

**2 0 1 8**

**ENGLISH**

**( Elective )**

**Paper : 5.2**

**Full Marks : 80**

**Time : 3 hours**

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

- 1. Write an essay on any one of the following topics : 20**
- (a) The Right to Information Act, 2005**
  - (b) Your hobby**
  - (c) The problems and prospects of cottage industries in Assam**
  - (d) Environmental degradation and the future of mankind**
  - (e) Rhino poaching—its solution**
  - (f) The prospect of tourism in North-East India**

2. Write the substance of the poem given below and add your comments on the underlined words : 10

Who prop, thou ask'st, in these bad days,  
my mind?  
He much, the old man, who, clearest—soul'd  
of men,  
Saw The Wide Prospect, and the Asian Fen,  
And Tmolus' hill, and Smyrna's bay, though blind.  
Much he, whose friendship I not long since won,  
That halting slave, who in Nicopolis  
Taught Arrian, when Vespasian's brutal son  
Clear'd Rome of what most sham'd him.

But be his.

My special thanks, whose ever-balanced soul,  
From first youth tested upto extreme old age,  
Business could not make dull, nor passion wild;  
Who saw life steadily and saw it whole;  
The mellow glory of the Attic stage;  
Singer of sweet Colonus, and its child.

*To a Friend* by Matthew Arnold.

3. Write a précis of the following passage and add a suitable title to it : 8+2=10

The advancement of science and technology makes it definitely possible to solve most of the economic problems of the world and in particular, to provide the primary necessities

of life to everyone all over the world. It holds the promise of higher standards and avenues of cultural development opening out. Today, the welfare State and even a classless society are not the ideals of socialism only, but are accepted by capitalist countries also, even though the approaches are different. Thus, the basic ideals come nearer to each other and there is a possibility of approaching those objectives even though the methods might be different. These methods will not only be based on some logical theories, but will have to depend upon the background and cultural development of a community of a country—geographical, historical, religious, economic and social. Any real change cannot easily be imposed. It has to grow. A country, specially one with an old civilization, has deep roots in the past, which cannot be pulled out without great harm, even though many weeds in the form of harmful or out-of-date customs and institutions can and should be pulled out. Even as Nature establishes some kind of an equilibrium which cannot be disturbed

suddenly without untoward results appearing, so also in a community or a country, it is not easy or desirable to upset old ways of living too suddenly. The attempt to solve a problem in this way might well lead to more difficult problems.

This applies to the external world we live in; much more so does it apply to the inner life of human beings. In dealing with tribal and somewhat primitive societies, it is well-known that an attempt at too rapid a change has led to disastrous consequences. The more developed societies may not suffer so much from rapid change, but in the jet age and in the coming age of space travel, no one knows what biological and other changes may take place.

Many of us attach great value to the development and the freedom of the individual. Ideological backgrounds help or hinder in this process. But perhaps the most potent factor in diminishing the value of individual personality is mechanisation and automation.

4. Expand the idea contained in any *one* of the following : 10

- (a) Knowledge is power.
- (b) Brevity is the soul of wit.
- (c) A bad workman quarrels with his tools.
- (d) Where there is a will, there is a way.
- (e) A rolling stone gathers no moss.

5. Write a report in about 200 words on any *one* of the following topics : 10

- (a) Plastic pollution : How to stop this menace
- (b) Update of National Register of Citizenship (NRC) in Assam

Or

Write a report on the topic 'A College Excursion' based on the following outlines :

- (i) The purpose of the outing
- (ii) Preparations for it
- (iii) The members of the group

- (iv) The Journey
- (v) Arrival at the destination
- (vi) The places visited
- (vii) Pleasure and experience derived from the trip

6. Write a letter to the Editor of *The Assam Tribune*, Guwahati protesting against smoking in buses and public places. 10

Or.

Write a letter to your friend about the importance of cleanliness and punctuality.

Or

Write an application to the President of a college governing body for the post of a Library Asstt. giving your CV.

7. Write a dialogue to indicate the exchange between two persons in any one of the following situations : 10

- (a) Two students discussing the mania of social media like Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp.

- (b) One guardian member of a college GB and the Principal discussing the menace of ragging in higher educational institutions.
- (c) One official of NRC (National Register of Citizens) and one conscious citizen about non-inclusion of some genuine names in the final draft of NRC.
- (d) An officer of a Disaster Management Department and the president of one NGO discussing the steps to be taken during Earthquake, Cyclone etc.

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