

English, Paper I

Time: 2 hrs 45 mins

Marks: 40

Section-A (Reading Comprehension)

Q.(1-7) Read the following passage.

Every child is born, with some inherited characteristics, into a specific socio-economic and emotional environment, and trained in certain ways by figures of authority. I inherited honesty and self-discipline from my father; from my mother, I inherited faith in goodness and deep kindness so did my three brothers and sister. I had three close friends in my childhood - Ramanadha Sastry, Aravindan and Sivaprakasan. All these boys were from orthodox Híndu Brahmin families. As children, none of us ever felt any difference amongst ourselves because of our religious differences and upbringing. In fact, Ramanadha Sastry was the son of Pakshi Lakshmana Sastry, the high priest of the Rameswaram temple. Later he took over the priesthood of the Rameswaram temple from his father; Aravindan went into business of arranging transport for visiting pilgrims; and Srivaprakasan became a catering contractor for the Southern Railways.

Q.(1-4) Now answer the following questions. Each question has four choices.

Choose the correct answer and write (A), (B), (C) or (D) in your answer booklet.

(4×1=4 marks)

1. This is an excerpt of

- (A) Interview
- (B) Autobiography
- (C) Report
- (D) Essay

2. Later in life, Aravindan became

- (A) a transport businessman.
- (B) a catering contractor for Southern Railways.
- (C) the high priest of Rameswaram temple.
- (D) the President of India.

3. Qualities that the author inherited from his mother were

- (A) authoritativeness.
- (B) self-discipline.
- (C) faith in goodness.
- (D) dishonesty.

4. According to the passage, who is the figure of authority for the author?

- (A) Parents
- (B) Brothers and sister
- (C) Friends
- (D) Himself

Q. (5-7) Answer the following questions in two or three sentences each.

(3×2=6 marks)

5. "Every child is born, with some inherited characteristics." What do you think are yours?
6. According to the passage, who were the childhood friends of the author?
7. "You are living in a colony where families of different religions live together." What factors do you think helps them to live together?

Solution:

1. (B) Autobiography
2. (A) a transport businessman.
3. (C) faith in goodness.
4. (A) Parents
5. Every child inherits certain characteristics from their parents. I believe I have inherited honesty, kindness, and patience from my family. Additionally, I have developed a strong sense of responsibility and discipline, which help me in my daily life.
6. The childhood friends of the author were Ramanadha Sastry, Aravindan, and Sivaprakasan. They were from orthodox Hindu Brahmin families, yet their religious differences never affected their friendship.
7. People of different religions can live together peacefully by respecting each other's beliefs, celebrating festivals together, and maintaining good communication. Tolerance, understanding, and a sense of community also help in fostering harmony among different religious groups.

Q.(8-12) Read the following poem.
 She crouched, as usual, on the floor
 beside the stove,
 When the man came home
 She did not look into his face
 nor raise her head; but bent
 her back a little more.
 Nothing gave her the right
 to speak.

She watched the flame hiss up and beat against the cheap old pot, a wing of
 brightness against its blackened cheek.
 This was the house she had been sent to,
 the man she had been bound to, the future she had been born into.
 So when the kerosene was thrown
 It was the only choice
 that she had ever known.
 Another torch, blazing in the dark.
 Another woman.
 We shield our faces from the heat.

- Another woman

(8-10) Now answer the following questions. Each question has four choices. Choose the correct answer and write (A), (B), (C) or (D) in your answer booklet.

(3×1=3 marks)

8. When the man came home
 (A) She looked into his face.
 (B) She moved away from the flame.
 (C) She bent her back a little more.
 (D) She ran out of the kitchen.
9. The expression "wings of brightness" is
 (A) Simile
 (B) Irony
 (C) Metaphor
 (D) Personification
10. "We shield our faces from the heat." According to the poet what does the word 'heat' symbolize?
 (A) Source of energy.
 (B) Woman.
 (C) Problem.
 (D) Torch light.

(11-12) Answer the following questions in one or two sentences each.

(2×1=2 marks)

11. Why do you think the woman did not look into the man's face?
 12. "Nothing gave her the right to speak". Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Give reasons.

Solution:

8. (A) She looked into his face.

9. (C) Metaphor

10. (C) Problem

11. The woman did not look into the man's face because she was burdened by her struggles and responsibilities. She may have felt inferior or hesitant to express her emotions.

12. I disagree with the statement. Every person has the right to speak and express their thoughts. Social norms or personal circumstances should not silence anyone, especially if they are suffering or have something valuable to say.

Section-B (Vocabulary and Grammar)

Q. (13-17) Read the passage given below. Five sentences in the passage are numbered from 13 to 17 at the beginning. Each of these sentences has an error. Correct and rewrite the sentences in your answer booklet.

(5×1=5 marks)

After spending a leisurely Sunday at home, the very thought of returning to work on Monday is tiring. (13) Lethargy creep in if the holiday continues over an extended period. (14) That is how I felt when I was preparing to return to my

work of place after spending six months at home. (15) The fact that I was to leave behind my newly - wedded wife and go to a far-off place did not help either. (16) Obvious I did not want to go. (17) However, I finally do decide to go.

Solution:

13. Lethargy creeps in if the holiday continues over an extended period.
14. That is how I felt when I was preparing to return to my workplace after spending six months at home.
15. The fact that I had to leave behind my newly wedded wife and go to a far-off place did not help either.
16. Obviously, I did not want to go.
17. However, I finally decided to go.

(18-22) Complete the following passage choosing the right words from those given in the box. Write the answers in your answer booklet.

(5×0.5=2.5 marks)

establishment, invented, governing, founded, reservations, funding, development

One important fallout of this friendship was the (18) of Chitrabani, a communication and film institute, the first of its kind in West Bengal, which Roberge(19) in 1970 and to which Ray, as a token of friendship, lent his name as co-founder. Ray was in the first(20) body and after a few terms readily agreed to be the institute's adviser. Roberge arranged most of the initial(21) from Canadian agencies. "I had no(22) applying for them, nor I feel richer countries in the West are indebted to countries like India," he said.

Solution:

18. establishment
19. founded
20. governing
21. funding
22. reservations

Q.(23-27) Some words/sentences in the following passage are underlined. Rewrite them as directed in your answer booklet.

(5×0.5=2.5 marks)

"When I was 13, I read a newspaper article about a disabled (23) man who had managed to achieve great things and help others," said Nick. I realised why God had made us like this - to give hope to others. It was so inspiration (24) to me that I decided to used (25) my life to encourage (26) other people and give them the courage that the news (27) had given me.

23. Write the word that has the same meaning of the underlined word.
24. Write the correct form of the underlined word.
25. Replace the underlined word with a correct one.
26. Write the word that is opposite in meaning of the underlined word.
27. Replace the underlined word with a suitable one.

Solution:

23. handicapped (same meaning as disabled)
24. inspirational (correct form of inspiration)
25. use (correct word instead of used)
26. discourage (opposite of encourage)
27. article (correct word instead of news)

Section-C Creative Writing (Discourses)

Q.28. In this present mechanical competitive world, we are forced to surround ourselves with the latest gadgets giving us very little time towards our human relationship, in particular the senior citizens who crave for attention.

Write a Play Script.

Characters:

- (i) A family of five members.
- (ii) A visitor who brings awareness of the above situation.

Location of the scene: House

Theme:

- (i) A child of the family worried over his/her grand parent being neglected.
 - (ii) Parents are always busy with the Gadgets like, I Pad, T.V., Mobile, Laptops, etc.
- (10 marks)

OR

In the lesson 'the storeyed house', we read about Bayaji's dream of building a storeyed house remains unfulfilled due to the fire, the turmoil that Bayaji undergoes to save the house and finally Bayaji collapses amidst his family members.

Describe the feelings of the eldest son and his determination to fulfil his father's desire.

Solution:

Title: The Neglected Bond

Characters:

- Rohan – A concerned child
- Grandfather – An elderly man longing for attention
- Father – Busy with work and gadgets
- Mother – Always occupied with social media
- Sister (Aarohi) – Engrossed in TV and mobile
- Visitor (Mr. Sharma) – A well-wisher who brings awareness
- Scene: A Living Room in the House

(The scene opens with Rohan sitting next to his grandfather, who looks sad. Father is on his laptop, mother is busy on her mobile, and Aarohi is watching TV.)

Rohan: (worried) Grandpa, why do you look so sad?

Grandfather: (sighs) I feel invisible in my own house, my dear. No one has time to talk to me anymore.

Father: (without looking up) Rohan, don't disturb Grandpa. I have an important office meeting.

Mother: (scrolling on her phone) And I have to update my social media status.

Aarohi: (excitedly) Oh! My favourite show is on!
(The doorbell rings. Rohan opens the door. Mr. Sharma, an old family friend, enters.)

Mr. Sharma: (smiling) Good evening, everyone! I see you're all busy.

Father: (glancing up briefly) Oh, hello, Mr. Sharma! Please have a seat.

Mr. Sharma: Thank you. But I must say, I feel sorry for your father (pointing to Grandfather). Do you all realise how lonely he is?

Mother: (looking up) But we provide everything he needs!

Mr. Sharma: He doesn't need things. He needs love and attention! A few minutes of your time will make a big difference.

Rohan: (pleading) Yes, Dad, Mom, Aarohi, can't we spend more time with Grandpa?

Father: (pausing) I never thought about it that way...

Mother: (putting down her phone) You're right. We've been so lost in gadgets that we forgot about real relationships.

Aarohi: (turning off the TV) I think we should have a family game night!

Grandfather: (smiling) That would be wonderful!

Mr. Sharma: That's the spirit! Technology is important, but human connections are even more valuable.
(The family gathers around the grandfather, ready to spend quality time together.)
(Curtain falls.)

Q.29. In the lesson Attitude is Altitude, we see Nick Vujicic, born with no arms or legs, joins the main stream school, where he was teased and bullied. Now imagine yourself as Nick's classmate and make a diary. entry of your attitude towards him.

5

Solution:

Diary Entry – A Special Friend

Date: 20th February

Day: Thursday

Dear Diary,

Today, I realised how strong and inspiring Nick truly is. At school, some students teased and bullied him because he has no arms or legs, but he never lets it break his spirit. Instead, he faces everything with a bright smile.

At first, I felt awkward around him, unsure of how to help. But as I got to know him, I saw that he doesn't want sympathy—just friendship and respect. He plays, studies, and laughs just like the rest of us. His determination amazes me. I have decided to stand by him whenever he faces bullying. Everyone should see him for who he is—a brave and wonderful person. Nick teaches us that true strength comes from within, not from appearances.

- Alan

English, Paper II

Time: 2 hrs 45 mins

Marks: 40

Section-A (Reading Comprehension)

Q.(1-5) Read the following passage.

Mountaineering is now looked upon as the king of sports. But men have lived amongst the mountains since pre-historic times and in some parts of the world, as in the Andes and Himalayas, difficult mountain journeys have inevitably been part of their everyday life. However, some of the peaks were easily accessible from most of the cities of Europe. It is quite interesting that while modern mountaineers prefer difficult routes for the greater enjoyment of sport, the early climbers looked for the easiest ones, for the summit was the prize they all set their eyes. In the risky sport of mountaineering the element of competition between either individuals or teams is totally absent. Rather one can say that the competition is between the team and the peaks themselves. The individuals making up a party must climb together as a team, for they depend upon one another for their safety.

(1-3) Now answer the following questions. Each question has four choices. Choose the correct answer and write (A), (B), (C) or (D) in your answer booklet.

(3×1=3 marks)

1. People living in the Andes and Himalayas made mountain journeys :

- (A) as they lived in pre-historic time.
- (B) because of the challenge offered by the difficult journey.
- (C) as it was a kind of sport.
- (D) Because it was part of their day-to-day life.

2. Mountaineers should climb as a team because:

- (A) there is no competition among them.
- (B) they have to rely on each other for safety.
- (C) the height is too much for one individual.
- (D) they enjoy as a team.

3. Mountaineering is different from other sports because the competition is between:

- (A) teams.
- (B) individuals.
- (C) teams and individuals.
- (D) teams and peaks.

Q.(4-5) Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

(2×1=2 marks)

- 4. According to the author, what is quite interesting?
- 5. Why do you think mountaineering is one of the risky sports?

Solution:

- 1. (D) Because it was part of their day-to-day life.
- 2. (B) They have to rely on each other for safety.
- 3. (D) Teams and peaks.
- 4. According to the author, the interesting part of mountaineering is how people from different backgrounds and places come together to face the challenges of climbing mountains.
- 5. Mountaineering is one of the riskiest sports because climbers face harsh weather conditions, avalanches, lack of oxygen, and the risk of falling, which can be life-threatening.

Q.(6-10) Read the following poem.

I hear a sudden cry of pain!
 There is a rabbit in a snare;
 Now, I hear the cry again,
 But I cannot tell from where.
 But I cannot tell from where, He is calling out for aid! Crying on the frightened air,
 Making everything afraid!
 Making everything afraid, Wrinkling up his little face, As he cries again for aid;
 And I cannot find the place!
 And I cannot find the place
 Where his paw is in the snare, Little one! Oh, Little one!
 I am searching everywhere!

6. 'a snare' means: (1)

- (A) a well
- (B) a trap
- (C) a hill
- (D) a pin

7. Who is the 'Little one' referred to here? (1)

- (A) a snare
- (B) rabbit
- (C) poet
- (D) air

Q.(8-10) Answer the following questions in one or two sentences each.

(3×1=3 marks)

- 8. Why was the rabbit crying?
- 9. What does the poet hear? What is his reaction?

10. How will you help the rabbit if you find its place?

Solution:

6. (B) a trap

7. (B) rabbit

8. The rabbit was crying because its paw was caught in a snare, causing it pain and fear.

9. The poet hears a sudden cry of pain from the rabbit and feels helpless as he cannot locate where the rabbit is trapped.

10. If I find the rabbit's place, I will carefully remove the snare, comfort the rabbit, and, if needed, take it to a veterinarian for treatment.

Q.(11-15) Read the following passage.

There is an incident which occurred at the examination during my first year at the high school, and which is worth recording. Mr. Giles, the Educational Inspector, had come on a visit of inspection. He had set us five words to write as spelling exercise. One of the words was 'kettle'. I had mis-spelt it. The teacher tried to prompt me with the point of his boot, but I would not be prompted. It was beyond me to see that he wanted me to copy the spelling from my 'neighbours' slate, for I had thought that the teacher was there to supervise us against copying. The result that all the boys except myself were found to have spelt every word correctly. Only I had been stupid. The teacher tried later to bring this stupidity home to me, but without effect. I never could learn the 'art of copying'.

Yet the incident did not in the least diminish my respect for my teacher. I was, by nature, blind to the faults of elders. Later I came to know many other failings of this teacher, but my regard for him remained the same. For I had learnt to carry out the orders of elders, not to scan their actions.

Gandhiji

Q.(11-13) Now answer the following questions. Each question has four choices. Choose the correct answer and write (A), (B), (C) or (D) in your answer booklet.

(3×1=3 marks)

11. Who came to the high school on a visit of inspection?

(A) neighbour

(B) teacher

(C) educational officer

(D) Gandhiji

12. Gandhiji had learnt ...

(A) art of copying.

(B) carrying out the orders of elders:

(C) finding fault with his teachers.

(D) scanning the actions of elders.

13. The copying incident did not lessen Gandhiji's respect for his teacher because:

(A) he did not find fault with elders.

(B) he believed that teachers were always right.

(C) he was afraid of speaking.

(D) many students copy in their exams.

Q.(14-15) Answer the following questions in one or two sentences each.
(2×1=2 marks)

14. What did the teacher prompt Gandhiji to do?
15. What do you learn as a student, from this account of Gandhiji's school days?

Solution:

11. (C) educational officer
12. (B) carrying out the orders of elders
13. (A) he did not find fault with elders
14. The teacher tried to prompt Gandhiji to copy the correct spelling of the word "kettle" from his neighbour's slate by pointing with his boot.
15. As a student, I learn the value of honesty, integrity, and self-discipline from Gandhiji's school days, as he refused to cheat even when prompted.

Section-B (Vocabulary and Grammar)

Q.(16-18) Read the following passage focusing on the parts that are underlined and numbered.
(3×1=3 marks)

One day, a fisherman caught a big fish and took it to the king's palace. (16) The king saw the fish. He felt very happy. After his cooks had cooked it and he had eaten it. (17) He said to the fisherman "what do you want for the fish?"

"I want you to beat me twenty times with a rod," said the fisherman.

The king was surprised, and argued with the fisherman, but in the end he said, 'I promised to give you whatever you wanted, and I suppose that I must keep my promise'.

After the king had hit him ten times, the fisherman jumped away and said, "that is enough for me. I promised the other ten to your minister."

The king understood everything. (18) He gave the minister the ten hits with the rod and removed him from the service.

Now, complete the following sentences and write them in your answer booklet.

16. When the king saw
17. He asked
18. The king not only.....

Solution:

16. When the king saw the fish, he felt very happy.
17. He asked the fisherman what he wanted in return for the fish.
18. The king not only gave the minister ten hits with the rod but also removed him from service.

Q.(19-22) Complete the following passage choosing the right words from those given below. Each blank is numbered and has four choices (A), (B), (C) or (D). Choose the correct answer and write (A), (B), (C) or (D).
(4×0.5=2 marks)

Small pox, the most devastating and feared pertilence in human history, is making its last stand in two remote areas of Ethiopia, one in the desert and one in the mountains.

As of the end of the August _____ (19) five villages had experienced cases _____ (20) the preceding eight weeks. The last known case was on 9th August. Because man is the only known _____ (21) of the small pox virus, the disease should be _____ (22) forever when the last infected person recovers.

19. (A) much (B) the (C) only (D) many
 20. (A) about (B) in (C) of (D) for
 21. (A) culprit (B) reservoir (C) producer (D) generator
 22. (A) existed (B) eliminated (C) elaborated (D) estimated

Solution:

19. (B) the
 20. (B) in
 21. (B) reservoir
 22. (B) eliminated

Q.(23-28) Read the following passage and fill in the blanks choosing the correct words given in the bracket. Write the answers in your answer booklet.

(6×0.5=3 marks)

Everywhere Governments realise the importance of trees, it is _____ (23) (different/difficult) for it to _____ (24) (persuade/persuaded) the villagers to see this. The villager _____ (25) (wants/want) wood to cook his food with, and he can earn money _____ (26) (by/at) selling wood. He is usually too careless to plant and _____ (27) (look into/look after) new trees. So, unless the Government has a good system of control, or can _____ (28) (eradicate/educate) the people, the forests slowly disappear.

Solution:

23. difficult
 24. persuade
 25. wants
 26. by
 27. look after
 28. educate

Q.(29-32) Complete the following passage with right forms of the words given in the brackets. Write the answers in your answer booklet.

(4×0.5=2 marks)

In 1881, in America, an enterprising ex-clerk from the Rochester Savings Bank, _____ (29) (name) George Eastman designed and marketed the first popular camera. He _____ (30) (call) it the 'Kodak One' because ' K ' was his favourite letter. It was put on sale at five guineas a piece. It _____ (31) (sell) well though, by modern standards, it must have been bit frustrating since when you wanted your film developed, you had to pack up the camera and send it back to the factory.

There it was _____ (32) (reload) and was returned to you, together with your pictures.

Solution:

- 29. named
- 30. called
- 31. sold
- 32. reloaded

Section-C Creative Expression

Q. 33. Prepare a speech on "Tree Plantation" taking help from the following points. (10 marks)

Greeting - importance of trees - present status (disappearance of trees - deforestations - problems ...) need of plantation reforestation - seedlings distribution responsibilities of students.

OR

Write a letter to your friend telling him about your new school you joined recently. Make use of the following points.

Name of the school - infrastructural facilities - surroundings experienced teachers - incentives - scholarships, free text books play ground - games and sports - science experiment moral education - yoga, meditation - computer education.

Solution:

Speech on Tree Plantation

Good morning everyone,

Respected teachers and dear friends, today I am here to speak about the importance of tree plantation.

Trees are an essential part of our environment. They provide us with oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide, reduce air pollution, and support biodiversity. However, in recent times, large-scale deforestation has led to numerous environmental problems like climate change, soil erosion, and loss of wildlife.

If we do not act now, future generations will suffer from extreme weather conditions, water shortages, and poor air quality. Reforestation is the only way to restore balance. We must plant more trees in our schools, neighbourhoods, and public places. The government and environmental organisations are distributing seedlings to encourage afforestation.

As students, it is our responsibility to participate in tree plantation drives, educate others about environmental conservation, and take care of the plants we grow. A single tree can make a big difference. Let us all pledge to plant more trees and protect our planet.

Thank you!

Q. 34. Read the following information about Rakesh Sharma, the first Indian in Space.

(5 marks)

Points to be covered	Details of the person
Date and place of birth:	13 January, 1949, Patiala.
Information about the family :	Wife : Madhu, an expert interior decorator.
	Son : Kapil
Occupation:	Air Force - got his commission in 1971.
Training received :	Trained at the Space Centre in Star City, near Moscow.
Achievement :	Went into space in the Soyuz T-11 on April 3, 1984 and returned to earth on 11 April, 1984.

Now, write a short profile of Rakesh Sharma in a paragraph based on the above information.

Solution:

Rakesh Sharma - The First Indian in Space

Rakesh Sharma was born on 13 January 1949 in Patiala. He is married to Madhu, an expert interior decorator, and they have a son named Kapil. He joined the Indian Air Force and received his commission in 1971. Later, he underwent training at the Space Centre in Star City, near Moscow. His greatest achievement was becoming the first Indian to travel to space. He flew aboard the Soyuz T-11 spacecraft on 3 April 1984 and spent eight days in space before returning to Earth on 11 April 1984. His journey remains a significant milestone in India's space history.