

2018

ENGLISH – GENERAL

Second Paper

Full Marks : 100

The figures in the margin indicate full marks.

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

1. Answer *any one* of the following questions: 15
 - (a) Discuss *David Copperfield* as an autobiographical novel.
 - (b) Compare and contrast Agnes and Dora in *David Copperfield*.
 - (c) What is the role of the rustics in the novel *The Mayor of Casterbridge*?
 - (d) Briefly discuss Hardy's view of life with reference to *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

2. Answer *any one* of the following questions: 15
 - (a) The theme of Joyce's 'Araby' is a search for ideal beauty which ends in futility. Discuss.
 - (b) Compare and contrast the characters of Woodfield and the Boss in 'The Fly'.
 - (c) How does Bates portray the central character in 'The Ox'?

3. Explain with reference to the context *any one* of the following extracts: 8
 - (a) Whereas, coming, she had seemed to be pushing forward into the future, she now felt as if she were pushing forward into nowhere.
 - (b) I imagined that I bore my chalice safely through a throng of foes.

4. Answer *any two* of the following questions: 15×2
 - (a) Trace after Benson, the origin of the essay.
 - (b) Examine how Orwell brings out the evil of imperialism in his account of the shooting of the elephant.
 - (c) Lynd's essay 'Seaside' shows that the essayist is 'a spectator of life'. Discuss.
 - (d) Discuss 'The Superannuated Man' as a personal essay.

5. Write a précis of the following passage and add a suitable title. 10+2

The world is increasingly designed to depress us. Happiness isn't very good for the economy. If we were happy with what we had, why would we need more? How do you sell an anti-ageing moisturiser? You make someone worry about ageing. How do you get people to buy insurance? By making them worry about everything. How do you get them to have plastic surgery? By highlighting their physical flaws. How do you get them to buy a new smartphone? By making them feel like they are being left behind.

Please Turn Over

To be calm becomes a kind of revolutionary act. To be happy with our own non-upgraded existence, to be comfortable with our messy, human selves, would not be good for business.

Yet we have no other world to live in. And actually, when we really look closely, the world of stuff and advertising is not really life. Life is the other stuff. Life is what is left when you take all that crap away, or at least ignore it for a while.

Life is the people who love you. No one will ever choose to stay alive for an iPhone. It's the people we reach via the iPhone that matter. And once we begin to recover, and to live again, we do so with new eyes. Things become clearer, and we are aware of things we weren't aware of before.

6. Write an essay on *any one* of the following topics:

20

- (a) A good neighbour is a good citizen
 - (b) The Power of Media
 - (c) Childhood Memories
 - (d) The Importance of Travel
-