings — wanted it to grow quickly — pleaded with God for rain — prayer granted — prayed for sunshine — prayer answered — again implored God for frost to harden the plant — prayer answered — now, plant not able to withstand changes in weather : withered — Moral.

- C) Write a letter on any one of the following : 1 × 10 = 10

(Sign yourself as 'X' and give your address as 'Y'. If you write your Name, Reg. No. or Address etc., your answer paper will not be valued.)

1. Write a letter of complaint to the Editor of a widely read newspaper about poor lighting in your neighbourhood and stray-dog menace as well.
2. Write a letter to your friend inviting him/her to accompany you on a trekking expedition.
3. Imagine yourself to be the co-ordinator of your school book depot and write a letter to a bookseller ordering for some books for your school as the exams are fast approaching.

- IV. A) Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow : 5 × 1 = 5

A recent investigation by scientists at the U.S.A. Geological Survey shows that strange animal behaviour might help predict future earthquakes. Investigators found such occurrences in a ten kilometre radius of the epicentre of a fairly recent quake. Some birds screeched in fear and flew about wildly. Dogs yelped and ran around uncontrollably.

Scientists believe that animals can perceive these environmental changes as early as several days before the actual mishap.

Sometimes crows flap their wings vehemently and caw loudly for long stretches.

Parrots have been known to screech loudly and fly from branch to branch.

In 1976 after observing this kind of animal behaviour, the Chinese were able to predict a devastating earthquake. Although hundreds of thousands of people were killed, the government was able to evacuate millions of other people and thus keep the death toll at a minimum level.

1. What prediction may be made by observing animal behaviour ?
 - a) An impending earthquake
 - b) The number of people who will die
 - c) The ten kilometre radius of the epicentre
 - d) Ecological conditions.

[Turn over

2. How can animals perceive these changes when humans cannot ?
 - a) Animals are smarter than humans
 - b) Animals have certain instincts that humans do not possess
 - c) By running round the house, they can feel the vibrations
 - d) Humans don't know where to look.
3. In this passage the word "evacuate" means
 - a) remove
 - b) destroy
 - c) exile
 - d) emaciate.
4. If scientists can accurately predict earthquakes there will be
 - a) fewer animals going crazy
 - b) a lower death rate
 - c) fewer people evacuated.
 - d) fewer environmental changes.
5. Which of the following is not *True* ?
 - a) Some animals can sense an approaching earthquake
 - b) By observing animal behaviour, scientists perhaps can predict an earthquake
 - c) The Chinese failed to predict an earthquake and save many lives
 - d) All birds and dogs in a ten kilometre radius of the epicentre went wild before the earthquake.

B) Reduce the above passage to one-third of its original length. 5

V. Complete the following dialogue : 5 × 1 = 5

Nurse :

Mr. Das : I want to see Mr. Venkatasamy.

Nurse :

Mr. Das : He has been admitted for a Surgery Ankle Dislocation.

Nurse :

Mr. Das : No, I don't know his room number. But the surgery was this morning at 10.

Nurse :

Mr. Das : No, no, I am his close friend and we are class-mates.

Nurse : Did the family hand you an I.D. card ?

Mr. Das :

Nurse : Please follow me.

VI. Draft a telegram using the details given below : 5

You went to attend a ten-day NCC camp. Towards the end of the camp you were adjudged the Best Cadet. Convey this information to your Headmaster/Headmistress. (Use 'X' and 'Y' for *From* and *To* addresses and sign as 'Z')