

Series SMA

Code No. 212

Candidates must write the Code on the title page of the answer-book.

Roll No.

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- Please check that this question paper contains 11 printed pages.
- Code number given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- Please check that this question paper contains 14 questions.
- Please write down the Serial Number of the question before attempting it.
- 15 minutes time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum marks : 100

General Instructions :

- (i) The paper is divided into four sections : A, B, C and D. All the sections are compulsory.
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A -- READING

20

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

12

- 1 Life begins at 40. Mine certainly did. Our son wanted to study at a good university abroad. In the early 1950s, if you had a dream, it remained unfulfilled unless you could afford it. Taking a loan was unthinkable. That was only for life and death matters. We advised our son to keep studying and graduate well from school.
- 2 For the first time in my life I thought of taking up a job. At 40 ? No degrees, no business experience. Not very promising. Besides, I would hate to be cooped up in an office from nine to five. What would I like to do ? I liked meeting people. That suggested travel, tourism, hotels. Although we had lived in Calcutta for years, I had never really seen the city. For the next four Sundays, my husband drove me to all the places in the Guide Book. My inspection tours showed there was good scope for an entrepreneur in city tourism. Why not become a tourist guide ? I was sure I could do a much better job. Then the 'buts' set in. What will people say ? Why is Silloo roaming around in taxis with strange men ? Are the Mehta's so hard up ? Could I take it ?
- 3 It wouldn't require much capital. The only investment was myself. The more knowledge I acquired about the country, the better I would be at my job. I definitely liked the idea because it gave me freedom to be myself. One morning, dressed elegantly, I went to a major travel agent's office. Assuming me to be a customer, I was shown to the Manager's desk. I told him what I had discovered and suggested he engage me as a guide for his tourists. Mr. Roper was astonished but receptive. He said, "Mrs. Mehta, you are the answer to our prayers. Many a time we have to pull out the office staff because we have no one to accompany our VIP tourists." Thus began Mrs. Mehta's Guide Service.

4 Next day I called some of my friends to coffee. I selected four ladies. All were educated, intelligent and comfortable in any society. They were bored with their lives and as I expected, ready to try something new. I warned them that they would earn peanuts but learn a great deal. I prepared a slim guide book about India. My guides should know something about India's history, geography, governance, economy, population, religions, etc ...

5 We spend a large part of the time driving around and talking to the tourists. By the end of the tour we have usually established a good rapport. When I read some of the letters tourists have written to me, I feel a glow in my heart even now. I don't remember their faces but they must have been nice people to take time from their busy lives to say 'thank you' to a guide so far away. Here are some of the nicest letters. "You are the best guide I've ever had in all my lengthy travels." "You contributed more to my understanding of India than several dozens of other people." "The very delicious tea in your home and the stimulating conversation is one of the highlights of our trip." What more can one want.

6 Slowly, the business grew. Suddenly, everyone wanted to be one of Mrs. Mehta's guides. Those who had taken a dim view of my career choice began calling me up !

7 In the meantime, my son got a scholarship to the university.

(a) On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following in your own words :

- | | | |
|-------|--|---|
| (i) | Why was the narrator unable to fulfill her son's dream of studying abroad ? | 2 |
| (ii) | What are the factors that dissuaded the narrator from taking up a job as a tourist guide ? | 2 |
| (iii) | What did the narrator require to start her new business ? | 2 |
| (iv) | Was the narrator a successful businesswoman ? Give reasons for your answer. | 2 |

(b) Pick out words/phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following :

4

- (i) someone who starts a business (para 2)
- (ii) willing to listen or consider suggestions (para 3)
- (iii) understanding and respecting one another (para 5)
- (iv) making one feel active/inspiring (para 5)

2. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

8

The key finding in a recent study that even top schools in major cities in India suffer from the entrenched tendency to impart rote learning may have some shock value to those who believe that private educational institutions place greater emphasis on quality and holistic education. However, for those closely observing the school education scenario, it is a re-affirmation of a bitter truth : schools in our country are, by and large, quite far from seeing education as a process of learning with understanding, acquiring knowledge through self-discovery and conceptualisation; rather, education remains a mere transmission of information in a rigid classroom atmosphere where the emphasis is on memorisation and the objective is to rush through a pre-determined syllabus and prepare children for examinations. While on the scholastic side the WIPRO-Educational Initiatives 'Quality Education Study', which covered 89 schools, shows fall in learning standards among students in classes 4, 6 and 8 over the last five years, it also flags a disturbing deficit of social sensitivity on the part of a sizable section of students. Responses to some questions relating to the education of girls and attitudes towards immigrants, the disabled, and HIV-positive patients, indicated biases that could, over time, grow into prejudices. Exploring the mind of the young at a

stage in this way, which some might consider formativologically challengeable, is a particularly valuable part of this method. It will be a serious mistake to ignore the broad trend that studies misconceptions of early years being carried on to a higher level and the possibility of these children imbibing biases they see in their family atmosphere or social milieu.

Over the years, there have been some serious efforts to put place a national curriculum framework. For instance, the Yash Pal committee's progressive report of 1993, *Learning without Burden*, demonstrated how the curriculum load was a burden on the child and highlighted the defects of the examination system. The National Curriculum Framework 2005 was a game attempt to provide a vision of education as a pursuit of both quality and equity. Yet, despite increasing awareness that learning is not mere information accumulation and that teaching ought to be recast into a facilitation of children's discovery of their own potential and understanding, the emphasis in practice continues to be on textbooks and exams. Conceptual understanding is not encouraged anywhere near enough, and sport, art, debate, and cultural activity are kept at the distant periphery. It is time not merely for fostering greater awareness about the need for holistic education but also to chalk out more imaginative pedagogic means to make education an inclusive and quality-centric epistemic process.

- (a) Make notes on the passage given above in any format using recognizable abbreviations. Give a suitable title to the passage. 5
- (b) Write a summary based on the notes you have made in about 80 words. 3

SECTION B — WRITING

3. Cardio-vascular diseases cause 29% deaths every year making world's no. 1 killer. A few lifestyle changes can bring down the number. On the occasion of 'World Heart Day', Puneet has decided to design a poster to create an awareness in his school about the dangers of modern lifestyle and its effect on the human heart. Draft the poster in 50 to 80 words.

OR

- The recent earthquake in Sikkim has left thousands affected. Gopinath, an NGO, has decided to help the victims by collecting woollens and foodgrains to help them survive the coming winter season. Poonam Singh, the Social Service Wing Co-ordinator of Harsha Public School, has been asked to draft a notice for her school notice board asking students to contribute generously. Draft the notice in 50 to 80 words.
4. Radha read the following news item and decided to write a letter to the editor of a national daily, highlighting the problem of repeated terrorist attacks and what she feels should be done to combat this menace. Write the letter in 125 – 150 words.

Delhi Blast : Yet another wake-up call ?

Delhi Speaks :

- Blaming each other no use — all agencies sit together; take stock of situation
- Attitude of common man one of indifference; as long as families safe — it's business as usual
- terrorism complex phenomena; only talking about war on terror won't work; one has to execute and deliver.

OR

Jose/Josephine has recently bought a laptop from Jumbo Electronics, 2/4 Main Street, Bengaluru. However it has begun to malfunction within a week of buying it. Write a letter in 125 – 150 words to the manager of the shop listing out the problems you are facing, asking him to rectify them.

5. You are Rana/Rajni studying in Class XII. You came across the following piece in a magazine and decided to write an article for your school magazine expressing your views on the subject. Write the article in about 200 words.

10

Beating the Pressure

Coping with stress is not so easy, especially when you are a student. Today's youngsters are a stressed lot. Be it studies, peer pressure, parental demands or societal expectations — they are pressurized from all sides. But youngsters must learn to cope. Plan, learn from examples, communicate and manage their stress ...

OR

The following statistics ring a warning bell about the alarming rise in pollution in the metropolitan cities of India. Taking help from the given data, Raghu/Rati writes a speech to be delivered on World Environment Day in the morning assembly of his/her school on the need to be more aware of the dangers we are causing to our environment and suggesting solutions for the same. Write the speech in about 200 words.

Huge price to pay for so called progress !!!

- 67% air pollution due to vehicular pollution
25% industries / thermal power plants
- Air pollution kills one every hour
- 7500 premature deaths due to air pollution
- 1 out of 10 – 15 people likely to get lung cancer
- 1 out of every 10 school kids suffers from asthma

6. Re-arrange the following sentences sequentially to make complete sense : 5
- (i) This decay results in sharp pain experienced on consumption of cold and hot foods.
 - (ii) Pain can also occur due to several reasons, like receding gums, incorrect brushing techniques, etc.
 - (iii) The pain arises when the innermost layer of our tooth is exposed.
 - (iv) Moreover, surveys conducted have shown that 40% of the country's population suffers from tooth decay.
 - (v) People often do not take tooth decay seriously or are unaware about the possible consequences.
7. Yash / Yana attended a mountaineering camp during the summer break. Later she was interviewed by a reporter of the journal "TREKKER" on her experiences at the camp. Write 5 more exchanges that took place between them. Use the input given below to construct the dialogue. One has been done as an example. 5
- Desire to trek; Group of young people accompanying; facilities; challenges; feelings after the adventure.
- Reporter* : How long did it take you to climb the peak ?
- Yash / Yana* : It took us a fortnight.
8. The following passage has ten errors. Identify the error in each line and write them along with the corrections as shown in the example : 5
- Skipping breakfast, especially amidst primary and eg amidst - among
- (i) secondary school children, affect mental performance
 - (ii) in a classroom, thus lending weight to the old adage that
 - (iii) a healthy breakfast gets you of to a good start for the day.
 - (iv) New research show that eating breakfast benefits the memory.
 - (v) It provides essential nutrient and energy. Children who skip breakfast
 - (vi) does not make up for nutrient and energy deficits later in the day

- (vii) and tend to perform poorly in tests of cognition than those
- (viii) who had their breakfasts. Study conducted by some doctor's
- (ix) in U.K. found that a high blood glucose level after having
- (x) breakfast is one of the key reason for improvement in performance.

9. Fitness First, a wellness centre, has opened in your locality. Ravi/ Radhika is doing a summer job there during his/her vacations. He/She has been asked to construct a set of 10 questions that they are to use as a feedback form for customers. Use the input given below to make the questionnaire. The first question has been done as an example. 5

Location, capacity, decor, cleanliness and hygiene, variety of equipment, quality of trainers, adequate number of trainers, service, time spent with customers.

Have you visited the wellness centre before ?

SECTION D — LITERATURE

35

10. Choose any **one** of the following extracts and answer the questions that follow : 7

And a pain still throbs in the old, old scars
And they pulse again with a keener sting –
I know why he beats his wing !

- (a) Name the poem and the poet. 1
- (b) Why has the word 'old' been repeated twice in the first line ? 2
- (c) Why is the bird bruised and full of scars ? 2
- (d) How does the bird try to cope with its pain ? 2

OR

A poem should be equal to
 Not true
 For all the history of grief
 An empty doorway and a maple leaf
 For love
 The leaning grasses and two lights above the sea
 A poem should not mean but be

- (a) Name the poem and the poet. 1
 - (b) What are the symbols used in the above lines ? What do they convey ? 2
 - (c) Explain the line – ‘A poem should not mean but be’ ? 2
 - (d) According to the poet, what is the purpose of using symbols in a poem ? 2
11. Answer any **two** of the following in about 50 words each : 2×4=8
- (a) Why does the narrator of the poem ‘Ode to Autumn’ describe autumn as a season of ‘mists and mellow fruitfulness’ ?
 - (b) What does the narrator of the poem ‘Curtain’ wish to convey by referring to Hamlet ?
 - (c) Describe the feelings of the son depicted in the poem ‘Of Mothers, Among Other Things’. What does he wish to express by saying ‘my tongue licks bark’ ?
12. Answer any **one** of the following in 80-100 words : 5
- What are the elements used by the writer of the play ‘The Monkey’s Paw’ to create a feeling of horror ?

OR

Who was Perdiccas ? Why was he missing from the camp when Alexander decided to move towards India ? Was he a part of the army when they moved camp and started on their journey to India ? Give reasons for your answer.

13. Answer any **two** of the following in about 50 words each :

2×4=8

- (a) How is a child's world different from that of an adult's as discussed in the essay 'Hum of Insects' ?
- (b) Why did Iona have to unburden himself to his horse ? What does this tell you about the people around him ?
- (c) Give examples from the story 'The Actress' that reveal Lisa to be a sensitive person.

14. Answer any **one** of the following in 100 – 125 words :

7

"Room 10' × 8' highlights the deteriorating family values in society." Explain this statement with reference to the story.

OR

Compare and contrast the characters of Robichon and Quinquart. Do you agree with the judgement of Paris ? Give reasons for your answer.