

**2023**

**ENGLISH**

**Full Marks : 100**

**Pass Marks : 33**

**Time : Three hours**

*The figures in the right margin indicate full marks for the questions.*

*Answer the questions in your words as far as practicable.*

**SECTION – A**

**(READING)**

1. *Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :*

Many of us believe that 'small' means 'insignificant'. We believe that small actions and choices do not have much impact on our lives. We think that it is only the big things, the big actions and the big decisions that really count. But when we look at the lives of all great people, you will see that they built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions that they performed every day. They transformed their lives through step-by-step or day-by-day approach. They nurtured and nourished their good habits and chipped away their bad habits one by one. It was their small day-to-day decisions that added up to make tremendous difference in the long run. Indeed, in matters of personal growth and character building, there is no such things as an overnight success.

Growth always occurs through a sequential series of stages. There is an organic process to growth. When we look at children growing up, we can see this process at work: the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk and then finally to run. The same is true in the natural world. The soil must first be tilled and then

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the seed must be sown. Next, it must be nurtured with enough water and sunlight and only then will it grow into trees laden with ripe fruits. Gandhi understood this organic process and used this universal law of nature to his benefit. Gandhi grew in small ways, in his day-to-day affairs. He did not wake up one day and find himself to be the "Mahatma". In fact, there was nothing much in his early life that showed signs of greatness. But from his mid-twenties onwards, he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way everyday. Day by day, hour by hour, he risked failure, experimented and learnt mistakes. In small as well as large situations, he took up the responsibility rather than avoiding it.

People have always marvelled at the effortless way in which Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks. He displayed a great deal of self mastery and discipline which was amazing. These things did not come easily to him. Years of practice and disciplined training went into making his success possible. Very few saw his struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties or his inner effort to overcome them. They only saw the victory, but not the struggle.

This is a common factor in the lives of all great people. They exercise their freedoms and choices in small ways that make great impact on their lives and their environment. Each of their small decisions and actions, add up to have a profound impact in the long run. By understanding this principle, we can move forward, with confidence, in the direction of our dreams.

- (a) How, according to the writer, did great people build their character? 2
- (b) What does the writer mean by "organic process to growth"? 2
- (c) What, according to the writer, is the difference in thinking, beliefs and actions between we the ordinary people and great men? 2
- (d) How did Gandhi change himself? 2
- (e) What, according to the writer, should we do to realise our dreams? 2

(f) Find out the words from the passage which mean :

(i) cared for and protected 1

(ii) be filled with wonder or astonishment 1

2. *Read the following passage and give your answer as per directions that follow:*

Getting enough sleep is as important as taking time out to relax. A good night's sleep is essential for preserving the health of your brain and gives you the best chance to meet the coming day with a razor sharp mind. An average person needs about six to eight hour sleep a night — although it is also true that you need slightly less than this as you grow older — another advantage of aging stress and sleep deprivation often feed on each other, since stress tends to make it harder for you to fall asleep at night and sleep deprivation in itself causes stress.

Eventually, too little sleep can dramatically interfere with the performance of your memory — something you obviously want to prevent. If you are not getting enough sleep, try going to 30 to 60 minutes earlier than your normal bed time for a few days. Lie down on the bed and try to relax by dissociating yourself from your daily routine work. This is normally enough to catch up on any sleep deprivation.

If, however, you suffer from insomnia you should seek the advice of a doctor. The chances are it is already affecting your ability to remember and recall information — and if you are struggling to improve your memory scores, this could be at the root of your problem. Prolonged periods of insufficient sleep can deplete your immune system, make you more accident prone and even cause depression — this can also reinforce a more negative outlook on life, which can contribute to your stress burden. The good news is that your memory and mood should automatically improve once you improve your sleep patterns.

Tackle your sleep issues and everything else should fall into place. Because stress management is so essential to maximize your brain power. Even a minute or two of deep breathing can start to work wonders. Meditation is another practice very popular specially in Asia. Today more and more people are adopting it in Western countries also, for its values in developing peace of mind and lowering stress. There is some evidence that regular meditation can have real sleep gain and health benefits particularly in terms of protecting your brain against aging.

- (a) Make notes of the main ideas / points from the passage. (Use recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary). 4
- (b) Develop the main ideas into a summary. 4

### SECTION – B

#### (HIGHER LEVEL WRITING SKILLS)

3. You are Medonna of Class XII, Section A of Excellence Academy. You found in your school playground a costly Parkar pen on the closing day of Annual Sports Meet, 2022. Draft a notice informing the owner to prove and collect it from the Principal. (about 50 words) 3
4. (a) Your State Government has banned the use of plastic bags and some other disposable items. As a staff reporter of a local daily, write a report in about 125 words on how the ban is being ignored and what damage the indiscriminate use of such plastic items is causing to the environment. 8

*Or*

- (b) Write a factual description of a library in about 125 words. 8

5. (a) You find that the tap water is no longer potable. It is dirty and sometimes you find unwanted things. Write a letter to the Executive Engineer, PHED, Government of Manipur complaining of the present unhealthy condition and to sort out the matter. You are Yaima of Samushang, Uripok, Imphal. 8

Or

- (b) You are Joshua, Secretary, History Club of Lord's Academy. The Club members proposed visits to historical places of Delhi and Rajasthan. So, you are organising the Educational Tour but the expenditure will be high. Write a letter to the Director of Education (S), Government of Manipur requesting him giving proper reasons for financial assistance. 8

6. *Make a precis of the following passage in about one-third of its length. Give a suitable title also.* 4

Religion is based, I think, primarily and mainly on fear. It is partly the terror of the unknown and the wish to feel that you have a kind of elder brother who will stand by in all your troubles and disputes. Fear is the basis of the whole thing – fear of the mysterious, fear of defeat, fear of death. Fear is the parent of cruelty and therefore, it is no wonder if cruelty and religion go hand in hand.

It is because fear is at the basis of those two things in this world that we can now be a little to understand things and master them with the help of Science, which has forced its ways step by step against the Christian religion: against the churches, and against the opposition of all the precepts, Science can help us to get over this grave fear in which mankind has lived for so many generations. Science can teach us no longer to invent allies in the sky, but rather to look to our own efforts here below to make this world a fit place to live in.

7. (a) Write an article for your school Magazine on the following topic in about 150 words : 8

Increase of drug trafficking and Manipur

*Or*

- (b) The following is the topic of a debate. Write your arguments either as a supporter or an opposer in proper manner in about 150 words. 8

“School Education should be privatised”

*Or*

- (c) Write an essay on the following topic in about 150 words.

Climate change and its impact (with reference to Manipur) 8

8. (i) The following sentence consists of a word which is underlined. Choose from the alternatives the one which is similar in meaning with the word :

The febleness of mind is the greatest hurdle to success in life. 1

(A) flexibility

(B) infirmity

(C) imbecility

(D) strength

- (ii) Choose the most appropriate one from the alternatives that follow the given sentence and make it complete :

We \_\_\_\_ him with many promises, but nothing would \_\_\_\_ him. 1

(A) attracted : fascinate

(B) insisted : move

(C) tempted : influence

(D) gave : inspire

- (iii) The given sentence is followed by four alternatives A, B, C & D. Choose the one which best expresses the underlined idiom in the sentence :

In the organized society of today no individual or nation can plough a lonely furrow. 1

- (A) remain unaffected  
(B) do without the help of others  
(C) survive in isolation  
(D) remain non-aligned

- (iv) Some parts of the given sentence have been jumbled up and the parts are labelled P, Q, R & S. Choose from the alternatives the right combination which makes the proper order of the sentence :

Walking along the road. 1

- (P) before their enchanted mates  
(Q) he saw  
(R) from the orchard to his residence  
(S) peacocks dancing  
(A) QSPR (B) QSRP (C) RPSQ (D) RQSP

### SECTION – C

#### (PROSE)

9. Answer the following question in about 125 words :

- (a) “You already find it so at school ; and I wish you to be reconciled to your situation as soon and with as little pain as you can”.

How does Hazlitt advise his son to reconcile himself to his new situation?

8

*Or*

(b) "But I have experimental verification", said the Time Traveller. 8

How did the Time Traveller's friends react when he told of the time machine that would travel indifferently in any direction of Space and Time?

10. *Answer the following question in about 60 words :*

(a) Why were the engineers of the Titanic described as "Bravely British"? 4

*Or*

(b) Explain the situation in which Rajen became a victim of HIV? 4

11. *Answer the following question in about 50 words :*

What is Ruskin Bond's view of the great affinity between trees and men? 3

12. *Answer the following questions in about 40 words each :*

(a) What did Abel Merry weather do that could be considered as a lesson to his daughters? 2

(b) "On the bridge there was the customary vigilance".  
What does the writer mean by "customary vigilance"? 2

## SECTION - D

### (POETRY)

13. *Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :*

(a) To the last point of vision, and beyond

Mount, daring warbler !-that love-prompted strain-

Twixt thee and thine a never-failing bond

Thrills not the less the bosom of the plain :

- (i) How high does the poet ask the skylark to rise ? 1
- (ii) Why is the skylark called 'daring warbler'? 1
- (iii) What 'love' is referred to here ? 1
- (iv) What makes 'thee' and 'thine' a never failing bond ? 1

*Or*

(b) I will think it but a fond conceit

It cannot be, that Thou art gone !

Thy vesper- bell hath not yet toll'd :

And thou wert aye a masker bold !

- (i) What is 'it' in the first line referred to ? 1
- (ii) What does "fond conceit" mean ? 1
- (iii) Why does the poet say that Youth cannot be gone ? 1
- (iv) Who is 'a masker bold' ? 1

14. Answer the following questions in about 40 words each :

(a) Why is the nightingale offended and mute ? 2

(b) "the vessel grim and daring"

What does the poet convey here ? 2

(c) Why does the poet- soldier think of his death in the poem 'The Soldier'? 2

(d) "I despised myself and the voices of my  
accursed human education".

Why did the poet despise himself and the voices ? 2

(SUPPLEMENTARY READER)

15. *Answer the following question in about 125 words :*

- (a) Narrate how Najab, in spite of difficulties and danger, crossed the desert and brought Fatimah to India ? 8

*Or*

- (b) How did Charlie lose the Canary, Nancy and win his love, Nancy ? 8

16. *Answer the following question in about 60 words :*

- (a) Why are the Fundamental Rights of the Constitution defined as basic human freedom ? 4

*Or*

- (b) Why did Della feel so miserable on the eve of Christmas ? 4

17. *Answer the following question in about 40 words :*

- What are the circumstances in which HIV is not transmitted ? 2