

S.No. 9158

RMENS 5

(For candidates admitted from 2005–2006 onwards)

M.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2023.

English

**HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND
STRUCTURE OF MODERN ENGLISH**

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 100 marks

1. Transcribe the following passage phonemically using IPA symbols and mark stress: (10)

He was no longer a mere insect. He was developing into a personality, an intelligence that challenged the possession of this compartment with me on equal terms. I felt my heart warming towards him and the sense of superiority fading. How could I feel superior to a creature who was so manifestly my master in the only competition in which we had ever engaged? Why not be magnanimous again? Magnanimity and mercy were the noblest attributes of man. In the exercise of these high qualities I could recover my prestige. At present I was a ridiculous figure, a thing for laughter and derision. By being merciful I could reassert the moral dignity of man and go back to my corner with honour. I withdraw the sentence of death, I said, returning to my seat.

2. Write short notes on any TEN of the following choosing at least THREE from each section
(10 × 3 = 30)

SECTION - A

- (a) Grimm's Law
- (b) Middle English Grammar
- (c) Impact of Renaissance in writing
- (d) The resonating cavities

SECTION — B

- (e) Plosives
- (f) Voiced and Voiceless sounds
- (g) Back vowels
- (h) Syllables

SECTION — C

- (i) Standardization
- (j) Prudery
- (k) Prefixes
- (l) Phoneme and morpheme

3. Answer any THREE of the following in about 800 words each, choosing at least ONE from Each Section:
(3 × 20 = 60)

SECTION - A

- (a) Discuss the theories that govern the origin of language.
- (b) Describe the descent of English.
- (c) Discuss the characteristics of Old English.

SECTION - B

- (d) Examine the contributions of Shakespeare and Milton to the growth of English.
- (e) What are chief means by words have changed their meaning?
- (f) Discuss the influence of Latin and Scandinavian words in English.