

TNPSC DEO MAIN EXAM - 2023
MANDATORY TEST VII
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Total Marks: 70

Time: 1 Hr

Section A

4 x 10 = 40

Answer the following

- 1. Make a precis of the following paragraph:**

You have heard about Arabia, haven't you? You know the country is mostly desert. Yes, in a great part of the country there is nothing but sand and rock. The weather is always hot. The sand, therefore, is so hot that you are not able to walk over it with your bare feet in the day time, There are springs of water here and there in the vast desert. These springs come from deep down the earth; so deep that they are never dried up. Such springs are, however, very few and far away from one another. Wherever there is one, grass very soon covers the ground all around; fig trees and palm trees grow tall and graceful. Thus there is a cool, green shady place around the spring and it is called an oasis.

Many of the Arabs live in the desert and live there all the year round. They live in tents that are portable, i.e. tents that can be put up and taken down very easily and quickly. This is very useful for they can move from one oasis to another, looking for grass and water for their sheep, goats, camels and horses. The men eat ripe sweet figs and also the dates that grow upon the palm trees. The dates are dried too and used as food all through the year. Their horses are the finest in the world. They are very fond of the horses. The Arab loves his riding horse as he loves his wife and children. He does not put heavy loads on his horse; often he lets the horse stay in the tent with the family.

But to the Arab who lives his life in the desert the camel is much more useful than his beautiful horse. The camels are much larger and stronger than the horses. One camel can carry as much as or even more than what two horses can carry. The camel is useful to the Arab for riding too. It can walk for miles and miles across the desert carrying his master and all his loads. No wonder the camel has been called the Ship of the Desert.

2. **Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below:**

It is strange that, according to his position in life, an extravagant man is admired or despised. A successful business man does nothing to increase his popularity by being careful with his money. He is expected to display his success, to have a smart car, an expensive life, and to be lavish with his hospitality. If he is not so, he is considered mean and his reputation in business may even suffer to consequence. The paradox remains that if he had not been careful with his money in the first place, he would never have achieved his present wealth.

Among the low-income group, a different set of values exists. The young clerk, who makes his wife a present of a new dress when he hasn't paid his house rent, is condemned as extravagant. Carefulness with money to the point of meanness is applauded as a virtue. Nothing in his life is considered worthier than paying his bills. The ideal wife for such a man separates her housekeeping money into joyless little piles – so much for rent, for food, for the children's shoes; she is able to face the milkman with equanimity every month, satisfied with her economising ways, and never knows the guilt of buying something she can't really afford.

As for myself, I fall into neither of these categories. If I have money to spare, I can be extravagant, but when, as is usually the case, I am hard up, then I am the meanest man imaginable.

Questions:

1. In the opinion of the writer, how a successful businessman displays himself?
2. What does the phrase 'lavish with his hospitality' in the third sentence of the first paragraph, signifies?
3. What does the word 'paradox' in the last sentence of the first paragraph means?
4. How does the housewife, described by the writer, feel when she saves money?
5. "she is able to face the milkman with equanimity"- What does the the statement implies?

3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

The villager has customarily been very conservative in his attitude and approach, He is reluctant to change his traditional way of thinking and doing things. His attitude, in many respects is 'home made is best' for instance, most cattle farmers in the villages, prefer to feed their cows and buffaloes with a home-mix comprising of local oil cakes like mustard or cottonseed, pulses, jaggery, salt etc.

It takes numerous visits, hard convincing, daily trials and experiments to convince the rural cattle farmer that compound feeds, scientifically formulated, improve the yields of milk, without any incremental costs. The age old values and attitudes towards caste, creed, women, time and money take time to change. The villager has traditionally been a believer in the philosophy of Karma or fate. He has found it more convenient to blame his economic destitution, poor living conditions and strained social status on Bhagya, Karma or fate.

The security that the villagers find in the 'status quo' acts as a disincentive to change and experiment, in the short-run. Many of these antiquated attitudes, value systems and outlooks are changing due to improved levels of awareness and education. However, the rate of change is sluggish. Attitudes that have fossilised over the centuries, do take time to change.

Questions

1. Why does the phrase 'home made is best' imply?
2. When will you call a person conservative in his attitude and approach?
3. Why does a villager feel secure in maintaining 'Status quo'?
4. What is the best method to convince the average Indian villager about the superiority of a new cattle feed?
5. Find a word from the passage which is the opposite of "Fast" or "Active".

4. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

Earlier leaders treated Parliament with deference because they believed in the virtue of Parliamentary democracy, in the value of good precedents, and in the laying down and carrying out of policies with the consent of people or their representatives. It was not easy, for with vast burden of illiteracy, the country had started with adult suffrage.

To them, there was no other way. With many limitations, they enabled three general elections to become an impressive demonstration of the working of the world's largest democracy. Any democracy, whatever the forms and the rules is government by deliberation and it demands capacity for debate, and they taught the lesson ceaselessly. Democracy must ensure good government, it must allow criticism and correction, it means balances and checks.

Parliamentary democracy demands many virtues. It demands, of course ability. It demands a certain dedication to work. But it demands also a large measure of co-operation, of restraint, of self discipline. They said that they could claim the Parliamentary democracy had functioned with a large measure of success in the country. They did not claim any credit for themselves, they gave all the credit to the people.

Questions

1. Why did earlier leaders treat Parliament with respect?
2. What do you understand by the phrase 'vast burden of illiteracy'?
3. How should government function in a democracy?
4. What virtues are necessary in a democracy?
5. Why did they disclaim any credit for themselves for the success of democracy in the country?

SECTION B

2 x 15 = 30

Answer the following

5. As Cultural Secretary, write a report to your Principal in letter format on the inter-collegiate cultural fest organised by your department on the theme of 'Environmental Pollution' and its outcome.
6. Write a report to the Health Minister in letter format about the insanitary conditions and malpractices in Government General Hospitals