

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 300

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

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

All the questions are to be attempted.

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

Answers must be written in ENGLISH only.

Word limit in questions, if specified, should be adhered to.

You must not disclose your identity in any of your answers.

1. Write an essay in about 800 words on any *one* of the following topics : 100
- (a) The factors that have influenced industrialisation in India
 - (b) Forests as they used to be
 - (c) Educating the masses—a challenge and an opportunity
 - (d) Is coalition politics the sign of a mature democracy?

2. (a) Write a letter to the Editor of 'The Times of India' expressing your concern about the impact of the use of plastic bags on the environment. 25
- (b) You have recently visited a night shelter in your town. Write a report describing the miserable plight of the poor and the homeless who live there, also making a few suggestions about how this night shelter could be improved. 25

3. Write a précis of the passage given below in one-third of its length. Do not suggest a title. The précis should be written in your own words. State the number of words at the end of the answer : 50

If scientists succeed in making use of the power of the sun, this new energy will have many different uses. Mirrors can concentrate the sun's energy to create extremely high temperatures that can melt metals. Iron melts at 2800 degrees Fahrenheit, and sunlight has been concentrated by mirrors to produce temperatures several times higher. Many countries that have deposits of valuable ores do not have the fossil fuels needed to refine them. However, there is plenty of free sunshine. So instead of importing expensive fuels, these countries may someday use the free fuel of the sun.

The sun's energy can be used in your own house for heating and cooking. Imagine cooking your dinner on an outdoor solar stove which uses the sun for its source of heat. You could do it in the winter sun, too, for solar stoves are built to focus the sun's energy on a particular area to concentrate the heat. In countries where the supply of fuel is scarce, solar cookers are being used on a limited scale. Unfortunately, for the average user everywhere the price of the solar cooker is too high.

The sun can also be used as a source of fuel for power plants. One scientist who has studied the sun's energy for years has developed a solar heater that will produce steam power at a reasonable cost. Such experimental power plants may lead the way to more extensive use of solar energy in running machinery and producing light.

Solar energy can be used in telephone communication, in space travel, and in farming. Solar cells have been used experimentally for a number of years to power telephone lines, and they are now being used to recharge batteries which power space instruments. Solar pumps that can raise water for irrigation have also been developed, but they are seldom used because they are too expensive.

One of the practical problems of using solar energy is making its supply continuous. What can be done when the sun is not shining on the heating system? If you were using a solar pump for irrigation, the interruption of sunlight would not matter, since plants do not need a continuous supply of water, day and night. But suppose you were heating your house by using solar energy! A number of houses that are experimentally heated in this way use storage tanks to hold the heat for the nighttime and rainy spells, or have supplementary systems that generate heating by using ordinary fuels.

There are other practical problems to be solved before the sun is put to work on a large scale. But once the sun is harnessed, the supply of energy will be inexhaustible. No wonder, those who look to the skies, find startling changes in our future ways of life there. (464 words)

4. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow : 10×5=50

In the last hundred years we have had marvellous opportunities for building good towns, and we have missed them all. The speed with which our towns have been recently built and extended has been used time and again as an excuse for their low standards. Yet if our sense of values had not been utterly corrupted, we would have used that speed as a heaven-sent opportunity. It is difficult to get order, organisation, and architectural cohesion into a town that grows slowly, where only a house or a cottage is added here and there at long intervals over a course of several hundred years. But when a town or a new large quarter is built as a single undertaking in a few years, then there is a perfect opportunity of obtaining all those qualities that make a town good to live in. All down the nineteenth century we had the most splendid opportunities for building fine towns; infinitely greater opportunities than any that had occurred in the eighteenth century. Brutalised and corrupted in our values we missed them most tragically. In the last twenty years, we have had greater opportunities, since local authorities have had the power at hand to plan and control, and have hundreds of thousands of houses built. Seduced by a trivial romanticism, we have again bungled the opportunities, and instead of fine towns we have built our squandering, sordid, empty suburbs. We, the people of this generation, hold a heavy responsibility there. Yet it is not too late to retrieve ourselves to some extent. The opportunities have not yet entirely gone. There are still some areas of slums, and far greater areas of sad and dreary though sanitary streets that cry for rebuilding. If we set ourselves vigorously to seize this opportunity, to snatch from it every possibility of doing our work in the finest instead of the easiest way, then we may once again build towns that will be worthy of us. They will have beauty and order and all the facilities for the living of that good social and physical life which it is the prime purpose of the town to provide.

(a) Why does the writer feel that the last hundred years have given good opportunities for building good towns? 10

(b) What is the difference between 'areas of slums' and 'areas of sad and dreary though sanitary streets'? 10

- (c) What does the writer see as being a threat to the building of good towns now? 10
- (d) Why does the writer feel that the opportunities of building finer towns have not yet entirely gone? 10
- (e) What, in the opinion of the writer, should a good town offer? 10

5. (a) Rewrite the following sentences after correcting the grammatical errors in each : 1×10=10

- (i) The Indian coral reefs are world famous but less explored, studied and utilised.
- (ii) Like Himalayas, the Western Ghats play an important role in controlling and directing the monsoon.
- (iii) I am sitting here for hours.
- (iv) Because of the storm, I would have been home before eight.
- (v) He both stole my camera and cell phone.
- (vi) Among long rows of beans and peas, the gardener planted radishes and cabbages.
- (vii) He prefers listening to music than reading books.
- (viii) The higher the hill, wider the view.
- (ix) Before they are ripe, you should not eat mangoes.
- (x) You were ill yesterday?

(b) Make sentences using the following words in such a way that the meaning of each word is clear in the context : 2×5=10

- (i) Same; Similar
- (ii) Good; Goods
- (iii) Cease; Seize
- (iv) There; Theirs
- (v) Paint (v); Pant (v)

(c) Use the following idiomatic expressions in sentences in order to bring out their meaning : 2×5=10

- (i) To play to the gallery
- (ii) A feather in one's cap
- (iii) The writing on the wall
- (iv) To get on someone's nerves
- (v) To take the bull by the horns

(d) Rewrite the following sentences as directed :

2×5=10

(i) Are you listening to the story? (Change to passive voice)

(ii) The captain said to the boys, "Let us play a match."
(Change to indirect speech)

(iii) I _____ (not smoke) since I _____ (leave) school.
(Use the correct form of the verbs)

(iv) He tried every plan. (Change to negative)

(v) He is very sensible. He will understand it.
(Combine the two sentences using 'too')

(e) Make adjectives from the following words :

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- (i) Sun
- (ii) Violence
- (iii) Ability
- (iv) Fame
- (v) Poverty

(f) Make nouns from the following words :

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- (i) Quick
- (ii) Learn
- (iii) Amass
- (iv) Grand
- (v) Hot

