

This question paper contains 5 printed pages.

314

Your Roll No.

B.A. (Prog.) / II / III J

ENGLISH: STREAM A— Paper II
(Composition and Comprehension)

(Admissions of 2004 only)

Time : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 75

*(Write your Roll No. on the top immediately
on receipt of this question paper.)*

Attempt all questions.

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Sport has become big business. Only results count for "the end justifies the means". In this case the "end" is often the astronomical sums of money which change hands on the result of a match or race, and the publicity which comes from sponsoring a successful team or athlete.

Sport has also become increasingly political; it can boost national prestige and can be used as another gambit in the cold war. Strangely, the number of gold or silver medals won at the Olympics is used to demonstrate the superiority of a given social system. This fanatical attitude can have its tragic moments as in the football match in Peru which resulted in 350

P. T. O.

dead and many injured. All this is a far cry from the true spirit of sportsmanship which dominates the Olympic oath.

The doping of athletes is one of the most disturbing characteristics of this win-at-all-costs trend in sport. In fact the term is slightly misleading. The monopoly lies by no means with runners and competitors in field events. Indeed, three of the sports most affected are cycling, football, and weight-lifting. Drugs are most commonly used to excite or stimulate the athletes to greater physical performance, although marksmen use tranquillisers. But the value of drugs in raising the standards of physical performance can be doubtful. Moreover, it is generally recognised that there is no known drug which assists a particular physical performance without producing harmful side-effects. Such side-effects include excessive exertion because of the numbing of Nature's warning system for fatigue. There are many cases known to medical science of mental and physical damage, sometimes resulting in death.

Questions:

- (a) What is meant by the statement that sport has become big business? 3
- (b) What are the political implications of sport? 3
- (c) Why are athletes tempted to take drugs? 3
- (d) What are the harmful side-effects of these drugs? 3

(e) Give synonyms of:

(i) prestige

(ii) dominates

(iii) fatigue.

3

(f) Write a composition in about 100 words on:

“Should we link games and sports with National Pride?”

5

2. (a) Discuss the moral issues posed by Gandhi in the essay, ‘The Great Trial’.

Or

(b) Why do bright students like G want to study in “integrated schools”?

10

3. (a) Explain the title of the poem, “Breaking Out”.

Or

(b) Discuss the two points projected in the poem “Mending Wall”.

10

4. (a) Describe the circumstances leading to the tragic death of Edward Richards and Mary Richards.

Or

(b) Do you agree that the prominent citizens of Hadleyburg were cheats and liars? Give a reasoned answer.

10

5. (a) Discuss ‘The Silver Box’ as a play of two thefts.

P. T. O.

Or

- (b) Discuss the relationship between Jones and his wife. 10

6. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Alcohol is a powerful tranquillizer, although those who have never drunk to excess might find this hard to believe. A small amount of alcohol may feel like a stimulant but this is an illusion, as it is really acting as a mild tranquillizer by first removing your inhibitions. In larger amounts it calms you down and if too much is drunk you will become unconscious. If you take alcohol for stress it seems to work, at least at first. You stop worrying about whatever it was that made you worry, you feel calm and relaxed, and you help yourself to another drink. The cycle has started, for one drink leads to another. When the effects of the alcohol wear off you are presented with the same problems that were there before you started drinking. So it is only natural to drink again to return to that happy land of make-believe where stress is a five-letter word with no meaning. Unfortunately alcohol is not just an escape from the problems of stress; it creates new ones and exacerbates those already present. The husband who does not get on with his wife and drowns his sorrows in the pub, the inefficient executive who removes his business worries at the bar of his club, the sportsman who fails to maintain his fitness yet boasts of his prowess in an alcoholic twilight world; they are all

stereotypes from low budget movies, yet they all exist. The downward path started by alcohol abuse is painfully obvious to everyone else but the victim, who will blame all except drink for his plight. People under stress who are already moderate drinkers are the most likely to find themselves on the slope down to alcohol abuse. The temptation to take just that little bit more alcohol is very strong and the increased drinking pattern is established.

Questions:

- (a) Why is alcohol regarded as a powerful tranquillizer? 1
- (b) What happens if someone takes alcohol for stress? 1
- (c) Is alcohol just an escape from the problems of stress? 1
- (d) Give a one-word substitute for each of the following:
- (i) A false idea or belief about a situation.
- (ii) Easy to see or understand. 2
- (e) Make a *précis* of the given passage in about 80 words. 2
- (f) Give a suitable title to the *précis*. 8