

PSG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCE  
(AUTONOMOUS)

BA DEGREE EXAMINATION MAY 2024  
(Fifth Semester)  
Branch – ENGLISH

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE- I : ENGLISH FOR  
COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

Time: Three Hours

Maximum: 50 Marks

SECTION-A (5 Marks)

Answer ALL questions

ALL questions carry EQUAL marks

(5 x 1 = 5)

I Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow it:

Most people who bother with the matter at all would admit that the English language is in a bad way, but it is generally assumed that we cannot by conscious action do anything about it. Our civilization is decadent and our language—so the argument runs—must inevitably share in the general collapse. It follows that any struggle against the abuse of language is a sentimental archaism, like preferring candles to electric light or hansom cabs to airplanes. Underneath this lies the half-conscious belief that language is natural growth and not an instrument which we shape for our own purposes.

Now it is clear that the decline of a language must ultimately have political and economic causes it is not due simply to the bad influence of this or that individual writer. But an effect can become a cause, reinforcing the original cause and producing the same effect in an intensified form, and so on indefinitely. A man may take to drink because he feels himself to be a failure, and then fail all the more completely because he drinks. It is rather the same thing that is happening to the English language. It becomes ugly and inaccurate because our thoughts are foolish, but the slovenliness of our language makes it easier for us to have foolish thoughts. The point is that the process is reversible. Modern English, especially written English, is full of bad habits which spread by imitation and which can be avoided if one is willing to take the necessary trouble. If one gets rid of these habits, one can think more clearly, and to think clearly is a necessary first step towards political regeneration: so that the fight against bad English is not frivolous and is not the exclusive concern of professional writers.

Questions:

1. Many people believe that nothing can be done about the English language because -----
  - a) bad habits spread by imitation
  - b) we live in a decadent civilization
  - c) there are too many bad writers
  - d) people are too lazy to change their bad habits
2. The author believes that -----
  - a) it's now too late to do anything about the problem
  - b) language is a natural growth and cannot be shaped for our own purpose
  - c) the decline in the language can be stopped
  - d) the process of an increasingly bad language cannot be stopped
3. The author believes that the first stage towards the political regeneration of the language would be -----
  - a) taking the necessary trouble to avoid bad habits
  - b) avoiding being frivolous about it
  - c) clear thinking
  - d) for professional writers to help
4. The author is of the opinion that -----
  - a) English is becoming ugly
  - b) it's a bad language
  - c) our thoughts are becoming uglier because we are making the language uglier
  - d) our civilization is decadent so nothing can be done to stop the decline of the language.
5. What are the actual causes of making the language a bad one?
  - a) The bad influence of individual writers
  - b) The imitation of bad language habits
  - c) Political and economic causes.
  - d) An assumption that nothing can be done about.

Cont...

**SECTION - B (15 Marks)**

Answer ALL Questions

ALL Questions Carry EQUAL Marks

(5 x 3 = 15)

Answer all questions:

1) Write a Precis of the following:

When we survey our lives and efforts, we soon observe that almost the whole of our actions and desires are bound up with the existence of other human beings. We notice that whole nature resembles that of the social animals. We eat food that others have produced, wear clothes that others have made, live in houses that others have built. The greater part of our knowledge and beliefs has been passed on to us by other people through the medium of a language which others have created. Without language and mental capacities, we would have been poor indeed comparable to higher animals.

We have, therefore, to admit that we owe our principal knowledge over the least to the fact of living in human society. The individual if left alone from birth would remain primitive and beast like in his thoughts and feelings to a degree that we can hardly imagine. The individual is what he is and has the significance that he has, not much in virtue of the individuality, but rather as a member of a great human community, which directs his material and spiritual existence from the cradle to grave.

The character of good men is like that of trees. What is the use of this perishable body if no use is made of it for the benefit of mankind? Sandalwood, the more it is rubbed, the more scent does it yield. Sugarcane, the more it is peeled and cut up into pieces, the more juice does it produce. The men who are noble at heart do not lose their qualities even in losing their lives. What matters whether men praise them or not? What difference does it make whether they die at this moment or whether lives are prolonged? Happen what may, those who tread in the right path will not set foot in any other. Life itself is unprofitable to a man who does not live for others. To live for the mere sake of living one's life is to live the life of dog and crows. Those who lay down their lives for the sake of others will assuredly dwell forever in a world of bliss.

2) Write an essay FOR and AGAINST on ANYONE of the following topics in about 150 words.

- Global climate change caused mainly by humans
- Foreign language learning should be made mandatory in Higher Education.

3) Write an expository essay on ANYONE of the following topics in about 300 words.

- The Social Media Impact on school and college students.
- The diversity of landscape, food, culture, the architecture of India

**SECTION -C (30 Marks)**

Answer ALL questions

ALL questions carry EQUAL Marks

(5 x 6 = 30)

a In the following passage, seven blanks are left out with the letters A, B, C D, E & F. You have to choose the word that is correct grammatically and contextually in order to fill in blank:

(4 \* 1/2 = 2 marks)

a. Plastic and other pieces of debris have ----- (A) found in the deepest parts of the ocean, according to a new study. A single-use plastic bag was among the 3,500 fragments -----(B) at a depth of 11,000 metres. More than one third of what was found was macroplastic – visible pieces of plastic larger than 5mm. The research ----- (C) the deepest evidence of the ocean's pollution problem. "As the deep sea is likely to be the final destination of floating plastic debris, the frequent ----- (D) and widespread distribution of plastic debris in the deep sea indicate that large numbers of plastic debris pieces are distributed throughout the water column and in the high seas," the researchers said.

keep them cool.

- |                  |               |                  |                  |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|------------------|
| A. i) recently   | ii) been      | iii) being       | iv) never        |
| B. i) extracted  | ii) sailing   | iii) discovered  | iv) surfaced     |
| C. i) indicates  | ii) foresees  | iii) culminates  | iv) demonstrates |
| D. i) occurrence | ii) occurring | iii) development | iv) happen       |

Cont...

b. Relate the correct option in reference to analogy:

(4 \* ½ = 2 marks)

1. SHED: HAIR::

- a) shear : wool      b) molt : skin      c) stimulate : nerve      d) fracture : bone

2. INTERSECTION : STREETS ::

- a) collision : automobiles      b) crosswalk : lights  
c) corner : blocks      d) junction : highways

3. DROP CLOTH: FURNITURE::

- a) banner: flagpole      b) towel : rack  
c) pillow: bending      d) apron: clothing

4. SEETHE : ANGER ::

- a) chortle : distress      b) snarl : confusion  
c) fidget : uneasiness      d) waddle : embarrassment

c. Find the synonym for the given words:

(4 \* ½ = 2 marks)

1. nomadic

- a) wild      b) barbarous      c) brave      d) roving

2. precarious.

- a) secure      b) exalted      c) uncertain      d) important

3. tacit

- a) hostile      b) implied      c) overt      d) general

4. desiccate

- a) dehydrate      b) dilute      c) deny      d) approve

d. Find the antonym for the given words:

(4 \* ½ = 2 marks)

1. quiescent

- a) active      b) dormant      c) weak      d) unconcerned

2. Startled

- a) amused      b) relaxed      c) endless      d) astonished

3. Hirsute

- a) scaly      b) bald      c) erudite      d) quiet

4. Impasse

- a) resurgence      b) breakthrough      c) continuation      d) combination

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

(4 \* ½ = 2 marks)

1. grammer      2. Reminisent      3. Belittel      4. adhesive  
5. examination      6. Employmint

f. Arrange the jumbled letters to form four acceptable words:

(4 \* ½ = 2 marks)

- 1) NLSTIONOL      2) AARZPADHH      3) ARNNARPTETS      4) TDCUQTAET

g. Generate four words by adding Affixes (prefix or suffix)

(4 \* ½ = 2 marks)

1. distinguish      2. calculation      3. sense      4. base

h. Choose the right choice from the list to match the meaning of underlined word in the following sentences:

(4 \* ½ = 2 marks)

1. The prisoner's life was full of hardship and exertion

- a) travesty      b) tranquility      c) travail      d) transparent

2. The principal delivered a tirade to the disobedient students.

- a) paean      b) eulogy      c) complimentary talk      d) diatribe

3. Stand up and fight for your rights instead of being submissive.

- a) docile      b) domicile      c) refractory      d) dominative

4. The mighty housing development dwarfed the rest of the neighborhood

- a) obese      b) salient      c) stupendous      d) sagacious

i. In the following sentences, an idiom or phrase is underlined. Pick out the correct meaning of the idiom or phrase from the choices given: (4 \* ½ = 2 marks)

1. "Have you heard that Ravi is allergic to garlic? His mother just spilled the beans."
  - a) admonishing somebody
  - b) throwing off the beans
  - c) revealing the hidden fact
  - d) revealing the crime
2. Children do not demand for mobiles or tablet is possible only when pigs fly.
  - a) pigs flying in the air
  - b) impossible
  - c) possible to happen
  - d) comprehensible
3. Some branded cosmetics can cost an arm and a leg to be purchased by everyone.
  - a) cheap
  - b) tough to use
  - c) unhealthy
  - d) expensive
4. Monisha stayed home as she was feeling a bit under the weather.
  - a) that it would be raining soon
  - b) hot climate
  - c) feeling sick
  - d) feeling depressed

j. Find the right substitution for the words underlined: (4 \* ½ = 2 marks)

1. The person who is the acting driver will come by 4 pm to the venue.
  - a) chauffeur
  - b) vendor
  - c) artificer
  - d) greaser
2. My friend is the right person who always loves to collect these coins.
  - a) numerologist
  - b) Numismatist
  - c) numskull
  - d) numerary
3. Such spartan snowstorms are common in the Alps.
  - a) bizarre
  - b) blimp
  - c) blizzard
  - d) imbroglio
4. Veena made the offering to God.
  - a) oblique
  - b) oblation
  - c) obligatory
  - d) obturation

k. Rearrange the following group of words labeled as PQRS into meaningful sentences:

(4 \* ½ = 2 marks)

1. (1) Freedom, which
  - (P) in the sense
  - (Q) that a wide gulf separates
  - (R) a modern woman enjoys
  - (S) is the restricted kind
 (6) the rich and the poor women.  
 A) PQRS    B) RSPQ    C) QPRS    D) SRQP
2. (1) There is a continuous demand
  - (P) are formed to train humanity
  - (Q) for destructive purposes and world organizations
  - (R) in the art of settling their disputes
  - (S) to ban the application of science
 (6) by peaceful negotiations.  
 A) SQPR    B) QSRP    C) PRSQ    D) RPQS
3. (1) In every country, children
  - (P) regarding their proper development because
  - (Q) great care is taken
  - (R) are given good education and
  - (S) what they become depends
 (6) upon this impressionable period of their lives.  
 A) QSRP    B) SPQR    C) PRSQ    D) RQPS
4. 1) The advantage of travelling
  - (P) customs and manners is that
  - (Q) we learn to appreciate the good points of others
  - (R) to different places and having
  - (S) the opportunity of observing people's
 (6) and our prejudices against them disappear.  
 A) QRSP    B) PQRS    C) RSPQ    D) SPQR

1 In the following sentences, the topic sentence (S1) and the restatement of the topic (S6) are given. Sequence the other sentences given in the jumbled order: (4 \* ½ = 2 marks)

1 S1: The museum was filled with ancient artifacts from around the world.

P: There were statues from Egypt, pottery from China, and armor from Europe.

Q: Many of the items were thousands of years old, but they were still remarkably well-preserved.

R: Visitors marveled at the intricacy of the designs and the skill of the craftsmen who created them.

S: Some items were so delicate that they could only be displayed in special cases with controlled lighting.

S6: Despite the crowds, the museum was quiet and peaceful.

2. S1: The sun was setting, casting a warm orange glow across the sky.

P: The trees rustled gently in the breeze, creating a soothing sound.

Q: Birds flew overhead, their wings silhouetted against the sunset.

R: The scent of flowers wafted through the air, carried by the wind.

S: People walked by, enjoying the peacefulness of the evening.

S6: The scene was like a painting, a perfect moment frozen in time.

3. S1: The restaurant was known for its delicious seafood dishes.

P: The menu featured a variety of fish, shrimp, and lobster dishes

Q: The chef was passionate about using fresh, local ingredients in all of his dishes.

R: The waitstaff were friendly and knowledgeable about the menu.

S: The restaurant was decorated with nautical-themed artwork and accents.

S6: Diners could enjoy their meals while looking out at the ocean view from the restaurant's windows.

4. S1: The athlete trained hard for months to prepare for the competition.

P: She visualized herself crossing the finish line first, feeling the thrill of victory.

Q: She hired a coach to help her improve her technique and strategy.

R: She studied the competition and analyzed their strengths and weaknesses.

S: She woke up early every morning to run and lift weights.

S6: On the day of the competition, she felt confident and focused, ready to give it her all.

M. Read each of the following sentences to find out whether there is any error in the underlined parts numbered. Mark the number of the part which contains error in the answer sheet. (6 \* 1 = 6 marks)

1. My grandfather used / to go / for a walk / every morning. / No error.  
A B C D E

2. If tomorrow is / declared a holiday, / we shall go / to a picnic. / No error.  
A B C D E

3. The CBI court sentenced four people, including a government servant, to / four-and-a-  
half years' imprisonment / for illegally procuring contracts from Delhi Jal Board /  
caused a huge loss to the exchequer. / No error.  
A B C D E

4. The growing cooperation between India and UK / has been manifested / in all walks of  
life, / be it history, politics, culture or language. / No error.  
A B C D E

5. Few states are grappling with / the issue of finding / the correct legal strategy / to  
combat the superstition-based social menace called witchcraft. / No error.  
A B C D E

6. Some of the long-tailed birds / that emerge early in the morning, / include the black-  
headed Jay / and the lesser common Eurasian Jay. / No error.  
A B C D E

Z-Z-Z END