

Read the Passage carefully and then answer the questions which are printed on the Question paper.

- 1 Rangoon¹ is not a modern city. It is in fact an anti-modern city. Unlike Singapore, Jakarta, or Bangkok, where new buildings are obliterating the immediate past, Rangoon has remained much as the British left it in 1948. Old people say that Rangoon was once known as the cleanest and most pleasant city of Southeast Asia. Now the pavements show great cracks, filled with refuse. At night the streets are taken over by enormous rats, jostling each other to get at the best bits of garbage floating in the open sewers. Only the embassies have been spruced up with whitewash. The decaying city center is surrounded by suburbs of brown huts on stilts in slimy water. The once modern capital is being reclaimed by old village Burma. 5
10
- 2 In some people the dilapidation of Rangoon evokes feelings of nostalgia. They see romantic grandeur in the crumbling porticos and peeling Edwardian facades. Equally gratifying to the romantic visitor is the sight of a whole population in native dress. Men and women wear long skirt called longyis which they constantly wrap and unwrap and, of course, they still smoke the whacking great cheroots celebrated by Kipling, a famous writer, in “The Road to Mandalay”. Here at last is the “real” Asia, where, to use a dated phrase, people are themselves. It is difficult to feel such good cheer, however, when one is constantly accosted by Burmese who want things bought for them at the foreign currency stores; basic things, like medicine, which can be resold on the black market. 15
20
- 3 The black market dominates life in Rangoon. It starts in the customs hall of Rangoon Airport. Officers spend endless time checking documents supposed to make sure the visitor spends every cent at the exorbitant official exchange rate. This job done, the officers smile, welcome the visitor to Burma, and ask for “presents”: ballpoint pens, key rings; anything that they can sell on the black market. At the same time young men smoking cheroots offer to buy your whiskey, cigarettes, T-shirts, belts, cosmetics. After a day in Rangoon one already feels haunted by the whispered “Want to do business?” This business is not based on greed, but on necessity. Only 8 percent of Burmese imports are consumer goods and most of those, some say, are for the foreign currency stores, where one U.S. dollar is worth seven local kyats. On the street one can get thirty. Everything is sold and resold. Government employees sell their rice rations. Each morning young men rush to the cinemas to buy all the tickets that they resell later in the day. Many of these young men are university graduates. 25
30
35
- 4 Sealing off culture from the corrupting influences of the outside world has a somewhat similar effect to shutting young girls up in a segregated boarding school – they fall in love with the first bit of corruption that comes their way.

¹ Rangoon – the former name for Myanmar, capital of Burma

- Despite the longyis and the cheroots, Burmese men have a kind of fetish of modern goods. As one walks barefoot – customary on sacred ground – along the long shop-lined avenues that lead to the Shwe Dagon pagoda, one looks in vain for fine traditional wood carvings or delicate religious objects; instead there are gaudy models of such icons of modernity as TV sets, telephones or girls in golfing gear. At the black market teenagers buy T-shirts with Japanese or English works on them – no matter what they mean, as long as they are foreign. The thirst for foreignness stretches to non-material goods too. A Burmese journalist who writes for a foreign magazine often fails to get his copies through the mail; not because of censorship, but because they are stolen at the post office and sold on the black market. 40
- 5 Foreign modernity seeping through the rather porous Burmese culture influenced Burmese tradition itself. Wedding receptions are accompanied by loud bands that play sugary pop music. Ancient Buddha sculptures are “improved” by embossing them with gold-painted concrete or gaudy glass mosaics. Old Buddhas are haloed by coloured neon or flashing disco lights. This suggests things: that Burmese tradition is so alive that Buddhas in neon seem perfectly in order; and that enforced parochialism has done little to protect traditional aesthetics from indiscriminate modern taste. 50 55

Passage B

- 1 Searching for a cappuccino bar in Soweto, Johannesburg’s sprawling black township, might seem like a fool’s errand, but Jerry Marobyane, my guide, insists that it’s around her somewhere. We cruise slowly along the rutted roads, past hundreds of makeshift shacks interspersed with smoking garbage heaps, past rows of “elephant” houses, their dun-coloured concrete roofs curving down to the ground like the thick, crinkled hide of an elephant. 5
- 2 As we drive away, Jerry explains how the coffee bar had sprung up as white rule of South Africa sputtered to an end years ago this month. The bar catered not to Soweto’s residents but to the busloads of tourists that passed through on whistle-stop excursions to this township that had become symbolic of the whole struggle against apartheid. The tourists came to pay homage at Nelson Mandela, the former President’s old house. They came to see the former resident Desmond Tutu, the fearless bishop who thought nothing of striding into a baying crowd to rescue a suspected police informer from being garlanded with a burning tyre. 10 15
- 3 In those early days after apartheidⁱ, when sanctions against South Africa were finally lifted, it was from Johannesburg that battalions of South African businessmen (most of them white) reached up into the African interior, aggressively pursuing opportunities in countries regarded as too perilous by most Western investors. They took over breweries in Mozambique, Tanzania, Malawi. The assembly of men also won cell phone network contracts in Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Across the continent they set up 20

- supermarket chains, refurbished shabby hotels and established banks. Soon the departures board at Johannesburg International Airport read like an African geography lesson. 25
- 4 Meyer Kahn, as chairman of South African Breweries, one of Johannesburg's flagship corporations, was at the forefront of this commercial invasion of Africa. Kahn points out that Johannesburg's growth into Africa's premier city was far from smooth, with frequent boom-bust cycles. "Over the years, we're had floods, plague, boycotts, strikes, political violence; we've had apartheid international sanction, absurd peaks and valleys of economic growth but we've survived because we have a First World infrastructure, a vibrant corporate sector, and a remarkably resilient people – black and white." 30
- 5 It's not just the corporate giants that provide the economic muscle; there is also a booming informal economy fed by small-scale, cash-only street traders, largely missed in official statistics. "You can still hustle a living here," says Kahn. "If you took this chair outside onto the street and got a pair of scissors and a towel, you could immediately start making money as a barber. The sheer size of the market creates all sorts of opportunities for anyone with any initiative. There's a special drive in this city. That's why people gravitate towards us from all over the continent and beyond. 40
- 6 Crime is the one overriding concern all races in Johannesburg have in common. Comparative statistics are difficult to come by, because in July 2000 the government stopped issuing crime figures – only to resume releasing them a year later with different categories, a move critics charge was designed to blur bad news. The headlines, however, remain stark: in the worst parts of the city nearly one in three people were robbed last year. Murder for the greater metro areas stand at 60 per 100,000 – three times the rate in Chicago, America's most dangerous city. 45

¹ apartheid – a rigid policy of separation of the non white population.

Read the Passage in the insert and then answer all the questions which follow below.

From Passage A:

From paragraph 1 :

- 1 Write down the **single** word which tells us that something is replaced. [1]
- 2 Why does the writer consider Rangoon an anti-modern city? [1]
- 3 “Old people say that Rangoon was once known as the cleanest and most pleasant city of Southeast Asia”. What does this suggest about Rangoon at present? [1]

From paragraph 3 :

- 4 Why does the writer feel ‘haunted by the whispers “Want to do business”’? [1]
- 5 What is the purpose for the writer to include the statement, ‘many of these young men are university graduates’? [1]

From paragraphs 4 and 5:

- 6 Why is the writer surprised to see TV sets, telephones or girls in golfing gear? [2]
- 7 What does the word ‘porous’ tell you about Burmese culture? [1]

From Passage B:

From paragraph 1 and 2:

- 8 Why would looking for a bar be a “fool’s errand” in Johannesburg? [1]
- 9 What is the impression you get when the tourists are on “whistle-stop excursions”? [1]

From paragraph 3:

- 10a** What is the main goal of these South African businessmen who ventured into Africa's interior? [1]
- b** Give two businesses that these South African businessmen ventured into. [2]
- 11** Write down two words which refer to the large number of businessmen present in South Africa. [2]

From paragraphs 4 and 5:

- 12** "We've had apartheid international sanction, absurd peaks and valleys of economic growth". Explain the phrase **without using the underlined words**. [2]
- 13** **In your own words**, explain fully the reasons why it is relatively easy to start a business in Johannesburg. [2]
- 14** Suggest a plausible reason for the government to stop issuing crime figures making it difficult for "comparative statistics to come by". [1]

From Passages A and B:

- 15** For each of the following words, give **one** word or short phrase (of not more than **seven** words) which has the same meaning that the word has in the passage.

From Passage A:

- 1 jostling (line 6)
2 dominates (line 22)

From Passage B:

- 3 homage (line 12)
4 refurbished (line 24)
5 resilient (line 34) [5]

- 16** The passage describes Rangoon of the past and present. It also gives the different views of the Burmese people.

Using your own words as far as possible, summarise what Rangoon and its people are like today, being careful to also identify what Rangoon could have been like in the past.

USE THE MATERIAL FROM PARAGRAPHS 1 to 4.

3

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be more than 150 words (not counting the words given to help you to begin).

Begin your summary as follows: *Rangoon is today a city*

[25]

Answers

- | | | |
|------------|--|----|
| 1 | "obliterating" | 1m |
| 2 | it had remained as much as the British had left it in 1948. | 1m |
| 3 | Possibly the dirtiest and most unpleasant city. | 1m |
| 4 | The question follows him around everywhere / question is repeated continuously / terrorized by the question | 1m |
| 5 | That even educated people are guilty of corruption. | 1m |
| 6 | Rangoon seems traditional so people expect to see religious objects and traditional items. | 2m |
| 7 | Burmese culture seem to be very easily influenced. | 1m |
| 8 | There is no proper system of roads and housing to find the way | 1m |
| 9 | Very quick and swift stops. | 1m |
| 10a | To make money / for profit | 1m |
| b | Take over breweries, set up cell phone network contracts, set up supermarket chains, refurbished shabby hotels, established banks.(any 2) | 2m |
| 11 | 'Battalions' and 'assembly' | 2m |
| 12 | we had worldwide sanction with unbelievable / ridiculous highs and lows in the economic growth. | 2m |
| 13 | The huge size of the economy provides changes for the energetic and determined people. | 2m |
| 14 | The government does not want to discourage investors or show how bad the crime rates are in Johanneurg to discourage tourists. | 1m |
| 15 | Jostling – pushing, struggling
Dominates – control, take over
homage – tribute, respect
refurbished – restore, renovate
resilient – determined, strong | 5m |

Summary Points

Rangoon and its people today

- not modern
- remained much as the British left it in 1948
- pavements show cracks and are filled with refuse
- at night, rats are a nuisance and feed on the garbage floating in the open sewers.
- City center is surrounded by suburbs of brown huts on silts in slimy water
- Men and women wear longyis
- Burmese people smoke cheroots
- Burmese people harass foreigners for foreign goods
- The black market dominates life in Rangoon
- Corrupted officials
- They face poverty
- People sell and resell things out of necessity
- Obsessed with modern / foreign goods
- Also for non material things
- Burmese people are easily influenced and had allowed modernity to infiltrate their culture

Rangoon in the past

- Clean and pleasant
- A modern capital in the past
- More traditional / religious practices