



Part - I
ENGLISH

Maximum : 80 Scores

Time : 2½ Hours
Cool off time : 15 Minutes

General Instructions to Candidates :

- There is a 'Cool off time' of 15 minutes in addition to the writing time of 2½ hrs.
- You are neither allowed to write your answers nor to discuss anything with others during the 'cool off time'.
- Read the questions carefully before answering.
- All questions are compulsory and only internal choice is allowed.
- When you select a question, all the sub-questions must be answered from the same question itself.
- Electronic devices except nonprogrammable calculators are not allowed in the Examination Hall.

(Q. 1 & 2) : Read the lines from the poem 'Death The Leveller' and answer the questions that follow.

The garlands wither on your brow;
Then boast no more your mighty deeds!
Upon Death's purple altar now
See where the victor-victim bleeds;

1. What is meant by "Death's purple altar"? (1)
2. Explain the message conveyed by the above lines. (3)

3. In 'I will Fly' you have met a nervous boy from a remote village who asked Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam a question. Imagine that the boy sends a letter to his friend describing the incident. Here is an excerpt from the letter. Complete it.

Meeting Dr. Abdul Kalam was really a wonderful experience. Now, I feel very confident. He said, "If you will succeed". His words ignited my mind. If I had not attended the meeting I

(2)

4. Esther Dyson, in 'The Cyberspace', says that there is something in the modern psyche that loves new frontiers, a liking to make rules instead of following them. Do you agree with this statement? Express your views in 2 or 3 sentences.

(2)

(Q. 5 to 7) : Read the following excerpt from the story, 'The Trip of Le Horla' and answer the following questions.

Suddenly, the people begin to stand back, for the gas is beginning to enter into the balloon through a long tube of yellow cloth, which lies on the soil, swelling and undulating like an enormous worm. But another thought, another picture occurs to every mind. It is thus that nature itself nourishes beings until their birth. The creature that will rise, soon begins to move, and the attendants of Captain Jovis, as Le Horla grows larger, spread and put in place the net which covers it, so that the pressure will be regular and equally distributed at every point.

5. What is the balloon compared to?

- | | |
|---------|------------|
| a) tube | b) worm |
| c) soil | d) picture |

(1)

11. Read the following excerpt and write a précis reducing it to 1/3rd of its length.

Mark Twain was once talking to a friend on the subject of courage in men, and spoke of a man whose name is associated with a book that has become a classic. "I knew him well," he said, "and I knew him as a brave man. Yet he once did the most cowardly thing I have ever heard of any man. He was in a shipwreck and, as the ship was going down, he snatched a lifebelt from a woman passenger and put it on himself. He was saved and she was drowned. And in spite of that frightful act, I think he was not a coward. I know there was not a day of his life afterwards when he would not willingly and in cold blood have given his life to recall that shameful act."

In this case, the failure was not in moral courage but in physical courage. He was demoralized by the peril, and the physical coward came uppermost. If he had had time to recover his moral balance, he would have died an honourable death. It is not an uncommon thing for a man to have in him the elements both of the hero and the coward.

The true hero is he who unites the moral with physical courage. The physical element is the more plentiful. For one man who will count the cost of sacrifice and, having counted it, pay the price with unfaltering heart, there are many who will answer the sudden call to meet peril with swift defiance. It is inspired by an impulse that takes men out of themselves, and by a certain spirit of challenge to fate that every one with a sporting instinct loves to take. (4)

12. Imagine that you visited the village of Namuana to witness the strange ritual of turtle calling. Draft a live TV report of the event.

[Hints : description of the location, spectators, details of the event etc.] (5)

13. Rewrite the following conversation between Gupta and the waitress ('The Price of Flowers') in reported speech.

Gupta : Do you know the girl who was sitting over there?

Waitress : No, Sir, I do not know her, to speak of. I've noticed she has lunch here on Saturdays.

Gupta : Doesn't she come on any other day?

Waitress : I never see her on other days.

(4)

14. Stephen Hawking has overcome his crippling disease to become the 'supernova' of world physics.

On the occasion of the release of a book on Stephen Hawking, you are asked to deliver a speech describing him to the audience. Prepare the script of the speech.

(5)

15. Read the following excerpt from 'Is Society Dead?', there are four errors in the passage. Identify the errors and correct them.

What we do get from this? The chance to slip away for a while from everydayness, to give your lives its own sound tracks, to still the monotony of the commute, to listen more closely and carefully on music that can lift you up and can keep you go.

(4)

- (Q. 16 to 18) : Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

I had spent the spring of 1912 in Paris studying tropical medicine and making a start at purchasing the supplies that would be needed for Africa. Although I acquired a theoretical knowledge of my subject at the beginning of my medical studies, it was now time to work at it from a practical point of view. This too, was a new experience. Until then, I had engaged only in intellectual labour.

How much time and trouble it cost me to get together the instruments, the drugs, the bandages, and all the other articles needed to equip a hospital, not to mention all the work we did together to prepare for housekeeping in the primeval forest.

(Out of My Life and Thought by Albert Schweitzer)

16. Look at the word underlined and identify the part of speech. (1)
17. What is referred to as a new experience? Why is it termed so? (2)
18. Describe the arrangements made by Albert Schweitzer to equip a hospital. What trait of his character is evident from the passage? (3)
19. Imagine that you conducted a journey by mountain railway from Mettupalayam to the Nilgiri Hills. Prepare a travel essay based on your train journey. Include descriptions of physical features, practical issues related to the journey, personal impressions, etc.
The view of the valley was breathtaking and photogenic (6)
20. Nowadays, our rivers are rapidly getting polluted. Many reasons are cited but seldom are measures adopted to prevent the pollution of rivers. Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper highlighting the gravity of the issue. (6)

OR

Imagine that you have read an article published in a local newspaper titled, 'Reading Empowers the Learning of English'. In response to this article, draft a letter to the editor of the newspaper expressing your views on the topic.

21. India has faced a number of natural disasters like floods, landslides etc. We may not be able to avert many of these disasters, but we can definitely mitigate their impact. Prepare an essay on the various stages involved in the effective management of disasters. (8)

OR

The latest World Disaster Report suggests that disasters have increased both in frequency and intensity. Prepare an essay on the increasing rate of natural disasters in India.

22. Read the poem given below and write a note of appreciation.

NIGHT

by William Blake

The sun descending in the west,
The evening star does shine;
The birds are silent in their nest,
And I must seek for mine.
The moon, like a flower,
In heaven's high bower,
With silent delight
Sits and smiles on the night.

Farewell, green fields and happy groves,
Where flocks have took delight.
Where lambs have nibbled, silent moves
The feet of angels bright;
Unseen they pour blessing,

And joy without ceasing,
On each bud and blossom,
And each sleeping bosom.

They look in every thoughtless nest,
Where birds are cover'd warm;
They visit caves of every beast,
To keep them all from harm.

If they see any weeping
That should have been sleeping,
They pour sleep on their head,
And sit down by their bed.

(8)