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Terminal Examination (2025-26)
Standard - XI

Subject : English

Marks : 50

Date : 07.10.2025

Time : 8.30 am to 11.00 am

Section A: Prose

Q1 A. Read the following passage and answer the questions. (12)

When we reached Kathmandu we discovered that a controversy had arisen. We talked it over, Hillary, Colonel Hunt and I. We agreed that all the talk was childish.

So we made a pact, and each of us signed it in the office of the Prime Minister of Nepal. Each one signed his own statement. I have a copy of Hillary's statement which I carry in my pocket.

It reads: "Kathmandu, June 22, 1953."

"On May 29th, Tenzing Sherpa and I left our high camp on Mt. Everest for our attempt on the summit. As we climbed upwards to the South Summit, first one and then the other would take a turn at leading. We crossed over the South Summit and moved along the Summit ridge. We reached the summit almost together. We embraced each other overjoyed at our success, then I took photograph of Tenzing holding aloft the flags of Great Britain, Nepal, the United Nations and India." (Signed: E.P. Hillary) There is another paper like this in English, signed by me. Thus, we will not take part in any controversy. As the statement says, Hillary and I embraced when we reached the top. We did as well as our bulky equipment would let us. I remember saying to him: "We have done it." But we couldn't hear. We had our oxygen mask on.

First Thought

My first thought on reaching the top was a sense of gratitude to God, that after having failed six times He had blessed me with fulfillment of this desire I had held so long. I placed on the summit the offerings to God that I had carried with me. This is in accord with religion. Both my wife and I are Buddhists. I could not kneel because of my clothes and equipment. But I offered a silent prayer in my heart.

The offerings were biscuits, candy and a little blue pencil. My youngest daughter, Nima, had given the pencil before I left home. She asked me to put on the top of the mountain as her offering. It was ordinary blue pencil, not even a long one, but it was one of her prized possessions.

As I put it down, I pointed it out to Hillary. He gave me a big smile, showing that he understood.

Then I got out the flags which I had on piece of string about four feet long. I fastened one end to my ice axe and Hillary took pictures as I held it up.

As I had to bring my ice axe down with me, I buried one end of the string in the ice on the top, and the other in snow on the slope down below. When we left, they were lying

flat against the summit.

I was very thirsty. I took out a water tumbler for a drink, but found the water in the metal container had frozen so I couldn't quench my thirst. I ate some biscuits and offered some to Hillary.

I was wearing a red scarf which my great friend Lambert (leader of the 1952 Swiss expedition) had given me last year. It was just a year ago, on May 28th, when we were standing at 28,215 feet, that he gave me the scarf.

I wore it all the way up the mountain from Darjeeling. As I stood at the top, I remembered him, and felt that he was with me. I felt absolutely fit at the summit. My mind was absolutely clear. I didn't feel tired I felt exhilarated. It was a very clear sensation.

A1. Global Understanding **2**

Name the following:

1. The place where the author discovered about the controversy
2. The place where the pact between Tenzing and Hillary was signed
3. Nima's offering carried to the summit by the author
4. The leader of the 1952 Swiss expedition

A2. Complex Factual **2**

List the ways in which Tenzing Norgay celebrates on reaching the top.

A3. Inference/ Interpretation/ Analysis **2**

The author and Hillary signed a pact that they had reached the summit together. Give reasons.

A4. Personal Response **2**

Write the quality of Tenzing that you have appreciated the most in his story. Explain your answer.

A5. Language Study **2**

1. Do as directed.
 - i. I could not kneel because of my clothes and equipment. (Identify the modal auxiliary verb and mention its function.)
 - ii. I felt absolutely fit at the summit. (Pick out the Subject and Predicate.)

A6. Vocabulary **2**

Find one word from the extract for the following:

- i. a thing offered as a religious sacrifice or token of devotion
- ii. a hiking and climbing tool
- iii. a container to hold liquids
- iv. a piece of fabric worn around neck or head

B. B1. Do as directed. **(4)**

1. The candidate's reply was quick. (Use adverb form of underlined word.)
2. You will need this torch _____ (before/in case/yet) there is a power

failure. (Fill in the blanks with suitable conjunctions from the alternatives provided.)

3. Sahil was learning to swim in a river. (Change to Future continuous tense.)
4. Eventually a construction crew destroyed the theatre. (Begin the sentence with 'The theatre.....')

B2. Spot the error.

(2)

1. We were enjoyed the play we watched yesterday.
2. Kunal is writing a letter to the principle.

Section B: Poetry

Q2 A. Read the following poem and answer the questions.

(10)

Sitting in a porchway cool,
Sunlight, I see, dying fast
Twilight hastens on to rule.
Working hours are well-nigh past
Shadows run across the lands;
But a sower lingers still,
Old, in rags, he patient stands,
Looking on, I feel a thrill.

Black and high, his silhouette
Dominates the furrows deep!
Now to sow the task is set,
Soon shall come a time to reap.

Marches he along the plain,
To and fro, and scatters wide
From his hands the precious grain;
Muse I, as I see him stride.

Darkness deepens. Fades the light.
Now his gestures to mine eyes
Are august; and strange; his height
Seems to touch the starry skies.

A1. Global Understanding

2

Correct the following statements based on the extract.

1. The poet is sitting in his bedroom.
2. The night is quickly dying.
3. The sunlight is hastening to rule.
4. The sower is richly dressed.

A2. Inference/Interpretation/Analysis

2

“Now his gestures to mine eyes are august and strange”. Explain the meaning of the line in your own words.

A3. Personal Response **2**

It can be a real challenge to keep trying when you are not seeing results. Can you suggest some ways to not give up and stay motivated in such a situation?

A4. Poetic Devices **2**

Identify and explain the figure of speech in the following line.

“Sunlight, I see, dying fast”

A5. Poetic Creativity **2**

Compose a poem of 4-6 lines on the topic “Never give up”.

B. Write a poetic appreciation of the poem given above with the help of following points. **(4)**

About the poet and poem

Theme

Poetic devices

Your opinion

Section C: Writing Skills

Q3 A. Expand ANY ONE of the following ideas. **(5)**

A bad workman blames his tools.

Or

Where there is a will, there is a way.

B. You are Raj/Radha. You are a resident of Green Hill Society, Shivaji Nagar, Pune. You want to arrange a free medical check-up camp for the members of your society. Write a letter to the chairman of your society asking permission for the same. **(5)**

Section D: Literary Genre (Drama)

Q4 A. Fill in the blanks. **(4)**

1. The series of events in a play is called the _____.
2. In drama there are _____ closely related areas of focus.
3. Dynamic, flat and round are types of _____.
4. _____ is the essence of the drama.

B. Match the following. **(4)**

Column A	Column B
Monologue	Modern period
The main idea of the play	Words
Pygmalion	A character speaking to oneself
Weapon of a writer	Theme

