

PART-A**I. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow:**

They did not have to go a thousand miles but the journey never seemed to end. They set out in utmost secrecy and took the country bus several miles away on the country road; this took them to the junction where they changed to a bus going north to the river; then by ferry across the river and by bullock cart north-east along the river over barren land with monstrous black basalt boulders strewn all around, as though demons had tried to build toy houses and failing had scattered their building blocks in disgust.

They arrived at the bride's village at dusk and were put up in a neat mud hut, away from the in-laws, on the other side of the village. The hut had freshly whitewashed walls decorated with floral patterns in red and blue chalk and the roof had the pleasant green smell of newly-cut palmyra fronds. The bride's people fussed over the two of them and plied them with the best food he had ever tasted: chicken fried in and dripping with butter, prawns that melted in one's mouth, mutton *pulav* made of the finest rice and mutton pieces as soft as cheese, flavoured with bark of cinnamon, garlic cloves, black pepper, cardamom, cloves, shredded onion and other spices he could not even identify. All cooked in pure ghee. There were sweetmeats, too, (*laddus*, the size of cannon shot), and fruit, even grapes, real grapes, and grapes the like of which he had seen only in the Raja's palace and that too in a picture hung on a wall. He felt like a prince.

The wedding itself was a wonderful spectacle. He wished several times that it could have taken place in his own village so that all the people there could have seen his good fortune, admired his bride and envied him.

The whole village turned up for the occasion [of the wedding]. Later, they put the couple in a palanquin and formed a wedding procession. Every family in the village behaved as though the wedding was in their own family, the bride their own daughter. They looked at him with eyes full of admiration and kept congratulating his uncle on arranging the match. There were no urchins with runny noses in this village and the mongrel dogs - not too many, he noticed - were well-behaved. There simply were no elders, everyone was like an elder, dressed in gold-bordered *dhoti* and silk tunic and gold-bordered turbans. But nobody was more gorgeously dressed than the bridegroom. The in-laws showed their wealth by providing him at once with six sets of Indian clothes and six sets of English clothes, shorts and shirts and even a necktie.

1. Why do you think the travelers are fed so well?

- (1) Because in this village all guests are well looked after
- (2) Because in this village the residents are all noble and rich
- (3) Because the travellers are from the bride's party
- (4) Because the travellers are the bridegroom and his friends

2. The style of narration in this extract is an example of:

- (1) Autobiographical/ first person narrative
- (2) Omniscient narrative
- (3) Lyrical narrative
- (4) Unreliable narrative

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3. 'The wedding itself was a wonderful *spectacle*'. The italicized word means:
- (1) a sight to behold
 - (2) something to be viewed through glasses
 - (3) an amusing or ridiculous sight
 - (4) a sight which was unbelievable
4. The bridegroom wished the wedding had taken place in his village because:
- (1) he wanted to be envied
 - (2) the wedding was a grand affair
 - (3) his bride was very beautiful
 - (4) all of the above
5. From the last paragraph, what impression do you get of the bride's village and its residents?
- (1) The residents are well off
 - (2) The residents are stiff and formal
 - (3) The residents are arrogant
 - (4) The residents are urbane
6. From a reading of this extract what do you think about the status of the bridegroom?
- (1) he is as rich as the bride's family
 - (2) he is richer than the bride's family
 - (3) he is poorer than the bride's family
 - (4) he is dependent on the bride's family
7. The emphasis on food and clothes shows that the bridegroom:
- (1) is a connoisseur
 - (2) is enamoured of the pomp displayed
 - (3) is very jealous of the bride's family
 - (4) is very dejected
8. The journey mentioned in the first paragraph was:
- (1) A distance of almost a thousand miles
 - (2) A distance that seemed very short
 - (3) A distance that seemed never ending
 - (4) None of the above

9. At the very beginning of the journey they travelled:

- (1) On a small country road
- (2) In a bus going north
- (3) By ferry on the river
- (4) In a bullock cart

10. In the sentence 'along the river over barren land' the word *barren* means:

- (1) land on which entry is barred
- (2) land on which nothing grows
- (3) land on which large stones are found
- (4) land which is along a river

11. In this sentence '... as though demons had tried to build toy houses and failing had scattered their building blocks in disgust', the suggestion is that:

- (1) the landscape was frightening
- (2) the place was haunted by demons
- (3) huge rocks were strewn all over
- (4) small houses could be seen here and there

12. When do the travellers arrive at the bride's village?

- (1) The next day at sunrise
- (2) The same day, at sunset
- (3) After many days
- (4) In a short while

13. The phrase 'mutton pieces as soft as cheese' is an example of:

- (1) metaphor
- (2) simile
- (3) symbol
- (4) metonym

14. How are the travellers treated when they arrive at the bride's village?

- (1) As respected and favoured guests
- (2) As unwanted guests, kept at a distance
- (3) With great disdain
- (4) With great affection

15. At the end of the meal, the unnamed protagonist mentions that he feels:

- (1) like royalty
- (2) very well fed
- (3) proud
- (4) offended

II. Read the passages below and answer the questions by choosing the best option:

Golf Garden is an old locality, with rows of one-two-or three storey houses, separated by moss covered boundary walls, along which creepers like ivy and bougainvillea had found refuge. The houses, far from holding any _____ (16) interest, _____ (17) conspicuous by their lack of anything not strictly utilitarian. They were simple brick structures, that often _____ (18), right on the edge of the road, the entrances of which were _____ (19) by wrought iron grills or collapsible gates that _____ (20) open anytime a visitor arrived.

There was always something inexplicably _____ (21) about neighbourhoods of this sort. You _____ (22) the same people everyday, in shops and in markets, at the bus stops or in the hair-cutting _____ (23). In this _____ (24), it was not much _____ (25) from any other city neighbourhoods, perhaps. But the coziness came from the _____ (26) that these people – the ones you saw everyday, were not going to leave. The neighbourhood _____ (27) remain the same, _____ (28) so, over the years. Such localities in the city were rare these days. Builders and promoters pounced at every opportunity to _____ (29) old houses and erect towering multi-storied buildings in _____ (30) places.

16.

- (1) structurally
- (2) design
- (3) architectural
- (4) building

17.

- (1) were
- (2) are
- (3) is
- (4) has

18.

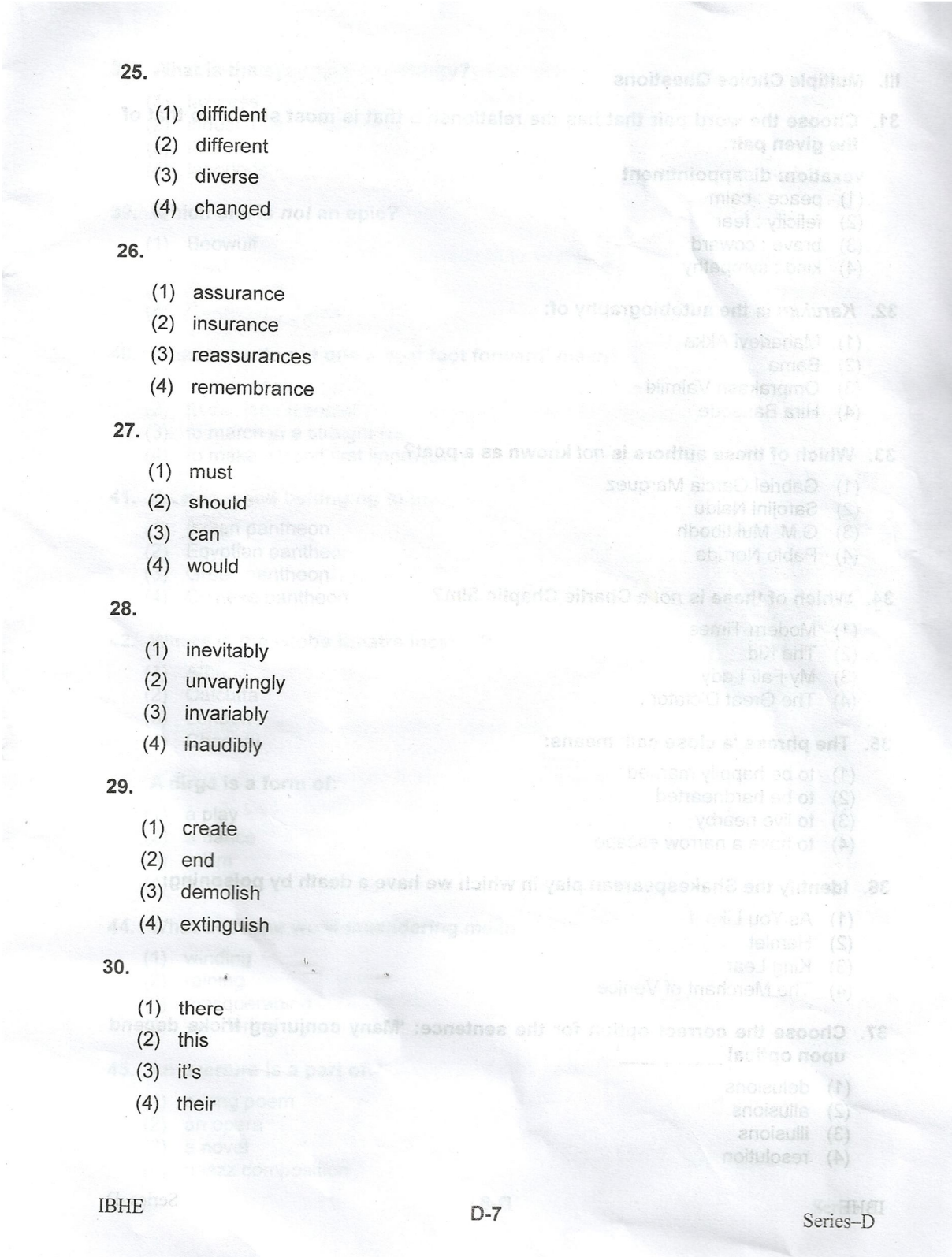
- (1) arise
- (2) went
- (3) rose
- (4) climb

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- 19.
- (1) held
 - (2) cover
 - (3) decorate
 - (4) guarded
- 20.
- (1) clashed
 - (2) trickled
 - (3) clanged
 - (4) ajar
- 21.
- (1) distracting
 - (2) frightening
 - (3) absorbing
 - (4) comforting
- 22.
- (1) meet
 - (2) will meet
 - (3) have met
 - (4) met
- 23.
- (1) boutique
 - (2) saloon
 - (3) room
 - (4) aperture
- 24.
- (1) senses
 - (2) business
 - (3) style
 - (4) respect



25.

- (1) diffident
- (2) different
- (3) diverse
- (4) changed

26.

- (1) assurance
- (2) insurance
- (3) reassurances
- (4) remembrance

27.

- (1) must
- (2) should
- (3) can
- (4) would

28.

- (1) inevitably
- (2) unvaryingly
- (3) invariably
- (4) inaudibly

29.

- (1) create
- (2) end
- (3) demolish
- (4) extinguish

30.

- (1) there
- (2) this
- (3) it's
- (4) their

III. Multiple Choice Questions

31. Choose the word pair that has the relationship that is most similar to that of the given pair:

vexation: disappointment

- (1) peace : calm
- (2) felicity : fear
- (3) brave : coward
- (4) kind : sympathy

32. *Karukku* is the autobiography of:

- (1) Mahadevi Akka
- (2) Bama
- (3) Omprakash Valmiki
- (4) Hira Bansode

33. Which of these authors is *not* known as a poet?

- (1) Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- (2) Sarojini Naidu
- (3) G.M. Muktibodh
- (4) Pablo Neruda

34. Which of these is *not* a Charlie Chaplin film?

- (1) Modern Times
- (2) The Kid
- (3) My Fair Lady
- (4) The Great Dictator

35. The phrase 'a close call' means:

- (1) to be happily married
- (2) to be hardhearted
- (3) to live nearby
- (4) to have a narrow escape

36. Identify the Shakespearean play in which we have a death by poisoning:

- (1) As You Like It
- (2) Hamlet
- (3) King Lear
- (4) The Merchant of Venice

37. Choose the correct option for the sentence: 'Many conjuring tricks depend upon optical _____'

- (1) delusions
- (2) allusions
- (3) illusions
- (4) resolution

38. What is the synonym of lethargy?
- (1) laziness
 - (2) industrious
 - (3) illustrious
 - (4) laborious
39. Which one is *not* an epic?
- (1) Beowulf
 - (2) Illiad
 - (3) Ramayana
 - (4) Canterbury Tales
40. What does 'to put one's best foot forward' mean?
- (1) to give oneself up
 - (2) to disclose a secret
 - (3) to march in a straight line
 - (4) to make a good first impression
41. Zeus is a god belonging to the:
- (1) Indian pantheon
 - (2) Egyptian pantheon
 - (3) Greek pantheon
 - (4) Chinese pantheon
42. Where is the Globe theatre located?
- (1) Athens
 - (2) Calcutta
 - (3) London
 - (4) Chennai
43. A dirge is a form of:
- (1) a play
 - (2) a dance
 - (3) a film
 - (4) a poem
44. What does the word meandering mean:
- (1) winding
 - (2) raining
 - (3) masquerading
 - (4) wondering
45. An overture is a part of:
- (1) a long poem
 - (2) an opera
 - (3) a novel
 - (4) a jazz composition

46. 'The ground was moist and squelchy underfoot and smelt as rich and fragrant as plum cake' is an example of a:

- (1) simile
- (2) personification
- (3) metaphor
- (4) parody

47. Who is the author of *The Emperor of Maladies*?

- (1) Vaikom M. Basheer
- (2) Siddhartha Mukherjee
- (3) Sitakanta Mahapatra
- (4) Khushwant Singh

48. 'Overflowing with the milk of human kindness' is an example of:

- (1) personification
- (2) analogy
- (3) alliteration
- (4) metaphor

49. A thesaurus is

- (1) A dinosaur
- (2) A Greek God
- (3) A word grouping book
- (4) A mythical monster

50. Who was the famous poet who was deeply affected by Tagore's *Gitanjali*?

- (1) Eliot
- (2) Auden
- (3) Yeats
- (4) Pound

51. Who of these is *not* a writer of detective fictions?

- (1) P.D. James
- (2) Arthur Conan Doyle
- (3) Henning Mankell
- (4) P.G. Wodehouse

52. Which of these is *not* a cult film?

- (1) Hugo
- (2) Enter the Dragon
- (3) Star Wars
- (4) The Godfather

53. The stories by Indira Goswami were written in:

- (1) Bengali
- (2) Assamese
- (3) Oriya
- (4) Manipuri

54. Which of the following is a poetic form best suited for singing?

- (1) limerick
- (2) parodic verse
- (3) ballad
- (4) haiku

55. Complete the phrase: 'Burning the candle at both _____.'

- (1) sides
- (2) ends
- (3) tips
- (4) flames

56. The Jungle boy Mowgli was created by

- (1) Gulzar
- (2) Rudyard Kipling
- (3) Roald Dahl
- (4) Javed Akhtar

57. Which of these authors wrote stories on the Partition of India?

- (1) Premchand
- (2) Manto
- (3) R.K. Narayan
- (4) V.S Naipaul

58. A well-known anti-heroic fiction by Cervantes is:

- (1) David Copperfield
- (2) Huckleberry Finn
- (3) Don Quixote
- (4) Robinson Crusoe

59. Mark Twain is the pen name of:

- (1) Charles Dickens
- (2) Robert Louis Stevenson
- (3) Samuel Langhorne Clemens
- (4) J. K. Rowling

60. The speech 'Annihilation of Caste' (1937) was given by:

- (1) Jawahar Lal Nehru
- (2) B. R. Ambedkar
- (3) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (4) Sunderlal Bahuguna

PART-B

IV. Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow. Each question carries 5 marks.

Words are not just sounds
 Nor mere concepts.
 There is a destructive energy
 at the core of words
 which leaps out
 after crashing against other words.
 Poets too, like words,
 crash against the dark shadows of others
 carrying energy in their hearts.
 Words constantly struggle to stay alive.
 They find their existence
 amid the very conflict,
 just like poets.
 Words can never be
 mere concepts or codes.
 Like poets they cannot be
 without other words,
 without relations and nature.
 Every word in the poet's brain
 keeps expanding
 and becomes a gigantic tree
 whose roots creep
 in the heart
 in search of water.
 A poem is a forest
 in the brain of a poet,
 And in its fresh light he looks for
 dreams,
 a spring
 and the lost man.

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COMPREHENSION: Answer all questions. Each carries 5 marks.

1. Explain briefly how words can have 'destructive energy'.
2. What does the poet mean by 'words constantly struggle to stay alive'?
3. Describe the comparison of 'words' with 'poets'.
4. Do you think the poet is thinking of wrestling with words as a preliminary exercise for writing a poem? Give a reasoned answer.

V. Write an essay in about 250 words on any of the following topics. You will be tested on originality, organization and style. The essay carries 20 marks.

- (1) In the poem, words are said to be both constructive and destructive. Reflect on your reading of literature to illustrate both aspects of words. How are the destructive expressions found in literature different from other forms of violence? Elaborate on your point of view.

OR

- (2) The poem highlights the communicative power of words. But do we communicate only through words? Is there any work of art or literature that has made a strong impression on you? Discuss your point of view.