

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 300

INSTRUCTIONS

Candidates should attempt ALL questions.

The number of marks carried by each question is indicated at the end of the question.

Answers must be written in ENGLISH.

Summaries (Q. No. 3) must be attempted only on the special sheets provided for the purpose. These sheets will be provided in the examination hall.

You must not disclose your identity in any of your answers in any way.

Important Note

All parts/sub-parts of a question being attempted are to be answered contiguously on the answer-book. That is, where a question is being attempted, all its constituent parts/sub-parts must be answered before moving on to the next question.

Pages left blank, if any, in the answer-book(s) must be clearly struck out. Answers that follow pages left blank may not be given credit.

1. Write an essay, in about 800 to 1000 words, on any one of the following topics : 100
 - (a) Implications of genetic modification of plants for the environment
 - (b) History and culture cannot be divorced
 - (c) The role of spiritual leaders in social transformation
 - (d) The propriety of immunities and privileges in a true democracy

2. (a) Write a letter to the Head of the Irrigation Department of your region, saying that the irrigation facilities in your area are not adequate and that the actual green forest area is shrinking because of this. Make a strong appeal to him/her with suggested urgent steps to improve the situation.

25

(b) Write a letter to the Editor of a leading national daily newspaper, giving your views on inappropriate pictures and photographs published in newspapers and magazines these days. Make some positive suggestions.

25

3. Write summaries of the following two passages in about one-third of each original passage. Give a suitable title for each which will carry 5 marks. Summaries that do not reasonably conform to the expected word limit will be appropriately penalised. The summaries must be written on the **special sheets** provided for the purpose and then these sheets should be carefully fastened inside the answer-book. The exact number of words used in the summary must be mentioned at the end :

(a) If one were to list a few among the major non-traditional threats confronting many nations today, these would be : Water, Food, Energy, Migration and Land. Considering that the world population is set to increase to 8 billion by 2025 and 10 billion by 2100, one can

imagine the enormous magnitude of the problem. The 'stress' on each of the areas will be extremely serious and each of the impacted nations will certainly initiate measures to safeguard their interests, which include their way of life, living standards, economic advantages, etc. For example, the consequences of unplanned and uncontrolled migration of millions of people from Bangladesh into India—as they can go nowhere else equally easily—as rising waters submerge their land, are unimaginable. Competition, possibly accompanied by bloody civil strife, appears inevitable unless preventive steps are initiated now.

The most important of these scarce resources, in my opinion, is water. And water is becoming an increasingly scarce commodity. It is the water of the rivers and freshwater lakes that is the vital resource. Water is the source of sustenance for mankind and something no human can do without for more than a couple of days. It is essential for food, energy and transportation.

(about 203 words) 40

- (b) Indology began with Sir William Jones' observation in 1784 that Sanskrit and European languages were related. Jones was a capable linguist but he was also responsible for interpreting Indian law and customs to his employers, the British East India Company. This dual

role of Indologists as scholars as well as interpreters of India continued well into the 20th century.

The Indologists' role as interpreters of India ended with Independence in 1947, but many academic Indologists, especially in the West, failed to see it. They continued to get students from India, which seems to have lulled them into believing that it would be business as usual. But today, six decades later, Indian immigrants and persons of Indian origin occupy influential positions in business, industry and now in the governments in the US and the UK. They are now part of the establishment in their adopted lands. No one in the West today looks to Indology departments for advice on matters relating to India when they can get it from their next-door neighbour.

(171 words) 35

4. (a) Rewrite the following sentences after correcting them. Make only the minimum possible correction in each case without changing the meaning of the sentence. Where there are no corrections, rewrite the sentence(s) as it is/as they are : $1 \times 10 = 10$

(i) History tells to us that we have learnt nothing from history.

(ii) The manager will now try to make his executives to wind up their business within half an hour now.

- (iii) I simply do not understand why should I please everybody in the office.
- (iv) Robert always mistook Julie as her cousin Martha.
- (v) Since he had no money with him that day, he had to face a humiliating situation.
- (vi) One of the crucial factors were neglected from the very beginning.
- (vii) Uncle Rakesh has invited us to discuss the issue Friday.
- (viii) He is an idle worker as he takes a full day to complete an hour's job.
- (ix) Mother will not accept the gift nor she will allow you to accept it.
- (x) Ravindran would not have taken the step if he would not have been facing a minor crisis.

(b) Make sentences using the following pairs of words in such a way that the meaning of each word is clear in the context : 2×5=10

- (i) sink, drown
- (ii) calender, calendar
- (iii) dose, doze
- (iv) foul, fowl
- (v) decease, disease

(c) Use the following idiomatic expressions
in your sentences meaningfully : $2 \times 5 = 10$

(i) A blue-eyed boy

(ii) An Achilles' heel

(iii) Fool's paradise

(iv) An uphill task

(v) A moot point

(d) Rewrite the following sentences as
directed : $2 \times 5 = 10$

(i) Jagdish is the best player of the
team.

(Make it a positive degree
sentence without changing
the meaning)

(ii) Do not let the poor be neglected.

(Change the voice)

(iii) Iqbal knew that he would fail. He
was not shocked when he saw the
result.

(Combine the two sentences
into a complex one)

(iv) The condition of the patient started
improving as soon as he started the
new treatment.

(Use the 'no sooner
than' form)

(v) "Let us go outside and play some
interesting game now", said Harish.

(Change the narration)

5. (a) Form verbs from the following : $1 \times 5 = 5$

- (i) weight
- (ii) food
- (iii) renunciation
- (iv) recession
- (v) seizure

(b) Write the negative forms of the following : $1 \times 5 = 5$

- (i) mature
- (ii) continue
- (iii) gratitude
- (iv) patience
- (v) reverence

(c) Complete the following sentences by filling in appropriate words in the blanks (only one word in each blank) : $1 \times 5 = 5$

- (i) He did not know in the least — he was being praised so loudly.
- (ii) The boy's only fault was — he did not understand the language of the guest.
- (iii) Do not — the mistake of calling him names.
- (iv) We may sit and discuss the issue — the table.
- (v) Monica wondered — there was in store for her.

(d) Write the past participle forms (third forms) of the following verbs : $1 \times 10 = 10$

- (i) swing
- (ii) telecast
- (iii) become
- (iv) buy
- (v) slay
- (vi) portray
- (vii) seek
- (viii) rebut
- (ix) shine
- (x) submit

(e) Read the following passage carefully. Ten words in this passage have been incorrectly spelt. Rewrite the passage correcting all the spelling errors. Underline the words the spellings of which have been corrected : 10

Man is the most priviledged child of nature. With his wide awake sixth sence he can happily reminice and comfortably foursee the approching events if he so desires. It is only in temporary confusion of perception that he sees two parrellel lines meeting in the distance or a tempting mirrage in the middle of parched lands ahead of him. With a pure heart and sereene mind he can easily distinguish between the truth and the halucinations. However, he has constantly to guard himself against all obfuscrating temptations.

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