

SECTION A
ESSAY/STORY WRITING [15 Marks]

Question I

Write a narrative essay or a realistic fiction in about 200–250 words on any ONE of the situations given below.

1. Write a narrative about a place you visited recently. Describe what you saw and experienced and explain why you would love to visit it again.

OR

2. One evening, you find someone facing the window in your room. Write a story about what happened when the person turned towards you.

LETTER WRITING [8 Marks]

SECTION B
USE OF ENGLISH [15 Marks]

Question I

[5]

For each question, there are **FOUR** responses: **A, B, C** and **D**. Choose the corresponding letter of your response and **CIRCLE** it neatly. **NO** score will be awarded if you circle more than one letter.

1. Nowadays, people love to _____ in multiple languages.

A communicate
B communicates
C communicated
D communicating

2. “*We will have learned better with friends.*”
Identify the simple present tense form of the sentence given below.

A We have learned better with friends.
B We would learn better with friends.
C We learned better with friends.
D We learn better with friends.

3. Identify the noun form of the verb ‘*compete*’.

A competent
B competitive
C competition
D competence

4. “*The coin always slips through my hand.*”
The underlined word in the sentence is an example of _____

A an adjective.
B an adverb.
C a noun.
D a verb.

5. Which is the most appropriate meaning of the word ‘*essential*’?

A significant
B acceptable
C compulsory
D measurable

Question II**[3]**

Read the instructions given in the brackets carefully and fill in the blanks.

1. The bird _____ flown into the sky. (*Use correct form of verb*)
2. They have _____ ideas than me. (*Use suitable degree of comparison*)
3. Yeshi likes _____ singing _____ dancing. (*Use suitable correlative conjunctions*)

Question III**[4]**

Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given in the brackets.

1. The school captain read the announcement allowed to the students. (*Replace the underlined word with the correct homophone*)

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2. He woke up early. He missed the bus. (*Create a compound sentence using an appropriate coordinating conjunction*)

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3. The mother checks her handbag every morning. (*Change into passive voice*)

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4. Thinley said that she was aspiring to be the best artist. (*Change into direct speech*)

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Question IV**[3]**

Each sentence contains **ONE** error. Identify the error and correct them as shown in the example given below.

Sentence	Error	Corrected
Example: Every morning, when I brush my teeth, the toothpaste fall on my shirt.	fall	falls
1. It makes my friend laugh funny.		
2. I smile and look at my friend, which I adore the most.		
3. These little moments brings us closer to one another.		

SECTION C**LITERATURE AND READING
PART 1: SHORT STORY [16 Marks]**

Read the instructions carefully and answer the questions based on the stories “The Red Sweater” by Mark Hager and “The Night Train at Deoli” by Ruskin Bond.

Question I**[4]**

For each question, there are **FOUR** responses: A, B, C and D. Choose the corresponding letter of your response and **CIRCLE** it neatly. **NO** score will be awarded if you circle more than one letter.

- Which character trait best describes Mr. Conway in *The Red Sweater*?
 - proud
 - lonely
 - selfless
 - careless
- The narrator returned the sweater so he could _____.
 - exchange the sweater for a puppy.
 - help Mr. Conway with new shoes.
 - buy the sweater in the future.
 - save money for the future.

3. Which description best describes Deoli in *The Night Train at Deoli*?
- A A small lonely railway station
 - B A busy railway junction
 - C A large railway station
 - D A railway terminal
4. The narrator was disappointed on his next visit to Deoli as _____
- A he felt a sense of responsibility.
 - B his grandmother was unhappy.
 - C the basket girl was not there.
 - D the station master was new.

Question II

Read the questions carefully and write **ALL** the answers in the spaces provided.

1. Mr. Conway and the narrator made sacrifices for each other in the story, *The Red Sweater*. Would you consider sacrificing something valuable to help someone? Give TWO reasons for your answer. [2]

2. How would the narrator's life be if he had taken the girl with him during the first meeting in the story, *The Night Train at Deoli*? [2]

Question III

1. With reference to *The Red Sweater*, explain whether young people can understand the thoughts and feelings of older people. Give TWO reasons.

[4]

2. How does the use of the first-person point of view affect the reader's understanding of the two stories, *The Red Sweater* and *The Night Train at Deoli*? Explain any TWO effects.

[4]

SECTION C
PART 2: PASSAGE [16 Marks]

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Being Available All the Time Is Not Being Valuable

Somewhere along the way, we started getting confused between availability and value. Being reachable at all times became a sign of commitment. Replying instantly became professionalism, and answering messages late at night somehow turned into proof that you actually care. Many people now measure their worth at work by how fast they respond and how little space they take for themselves.

People are always available, online, apologizing for delays that never needed an apology in the first place. They answer messages during lunch, on weekends and while exhausted, not because they do not like the interruption, but because they are somewhat afraid. Afraid of being replaced, or labeled as difficult. Afraid that if they are not immediately present, their value will disappear.

This is where self-esteem enters the picture. When your sense of worth is fragile, availability becomes your backup. You stay visible so no one questions your relevance. You say yes quickly so no one doubts your commitment. You respond fast to feel needed. What looks like dedication on the outside is often insecurity inside. It is not confidence driving the behavior, in fact, it is fear.

The truth is that people who are always available are not necessarily the most valued. More often, they become the most relied upon without being respected. When you are constantly available, you teach others that your time has no boundaries. You send the message that interruptions are acceptable and that your priorities are flexible. Over time, this becomes an expectation, not the exception.

Self-esteem plays a major role here. People with healthy self-esteem do not disappear, but they also do not over-explain their absence. They respond when they can, not when they panic. They understand that their value is not measured by reaction speed but by contribution. They trust that their work speaks for them even when they are not immediately reachable. Being valuable means your impact is based on what you deliver, not on how available you are.

Many people worry that setting boundaries will make them seem less committed. In fact, the opposite often happens. Clear boundaries signal self-respect. They communicate that you understand your role and your priorities. The moment you stop equating availability with value, something shifts. Your self-esteem becomes steadier. And that difference changes everything.

Adapted: The Expert Hub, "Being Available All the Time Is Not Being Valuable"

Question I

[4]

For each question, there are FOUR responses: A, B, C and D. Choose the corresponding letter of your response and CIRCLE it neatly. NO score will be awarded if you circle more than one letter.

1. How do people measure their worth at work?
 - A taking breaks
 - B proving they care
 - C responding quickly
 - D working continuously
2. When people's sense of worth is fragile, they _____
 - A question their relevance.
 - B seek to be available.
 - C clarify their doubts.
 - D gain confidence.
3. People with high self-esteem _____
 - A over-explain their absence.
 - B stay immediately reachable.
 - C respond out of responsibility.
 - D provide meaningful contribution.
4. Why does the quality of work suffer according to the text?
 - A lack of space
 - B lack of depth
 - C lack of time
 - D lack of skill

Question II

Read the questions carefully and write ALL the answers in the spaces provided.

1. People apologise even when the apology is not needed. State TWO reasons as mentioned in the text.

[2]

2. With reference to the text, state TWO expectations from a person who is constantly available.

[2]

Question III

1. *“They trust that their work speaks for them even when they are not immediately reachable.”*

[4]

Explain the extract taken from the passage in your own words.

2. How relevant is the title, *“Being Available All the Time Is Not Being Valuable”* to the passage? State FOUR reasons.

[4]

SECTION C
PART 3: POEM [10 Marks]

Read the poem given below carefully and answer the questions that follow.

As I Grew Older

Langston Hughes

It was a long time ago.
I have almost forgotten my dream.
But it was there then,
In front of me,
Bright like a sun—
My dream.
And then the wall rose,
Rose slowly,
Slowly,
Between me and my dream.
Rose until it touched the sky—
The wall.
Shadow.
I am black.
I lie down in the shadow.
No longer the light of my dream before me,
Above me.
Only the thick wall.
Only the shadow.
My hands!
My dark hands!
Break through the wall!
Find my dream!
Help me to shatter this darkness,
To smash this night,
To break this shadow
Into a thousand lights of sun,
Into a thousand whirling dreams
Of sun!

Question I

[2]

For each question, there are **FOUR** responses: **A, B, C** and **D**. Choose the corresponding letter of your response and **CIRCLE** it neatly. **NO** score will be awarded if you circle more than one letter.

1. The figure of speech used in the line "*Bright like a sun*" is
 - A simile.
 - B metaphor.
 - C alliteration.
 - D personification.

2. What does the 'wall' represent in the poem?

- A darkness hiding dreams
- B shadows blocking dreams
- C hopes of achieving dreams
- D obstacles in achieving dreams

Question II

Read the questions carefully and write the answers in the spaces provided.

1. Why does the speaker repeat the word 'slowly' in the phrase "*Rose slowly, / Slowly*"?

[2]

2. Give TWO reasons why you think the speaker compares the dream to the bright sun.

[2]

Question III

The poem talks about being positive and determined. Write about how this lesson could help you overcome challenges in life? Give FOUR reasons.

[4]
