

PSG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE
(AUTONOMOUS)

BA DEGREE EXAMINATION MAY 2026
(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. (5*1=5)

In the late 15th century, a new age of exploration began in Europe. Driven by the desire for trade, wealth, and knowledge, explorers set out on voyages that would change the course of history. Among them was Christopher Columbus, who sailed across the Atlantic in 1492 under the flag of Spain. Though he believed he had reached Asia, he had in fact encountered lands that were previously unknown to Europeans.

Other explorers soon followed. Vasco da Gama, a Portuguese navigator, became the first European to reach India by sea in 1498, opening direct trade routes with Asia. Ferdinand Magellan's expedition, though he himself did not survive the journey, achieved the first circumnavigation of the globe in 1522, proving that the Earth was round and that vast oceans connected distant lands.

These voyages marked the beginning of the Age of Discovery, a period that brought immense changes. European nations grew wealthy through trade and colonization, while native peoples around the world faced profound disruptions to their cultures and societies. The Age of Discovery laid the foundation for the interconnected world we live in today.

Questions:

1. Which explorer is credited with reaching India by sea in 1498?
 - a. Christopher Columbus
 - b. Ferdinand Magellan
 - c. Vasco da Gama
 - d. Amerigo Vespucci
2. Columbus believed he had reached:
 - a. Africa
 - b. Asia
 - c. Australia
 - d. South America
3. The first circumnavigation of the globe was completed in:
 - a. 1492
 - b. 1498
 - c. 1522
 - d. 1600
4. According to the passage, what was one major effect of the Age of Discovery?
 - a. The fall of the Roman Empire
 - b. Wealth for European nations and disruptions for native peoples
 - c. The invention of the telescope
 - d. The end of the Cold War
5. The phrase "laid the foundation for the interconnected world we live in today" suggests that the Age of Discovery:
 - a. Encouraged isolation between nations
 - b. Marked the beginning of global connections
 - c. Caused the end of exploration
 - d. Was limited only to European trade

Cont...

SECTION B**Answer ALL the questions****(3*5=15)****1. Write a Precis of the following:**

The essay, often considered a simple or informal literary form, holds a significant place in literature due to its versatility and intellectual depth. Shorter than a full-length book but more substantial than a mere article, an essay typically ranges from 1,000 to 5,000 words. This limited scope is a strength, compelling the writer to present ideas clearly, concisely, and persuasively. A well-crafted essay combines the clarity of exposition with the insight of reflection, offering readers both information and thoughtful analysis. Unlike a book, which may explore multiple themes and narratives over hundreds of pages, an essay is focused and deliberate. It usually revolves around a single topic, argument, or observation, allowing the author to examine it in depth. Classic examples include Orwell's *Shooting an Elephant* and Montaigne's *Essays*, both of which explore specific ideas with precision while offering broader reflections on society and human nature. Every sentence in a strong essay contributes to its argument or theme. Unnecessary digressions are avoided, and examples, anecdotes, and reasoning are carefully chosen to support the central point. The essay's power lies in its ability to engage the mind, provoke thought, and communicate ideas effectively in a concise format, proving that literary influence is measured not by length, but by clarity and insight.

2. Write an essay FOR and AGAINST on ANY ONE of the following topics in about 300 words

- a) Does fast fashion do more harm than good to society and the environment?
- b) Do video games have a positive impact on cognitive skills in children?

3. Write an expository essay on ANY ONE of following topics in about 350 words.

- a) Climate Change and Its Impact on Global Agriculture
- b) The Role of Technology in Shaping Modern Education

SECTION - C**Answer ALL the Questions****A. Choose the grammatically and contextually right word and fill in the blanks respectively.****(4*1=4)**

In an increasingly digital world, the ability to discern fact from fiction is more (A)_____ than ever. With information spreading at an unprecedented speed across social media platforms and online forums, it is easy to become overwhelmed. The sheer volume of content makes it difficult to verify every piece of information we encounter. Therefore, it is (B)_____ for individuals to develop critical thinking skills. This includes questioning the source, looking for corroborating evidence, and recognizing personal biases that might influence one's judgment. Failing to do so can lead to the spread of misinformation, which has the potential to (C)_____ real-world consequences, from influencing public opinion to eroding trust in legitimate institutions. By taking the time to (D)_____ what we read and share, we can become more responsible digital citizens.

- (A) a) important b) trivial c) common d) obsolete
 (B) a) optional b) crucial c) pointless d) effortless
 (C) a) prevent b) cause c) avoid d) disregard
 (D) a) ignore b) fabricate c) verify d) dismiss

B. Relate the correct option in reference to analogy**(4*1=4)****1. Thermometer - Temperature**

- a. Clock - Time
- b. Ruler - Length
- c. Scale - Weight
- d. Compass - Direction

2. Tree - Forest

- a. Flower - Bouquet
- b. Star - Constellation
- c. Brick - Wall
- d. Cloud - Sky

3. Doctor - Hospital

- a. Pilot - Cockpit
- b. Farmer - Field
- c. Judge - Courtroom
- d. Professor - University

Cont...

4. Chef - Kitchen

- a. Singer - Stage
- b. Sculptor - Studio
- c. Mechanic - Garage
- d. Artist - Museum

C. Find the Synonym for the given words

(4*1=4)

1. **NOVEL** a. Ancient b. Old c. Modern d. New
2. **PERNICIOUS** a. Harmless b. Beneficial c. Detrimental d. Trivial
3. **SAGACIOUS** a. Foolish b. Unwise c. Shrewd d. Naïve
4. **VENERABLE** a. Disrespectful b. Honoured c. Common d. Young

D. Find the Antonym for the given words

(4*1=4)

- 1. **ROBUST**
 - a) strong b) fragile c) hardy d) sturdy
- 2. **QUIET**
 - a) silent b) calm c) peaceful d) noisy
- 3. **INTRICATE**
 - a) simple b) complex c) elaborate d) detailed
- 4. **HAUGHTY**
 - a) arrogant b) humble c) proud d) vain

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

(4*1=4)

1. ACHIEVMENT
2. SOUVENIR
3. NECESSARY
4. EXAGGERATE
5. INNOCULATE
6. PRIVELEGE

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

(4*1=4)

1. PPRROAETI 2. ALNOITANL 3. OINATCNIL
4. LCAEPEDET

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

(4*1=4)

1. READ 2. CYCLE 3. ZIP 4. TEACH

H. Find out the meaning of words in sentences

(4*1=4)

1. His innate talent for music was obvious even as a small child.
 - a. learned over time
 - b. present from birth
 - c. acquired through practice
 - d. difficult to understand
2. The detective had to elicit the truth from the reluctant witness.
 - a. hide or conceal
 - b. make up a story
 - c. bring forth or draw out
 - d. give away freely
3. She was a novice at playing chess, so she wasn't surprised when she lost the game.
 - a. an expert or professional
 - b. a new or inexperienced person
 - c. a strong competitor
 - d. a person who cheats
4. The government's new policies seemed inevitable after the recent economic crisis.
 - a. avoidable
 - b. surprising
 - c. impossible to prevent
 - d. easy to change

I. Find out the meaning of idiomatic expressions and phrases in a sentence

(4*1=4)

1. After a long and frustrating day, I decided to just call it a day and go home.
 - a. make a phone call
 - b. decide that a situation is hopeless
 - c. stop working on something
 - d. celebrate the end of a day
2. You're only making things worse by interfering; you should just let sleeping dogs lie.
 - a. wake up a dog that is sleeping
 - b. ignore a problem in the hopes that it will go away
 - c. avoid bringing up a past issue to prevent conflict
 - d. be kind to animals

3. Finding a new job after being laid off was a blessing in disguise.
 - a. a good thing that seems bad at first
 - b. a problem that is hidden
 - c. an act of kindness
 - d. a good-luck charm
4. My brother always gets cold feet before a big presentation.
 - a. feels nervous or scared to do something
 - b. has cold feet
 - c. runs away
 - d. complains a lot

J. Find the right substitution for the words underlined

(4*1=4)

1. He wasn't ready to face the music after he broke the expensive vase.
 - a. listen to a song
 - b. accept the consequences
 - c. play a musical instrument
 - d. clean up the mess
2. After weeks of searching, she finally stumbled upon the perfect apartment.
 - a. tripped over
 - b. walked past
 - c. found by chance
 - d. looked for intently
3. I hope this report will shed some light on the recent decline in sales.
 - a. make something clearer
 - b. turn on a lamp
 - c. create a shadow
 - d. make things more confusing
4. She decided to call it a day and go home, as she was too tired to continue working.
 - a. name the day
 - b. finish a task
 - c. make a phone call
 - d. end a meeting

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

(4*1=4)

1. Technology has transformed modern education.

P. Online platforms make learning accessible to all.
 Q. Students can attend classes from anywhere.
 R. Digital tools make lessons interactive.
 S. This has created new opportunities for teachers and learners alike.

a) PQRS b) RQPS c) PRQS d) QSPR
2. The doctor advised the patient

P. to take medicines regularly
 Q. and avoid unhealthy food
 R. so that he could recover quickly
 S. and regain his strength

a) PQRS b) PRSQ c) QRSP d) PSRQ
3. Festivals bring people together.

P. They promote harmony and joy.
 Q. They are celebrated with enthusiasm.
 R. Traditions and customs are passed on.
 S. and strengthen cultural values.

a) QPRS b) RSPQ c) PQRS d) PRSQ
4. Good communication skills are important.

P. They help in expressing ideas clearly.
 Q. They build confidence.
 R. They are essential for career growth.
 S. and for maintaining healthy relationships.

a) PQRS b) PRSQ c) QPRS d) RSQP

Cont...

L. Rearrange the jumbled sentences in a sequence excepting S1 & S6**(4×1=4)****1.**

S1. The old man lived alone in a small cottage.

S6. But he never felt lonely because of his books.

P. He spent most of his time reading.

Q. The villagers often saw him with a smile.

R. His children had moved to the city.

S. In the evenings, he would sit by the fire.

2.

S1. The annual sports day of our college was celebrated with great enthusiasm.

S6. It was truly a memorable day for everyone.

P. The chief guest inaugurated the function.

Q. The winners were awarded medals and certificates.

R. Students participated in various events.

S. There was loud cheer and excitement all around.

3.

S1. One stormy night, a ship was caught in the middle of the sea.

S6. Finally, after hours of struggle, the storm calmed down.

P. The sailors worked hard to control the ship.

Q. The captain gave quick instructions.

R. The passengers prayed for their safety.

S. Waves rose high and struck the deck.

4.

S1. Honesty is the best policy.

S6. Therefore, one must always remain truthful.

P. A dishonest person is never respected.

Q. He loses the trust of others.

R. On the other hand, an honest person is trusted by everyone.

S. He gains love, respect and success in life.

M. Spot the errors in the following sentences:**(7×1=7)**

1. Everyone of the students / were present / in the class that day/ No error.

a b c d

2. He did not / wrote the exam / well because of lack of preparation/ No error.

a b c d

3. The captain / as well as the players / were happy with the victory/ No error.

a b c d

4. She prefers / tea than / coffee in the morning/ No error.

a b c d

5. Neither the teacher / nor the students / was willing to leave early/ No error.

a b c d

6. The news / are very surprising / for all of us/ No error.

a b c d

7. He succeeded / because he worked / hardly throughout the year/ No error.

a b c d

Z-Z-Z END

