

2017

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 150

Instructions : Attempt *all* the questions.

1. Write an essay on any **one** of the following. 20
 - (a) The Hazards of Urbanization
 - (b) Information Technology
2. Write a covering letter for the post of Sales Manager in ABC Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd. 15
3. Read the following passage and answer the questions given at the end of the passage. 1×10=10

The English language has shaped modern India's development in many ways, here are a few... First, it helped establish a link with the West in the post colonial era whereby ideas and information could be exchanged easily, especially in the realm of higher education. Subsequently this enabled members of successive generations to emigrate to developed English speaking nations as professionals thereby helping India establish a people to people link with the West which has come in very handy after the economic liberalization. India's fortunes changed radically in a very short period of time after it liberalized. This would not have been possible without the English language skills (as minimal as they might be). The fact of the matter is that possessing English skills as a young Indian today opens up a greater number of opportunities.

Being proficient in one language doesn't necessarily mean that the other is any less important. The fact is that multi-lingualism is very much possible as we see in Europe. In India however this problem exists because

of a complicated inferiority complex (which I'm sure is heavily influenced by the colonial past) and the fact that the Indian society itself is extremely hierarchical in nature, where people constantly want to promote their social standing on the basis of caste, skin colour, language, Western lifestyle or whatever else comes handy. This however has nothing to do with the English language itself. The second thing to remember is that English is the common language for science and technology which makes it inherently progressive thereby attracting the youth from less progressive cultures, but here again, parental guidance comes into play which can help to bring about a balance.

Despite all the aping, I don't think the Indian society has a good understanding of Western culture, nor has it actually absorbed Western attributes in significant measure. The imitation is limited to superficial and superfluous things fuelled primarily by silly stereotyping; the two cultures however even now remain poles apart. It just so happens however that the West has become synonymous with modernity/progress/advancement and most of all – a higher standard of living. This is what most Indians seek to emulate (this is true even for people from any other underdeveloped nation/society). Again, I don't think that English per se is responsible for this; rather it is the stagnation of the Indian society and the abysmal standard of living which has people running away. But as we see in the case of Japan and South Korea, this can be addressed.

From a purely linguistics aspect, I have always felt that the most important factor is language proficiency; what language you speak is almost irrelevant. Mastery of a language is highly correlative with reading and writing, and this in turn has a huge impact upon the intellectual development of a person, which at the end of the day is a ticket to productivity. Even in India, there is a fair share of intellectuals or even professionals graduating from high end universities like IIT, IIM, medical schools, etc. who did their primary education in regional languages without suffering any setbacks. In my experience, most of these individuals are highly proficient with their regional language. I have observed the same thing on a global scale also in the USA. There are oodles of intellectuals,

scientists, successful professionals, etc. who come here from all over the world for whom English isn't the first or the strongest language; but despite that, their intellect or productivity is never really in question.

The advantages of knowing the English language far outweigh the disadvantages. There is no reason why Indian children cannot grow up to be multi-lingual, provided they're confident about their identity.

- (a) Which aspect of modern India is favourably influenced by the English language ?
- (b) What enabled some Indians to emigrate to the developed countries ?
- (c) How does English help the youth of India today ?
- (d) What is the impact of colonial rule on some Indians ?
- (e) How do some people in India misuse their knowledge of the English language ?
- (f) Why is English considered a progressive language ?
- (g) Why are people from underdeveloped countries attracted to the West ?
- (h) What according to the passage is the way to productivity ?
- (i) What makes some Indians run away from their country ?
- (j) What language does the passage recommend to the Indian children ?

4. Read the passage given below and make a précis of it by reducing it to one-third of its original length. Give an appropriate title to the passage. 15

Probably the most worrying threat to our planet at the present time is global warming. The predominant factors resulting in the warming of the earth are the emissions of CO₂ and deforestation. CO₂, which damages the ozone layer, comes from several sources, but the most problematic are those coming from the burning of fossil fuels from power plants. This releases thousands of tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere every year. Another cause of these emissions is the burning of gasoline for transportation, which continues to grow because of our demand for cars and also our

increasing worldwide consumption, resulting in an escalating need to transport goods. Also, forests store large amounts of carbon, so deforestation is causing larger amounts of CO₂ to remain in the atmosphere.

Nevertheless, there are potential ways to solve these problems, or at least reduce the effects. Firstly, governments need to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and promote alternatives. Plant-derived plastics, biodiesel, wind power and solar power are all things that are a step in the right direction, but governments need to enforce the limits on CO₂ emissions for the polluting industries in their countries for these to be effective. Also, individuals can play a part by making lifestyle changes. People should try to buy cars with the best fuel economy, and only use their car when really necessary. They can also switch to energy companies that use renewable energy rather than fossil fuels. Finally, small things like buying energy efficient light bulbs, turning off electricity in the house, and planting trees in the garden can help. To conclude, although global warming is a serious issue, there are steps that governments and individuals can take to reduce its effects. If we are to save our planet, it is important that this is treated as a priority for all concerned.

5. Identify the **part of speech** of the underlined words in the following sentences.

1×5=5

- (a) A true friend is one who overlooks your failures and tolerates your success.
- (b) A true friend is one who is not envious of your success.
- (c) I would rather walk with a friend in the dark, than alone in the light.
- (d) The best way of defeating enemies is to make them friends.
- (e) A friend may be waiting behind a stranger's face.

6. Fill the blanks in the following sentences with **correct forms of the verbs**. *1×10=10*

- (a) He _____ just _____ (arrive) from America.
- (b) I _____ (meet) him for the first time in 2010.
- (c) My son _____ (ask) for a motor cycle since the time he passed his SSC.
- (d) By this time next year I _____ (work) in a government office.
- (e) By the time I went to the meeting, the chief guest _____ (start) his speech.
- (f) Phosphorus burns if it _____ (expose) to air.
- (g) If you request him, he _____ (help) you.
- (h) If I were the Chief Minister, I _____ (abolish) liquor.
- (i) If my father had money, he _____ (admit) me in medicine.
- (j) If I do not get a job this year, I _____ (start) a business.

7. Change the following sentences **as** directed without changing the meaning. *2×10=20*

- (a) Rash driving causes many accidents. (change the voice)
- (b) Call the police immediately. (change the voice)
- (c) My teacher was pleased with my performance in the examination.
(change the voice)
- (d) Why did the principal scold him ? (change the voice)
- (e) Who informed the boss about my absence ? (change the voice)
- (f) I do not understand what you mean by your statement.
(change into a simple sentence)
- (g) He can prove his innocence. (change into a complex sentence)
- (h) Good students need not fear punishment.
(change into a compound sentence)
- (i) He cannot read without wearing glasses.
(change into a complex sentence)
- (j) The volume of work is so much that it cannot be done by one man.
(change into a simple sentence)

8. Fill the blanks in the following sentences with appropriate **articles**. $1 \times 5 = 5$
- (a) This is ____ pen I bought in Hyderabad.
 - (b) Amaravathi, the capital of Andhra Pradesh is _____ historic Buddhist site.
 - (c) My classmate is going on _____ expedition to Mansarovar.
 - (d) He is one of _____ five players selected from our college for the university team.
 - (e) Whatever _____ little money she had, she spent on her son's education.
9. Fill the blanks in the following sentences with appropriate **prepositions**. $1 \times 5 = 5$
- (a) I am entrusted _____ the responsibility of looking after our business during my father's travel abroad.
 - (b) Examinations act as an incentive _____ diligence.
 - (c) Today it is very difficult to get a job unless one is very good _____ English.
 - (d) It is very hot in the day but quite cold _____ night.
 - (e) As he fell _____ debt, he decided to sell his house and live in a small hut.
10. Correct the following sentences without changing the meaning. $2 \times 10 = 20$
- (a) Honest man is the noblest work of God.
 - (b) I do not like neither of the movies.
 - (c) I have been waiting for you since a long time.
 - (d) I will come to your house unless it does not rain.
 - (e) If you invited him, he would have come.
 - (f) I am sorry that I could not be able to come to your birthday party.
 - (g) My father joined me in engineering against my will.
 - (h) I am shocked by the utter ignorance of the educated youth about the history of our country.
 - (i) Of the two candidates, the second is the best.
 - (j) I do not understand why are you neglecting your studies.

11. Make sentences using the following **idiomatic expressions**. Your sentence should bring out the meaning of the idiomatic expression clearly. 1×5=5
- (a) hot potato
 - (b) cut corners
 - (c) hit the sack
 - (d) go Dutch
 - (e) call off
12. Write **one word substitutes** to the following expressions. 1×5=5
- (a) A plan of a journey, including the route and the places that you visit
 - (b) An imaginary place or state in which everything is perfect
 - (c) A large building in which aircraft are kept
 - (d) The hobby of collecting postal stamps
 - (e) Mode of behaviour or way of thought peculiar to an individual
13. Write the **synonyms** of the following words. 1×5=5
- (a) haggle
 - (b) remote
 - (c) candid
 - (d) intimidate
 - (e) generic
14. Write **antonyms** of the following words. 1×5=5
- (a) amicable
 - (b) dearth
 - (c) ally
 - (d) virtue
 - (e) authentic

15. Make sentences with the following **pairs of words**, clearly bringing out the difference in meaning between the two words. 1×5=5

- (a) career – carrier
- (b) pedal – peddle
- (c) hoard – horde
- (d) desert – dessert
- (e) compliment – complement

