

[This question paper contains 12 printed pages.]

Your Roll No.....

Sr. No. of Question Paper : 3881 A

Unique Paper Code : 62031205

Name of the Paper : English Language Through Literature

Name of the Course : B.A. Programme (LOCF)

Semester : II

Duration : 3 hours 30 minutes Maximum Marks : 75

Instructions for Candidates

1. Write your Roll No. on the top immediately on receipt of this question paper.
2. The paper contains 3 unseen passages and questions based on them.
3. The questions are in two parts, A and B, both of which are compulsory. Students will attempt any **THREE** of the questions from each part.
4. Answers for **Part A** are to be written in 250-300 words and for **Part B** in 350-500 words.

Passage 1 (586 words)

The Science of Birth Order (586 words)

P.T.O.

A researcher named Alfred Adler developed birth order theory in the 20th century. The theory claims that the order in which a child is born shapes their development and personality. Adler also claimed that family, community, and social aspects play a major role in shaping a child's personality.

Today, many psychologists believe that where you fall in your family's birth order has a major impact on your personality development.

Oldest child. If you're the firstborn child, you have your parents all to yourself for a period of time. Because it's your parents' first time being parents, they tend to dole out attention to you. They're also extra careful when it comes to all aspects of child rearing — from bumps and bruises to early education. Eldest children benefit from all this attention.

Your parents might expect a lot from you if you're the oldest, especially as other children are born into your family. Your parents might seem stricter with you, and often expect you to set an example for your younger siblings and show responsibility.

Studies show if you're the eldest child, you tend to demonstrate leadership skills. Maybe you're a leader in the workplace already, or rising to the top of your industry.

Middle child. It's a stereotype that if you're a middle child you're a peacekeeper, but there seems to be a grain of truth behind the saying. Because you lack the title of being the oldest or the youngest, you seek to carve out a niche for yourself in the **family dynamic**. You tend to enjoy negotiation and compromise. You can often relate to people of different ages with ease.

You can be competitive with your older sibling — maybe by breaking their sports records, becoming more fluent in a language, or getting better grades. Or you might behave more rebelliously.

Youngest child. As the baby of the family, you tend to take one of two paths when developing your personality, according to Adler. The first path is a clear journey to success, where you try to excel in every way, often becoming the go-to person in the family. Youngest children can also become avoidant if they lack the confidence or drive to excel.

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You might have freedoms your older siblings don't have. As your parents' rules become more relaxed, your parents can be more hands-off with you. You're usually assured of your place in the family and can be very creative, rebellious, and outgoing.

Only child. If you're an only child, you've been surrounded by adults since birth. That's not to say you weren't socialized with other children through kindergarten, the playground, or school. But during your time at home you socialized with parents and other adults, mimicking their behaviors and becoming "small people".

Your parents might be overprotective of you, leading you to become dependent on your parents for support. You aren't used to sharing clothes, space, or parental attention with siblings. This can make you intelligent and creative, but also stubborn and set in your ways.

Birth Order and Intelligence

Some theories claim that firstborns are more intelligent and have a higher IQ than later-borns. But the most recent studies show that firstborns only hold a 1-point IQ advantage on average over their siblings. Social factors could be to blame for this idea.

Another study shows that firstborns might benefit from being surrounded by adults during their first years. They absorb the way adults talk, while later-borns are more exposed to the less-developed ways their siblings speak.

Passage 2:

Somebody said that it couldn't be done

But he with a chuckle replied

That "maybe it couldn't," but he would be one

Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.

So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin

On his face. If he worried he hid it.

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

That couldn't be done, and he did it!

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;

At least no one ever has done it;"

But he took off his coat and he took off his hat

And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.

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With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing as he tackled the thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.
There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure,
There are thousands to point out to you one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start in to sing as you tackle the thing
That "cannot be done," and you'll do it

Passage 3 (622 words)

Sita went to her grandfather and sat down beside him.

'When you are hungry, tell me,' she said, 'and I will make the bread.'

'Is your grandmother asleep?'

‘Yes. But she will wake soon. The pain is deep.’

The old man stared across the river, at the dark green of the forest, at the leaden sky, and said, ‘If she is not better by morning, I will take her to the hospital in Shahganj.’

They will know how to make her well. You may be on your own for two or three days.

‘You have been on your own before.’

Sita nodded gravely—she had been alone before; but not in the middle of the rains with the river so high. But she knew that someone must stay behind. She wanted grandmother to get well and she knew that only grandfather could take the small boat across the river when the current was so strong.

Sita was not afraid of being left alone but she did not like the look of the river.

That evening it began to rain again. Big pellets of rain were scarring the surface of the river. But it was warm rain and Sita could move about in it. She was not afraid of getting wet, she rather liked it. In

the previous month, when the monsoon shower had arrived, washing the dusty leaves of the tree and bringing up the good smell of the earth, she had exulted in it, had run about shouting for joy. She was used to it now, even a little tired of the rain, but she did not mind getting wet. It was steamy indoors and her thin dress would soon dry in the heat from the kitchen fire.

She walked about barefooted, barelegged. She was very sure on her feet. Her toes had grown accustomed to gripping all kinds of rocks, slippery or sharp, and though thin, she was surprisingly strong.

Black hair, streaming across her face. Black eyes. Slim brown arms. A scar on her thigh when she was small, visiting her mother's village, a hyena had entered the house where she was sleeping, fastened on to her leg and tried to drag her away but her screams had roused the villagers and the hyena had run off.

She moved about in the pouring rain, chasing the hens into a shelter behind the hut. A harmless brown snake, flooded out of its hole, was moving across the open ground. Sita took a stick, picked the snake up with it,

and dropped it behind a cluster of rocks. She had no quarrel with snakes. They kept down the rats and the frogs. She wondered how the rats had first come to the island— probably in someone's boat or in a sack of grain.

She disliked the huge black scorpions who left their waterlogged dwellings and tried to take shelter in the hut. It was so easy to step on one and the sting could be very painful. She had been bitten by a scorpion the previous monsoon and for a day and a night she had known fever and great pain. Sita had never killed living creatures but now, whenever she found a scorpion, she crushed it with a rock! When, finally, she went indoors, she was hungry. She ate some parched gram and warmed up some goat's milk.

Grandmother woke once and asked for water and grandfather held the brass tumbler to her lips. The roof was leaking and a small puddle formed on the floor. Grandfather kept the kerosene lamps alight. They did not need the light but somehow it made them feel safer.

It rained all night.

QUESTIONS

PART A

Answer any 3 of the following : (3×10=30)

Question 1 is based on passage 1;

Questions 2 and 3 are based on passage 2;

Questions 4 and 5 are based on passage 3.

1. What is birth order theory? What are the characteristics, respectively, of the oldest child and the middle child? Explain in 250-300 words with close reference to Passage 1. (10)
2. How does the persona of the poem in Passage 2 deal with discouragement and challenges? Pick out words and phrases from the poem to substantiate your answer in 250-300 words? (10)
3. Is the tone of the poet in Passage 2 optimistic or pessimistic? What is the poet's message? Answer in 250-300 words. (10)
4. What do you think is the theme of Passage 3? Examine the plot, the ending, the interactions and words of the characters in detail and write a reasoned answer in 250-300 words.

5. Based on your reading of Passage 3, analyse Sita's thoughts, interactions, her style of speaking and her reaction to others. Write down a detailed character sketch of Sita in 250-300 words. (10)

PART B

Answer any 3 of the following : (3×15=45)

Questions 6 and 7 are based on passage 1;

Question 8 is based on passage 2;

Questions 9 and 10 are based on passage 3.

6. Write notes on Passage 1 using headings and sub-headings as well as recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. (15)
7. Imagine you are a middle child, as per Passage 1. Write a letter to your friend sharing your experiences with your siblings and the expectations that your parents have from you in 350-500 words. (15)
8. Paraphrase the full poem from Passage 2 in 350-500 words. (15)

9. Rewrite the story of Passage 3 from the grandmother's perspective and observations about Sita's struggles and grandfather's stoic behaviour in adversity.

(15)

10. Imagine that the grandmother, from Passage 3, is taken to the hospital the next morning. Write 10 turns of dialogue between the grandfather and the doctor continuing the story from where it ends.

(15)

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