

111858

COMBINED COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION (MAIN)

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time : 3 Hours

Full Marks : 200

Note : (1) The figures in the right-hand margin indicate full marks for the questions.

(2) Answer the questions following the instructions strictly.

(3) Write legibly, to the point and in your own words as far as possible.

1. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow in not more than 4-5 sentences each : 10×5=50

The one thing that all normal people possess is the ability to talk. And it's mainly by the way you talk that others judge your personality. This does not refer merely to one's diction, grammar, and tone, although these things are equally important. What is meant here can probably be best represented in the words of Robert Louis Stevenson who wrote, "Talk is our chief business in this world; and talk is by far the most accessible of pleasures. It costs nothing in money; it is all profit; it completes our education, founds and fosters our friendships, and can be enjoyed at any age and in almost every state of health." This is all true, but there is another saying that goes : "The thing most frequently opened by mistake is the human mouth." Quite often criticism only manages to throw a bad light on the scene. It's also easier to criticize than to be right or to help—so most of us do it. We can improve our personality immediately if we stop it.

Another method for improving our personality fast is to stop talking about oneself. We should talk about the other person to that other person, and he or she will love it. Montaigne said, "When all is summed up, a man never speaks of himself without loss; his accusations of himself are always believed; his praises never." So 'we' should not be subject of our talk.

When we talk we should look straight into the face of the listener. We should also learn to listen carefully and attentively. Listening well and giving credit to the other for speaking well is the sign of a socially mature person. And if we are a good listener, we shall surely emerge as good speakers.

We should also remember that by speaking, we learn a lot. Being well-informed is a great advantage. A person's overall personality is altered and shaped by his or her general knowledge, awareness of the world around him or her. Several questions can be addressed in this regard. Such as—Is a person practical-minded? Can one figure things out logically? Does one read at least half as many non-fiction as fiction books? Does one find time to listen to good music occasionally, or to worthwhile talks? Does one have some knowledge of arts? The answer to all these questions would be 'yes' if one had a well-informed personality.

It is true that we all have our special abilities and particular fields of knowledge. However, we cannot talk about these abilities or remain in the company of others who are familiar with the same fields of knowledge all the time. So we should try to enlarge our scope. There is no reason to be left out of any conversation because we know absolutely nothing about the subject being discussed.

- (a) Why does the author say that talking is an important aspect of normal human life?
- (b) What contrary views about talking are expressed in the first paragraph of the passage?
- (c) Why does the author say that one should avoid talking about oneself in any conversation?
- (d) What are the things that are usually reflected by the information that we have of the world around us?
- (e) Why does the author say that it is necessary to have a comprehensive knowledge of things?

2. Write a precis of the following passage not exceeding **one-third** of its original length and suggest a suitable title : 40

In our country begging has become a profession and the beggars continue to increase in numbers. So vast indeed is the fraternity of these beggars that foreigners visiting India, especially cities like Varanasi, our cities of pilgrimage, have been led to call our cities the cities of beggars and of dust! There are no statistics available for estimating their number, but that is not needed for our present purpose. Of course, any practical reform in this matter does not require a close investigation into the causes and conditions of the existence of beggars, but we are here concerned with the question of seeing how these beggars live and what, in particular, is the effect on society of their existence.

The causes of the increase in the number of beggars are many, but of these we may just consider only a few. For good or evil, Indians have been very religious in their outlook on life, and also very generous and hospitable towards those who go to them for begging. Some of the scriptures point out that giving charity to beggars ensures salvation in the next world. The social conscience developed from such an article of faith has been the main cause of the increase in the number of beggars. They are always sure of finding people anxious to go to heaven by offering doles and donations to the needy and so they are thriving. There are many beggars whose profession had been hereditary—strange perversion of human nature, which, as we are told, ought to eat out of the sweat of its brow. The most amusing spectacle, from the point of view of reason, is to see able-bodied persons, dressed in abundance of rags and many coloured clothes wandering about the streets and going from house to house begging! This might be seen in almost any village and town in our country. For ages uncounted this thing has been going on. The ignorant masses have a fear of the curse supposed to emanate from the mouths of angered beggars, and thus the beggars get more than they need. In fact, strange as it might seem, a considerable number of these beggars are richer than poor patrons!

With the spread of social consciousness among the modern educated Indian, the problem of beggars is today being seriously thought about and ways and means are being seriously mooted on how to solve this problem. When we read how in the West, for example, begging has become a crime coming under the vagrancy acts of Parliaments and when we know that in some countries people are warned that "Those who do not work, neither shall they eat", we begin to think how depressing is the situation in India. Poverty, no doubt, is one of the major causes of begging, and unemployment and increase in population have also been responsible for the same, but the disease of begging has deeper roots in the social consciousness of us all and it is to this that any reformer has to turn. We must make it clear to the masses that there is no special glory or virtue in giving charity to the able-bodied persons, and that such misplaced charity is only increasing idleness and chronic poverty. If the masses are educated in social science, its elementary principles at any rate, there will be a gradual lessening of the number of beggars in our country.

The State, too, has to devise laws for checking the growth of beggars. Some strict laws against vagrants must be put into practice in every city and village in India. It is more important to introduce them in holy cities where the beggars are leading the most unholy lives. Finally, it is for the development of saner outlook on life that we must agitate if we are to root out this evil. In one form or another, begging has become the most widespread thing today. Some are honourable, modernized beggars in pants and boots and ties and they have subtler ways of exploiting their patron victims.

3. In view of the arriving monsoon and the slow pace of work on the construction of the four-lane national highway, write a letter to the Deputy Commissioner, Capital Complex, drawing his attention towards the inconvenience caused and threat posed to public life and property. Also, seek his timely response for the public safety and convenience. 25
4. Write a paragraph in **about 200 words** on any **one** of the following topics : 25
 - (a) Money and Politics
 - (b) Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown
 - (c) Jhum cultivation in Arunachal Pradesh
5. (A) Correct and rewrite any *five* of the following sentences : 2×5=10
 - (i) I am the man who am guilty.
 - (ii) The doctor advised me to regularly take exercise.
 - (iii) She prefers coffee more than tea.
 - (iv) It is an unique privilege to welcome our guests.
 - (v) You are the teacher here, isn't it?
 - (vi) A herd of cattles were grazing in the field.
 - (vii) He prevented me to going.

(B) Choose the appropriate form of the verb given in the brackets and rewrite the sentences (any five) : 1×5=5

- (i) As I was crossing the road, I saw him _____ (go, going, gone).
- (ii) Peter _____ (was suffering, has been suffering, suffered) from influenza from last week.
- (iii) This jet _____ (fly, flies, flown) at the speed of eight hundred kilometers per hour.
- (iv) He _____ (show, showed, had shown) me the letter.
- (v) I _____ (have not written, did not write, shall not be writing) the report till today.
- (vi) We shall come if you _____ (think, thought, will think) necessary.
- (vii) If he _____ (is going, goes, will go) there he can meet the Principal.

(C) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate prepositions and rewrite the completed sentences (any five) : 1×5=5

- (i) He is afflicted _____ arthritis.
- (ii) My feeling for her is akin _____ pity.
- (iii) Do not boast _____ your wealth.
- (iv) She is burdened _____ a large family.
- (v) She burst _____ tears at the sad news.
- (vi) Commit the passage _____ memory.
- (vii) Are you competent _____ the post?

(D) Change the mode of narration of the following sentences (any five) : 1×5=5

- (i) He said to me, "Let us go home."
- (ii) I said to him, "Please explain the passage once again."
- (iii) He said that he knew that boy.
- (iv) He told the children that they must not play with fire.
- (v) He said to me, "Do you like the work?"
- (vi) The captain enquired if everyone was comfortable.
- (vii) She said, "What a beautiful sight it is!"

6. (A) Rewrite any **ten** of the following sentences as directed : 1×10=10

- (i) They will wait here until the train _____. (Use the correct tense of the verb 'leave')
- (ii) The monkey grabbed the bunch of bananas. (Change into Passive voice)
- (iii) She is an excellent swimmer. (Rewrite the sentences adding an appropriate question tag)
- (iv) Zeus is the most powerful god in Greek mythology. (Rewrite the sentence using the comparative degree of comparison)
- (v) I do not have much money. I cannot spare any. (Combine the two sentences into a single simple sentence)
- (vi) He reads Times of India, not Tribune. (Insert article wherever necessary)
- (vii) You are quite young, you can learn music. (Rewrite using 'enough')
- (viii) Everybody is fallible. (Turn into a negative sentence without changing the meaning)
- (ix) Daniel lost a great deal of money in the stock market. (Change into an interrogative sentence without changing the meaning)
- (x) The President's speech was loudly cheered by the *assembly of hearers*. (Rewrite the sentence substituting the italicized phrase with a single word)
- (xi) What an inglorious defeat! (Change into an assertive sentence)
- (xii) The child is too small. He cannot reach the shelf. (Combine into a single sentence using 'so....that')

(B) Rewrite the sentences choosing the correct alternative from the words given in the brackets (**any ten**) : 1×10=10

- (i) None can question his honesty and _____. (voracity/veracity)
- (ii) He deals in _____. (stationery/stationary)
- (iii) Only the virtuous in soul experience divine _____. (facility/felicity)
- (iv) The tall tree was struck with _____. (lighting/lightning)
- (v) Let us try to settle this dispute in an _____ (amiable/amicable) manner.
- (vi) Don't forget to insert _____ (coma/comma) in the right place.
- (vii) He is given to _____ (flattering/fluttering) the rich.

- (viii) The film has been _____ (adopted/adapted) for Indian viewership.
- (ix) The children are tired of this _____ (continual/continuous) rain.
- (x) The dictator led a _____ (sensual/sensuous) life.
- (xi) Justice should be _____ (tampered/tempered) with mercy.
- (xii) Trespassers will be _____ . (persecuted/prosecuted)
- (C) Make sentences with the following pairs of words to differentiate their meaning
(any five) : 2×5=10
- (i) antic; antique (ii) bail; bale (iii) ascent; assent (iv) deference; difference
- (v) defy; deify (vi) emerge; immerse (vii) illicit; elicit
- (D) Frame sentences with any five of the following idioms in order to bring out their
implicit meaning (any five): 1×5=5
- (i) with a view to (ii) a bag of bones (iii) out of tune (iv) under the thumb
- (v) blue blood (vi) dog's chance (vii) feet of clay