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2026

ENGLISH

(Major)

Paper : ENG0600204

(Literature and the Environment)

Full Marks : 60

Time : 2½ hours

The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.

1. Answer the following as directed : 1×8=8

(a) According to Bacon, _____ first planted a garden.

(Fill in the blank)

(b) What, according to White, destroys the finer fruits of a garden?

(c) What surrounds the shores of Walden Pond?

(d) Who is the narrow fellow in the grass?

(e) In *The Wood-Pile*, the wood-pile "warms the frozen swamp with the slow smokeless burning of _____."

(i) dry moss

(ii) decay

(iii) a greenhouse

(iv) neglect

(Fill in the blank with correct option)

(f) The song of the Solitary Reaper was compared to

(i) a lark and a sparrow

(ii) a nightingale and a cuckoo

(iii) a thrush and a swallow

(iv) a robin and a dove

(Choose the correct option)

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(g) How did the snake come to the water-trough?

(h) Who is the narrator in *The Living Mountain* ?

2. Answer any *six* of the following questions : 2×6=12

(a) What are the two types of fountains described by Bacon?

(b) Why, according to White, did travellers assert that they never ate a good apple or apricot in the South of Europe?

(c) Mention two themes of the essay, *Ponds*.

(d) How does the speaker feel about the narrow fellow?

(e) Where does the speaker find himself at the opening of the poem, *The Wood-Pile*, and what is the weather like?

(f) Where did the poet see the Solitary Reaper? What was she doing when he saw her?

(g) Why does the poet decide to stand and wait till the snake has finished drinking? What does this tell you about the poet?

(h) Who are the Adepts in *The Living Mountain*?

(i) In *The Living Mountain*, what was the plan of the dreamers? Why did the villagers oppose to the plan?

(j) Who is the protagonist of *Son of the Thundercloud* ? Why did he leave his village?

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3. Write short notes on any *four* of the following : 5×4=20

(a) Anthropocentrism

(b) Ecocriticism

(c) Climate change

(d) The probable themes of the song sung by the Solitary Reaper

(e) Dickinson's treatment of fear, deceit and the unknown in the poem, *A narrow Fellow in the Grass*

(f) The 'Prince-like' gardens discussed by Bacon in *Of Gardens*

(g) The legend about how Walden Pond was created

(h) Significance of *The Living Mountain*

4. Answer any *two* of the following questions : 10×2=20

(a) White opens the letter (LXIV) by comparing summer and winter as subjects of natural observation, suggesting he will be 'more concise' about summer heat than he has been about winter cold. Considering the letter as a whole, discuss how White structures and develops his account of the hot summers of 1781 and 1783. In your answer, consider how he moves between personal experience, practical gardening advice, scientific explanation, and local geography.

(b) How does Easterine Kire blend Naga mythology with contemporary ecological concerns in her novella, *Son of the Thundercloud* ?

(c) "The poem, *The Solitary Reaper,* beautifully illustrates how solitude and imagination intertwine to create a profound emotional experience." Critically comment.

(d) Discuss how *The Living Mountain* explores the relationship between humans and nature. What message does Amitav Ghosh convey about ecological balance and spiritual connection to the environment?

(e) " *The Wood-Pile* ... evokes the loss or abandonment of home, the threat and fragility of human life with extinction, and the difficulty of country life." Explore the poem in the light of this statement.

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