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**ST. JOSEPH’S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), BANGALORE- 27**

**IV SEMESTER EXAMINATION: JULY/AUGUST 2022**

**CE 418: Communicative English**

**TIME: 1 ½ Hours Max marks: 35**

**This paper contains THREE SECTIONS and ONE printed page.**

**You are allowed to use a dictionary**

**Section A**

**Answer ANY THREE of the following questions in about 150 words each: (3x5=15)**

1. What is a noun phrase? Identify the noun phrase in the sentence “**Watch this new batsman.**”
2. Draw a tree diagram for the sentence ‘**I swim in the afternoon** and explain the information that it offers.
3. Li Language is a children’s game for which this sentence is a sample**: / ðɪs-li ɪz-li ə-li mʌʧ-li ˈsɪm-li plə-li geɪm-li/.** What are the two basic rules for Li Language that you can derive from this statement about a much simpler game?
4. Explain the function of passive voice using the sentence **‘A beaker of dilute hydrochloric acid is taken’.**

**Section B**

**Read this excerpt from a longer article by Hartosh Singh Bal in Caravan magazine:**

Narendra Modi took everyone by surprise on 19 November when he announced on national television his decision to withdraw the three farm laws. The laws had been a source of popular unrest in Punjab and Haryana since they were promulgated as ordinances in June 2020. But, in the days following Modi’s announcement, a commentariat that had had no inkling a decision like this would be made began conjuring up their own reasons for why Modi did what he did.

Unsurprisingly, they tried to take credit away from the farmers for the struggle they had waged and instead sought to hand it back to Modi—for doing what, in the end, was the only politically savvy option available to him. The evident loss of face for the government needed to be disguised. This was readily provided by the spin that the government had not caved into the protest but had acted to deflect the security risk posed by a disgruntled Sikh minority. It was only a slightly more sophisticated form of the anti-national or Khalistani tag that has been summoned as and when the protests needed to be labelled as dangerous.

After most victories, it is the victors who speak. But, on the opinion pages of the newspapers, it was those who saw it as a defeat who spoke. The Times of India carried an editorial and pieces by the author Chetan Bhagat and R Jagannathan, the editorial director of the right-wing magazine Swarajya—their very choice of “experts” reflected their view on agriculture. The Hindustan Times restricted itself to a lead editorial, while the Indian Express, apart from its own editorial, gave space to Pratap Bhanu Mehta and Ashok Gulati, both willing advocates of the neoliberalism that the laws espoused.

These pieces written in the aftermath of the decision were symptomatic of how the mainstream media has approached the protests from the very beginning. Eight months ago, writing on the farm protests for this magazine, I had noted, “Under the guise of expertise and knowledge, what is evident in much of the commentary in favour of the laws is an upper-caste condescension that seeks to disguise the upper castes’ own rather partisan interests in the matter.” Even though Modi’s decision was a defeat of this very condescension, a survey of the media commentary in the immediate aftermath indicates that no lessons have been learnt and that no attempts are being made to disguise the continued condescension.

Not one of these articles was written by a person affiliated with any farming community in the country. This disjunct between control of resources such as land and a lack of control of intellectual capital is what largely separates dominant castes in the country from the upper castes. But, in this case, the problem went deeper: several well-known agricultural economists in the country are Sikhs, but most do not toe the neoliberal dogma. Their absence, as of those who hold similar views, from the opinion pages is no coincidence. The line-up of opinion writers in newspapers is a pre-decided game to endorse what the editorials themselves proclaim, much in consonance with the business interests of their trading-class owners.

**II. A. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in about a paragraph each: (2x5=10)**

1. What is your own understanding of the farm laws and the protests they caused? How was this opinion formed?
2. This piece is an example of a commentary/opinion piece. Does the writer make an effort to convince the reader? What evidence can you find?
3. What criticism of the newspaper industry does the author offer in the last paragraph?

**Section C**

**Read this short extract from the novel Pnin, by Vladimir Nabokov.**

Genius is non-conformity. At two, Victor did not make little spiral scribbles to express buttons or portholes, as a million tots do, why not you? Lovingly he made his circles perfectly round and perfectly closed. A three-year-old child, when asked to copy a square, shapes one recognizable corner and then is content to render the rest of the outline as wavy or circular; but Victor at three not only copied the researcher’s (Dr. Liza Wind’s) far from ideal square with contemptuous accuracy but added a smaller one beside the copy. He never went through that initial stage of graphic activity when infants draw Kopffüsslers (tadpole people), or humpty dumpties with L-like legs, and arms ending in rake prongs; in fact, he avoided the human form altogether and when pressed by Papa (Dr. Eric Wind) to draw Mama (Dr. Liza Wind), responded with a lovely undulation, which he said was her shadow on the new refrigerator. At four, he evolved an individual stipple. At five, he began to draw objects in perspective—a side wall nicely foreshortened, a tree dwarfed by distance, one object half masking another. And at six, Victor already distinguished what so many adults never learn to see—the colors of shadows, the difference in tint between the shadow of an orange and that of a plum or of an avocado pear.

To the Winds, Victor was a problem child insofar as he refused to be one. From the Wind point of view, every male child had an ardent desire to castrate his father and a nostalgic urge to re-enter his mother’s body. But Victor did not reveal any behavior disorder, did not pick his nose, did not suck his thumb, was not even a nail biter. Dr. Wind, with the object of eliminating what he, a radiophile, termed “the static of personal relationship,” had his impregnable child tested psychometrically at the Institute by a couple of outsiders, young Dr. Stern and his smiling wife (I am Louis and this is Christina). But the results were either monstrous or nil: the seven-year-old subject scored on the so-called Godunov Drawing-of-an-Animal Test a sensational mental age of seventeen, but on being given a Fairview Adult Test promptly sank to the mentality of a two-year-old. How much care, skill, inventiveness have gone to devise those marvelous techniques! What a shame that certain patients refuse to co-operate! There is, for instance, the Kent-Rosanoff Absolutely Free Association Test, in which little Joe or Jane is asked to respond to a Stimulus Word, such as table, duck, music, sickness, thickness, low, deep, long, happiness, fruit, mother, mushroom. There is the charming Bièvre Interest-Attitude Game (a blessing on rainy afternoons), in which little Sam or Ruby is asked to put a little mark in front of the things about which he or she feels sort of fearful, such as dying, falling, dreaming, cyclones, funerals, father, night, operation, bedroom, bathroom, converge, and so forth; there is the Augusta Angst Abstract Test in which the little one (das Kleine) is made to express a list of terms (“groaning,” “pleasure,” “darkness”) by means of unlifted lines. And there is, of course, the Doll Play, in which Patrick or Patricia is given two identical rubber dolls and a cute little bit of clay which Pat must fix on one of them before he or she starts playing, and oh the lovely doll house, with so many rooms and lots of quaint miniature objects, including a chamber pot no bigger than a cupule, and a medicine chest, and a poker, and a double bed, and even a pair of teeny-weeny rubber gloves in the kitchen, and you may be as mean as you like and do anything you want to Papa doll if you think he is beating Mama doll when they put out the lights in the bedroom. But bad Victor would not play with Lou and Tina, ignored the dolls, struck out all the listed words (which was against the rules), and made drawings that had no subhuman significance whatever.

**III. Answer ANY TWO of the following questions in about a paragraph each: (2x5=10)**

1. Does Nabokov approve of psychology? What is your evidence for saying so?
2. What part of Nabokov’s evidence for Victor being a genius do you find most impressive? Why?
3. Have you ever had an unproductive conversation with an adult person? Write one paragraph about that conversation using a simile or a metaphor that best represents the experience.