

## **SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER**

### **Alim Examination–2017 English (Second Language)**

**Full Marks : 90 For Regular Candidates**

**Time : 3hours 15 mins**

**[Marks : 20]**

#### **Section A Reading Comprehension (seen)**

#### **1. Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow`:**

Swami hoped that with this his father would be made to see why he must avoid school for the day. But father's behaviour took an unexpected turn. He proposed to send a letter with Swami to the headmaster. No amount of protest from Swami would make him change his mind.

By the time Swami was ready to leave for school, Father had composed a long letter to the headmaster. He put it in an envelope and sealed it.

“What have you written, Father?” Swami asked **apprehensively**.

“Nothing for you. Give it to your headmaster and go to your class.”

“Have you written anything about our teacher Samuel?”

“Yes. Plenty of things.”

“What has he done, Father?”

“Everything is there in the letter. Give it to your headmaster.”

Swami went to school feeling that he was the worst boy on earth. His conscience bothered him. He wasn't at all sure if his description of Samuel had been accurate. He felt he had mixed up the real and the imagined.

Swami stopped on the roadside to make up his mind about Samuel. Samuel was not such a bad man after all. Personally he was much more friendly than the other teachers. Swami also felt Samuel had a special regard for him.

Swami's head was **dizzy** with confusion. He could not decide if Samuel really deserved the allegations made against him in the letter. The more he thought of Samuel, the more Swami grieved for him. To recall Samuel's dark face, his thin moustache, unshaven cheek and yellow coat filled Swaminathan with sorrow.

**A) Write the correct alternative to complete the following sentences in the given spaces :** **1×5=5**

- (a) Swami was expecting that his father would consider his request.
- (i) to avoid his school for the day.
  - (ii) to avoid his school for two days.
  - (iii) to avoid his school for three days.
  - (iv) to avoid his school for one week.

**Ans :** .....

- (b) Swami's father made a proposal
- (i) to send a letter to the headmaster.
  - (ii) to meet the headmaster personally.
  - (iii) to send a telegram to the headmaster.
  - (iv) to send his servant with a letter to the headmaster.

**Ans :** .....

- (c) Swami's father had written
- (i) a short letter to the headmaster.
  - (ii) a short letter with relevant grievances to the headmaster.
  - (iii) a long letter with irrelevant grievances to the headmaster
  - (iv) a long letter to the headmaster.

**Ans :** .....

- (d) Swami wanted to know the contents of the father's letter from his father (him).
- (i) confidently
  - (ii) politely
  - (iii) apprehensively
  - (iv) boldly

**Ans :** .....

- (e) According to Swami, Samuel sir had
- (i) no regard for Swami
  - (ii) a special regard for Swami
  - (iii) hatred against Swami
  - (iv) less regard and more enmity against Swami

Ans : .....

**B) Complete the following sentences with information from the text : 1×3=3**

- (a) Swami felt that his head was.....  
 .....
- (b) Swami recalled about Samuel that his teacher had .....
- (c) Swami felt that Samuel Sir was personally much more .....

**C) a) State whether the following statements are True or False. Write ‘T’ for ‘True’ and ‘F’ for ‘False’ statements. Provide sentences/phrases/words in support of your answer : 2×2=4**

- i) Swami politely asked his father that he (Swami’s father) had written objectionable things about his teacher, Samuel [ ]  
 Supporting statement : .....
- ii) Swami’s father ordered Swami to give this letter to Samuel, his teacher. [ ]  
 Supporting statement : .....

Or

**b) Fill in the chart with information from the text : 2×2=4**

Statement	Reason
i) Samuel was much more friendly than his other teachers	
ii)	Swami felt grief for samuel

**2. Read the poem given below and answer the questions that follow :**

The mountain and the squirrel  
 Had a quarrel:  
 And the former called the latter ‘Little **Prig.**’  
**Bun** replied,  
 ‘You are doubtless very big;  
 But all sorts of things and weather  
 Must be taken in together,  
 To make up a year

And a sphere.  
And I think it no disgrace  
To occupy my place.  
If I'm not so large as you,  
You are not so small as I,  
And not half so **spry**.  
I'll not deny you make  
A very pretty squirrel track;  
Talents differ ; all is well and wisely put;  
If I cannot carry forests on my back,  
Neither can you crack a nut.'

**A) Write the correct alternative to complete the following sentences : 1×4=4**

- (a) The squirrel told the mountain that he (the mountain) could not.....
  - (i) move
  - (ii) crack a nut
  - (iii) make a hole
  - (iv) eat a nut.
- (b) Infact, the mountain had a quarrel with .....
  - (i) the cat
  - (ii) the rabbit
  - (iii) the squirrel
  - (iv) the rat.
- (c) Bun undubtely accepts the fact that the mountain is.....
  - (i) big
  - (ii) small
  - (iii) noble
  - (iv) kind.
- (d) The squirrel is ..... than the mountain.
  - (i) spry
  - (ii) sprier
  - (iii) spriest
  - (iv) most spry

**B) Answer the following question within 25 words or two/three sentences :**

**2×2=4**

- (a) What is not a disgrace to the squirrel?

**Ans :** .....

- (b) How do the talents differ? Give example.

**Ans :** .....

**[Section-B]**

**Reading Comprehension**

**(Unseen)**

**[Marks - 20]**

**3. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :**

Failure was once linked with shame. But not now. We all have the experience of failure at some stage or other. It is not a sign of disgrace but a learning step. Newspapers and magazines often publish ‘Shame-free failure’ stories to encourage others. This is truly, a change in attitude.

Today is the age of competition, hard and tough. Failure is a common feature. People, particularly of the younger generation are very practical. They take failure as a step forward on the road to success. They learn more from the stories of people who have the experience of initial failures. How many people do qualify every year in tests like CAT, NET, SLET, SSC etc? Are non-qualifiers inferior to qualifiers? Not at all.

Robert Kaplan, professor, Harvard Business school, believes that failure stories are better than success stories as these incidents help others understand their own weaknesses and strengths. Moreover, it sharpens leadership skills to guide and lead others.

Again, this is the age of rapid progress in technology. To learn new technology needs patience. There are failures in the beginning. But a strong mind and hard struggle ultimately win. Failure and success go together. Remember we are human beings not machines.

Management expert Jonathan Williams has set up ‘Failure Laboratory’ in Michigan, USA, where people share their stories of struggle. It helps remove stigma around failure. It adds confidence.

[Adapted and edited from FAIL-LURES SUCCESS — BY NONA WALIA - SUNDAY  
TIMES of INDIA, MARCH 27. 2016]

**Choose the correct alternatives to complete the following sentences by putting a tick (✓) in the appropriate boxes.**

- 3.A. (a) People today consider failure as — (i) a matter of shame  1×6=6  
(ii) a process of life  (iii) a sign of intelligence  (iv) a sign of dullness .
- (b) Newspapers and magazines now publish—(i) success stories , (ii) stories of failure ,  
(iii) failure stories without shame , (v) shameful stories .
- (c) Failure is common today because of—(i) hard competitions , (ii) lack of seriousness ,  
(iii) laziness , (iv) insincerity .
- (d) Young people today are—(i) light hearted , (ii) practical , (iii) hard working , (iv) ambitions .

(e) Failure stories help people learn their—(i) strong areas , (ii) weak areas , (iii) both weak and strong areas , (iv) qualities .

(f) Non-qualifiers feel themselves– (i) disgusted , (ii) normal , (iii) inferior , (iv) superior .

**3. B. State whether the following statements are True or False. Provide sentences/ phrases/words in support of your answer.** (1+1)×3=6

(i) Failure shows that our learning has been meaningless. \_\_\_\_\_

Supporting Statement : \_\_\_\_\_ .

(ii) Stories of failure give other people support and strength.

Supporting statement : \_\_\_\_\_.

(iii) Younger generation of today are very moody.

Supporting statement : \_\_\_\_\_.

**3.C. Answer the questions in not more than 25 words. (any two)** 2×4=8

(i) Why do newspapers and magazines publish shame-free failure stories?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_ .

(ii) What do we learn from stories of failure?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_.

(iii) What is opinion of a non-qualifier in a test? Ans. \_\_\_\_\_.

**(iv) Tick out the most appropriate title for the passage :**

(i) Failure–success

(ii) Failure–shame

(iii) Stigma about Failure

**[Section-C]**

**Grammar and Vocabulary**

**[Marks - 20]**

**4. Fill in the blanks with the correct alternatives given in brackets.** 1×3=3

(a) Everyday after returning home, Rahim —— his homework first (Complete/completed/completes/completing).

(b) The boy told the teacher that he —— sorry for the mistake. (is/was/were/would be)

(c) Gandhiji —— the matriculation examination in 1887. (passed, had passed, have passed, was passing).

**5. Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles and preposition. 1×3=3**

By the time Swami ready to leave — school. Father gave him — envelope to give it to the headmaster. Swami felt that he was — worst boy on earth.

**6. Replace the underlined verbs with the appropriate phrasal verbs given below. You may have to change the form where necessary. There is one extra phrasal verbs 1×3=3**

- (i) It is not possible now to cancel the programme.
- (ii) A vast crowd came to watch the football game.
- (iii) The minister has presented his views in a television broadcast.

[Set aside, turn off, turn out, set forth]

**7. Rewrite the sentences as directed. 1×3=3**

- (i) I got a new book. I felt happy. (Join them into a single sentence).  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) Saira asked Deepika, “will you go to school today?” (Change it into indirect speech)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- (iii) He has sent me a gift. (Change the voice of the sentence)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**8. Select appropriate words from the passage (Q. No. 3) to match the meanings given. 2×4=8**

- (i) a state of shame
- (ii) at the beginning.
- (iii) bad reputation.
- (iv) Events

**[Section-D]**

**Writing Skill**

**[Marks - 30]**

**9. Write a report on the Literacy Programme your Madrasah organised in about 100 words. 10**

**Points :** number of teachers and students involved, period of the programme (a week), time of the day—the area/location covered,—standard and age of participants—method of teaching followed—result.

**10. Write a paragraph on your 'Daily Routine' with the following :** 10

**Points : (100 Words)**

**Pts :** time of getting up–washing and cleaning–breakfast–doing maths–to school–activities there–coming home—going to the playfield–homework in the evening–dinner–watching T.V.–to bed.

**11. Electric current goes off everyday in the evening in your area. This affects your studies and other important activities at home. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper about it.** 10