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63 (FY)SEM-2/ENGMIN1024B

2025

ENGLISH

(MINOR)

Paper : ENGMIN1024B

(Essays and Letters)

Full Marks : 70

Pass Marks : 28

Time : Three hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.

1. Choose the correct answer : $1 \times 10 = 10$
- (a) What metaphor does Lamb use to describe life ?
- (i) A flowing river
 - (ii) A journey with no destination
 - (iii) A book with blank pages
 - (iv) A candle that will eventually burn out

- (b) What event does Amitav Ghosh recount in *The Ghosts of Mrs. Gandhi*?
- (i) The partition of India
 - (ii) The assassination of Mahatma Gandhi
 - (iii) The 1984 anti-Sikh riots
 - (iv) The Bhopal gas tragedy
- (c) Which of the following best describes Owen's feelings towards war, as revealed in his letters?
- (i) He views it as a necessary evil
 - (ii) He sees it as a wasteful tragedy
 - (iii) He believes it as an opportunity for personal growth
 - (iv) He thinks it as an unavoidable duty
- (d) What was the name of Nelson Mandela's wife who was imprisoned?
- (i) Graca Machel
 - (ii) Nomzamo Winnie Madikizela
 - (iii) Albertina Sisulu
 - (iv) Nadine Gordimer

- (e) Why does Yousafzai feel personally connected to the Chibok girls and their families?
- (i) He is from Nigeria
 - (ii) His daughter was also denied education
 - (iii) His own daughter Malala was targeted for going to school
 - (iv) He once visited Chibok
- (f) Which of the following best reflects Bacon's view on reading books?
- (i) All books should be read thoroughly
 - (ii) Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed and some to be chewed and digested
 - (iii) Only serious books are worth reading
 - (iv) Fiction is a waste of time

- (g) According to Gardiner, how should morality be judged?
- (i) By spying on people's private actions
 - (ii) Through laws and rules
 - (iii) By religious texts alone
 - (iv) Only through public and social behaviour
- (h) What principle does Tolstoy emphasize as the foundation of non-violent resistance?
- (i) Political manipulation
 - (ii) Physical strength
 - (iii) The law of love and moral conscience
 - (iv) Economic prosperity
- (i) What feeling does Owen often suppress in his letter to avoid worrying his mother?
- (i) Fear and trauma
 - (ii) Pride
 - (iii) Joy
 - (iv) Curiosity

- (j) According to Bacon, what can studies do for a person with a natural deficiency in wit?
- (i) They cannot help at all
 - (ii) They confuse the person further
 - (iii) They can improve and reform their nature
 - (iv) They make the person overconfident

2. Answer the following questions : **(any five)**
2×5=10

- (a) What value does Mandela emphasize the most in his letters?
- (b) What are the *three* main purposes of studies according to Bacon?
- (c) Why does Lamb prefer the past over the future?
- (d) How does A. G. Gardiner suggest morality should be judged?
- (e) According to Tolstoy, what is the strongest force in the world?
- (f) What does Amitabh Ghosh mean by the 'ghosts' in the title of his essay?

How does Owen describe the conditions at the front?

Answer the following questions: **(any six)**
5×6=30

What emotions does Lamb express when reflecting on time and mortality?

What role does hope play in the letter? How does Yousafzai use it as a message of resistance?

How does Bacon classify books in his essay?

d) Compare Mandela's letters with Wilfred Owen's 'Letters to His Mother' in terms of tone and emotional depth.

e) Explain how A. G. Gardiner uses humor and logic in *On Keyhole Morals* to criticize the tendency to judge others based on their private lives.

f) How does Tolstoy connect religion and resistance in the essay?

g) Why are Owen's letters considered an important historical document?

h) What does the title *The Ghosts of Mrs. Gandhi* symbolize?

(i) What concerns or questions does Leo Tolstoy raise about passive resistance?

4. Answer the following questions: **(any two)**
10×2=20

(a) Discuss Charles Lamb's reflections on life, time and death as expressed in his essay *New Year's Eve*.

(b) How Ziauddin Yousafzai uses personal experience to strengthen his argument about the value of education? Discuss.

(c) Discuss Francis Bacon's views on the purpose, benefits and limitations of studies as expressed in his essay, *Of Studies*.

(d) Discuss the main ideas expressed by Leo Tolstoy in his letter to Mahatma Gandhi on passive resistance. How did those ideas influence Gandhi's philosophy?