



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL
B.A. Honours/Programme 3rd Semester Examination, 2020

SEC1(P1)-ENGLISH

Full Marks: 60

ASSIGNMENT

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.
answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.
All symbols are of usual significance.*

**The question paper contains GROUP-I and GROUP-II.
The candidates are required to answer any *one* from *two* Groups.
Candidates should mention it clearly on the Answer Book.**

GROUP-I

TEXT COMPREHENSION AND EDITING

Answer any *three* questions from the following

20×3 = 60

1. Attempt a summary of the following passage:
Proficiency in English is an important factor in helping to free Indians, particularly women and girls, from the shackles of India's ancient caste system. The caste system has proved hard to dent despite a series of quotas for university places and jobs to be filled by people of low caste and by Dalits (so-called 'untouchables', who lie outside the caste system). In a new study published in the American Economic Review, Indian economist Kaivan Munshi and an American colleague examined twenty years' worth of data on school enrolments and income in Mumbai (Bombay). Over that time India has seen a big rise in nontraditional white-collar jobs thanks to globalization. They found that low-caste boys still tended to attend schools that taught in Marathi, the local language, and from which they would graduate into 'blue-collar' occupations traditional for their caste. However, some broke with tradition and enrolled in English-medium schools. In a 1990 sample of over 4,000 low-caste males around Mumbai, those with a command of English earned 24 per cent more on average than those with little English. More dramatic were the changes that English proficiency brought to the lives of low-caste women. In 1980, very few low-caste women were in paid

work. But low expectations of them meant there were fewer stereotypical attitudes affecting their choices in education, and many more ended up in English-medium schools than the boys. The impact of this was clear: roughly 2 per cent of women surveyed in an area just outside Mumbai and who had been to Marathi language schools were in work, compared to nearly 14 per cent of English-speaking women. Women have surged ahead in education and employment, so much that low-caste families are now willing to spend more on educating their daughters than their sons. Low-caste women are also breaking down social barriers by marrying outside their caste: nearly a third of those who had been to English-medium schools had done so, compared to fewer than one in ten who had attended Marathi-medium schools. The study concluded that English was the most significant of various ‘forces of modernization [that] could ultimately lead to the disintegration of a system that has remained firmly in place for thousands of years’.

2. Attempt a summary of the following passage:

The first fall of snow is not only an event but it is a magical event. You go to bed in one kind of world and wake up to find yourself in another, quite different and if this is not enchantment, then where is it to be found? The very stealth, the eerie quietness, of the thing makes it more magical. If all the snow fell at once in one shattering crash, awakening us in the middle of the night, the event would be robbed of its wonder. But it flutters down, soundlessly, hour after hour while we are asleep. Outside the closed curtains of the bedroom a vast transformation scene is taking place, just as if a myriad elves and brownies were at work, and we turn and yawn and stretch and know nothing about it. And then, what an extraordinary change it is! It is as if the house you are in had been dropped down in another continent. Even the inside, which has not been touched, seems different, every room appearing smaller and cozier, just as if some power were trying to turn it into a woodcutter’s hut or a snug log-cabin. Outside, where the garden was yesterday, there is now a white and glistening level, and the village beyond is no longer your own familiar cluster of roofs but a village in an old German fairy-tale. You would not be surprised to learn that all the people there, the spectacled postmistress, the cobbler, the retired schoolmaster, and the rest, had suffered a change too and had become queer elvish beings, purveyors of invisible caps and magic shoes. You yourselves do not feel quite the same people you were

yesterday. How could you when so much has been changed? There is a curious stir, a little shiver of excitement, troubling the house, not unlike the feeling there is abroad when a journey has to be made. The children, of course, are all excitement, but even the adults hang about and talk to one another longer than usual before settling down to the day's work. Nobody can resist the windows. It is like being on board a ship.

3. Attempt a summary of the following poem:

The free bird leaps
on the back of the wind
and floats downstream
till the current ends
and dips his wings
in the orange sun rays
and dares to claim the sky.

But a bird that stalks
down his narrow cage
can seldom see through
his bars of rage
his wings are clipped and
his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of another breeze
and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn-bright lawn
and he names the sky his own.

But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings
with fearful trill
of things unknown
but longed for still
and his tune is heard
on the distant hill
for the caged bird
sings of freedom.

4. Attempt a summary of the following poem:

The time will come
when, with elation
you will greet yourself arriving
at your own door, in own mirror,
and each will smile at the other's welcome,

and say, sit here. Eat.
You will love again the stranger who was yourself.
Give wine. Give bread. Give back your heart
to itself, to the stranger who has loved you

all your life, whom you ignored
for another, who knows you by heart.
Take down the love letters from the bookshelf,

the photographs, the desperate notes,
peel your own image from the mirror.
Sit. Feast on your life.

5. What are the roles and responsibilities of an academic editor? (700-750 words)
6. Discuss the various stages of copyediting. (700-750 words)

GROUP-II

CREATIVE WRITING

Answer any *three* of the following questions (700-750 Words)

20×3 = 60

1. Discuss the importance and purposes of creative writing.
2. Explain the different types of fictions in which one may try to write creatively.
3. What are the differences between a script and a screenplay?
4. What is storytelling? What are the creative ways of using social media for storytelling?
5. As a food blogger. Write a review of a restaurant that you have visited recently.
6. Write a short story that can be titled as 'Love in the Time of Social Distancing'.

—x—