

**Bachelor Degree Programme**

**B. D. P.**

**Term End Examination — December 2015 & June 2016**

**Elective Course**

**ENGLISH**

**( Eighth Paper : Essay and unseen )**

**Time : Four Hours**

**Full Marks : 100**

( Weightage of Marks : 70% )

**Special credit will be given for accuracy and relevance  
in the answer. Marks will be deducted for incorrect  
spelling, untidy work and illegible handwriting.**

**The weightage for each question has been  
indicated in the margin.**

1. Write an essay on any *one* of the following  
topics : 40 × 1 = 40
  - a) Women Empowerment in India
  - b) Communal Harmony
  - c) Women in English Drama
  - d) Literature and Society
  - e) Modern English Novel
  - f) Role of the Media in Democracy.

2. Write the substance of the following passage and  
add a critical note on its theme and prose style :

20 + 10 = 30

It is the height of selfishness for men, who fully appreciate in their own case the great advantage of a good education, to deny these advantages to women. There is no valid argument by which the exclusion of the female sex from the privilege of education can be defended. It is argued that women have their domestic duties to perform, and that, if they were educated, they would bury themselves in their books and have little time for attending to the management of their households. Of course it is possible for women, as it is for men, to neglect necessary work in order to spend more time for reading sensational novels. But women are no more liable to this temptation than men, and most women would be able to do their household work all the better for being able to refresh their minds in the intervals of leisure with a little reading. Nay, education would even help them in the performance of the

narrowest sphere of womanly duty. For education involves knowledge of the means by which hearth may be preserved and improved and enables a mother to consult such modern books as will tell her how to rear up her children into healthy men and women and skilfully nurse them and her husband when disease attacks her household. Without education she will be not unlikely to listen with fatal results to the advice of superstitious quacks, who pretend to work wonders by charms and magic. But according to a higher conception of woman's sphere, woman ought to be something more than a household drudge. She ought to be able not merely to nurse her husband in sickness, but also to be his companion in health. For this part of her wifely duty education is necessary, for there cannot well be congenial companionship between an educated man and an uneducated wife, who can converse with husband on no higher subjects than cookery and servant's wages. Also one of a mother's highest duties is the education of her

children at the time when their mind is most amenable to instruction. A child's whole future life to a large extent, depends on the teaching it receives in early childhood, and it is needless to say that this first foundation of education cannot be well laid by an ignorant mother. On these grounds female education is a vital necessity.

3. Read the following passage and answer the questions given :

Richard Parker was so named because of a clerical error. A panther was terrorizing the Khulna district of Bangladesh, just outside the Sundarbans. It had recently carried off a little girl. She was the seventh person killed in two months by the animal. And it was growing bolder. The previous victim was a man who had been attacked in broad daylight in his field. The beast dragged him off into the forest, and his corpse was later found hanging from a tree. The villagers kept a watch nearby that night, hoping to surprise the panther and kill it, but it never appeared.

The Forest Department hired a professional hunter. He set up a small hidden platform in a tree near a river where two of the attacks had taken place. A goat was tied to a stake on the river's bank. The hunter waited several nights.

He assumed the panther would be an old wasted male with worn teeth, incapable of catching anything more difficult than a human. But it was a sleek tiger that stepped into the open one night : a female with a single cub. The goat bleated. Oddly, the cub, who looked to be about three months old, paid little attention to the goat. It raced to the water's edge, where it drank eagerly. Its mother followed it. Of hunger and thirst, thirst is the greater urge. Only after the tiger had quenched her thirst did she turn to the goat to satisfy her hunger.

The hunter had two rifles with him : one with real bullets, the other with immobilizing darts. This animal was not the man-eater, but so close to human habitation she might pose a threat to the villagers, especially as she was with the cub. He picked up the gun with the darts. He fired as

the tiger was about to attack the goat. The tiger reared up and snarled and raced away. But immobilizing darts don't bring on sleep gently — they knock the creature out without warning. A burst of activity on the animal's part makes it act all the faster. The hunter called his assistants on the radio. They found the tiger about two hundred yards from the river. She was still conscious. Her back legs had given way and her balance on her front legs was shaky. When the men got close, she tried to get away but could not manage it. She turned on them, lifting a paw that was meant to kill. It only made her lose her balance. She collapsed and the Pondicherry Zoo had two new tigers. The cub was found in a bush closely, meowing with fear.

The hunter, whose name was Richard Parker, picked it up with his bare hands and remembering how it had rushed to drink in the river, named it Thirsty. But the shipping clerk at the Howrah train station was evidently a man both confused and diligent. All the papers received with the cub stated that its name was

Richard Parker, that the hunter's first name was Thirsty and that his family name was None Given. Richard Parker's name stuck. I don't know if the hunter was ever called Thirsty None Given !

Questions :  $6 \times 5 = 30$

- a) Why did the Forest Department hire a professional hunter ?
  - b) Why did the hunter decide to shoot the tiger though he knew it was not the man-eater ?
  - c) What did the hunter expect to encounter ?  
What did he actually encounter ?
  - d) What name did the hunter give to the cub ?  
Why ?
  - e) What clerical error does the passage describe ?
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