

- Please check that this question paper contains 8 printed pages.
- Code number given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- Please check that this question paper contains 15 questions.
- Please write down the serial number of the question before attempting it.

FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

General Instructions :

- The paper is divided into **four** sections : A, B, C and D. All the sections are compulsory.*
- Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.*
- Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

SECTION A — READING

20

A1. Read the following passage :

“But have you been to Nimitita ? Have you seen the palace there ?” asked the old man in the tea-shop, with the thatched roof. We were in the village of Lalgola, one hundred and fifty miles from Calcutta, and we had just seen our thirtieth nobleman’s palace and found it unsuitable.

5 “Nimitita ? Where is that ?” we asked without much interest. We had never heard of the place. “It is sixty miles to the north of here. You drive up the highway. Then you come to a river which you have to cross. A ferry will take your car across. Then up the highway again for twenty miles. A sign tells you where to branch off ... It’s on the river Padma, on the eastern bank. It’s the palace of the Choudhurys. I’ve been listening
10 to your talk, and I feel you ought to see this one before you give up.”

We were not very hopeful. We had had enough trouble taking free advice from people who had no idea of our needs. Anyway, the question was : do we or do we not undertake this one last trip ? If we did not like the palace, it might mean either giving up making this film altogether, or seriously changing its nature. We tossed a coin to
15 decide whether to go or not. The coin said ‘Go!’, and we set out on our sixty-mile journey.

It was when I was in bed with my right leg in plaster that I had decided to film Tarasankar Banerji's famous short story, 'The Music Room' (Jalsaghar). A nasty fall on the stone steps at Banaras had brought about a serious knee injury. I lay in bed and
20 read all the Bengali books I could lay my hands on. Just then, the film distributors were not too keen to take my films for distribution, and may be this was one of the things that made me choose 'The Music Room'.

Here was a dramatic story which could naturally bring in music and dancing, and distributors loved music and dancing. But here, too, was a story full of feelings. So it
25 would be satisfying for me as an artist. I would cast Chabi Biswas, our greatest actor, in the leading role of the zamindar — the zamindar whose love of big musical entertainments brings about his ruin. But the most important thing was to find a palace. As we had a low budget, there was no question of having studio-built sets. I knew that, if we had the money, my art director could easily build a set which looked
30 like our old palace with the right style. But we just didn't have the money for it.

Nimtita turned out to be everything that the old man had claimed — and more. No one could have described in words the feeling of utter sadness that surrounded the palace. The river Padma had changed its course over the years, so that now there were endless stretches of sand where once had been villages. The palace itself—Greek
35 pillars and all — was a perfect realization of my dream image. It stood looking out over the stretches of sand with a sad dignity. It had somehow escaped being totally destroyed when the river changed its course. The river had approached within ten yards of the front of the palace — having swallowed the garden — and then stopped. Ganendra Narayan Choudhury, who is seventy and owns a British title and the palace,
40 told us how it happened : "We were having breakfast one morning when we heard a low rumble. We went out on the verandah and saw a big chunk of our estate — almost a square mile of it — go under water, disappearing forever. It all happened in a matter of seconds. Padma's appetite is legendary."

"But aren't you afraid that the river might encroach further ?"

45 "Oh, yes, the rains bring with them the usual fears."

"Then why do you stay here ?"

"We'd sooner go down with the house than leave it and go away."

On returning from our first trip to Nimtita, I telephoned the author, Mr. Banerji. He had been just as anxious about the location as we were.

50 "We've found our palace at last, Mr. Banerji," I said.

“Have you ? And where is it ?”

“At a little known place called Nimitita.”

“Nimitita ?” There was a note of recognition in his voice. “You don’t mean the palace of the Choudhurys, do you ?”

55 “That’s the one.”

“But that’s extraordinary! I haven’t been to Nimitita myself, but I’ve read about the Choudhurys in a history of Bengal zamindars, and it was the music-loving Upendra Narayan Choudhury who served as the model for my rajah.”

(Extract from a piece written by Satyajit Ray)

A1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the following : 8

- (a) How was the meeting with the old man at the tea-shop lucky for the narrator ? 2
- (b) It was important for the narrator to find the right setting for his film for two reasons. What are they ? 2
- (c) When did the narrator get the idea of making the film ‘Jalsaghar’ ? 1
- (d) Why did the narrator feel that the film would appeal to his distributors ? 1
- (e) Why was making the film so important to the narrator ? 1
- (f) What surprised Mr. Banerji, the author of the story ? 1

A1.2 Pick out the words from the passage which mean the following : 4

- (i) a motorized boat (lines 5 - 10)
- (ii) asserted or said (lines 31 - 35)
- (iii) something mythical/famous from the past (lines 39 — 43)
- (iv) unique or strange (lines 53 - 58)

A2. Read the passage given below :

Apes belong to the same type of animals as man himself. They have larger brains than any other animal, though their brains are smaller than man’s. They all belong to the hot countries of the world — Tropical Africa and South-East Asia.

The gorilla is the largest of the apes. He is as tall as six feet when standing upright. He is known to be very fierce and is often described as standing on his hind legs, beating his chest with his hands, and roaring in anger. Now that we know more about gorillas in their home, in the forests of Central Africa, we learn that they are, in fact, peaceful animals and never use their great strength unless attacked.

Gorillas go about in family parties of one old male, with several females and their young ones; these include babies, carried hanging on to their mothers’ fur and youngsters up to six years old. They roam through the tropical forests on all fours, and seldom stand up on their hind legs, for these are weak compared with their long and

very strong arms. They have sharp eyesight and notice even slight movements from quite a distance. Gorillas have black faces and long, black, hairy coats. They feed during the day on plants and fruits, especially on wild celery and bamboo.

The chimpanzee also belongs to the forests of tropical Africa. It stands just five feet high and weighs only ten stone., It has short hair on its body and ears; its hands and feet are skin-coloured and baby chimpanzees have pink faces. Instead of beating their chests when angry, they make a hooting bark.

The orangutan or ‘Old Man of the Woods’, lives in Borneo and Sumatra in the East Indies. Though it is only four and a half feet high, it weighs nearly fourteen stone. It has rough reddish hair, especially long on the shoulders, back, and arms. Its legs are short and weak, but its arms are long and strong. It moves over the ground by putting its hands down and swinging its body between the arms. But it spends most of its time in the trees, swinging from branch to branch.

The fourth ape, the gibbon of South-East Asia, is the smallest — only three feet high and weighing only a stone. This small, finely built ape has such long arms that it holds them over its head when running on the ground. In trees, it uses them to swing easily through the branches, and it takes flying jumps from one tree to another, as much as forty feet at a time. Gibbons are also fruit-eaters and live in family parties. In the jungle they keep in touch with each other by calling loudly all the time. At sunrise and sunset there is a loud chorus of calls ringing through the forest.

A2.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary. 5

A2.2 Write a summary of the above passage in 80 words. 3

SECTION B — WRITING 30

B1. You are Sahil / Shalini Khattar of 35-B, Ballygunge, Circular Road, Kolkata. You want to sell your refrigerator, washing machine and other household goods as you are going abroad for a long time. Design an advertisement to be put in the classified column of the local newspaper giving the relevant details. (Word limit - 50 words) 5

B2. You have received an invitation to attend the wedding ceremony of your friend. Write an informal reply accepting the invitation. (Word limit - 50 words) 5

- B3.** You are Mr. Abhishek Sharma, Sports Incharge, Sarojini Public School. Write a letter to M/s Modi Sports Company Ltd., asking for the price-list and discounts for certain sports equipments required by your school. (Word limit - 100 words) 10

OR

You are Ketan / Ketaki Shah of 25/B, Mohini Vihar, Ghaziabad. You are disturbed by the news of the terrible floods in some States and drought in the others. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily expressing your views on the situation and giving your suggestions on how to deal with it. (Word limit - 100 words) 10

- B4.** You have read the following headlines :

ELDERLY COUPLE KILLED BY SERVANT

OLD WOMAN LIVING ALONE FOUND DEAD

POLICE ADVISES SERVANT VERIFICATION

NEW PROJECT IN SCHOOLS : INTERACTION WITH SENIOR CITIZENS

You are extremely disturbed by the growing crimes against the elderly people in your city. Write an article commenting on the reasons for such crimes and how one can prevent them. Sign yourself as Surabhi / Shantanu. (Word limit - 200 words) 10

OR

This is the final medals tally at the Athens Olympics :

<i>Country</i>	<i>Gold</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Bronze</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Position</i>
USA	35	39	29	103	1 st
China	32	17	14	63	2 nd
Russia	27	27	38	92	3 rd
Australia	17	16	16	49	4 th
Japan	16	9	12	37	5 th

India	0	1	0	1	67 th

Prepare a speech for your school assembly expressing your concern about the poor showing of the Indians in sports, highlighting the problems and suggesting some solutions. (Word limit - 200 words)

SECTION C — GRAMMAR

15

- C1. Rearrange the following sentences in proper sequence to make a paragraph that makes complete sense :

3

He flew hours before reaching his target.

On the day of execution, Colonel, Paul W., Tibbets took off at a quarter to three in the morning.

The bombing of Hiroshima was executed after meticulous planning.

Thus the new nuclear age had begun, not with a bang but with a whimper.

But there was no bang or an explosion. Only a brownish-purple mist all around.

Then, the bomb was set to explode 2000 ft. above the town.

- C2. The following passage has *ten errors*. Identify the errors in each line and write them along with the corrections as shown in the example.

5

	<u>Incorrect</u>	<u>Correct</u>
In a town of Verona lived <u>the</u> young man	the	a

- (a) named John. He has two shops and a house
- (b) of his own. John was a handsome, curly-head fellow
- (c) full of fun but very fond of singing. When
- (d) quite a young man he was given to drink but
- (e) after he marry, he gave up drinking
- (f) except now and then. One summer, he is
- (g) going to a fair when her wife said to him,
- (h) “John does not start today;
- (i) I have had a bad dreams about you”
- (j) But John just laughed and drive away.

- C3. You have been given an opportunity of interviewing Sachin Tendulkar, the cricket icon of today. You are impressed with his progress from a middle class background to a status of high renown. You want to know about his childhood struggles, how he took to cricket, his parental support, his inspiration, his plans for the future etc. Frame eight questions that you would like to ask him.

4

- C4.** You are Suresh. You are going to a new town to appear for an interview. You have never been there but you have a friend Ram who lives there. Use the information given below to construct a dialogue between your friend and you. Make three more sets of exchanges. The first one has been done as an example. 3

best way to reach the place — where to stay — any interesting places to visit

Suresh : Hello, am I speaking to Ram ? This is Suresh calling.

Ram : What a pleasant surprise ! After such a long time !

SECTION D — LITERATURE 35

- D1.** Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :

“I know why the caged bird beats his wings

Till its blood is red on the cruel bars.”

- (a) Name the poet. 1
- (b) Explain the line, ‘Till its blood is red on the cruel bars.’ 2
- (c) What does the bird symbolize ? 1
- (d) Identify the figure of speech in the second line. 1
- (e) Who does the bird appeal to for help ? 1

OR

“Incredulously the laced fingers loosen,

Slowly, sensation by sensation from their

Warm interchange

And stiffen like frosted flowers in the

November garden.”

- (a) Name the poem. 1
- (b) What does the line ‘laced fingers loosen’ convey ? 1
- (c) Pick out the words/phrases from these lines that convey the feeling that the people being described in these lines had been close to one another at one time. 1
- (d) What do the ‘frosted flowers’ symbolize ? 2
- (e) Why has the narrator used the word, “incredulously” ? 1

- D2.** Answer any *three* of the following in about 40 - 50 words each : 3×3=9

- (a) In the poem ‘Of Mothers, Among Other Things’, why does the Narrator say, ‘my cold parchment tongue licks bark’ ?
- (b) How should a poem bring out grief and love, according to Archibald MacLeish ?
- (c) In the lines, ‘season of mists and mellow fruitfulness’, who is the poet describing ? Who is its close friend ? And why have they been described so ?
- (d) In the poem ‘Sally in our Alley’, which is the narrator’s favourite day of the week? Why ? Why does he compare his master to a ‘Turk’ ?

D3. Answer any *one* of the following in about 80 - 100 words : 5

In 'An Adventure Story', Alexander desists from naming his successor. What do you think are the reasons for his reluctance ?

OR

What was the spell put upon the monkey's paw ? Who had put it ? Was it supposed to be a lucky charm"? Give reasons for your answer.

D4. Answer any *three* of the following in about 40-50 words each : 3×3=9

(a) What were the drawbacks in the plan that the two comedians had devised to meet the conditions of the challenge put forth by Suzanne ?

(b) Explain : But do not take from any man his song.

(c) Why does the writer conclude that the bee was morally higher in the scale than the mosquito ?

(d) Why did Ashoka's subjects accept his preachings ?

D5. You are one of Lisa's devoted admirers who has followed her career with great interest. You have witnessed the performance she gives after Doroi's death. You are so moved that you write a letter to congratulate her on her brilliant performance and to express your sympathy at the news of the major's death which you have learnt from the other actors. Write the letter within 100 - 125 words. 6

OR

The story, "A Room 10' × 8' " is one full of ironical instances. Discuss them within 100 - 125 words. 6