

Time: 2.30 Hrs

Total Marks: 75

All questions carry equal marks:

Q.1. Read the following poem and attempt the questions (1 and 2) given below:

To the Skylark - William Wordsworth

Ethereal minstrel! pilgrim of the sky!
Dost thou despise the earth where cares abound?
Or, while the wings aspire, are heart and eye
Both with thy nest upon the dewy ground?
Thy nest which thou canst drop into at will,
Those quivering wings composed, that music still!
Leave to the nightingale her shady wood;
A privacy of glorious light is thine;
Whence thou dost pour upon the world a flood
Of harmony, with instinct more divine;
Type of the wise who soar, but never roam;
True to the kindred points of Heaven and Home!

- A) Transcribe the first five lines of the poem by providing phonetic symbols. 05
- B) Give three term labels to any 5 predominating consonants in the poem. 05
- C) Give three term labels to any 5 predominating vowels and diphthongs in the poem. 05

Q.2. Attempt a stylistic analysis of the above poem with special reference to the linguistic choice made by the poet. 15

Q.3. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below in 4-5 lines each.

As the sun dipped low on the horizon, casting long shadows across the dusty streets of the village, two figures made their way towards the local tea stall. Raju, a wiry young man with a mischievous grin, led the way, his steps quick and purposeful. Walking beside him was his lifelong friend, Veeru, a sturdy fellow with a perpetual scowl etched upon his face.

Raju slapped Veeru on the back, grinning. "Come on, Veeru, cheer up! It's a beautiful evening. Let's grab some chai and watch the world go by."

Veeru grunted in response, his brow furrowed. "I don't see what's so beautiful about it. Another day wasted in this godforsaken village."

Raju rolled his eyes. "You're too gloomy, my friend. Life's what you make of it. Besides, where else would you rather be?"

Veeru shrugged, his gaze fixed on the ground. "Anywhere but here, I suppose. Maybe the city. There's opportunity there."

They reached the tea stall, where the aroma of freshly brewed chai wafted through the air. The chai wallah, a jovial man with a bushy mustache, greeted them with a wide grin.

"Ah, Raju! Veeru! The usual, I presume?" he exclaimed, pouring steaming cups of chai into ceramic mugs.

Raju nodded eagerly, passing a few coins to the chai wallah. "Yes, please! And some samosas too, if you've got them."

Veeru muttered something under his breath, but begrudgingly handed over his payment. He took a sip of chai, his expression softening ever so slightly.

The three of them settled onto wooden stools by the roadside, watching as villagers bustled about their evening chores. Raju nudged Veeru, a mischievous glint in his eye.

"Hey, Veeru, remember that time we snuck into old man Gupta's orchard and stole his mangoes?"

Veeru chuckled despite himself, shaking his head. "How could I forget? We barely made it out of there alive!"

Their laughter echoed through the streets, mingling with the sounds of clucking hens and distant laughter. For a moment, as the fading light painted the sky in hues of orange and pink, all was right in the world.

And amidst the chaos and chatter of the village, two friends found solace in each other's company, their bond unbreakable, their laughter timeless.

(a) Who is the narrator of the passage? Do you think he/she is different from the author? Substantiate your response with linguistic evidence from the passage. 7

(b) Comment on the setting of the text. 4

(c) What insight do you get into the character of speaker in the passage? 4

Q.4. Read the following paragraphs from student writing and answer the questions given below:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative technologies of the modern era. With its roots tracing back to the mid-20th century, AI has evolved from theoretical concepts to tangible applications that permeate various aspects of our daily lives. At its core, AI seeks to replicate human intelligence through computational processes, enabling machines to perceive, learn, reason, and act autonomously.

One of the defining characteristics of AI is its ability to analyze vast amounts of data with remarkable speed and accuracy, far surpassing human capabilities. Machine learning algorithms, a subset of AI, empower systems to detect patterns and make predictions based on data inputs, leading to advancements in fields such as healthcare, finance, and transportation. For instance, AI-driven diagnostic tools can assist medical professionals in detecting diseases earlier and more accurately, potentially saving lives.

However, the rapid advancement of AI also raises profound ethical and societal questions. Concerns about job displacement due to automation, biases embedded in AI algorithms, and the potential for autonomous weapons systems pose significant challenges that require careful consideration. Moreover, the notion of AI achieving human-level intelligence, known as artificial general intelligence (AGI), prompts debates about the existential risks and ethical implications associated with creating entities that rival or surpass human cognition.

Despite these complexities, AI holds immense promise for addressing some of humanity's most pressing issues. From combating climate change through predictive modeling to enhancing personalized learning experiences in education, the potential applications of AI are vast and far-reaching. As we navigate the intricacies of this technology, it is imperative to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and ethical frameworks that prioritize the well-being and autonomy of individuals while harnessing the transformative power of AI for the collective good.

(i) Formulate a thesis statement for the above text. How easy or difficult was it to do so? 05

Give reasons for your answer.

(ii) List the number of ideas in the text. Are the ideas substantiated by the author? 05

(iii) Is the text coherent? Give reasons for your answer. 05

Q.5. Write short notes on ANY TWO of the following: 15

- i. Point of view
- ii. Sociolinguistics
- iii. Foregrounding
- iv. Pure vowels
