

UPC : **62031903**
Name of the course : **B. A (Programme)**
Name of the paper : **English Proficiency**
Semester : **III**
Marks : **75**
Time limit : **3 + 1 hours (1 hour is reserved for the downloading of the question paper and the scanning and uploading of the answer sheets)**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This question paper contains six questions.
Each question carries equal marks (25 marks).
Attempt any THREE questions.
2. All the parts of a particular question are to be uploaded together as one file.

Q. 1 Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow it:

Engineers seldom get the praise they deserve from the ordinary man. Interesting stories for young people have been written about famous inventors, doctors, travellers and other notable people, but the names of famous engineers remain largely unknown except to students of technical institutions. This is not because engineers have contributed less than those others to the progress of mankind, but because the details of their achievements are usually too technical to be understood by the ordinary reader. A layman without some knowledge of technical terms, as well as some knowledge of physics and mathematics, would find it difficult to fully appreciate the greatness of I.K. Brunel and the other famous engineers who worked on the problems of the early railways - deciding on points like the basic boiler, the best type of rails, whether the sleepers should be of wood or metal and whether the rails should be 7 ft. apart (broad gauge) or 4 ft. 8 ½ in. (standard gauge) or even less (narrow gauge). The result is that apart from one or two people like James Watt and George Stephenson, who have been given the credit accorded to inventors, very little popular appreciation has gone to other engineers.

Even less known or rather, less wondered at, are other feats of engineering such as the building of tunnels and bridges. We all know about tunnels especially the railway tunnels which carry railways through hills, but not many people realise that it is a very difficult task, demanding a lot of thinking on the part of the engineers, to construct a tunnel in exactly the right place, going in exactly the right direction, and so strong that there is no danger of tons of earth falling and burying the people using the tunnel. Bridges, which we use practically every day, are better known - so well known that it hardly ever occurs to us that each bridge is a challenge to the skill of the engineer, who has to study the nature of the site and the soil, the volume of water in the river to be bridged, etc., before he finally sits down at his desk to work out technical problems such as the type of bridge

to be used, the precise design and weight of the arches and pillars, and the kind and amount of steel reinforcement to be used in the concrete, to name a few.

(A) Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the passage.

10 marks

- (i) Railway tunnels carry railways _____ hills.
- (ii) The names of famous engineers remain largely _____.
- (iii) Two well-known engineers associated with railways are _____ and _____.
- (iv) Feats of engineering include the building of _____ and _____.
- (v) Broad gauge rails are _____ apart.

(B) On the basis of the given passage, answer the following questions in brief (30 – 40 words each), in your own words as far as possible:

15 marks

- (i) Why do ordinary people not appreciate the contribution of engineers?
- (ii) What did the engineers have to keep in mind while working on the problems of the early railways?
- (iii) What special difficulties are mentioned in connection with the making of tunnels?
- (iv) What sorts of facts does the bridge-builder need to know before he can build the bridge?
- (v) What is the main idea in the passage above?

Q. 2 Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow it:

Christmas Eve, 1863. A light snow was falling, dusting the small Massachusetts town of Concord with pretty white powder. Brushing the snow from his jacket, eighteen-year-old Theodore Laurence - Laurie, for short - gazed at the new home he'd be sharing with his grandfather. It was a grand mansion filled with expensive paintings, fine furniture, and a beautiful piano. But for all its riches, the house felt empty. Cheerless. Not like the small, cosy home across the way, decorated with bright branches of holly. The sound of happy, laughing voices floated across the hedge.

Who lives there? Laurie wondered. What are they like?

Inside the cosy house, the March sisters were playacting. Dressed as newspapermen, the four girls talked and laughed and read aloud from a newspaper. Not just any newspaper, though - it was one they'd written themselves.

Twelve-year-old Amy tossed her blond curls as she read her piece about a missing ribbon. Then she passed the paper to the oldest, Meg. "Let's see," said Meg, scanning the paper. "Here's something about the history of the squash."

"Oh, no!" said fourteen-year-old Beth shyly. "Don't read mine!" She hid her face behind her doll. "I never know what to write."

Jo, second to the oldest, stood up abruptly. "The first rule of writing," she

declared, "is never write what you know! And I should know - I'm going to be a famous writer!"

In a booming voice, Jo read her story - a tale of romance and adventure, castles and evil counts. Finally, she finished with a rousing, "Revenge is mine!"

Jo was strong-minded and daring, and her stories were always so exciting! The other girls clapped wildly.

Jo bowed slightly, then moved to the window. "What do you think of the new boy?" she asked, looking over at Laurie.

"He must be lonely," Beth said softly. "I'd be terrified to live with Mr Laurence. He's so unfriendly and scary!"

"But it would be nice to have such fine things." Meg looked at their Christmas tree, empty of the usual presents piled underneath. "It just doesn't feel like Christmas without gifts. If you could have anything, what would you want, Beth?"

"I'd like the war to end so father could come home," Beth said, her eyes downcast.

"Sweet Beth," said Jo, putting her arms around her. "We all want that."

(A) Write True or False against the following sentences:

10 marks

- (i) Laurie's grandfather's house was lively.
- (ii) Amy, Beth, Jo and Meg were not related to each other.
- (iii) Jo's stories were always interesting.
- (iv) The March sisters had many gifts piled underneath the Christmas tree.
- (v) Mr Laurence was not a friendly person.

(B) On the basis of the given passage, answer the following questions in brief (30 – 40 words each), in your own words as far as possible:

15 marks

- (i) How different was Laurie's grandfather's mansion from the "cosy home" across the way?
- (ii) What was special about the newspapers that the March sisters read? What were the contents of the newspapers?
- (iii) How does Jo reply to Beth when she says she doesn't know how to write?
- (iv) What was Jo's story about?
- (v) What did the March sisters want for Christmas?

Q. 3 (A) Complete each sentence by selecting the correct word / phrase from the pair given in brackets after the blank:

10 marks

- (i) The Covid 19 pandemic has left many people feeling _____ (insecure / secure) about their future.
- (ii) Children tend to _____ (behave / misbehave) when they do not get attention.
- (iii) Human beings are not _____ (mortal / immortal).
- (iv) The _____ (employment / unemployment) rate has increased during the pandemic due to economic slowdown.

- (v) Many students are _____ (able / unable) to attend online classes because of poor internet connectivity.
- (vi) India gained _____ (free / freedom) in the year 1947.
- (vii) His _____ (know / knowledge) about cricket is more than any of his friends.
- (viii) The new bulbs are _____ (brighter / brightest) than the old ones
- (ix) Yesterday was the _____ (cold / coldest) day of the season.
- (x) Heera is _____ (intelligent/more intelligent) than any other girl in the class.

- (B)** Write a job application in response to the following advertisement for the post of trained graduate teachers that appeared in *The Indian Express* of 20th November 2020: **15 marks**

Wanted trained graduate teachers for various subjects with three years' teaching experience. Grades govt. approved.
Interested candidates should send an application for the post, indicating the subject, along with copies of certificates to
The Principal, D.A.V Senior Secondary School, Hissar, Haryana
by 30th December 2020.

- Q. 4 (A)** Complete each sentence by selecting the correct word / phrase from the pair given in brackets after the blank: **10 marks**

- (i) The strike was _____ (called off / called up).
- (ii) I will _____ (get over / get on) all my difficulties.
- (iii) Please _____ (look down upon / look after) my family when I am away.
- (iv) They had promised to come but they did not _____ (turn against / turn up)
- (v) He has to _____ (bring out / bring up) five children.
- (vi) The students wanted an _____ (adventure / adventurous).
- (vii) She is the _____ (oldest / older) woman in our village.
- (viii) She spoke _____ (soft / softly) to her mother.
- (ix) The harsh noise was _____ (tolerable / intolerable).
- (x) The committee wanted some _____ (clarification / clarify).

- (B)** Write a paragraph of about 150 words describing a person who has inspired you. **15 marks**

- Q. 5 (A)** Complete each sentence by selecting the correct word / phrase from the pair given in brackets after the blank: **15 marks**

- (i) _____ (What / Where) did you find the key?
- (ii) _____ (When / Who) was Abdul Kalam?
- (iii) You will help him, _____ (won't you? / will you?)

- (iv) Rani isn't going to Delhi, _____ (isn't she? / is she?)
- (v) _____ (Do / Does) Faiz like sweets?
- (vi) She prefers ladoos _____ (than / to) Gulab jamun.
- (vii) We will return _____ (within / by) a week.
- (viii) Nancy went home _____ (on / with) foot.
- (ix) He has just recovered _____ (from / with) Covid 19.
- (x) I am allergic _____ (from / to) scented soap.
- (xi) Hari did not come to school _____ (but / because) he was not feeling well.
- (xii) You must train well _____ (if / and) you want to participate in the marathon.
- (xiii) Tina is intelligent _____ (so / and) kind.
- (xiv) I am very hungry _____ (or / but) the fridge is empty.
- (xv) She is very honest _____ (but / so) so she will not lie.

(B) Provide appropriate responses to the situations given below:

10 marks

- (i) Your elder brother is getting married. How will you invite your friend to the wedding?
- (ii) Your friend Shama invites you for a movie. Your exams are near so you don't want to go. How will you decline?
- (iii) You could not hear the last sentence of a lecture. How will you ask the speaker to repeat what she said?
- (iv) Sarah goes to the police station to report the loss of her Identity card. She has waited for ten minutes trying to catch the policewoman's attention. How will Sarah interrupt the police woman?
- (v) You are the Principal of a college. You do not agree with the Management's decision to reduce the salary of the security guards. How will you express your disagreement?

Q. 6 (A) Complete each sentence by selecting the correct word / phrase from the pair given in brackets after the blank:

15 marks

- (i) They started late in _____ (an / the) afternoon.
- (ii) Our Principal is _____ (a / an) honourable man.
- (iii) Who is at _____ (a / the) door?
- (iv) People think that lead is _____ (a / the) heaviest metal.
- (v) Apples cost Rs 120 _____ (a / an) kilo.
- (vi) The food at the restaurant _____ (was / was being) very spicy.
- (vii) He always _____ (speaks / is speaking) the truth.
- (viii) Look! Someone _____ (knocked / is knocking) at the door.
- (ix) When _____ (does / did) you come?
- (x) She _____ (is / has been) ill since last Friday.
- (xi) The train _____ (was arrive / arrived) four hours late.
- (xii) On Sunday, we _____ (walking / walked) to the holiday home.
- (xiii) Did you _____ (saw / see) the moon last night?

- (xiv) We _____ (missed / have missed) the bus. Now we will have to walk.
- (xv) The sun _____ (rise / rises) in the east.

(B) For each of the following comments, state who could be speaking to whom and in what situation (formal / informal): **10 marks**

- (i) “Could I just mention that tea is served?”
- (ii) “I am crazy about Korean drama. I wish I could watch them all.”
- (iii) “Mind your feet. You might trip over the cables.”
- (iv) “Thank you for looking after me so well. I look forward to seeing you again soon. Goodbye!”
- (v) “May I ask you to pay attention to the speaker, please?”
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