

SET A

Unique Paper Code: **72032801**

Name of the Paper: **English A**

Name of the Course: **AECC**

Semester: **1**

Marks: **75**

Time limit: 3 + 1 (One hour reserved for downloading of Question Paper, scanning and uploading of Answer Sheets)

Instructions

Attempt any **Four** Questions.

All Questions carry equal marks.

Answers to be written in 400-600 words wherever applicable

Passage from Om Prakash Valmiki's Joothan, an autobiographical account of his experience of growing up in a village as a Dalit in the newly independent India of 1950s. Valmiki is an engineer by profession. He started writing his memoir in 1974.

Frightened, I picked up the three-day-old-broom. Just like me, it was shedding its dried up leaves. All that remained were the thin sticks. Tears were falling from my eyes. I started to sweep the compound while my tears fell. From the doors and windows of the schoolrooms, the eyes of the teachers and the boys saw this spectacle. Each pore of my body was submerged in an abyss of anguish.

Just then my father passed by the school. He stopped abruptly when he saw me sweeping the school compound. He called me, 'Munshiji, what are you doing?' Munshiji was the pet name my father had given me. When I saw him, I burst out sobbing. He entered the school compound and came towards me. Seeing me crying, he asked, 'Munshiji, why are you crying? Tell me, what has happened?'

I was hiccupping by now. In between my hiccups, I told the whole story to my father: that the teacher had been making me sweep for the last three days: that they did not let me enter the classroom at all.

Pitaji snatched the broom from my hand and threw it away. His eyes were blazing. Pitaji who was always as taut as a bowstring in front of others was so angry that his dense moustache was fluttering. He began to scream, ‘Who is that teacher who forces my son to sweep the school?’

Pitaji’s voice echoed through the whole school. All the teachers, including the headmaster came out. Kaliram, the headmaster, threatened my father and called him names. But his threats had no effect on Pitaji. I have never forgotten the courage and fortitude with which my father confronted the headmaster that day. Pitaji had all sorts of weaknesses, but the decisive turn that he gave my future that day has had a great impact on my personality.

Pitaji took my hand and started walking towards our home. As he walked away, he said, loudly enough for the headmaster to hear, ‘You are a teacher...So I am leaving now. But remember this, Master, this (Dalit boy) will study right here...In this school. And not just him, but there will be more coming after him.’

1. Read the passage above and answer the following questions:
 - a. Why is the narrator in tears? (2)
 - b. Why is the narrator’s father angry? (2)
 - c. What happens once the narrator’s father screams? What does the reaction of school authorities tell us? (3)
 - d. “This (Dalit boy) will study right here...in this school.” Do you think Pitaji was successful in his promise? Which sentence in the passage reflects how the narrator changed after that day? (3)
 - e. **Paraphrase** the above passage in your own words. (8.75)
2. Imagine that instead of insulting Pitaji, Kaliram the Headmaster had called Pitaji to his room to talk to him about what had happened to his son. Write a **dialogue** between Pitaji and Kaliram in which they talk about the rights of Dalit children to be educated.
3. Om Prakash Valmiki, the author of this autobiographical extract, goes on to complete his education and become an engineer by profession. Write a **public speech** that he gives to a gathering of school headmasters and teachers in which he talks about his experiences as a young Dalit student, and stresses on the need for change in educators and social attitude.
4. You are a journalist and have been sent by your newspaper to do a sting operation on rural schools, and you see a young student crying and sweeping the school. Write an **interview** with the student for your newspaper.
5. Write a **letter** from Pitaji to Kaliram telling him why it is important for the future of the country that his son should continue to study in this school, and many others like him should also study there.
6. As part of an NGO you are conducting a survey of caste discrimination in schools today as compared to the 1950s. Write a **report** of your findings and your proposals for action to the Director of the NGO..

