



**MAR IVANIOS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**  
**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM**

Reg. No. :.....

Name :.....

**Second Semester B.A. / B.Sc. Degree Examination, June 2016**

**First Degree Programme under CBCSS**

**Language Course: English – II**

**AUEN211.1 /AUEN211.2: Reading Skills**

Time: 3 Hours

Max. Marks: 80

**SECTION – A**

*Answer ALL questions each in a word or in a sentence.*

1. What is skimming used for ?
2. What is the good reading speed when you read for comprehension ?
3. What is SQ3R ?
4. What is a Reverse Dictionary ?
5. Write the adjective derived from 'ponder' (paronym).
6. Write homonym of 'bark'.
7. What are terminators ?
8. What is collocation ?
9. Correct the sentence in terms of collocation: 'I committed a mistake'.
10. Why do poets make use of figures of speech and symbols ?

**(10 × 1 = 10 Marks)**

**SECTION – B**

*Read the following passages and answer any four questions from each passage, each in a short paragraph not exceeding 50 words.*

**Passage – I**

In recent years, drug taking by young people has become a habit which seems to be spreading fast and wide. It is a grim epidemic that requires the attention and help of every responsible citizen.

P.T.O.

The causes of the disease are not easy to identify with certainty. At a somewhat deeper level, the habit may have started as a protest against authority and as a result of dissatisfaction with the modern world. The cult becomes a symbolic rejection of the establishment. At a still deeper level, young, intelligent and often sensitive members of our society experiment in the hope of finding an alternative society. This is particularly true of some LSD addicts. Finally, it is undoubtedly true that the influx of immigrants in our urban areas and stress in our society have hastened the spread of the use of drugs.

There are thousands of drugs, but those most commonly misused may be roughly classified into three groups:

(a) *Stimulants*, such as pep pills and cocaine, which speed up the nervous system, (b) *Depressants*, which have the effect of slowing us down. They are of two types: (i) *barbiturates* (sleeping pills or tranquillizers) and (ii) *narcotics* as heroin and morphine (c) *Hallucinogens*, such as cannabis (pot) and LSD, which alter our perceptions. Stimulants give us a feeling of well – being, but soon prevent us from relaxing. They also prevent us from sleeping and we become uncontrolled and jumpy. Barbiturates, on the other hand, relieve us of tension and anxiety and bring about sleep. The trouble starts when we become dependent on barbiturates. Ultimately, our judgement becomes diminished and our speech slurred.

The hard drug, heroin, is a killer. The narcotic addict loses all interest in life except his craving for heroin or morphine. This craving is peculiar to narcotic addicts who quite often change their entire way of life so that they can spend their time thinking, talking and living for the next 'fix'. Once started on the slippery path to narcotic addiction, it is difficult to stop. Pot and LSD cause the patient in different degrees to lose the sense of time and place, and everything becomes unreal. A person on a 'trip', as it is called, may see unreal things and once the trip becomes a nightmare, it leads to homicide or suicide.

11. Why do young people take to drugs ?
12. Why does the author call "heroin" a killer ?
13. "Stimulants give us a feeling of well – being relieve us of tension and anxiety and bring about sleep". Aren't these desirable things ? Why then should we avoid taking stimulants ?

14. What do the words "fix" and "trip" stand for in this passage ?
15. What are the harmful effects of *barbiturates* ?
16. What are the harmful effects of hallucinogens ?

**Passage – II**

There is a house now far away where once  
I received love. That woman died,  
The house withdrew into silence, snakes moved  
Among books, I was then too young  
To read, and, my blood turned cold like the moon. 5

How often I think of going  
There, to peer through blind eyes of windows or  
Just listen to the frozen air,  
Or in wild despair, pick an armful of  
Darkness to bring it here to lie 10

Behind my bedroom's door like a brooding  
Dog . . . you cannot believe, darling,  
Can you, that I lived in such a house and  
Was proud, and loved . . . I who have lost  
My way and beg now at strangers' doors to 15  
Receive love, at least in small change ?

17. What is the theme of this poem?
18. "That woman died,  
The house withdrew into silence, snakes moved  
Among books, I was then too young  
To read, and, my blood turned cold like the moon"  
Explain these lines with special reference to phrases "That woman" and "my blood turned cold like the moon".
19. "How often I think of going  
There, to peer through blind eyes of windows or  
Just listen to the frozen air,"  
What feeling is conveyed by these lines ? Explain the meaning of "blind eyes of windows" and "frozen air".

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20. "There is a house now far away where once  
I received love." What do we infer from these lines ?
21. I who have lost  
My way and beg now at strangers' doors to  
Receive love, at least in small change ?"  
What do we infer about the aspect of love in the life of the speaker ?
22. Or in wild despair, pick an armful of  
Darkness to bring it here to lie  
Explain the emotion contained in and the significance of these lines.

**(8 × 2 = 16 Marks)**

### **SECTION – C**

*Answer any **SIX** questions, each in a paragraph not exceeding 100 words.*

23. Everybody knows how to read. But not everybody knows how to read skilfully and artfully. Illustrate this point by pointing out the major hurdles in effective reading.
24. Discuss the features of the various types of passages that one comes across in reading.
25. What are the various types of Dictionaries ?
26. What are the different ways by which one can develop good reading skills ?
27. Suggest ways by which you can improve your reading comprehension.
28. What is the importance of the author's point of view ?
29. Attempt a critical appreciation for the following poem:

What is this life if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.  
  
No time to stand beneath the boughs  
And stare as long as sheep or cows.  
  
No time to see, when woods we pass,  
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.  
  
No time to see, in broad daylight,  
Streams full of stars like skies at night.  
  
No time to turn at Beauty's glance  
And watch her feet, how they can dance.

No time to wait till her mouth can  
Enrich that smile her eyes began.

A poor life this if, full of care,  
We have no time to stand and stare.

30. Write a Book or Movie review of your choice.  
31. How do irony and parody create the poetic effect of “The Unknown Citizen” ?

(6 × 4 = 24 Marks)

### SECTION – D

*Answer any TWO questions, each in about 300 words.*

32. What are the ways to identify the central idea of a piece of writing ?  
33. What are the points to be kept in mind while analyzing a short story and a literary essay ?  
34. How do the theme, style, and structure of the poem “Insensibility” jointly produce poetic intensity on the reader ?  
35. What are the discourse features employed by Saki in “The Dusk” ?

(2 × 15 = 30 Marks)

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