

2020

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 1½ hours*Maximum Marks* : 50**Instructions :**

- The figures in the margin indicate full marks.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.
- Parts of the same question must be answered together and must not be interposed between answers to other questions.

1. Write a précis of the following passage in about 90 words and give a suitable title to it : 10+2=12

It is very easy to acquire bad habits, such as eating too many sweets or too much food, or drinking too much fluid of any kind or smoking. The more we do a thing the more we tend to like doing it, and if we do not continue to do it we feel unhappy. This is called the force of habit, and the force of habit should be fought against.

Things which may be very good when only done from time to time, tend to become very

harmful when done too often and too much. This applies even to such good things as work and rest. Some people form a bad habit of working too much, and others idling too much. The wise man always remembers that this is true about himself, and checks any bad habit. He says to himself, "I am now becoming idle," or "I like too many sweets," or "I smoke too much," and then adds, "I shall get myself out of this bad habit at once."

One of the most widely spread bad habits is the use of tobacco. Tobacco is now smoked or chewed by men, often by women, and even by children, almost all over the world. It was brought into Europe from America by Sir Walter Raleigh four centuries ago, and has thence spread everywhere. I very much doubt whether there is any good in the habit even when tobacco is not used in excess; and it is extremely difficult to get rid of the habit when once it has been formed.

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

Among manifold misfortunes that may befall humanity, the loss of health is one of the severest. All the joys which life can give cannot outweigh the sufferings of the sick.

(2)

Give the sick man everything and leave him his sufferings, and he will feel that half the world is lost to him. Lay him on a soft silken couch, he will nevertheless groan sleepless under the presence of his sufferings, while the miserable beggar, blessed with health,⁽³⁾ sleeps sweetly on the hard ground. Spread his table with dainty meals and choicest drinks and he will thrust back the hand that proffers them, and envy the poor man who thoroughly enjoys his dry crust. Surround him with pomp of kings,⁽⁴⁾ let his chair be a throne and his crutch a world-swaying scepter, he will look with contemptuous eyes on marble, on gold, on scepter, on purple, and would deem himself happy, could he enjoy, even were it under a thatched roof, the health of the meanest of his servants.

Questions :

2×4=8

- (a) What does the author think is the severest misfortune that can befall a person?
- (b) How does a sick person feel in spite of all sorts of comforts?
- (c) What is the earnest desire of a sick person?
- (d) Express the meaning of the underlined words/phrases/expressions in your own words.

3. Write a letter to your friend congratulating him on his brilliant success. 10

Or

Write a letter to your friend inviting him to attend your sister's marriage. 10

4. Fill in the blanks with appropriate option given in the brackets (any five) : 1×5=5

(a) They gave their wholehearted _____ to my proposal.

(ascent, assent)

(b) The accused is released on ₹ 50,000 _____.

(bail, bale)

(c) They made a fierce _____ attack on the enemy.

(cannon, canon)

(d) The town was under _____ for four months.

(seize, siege)

(e) Peace and harmony prevailed in Ashoka's _____.

(rein, reign)

(f) He was prosecuted for _____ wine selling.

(elicit, illicit)

(g) There is sudden _____ in the shares of this company.

(descent, dissent)

(h) Unauthorised people are prohibited from entering into the _____.

(ordinance, ordnance)

5. Do as directed (any *five*) : 1×5=5

(a) She has received this parcel yesterday.

(Use the correct tense)

(b) I shall wait here until you are not ready.

(Correct the sentence)

(c) It has been raining here since a long time.

(Correct the sentence)

(d) Your success surprised me.

(Change the voice)

(e) It is too hot to work.

(Change into complex sentence)

(f) This question is very easy. Saloni can solve it in two minutes.

(Combine both the sentences into one simple sentence)

(g) Prachi said to her daughter, "Why are you not completing your homework?"

(Change into indirect speech)

(h) I have little milk and I can offer tea to both of you.

(Use the correct determiner)

6. Translate the following sentences into English (any five) : 2×5=10

(a) क्या डॉक्टर के अस्पताल पहुँचने के पूर्व रोगी दम तोड़ चुका था?

(b) भारत में कोरोना वायरस फैलने की रोकथाम के लिए केन्द्रीय स्वास्थ्य मंत्री ने आवश्यक दिशा-निर्देश जारी किये।

(c) प्रधानमंत्री ने इस बार होली न मनाने की इच्छा जताई है।

(d) इस दृश्यकाव्य में जिन समस्याओं को उठाया गया है उनके सफल निर्वाह के लिए महाभारत के उत्तरार्द्ध की घटनाओं का आश्रय ग्रहण किया गया है।

- (e) उस भविष्य में धर्म-अर्थ दिन-ब-दिन हासोन्मुख होंगे और धीरे-धीरे धरती का क्षय होगा।
- (f) कुछ राजनेताओं का मत है कि लालबहादुर शास्त्री को ताशकंद में धोखे से मारा गया।
- (g) इन रत्नजटित वीरान गलियों में कौरव रानियाँ मंथर-मंथर गति से सुरभित पवन-तरंगों सी चलती थीं।
- (h) कोविड-19 को समय पर नहीं रोका गया तो महान जनहानि एवं आर्थिक मंदी की संभावनाएँ प्रबल होंगी।

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