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**Modal Paper 2009**  
**English (First Paper)**  
**Class – XII**  
**Time: 3 hours Max. Marks:50**

**1. Explain With Reference to the Context Any One of the following passages: 4**

(a) At last became so exhausted that I could walk no longer. I was tired, I was hungry, I was everything but discouraged. Just about the time when I reached extreme exhaustion Physical exhaustion, I came upon a portion of a street where the board sidewalk was considerably elevated. I waited for a few minutes till I was sure that no passersby could see me, and then crept under the sidewalk and lay for the night on the ground, with my satchel of clothing for a pillow. Nearly all night I could hear the tramp of feet over my head.

(b) Mahmood was like the banyan, his hands gnarled and twisted like the roots of the ancient tree. Ali was like the young mimosa planted at the end of the courtyard. In two years both he and the tree would acquire the strength and confidence that are characteristic of youth.

(c) Magnanimity and mercy were the noblest attributes of man. In the exercise of these high qualities I could recover my prestige. At present I was a ridiculous figure, a thing for laughter and derision. By being merciful I could reassert the moral dignity of man and go back to my corner with honour. I withdraw the sentence of death, I said, returning to my seat. I cannot kill you, but I can relieve you. I do it.

**2. Read one of the following passages and answer the question that follow:**

**4+4=8**

(a) This child of nine, dressed in rags and on the edge of starvation, raised her chin, reached into the basket, and with all the pride and graciousness of a lady handed the money back to me. There was only one thing I could do. I bought the basket. She Wiped her eyes, smiled and dashed down the platform, headed for some grass hut that would have at least thirty cents that night. I told this story to Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I told him it was one reason I had fallen in love with India.

The people I saw in India-those in the village as well as those in high office-have both pride and a lively sense of decency and citizenship. They also have a passion for independence. This beautiful child-born in squalor and poverty, uneducated in both grammar and manners-had given me a glimpse of the warm soul of India.

**Questions:**

1. Which story did the author narrate to Pt. Nehru?
2. Which was the reason that made the author fall in love with India?
3. What do you understand by passion for independence?
4. What virtues did the author discover in the Indian people?
5. How do you know that the people in the country held self-respect in high esteem?
6. How has the child been described in the passage?
7. What is the impression of the writer about India?

(b) In ancient times, our women had the ceremony of upanayana performed for them. They were entitled to a study of the Vedas. They were also entitled to the chanting of the Gayatri Japa. All these things were open to our women. But our civilization became arrested and one of the main signs of that decay of our

civilization is the subjection of women. After Independence, through the exertions of Mahatma Gandhi, a revolution has been effected in our country, and women are coming into their own.

**Questions:**

1. What place did our women occupy in ancient India? Give examples.

Or

How do you know that our women had a high place in ancient India ?

Or

What rights did the women enjoy in ancient times?

2. What shows the decay of our civilization?

3. What revolution has been effected in our country after Independence?

4. Who has contributed most to bring about this revolution?

5. What do you understand by the words 'subjection of women' used in the paragraph?

**3. Answer any two of the following questions in not more than 30 words each:**

2+2=4

(I) What are the most common things we often forget, according to Robert Lynd?

(II) Why was the writer asked to learn the fable about 'The Ant and the Grasshopper'?

(III) What kind of women does the society need?

**4. Answer one of the following questions in not more than 150 words each: 6**

(I) Describe the difference which Washington had to face on the way to Hampton.

(II) State briefly the views of S. Radhakrishnan on women's education.

**5. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with suitable word or phrases given against each within the brackets: 4\*1/2=2**

(a) The ordinary man arrives.....his destination with all his back and trunks safe. (on, to, at, for)

(b) As for living articles in train and in taxis I am no great.....in such matter. (enemy, delinquent, fool, opponent)

(c) I suppose every family has a..... (mad dog, white elephant, black sheep, shining car)

(d) The faultless completion of small tasks leads.....to larger tasks. (necessarily, undoubtedly, inevitably, unexpectedly)

**6. Answer one of the following questions in not more than 150 words: 5**

(a) Which Character do you like most in Julius Caesar? Give reasons for your answer.

(b) Describe the character of Cassius.

**7. Answer one of the following questions in not more than 30 words: 2**

(a) Whose daughter is Portia and why is she so proud of her father?

(b) What were Caesar's last words before death? Why did he say so?

**8. Answer one of the following questions in about 150 words: 5**

(a) Bring out the qualities of Jimmy as a policeman and as a friend.

(b) What are the basic traits in the character of Gyan Babu's wife? Do you like this character? If so, why?

**9. Answer one of the following questions in not more than 30 words: 2**

(a) Why did Alice not send the picture immediately?

(b) Why did Gaffer kill the bull?

**10. Explain With Reference to the Context any two of the following extracts:**

**3+3=6**

(a) But mercy is above this sceptred sway,  
It is enthroned in the hearts of kings,  
It is an attributes to God himself:  
And earthly power doth then so likest God  
When mercy seasons justice.

(b) But the smooth steadfast mind,  
Gentle thoughts and calm desires,  
Hearts with equal love combined  
Kindly never-dying fires:

Where these are not, I despise,  
Lovely cheeks so lips or eyes.  
(c) What joyance rain upon me when I see,  
Fame in the mirror of futurity,  
Weaving the chaplets you have yet to gain,  
Ah! Then I feel I have not lived in vain.

**11. Give the central idea of one of the following poem: 4**

- (a) Mercy
- (b) All his blindness
- (c) Education of nature

**12. Answer one of the following questions in about 150 words: 4**

- (a) What were the seven reason that king Shuddhodhana saw in his dreams?
- (b) Give a Character sketch of prince Siddhartha on the basis of the text read.

**13. Point out the figures of speech in any two of the following:  $\frac{1}{2}+1/2=1$**

- (a) Great lord of all things yet a prey to all.
- (b) Revenge is a kind of wild justice.
- (c) The camel is the ship of desert.

**14. Define Simile and given an illustration of it.  $\frac{1}{2}+1/2=1$**