

2017

ENGLISH — GENERAL

Second Paper

Full Marks – 100

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks**Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable*

1. Answer **any one** of the following questions : 15
 - (a) Attempt a brief character sketch of either Uriah Heep or Mr. Micawber in '*David Copperfield*'.
 - (b) Comment on Dickens' depiction of the social setting in '*David Copperfield*'.
 - (c) Discuss Hardy's treatment of nature in '*The Mayor of Casterbridge*'.
 - (d) Write a note on any two women characters in '*The Mayor of Casterbridge*'.
2. Answer **any one** of the following questions : 15
 - (a) Discuss Joyce's 'Araby' as a story about adolescence.
 - (b) Comment on the significance of the fly episode in 'The Fly'.
 - (c) Comment on the appropriateness of the title of Bates's short story 'The Ox'.
3. Explain with reference to the context any **one** of the following extracts : 8
 - (a) Remembering with difficulty why I had come, I went over to one of the stalls and examined porcelain vases and flowered tea-sets.
 - (b) 'The girls were delighted with the way the place is kept, piped the old voice, 'Beautifully looked after.'
4. Answer **any two** of the following questions : 15×2
 - (a) In Benson's opinion, what are the essential qualities of the essayist ?
 - (b) What are the typical activities at the seaside that Lynd describes in his essay, 'Seaside' ?
 - (c) Show how Lamb's personality is revealed in his essay, 'The Superannuated Man'.
 - (d) Examine the significance of the 'Trivial incident' in Orwell's 'Shooting an Elephant'.

[Turn Over]

5. Write a précis of the following passage and add a suitable title. 10+2

One of the worst evils that is eating into the vitals of our society is the dowry system. Though the system is strongly criticised, it is still widely prevalent almost throughout India with the exception of some tribal areas and a few North Eastern States. It is acting upon our social life and has degraded the womanhood in our country.

Dowry system, though in practice for a long time, has of late become a naked commercial transaction. For affluent parents perhaps it does not matter much when they willingly pay handsome amounts for a well established bridegroom. Dowry becomes a status symbol for them. But for middle or lower middle class families this system has become a curse. For, most of them find it very difficult to pay the price demanded by well placed bridegrooms. They are unable to meet the demands for cash, ornaments, refrigerators, TVs, cars and even residential flats as dowries. Thousands of unfortunate girls of marriageable ages fall a prey to this system and so remain unmarried. This creates problems in the family and also in the society. Even after marriage the bride is often tortured by her in-laws for failure on the part of the girl's father to honour the commitments or for the dowry not being up to their expectations. The girl's sufferings know no bounds and incidents like bride burning, suicide take place quite often.

To eradicate this social evil, a total change in the outlook of the society is necessary. Women are to be recognised as equal partners of men. They should be made self-sufficient by giving them proper education and employment. Social service organisations and young men and women must come forward to rouse public opinion against this disgraceful system. The dowry prohibition act should be properly implemented and stern penal actions should be taken against the erring persons.

6. Write an essay on **any one** of the following topics : 20
- Good cinema is one that entertains and instructs.
 - Global terrorism and its effects.
 - Book Reading.
 - The place of literature in education.