

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Time : 2:00 Hours

Full Marks : 80

ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS

A. Write an essay in about 600 words on any one of the following topics

(Marks : 15)

- 1) If wishes were horses...
- 2) Reading in the age of the digital.
- 3) Science, without the Humanities.
- 4) A nightmare that came true.
- 5) The joys of window shopping.

B. Attempt an unplagiarized precis of the following passage in approximately one-third of its original length.

(Marks : 10)

Well into the seventeenth century London's Muscovy Company would continue to trade with the Tsar's territories and to encourage Arctic exploration. The idea that English would be permitted to open their own sea route to the East proved to be might persistent. It needs to be emphasized that when the East India Company was founded it was by no means a foregone conclusion that its ships would always be sailing East, nor, for that matter, that they would ever be going to India.

How the Company's ships were to get to the India was upto them. But if the northern corridor proved elusive, disappointment only served to strengthen an even more fundamental conviction - that somehow or other a share of world trade would nonetheless fall to the English. Wherever English shipping called, the argument for free trade would be vigorously rehearsed. Queen Elizabeth I's letter to the Princes of the Eastern nations was clear on this matter. Those nations who had an abundance of riches should trade with everybody so that the trade in commodities benefited everyone. Some countries like Spain and Portugal prohibited multilateral exchange and insisted on exclusive trading rights. Any Eastern Prince who traded with only one European nation must expect a degree of political subordination to that nation, she said.

C. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

(Marks : 10)

It was the lure of wealth that brought Englishmen to India, the land of the boiling sun and scorching wind. With secure incomes, they took to lives of ease and luxury, in tune with the ostentatious lifestyle of the native aristocracy. They employed armies of servants for the comfort of their households and to establish their prestige and status in society. The new nabob had arrived on the Indian scene.

The picture of Englishmen in eighteenth-century India emerging from travel books and tales told by travellers was that they lived in grand bungalows, surrounded by the luxuries of oriental splendour. The sahibs and memsahibs were expected to do nothing. Servants with specific duties waited on their masters. The Englishman's strongest link with the Indian world was through his servants who acquainted him with the customs and manners of the natives. Small wonder, there are numerous references to Indian servants in the literature of the period. Opinions about servants' character, honesty and loyalty differ but the common feeling was that good masters invariably managed to have good servants.

The large retinue of servants had strict division of labour : each servant was employed for a specific task compatible with his caste functions. Besides, each servant had an assistant as per the established custom. Yet, the large number in the employ of sahibs was no dearer than the few attending on wealthy families in England. Even the most junior officer had a team of servants as the pattern of social life followed by everyone required servants to uphold the position of the masters.

An English lady's life was equally leisure-oriented and every comfort of hers was taken care of by her female servants constantly in attendance. Memsahibs after their stay in India had learnt the art of never moving from their perch if they could avoid it. They lie on a sofa, and if they drop their handkerchief, they just lower their voices and say, 'Boy!' in a very gentle tone, and then creeps in perhaps, some old wizen, skinny brownie.

For the memsahib, a servant of particular importance was the ayah who acted as a lady's maid in addition to looking after babalog or children. Often one ayah was engaged for each child. Her attachment to the mistress was proverbial, and love for the children a byword of oriental loyalty.

1. The English in India with their many servants lived a lifestyle that was similar to ...
 - a) The native aristocrats
 - b) The working class in England
 - c) The clergy in India
 - d) The merchant class in England
 - e) The clergy in England
2. Where did the Englishmen obtain knowledge about native customs from ?
 - a) His English bosses
 - b) Instruction books
 - c) His native servants
 - d) His wife
 - e) His English education
3. The loyalty of which class of native servants was often a byword among the English ?
 - a) The cook
 - b) The washerman
 - c) The gatekeeper
 - d) The bearer
 - e) The ayah
4. According to the passage, what was the "art" acquired by the Memsahib in India as a result of having many servants ?
 - a) Painting
 - b) Laziness
 - c) Music
 - d) Quarrelling
 - e) Singing

5. The servants in the English household had their duties allotted based on their
- Abilities
 - Interests
 - Likes
 - Caste
 - Religion
6. "The picture of Englishmen in eighteenth-century India emerging from travel books and tales" ...
The term 'picture' in the above sentence means...
- A painting of the Englishmen
 - A sketchbook about Englishmen
 - A description of Englishmen
 - A photograph of Englishmen
 - A diary of Englishmen
7. What, according to the passage, brought the Englishmen to India ?
- The bright sun
 - The hot wind
 - The chances for hunting
 - The bungalows
 - The opportunity for wealth
8. In addition to performing the household jobs, the native servants in the English home were also supposed to ...
- Go to the market
 - Play some sport
 - Uphold the Englishman's status
 - Join the army
 - Start a business
9. The word 'retinue', as used in the above passage, means...
- Team
 - To retain
 - Something to do with the eye
 - To continue
 - To return
10. What is the employment of a large number of servants in the sahib's house in India compared within the passage ?
- Employment of a few servants in wealthy houses in England.
 - Employment of very dear servants in India.
 - Employment of relatives in households in England.
 - Employment of women servants in India.
 - Employment of large number of servants in wealthy in England.

D. Write a paragraph on one of the following :

(Marks : 10)

- 1) "Variety is the spice of life" Expand the idea with suitable illustrations.
- 2) In a play, a character says, "Frailty, thy name is woman". Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Discuss.
- 3) Abraham Lincoln defined democracy as : a Government of the people, by the people, for the people. Do you think that the present democracies fulfill those basic characteristics ? Discuss.
- 4) "History is almost always written by the victors and conquerors and gives their view," says Jawaharlal Nehru. Give illustration to prove that Nehru is right in saying that.
- 5) "Practice makes man Perfect" Expand the idea with examples.

E. You are applying for the post of academic assistant in the Department of English in an Engineering college that was advertised in The Hindu on 12th September. The advertisement was issued by Balaji Rao, Correspondent, S V Engineering College, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. In your application-

Explain why you are writing

(Marks : 15)

Describe your qualifications and experience

Explain how they can contact you

F. You have planned a seven week course for the children of your Housing society complex in developing their communicative skills. Prepare a notice to the society's notice board, stating the objectives of the course and give all necessary details, asking the people to join the course. Mention the eligibility, timing, venue and the fees. Inform that all those who take up the course will be given certificates and prizes will be there for the meritorious students. You are Sidhhartha Murthy, an effective communicator and member of the society.

(Marks : 10)

G. Do as directed.

(Marks : 10)

a) Find the SYNONYM for the underlined word in the following sentence :

After acquiring wealth, he began to lead a really ostentatious lifestyle.

- (i) Showy
- (ii) Sad
- (iii) Dull
- (iv) Violent

b) Find the SYNONYM for the underlined word in the following sentence :

Since she always tries to find the best in people, she can be described as credulous.

- (i) Disbelieving
- (ii) Pleasant
- (iii) Ill-mannered
- (iv) Gullible
- (v) Unhappy

c) Find the ANTONYM for the underlined word in the following sentence :

In today's times, as soon as we buy a technological gadget, it becomes obsolete and spare parts become more expensive as a result.

- (i) Fashionable
- (ii) Contemporary
- (iii) Unwieldy
- (iv) Destructive
- (v) Useful

d) Find the ANTONYM for the underlined word in the following sentence :

The members were upset at the peremptory manner in which the Chairman concluded the meeting.

- (i) Bossy
- (ii) Decisive
- (iii) Threatening
- (iv) Docile
- (v) Aggressive

e) Which of the following sentences is grammatically correct ?

- (i) May the best man win.
- (ii) May a best man win.
- (iii) May any best man win.
- (iv) May all best man win.
- (v) May an best man win.

f) In the following sentence what does the underlined idiomatic expression mean ?

He left his job under a cloud due to the charges of corruption against him.

- (i) With prestige
- (ii) In a dreamy state
- (iii) In bad weather
- (iv) In a bad mood
- (v) In disgrace

g) Use the correct word or words to fill the blanks in the following sentence :

People these days _____ more time online than offline.

- (i) Spent
- (ii) Spending
- (iii) Spend
- (iv) Will have spend
- (v) Will be spent

h) Use the correct word or words to fill the blanks in the following sentence :

How many times _____ you to shut the refrigerator door firmly ?

- (i) Have I told
- (ii) Have I tell
- (iii) Have told
- (iv) I tell you
- (v) I told you

i) Use the correct word or words to fill the blanks in the following sentence :

The Dollar and the Rupee _____ well-known currencies.

- (i) Is
- (ii) Are
- (iii) Were
- (iv) Be
- (v) Being

j) Which of the options has the correct order of adjective ?

- (i) A cheap, shiny, green, plastic toy.
- (ii) A shiny, plastic, shiny, cheap, green toy.
- (iii) A plastic, cheap, shiny, green toy.
- (iv) A green, shiny, plastic, cheap toy.
- (v) A cheap, plastic, shiny, green toy.