

RAMAKRISHNA MISSION VIDYAMANDIRA

(Residential Autonomous College under University of Calcutta)

B.A./B.SC. FIRST SEMESTER EXAMINATION, DECEMBER 2013

FIRST YEAR

Compulsory English

Date : 12/12/2013

Time : 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm

Paper : I

Full Marks: 15

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

Scientists observe that as the creatures of the primeval seas died, their bodies sank into the mud and silt of the ocean floor. Here the sea currents covered them with still more mud and silt. As time passed, the pressure of the water and the upper layers of silt slowly hardened this sediment into rock. They do not, however say, how exactly the pressure of the water and the upper layers of silt slowly hardened the remains of the creatures into rock. They merely state that bodies of the dead creatures decayed and disappeared but the outline of their forms was preserved forever in the rock.

Scientists assure us that pressures from the inside of the earth slowly bent the rock and in places lifted it out of the water. What was once the sea-bottom often became dry land. By looking at these uplifted rocks, scientists can tell us that fossils of the ancient animals came to be preserved, in what they call the “picture book of rocks”.

We now understand how layers of the fossil-bearing rocks have been piled upon one another for millions of years. Scientists have proved why the oldest layers are to be found at the bottom and newer ones at the top. They have also shown that they can place the fossils in their proper time period by observing the sequence of these rocks. This gives them a clear and accurate history of the sea-life, going back hundreds of millions of years.

- a) What happened to the bodies of the sea-animals when they died? [2]
- b) How are fossils formed? [2]
- c) How do scientists place fossils in their proper time period? [2]
- d) The author’s main purpose in the passage is to [1]
 - Argue a belief
 - Entertain the readers
 - Enlighten the readers(Choose the correct alternative)
- e) Find out the word from the passage which means : ‘matter that settles to the bottom of a liquid’. [1]
- f) Give the opposite of the word ‘decayed’. [1]
- g) Make the sentence with the noun form of the word ‘assure’. [1]

2. Write a letter to the officer-in-charge of a police station informing him of the loss of your mobile set. [5]

Or

Write a letter to the Manager, Eastern Circle, State Bank of India, to open a branch in your locality’.

