APRIL 2026 **71283/200L3Z/200H3Z**

Time : Three hours Maximum : 75 marks

SECTION A — (15 marks)

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

(a) Confess	(i) reject	(ii) admit	(iii) adjust	(iv) adorn
(b) Lure	(i) attract	(ii) distract	(iii) repel	(iv) chase
(c) Ecstatic	(i) delighted	(ii) worried	(iii) easy	(iv) enjoy
(d) Hysterical	(i) contended	(ii) frantic	(iii) sane	(iv) cajole
(e) Unfold	(i) covered	(ii) sealed	(iii) to open out	(iv) folded
(f) Profoundly	(i) deeply	(ii) shallow	(iii) superficial	(iv) emotionally
(g) Restore	(i) bring back	(ii) stored	(iii) arranged	(iv) respected
(h) Liberty	(i) slave	(ii) freedom	(iii) chained	(iv) licence
(i) Behold	(i) look at	(ii) hide	(iii) covered	(iv) seek
(j) Savage	(i) civilized	(ii) uncivilized	(iii) modernised	(iv) decent

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

The man that I arrest? He is a notorious brigand call Tajomaru. When I arrest him, he had fall off his horse. He was groaning on the bridge at Awataguchi. The time? It was in the early hours of last night. For the record, I might say that the other day I try to arrest him, but unfortunately he escape. He was wearing a dark blue silk kimono and a large plain sword. And, as you see, he get a bow and arrows somewhere. You say that this bow and these arrows look like the ones own by the dead man? Then Tajomaru must be the murderer. The bow wound with leather strips, the black lacquered quiver, the seventeen arrows with hawk feathers—these are all in his possession I believe. Yes, Sir, the horse is, as you say, a sorrel with a fine mane. A little beyond the stone bridge I find the horse grazing by the roadside, with his long rein dangling. Surely there is some providence in his having been thrown by the horse.

SECTION B — (20 marks)

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

It little profits that an idle king,

By this still hearth, among these barren crags,

Match'd with an aged wife, I mete and dole

Unequal laws unto a savage race,

That hoard, and sleep, and feed, and know not me.

I cannot rest from travel: I will drink

Life to the lees: All times I have enjoy'd

Greatly, have suffer'd greatly, both with those

That loved me, and alone, on shore, and when

Thro'scudding drifts the rainy Hyades

Vext the dim sea: I am become a name;

For always roaming with a hungry heart

Much have I seen and known; cities of men

And manners, climates, councils, governments,

Myself not least, but honour'd of them all:

And drunk delight of battle with my peers,

Far on the ringing plains of windy Troy.

I am a part of all that I have met;

Yet all experience is an arch wherethro'

Gleams that untravell'd world whose margin fades

For ever and forever when I move.

(i) Why did Ulysses call himself as an idle King? (2)

(ii) How did Ulysses describe his experience? (3)

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

Did you want to see me broken?

Bowed head and lowered eyes?

Shoulders falling down like teardrops,

Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words.
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness.
But still, like air, I'll rise.

(i) When would the poetess rise like air? (2)

(ii) What sort of a woman is the speaker of the poem? (3)

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

A principal fruit of friendship, is the ease and discharge of the fullness and swelling of the hearts, which passions of all kinds do cause and induce. We know diseases of stoppings and suffocations are the most dangerous in the body: and it is not much otherwise in the mind; you may take sarza to open the liver,

steel to open the spleen, flower of sulphur for the lungs, castoreum for the brain; but no receipt openeth the heart, but a true friend; to whom you impart griefs, joys, fears, hopes, suspicions, counsels and whatsoever lieth upon the heart to oppress it, in a kind of civil shrift or confession.

It is a strange thing to observe how high a rate great kings and monarchs do set upon this fruit of friendship whereof e speak: so great, as they purchase it, many times, at the hazard of their own safety and greatness. For princes, in regard of the distance of their fortune from that of their subjects and servants, cannot gather this fruit, except (to make themselves capable thereof) they raise some persons to be, as it were companions and almost equals to themselves, which many times sorteth to inconvenience. The modern languages give unto such persons the

name of favourites, or privadoes; as if it were matter of grace, or conversation. But the Roman name attaineth the true use and cause thereof, naming them *participes curarum*; for it is that teeth the knot. And we see plainly that this hath been done, not be weak and passionate princes only, but by the wisest and most politic that ever reigned; who have oftentimes joined to themselves some of their servants, whom both themselves have called friends, and allowed other likewise to call them in the same manner; using the word which is received between private men.

(i) According to Bacon, what can be shared with a true friend? (2)

(ii) What are the strange things to observe with regard to the fruit of friendship, according to Bacon? (3)

4. (a) Use the following phrasal verb in sentences of your own: (2)

(i) Look after

(ii) Called off

(b) Use the following idiomatic expression in sentences of your own: (2)

(i) Cup of tea

(ii) Rain cats and dogs

(c) Fill in the blank with right choice of auxiliary verb: (1)

We _____ watching a movie tonight. (were, are)

SECTION C — (20 marks)

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

Yes, sir. Certainly, it was I who found the body. This morning, as usual, I went to cut my daily quota of cedars, when I found the body in a grove in a hollow in the mountains.

The exact location? About 150 meters off the Yamashina stage road. It's an out-of-the-way grove of bamboo and cedars.

The body was lying flat on its back dressed in a bluish silk kimono and a wrinkled headdress of the Kyoto style. A single sword-stroke had pierced the breast. The fallen bamboo-blades around it were stained with bloody blossoms. No, the blood was no longer running. The wound had dried up, I believe. And also, a gad-fly was stuck fast there, hardly noticing my footsteps.

You ask me if I saw a sword or any such thing?

No, nothing, sir. I found only a rope at the root of a cedar near by. And . . . well, in addition to a rope, I found a comb. That was all. Apparently he must have made a battle of it before he was murdered, because the grass and fallen bamboo-blades had been trampled down all around.

"A horse was near" by?

No, sir. It's hard enough for a man to enter, let alone a horse.

(i) Mention the correct location of place where the dead body was found. (2)

(ii) Narrate the events before the man was murdered. (3)

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

WHAT is this life if, full of care,
We have no time stand and stare?–

No time to stand beneath the boughs,
And stare as long as sheep and cows:

No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass:

No time to see, in broad daylight.
Streams full of stars, like skies at night:

(i) What does the poet advise the human beings? (2)

(ii) What is the opinion of the poet about our life? (3)

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

Anxiety, Anxiety –
you creep, you lurk, you worry me
Mangy monster tinder my bed
on all my fears you must be fed
and when I try to starve you out
you stab me with a blade of doubt

You sneaky, scurrilous, savage beast
I don't hate you, but I like you least!
You are not cute or cuddly
why do I let you cling to me?
You're ugly and you're worrisome
you drain my joy and leave me glum.

(i) How does Anxiety trouble a person? (2)

(ii) How does the speaker describe Anxiety? (3)

6. Write a letter to the Inspector of police about the theft of your bike. (5)

SECTION D — (20 marks)

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

Once, in the royal city of Isfahan, there lived a young man named Ahmed, who had a wife named Jamell. He knew no special craft or trade, but he had a shovel and a pick–and as he often told his wife. "if you can dig a hole, you can always earn enough to stay alive."

That was enough for Ahmed. But it was not enough for Jamell.

One day, as she often did. Jamell went to the public bath to wash herself in the hot pool and chat with the other women. But at the entrance, the woman in charge told her, "You can't come in now. The wife of the King's Royal Diviner is taking the whole place for herself."

"Who does she think she is?" protested Jamell. "Just because her husband tells fortunes!" But all she could do was return home, fuming all the way.

That evening, when Ahmed handed her his wages for the day, she said, "Look at these few measly coins! I won't put up with this

any longer. Tomorrow you'll sit in the marketplace and be a diviner!"

"Jamell, are you insane?" said Ahmed. "What do I know about fortunetelling?"

"You don't need to know a thing," said Jamell. "When anyone brings you a question, you just throw the dice and mumble something that sounds wise. It's either that, or I go home to the house of my father!"

So the next day, Ahmed sold his shovel and his pick and bought the dice and the board and the robe of a fortuneteller. Then he sat in the marketplace near the public bath.

Hardly had he gotten settled when there ran up to him the wife of one of the King's ministers.

"Diviner, you must help me! I wore my most precious ring to the bath today, and now it's missing. Please, tell me where it is!"

Ahmed gulped and cast the dice. As he desperately searched for something wise to say, he happened to glance up at the lady's cloak. There he spied a small hole, and showing through the hole, a bit of her naked arm.

Of course, this was quite improper for a respectable lady, so Ahmed leaned forward and whispered urgently, "Madam, I see a hole"

"A what?" asked the lady, leaning closer.

"A hole! A hole!"

The lady brightened. "Of course A hole!"

She rushed back to the bath and found the hole in the wall where she had hidden her ring for safekeeping and forgotten it. Then she came back out to Ahmed.

"God be praised!" she said. "You knew right where it was!" And to Ahmed's amazement, she gave him a gold coin.

(i) How did Ahmed become a fortune teller? (2)

(ii) What were Ahmed's predictions about the lost ring of the Minister's wife? (3)

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

Until the patriarch dies, Kiran, Hasmukh's 'mistress is on the margins; but die will throws her right into the centre of the action. She is to manage the entire state for twenty-one years -until Ajit's child turns twenty-one and live with the family for the said period. Kiran, marginalized, almost invisible woman, suddenly thrust into the action accepts the challenges. Here Dattani's perception of gender strength is apparent. Hasmukh being a man was arrogant and tactless and therefore was unable to make place in the hearts of his family members, whereas Kiran Jhaveri being his mistress had impressed Sonal so much that she became her confidante. Ajit and Preeti also accepted her as one of them and were quite at ease with her. Hasmukh Mehta whose spirit was a mute-watcher of all the developments in his house after his death was greatly disappointed and frustrated to see his mistress take the place amongst his family members which he had desired throughout his life.

Sonal almost stands in contrast with the character of Kiran. She takes too much care of Ajit, calls him Aju' like a small boy and caresses him by serving his favourite dishes one after another. Hasmukh, her husband has become a heart patient and she serves 'halwa' and 'paratha' before him to her Aju. She keeps cooking food like it's a new invention. Rich food, wasting so much ghee and oil has already made Hasmukh a heart patient. Dattani has successfully presented a typical middle class Indian housewife in the form of Sonal.

In the play, Dattani has depicted an important aspect of patriarchal dominance. Let it be, daughter, wife, daughter-in-law or mistress, all are dependent on man for financial and physical security. Man has always taken a woman as a liability and a source of requirement. Women have been looked down upon by men as an object to meet their needs.

(i) How is Sonal depicted as typical middle class Indian housewife? (2)

(ii) Write about Dattanis description of patriarchal dominance (3)

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

The price seemed reasonable, location

Indifferent. The landlady swore she lived

Off premises. Nothing remained

But self-confession. "Madam," I warned,

"I hate a wasted journey--I am African'

Silence, Silenced transmission of

Pressurized good-breeding. Voice, when it came,

Lipstick coated, long gold-rolled

Cigarette-holder pipped. Caught I was foully.

'HOW DARK?' ,.. I had not misheard . "ARE YOU LIGHT

OR VERY DARK?" Button B, Button A. *

Stench

(i) What was the response of the white lady to the speaker about renting her apartment? (2)

(ii) How did the land lady hurt the sentiments of the speaker? (3)

8. (a) Fill in the blanks with suitable participles. (5)

(i) _____ (Joining, Join) the book club is her opportunity to discuss literature.

(ii) When I was at school, I hated _____ (study, studying) Mathematics.

(b) Combine the following sentences using infinitive.

(iii) I speak the truth. I am not afraid of it.

(iv) She has gone to super market. She wanted to buy fruits.

(v) He wants to serve his people. This is his greatest desire.

Or

9. Draft a party invitation to your friends and family members to celebrate the completion of your Masters degree at University of Madras, Chennai. Mention your name, place, address, venue, date and time, phone number, e-mail-id etc. (5)

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