

ENGLISH (COMPULSORY)  
[According to the syllabus of 2024] 1/A

First Paper

Time— 1 hour

Full Marks – 37

Subject code: 107

[N.B-The figures in the right margin indicate full marks.]

**Read the passage below and answer the questions 1 & 2**

21 February is a memorable day in our national history. We observe the day every year as International Mother Language Day. The day is a national holiday. On this day, we pay tribute to the martyrs who laid down their lives to establish Bangla as a state language in undivided Pakistan in 1952. This is known as the Language Movement. The seed of the Language Movement was Sown on 21 March 1948 when Mohammad Ali Zinnah, the then Governor General of Pakistan, at a public meeting in Dhaka declared that Urdu would be the only official language of Pakistan. The declaration raised a storm of protest in the eastern part of the country. The protest continued non-stop, gathering momentum day by day. It turned into a movement and reached its climax in 1952. The government outlawed all sorts of public meetings and rallies to prevent it. The students of Dhaka University defied the law and they brought out a peaceful protest procession on 21 February 1952. When the procession reached near Dhaka Medical College, the police opened fire on the students, killing Salam, Rafiq, Barkat and Jabbar. This enkindled the sparks of independent movement of Bangladesh.

21 February has been observed as Shaheed Dibosh every year throughout the country in remembrance of the martyrs of language movement of 1952. The occasion begins at the early hours of the day with mourning songs that recall the supreme sacrifices of our language martyrs. People wear black badges and go to the Shaheed Minar barefoot in procession, singing mourning songs. They place wreaths at the Minar. Many of them visit the graves of the martyrs at Azimpur graveyard and pray for them. They also attend various programmes organised in remembrance of the language martyrs. The UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) on 17 November in 1999 proclaimed February 21 as the International Mother Language Day in recognition of the sacrifices of the martyrs for the rightful place of Bangla. The day is now annually observed worldwide to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

**1. Choose the best answer from the alternates.**

**1x7=7**

a) The word 'recall' refers to \_\_\_\_\_

i. recollection

ii. unclear

iii. reminisce

iv. forget

b) The word 'multilingualism' refers to \_\_\_\_\_

i. mixed language

ii. mono language

iii. several languages

iv. bi language

c) What does the expression 'a storm of protest' reveal?

i) intense contest

ii) moderate demand

iii) intense opposition

iv) moderate opposition

d) What is the purpose the author of this passage?

i) to highlight the brutal killing of the soldiers of the then East Pakistan

ii) to state the importance of Independence Day

iii) to portray the brutal characteristics of Mohammed Ali Jinnah

iv) to sketch the significance of International Mother Language Day

e) The phrase 'as a result' means \_\_\_\_\_

i) by dint of

ii) as a consequence

iii) as a preparation

iv) as a whole

- f) “ Urdu would be the state language of Pakistan.” What does it signify?  
i) the Pakistanis would speak Urdu                      ii) Offices would use Urdu  
iii) All activities of the state would run in Urdu                      iv) none of them
- g) What does ‘**black badge**’ symbolize?  
i) sadness                      ii) disrespect                      iii) joy                      iv) courage

**2. Write short answers to the following questions:**

**2x5=10**

- a. Why do we observe 21 February as the International Mother Language Day?
- b. What happened when Urdu was declared as the only official language of Pakistan?
- c. “The seed of independence was sown in 21 February 1952”. Do you agree with the comment? Why?
- d. Why is 21 February called Shaheed Dibosh?
- e. Why do people go to the Shaheed Minar? How do they go there?

**3. Write a paragraph on A Book Fair**

**10**

4. Suppose you are Ahnaf lives in 13 Malibagh, Dhaka and your friend lives in 245 Kalidash Road, Khulna. Now write a letter to your friend about the preparation for coming annual examination. 10