

PSG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE
(AUTONOMOUS)

BA DEGREE EXAMINATION DECEMBER 2025
(Fifth Semester)

Branch - ENGLISH

MAJOR ELECTIVE COURSE – I ENGLISH FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

Time: Three Hours

Maximum: 75 Marks

SECTION-A

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow it.

(5X1=5)

In the early days of space exploration, the United States and the Soviet Union were engaged in a fierce competition known as the Space Race. This rivalry was a key part of the larger Cold War, with both superpowers seeking to demonstrate their technological and ideological superiority. The launch of Sputnik 1 by the Soviet Union in 1957 was a major turning point, as it shocked the U.S. and spurred them to accelerate their own space program. In response, the U.S. established NASA and poured vast resources into developing new rockets and spacecraft.

The competition intensified throughout the 1960s. The Soviets achieved several firsts, including the first man in space, Yuri Gagarin, in 1961. However, the U.S. ultimately achieved the most significant milestone of the era: landing a man on the moon. On July 20, 1969, astronaut Neil Armstrong took his "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind," a moment that was broadcast to a global audience. The successful Apollo 11 mission effectively concluded the most intense phase of the Space Race, as the U.S. had achieved a clear and monumental victory. While the rivalry eventually gave way to a new era of cooperation, the Space Race had a lasting impact on technology, inspiring innovations in everything from materials science to computer technology.

Questions:

- Which of the following events occurred first, according to the passage?
 - The Apollo 11 mission
 - The launch of Sputnik 1
 - The establishment of NASA
 - Yuri Gagarin's flight into space
- The Space Race was a part of a larger conflict known as the:
 - Cold War
 - World War II
 - Space War
 - Vietnam War
- What was the main goal of both the U.S. and the Soviet Union in the Space Race?
 - To develop new forms of energy for civilian use
 - To be the first to establish a colony on the moon
 - To demonstrate their technological and ideological superiority
 - To create a joint space program for all nations
- Which of the following achievements was accomplished by the Soviet Union?
 - The establishment of NASA
 - The first man in space
 - The launch of the Apollo 11 mission
 - The first man on the moon
- Based on the passage, the phrase 'effectively concluded the most intense phase of the Space Race' refers to the end of the competition after which major event?
 - The launch of Sputnik 1
 - The establishment of NASA
 - The Apollo 11 mission's moon landing
 - The flight of Yuri Gagarin

SECTION B

Answer ALL the questions

(3X5=15)

- Write a Precis of the following:**

The novella, a literary form often overlooked in favour of its more celebrated counterparts; the novel and the short story occupy a unique and powerful position in the world of literature. It is generally longer than a short story but shorter than a novel, with its length typically ranging from 20,000 to 50,000 words. This specific constraint is not a limitation but a strength, forcing writers to be incredibly focused and deliberate in their craft. A great novella often possesses the narrative drive of a short story while also allowing for a depth of character and theme that is usually reserved for a full-length novel.

Unlike the sprawling canvas of the novel, which can accommodate multiple subplots and a large cast of characters, the novella is a more concentrated form. It usually focuses on a single, compelling plotline and a small number of central characters. This allows the writer to explore a specific idea or a moment in a character's life with intense scrutiny. Think of Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* or Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*. Both works are tightly constructed, driven by a single journey or struggle, and rich with symbolic meaning.

The novella doesn't waste words; every scene, every dialogue, every descriptive detail serves to advance the core narrative or deepen the central themes. It demands a high level of artistic discipline, and when executed well, it can leave a lasting impression on the reader, proving that true power in storytelling lies not in length, but in precision.

- Write an essay FOR and AGAINST on ANY ONE of the following topics in about 300 words**
 - Does social media cause anxiety and depression in young people?
 - Does artificial intelligence pose a threat to human creativity?
- Write an expository essay on ANY ONE of following topics in about 350 words.**
 - Mental Health and Academic Demands in Higher Education
 - AI and Human Relationships

SECTION – C

Answer ALL the Questions

- Choose the grammatically and contextually right word and fill in the blanks respectively.(4X1=4)**

Many people believe that money is the sole (A) _____ of happiness, but research suggests that a good work-life balance and strong social connections are far more important for long-term well-being. Furthermore, the constant pursuit of wealth can often lead to increased stress and anxiety, ultimately

Cont...

Question: A Cont...

undermining the very happiness it was meant to provide. For this reason, a growing number of individuals are choosing careers and lifestyles that prioritize personal fulfillment (B)_____ financial gain. It's a fundamental shift in values that acknowledges the profound difference between simply having a lot of money and truly being (C)_____. This new perspective holds that true contentment is not about accumulating more possessions but about finding satisfaction and meaning in one's everyday experiences, a realization that is slowly but surely (D)_____ hold in modern society.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------|------------|
| A. a) determinant | b) result | c) outcome | d) purpose |
| B. a) over | b) from | c) with | d) beyond |
| C. a) important | b) successful | c) content | d) wealthy |
| D. a) getting | b) having | c) holding | d) taking |

B. Relate the correct option in reference to analogy

(4X1=4)

1. Glove - Hand

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| a. Hat - Head | b. Sock - Foot | c. Shoe - Foot | d. Tie - Neck |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|

2. Symphony - Composer

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Novel - Author | b. Painting - Gallery |
| c. Building - Architect | d. Song - Singer |

3. Yawn - Boredom

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|
| a. Smile - Joy | b. Frown - Confusion |
| c. Sob - Sorrow | d. Blush - Embarrassment |

4. Whisper - Speak

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| a. Drawl - Talk | b. Hum - Sing | c. Patter - Walk | d. Yell - Shout |
|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|

C. Find the Synonym for the given words

(4X1=4)

1. ELUCIDATE

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| a) Obscure | b) Confuse | c) Clarify | d) Mystify |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|

2. CONCISE

- | | | | |
|------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| a) Verbose | b) Brief | c) Lengthy | d) Rambling |
|------------|----------|------------|-------------|

3. ABUNDANT

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|---------|--------------|
| a) Scarce | b) plentiful | c) rare | d) deficient |
|-----------|--------------|---------|--------------|

4. METICULOUS

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| a) Careless | b) Hasty | c) Thorough | d) sloppy |
|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------|

D. Find the Antonym for the given words

(4X1=4)

1. FRIENDLY

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| a) Obscure | b) Confuse | c) Clarify | d) Mystify |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|

2. ANCIENT

- | | | | |
|------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| a) Verbose | b) Brief | c) Lengthy | d) Rambling |
|------------|----------|------------|-------------|

3. DEFIANT

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|---------|--------------|
| a) Scarce | b) plentiful | c) rare | d) deficient |
|-----------|--------------|---------|--------------|

4. EXPAND

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| a) Careless | b) Hasty | c) Thorough | d) sloppy |
|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------|

E. Identify the four wrongly spelt words among the following:

(4X1=4)

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|-------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. DIPHTHONG | 2. CONNOISSEUR | 3. MISCELLANIOUS |
| 4. RECONNAISSANCE | 5. OCCURRENCE | 6. INDISPENSIBLE |

F. Make appropriate words from the given group of letters.

(4X1=4)

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. AEBSRNTSERNEP | 2. AEEILNNSSGCUAG | 3. OUATIBNTTECS | 4. OCIDDNISERT |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|

G. Form a new word by adding a prefix or a suffix to the given root word

(4X1=4)

- | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| 1. HAPPY | 2. CARE | 3. QUICK | 4. LEGAL |
|----------|---------|----------|----------|

H. Find out the meaning of words in sentences

(4X1=4)

- The professor's profound lecture on philosophy left the students with much to think about.

a. shallow	b. without meaning
c. very great or intense	d. simple and easy to understand
- The tiny island was completely isolated from the rest of the world, with no electricity or running water.

a. connected	b. separated or set apart from others
c. crowded	d. popular
- The politician's speech was full of rhetoric but lacked any clear plans for the future.

a. logical reasoning	b. beautiful poetry
c. the art of effective speaking or writing	d. silly jokes
- The ancient scrolls were so brittle that the historian handled them with extreme care.

a. tough	b. colourful	c. easily broken	d. flexible
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I. Find out the meaning of idiomatic expressions and phrases in a sentence

(4X1=4)

- I know you're upset, but try to keep your chin up; things will get better soon.

a. look upward	b. stay optimistic in a difficult situation
c. stop crying	d. be quiet
- When the police arrived, the thieves took to their heels and ran away as fast as they could.

a. stood on their heels	b. walked slowly
c. put on their shoes	d. ran away quickly
- After all the delays, the project finally got the green light to proceed.

a. a sign of caution	b. permission to go ahead
c. a signal to stop	d. a new leader

4. I told him not to bet all his money on that stock, but he didn't listen. Now he's in hot water.
 a. taking a bath b. in a difficult or unpleasant situation
 c. feeling sick d. very angry

J. Find the right substitution for the words underlined

(4X1=4)

- The committee decided to call off the meeting due to a lack of attendees.
 a. postpone b. cancel c. reschedule d. begin
- She was taken aback by his sudden, angry outburst.
 a. surprised b. impressed c. annoyed d. happy
- The company had to cut back on its expenses to avoid bankruptcy.
 a. increase b. reduce c. spend d. manage
- He decided to put off his homework until the very last minute.
 a. finish b. start c. delay d. do

K. Rearrange the sentences labeled as PQRS into meaningful sentences:

(4X1=4)

- Climate change is a serious global issue.
 P. It affects agriculture, biodiversity, and human health.
 Q. The world must take collective action.
 R. Rising temperatures and sea levels are alarming signs.
 S. If ignored, the consequences will be disastrous.
 a) RPSQ b) PQRS c) QSRP d) SRQP
- The teacher encouraged the students
 P. to think critically Q. and question assumptions
 R. rather than memorizing facts S. which would help in real-life problem-solving
 a) PQRS b) QRSP c) RSPQ d) PRQS
- Books are a source of endless knowledge.
 P. They broaden our imagination. Q. They transport us into different worlds.
 R. Reading habit enhances vocabulary. S. and develops communication skills.
 a) PQRS b) QPRS c) RSPQ d) PRSQ
- Success does not come overnight.
 P. Hard work and perseverance are essential. Q. Failures teach us important lessons.
 R. Every small step brings us closer to our goal. S. Consistency is the key to achievement.
 a) PRSQ b) QPRS c) SRQP d) RPSQ

L. Rearrange the jumbled sentences in a sequence excepting S1 & S6

(4X1=4)

- S1. Ramesh decided to start a small business.
 S6. Today his shop is one of the most popular in the town.
 P. At first, he faced many difficulties in arranging money.
 Q. Gradually, customers started trusting him.
 R. He rented a small shop near the market. S. He began selling groceries at reasonable prices.
- S1. I wanted to improve my health and fitness.
 S6. Now I feel energetic and confident.
 P. So I joined a gym near my house. Q. I also followed a balanced diet.
 R. Initially, the workouts were very tiring. S. But with persistence, I got stronger day by day.
- S1. The train stopped suddenly in the middle of the journey.
 S6. Finally, after an hour, the train started moving again.
 P. The passengers grew restless and anxious. Q. The guard announced that there was a signal failure.
 R. Some passengers got down to have a look. S. Children began to cry out of hunger.
- S1. Reading is one of the best habits a person can cultivate.
 S6. Thus, books remain our best and lifelong companions.
 P. It provides knowledge and wisdom. Q. It improves language and communication skills.
 R. It helps us escape into different worlds. S. Above all, it shapes our personality and character.

M. Spot the errors in the following sentences:

(7X1=7)

- Each of the boys / have submitted / their assignments on time/ No error.
 a b c d
- Neither of the answers/are correct/so the teacher asked them to try again/ No error.
 a b c d
- The manager/together with his assistants/were present at the meeting/No error.
 a b c d
- The police / is investigating / the case very carefully. /No error.
 a b c d
- She told me / that she can sing / classical music very well /No error.
 a b c d
- He is senior / than me / in this office / by five years/ No error.
 a b c d
- Neither my parents / nor my brother / like to watch horror movies. /No error.
 a b c d

