

RAMAKRISHNA MISSION VIDYAMANDIRA

(Residential Autonomous College under University of Calcutta)

B.A./B.SC. FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 2011

FIRST YEAR

COMPULSORY ENGLISH

Paper : I

Date : 13/12/2011

Time : 1 pm – 2 pm

Full Marks : 25

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

I went home on the bus dazed with happiness and began to get the full realisation of what had happened to me. I had suddenly left behind a life of poverty and was entering a long-desired dream – a dream my mother had so often spoken about, had revelled in. I was to become an actor! It had come so suddenly, so unexpectedly. I kept thumbing the pages of my part – it had a new brown paper cover - the most important document I have ever held in my life. During the ride on the bus I realised I had crossed an important threshold. No longer was I a nondescript of the slums; I was now a personage of the theatre. I wanted to weep.

Choose the right option:

5x1=5

- (a) The author wanted to weep because (1) of his mother ; (2) of the new brown paper cover on his book; (3) of the fact that he had achieved his ambition; (4) of something that had happened in the nondescript slums.
 - (b) The author kept thumbing the new brown cover of his (1) notebook; (2) part; (3) packet; (4) dreams.
 - (c) The author was returning home by (1) train; (2) bus; (3) car; (4) on foot.
 - (d) He realised that he had left behind a life of (1) poverty; (2) carelessness; (3) acting; (4) riding buses.
 - (e) His mother had dreamed of his becoming (1) an actor; (2) a writer; (3) a traveller on buses; (4) a nondescript of the slums.
2. Write **any one** of the following in about 150 words: 1x5=5
- (a) Write a description of your college for a publicity leaflet. Be sure to highlight the positive features of the college, which are likely to attract good students.
 - (b) Narrate a story using the following points as an outline: Strange sounds came from Pareshbabu's house while he was away – local volunteers including his neighbours and shopkeepers draw up a plan to solve the mystery – the police is called in - the culprit turns out to be Pareshbabu himself!
 - (c) Write a report on your recent visit to a tourist spot.
3. Answer **any one** of the following: 1x5=5
- (a) Do you think Ajamil was correct in not listening to his dog and punishing the tigers? Explain with reasons.
 - (b) Why did Ajamil agree to sign a pact with the tiger people?
4. Answer **any five** of the following. Answer in complete sentences: 5x1=5
- (a) What was Selvi's profession?

- (b) Who was Varma?
- (c) Which huge building, five miles away from the city, did Mohan buy?
- (d) To whom had the house which Mohan purchased, previously belonged?
- (e) From where did Mohan obtain 'subtle cosmetics' for Selvi?
- (f) On which street was Selvi's mother's house?

5. Answer **any one** of the following:

1x5=5

- (a) Why do you think Mohan never allowed Selvi to be alone even for a moment with anyone else?
- (b) Why does the writer say that Mohan was 'a financial expert who knew how to conjure up money, and at the same time, keep Income Tax at an arm's length'?