

Answers to this paper must be written on the paper provided separately.
You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.
This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.
The time given at the head of the Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

Attempt any FIVE extracts in all.
The intended marks for questions are given in brackets.

SECTION A - PROSE

Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow.

Extract- 1

When Dr Roylott was in India, he married my mother, Mrs Stoner, the young widow of Major General Stoner. My twin sister, Julia, and I were only two years old at the time of our mother's remarriage. My mother left her fortune to Dr Roylott entirely, with a provision that a certain annual sum be given to each of us in the event of our marriage.

- Who is referred to as *us* here? Who was their mother? What do you mean by *blanched*? (3)
- Who was Dr. Roylott? What did he have a passion for? (3)
- Why did Helen visit Sherlock Holmes? (3)
- Why do you think a change came over to Dr. Roylott after they moved into the old manor house at Stoke Moran? (3)
- What did Helen say about her sister and her death? (4)

Extract- 2

"There's no way it's a flamingo, Nihei," said her colleague, Hamlyn. "It's probably a heron or a snow goose." Hamlyn offered to drive over to Shirleys Bay where the mysterious visitor had been spotted. When he got there, he found a bird-watcher gazing at a pink plumed bird with a long, stick thin legs wading through the shallow waters. Hamlyn phoned Nihei. "It's big. It's pink. It's a flamingo!" he exclaimed.

- How did the flamingo find itself in Canada? (3)
- Who took the initiative to rescue the bird? Who was he/she? (3)
- How did they confirm that the bird was a flamingo? (3)
- What happened when the rescuers reached near the bird? Why did the bird behave so? (3)
What did they realise then?
- Who all were the main persons to join the growing number of rescue volunteers? (4)

Extract - 3

Desperate writers like me will seize upon any bit of writing material when in need. I recall that my first literary production was inscribed on sheets of tissue paper. I was at Prep School in Shimla, and in those days, boarders were provided not with rolls of toilet paper but with flat packets of tissue. As there was a wartime paper shortage, boys would often use the bits of tissue for writing letters, doing rough work, or simply making paper aeroplanes.

- a) What was magical for the narrator?
- b) What kind of a writer was the narrator? Support your answer with an example.
- c) Where was the first literary production inscribed on? Why?
- d) What did the narrator say about the tikkee eating contest?
- e) Give meanings for the following.
 - i) agony
 - ii) daunting
 - iii) groped around
 - iv) tikkee

SECTION B – POETRY

Read the extracts and answer the questions that follow.

Extract- 4

*As Arctic ice dissolves and polar bears decline,
Can the wolves of Ethiopia trust humankind?
Will the white tip shark and angel shark avoid the fishing trawl?
How soon until the Mpingo tree takes its final fall?*

- a) How is the sea life affected by human activities? What do you think are the reasons for it? (3)
- b) What is Global Warming? What had global warming and human development done to the animal kingdom? (3)
- c) Who are referred to as our best friends in the poem? Which is their rightful place? What happened to their lives? (3)
- d) *Will snakes find their lairs as habitat turns to road*. Give the meaning of this statement. What happened to koalas? (3)
- e) Why does the poet wonder whether there is any point in estimating the huge damage done? What does he ask us to do? (3)

Extract-5

*Then they praised him soft and low,
Called him worthy to be loved,
Truest friend and noblest foe,
Yet she neither spoke nor moved.*

- a) Who is referred to as 'him' here? What were the maidens doing and what did they say to each other? (3)
- b) What do you mean by swooned? Did the wife swoon? Why? (3)
- c) How did the maidens praise the warrior? What was their intention in doing so? (3)
- d) What efforts did the young maidens take to make the wife weep? Did they succeed? (3)
- e) What did the old nurse do? What happened as a result? Mention the poetic device used in the poem. (4)

Extract-6

*Child I have forgotten the art of being absorbed in sticks and mud-pies.
I seek out costly playthings, and gather lumps of gold and silver
With whatever you find you create your glad games, I spend both my time
And my strength over things I never obtain.*

- a) Name the poet. Why does the poet admire the child? (3)
- b) What is the contrast given in the poem? (3)
- c) What would the child think about the adult's game? Why? (3)
- d) What did the poet forget? Why? (3)
- e) What does the poet compare life to? Why? What is a struggle for him? (4)