Jawaharlal Nehru College Library * Boko, Kamrup * Estd - 1964

2025

ENGLISH

(Major)

Paper : ENG4300104MJ

(Rhetoric, Prosody, Grammar and Comprehension)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2½ hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

1. Answer the following questions : 1×8=8

(a) What is a figure of speech?

(b) Give one example of simile.

(c) Name the figure of speech used when abstract ideas are spoken of as living beings.

(d) Which figure of speech expresses the whole to represent a part or a part to represent the whole?

(e) What is a compound sentence?

(f) Identify the type of sentence mentioned below :

"Although it was raining, we went for a walk."

(g) What is Blank Verse?

(h) Give an example of pun in English.

2. Answer any *six* of the following questions : 2×6=12

(a) What is meant by coherence in paragraph writing?

(b) What is foot in prosody?

(c) Mention two features of effective summarizing.

(d) What is tautology? Provide one example.

(e) Define quatrain and give a suitable example.

(f) What is inferencing in reading comprehension?

(g) "There is a pleasure in poetic pains."

Identify the figure of speech used in the above sentence and give one example of your own.

(h) Mention two differences between rhythm and metre.

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3. Answer any *four* of the following questions : 5×4=20

(a) Read the following passage and answer the given questions :

As the rulers of the planet, humans like to think that it is the large creatures who will emerge victorious from the struggle for survival. However, nature teaches us the opposite. It is often the smallest species which are the toughest and most adaptable. A perfect example is the hummingbird, which is found in the Americas. One species of hummingbird is known as the bee hummingbird ranks as the world's smallest and lightest bird and it is barely visible when it is in flight. Hummingbirds are the only birds that can fly backwards. They feed mainly on the nectar of flowers, a liquid that is rich in energy. Nectar is an ideal food source, for hummingbirds need an incredible amount of energy to sustain their body metabolism. A humming-bird's wings flap at a rate of about 80 times per second and its tiny heart beats more than 1000 times per minute. This is why they must consume relatively large quantities of food. In the

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course of a day, a hummingbird consumes about half its body weight in nectar.

(i) What is the smallest and lightest bird in the world mentioned in the passage?

(ii) What is unique about the way hummingbirds fly?

(iii) How much nectar does a hummingbird consume in a day compared to its body weight?

(iv) What do hummingbirds mainly feed on?

(v) At what rate do a hummingbird's wings flap per second?

(b) Write a summary of the passage given below, capturing the main ideas expressed :

Numerous Japanese words have entered the global lexicon, such as mottainai and kawaii; one recent newcomer is ikigai. A broad concept, it refers to that which brings value and joy to life : from people, such as one's children or friends, to activities including work and hobbies. "There is no word like it anywhere in the world," says Héctor Garcia, co-author of the

book, *Ikigai : The Japanese Secret to a Long and Happy Life*, which helped push ikigai into the global spotlight. Explaining that having an ikigai is the key to leading a happy life with a healthy body and mind, this book—which has been translated into 63 languages—has sold more than 3 million copies since its release in 2016. "When you feel down, just thinking about your ikigai will change something in you. I receive comments even now from readers who say their lives were transformed by this word," says Garcia.

For this book, Garcia interviewed more than 100 elderly residents of Ogimi Village, Okinawa Prefecture, renowned for being a 'village of longevity'. One thing that these healthy and active seniors have in common is that each has an ikigai, or something worth living for. "When we asked what their ikigai was, they gave us explicit answers, such as their friends, gardening, and art. Everyone knows what the source of their zest for life is, and is busily engaged in it every day," says Garcia. Another distinguishing feature of this community is that the elders have

strong social links with their peers and frequently get together to enjoy karaoke, birthday parties, and more. "Avoiding social isolation is linked to the motivation and confidence to lead active lives."

Continuing to work or energetically enjoy hobbies is characteristic of many Japanese seniors. A national survey conducted in 2018 found that 47·5% of people aged 70 and older are active in ways such as working, enjoying hobbies, or participating in community activities. Another study conducted on people aged 65 and over revealed that those who work only for financial reasons, compared with those who work in pursuit of their ikigai, have a 1·55 times greater risk of decline in functional capacity two years later. Considering such data, the Japanese government is actively supporting the employment and social engagement of senior citizens. Borrowing the words of renowned psychiatrist Viktor Frankl, "What man actually needs is not a tensionless state but rather the striving and struggling for some goal worthy of him."

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Garcia believes that this applies not only to senior citizens, but to young people as well. In a UNICEF survey conducted in 21 countries in 2021, about 36% of young people (aged 15–24) responded that they often felt nervous, worried, or anxious, and 19% also said that they often felt depressed or had little interest in doing things. For such young people, Garcia published a new book, *Ikigai for Teens : Finding Your Reason for Being*, in 2021. "When we were children, we all thought about what we wanted to be in the future, but it is also important to think about your ikigai from a young age. If I had known about ikigai when I was young, my life would have been different." If the word and all its edifying qualities are expanded across generations, ikigai may evolve to further heights as a universal term expressing a rich and fulfilling life.

(c) What are the main types of poetic feet in English prosody? Illustrate with examples.

(d) Distinguish between the following :

(i) Paradox and Oxymoron

(ii) Redundancy and Verbosity

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(e) Rewrite the following sentences as directed :

(i) We have a holiday ____ Christmas.
(Use appropriate preposition)

(ii) He died ____ overeating.
(Use appropriate preposition)

(iii) Some of you are learning French, ____?
(Add a question tag)

(iv) I (find) the book which I lost yesterday.
(Use the correct form of the verb given in the brackets)

(v) She (see) that fellow somewhere before.
(Use the correct form of the verb given in the brackets)

(f) Describe the importance of unity and coherence in paragraph writing.

(g) Define alliteration and assonance. Give examples of each.

(h) How would you define the term 'rhetoric'? State how it differs from grammar.

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4. Answer any *two* of the following questions : 10×2=20

(a) Write a summary of the following passage, capturing the main ideas expressed. Identify and explain the kind of writing (descriptive, argumentative, informative, contemplative, etc.) used in the passage. Comment on the features of style, such as choice of words, sentence structure, etc., in the passage :

I caught sight of her at the play and in answer to her beckoning I went over during the interval and sat down beside her. It was long since I had last seen her and if someone had not mentioned her name I do not think I would have recognized her. She addressed me brightly.

"Well, it's many years since we first met. How time flies! We are not getting any younger. Do you remember the first time I saw you? You asked me to luncheon." Did I remember?

It was twenty years ago and I was living in Paris. I had a tiny apartment in the Latin Quarter and I was earning barely enough money to keep body and soul together. She had read a book of

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mine and had written to me about it. I answered, thanking her, and presently I received from her another letter saying that she was passing through Paris and would like to have a chat with me; but her time was limited and the only free moment she had was on the following Thursday. She asked me if I would give her a little luncheon at Foyot's. Foyot's is a restaurant at which the French senators eat and it was so far beyond my means that I had never even thought of going there. But I was flattered and I was too young to say no to a woman. I had eighty francs to live on till the end of the month and a modest luncheon should not cost more than fifteen. If I cut out coffee for the next two weeks, I could manage well enough. I answered that I would meet her at Foyot's on Thursday at half past twelve. She was not so young as I expected and in appearance imposing rather than attractive. She was in fact a woman of forty, and she gave me the impression of having more teeth, white and large and even, than were necessary for any practical purpose. She was talkative, but since she seemed inclined to talk about me I was prepared

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to be an attentive listener. I was startled when the menu was brought, for the prices were a great deal higher than I had expected. But she reassured me :

"I never eat anything for luncheon," she said.

"Oh, don't say that!" I answered generously.

"I never eat more than one thing. I think people eat too much nowadays. A little fish, perhaps. I wonder if they have any salmon."

(b) Identify and explain the use of at least five rhetorical devices in the poem given below :

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay :
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

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The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee :
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company :
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought :

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

(c) Discuss the main elements of prosody with reference to rhythm, rhyme and metre.

(d) Critically analyse the distinction between facts and opinions. How do facts and opinions enhance interpretation and argumentation in comprehending a piece of writing?

(e) Discuss the various means by which brevity of expression can be attained. Substantiate your answer with suitable examples.

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