(6 pages)

NOVEMBER 2025 **71502/105C1B**

Time : Three hours Maximum : 75 marks

SECTION A — (5 × 2 = 10 marks)

I. Answer any FIVE of the following :

1. Like a huge Python, winding round and round
The rugged trunk, indented deep with scars,
Up to its very summit near the stars:

2. He who holds the storm by the hair,
Will hide in his breast our lives.
Brother, the call of the sea is strong.

3. I remember the night my mother
was stung by a scorpion.
Ten hours of steady rain had driven him to crawl

4. A cowed, obedient crowd
that clears a path as the bus grinds to a halt
at the temple steps.

5. All these women have never
uttered one entire sentence in their lives,
they speak in ellipses.

6. So much self-love he forgot the world,
forgot to weep for anyone but himself.

7. A gray baboon sits statue-like alone
Watching the sunrise; while on lower boughs
His puny offspring leap about and play

8. The road slithers like a snake
past the village, curving
around a hill.

SECTION B — (35 marks)

II. Answer any THREE of the following passages and answer the questions given below : $(3 \times 5 = 15)$

9. We have to lift the world off its hinges and

transform the national man

into a universal man.

(a) What does the phrase "lift the world off its hinges" mean? (1)

(b) What is the meaning of "universal man"? (2)

(c) Explain how the author connects world peace to personal transformation. (2)

10. If you don't begin to understand life while you are young, you will grow up inwardly hideous... But you cannot do that unless you have love — not bodily love or divine love, but just love."

(a) What type of love is referred to in this passage? (1)

(b) What does "inwardly hideous" mean? (2)

(c) Why does the author believe that understanding life starts with love? (2)

11. To be consistent is to have a mind that is unvaryingly following a particular pattern of thinking... A mind which says 'I have taken a vow' is called consistent; but it is really a most stupid mind."

(a) What is meant by being "consistent" here? (2)

(b) What is the meaning of "unvaryingly"? (1)

(c) Why does the writer criticize rigid consistency? (2)

12. The responsibility of literary writers and historians is great in the matter of exaggerating past wrongs and keeping old sores running...

(a) What is the responsibility of writers and historians according to the author? (2)

(b) What is meant by "keeping old sores running"? (1)

(c) Explain the danger of distorting the past. (2)

13. History teaches us no morals. It does not say,

'Be good' or 'Be bad'. It merely teaches consequences.

(a) What does history teach according to the writer? (2)

(b) What is the meaning of "consequences"? (1)

(c) Explain the objective approach to history suggested in the passage. (2)

III. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in about 100 words each : $(4 \times 5 = 20)$

14. Discuss the conflict between Ratna and Jairaj in *Dance Like* a *Man*.

15. How does Lata represent the new generation in *Dance Like* a *Man*?

16. What autobiographical elements can be seen in "Handful of Nuts"?

17. Comment on the symbolism of the laburnum tree in "Laburnum for my Head".

18. What is the role of women in the freedom movement in Kanthapura?

19. Describe how Moorthy applies Gandhian ideals in *Kanthapura*.

SECTION C — (30 marks)

IV. Write essay on any THREE of the following in about 300 words : (3 × 10 = 30)

20. How does "Our Casuarina Tree" reflect memory and nostalgia?

21. Evaluate the theme of resistance in "Night of the Scorpion".

22. How does Radhakrishnan balance science and spirituality in "Religion in a Changing World"?

23. Analyze the generational conflict in *Dance Like* a *Man*.

24. Discuss the character of Moorthy in Kanthapura and his role as a Gandhian reformer.

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