

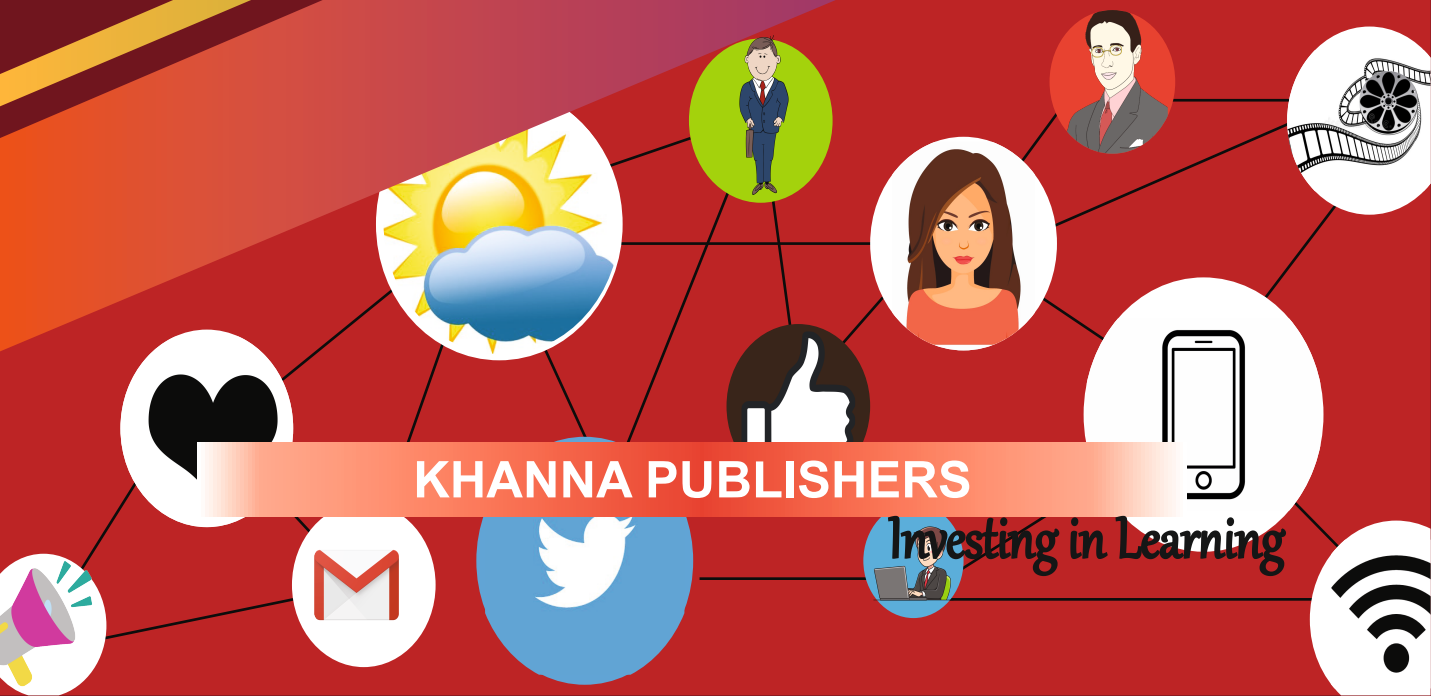


# English and Communication Skills-II

For Second Semester Diploma Students

As per AICTE Curriculum for Diploma Students

Dr. Azam Eqbal



**KHANNA PUBLISHERS**

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As per AICTE Curriculum for Diploma Students

*By*

**DR. AZAM EQBAL**



**KHANNA PUBLISHERS®**

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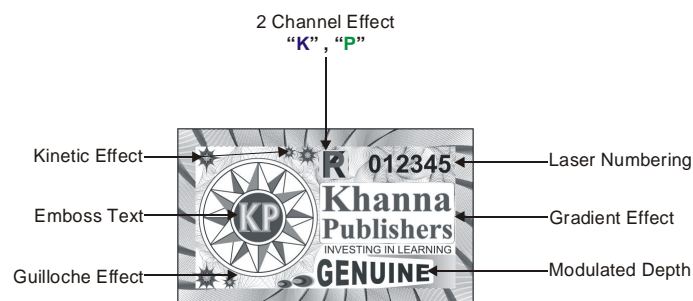
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# *Preface*

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This book English & Communication Skills-II has been written as per AICTE curriculum for the Diploma Students, for their second semester course.

The term “**Communication**” has been derived from the Greek word “Communis”, which means ‘to share’. It is concerned with the ways, we make others to know or to understand our opinions, feelings, informations etc. This may be done by our speech, writing or body movement. No doubt, in Management Studies and Technical Education, it is the backbone.

Overhere, Communication Skills means Communication Skills in English. You have got to improve your English as English is the medium of instruction in technical studies.

English is an international language. It is spoken all over the world. It is key to the world’s learning and culture. So, if you want to work internationally, you will have to a fair knowledge of English.

English as a language means four things:

1. Listening English
2. Speaking English
3. Writing English
4. Reading English

However, Communication Skills have some communications issues too. Like problems in grammar, weak vocabulary, pronunciation issue, no speaking circle etc. etc. But it doesn’t mean that you shall give-up learning English. I think you can get Communication Skills in English by solving communication issues.

Inspite of our best efforts, it is possible that some errors might have crept in. We shall acknowledge with gratitude, if any such error is brought in our notice and we would rectify them in the next edition.

**Dr. Azam Eqbal**

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# Contents

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<b>Chapter 1 : Literature Fiction and Poetry</b>	<b>1—22</b>
Topic 1 : The Prospects of Flowers—Ruskin Bond	3
Topic 2 : An Astrologer' Day— R.K. Narayan	7
Topic 3 : Let Me not to the Marriage of True Minds— William Shakespeare	11
Topic 4 : Ode To A Nightingale—John Keats	14
Topic 5 : Thou Hast Made me Endless Verse-1, Gitanjali— Rabindranath Tagore	19
<hr/>	
<b>Chapter 2 : Language and Writing Skills : Advanced</b>	<b>23—65</b>
Memorandum	23
Circulars	28
Resume	33
Report	40
Business Letters	48
Agenda for a Meeting	60
E-mail	62
<hr/>	
<b>Chapter 3 : Listening as a Tool of Communication</b>	<b>66—72</b>
Listening	66
<hr/>	
<b>Chapter 4 : Barriers to Communication</b>	<b>73—80</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Chapter 5 : Stages of the Interview</b>	<b>81—110</b>
Stages	81
Telephone Interview	82
Mock Interview	83
Media Interview	84
Press Release	85
Introducing yourself in Discussion	86

( *viii* )

Group Discussion	88
Debate	96
Composition based on a Vidual Stimulus	98

---

**Chapter 6 : Listening, Speaking and Communication** **111—146**

Spoken English Manner	111
Comprehension	112
Mock Interview	113
100 Spoken English Sentences	118
Important Antonyms (Opposite Words)	129
Important Synonyms (Similar Words)	132
Correct Pronunciation - English	135
One Word Substitution	140
Modals	141

---

**Expected Questions for Forth Coming Examination** **143**

# Literature : Fiction and Poetry

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## RATIONALE

Literature means writing that is considered to be a work of art. It includes novels, plays, dramas and poetry. It is also a printed material about a particular subject and for that matter a topic.

Derived from the Latin word “literature” meaning “Writing formed with letters”. In simple English, literature is the mirror of society and is an important part of language.

There are four main literary genres. They are:

- (a) Poetry
- (b) Fiction
- (c) Non fiction
- (d) and Drama.

Literature is important in everyday life because it connects individuals with larger truths and ideals in a society. Literature creates a way for people to record their thoughts and experiences.

In a way that is accessible to others, through fictionalized accounts of the experience.

However, here, it should be mentioned that English which is known as the international language of the world, has developed over the course of more than 1400 years.

Geoffrey Chaucer (1343-1400) is known as both father of English and English poetry as well. His famous work in English is “The Canterbury Tales”. Poet and play writer William Shakespeare (1564-1616) is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and one of the world’ greatest dramatists.

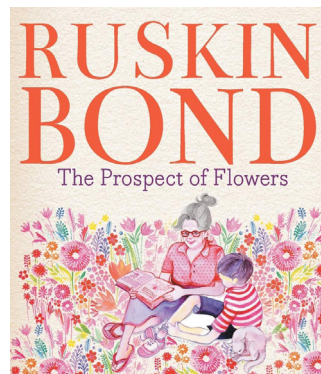
The English language spread throughout the world with the development of the British Empire between the late 16th and early 18th centuries. By 1913, the British Empire hold Sway over 412 million people, 23% of the world population at the time.

Indian writing in English and for that matter Indian English literature is the body of work by writers in India who write in the English language on Indian themes. It is also associated with the works of members of the *Indian diaspora* who are of Indian descent. The famous personalities of Indian writing in English are:

- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| (a) Mulk Raj Anand      | (b) R.K. Narayan |
| (c) Rabindranath Tagore | (d) Raja Rao     |
| (e) Ruskin Bond         | (f) Shobha Dey   |

**TOPIC 1: THE PROSPECT OF FLOWERS-RUSKIN BOND.**

Read the following text carefully:



The Prospect of Flowers is a beautifully written short story by Ruskin Bond. The story is not that lengthy but it delves into some of the prominent themes of life that persist in the Himalayan towns and villages. As the story opens, the author subtly regrets the loss of time. He mentions there was wonderful colonial time with lot of mansions built in the hill stations by the British people to save themselves from the searing heat of the plains. One such place was Mussoorie. But now all those big mansions that once reflected the glory of opulence and comfort now lie in abeyance. Now, no one lives there; they have been deserted by their inhabitants. Probably, one strong reason is that India became an independent country and white-skinned people returned to their home country, England.

Well amidst all the ruins, lies a well-maintained cottage of Miss Mackenzie. The garden houses all flowers one can think of in the heaven. She maintains her garden and loves the flowers as they are her pets.

Miss Mackenzie is an eighty-year-old spinster. She was born in the hills and there is no one in England to whom she can go to. She didn't marry, though had a few love affairs in her youth. Her parents are dead long ago. Her siblings, who were in India, are dead. In all senses, she is at that age where strokes of loneliness are inevitable. There is a friend of her who from New Zealand sends her gifts and monthly pension.

To her company she has kept a black cat, and her cottage is not frequented by many, only a handful of people like padre, milkman, and postman visit her, but not every day. She holds good knowledge of fruits, orchards, flowers and flora that exist in the Himalaya, beyond the lenses of modern botanists. She is of the opinion that now-a-days botanists are shallow, that they don't travel to far off peaks of the Himalaya to discover flowers like Blue Gentian and Purple Columbine, There is more to be discovered.

One day a schoolboy called Anil accidentally slips into her garden. Upon confronting her, he says that he is picking up some flowers as he wants to be a botanist. This impresses her, and soon they both become good friends. Anil often comes to meet her and they often discuss the Himalayan flowers and flora and fauna. When the rains are over, winter approaches. This is the time when in the hill stations snow comes and schools close. Anil is from Delhi; he will be going for vacation for all winter and may come back in spring *i.e.* next year. Miss Mackenzie's garden is once again wild. After winter, beautiful flowers will spring up again. She realizes that this year's winter will be severe, and sadly there is no one to help her.

Before heading for Delhi, Anil comes to bid her good bye. She gives him a very precious book *Flora Himaliensis*, which covers almost all the flowers of Himalaya. Snow and sleet commence, one night a water bottle bursts and her bedding becomes wet. There is no Sun to get it dried up, she feels too weak to do other chores in home. She is unable to rise and look after herself. The misery of old age and loneliness cripples her life. One night when the forceful gales of wind thrust open the window of her home, all night she lay in utter coldness, as a result she dies by the morning.

In most of the Ruskin's short stories where a protagonist is an old woman, she often dies miserably in the end. This is a wonderful story that takes stance on the misery of old age and loneliness that screw life in that phase. Moral of the story one should not plan a lonely life.

### **ABOUT THIS BOOK: *The Prospect of Flowers***

In this collection, you will find some of Ruskin Bond's most-loved stories down the years—from the unlikely friendship between a boy and an old women in 'The Prospect of Flowers' to the tussle between Binya and Ram Bharosa for beautiful umbrella in 'The Blue Umbrella'; from the story of a lost love in 'Binya Passes By' to the bond between a boy and a cherry tree in 'The Cherry Tree'.

### **AUTHOR OF THE BOOK: *Ruskin Bond***

Ruskin Bond has been writing for over sixty years, and now has over 120 titles in print—novels. Collections of short stories, poetry, essays, anthologies and books for children. His first novel, *The Room on the Roof*, received the prestigious John Liewellyn Rhys Award in 1957. He has also received the Padma Shri (1999), the Padma Bhushan (2014) and two awards from Sahitya Akademi—one for his short stories and another for his writing for children. In 2012, the Delhi government gave him its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Born in 1934, Ruskin Bond grew up in Jamnagar, Shimla, New Delhi and Dehradun. A part from three years in the UK, he has spent all his life in India, and now lives in Mussoorie with his adopted family.

**Q.1.** Write a critical summary of “The Prospect of Flowers”.

**or**

Discuss the theme of “The Prospect of Flowers”.

**Ans.** ‘The Prospect of Flowers’ is a collection of short stories written by Indian author, Ruskin Bond. There are a total of eleven stories. The story is not that length but it delves into some of the prominent themes of life that persist in the Himalayan towns and villages.

As the story opens, the author subtly regrets the loss of time. He mentions there was wonderful colonial time with lot of mansions built in the hill station by the British people to save themselves from the searing heat of the plains. One such place was Mussoorie.

But now all those big mansions that once reflected the glory of opulence and comfort now lie in abeyance. Now, no one lives there. They have been deserted by their inhabitants. Probably, one strong reason is that India became an independent country. In The Prospect of Flowers, the narration changes between first person and third person throughout the stories. Both the narrations are a statement to the author’s capability as a story teller. From Binya’s fanciful love for a blue umbrella to Anil’s very endearing love for flowers and greetings, there is a sweetness and undeniable appeal to Ruskin Bond’s characters. From the tone of their dialogues to the interaction with other characters, the stories make us smile time and again and in turn also make us tear if when the need calls for it.

No doubt, “The Prospect of Flowers” is a short story collection with which one can easily fall in love with which one can easily fall in love with most of the stories have simpleton characters who go about doing their daily chores in the beautiful mountain folds. It is more like a memoir of Bond who spent a lot of his years in the Himalaya region.

### SHORT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q.1.** Who is Ruskin Bond?

**Ans.** Ruskin Bond is a famous contemporary Indian writer of British descent. He wrote many books for the children.

**Q.2.** Who wrote “The Prospect of Flowers”?

**Ans.** Ruskin Bond.

**Q.3.** What is the theme of “The Prospect of Flowers”?

**Ans.** The main theme of the story of “The Prospect of Flowers” is the nostalgic feelings of the author.

**Q.4.** Where was Ruskin Bond born?

**Ans.** Kasauli, May 19, 1934

**Q.5.** Who were the parents of Ruskin Bond?

**Ans.** Edith Clarke and Aubrey Bond.

### OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Q.1.** Who is Ruskin Bond?

(a) An Indian Author

(b) A Journalist

(c) A painter

(d) None

**Ans.** (a) An Indian Author

**Q.2.** Which sort of play is “The Prospect of Flowers”?

- (a) a novel
- (b) a diame
- (c) a short story
- (d) None

**Ans.** (c) a short story

**Q.3.** The Prospect of Flowers’ deals with:

- (a) Present situation
- (b) Past memories and events
- (c) Failure happenings
- (d) None

**Ans.** Past memories and events

**Q.4.** Which award is given to Ruskin Bond?

- (a) Bharat Ratan
- (b) Booker Prize
- (c) Sahitya Academi Award
- (d) None

**Ans.** (c) Sahitya Akademi Award.

**Q.5.** Ruskin Bond belongs to :

- (a) Indian Writer in English
- (b) British English
- (c) American Literature
- (d) None

**Ans.** Indian Writing in English

### VOCABULARY

**Q.1.** Write the meanings of the given words and classify them as

**Noun, verb, adjective, adverb**

Prospect, lengthy, Theme, Delve, persist, wonderful, colonial, Mansion Probably, Descent, Nostalgia, Simpleton, CHORE, Fold,

**Ans.**

PROSPECT	.....	LENGTHY	.....
THEME	.....	DELVE	.....
PERSIST	.....	WONDERFUL	.....
COLONIAL	.....	MANSION	.....
PROBABLY	.....	DESCENT	.....
NOSTALGIA	.....	SIMPLETON	.....
CHORE	.....	FOLD	.....
CONTEMPORARY	.....		

### Important Questions for Examination

- Q1.** Write a critical summary of the Prospect of Flowers.
- Q2.** Who is Ruskin Bond?
- Q3.** What is the theme of “The Prospect of Flowers”?
- Q4.** Who were the parents of Ruskin Bond?
- Q5.** What is the message of “The Prospect of Flowers”?

## TOPIC 2 : AN ATROLOGER'S DAY- R.K. NARAYAN

Read the following text carefully:

The short story "An Astrologer's Day" by R. K. Narayan (Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami) follows a man posing as an astrologer meeting the man he once tried to kill. Originally published in Hindi, the piece, along with twenty-nine other short stories by Narayan, was first published in English in 1947.

The short story contains strong themes that are apparent through Narayan's creative work, including deception, revenge, and the ironies of life. "An Astrologer's Day" combines suspense, realism, and thriller genres.

The third-person, omniscient narrator begins by describing a day in the life of an astrologer. As opposed to astronomers who are scientists by training and study the physical properties of the universe, astrologers follow the pseudo-science of predicting the future based on the speculative motions of the stars, moons, and other planets.

The astrologer lays out all of his professional equipment, including Ancient Syrian writing and enigmatic cloth charts. Many people mistake the piercing glare of his eyes for intelligence and the rare ability to tell the future, but really, he is just really good at looking for gullible customers. He also uses makeup and a turban on his head to make himself appear more mystical and thus a quality source for prophecies; no one can reliably recognize him.

The astrologer sells prophecies in a busy market with low-quality facilities. The dingy lights, often powered by gas, cast a mysterious quality on the astrologer. The narrator notes that the astrologer cannot really tell the future, but he is good at reading people and telling them whatever it is they want to hear; in fact, it only takes him five minutes to deduce if the individual is having issues with love or money. He knows there are certain vague statements that will stroke the ego of any individual: "Is there a female who dislikes you?" "You are not being justly rewarded for your work." "People find you intimidating, though you are kind on the inside." As this is a service, the narrator casts no judgement on the astrologer for what he does for a living all of his male ancestors. It is also hinted that he is running away from one of his misdeeds. To escape his fate, he travels by foot to a city more than two hundred miles away.

One day, the astrologer starts to pack up at the end of the day, because the neighbouring nuts stand has turned off the green light for the day; the green light was a vital part of his act. Before he leaves, a stranger accosts him, saying that he is not a real astrologer.

The astrologer says he only charges pennies per question. The man pulls out the equivalent of a dollar and says he has some questions for the astrologer; if he answers correctly, he can keep the dollar. The astrologer bargains for a higher price, and the deal begins.

The stranger smokes while the astrologer begins his process. The stranger is clearly aggressive and rude. The astrologer figures it has been a long day, and the challenge is not worth the money. He tells the stranger to come back another time, but the stranger physically restrains him, and tells the astrologer to answer yes or no: should the stranger continue with his current quest? The astrologer insists on a few incantations and thinks about the man's situation. He then asks if the man has ever been left for dead; he has. The astrology asks if it was a knife. The stranger, with increasing amazement, reveals scar left on his chest by a blade.

The astrologer then says that the man was left for dead after being pushed into a well. This turns out to be true. The stranger, amazed, asks when he should get his revenge on the



R.K. Astrologer Day

person who assaulted him. The astrologer then calls his name-Guru Nayak—and says that the man he seeks vengeance against died four months ago. Nayak is amazed—there is no way the astrologer could have known his name. The astrologer replies, simply, that he knows many things.

The astrologer warns Nayak to never journey south of this village. If he does so, he will surely be killed. But if he goes home, which is a forty eight-hour train ride north, then Nayak can live well into old age.

Nayak says that will not be a problem. He only journeyed south to murder this individual. The only thing he regrets is that he could not have made the man's death more gruesome. Fortunate, the astrologer says he was crushed under a bus-it was, in fact a terrifying death. Nayak is pleased by this news.

The astrologer picks up his things and heads home. He is late, and his wife is angry at his tardiness. But then he hands her the large bag of coins that he procured from Nayak. She is thrilled by the good fortune.

After a nice dinner, the astrologer confesses to his wife that long ago, when he was a teenager, he was the one who pushed Nayak down the well and left him to die. The two had been gambling and drinking: they got into a huge fight at the end, and in a fit of rage, the astrologer stuck a knife into Nayak and threw him down a well. But now that he knows Nayak did not die, the astrology feels that he can sleep with a lie now.

### Short Questions and Answers

**Q1.** Who is R.K. Narayan?

**Ans.** R.K. Narayan is an outstanding writer of Indian writing in English.

**Q2.** Write one honor which was conferred on R.K. Narayan.

**Ans.** He was nominated to Rajya Sabha.

**Q3.** What is the moral of the story “An Astrologer’s Day”?

**Ans.** One lesson to be learned from “An Astrologer’s Day” is that there are many poor and ignorant underprivileged people who have hidden talents which can blossom if their circumstances change.

**Q4.** Who is the hero of “An Astrologer’s Day”?

**Ans.** Astrologer. He is a layman. He has become an astrologer by virtue of his acumen as he is smart in understanding common value of the people. In the beginning, he was simply a vendor.

**Q5.** Can you name some famous works of Narayan?

**Ans.** Some famous works of Narayan are:

1. Swami and Friends
2. The Bachelor of Arts
3. The English Teacher.

**Long Question and Answer**

**Q1.** Write a critical summary of “An Astrologer’s Day”?

**or**

Theme of ‘An Astrologer’s Day’.

**Ans.** An Astrologer’s Day is a famous short story written by R.K. Narayan. It is a thriller and is full of suspense. It was the first chapter of the world famous collection of stories Malgudi Days which was later telecasted on television in 2006.

Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayana Swami (1906-2001) was an outstanding personality of Indian writing in English. He is known for his works set in the fictional South Indian town of Malgudi. He was a leading author of early Indian literature in English along with Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao Narayan highlights the social content and everyday life of his characters. In a career that scanned over duty years, he got several Awards and honours. He was also nominated to the Rajya Sabha. His famous work are:

- (a) Swami and Friends
- (b) The Bachelor
- (c) The English Teacher.

There are a couple of telling features of An Astrologer’s Day. They are:

The hero of the story is a gambler, who is ignorant of his own failure has become an astrologer.

The writer reveals how the only qualification needed to be an astrologer in India is rustic outfits, a duty look, a long and filthy hair, and a good acuman.

The so-called astrologer is ruining his show on the basis of observation of human nature along with a presence of mind.

On the other hand, the main themes of the story are:

- (a) Irony of fate
- (b) Religion and blind faith
- (c) Crime and punishment
- (d) Human Greed
- (e) Karma (Tit for tat).

Therefore, it is clear that “An Astrologer” Day’ is a simple short. It is full for, and irony. In the story, R.K. Narayan how a gambler and murderer becomes an astrologer and enjoys his profession as well.

**Objective Questions and Answers**

**Q1.** Who is R.K. Narayan?

- (a) a famous European actor
- (b) a famous writer of Indian writing in English
- (c) an American dramatist.
- (d) None

**Ans.** (c) a famous writer of Indian writing in English

**Q2.** How many years Narayan Wrote?

- (a) 40 years
- (b) 50 years

- (c) 55 years  
 (d) Over 60 years.

**Ans.** Over 60 years.

**Q3.** Who wrote An Astrologer's Day?

- (a) Mulk Raj Anand.  
 (b) Raja Rao  
 (c) R.K. Narayan  
 (d) J.L. Nehru.

**Ans.** (c) R.K. Narayan.

**Q4.** Which sort of write up is "An Astrologer's Day"?

- (a) Drama  
 (b) Poem  
 (c) Fiction  
 (d) None

**Ans.** (c) Fiction

**Q5.** What is theme of An Astrologer's Day?

- (a) Fate can be changed  
 (b) Fate cannot be changed  
 (c) We are helpless before fate.  
 (d) We are scapegoat of fate.

**Ans.** (a) Fate can be changed.

**Q6.** What is the main theme of "An Astrologer's Day"?

**Ans.** The main theme of "An astrologer's Day" is fear, freedom, appearance, desperation, guilt, and a sense of relief.

**Q7.** From, which book "An astrologer's Day" is taken?

**Ans.** An Astrologer's Day" is taken from R.K. Narayan's famous work-Malgudi Days. Malgudi Days is a collection of stories narrated in the third person by an unnamed narrator.

### Assignment

**Q1.** Write the meaning of given words and density them as noun, verb, adjective, and adverb.

- |                |                  |                 |             |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| (a) Astrologer | (b) Theme        | (c) Irony       | (d) Fate    |
| (e) Reveal     | (f) Filthy       | (g) Rustic      | (h) Acuman  |
| (i) Presence   | (j) Thriller     | (k) Suspense    | (l) Telling |
| (m) Ignorant   | (n) Circumstance | (o) outstanding | (p) Coax    |
| (q) Cuddle     | (r) Curt         |                 |             |

### Important Questions For Examination

1. Write a critical summary of "An Astrologer's Day"?
2. What is the theme of the story?
3. From which book this story is taken?
4. Who is the hero of "An Astrologer's Day"?
5. Who is R.K. Narayan?

# English and Communication Skills-II

For Second Semester Diploma Students

*As per AICTE Curriculum for Diploma Students*

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### ABOUT THE BOOK

This book English and Communication Skills-II has been written as per AICTE curriculum for the Diploma Students, for their second semester course.

The term "Communication" has been derived from the Greek word "Communis", which means 'to share'. It is concerned with the ways, we make others to know or to understand our opinions, feelings, informations etc. This may be done by our speech, writing or body movement.

Communication Skills means Communication Skills in English. You have got to improve your English, as English is the medium of instruction in technical studies.

English is an international language. It is spoken all over the world. It is key to the world's learning and culture. So, if you want to work internationally, you will have to a fair knowledge of English.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Dr. Azam Eqbal is a Sr. Lecturer cum In-charge of Department of English, Al-Kabir Polytechnic, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand, India. He has been teaching communicative English for the last 12 years to diploma level students. He is the author of two successful books i.e., Communication Skills-I for First Semester & Communication Skills-II for Second Semester for Jharkhand University of Technology, Ranchi, for Diploma in Engineering Courses under the VIRAM Series of Khanna Publishers, Delhi, India.

His teaching and writing style is simple and lucid. So students understand his English in a better way and get good marks. This is going to be the U.S.P. (Unique Selling Proposition) of this book, English and Communication Skills-II, on Uttarakhand as well.

Dr. Azam Eqbal is MA & PhD in English from Patna University, Patna. He has done his PhD under Dr. S.K. Sinha, HOD, Department of English, Patna College, Patna University, Patna. The topic of his research is "American Dream and Family Values". He has also done a course of NPTL on "Enhancing Soft Skills and Personality Development" from IIT, Kanpur.

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