

*MAS*

Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Kharagpur  
End Semester Examination, Autumn 2015

Subject: **Preparatory English (HS00001)**  
No of Question Papers: **40**

Total Marks: **50**  
Time: **3 hours**

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**ALL QUESTIONS ARE COMPULSORY**

**I. Answer any TWO of the following questions in not more than 150 words each:**  
(7.5x2=15)

1. "And Still I Rise" by Maya Angelou represents the indomitable spirit of the oppressed. Do you agree? Justify your answer.
2. What does the short story, "Dead Man's Riddle" teach? Write in detail.
3. What is the inherent conflict in the poem "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost?

**II. Read the following passage and attempt a short summary of it in not more than 100 words: (5)**

Men are not made in the same mould, like a lot of bricks. It would have ill-suited the wants of the world if it had been so. Consequently, even in the same country, men differ in disposition, and inclination and manners, and opinions, more probably than they do in face or form. And between the people of different countries the contrast is even more striking. We have then, also, different sentiments, different sympathies, different hopes, different ways altogether. It will always be so. So long as there are different minds, there will be different views on all matters that admit of opinion. So long as there are different degrees of latitude and longitude, as well as differing circumstances there will be different interests, different attachments, and different habits. It behoves us, therefore, to cultivate a generous spirit of forbearance towards those, of whatever race, who may think differently and act differently, from ourselves. Even though we may be convinced that they are wrong, if we know them to be sincere, we should still bear with them and give them credit for their sincerity.

This is the virtue of toleration or bearing with others when we may differ from them, or may not like their ways. Toleration should be shown in all differences of opinion on even the highest matters of life and death; and here it is of more value than anywhere else. When we cannot agree with one about a point of science, or philosophy, or faith, we can at least agree to differ from him, and there is an end. We must always remember that we are all likely to make mistakes and possess weaknesses, and that we ourselves need the same forbearance and sympathy. We are, besides, all of the same human brotherhood, and should, "like brothers, agree".

**III. (A) Put in somebody/anywhere/anything/nowhere etc. in the blanks: (10)**

I have been here for two months and I don't like this place. I haven't met (1) ..... interesting. Also, it is very quiet in the evenings. All the shops and restaurants close early and the streets are empty. There's (2)..... to go and there is (3)..... good on TV.

Then yesterday (4) ..... told me about a sports club (5)..... near my house. I decided to try it. It's only ten minutes from my house and it's great. There's weight-training, tennis, a swimming pool, and the people there are very friendly. (6)..... tells you what to do – you can choose for yourself. In the middle of the evening, (7)..... said, 'Hello, I am Eva. Are you doing (8) ..... this evening? Would you like to go for (9) .... to eat?' I said, 'I'd love to.'

We had delicious pizzas, and that night I thought to myself, 'this town is getting better! I haven't been (10)..... for two months and now I have been to two new places in one evening.'

**(B) Combine each of the following pairs of sentences using the particular device mentioned against it in the bracket: (10)**

1. The car dashed against a tree. It was going at over 100 mph. (Relative pronoun)
2. My uncle died last week. He had been ailing for a while. (Relative pronoun)
3. That is the road. It leads to the railway station. (Relative pronoun)
4. My uncle hardly received any formal education. He went on to become a great leader. (Relative pronoun)
5. I gave you two books. You did not return them to me. (Relative pronoun)
6. It is raining. We have an umbrella. (Subordinating conjunction)
7. John wants money. John wants fame. (Correlative conjunction)
8. We can draw lessons from the past. We cannot live in it. (coordinating conjunction)
9. Raj did not score high in the written examination. He did not do well in the practical. (coordinating conjunction)
10. She scolded her son. She wanted him to learn a lesson. (coordinating conjunction)

**IV. Write a paragraph of 300 words on any one of the following: (10)**

1. English teaching in Engineering Institutes
2. Life in hostels
3. Nuclear families
4. Politics of caste and religion
5. Rural India