

## General English

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 100

*Marks are indicated against each question.*

1. Write a precis of the following passage in about 80 words and add a suitable title to it: 15+5=20

In trying to solve the terrifying problems that face us in the world today, we naturally turn to the things we do best. We play from strength, and our strength is science and technology. To contain a population explosion, we look for better methods of birth control. Threatened by a nuclear holocaust, we build bigger deterrent forces and anti-ballistic-missile systems. We try to stave off world famine with new foods and better ways of growing them. Improved sanitation and medicine will, we hope, control disease, better housing and transportation will solve the problems of the ghettos, and new ways of disposing of waste will stop the pollution of the environment. We can point to remarkable achievements in all these fields, and it is not surprising that we should try to extend them. But things grow steadily worse, and it is disheartening to find that technology itself is increasingly at fault. Sanitation and medicine have made the problems of population more acute, war has acquired a new horror with the invention of nuclear weapons, and the affluent pursuit of happiness is largely responsible for pollution. In fact, every progress has been made at the expense of some damage to our environment. We must repair the damage before all is lost. The application of science and technology alone will not solve our problems because the solutions lie in another field. Better contraceptives will control population only if people use them. New weapons may offset new defences and vice versa, but a nuclear holocaust can be prevented only if the conditions under which nations make war can be changed. New methods of

agriculture and medicine will not help if they are not practised. Overcrowding can be corrected only by inducing people not to crowd, and the environment will continue to deteriorate until polluting practices are abandoned.

2. (a) Write a letter to your father describing how you expect to fare in the coming BPSC examination. 20

Or

- (b) Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper stating the difficulties caused by the shortage of small coins.

(Do not write your name; sign XYZ)

3. Read the passage given below and answer any **four** of the questions that follow: 5 × 4 = 20

Antractica is a large continent equal in size to Europe and Australia put together. What is remarkable about this continent is that until recently it has been completely isolated from all other continents. In spite of its size, Antarctica had its first temporary year-round inhabitants in the latter half of the present century. Although the technological progress since the second world war has now made safe access to the continent possible, it is still not fully explored. But despite the severe cold, it is being studied and more and more information is becoming available.

Explorers and scientists go to this continent to study its geology and its mineral resources, and to establish weather stations. Some go for only a year or two. However, if the ship which is their only means of transportation back to the other continents, cannot reach their base, they have to settle down to their work again and hope that the ship will be able to reach them the year after. Ninety-nine percent of this vast continent is covered with snow or ice which varies in depth from two feet to two miles. It is calculated that in all there is an area of 5,000,000 square miles covered with ice. The elevation of the continent is between six and nine thousand feet above sea level, with mountain peaks which rise even higher and its perpetual snow cover intensifies its cold polar climate.

All around Antarctica the sea freezes during winter. No ship can reach the coast except in summer, when the ice breaks up and moves with the winds and currents as ice-fields. In summer, in the northern parts near the coast, the temperature rises above freezing point. Temperatures fall further inland as one climbs to highest levels. A Russian research group settled deep inland recorded a temperature of 125° F.

It is also the first free region of the world. By an international treaty, Antarctica has been dedicated to peaceful purpose only, and this has promoted international cooperation in scientific research. This may prove the first step in internationalizing the world in future, and if it does, it would be far more significant than discovering the material and industrial potential of Antarctica.

- (a) Why didn't Antarctica have its first inhabitants until the latter half of the present century?
  - (b) What is responsible for the cold climate of Antarctica?
  - (c) When is it possible to reach the Antarctica coast?
  - (d) What is the significance of Antarctica being the first free region of the world?
  - (e) Why do scientists and explorers go to the continent?
4. Translate one of the following passages into English: 10

(a) जब मानव जीवन का विकास हुआ, उससे पहले पृथ्वी पर वनस्पति-जगत का विकास हो चुका था। तब मानव ने पेड़-पौधों से भोजन ही प्राप्त नहीं किया, उनका आश्रय भी प्राप्त किया। वह वृक्षों के तले रहता था। उनके छाल और उनके पत्तों से तन ढकता था, उनके कंदमूल और फल से वह अपनी क्षुधा शांत करता था। उनकी टहनियों और पत्तों से उसने अपने आश्रय स्थल बनाए। आग का आविष्कार होने पर उसने वृक्षों की लकड़ी जलाकर शीत से अपनी रक्षा की और भोजन की विधि में सुधार किया। कहने का तात्पर्य यह है कि आदिकाल से ही पेड़-पौधे मानव जीवन के अभिन्न अंग और उपकारी बंधु रहे हैं। पेड़-पौधों ने मानव-सभ्यता के विकास में अप्रतिम योगदान दिया है। परंतु यह विडंबना है कि आज जब मानव-सभ्यता विकास के शिखर को छू रही है, वनों का अस्तित्व अभूतपूर्व खतरे में है।

(b) कभी-कभी अचानक ही विधाता हमें ऐसे व्यक्तित्व से मिला देता है, जिसे देख स्वयं अपने जीवन की रिक्तता बहुत छोटी लगने लगती है। हमें तब लगता है कि भले ही उस अंतर्दामी ने हमें जीवन में कभी अकस्मात अकारण ही दंडित कर दिया हो, किंतु हमारे किसी अंग को विच्छिन्न कर हमें उससे वंचित तो नहीं किया। फिर भी हममें से कौन ऐसा मानव है जो अपनी विपत्ति के कठिन क्षणों में विधाता को दोषी नहीं ठहराता। मैंने अभी पिछले ही महीने, एक ऐसी अभिशप्त काया देखी है, जिसे विधाता ने कठोरतम दंड दिया है किंतु उसे वह नतमस्तक आनंदी मुद्र में झेल रही है, विधाता को कोसकर नहीं। धीरे-धीरे मेरा उससे परिचय हुआ। कहानी सुनी तो दंग रह गई।

5. Choose one of the two words given within brackets following each sentence and fill in the blank within the sentence meaningfully (any five): 1 × 5 = 5

(a) Declaration of war means.....bombing. (eminent/imminent)

- (b) The man is disliked for .....conduct. (officious/official)
- (c) The Mughal army laid.....to the fort of Rana Pratap. (seize/siege)
- (d) A noble man is never.....of other people's prosperity. (jealous/zealous)
- (e) The book has been....for our study. (prescribed/proscribed)
- (f) A lot of thinking should.....our action. (proceed/precede)
6. Frame sentences with the following (any **five**):  $2 \times 5 = 10$
- (a) By leaps and bounds                      (b) Through thick and thin
- (c) Wear and tear                              (d) Rough and tumble
- (e) Lose one's head                            (f) Keep in the dark
7. Rewrite the following passage with correct punctuation marks, using capital letters where necessary: 5
- Who is it, asked. a weak voice from inside mohan did not reply he quietly entered the room and stood beside his fathers bed his father opened his eyes and looked at the boy standing there before him hello mohan said the sick man its good to see you son how is your school work going im sorry (i cannot help you these days.
8. Rewrite the following as directed (any **five**):  $2 \times 5 = 10$
- (a) I feel ashamed of your behaviour.  
(Use 'shame' as a noun to rewrite the sentence without changing the meaning)
- (b) Mother said to me, "Why don't you help your little sister with her homework?"  
(Change into indirect speech)
- (c) Put all the clothes away.  
(Change the voice)
- (d) He is too poor to buy a warm coat for winter.  
(Change into a complex sentence)
- (e) She won the trophy. She heard the announcement. She jumped for joy.  
(Combine into one single sentence)
- (f) This is the least expensive of the two cars.  
(Correct the sentence)
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