

2016

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*

SET – 2

1. Answer **any one** of the following questions : 15
  - (a) Assess the role of Agnes in the life of David Copperfield.
  - (b) Do you think that the minor characters in *David Copperfield* play a significant role? Discuss.
  - (c) Compare and contrast the characters of Henchard and Farfrae.
  - (d) Assess the role of the women characters in Hardy's *The Mayor of Caster-bridge*.
2. Answer **any one** of the following questions : 15
  - (a) What role does the fly play in Katherine Mansfield's short story *The Fly*?
  - (b) Describe the boy narrator's adolescent experiences in James Joyce's *Araby*.
  - (c) Explain the significance of the title of Bates's story *The Ox*.
3. Explain with reference to the context **any one** of the following extracts: 8
  - (a) I imagined that I bore my chalice safely through a throng of foes.
  - (b) It symbolized the future, another life, two lives.
4. Answer **any two** of the following : 15×2
  - (a) What, according to Benson, are the best ways in which an essay can be written?
  - (b) How does Orwell's character and personality find true expression in *Shooting An Elephant*?
  - (c) Compare and contrast Lamb's life before and after retirement as expressed in *The Superannuated Man*.
  - (d) How does a relaxing holiday by the seaside become hectic in Lynd's *Seaside*?



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

Happiness essentially is a state of the mind. There are no parameters by which you can measure it and compare it with something else. Say for instance, a man with a family of four members earns Rs. 20,000. If you, temporarily, forget the parameters set by state and / or central government with respect to the poverty index or BPL, then Rs. 20,000 is not really a large sum of money to earn and live in luxury. However, for a taxi driver, a street vendor, a peon in an office, etc. it is a handsome amount. This is purely because of the way each individual thinks. Our needs are guided by our desires and there is no limit for a greedy person.

The sad part of education is that there are no books that teach us to be happy in our day-to-day life. We all know that we have come to this world with "nothing" and we will leave the world with "nothing". Yet as long as we consciously live, most of us crave for "more". It is this desire for more that takes away from our life the "lesser" happiness. One of the many reasons for which people are less happy today is because few things in life are earned the hard way.

It is the desire in parents to give whatever their children want that makes them stubborn. Psychologists ask parents to give them a systematic dose of Vitamin N — Vitamin NO. Children learn most from parents. It is of utmost importance to teach young minds to live harmoniously, sharing their joy by giving rather than by simply taking.

No wonder a small country like Bhutan with little desires on the part of the individual is on top of the "Happiness Index". A nation to progress must teach its future generation the happiness of sharing and foster a sense of healthy competition so that they can live happily ever after.

6. Write an essay on **any one** of the following topics : 20
- Demonitization
  - Is IPL spoiling true Cricket?
  - The Fun of Watching Cartoons.
  - 'Reality Shows' on television.