

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 300

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

**Please read each of the following instructions carefully
before attempting questions**

All the questions are to be attempted.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.

You must not disclose your identity in any of your answers.

Answers must be written in ENGLISH only.

1. Write an essay, in about 800–1000 words, on any *one* of the following : 100
- (a) Biodiversity and Human Existence
 - (b) Data Privacy in the Digital Age
 - (c) Today's Demographic Dividend is Tomorrow's Crisis of Elderly Population
 - (d) Life Skills Education should be an Essential Part of School Curriculum

2. (a) Write a letter to the Member of the Parliament of your constituency requesting him/her to set up a Sports Centre with coaching facilities for different sports in your area. (Do not write your name or address or any other information revealing your identity. Use only ABC/XYZ for your name and that of the MP and the constituency.) 25

- (b) Write a report on the Health Awareness Camp organized by the Primary Health Care Centre of your locality. (Do not write your name or address or any other information revealing your identity. Use only ABC/XYZ for your name and the name of your locality.) 25

3. Write a précis of the following passage in about 152 words, one-third of the original length. Do not give it any title : 50

A style consists of the traditional or the conventional ideas regarding the execution and expression of some formal arrangements or designs.

The formal character of all art is quite obvious, as art depends for appeal upon some kind or other of a formal arrangement of straight lines or curves, of reliefs and carved surfaces, of sound and colour, of rhyme and rhythm and so on. When a particular design is created and finds social acceptance, it becomes a fashion, and in due course of time an established style, through its propagation or specialization. Therefore, art styles arise, and are changed because art is a social activity, and because society is the framework within which an individual artist works. The joy of creativity arises out of its becoming manifest, and its being seen, appreciated and copied.

If art styles are born out of a social *milieu* in which they also flourish and die out, and if even the most individualistic of artistic creations only supersede earlier ideas and styles, being themselves rooted in the social structure of values—if the success of an innovator consists in his ability to create taste and have himself imitated, then

it is quite obvious that artistic geniuses are the product of a social *milieu*, and genius is a function of opportunity for, and appreciation of artistic effort provided by a society. It is true that great masters have not been always appreciated in their own time, but undoubtedly the times and places to which they belonged were responsible for their having gone so far as to be able to achieve what they did. Genius in art has no obvious connection with biological factors like genes which may be inherited, or acquired through mutation. However, it must be admitted that a very high degree of sensitivity, the ability to submit one's self intensely to all kinds of emotional experiences, imagination, and also the ability to synthesize perceptions with abstract ideas, and thoughts with emotions are all essential in the making of a great artist. But these seeds can never flourish and blossom except in a conducive climate. The cultural heritage of a society has much to do with the presence or absence of artistic geniuses in it. Kroeber, the distinguished anthropologist, in his study of the flowering and decline of the cultural creativity of a people, during a time-period, tries to comprehend the trends by looking into the number and quality of creative geniuses whom he obviously regards as representatives of cultural trends rather than as individuals. The presence or absence of a galaxy of high-quality creative geniuses, of course, in all fields of cultural activity, is regarded by Kroeber as indicative of flowering and decline respectively of the cultural tradition under study. (456 words)

4. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below in your own words : 10×5=50

Agriculture used to be by far the largest contributor to the country's total economic production, but today it only contributes about one-sixth of the gross domestic product. While the majority of our people live in the rural areas and make their living out of agriculture, the relative economic value of what they produce has fallen drastically. Moreover, more and more people who live in villages may no longer work in agriculture or even in the village. Rural people are increasingly engaged in non-farm rural occupations like transport services, business enterprises or craft manufacturing. If they are close enough, then they may travel daily to the nearest urban centre to work while continuing to live in the village.

Mass media and communication channels are now bringing images of urban life styles and patterns of consumption into the rural areas. Consequently, urban norms and standards are becoming well-known even in the remote villages, creating new desires and aspirations for consumption. Mass transit and mass

communication are bridging the gap between the rural and urban areas. Even in the past, the rural areas were never really beyond the reach of market forces and today they are being more closely integrated into the consumer market.

Considered from an urban point of view, the rapid growth in urbanization shows that the town or city has been acting as a magnet for the rural population. Those who cannot find work (or sufficient work) in the rural areas go to the city in search of work. This flow of rural-to-urban migration has also been accelerated by the continuous decline of common property resources like ponds, forests and grazing lands. These common resources enabled poor people to survive in the villages although they owned little or no land. Now, these resources have been turned into private property, or they are exhausted. (Ponds may run dry or no longer provide enough fish; forests may have been cut down and have vanished...). If people no longer have access to these resources, but on the other hand have to buy many things in the market that they used to get free (like fuel, fodder or supplementary food items), then their hardship increases. This hardship is worsened by the fact that opportunities for earning cash income are limited in the villages.

Sometimes the city may also be preferred for social reasons, specially the relative anonymity it offers. The fact that urban life involves interaction with strangers can be an advantage for different reasons. For the socially oppressed groups like the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, this may offer some partial protection from the daily humiliation they may suffer in the village where everyone knows their caste identity. The anonymity of the city also allows the poorer sections of the socially dominant rural groups to engage in low status work that they would not be able to do in the village. All these reasons make the city an attractive destination for the villagers. The swelling cities bear testimony to this flow of population. This is evident from the rapid rate of urbanization in the post-Independence period.

While urbanization has been occurring at a rapid pace, it is the biggest cities—the metropolises—that have been growing the fastest. These metros attract migrants from the rural areas as well as from small towns. There are now 5161 towns and cities in India, where 286 million people live. What is striking, however, is that more than two-thirds of the urban population live in 27 big cities with million-plus populations. Clearly the larger cities in India are growing at such a rapid rate that the urban infrastructure can hardly keep pace. With the mass media's primary focus on these cities, the public face of India is becoming more and more urban rather than rural. Yet in terms of the political power dynamics in the country, the rural areas remain a decisive force.

Questions :

- (a) Why is agriculture not the only viable economic activity of the rural population anymore?
- (b) How is the pattern of consumption changing among the rural population?
- (c) What are common property resources? Why are these important?
- (d) How does urban anonymity affect migration from rural areas to the cities?
- (e) What contradictions are pointed out in the last part of the passage?

5. (a) Rewrite the following sentences after making necessary corrections : $1 \times 10 = 10$

- (i) I couldn't help not laughing at the joke.
- (ii) This novel is too interesting.
- (iii) I replied to him in negative.
- (iv) I have many works to do.
- (v) He takes pain over his work.
- (vi) His hat was blown off by the strong air.
- (vii) Each of the two sisters were hardworking.
- (viii) Choose the least of the two evils.
- (ix) It is nothing else than pride.
- (x) They only work when they have no money.

(b) Write the adjective form of the following words :

$1 \times 5 = 5$

- (i) Circumstance
- (ii) Precaution
- (iii) Competence
- (iv) Prosperity
- (v) Second

(c) Write the noun form of the following words : 1×5=5

(i) Know

(ii) Rely

(iii) Fail

(iv) Inscribe

(v) Sure

(d) Make one sentence with each of the following words so that the meaning of each word is clear : 2×5=10

(i) adverse, averse

(ii) amiable, amicable

(iii) artist, artisan

(iv) credible, creditable

(v) decease, disease

(e) Make one sentence with each of the following idiomatic expressions bringing out their meaning clearly : 2×5=10

(i) to cry over spilt milk

(ii) to read between the lines

(iii) black sheep

(iv) bird's eye view

(v) a far cry

(f) Rewrite the following as directed :

2×5=10

(i) He said, "I did not go to school yesterday".

(Change into Indirect Speech)

(ii) Very few Indian cities are as big as Delhi.

(Rewrite using the Superlative Degree of Comparison)

(iii) He is taller than his brother.

(Change into a Negative sentence without
changing the meaning)

(iv) He is very intelligent. He can understand the problem.

(Combine the sentences using 'enough')

(v) One may accomplish many things by a little effort.

(Change into Passive Voice)

