

**M.M: 50**

**Duration: 2 hrs.**

**Name :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class& sec:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Roll no:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION A: READING (10 MARKS)**

**A1. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (5)**

One day while the king Akbar was washing his face, he looked at the mirror and paused. The look on his face indicated that he had suddenly remembered something. He ordered the servant to go and fetch him immediately.

The servant put down the bowl of water he was holding to carry out the command. He was very confused as to whom he had to fetch. At the same time he was too frightened to ask the king. In this confused state of mind he went to the servant quarters. He asked everybody but none of them could help him. They advised him to go to Birbal.

"My lord, the emperor has ordered me to fetch somebody immediately. He has not specified whom. Please help me", the servant requested Birbal.

Birbal asked the servant to tell him where the king was and what was he doing when he gave the order.

The man replied, "The king went to the bathroom and was looking at the mirror when he gave his order. Meanwhile I was holding the water jug for him."

Birbal said, "The king wants the royal barber to be fetched. He either needs a shave or a hair cut."

Meantime, the king was wondering why the servant was taking so long to return. He suddenly remembered that he had not specified as to who was to be fetched.

At that very moment the servant entered along with the barber. The king was surprised at the servant having understood his order so well. The servant enlightened the king saying: "It was Birbal who advised me."

Akbar was touched and appreciated Birbal's understanding. "How well Birbal understands my thoughts and needs, he thought." He rewarded Birbal and the servant.

**On the basis of the reading of the passage, answer the following questions in brief:**

a) Why was the servant confused?

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b) Why did Birbal ask the servant to tell him where the king was and what he was doing when he gave the order?

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c) What was the king doing when he gave the order to the servant ?

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d) Why did the king appreciate Birbal?

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(e) Write the synonym of the word **'to bring someone or something'** from the passage.

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**A2. Read the passage carefully.**

**(5)**

Strong winds soon brought rain and sleet, killing the flowers in the garden. The cat stayed indoors, curled up at the foot of the bed. Miss Mackenzie wrapped herself in old shawls and mufflers, but still felt cold. Her fingers grew so stiff that it took almost an hour to open a can of baked beans. Then it snowed, and for several days the milkman did not come.

Tired, she spent most of her time in bed. It was the warmest place. She kept a hot-water bottle against her back, and the cat kept her feet warm. She dreamed of spring and summer. In three months, the primroses would be out, and Anil would return.

One night the hot-water bottle burst, soaking the bed. The sun didn't shine for several days, and the blankets remained damp. Miss Mackenzie caught a chill and had to keep her cold, uncomfortable bed. A strong wind sprang up one night and blew the bedroom window open. Miss Mackenzie was too weak to get up and close it. The wind swept the rain and sleet into the room. The cat snuggled close to its mistress's body. Towards morning, the body lost its warmth, and the cat left the bed.

(a) Why did the flowers in the garden get damaged?

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(b) Why did Miss Mackenzie's fingers become stiff?

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(c) What did she do most of her time? Why?

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(d) What happened one night?

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(e) The wind **swept** the rain and sleet into the room. The word '**swept**' here means \_\_\_\_\_  
a) Collected      b) Removed      c) Carried      d) Stopped

### **SECTION B : WRITING (12 MARKS)**

**B1. Using the following hints, write a biographical sketch of legendary author Ruskin Bond in about 80-100 words based on the following sentences. (4)**

- **Full Name:** Ruskin Bond
- **Date and Place of Birth:** 19 May 1934, Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh
- **Education:** Studied at Bishop Cotton School, Shimla; won several writing prizes, including the Irwin Divinity Prize and the Hailey Literature Prize during school
- **Major Achievements/Contributions:**
  - Prolific author of over 500 short stories, essays, and novels
  - Known for works like *The Room on the Roof* (written at age 17), *Rusty series*, *The Blue Umbrella*, and *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*
  - His writings capture themes of childhood, friendship, nature, and small-town life in India
- **Awards and Recognition:** Padma Shri (1999), Padma Bhushan (2014), Sahitya Akademi Award (1992) for *Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra*
- **Interesting Facts:**
  - Lives in Landour, Mussoorie, where the hills and people inspire much of his work
  - Frequently writes about his Anglo-Indian upbringing and personal experiences
  - Several works adapted into movies, like *The Blue Umbrella* and *A Flight of Pigeons (Junoon)*







**C2. Rewrite the following sentences in passive voice.**

**(4)**

a. Our mother prepares lunch every morning.

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b. Love your country.

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c. His teachers are praising him.

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d. The doctor will examine the patients.

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**C3. Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions.**

**(2)**

Complete the sentences with the correct preposition from the choices given.

a) We are very excited \_\_\_\_ our trip to Spain next week. (AT, WITH, ABOUT, OVER)

b) I am very fond \_\_\_\_ drinking green tea. (FOR, OF, ABOUT, AT)

c) I am responsible \_\_\_\_ training the new recruits. (AT, ABOUT, WITH, FOR)

d) The president was thankful \_\_\_\_ everyone who helped me in the campaign. (To, WITH, FOR, AT)

**C4. Fill in the blanks with suitable articles.**

**(2)**

a) She is \_\_\_\_\_ honorary secretary of the club.

b) We met \_\_\_\_\_ European tourist in Rishikesh.

c) She is \_\_\_\_\_ tallest girl in her class.

d) He met with \_\_\_\_\_ accident yesterday.

**C5. Do as directed.**

**(4)**

a. She \_\_\_\_\_ (write) a letter every week. (Use the correct form of verb and identify the tense of the sentence) \_\_\_\_\_

b. I have been flying a kite since 2 O' clock. (Change into interrogative)

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c. The children are playing in the garden. (Change into simple past)

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d. He did not knew the answer to the question. (Identify the error and rewrite the sentence correctly)

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**SECTION D: LITERATURE (14 MARKS)**

**D1. Answer the following questions in about 60-80 words. Attempt ANY THREE. (6)**

a) Describe Halku's life and struggles as a farmer.

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b) Describe how Vashti was dependent on machines in the story. Mention any four points.

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c) Describe the scene the poet visualises in the poem 'Evening on a Mountain'.

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d) Why did Tom Sawyer feel miserable on Monday mornings and what idea occurred to him while he was lying in bed ?

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**D2. Read the lines and answer the questions that follow. (3)**

***"I wandered lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,***

***When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host of golden Daffodils;  
Beside the Lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze."***

a) Name the poet. Where did the poet see this sight?

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b) What is being compared to the stars in the Milky Way and why?

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c) What did the poet see at a glance? Were they really ten thousand in number?

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**D3. Answer the following questions in 40 – 60 words. (3)**

a) Nicholas saw a large book with plain black covers in the lumber room. Describe the book in detail.

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b) Which sounds is the poet eager to hear in Innisfree?

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c) Do animals have the ability to understand human feelings? Explain keeping in view the role of Jabra.

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