



Ba/ALTE (BA)–401

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(4th Semester)

ALTERNATIVE ENGLISH

Paper : ALTE (BA)–401

(Prose, Poetry, Play and Language Skills)

Full Marks : 70

Pass Marks : 45%

Time : 3 hours

(PART : B—DESCRIPTIVE)

(Marks : 54)

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

1. (a) In the essay, *The Best Years of Life*, Osbert Sitwell claims that, "it is not the time of youth that is significant in life, but the older age is." Justify the author's statement with textual reference. 10

Or

- (b) Explain George Bernard Shaw's concept of Life Force in *Religion of the Future*.

2. (a) Who according to you, is the better traveller—the author, Somerset Maugham or the Czecho-Slovak, in the essay, *Visit to the Pagodas*. Elucidate. 10

Or

- (b) A. G. Macdonell has used humour as the main ingredient in the prose, *A Village Cricket Match*. Narrate some humorous situation that took place between the men from London and the villagers of Fordenden.

3. (a) Justify the significance of the title, *Refund* by Fritz Karinthy. 10

Or

- (b) The one act play, *Refund* brings out the extraordinary sense of Parody. Substantiate your answer.

4. (a) *Night of the Scorpion* is a poem that talks of idealized motherhood. Comment. 10

Or

- (b) Consider *Indian Weavers* by Sarojini Naidu as a thought provoking poem depicting the cycle of life.

5. Write a précis of the following passage and give a suitable title :

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There is an enemy beneath our feet—an enemy more deadly for his complete impartiality. He recognizes no national boundaries, no political parties. Everyone in the world is threatened by him. The enemy is the earth itself. When an earthquake strikes, the world trembles. The power of a quake is greater than anything man himself can produce. But today scientists are directing a great deal of their effort into finding some way of combating earthquakes, and it is possible that at some time in the near future mankind will have discover a means of protecting itself from earthquakes. An Earthquake strikes without warning. When it does, its power is immense. If it strikes a modern city, the damage it causes is as great as if it has struck a primitive village. Gas mains burst, explosions are caused and fires are started. Underground railways are wrecked. Buildings collapse, bridges fall, dams burst, gaping crevices appear in busy streets. If the quake strikes at sea, huge tidal waves sweep inland. If it strikes in mountain

regions, avalanches roar down into the valley. Consider the terrifying statistics from the past : Lisbon, capital of Portugal—the city destroyed entirely and 450 killed. Peru—50000 killed. Imagine the power of something that can destroy and kill an entire country. The scientists are dealing with forces so immense that man cannot hope to resist them. All that can be done is to try to pinpoint just where the earthquake will strike and work from there. At least some precautionary measures can then be taken to save lives and some of the property.

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(PART : A—OBJECTIVE)

(Marks : 16)

Each question carries 2 marks

1. Which stage according to Sitwell is the most agreeable phase of his life and why?

2. What is Darwin's theory of Natural Selection?

(4)

3. Narrate the setting of the Cricket ground before the match.

4. Why does Maugham call the Czecho-Slovak 'a mine of information'?

5. Why does Wasserkopf consider himself good for nothing?

6. What was the last question asked to Wasserkopf by the Maths teacher?

7. Who was the only rational person among the villagers? How did he treat the mother?

8. How does Sarojini Naidu describe the garments in *Indian Weavers*?

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