ENGLISH CORE

Time allowed : 3 hours   *Maximum marks : 80*

General Instructions :

(i)   *This paper is divided into two parts: A and B. All questions are compulsory.*

(ii) *Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.*

(iii) *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

PART - A (40 Marks)

READING (20 Marks)

1.   Read the passage given below.

(1) The fact that everybody enjoys a good mystery explains why magicians are such popular entertainers. We all know that a magician does not really depend on 'magic' to perform his tricks, but on his ability to act at great speed. However, this does not prevent us from enjoying watching a magician produce rabbits from a hat, swallow countless eggs, or saw his wife in two.

(2) Probably the greatest magician of all time was Harry Houdini who died in 1926. His real name was Ehrich Weiss, but he adopted the name 'Houdini' after reading a book which influenced him greatly. This had been written by a famous magician called Robert-Houdini who had mastered the art of escaping. He could free himself from the tightest knots or the most complicated locks in seconds. Although no one really knows how he did this, there is no doubt that he had made a close study of every type of lock ever invented. He would carry a small steel needle-like tool strapped to his leg and he used this in place of a key.

(3) Houdini once asked the Chicago police to lock him in prison. They bound him in chains and locked him up, but he freed himself in an instant. The police accused him of having used a tool and locked him up again. This time he wore no clothes and there were chains round his neck, waist, wrists and legs; but he again escaped in a few minutes. Houdini had probably hidden his 'needle' in a wax-like substance and dropped it on the floor in the passage. As he went past, he stepped on it so that it stuck to the bottom of his foot. His most famous escape, however, was altogether astonishing. He was heavily chained up and enclosed in an empty wooden chest the lid of which was nailed down. The chest was dropped into the sea in New York harbour. In one minute Houdini had swum to the surface. When the chest was brought up, it was opened and the chains were found inside.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven given below.   **(1 × 10 = 10)**

(i)   The reason why magicians are popular entertainers is because :

   (a) People believe in real magic   (b) People enjoy a good mystery

   (c) People like to learn magic   (d) Magic shows are free

(ii) To perform his tricks, a magician depends on _____ .

   (a) magic   (b) audience   (c) his/her assistant   (d) great speed

(iii) Ehrich Weiss changed his name to Houdini because_____ .
  (a) he watched the Harry Potter movies
  (b) he was greatly influenced by Robert Houdini's book
  (c) Houdini was his father
  (d) it seemed a magical name

(iv) Ehrich Weiss' main attraction as a magician was :
  (a) producing rabbit from a hat   (b) sawing people into two
  (c) escaping from the most complicated locks   (d) Making things disappear

(v) The Chicago police locked Houdini again because
  (a) They found him cheating
  (b) They accused him of using a tool for breaking free instantly
  (c) they wanted to lock him for real
  (d) they wanted to break his spirit

(vi) Houdini's greatest escape was :
  (a) breaking free from the Chicago police chains
  (b) breaking free from wooden chest
  (c) breaking free from a wooden chest,chained and dropped in the sea
  (d) breaking free from a small room

(vii) Houdini took _____ minute to swim to the surface of the sea after being dropped.
  (a) 2   (b) 1   (c) 3   (d) 1 and half

(viii) According to the author Houdini holds the title for the greatest _____ of all time.
  (a) soldier   (b) lock picker   (c) magician   (d) swimmer

(ix) Which of these statements is false?
  (a) Houdini's real name is Ehrich Weiss.
  (b) Houdini died in 1926.
  (c) The chest Houdini was chained in was dropped into the Caribbean sea.
  (d) Houdini took 1 minute to swim up the surface.

(x) Choose an appropriate title of the passage.
  (a) Ehrich Weiss and his great escape   (b) Houdini the greatest magician of all time
  (c) Houdini and the Chicago police   (d) Houdini and the art of finding locks

(xi) Which word in passage 2 has the same meaning as intricate
  (a) Mastered   (b) Tightest   (c) Invented   (d) Complicated

2. **Read the passage given below.**
(1) The first man to jump out of an aeroplane when travelling at a speed greater than sound was Arthur Ray Hawkins, one of the most outstanding United States navy pilots. Jumps of this sort had long been regarded as impossible.

(2) During an air show over Mississippi in 1954, Hawkins was flying an entirely new type of plane. At 40,000 feet, the nose of the plane dipped sharply. No matter how hard he tried, Hawkins could not pull it out of the dive and it gathered such speed that it was soon travelling faster than sound. Strapped in his seat, and hanging upside-down, the pilot could not reach the button which would destroy the top of the plane. Near him however, there was another button which was to be used only in times of very great danger. Hawkins pressed it. There was an explosion and his seat — which shielded him to some extent — burst through the glass shell above his head.

(3) While still half conscious, Hawkins tried to pull the ribbon which would open his parachute. It was fortunate that he failed in his attempt, for at such a rate of speed, the parachute would have been torn to pieces. As he sped towards the earth, he realised that the breathing-tube which supplied him with air had also been torn away. Rapidly losing consciousness because of the lack of air, he knew that he had to open the parachute —

otherwise he might not get another chance to do so. At about 29,000 feet, the parachute opened and Hawkins pulled a handle which freed him from the pilot seat. While swinging through the air in slow motion, he began to tremble with cold and everything went grey: he was not getting enough air! Just then, he remembered a rule for breathing at great heights. He took short, sharp breaths and so forced air into his bloodstream. This kept him alive until, at 10,000 feet, he could breathe without difficulty. Soon afterwards, he landed safely in a field of cotton. His plane crashed into woods nearby but luckily no one was hurt.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven that follow.

$$(1 \times 10 = 10)$$

(i) Arthur Ray Hawkins was a _____ by profession.
(a) engineer
(b) astronaut
(c) sportsman
(d) navy pilot

(ii) "Jumps of this sort had long been regarded as impossible." What kind of jump is the author implying?
(a) Jump off a speeding car
(b) Jump off an aeroplane travelling at a speed greater than sound
(c) jump off an aeroplane travelling at a normal speed
(d) Jump off a speeding truck

(iii) "Hawkins could not pull it out of the dive" Why?
(a) Because he was scared
(b) Because he was busy flying the plane
(c) Because at 40,000 feet, the nose of the plane dipped sharply
(d) Because his planed started accelerate upwards

(iv) When Hawkins pressed the button to be used only in times of grave danger _____.
(a) his parachute opened
(b) an explosion happened and his seat burst through the glass shell above his head
(c) the plane started shaking
(d) the plane crashed right into a tree

(v) The author said the parachute not opening on its first attempt as fortunate, why?
(a) Because the parachute would have been torn to pieces at the rate he was falling.
(b) Because the parachute was already torn.
(c) Because he couldn't breathe.
(d) Because the pilot had two parachutes.

(vi) Hawkins was losing consciousness while falling because
(a) he was nervous
(b) lack of air in the high altitude
(c) he hit his head before the crash
(d) the wind was too much for him to breathe

(vii) Hawkins parachute opened at _____ ft.
(a) 40,000
(b) 10,000
(c) 20,000
(d) 30,000

(viii) The rule for breathing at great height is
(a) Take deep long breaths
(b) Take short sharp breaths
(c) To breathe through the mouth
(d) None of these

(ix) Choose an appropriate title for the given passage.
(a) Arthur Hawkins lesson to fly
(b) The pilot and his jump
(c) Arthur Hawkins and his impossible dare
(d) The close shave

(x) Synonym of danger is
(a) scream
(b) deranged
(c) peril
(d) hoax

(xi) Antonym of rapidly is
(a) quickly
(b) slowly
(c) softly
(d) rarely

3. **Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY TWO of the three given by answering the questions that follow.** (4 + 4 = 8)

A. To do anything else would mean to dare. And daring is not part of his growing up. When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh I am cheered. "I want to be a motor mechanic", he repeats: He will go to a garage and learn. But the garage is a long way from his home. "I will walk", he insists, "Do you also dream of flying a plane ?" He is suddenly silent. "No," he says staring at the ground.

(i) What was Mukesh supposed to be if not his dream to be a motor mechanic?
   (a) Rag picker   (b) Pilot   (c) Bangle maker   (d) Doctor

(ii) "I will walk" this line shows Mukesh's
   (a) helplessness   (b) determination   (c) shyness   (d) disappointment

(iii) With whom was the speaker sharing his dream ?
   (a) Mukesh   (b) Anees   (c) Saheb   (d) A garage owner

(iv) Did Mukesh Sound unreasonable?
   (a) Yes   (b) No   (c) May be   (d) Can't be determined

B. Then, from one thing to another, M. Hamel went on to talk of the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world the clearest, the most logical; that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison. Then he opened a grammar and read us our lesson. I was amazed to see how well I understood it. All he said seemed so easy, so easy !

(i) What did M. Hamel say about the French language ?
   (a) That it was the most difficult language.
   (b) That it was the easiest to learn.
   (c) That it was the most beautiful and clearest language.
   (d) That it was the most useless language.

(ii) What advise did M. Hamel give about the language ?
   (a) To learn new language   (b) To abandon their language
   (c) To guard it and never forget it   (d) To find the similarities between other languages

(iii) What was different about the lesson of the day?
   (a) Franz seem to be distracted   (b) Franz found the lesson boring
   (c) Franz found the lesson short   (d) Franz understood his lessons very easily

(iv) "Key to their prison" means
   (a) The mother tongue will lead them to prison
   (b) Language can be used a weapon to fight against oppression
   (c) Language needs to prisoned
   (d) Language plays very little part in saving a country

C. The experience had a deep meaning for me, as only those who have known stark terror and conquered it can appreciate. In death there is peace. There is terror only in the fear of death, as Roosevelt knew when he said, "All we have to fear is fear itself." Because I had experienced both the sensation of dying and the terror that fear of it can produce, the will to live somehow grew in intensity.

At last I felt released free to walk the trails and climb the peaks and to brush aside fear.

(i) What is the "stark terror" mentioned here for Douglas?
   (a) His fear of water   (b) His struggle with swimming
   (c) His fear of wide open spaces   (d) His fear of losing his limbs

(ii) Where did Douglas experience the sensation of dying?
(a) At a lake
(b) In the beach with his father
(c) At the YCMA pool
(d) While jumping down a cliff

(iii) "All we have to fear is fear itself" who said this line?
(a) Douglas
(b) Roosevelt
(c) The Swimming coach
(d) Douglas' mother

(iv) Which of the words means path?
(a) Stark
(b) Conquered
(c) Trails
(d) Peaks

4. **Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow.** (1 × 4 = 4)

A. On sour cream walls, donations. Shakespeare's head,
Cloudless at dawn, civilized dome riding all cities.
Belled, flowery, Tyrolese valley. Open-handed map
Awarding the world its world.

(i) Name of the poet.
(a) Adrienne Rich
(b) John Keats
(c) Stephen Spender
(d) Pablo Neruda

(ii) What is meant by 'sour cream" walls' ?
(a) Damp and faded walls of the classroom that give foul smell
(b) Shakespeare's head that looks like wall
(c) Walls painted with cream color
(d) Walls with clouds drawn on it

(iii) The poet call the map 'open-handed' because
(a) all maps are opened and spread
(b) all the places of the world are shown in it and it is big.
(c) all flowers and valleys can be seen on the map
(d) Children open them in their hands

(iv) Which word in the line means charity?
(a) Awarding
(b) Dawn
(c) Donations
(d) World

B. Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

(i) The tigers referred here are
(a) Real tigers
(b) Aunt Jennifer's pets
(c) Aunt Jennifer's embroidered tiger representing her spirit
(d) Aunt Jennifer's husband

(ii) The tiger is _____ in color.
(a) green
(b) bright yellow
(c) black
(d) colorless

(iii) How are they different from Aunt Jennifer ?
(a) They are animals unlike Aunt Jennifer.
(b) They are timid and lifeless.
(c) They are not afraid of men unlike Aunt Jennifer who is helpless against patriarchy.
(d) They are angry at themselves while aunt jennifer is happy with herself.

(iv) Which word in the lines mean jump?
(a) Pace
(b) Prance
(c) Sleek
(d) Certainty

5. Attempt ANY EIGHT questions of following from the ten given below. $(1 \times 8 = 8)$

(i) According to Evans German teacher Evans had a _____ chance of clearing his O level exams.
  (a) pretty good   (b) moderate   (c) cat in a hell's   (d) less

(ii) In A Thing of Beauty poem John Keats wants us to find comfort in
  (a) our desires   (b) our ambitions in life   (c) nature's beauty   (d) struggle of life

(iii) Derek's scar was on his
  (a) leg   (b) arms   (c) neck   (d) face

(iv) Charley's wife name is
  (a) Sam   (b) Louisa   (c) Louise   (d) Lois

(v) In Adrienne Rich's "prancing, proud and unafraid" is referring to
  (a) Aunt Jennifer   (b) Aunt Jennifer's tigers
  (c) Aunt Jennifer's husband   (d) The poet

(vi) Which words fit Dr Sadao?
  (a) Shrewd   (b) Cunning   (c) Compassionate   (d) Weak

(vii) The Last Lesson's main message is that
  (a) we should try to learn new languages
  (b) we should appreciate and upheld our mother tongue
  (c) we should learn to give into other cultures taking over us
  (d) we should learn to go to school regularly

(viii) Saheb's parents originally came from
  (a) Firozabad   (b) Seemapuri   (c) Dhaka   (d) Delhi

(ix) In the poem An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum the poet referred the slum children's future as a narrow streets sealed in with a
  (a) black sky   (b) grey sky   (c) lead sky   (d) blue sky

(x) In the poem My mother at Sixty-six, Kamala Das' mother lived in
  (a) Chennai   (b) Pune   (c) Puri   (d) Cochin

PART - B (40 Marks)

WRITING (16 Marks)

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : $(1 \times 3 = 3)$

A. You are Ravi/Rachna. As President of the Cultural Forum of your school, you have organised an inter-school orchestra competition on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee celebrations of your school. Write a notice in about 50 words, informing the students of your school about this competition.

OR

B. Write an advertisement for your local newspaper asking for a flatmate in about 50 words. You are Deepak, give the necessary details.

7. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : $(1 \times 3 = 3)$

A. You are Navin/Neha, the Secretary of the Youth Club of your locality. You are organising an inter-school group-song competition write an invitation to invite a prominent musician to be one of the judges.

OR

B. Draft a formal reply expressing your inability to attend the inauguration of the showroom 'Regalia' on Sunday, the 20th July 20XX, at 11 a.m. at B-12, Rohini. You are Navin Jain of C-5, G.K.J, New Delhi and your friend is G.L. Bansal of 23, Sunder Nagar, New Delhi.

8. **Attempt ANY ONE of the following :**   (1 × 5 = 5)

A. You are Arun/Arundhati of 114, Good Shephard Colony, Chennai. You have seen an advertisement in Times Ascent for the post of a pastry chef in a 5-star hotel. Apply for the job with complete bio-data. (120-150 words)

OR

B. You are Hemant Ghosh, you have a savings bank account in the State Bank of India. You have lost your passbook. Write to the Branch Manager requesting him to get another copy of the passbook issued to you.

9. **Attempt ANY ONE of the following :**   (1 × 5 = 5)

A. You are Marina, Cultural Secretary of your school, D.B. Senior Secondary School, Nagpur. A week-long Arts and Culture festival was organised by your school. Write a report in 100-120 words for your school magazine. Invent the details.

OR

B. Write an article about the importance of discipline in life. Explain how without proper order and discipline our everyday lives will fall apart in about 120-150 words.

LITERATURE (24 Marks)

10. **Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below, in 30-40 words each.**   (2 × 5 = 10)
    (i)   How did the ironmaster react on seeing the stranger lying close to the furnace?
    (ii)   Mention the hazards of working in the glass bangles industry?
    (iii) What did the landlords do when they know that Germany had developed synthetic indigo?
    (iv)   Which sadness is Pablo Neruda worried about in his poem?
    (v)   Why did the author go to Lake Went worth in New Hampshire?
    (vi)   What was different about the day Franz came to school after the Berlin notice came?

11. **Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below in 30-40 words each.**   (2 × 2 = 4)
    (i)   How did the General react on Dr Sadao's story about harbouring the enemy soldier?
    (ii)   What did Evans tell the Governor about the blood on his head?
    (iii) How did the wizard solve the skunk's problem?

12. **Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words.**   (1 × 5 = 5)

A. "What a thunderclap these words were to me!" What did M. Hamel say to his class? What effect did it have on those present there?

OR

B. How did the peddler betray the confidence reposed in him by the crofter in 'The Rattrap'?

13. **Attempt ANY ONE out of the following questions in 120-150 words**   (1 × 5 = 5)

A. Although a lot of precautions had been taken by the prison authorities to prevent Evans from escaping, yet, it proved to be insufficient. What made it possible for Evans to escape so easily?

OR

B. What made Charley believe that he was actually standing at the third level?