APRIL 2024 **71282/100L2Z/100H2Z**

Time : Three hours Maximum : 75 marks

SECTION A — (15 marks)

1. Choose the appropriate option that gives the correct meaning. (5)

(a)	Uphill	– difficult	easy	effortless	helpful
(b)	Endurance	– inability	patience	impotence	weakness
(c)	Forlorn	– cheerful	satisfied	depressed	prosperous
(d)	Zeal	– eagerness	dullness	neglect	insincerity
(e)	Nuisance	– advantage	irritation	comfort	convenience
(f)	Retribution	– forgiveness	sympathy	punishment	revenge
(g)	Diverge	– stay	deviate	combine	collect
(h)	Muse	– discard	forget	ignore	deliberate
(i)	Ardent	– bold	dull	passionate	unexcited
(j)	Amicable	– rude	unfriendly	polite	tame
(k)	Wander	– stray	hard work	motionless	walk slowly

2. Read the following passage and correct the errors. (10)

I saw the priest of the local temple and manage to gain his sympathy. He offers me the services of his temple elephant. I also engage fifty coolies to push the engine from behind. You may be sure this draines all my resources. The coolies want eight annas per head and temple elephant costs me seven rupees a day and I have to give it one feed. My plan is to take the engine out of the Gymkhana and then down the road to a field half a furlong off. The field was own by my friend.

SECTION B — (20 marks)

3. (a) Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow. (5)

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,

When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,

When the funds are low and the debts are high,

And you want to smile but you have to sigh,

When care is pressing you down a bit - rest if you must, but don't you quit.

(i) Why is it important to keep going when facing obstacles? (2)

(ii) How can taking a break be beneficial in the face of adversity? (3)

(b) Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow. (5)

I been scarred and battered.

My hopes the wind done scattered

Snow has friz me,

Sun has baked me,

Looks like between 'em they done

Tried to make me

Stop laughin', stop lovin', stop livin' –

But I don't care!

I'm still here!

(i) What has happened to the speaker in the passage? (2)

(ii) What emotions can be inferred from the speaker's words in the passage? (3)

(c) Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow. (5)

Next morning I went over to take a last look at my engine before leaving the town. I could hardly believe my eyes. The engine was not there. I looked about and raised a hue and cry. Search parties went round. And the engine was found in a disused well nearby, with its back up. I prayed to heaven to save me from fresh complications. But the owner of the

house when he came round and saw what had happened, laughed heartily and beamed at me: “You have done me a service. It was the dirtiest water on earth in that well and the municipality was sending notice to close it, week after week. I was dreading the cost of closing, but your engine fits it like a cork. Just leave it there”.

“But, but …

There are no “buts”. I will withdraw all complaints and charges against you, and build that broken wall myself, but only leave the thing there”.

“That’s hardly enough”. I mentioned a few other expenses that this engine had brought on me. He agreed to pay for all that.

When I again passed that way some months later I peeped over the wall. I found the mouth of the well neatly cemented up. I heaved a sigh of great relief.

Why was the owner of the house relieved to find the engine in the well?

4. Write an email to Dr. K. Kumar, Associate Professor of Mathematics who has given his consent to inaugurate the Mathematics Association, giving details of the transport arrangement and the meeting schedule. (5)

SECTION C — (20 marks)

5. (a) Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow.

When all the people had assembled in the galleries, and the king, surrounded by his court, sat high up on his throne of royal state on one side of the arena, he gave a signal, a door beneath him opened, and the accused subject stepped out into the amphitheater. Directly opposite him, on the other side of the enclosed space, were two doors, exactly alike and side by side. It was the duty and the privilege of the person on trial to walk directly to these doors and open one of them. He could open either door he pleased; he was subject to no guidance or influence but that of the aforementioned impartial and incorruptible chance. If he opened the one, there came out of it a hungry tiger, the fiercest and most cruel that could be procured, which immediately sprang upon him and tore him to

pieces as a punishment for his guilt. The moment that the case of the criminal was thus decided, doleful iron bells were clanged, great wails went up from the hired mourners posted on the outer rim of the arena, and the vast audience, with bowed heads and downcast hearts, wended slowly their homeward way, mourning greatly that one so young and fair, or so old and respected, should have merited so dire a fate.

What was the accused subject supposed to do upon stepping out into the amphitheater? Explain the consequence of opening one of the doors in the arena. (5)

(b) Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow. (5)

I shall be telling this with a sigh

Somewhere ages and ages hence:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—

I took the one less traveled by,

And that has made all the difference.

(i) What is the significance of the speaker taking the road "less traveled by" in the poem? (2)

(ii) According to the poet, which would make difference in his life? (3)

(c) Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow. (5)

A snake came to my water-trough

On a hot, hot day, and I in pyjamas for the heat,

To drink there.

In the deep, strange-scented shade of the great dark carob tree

I came down the steps with my pitcher

And must wait, must stand and wait, for there
he was at the trough before me.

He reached down from a fissure in the earth-
wall in the gloom

And trailed his yellow-brown slackness soft-bellied down, over the edge of the stone trough

And rested his throat upon the stone bottom,

And where the water had dripped from the
tap, in a small clearness,

He sipped with his straight mouth,

Softly drank through his straight gums, into
his slack long body, Silently.

(i) How did the speaker feel when encountering the snake at the water-trough? (2)

(ii) Describe the snake's behavior when it came to the water-trough. (3)

6. Draft a notice to be displayed at the entrance of a Zoo, giving details about the visiting hours, cost of admission tickets to adults and children etc. (5)

SECTION D – (20 marks)

7. (a) Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow. (5)

One of her novels, called Kashi Yatre, was appearing as a serial in the Kannada weekly Karmaveera then. It is the story of an old lady and her ardent desire to go to Kashi or Varanasi. Most Hindus believe that going to Kashi and worshipping Lord Vishweshvara is the ultimate punya. This old lady also believed in this, and her struggle to go there was described in that novel. In the story there was also a young orphan girl who falls in love but there was no money for the wedding. In the end, the old lady gives away all her

savings without going to Kashi. She says, 'The happiness of this orphan girl is more important than worshipping Lord Vishweshwara at Kashi.'

My grandmother, Krishtakka never went to school so she could not read. Every Wednesday the magazine would come and I would read the next episode of this story to her. During that time she would forget all her work and listen with the greatest concentration. Later, she could repeat the entire text by heart. My grandmother too never went to Kashi, and she identified herself with the novel's protagonist. So more than anybody else she was the one most interested in knowing what happened next in the story and used to insist that I read the serial out to her.

(i) What is the significance of Kashi or Varanasi in Hindu belief? (2)

(ii) How does the old lady's belief in going to Kashi clash with her actions in the novel? (3)

(b) Read the following dialogue and answer the questions that follow. (5)

NARRATOR 4 : Kimana went to Rabbit.

KIMANA : (holds out letter) Will you take this letter?

NARRATOR 4 : Rabbit said,

RABBIT : I cannot go to Heaven. (hops away)

NARRATOR 2 : Kimana went to Antelope

KIMANA : (holds out letter) Will you take this letter?

NARRATOR 12 : Antelope said,

ANTELOPE : I cannot go to Heaven. (leaps away)

(i) What did Kimana ask Rabbit to do with the letter? (2)

(ii) What do you think Kimana will do next after both Rabbit and Antelope refused to take the letter? (3)

(c) Read the following stanza and answer the questions that follow. (5)

The famous Shiva temple, which made Rameswaram so sacred to pilgrims, was about a ten-minute walk from our house. Our locality was predominately Muslim, but there were quite a few Hindu families too, living amicably with their Muslim neighbours. There was a very old mosque in our locality

where my father would take me for evening prayers. I had not the faintest idea of the meaning of the Arabic prayers chanted, but I was totally convinced that they reached God. When my father came out of the mosque after the prayers, people of different religions would be sitting outside, waiting for him. Many of them offered bowls of water to my father who would dip his fingertips in them and say a prayer. This water was then carried home for invalids. I also remember people visiting our home to offer thanks after being cured. My father always smiled and asked them to thank Allah, the benevolent and merciful.

(i) What was the significance of the Shiva temple in Rameswaram for the locals living in the predominantly Muslim locality? (3)

(ii) How did the narrator's father interact with people of different religions in their locality? (2)

8. Draft a memo to an employee for his being habitually late. (5)

Or

9. Write the Minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Council of Govt. Arts College, Chennai. (5)

———————