

BOD 1st Semester

COMMUNICATION SKILLS IN ENGLISH

Paper-VII

Time Allowed—Three Hours] [Maximum Marks—50

SECTION—A

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

I guess you can say I fled. Once, I desperately needed a break. So, I applied for leave and in no time was on my way to my brother's home, 360 kilometers away. I have had rheumatoid arthritis since the age of 12. I can only sit on flat surfaces. My bed and my wheelchair, all have to be specially made. Each time I go on a long trip, I have to take the whole entourage along. Since the stairs in my brother's house were too steep for the wheel chair, my sister-in-law took me to look at two other places where I could stay: a student's dormitory and a place at the back of my brother's house, next to the orchard.

From a distance, the trees began to tease me with glistening spots of tempting red. As I wheeled closer, I realised that they were laden with fruit. Each cluster had 20 to 30 big apples. Except for the apples, the whole place looked quite dead. My brother had three children : two boys, ten year old Hakon and seven year old Thomas, and a three year old daughter whom we affectionately called Mei-ya, meaning little girl. As soon as the boys came

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back from school. I'd put my books and manuscripts away in the drawer. Hakon would get my wheelchair ready and push me out on an exploration. Four kids from the neighbourhood would tag along uninvited. The contingent of seven, three to eleven years old, hung round me all day.

"There are plenty of apples in the orchard. It's such a pity nobody is picking them", I told the children. Every child is at once an angel and a devil. The youngsters immediately understood me. They yelled, "Let's check it out." We were off.

The orchard stood quietly in the sunlight. The apples were red and enticing. Our gaze was fixed on them. Without losing a moment, the thieves rushed at the fruits, but the bigger and the riper ones were higher up and out of reach. I promptly told the children to fetch a broken table and a piece of wire from the rubbish dump. Then, I showed them how to fashion the wire into a hook. Two of the taller kids stood on the table, one pulling and the second picking the fruits. The others passed them down busily enjoying themselves. The small thieves admired my ingenuity. "Auntie, you are really great." They ran around everywhere in excitement. They screamed and yelled. The children's father suddenly appeared out of nowhere and caught us unaware. The small thieves fled, leaving me, the gang chief neatly cornered. "So, you have turned into a petty thief," my brother joked, "What if you are arrested ?" "Arrested ? Me ? Do I look like a thief to you ?" I sat up in my wheelchair and feigning innocence said, "Am I capable of such act, considering my physical condition ?" Laughing my brother pushed me home. I was not really after the apples. What I was trying to steal was that quality called childhood.

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I. The narrator of the above passage is :

- (a) a girl who is depressed
 - (b) a girl who is suffering from rheumatoid arthritis since the age of 12
 - (c) nervous about her health
 - (d) a person who is very healthy and fine
2. The narrator decided to :
- (a) Go for a swimming expedition
 - (b) Arrange a picnic with friends
 - (c) Steal some apples from the orchard
 - (d) Arrange special study sessions for children
3. What is meant by '*Every child is at once an angel and a devil*' ?
- (a) Children pretend to be good
 - (b) Children generally disobey their elders
 - (c) Children are innocent as well as mischievous
 - (d) Children forcefully obey orders
4. Who caught the narrator and her gang unaware ?
- (a) Narrator's brother
 - (b) Narrator's sister-in-law
 - (c) Police
 - (d) Parents of the children
5. Narrator said she was trying to steal a quality called childhood. It means :
- (a) She was trying to steal children
 - (b) She was stealing apples from children
 - (c) She was enjoying the company of children
 - (d) She wanted her brother to play with her.

2×5=10

II. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

Within the memory of the youngest child, there was a family of rabbits who lived near a pack of wolves. The wolves announced that they did not like the way rabbits were living. One night several wolves were killed in an earthquake and this was blamed on the rabbits, for it is well known that rabbits pound on the ground with their hind legs and cause earthquakes. On another night one of the wolves was killed by a bolt of lightning and this also was blamed on the rabbits, for it is well known that lettuce-eater cause lightning. The wolves threatened to civilise the rabbits if they didn't behave, and the rabbits decided to run away to a desert island. But the other animals, who lived at a great distance, shamed them saying, "You must stay where you are and be brave. This is no world for escapists. If the wolves attack you, we will come to your aid, in all probability." So, the rabbits continued to live near the wolves. And one day there was a terrible flood which drowned a great many wolves. This was blamed on the rabbits, for it is well known that carrot nibblers with long ears cause flood. The wolves descended on the rabbits for their own good, and imprisoned them in a dark cave, for their own protection. When nothing was heard about the rabbits for some weeks, the other animals demanded to know what had happened to them. The wolves replied that the rabbits had been eaten and since they had been eaten the affair was a purely internal matter. "They were trying to escape," said the wolves, "and, as you know, this is no world for escapist."

Questions :

- (1) Why wolves didn't like rabbits ?

- (2) Why rabbits decided to run away and who stopped them ?
- (3) What characteristic of the wolves does the phrase 'for their own good' reveal ?
- (4) Give suitable title to the passage.
- (5) Explain the meaning of following words and use them in sentences :
 - (a) Escapist
 - (b) Imprisoned.

2×5=10

SECTION—B

- III. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper expressing your concern about the garbage dumps seen all around the city.

OR

Your younger brother is working very hard for his board examinations; as a result he has become careless towards his diet and health. Write a letter advising him about the importance of balanced diet.

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- IV. Imagine you are a Librarian of District library. The following decisions have been taken. The library will remain open on Sundays and will be closed on Mondays. The working hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. instead of 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Now write a notice informing the members and public about these decisions.

OR

Read the passage carefully :

One sport in the country with tremendous potential but pathetic performance is swimming. The country is flooded with talented swimmers and coaches whose potential is not fully utilized due to red-tapism and bureaucratic hurdles. From the first day in school academic subjects take precedence over the rest of child's activities. In spite of being a country full of rivers and canals, swimming has

failed to capture the imagination of Indians at large. The Government, on its part, has done very little to boost the sport. Sports being last on the list of agenda, the sponsorship and funds are invariably directed towards games which are regarded popular.

All those people who are interested in swimming realize that quality of bad water is one major problem with almost 90% of government sponsored swimming pools. As for the schools, it requires large sum of money and the schools cannot afford it. A handful of the privileged few, who enjoy this luxury, fall in the category of the elite. These are out of the common man.

Where do Indians stand today in comparison to international swimmers ? The history of swimming in India has not been too bright. Only a couple of Indians have made to the Asian Games, winning bronze. International winners have excellent facilities in terms of coaching, nutrition, tactics, positive attitude and hard work. Paucity of high calibre international coaches is one set back Indians have suffered in all areas of sport. Thanks to the petty gains and trivial politics, the good ones are dropped and preferred are taken for the participation in international competitions. Except for metros country is deprived of good Olympic-sized swimming pools.

A person, who is genuinely interested in pursuing, swimming as a career, may be forced to reconcile to another sport due to financial constraints. The sportsmen lack proper direction. The government and sports organization will have to make serious efforts to transform the future of this sport. Till then, it is a long wait.

On the basis of reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use abbreviations wherever necessary. Also supply an appropriate title to it.

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V. Do as directed. All questions are compulsory :

1. Change the voice :
 - (a) The room is cleaned everyday.
 - (b) People don't use this road much.
2. Change the narration :
 - (a) Paul said, "I woke up ill."
 - (b) Helen said, "I want to go to Canada next year."
3. Put the verb into correct form, present continuous or present simple.
 - (a) Julia is very good at languages (she/speak) four languages very well.
 - (b) The River Nile (flow) into the Mediterranean.
4. Choose the correct word. Tick (✓) the correct alternative.
 - (a) I was disappointing/disappointed with the film.
I had expected it to be better.
 - (b) Do you easily get embarrassing/embarrassed.
5. Combine the two simple sentences into one :
 - (a) He must be asleep. There is no light in his room.
 - (b) He is rich. He is miserable. $10 \times 1 = 10$