

UPSC MAINS-2017

COMPULSARY ENGLISH PAPER

Civil Service (Main) Examination

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 300

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

**Please read each of the following instructions carefully
before attempting questions**

All questions are to be attempted.

The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it.

Answers must be written in ENGLISH only.

Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to and if answered in much longer or shorter than the prescribed length, marks will be deducted.

Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

Write an essay in about 600 words on any *one* of the following topics :

100

- (a) Recent Economic Reforms in India
- (b) Threats to Environment
- (c) Uses and Abuses of Social Networking
- (d) Caring for the Aged

Read carefully the passage given below and write your answers to the questions that follow in clear, correct and concise language :

15×5=75

Man, since antiquity, has been an inveterate traveller. Only the motivations for travel have changed. In ancient times, the main motivations for travel were trade, pilgrimage and conquest. It is not often realized how extensive were the contacts among the peoples several thousand years ago. For instance, there was considerable interchange of ideas and knowledge between India and West Asia and the Garco-Roman civilization.

Travel become the means of acquiring culture in Europe. The tradition of the Grand Tour which started in the 17th century was more firmly established in the 18th and the 19th centuries by the emergence of an affluent mercantile class. After the Second World War, Europe lay in ruins. The Marshall Plan which was introduced by the United States for the revival of the economies of European countries made tourism as one of its planks. It provided large amount of money for the reconstruction of hotels and tourism infrastructure of Western Europe. What was more significant was that for the first time tourism was viewed as an engine for economic development. This made the Governments start assuming responsibility for the promotion of tourism.

Three technological inventions have fuelled the growth of travel on a large scale in successive periods. First, the steam engine which made travel by rail and steamship possible before 1914; then the internal combustion engine which popularized travel by automobile in the inter-War years and lastly, the jet propulsion engine which has led to the international tourist explosion of the post-War era.

The Government of india also took note of the new phenomenon of tourism and its economic implications. In 1947, the private sector consisted of a number of hotels and travel agencies in the main cities mainly owned and operated by foreign interests. As it happened in other industries after Independence, the control of many of these hotels passed into the hands of Indian entrepreneurs. At the same time, a number of new indigenously owned and operated travel agencies and hotels started being set up. In the last 50 years, the Indian travel industry has shown remarkable enterprise. Some of the leading Indian hotel groups and travel agencies have branched out overseas and their performance is highly regarded in the international tourism markets.

The tourism revolution which started in full measure 50 years ago has not run its course. There are several reasons for taking a long-term optimistic view of tourism. First, the increase in leisure time in industrialized societies; paid holidays which were introduced as a social welfare measure have now become an accepted feature not only in industrialized countries but also in many developing countries. The length of paid holidays has increased. The working week, both in public and private sectors, has come down to 40 hours, spread over 5 days. Evidently Governments will have to concern themselves with the quality of use of leisure. Tourism has become a preeminent form of recreation for the younger people. This is reflected in the increase in travel in the age group of 18 to 25 years. Second, the rise in literacy and educational standards. Third, better health care has made it possible for retired persons, above 60 years, to undertake travel for pleasure. Fourth, the increase in discretionary incomes in real terms in the last twenty years, partly due to two income families with fewer children. Tourism is highly susceptible to income elasticity. Many research studies have established that increase in income level in real terms results in increase in propensity for travel. And lastly, taking a vacation, generally twice a year, has become a way of life in modern societies.

- a) What, according to the author, were the main motivations for travel in ancient times ?
- b) What was the state of tourism in Europe and the United States ?
- c) What part did technology play in the growth of tourism ?
- d) How does the author describe the state of tourism in the post-Independence India ?
- e) Why does the author think that there is a bright future for tourism in modern societies ?

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 language : 75

The work of a lawyer or a politician must contain in a more delectable form a great deal of the same pleasure that is to be derived from playing bridge. Here, of course, there is not only the exercise of skill but the outwitting of a skilled opponent. Even where this competitive element is absent, however, the performance of difficult feats is agreeable. A man who can do stunts in an aeroplane finds the pleasure so great that for the sake of it he is willing to risk his life. I imagine that an able surgeon, in spite of the painful circumstances in which his work is done, derives satisfaction from the exquisite precision of his operations. All skilled work can be pleasurable, provided the skill required is either variable or capable of indefinite improvement. If these conditions are absent, it will cease to be interesting when a man has acquired his maximum skill. A man who runs three-mile races will cease to find pleasure in this occupation when he passes the age at which he can beat his own previous record. Fortunately there is a very considerable amount of work in which new circumstances call for new skill and a man can go on improving, at any rate until he has reached middle age. In some kinds of skilled work, such as politics, for example, it seems that men are at their best between sixty and seventy, the reason being that in such occupations a wide experience of other men is essential. For this reason, successful politicians are apt to be happier at the age of seventy than any other men of equal age. Their only competitors in this respect are the men who are the heads of big businesses.

There is, however, another element possessed by the best work, which is even more important as a source of happiness than is the exercise of skill. This is the element of constructiveness. In some work, though by no means in most, something is built up which remains as a monument when the work is completed. We may distinguish construction from destruction by the following criterion. In construction, the initial stage of affairs is comparatively haphazard, while the final state of affairs embodies a purpose; in destruction, the reverse is the case: the initial state of affairs embodies a purpose, while the final state of affairs is haphazard, that is to say, all that is intended by the destroyer is to produce a state of affairs which does not embody a certain purpose. Destruction, is of course necessary very often as a preliminary to subsequent construction; in that case it is part of a whole which is constructive. But not infrequently a man will engage in activities of which the purpose is destructive without regard to any construction that may come after. Frequently he will conceal this from himself by the belief that he is only sweeping away in order to build afresh, but it is generally possible to unmask this pretence, when it is a pretence, by asking him what the subsequent construction is to be. On this subject it will be found that he will speak vaguely and without enthusiasm, whereas on the preliminary destruction he has spoken precisely and with zest. This applies to not a few revolutionaries and militarists and other apostles of violence. They are actuated, usually without their own knowledge, by hatred; the destruction of what they hate is their real purpose, and they are comparatively indifferent to the question of what is to come after it. Now I cannot deny that in the work of destruction as in the work of construction there may be joy. It is a fiercer joy, perhaps at moments more intense, but it is less profoundly satisfying, since the result is one in which little satisfaction is to be found. You kill your enemy, and when he is dead your occupation is gone, and the satisfaction that you derive from

victory quickly fades. The work of construction, on the other hand, when completed, is delightful to contemplate, and moreover is never so fully completed that there is nothing further to do about it. The most satisfactory purposes are those that lead on indefinitely from one success to another without ever coming to a dead end; and in this respect it will be found that construction is a greater source of happiness than destruction.

(735 words)

4. (a) Rewrite the following sentences after making necessary correction. Do not make unnecessary changes in the original sentence : 1×10=10

- (i) The older the wine, better it tastes.
- (ii) You cannot cross the bridge until you do not come to it.
- (iii) He asked me what was my profession.
- (iv) Give me a pencil to write.
- (v) Netaji is one of the bravest patriot of the country.
- (vi) I met an one-eyed beggar in the street.
- (vii) The traders dealing with garments are jittery about the impact of GST.
- (viii) His efficiency soon made him the boss's blue-eyes boy.
- (ix) She does not know cooking, doesn't she ?
- (x) No sooner the bell rang than the children rushed out of their classrooms.

(b) Supply the missing words : 1×5=5

- (i) The quarrel was unnecessary as they were making a ____ out of a molehill.
- (ii) Let us ring ____ the New Year with gaiety.
- (iii) The custom of SATI was done away ____ during the British period.
- (iv) One should not always blow one's own ____.
- (v) I cried myself ____ to make him hear.

(c) Use the correct forms of the verbs in brackets : 1×5=5

- (i) Bread and butter ____ his usual breakfast. (be)
- (ii) Some of the protestors were ____ by bullets. (hit)
- (iii) When I came out of the building I saw that it _____. (rain)
- (iv) Floods ____ if it continues to rain. (occur)
- (v) I ____ for you since 10 o'clock. (wait)

(d) Write the antonyms of the following : 1×5=5

- (i) Amateur
- (ii) Heavenly
- (iii) Perfect
- (iv) Variable
- (v) Vertical

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

(i) The truth of the matter is too obvious to require any proof.

(Remove 'too')

(ii) Radhika says, "I have pain in my knee."

(Change into indirect speech)

(iii) He is not hungry. He is not thirsty.
(Combine the sentences using 'neither...nor')
(iv) Give him a glass of water.
(Change into passive voice)

(v) The prisoner was set free by the court.
(Change into active voice)

(vi) He was ill. He came to school.
(Rewrite as one sentence beginning with 'despite')

(vii) When the sun rises, the birds leave their nests.
(Change into a compound sentence)

(viii) Those who come late shall be punished.
(Change into simple sentence)

(ix) Both his parents died in a train accident, ____?
(Add a question tag)

(x) Gold is the costliest metal.
(Use comparative degree)

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

- (i) Evidence
- (ii) Condemnation
- (iii) Constitute
- (iv) Territorial
- (v) Unseemly

(c) Choose the appropriate word to fill in the blanks : 1×5=5

- (i) He ran like a ____ through the forest. (doe/dough)
- (ii) The teacher encouraged the students to understand things and not learn by _____. (wrote/rote)
- (iii) Indians were determined to throw away the _____ of foreign rule. (yolk/yoke)
- (iv) After his morning prayers, the priest remained _____ for the rest of the day. (idle/idol)
- (v) The hunter killed the bird sitting on the _____. (bow/bough)

(d) Use the following idioms/phrases in sentences of your own to bring out their meaning clearly. Do not change the form of the words : 1×5=5

- (i) Wild goose chase
- (ii) Crocodile tears
- (iii) Sea change
- (iv) Fool's paradise
- (v) On cloud nine