2014

ENGLISH

(Elective)

Paper: 5.2

Full Marks: 80
Time: 3 hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions

- 1. Write an essay on any *one* of the following topics:
 - (a) Role of education in the economic development of a country
 - (b) Student organisations and politics
- (c) The girl child in India
 - (d) Physical fitness
 - 2. Write the substance of the poem given below:

Neutral Tones

We stood by a pond that winter day

And the sun was white, as though
chidden of God,

And a few leaves lay on the starving sod;

—They had fallen from an ash, and were gray.

20

10

Your eyes on me were as eyes that rove Over tedious riddles solved years ago; And some words played between us to and fro On which lost the more by our love.

The smile on your mouth was the

deadest thing
Alive enough to have strength to die;
And a grin of bitterness swept thereby
Lite an ominous bird a-wing....

Since then keen lessons that love deceives And wrings with wrong, have shaped to me Your face, and the God-curst sun, and a tree, And a pond edged with grayish leaves.

-Thomas Hardy

3. Write a précis of the given passage and provide a suitable title to it : 8+2=10

The appearance of land at the end of a long sea journey must be a welcome sight for any ship's captain. Yet he has to be particularly alert at this stage of the voyage, for in many parts of the world there are often rocky islands close to the shore he is approaching. These islands seem to lie in wait like hunters watching for their prey. Their jagged rocks trap and wreck many ships whose journeys take them too close to their perilous shores.

In the past, fires would sometimes be lit at night to mark dangerous sections of coast, but frequently their light was too feeble to penetrate the gloom. Eventually, the idea of a lighthouse was born. This was a tall tower, often located on an island out at sea and carrying a bright light at its top, warning ships of treacherous rocks ahead. Two or three men, called lighthouse keepers, had to live in the lighthouse so that the light could be maintained permanently. But constructing a lighthouse could be extremely difficult. The tale of one such lighthouse shows how difficult it was to build; it is all the more fascinating because of a mystery that later surrounded it.

The construction of this lighthouse began in 1895 and, because of the island's isolated location and hostile weather, it took four years to complete. The island's light shown out for the first time in 1899. All went well over the first winter and summer. The crane used to lift all the building materials in the lighthouse's construction was left in place. One loot at the list of supplies regularly taken by boat to the lighthouse shows why the crane was required. The metal containers of oil for the lamp and the boxes of food and wooden barrels of freshwater needed by the keepers for survival, were extremely heavy.

Or

4.	Expand	the	idea	contained	in	any	one	of	
	the following:								10

- (a) Where there is a will, there is a way.
 - (b) An idle brain is the devil's workshop.
- (c) Prevention is better than cure.
- (d) A friend in need is a friend indeed.
- 5. Write a report on the good work of an NGO with the help of the given outline:
 - (a) Name of the organisation, the date of its inception and its objectives
 - (b) Providing home/a place to stay for street children in the city
 - (c) The number of children provided for and their education facilities
 - (d) The response from the government and media
 - (e) The children's opinion about their stay and experience
- 6. Write a letter (in about 250 words) to your Principal requesting him to consider financial aid for a poor student of your class. 10

Write a letter to your friend describing two extreme weather conditions of your area.

- 7. Write a dialogue (of 20 exchanges) to indicate the exchange between two persons in any one of the following situations:
 - (a) Two friends discussing price rise of essential commodities and measures to be taken by the government
 - (b) Discussion between the Chief Minister and a common citizen on border issues of the State
 - (c) A popular actor and a fan talking about a recent film

* * *

10