

PSG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE
(AUTONOMOUS)

BA DEGREE EXAMINATION MAY 2025
(Fifth Semester)

Branch - ENGLISH

MAJOR ELECTIVE COURSE- I: ENGLISH FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

Time: Three Hours

Maximum: 50 Marks

SECTION A

1. **Read the following passage and answer the questions that follows it (5X1=5)**

My sensei's letter said he missed his friends. No one had visited him. He wondered if I could visit him at the camp. And he asked if he could have his shoes back. He apologized. His old shoes had come apart, he wrote.

I felt sorry for him. An understanding man, he had been good to us and taught us values. Through songs he introduced us to the old Japanese way, the true Japanese spirit: Nippon Seishin.

That letter mentioned a pair of shoes that he had given me. The last time I saw him was at his home in Cavanagh Road when Singapore was still occupied. He had said, 'Take these new shoes. They look too big for you, but you're still growing. Some day they'll fit. I don't mind going into the POW camp in these old shoes.'

He'd been teaching at a school back home when the Japanese Imperial Army conscripted him and shipped him to Singapore to teach the Japanese language to its conquered citizens. We soon found him different from the arrogant and sadistic heitai-san (soldiers), who treated us like dirt.

He sponsored his students for precious food rations and helped them get jobs. He even took the grave risk of speaking up for students and their relatives who had somehow displeased the notorious Kempeitai, the all-powerful Japanese Military Police. When the father of Fong, one of my classmates, was detained after he got drunk and trampled a Japanese flag, Fong asked our sensei for help. He bravely went to the Kempeitai and got him released, although the old man came out haggard, white hair all straggly, hobbling on sticks and dragging one useless foot along. After that, my sensei was a hero in my eyes.

- What did the sensei write in the letter to the author?
- How do you know that the sensei was a good man?
- Why was the sensei shipped to Singapore?
- How did the heitai-san treat the Singaporeans?
- State whether the statement is True or False : *The Japanese Imperial Army conscripted him and shipped him to Singapore.*

SECTION B

Answer all the questions (3X5=15)

1. **Read the following passage and make a précis. Suggest a suitable title:**

Certain people consciously or unconsciously cherish the desire that some part of their work and of their accomplishment will outlive their own individual life. The influence which they have exercised on the world in which they lived, the concern which they have built up, the books which they have written, the work they have laid as a part of some scientific edifice, whose completion they themselves will not live to see all such things inspire the people that some aspect of themselves will outlast their own personal existence, the artist bequeaths his pictures, the scholar his contribution of knowledge while poets and composers are primarily concerned that posterity shall take pleasure in their creations. Statesmen envisage that particular agreement in whose development they themselves had played a crucial part will preserve their names for future generations. People are not unconcerned for their posthumous reputation. Many an old person is distinctly preoccupied with this question and keeps a zealous watch to ensure that his achievements are properly quoted and recorded.

Cont...

2. Write FOR and Against on ANY ONE of the following topics:
 a) Social media – a blessing or a curse?
 b) Is homework harmful or helpful?
3. Write an expository essay on ANY ONE of the following topics:
 a) Role of AI b) Major stress in youngsters' life

SECTION - C

Answer all the questions

- a. Fill in the blanks in the paragraph with the help of the options given. (4 x 1/2=2)
 The modern student (a) _____ the importance (b) _____ physical exercise. He spends one to two hours in open air (c) _____ he takes part in different sports. However, care should (d) _____ not to overstrain the body.
 (i) understood (ii) understand (iii) have understand (iv) understands
 (i) of (ii) by (iii) from (iv) with
 (i) how (ii) which (iii) where (iv) why
 (i) be taken (ii) took (iii) takes (iv) has taken
- b. Relate the correct option in Analogy: (4x1/2=2)
 1. kitten : _____ :: soldier : army
 a. cat b. litter c. puppy d. meow
 2. cord : telephone :: _____ : television
 a. watch b. screen c. program d. table
 3. cub : bear :: joey : _____
 a. cave b. doll c. kangaroo d. truck
 4. fern : plant :: _____ : fish
 a. catch b. minnow c. animal d. sparrow
- c. Find the SYNONYM for the given word: (4x1/2=2)
 1. Bifurcate - a. Scatter b. Divided into two c. Unite d. Depart
 2. Rustic - a. Unrefined b. Homely c. Polished d. Old
 3. Dilated - a. Reduce b. Swell c. Widened d. Big
 4. Ascertained - a. Confirmed b. Learn c. Ignore d. Promise
- d. Find the ANTONYM for the given word: (4x1/2=2)
 1. Inclusion - a. Exclusion b. Include c. Addition d. Recession
 2. Difficult - a. Tough b. Rough c. Easy d. Hard
 3. Frustrating - a. Annoying b. Irritating c. Delightful d. Paining
 4. Achieve - a. Victory b. Fail c. Accomplish d. Capture
- e. Identify the four misspelt words in the following list. (4x1/2=2)
 1. FORMARLY 2. IMPROMPTTU 3. EQUIVOLENT 4. FORTY
 5. INACCESSIBLE 6. EROTION
- f. find out the meaningful word from the jumbled group of letters given: (4x1/2=2)
 1. xoerepl 2. auoecrg 3. hgleelacn 4. ustqe
- g. Find a new word by adding a prefix and a suffix to the given word: (4x1/2=2)
 1. Literate 2. Qualify 3. Nutrition 4. Child
- h. Find out the meaning of the words underlined in the sentence: (4x1/2=2)
 1. When school began, there was a great bustle, which could be heard in the street.
 a. energy b. excitement c. dull d. gloomy
 2. She screamed back mockingly.
 a. Honourably b. Ridiculously c. praisingly d. Respectfully
 3. We don't have to use any means of repulsion.
 a. Attraction b. Distaste c. love d. sacred

4. I indulged in banking.

- a. Took part b. unwilling c. Abstained from d. lazy

i) Find out the meaning of Idioms and Phrases underlined in the sentences: (4x1/2=2)

1. The detective was able to piece together the clues and solve the mystery.

- A) Destroy evidence B) Gather information
C) Ignore leads D) Reveal secrets

2. After graduating, she spread her wings and moved to a new city.

- A) Started a family B) Began a new career
C) Became independent D) Traveled extensively

3. The team's innovative solution turned the tables on their competitors.

- A) Improved their reputation B) Changed the game dynamics
C) Reduced profits D) Increased costs

4. Despite facing criticism, the artist refused to back down.

- A) Apologize publicly B) Defend her work
C) Change her style D) Quit creating

j) Choose the correct substitution for the sentence. (4x1/2=2)

1. A person who can use both the hands in an expert way is called _____.

- a) secular b) aquarium c) ambidextrous d) mint

2. The arrangement of events or dates according to the order of their occurrence is called _____.

- a) cannibal b) chronology c) gregarious d) fastidious

3. The centre of attraction a person exudes is called _____.

- a) cynosure b) acoustics c) reservoir d) connoisseur

4. A small fleet of ships or boats is called _____.

- a) amateur b) bouquet c) congregation d) flotilla

k) Rearranging the phrases labelled as PQRS into a meaningful sentence. (4x1/2=2)

1. Our body takes in many toxins from

P) We eat, and we must have

Q) A process for purging these impurities.

R) The atmosphere and the food

- (A) PQR (B) RPQ (C) QPR (D) RQP

2. Calling for coordinated action between government and judiciary to reduce

P) The initiative would help in improving ease of doing

Q) Pendency of commercial litigation, the Economic Survey said that

R) Business (EODB) and boost economic activities.

- (A) PQR (B) RPQ (C) QPR (D) RQP

3. On the mental plane, worries, fears, anxieties

P) Of impurities in the subconscious mind.

Q) And tensions that we experience in our daily life,

R) All create an accumulation

- (A) PQR (B) RPQ (C) QPR (D) RQP

4. Private investment seems poised

P) Adequate recapitalisation of public sector banks (PSBs).

Q) Expeditionary resolution of bad loans and

R) To rebound with efforts being made for

- (A) PQR (B) RPQ (C) QPR (D) RQP

l) Rearranging the jumbled sentence in a sequence exceptional S1 & S6. (4x1/2=2)

1. S1: Another significant change in the past five years have been the global resurgence of ethnic and religious aspirations.
S6: This phenomenon is evident not only in Africa and Asia but also in Europe, notably in Italy and Spain
P: No less than 15 new States have emerged in that region since 1990.
Q: This manifests itself in many different ways.
R: Another manifestation is the growth of ethnicity or regionalism as catalyst for new political parties.
S: One is the new nationalism that is thriving in the wake of the break up of the Soviet Empire.
2. S1: There was a check-post for passing vehicles at a village called Gobindapur, a short distance from where the road to Dhanbad branched off from the Grand Trunk Road.
S6: He asked me more than once if I was sure that the man had noted the number down.
P: When I came sufficiently near, he moved back and the barrier was lifted.
Q: I slowed down and found a man coming forward with pencil and book in hand.
R: I told uncle that the man had taken down the number of the car, adding that it was a routine practice.
S: As I approached it, I saw the barrier coming down slowly.
3. S1: Newton was perhaps the greatest scientist that ever lived.
S6: Newton went home and worked quietly by himself for about 18 months.
P: But when he was only 22, a terrible Plague epidemic swept over England.
Q: He was the son of a Lincolnshire farmer, and was born in 1642.
R: Therefore the universities were closed.
S: He went to Cambridge to study mathematics when he was 19.
4. S1: Convention has a necessary part to playing the life of everyone.
S6: Their purpose, however, is always the same.
P: It is necessary and useful for this reason.
Q: Of course, there is nothing absolute about conventions.
R: They vary from country to country, from age to age.
S: In all social affairs it prescribes more or less generally accepted rules of behavior.

m) Spot the error in the following sentences.

(6x1=6)

1. I will try to be on time but don't worry when I am late. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
2. It was suggested by the doctor that the patient should be taken care. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
3. A moment delay would have proved costly in the situation. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
4. We have to insure that members fulfill the requirements. No error.
(a) (b) (c) (d)
5. My desire to meet the President without prior appointment. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
6. No effort has been made at all to cash on the refurbished image of Indian tennis. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)

Z-Z-Z END

PSG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE
(AUTONOMOUS)

BA DEGREE EXAMINATION MAY 2025
(Sixth Semester)

Branch – ENGLISH

AMERICAN LITERATURE

Time: Three Hours

Maximum: 50 Marks

SECTION-A (5 Marks)

Answer ALL questions

ALL questions carry EQUAL marks (5 x 1 = 5)

1. According to Emerson in *Self-Reliance*, what is essential for achieving greatness?
(i) Conforming to societal expectations
(ii) Trusting one's intuition and inner voice
(iii) Following the guidance of mentors and teachers
(iv) Accumulating material wealth and status
2. In *Self-Reliance*, Emerson argues that envy is:
(i) A motivator for success (ii) Ignorance of one's own potential
(iii) A path to self-discovery (iv) Necessary for societal progress
3. In *O Captain! My Captain!* by Walt Whitman, what does the "captain" symbolize?
(i) A ship's leader during a storm (ii) A general leading troops into battle
(iii) Abraham Lincoln and his leadership (iv) A fictional hero from a distant land
4. How does the neighbor justify the need for the wall?
(i) He says it protects their property from animals.
(ii) He repeats an old adage: "Good fences make good neighbors."
(iii) He believes it enhances the beauty of their land
(iv) He feels it is necessary to separate their different trees.
5. Who reveals the truth about Joe's crime?
(i) Chris Keller (ii) George Deever
(iii) Ann Deever (iv) Sue Bayliss

SECTION - B (15 Marks)

Answer ALL Questions

ALL Questions Carry EQUAL Marks (5 x 3 = 15)

Answer all the questions and Annotate the question:

6. a) "There is a time in everyman's education when he arrives at the conviction that envy is ignorance; that imitation is suicide".
OR
b) "Trust thyself: every heart vibrates to that iron string".
7. a) "These are the voices which we hear in Solitude, but they grow faint and inaudible as we enter into the world".
OR
b) "Virtues are, in the popular estimate, rather the exception than the rule. There is the man and his virtues men do what is called a good action, as some piece of courage or charity, much as they would pay a fine in expiation of daily non-appearance on parade.

Cont...

8. a) "That I scarce was sate I heard you- here I opened wide the door:-
Darkness there and nothing more".
OR
b) The day what belongs to the day- at night the party of young fellows, robust, friendly,
Swaging with open mouths their strong melodies songs.
9. a) "The distant strains of trumps
Burst agenized and clear!".
OR
b) He is all pine and I am apple orchard.
My apple trees will never get across
And eat the cones under his pies, I tell him.
10. a) What am I, I thought I had a family here. What happened to my family?".
OR
b) How does Arthur Miller use the setting of the Keller household to highlight the themes
of responsibility and guilt?

SECTION -C (30 Marks)

Answer ALL questions

ALL questions carry EQUAL Marks (5 x 6 = 30)

11. a) Explain how self Reliance provides a path to personal and societal transformation.
OR
b) Discuss Emerson's critique of conformity in *Self-Reliance*.
12. a) In *Self-Reliance*, Emerson stresses the importance of intuition. How does he view
intuition in the context of personal growth and wisdom?
OR
b) Compare and contrast Emerson's views on *Self-Reliance* with those of modern society. Is
his philosophy still relevant today?
13. a) Explain the use of imagery in *Success is Counted Sweetest* enhance the poem's theme of
success and unfulfilled desire?
OR
b) Describe the role of time in *Because I Could Not Stop for Death*. How does the poem
depict the relationship between life, death, and the passage of time?
14. a) In *All My Sons*, the concept of the American Dream is examined through the lives of the
Keller family. How does Miller critique the American Dream through the play?
OR
b) Explore the theme of personal responsibility in *All My Sons*.
15. a) How does Arthur Miller depict the impact of war on both the home front and the soldiers
who fight in *All My Sons*?
OR
b) In *All My Sons*, the play's title references the sons who are affected by Joe Keller's
actions. How does the theme of loss and the consequences of selfishness shape the events
of the play?

Z-Z-Z

END

- 9 a How did the villagers perceive Rahim Khan?
OR
b Write a critical appreciation of the short story "The Sparrows".
- 10 a How does the novel *That Long Silence* explore the theme of identity?
OR
b Analyze the transformation of Tilo's character in *The Mistress of Spices*.

SECTION -C (30 Marks)

Answer ALL questions

ALL questions carry EQUAL Marks

(5 x 6 = 30)

- 11 a How does Derozio's language and imagery create a sense of loss and longing for India's past glory?
OR
b Write an essay on the Imagery and Symbolism of the poem "The Tiger and the Deer"
- 12 a What is the central message of Dr. Radhakrishnan's "An Ideal Before Youth"?
OR
b Describe the central message of Swami Vivekananda's Chicago speech and explain its significance in the context of the Parliament of the World's Religions.
- 13 a How does Vijay Tendulkar explore the theme of gender discrimination through his drama *Kamala*?
OR
b How does Hasmukh Mehta's will and his patriarchal control affect the lives of the women in the play *Where There's a Will*?
- 14 a How does the story "A Devoted Son" explore the clash between traditional Indian values and the influence of Western modernity?
OR
b Inspect themes of the short story "The Faltering Pendulum" by Bhabani Bhattacharya.
- 15 a Explore the concept of "silence" in *That Long Silence* and how it reflects the experiences of women in a patriarchal society.
OR
b Discuss the representation of cultural and ethnic diversity in *The Mistress of Spices*.

Z-Z-Z

END