

2017

**ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH**

**(Commerce Group)**

**Full Marks – 50**

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks*

*Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable*

**THIRD DAY**

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

On summer evenings the working men go out on to the balcony. In his flat there was only one tiny window. So they brought down the chairs and put them in front of the house and enjoyed the evening air. There was the street, the ice-vendor next door, the cafés opposite and the noise of children running from door to door. But above all, through the wide fig-trees, there was the sky. There is a solitude in poverty, but a solitude which gives everything back its value. At a certain level of wealth the heavens themselves and the star-filled night seem natural goods. But at the bottom of the ladder the sky recovers its full meaning : priceless grace, summer evenings, mysteries with crackling stars! Behind the child lay a stinking corridor and his little chair, splitting across the bottom, sank slightly beneath his weight. But he had only to raise his eyes to drink straight from the pure sky. Sometimes a large tram would rattle swiftly past. And a drunk would stand singing at a street corner, without disturbing the silence.

- (a) What were the things enjoyed by working men on summer evenings? 5
- (b) What are the advantages of poverty according to the writer? 5
- (c) Give the antonym (opposite) of the word 'natural'. 1
- (d) Which word in the passage means 'to get back'? 1
- (e) Make a sentence with the word 'stinking'. 1
- (f) Convert the word 'grace' into an adjective. 1
- (g) What is the meaning of the word 'priceless'? 1
2. (a) Write an application accompanied by your CV, applying for the post of a Marketing Executive in a Corporate firm. 10
- Or*
- (b) Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper bringing his notice to the acute wastage of water from the roadside taps in your locality. 10
- Or*
- (c) Write a paragraph on the effect of social media on today's youth. 10

3. Answer **any two** of the following questions : 5×2
- (a) Who was 'old Behrman' and why did Sue want to meet him?
  - (b) Give a brief description of the physical features of the man with the scar.
  - (c) What did Ram Mohan Roy represent and why was he an 'unwelcome accident' to his countrymen?
  - (d) In the poem 'Life', what is the significance of the line 'terrible man, terribly trapped'?
  - (e) What was the lizard waiting for and what did the poet and his companion find the next morning?
4. Answer **any five** of the following questions : 2×5
- (a) What was Behrman's masterpiece and how did he paint it?
  - (b) What did Johnsy say to Sue when she saw that the last ivy leaf was still clinging to its stem against the wall?
  - (c) How did the man with the scar, spend the night in jail, with his companions?
  - (d) Describe the woman who came to meet the man with the scar.
  - (e) Why does Tagore feel that Ram Mohan Roy is among the 'great messengers of truth' that the country has produced?
  - (f) Describe the fifth petal of the flower that the poet describes in 'Life'?
  - (g) How is 'Hope' represented by the poet in the third stanza of the poem 'Life'?
  - (h) What was the 'aim' of the lizard, according to the poet?
5. Answer **any five** of the following questions : 1×5
- (a) What did the poet and his companion find when they awoke the next morning?
  - (b) What according to the poet are the five petals of life?
  - (c) What does the 'limp hand' stretch towards?
  - (d) Whom does Tagore refer to as a 'rare personality'?
  - (e) Why does Tagore feel we owe Ram Mohan Roy our 'proud homage of gratitude'?
  - (f) How did the man get the scar?
  - (g) How did the man kill his wife?
  - (h) What did Johnsy hope to paint some day?