



‘সমানো মন্ত্র: সমিতি: সমানী’

**UNIVERSITY OF NORTH BENGAL**

SEC 1st Semester Examination, 2024

**SEC - UENGSEC11001-ENGLISH**

**TEXT COMPREHENSION**

Time Allotted: 2 Hours

Full Marks: 40

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks.*

1. Read the verse carefully and answer any *five* of the following questions:

4×5 = 20

My father died  
defending our home,  
our village, our country.  
I too wanted to fight.  
But we are Buddhist.  
People say we should be  
peaceful and non-violent.  
So I forgave my enemy.  
But sometimes I feel  
I betrayed my father.

- (a) How did the speaker's father die?
- (b) Why did the speaker not fight?
- (c) What did people say about Buddhists?
- (d) What makes the speaker feel that he has betrayed his father?
- (e) Give a suitable title to the verse.
- (f) Give word meaning of — non-violent, forgave, betrayed.

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer any *five* of the following questions:

2×5 = 10

The earth is a place. It is by no means the only place. It is not even a typical place. No planet or star or galaxy can be typical, because the Cosmos is mostly empty. The only typical place is within the vast, cold, universal vacuum, the everlasting night of intergalactic space, a place so strange and desolate that, by comparison, planets and stars and galaxies seem achingly rare and lovely. If we were randomly inserted into the Cosmos, the chance that we would find ourselves on or near a planet would be less than one in a billion trillion trillion. In everyday life such odds are called compelling. From an intergalactic vantage point we would see, strewn like sea froth on the waves of space, innumerable faint, wispy tendrils of light. These are the galaxies. Some are solitary wanderers; most inhabit communal clusters, huddling together, drifting endlessly in the great cosmic dark.

- (a) Why the Earth is not a typical place?
- (b) What is the typical place in space?
- (c) What is the odd of finding oneself in a billion trillion trillion chance is called in everyday life?
- (d) What are the galaxies?
- (e) What does galaxies do in space?
- (f) Write the meaning of the underlined words in the passage — desolate, innumerable and clusters.

3. Write a substance of any **one** of the following:

10×1 = 10

- (a) A slumber did my spirit seal;

I had no human fears:

She seemed a thing that could not feel

The touch of earthly years.

No motion has she now, no force;

She neither hears nor sees;

Rolled round in earth's diurnal course,

With rocks, and stones, and trees.

OR

- (b) A really great book is one which we want to read the second time even more than we wanted to read it the first time. Every additional time that we read it, we find new meanings and new beauties in it. But we cannot consider the judgement of a single individual infallible. The opinion that makes a book great must be the opinion of many. For even the greatest critics are apt to have certain dullness. Carlyle, for example, could not endure Browning; Byron could not endure some of the greatest of English poets. We may doubt the judgement of generations. Even if we cannot at once perceive anything good in a book which has been admired and praised for hundreds of years, we may be sure that by trying, by studying it carefully, we shall at least be able to feel the reason for this admiration and praise.

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