

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**  
**JAGANNATH BAROOAH COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**

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**ENGLISH HONOURS SELECTION TEST (EHSET), 2022**

**NOTICE**

- ✚ The English Honours Selection Test (**EHSET**), **2022**, will be held in the **offline mode tentatively on the 7<sup>th</sup> day from the declaration of Class XII results by AHSEC**. 30% of the seats will be reserved for other Boards/ Councils that will be filled up post declaration of results. However, the candidates from other Boards/ Councils will have to take the test on the same specified date. No separate test will be held for them.
- ✚ Candidates are required to **upload their marksheets within 72 hours from the declaration of results**. (The same applies to candidates from other Boards/ Councils apart from AHSEC on declaration of their results)
- ✚ The EHSET will be conducted in a venue to be specified later on, tentatively from 1pm to 3 pm.
- ✚ There will be a single question paper of **60 marks**. Candidates will have **2 hours** in which to answer the questions. **This paper will constitute 75% of the total evaluation criteria.**
- ✚ The question paper will basically comprise of questions meant to test language, vocabulary and grammatical skills through comprehension type questions and free composition.
- ✚ Non reserved category candidates who have scored a minimum of **65% marks in aggregate and 75% marks in General English at the +2 level** will be **eligible** to sit for the Test. For candidates seeking reservation against SC/ST/DA categories, will have to fulfill the criteria of minimum **60% in aggregate and 70% in General English**. Reservation of Core (Honours) seats will be as per government rules.
- ✚ Candidates who fail to secure the minimum aggregate marks along with the General English score as specified will automatically be disqualified from taking the EHSET.
- ✚ The EHSET 2022 results will be declared tentatively in the College website on the fourth day from the date of the Test (exact date to be specified later).
- ✚ Candidates are **not allowed to carry mobile phones, electronic gadgets, smart watches/ bands** inside the Examination Hall.
- ✚ **Further details of the EHSET, 2022 will be notified at the time of announcement of the Test date.**

† All admissions will be provisional and subject to the production of original HS Final/ Class XII mark sheet, application acknowledgement receipt, and caste/ category certificate wherever reservation is sought.

† 25% of the total evaluation criteria will be composed of bonus marks added to the EHSET score according to the following chart:

Aggregate Marks scored at the +2 level	Bonus Marks (10 maximum)	Marks scored in English at the +2 level	Bonus Marks (10 maximum)
60 to 69%	2	65 to 69	2
70 to 79%	4	70 to 79	4
80 to 89%	6	80 to 89	6
90 to 94%	8	90 to 94	8
95 to 100%	10	95 to 100	10

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Candidates will be tested on their ability to:

- † understand English writing on their own;
- † express their own thoughts in grammatically correct English;
- † read and appreciate poetry and poetic technique;
- † undertake free and/or guided composition; Further, Candidates will be assessed on the basis of their:
  - † grammatical competence and vocabulary;
  - † reasoning ability;
  - † familiarity with literary texts, types and writers;
  - † awareness of social/cultural issues related to the study of literature; and † reading habits, particularly in regard to Writing in English.

**A Sample Test paper from a previous year is provided for the benefit of applicants.**

**PLEASE NOTE:** The English Core (Honours) course under the Choice Based Credit System

(CBCS) is not designed to help students to learn the English language or to improve their communication skills. It aims, rather, to help students who already possess advanced language skills by familiarizing them with a vast range of writings in English, by improving their hidden critical faculties, and informing them about contemporary theoretical perspectives in the study of literature and culture so as to prepare them for Post Graduate studies and/or employment.

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**J.B.COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH HONOURS SELECTION TEST (EHSET), 2021**

**Full Marks: 60**

**Time: 1 hour 30 minutes**

1. Read the following passage carefully and then *answer, as far as possible in your own words*, the questions that follow:

Then, at the school in Doomdoooma, Okon discovered something unique and wonderful, something not only leading to another obsession, but also offering a peep hole into his own self. There was a ‘library’ in the school at Doomdoooma—a couple of book-filled cupboards, the doors of which the headmaster always kept locked. He had no intention of letting his wards touch the books in case some were stolen, which might result in ‘audit objection’ next time there was an ‘inspection’ and some allotted books were found to be missing.—never mind that the higher authorities were least concerned about how many books were there in the ‘library’. However, the very year Okon joined the school, the army—which had a base nearby—in one of its ‘Public Relations (PR)’ exercises, had donated a few lakh rupees for building a permanent room for the library, shelves, desks and benches, as also to buy quite a lot of new books. An officer had taken personal interest in what books should be purchased, and after its ceremonial opening, the headmaster had no option but to allow his students—at least those who were interested in doing so—to actually touch the books on the shelves, read them in the school premises and, horror of horrors, take them home for a few days. Okon had been one of the select few who were allowed to take library books

home. And thus began his slide into a different and magical world, which though created by someone else’s imagination, was very much real in that of the child’s.

Pitai had frowned at his youngest child’s new fascination, but Ai and Bai approved, as did Hirukai. Okon would steal off to the back of the cowshed and, seated on the ground with his back to the mud-plastered wall, weep dry-eyed at the plight of Tejimala, the little girl so cruelly treated by her stepmother, the antithesis of Ai, who loved Bai and Hirukai as though her own, or silently laugh at the craftiness of the monkey who deprived the quarrelling cats of their share of *til pitha*. Okon could now read in printed word the tales enacted through *bhaona* in the village *naamghar*; the stories were there in books such as *Akonir Ramayana*, *Akonir Mahabharata* or *Akonir Purana*. He would occasionally read such stories aloud to Ai and Bai, and sometimes, even Pitai would listen to him on the sly. Sometimes the books took them back far away to an antiquated time, when the *devas*, or gods waged war with the *rakshyasas*, those hideous ogres forever plotting to kill and maim and destroy; sometimes to far off Ayodhya, resplendent in the glimmer of a myriad earthen *chakis* as it awaited Rama’s triumphant return. They would laugh together at Krishna’s childhood pranks at Dwaraka. Ai and Bai knew such stories because they belonged to the oral tradition, but pretended they were hearing them for the first time and looked suitably amazed or amused.

(Arup Kr. Dutta. *The Bag*. Niyogi Books, 2018. Pp. 56-7)

- a) What was the unique thing that Okon discovered? 1
- b) How many members are there in Okon's family? 1
- c) What was the relationship between Okon and Hirukai? 1
- d) Why do you think the author has put the word 'library' within inverted commas? 2
- e) Why do you think the story of Tejimala is referred to by the author? 2
- f) Explain the attitude of the headmaster towards the library? 3
- g) Write what you can make out about Okon's father. 2
- h) What can you understand about Okon from the passage? 6
- i) What does the author mean when he says that "they belonged to the oral tradition"? 2

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

The lesson of our time is sore  
 Having and to have no more  
 Within the smoky reference  
 Of life and its indifference.

Whether in want, whether in wealth,  
 There is no peace, there is no health.  
 To enact the plot we're fated  
 In the world that we've created.

The innumerable heart-beats  
 Of the traffic and the streets'  
 The impassive architecture  
 And the whole colossal structure

But elaborately disguise  
 Confusion and the nest of spies;  
 Always the policeman stands  
 With the baton in his hands.

Those from whom the industrial vulture  
 Draws the sinews of his culture  
 For whom the evil choice is small,  
 If it is a choice at all,

Badly housed, badly fed  
 And abominably misled,  
 In the lottery of life  
 Can lose a job or choose a wife.

Those who love the time of play  
 Or to drink the time away  
 Or the curls and smiles that vie  
 In the wine shop of the eye

May win bitterness and pain  
 May win happiness again  
 And from the nature of the odds  
 Authenticate their various gods.

Still the million fires burn  
 Still the million souls can learn,

Ever loving and reviling,  
Hating and then reconciling,

Ever finding and concealing  
The diversity of feeling,  
Life is irretrievable  
But death is inconceivable.

- a) In what sense does the poet use the word 'sore' in the first line? 1
- b) Whom does the poet blame for the condition of our world? 1
- c) Identify the metaphor of drama in the poem. 1
- d) What is the attitude of the poet towards the policeman? 2
- e) What does the poet say about culture in the modern world? 3
- f) What does the poem have to say about the quality of an individual's life in the modern world? 4
- g) What does the poem say about religion in the modern world? 3
- h) What does the poem have to say about people's attitude towards life and death in our time? 2
- i) Comment on the structure of the poem, including its rhyme scheme. 3

3. Study the picture given below and write an essay in about 250 words, based on the situation depicted therein: 20



Or

- b) Write an story in about 250 words, beginning with the sentence:  
"As Rana/Rani looked into the mirror and brushed his/her  
teeth that morning, s/he had no idea what was to happen later  
that day." 20

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