

ENGLISH (COMPULSORY)
[According to the syllabus of 2024] 3/A

First Paper

Time— 1.1 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

Meherjan lives in a slum on the Sirajgonj Town Protection Embankment. Her polythene roofed shelter looks like a cage. She is nearly 45 but looks more than her age. In front of her shelter, she is trying to make a fire to cook the day's only meal. Her weak hands tremble as she adds some fallen leaves and straw to the fire. The whispering wind from the river Jamuna makes the fire unsteady. The dancing of the flames reminds Meherjan of the turmoil in her life.

Not long ago Meherjan had everything--- a family, cultivable land and cattle. The erosion of the Jamuna consumed gradually all her landed property. It finally claimed her last shelter during the last monsoon. It took the river only a day to demolish Meher's house, trees, vegetable garden and the bamboo bush. She had a happy family once. Over the years, she lost her husband and her family to diseases that cruel hunger and poverty brought to the family. Now, she is the only one left to live on with the loss and the pain. The greedy Jamuna has shattered her dreams and happiness.

There are thousand others waiting to share the same fate with Meherjan. Bangladesh is a land of rivers that affect its people. Erosion is a harsh reality for the people living along the river banks. During each monsoon many more villages are threatened by the roaring of rivers like the Jamuna, the Padma and the Meghna. It is estimated that river erosion makes at least 100,000 people homeless every year in Bangladesh. In fact, river erosion is one of the main dangers caused by climate change. If we can't take prompt actions to adapt to climate change, there will be thousands of more Meherjans in our towns and villages every year.

1. Choose the best answer from the alternates.

1x7=7

a) The greedy Jamuna took only _____ to demolish everything of Meherjan.

- (i) a week (ii) a day (iii) a month (iv) an hour

b) Which of the following statement is true?

- i) in the past days Meherjan lead an impoverished life.
ii) imbalanced environment is responsible for Meherjan's lot.
iii) Meherjan leads an aristocrat life.
iv) none of them

c) The phrase "**dancing of the flame**" means _____.

- i) a traditional form of folk dance.
ii) a flame made by people to remember their past.
iii) a flame that is made unstable by the blast of air.
iv) a flame that makes people dance around it.

d) What does the expression 'the turmoil in her life' mean?

- i) the pleasure of life ii) the thunderstorm in her life
iii) the pangs and pains of her life iv) the dreams of her life

- e) What should we do to check river erosion?
i) we must take actions ii) we should change climate change
iii) we can take prompt actions iv) we can't but take prompt actions to adapt to climate change
- f) The river finally claimed Meher's last shelter during _____
i) winter season ii) rainy season iii) autumn season iv) spring season
- g) The **whispering** wind from the river Jamuna makes the fire unsteady. Here **whispering** is _____
i) gerund ii) present participle iii) noun iv) verb

2. Write short answers to the following questions:

2x5=10

- a) According to the passage what do you understand by river erosion?
- b) Give a short description about Meherjan's ill-fated life.
- c) What is river erosion caused by and when it takes a devastating turn?
- d) What should we do to save the lives like Meherjan?
- e) What is the impact of river erosion?

3. Read the beginning of the following story and complete it in your own way. Give a suitable title to it.

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Long ago there lived a hare in a forest and a tortoise also lived nearby. The hare always proud of his speed and teased the tortoise for his slow speed.....

4. Suppose you are Rashid/Rashida. You have a friend named Momin/Moumita who always spends his/her time using Facebook. Now write a dialogue between you and your friend about uses and abuses of Facebook.

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