

H.S. 1ST YEAR EXAMINATION

2014

General English

Full Marks: 100

SECTION – A

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

People travelling long distances frequently have to decide whether they would prefer to go by land, sea or air. Hardly any one can positively enjoy sitting in a train for more than a few hours. Train compartments soon get cramped and stuffy. It is almost impossible to take your mind off the journey. Reading is only a partial solution, for the monotonous rhythm of the wheels clicking on the rails soon lulls you to sleep. During the day, sleep comes in snatches. At night, when you really wish to go to sleep, you rarely manage to do so. If you are lucky enough to get a couchette, you spend half the night staring at the small blue light in the ceiling or fumbling to find your passport when you cross a frontier. Inevitably you arrive at your destination almost exhausted.

Long car journey are even less pleasant, for it is quite impossible even to read. On motor ways, you can at least travel fairly safely at high speeds, but more often than not, the greater part of the journey is spent on narrow, bumpy roads which are crowded with traffic. By comparison, trips by sea offer a great variety of civilized comforts. You can stretch your legs on the spacious decks, play games, swim, meet interesting people and enjoy good food—always assuming, of course, that the sea is calm. If it is not, and you are likely to get sea-sick, no form of transport could be worse. Even if you travel in ideal weather, sea journeys take a long time. Relatively few people are prepared to sacrifice up to a third of their holidays for the pleasure of travelling on a ship.

Aeroplanes have the reputation of being dangerous and even hardened travelers are intimidated by them. They also have disadvantage of being the most expensive form of transport. But nothing can match them for speed and comfort. Travelling at a height of 30,000 feet, far above the clouds, and at over 500 miles an hour is an exhilarating experience. You do not have to devise ways of taking your mind off the journey, for an aeroplane gets you to your destination rapidly. For a few hours, you settle in a deep armchair to enjoy the flight. The real escapist can watch a free film show and sip a hot or cold drink on some services. But even when such refreshments are not available, there is plenty to keep you occupied. An aeroplane offers you an unusual breathtaking view of the world. You soar effortlessly over high mountains and deep valleys. You really see the shape of the land. If the landscape is hidden from view, you can enjoy the extraordinary sight of unbroken clouds, plains that stretch out for miles before, while the sun shines brilliantly in a clear sky. The journey is so smooth that there is nothing to prevent you from reading or sleeping. However you decide to spend your time, one thing is certain you will arrive at your destination fresh and un-crumpled. You will not have to spend the next few days recovering from a long and arduous journey.

A. Train compartments soon get

1. Comfortable and easy
2. Crowded and inconvenient

3. Troublesome
4. Dirty

B. When you travel by train you reach your destination

1. Rather late
2. Quite comfortably
3. Quite tired
4. Quite fresh

C. Trips by sea can be

1. Quite pleasant when sea is not clam
2. Quite risky when the sea is not clam
3. Quite exciting when the sea is not clam
4. Even worse when the sea is not clam

D. Nothing can match aeroplanes

1. For comfort
2. For being costly
3. For speed and comfort
4. For excitement

E. Air travel is

1. Most comfortable form of travelling
2. Most dangerous form of travelling
3. Most expensive form of travelling
4. Most intimidating form of travelling

2. Write a brief summary of the given passage. 10

SECTION – B

3. (a) Write a report on a train accident giving imaginary details of the accident and the steps taken by the concerned authorities towards medical relief to the accident victims. (125 words)
10

(b) Spring Valley School, Jorhat organized a cultural show in aid of the flood-affected people of Majuli. As the organizer of the program, write a brief report in not more than 125 words for publication in your school magazine. Sign your name as Tridip/Trishna Gogoi. 10

SECTION – C

4. Correct the following sentences using proper tense forms: $\frac{1}{2} \times 4 = 2$

- (a) I am knowing you.
- (b) Ram is seeing the bus coming.
- (c) The sun is rising in the east.
- (d) Two and two are making four.

5. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction. 5

The ancient Greeks revered honey so much as
That much playwrights conveyed the
Luxurious lifestyle with the Athenians
With its description of cheese cake
Eaten with honey. Honey be known not
Only for its sweet and also for
Its soothing qualities. Unless sugar
Became common place in a late 18th
Century, honey is also used in traditional remedies.

6. Look at the sentences given below in a disorderly form. Re-order them to form meaningful sentences. 1×3

- (a) Playing football/for an hour/he/had been/i/when/his house/reached.
- (b) he/may/get/success/is industrious/since he.
- (c) is expected/to do/every man/his duty.

SECTION – D

7. Read the stanza given below and answer the questions that follow it: $2 \times 5 = 10$

Some twenty-thirty years later
She'd laugh at the snapshot. 'See Betty And Dolly', She'd say, 'and look how they Dressed us
for the beach'. The sea holiday Was her past, mine is her laughter. Both wry With the labored
ease of loss

- (a) The word 'she' in the second line stands for

- 1. Poet's mother
- 2. Poet's aunt
- 3. Poet's cousin
- 4. The poet



2. Poet's mother
3. Their uncle
4. Their friends

(d) The three girls were enjoying

1. A holiday at a hill station
2. A holiday at a river
3. A sea holiday
4. Swimming

(e) Compared to the sea, poet's mother and her cousins were

1. Very small
2. Very weak
3. Terribly insignificant
4. Terribly transient

8. Answer the following questions in about 30 words each: $2 \times 10 = 20$

1. What does the rain do day and night?(N)
2. What does the goldfinch do while singing?

9. Answer the following in not more than 30 words each: $2 \times 5 = 10$

1. Explain: 'Old, so terribly old that she could not have grown older'.(N)
2. How could the grandmother be 'beautiful' without being 'pretty'?(N)