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Department of English

M.A. ENGLISH ENTRANCE EXAMINATION, JUNE 2012

Max. Time: 2 hours

Max. Marks: 100

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Do **not** reveal your identity in any manner in any part of the answer book.
2. Enter your Hall Ticket Number on the **first** page of **each** answer book. This paper comprises **three sections** in all. **Section A** is of an **objective** type. One third of a mark (**1/3**) will be deducted for every **wrong** answer in respect of **all objective** type questions. **No marks** will be deducted for questions **not attempted**. **Section B** consists of **Poetry Comprehension** and **Section C** comprises **Précis Writing, Essay Writing and Comprehension Passage**.
3. Write your answers **only** in the space provided in the question paper. **No** additional paper or answer book will be given.
4. Space for **rough work** is provided on pages **26** and **27**.
5. This question paper contains **27 pages** in all. **Ensure** that **all the pages** have been printed before you start answering.
6. At the end of the examination **return all three sections** of the answer book together to the invigilator.

[Turn to Page 2 for Section A]

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HALL TICKET NUMBER

SECTION : A

[TOTAL MARKS 50]

There are **50** questions to answer.
The questions carry **ONE MARK** each.
Put a tick mark (✓) against the correct answer **ONLY** in the appropriate box.

Choose the right answer from the options given under each item.

1. Look at the sentences below and comment on their correctness:

1. This is a good TV show on elephants.
2. This is a good TV show about elephants.

- (a) only 1 is correct
- (b) only 2 is correct
- (c) both 1 and 2 are correct
- (d) neither 1 nor 2 is correct

2. This is a good piece of furniture but I'm afraid it lacks _____.

- (a) finesse
- (b) finished
- (c) fineness
- (d) finish

3. The usage 'There are no words to praise him' means

- (a) he does not deserve to be praised
- (b) he deserves very little praise
- (c) a few words are enough to praise him
- (d) none of the above

4. I walked very slowly towards the rather scary-looking girl.
Pick the correct group of adverbs used in the sentence above:

- (a) scary, slowly, girl,
- (b) I, slowly, scary
- (c) very, scary, slowly
- (d) very, rather, slowly

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5. 'I came, I saw, I conquered' - what kind of sentence is this?

- (a) complex
- (b) simple
- (c) compound
- (d) abstract

6. _____ for her careful handling of matters, the association would have been dissolved long ago.

- (a) Despite
- (b) Apart
- (c) But
- (d) Notwithstanding

7. The teacher said to his students, 'It is about to rain. The _____ you go the better for you'.

- (a) more
- (b) soon
- (c) soonest
- (d) sooner

8. Which of the following is *not* a passive sentence?

- (a) I was denied admission into the school.
- (b) I was wheeled into the operating theatre.
- (c) I was informed of the dangers involved.
- (d) I was tired by the end of the day.

9. The phrase 'To stick one's neck out' means

- (a) to be confused
- (b) to be curious
- (c) to take a big risk
- (d) to ask for a chance

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10. Thomas Alva Edison was an _____ personality.

- (a) illustrated
- (b) illustrious
- (c) illuminated
- (d) luminous

11. With the disappearance of forests the natural habitat of several animals _____ decrease.
Fill in the blank with the appropriate choice.

- (a) continues to
- (b) continuing to
- (c) to continue
- (d) continuation

12. The King killed all his enemies showing _____ mercy. Fill in the blank with the appropriate choice.

- (a) a little
- (b) little
- (c) the little
- (d) littlest

13. The Enquiry Committee will _____ the case after the records are given. Fill in the blank with the appropriate choice.

- (a) look into
- (b) look for
- (c) look forward to
- (d) look after

14. The phrase 'To smell a rat' means:

- (a) there is a dead rat in the room
- (b) the speaker is a cat
- (c) to suspect something
- (d) a rat is moving suspiciously

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15. Identify the phrase that is not a meaning of the word 'foot':

- (a) a unit of measurement
- (b) a poetic metre
- (c) a kind of shoe
- (d) a limb

16. 'He is not in the good books of his master'. The underlined phrase means

- (a) his name does not figure in the attendance register
- (b) he does not borrow books from his master
- (c) he is not a character in his master's novel
- (d) the master does not like him

17. Pick the odd one out:

- (a) homicide
- (b) human
- (c) humane
- (d) homonym

18. A room or a building where a person stays is his _____.

- (a) accomodation
- (b) accomodation
- (c) accamodation
- (d) accommodation

19. He is an _____ person. Fill in the blank with the correct choice.

- (a) imperial
- (b) impervious
- (c) imperious
- (d) implied

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20. 'Man proposes, God disposes' is an example of a/an _____.

- (a) hypothesis
- (b) synthesis
- (c) antithesis
- (d) thesis

21. The antonym for "ambivalent" is _____.

- (a) sure
- (b) clear
- (c) steadfast
- (d) multivalent

22. Neither the chairman nor the director _____ present. Fill the blank with the correct option.

- (a) are
- (b) is
- (c) isn't
- (d) was

23. A gaggle of geese, a herd of cattle, a flock of sheep and a school of _____. Choose the correct option.

- (a) fish
- (b) children
- (c) clowns
- (d) ants

24. Which novel did Charles Dickens Not write?

- (a) *Sense and Sensibility*
- (b) *Dombey and Son*
- (c) *A Tale of Two Cities*
- (d) *Oliver Twist*

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25. 'East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet...' Who said this?

- (a) Rudyard Kipling
- (b) E M Forster
- (c) Paul Scott
- (d) John Masters

26. 'Internal Evidence' is _____

- (a) evidence which is internal to the working of the critic's mind
- (b) a term used in analytical and textual criticism that refers to features of style
- (c) evidence that explains the inner life of characters in the modern novel
- (d) None of the above

27. Esperanto is _____

- (a) a term that stands for the Spanish language
- (b) a form of Latin American language
- (c) an artificial international language
- (d) an extinct language

28. Saying 'he passed away' instead of 'he died' is an example of _____

- (a) euphemism
- (b) euphuism
- (c) parallelism
- (d) archaism

29. A list of texts or authors seen as 'classic' is called _____

- (a) cannon
- (b) big guns
- (c) canon
- (d) syllabus

30. An elegy and a dirge are both forms of poetry associated with _____

- (a) festive occasions
- (b) death and mourning
- (c) marital mirth
- (d) all of the above

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31. 'Malayalam', 'Able was I ere I saw Elba', 'dad' are all examples of _____

- (a) palindromes
- (b) parallelisms
- (c) dromedaries
- (d) palinodes

32. Pantomime is a form of _____

- (a) drama
- (b) fiction
- (c) poetry
- (d) none of the above

33. Personification implies _____

- (a) giving a body to a ghostly figure
- (b) imparting human traits to non-human objects and ideas
- (c) lifting a person
- (d) a genre in fiction

34. When an author provides hints about what is going to happen in fiction, it is called _____

- (a) introspection
- (b) foreshadowing
- (c) flashback
- (d) backtracking

35. An all-knowing point of view is called _____

- (a) first person
- (b) omniscient
- (c) second person
- (d) narrative voice

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36. A short phrase or quotation at the beginning of a book or poem is called an _____

- (a) epigraph
- (b) epilogue
- (c) epitaph
- (d) episode

37. The vagabond, loveable, rogue-hero is a feature of _____

- (a) the picturesque novel
- (b) the picaresque novel
- (c) the rogue novel
- (d) the legal novel

38. George Orwell's famous novel *1984* tells one story but means something more. Such a tale is called an _____

- (a) allergy
- (b) allegory
- (c) elegy
- (d) alert

39. 'I wandered lonely as a cloud' is an example of _____

- (a) simile
- (b) metaphor
- (c) metonymy
- (d) metrics

40. 'He is brilliant, but he failed in the exams'.

This kind of language is _____

- (a) exaggeration
- (b) extrapolation
- (c) ironic
- (d) excessive

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41. 'The *d*ay of his *d*eath was a *d*ark, *c*old *d*ay'. The kind of writing here where the first sounds of words are repeated is _____

- (a) metric
- (b) stylised
- (c) echoic
- (d) alliterative

42. Novels that deal with the end of the world and civilization are called _____

- (a) gloomy novels
- (b) war novels
- (c) crash novels
- (d) dystopic novels

43. When books are made into films it is called _____

- (a) choreography
- (b) modifying
- (c) adaptation
- (d) filmography

44. Cartoons and writings that laugh at others, specially the upper rungs of society, are called _____

- (a) mockeries
- (b) fripperies
- (c) satyrs
- (d) satires

45. Francis Bacon was _____

- (a) a poet
- (b) a playwright
- (c) both poet and playwright
- (d) an essayist

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46. Lines inscribed on gravestones are _____

- (a) epitaphs
- (b) epigrams
- (c) epigraphs
- (d) epithalamiums

47. Bombastic language refers to _____

- (a) the language of terrorists
- (b) good speech
- (c) wordiness
- (d) subtlety

48. A portmanteau word refers to _____

- (a) a suitcase full of words
- (b) a word formed by the combination of two words
- (c) a term used to describe ports
- (d) animal alphabet

49. 'Contagious countries' is an example of _____

- (a) malapropism
- (b) synonyms
- (c) malafide intent
- (d) antonyms

50. The lines 'I would not love thee, dear, so much, / Loved I not honour more' mean that the speaker _____

- (a) does not love his girlfriend
- (b) is careless about his honour
- (c) loves honour more than he loves his girlfriend
- (d) loves his girlfriend more than honour

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[SECTION – A ENDS]

[TURN TO PAGE 12 FOR SECTION B]

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SECTION B: POETRY COMPREHENSION

[TOTAL MARKS 20]

Read the following poem carefully and answer the subsequent questions **only** in the space provided for each. Questions **1** to **5** carry **4** marks each.

Tears, Idle Tears

Tears, idle tears, I know not what they mean,
Tears from the depth of some divine despair
Rise in the heart, and gather to the eyes,
In looking on the happy Autumn-fields.
And thinking of the days that are no more.

Fresh as the first beam glittering on a sail,
That brings our friends up from the underworld,
Sad as the last which reddens over one
That sinks with all we love below the verge;
So sad, so fresh, the days that are no more.

Ah, sad and strange as in the dark summer dawns
The earliest pipe of half-awakened birds
To dying ears, when unto dying eyes
The casement slowly grows a glimmering square;
So sad, so strange, the days that are no more.

Dear as remembered kisses after death,
And sweet as those by hopeless fancy feigned
On lips that are for others; deep as love,
Deep as first love, and wild with all regret;
O Death in Life, the days that are no more!

[TURN TO PAGE 13]

1. Why are the 'tears' described as 'idle'?

(4 Marks)

2. Write a note on the tone of the poem.

(4 marks)

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5. What does the phrase 'Death In Life' imply? (4 Marks)

[SECTION – B ENDS]

[TURN TO PAGE 16 FOR SECTION C]

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3. Explain the dominant image in stanza 2.

(4 Marks)

4. Identify and explicate the use of the two sensory images in stanza 3.

(4 Marks)

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SECTION C

[TOTAL MARKS 30]

PRECIS WRITING

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make a précis of the following passage. Write one single paragraph of about 150 words.

[10 Marks]

Good and Evil

The theory of good and evil crosses the boundaries of many sciences or subject matters. It occupies a place in metaphysics. It is of fundamental importance in all the moral sciences—ethics, economics, politics, jurisprudence. It appears in all the descriptive sciences of human behavior, such as psychology and sociology, though there it is of less importance and is differently treated.

The relation of good and evil to truth and falsity, beauty and ugliness, carries the discussion into logic, aesthetics, and the philosophy of art. The true, it has been said, is the good in the sphere of our thinking. So it may be said of the beautiful that it is a quality which things have when they are good as objects of contemplation and love, or good as productions. It is no less possible to understand goodness and beauty in terms of truth, or truth and goodness in terms of beauty.

One aim of analysis, with respect to the true, the good, and the beautiful, is to preserve their distinctness without rendering each less universal. This has been attempted by writers who treat these three terms as having a kind of parallelism in their application to everything, but who also insist that each of the three notions conceives things under a different aspect or in a different relation. "As good adds to being the notion of the desirable," Aquinas writes, "so the true adds a relation to the intellect"; and it is also said that the end "of the appetite, namely good, is in the desirable thing," whereas the end "of the intellect, namely the true, is in the intellect itself."

In that part of theology which goes beyond metaphysics and moral philosophy, we meet with the concept of infinite goodness—the goodness of an infinite being—and we then face the problem of how God's goodness is to be understood by man. The basic terms of moral theology—righteousness and sin, salvation and damnation—are, like virtue and vice, happiness and misery, conceptions of good and evil in the condition of man. (Their special theological significance comes from the fact that they consider the goodness or evil of man in terms of his relation to God.) But the theological problem which is traditionally called "the problem of evil" concerns the whole universe in its relation to the divine perfection. According to Barth, "The problem of ethics contains the secret that man as we know him in this life is an impossibility. *This* man, in God's sight, can only perish."

[WRITE YOUR ANSWER ON PAGE 17]

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SECTION C

ESSAY WRITING

2. Write a coherent essay of not more than 1000 words on Violence in Schools based on the following points. You may note that the points given are not in any kind of order.

[10 Marks]

More personal interaction – Children to be encouraged to talk – Children disciplined but also indulged – Children's behaviour observed – Aberrations are noticed – Before they spiral out of control – Newspaper reports of teachers/schoolmates being gunned down – Neglect at homes – Too much money given to children but not enough personal attention – Stressful conditions of everyday life – Violence seen in films/on TV/in books and video games

[TURN TO PAGE 19 FOR ANSWER SPACE]

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SECTION C

INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the following passage. Select the correct answer from the options given.

[10 marks]

3. Comprehension Passage

I learned to garden the way I learned to write – out of necessity. We needed vegetables and flowers, and I needed to tell myself a long story about life – I am still telling it – a kind of beanstalk that grows and grows, and I can climb up it, both to escape the impossibility of life at the bottom, and to find another world where giants and castles and harp-playing hens are still to be found.

Gardening, like story-telling, is a continuing narrative. One thing leads to another. Like stories, there is always something going on in the garden long after the gardener has gone to bed. The thing grows, unfolds, changes, develops a maddening life of its own. For me, as a writer, I go to sleep with an idea in my head, and it takes hold during the night. I open the back door in the morning, and the tulips that refused to look at me the night before, have opened into the sun.

I think we need such continuing narratives. In the post-modern world of fragments and dislocation, uncertainty, insecurity, the powerlessness of politics, and where money exists one day and disappears the next, there are three things that seem to me to be the permanent stuff of life: Love. Art. Gardening. And each is about relationship; our relationship to one another, and to the mythic narrative of our lives, and to our one and only real home; planet Earth.

And in the end, the pleasure of life, or so it seems to me, lies not in what you can get other people to do for you, or what you can wriggle out of – that's the office culture – but what you can do yourself. Tell me what is better than your own garden in early summer; its colours, scents, harmonies? It is worth it again and again.

[TURN TO PAGE 23 FOR ANSWER SPACE]

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1. "I learned to garden the way..."

In this sentence "garden" is _____

- (a) a noun
- (b) a verb
- (c) an adverb
- (d) an adjective

2. "I am still telling it"

In this sentence the verb is

- (a) present indefinite
- (b) present continuous
- (c) simple present
- (d) present perfect

3. Gardening is compared to

- (a) going to sleep
- (b) story-telling
- (c) selling vegetables
- (d) planting flowers

4. We need "continuing narratives" because

- (a) we seek eternity.
- (b) we have a short memory.
- (c) we face uncertainty, insecurity and powerlessness.
- (d) we are pessimistic by nature.

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5. The common factor that binds "Love, Art and Gardening" is

- (a) post-modernism.
- (b) nature worship.
- (c) relationship.
- (d) identity.

6. The pleasure of life is not part of

- (a) garden culture
- (b) office culture
- (c) music culture
- (d) money culture

7. Ideas in "my head" take hold

- (a) during the day
- (b) during the morning
- (c) during the night
- (d) during the afternoon

8. The author has the desire to garden and write because he/she wishes to

- (a) drown his/her sorrow.
- (b) have the free play of imagination.
- (c) have professional success.
- (d) forget the world.

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9. What is "the pleasure of life" about? It is

- (a) to relax without worry
- (b) to overcome fear
- (c) to have self-reliance
- (d) none of the above

10. Nothing impresses as much as the splendor of "your own garden" in

- (a) early winter
- (b) early spring
- (c) early summer
- (d) early autumn

[THE EXAMINATION PAPER ENDS HERE]

Turn to page 26 and 27 for rough work