

**FAS / ENGLISH (031) / XII / HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION, 2024-25**

**Time : 3 Hrs. ]**

**[ M.M. : 80**

**General Instructions :**

- (1) 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q. paper reading.
- (2) The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
- (3) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the options being attempted.
- (4) Total no. of questions-13.

**SECTION-(A)**

**(READING)**

**22**

1. Read the following passage :

- (1) 'Sarcasm is the lowest form of wit but the highest form of intelligence wrote that connoisseur of wit, Oscar Wilde. Whether sarcasm is a sign of intelligence or not we are not sure as communication experts and marriage counsel alike typically advise us to stay away from this particular form of expression.
- (2) The reason is simple: sarcasm expresses the poisonous sting of contempt hurting others and harming relationships. As a form of communication, sarcasm takes on debt of conflict. And yet, our research suggests, there may also be some unexpected benefits from sarcasm like greater creativity.
- (3) The use of sarcasm in fact, promotes creativity for those on both the giving and receiving of sarcastic exchanges. Instead of avoiding sarcasm

completely in office research suggests, sarcasm if used with care and moderation, can effectively trigger creative sparks. Sarcasm involves constructing or exposing contradiction between intended meanings. The most common form of verbal irony, sarcasm often used to humorously convey thinly veiled disapproval or scorn "pat, don't work so hard !" a boss might say upon catching his assistant surfing the internet.

- (4) Early research on sarcasm explored how people's statement sound more critical. Participants related sarcasm more condemning than literal statements. When might sarcasm enhance creativity ? Because the brain must think creatively to understand or convey a sarcastic comment sarcasm may lead to clearer and more creative thinking to either create the literal or actual meanings of the sarcastic expressions. This is a process that activates and is facilitated by, abstraction, which in turn promotes creative thinking. Consider the following example, which comes from a conversation one of my friends had a few weeks before getting married. His fiancée pestered him for a wedding in the next month - May, which was quite expensive. Adar responded with some ideas of his own. "why don't we get Paul McCartney to sing, Barak Obama to give a benediction and Amy Schumer to entertain people." His comment required his fiancée to recognize that there is a distinction between the surface-level meaning of the sentence and the meaning that was intended.

Answer the following questions based on your reading of the passage given above :

- 1 × 12 = 12
- (i) According to the passage, what does sarcasm require ?
- (a) Its intention is to cause hurt in the most profound manner possible.

- (b) In order to understand it, one needs to be able to grasp abstract context.
- (c) Its usage involves the employment of words contrary to the intended meaning.
- (1) Only (c)                      (2) Only (a)  
 (3) (b) and (c)                (4) (a) and (b)
- (ii) According to the passage, which of the following is most nearly the same in meaning as the word 'CONDEMNING' as used in the passage ? (para 4)
- (a) Repressed                      (b) Deeming  
 (c) Critical                        (d) Convicted
- (iii) Which of the following is true according to the author of the passage ?
- (a) Words used in sarcasm are to be considered for their literal meaning.
- (b) Sarcasm does involve an element of humour in it.
- (c) Tone of voice is one of the essential 'components conveying sarcasm'.
- (1) (a) and (c)                      (2) (b) and (c)  
 (3) All (a), (b) and (c) (4) None of these
- (iv) According to the passage, which of the following is not true ?
- (a) One needs to exercise restraint while using sarcasm.
- (b) Sarcasm has the potential to damage relationships.
- (c) Using sarcasm is devoid of any merits.
- (1) All (a), (b) and (c) (2) (b) and (c)  
 (3) Only (a)                        (4) Only (c)
- (v) What did the author's friend actually mean when he said the

following. "Why don't we get Paul McCartney to sing, Barak Obama to give a benediction and Amy Schumer to entertain people?"

- (a) Paul McCartney, Barak Obama and Amy Schumer could easily be asked to be present at his wedding.
  - (b) He was friends with Paul McCartney, Barak Obama and Amy Schumer.
  - (c) People standing his wedding would love to hear Paul McCartney, Barak Obama and Amy Schumer perform.
  - (d) Other than those given options.
- (vi) Which of the following is a common form of sarcasm mentioned in the passage ?
- (a) Sarcasm as a praise.
  - (c) Sarcasm as a straightforward compliment.
  - (c) Sarcasm as verbal irony.
  - (d) Sarcasm as literal statement.
- (vii) Assertion (A) : Sarcasm can trigger creative thinking in both the giver and receiver of sarcastic comments.  
Reason (R) : Sarcasm involves constructing or exposing contradictions between intended meanings, activating abstraction.
- (a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
  - (b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
  - (c) A is true, but R is false.
  - (d) A is false, but R is true
- (viii) What is the main reason communication experts and marriage counsellors advise against using sarcasm ?
- (a) Sarcasm promotes creativity.

- (b) Sarcasm is a sign of intelligence.
- (c) Sarcasm expresses contempt and harms relationships.
- (d) Sarcasm is difficult to understand.
- (ix) The word benediction (para 4) means \_\_\_\_\_.
- (x) Why is sarcasm, as a form of communication is considered to be a 'debt of conflict'.
- (xi) How is creativity involved in the use of sarcasm ?
- (xii) In what context does the passage suggest sarcasm might be effectively used in the workplace ?

2. Read the following passage :

- (1) There are numerous factors affecting job performance. These can be divided into external and internal factors. The internal factors are team spirit, competent boss, respect from colleagues and job satisfaction. The external factors are chance for personal development, job security, promotion prospects and monetary incentives. The decisive determinant is that the employees remain highly motivated. One possible method to increase motivation is the salary. Employees are willing to stay longer hours in the office and perform better, when they have the chance to get financial rewards, for instance, a higher salary or bonuses.
- (2) The bar graph shows the result of a survey conducted among workers in a company to analyse their work performance across ten different factors that contribute to make their work environment pleasant. The workers are grouped into two categories—those between the ages of 18-30 and those between 40-60. Interestingly, in six out of the ten factors surveyed, the 18-30 age group is shown to be more affected than the 45-60 age group. Factors, beside the salary, which affect the work performance of the two different age groups are interesting. The factors are the chance for personal development, relaxed working environment; promotion prospects, job satisfaction and monetary incentives. Furthermore, two

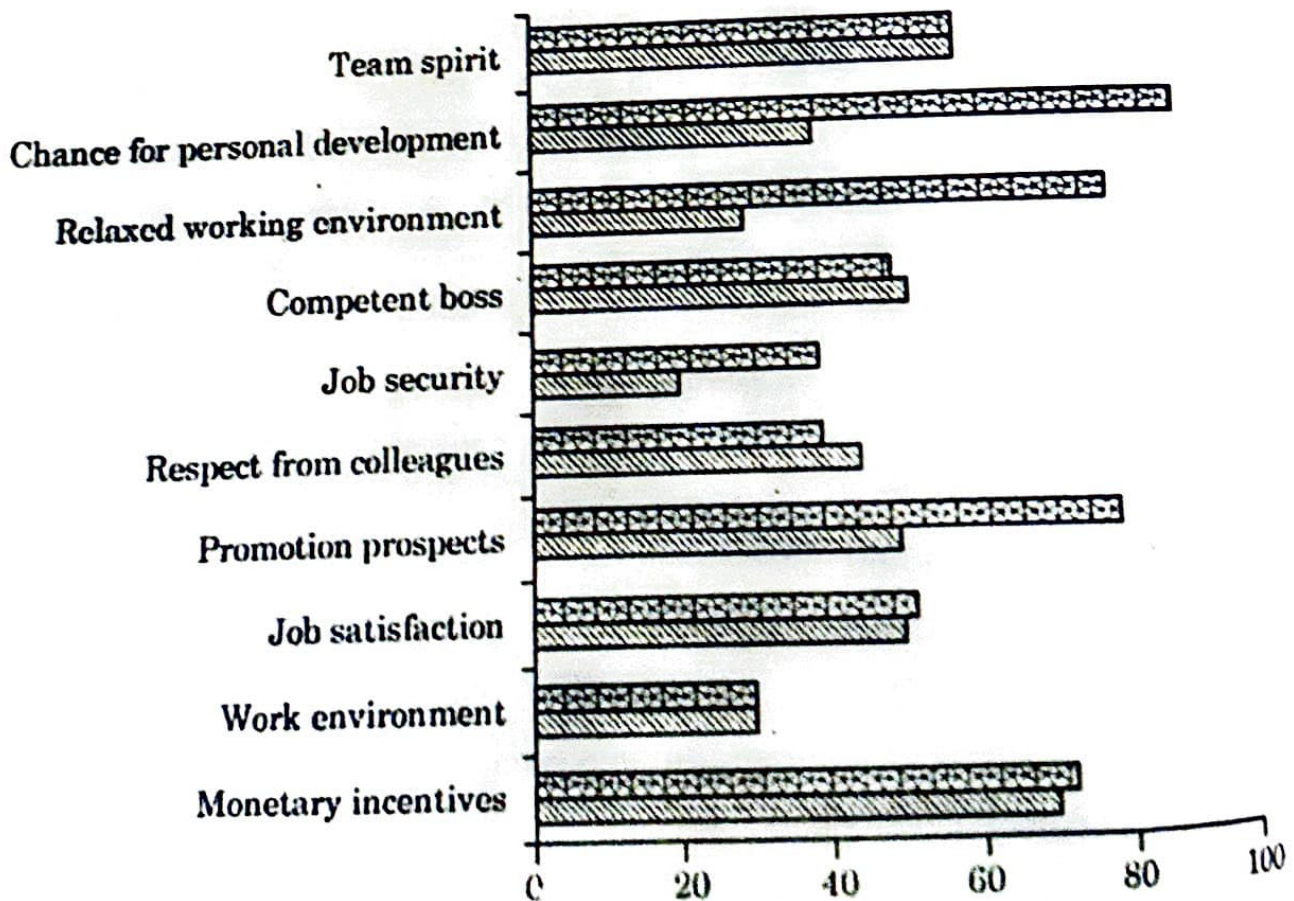
out of the remaining four factors namely, team spirit and work environment have been equally influential among the two groups. The 45-60 years workers are impacted a lot by 'respect from colleagues' whereas the prospect of a promotion is an important reason that drives younger employees to work better.

- (3) Job performance of happy employees is 31% more productive and they show three times more creativity than their unhappy counterparts. They are more resilient and more likely to stay in the same company for a longer period. Consequently, they drive the company towards long - term goals by being more productive and efficient.

▣ 18 - 30 age group

▤ 45 - 60 age group

**Factors affecting work performance**



Answer the following questions based on your reading of the passage given above :

1×10=10

- (i) Does the following statement agree with the information given in para 1 ?

When the company has a lot of competitors, it tries to invent the most efficient technology to study ahead.

Select from the following:

TRUE : If the statement agrees with the information.

FALSE : If the statement contradicts the information.

NOT GIVEN

- (ii) Why do you think the companies demand for highly motivated and happy employees ? Support your answer with reference to the passage.

- (iii) Select the option that displays the most likely reason for employees to perform better :

- (a) Companies demand an outstanding performance.
- (b) If the company grows, their growth is assured.
- (c) When there are chances to get financial gratification.
- (d) To drive the company towards long-term goals.

- (iv) Based on the graph, complete the following statement :

The 18-30 age group is shown to be more affected than the 45-60 age group in most factors. We can say this because \_\_\_\_\_.

- (v) Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option :

Loyalty as an attribute is there in employees who are :

- (a) Senior
- (b) Healthy
- (c) Motivated
- (d) Happy





4. Answer any ONE question in 50 words : 1×4=4  
You have been invited to the inauguration of a new branch of a bank by the manager, but due to a prior commitment, you won't be able to attend. Write a formal reply declining the invitation. You are Anand/Anandi.

OR

Your family is organizing a housewarming ceremony for your new home. Draft an informal invitation to invite your close friend to the event. You are Nirmal/Nirmala.

5. Answer any ONE question in 120-150 words: 1×5=5  
Write a letter to the editor of a leading newspaper to raise awareness about the importance of voting among young adults. Highlight how their participation in elections can make a difference in the governance of the country. You are Deepak/Dipti.

OR

You are Arjun/Arpita, a resident of Urban Greens Housing Society. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper to bring attention to the problem of illegal construction activities in your area and their impact on the environment and community.

6. Answer any ONE question in 120-150 words : 1×5=5  
Write an article on the role of technology in modern education. Discuss how it has transformed the learning process and the potential drawbacks it may have.

OR

Artificial Intelligence is transforming various industries. Write an article discussing its impact on employment, the potential job losses, and the new opportunities it creates.

**SECTION-(C)**  
**(LITERATURE)**

40

6×1=6

7. Answer any ONE from the two questions given below :

A thing of beauty is a joy for ever  
It's loveliness increases, it will never  
Pass into nothingness; but will keep  
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.  
Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing  
A flowery band to bind us to the earth.

(ii) Answer in ONE word :

When the poet says that 'a thing of beauty' will never pass into nothingness, he means that it is \_\_\_\_\_.

(ii) Give two benefits of a thing of beauty according to Keats.

(iii) On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below :

(I) We are surrounded by beautiful things.

(II) Beautiful things provide us joy.

(a) I can be inferred from the extract but II cannot

(b) II can be inferred from the extract but not I

(c) Both I and II can be inferred from the extract

(d) Both I and II cannot be inferred from the extract

(iv) Complete the analogy :

Flowery band : \_\_\_\_\_ : : band to bind : alliteration

(v) How does a thing of beauty act as a bower for us ?

(vi) 'It's loveliness increases' because \_\_\_\_\_.

OR

For once on the face of the Earth  
 Let's not speak in any language, let's stop for one second,  
 And not move our arms so much.  
 It would be an exotic moment  
 Without rush, without engines,  
 We would all be together  
 In a sudden strangeness.

- (i) The poet uses the word "let's" to :
- Initiate a conversation between the poet and the readers.
  - Invite readers as part of the poem's larger call to humanity.
  - Welcome readers into the world of the poem and its subject.
  - Address readers as fellow members of the human race.
- (ii) What will happen if there is not rush of engines ?
- It will be a moment of idleness.
  - It will be a moment of introspection
  - There will be inactivity.
  - People will become restive.
- (iii) The 'sudden strangeness' will instill a sense of \_\_\_\_\_ in us.
- (iv) Why is the moment of silence called exotic ?
- (v) Why does the poet say 'for once on the face of the Earth let's not speak in any language' ?
- (vi) The pun 'arms' used in the poem stands for \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Answer any ONE from the two questions given below :  $4 \times 1 = 4$

The reason the programme has been so successful is because it's impossible to go anywhere near the South Pole and not be affected by it. It's easy to be blase about polar ice-caps melting while sitting in the comfort zone of our respective latitude and longitude, but when you



- (i) From the extract it can be inferred that Charley was a/an \_\_\_\_\_ person.
- (ii) Why didn't Charley tell his psychiatrist friend about that idea ?
- (iii) The Grand Central is growing like a tree means \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iv) What can be inferred by the tunnel from this extract ?
- (a) A gateway into the past
- (b) A portal into another planet
- (c) A gateway into the future
- (d) A portal into a parallel world

Answer any ONE from the two questions given below :  $6 \times 1 = 6$

Mukesh insists on being his own master. "I will be a motor mechanic," he announces. Do you know anything about cars ?" I ask.

"I will learn to drive a car," he answers, looking straight into my eyes. His dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets that fill his town Firozabad, famous for its bangles. Every other family in Firozabad is engaged in making bangles. It is the centre of India's glass blowing industry where families have spent generations working around furnaces, welding glass, making bangles for all the women in the land it seems. Mukesh's family is among them. None of them know that it is illegal for children like him to work in the glass furnaces with high temperatures.

- (i) Complete the given statement.  
Through the expression, ... 'looking straight into my eyes'. The narrator is trying to convey that \_\_\_\_\_.
- (ii) The simile 'dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets' indicated that his dream was :
- (a) a reality, yet seemed distant

- (b) illusory and indistinct  
 (c) different from the other bangle makers of Firozabad  
 (d) distorted and unachievable
- (iii) What does the author try to convey by the expression 'being his own master' ?
- (iv) What does 'families have spent generation working around furnaces' tell us about the bangle makers ?
- (v) None of the children know that it is illegal for children to work in glass furnace. Select the inference in reference to the above statement :
- (a) The children are innocent and do not realize the hardship of life.  
 (b) Their illiteracy and ignorance are exploited by the unscrupulous businessmen.  
 (c) They have no one to support them legally to get out of the situation.  
 (d) the children are ready to work in glass furnaces due to their poverty.
- (vi) Do you think Mukesh will achieve his dream ? State any ONE reason to justify your answer.

OR

They had merely heard that a Mahatma who wanted to help them was in trouble with the authorities. Their spontaneous demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British. The officials felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation. He helped them regulate the crowd. He was polite and friendly. He was giving them concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians. The government was baffled. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors.

- (i) Complete the following statement :  
The demonstration proved that the \_\_\_\_\_.
- (ii) Select the option that shows the correct relationship between a and b.
- (a) The authorities were puzzled.
- (b) They asked their prosecutor to request the judge for more time.
- (1) (a) is the effect of (b)
- (2) (a) is the cause of (b)
- (3) (a) is true but (b) is false
- (4) (a) furthers the meaning of (b)
- (iii) Gandhiji's behaviour towards the British prior to the proposal of postponement of the trial was that of \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iv) What liberated the peasants from their fear and lead them to protest actively ?
- (v) According to the extract which of the following is NOT true ?
- (a) The revolting farmers knew that it was Gandhi who was in trouble and hence they came.
- (b) The protest by the revolting farmers had perplexed the government.
- (c) The officials banked on Gandhi's support to control the revolting farmers.
- (d) The revolting farmers proved to the officials that their authority was not absolute.
- (vi) Which Gandhian principle is reflected in the above extract ?

10. Answer any FIVE questions in 40-50 words :

5×2=10

- (i) That day M. Hamel had new copies for us, written in a beautiful round hand—France, Alsace, France, Alsace." What does this action of M. Hamel's symbolize ?
- (ii) The pain of separation is expressed both literally and metaphorically in the poem My Mother are Sixty-Six. Elucidate.

- (iii) The settlement given to the sharecroppers was symbolic. Justify why Gandhiji thought so.
- (iv) Explain the metaphor The Rattrap as explained by the peddler.
- (v) Why did William Douglas refer to his fear as a 'handicap' ?
- (vi) Traditional occupations and societal norms design the destiny of the bangle makers of Firozabad. Do you agree with this statement ? Justify.
11. Answer any TWO questions in 40-50 words : 3×2=6
- (i) Why did Geoff Green include young students in his programme ?
- (ii) Why did the shopkeeper sell the cheap wooden tiger to the King after raising its price ?
- (iii) How does Pearl S. Buck indicate that Dr. Sadao's father was a very traditional and conventional man ?

12. Answer any ONE question in 120-150 words : 1×5=5
- Do you think the theme of Rattrap by Selma Lagerloff is an extension of the idea 'noble natures' expressed by Keats in his poem A Thing of Beauty ? Justify your views with reference to the above-mentioned lessons.

**OR**

You being a resident of Muzaffarpur witnessed the Champaran incident. You were impressed by the strategies Gandhiji adopted to resolve the issue. You decide to write an article about it to be published in the newspaper. You are Kiran.

13. Answer any ONE question in 120-150 words : 1×5=5
- Days after the escape of Tom, Hana makes a note in her diary about her harrowing experience of harbouring "The Enemy" at home. Draft a diary entry as Hana.

**OR**

The Tiger King wanted to protect himself from a tiger attack. Describe the difficulties created by him for his officials and subjects.