

2017

**ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH**

**(AECC 1.1 Chg)**

**Full Marks – 50**

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks*

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

**FIRST DAY**

1. Answer **any two** questions : 5×2

(a) What is the significance of the 'fly episode' in Mansfield's short story, 'The Fly'?

(b) How does the author depict Rama in the first half of the short story, 'The Martyr's Corner'?

(c) What does Bronowski mean by "Science and our social habits are out of step"?

(d) "Type of the wise, who soar, but never roam" — Explain the quoted line in the light of Wordsworth's poem 'To the Skylark'.

(e) Give a critical appreciation of Hopkins' 'Pied Beauty'.

2. Answer **any five** questions : 2×5

(a) "There's miles of it" — What does Woodfield describe in the story, 'The Fly'?

(b) "Six years ago, six years .... How quickly time passed!" What was the boss thinking about?

(c) "But such security is unattainable in human life" — Explain the statement from the story, 'The Martyr's Corner'.

(d) "It rent his heart to see their hungry, hollow eyes" — Explain.

(e) What does Bronowski mean by 'war nerves' and 'war on nerves'?

(f) Why does Bronowski call science 'mysterious, powerful'?

(g) Why does Wordsworth call the Skylark 'pilgrim of the sky'?

(h) What does Wordsworth say about the nightingale in 'To the Skylark'?

(i) Why does Hopkins refer to 'finches' wings' in 'Pied Beauty'?

(j) "He fathers-forth" — About whom does the poet say this and what does he mean by it?

[Turn Over]

# FIRST DAY

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3. Answer *any five* questions : 1×5
- (a) What was the profession of Rama in the story 'The Martyr's Corner'?
  - (b) Where did Rama put all his money at the end of the day?
  - (c) What, according to Bronowski, is "the price of science"?
  - (d) How many people were 'killed in Great Britain in six years of war by German bombs, flying bombs and V2's'?
  - (e) "He's a plucky little devil"— Who is being referred to here by the boss in 'The Fly'?
  - (f) Whose photograph was kept on the table in the boss's office and for how many years?
  - (g) What does Wordsworth mean by "a never-failing bond" in 'To the Skylark'?
  - (h) What does Wordsworth mean by the phrase "the wings aspire"?
  - (i) "Glory be to God for dappled things" — What is the meaning of the word "dappled"?
  - (j) "For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim" — What creature is being described here in this line?

4. (a) On behalf of the manager of a bank, write a letter to a customer reminding him of non-submission of the 'Know Your Customer' document in time and requesting him to submit the same at the earliest. 10

*Or*

(b) Write a letter to your brother studying in Mumbai, asking him to attend classes and interact with his teachers on a regular basis. 10

*Or*

(c) Draft an application for the post of a Sales Manager of a multinational concern and attach a CV. 10

*Or*

(d) Attempt a Précis of the following passage : 10

It is to be admitted that over the years we have spent our time and energy on making more and better machines, and we have been immensely successful on that count. There is little doubt that it is a great feat. Such machines act as contrivances to minimise our labour and give us more time and more energy to go for other ventures. That is all very well, but the question is, what are we to do with them? The answer is that we should try to be more civilised. Paradoxical it may sound, but the fact is, what the machines provide us is not civilisation, but aids to civilisation. Being civilised apparently means making and liking beautiful things, thinking freely and living rightly and maintaining justice equally between man and man. Man has a better chance today to do these things than he ever had before: he has more time, more energy, less to fear

# FIRST DAY

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and less to fight against. Let him give this time and energy which his machines have won for him to making more beautiful things, to finding out more and more about the universe, to removing the causes of quarrels between nations, to discovering ways and means to prevent poverty. Then only our civilisation would be the greatest as well as the most lasting one.

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

What inspiration can we draw from something which is static and half dead? That is the question. It is amazing how some people function in a narrow way and shut their minds against everything new, yet choose to talk about culture! Little do they know what culture really is and that what they profess is a rigid, regressive and outdated viewpoint. The practice of shutting one's mind to anything new or innovative is a process of exclusion which means lack of culture. Every process of inclusion indicates growth. Those elements that believe in pushing things away narrow the mind and the nation falls back to a period of static culture. We have to be dynamic or else we cannot survive. It is heartening to see how great changes have come over the world. And this is all a gift of science and technology. The idea has gained ground that being static is synonymous with stagnation, which in turn leads to extinction. One redeeming factor about the present-day world is that it cannot be static even though it wishes to be so. Man has become adventurous and he does not mind taking a few risks even at the expense of a few false steps. Unless anything like impulsiveness or headiness creeps in his activities, he is meant for far greater things. Hence, some backward-looking people cannot damage the development of a world in progress.

(A) Answer the following questions :

- (i) What does the writer of the passage mean by 'a process of exclusion'? 5
- (ii) What is the 'redeeming factor' about the modern world? 5

(B) Answer the following questions as directed : 1×5

- (i) Give the antonym of 'rigid'.
- (ii) Use the noun form of 'dynamic' in a sentence of your own.
- (iii) Find out a word in the passage which means "complete disappearance".
- (iv) Give the adjective form of 'exclusion'.
- (v) 'Every process of inclusion indicates growth.'— Convert it into a complex sentence.

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SECOND DAY

1. Answer *any two* of the following questions : 5×2

- (a) Give an account of the Fly Episode in Katherine Mansfield's story 'The Fly'.
- (b) State the reasons why Rama had to remove his shop from the corner of Market Road in R.K. Narayan's story 'The Martyr's Corner'.
- (c) How does Wordsworth present the skylark in his poem 'To the Skylark'?
- (d) What does G.M. Hopkins mean by the phrase 'Pied Beauty'? What instances of pied beauty does he cite in the poem?
- (e) In 'Science and War', why does Bronowski feel that science has enlarged and distorted the mechanism of war?

2. Answer *any five* of the following questions : 2×5

- (a) "Quite right, quite right!" — Who is the speaker? What was "quite right"?
- (b) What happened when the last blot of ink fell on the soaked blotting paper?
- (c) What items were on display on the tray that Rama set up near Market Road?
- (d) What did the health officer tell Rama? What did he wonder in private?
- (e) What does Hopkins mean by "landscape plotted and pieced"?
- (f) What does Hopkins mean by the phrase "dappled things" in 'Pied Beauty'?
- (g) What does Wordsworth mean by "a privacy of glorious light is thine"?
- (h) What does the poet say about the bird's nest in 'To the Skylark'?

[Turn Over]

## SECOND DAY

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(i) Why does Bronowski say that the causes of war were not created by science?

(j) Mention four weapons used in modern warfare as mentioned by Bronowski in 'Science and War'.

3. Answer *any five* of the following : 1×5

(a) What did the Boss take out from the cupboard below his desk?

(b) What was Woodfield's weekly routine after his retirement?

(c) Why was Rama prevented from setting up his tray in the usual corner, even after matters returned to normal?

(d) What did Rama do after all his savings were exhausted?

(e) Why does Bronowski feel that science has created the "war on nerves"?

(f) How much has the average span of life in England increased in the last hundred years, according to Bronowski?

(g) How does Wordsworth address the skylark in the first line of the poem?

(h) Which bird prefers to stay in "her shady wood" according to Wordsworth?

(i) Give any two examples of 'Pied Beauty' which Hopkins mentions in his poem.

(j) Whom does Hopkins ask the readers to praise in the last line of the poem?

4. Answer *any one* of the following questions : 10×1

(a) Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper complaining about the rise in prices of essential commodities.

(b) Write a letter to a friend about the self-defence training you are undertaking in an institution.

(c) Write a CV with a covering letter, to apply for the post of a reporter in a leading English newspaper.

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

Tagore was a poet, a short story writer, an essayist, a novelist, an educationist and a painter. But above all, he is remembered for his wonderful songs which are unique in every respect. It is also to be noted that he was an early leader in the field of co-operative movement in India. Besides, he also managed the family estates in present Bangladesh, which brought him into close contact with common humanity and increased his interest in human characters, which was reflected in his short stories. He also took part in political activities and led the anti-partition movement in Bengal in 1905. He wrote many songs to inspire the anti-partition movement. M.K. Gandhi was his close friend, and he called Gandhi "Mahatma". Tagore was awarded the Nobel

## SECOND DAY

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Prize for literature in 1913 and he was the first Asian to receive this prize. He was also knighted by the British Government in 1915, but he relinquished this honour as a protest against the barbaric British atrocities in Jalianwallabagh in 1919.

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

The term euthanasia comes from a Greek word, which means 'good death'. It means the practice of ending a life in order to provide relief from pain and suffering.

Euthanasia is categorized into different methods — voluntary, non-voluntary or involuntary and active or passive. We generally use the term 'euthanasia' to refer to active euthanasia. So it is sometimes believed to be criminal homicide. But voluntary and passive euthanasia is widely considered as non-criminal. However, in many countries including India, euthanasia in any form is still not considered as legal.

There is a controversy surrounding euthanasia. Its critics describe it either as suicide or murder. They argue that in order to provide for an 'easy' or 'merciful' death, one ends up committing a 'wrongful' death. The supporters of euthanasia, on the other hand, view any death involving suffering as 'wrongful' and so they advocate the need to legalise euthanasia.

(a) Answer the following questions :

- (i) What are the different categories of euthanasia? 5
- (ii) What is the controversy surrounding euthanasia? 5

(b) Answer the following :

- (i) Give the adjective form of 'controversy'. 1
- (ii) Give the noun form of 'argue'. 1
- (iii) Give the synonym for the word 'voluntary'. 1
- (iv) Give the verb form of 'relief'. 1
- (v) Write a sentence using the word 'advocate' as a noun. 1

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THIRD DAY

1. Answer *any two* questions : 5×2
- (a) Describe briefly what the Boss did with the fly and how it died eventually.
  - (b) 'The restraints of civilised existence were suddenly abandoned'. Describe the scene at Rama's corner after the stabbing took place.
  - (c) What is the relationship between science and war?
  - (d) Comment on Wordsworth's treatment of the bird in 'To the Skylark'.
  - (e) Describe the dappled things for which God is praised.
2. Answer *any five* questions : 2×5
- (a) How is the boss's office described?
  - (b) What did the place around Reggie's grave look like?
  - (c) What equipments did Rama carry to set up his shop? Who works as a waiter in 'The Martyr's Corner'?
  - (d) Describe the food items which Rama sold.
  - (e) What, according to Bronowski, is the 'division in the mind of each of us'?
  - (f) What, according to Bronowski, is the kind of 'comfort' created by science?
  - (g) Why is the song of the skylark called 'that love-prompted strain'?
  - (h) Why is the nightingale different from the skylark?
  - (i) Why is God being actually praised for in 'Pied Beauty'?
  - (j) What does Hopkins suggest by the phrase 'skies of couple colour'?

[Turn Over]

# THIRD DAY

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3. Answer *any five* questions :

1×5

- (a) From where had the Boss procured the whisky?
- (b) How much older was the Boss than Mr. Woodfield?
- (c) At about what time did Rama set up his shop?
- (d) What was the price of coffee and four chappatis in Rama's shop?
- (e) Who is the 'ethereal minstrel' in the poem 'To the Skylark'?
- (f) How is the skylark related to the 'kindred points of Heaven and Home'?
- (g) 'Whatever is fickle, freckled.....' : What does Hopkins mean by 'freckled'?
- (h) Why has the sky been compared to a 'brinded cow'?
- (i) Why is the society of scientists simple?
- (j) What does Bronowski mean by "the surplus above our simple needs"?

4. (a) Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper suggesting how the heritage buildings of Kolkata can be protected.

10

Or

(b) Submit your application with your complete CV for the job of an accountant in a reputed company.

10

Or

(c) Make a précis of the following passage and add a suitable title :

10

Some people seem to imagine that the human mind is like a bottle and that when you have filled it with anything, you pour it out again and it becomes as empty as it was before. That is not the nature of the human mind. The boy who has been crammed has learned a good deal, and that learning has accomplished two objects. In the first place, the boy has exercised the faculties of his mind in being crammed, and in the next place, there remains in his mind a great portion of the knowledge so acquired. Depend upon it that the boy who is crammed successfully, not only may succeed in the examination for which he is preparing but is from that time onwards more intellectual, better informed, and more disposed to push forward the knowledge which by that cramming he has acquired.

5. Read the passage and answer the questions given below :

India is a developing economy. The nature of unemployment sharply differs from the one that prevails in industrially advanced countries. In India there is prevalence of chronic underemployment or disguised unemployment in the rural sector. Agriculture which is the principal occupation in the countryside is, by nature a seasonal occupation. The period of seasonal unemployment varies from state to state depending upon the methods of farming, the condition of the soil, the type of crops grown, the



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possibility of double cropping and many other factors. It has been estimated that for at least five to seven months in a year, a sizeable portion of the population engaged in agriculture remains idle. There is a sharp increase in the working population engaged in agriculture without a corresponding increase in the area of cultivation. This has resulted in a surplus population engaged in agriculture. All seem to be employed but enough work is not available for all. This is disguised unemployment.

(a) Answer the following questions :

- (i) Why does seasonal employment vary from state to state in India?
- (ii) What is disguised unemployment?

Attempt the following questions :

- (i) Give the antonym of 'increase'.
- (ii) Give another word for 'principal'.
- (iii) Give the synonym of 'idle'.
- (iv) Give the noun form of 'educated'.
- (v) Use the word 'surplus' in a sentence of your own.