
**V/O/R/EXAMS
2020**

500026

GENERAL ENGLISH AND ESSAY

Time : 3 hours]

[Full Marks : 100

- Notes :** (i) Read the instructions carefully and follow them.
(ii) The figures in the right-hand margin indicate full marks for the questions.

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

Forecasting the weather, or trying to find out what it will be like in several days' time, has always been a difficult business. Many different things affect the weather and each one has to be carefully studied before we can make even a fairly accurate forecast. The ancient Egyptians, of course, had no need of this—the weather in the Nile Valley hardly ever changes—but people living farther north had to protect themselves and their crops. During a period of drought, when no rain fell for weeks on end, streams and rivers dried up, cattle died from thirst and crops were ruined. A storm could wreck ships and houses, and heavy falls of rain caused rivers to flood a whole countryside. Actions in the sky stirred man into action, and in this respect farmers became just as much men of action as were sailors on the high seas. Both had to reckon with the weather and it often upset their plans, sometimes with disastrous results.

In early times, when there were no instruments such as thermometer or barometer, man looked for tell-tale signs in the sky. He made his forecasts by watching the flights of birds or the way smoke rose from a fire. He thought that the moon controlled the weather—that it held a lot of water, especially when as a crescent or sickle-shaped moon it lay on its back. Even today there are people who think that the sight of the lying on its back means that the rain is on its way. Many of the weather-sayings are still heard today, such as, "A red sky at night is the shepherd's delight. A red sky in the morning is the shepherd's warning." It is sometime right but more often wrong. If this and hundreds of other sayings like it were true, there would be no need for weather science or Meteorology.

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|-----|-------|---|---|
| (a) | (i) | Why the people living in the Nile Valley had no need for weather forecasting while people living in other places had? | 3 |
| | (ii) | What are the different manners in which changes in weather can affect human beings? | 4 |
| | (iii) | What were some of the ways in which people in earlier times try to forecast weather? | 3 |
| | (iv) | What does the author say about the sayings related to weather forecasting? | 3 |
| | (v) | Suggest a suitable title for the passage. | 2 |



(b) Find out the antonyms of the following words from the passage :

1×5=5

(i) Approximate

(ii) Similar

(iii) Nearer

(iv) Fell

(v) Blindness

2. Write a letter to the Editor of a local newspaper highlighting the need for generating awareness among the common people regarding the proper vaccination of farm animals.

10

Or

Write a letter to the Director, Veterinary and Animal Husbandry, highlighting the need for constructing shelters for stray animals.

3. Write an essay in about 400 words on any *one* of the following topics :

20

(a) Social Media : Its Uses and Abuses

(b) Freedom of the Press in a Democracy

(c) Unique Northeast

4. Write a paragraph on any *one* of the following in about 150 words :

10

(a) A Little Knowledge is a Dangerous Thing

(b) Alternative Fuel is the Need of the Hour

(c) Greenhouse Effect

5. Correct any *five* of the following sentences :

2×5=10

(a) This is more preferable than that.

(b) He is a man of childish simplicity.

(c) His English knowledge is poor.

(d) Many a good boys failed.

(e) Give me two dozens eggs.

(f) He lives in the boarding.

(g) My all books are lost.

6. Rewrite any *five* of the following sentences as directed :

2×5=10

- (a) Is he not a great fool? (Turn into assertive)
- (b) None but a rogue can do this. (Turn into affirmative)
- (c) He is the last man to do it. (Turn into a complex sentence)
- (d) I shall be obliged to go. (Change the voice of the sentence)
- (e) He has a car. He wishes to sell it. (Combine into a single sentence)
- (f) He told me to go home. (Change the form of narration)

7. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given in brackets :

2×5=10

- (a) You ____ (go) before I ____ (come).
- (b) They ____ (come) home after the guests ____ (left).
- (c) They ____ (feel) sick as they ____ (work) for a long period in the scorching sun.
- (d) I ____ (buy) a new bicycle recently. I ____ (try) for this for a long time.
- (e) What you ____ (read) now? I ____ (read) the *Gitanjali*.

8. Make sentences with the following pairs of words to show their differences (any *five*) :

2×5=10

- (a) artful, artificial
- (b) birth, berth
- (c) alternate, alternative
- (d) corps, corpse
- (e) cite, site
- (f) descent, dissent
- (g) eligible, illegible