

OEL – 1
2015
General English

Time : 2 hours

Full Marks : 100

The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.

*Answer **all** questions.*

1. Write essay on any **one** of the following topics : 50
 - (a) The Advantages and Disadvantages of Technology
 - (b) India's Youth of the Twenty-first Century
 - (c) The Role of Women in Nation Building
 - (d) India's contribution to the world-wisdom
 - (e) The Conservation and Preservation of Our Environment

2. Make a precis of the following and suggest a suitable title for it : 20

One day, while I was playing with my new doll, Miss Sullivan put my big rag doll into my lap also, spelled

"d-o-l-l" and tried to make me understand that "d-o-l-l" applied to both. Earlier in the day we had a tussle over the words "m-u-g" and "w-a-t-e-r". Miss Sullivan has tried to impress it upon me that "m-u-g" is mug and that "w-a-t-e-r" is water, but I persisted in mixing the two. In despair she had dropped the subject for the time, only to renew it at the first opportunity. I became impatient at her repeated attempts and, seizing the new doll, I dashed it upon the floor. I was keenly delighted when I felt the fragments of the broken doll at my feet. Neither sorrow nor regret followed my passionate outburst. I had not loved the doll. In the still, dark world in which I lived, there was no strong sentiment or tenderness. I felt my teacher sweep the fragments to one side of the hearth, and I had a sense of satisfaction that the cause of my discomfort was removed. She brought me my hat, and I knew I was going out into the warm sunshine. This thought, if a wordless sensation may be called a thought, made me hop and skip with pleasure.

We walked down the path to the well-house, attracted by the fragrance of the honey-suckle with which it was covered. Someone was drawing water and my

teacher placed my hand under the spout. As the cool stream gushed over one hand she spelled into the other the word water, first slowly, then rapidly. I stood still, my whole attention fixed upon the motions of her fingers. Suddenly the mystery of language was revealed to me. I knew then that "w-a-t-e-r" meant the wonderful cool something that was flowing over my hand. That living word awakened my soul, gave it light, hope, joy, set it free ! There were barriers still, it is true, but barriers that could in time be swept away.

I left the well-house eager to learn. Everything had a name, and each name gave birth to a new thought. As we returned to the house every object which I touched seemed to quiver with life. That was because I saw everything with the strange, new sight that had come to me. On entering the door I remembered the doll I had broken. I felt my way to the hearth and picked up the pieces. I tried vainly to put them together. Then my eyes filled with tears ; for I realized what I had done, and for the first time I felt repentance and sorrow.

3. Read the passage in Q. No. 2 and answer the questions given below : 2×5 = 10

(a) What are the disabilities of the narrator as illustrated in the passage ?

(b) What is the gender of the narrator ?

(c) Why does the narrator smash the doll and destroy it ?

(d) What does the word 'repentance' mean ?

(e) What is the nature of the change that happens to the narrator at the end ?

4. You are the Headmaster of a school, located far away from the town near a hilly terrain, especially meant for the children of the area. Write a letter to the Director of School Education, asking for better educational, technological and sanitation facilities for the school, giving convincing reasons for the request. 20

