

কুমিল্লা বোর্ড

03 Set

ENGLISH

FIRST PAPER

[According to the Syllabus of 2026]

Subject Code :

1 0 7

Time—3 hours
Full marks—100

[N.B. The figures in the right margin indicate full marks. Answer all the questions.]

Part A—Reading Test

Marks—70

Read the following passage carefully. Then answer questions 1, 2 and 3 :

Meherjan lives in a slum on the Sirajgonj Town Protection Embankment. The whispering wind from the river Jamuna makes the fire unsteady. The dancing flames remind Meherjan of the turmoil in her life.

Not long ago Meherjan had everything—a family, arable land and cattle. The erosion of Jamuna gradually consumed all her land property. It finally claimed her only shelter during the last monsoon. It took the river only a day to devour Meher's house, trees, vegetable garden and the bamboo bush. She had a happy family once. Over the years, she lost her husband and her family to diseases that cruel hunger and poverty brought to her family. Now, she is the only one left to live on with her loss and the pain. The greedy Jamuna has shattered her dreams and happiness.

There are thousand others waiting to share the same fate like Meherjan. Bangladesh is a land of rivers, some of whose banks overflow or erode during monsoon. Erosion is a harsh reality for the people living along the river banks. During each monsoon many more villages are threatened by the mighty rivers like the Jamuna, the Padma and the Meghna. It is estimated that river erosion makes at least 1,00,000 people homeless every year in Bangladesh. In fact, river erosion is one of the main dangers caused by climate change. If we can't take prompt action to adapt to climate change, there will be thousands of more Meherjans in our towns and villages every year.

Marks

1×7=7

1. Choose the correct answer from the alternatives given after each question.

- (a) There is/are — in Meherjan's family.
 (i) many members (ii) a few members
☒ (iii) one member (iv) few member
- (b) — has made Meherjan's life miserable.
 (i) old age (ii) sickness
 (iii) frustration ☒ (iv) river erosion
- (c) All her land property — gradually by the erosion of Jamuna.
 (i) consumed ☒ (ii) was consumed
 (iii) consumes (iv) is consumed
- (d) The people who live by the side of the river lead a very — life.
 (i) happy ☒ (ii) anxious
 (iii) nice (iv) luxurious

[Please turn over]

(e) The word 'tremble' mentioned in the passage means—.

- (i) steady (ii) stable
(iii) throb (iv) vibrate

Marks

(f) Which is the figure related to the homeless people in Bangladesh every year?

- (i) 10,00,000 (ii) 1,000
(iii) 10,000 (iv) 1,00,000

(g) What is the main purpose of the author of the passage?

- (i) To explain the importance of big rivers
(ii) To describe the impact of river erosion
(iii) To depict of impact of the monsoon
(iv) To describe the destiny of a woman

2. Answer the following questions in your own words :

2×5=10

- (a) What do you know about the early life of Meherjan?
(b) What does Meherjan use to make fire for cooking foods?
(c) Why is the phrase 'greedy Jamuna' used to describe the river?
(d) In which season is the river erosion most likely to occur?
(e) What is the central idea of the passage?

3. Read the above passage again and fill in each gap with a suitable word based on it :

1×5=5

River erosion is still posing (a) — to the lives and properties of thousands of people (b) — close to the rivers. They are most (c) — the worst victims of river erosion. Each year about one lac people (d) — homeless for river erosion in Bangladesh. Meherjan's life is just one (e) —.

Answer

(a) threat/danger
(d) become

(b) residing/ living
(e) example

(c) likely/often

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions no. 4 and 5 :

Bangladesh is blessed with huge inland open water resources. It has numerous rivers, canals, beels, lakes and vast areas of flood plains. Hakaluki Haor is one of the major wetlands of Bangladesh. With a land area of 18,386 hectares, it supports a rich biodiversity and provides direct and indirect livelihood benefits to nearly 1,90,000 people. This haor was declared an ecologically critical area in April 1999 by the Government of Bangladesh. Hakaluki is a complex ecosystem, containing more than 238 interconnecting beels and jalmahals. The haor falls into two administrative districts—Maulovibazar and Sylhet. Some 1,90,000 people live in the area surrounding the haor.

The haor is a very important resting place of migratory water-fowls flying in from the north. The interesting species is the Barheaded Goose which is now hardly seen in fresh water wetlands. Hakaluki Haor is known as a good grazing land in winter. The haor had very dense swamp forests in the past, but deforestation and lack of conservation practices have virtually destroyed this unique forest in the last two decades.

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Marks

1×5=5

4. Complete the table below with information from the above passage.

About Hakaluki Haor

Who/What	Event/activity	Speciality/area	Place/time
Hakaluki Haor	is a major water land	with an area of (i)	in Bangladesh
The haor	was declared	Ecologically critical area	(ii)
It	falls	into two districts	(iii)
(iv)	is seen	which is the most interesting water fowl	in fresh water
The haor	(v)	as good grazing land	in water

[Water এর পরিবর্তে
Winter হবে]

Answer

- (i) 18,386 hectares (ii) in April 1999 (iii) Maulovibazar and Sylhet
(iv) The Barheaded Goose (v) is known

5. Write a summary of the above passage in your own words. 10
6. Match the parts of sentences given in column A, B and C to write five complete sentences : 1×5=5

Column A	Column B	Column C
(a) Morality develops the conscience	(i) himself in a proper way and cultivate	(i) which cannot ignore logic and reason
(b) It helps a man guide	(ii) is increasing and we are losing	(ii) and right and wrong
(c) It is such a great natural power	(iii) from our childhood, we shall	(iii) the invaluable virtue of morality
(d) But nowadays moral erosion	(iv) that it grows naturally in human behavior	(iv) fall in every aspect of life
(e) If we do not practise morality	(v) by which man can judge good or bad	(v) all the virtues to become a complete man

Answer

- a+v+ii b+i+v c+iv+i d+ii+iii e+iii+iv

7. Put the following parts of the story in correct order to make the whole story. Only the corresponding numbers of sentences need to be written. 1×8=8
- He earned a lot of money from his dynamite business.
 - This award was named after Alfred Nobel.
 - He was an engineer.
 - Dr. Alfred Nobel was born in 21 October, 1833 at Stockholm, Sweden.
 - So, it was called the Nobel Prize.
 - He invented dynamite after some years of joining his father's company.
 - This award was also given for setting up peace in the world.
 - He undertook a plan to give an award for encouraging the creative work.

Answer

- d+c+f+a+h+b+e+g

Marks

8. Answer any five of the following questions from the poems. 2×5=10
- How does Whitman view the role of humanity in "O Me! O Life!"?
 - What does the phrase "The powerful play goes on" mean in "O Me! O Life!"?
 - What does the poem 'Books' suggest about reading as a mental journey?
 - What does the poem 'Two Mothers Remembered' suggest about patience?
 - What does the poet suggest about human resilience in "The Sands of Dee"?
 - Why does the poet use the metaphor of a caravan in "Time, You Old Gipsy Man"?
 - What is the role of snow in "Stopping by Woods On a Snowy Evening"?
 - What does the poet mean by "Be glad and your friends are many" in "Solitude"?
9. Answer any five of the following questions from the stories : 2×5=10
- How does Sonabhan react to Moti's death in the story "Mr. Moti"?
 - What marks a significant change in Sonabhan routine after Moti's death in the story "Mr. Moti"?
 - Who had brought the news of Mr. Brently Mallard's death in "The Story of an Hour"?
 - What does the purple jar symbolize in "The Purple Jar"?
 - What did Portia emphasize about God's mercy in "The Merchant of Venice"?
 - What was Antonio's primary occupation in "The Merchant of Venice"?
 - What was Mrs. Mallard's reaction when he entered the house in "The Story of an Hour"?
 - Why did Mrs. Mallard die at the end of the story "The Story of an Hour"?

Part B—Writing Test

Marks—30

10. Read the beginning of a story. Add at least ten new sentences to complete the story. Give a suitable title to it. 15
- Once there lived a happy cobbler who passed his days in working and singing from morning till night. He had a rich neighbour, a banker, who, one day, said to him, "How much do you earn a year?" The cobbler replied, "....."
11. Education is very important for the development of a nation. Suppose, you are Nadi/Sagor and your friend is Adib/Adiba. Now, write a dialogue between you and your friend about the importance of education in the development of a nation. 15