

***Question Paper of Main Examination for the post of Secretariat Assistant
(English/Hindi/Urdu) held on 18.01.2020 -Advt. No. 1/2017.***

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

MAX MARKS: 80

TIME: 2 HOURS

Note: Read the instructions, questions and marking scheme carefully.

Do not exceed the word limit.

Attempt all questions.

1. Write an essay on any **one** of the following topics in about **600 words**. **(15 Marks)**

- i. The role of social media
- ii. Sensitising men towards women's issues
- iii. The power of democracy
- iv. The healing power of music
- v. Caring for the elderly

2. Write a precis of the following passage to **one-third** of its length. Give it a suitable title. **(10 Marks)**

While 3-D printing has been around for decades, it has remained largely in the domain of hobbyists and designers producing one-off prototypes. And printing objects with anything other than plastics—in particular, metal—has been expensive and painfully slow.

Now, however, it's becoming cheap and easy enough to be a potentially practical way of manufacturing parts. If widely adopted, it could change the way we mass-produce many products. In the short term, manufacturers wouldn't need to maintain large inventories - they could simply print an object, such as a replacement part for an aging car, whenever someone needs it. In the longer term, large factories that mass-produce a limited range of parts might be replaced by smaller ones that make a wider variety, adapting to customers' changing needs.

The technology can create lighter, stronger parts, and complex shapes that aren't possible with conventional metal fabrication methods. It can also provide more precise control of the microstructure of metals. In 2017, researchers from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory announced they had developed a 3-D-printing method for creating stainless-steel parts twice as strong as traditionally made ones. The printing of metal parts is also getting easier with software that generates designs ready for 3-D printing. Users tell the program the specs of the object they want to print, and the software produces a computer model suitable for printing.

3. Write a paragraph on **any one** of the following topics in about **150 words**: **(5 Marks)**

- i. Let sleeping dogs lie
- ii. Strike while the iron is hot
- iii. Look before you leap
- iv. A stitch in time saves nine
- v. Never judge a book by its cover

4. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: **(10 Marks)**

It was a large kitchen, spacious enough to contain two cooking areas. One of these was for boiling the milk, making the tea and for all the cooking that wasn't part of the main

meal of the day. This, the lunch, was cooked in a corner which was sacrosanct – only those women who did the cooking could go near it. They sat in a sort of shallow pit, cooking on two pairs of baked-mud stoves in an arched recess which housed the chimney. Close at hand, a niche in the wall held the essentials - salt in a jar, the oil can and the spices box, wooden, dark and grimy with age. What intrigued me most were the slings hanging from the rafters, swinging lazily when touched, their strings darkened to the colour of the soot-darkened walls, in which were stored little vessels. What was in them? Anything, I imagined, that had to be kept out of the way of the cat which lay indolently near the threshold, unaware, it seemed, of the temptations overhead. Nevertheless, one sensed a canny look in its eyes, a kind of concealed energy in the furry body that made you feel it was only biding its time, waiting for the right moment to rouse itself and make a mighty spring upwards. ‘Shoo, shoo,’ each woman hissed as she daintily side-stepped the cat. The soft muted miaows it made in reply are part of the sounds of that kitchen for me, blending with the monotonous drone of women talking, the hollow sound as they blew at the fire, the thwack as they knocked two pieces of wood together to make the fire burn brighter. It seemed such a safe secure world - the vision of a child who stood outside the threshold and looked into that world.

I stopped being a child, I grew up, I got married and had a kitchen of my own. Yet it seems to me I continued to stand outside. Until the day my mother-in-law, showing me her calloused hardened palms, said, neither complaint nor self-pity in her tone, ‘I used to make fifty to sixty bhakris every morning. Sometimes,’ she went on, ‘I think I was born only for this.’ Coming from a prosaic, matter-of-fact woman who never spoke of ‘Life’ nor indeed of any generalities, it was an astonishing statement. Perhaps it was at that moment that I stepped over the threshold and into the kitchen. For, as if the focus had shifted, my vision suddenly changed. And, instead of that safe warm haven of my childhood, I saw another kitchen, where women were chained to endless, tedious labour, crouching for hours before a smoking fire. Accompanying this picture were no pleasant sounds, but the angry orchestra women beat out on pots and pans.

- i. Does the narrator describe and imagine the cat’s posture and attitude?
- ii. Why does the kitchen appear as a secure world to the child?
- iii. How does the mother-in-law present the world of the kitchen to the narrator?
- iv. As a married woman, what is the vision the author now has of the same kitchen?
- v. What exactly changes in the nature of the kitchen or in the way in which it is seen?

5. Answer the following questions

(10 Marks)

- i. Use an appropriate **antonym** for the underlined word from the options in brackets and fill in the blank in the sentence:

He felt the **crowd** surging against him and, uncomfortable, he wished he led a ____
(solitary, solicitude) existence.

- ii. Use an appropriate **antonym** for the underlined word from the options in brackets and fill in the blank in the sentence:

Many good-looking people are uninteresting because they have such a **vapid** expression on their face, or else they would have looked ____ (lively, angry).

- iii. Use an appropriate **synonym** for the underlined word from the options in brackets and fill in the blank in the sentence:

CCTVs are now **everywhere**, and its _____ (**ubiquitous, obsolete**) nature makes surveillance a routine aspect of life.

- iv. Use an appropriate **synonym** for the underlined word from the options in brackets and fill in the blank in the sentence:

To destroy books is a **sacrilege** because it effectively destroys our knowledge, such acts of _____ (**irreverence, worship**) must not be tolerated.

- v. Find the best equivalent of the **idiomatic expression** underlined in the following sentence from the options given:

When you **save for a rainy day**, it usually means luxuries are not on your list of priorities.

- a. Being thrifty about money
- b. Being careless with money
- c. Being worried about money
- d. Being indifferent to money

- vi. Find the best equivalent of the **idiomatic expression** underlined in the following sentence from the options given:

The Chairman's remarks **brought the curtain down** on a rather acrimonious debate.

- a. Exacerbated
- b. Delayed
- c. Confused
- d. Concluded

- vii. Identify the pair where the two words generally **DO NOT** go together:

- a. Blissfully annoyed
- b. Blissfully ignorant
- c. Blissfully happy
- d. Blissfully peaceful

- viii. Identify the pair where the two words generally **DO NOT** go together:

- a. Generous portion
- b. Generous rage
- c. Generous helping
- d. Generous allowance

- ix. Identify the correct word from the **similar-sounding** words given in brackets:

The tiger is known to _____ (**mall, maul**) humans.

- x. Identify the correct word from the **similar-sounding** words given in brackets:

People are ready to go to any lengths for the sake of their ____ (**carrier, career**).

6. You are Mahesh/ Madhavi, Head of the Music Department at The Saraswathi Music and Dance College, Tanjore. Write a notice giving information regarding the upcoming Singing Competition in the College. Include relevant information like date, time, venue, age group categories, prizes, judges and sponsors for the event. Inform that those who take part in it have to bring their instruments if they are instrumentalists and get their accompanying musicians if they are vocalists. And also inform that those who win the competitions would get handsome prizes along with certificates. **(10 Marks)**
7. You are Sreekanth Miriuim/ Rajeswari Kothur, a Staff Reporter of a National Daily, The Hindu, Chennai. You are asked to cover a Film festival held in Goa. Write a report mentioning the entire details.

The Festival was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Goa and the Government of Goa made all the arrangements though it was organized by the Film Institute of Pune. It was held from 12th to 18th September, 2017 and many directors, writers, producers and different people associated with the making of the movie all over the world attended in large numbers.

Many interviews with noted film makers by illustrated scholars in the field were conducted. The special jury attended all the movies took part in the competitions and the prizes were given to them in the concluding Festival. It was mainly intended to educate the Indian movie makers of the new trends of the contemporary movies.

(10 Marks)

8. Write a letter to the Collector of your District informing the water problem of the farmers of your Taluq and requesting him to take up immediate measures to come to their rescue. **(10 Marks)**