

RAMAKRISHNA MISSION VIDYAMANDIRA

(Residential Autonomous College affiliated to University of Calcutta)

B.A./B.Sc. SECOND SEMESTER EXAMINATION, MAY 2025

FIRST YEAR [BATCH 2024-28]

COMPULSORY ENGLISH

Paper : 2INSAEC1

Date : 15/05/2025

Time : 11 am – 1 pm

Full Marks : 50

Section-A

1. Answer **any five** of the following questions: [5×6]
- In Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Cask of Amontillado' what offense did Fortunato commit that led Montresor to seek revenge on Fortunato? How did Montresor execute his plan, and in what manner did he kill Fortunato?
 - According to Montresor in 'The Cask of Amontillado', what constitutes an ideal act of revenge? What instances does he mention where revenge becomes ineffective or unsuccessful? Based on his own criteria, do you think his revenge was successful? (3+2+1)
 - How does Philip Larkin express his views on parents, children, family, childhood, and marriage in 'This Be The Verse'? In your answer, discuss how Larkin's own life and experiences may have influenced his perspectives in the poem.
 - In *This Be The Verse*, Philip Larkin writes: "Who half the time were soppo-stern, And half at one another's throats." Who are "they" in this line? What does the poet mean by "soppo-stern" and "at one another's throats"? Why is the poet mocking them?
 - "The recurring images of death and the fear of losing the loved ones loom large in the poem 'My Mother at Sixty Six'" — Do you agree? Give reasons.
 - How does the narrator present a conflict between consistency and change in the story 'Time Stops at Shamli'?
 - Comment on how the setting Shamli becomes a character in the short story.

Section-B

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

There was a table set out under a tree in front of the house, and the March Hare and the Hatter were having tea at it: A Dormouse was sitting between them, fast asleep, and the other two were using it as a cushion, resting their elbows on it, and talking over its head. 'Very uncomfortable for the Dormouse,' thought Alice; 'only, as it's asleep, I suppose it doesn't mind.' The table was a large one, but the three were all crowded together at one corner of it: 'No room! No room!' they cried out when they saw Alice coming. 'There's PLENTY of room!' said Alice indignantly, and she sat down in a large arm-chair at one end of the table. 'Have some wine,' the March Hare said in an encouraging tone. Alice looked all round the table, but there was nothing on it but tea. 'I don't see any wine,' she remarked. 'There isn't any,' said the March Hare. 'Then it wasn't very civil of you to offer it,' said Alice angrily. 'It wasn't very civil of you to sit down without being invited,' said the March Hare. 'I didn't know it was YOUR table,' said Alice; 'it's laid for a great many more than three.' 'You may stay if you answer my riddle.' shouted the Mad Hatter. 'Why is a raven like a writing desk?' Alice felt dreadfully puzzled. The Hatter's riddle seemed to have no sort of meaning in it, and yet it was certainly English. 'I don't quite understand you,' she said, as politely as she could. 'Have you guessed the riddle yet?' the Hatter said. 'No, I give up,' Alice replied: 'what's the answer?' 'I haven't the slightest idea,' said the Hatter. 'Nor I,' said the March Hare. Alice sighed wearily. 'I think you might do something better with the time,' she said, 'than waste it in asking riddles that have no answers.' And she continued her walk.

- a) In what way did the March Hare and the Hatter use the Dormouse during tea?
- b) Why did Alice say it was not very civil of the March Hare to offer wine?
- c) What was the Mad Hatter's riddle? How did Alice react when she found out there was no answer?
- d) Suggest a suitable title for the passage. Provide a justification for your chosen title. [2+2+3+3]

Section-C

3. Rewrite the following sentences by changing their voice from active to passive: [1×5]
- a) The manager has approved the proposals.
 - b) Pay the bill on time.
 - c) We could hear the noise.
 - d) The police caught the thieves.
 - e) The company is launching a new product.
4. Transform the following sentences as directed in the brackets: [1×5]
- a) This is a very beautiful place. (Exclamatory sentence)
 - b) Nobody likes dishonest people. (Interrogative sentence)
 - c) He is the most intelligent student in the class. (Positive degree of Adjective)
 - d) When she heard the news, she fainted. (Simple sentence)
 - e) He admitted his fault. (Complex sentence)

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