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SECOND TERM EVALUATION 2024-25
ENGLISH

Time : 2.30 hrs
Total Score : 80

STD: X

INSTRUCTIONS

- 15 minutes is given as cool off time.
- This time is to be used for reading the question paper.
- You are not supposed to write anything during the cool off time.
- Attempt the questions according to the instructions.

Questions 1-6. Read the excerpt from *The Danger of a Single Story* and answer the questions that follow. **6x1=6**

I'm a storyteller. And I would like to tell you a few personal stories about what I like to call 'the danger of a single story.' I grew up on a university campus in Eastern Nigeria. My mother says that I started reading at the age of two, although I think it probably happened when I was four. So I was an early reader, and what I read were British and American children's books.

I was also an early writer, and when I began to write, at about the age of seven, stories in pencil with crayon illustrations that my poor mother was obligated to read, I wrote exactly the kinds of stories I was reading. All my characters were white and blue-eyed, they played in the snow, they ate apples, and they talked a lot about the weather, how lovely it was that the sun had come out. But I had never been outside Nigeria. We didn't have snow, we ate mangoes, and we never talked about the weather, because there was no need to.

1. Where did Adichie grow up?
2. How does the author's early reading influence her writing style?
3. Pick out a word from the passage which means 'a picture in a book or a magazine'.
4. What is the significance of the author's characters being white and blue-eyed in her early writings?
 - a. It reflects her personal preferences.
 - b. It was a requirement for children's books at the time.
 - c. It reflects the limited exposure she had to diverse cultures.
 - d. It was a deliberate choice to appeal to a wider audience.

5. Which of the following best describes the author's tone in the passage?
- Reflective and thoughtful
 - Sarcastic and pessimistic
 - Angry and accusatory
 - Optimistic and hopeful
6. Read the following statement and identify the **Noun Phrase** in the subject position and the **Verb Phrase**.

All the characters were white and blue-eyed.

Questions 7-11. Read the lines from *Poetry* and answer the questions that follow. **5x1=5**

And it was at that age ... Poetry arrived
in search of me. I don't know, I don't know where
it came from, from winter or a river.
I don't know how or when,
no they were not voices, they were not
words, nor silence,
but from a street I was summoned,
from the branches of night,
abruptly from the others,
among violent fires
or returning alone,
there I was without a face,
and it touched me.

- What does the line 'Poetry arrived in search of me' imply?
- What does 'the branches of night' stand for?
- Identify instances of contrast used in the lines given above.
- 'Poetry arrived in search of me.' Which literary device is used in the line?
- What was the condition of the poet before poetry arrived?

12. Read the following lines from *The Ballad of Father Gilligan* and prepare an appreciation focusing on the theme, imagery and poetic devices. 5x1=5

The old priest Peter Gilligan
Was weary night and day
For half his flock were in their beds
Or under green sods lay.

Once, while he nodded in a chair
At the moth-hour of the eve
Another poor man sent for him,
And he began to grieve.

Questions 13-17. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow. 5x1=5

Polar bears are some of the most extraordinary and recognisable animals in the world. Scientifically known as *Ursus maritimus*, they are scarcely seen in the wild as they reside north of the Arctic Circle. They belong to the family *Ursidae*, containing the largest of all terrestrial carnivores, also including black and brown bears. These colossal creatures are powerful predators, equipped for frigid temperatures with their dense fur and thick layer of warming body fat. But they face an unstable future as their icy habitat is dwindling rapidly. Although polar bears are famous for their snow-white colour, their skin is actually black, according to the World Wildlife Fund. What makes them look white is actually their thick layer of hollow, translucent, light-reflecting fur, effectively camouflaging them against snowy backgrounds. The only place where their true pigment is evident is on the tips of their charcoal noses. Their black skin helps them absorb sun rays, keeping them warm in bitter temperatures.

*camouflage - the way that the colour or shape of an animal or plant appears to mix with its natural environment to prevent it from being seen.

13. How does climate change pose a significant threat to polar bears?
14. Which family do polar bears belong to?
15. What allows polar bears to camouflage against snowy backgrounds?
 - a. Black skin
 - b. Hollow translucent fur
 - c. White coloured fur
 - d. Body fat
16. Which of the following is not a characteristic of polar bears?
 - a. Dense fur
 - b. Thick layer of body fat
 - c. Large size
 - d. Long tail
17. How do polar bears stay warm in bitter temperatures?

Questions 18-19. Answer any ONE of the following.

1x7=7

18. Based on your reading of the play *The Never-Never Nest*, prepare a **write-up** discussing the applicability of the Equated Monthly Instalment Scheme (EMI) culture in modern society. Include further commentary on the negative effects of consumerism and the importance of maintaining financial discipline in life.

19. Dr. A. J. Cronin recollects his meeting with Mr John and his wife in a function organised after his visit to the US. Prepare a text of the **speech** focusing on Mr. John's life-changing experiences and his dedication to society.

Questions 20-22. Answer any TWO of the following.

2x5=10

20. The English Club of your school is conducting a *Literature Fest*, featuring engaging seminars, thought-provoking panel discussions, and creative exhibitions. Prepare a **notice** to invite everyone to the Literature Fest.

21. Mr. Schmidt is thrilled to learn that Martha has been awarded the Scholarship Jacket. He feels a deep sense of fulfilment, knowing that his efforts have been worthwhile, and decides to write down his feelings in his diary. Prepare the likely **diary entry** of Mr. Schmidt.

22. Read the extract below and prepare **five questions** based on it.

His face looked as happy and innocent as a baby's, but I knew better. Without answering I gave him a quick hug and ran to the bus. I cried on the walk home again, but this time because I was so happy. I couldn't wait to tell Grandpa and ran straight to the field. I joined him in the row where he was working, and without saying anything I crouched down and started pulling up the weeds with my hands. Grandpa worked alongside me for a few minutes, and he didn't ask what had happened. After I had a little pile of weeds between the rows, I stood up and faced him.

Questions 23-26. Answer any TWO of the following.

2x6=12

23. In the story *The Scholarship Jacket*, Martha faces injustice and discrimination when she is initially denied the scholarship jacket despite her academic excellence. The theme centres around perseverance, integrity, and the fight against unfairness. Prepare a **review** of the story with special focus on theme, characterisation, plot, setting and conflicts in the story.

24. Prepare a **character sketch** of Jack in the play *The Never Never Nest* focussing on his views on debt and luxury, and how this behaviour reflects modern consumerism.

25. Prepare a **narrative** on the incidents that happened in the life of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie that reveal the adverse effects of single stories and how they create stereotypes and misunderstandings.

26. You are a reporter and assigned to cover the shooting that took place in Notun Gram. Prepare a **newsreport** of the major events that unfolded and the subsequent developments that emerged during the shooting.

27. Prepare a **profile** of Chinua Achebe using the details given below.

1x6 = 6

Full Name : Albert Chinualumogu Achebe
Born : November 16, 1930, Ogidi, Nigeria
Education : English and literature -University College (University of Ibadan).
Employment : worked as teacher initially - later joined Nigerian Broadcasting Corporation (1961-66).
Spouse : Christie Chinwe Okoli
Acclaimed for : Unsentimental depictions of African society.
Awards : Man Booker International Prize (2007)
Notable Works : *A Man of the People*, *Anthills of the Savannah*, *No Longer at Ease*, *Things Fall Apart*
Died : March 21, 2013, Boston, Massachusetts, U.S.

Questions 28-32. Read the following data regarding Extinct Languages and answer the questions that follow.

1x5=5

Extinct Languages			
Language	Extinction Date	Region	Language Family
Old Norse	1400 AD	Scandinavia	Indo-European
Old Prussian	1700 AD	Prussia	Indo-European
Gothic	1600 AD	Europe	Indo-European
Avestan	700 AD	Persia	Indo-European
Akkadian	100 AD	Mesopotamia	Semitic
Etruscan	100 BC	Italy	Isolate

28. What is the earliest recorded extinction date among the languages listed?

29. Which language family has the most languages represented in the table?

30. When did Old Norse become extinct?

31. Which of the following languages is not an Indo-European language?
- a. Old Norse
 - b. Old Prussian
 - c. Gothic
 - d. Akkadian

32. In which region did Etruscan originate?
- a. Italy
 - b. Egypt
 - c. Persia
 - d. Scandinavia

33. Report the following dialogue. 2x1=2

Aunt Jane : How much do you earn?

Jack : I earn six pounds a week.

34. Edit the passage given below. The errors are given in bold. 4x1=4

A J Cronin was one of the passengers in the ship **what (a)** was sailing smoothly to London. Among the passengers was a man whose life was saved by him. No sooner had the narrator recognised him **that (b)** he remembered how he had rescued his life through **resascitasion (c)** twenty five years ago. The man said if it had not been for Cronin's intervention, his life **would take (d)** a completely different path.

35. Complete the following passage using the appropriate forms of phrasal verbs given in brackets. 5x1=5

Martha was really.....(a)..... when it.....(b)..... her that her teachers were arguing about her scholarship jacket. Quite shaken, she stood rooted against the wall.....(c).....with the graffiti written there. The pounding in her ears seem to.....(d)..... the rest of the words and she went home devastated. Unable to(e)her emotions, she cried into the pillow so that Grandmother wouldn't hear her.

(dawn on, blend in, rein in, drown out, taken aback)

36. Fill in the blanks using the words given in brackets. 4x1=4

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie grew up a Nigeria, where she was exposed to American and British literature. The stories she read were written b by British

and American authors, shaping her initial perceptions. The American television shows ___c___ she watched, portrayed Africans as poor and war-torn, inculcating a single story about Africans. Therefore, she emphasizes the importance of listening to multiple stories ___d___ they provide a nuanced understanding.

(on, in, because, that, mostly)

37. Complete the conversation between Aunt Jane and her friend, Jennifer.

4x1=4

- Jennifer :(a).....?
- Aunt Jane : I have been to Jack and Jill's house.
- Jennifer :(b).....?
- Aunt Jane : I look tensed because Jack and Jill are ruining their life by buying many things on instalments.
- Jennifer : That's bad. You asked them to mend their ways,
.....(c).....?
- Aunt Jane : I did. But I don't think they have understood the gravity of the situation.
- Jennifer : But, if they don't deal with it properly,(d).....
- Aunt Jane : No doubt.