

সিলেট বোর্ড

03 Set
ENGLISH
FIRST PAPER

[According to the Syllabus of 2026]

Subject Code :

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Time—3 hours

Full marks—100

[N.B. Figures in the right margin indicate full marks.]

Part A—Reading Test

Marks—70

Read the passage and answer questions no. 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 the 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 the family. Now, she is the only one left to live on with the 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 100,000 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 actions to adapt to climate change, there will be thousands of more Meherjans in our towns and villages every year.

1. Choose the best answer from the alternatives :

Marks

1×7=7

(a) In her early life, Meherjan was—.

- (i) stressful ☒ (ii) solvent
(iii) insolvent ☐ (iv) satisfied

(b) How long did the river Jamuna take to make Meherjan homeless?

- (i) Many years ☐ (ii) One week
☒ (iii) One day ☐ (iv) Long time

[Please turn over]

- (c) Meherjan's dreams have been shattered by——.
- (i) the whispering wind (ii) the greedy villagers
(iii) the dancing flames (iv) the greediness of the river Jamuna
- (d) The synonym of the word 'fate' is——.
- (i) destiny (ii) disaster (iii) destruction (iv) decay
- (e) What does the phrase 'mighty rivers' in the text mean?
- (i) Rivers that have many waves
(ii) Rivers that make people mighty
(iii) Rivers that have huge volume of water and very strong currents
(iv) Rivers that have strong dams
- (f) What is the consequence of river erosion?
- (i) Taking away man's life (ii) Making people rootless
(iii) Making people aware (iv) Leading a happy life
- (g) What is the actual cause of river erosion?
- (i) Greenhouse gas (ii) Strong tides
(iii) Temperature rise (iv) Climate change

2. Answer the following questions :

2×5=10

- (a) What does the phrase 'dancing flames' symbolize?
(b) Which properties did Meherjan lose due to river erosion?
(c) Why is Meherjan alone at present?
(d) How do the people of our country suffer owing to climate change?
(e) What is the main purpose of the passage?

3. Fill in each gap with a suitable word based on the information of the text :

1×5=5

People living by the river banks are in the threat of extinction
(a) — to river erosion. Every year, many people become
(b) — because of it. Meherjan has become a (c) — of this natural disaster. She lost her family, (d) — and properties. Her life is now full of (e) — because of the greedy Jamuna.

Answer

(a) due
(d) land

(b) homeless
(e) struggles

(c) victim

Read the following text carefully and answer questions no. 4 and 5 :

Neil Armstrong was the first man who walked on the moon. He was an American astronaut. He was also an aerospace engineer. Armstrong was born on 5 August, 1930 in Wapakoneta, Ohio, USA. He earned his flight certificate in 1945 at the age of 15 only. In 1947, at the age of 17, he began to study Aeronautical Engineering in Purdue University, USA. He received B.Sc. degree in Aeronautical Engineering in 1955 and did M.Sc. in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Southern California in 1970. In 1958, he was selected for the US Air Force's Man in Space programme. Neil Armstrong along with his crew started the journey to the moon in Apollo 11 on July 16, 1969. He was the commander of Apollo 11 and four days later they landed on the moon. They explored the surface and gathered moon rocks for over two hours. The next day they fired off the surface of the moon.

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

Marks
1×5=5

Aim	To conquer the moon		
Main spaceship	(i) _____		
Who/What	Event	When	Place
Neil Armstrong	was born	on 5 August, 1930	(ii) _____
He	(iii) _____	in 1955	
(iv) _____	started their journey to the moon	on July 16, 1969	from the earth
Neil Armstrong	landed on the moon	(v) _____	

Answer

(i) Apollo 11 (ii) Wapakoneta (iii) received his B.Sc. degree in Aeronautical Engineering
(iv) Neil Armstrong along with his crew (v) on July 20, 1969

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 1×5=5
five complete sentences :

Column A	Column B	Column C
(a) Food adulteration is a process	(i) mobile courts to detect	(i) by the greedy businessmen
(b) The main reason behind adding	(ii) the quality of foods	(ii) is to increase financial profit
(c) It is an awful offense	(iii) in which harmful chemicals	(iii) and punish the dishonest businessmen
(d) This process reduces	(iv) various chemicals in food	(iv) are added in food items
(e) The government has set up	(v) which is committed	(v) and damages the health of consumers

Answer

(a + iii + iv) (b + iv + ii) (c + v + i)
(d + ii + v) (e + i + iii)

7. Put the following parts of the story in correct order to make the whole story. Only the corresponding numbers of the sentences need to be written. 1×8 = 8
- He took shelter in a remote cave.
 - Robert Bruce fought bravely but lost the battle.
 - But it didn't give up hope and at last became successful.
 - Inspired by this incident, Robert Bruce gathered his courage and attacked the enemies again.
 - Once while he was lying in the cave, he saw a spider trying hard to reach the ceiling of the cave.
 - Robert Bruce was a famous king of Scotland.
 - And lastly he regained his kingdom.
 - The King of England invaded his kingdom and occupied it.

[Please turn over

Answer

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

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8. Answer any five of the following questions from the poems of your textbook : Marks 2×5 =10
- (a) What does the poet mean by “eyes that vainly crave the light” in the poem “O Me! O Life!”?
 - (b) Did the speaker love both the mothers? Why?
 - (c) What do books bring in our fancies and eyes?
 - (d) How has the poet described the sea in the poem “The Sands of Dee”?
 - (e) What is the significance of time being compared to a ‘Gipsy Man’?
 - (f) Why did the poet stop by the woods though it was dark and he was alone?
 - (g) What task was Mary given in the poem “The Sands of Dee”?
 - (h) “Laugh, and the world laughs with you; Weep, and you weep alone;”—Explain briefly in the light of the poem ‘Solitude’.
9. Answer any five of the following questions from the stories of your textbook : 2×5 =10
- (a) Which things did Rosamond wish to buy?
 - (b) When does Sonabhan realise that Ameen has grown up?
 - (c) How did Bassanio want to visit Portia and why?
 - (d) What was the condition of Mrs. Mallard when she heard about her husband’s death?
 - (e) Why didn’t Rosamond examine the Jar before buying it?
 - (f) Why was Bassanio short of money all the time?
 - (g) Why did Sonabhan sigh?
 - (h) Why did Antonio agree to borrow money from Shylock?

Part B—Writing Test

Marks—30

10. Read the beginning of the story. Complete the story and give a suitable title to it : 15
- Sheikh Saadi was a great poet in Iran. The king of Iran used to invite him very often in his court. Once on his way to the court, he took shelter in a nobleman’s house. At that time, he was in a very simple dress. The nobleman
11. Suppose, you are Atif/Atifa. You have a friend named Rana/Runa. Very often he/she feels tired and lazy. It will be helpful for his/her health to have physical exercise regularly. Now, write a dialogue between you and your friend about the importance of taking physical exercise. 15

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