

[This question paper contains 12 printed pages.]

Your Roll No.....

Sr. No. of Question Paper : 573

**H**

Unique Paper Code : 52031204

Name of the Paper : English Language Through  
Literature

Name of the Course : **B.Com. Programme (LOCF)**

Semester : II

Duration : 3 Hours

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.

P.T.O.

**Passage 1 (640 words)**

Dear Life,

In all my years, I've been fortunate enough to see multiple shades of you; experience you in so many different colours and forms. I've had the chance to understand that you are an enigma, one that is worth unravelling, exploring and living. I initially feared the ambiguity and uncertainty you came with; I've now learned to enjoy it. I've come to see that the twists and turns that one is never truly prepared for only make the right turns worthwhile.

How does one live a life well? I don't think there's a definite answer. Despite repeatedly getting life lessons in multiple forms, it's hard for a person to really learn unless they go through the experience themselves. Often, it is these situations that force you to learn and apply what you might have never learned otherwise.

So, wouldn't it then be right to say that you, dear Life, are the biggest teacher of all?

I look back, trying to put together what it is that you have taught me. And I realize that everything I've learned through personal experience with you has been greater than every bit of advice that has been given to me. If I were asked what the biggest lessons I've learned from you are, I think these five would be amongst the most important.

1. **Live Life, Queen Size:** I've learned that while you might seem long, you go by in a flash — in the wink of an eye. And to truly relish you, one must live you with passion, confidence and integrity. I've learned that one can plan all one likes, yet you can come and punch us right in the face. Finding the right balance between planning ahead and going impulsively with the flow is something I teach myself every single day!

2. **Live on Your Own Terms:** You, dear Life, truly belong to the one who lives you. I've learned that while one may have plenty of advisors and well-wishers, one must set their own goals. Living according to another's wishes will only put you on



the road to unhappiness. I've tried, several times, to follow the path set by others, only to realize that my heart isn't in it. I've learned the importance of taking charge of your own life, and following the voice of your soul, going where it takes me. So far, it's taken me to multiple countries, through a few professions, and an entire plethora of adventures — none of which I'd trade for anything else in this world.

3. **Make Yourself a Priority:** You taught me to value myself above everything else. Because in the end, I am all I have. I used to think that I was being selfish by putting myself at the centre of all my decisions, but what I've come to realize is that one can never make others happy if they stay unhappy themselves. It is this learning that has made me such a fierce propagator of self-love and finding happiness within.
4. **Value Relationships:** We are defined and made by our relationships. In my younger years, I would sometimes be careless about my relationships.

However, as time has passed, I've come to accept that relationships are essential to our existence. My family has remained a constant throughout, supporting me unflinchingly. I've been fortunate to have found friends who've brought soul and strength into my life. Having nurtured a strong, value-driven personal and professional network is what keeps me motivated to keep growing.

5. **Optimism is Key:** I learned that optimism isn't just an overrated term. It is truly a core principle. Through my own experiences, I've learned the importance of empowering myself, of always staying positive throughout the journey and believing that the best is yet to come. Like truly does attract like. What we believe, we become.

**Passage 2 (141 words)**

There are two kinds of intelligence: one acquired, as a child in school memorizes facts and concepts from books and from what the teacher says, collecting information from the traditional sciences as well as from the new sciences.

With such intelligence you rise in the world.  
You get ranked ahead or behind others  
in regard to your competence in retaining  
information. You stroll with this intelligence  
in and out of fields of knowledge, getting always more  
marks on your preserving tablets.

There is another kind of tablet, one  
already completed and preserved inside you.

A spring overflowing its springbox. A freshness  
in the center of the chest. This other intelligence  
does not turn yellow or stagnate. It's fluid,  
and it doesn't move from outside to inside  
through conduits of plumbing-learning.

This second knowing is a fountainhead  
from within you, moving out.

**Passage 3 (649 words)**

They pass me everyday, on their way to school—  
boys and girls from the surrounding villages and the  
outskirts of the hill station. There are no school buses  
plying for these children : they walk.



For many of them, it's a very long walk to school.

Ranbir, who is ten, has to climb the mountain from his village, four miles distant and two thousand feet below the town level. He comes in all weathers, wearing the same pair of cheap shoes until they have almost fallen apart.

Ranbir is a cheerful soul. He waves to me whenever he sees me at my window. Sometimes he brings me cucumbers from his father's field. I pay him for the cucumbers; he uses the money for books or for small things needed at home.

Many of the children are like Ranbir - poor, but slightly better off than what their parents were at the same age. They cannot attend the expensive residential and private schools that abound here, but must go to the government aided schools with only basic facilities. Not many of their parents managed to go to school. They spent their lives working in the fields or delivering milk in the hill station. The lucky ones got into the army. Perhaps Ranbir will do something different when he grows up.

He has yet to see a train but he sees planes flying over the mountains almost every day.

"How far can a plane go?" he asks.

"All over the world," I tell him. "Thousands of miles in a day. You can go almost anywhere."

"I'll go round the world one day," he vows. "I'll buy a plane and go everywhere!"

And maybe he will. He has a determined chin and a defiant look in his eye.

Up to a few years ago, very few girls in the hills or in the villages of India went to school. They helped in the home until they were old enough to be married, which wasn't very old. But there are now just as many girls as there are boys going to school.

Bindra is something of an extrovert—confident fourteen year old who chatters away as she hurries down the road with her companions. Her father is a forest guard and knows me quite well: I meet him on my walks through the deodar woods behind Landour.



And I had grown used to seeing Bindra almost every day. When she did not put in an appearance for a week. I asked her brother if anything was wrong.

"Oh, nothing," he says, "she is helping my mother cut grass."

Soon the monsoon will end and the grass will dry up. So, we cut it now and store it for the cows in winter."

"And why aren't you cutting grass too?"

"Oh, I have a cricket match today," he says, and hurries away to join his team mates. Unlike his sister, he puts pleasure before work!

Cricket, once the game of the elite, has become the game of the masses. On any holiday, in any part of this vast country, groups of boys can be seen making their way to the nearest field, or open patch of land, with bat, ball and any other cricketing gear that they can cobble together. Watching some of them play; I am amazed at the quality of talent, at the finesse with which they bat or bowl. Some of the local teams are

as good, if not better, than any from the private schools, where there are better facilities. But boys from these poor or lower middle-class families will never get the exposure that is necessary to bring them to the attention of those who select state or national teams. They will never get near enough to the men of influence and power. They must continue to play for the love of the game, or watch their more fortunate heroes' exploits on television.

## QUESTIONS

### Part A

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

Questions 1 and 2 are based on passage 1;

Questions 3 and 4 are based on passage 2;

Question 5 is based on passage 3.

1. Why does the author of Passage 1 call Life a teacher? What are the biggest lessons s/he has learnt from it? Write a reasoned answer with close reference to Passage 1 in 250-300 words. (10)

2. What does the author of Passage 1 mean by “an enigma worth unravelling”? Write a reasoned answer with close reference to passage 1 in 250-300 words. (10)
3. How is intelligence acquired, as per Passage 2? In what ways does it help you? Pick out words and phrases from the poem in Passage 2 to substantiate your answer in (250-300 words). (10)
4. How is the second kind of intelligence mentioned in Passage 2 like a ‘fountainhead’? Why does the poet recommend it? Answer in 250-300 words (10 marks)
5. Relate the difficulties faced by the children in their daily lives while going to school in the story in Passage 3. How do they deal with these daily struggles? Answer in 250-300 words. (10)

### Part B

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

Question 6 is based on passage 1;

Questions 7 and 8 are 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. Write a letter to your friend encouraging him/her to go beyond rote learning. Refer to the poem in Passage 2 and answer in around 350-500 words. (15)
8. Paraphrase the full poem from Passage 2 in 350-500 words. (15)
9. In today's time, the world of sports is not aloof from society. Write 10 turns of dialogue between you and the school sports teacher about the importance of including Indian sports in the curriculum drawing on what you read in Passage 3. (15)
10. Imagine you are teaching at a government-aided school in some distant village as described in Passage 3. Write a report on the challenges to teaching-learning due to poor infrastructure in your area. Also, suggest measures that can be implemented to improve the situation. (15)