

**CC/M/EXAM.**  
**2020**  
**GENERAL ENGLISH**

Time : 3 hours ]

[ Full Marks : 300

**All** questions are to be attempted. The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it.

1. Write an essay in about 600 words on any **one** of the following topics : 100
- (a) Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the Indian economy
  - (b) Pros and cons of Social Media
  - (c) Pros and cons of old age homes
  - (d) Online learning in the present context

2. Read carefully the passage given below and write your answers to the questions that follow in clear, correct and concise language : 15×5=75

One might think of Independent India as being Europe's past as well as its future. It is Europe's past, in that it has reproduced, albeit more fiercely and intensely, the conflicts of a modernizing, industrializing and urbanizing society. But it is also its future in that it anticipated, by some fifty years, the European attempt to create a multilingual, multireligious, multiethnic, political and social community.

Or one might compare India with the United States, a country justly celebrated as 'the planet's first multiethnic democracy'. Born nearly two centuries later, the Republic of India is today comfortably the world's largest multiethnic democracy. However, the means by which it has regulated (and moderated) relations between its constituent ethnicities have been somewhat different. For, as Samuel Huntington has recently argued, the American nation has been held together by a 'credal culture' whose 'central elements' have included 'the Christian religion, Protestant values and moralism, a work ethic, the English language, British traditions of law, justice, the limits of government power, a legacy of European art, literature, philosophy and music'. Indeed, 'America was created as a Protestant society just as and for some of the reasons Pakistan and Israel were created as Muslim and Jewish societies in the twentieth century'.

The United States is, of course, a nation of immigrants. For much of the country's history, the new groups that came in merged themselves with the dominant culture. 'Throughout American history', writes Huntington, 'people who were not white Anglo-Saxon Protestants have become Americans by adopting America's Anglo-Saxon Protestant culture and political values'. Of late, however, newer groups of immigrants have tended to maintain their distinct identities. The largest of these are the Hispanics, who live in enclaves where they cook their own food, listen to their own kind of music, follow their own faith and—most importantly—speak their own language. Huntington worries that if these communities are not quickly brought into line, they will 'transform America as a whole into a bilingual, bicultural society'.

The older American model of assimilation was called 'the melting-pot'. Individual groups poured all their flavours into the pot, then drank a single, uniform—or uniformly tasting—drink. Now, it appears that the society and nation are coming to resemble a 'salad bowl', with each group starkly standing out, different and distinctive in how it looks and behaves.

Huntington himself is less than enthusiastic about the idea of the salad bowl. For him, America has long been, and must always be, a 'society with a single pervasive national culture'. He observes that Americans identify most strongly with that culture when the nation is under threat. War leads not merely to national consolidation, but also to cultural unity. The original American Creed was forged as a consequence of the wars against the Native Americans, the English colonists and the Southern States. The events of 9/11 once more brought patriotism and national solidarity to the fore. Concerned that these energies will dissipate, Huntington urges a more thoroughgoing return to the creed that, in his view, was responsible for 'the unity and strength of my country'.

Interestingly, Huntington's views find an echo in recent statements by the Prime Minister of Australia, John Howard. That country too has been subject to successive waves of immigration, mostly or wholly European to begin with, but more recently of a markedly Asian character. Howard rejects the possibility of a plurality of cultures co-existing in Australia. 'You've got to have a dominant culture', he says, adding, 'Ours is Anglo-Saxon—our language, our literature, our institutions'.

The Huntington-Howard line of reasoning is, of course, quite familiar to students of Indian history. It has been made in India by political ideologues such as M. S. Golwalker and by political parties such as the Jana Sangh and the BJP. They have argued that India has 'got to have a dominant culture', and that this culture is 'Hindu'. As it happened, those views were not endorsed by the founders of the Indian nation, by those who wrote the Indian Constitution and led the first few governments of independent India. Thus India became a 'salad-bowl' nation rather than a 'melting-pot' one.

And it has stayed that way. It has sustained a diversity of religions and languages, precisely the diversities that the likes of Howard and Huntington deem inimical to national survival and national solidarity. It has resisted the pressures to go in the other direction, to follow Israel and Pakistan by favouring citizens who follow a certain faith or speak a particular language.

### **Questions :**

- (a) Why do some people consider Independent India as Europe's past as well as its future? Discuss in your own words.
- (b) 'India became a salad-bowl nation rather than a melting-pot one'. Explain this statement.
- (c) List the main ideas presented in the given passage.
- (d) Give your critical observations on the Huntington-Howard line of reasoning.
- (e) Explain the author's attitude towards the multiethnic nature of Independent India in terms of national solidarity.

3. Make a précis of the following passage in about one-third of its length. Do not give a title to it. The précis should be written in your own words :

75

Social change can be caused by changes in the physical environment. A flood, an earthquake or a hurricane, for example, may change how people live and relate to one another. However, changes in society—the way we live and the way we behave—may also affect the environment.

Scientists believe that human beings are responsible for today's major environmental problems. They say, we have ignored two important principles of nature. First, natural resources have a limit. There is only so much life that each ecosystem (for example, a forest, a river, or an ocean) can support. Second, all our actions have consequences. If we try to change one aspect of nature, we end up changing others as well. For example, farmers used to use DDT, a toxic chemical, on their crops to kill pests. However, DDT got into the soil and water and from there into plankton (very small plants and animals on which fish feed), into the fish that ate the plankton and into the birds that ate the fish. The chemical also found its way into our food.

We can blame some environmental damage on ignorance or poverty, but more damage has nothing to do with neither. A major cause of environmental problems is the fact that clean air, clean rivers and other natural resources are public, not private, possessions. And, in Aristotle's words, "What is common to the greatest number gets the least amount of care". Individually, we gain by using these resources and so, in our own interests, we keep doing so. Eventually, the resources are damaged or run out and then society as a whole has to pay the cost.

What, then, are our main environmental problems? The major ones are a decrease in natural resources and an increase in environmental pollution.

Although they make up less than 6 percent of the world's population, each year people in the United States use about 30 percent of the world's energy and raw materials (such as oil, water and basic food crops such as wheat). Other industrialized nations also take more than their fair share. If this continues, soon there will be no resources for anybody to use. According to some estimates, the global supply of oil will last only fifty years. We are also endangering supplies of good farming land and water. For example, we are losing—top soil—the good, rich top layer of soil that plants need to grow well—at an alarming rate. In the worst cases, an inch of top soil, which nature takes 100 to 1500 years to form, is being destroyed in ten to twenty years.

Not everyone agrees about the future dangers. Some argue that the future will be better. They say that we will know better how to control our environment and that technology will provide us with new resources. For example, solar energy will replace coal and oil, plastic will replace tin and other metals. In fact, this has been happening for some time. However, producing some of these new resources may contribute to the second major environmental problem—pollution.

For a long time now, we have been producing more waste than nature can deal with. We also created new toxic substances that cannot be recycled safely. The result is pollution. Air pollution, in particular, is a problem for us all.

There are many sources of air pollution but the greatest is the automobile. It accounts for at least 80 percent of air pollution. The pollutants, the gases and other materials that do the damage—get into our eyes, noses, and throats and can cause serious illness such as bronchitis and lung cancer. Industry is another major cause of air pollution. Burning coal, oil and wood, release carbon dioxide and other gases into our atmosphere. A thick blanket of these gases forms and traps heat within our atmosphere. This is called greenhouse effect. The result of the greenhouse effect is global warming. Many scientists believe that global warming will cause worldwide flooding due to rising sea levels, serious climatic change and social disruption (Stevens 1995; Lemonick 1995). Small low-lying island communities in the Pacific, for example, may lose their homes as ocean levels rise higher and higher.

Another problem relates to the ozone layer that surrounds our planet and protects us from the harmful rays of the sun. Now, because of the use of certain gases such as chlorofluorocarbons (used in refrigeration and air conditioners) there is a hole in the ozone layer. At present the hole is largest over the Antarctic.

Today, there is considerable awareness of the need to “save the environment”. There are many “good news” stories about communities, governments and industries that have worked together to protect our environment. In many countries around the globe “green” politics, is now having a strong influence and environmental organizations are often asked for advice by governments and private organizations that are planning major developments.

Of course, individuals all over the world are trying to live in a way that is friendly to the environment—saving energy around the home and workplace, recycling paper and glass, using public transportation and planting trees.

(853 words)

(Source : Brown, K. and Hood, S. (2002). Academic Encounters : Life in Society. Cambridge University Press)

4. (a) Rewrite the following sentences after making necessary corrections. Do not make unnecessary changes in the original sentence : 1×10=10
- (i) I usually find it better not to get driven into an argument with David.
  - (ii) The institution is unsure how to get rid in unused old computers.
  - (iii) Ms. Khanna is absent today as her grandmother has just passed off.
  - (iv) She suffers of an allergy and cannot tolerate smoky environment.
  - (v) When the room was smoky that day, she felt a bit off the sorts and seemed to develop some allergic symptoms.
  - (vi) I never reveal important information to her as I think she is a snake on the grass.
  - (vii) She has a good work relationship with most of her colleagues in her office.

- (viii) One of her colleagues have won a scholarship to study abroad.
- (ix) That person usually does not socialize to his colleagues within and outside the work hours.
- (x) These days they are very busy as they have to follow a deadline for finishing the project work.
- (b) Supply the missing words in the following sentences : 1×5=5
- (i) My English is not very good, but it's enough to get .....
- (ii) John and Abdul used to be very good friends; it is surprising to know that they have fallen .....
- (iii) Once while riding a bike together to a remote place, they ..... out of petrol.
- (iv) We really wanted to go to the theatre, but we were put ..... by the high price of the tickets.
- (v) Nobody believed Ranjan first, but he ..... out to be right.
- (c) Use the correct forms of the verbs given in brackets : 1×5=5
- (i) It (stop) raining for a while, but it's raining again now.
- (ii) I would have gone to the event last night if someone (tell) me about it.
- (iii) She (play) for the national team for 50 matches so far.
- (iv) The new computer system (install) next month.
- (v) When the visiting team arrived, we (wait) for one hour.
- (d) Fill in the blanks with the antonyms of the words given within the brackets : 1×5=5
- (i) After receiving the job offer, Minu has become very \_\_\_\_\_. (morose)
- (ii) The employer observes that her \_\_\_\_\_ nature makes her easy to work with. (stubborn)
- (iii) Her parents are, however, \_\_\_\_\_ with changes in her work modalities. (contented)
- (iv) At her workplace, Minu always wants to stay away from people who are \_\_\_\_\_. (truthful)
- (v) Unlike many others, she is \_\_\_\_\_ in small talks. (interested)



5. (a) Rewrite each of the following sentences as directed, without changing the meaning : 1×10=10

(i) The instructor said, "I went to that institution last month".

( Change into indirect speech)

(ii) The girl spent whatever her father gave to her.

( Change into passive voice)

(iii) Nabam does not watch TV and he doesn't read magazines.

( Rewrite the sentence using 'neither....nor' )

(iv) I was very tired, but I could not sleep.

( Rewrite the sentence beginning with 'despite' )

(v) She rushed to the spot as soon as she heard the news.

( Rewrite the sentence using 'no sooner' )

(vi) Since he was tired, he could not come to the party.

( Turn into a simple sentence )

(vii) What a beautiful picture it is!

( Add a question tag )

(viii) He worked really very hard, but he could not win.

( Rewrite the sentence using 'though' )

(ix) Sumit is the best student in this batch.

( Rewrite the sentence using 'comparative degree' )

(x) If you do not persevere, you will begin to falter in any new situation.

( Rewrite the sentence using 'unless' )

- (b) Use the following words to make sentences that bring out their meanings clearly. Do not change the form of the words. (No marks will be given for vague and ambiguous sentences.) : 1×5=5

(i) Amiable

(ii) Impulsive

(iii) Conscientious

(iv) Credible

(v) Divert

(c) Choose the appropriate word to fill in the blanks :

1×5=5

(i) The boss paid Ellina a nice \_\_\_\_; he said she was the most sincere person he had ever worked with.

( compliment / complement )

(ii) They bought some \_\_\_\_ items for the upcoming seminar.

( stationary / stationery )

(iii) It is important to establish a good \_\_\_\_ with other colleagues at the workplace.

( report / rapport )

(iv) \_\_\_\_ tax is considered as an offence.

( Evading / Avoiding )

(v) When I saw two of my students arguing with each other, I had to \_\_\_\_ to stop the argument.

( intervene / interfere )

(d) Use the following idioms/phrases in sentences of your own to bring out their meanings clearly. Do not change the form of the words :

1×5=5

(i) Out of the blue

(ii) Have second thoughts

(iii) On cloud nine

(iv) A dark horse

(v) Cut back on

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