

B.A. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2011  
BRANCH XII – ENGLISH  
THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : MAJOR – ELECTIVE  
PAPER : ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING  
TIME : 3 HOURS MAX. MARKS : 100

I. Answer any FIVE of the following in about 750 words each. (5x15 = 75 marks)

1. In order to choose a method of instruction some components need to be analysed. What are they? Write briefly on any two of them.
2. How is the Behaviourist Psychology of Learning different from the Cognitive Psychology of Learning?
3. Name any three approaches to teaching a Second Language. Write a note on any one of them.
4. Why is it essential to have a syllabus? What are the components of a syllabus?
5. What are the different types of tests? How do you evaluate their reliability?
6. What are the differences between language learning and language acquisition?
7. What are the strengths of the Humanistic Approach to learning?
8. Write a note on methodologies used in teaching listening and speaking skills.

II. Frame tasks as specified below based on the following passage:

- |  | (25 marks) |
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| 1. Reading Comprehension - 2 tasks, 4 items each | 8 marks    |
| 2. Grammar - 2 tasks, 4 items each               | 8 marks    |
| 3. Vocabulary - 1 task, 4 items each             | 4 marks    |
| 4. Writing Skills - 2 tasks                      | 5 marks    |

**The Cock-headed Snake**

There is a belief in parts of Kerala that a large cock-headed snake lives in the deep forests. The story goes that this highly venomous snake, some 15 feet long – i.e. the size of a king cobra – black and brown in colour, has a prominent crest like that of a cock. The further embellishment is that it has been heard to crow like a cock, sometimes to cluck like a hen and, even occasionally, to whistle. It is also reported to spit venom.

In Malabar, the snake is called kozhipoovan, karinchathi and karinkoli, the last two being also used for the king cobra.

There is no such snake known to science. Interestingly, this story is very similar to that of the cockatrice in legends in the West. The cockatrice, or the basilisk, is a mythical creature born of the egg of a cock hatched by a serpent. It has a cock's head complete with the comb and a serpent's body and it is reputed to kill by a look.

One ingenuous explanation for the cockatrice has to do with the habit of snakes to shed their skins. Speaking of the black mamba, Vivian Fitzimous says: In old specimens, the skin is often incompletely shed, particularly over the top and back of the head, and a loosely attached plume or crest of old skin remain for sometime before being completely detached; this has given rise to the belief in the existence of the so called 'crested mamba', as distinct from the normal form. So widely established has this belief become in Zululand that the Zulus have a special name for it, 'Indlondlo' meaning an 'old snake with a crest or protuberance at the back of the head.' Referring to this account, Sherman A. Minton Jr. and Madge Rutherford Minton say, "If it is possible that stories of such snakes, carried by word of mouth from deep in Africa, to the Mediterranean seaports, formed a part of the basis for the cockatrice and basilisk legend."

Similarly, it is not unlikely that a king cobra, incompletely moulted, with part of the dead skin projecting from its head – no doubt a rare sight – has been mistaken for the 'cock-headed snake'. Incomplete shedding, or desdecydysis, can occasionally occur in snakes because of poor health, dermatitis, mite infestation, malnutrition, inappropriate humidity, trauma etc.

The king cobra, of course, does not spit venom. Nor does it crow like a cock or cluck like a hen or whistle. But it has occasionally been heard to growl!

**(adapted from B. Vijayaragavan's article that appeared in Madras Musings, Aug 16 – 31 P.3)**

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