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**20-12-2022**

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

**END SEMESTER EXAMINATION OCTOBER 2022**

**III SEMESTER GENERAL ENGLISH L1 GE 322**

**SPECIAL COURSE (AROUND THE WORLD OF WORK)**

**This paper is for students who have chosen the SPECIAL course: Around the World of Work**

**TIME: 2 hours Max marks: 60**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

**1. This question paper has THREE printed sides.**

**2. You will lose marks for exceeding word limits.**

**3. Please write WORK SPECIAL on the front page of your answer booklet.**

**3. You are allowed to use a dictionary during the examination.**

1. The following is a section from the book, *Working: People Talk About What They Do All Day and How They Feel About What They Do*, an oral history documentation of work and workers by Studs Terkel.

**Nick Salerno**

*“He has been driving a city garbage truck for eighteen years. He is forty-one, married, has three daughters. He works a forty-hour, five-day week, with occasional overtime. He has a crew of three laborers. “I usually get up at five-fifteen. I get to the city parking lot, you check the oil, your water level, then proceed for the ward yard. I meet the men, we pick up our work sheet.”*

You get just like the milkman’s horse, you get used to it. If you remember the milkman’s horse, all he had to do was whistle and whooshhh! That’s it. He knew just where to stop, didn’t he? You pull up until you finish the alley. Usually thirty homes on each side. You have thirty stops in an alley. I have nineteen alleys a week. They’re called units. Sometimes I can’t finish ‘em, that’s how heavy they are, this bein’ an old neighborhood.

…Some stops, there’s one can, they’ll throw that on, then we proceed to the next can. They signal with a buzzer or a whistle or they’ll yell. The pusher blade pushes the garbage in. A good solid truckload will hold anywhere from eight thousand to twelve thousand pounds. If it’s wet, it weighs more.

​​Years ago, you had people burning, a lot of people had garbage burners. You would pick up a lot of ashes. Today most of ’em have converted to gas. In place of ashes, you’ve got cardboard boxes, you’ve got wood that people aren’t burning any more. It’s not like years ago, where people used everything. They’re not too economy-wise today. They’ll throw anything away. You’ll see whole packages of meat just thrown into the garbage can without being opened. I don’t know if it’s spoiled from the store or not.

…After you dump your garbage in the hopper, the sweeper blade goes around to sweep it up, and the push blade pushes it in. This is where you get your sound. Does that sound bother you in the morning? (Laughs.) Sometimes it’s irritating to me. If someone comes up to you to talk, and the men are working in the back, and they press the lever, you can’t hear them. It’s aggravating but you get used to it. We come around seven-twenty. Not too many complaints. Usually you’re in the same alley the same day, once a week. The people know that you’re comin’ and it doesn’t bother them that much.

​​Some people will throw, will literally throw garbage out of the window—right in the alley. We have finished an alley in the morning and that same afternoon it will look like it wasn’t even done. They might have a cardboard carton in the can and garbage all over the alley. People are just not takin’ care of it. You get some people that takes care of their property, they’ll come out and sweep around their cans. Other people just don’t care or maybe they don’t know any better.

…People ask me what I do, I say, “I drive a garbage truck for the city.” They call you G-man, or, How’s business, picking up?” Just the standard . . . Or sanitary engineer. I have nothing to be ashamed of. I put in my eight hours. We make a pretty good salary. I feel I earn my money. I can go any place I want. I conduct myself as a gentleman any place I go. My wife is happy, this is the big thing. She doesn’t look down at me. I think that’s more important than the white-collar guy looking down at me.

They made a crack to my children in school. My kids would just love to see me do something else. I tell ‘em, “Honey, this is a good job. There’s nothing to be ashamed of. We’re not stealin’ the money. You have everything you need.”

I don’t like to have my salary compared to anybody else’s. I don’t like to hear that we’re makin’ more than a schoolteacher. I earn my money just as well as they do. A teacher should get more money, but don’t take it away from me.

**I.A. Answer the following TWO questions in 200 words each (2X15=30)**

1. Salerno observes, “It’s not like years ago, where people used everything. They’re not too economy-wise today. They’ll throw anything away. You’ll see whole packages of meat just thrown into the garbage can without being opened. I don’t know if it’s spoiled from the store or not.” Do you think urban cleanliness comes at the cost of a group of people having to work specific jobs? What are the impacts of your choice of lifestyle on people who pick garbage at your door-step and sweep your streets?
2. What are the ways in which Salerno’s job is referred to by the people around him? What is the reason behind calling the job in such a manner? Is there anything such as an unimportant job? Give reasons.

**II. A. Answer any THREE questions in 150 words each (3X10=30)**

1. In the article, “These 10 Dying professions of Indian will Remind you of the Good Old, Simpler Days'' by Grace Bains, the following professions were listed as going out of practice: the letter writer, the potter, the *Ittarwala* (perfume seller), the ear wax cleaner, the knife grinder etc. Why do you think professions go out of practice? Write about a profession that you think is going out of practice.
2. As an young-adult being educated in a university, will your future choice of work determine your public image in society? Discuss by giving an example.
3. ‘Untouchability and social isolation are intrinsically related to manual scavenging’ and ‘has historically been linked to caste in the Indian subcontinent. Do you think jobs come with caste attributes? Justify with a suitable example.
4. The idea of being employed is instilled in children every time they are asked, “What do you want to become when you grow up?” As children most of us imagined ourselves working specific jobs. It formed part of our dreams and aspirations or simply playful fantasies. What was your dream job as a child and why? Discuss.

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