

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY

BA ENGLISH ADMISSION TEST 2009

Time: 2 hours and 30 minutes (for both parts together)

Full Marks: 130

Answer Part I first, in the first few pages of your answer-book.

Part II will only be assessed if you qualify in Part I.

PART I

1. Rewrite the following sentences correctly. You need not copy the original sentence in your answer-book; write only the corrected version. (10 x 1 = 10)
 - a) Blind by 1654, Fortune did not favour Milton.
 - b) I was late because the train did not run timely.
 - c) Here is the person who I met yesterday.
 - d) Our cricket team batted poorly in the first inning.
 - e) This is a masterpiece poem by Rabindranath Tagore.
 - f) I have studied the texts in details for the examination.
 - g) My father advised me to study the sciences.
 - h) I knocked up on the door but there was no reply.
 - i) By the time he left, he received the sad news.
 - j) The buses are not playing in the city today.
2. Pair the first word in each line below with the word or phrase closest to it in meaning within the brackets. Write only the paired set in your answer-book (10 x 1 = 10)
 - a) sinuous (bloody, powerful, winding, uneven)
 - b) augment (huge, piece, elderly, increase)
 - c) strew (hotpot, scatter, involve, summon)
 - d) feign (simulate, lose consciousness, young deer, pawn)
 - e) inveigle (tickle, tell lies, persuade falsely, make up)
 - f) kindling (baby human, dry wood, baby pig, old woman)
 - g) audacious (attractive, rude, bold, happy)
 - h) barrack (criticize loudly, run for President, sideline, greet)
 - i) swine (faint, influenza, pigs, contagious)
 - j) cogent (convincing, fraud, agent, male accomplice)
3. Make idiomatic/oft-quoted sentences by putting one word in each of the blank spaces. Write the completed sentences in your answer book. (20 x 1/2 = 10)
 - a) A lot ... items are on sale, so you should lose ... time
 - b) It's always ... before dawn, as the saying
 - c) ... yourself in hand, and the ... the better.
 - d) Yuvraj is ... of a batsman ... a bowler.
 - e) Better the ... you know than the ... you don't.
 - f) It's not whether you win or lose, it's how you ... the
 - g) I have sworn to speak the truth, the ... truth, and ... but the truth.
 - h) Ask me no ... and you'll be told no
 - i) Workers of the world ...! You have nothing to lose but your
 - j) Our sweetest ...are those that tell of saddest

PART II

1. Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Paddington Canal

A mocking mirror, the black water turns
Tall houses upside down, makes learned men
Walk on their heads in squares of burning light;
Lovers like folded bats hang in a kiss,
Swaying as if a breeze would sever them.
The barges, giant sea-birds fast asleep,
Lie on the surface, moored and motionless;
Then, drowning gently, are drawn down to join
The sunken lovers and the acrobats.
Out of the grim dimensions of a street
Slowly I see another landscape grow
Downwards into a lost reality;
A magic mirror, the black water tells
Of a reversed Atlantis wisely built
To catch and to transform
The wasted substance of our daily acts,
Accommodate our mad and lovely doubles
In a more graceful city timelessly.

- a) Comment on the images the poet has used.
 - b) How does the 'mocking mirror' become a 'magic mirror'?
 - c) What vision of the city does the poem offer?
 - d) Is the poem also like a mirror? If so, of what kind?
- (10 x 4 = 40 marks)

2. Write brief notes on any *four* of the following:

Lewis Carroll, *Kamalakanter Daptar*, Niccolo Machiavelli, *Life is Beautiful*, Harold Pinter, *Calvin and Hobbes*, Amrita Sher-Gill, Bharatendu Harishchandra, *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*, Charlotte Brontë, *Ebam Indrajit*, T. S. Eliot, *Frankenstein*, Jules Verne, Mohiner Ghoraguli, Sophocles, *Chandalika*, Leonard Cohen, *Omkara*, Anita Desai, *King Lear*

(5 x 4 = 20 marks)

3. Write an essay on any *one* of the following subjects, drawing as closely as possible on your own reading and understanding of the arts:

- a) The 'truth' of fiction
- b) Can reading be a creative act?
- c) 'Poetry makes nothing happen'
- d) Performance as Text

(40 marks)