

2013

XII

2013

Series SKS**Code No. 212**

Roll No.

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

- Please check that this question paper contains **12** 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 **15** 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 :

- All the questions are compulsory.*
- Your answer should be to the point, try to stick to the word limit given.*

SECTION A (Reading)

20

1. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : 12

- 1 The capacity to laugh at oneself, especially when a person pokes fun at you, signals that one is emotionally secure and comfortable in one's skin.
- 2 In 1905, the prolific and ingenious Sigmund Freud, founder of psychoanalysis, published one more of the extraordinary treatises that he seemed to churn out with unnerving regularity *Jokes and*

Their Relation to the Unconscious met with mixed responses ranging from 'Why can't he leave us to just enjoy a good laugh?' to 'What extraordinary insights the man has'. Although many critics have not been overly impressed with this particular book and have implied that it was one of his shallower works, and much of what he said in it has not necessarily stood the test of time, I refer to it today because I recently re-read it to understand why we, as a nation, have collectively fractured our funny bone.

- 3 A couple of things that Freud reiterated about jokes still holds true. One is that the principal motive for joking is the intrinsic human need to experience the pleasure it produces and the other is that the pleasure produced by humour is infectious. And when we recall the good times we have had, the jokes we've laughed at and the ones we cracked that fell flat, only a very dour disposition could suppress a nostalgic chuckle.
- 4 However in the age of political correctness that we now seem to live in we seem to have become dourer and sourer when it comes to enjoying a good laugh, unless one's a member of a Laughing Club that meets every morning and laughs uproariously at nothing in particular, just to get oneself into a cheerful mood until the neighbours complain. There are, of course, different kinds of jokes, and several classifications of jokes compiled by serious students of the subject do exist in literature but I will desist from regaling you with descriptions of these.
- 5 However, all jokes, whether spoken, written or drawn, smutty or clean, earthy or ethereal, silly or clever, have three major elements: transgression of boundaries of social propriety, a high degree of exaggeration, and topicality. It is the individual's tolerance of boundary transgressions and the motive of the jokester – pleasure or malice – that will determine whether the funny bone is tickled or the upper lip is curled. Sometimes, we do so to relieve the pressures of

our day-to-day life, or to escape from difficult situations, or because we find something funny despite ourselves, or because someone else says things we would love to say but are afraid to. Some of us laugh easier than others. Some of us are seen as being funnier than others. And we may even end up believing that we have a great sense of humour.

- 6 But in truth, not many of us do for, if we are honest enough to admit it, we're likely to fail the acid test to determine whether or not we have a sense of humour: the capacity to laugh at ourselves especially when someone pokes fun at us. It doesn't take us long to take umbrage at something being said, even if light-heartedly, about us or something that we think of as ours. The problem is that we often take ourselves and our beliefs too seriously. As a result our boundaries are a little too tight and even the mildest of transgressions (which is an essential part of humour) is perceived as a violation. But when the motive is only to cause and experience pleasure, humour can be physiologically very desirable.
- 7 Dozens of muscles are exercised when one laughs heartily. Endorphins get activated in the brain promoting a sense of joy and well-being. Also, many scientific studies have pointed to the healing effect of laughing. And when one is able to laugh at oneself, there is an added psychological benefit too. For this signals to others and one's own 'self' that one is emotionally secure and comfortable under one's skin.
- 8 I do agree that, sometimes, attempts at humour can be mean, even malicious. However, if we join in the laughter because we genuinely have the capacity to laugh at ourselves, the malafide intent of the jokester gets immediately negated, for such people want to hurt you, not entertain you. This reduces the likelihood of repetition, for the more they do it, the more they lose credibility with their audience, which is why good-humoured people rarely remain the butt of

malicious humour. But, when our funny bone gets fractured, life can become hell for everyone around us, for humourlessness is as infectious as a good laugh.

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

- (i) What are the two principal motives for jokes ? 2
- (ii) Why does the author feel that we have become dourer and sourer ? 2
- (iii) Most of us fail the test to determine whether or not we have a sense of humour. Explain this with reference to the above context. 2
- (iv) Laughter is the best medicine. Elucidate. 2

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

- (i) belonging to something as part of its nature (para 3)
- (ii) delicate, airy, spirit like (para 5)
- (iii) the act of breaking a law, rule (para 5)
- (iv) intending harm, spiteful (para 8)

2. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : 8

Nursing a heartbreak ? Suffering from boredom ? Turn to the stage. So you thought theatre was just theatre, meant to be a visual treat ? If insiders are to be believed, when curtains go up, the stage has more to offer than just powerhouse performances. It can soothe your nerves, cure boredom, insomnia, anxiety and even help nurse broken hearts. Theatre is not just a recreation, it is therapeutic.

Namrata Manot, who took a six-month class under theatre personality Ramanjit Kaur, has been able to shed inhibitions and explore her potential. "It helped me open up about my problems. Theatre makes you honest with your emotions. It has made me calmer," she says. Namrata was part of a motley group of homemakers and professionals from 'Udaan', the all-women theatre wing of an NGO, who presented its first play, 'Baawre Mann Ke Sapne'.

Theatre as therapy is a codified subject with a special set of instructions. It involves games and motivational exercises. Actor Seema Biswas, who took a class on acting with the group, says, "Theatre involves the give and take of a lot of positive energy. For example, a woman who was a brilliant student in school before settling down as a homemaker, gets an outlet through such exercises and opens up." The exercises, which help break the ice, involves kiddie games such as screaming out loud, catch and catch, pig in the middle, ball and grid games and two deep circles, among others. These are followed by interactive sessions that help lay bare the after-feelings. Together, the exercises bring about a catharsis leading to self-understanding.

Ramanjit, who runs a theatre training institute, says theatre therapy is taught as a subject in the West. "Theatre helps in de-stressing, relation building, time management and personality enhancement. It also teaches team management and inculcates leadership qualities, discipline and communication skills," she says.

Theatre personalities say the journey of discovering one's self is more important than the end product. A weekly class for a year can get one full benefits. "In a corporate set-up, often a subordinate might feel reluctant to express himself in presence of his seniors. In such a situation, a theatre game like trust exercise can be of great help," suggests Tathagata Chowdhury of 'Theatrecean'.

Therapist Shuktara Lal, who has done an MA in performance studies from New York University, says acting in any theatre production enables a person to become confident and articulate. "But theatre therapy relies on specific performance exercises devised by a therapist that addresses client needs and works towards bringing greater stability in his life. However, no one can guarantee the end result."

Thespian Alyque Padamsee adds that theatre gives one a sense of freedom. "Theatre games help in sorting out mental disturbances as participants let themselves out. In your mind, you become someone else. It unshackles the right side of the brain (the creative side) from the left or the logical side," he says.

The stage is set. Go play.

Source : The Times of India

- (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 in about 80 words. 3

SECTION B (Writing)

25

3. AIDS is a serious life threatening disease with no known cure till now. Design a poster for creating awareness amongst the masses about the gravity of the disease and how it can be prevented. You are Gaurav/Geetika. Draft the poster in 50 to 80 words.

5

OR

You are Bijoy, Secretary of the Art Club of your school. Write out a notice in 50 – 80 words to be put up on the school notice board requesting students to participate in the Annual Art Exhibition, which is to take place in a month's time.

4. You are Smriti/Sumit, Open School Coordinator of your school. Write a letter of complaint to the Director, Open School, Meerut complaining about the non-availability of the study material and the stress it has caused to the students. (80 – 100 words)

10

OR

You are Payal/Puneet. You come across the following advertisement in a national daily. You consider yourself suitable and eligible for the post. Write an application in response to the advertisement :

Applications are invited for the post of a Trained Graduate Teacher in a reputed school of Delhi. The candidate must have at least 5 years' experience of teaching in middle school. The applicant must have a pleasant personality. He/She should be creative and innovative. Attractive salary. Interested candidates should apply to The Principal, JPN International School, Indirapuram, New Delhi within 10 days with detailed resume.

5. Hurricane Sandy in USA has caused havoc. Write an article for your school magazine expressing your views on the effects of deforestation and emphasizing the need to preserve and maintain natural balance. Write the article in about 200 words using the given input. You are Amrish/Kamini of Himalayan Public School, Shimla.

10

CYCLONE SANDY COWERS USA : Environmentalists Attribute It to Ecological Imbalance

Weather patterns lopsided Deforestation Industrialization Imbalance raises issue of sustainability of life future generations may not experience nature

OR

In today's world when technology is advancing at a fast pace, online social networking has become very popular and quick form of networking with one's friends and relatives. But it has its own disadvantages too. Prepare a speech in about 200 words on 'The Advantages and Disadvantages of Online Social Networking' to be delivered in the morning assembly of your school. You are Gaurav/Kritika of Lotus Valley Senior Secondary School, Ambala.

6. Rearrange the following sentences sequentially to make complete sense :

5

- (a) They are healthy mood enhancers.
- (b) Hobbies help to reduce stress.
- (c) Hobbies can become as refreshing as sleep.
- (d) However, since one chooses one's hobbies according to one's own temperament and aptitude, they give great pleasure.
- (e) Therefore they help boost self-image and one forgets the tensions and failures that one faces in life.

7. Mohammad Riyaz Ahmed is the recipient of the Sanjay Chopra Bravery Award for saving the life of a ten-year-old girl named Shazia from being run over by a train and in the process lost one of his arms and the wrist of another. You are Rishi/Rishika. As a part of your Social Service Club activity, you spoke to him about his experience. Write 5 more exchanges that took place between Ahmed and you. Use the input given below to construct the dialogue. One has been done as an example.

5

Family reasons for helping injuries sustained feelings during and after the incident future aspirations.

Rishi / Rishika :

How does it feel to get this award ?

Mohammad Riyaz Ahmed : It is satisfying and I am proud for it.

8. The following passage has not been edited. It has ten errors. Identify the errors in each indicated line and write them along with the correction as shown in the example.

5

Parents struggles hard throughout

struggles struggle

their life to made the lives of

(a) _____

there children comfortable in providing

(b) _____

them to all the amenities of life

(c) _____

so that they might build up their careers

(d) _____

when the parents grow old. They needed

(e) _____

love and care to their children. The children

(f) _____

should not neglect their parents in old age.

They should not got lost in materialism

(g) _____

and individualistic to the extent of

(h) _____

neglecting these who had sacrificed

(i) _____

everything for their comfort. In

old age proper care and respect should

(j) _____

make the parents feel comfortable and satisfied.

9. You are Mohan/Monica, a reporter for India Today, who recently met the honourable Minister of State for Renewable Energy. Frame 10 interview questions based on the given input :

5

Inspiration early life entry into politics no. of years in politics
experience as a minister life as a politician problems faced
awareness drives need for renewable energy future of renewable
energy.... .

SECTION D (Literature)

35

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

6

A poem should be palpable and mute
As a globed fruit,
Dumb as old medallions to the thumb,
Silent as the sleeve-worn stone
Of casement ledges where the moss has grown.

- (a) Name the poem and the poet. 1
- (b) How can a poem be 'palpable' ? 2
- (c) A poem in the words of the poet should be 'mute'. Which other words in the above lines convey the same meaning ? 1
- (d) Identify any one literary device in the first two lines. What quality/characteristic of a poem does the poet wish to convey through it ? 1
- (e) Explain the last line of the stanza. 1

OR

I know why the caged bird beats his wing
Till its blood is red on the cruel bars,
For he must fly back to his perch and cling
When he fain would be on the bough a swing;
And a pain still throbs in the old, old scars

- (a) Name the poem and the poet. 1
- (b) What does the caged bird wish for ? What does he do to fulfil his desire ? 2
- (c) Why have the bars been described as cruel ? 1
- (d) Which line in the above stanza is repeated in the poem ? Why does the poet use repetition ? 2

11. Answer any **two** of the following questions in 80 – 100 words each : 4×2=8

- (a) Describe the life of the narrator in the poem, 'Sally in the Alley'.
- (b) How has separation affected the two lovers in the poem, 'Curtain' ?
- (c) What is the irony in the lives of the survivors of war as described in the poem, 'Survivors' ?

12. Answer **one** of the following questions in 80 – 100 words : 5

Alexander often talks of the 'devil' in him ? What does the devil refer to ?
What effect does it have on his life ?

OR

Does Mr. White believe in the monkey's paw ? Justify your answer with examples from the story, 'The Monkey's Paw'.

13. Answer any **two** of the following questions in about 80 words : 3×2=6

- (a) What effect did the death of Doronin have on the life of Lisa in the story, 'Actress' ?
- (b) Describe the beggar in the story, 'What's your dream'. Why did he stop to advise the narrator ?
- (c) 'Education is that which remains if one has forgotten everything he learned in school.' Explain the statement.

14. Answer **one** of the following questions in about 100 words : 5

After the house is restored to the Maliks by the Government, the daughter-in-law is very enthusiastic and starts planning to shift. This evokes mixed reaction and thoughts in the mind of the senior Mrs. Malik. She writes a page in the diary recording her feelings. Write the diary entry.

OR

"In the long run, the sword will always be conquered by the spirit." Asoka's claim to greatness rests on this truth. Justify this statement with reference to the lesson, 'Asoka'.

15. Answer the following question in about 100 words :

5

Grief is a poignant tale of the growing insensitivity of humans towards their fellow human beings, especially the old and aggrieved. How relevant is this theme in modern times ? Justify with relevant examples.