**MODEL QUESTION PAPER WITH ANSWERS**

**B. Com. I**

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**MODEL QUESTION PAPER**

**B. Com (Part I) Examination**

**COMPULSORY ENGLISH**

**Time : Three Hours) (New Course) (Full MARKS : 100)**

**a.1. (a) Answer the following question in about 200 words : 10**

**Draw a pen-portrait of the two Gessler brothers.**

Mr. Gessler lived with his elder brother and both of them together ran a boot-shop. The rented shop was situated in a small by-street. They made the boots themselves. They never compromised on quality. As a result their boots were strong, splendid, well-fitting and long-lasting. Mr. Gessler had a yellow crinkly face, and crinkly reddish hair and beard. Some strands of hair fell on his cheeks and covered the corners of his mouth. He had a guttural, one-toned voice. His eyes were grey-blue. His elder brother was very much like him except that he was paler. They both spoke English with a German accent. When a customer entered the shop, Mr. Gessler or his brother would peer down from upstairs. Then one of the two would come down with a guttural sound and the tip-tap of fibre slippers beating the narrow wooden stairs. He would stand before the customer without coat, a little bent, in leather apron, with sleeves turned back. He would stand blinking as if awakened from some dream or annoyed at the interruption. When a regular customer came in with a pair of boots bought from some big firm. Mr. Gessler would say they were not his. His tone would not contempt but surprise. Mr. Gessler and his brother were wonderful boot-makers who put their heart and should into their work and made superb boots.

OR

**What comment on the human situation does the story of Velan bring home?**

As the title of the story, “The Axe” suggests, Narayan is strongly against wanton destruction of the environment. The story of Velan thus tells a very relevant situation of today. Narayan criticizes people who destroy trees and forests for their own selfish goals like building complexes, malls, houses and special economic zones. Their only motive is to make money, and more money. They do not think of the future generations who will be without oxygen and clean environment. Narayan accuses people of this cruelty to nature for the sake of profit.

Another idea brought out in the story is the insensitivity of the rich towards the poor. Velan worked hard for his master and brought up the garden with flowers and fruit bearing trees. In fact, he spent all his life caring for the garden. In the end his masters were ungrateful to him. Though he was old and weak, Velan was asked to go back to his village. For, the property was sold to a company of builders.

Thus Narayan is at once simple and profound. He sends out a strong message through the simple story of `The Axe’. Development should not be the cost of environment, and the poor should not be made to suffer.

Narayan keeps himself aloof in the story-“his habitual mood of ironic detachment”- and yet the message is powerful. The title is apt.

**(B) Answer any TWO of the following questions in about 100 words each : 10**

i) **Describe the two things in which Jim and Della took pride.**

Jim and Della had two things in which they took pride. One was Jim’s gold watch, the one which had been used by his father and his grandfather. The watch had a leather strap which used to look ugly beside his grand watch and spoiled its beauty. He used to look at it often with shame. The other thing was Della’s hair. It fell about her wavy and shining like a fountain of golden water. It reached below her knees and made itself almost a robe for her. These were the things in which Della and Jim took pride.

**ii) Write a short note on Paul’s ideas about squiggles.**

Making squiggles was called `writing and decoding them was `reading’. There was a different kind of squiggle for each word. People of olden times used to write whole books in squiggles. Paul wanted to learn how to make squiggles, but Mr. Daugherty didn’t know. Mr. Daugherty said that people at the museum would know.

**iii) Write a note on the contents of the letter Nene wrote to Nnameka’s father.**

Nnameka’s father was angry with him for marrying Nene, a girl from outside their tribe. For eight years the father did not allow Nnaemka to visit him. One day Nene wrote to him a letter. In the letter she had written that their two sons, from the day they had learnt that they had a grandfather, they insisted on being taken to him. She found it impossible to tell them that he would not see them. she therefore, requested him to allow Nnaemeka to bring them home for a short time during his leave. She herself would remain there in Lagos.

**Q.2. (A) Answer the following question in about 200 words : 10**

**How does Kabir talk to his inner lover?**

The poet asks his inner self, the mind, why it is rushing through one thought after another. The poet answers that man should not be worried about anything. The poet goes on to explain that if birds and animals and the ants are looked by the universal spirit, the Divine Being, man, the greatest of his creation, will be taken care of by the same loving God. Only that man should have trust in Him. When he was in his mother’s womb, he did not ask God for help. Yet God looked after him in that stage. The same God will make his life safe and secure even now. Therefore, avoid hurry and worry.

It is unreasonable to believe that man is orphaned, and that he is walking around without anyone to take care of him. According to Kabir, if man thinks that God has turned away from him, he is himself responsible for it. The truth is that it is man himself who has turned away from God. As a result he fails in all his endeavors and does not understand why. He fails because God is not with him anymore. Therefore, he should go back to God in all humility. He should believe in God and trust in Him. Then success will be his.

OR

**Elucidate the central idea of the poem, “Mending Wall”.**

The poem “Mending Wall” brings out two contrasting ideas. The speaker in the poem remarks that walls are an obstacle to good human relationship. They symbolize disunity and hatred among men. In fact nature itself does not allow walls to remain intact. On the other hand, the speaker’s neighbor believes that “good fences make good neighbors”

The speaker, however, insists that there are certain things by their nature do not allow the contraction of a wall between two neighbors. For instance, the damp earth under the wall freezes and expands, and cracks the wall. The hot sun also cracks the top of the wall and it falls down. The gaps are sometimes so wide that two persons can walk side by side through them. Another problem is that of the hunters. The pull out each stone in the wall to force rabbits come out from their hiding places so that their dogs can catch them. No one has seen how the gaps are made but they are there at the mending time in spring. One day the speaker and his neighbour begin to repair the wall. Each walk on his side of the wall an try to fix on the wall the boulders which have fallen on their sides. The speaker tells his neighbour that there is no need of any wall because he has all pine trees in his compound and the speaker has apple trees in his. The apple trees will not get across and eat the cones in the next compound. But the neighbour argues that “good fences make good neighbours”. The speaker still fails to understand the need of a wall as there are some mysterious powers which pull down the wall. The neighbour livessss in ignorance and does not appreciate the value of friendship and love. He blindly follows the traditional beliefs of his forefathers.

In short the speaker believes in universal brotherhood in the world. This is the symbolic significance of the wall. His neighbour, however, does not share this view. The poem is therefore, not confined to American country life. The contraries are resolved in the end and the solution is universal love and fraternity.

**(B) Answer any TWO of the following questions in about 100 words each : 10**

**i) Write a note on the unknown citizen.**

In this poem, the poet observes that modern man today is faceless, featureless and nameless. He does this by giving the example of the unknown citizen. JS/07/M378 was an ideal citizen. The Bureau of Statistics found no complaint against him. All the reports o him agree that he was a saint. He tried to serve the community in everything. He worked in a factory owned by Fudge Motors Inc., except for a short period when he took part in war. He was never dismissed from work. He gave the fullest satisfaction to his employers. Yet he took part in trade union activities and was thoroughly normal. As a member of the union he paid his dues, and the report about him in the union was good. The Social Psychology Department found that he was popular with his friends, and was very sociable.

He bought a newspaper everyday. Policies taken out in his name prove that he was fully insured. His health-card shows that he was healthy but was admitted to a hospital once, and was cured. Both Producers Research, and High Grade Living say that he took advantage of the Instalment Plan. He had all the modern comforts like a record player, a radio, a car and a fridge. The Researches into Public Opinion say that he held the right opinion according to times. When there was peace he supported it, and when there was war he took part in it. He was married and have five children which the Eugenist says, was the right number for a parent of his generation. The teachers reports that he never interfered with his children’s education.

Thus it was presumed that the unknown citizen was free and happy. For, if thre had been anything wrong, the state would have certainly heard it.

**ii) How does Tukdoji Describe the three qualities of life?**

According to Tukdoji, living beings have three qualities : *Rajas, tamas* and *satvik*. *Rajas* indicates a life of action, while *tamas* symbolizes darkness in life. The most beautiful quality of life is *satvik*. It stands for purity, wisdom and love in life. All these three qualities are present in every living thing on earth but in varying degrees. Big animals eat smaller ones with tricks. This is the rule of the jungle. It is not humane. Beasts and birds which lay eggs or give birth to young ones or microbes and plants live this kind of life. This is the principle of `might is right’.

**iii) Why does Gwendolyn Brooks say that the animals are sane?**

The cows and horses that graze very gracefully are sane. They are happy in the place where they are. They know that wherever they are, their feet press down only a few inches at a time. They do not require more space. They also know that the earth is the same everywhere. You can easily see and feel it wherever you go. The animals are also aware that they must love the place where they are in, whether wthey are in Sweden, China or any other place in the world. They are also wise enough to know that what matters for them is the ground below and the sky above.

**Q.3. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in about 100 words each : 20**

**i) Which are the areas where tolerance is needed?**

According to Forster, tolerance is not to be regarded as a great eternally established diving principle. However those who practice tolerance will be rewarded in heaven. It is a temporary arrangement suitable for our planet which is full of hatred. The world is full of people. Most of these people one doesn’t like – doesn’t like the colour of their skins, or shape of their noses, or the way they blow them, or don’t blow them, or the way they talk, or their smell, or their clothes, or their fondness for jazz or their dislike of jazz and so on. It is in such circumstances that tolerance is required. Tolerance carries on when love vanishes and love generally vanishes as soon as we move away from our home and our friends, and stand among strangers. Tolerance is wanted in the queue, in the tube and at the telephone. It is wanted in the street, in the office and at the factory. It is needed above all between classes, races and nation. For you have all the time to be putting yourself in someone else’s place, which is a desirable spiritual exercise.

**ii) How does pleasure resemble beauty?**

The first law of pleasure is that we cannot expect only pleasure and nothing but pleasure in our lives. Pleasure is like beauty. It is conditioned by contrast. A woman who wants to show off her black velvet dress will not, if she is wise, and stand against a black curtain, but against a white curtain. She wants the contrast. Fireworks would not delight us if they were shot off against a background of fire, in the light of noonday sun. They need to stand out against the darkness. Lilies bring us a special pleasure because their petals rise, surprisingly their petals rise, surprisingly on the waters of foul ponds. Contrast helps us to see things clearly.

**iii) Why does A.G. Gardiner writer that the beauty of the sunset is deeper and more spiritual?**

Gardiner asks why one should be so much afraid of wrinkles and grey hairs. They can be as beautiful as the freshest glow on the face of youth. There is a beauty of the sunrise and a beauty of the sunset. And of the two the beauty of the sunset is deeper and more spiritual. Old people’s tendency towards God and spirituality makes them even more beautiful. There are some faces that glow in loveliness as the snows fall around them and the passage of time makes the gracious lines deeper. The dimple has become a crease, but it is none the less beautiful, for in that crease is the epic of a life time. To smooth out the crease, to cover it with the false hue of youth is to turn the epic into a satire.

**iv) Point out the merits and limitations of Hegal as a historian?**

Comprehensive alone is not enough to constitute wisdom. There should be awareness of the goals of human life. This may be illustrated by a study of history. Many historians have done more harm than good because they wrote history based on their feelings and emotions. Thre was no objectivity. Hegel had a philosophy of history. It did not lack comprehensiveness. It started from the earliest time and continued into an indefinite future. Thus his history had merit. However, it I had certain limitations. The chief lessons of history he tried to project was that from A.D. 400 down to his own time, Germany had been the most important nation and the leader of the world. Thus his writing of history was not impartial. He was prejudiced. He allowed emotions and feelings to enter into his history. He cannot be called wise because he lacked objectivity and comprehensiveness. These are important elements of wisdom. It is by no means uncommon to find men whose knowledge is wide but whose feelings are narrow. Such men lack what we call wisdom. Therefore, as a historian Hegel has both merit and limitations.

**v) Explain the most important method of education mentioned by Einstein.**

According to Einstein, the school is not merely an institution for transferring certain maximum quantity of knowledge to the growing generations. It should develop in the young individuals those qualities and capabilities which contribute to the welfare of the society. But that does not mean that a person’s individuality should be destroyed. An individual is not a mere tool of the community. A community should not consist of standardized individuals. An individual’s personal originality and personal aim should be protected and encouraged. If not, it would be a poor community without possibilities for development. On the contrary, the aim must be the training of independently acting and thinking individuals. However, the individual’s goal must be service of the community. In order to attain this ideal, the most important method of education is the actual performance or practical knowledge given to students.

**vi) What is Indianness to Sheila Dhar?**

The Indianness we all talk about is a particular way of looking at life and certain babits of thinking and feeling which are special to us. For instance, the feelings of an Indian family when a girl gets married and leaves her home are the same throughout India. This has nothing to do with what language the Indain family speaks or what their religion is, or whether we are speaking of now or of two hundred years ago. An Indian son-in-law is a special person and gets special treatment in India. Elders in India whichever part of the country they come from, whatever language they speak, bless young people in the same way, and wish them the same good things in life. These examples help us to see that there reallyis such a thing as Indianness.

Q.4. (A) You are the proprietor of Anand Traders, Patel Marg, Central Avenue-13, Nagpur. Write a letter to the Sales Manager, Vikas Granite Traders, Gandhi Road, Agra, enquiring about the granite tiles produced by them. 10

**ANAND TRADERS**

Patel Marg, Central Avenue, Nagpur – 13.

14 March 2015.

**Sales Manager,**

**Vikas Granite Traders,**

**Gandhi Road, Agra.**

Dear Sir,

During the recent trade fair held in our city, I happened to see some samples of your latest granite tiles for flooring. We would like to stock these tiles in our establishment for sale. However, please give the following information.

1. In what sizes, colours and designs can you supply the tiles?
2. Are the tiles likely to be affected by rising moisture?
3. Is any special processing of the underflooring required?
4. What are your terms and conditions?
5. How long will you take to send the tiles?

I shall be grateful if you could send me answers to these questions as soon as possible. Please alos mention the prices.

Yours faithfully,

XYZ

Proprietor.

OR

Prepare an application with bio-data on the basis of the following advertisement.

**SITUATION VACANT**

Wanted a part-time Library Assistant.

Apply to the Principal, New Arts and Commerce College,

Trimurti Nagar, Nagpur.

15, Ambika Market,

C.A. Road, Nagpur.

13th March, 2015.

**To,**

**Principal,**

**New Arts and Commerce College,**

**Trimurti Nagar, Nagpur.**

Ref. : **Your advertisement in the Time of India, dtd. 18 February, 2015.**

Sub : **Application for the post of part-time library Assistant**.

Sir,

With reference to the advertisement mentioned above, I wish to offer myself as a candidate for the post of part-time library assistant in your reputed institution.

I am an Arts graduate from RTM Nagpur University. I have also done my graduation in library science from the same university with creditable success.

I wish to assure you that, if appointed to the post, I will work with sincerity and devotion.

Please find my bio-date attached.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

XYZ

**BIO-DATA**

1. Name : XYZ
2. Date of Birth : 16 January 1986.
3. Father’s Name : Muthuswamy Iyenger
4. Martial Status : Unmarried
5. Address : 15, Ambika Market, C.A. Road, Nagpur.
6. Educational Qualification : Passed B.A. from RTM Nagpur

University in Ist division.

Passed B. Lib., Sci., from RTM Nagpur University in First Class

1. Other Qualification : Passed Certificate course in Computer

Operation.

1. Extracurricular Activities : Was Secretary of School Debating

Society.

Won Second Prize in the Inter

Collegiate Debate Competition.

1. Experience : Worked as Assistant Librarian in a

private library for three years.

1. Hobbies : Playing Basketball and Chess and

Reading Biographies.

1. Languages Known : English, Hindi, Marathi
2. Salary Expected : Negotiable
3. References : a. Mr. D.N. Dixit,

Chief Librarian,

Central Library, Nagpur.

b. Mrs. Prakash Mistri,

Advocate

Kalam Road, Nagpur.

**(B) Give one-word substitution for each of the following groups of words : 2**

1) i) A child whose parents are dead. - Orphan

ii) Life-history of a person written by another. – Biography

**2) Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions : 2**

i) Children are fond *of* sweets.

ii) Are you interested *in* modern art?

**3) Rewrite the following sentences using the correct tense forms of the verbs given in the**

**brackets**. 2

1. I *had been teaching* (teach) English since 2001.
2. The sun *shines* (shine) during the day.

**4) Write antonyms of the following words : 2**

i) debtor -Creditor ii) raw - refined

**5) Write synonyms of the following words : 2**

i) assist - help ii) start - begin

**Q.5. Answer the following question in not more than three lines each : 20**

**i) What was the price offered by Madame Sofronie for Della’s hair?**

Madame Sofronie offered twenty dollars for Della’s hair.

ii) **What did the doctor say about the death of the younger Gessler?**

The doctor said that “slow starvation” was the cause of the younger Gessler’s death.

1. **How old was Velan when he left home?**

Velan was eighteen years old when he left the home.

1. **Why was Niccolo sorry that he had allowed Paul in?**

Niccolo was sorry that he had allowed Paul in because he (Paul) had said the Bard was an old model.

1. **Who force rabbit out of hiding?**

The hunters force the rabbit out of hiding.

1. **Where does the unknown citizen work?**

The unknown citizen work at Fudge Motors Inc.

1. **What is the Nazi solution when you do not like others?**

The Nazi solution is to kill them, banish them or segregate them.

1. **What is the great value of martial vow?**

The great value of the marital vow is in keeping the couple together during the first quarrel.

1. **What did A.G. Gardiner notice about the face of young lady?**

A.G. Gardiner noticed that the young lady’s face was painted and powdered.

1. **What is the most important quality of Indian culture?**

The most important qualities of Indian culture is that it has always been able to accept new influences and still remains what it was.

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