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(2nd Semester)

GENERAL ENGLISH

Paper No. : ENG (G)-201

(Prose, Drama and Language Skills)

Full Marks : 70

Pass Marks : 45%

Time : 3 hours

(PART : B—DESCRIPTIVE)

(*Marks : 62*)

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

SECTION—I

(Prose)

1. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 10

- (a) Describe what was going on in the mind of the narrator as he went out to shoot the elephant. Bring out the contrast between his inner thoughts and the external bravado he displays as the White Sahib among the natives.

- (b) Explain the awkward situations under which Dr. Schweitzer had to work at his medical mission in Lambaréné. What do we learn about his personality through the essay?
- (c) Who was Marcel Junod? Why did he go to Hiroshima? Describe what he saw and learned there.
- (d) According to Brathwaite, how is racial discrimination different in the USA and in Britain? Why does he make this comparison?

SECTION—II

(Drama)

2. Answer any one of the following questions : 10

- (a) Discuss the play, *Twelfth Night* as a Romantic comedy.
- (b) Compare and contrast Olivia and Viola in terms of their characters and their attitudes to love.
- (c) Why is Malvolio disliked by the others? Comment on the way he is tricked by them. Does he deserve to be tormented thus?

SECTION—III

(Creative Writing)

3. Answer any *one* of the following questions : 14

- (a) Mistaken identity is a popular device used by writers to create interesting and exciting plots. Write your own story based on a case of mistaken identity (500 words).
- (b) Write a poem on the topic 'Growing Older' in about (200 words).

SECTION—IV

(Language Skills)

4. Write an essay in about 500-600 words on any *one* of the topics given below : 14

- (a) My dream destination for a holiday
- (b) The need to cultivate good habits
- (c) Are we too dependent on computers?

5. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

The worst days of any summer are the rainy ones. We spend all year looking forward to nice weather and long, hot days. All of winter, with its dreary gray days and bitter cold, we dream of those endless days at the beach, laying on the sand and soaking in the bright and burning sun. And then, summer comes, and it rains.

As a child, I would wake up to rainy summer days and come close to crying. It wasn't fair. We suffered through months of school and miserable weather for those scant ten weeks of freedom and balmy weather. Any day that I did not spend at the beach or playing ball with my friends seemed like a punishment for something I didn't even do.

On those rainy summer days, I had nothing fun to do and could only sit inside, staring out at the rain like a Dickensian orphan. I was an only child, so there was no one else to play with. My father worked from home, so I

was not truly alone, but he could not actively play with me since he was technically at work. It was those days that I would resign myself to whatever was on television or any books that I could find lying around. I'd crawl through the day and pray each night that the rain would not be there the next day.

As an adult, though, my opinion of summer rain has changed. When you have to work every day, summer is not as eagerly anticipated. Mostly, the days run together bleeding into each other so that they no longer seem like separate entities and instead feel like continuations of the same long day. Everything seems monotonous and dull, and an ennui or listlessness kicks in. Such a mind-set makes you cheer for anything new or different. I spend the winter dreaming of summer and the summer dreaming of winter. When summer comes, I complain about how hot it is! And then I look forward to the rain, because the rain brings with it a cold front, which offers a reprieve—

admittedly one that is too short—from the torture of 100° and humid days. Rainy days are still the worst days of the summer, but summer rain today means positively beautiful—and considerably cooler—weather tomorrow.

Questions :

- (a) Provide a suitable title for the passage. 1
- (b) As a child, why did the narrator dislike rainy summer days? 2
- (c) Did the narrator like staying indoors or outdoors? Give examples. 2
- (d) From the first three paragraphs, what do we learn about the narrator as a child? 3
- (e) How does the narrator's perspective change as an adult? 2
- (f) Give two reasons why the narrator now appreciates rainy days in summer. 2

(g) Give another word which has the same meaning as the following : 1+1

(i) Reprieve

(ii) Ennui

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GENERAL ENGLISH

Paper No. : ENG (G)-201

(Prose, Drama and Language Skills)

(PART : A—OBJECTIVE)

(Marks : 8)

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

SECTION—I

(Prose)

1. Answer any two of the following questions : 2×2=4

- (a) What were the instructions read out by Joseph to the patients every morning? Why was this done?

- (b) Why does Brathwaite say that he had forgotten about his black face when he was serving in the RAF? Why did it not matter when he was in service?
- (c) What does 'Hiroshima' mean? What information does the Japanese interpreter Miss Ito give about Hiroshima's geographical situation?

- (d) What was the real reason why Orwell shot the elephant? Why was he glad that the coolie had been killed?

SECTION--II

(Drama)

2. Answer any *two* of the following questions : 2×2=4

- (a) In the beginning of the play, what does Viola learn about Duke Orsino and Lady Olivia from the captain?

(b) Why is Malvolio asked to wear yellow stockings and be cross-gartered? What do these things signify and what is the result of following the instructions?

(c) Who is Sir Toby Belch? Why was he staying in Olivia's house?
