

P-I (1+1+1) H & G/20 (Arts, Sc. & Comm.) (N)

2020

ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH

(Honours & General)

(For Arts, Science and Commerce Candidates)

[New Syllabus]

Full Marks : 50

Time : Two Hours

1. Answer any *two* of the following questions in about hundred (100) words each :
4×2=8
 - (a) What does the poet imagine about the possible theme(s) of the song sung by the solitary reaper ?
 - (b) Briefly consider Tennyson's 'Break, Break, Break' as an elegiac poem.
 - (c) Comment in brief on Emily Dickinson's attitude to death in her poem "I heard a Fly buzz - when I died".
 - (d) What features do the poet, lover and birdwatcher share? Answer with reference to Nissim Ezekiel's poem "Poet, Lover, Birdwatcher".
 - (e) Comment on the immediate historical context of the poem "A Far Cry from Africa".

2. Answer any *two* of the following questions in about hundred (100) words each :
4×2=8
 - (a) Critically comment on the relationship between Jagan and Mali in the novel *The Vendor of Sweets* by R. K. Narayan.
 - (b) Briefly comment on Mali's business proposition in *The Vendor of Sweets*.
 - (c) Comment on R. K. Narayan's treatment of the theme of marriage in *The Vendor of Sweets*.

- (d) Draw a character sketch of Grace from *The Vendor of Sweets* by R. K. Narayan.
- (e) When, in *The Vendor of Sweets*, does Jagan start cooking and why?
3. Answer any *two* of the following questions in about hundred (100) words each :
4×2=8
- (a) Briefly comment on the significance of the title “Letter to a Daughter”.
- (b) Briefly consider “Letter to a Daughter” as a working-class play.
- (c) What is the significance of the opening section of the play “Letter to a Daughter” ?
- (d) Consider “Letter to a Daughter” as a specimen of a one-woman play.
- (e) Briefly comment on the portrayal of Marike in Arnold Wesker’s play “Letter to a Daughter”.
4. Write an essay on any *one* of the following topics within three hundred (300) words :
10×1=10
- (a) Festivals of Bengal
- (b) Literature and Environment
- (c) Gender Violence
- (d) Pandemic and the New Normal
- (e) Reality Show and its Negative Impact
5. (a) Write a report on the Gender Sensitisation workshop organised by your college. 6
- Or;*
- (b) Write a report on a rail accident that occurred recently in your state. 6
6. Read the following passage and answer the following questions : 1×10=10
- Winter Solstice Jupiter-Saturn great conjunction: People across India and the rest of the world witnessed a rare celestial phenomenon, the great conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter. The celestial event made Jupiter and Saturn appear as

one bright star in the night sky. The event is visible to the naked eye as well, though those with a telescope would have enjoyed a better view.

This is the first time in over 400 years that the two appeared so close to each other, though regular conjunctions take place every 20 years. This is the closest these two planets have been recorded since 1623. That Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn took place more than a decade after the telescope was invented. Before 1623, the Great Conjunction took place in 1226.

The “great conjunction” is popularly referred to as the “Christmas Star.” On December 21, almost all the viewers across the world were able to see the two gas giants very close to each other, while they were still hundreds of millions of miles apart in space.

(Published in *The Indian Express* on December 22, 2020)

- (a) What was the rare celestial phenomenon?
 - (b) How could one enjoy the event?
 - (c) How frequent do these kind of ‘conjunctions’ take place?
 - (d) In which year did this great event happen last time?
 - (e) What is this event popularly known as?
 - (f) Write the antonym of ‘Terrestrial’ from the above passage.
 - (g) Write the single word for ‘a period of ten years’ from the above passage.
 - (h) Write the synonym of ‘co-existence’ from the above passage.
 - (i) Name the two planets referred to in the above passage.
 - (j) Where was the present article published and when?
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