

Answer **three** questions in all: **one** question from Section A and **all** the questions in Sections B and C.

SECTION A

ESSAY

[50 marks]

Answer **one** question only from this section.
All questions carry **equal** marks. Your answer should **not** be less than **450** words.

You are advised to spend about **50** minutes on this section.

1. There is a public outcry against the indecent mode of dressing among the youth. Write an article to be published in a national newspaper condemning the ugly trend and suggesting ways of arresting the situation.
2. Write a letter to your local government administrator suggesting at **least three** ways of improving security in your area.
3. Some disturbances occurred during an entertainment programme in your school. Write a letter to your friend in another school describing the events that took place there and how the situation was brought under control.
4. You are the chief speaker in an inter-school debate on the motion: *Every youth in the country should undertake military training.* Write your argument for or against the motion.
5. Write a story that ends with the statement: *And Dad was right after all.*

SECTION B
COMPREHENSION

[20 marks]

You are advised to spend about 30 minutes on this section.

6. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions on it.

The brain is the engine or power house of the human being. According to the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, it is the "organ inside the head that controls thoughts, memory, feelings and other activities." In children, the brain function develops as an infant becomes a toddler and then a child. Each year, the child is able to do more – express more thoughts and develop more concepts. However, as a person grows older, it seems the functioning of the brain regresses. Sometimes, this regression is serious as it may result in mental disorder caused by brain disease or injury that affects the ability to think, remember and behave normally. This deterioration of the brain is referred to as dementia. It is a special medical condition that affects especially old people. It is a gradual worsening of the memory and other mental abilities, leading to confused behaviour. It may also be caused by chronic alcoholism, mild strokes, combinations of medications and by Alzheimer's disease.

Dementia is characterized by a loss of initiative, decrease in judgement, the inability to select appropriate words or do calculations. There are also changes in personality. Many older people have some of these symptoms, but not to the degree of a demented person. The conditions of the affected people worsen as they grow older. They are neither insane nor witches and wizards as some people tend to believe. For now, there is no known cure for this condition. All that they need is much care and attention from friends and especially, relatives. That is why dementia is described as "not just one person's illness, but that of the whole family." In its early stages when only the person's memory and language abilities are diminished, he may develop feelings of frustration, anger and depression. For such persons, it will be helpful to find out the brain functions that are operating best and concentrate on them. For example, if the person cannot remember things said to him but has a reasonable visual memory, he may feel less frustrated if written directions, pictures or signs are provided rather than verbal information which he tends to forget.

To slow down the deterioration of the function of the brain, the unaffected parts should be stimulated to enable the person have some comfort. As short-term memory is most affected, the demented person may be stimulated by listening to music from an earlier period of life, talking about old memories and looking at old photographs. The relatives and friends can make life more bearable for him by speaking to him about specific things slowly and simply using short sentences.

So, the lives of people suffering from dementia can be improved if they are given the necessary support.

- (a) Why is the brain referred to as "the power house of the human being"?

- (b) What is the **main** difference between the development of the brain of a child and that of an old person?
- (c) What are the **first** signs of dementia?
- (d) What is the popular opinion held about people suffering from dementia?
- (e) State **two** ways in which a demented person can be helped.
- (f) What is the writer's attitude to people suffering from dementia?
- (g) ... *the engine or the power house of the human being.*
- (i) What is the grammatical name of the expression above as it is used in the passage?
- (ii) What is its function?
- (h) For **each** of the following words, find another word or phrase which means the same and which can replace it as it is used in the passage:
- (i) regresses;
- (ii) chronic;
- (iii) appropriate;
- (iv) diminished;
- (v) a reasonable;
- (vi) stimulated.

SECTION C

SUMMARY

[30 marks]

You are advised to spend about **40 minutes** on this section.

7. Read the following passage **carefully** and answer the questions on it.

Many developing countries are nowadays witnessing unprecedented levels of emigration. While some have noted that this development is inevitable, owing to a number of socioeconomic and political factors bedevilling such countries, others have argued that the resort to flight does not, ultimately, benefit everyone who makes that choice. Those urging restraint do not necessarily claim to be more patriotic than their compatriots who are now settled in foreign lands, but certain reasoned arguments seem to stand them in good stead.

The most successful entrepreneurs are usually those who confront difficult situations headlong, taking the bull by the horns as they say, while others stand back – perhaps out of fear. By their daring, therefore, they end up solving key problems for society, with tons of reward accompanying their doggedness, innovativeness and audacity. So, a person with business acumen would survey the supposedly thinning landscape and, instead of fearing that there would be no

one to patronise them if they were to start a venture, would think, "Here is a chance to step in and fill a void."

Since all industries must continue to function in the meantime, those rising through the ranks will be able to step into positions of more prominence as more accomplished personnel leave the country. In the end, although possibly faltering initially, they will eventually master their turf and emerge as the new industry experts. There is also a sense in which such outward movements help to stabilise the population-resource dynamic. Even though this might sound like some sort of warped thinking, those who stay behind may find that there is now less pressure on public infrastructure overall.

The other side of the coin merits attention, nevertheless. Relocation to other climes opens up a new vista to people. After the initial culture shock for many, they see a greater range of the human condition as well as the richness of human culture, especially in terms of difference. For those who learn fast, an immediate effect is the development of a more liberal mindset.

Politically, travelled minds come into deeper understanding of why certain societies thrive better than others. When they make specific comparisons, they find that the differences mostly come down to effective legal and political institutions as well as the value system and individual comportment. For instance, if honesty, diligence and cleanliness are highly valued in a particular society, these would reflect in the actions and behaviour of the majority, while negative elements would find themselves alienated from society's dominant spirit.

After sojourning abroad for many years – sometimes decades – sooner than later people get seized by the longing for home. When they finally succumb to the call to return to their homeland, they are usually better off in economic terms. Their business investments, thus, bring benefits to society as a whole – providing jobs and other opportunities for youths to channel their energy.

The foregoing facts holding true, it is safe to say that both living in and leaving one's homeland make complete sense.

- (a) In **three** sentences, **one** for **each**, state how those at home benefit when their compatriots relocate abroad.
- (b) In **three** sentences, **one** for **each**, state the benefits of relocating abroad.

END OF PAPER