

## MODEL QUESTION SET 2076

Class: 12  
Subject: English

Full Marks: 100  
Time: 3 hours

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

**Attempt all the questions.**

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below:
- On 2 April 1973, Dr R.S. Griffiths, of Manchester University, was walking home when a solid object crashed into the street only three metres away from him, smashing into several pieces. It was a solid block of ice, and as a scientist, Dr Griffiths immediately realized its significance. He picked up the largest piece and ran home to put it in his deep-freeze; as a result, it became the best-studied example of a phenomenon so far unexplained by science.
- Dr Griffiths' ice block wasn't particularly big - 612 grams – but there are countless recorded examples much larger than that, all of them much larger than the heaviest hailstones, which rarely weight more than 200 grams. These ice-blocks have smashed through the roofs of houses, dented the metal of cars, and even killed sheep.
- Griffiths demonstrated scientifically that his block could not have been a large hailstone. Nor could it have dropped from a passing aircraft, as the flight records of the only two aeroplanes in the area showed. Nine seconds before Griffiths' block fell, there had been a strike of lightening. Might these large ice-blocks, then, be produced by lightening? Or could they come from space? Scientists at the Drexel Institute in the USA concluded that 'the large chunks of ice which have fallen could not have been meteorological in origin', while scientists at Colorado University said that though there could be ice out in space, such blocks of ice probably couldn't survive the intense heat when entering our atmosphere. The usual explanation that ice-blocks 'must have fallen from aeroplanes' applies only in a few cases: all modern planes have automatic de-icing equipment, and in any case there are many reports of huge blocks of ice from pre-aircraft days.
- Another interesting example of an ice-fall happened in Timberville, Virginia on 7 March 1976. At about 8.45, three people were watching television when a loud crash shook their house and a block of ice the size of a basketball smashed through the roof and a ceiling and ended up in the living room. And as if someone up there was giving a repeat performance, 20 seconds later another ice-block crashed to the ground less than 50 metres away.
- These falls were explained, after an official investigation, as being drinking water that had leaked from a plane, frozen on the fuselage, and broken off in 5-6 kilo pieces. In fact, it was a clear night, there were no planes in the sky, and the source of the blocks must, logically, have remained still in the sky for 20 seconds. Despite all such 'explanation', the problem of where such large blocks of ice can come from remains absolutely unsolved.

**Questions: (5×3=15)**

- 'a phenomenon so far unexplained by science' (line 5). What phenomenon is the writer referring to?
  - What two conclusions did Dr Griffiths come to about the ice-block he had found?
  - What was the official explanation for the Timberville ice-blocks?
  - In rejecting the official explanation of the Timberville ice-blocks, what facts has the writer furnished and mentioned in the passage?
  - Why do you think the writer has chosen to bring forth the falling of the ice-blocks in Manchester?
2. Answer any **five** of the following questions: **(5×3=15)**
- What do the skeletal looking Sal trees indicate about the exploitation of nature? What does the reply, "what can we do? The animal must eat today." Signify? (Hurried Trip to Avoid a Bad Star)
  - How does the phrase "a squirrel in a cage" illustrate condition of Alyohin? (About Love)
  - What is the significance of the repetition of the words, "have trod....."? (God's Grandeur)
  - How did the witch receive the two children in their first night at the witch's house?  
(Hansel and Gretel)
  - "We are always punished for our sins." Elaborate this statement. (Purgatory)
  - What does the traveller feel when he touches the dead doe? (Travelling Through the Dark)
3. Answer any one of the following questions: **(1×10=10)**
- What differences does the writer show between a traditional society and a modern society in matters of pregnancy, childbirth and childbearing? (A Child is Born)
  - How does Mrs Mooney prove herself bold, determined and imposing woman? (The Boarding House)
4. Rewrite these sentences, beginning with the words given, so that they mean the same: **(5)**
- Having lessons is far more interesting than doing tests.  
Doing tests isn't .....
  - I'm doing this boring job now because I didn't go to university.

- If I .....
- c. I wrote the address, and then I stuck the stamp on the envelope.  
When .....
  - d. She read the instructions before she started using the machine.  
She didn't .....
  - e. I'd only just hung out the washing machine when it started to rain.  
No sooner .....
5. Fill the gaps in the sentences below with 'for', 'in', 'until', or 'by': (5)
- a. Last night we talked .....two in the morning.
  - b. They will be here .....a couple of hours.
  - c. He saved up Rs 50,000 ..... Christmas.
  - d. The food will be ready.....9:30.
  - e. He learnt to swim ..... three weeks.
6. Write single words for the following definitions: (5x1=5)
- a. The man or woman who has a high opinion of himself or herself is called
  - b. One who does not care what people think is termed
  - c. One who spends lots of money on things unwisely is said to be
  - d. The person who expects the bright side of life can be said to be
  - e. The man or woman doubts whatever you tell him or her
7. Rewrite the following sentences below using 'must', 'can't', 'may/might': (5)
- a. Perhaps she didn't get what you said.
  - b. I'm sure they've left.
  - c. May be the election will be postponed.
  - d. It's possible that there will be peace in Nepal.
  - e. Obviously the gardener was not serious.
8. Write a sentence showing how the following pairs of events happened in rapid succession using 'No sooner': (5)
- a. My grandfather retired/he had a heart attack.
  - b. Mr Sharma went to bed/Mr Sharma heard a strange noise.
  - c. The plane took off/three hijackers walked into the cabin.
  - d. The new exhibition hall was opened/it was destroyed by fire.
  - e. We had the washing machine repaired/it broke down again.
9. Change the sentences below, using **sure to, certain to, bound to, likely to** and **unlikely to**: (5)
- a. The government will certainly be defeated in the next election.
  - b. There will probably be a lot of tourists there.
  - c. They probably won't go abroad again soon.
  - d. I doubt if the miners will go on strike.
  - e. He will definitely be chosen to play for the international team.
10. Change the following questions into indirect questions: (5x1=5)
- a. When are you coming back from America? (Have you decided yet.....?)
  - b. Did you find your lost book? (I want to know.....)
  - c. Did the hailstorm destroy the crop? (The minister wants to know....)
  - d. Was he alone? (Did you notice..... ?)
  - e. What colour curtains did they buy? (Do you know.....?)
11. Write a paragraph on the topic: 'Is education losing its value?' (5)
12. Happiness is considered very important in life. Why is it difficult to define? What factors are important in achieving happiness? Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience to develop your essay. (10)
13. Write a letter to the Mayor of your town explaining the problems of street children of your town and propose some solutions to address their problems. (10)