

ARUNACHAL PRADESH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Subject: General English

Time: **3 (Three)** Hours

Full Marks: **100**

Note:

- (i) Read the instructions carefully and follow them.
- (ii) Attempt all the questions.
- (iii) The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.

Q.1. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

Herbs are rather more demanding in respect of their soil and site requirements than many of the plants that you will grow in your garden. Although there are some notable exceptions, it's fair to say that most grow best in light, fairly free-draining, alkaline and not very rich soils, and in full sun.

Of course, not all gardeners have these conditions but because herb gardens are generally fairly small, it is usually possible to alter the existing soil to bring it closer to the optimum, even if this means creating a small raised bed in which to do it. There is little that can be done if your garden beds are shady, although even there, it may be feasible to grow some herbs in containers on a sunny patio or path edge.

Before you begin to amend your soil, you really need to understand how different soils vary and how many changes can and cannot be made. All soils are made up of differing amounts of clay, silt and humus. (Stones and pebbles don't play a part in this although a soil with plenty of pebbles in it is no bad thing for the herb growing as the pebbles will usually help to retain heat). A soil that contains a high proportion of clay will be slow to warm up in spring but then stays warm and will also contain a good supply of nutrients. In dry conditions, however, clay soils will become hard and impenetrable whereas in the wet weather, they may become waterlogged, precisely the wrong conditions for herbs. By contrast a light, sandy soil will warm up quickly and being free-draining, lose both water and nutrients rapidly. Humus, which is simply part-decomposed organic matter, will improve

both types of soil because it contains natural gel-like substances that bind together soil particles to form crumbs and also help the retention of moisture by their sponge-like properties. For this reason, you should always dig in compost, manure or other organic matter before planting in order to ensure moist, fertile soil.

1. i. Answer the following questions:

(5x3=15)

- a) What are best conditions for herbs growth?
- b) What according to the author is the use of a clay filled soil?
- c) Why is humus the best soil for the growth of herbs?
- d) What are the different components of soil?
- e) Find the antonym for the word 'alkaline'

1. ii. Explain:

(5x1=5)

- a) Patio
- b) Humus
- c) Retention
- d) Path edge
- e) Sponge-like

Q.2. Write a letter to the Railway Police Officer, filing a First Information Report on a theft experience you had faced, while travelling by train. **(10)**

Or

Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper on the poor implementation of rain water harvesting in your residential locality.

Q.3. Write an essay on any of the following:

(20)

- a. Green India.
- b. Revamping the legal system
- c. Road rules and traffic awareness.
- d. Sex and gender.

Q.4. Write a paragraph in about 100 words, on any of the following: **(10)**

- a. Spirituality and religiosity
- b. Health is wealth.
- c. The spirit of democracy.

Q. 5. Do as directed: **(5x2=10)**

- a. It is mandatory to exercise our vote. (Change the Voice).
- b. He reached. He was too late. (Join sentences).
- c. I urgently need to discuss something with you. (Change into interrogative sentence).
- d. I accomplished my wishes soon. (Change into simple soon).
- e. Latha said, "Would you like to have a glass of milk?" (Change into Indirect speech)

Q.6. Make sentences to illustrate the use of the following (**any five**): **5x2= 10**

- a. Early bird
- b. Don't roles
- c. Uproar
- d. Adopt caution
- e. By virtue of
- f. Look in a hurry

Q.7. Correct the following sentences (any five)

(5x2= 10)

- a. Reposed trust in him, he thanked and lauded his students.
- b. Chants reverberated the air.
- c. Ever wondered what makes use social media so much?
- d. Achieving precision require further studies on the subject.
- e. Do not allow your emotions to cloud judgement.
- f. By the time the doctor arrived, she already passes away.
- g. Can I come in?

Q. 8. Fill in the blanks with suitable preposition:

(5x2= 10)

- a. After the attack, the terrorists fled ----- a remote place.
- b. These photos indicate the mortal remains ----- the dead minister.
- c. School bus skids ----- the road.
- d. We are committed ----- our profession.
- e. After signing ----- the pact, the two universities decided to share courses.
- f. ----- the long journey ----- the valley, the riders will cross many towns.
- g. The principal visited the historical sites ----- the city.