



WEST BENGAL STATE UNIVERSITY  
B.A. General Part-III Examination, 2019

ENGLISH

PAPER-ENGG-IV



Time Allotted: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 100

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.  
Candidates should answer in their own words and adhere to the word limit as practicable.*

1. Answer any **one** question from the following: 15×1 = 15
  - (a) Analyse the central character in Narayan's short story, 'Iswaran'.
  - (b) How does Ruskin Bond create a setting that is appropriate for his adventurous tale, 'Tiger in the Tunnel'?
  - (c) How does Tagore create mystery and supernaturalism in 'Hungry Stones'?
  
2. Locate and annotate any **two** from the following: 5×2 = 10
  - (a) Perhaps the process had begun as soon as I set my foot in the house, but I distinctly remember the day on which I was first conscious of it.
  - (b) He sat there a long time, unafraid of the darkness, guarding the body from jackals and hyenas, until the first faint light of dawn.
  - (c) ..... all this din and commotion helped Iswaran to forget the senate house and student life for a few hours.
  
3. Answer any **one** question from the following: 15×1 = 15
  - (a) How does Toru Dutt interweave myth and reality in the poem 'Sita'?
  - (b) Comment on the use of images in 'The Golden Light'.
  - (c) How does Kamala Das portray her strength and weakness in 'Introduction'?
  
4. Locate and annotate any **two** from the following: 5×2 = 10
  - (a) .... her last wish to be cremated here  
twisting uncertainly like light  
on the shifting sands
  - (b) He said:  
the river has water enough  
to be poetic  
about only once a year

(c) Not in vain

She weeps, — for lo! at every tear she sheds  
Tears from three pairs of young eyes fall amain

5. Write a precis and add a suitable title to the following passage:

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There is an enemy beneath our feet – an enemy more deadly for his complete impartiality. He recognizes no national boundaries, no political parties. Everyone in the world is threatened by him. The enemy is the earth itself. When an earthquake strikes, the world trembles. The power of a quake is greater than anything man himself can produce. But today scientists are directing a great deal of their effort into finding some way of combating earthquakes, and it is possible that at some time in the near future mankind will have discovered a means of protecting itself from earthquakes. An earthquake strikes without warning. When it does, its power is immense. If it strikes a modern city, the damage it causes is as great as if it has struck a primitive village. Gas mains burst, explosions are caused and fires are started. Underground railways are wrecked. Buildings collapse, bridges fall, dams burst, gaping crevices appear in busy streets. If the quake strikes at sea, huge tidal waves sweep inland. If it strikes in mountain regions, avalanches roar down into the valley. Consider the terrifying statistics from the past 1755: Lisbon, capital of Portugal – the city destroyed entirely and 450 killed. 1970: Peru: 50,000 killed. In 1968 an earthquake struck Alaska. As this is a relatively unpopulated part, only a few people were killed. But it is likely that this was one of the most powerful quakes ever to have hit the world. Geologists estimate that during the tremors, the whole of the state moved over 80 feet farther west into the Pacific Ocean. Imagine the power of something that can move an entire subcontinent! This is the problem that the scientists face. They are dealing with forces so immense that man cannot hope to resist them. All that can be done is to try to pinpoint just where the earthquake will strike and work from there. At least some precautionary measures can then be taken to save lives and some of the property.

6. Write a Curriculum Vitae, applying for one of the following vacancies:

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- (a) Bank Executive at ICICI Bank, with sound knowledge of computer.
- (b) Sales Manager in Big Bazaar Shopping Mall of Barasat, with good communication skill and command over English.

7. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

Punctually at midday he opened his bag and spread out his professional equipment, which consisted of a dozen cowrie shells, a square piece of cloth with obscure mystic charts on it, a notebook, and a bundle of Palmyra writing. His forehead was resplendent with sacred ash and vermilion, and his eyes sparkled with a sharp abnormal gleam which was really an outcome of a continual searching look for customers, but which his simple clients took to be a prophetic light and felt comforted. The power of his eyes was considerably enhanced by their position placed as they were between the painted forehead and the dark whiskers which streamed down his cheeks: even a half-wit's eyes would sparkle in such a setting. To crown the effect, he wound a saffron-coloured turban around his head. This colour scheme never failed. People were attracted to him as bees are attracted to cosmos or dahlia stalks. He sat under the boughs of a spreading tamarind tree which flanked a path running through the Town Hall Park. It was a remarkable place in many ways: a surging crowd was always moving up and down this narrow road morning till night. A variety of trades and occupations was represented all along its way: medicine sellers, sellers of stolen hardware and junk, magicians, and, above all, an auctioneer of cheap doth, who created enough din all day to attract the whole town. Next to him in vociferousness came a vendor of fried groundnut, who gave his ware a fancy name each day, calling it "Bombay Ice-Cream" one day, and on the next "Delhi Almond", and on the third "Raja's Delicacy", and so on and so forth, and people flocked to him. A considerable portion of this crowd dallied before the astrologer too. The astrologer transacted his business by the light of a flare which crackled and smoked up above the groundnut heap nearby. Half the enchantment of the place was due to the fact that it did not have the benefit of municipal lighting. The place was lit up by shop lights. One or two had hissing gaslights, some had naked flares stuck on poles, some were lit up by old cycle lamps, and one or two, like the astrologer's, managed without lights of their own. It was a be-wildering criss-cross of light rays and moving shadows. This suited the astrologer very well, for the simple reason that he had not in the least intended to be an astrologer when he began life; and he knew no more of what was going to happen to others than he knew what was going to happen to himself next minute. He was as much a stranger to the stars as were his innocent customers. Yet he said things which

pleased and astonished everyone: that was more a matter of study, practice, and shrewd guesswork. All the same, it was as much an honest man's labour as any other, and he deserved the wages he carried home at the end of a day. He had left his village without any previous thought or plan. If he had continued there he would have carried on the work of his forefathers namely, tilling the land, living, marrying, and ripening in his cornfield and ancestral home. But that was not to be. He had to leave home without telling anyone, and he could not rest till he left it behind a couple of hundred miles. To a villager it is a great deal, as if an ocean flowed between.

- (a) How is the astrologer described in the passage?
- (b) How did the astrologer manage to continue his work without having any knowledge of astrology?
- (c) What does the passage tell us about this man's past?
- (d) Describe the place where the astrologer set his workplace.

5×4 = 20

8. Check the proof of the following text using appropriate signs. Attach the sheet with your answer book. 10

The British author Kazuo Ishiguro said he was both honoured and taken completely by surprise after he was named this year's winner of the 2017 Nobel Prize in literature. Ishiguro, author of novels including *The Remains of the Day* and *Never Let Me Go*, was praised by the Swedish Academy for novels which were driven by a "great emotional force? Despite being among those tipped for the prize, whose previous winners include Seamus Heaney, Toni Morrison, Doris Lessing and Pablo Neruda, Ishiguro told *The Guardian* he had been completely unprepared for the announcement. and had even doubted at first if it was true.

**OR**

(For visually impaired)

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Write a CV applying for a the job of a language teacher in a primary school.

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