

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University
Term End Examination January -2023

Course	: SYB.A.	Date	: 16/02/2023
Subject Code	: ENGC0M-02	Time	: 12:45pm to 03:00pm
Subject Name	: Compulsory Subject -02 English	Duration	: 02.15 Hours
		Max. Marks	: 70

Q-1 Read the following passage and answers the questions given below. 14

A High Dive by LP Hartley

The circus-manager was worried. Attendances had been falling off and such people as did come children they were, mostly-sat about listlessly, munching sweets or sucking ices, sometimes talking to each other without so much as glancing at the show. Only the young or little girls, who came to see the ponies, betrayed any real interest. The clown's jokes fell flat, for they were the kind of jokes that used to raise a laugh before 1939, after which critical date people's sense of humour seemed to have changed, along with many other things about them. The circus-manager had heard the word 'corny' flung about and didn't like it. What did they want? Something that was, in his opinion, sillier and more pointless than the old jokes: not a bull's-eye on the target of humour, but an outer or even a near-miss-something that brought in the element of futility and that could be laughed at as well as with: an unintentional joke against the joker. The clowns were quick enough with their patter but it just didn't go down: there was too much sense in their nonsense for an up-to-date audience, too much articulateness. They would do better to talk gibberish, perhaps. Now they must change their style, and find out what really did make people laugh, if people could be made to; but he, the manager, was over fifty and never good himself at making jokes, even the old-fashioned kind. What was this word that everyone was using--"sophisticated"? The audiences were too sophisticated, even the children were: they seemed to have seen or heard all this before, even when they were too young to have seen and heard it.

1. Why did it worry the manager if people did not laugh at the clown's jokes?
2. Guess why after 1939 people were no longer interested in the clown's jokes.
3. What, in the manager's opinion did people want?
4. What suggestions does the manager's wife offer?
5. What is the synonym of betrayal
6. What is the antonym of Futility
7. In which profession the manager is associated with?

Q-2 Read the following passage and answers the questions given below. 14

A mild attack of Locusts by Dorris Lessing

Since the days of the eighth plague of Egypt, when locusts 'covered the whole earth, so that the land was darkened, men have recorded with horror the devastations caused by their swarms.

What are locusts, and why are they such a plague to man? Locusts are short-horn grasshoppers, differing from the familiar and less destructive grasshoppers of English summer hedgerows in that they are larger and love to wander great

distances in crowds. The locust larvae, or hoppers, collect together in tens of thousands and wander about the countryside in armies, moving sometimes a mile in twenty-four hours. Fully grown locusts collect in swarms and fly several miles a day. When they settle, they eat every living plant about them, an average-sized swarm devouring about twenty tons of food a day.

Today governments are fighting this age-long scourge with modern methods of pest control. Areas where outbreaks of locusts occur are sprayed with insecticides such as Gammexane and Dieldrin. Farmers are warned by radio of the approach of swarms. Yet when the swarms are blackening the sky overhead, farmers still resort to the primitive and ineffective device of banging gongs and lighting fires to discourage the locusts from settling. Today governments are fighting this age-long scourge with modern methods of pest control. Areas where outbreaks of locusts occur are sprayed with insecticides such as Gammexane and Dieldrin. Farmers are warned by radio of the approach of swarms. Yet when the swarms are blackening the sky overhead, farmers still resort to the primitive and ineffective device of banging gongs and lighting fires to discourage the locusts from settling.

The scene of this story is set in central Africa.

The rains that year were good, they were coming nicely just as the crops needed them or so Margaret gathered when the men said they were not too bad.... The men were Richard her husband, and old Stephen, Richard's father, a farmer from way back. Margaret had been on the farm three years. She still did not understand how they did not go bankrupt altogether, when the men never had a good word for the weather, or the soil, or the Government. But she was getting to learn the language. Farmer's language. And they neither went bankrupt nor got very rich. They jogged along, doing comfortably.

Their crop was maize. Their farm was three thousand acres on the ridges that rise up towards the Zambezi escarpment, high, dry windswept country, cold and dusty in winter, but now, being the wet season, steamy with the heat rising in wet, soft waves off miles of green foliage. The sky made her eyes ache, she was not used to it. One does not look so much at the sky in the city she came from. So that evening when Richard said: "The Government is sending out warnings that locusts are expected, coming down from the breeding grounds up North," her instinct was to look about her at the trees. Insects-swarms of them-horrible! But Richard and the old man had raised their eyes and were looking up over the mountains. "We haven't had locusts in seven years,' they said.

1. Margaret had been on the farm for three years. Had she come from a town or a village? Give a reason for your answer.
2. The locusts came over the mountains. How does the author describe them? What happened on the farm when Stephen and the others saw the locusts coming?
3. Where did the men run off to? What did they do there? Why did they do it?
4. The sun was shining brightly, so why was the air darkening?
5. Why did the invasion of the locusts sound like a heavy storm?

6. The scene of the story set in

7. Give the synonyms of the word: Countryside

Q-3 (A) Match words in column 'A' with the appropriate meaning in column 'B' 14
Words under A mean the opposite of those under B Example: empty - full

A

B

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| (a) empty | (i) sighted |
| (b) optimistic | (ii) drop |
| (c) blind | (iii) full |
| (d) quiet | (iv) knowledge |
| (e) lift | (v) stinging |
| (f) ignorance | (vi) loud |
| (g) soothing | (vii) pessimistic |

(B) Ashok wants to go to the Zoo with his friends so draft a conversation in your own words to seek permission.

Q-4 Short notes (Any two out of five) 14

1. Question Patterns: Wh- type questions with examples
2. Conditional clauses
3. Time Clauses
4. Direct and Indirect speech with examples
5. Write a note on Pronunciation

Q-5 Each of the following words can be used both as a noun and a verb. Fill in the blanks using the given words in their appropriate forms: 14

Despair, spot, hand, report, remedy, up, out, after, to, down

1. I can't start the car; the battery has run.....
2. Look.....the baby while I am away.
3. The price of fruit usually goesin summer in Delhi; even melons cost a lot.
4. I am looking forward.....meeting my cousin next week.
5. Surajkund is a popular picnic In Haryana.
6. A bird in is worth two in the bush.
7. The refugee' s of ever seeing his family again filled with us pity.
8. The discovery of a new planet has been in today's papers.
9. Theseems more painful than the disease.
10. We cannot always observe the traditionsdown to us from the past.
11. You can a friend even in a crowd.
12. Why he.....of success in his new profession was because he was lazy.
13. The committee has been asked to hand in itsin four months.
14. Don't be unhappy; your faults of pronunciation can be easily.....
