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I Semester B.C.A. Degree Examination, January/February - 2025

## GENERAL ENGLISH - I

## ALCHEMY - I

(SEP Scheme)

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 80

- Instructions to Candidates :*
1. Answer all the questions.
  2. Mention the question numbers correctly.

## SECTION - A

[Literary Component]

- I. Answer any Five questions in two or three sentences each. (5×2=10)
1. How does Abou Ben Adhem respond to the angel's reply?
  2. What does the speaker mean by "My voice cannot be smothered" in the poem "I Am not That Woman?"
  3. Where is the speech held in the story "The Bench?"
  4. What does the banker risk losing if he loses the bet?
  5. Who are the main characters in "Sacrifice?"
  6. Give one example of superstition as mentioned in the essay by Gardiner.
  7. What does Gandhi suggest is the true measure of a gentleman?
- II. Answer any Four of the following in about a page each. (4×5=20)
1. How does the poem "Abou Ben Adhem" portray the concept of divine favor and the value of human kindness?
  2. What does the interaction between the protagonist and the authority figure (the police officer) represent in the context of apartheid in "The Bench"?
  3. Describe the terms of bet between the lawyer and the Banker regarding imprisonment.
  4. What were the steps taken by Gandhi to become an English gentleman in the essay "Playing the English Gentleman?"
  5. How does Gardiner explain the origin and persistence of superstitions in society?

[P.T.O.]

**III. Answer any Two of the following in about two pages each: (2×10=20)**

1. Explain the symbolic significance of the bench in the story.
2. Discuss the theme of sacrifice in Premchand's short story "Sacrifice" and analyze how it reflects the moral dilemmas faced by the characters.
3. Discuss how Kishwar Naheed's poem "I Am Not That Woman" reflects the themes of female empowerment, resistance, and the rejection of traditional gender roles.

**SECTION - B****(Grammar Components)****IV. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below. (5×1=5)**

The time is now to save these magnificent cats before they vanish from the earth forever. There is little time left to preserve these animals; immediate action is required. I cannot imagine, nor would I wish to live in a world without tigers... without these magnificent creatures in our forests living free-without captive populations carrying on the gene pool. The power and beauty of these animals is indisputable. Tigers are an integral part of the ecosystem, as, they are a major link in the food chain. Tigers have been bestowed magical and supernatural properties by many societies, and have also been revered as gods. All living creatures of mother earth depend on one another for survival. We as human beings are brothers and sisters to every living being, from the plants to the animals to each other.

Crimes like these-the killing of tigers-must be stopped. They are often killed in the most barbaric, the most unbelievably cruel ways. I ask you-the reader-if learning of things like this moves you at all, then take that energy and do what you can to stop the killing of these magnificent animals. Write to your government, write to the governments of tiger countries and urge them to protect tigers. Penalties for killing tigers, and other protected wildlife need to be strongly enforced - and strong enough as to be a complete deterrent to the poaching of tigers, and also deter those who profit from such killings.

Extremist groups would ban all exotic animals from captivity because of small numbers of individuals that mistreat their animals, and unfortunately the whole zoo "industry" and caring private owners get painted with the same brush. The vast majority of zoos big and small, treat their animals well, feed them well and give them proper environment and enrichment. The numbers of bad homes are small, but they do exist. The Animals Rights Organization should make sure they target only the bad homes and leave those providing a good, happy and healthy home for animals alone. They don't realize that banning all exotics from captivity could spell end for many species of animals. Species whose numbers in the wild are extremely low, such as the Clouded Leopard, Siberian tiger, South China tiger and so forth. Zoos, sanctuaries and responsible, knowledgeable and caring private owners are rapidly becoming the last havens to preserve everdwindling species of animals. These places may well, in the not-so-far future, hold the last remaining tigers-gems for the future who should be nurtured and protected. Caring for tigers is our immense responsibility. Not just to the



single tiger in your care, but to his or her species, and all tigers. Simply to own a tiger and keep him or her in your backyard as a pet is not enough, nor is it acceptable to keep this animal to yourself. You, the owner, owe it to all tigers \_\_ wild and those held in captivity \_\_ and to the future generations of these animals to educate the public about tigers \_\_ and help to change peoples' opinions about wildlife preservation. Education is key to developing sensitivity to and awareness of our environment. Our children hold the hope for the future of the tiger. Heightened awareness of environmental issues will help assure our children grow up to respect and care for our global environment. Think Globally \_\_ Act Locally!

**Answer the following questions :**

1. Why Tigers are considered an integral part of the ecosystem?
2. Tigers have been revered as gods by many societies. True/False.
3. What should readers do to help stop the killing of tigers?
4. What are the extremist groups banning?
5. What does the phrase "Think Globally - Act Locally" imply in the context of tiger conservation?
  - a) Focusing only on local issues
  - b) Understanding global impacts but taking local actions
  - c) Supporting global policies only
  - d) Ignoring global problems

**V Do as directed :**

**(10)**

1. Will you take \_\_\_\_ picture of us? (fill in the blank with a suitable article)
2. He is \_\_\_\_\_ honest man. (fill in the blank with a suitable article)
3. The teacher divided the sweets \_\_\_\_\_ all the children. (fill in the blank with a suitable preposition)
4. The boy \_\_\_\_\_ the store in quite young. (fill in the blank with a suitable prepositions)
5. All my friends \_\_\_\_\_ here. (be) (fill in the blank with a suitable verb)
6. Manu \_\_\_\_\_ to school every day. (walk) (fill in the blank with a suitable verb)
7. Frame sentences for idioms and phrases given below :
  - a) A piece of cake
  - b) Switch off
  - c) Once in a blue moon
  - d) Turn over

**VI Change following sentences into reported speech:**

**(5×1=5)**

1. "Could you please be quiet," She said.
2. He said, "Do you speak English?"

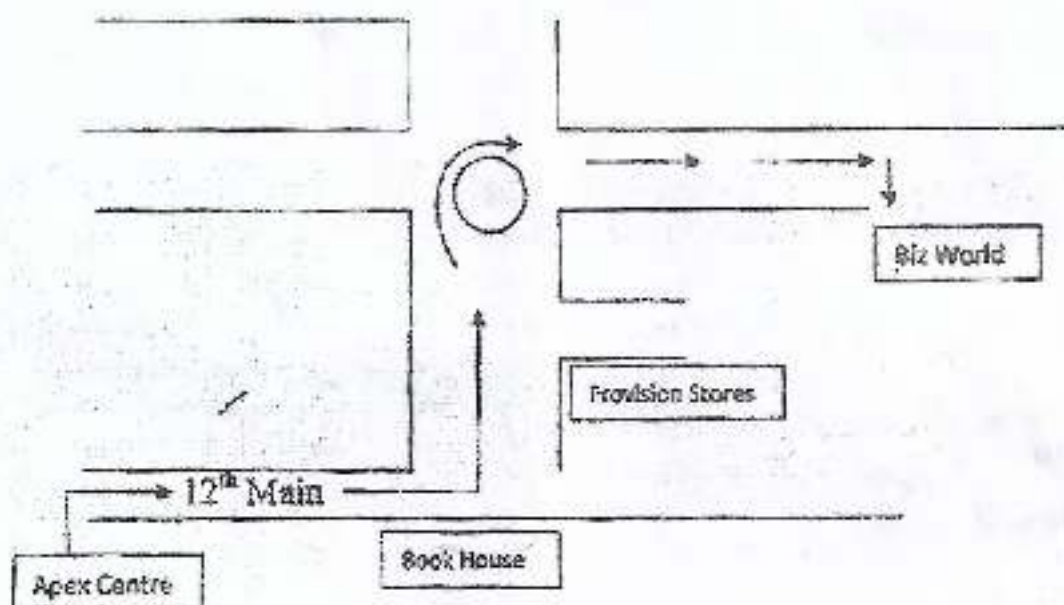
**[P.T.O.]**



3. Suma said, "Wow! I can't believe we did that"
4. The boy said, "Let me come in."
5. Raju said, "I saw a lion in the forest yesterday."

VII. Give instruction on How to borrow books from your college library? (3)

VIII. Give direction to reach Biz world from Apex Centre. (2)



IX. Develop a story using the hints given below : (5)

1. Merchant in a village ... lot of money ... returning home ... way through forest infested with robbers ... heavy rain...drenched...very angry, cursed God untimely rain robber loaded pistol...wants life/money...merchant runs...robber chases...pulls trigger... pistol jammed, did not go off...escapes unhurt....thanks God for rain, bad weather...safety due to rain...