

Series : ZYW1X



SET – 4



Q.P. Code

28

Roll No.

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

ENGLISH (Elective)

Time allowed : 3 hours



Maximum Marks : 80

- Please check that this question paper contains **23** printed pages.
- Please check that this question paper contains **13** questions.
- Q.P. Code 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 write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book at the given place before attempting it.**
- 15 minute 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 candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

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General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

- (i) *This Question Paper contains **13** questions. **All** questions are **compulsory**.*
- (ii) *This question paper has **three** sections – Section – A, B & C. Section – A : **Reading**, Section – B : **Grammar and Writing**, Section – C : **Literature and Fiction**.*
- (iii) *Separate instructions are given with each part and question, wherever necessary.*
- (iv) *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

SECTION – A

READING

(20 Marks)

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :
 - (1) Rekha is a very dear friend and our families have known each other for generations. Since I hadn't seen her for a long time, I decided to visit her. I picked up the phone and dialled her number.

Her father, Rao, who is like a father to me, picked up the phone. 'Hello ?'
 - (2) We exchanged greetings and I said, 'Uncle, I am coming to your house for lunch tomorrow.'
 - (3) Her father, a botanist, was very happy. 'Please do. Tomorrow is a Sunday and we can relax a little bit. Don't run off quickly !' he replied.



- (4) In a city such as Bengaluru, going from Jayanagar to Malleswaram on a weekday usually takes a minimum of two hours. Travelling on a Sunday is much easier because it takes only half the time. When I reached her home the next day, I could smell that lunch was almost ready, and yet the aromas wafting in from the kitchen indicated to me that the day's menu would somehow be different. None of the typical Karnataka dishes were laid out on the table, and the cuisine was, in fact, quite bland for my taste,
- (5) 'I may wear a simple sari but I am a foodie, Rekha ! Is the lunch specially arranged so that I don't come again ?' I joked, as one can with an old friend who will not misunderstand and take offence.
- (6) Rekha's father laughed heartily. 'Well,' he sighed. 'Today is my mother's *shraddha* or death anniversary. On this day, we always prepare a meal from indigenous vegetables.'
- (7) 'What do you mean by indigenous ?' I was perplexed. 'Aren't all the vegetables available in our country indigenous, except perhaps ones like cauliflower, cabbage and potato ?'
- (8) I knew that Rekha's father was a botanist, but it was then that I realized that he was passionate about this subject. Though I had known him for a really long time, I had never seen this facet of his personality before. Probably, he had been too busy during his working years while we had been too busy playing and fooling around.

'Is this really true, Uncle ?' I asked.

He nodded.



(9) Since I come from a farmer's family on my paternal side, I have always had a fascination for vegetables. I knew vaguely about the things we could grow, the seasons to grow them in and the ones that we could not grow, including the reasons why.

(10) However, whenever I broached the subject with friends interested in agriculture and farming, I never really received a proper answer. Finally, here was a man more than willing to share his knowledge with me ! I couldn't resist.

'Do you think that all the vegetables we have around us are from India ? Or are they from other countries ?' he asked out of the blue.

'Of course, Uncle ! India has the largest population of vegetarians. So, in time, we have learnt to make different kinds of vegetarian dishes'.

(11) 'I agree with your assessment of everything, except that most vegetables are grown in India. The truth is that the majority of our vegetables are not ours at all. They have come from different countries.'

I stared at him in disbelief.

He pointed to a tomato plant – a creeper with multiple fruits, tied to a firm bamboo stick. 'Look at this ! Is this an Indian vegetable ?'

I thought of tomato soup, tomato rasam, tomato bhat (tomato-flavoured rice), sandwiches and chutney.

'Of course it is. We use it every single day. It is an integral part of Indian cuisine.'



- (12) Uncle smiled. ‘Well, the tomato did not originate in India, but in Mexico. It made its way to Europe in 1554. Since nobody ate tomatoes over there at the time, they became ornamental plants because of the beautiful deep-red colour. At some point, there was a belief in Europe that it was good for curing infertility, while some thought that it was poisonous. The contradicting perspectives made it difficult for this fruit to be incorporated into their diet for a long time. Its lack of value must have been a real push for initiating Spain’s tomato festival, where millions of tomatoes are used every year to this day.’

‘Wow !’ I thought. Out loud, I said, ‘Uncle, tell me about an essential item that is used in our cooking but isn’t ours.’

‘Come on, try and guess. We simply cannot cook without this particular vegetable.’

- (13) I closed my eyes and thought of ‘sambar’, that essential – south Indian dish and the ‘mutter paneer’ typical of the north Indian cuisine. It took me a while to think of a common ingredient – the chilli. I brushed my thought away. ‘No, there’s no way that the ‘chilli’ can be an imported vegetable. There can be no Indian food without it,’ I thought.

Uncle looked at me. ‘You are right. It is the chilli !’ he exclaimed almost as if he had read my mind.

‘How did you know ?’

- (14) ‘Because people never fail to be shocked when they think of the possibility that chilli could be from another country. I can see it clearly on their faces when the wheels turn inside their head.’

My disbelief was obvious. How could we cook without chillies ? It is as important as salt in Indian cooking.



- (15) ‘There are many stories and multiple theories about chillies,’ Uncle said. ‘When Vasco da Gama came to India, he came from Portugal via Brazil and brought many seeds with him. Later, Marco Polo and the British came to India, Thus, many more plant seeds arrived. The truth is that what we call “indigenous” isn’t really ours. Think of chillies, capsicum, corn, groundnut, cashews, beans, potato, papaya, pineapple, custard apple, guava and sapodilla – they are all from South America. Over time, we indigenized them and learnt how to cook them. Some say that the chilli came from the country of the same name, while some others say it came from Mexico. According to a theory, black pepper was the ingredient traditionally used in India to make our food hot and spicy. Some scholars believe that the sole goal of the East India Company was to acquire a monopoly over India’s pepper trade, which later ended in India’s colonization. But when we began using chillies, we found that it tasted better than black pepper.’

(Source : Three Thousand Stitches – Sudha Murty)

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any
TWELVE out of the fifteen questions given below : 12 × 1 = 12**

- I. The speaker decided to visit Rekha for various reasons, EXCEPT
- (A) Rekha is a very dear friend of the speaker.
 - (B) Their families have known each other for generations.
 - (C) The speaker had not seen her for a long time.
 - (D) The cuisine was quite spicy.
- II. Choose a word from paragraph 4 of the passage which is an apt synonym for ‘fragrant scent’.



- III. By stating 'the cuisine was quite bland for my taste' the author means
- (A) she was a foodie
 - (B) the food did not have the spices the author was accustomed to
 - (C) she could smell that the lunch was almost ready.
 - (D) the aromas wafting in from the kitchen was very appealing.
- IV. The author could joke about the cuisine and its bland taste because _____.
- (A) it was Rao's mother's shradh.
 - (B) the author was a foodie.
 - (C) the menu consisted of a meal made from indigenous vegetables.
 - (D) the speaker was confident that Rekha will not take offence.
- V. Horticulturists and Botanists both work with plants, but the difference is that the horticulturists grow and cultivate them, while Botanists _____ the plants.
- (A) study
 - (B) prune
 - (C) produce
 - (D) store
- VI. English is a foreign language for Indians while Sanskrit is an _____ language.
- (A) expatriate
 - (B) adventitious
 - (C) indigenous
 - (D) a scholarly
- VII. Rekha's father was a botanist and he was passionate about his subject. The author highlights a contrast between Rekha's father during his working years and the author in her younger days.
- Based on the above statements, complete the following sentence :
- 'He had been too busy during his working years while the author had been _____.'



- VIII. The expression 'out of the blue' has been used to mean
- (A) casually
 - (B) unexpectedly
 - (C) jokingly
 - (D) unwittingly
- IX. Though the tomato made its way to Europe in 1554, it did not find a place in European cuisine for a long time. Why ?
- X. How did Spain's tomato festival come into being ?
- XI. How did seeds of the present day indigenous vegetables and fruits find their way to India ?
- XII. What is the narrator's view on the importance of chillies in indigenous cuisine ?
- XIII. Sapodilla is an indigenized fruit which came from _____.
- XIV. East India company would not have colonized India if not for _____.
- (A) Indian textiles
 - (B) Sapodilla
 - (C) Black pepper
 - (D) Chillies
- XV. Which of the following is NOT TRUE about the author ?
- (A) She had a fascination for vegetables.
 - (B) She had a vague idea about what to grow and when to grow them.
 - (C) Her friends interested in farming supported her.
 - (D) She also knew the ones that she couldn't grow and the reasons why.



2. Read the following poem, 'Mother to Son' by Langston Hughes :

Mother to Son

Well, son, I'll tell you :
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
It's had tacks in it,
And splinters,
And boards torn up,
And places with no carpet on the floor –
Bare.
But all the time
I've been a-climbin' on,
And reachin' landin's,
And turnin' corners,
And sometimes goin' in the dark
Where there ain't been no light.
So boy, don't you turn back.
Don't you set down on the steps
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.
Don't you fall now —
For I've still goin', honey,
I've still climbin',
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

Langston Hughes



Based on your understanding of the poem, answer any **FOUR** out of the five questions given below :

$4 \times 1 = 4$

- I. The first line of the poem and title make it clear that the speaker is a mother, talking to her son and she wants him to
- (A) be a fighter to be successful.
 - (B) pay close attention to her words.
 - (C) climb the crystal clear stair.
 - (D) go in the dark without turning back.
- II. The poet uses an extended metaphor of rough staircase to emphasize _____ of the oppressed.
- (A) tolerance and compassion
 - (B) poverty and exploitation
 - (C) perseverance and hardships
 - (D) opportunities and privileges
- III. Mother to Son is a dramatic _____.
- (A) monologue
 - (B) dialogue
 - (C) debate
 - (D) acclamation
- IV. The speaker is passionately critical of American racism and offers her wisdom to her son to help him thrive in the society. Comment.
- V. Pick out a word from the poem which means 'long slender, sharp pieces'.



3. Read the passage given below :

- (1) Those parts of a plant that are below the ground are particularly vulnerable to attack. Bacteria, fungi, nematodes, larvae, snails, mice – the list of threats is long. Not surprisingly, plants such as onion and garlic, which store food for future growth in underground bulbs, have equipped themselves with defensive chemicals of every conceivable hue and variety.
- (2) A recent inventory of the molecular army of garlic, using very sensitive analytical tools of chemistry has shown that there are over 2,300 chemicals in its cloves. Most of them are there for reasons that we do not comprehend yet. Barely 70 of these figures are in today's nutrition charts. These include manganese, selenium and vitamin B6 : three human nutrients that garlic is particularly rich in.
- (3) Many of the other constituents – thiosulfinates, lectins, saponins and flavonoids, to name a few – can play protective roles in humans too. It is not surprising that humans have a long history of incorporating garlic into their diets. Sumerian clay tablets from 4000 years ago have recipes that use garlic. And beyond nutritive value, garlic has been used for its medicinal properties in many cultures.



- (4) Beneficial effects include the regulation of blood pressure and positive trends in cardiovascular health. Another constituent, the flavonoid luteolin, inhibits the formation and aggregation of amyloid beta plaques, which are major hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease.

(Source : The Hindu, Sunday, September 1, 2024)

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any **FOUR** out of the five questions given below : **4 × 1 = 4**

- I. Fill in the blank by selecting an appropriate option :

‘To escape predators plants arm themselves with many defence mechanisms like _____.’

- (A) positive geotropism (B) deep roots
(C) underground bulbs (D) pungent flavour

- II. State TRUE or FALSE :

‘Amyloid beta plaques play a central role in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease.’

- III. We can prove that garlic was used in recipes 4000 years ago from the study of _____.

- IV. State a point in support of the given opinion

“There are over 2,300 chemicals in garlic.”

- V. Name the predators that attack plant parts below the ground.



SECTION – B

GRAMMAR AND WRITING

(28 Marks)

4. Transform the following sentences according to the instructions given against each one. Attempt any **EIGHT** out of the ten questions that follow :

8 × 1 = 8

I. I finished my lunch. I started feeling hungry again.

(Begin : No sooner)

II. It was so noisy that we could not hear the speaker.

(Begin : It was too)

III. The sign said, “Do not bring cell phones to school or they will be confiscated.

(Begin : The sign stated)

IV. Unless we wake up early, we shall miss the train.

(Begin : If)

V. Shooting and gymnastics were all we cared about.

(Begin : All)

VI. The entire class contributed some books for charity.

(Rewrite using : Contribution)

VII. There was so much dust that the games could not be conducted.

(Begin : It was too)



VIII. You never reach on time to attend the morning lecture.

(Begin : Never)

IX. Will you lend me your dress for the party ? Rita asked her classmate.

(Begin : Rita asked her classmate)

X. The Math paper was too challenging for the students to do well.

(Their Math paper was so)

5. Attempt any **THREE** of the following four questions in **120-150** words each :

3 × 5 = 15

I. Globalisation, urbanization, and search for better livelihood have led to an increase of migrant labourers. Consider reasons and support your answer by expressing your views and observations, on 'the plight of migrant workers in India in **120 – 150** words. You are Janvi/Janus.

II. With all the technological advancements, space tourism might attract interest towards an already growing space sector, since future tourists will have an opportunity to explore the planets. Scientists will do more in-depth research and development. Write an essay on 'Space Tourism' and its impact on the future in **120 – 150** words.



- III. India's transportation is undergoing a significant transformation with high speed railway projects and superfast expressways. It is set to connect the economies of different corners of the country fostering unprecedented growth and development along its route.

Write an article expressing your views and observations on the "Impact of improved transportation infrastructure in the country today" in **120 – 150** words.

- IV. Chatbots like chat GPT are some of the beneficial ways to use artificial intelligence in education. It can translate language and write creative text. It can radically change how students interact with their teachers and the way they learn. Explore the ethical responsibilities of its users and the impact of chat GPT on the student community.

6. Read the questions given below and attempt **ANY ONE** of the following : **1 × 5 = 5**

- I. Imagine you are a member of the school editorial team. Write a report on a recently held one-act play inter-school competition in your school.
- II. Physical fitness amongst youth is a cause of concern today. They are adopting unhealthy habits and diets in order to lose weight. Write an article drawing attention to the issue. Suggest alternative ways to maintain a healthy body and lifestyle.



SECTION – C

LITERATURE AND FICTION

(32 Marks)

7. (I) Attempt any **ONE** of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below :

(A) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

6 × 1 = 6

Vienna was still an old imperial city, whose geographical position between the two irreconcilable worlds left behind by the Second World War had turned it into a paradise of black marketeering and international espionage. I could not have imagined a more suitable spot for my fugitive compatriot, who still ate in the students' tavern on the corner only out of loyalty to her origins, since she had more than enough money to buy meals for all her table companions. She never told her real name, and we always knew her by the Germanic tongue twister that we Latin American students in Vienna invented for her : Frau Frieda. I had just been introduced to her when I committed the happy impertinence of asking how she had come to be in a world so distant and different from the windy cliffs of Quindio, and she answered with a devastating :

'I sell my dreams'.



- I. How did the Second World War affect the city of Vienna ?
- II. Who is being referred to as a “fugitive compatriot” ?
- III. Why does the author call her ‘a fugitive’ ?
- IV. How did she come to be known as ‘Frau Frieda’ ?
- V. What do you infer from the statement ‘a world, so distant and different from the windy cliffs of Quindio’ ?
- VI. Identify a word from the given passage which means ‘a fellow citizen’.

OR

- (B) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

Few people passed. The man out of the last house passed on his way home; she heard his footsteps clacking along the concrete pavement and afterwards crunching on the cinder path before the new red houses. One time there used to be a field there in which they used to play every evening with other people’s children. Then a man from Belfast bought the field and built houses in it – not like their little brown houses but bright brick



houses with shining roofs. The children of the avenue used to play together in that field – the Devines, the Waters, the Dunns, little Keogh the cripple, she and her brothers and sisters. Ernest, however, never played : he was too grown up. Her father used often to hunt them in and out of the field with his blackthorn stick; but usually little Keogh used to keep nix* and call out when he saw her father coming. Still they seemed to have been rather happy then. Her father was not so bad then; and besides, her mother was alive. That was a long time ago; she and her brothers and sisters were all grown up; her mother was dead. Tizzie Dunn was dead, too, and the Waters had gone back to England. Everything changes. Now she was going to go away like the others, to leave her home.

- I. How did the man from Belfast transform the field, where the children of the avenue used to play together ?
- II. Why did Ernest never play with the children in the field ?
- III. 'To keep nix' means _____.
- IV. Why did Keogh keep nix ?



V. “Still they seemed to have been happy then”. What does the author mean by it ?

VI. Why did Eveline decide to go away like others ?

(II) Attempt ANY **ONE** of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below :

(A) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow :

6 × 1 = 6

One day you look up and see one of them eyeless, silent, a zigzag sky showing

through the knocked-out clockwork, after a riot, a peace-march time bomb, or a precise act

Of nature in a night of lightnings.

I. What does the poet mean when he says “..... and one of them eyeless, silent” ?

II. What does ‘a zigzag sky’ represent ?

III. What is the theme of the above extract ?

IV. Explain the phrase ‘a peace-march time bomb’.



V. Why is the act of nature in the poem expressed as 'precise' ?

VI. Knocked-out clockwork symbolises _____

- (A) War and superstition
- (B) Riot and hatred
- (C) Monotheism and polytheism
- (D) Rational reasoning

OR

(B) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

But now they drift on the still water,

Mysterious, beautiful;

Among what rushes will they build,

By what lake's edge or pool

Delight men's eyes when I awake some day

To find they have flown away ?

I. What elements of beauty and mystery of swans are being highlighted by the poet ?

II. Do the swans represent permanence or immortality ?



- III. Identify two visual images from the extract.
- IV. How does the poet presents nature's changeless pattern through swans ?
- V. Justify the title of the poem 'The Wild Swans of Coole'.
- VI. What is the theme of the poem ?

8. Answer ANY **ONE** of the following questions in **30-40** words : $1 \times 2 = 2$

- I. What message is conveyed in the line 'Two shadows went along with us' in 'A Lecture Upon The Shadow' ?
- II. What are the reasons that motivate D.H. Lawrence to be a novelist ?

9. Answer ANY **ONE** of the following **two** questions in **50-60** words : $1 \times 3 = 3$

- I. How did the author solve the mystery of the mark on the wall at the end of the lesson ?
- II. Using the imagery of 'Hindered flags', how does Emily Dickinson portray the beauty of a 'Summer Day' ?



10. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in **120-150** words : $1 \times 5 = 5$

- I. Chandalika is a tragedy of self-consciousness over-reaching its limit.
Elucidate.
- II. How did a rattling film projector sow the seeds of film making in Bergman ? Why does he say cinematography is based on deception of human eye ?

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in **30-40** words : $1 \times 2 = 2$

- I. How does Raja describe the daily routine of the self exiled Swamiji in the hut at the foot of Mempi Hills ?
- II. Describe Margayya when he emerged from the little room after 40 days of prayer and penance.

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in **50-60** words : $1 \times 3 = 3$

- I. Swamiji described God in his own terms as the creator, and the great spirit pervading every creature. Later Swamiji questioned Raja, about his understanding of God. What was his reply ?
- II. What were the endless complications that were produced for Margayya because of the loss of the little red-bound account book ?



13. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in **120-150** words : **1 × 5 = 5**

I. Do you think the man-animal conflict in R.K. Narayan's 'Tiger for Malgudi' could have been averted ? Elucidate.

II. Even though Margayya had his flaws and weaknesses, he had certain traits and values that were dear to him, that can't be ignored. Do you agree ? Elaborate.

