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 Third Term Test - Grade 12 - 2024

Index No.:

General English - II**03 hours****Instruction : Answer all the questions.****Part A - Reading Skills (50 marks)**

01. Read the following text in which some words are given in bold type. Then, underline the meaning that is most appropriated to the context for the words given in bold type from (1) - (10). **(10 marks)**

The "Aened" is a legendary **narrative** about the imagined **origin** of the Roman nation. It is an epic poem. An epic is a long narrative poem, full of action, which tells about human life and makes us **wonder** about the relationship between man and the gods. The main characters in epics are heroes. Very often, epics show **clashes** between heroes and gods.

The "Aened" tells of the Trojan Prince who was said to have **escaped** during the sack of Troy and sailed, with other **founded** early Rome. The epic describes the many **trials** they had to face before they finally arrived at their **destiny**. This story is **significant** for the role the gods take in men's **affair**.

- | | | | | |
|------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|---------------|
| (1) narrative | speech | oration | story | recitation |
| (2) origin | new | ending | original | beginning |
| (3) wonder | walking | surprised | panic | fear |
| (4) clashes | conflicts | difficulties | problems | issues |
| (5) escaped | went | ran | fled | given up |
| (6) founded | searched | known | revealed | established |
| (7) trials | practices | hardships | tries | habits |
| (8) destiny | death | soul | peace | fate |
| (9) significant | unimportant | useful | important | careful |
| (10) affairs | activities | events | races | relationships |

02. Read the following text and answer the questions (1) and (2).

(10 marks)

Larger roots do not take plant food from the soil. Their function is to hold the plant firmly in its place during storms and heavy rains. When a plant is taken up to be **transplanted**, most of the small rootlets with their many long hairs are broken off. Perhaps, you can now understand why a plant is so likely to **wither** when it is uprooted.

But more interesting than the roots or the stem are the leaves. They **serve** as so many stomachs where plant food is **digested** and made ready for use. The chief work of the leaves is to change into starch and sugar the plant foods which they get from the soil through the roots. The leaves also give off all the water that is not needed by the plant.

The flowers of plants are very important because they contain the parts that give rise to the fruits. The fruit contains the seed from which new plants grow. If the flower fails to do its work, there will be no fruit and no seeds, and therefore, no new plants, unless a new plant can be grown from a slip or a cutting of the old plant.

(1) Do the following sentences agree with the information given in the above text ? In boxes (i) - (viii), write True or False.

- (i) Larger roots help plants to stand up against storms and heavy plants. ()
- (ii) Roots do not break when a plant is taken up to be transplanted. ()
- (iii) Roots are the most interesting part of a plant. ()
- (iv) Leaves serve as so many stomachs where plant food is digested. ()
- (v) The major work of the roots is to change into starch and sugar the plant foods. ()
- (vi) Flowers are important to give rise to the fruits. ()
- (vii) Fruits contain seeds which need to grow new plants. ()
- (viii) A new plant can't be grown from a slip of the old plant. ()

(2) Underline the most appropriate response to complete the following sentences.

(ix) Select a similar word for "absorb" from the text.

- (a) get (b) digest (c) recieve (d) take

(x) Select a similar meaning for the word "transplanted".

- (a) transfer (b) move (c) graft (d) relocate

03. Read the following poem and underline the most appropriate response to each of the question from (1) - (5). **(05 marks)**

Jimmy Jet and His TV Set

I'll tell you the story of Jimmy Jet
And you know what I tell you is true,
He loved to watch his TV set
Almost as much as you.

He watched all day, he watched all night
Till he grew pale and lean,
From 'The Early Show' to 'The Late Late Show'
And all the shows between.

He watched till his eyes were frozen wide,
And his bottom grew into his chair.
And his chin turned into a tuning dial,
And antennae grew out of his hair.

And his brains turned into TV tubes,
And his face to a TV screen.
And two knobs saying 'VERT' and 'HORIZ'
Grew where his ears had been.

And he grew a plug that looked like a tail
So we plugged in little Jim.
And now instead of him watching TV
We all sit around and watch him.

Shel Silverstein

- (1) What did Jimmy Jet do all the time ?
(a) Playing (b) Watching TV (c) Drawing (d) Gardening
- (2) Why do you think Jimmy grew pale and thin ?
(a) Because he watched TV all day and night.
(b) Because he was playing all day and night.
(c) Because he was drawing all day and night.
(d) Because he was doing gardening all day and night.

- (3) What happened to Jimmy Jet's chin ?
- (a) Antennae grew out of his chin.
 - (b) His chin was frozen.
 - (c) His chin turned into a tuning dial.
 - (d) His chin turned into TV tubes.
- (4) What happened to Jimmy Jet at the end of the poem ?
- (a) He has become a switch himself.
 - (b) He has become a remote himself.
 - (c) He has become a plug himself.
 - (d) He has become a TV himself.
- (5) What is the similar word for the word "thin" ?
- (a) pale
 - (b) lean
 - (c) frozen
 - (d) dull

04. Complete the summary meaningfully and appropriately using one word only from the passage for each blank. **(05 marks)**

The market- place was crowded. Everywhere people were buying, selling, arguing about prices, or looking very pleased with themselves at having discovered a bargain. The owners of stalls were advertising their wares as the best in the world and shouting at the tops of their voices to prove it. There was so much movement that no one noticed a small boy pushing his way through the crowd. Even the fat man examining a pair of silver candlesticks barely looked down as the boy brushed past him. Judging from the condition of his patched but scrupulously clean clothes, the boy was obviously very poor. In his right hand he clutched a penny and walked with such a sense of purpose that it was clear he knew his way well.

In the (1) market place a boy (2) his way through the (3) with a (4) and walked with such a sense of (5) that it was clear he knew his way well.

05. Read the following text and do the activities that follow it.

(20 marks)

"I CAN'T EVEN BOIL AN EGG"

The trouble is that males have long been conditioned to believe that they are some how free of domestic responsibility, even if a woman of the household works outside the home. I remember a girl who was about to take O Levels saying to me bitterly during a class discussion, "exams or not, mother always expects me to help wash and get the meals every evening. But if my brother as much as puts a plate on the table everyone falls about in admiration ! And it is true that men usually feel very noble indeed if they perform a few simple chores always on the **assumption** that it isn't their job after all. "Did you notice I'd taken your rubbish to the dustbin?". One husband asked his wife, seeking praise. And she replied, "well, I could say thank you - but tell me just why is it all my rubbish in this little home we share and equally mess up?"

Because boys are often not taught the basics of keeping a home going or made to feel any responsibility for it, they can always plead incompetence in later life which is an easy way to slide out things. The philosopher A. J. Ayer once described his domestic arrangement in a newspaper interview. "I've changed Nicholas's (his son's) nappies in a **crisis**. I am in fact not very helpful round the house - not at all out of principles, simply because I am not very good at it. It doesn't come naturally. I can't cook I am afraid. I can cook an egg. In a sense my wife sort of runs Nicholas. She's much more of a managing character than I am. She tends to take the day today decisions..... I think that's true of most households, don't you think?"

It is a sorry comment on the built-in bias of our social education that a man as highly intelligent as Ayer can admit quite unashamedly in public that he cannot even cook a simple meal: the assumption being, of course that such **tedious** chores do "come naturally" to women. As novelist Margarelt Drabble crisply put it, "I no longer find it touching or amusing when men say they do not know how to boil an egg. I think it damn silly." For, she continued, eating is one of the fundamental processes of human survival, and not to teach boys how to prepare their own food is actually handicapping them by making them forever depend on someone else **invariably** a woman - to do it for them.

(1) Write true or false according to the passage against each sentence in the space provided. (05 marks)

- (a) Men are not good in household work because it does not come naturally to them. (.....)
 - (b) In paragraph one, the girl complains about the unequal treatment at home. (.....)
 - (c) Men feel noble if they do a few household duties, because they think it's not their job. (.....)
 - (d) In paragraph three, Margarelt thinks it is amusing when men say they do not know how to cook. (.....)
 - (e) To teach boys how to cook is to make them independent. (.....)
-

- (2) According to the writer, what is wrong with our social education ? (01 mark)

.....

- (3) In what way is Margaret Drabble's view on male attitudes a change from the traditional view ? (4 marks)

.....

- (4) Underline the statement which best expresses the main idea of the passage. (2 marks)

- (a) How to perform household duties should come naturally to both men and women, otherwise they will plead incompetence in later life.
- (b) Men are not good in house hold duties because they have been socially conditioned to believe that it's not their responsibility.
- (c) It's silly when men say they cannot cook because eating is a fundamental process of human survival.
- (d) It's true of most households that women are better in household duties and management than men.

- (5) Give the meaning of the following words, highlighted in the passages, as they appear in the text. (4 marks)

- (a) assumption -
- (b) crisis -
- (c) tedious -
- (d) invariably -

- (6) Who or what do the following words, underlined in the passage, refer to. (4 marks)

- (a) their -
- (b) we -
- (c) it -
- (d) them -

Part B - Dialogue (25 marks)

06. How do you respond in each of the following situation. Write only one sentence or question for each, beginning with the words given. **(05 marks)**

(1) There is an art-exhibition in the townhall today. Suggest your friend to go there.

"Let's" "

(2) You become the first in the All Island Essay Competition. A reporter asks your feelings.

"I" "

(3) One of your friends offers you a cup of tea. You want to refuse it with a reason.

"No," "

(4) Your class teacher is busy with some preparations for the Children's Day. You wish to help him / her.

"May" "

(5) You watched a mini-drama presented by the students of the primary section. Your teacher asks your views about it.

"It's" "

07. Nipun asks Rasal for a lift in his car. Complete appropriately the missing parts of the dialogue. Do not use more than two sentences / question in each blank. **(05 marks)**

Nipun : Are you going to Nuwara Eliya tomorrow ?

Rasal :

Nipun : Can I come with you ?

Rasal :

Nipun : Haggala.

Rasal : Well,

Nipun : That will be fine. I can get a bus from there.

Rasal :

Nipun : Sure, I'll be there at 7. How ?

Rasal : Well, it'll take about three hours to reach Nuwara Eliya.

08. Imagine that you are the chief organizer of the annual trip of your school and you have to prepare the itinerary of the event with your friend. Write out the dialogue between you and your friend. Each one should speak at least **five times**. **(15 marks)**

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Part C - Writing Skills (65 marks)

09. Select any five words from the list of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs given below and each one of them in a meaningful sentence. You may use the verbs in any tense. Do not change the form of the other words. **(05 marks)**

Nouns : facilities, marriage, customer.

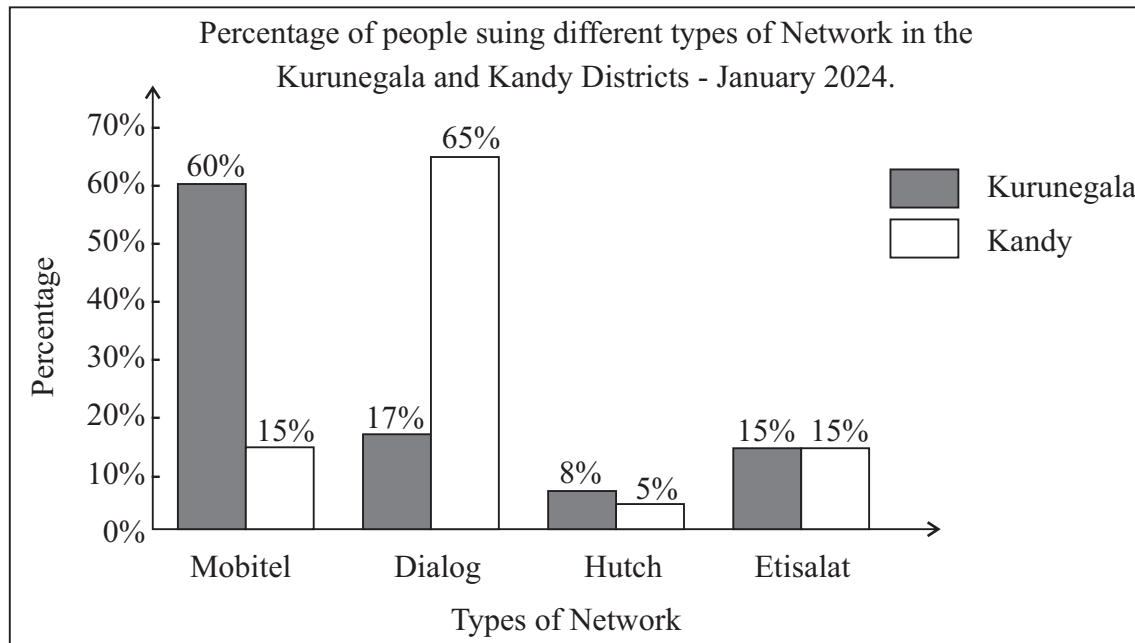
Verbs : propose, perform

Adjectives : previous, crazy, confident

Adverbs : extremely, kindly

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)
- (4)
- (5)

10. The bar chart below shows that percentage of people using different types of networks in their communication in the Kurunegala and Kandy Districts in January 2024. Describe the information by using about 75 words. **(10 marks)**

[illegible]

[illegible]

- Include : - date and time of your visit.
 - number of students
 - purpose etc.

(15 marks)

[illegible]

13. Some people prefer to live in a rural area. Others prefer to live in a big city. Which place would you prefer to live in ? Why ? Write an essay given reasons for your choice. Use about 200 words. Do not exceed this word limit. **(15 marks)**

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