

**FIRST YEAR - SEMESTER I
PAPER II –GENERAL ENGLISH**

SECTION -A (20 marks)

I. Answer any TEN of the following. 10 x 2= 20 Marks

1. i) Craggy- rugged and rough
 ii) preposterous – absurd
2. i) incorruptible - honest
 ii) reproach - blame
3. i) dichotomy - division
 ii) intermittent – occasional
4. i) grizzled – grey hair
 ii) suspiration - sigh
5. i) shimmering - shining
 ii) jeering - mocking
6. i) gaze - glance
 ii) drifted – floated
7. Write the appropriate preposition
 - a) He leaned against the wall. (across/against)
 - b) She found her keys among the clutter. (among/ between)
8. Find the adverb in the following sentences
 - a) It rained heavily yesterday. Adverb - Heavily
 - b) They lived happily ever after. Adverb – Happily
9. Write the correct form of the verb
 - a) I drink tea daily. (drink/drank)
 - b) Billiards is an indoor game. (are/is)
10. Write the correct articles for the sentences given below
 - a) The earth revolves round the sun.
 - b) Diwali is a festival of lights.
11. List the adjectives in the given sentences
 - a) The cold, icy wind made Alice shiver. Adjective - cold
 - b) The mysterious stranger wore a black hat. Adjectives – mysterious, black
12. Identify the noun in the following sentences
 - a) Raju’s honesty and sincerity earned him a lot of respect. Nouns – Raju, Honesty, sincerity, respect
 - b) Tokyo is a big city. Nouns – Tokyo, city

SECTION – B (5 X 5 = 25 Marks)

Answer any Five Questions

13. Examine the childhood days of Gandhiji.

Gandhi was enrolled in school around the age of seven and found himself to be an average student. He emphasizes his consistent honesty with teachers and classmates, never resorting to lying. Gandhi was a shy child who preferred the company of his books and lessons to socializing with other children.

An incident during an inspection where Gandhi misspells "kettle" despite his teacher's attempt to prompt him to copy is recounted, highlighting his aversion to copying and his respect for his teacher. Despite the incident, Gandhi maintains respect for his teacher, demonstrating a belief in obedience to elders.

He mentions his limited reading beyond school books, primarily due to a dislike for being reprimanded or deceiving his teachers. Gandhi's exposure to two plays, "Shravana Pitribhakti Nataka" and "Harishchandra," left a lasting impression on him due to their themes of devotion and honesty.

14. Identify how E.V.Lucas highlights the importance of compassion and understanding in 'The School for Sympathy'

E.V. Lucas's essay 'The School for Sympathy' underscores the significance of compassion and understanding through the innovative educational practices at Miss Beam's school.

Miss Beam's school introduces a unique approach where students participate in "Days of Disability," simulating conditions such as blindness, lameness, deafness, and muteness. For instance, on a "blind day," students wear blindfolds and rely on peers for assistance, experiencing first-hand the challenges faced by visually impaired individuals. This method aims to instill a deep sense of empathy and kindness in students.

The narrator's interaction with a girl on her "blind day" reveals the profound effect of this teaching method. The girl expresses the difficulties of navigating without sight, highlighting the fear and dependence involved. The school's primary goal is to teach thoughtfulness, humanity, and citizenship. By encouraging students to experience and understand the hardships of others, the school promotes a culture of empathy and social responsibility.

15. Investigate the central idea of the poem 'Stopping by woods on a snowy evening'.

"Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost depicts a speaker pausing in his journey to admire the beauty of a snowy wood on the darkest evening of the year. Despite being captivated by the serene scene, he remembers his obligations and the miles he still has to travel before he can rest, compelling him to continue his journey. The poem explores themes of duty, temptation, and the allure of nature versus the demands of life.

The poem focuses on a moment of contemplation as the speaker stops to observe the falling snow in a neighbour's woods. The woods are described as "lovely, dark, and deep," suggesting a peaceful, almost seductive atmosphere. The speaker's horse, sensing the unusual halt, shakes its harness bells, a sign of impatience or confusion. While the speaker is drawn to the tranquility of the woods, he acknowledges his responsibilities, represented by the lines, "I have promises to keep, And miles to go before I sleep." These lines emphasize both the literal journey home and the metaphorical journey of life, highlighting the tension between appreciating beauty and fulfilling one's duties.

The poet is torn between the forest and the home. He is entranced by the beauty of the forest. At the same time, he is aware that he cannot stay there for ever. The allure of the natural world, symbolized by the woods, stands in opposition to the pull of the social world, symbolized by the promises yet to be fulfilled.

16. Compare and contrast the life in a city and life in a village and write a descriptive essay.

Cities are vibrant hubs of activity, brimming with tall buildings, bustling streets, and a constant hum of energy. The pace of life is often frenetic, with people constantly on the move, juggling

work, social engagements, and personal errands. This fast-paced lifestyle, while exciting and stimulating, can also be stressful and overwhelming.

Cities are centres of commerce, industry, and innovation, offering a vast range of job options across various sectors. Educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and cultural amenities are readily accessible, catering to diverse needs and interests. The city also boasts a wide array of entertainment options, from theatres and concerts to museums and art galleries.

However, city life also presents its share of challenges. The cost of living in cities is typically higher than in rural areas. Furthermore, the constant hustle and bustle can be draining, leading to increased stress levels and a higher incidence of mental health issues.

In contrast to the hustle and bustle of the city, village life offers a slower, more tranquil existence. Villages are typically characterized by sprawling green landscapes, quiet streets, and a strong sense of community. People in villages often know each other well, fostering a close-knit environment where neighbours support one another.

The community spirit in villages is strong, with people often coming together for social events, celebrations, and mutual support. While village life offers many benefits, it also presents its own set of challenges. Job opportunities in villages are often limited, particularly in specialized fields, which can lead to a reliance on agriculture or migration to cities for work. Access to modern amenities, such as healthcare and education, may be limited compared to cities, requiring residents to travel longer distances for specialized services.

In conclusion, both city life and village life offer unique experiences, each with its own set of advantages and disadvantages.

17. Examine the role of Malala's father in shaping her values from an early age.

Malala's father, Ziauddin Yousafzai, played a pivotal role in shaping her character and values from a very young age. In Chapter 1 of *I Am Malala*, it is evident that he was not only a supportive parent but also a passionate advocate for education, equality, and justice, which he instilled in Malala.

Unlike many fathers in their conservative society, Ziauddin treated Malala as an equal and celebrated her birth, which was considered unusual in their culture where sons were preferred. This early act of acceptance and pride laid the foundation for Malala's strong self-worth.

Malala's father, Ziauddin, had an unusual reaction when his cousin brought the family free. Instead of accepting it as a gift, he took a pen and drew a line to indicate Malala's birth, even though she was a woman. Ziauddin insisted that Malala was special, and celebrated her birth with coins and fruit—gifts usually reserved for male children. Ziauddin used his intelligence and hard work to become successful. Malala grew up respecting the power of language, largely as a result of her father's influence. Her father encouraged her to be "free as a bird."

Through his example and teachings, Ziauddin empowered Malala to believe in her voice and her right to an education, which later became the cornerstone of her activism.

18. Analyze Wordsworth's perspective on the reality of poverty in the poem 'Alice Fell or Poverty'.

In the poem *Alice Fell*, Wordsworth portrays poverty as a harsh reality, particularly for children, emphasizing their vulnerability and the emotional impact of material hardship. The poem focuses on Alice, an orphan whose tattered cloak symbolizes her impoverished state and the loss of familial connections, highlighting her deep distress over its loss. Wordsworth's perspective is one of empathy and compassion, as he not only acknowledges Alice's suffering but also takes practical steps to alleviate it.

The poem depicts poverty as a state of vulnerability and hardship, especially for children like Alice, who are orphaned and lacking basic necessities. Alice's tattered cloak is a powerful

symbol of her impoverished state and the struggles she faces, representing her fragile situation. The poem underscores the emotional toll of poverty, as Alice's deep distress over the lost cloak reveals the psychological impact of her circumstances.

Wordsworth's perspective is marked by empathy and compassion, evident in his willingness to help Alice by providing a new cloak.

19. Explain how Mrs. Jewls tries to solve Joe's problem in 'Sideways Stories from Wayside School'.

In "Sideways Stories from Wayside School", Mrs. Jewls tries to teach Joe how to count properly by having him count various objects and repeating the numbers one to ten. Joe's unique counting ability allows him to always arrive at the correct number, but through incorrect counting sequences. Mrs. Jewls tries having Joe count pencils, books, and potatoes, but he counts them out of order, yet still arrives at the correct quantity.

She then has him repeat the numbers one to ten with her, but when she tests him with erasers, he counts in sequence correctly but stops at ten, even when there are more than ten erasers. Mrs. Jewls becomes frustrated and even hits her head against the wall, but Joe still manages to count the correct number of times she hits her head.

Finally, Mrs. Jewls tells Joe that he will just wake up one day and be able to count correctly. The next day, Joe wakes up and can count.

SECTION - C (3X10 = 30)

Answer ANY THREE questions

20. Explain Tagore's vision of a free Nation in his poem 'Where the mind is without fear'.

In the poem 'Where the mind is without fear', the poet asks God to provide his country with the freedom of thought and expression that leads to perfection, free from the shackles of superstitions and the bonds of societal ills. The poet prays to God, requesting that his nation be free of persecution and that each individual be allowed to raise his head high. There should be no dread in the environment. The country should be a place where information is accessible to everyone, regardless of caste, gender, or religion, and is provided free of charge. He dreams of a country that is not "broken up into fragments" by biases and beliefs, but rather one in which everyone is unified. He envisions a country where people are honest and speak from the depths of their emotions. He aspires to live in a country where everyone is free to toil and work hard for anything they choose, whether for personal gain or for the sake of the country.

Everyone is urged to work relentlessly until they achieve complete satisfaction and excellence in achieving their goals. The poet prays to God for Indians to think and behave in a rational and progressive manner. He wants the power of reason to rule his country's men's thoughts. He doesn't want the 'stream of reason' to be lost in the shuffle of old rituals and traditions.

It should be a country where the light of reason has not been extinguished by mindless superstitious habits of thinking and conduct. Where people's minds should not dwell on or be obsessed by their mistakes in the past. They should, on the other hand, be guided by the faculty of thinking to be future-oriented by using logical thought and conduct.

He wants God to lead the country forward into the freedom of a widened thinking and attitude. He asks 'The Father' to awaken his country to such a 'freedom heaven.' India would

only be able to achieve full independence if she has a worldwide vision and a burning desire to realise great human aspirations. Only in this manner will she be able to fulfil her destiny.

21. The poem 'Nine Gold Medals' contrasts the typical idea of competition with the concept of shared success and empathy. Discuss.

Nine Gold Medals by David Roth talks about nine athletes who had come from different countries to run the hundred-yard dash event in the Special Olympics. They trained hard for the event, and eventually, the day arrived. Spectators filled the blocks, and they observed those nine athletes warming up for the dash. With the sound of the gun, the race began. But, one of them stumbled and fell. Interestingly, the contestants came forward to help the youngest of them all. In the end, they held hands and completed the race with the spirit of togetherness. Above them, the banner of "Special Olympics" fluttered and the smiling faces below said much more than the words could convey.

The poem powerfully contrasts the typical competitive mindset with the beauty of shared success and empathy. While the competition focuses on individual achievement and winning medals, the poem's core message lies in the athletes' collective decision to help a fallen competitor. This act of compassion, putting aside their personal ambitions to ensure the well-being of another, highlights the poem's central theme: that human values like empathy and friendship are just as important, if not more so, than winning.

22. Discuss how the story 'The Magic Brocade' reflects values such as righteousness, selflessness and respect for family.

"The Magic Brocade" is a Chinese folktale about a widow and her son, Chen, who face challenges when a piece of magical brocade, woven by the widow, is carried away by the wind. The widow, renowned for her lifelike brocade creations, becomes ill without her latest masterpiece, a depiction of the Sun Palace. Chen embarks on a journey to retrieve the brocade, facing trials and eventually reaching the Sun Palace where the fairies use it as a weaving pattern. The fairies agree to return the brocade if the widow teaches them her weaving skills. Chen returns with the brocade and a fairy bride, and the widow and her son find themselves in a beautiful new home created by the brocade.

Brocade can symbolize the intricate layers of human relationships, reflecting both beauty and complexity in life experiences. "The Magic Brocade" teaches valuable lessons about the importance of love, empathy, and the willingness to make sacrifices for the well-being of one's family. It's a story that has been passed down through generations and is cherished for its enduring message of enduring love and reunification.

Chen's primary motivation throughout the story is his love and concern for his mother, a skilled weaver. Chen demonstrates courage by venturing into the unknown, facing dangers and overcoming obstacles to reach the palace, where the fairies reside. The story reflects values such as righteousness, selflessness and respect for family.

23. Develop an expository essay on the influence of technology on our daily lives.

Technology profoundly influences our daily lives, impacting how we communicate, work, learn, and access information. From smartphones to the internet, technological advancements have revolutionized various aspects of modern society, bringing both benefits and challenges. This essay will explore the multifaceted influence of technology on our daily lives.

Communication: The most significant impact of technology is on communication. The internet, email, social media, and instant messaging apps have transformed how we interact with each other. We can now connect with people across the globe in real-time, breaking down geographical barriers and fostering global communities. Communication has become faster, more efficient, and more cost-effective, replacing traditional methods like mail and long-distance phone calls.

Work and Productivity: Technology has revolutionized the workplace. Automation, artificial intelligence, and advanced software have increased efficiency and productivity in various industries. Remote work has become more prevalent, allowing for greater flexibility and work-life balance. However, it has also led to job displacement in some sectors, requiring workers to adapt and acquire new skills.

Education and Learning: Technology has transformed education, providing access to vast amounts of information and learning resources. Online courses, educational apps, and digital libraries have made learning more accessible and personalized. Students can learn at their own pace and explore subjects in-depth, enhancing their knowledge and skills.

Access to Information: The internet has democratized access to information, making it readily available to anyone with a device and internet connection. We can research any topic, access news and current events, and explore diverse perspectives with just a few clicks. This has empowered individuals to be more informed and engaged citizens.

Healthcare: Technology has significantly advanced healthcare, improving diagnosis, treatment, and patient care. Medical equipment like MRI and CT scanners allow for more accurate and timely diagnoses. Telemedicine has expanded access to healthcare services, particularly in remote areas.

Entertainment and Leisure: Technology has revolutionized entertainment, offering a wide range of options from streaming services to virtual reality experiences. However, excessive screen time and reliance on technology for entertainment can have negative consequences.

Challenges and Concerns: While technology offers numerous benefits, it also presents challenges and concerns. The digital divide, where some individuals lack access to technology and the internet, can exacerbate existing inequalities. Privacy concerns, data breaches, and ethical dilemmas surrounding the use of personal data are also important considerations.

Conclusion: Technology has become an integral part of our daily lives, impacting how we communicate, work, learn, and access information. Its influence is multifaceted, bringing both positive advancements and potential challenges. By addressing the concerns and promoting responsible technology use, we can harness its power to create a more connected, informed, and efficient society.

24. Explain how Faulkner explores the conflict between a son's loyalty to his family and his own sense of right and wrong.

In "Barn Burning," William Faulkner explores the complex conflict between a son's loyalty to his family and his own sense of right and wrong through the character of Sarty

Snopes. Sarty's father, Abner, is a violent and vengeful man who burns barns as a form of retribution. Sarty, initially loyal to his father, gradually recognizes the immorality of his father's actions and the destructive nature of his family's way of life. This realization leads him to choose integrity and justice over blind loyalty, culminating in his decision to warn Major de Spain about his father's impending arson.

Sarty is introduced as a young boy deeply connected to his family, especially his father, Abner. He understands that his father expects him to be loyal, even when faced with moral dilemmas. Examples of this loyalty are seen in Sarty's willingness to lie for his father in court

and his attempts to defend his father's actions. Sarty begins to question his father's behaviour, particularly the senselessness of burning barns.

Sarty's struggle is depicted as a battle between his inherited loyalty to his family and his developing sense of right and wrong. He experiences a moral awakening, realizing that his father's actions are not justifiable. Sarty's internal conflict is emphasized through his thoughts, actions, and physical responses to his father's behaviour.

Sarty's choice to prioritize morality over family loyalty showcases his growth and his desire for a different life. Faulkner uses this conflict to explore themes of social injustice, class disparity, and the corrupting influence of violence. The story also highlights the importance of individual moral responsibility and the potential for change.