

APPOLO STUDY CENTRE

TNPSC DEO MAIN EXAM - 2023

MANDATORY TEST VIII

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:**

The test of a great book is whether we want to read it only once or more than once. Any really great book we want to read the second time even more than we wanted to read it the first time; and every additional time that we read it we find new meanings and new beauties in it. A book that a person of education and good taste does not care to read more than once is very probably not worth much. But we cannot consider the judgement of a single individual infallible. The opinion that makes a book great must be the opinion of many. For even the greatest critics are apt to have certain dullnesses, certain inappreciations. A man must be many sided to utter a trustworthy estimate of many books. We may doubt the judgement of the single critic at times. But there is no doubt possible in regard to the judgement of generations. Even if we cannot at once perceive anything good in a book which has been admired and praised for hundreds of years, we may be sure that by trying, by studying it carefully, we shall at last be able to feel the reason of this admiration and praise. The best of all libraries for a poor man would be a library entirely composed of such great works only, books which have passed the test of time.

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

What is the future which awaits our children? The underlying assumption of the questions that Indian children have a common future is itself dubious. It can legitimately be asked whether a student who is well fed, attending a boarding school in the salubrious climate of the hills, and learning to use computers has any future in common with a malnourished child who goes to a school with no black boards. The latter may have no worthwhile future at all.

And it might be worthwhile to analyse the significance of this marginalisation of more than 75 % of the children of this country.

The failure to provide an infrastructure for primary education in the villages at India more than 68 years after Independence is in sharp contrast with the sophisticated institutions, for technical institutes of higher education are funded by Government, which essentially means that the money to support them comes from taxes. And since indirect taxation forms a substantial part of the taxes collected by the Government, the financial burden is borne by all the people. LK Jha put it graphically when he observed that 25 paise of every rupee spent on education of an IIT student comes from the pockets of men and women, whose children may never enter a proper classroom.

Questions

1. Why can there not be equality among Indian children?
2. How does the writer bring out the disparity in educational system for children?
3. What is going to be the effect of such difference in future?
4. What is the opinion of LK Jha on education?
5. What does the author want to convey?

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

We do not realise adequately to what extent our minds are moulded by books we read especially in youth. We have several means by which we acquire knowledge today i.e. radio, cinema, newspaper and television etc. But reading of books is the most ancient and effective of them all. Reading a book is different from mechanised instruction. We are never alone when we have books as our companions.

A great writer has said that religion is what a man does with his solitariness. It is not merely religion but art and literature, scientific discovery and technological invention that are the outcome of what a man does with his solitariness. In the modern world we tend to be gregarious beings. When we have a little leisure we run to parties, clubs or other social activities. We are afraid to be alone with ourselves, afraid to stand and stare, much less to sit and think. We are happy with others not with ourselves, Pascal tells us that all the evils of the world arise from the fact that men are unable to sit still in a room. Reading a book gives us the habit of solitary reflection and true enjoyment.

Questions

1. What is the best means of acquiring knowledge?
2. How has man produced great art, literature, scientific discoveries or technological inventions?
3. What is man by nature and how does he use his leisure?
4. What is the cause of evils in this world according to the author?
5. What are the views of Pascal on the loneliness of man?

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

A recent report in 'Newsweek' says that in American colleges students of Asian origin outperform not only the minority group students but the majority whites as well. Many of these students must be of Indian origin, and their achievement is something we can be proud of.

It is unlikely that these talented youngsters will come back to India, and that is the familiar brain drain problem. However, recent statements by the nation's policy makers indicate that the perception of this issue is changing. 'Brain bank' and not brain drain' is the more appropriate idea, they suggest, since the expertise of Indians abroad is only deposited in other places and not lost.

This may be so but this brain bank, like most other banks, is one that primarily serves customers in its neighbourhood. The skills of the Asian now excelling in America's colleges will mainly help the USA. No matter how significant, what non-resident Indians do for India and what their counterparts do for other Asian lands is only a by-product.

But it is also necessary to ask, or be reminded, why Indians study fruitfully when abroad. The Asians whose accomplishments Newsweek records would have probably had a very different tale if they had studied in India. In America they found elbow room, books and other facilities not available and not likely to be available here. The need to prove themselves in the new country and the competition of an international standard they faced there must have cured mental and physical laziness. But other things helping them in America can be obtained here if we achieve a change in social attitudes, specially towards the youth.

We need to learn to value individuals and their unique qualities more than conformity and respectability. We need to learn language of encouragement to add to our skill in flattery. We might also learn to be less liberal with blame and less tight fisted with appreciation, especially.

Questions

1. What is the benefit of the high level of competitions faced by Asian students in America?
2. What are the limitations which the brain banks have to face?
3. According to the author what do non resident Indians do for India?
4. What would be the ways of making the situation better in India?
5. What is the concept of brain bank according to the writer?

SECTION B

2 x 15 = 30

Answer the following

5. Imagine that for a Minor Project, you are working on the feasibility of having flexible working hours for your organization. Write a report in letter format on your findings and conclusions.
6. There was a child marriage in your town. You are the Secretary of the local branch of the Women's Liberation Organisation. Send a report in letter format on the incident to the state level organization.