Class 11   Time : 1 hr.
22-7-2014   First Unit Test in ENGLISH   M. Marks : 20

General instructions:
1.   This paper is divided into three sections: A, B, & C. All sections are compulsory.
2.   Separate instructions are given with each section and questions, wherever necessary.
         Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
3.   Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION - A   [READING]   (5 marks)

1.   Read the passage given below and answer the questions which follow:

   1   Computing is a general term which refers to Information Processing, where information is associated with some data, typically a text string, a number, an image and so on. One writes computer programs to manipulate data. Computing in Indian languages may broadly relate to computer programs which process Indian Language text strings which may be input through a keyboard and displayed on a conventional screen display.

   2   One of the most neglected areas of India's IT industry has been Indic Computing or computing in Indian languages. It is a strange anomaly: While India's software industry has enabled IT for the world, it has done little to empower Indians to use IT. In contrast to the healthy state of the country's software exports, the state of Indian languages online is a picture of malnourishment. Hindi is the fourth-largest spoken language in the world (360 million speakers) but on Wikipedia it has a mere 101,297 articles and ranks below even Nynorsk, one of the two official languages in Norway, a tiny country with a population that barely crosses five million.

   3   The average Indian language IT user has to traverse such a vast range of hurdles that it is a miracle that there is any content in Indian languages at all. The most basic starting point for computing in Indian languages, the keyboard, was not easily available until the advent of smart phones. In many parts of the world, if you buy a computing device, it comes bundled with a keyboard for the national language. Not so in India. If this situation is allowed to fester, Indian languages could die a slow death in the digital age.

   4   The significant bulk of users want their devices to work and these users are not going to fiddle with installing fonts, keyboards and other paraphernalia. To entice them, Indic users have to be given parity with the English world, and devices should work in Indian languages with the same ease and efficiency that they do in English.

   5   Thankfully, the BJP's manifesto has recognized the importance of Indic Computing. The manifesto says that the BJP will 'promote e-Bhasha — National Mission for the promotion of IT in Indian languages'. This goal is challenging but not impossible because the government and private sector have created many of the building blocks. However, these efforts need to be synchronized in such a way that users find Indic Computing as easy as computing in English. If we have to usher in the next 300 million users into the IT revolution, we will have to bring parity and make Indic computing as easy as English computing. This requires a major ecosystem push that includes hardware vendors, software developers, Internet technology companies and the government. Such a push will also have a significant social impact by democratizing access to knowledge in Indian languages.

1.1   What you understand by the term 'computing in Indian languages'?   (1)
1.2   What malnourishment does the author refer to in the above paragraph?   (1)
1.3   What did the smart phones contribute to the Indians?   (1)
1.4   List the four categories of people who should work together in fulfilling the dream
        of computing in Indian languages.   (1)
1.5   Find words from the passage which means the same as: (1)
        a)   Coordinated (paragraph 5)
        b)   Equipment (paragraphs 3,4)

SECTION - B   [WRITING & GRAMMAR]   (7 Marks)

2. You are the President of the Cultural Forum of St. Xavier's Senior Secondary School, Patna. You are organising an inter-school orchestra competition on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of your school. Write a notice in about 50 words, informing the students of your school about this competition and inviting participants to represent your school in the competition. (3)

3. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Underline the incorrect words and write the correction against the correct blank number in your answer sheet. The first one has been done for you as an example. (2)

    India's largest utility vehicle maker, Mahindra & Mahindra <u>are</u>   **is**
    said to be interested in acquiring bankrupt car maker Saab on   a)_____
    its latest bid to become the international auto giant, with a news   b)_____
    report in its native Sweden saying the Pune-based group have   c)_____
    evinced an interest in buying it. This would be the second attempt
    by the group that is showing strong international ambitions to buy
    the well-known brand that desperately need funds.   d)____

4. Rearrange the following words/phrases to form meaningful sentences. (2)
    a) we are / becoming / as the / unfolds, / increasingly / aware of / the finite, / nature of our / planet home/ new millennium/ interconnected/ and precious
    b) tourism / popular expression / likewise, / is becoming / awareness / of this / an increasingly

SECTION - C [LITERATURE]   (8 Marks)

5. Read the following stanza and answer the questions given below:

    > *Now she's been dead nearly as many years*
    > *As that girl lived. And of this circumstance*
    > *There is nothing to say at all.*
    > *Its silence silences.*

    a) How many years have passed after the death of the poet's mother?   (1)
    b) What is meant by 'this circumstance'?   (1)
    c) Identify the figure of speech used in this line: 'Its silence silences'.
        Briefly explain what the pronoun 'it' stands for?   (1)

6. Answer the following questions in about 30 to 40 words: (3x1=3 marks)
    a) Give an instance from the story 'The Portrait of a Lady' where the sparrows are described as behaving like human beings.
    b) Why was the thought of grandmother being young and pretty, revolting for the author when he was a small boy?
    c) How do you know that grandmother's rebukes of the sparrows were *frivolous*?

7. Answer the following question in about 100 to 120 words: (2 marks)
    'If you were crazy about horses the way my cousin Mourad and I were, it wasn't stealing.' Based on your reading of the story 'The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse', write a paragraph on the topic: 'Stealing is justified when it is committed by a poverty-stricken man'. You may agree or disagree with the topic.

-x-x-x-x-x-