

ENGLISH

Full Marks : 100

Time : 3 hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

All questions are compulsory

Word limit, wherever specified, should be adhered to

1. Write an essay in about 500 words on any one of the following topics : **30**

- (a) Sustainable development and its challenges
 - (b) Flood management in Assam
 - (c) The role of technology in modern education
 - (d) Wildlife conservation in North-East India
-

2. Write a précis of the following passage and add a suitable title to it : **20**

The river Brahmaputra, one of the great rivers of the world, has shaped the land, culture, and livelihood of Assam in profound ways. Rising in the glaciers of Tibet, where it is known as the Tsangpo, it cuts through the eastern Himalayas in a series of magnificent gorges before descending into the plains of Assam, where it assumes a character altogether different from that of most rivers of the Indian subcontinent. In Assam, the Brahmaputra is not merely a river but a living presence, deeply woven into the daily existence of millions of people who live on its banks and on the hundreds of islands it has formed over centuries.

The river is one of the few rivers in the world that carries a male name, and it commands a respect bordering on reverence among the people of the region. In Assamese literature, folklore, and tradition, the Brahmaputra occupies a central place, inspiring poets, musicians, and storytellers across generations. The river is also notorious for its seasonal fury. Every year, during the monsoon months, it swells to alarming proportions, inundating vast stretches of agricultural land, displacing thousands of families, and causing enormous loss of life and property. Erosion along its banks has over the decades swallowed entire villages, forcing communities to relocate and begin life afresh.

Yet the Brahmaputra is also the giver of life. The fertile silt it deposits after each flood renews the soil and makes the Brahmaputra valley one of the most agriculturally productive regions in the country. Its waters support an immense variety of fish, providing both nutrition and livelihood to riverside

communities. The wetlands and forests along its banks shelter a remarkable diversity of wildlife, including the one-horned rhinoceros, the Gangetic river dolphin, and numerous species of migratory birds. The river thus occupies a paradoxical position in the life of Assam — simultaneously a source of devastation and of extraordinary abundance. Any rational approach to the future of this region must begin with a deep understanding of this great and complex river.

3. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow (answers should be in your own words) :

My grandmother had an unusual relationship with time. She owned no watch and cared very little for clocks. In her small, sunlit room at the back of the house, time moved at its own unhurried pace, measured not by the ticking of hands on a dial but by the angle of light falling through the window, the smell of rice cooking in the kitchen, and the calls of birds in the mango tree outside. To those of us who lived by the tyranny of schedules, her ease with time seemed almost miraculous.

She had lived through events that would have broken most people. She had seen partition, displacement, the loss of a home she would never stop mourning, and the deaths of people she had loved deeply. Yet she carried none of this as visible weight. She moved through her days with a kind of deliberate serenity, attending carefully to small things — the proper folding of a sari, the exact proportion of turmeric in a dish, the slow watering of the tulsi plant in the courtyard. These acts, performed with complete attention, seemed to be her way of asserting that ordinary life had a dignity worth honouring.

She was not a woman of many words, but when she spoke, she chose them with precision. She had a gift for the kind of observation that seemed simple at first and deepened later. Once, watching me rage at a broken pen during my examinations, she said quietly that most suffering came from expecting things to hold when they were always meant to let go. I did not understand her then. I have spent a good portion of my adult life thinking about it since.

In her last years, she lost her eyesight gradually. She bore this with the same composure she brought to everything. When I asked her once if she missed seeing, she thought for a while and said that she now saw more clearly than before. I was young and took this for a polite deflection. I think now that she meant it entirely literally.

Questions :

(a) Which words in the passage mean the following? **1×2=2**

(i) Peaceful calm and self-possession

(ii) Moving away from the main subject to avoid it

(b) How did the grandmother measure time? **2**

- (c) How did the grandmother deal with the hardships she had faced in life? **3**
- (d) What was the grandmother's gift with words? Give an example from the passage. **3**
- (e) Give two expressions/words from the passage related to the preparation of food. **1×2=2**
- (f) Why did the narrator not understand the grandmother's remark about suffering? What did it mean?
1+2=3
- (g) How did the grandmother respond to losing her eyesight? What do you think she meant by her reply? **3**
- (h) Give a suitable title for the passage. **2**
-

4. Amplify (in about 200 words) the ideas contained in any *one* of the following : **15**

- (a) Empty vessels make the most noise
- (b) The pen is mightier than the sword
- (c) Actions speak louder than words
- (d) Every cloud has a silver lining
-

5. (a) Rewrite the following sentences as directed (any *five*) : **1×5=5**

(i) Someone has stolen my bicycle.

(Change the voice)

(ii) The teacher was respected by all the students.

(Change the voice)

(iii) She finished her work. Then she went out to play.

(Rewrite using 'no sooner')

(iv) The bag was heavy. She could not lift it.

(Combine the sentences into a complex sentence)

(v) No other mountain in the world is as high as Mount Everest.

(Change into superlative degree)

(vi) He has been suffering from fever ____ Monday.

(Supply appropriate preposition)

(b) Correct the following sentences (any *five*) : **1×5=5**

(i) She is more wiser than her sister.

(ii) He denied to help me.

(iii) The committee have reached a decision.

(iv) Neither of the two boys were present.

(v) He is belonging to a wealthy family.

(vi) My younger sister is an M.B.B.S. doctor.

(c) Fill in the blanks with proper forms of the verbs given in the brackets : **1×3=3**

(i) By the time we arrived, the programme ____ (start) already.

(ii) She ____ (write) three novels so far.

(iii) It was raining outside but the children ____ (play) in the hall.

(d) Make sentences with the following (any *two*) : **1×2=2**

Hit the nail on the head; Under the weather; Break the ice.