

RAMAKRISHNA MISSION VIDYAMANDIRA

(Residential Autonomous College affiliated to University of Calcutta)

B.A./B.Sc. FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION, MARCH 2021

FIRST YEAR [BATCH 2020-23]

COMPULSORY ENGLISH

Paper : I

Date : 22/03/2021

Time : 3 pm – 5 pm

Full Marks : 50

1. Answer **any three** of the following questions: [3×4]
 - i) What is a phulkari? Why was Shamnath's mother reluctant to make a phulkari for the boss?
 - ii) What plan did Shamnath make to keep his mother away from his boss? Why did he do so?
 - iii) Briefly describe the first encounter between the narrator and the young girl selling baskets at the Deoli railway platform.
 - iv) How did the narrator react when he could not find the girl at the Deoli station on his second journey to Dehra? Why did he react in such a manner?
2. Answer **any four** of the following questions: [4×5]
 - i) What according to Shakespeare is the fourth stage of human life? How does he describe it?
 - ii) How does Shakespeare describe the final stage of human life?
 - iii) How does Shakespeare compare the human life with a stage?
 - iv) How does Sassoon convey a sense of joy and freedom in the opening stanza of his poem, 'Everyone Sang'?
 - v) Do you think that the title of Sassoon's poem, 'Everyone Sang' is ironic? Give reasons for your answer.
3. Explain with reference to the context **any two** of the following extracts: [2×4]
 - i) 'I never break my journey at Deoli but I pass through as often as I can.'
 - ii) 'O, but Everyone
Was a bird; and the song was wordless; the singing will never be done.'
 - iii) 'The Sahib would not stop clapping. Shamnath's anger suddenly changed into joy. Mother had introduced a new note into the party.'

4. Read the following passage carefully and answer the following questions in your own words. [5×2]

The fair is held in a spacious field. There is an adivasi archery competition there in that meadow. The target is gradually moved back. Hitting the final bull's eye is exceedingly difficult. Two iron rings are tied onto two successive bamboo poles. There are three such rings. The bull's eye must be hit through all these rings.

A most exacting feat of archery. From the adivasi side the prize is a pig. For a long time now the Police Daroga gives five rupees. Tirathnath Lala the trader gives five rupees, Harbans Chadha the owner of the brick kiln gives five rupees, Anwar the fruit-seller gives five rupees. Every year there is a fierce competition around this test. Every year the Daroga thinks, there's sure to be rioting. Yet every year the contestants stay up the night eating pork and rice – the meat of this pig and a couple more that they slaughter – and drinking liquor. The Daroga is annually astonished that there is never a quarrel between the winners and the losers.

- i) Why is winning the adivasi archery competition considered “exceedingly difficult”?
- ii) Name the people who contribute money for the archery competition.
- iii) Why is the Daroga left astonished every year?
- iv) How do the participants celebrate after the competition is over?
- v) Suggest a suitable title for the passage. Give reasons for your choice.

————— × —————