

General Instructions:

- All the questions are compulsory.
- Read the questions carefully.
- Questions of 2 marks are to be answered in approximately 20-30 words each
- Questions of 3 marks are to be answered in approximately 40-50 words each.
- Questions of 6 marks are to be answered in approximately 100-120 words each.

SECTION - A READING (20 MARKS)**1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: -**

1. The association between humans and sparrows dates back to several centuries and no other bird has been associated with humans daily like the house sparrow. It is a bird that evokes fond memories of childhood and adds freshness to households through its presence. Many bird watchers and ornithologists recall how the house sparrow gave flight to their passion for observing birds. The nests of sparrows dotted almost every house in the neighbourhood as well as public places like bus stands and railway stations, where they lived in colonies and survived on food grains and tiny worms. Unfortunately, the house sparrow has now become a disappearing species.

2. Like all other plants and animals that were once abundant and are now facing an uncertain future, their numbers are also declining across their natural range. A study conducted by the Andhra University, Visakhapatnam, highlighted that the population of house sparrows fell by over 60 percent even in rural areas of coastal Andhra Pradesh. A survey conducted by the British Trust for Ornithology showed that the number of house sparrows in Britain has declined by about 58 percent since 1970.

3. Certainly, there is no single reason for the decline of the house sparrow. There have been many theories put forward for the almost worldwide decline of the house sparrow. It is said that sparrow chicks, which require insect food for their survival in their early days, have not been getting adequate supplies from their parents. This has triggered large-scale deaths of chicks leading to a gradual decline of their population. Urban landscape too, has been dramatically altered over the years. Old houses, with courtyards in front and backyards, have made way for concrete multi-storeys, with little greenery. No longer are sparrows able to find the tiny nooks, crannies, and holes where they used to build their nests. Also, the radiations emitting from mobile towers and excessive use of chemical fertilisers in fields aggravate the problem and have been identified as potent sparrow killers.

4. Typically, sparrows were never an issue of concern for us with their diminutive presence in our households. Perhaps, it is this diminutive presence because of which even their gradual disappearance has gone unnoticed. Mohammed Dilavar is rightly called the 'Sparrow Man of India' as he has been successful in drawing the attention of the world towards the declining number of house sparrows. House sparrows are important bio-indicators and their decline is a grim reminder of the degradation of the urban environment and the danger from it to humans in the long run.

5. Another theory suggests that the widespread use of pesticides and herbicides in agriculture has had a detrimental effect on the food chain, reducing the availability of insects for sparrow chicks. Additionally, the increasing prevalence of air pollution and habitat loss has made it difficult for sparrows to find suitable nesting sites and food sources.

6. The decline of the house sparrow is a stark reminder of the interconnectedness of all living beings and the delicate balance of our ecosystems. By taking steps to protect these birds, we can contribute to the preservation of our environment and the overall health of our planet.

- i. Which bird evokes fond memories of childhood and adds freshness to households through its presence?
 - a) Parrot
 - b) House sparrow
 - c) Peacock
 - d) Pigeon
- ii. What is the correct order of the information given below?
 - I. The house sparrow has become a disappearing species.

- II. Urban landscape has been dramatically altered over the years.
- III. House sparrows evoke fond memories of childhood.
- IV. There is no single reason for the decline of the house sparrow.
- (a) III, II, IV, I (b) III, I, IV, II
- (c) II, III, I, IV (d) IV, III, I, II
- iii. What is the rate of decline in the population of house sparrows in the rural areas of coastal Andhra Pradesh?
 - a) 60 per cent b) 72 per cent c) 58 per cent d) 56 per cent
- iv. What is the reason for the gradual decline in the population of house sparrows?
 - a) Degradation of urban environment b) Danger from humans
 - c) Inadequate supply of insect food d) Little greenery
- v. Which word in Para 4 of the passage relates to 'compact'?
 - a) Concern b) Disappearance c) Diminutive d) Declining
- vi. The number of house sparrows in Britain has declined by about..... since 1970.
 - a) 48 per cent b) 58 per cent c) 55 per cent d) 60 per cent
- vii. What are the various factors contributing to the decline of the house sparrow population and evaluate the impact of these factors on the urban ecosystem. 02
- viii. Analyse the significance of the house sparrow as a symbol of human-animal interaction and its connection to childhood memories. 02

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: -

1. Laws and customs are frequently to be met in the United States which contrast strongly with all that surrounds them. These laws seem to be drawn up in a spirit contrary to the prevailing tenor of American legislation, and these customs are no less opposed to the tone of society. If the English colonies had been founded in an age of darkness, or if their origin was already lost in the lapse of years, the problem would be insoluble.
 2. I shall quote a single example to illustrate what I advance. The civil and criminal procedure of the Americans has only two means of action-- committal and bail. The first measure taken by the magistrate is to exact security from the defendant, or, in case of refusal, to incarcerate him: the ground of the accusation and the importance of the charges against him are then discussed. Legislation of this kind is hostile to the poor man, and favourable only to the rich. The poor man has not always a security to produce, even in a civil cause; and if he is obliged to wait for justice in prison, he is speedily reduced to distress.
 3. The wealthy individual, on the contrary, always escapes imprisonment in civil cases, more, he may readily elude the punishment that awaits him for delinquency by breaking his bail. So, all the penalties of the law are, for him, reducible to fines. Nothing can be more aristocratic than this system of legislation. Yet in America, it is the poor who make the law, and they usually reserve the greatest social advantages to themselves. The explanation of the phenomenon is to be found in England; the laws of which I speak are English, and the Americans have retained them, however repugnant they may be to the tenor of their legislation and the mass of their ideas.
 4. Next to its habits, the thing which a nation is least apt to change is its civil legislation. Civil laws are only familiarly known to legal men, whose direct interest is to maintain them as they are, whether good or bad, simply because they are conversant with them. The body of the nation is scarcely acquainted with them; it merely perceives their action in particular cases; but it has some difficulty in seizing their tendency, and obeys them without premeditation.
 5. I have quoted one instance where it would have been easy to adduce a great number of others. The surface of American society is, if I may use the expression, covered with a layer of democracy, from beneath which the old aristocratic colours sometimes peep.
- I. What contrast does the author highlight in American society?
 - (a) Laws versus customs
 - (b) Modern laws versus ancient customs
 - (c) American laws versus English laws
 - (d) Prevailing American legislation versus certain laws and customs

- II. According to the passage, what is the first measure taken by the magistrate in American civil and criminal procedure?
- (a) Sentencing (b) Exacting security from the defendant
(c) Conducting a trial (d) Issuing a warning
- III. Why does the author believe the American legal system is more favourable to the wealthy?
- (a) Wealthy individuals can afford better lawyers
(b) Wealthy individuals can avoid imprisonment by providing bail
(c) The wealthy are exempt from certain laws
(d) Wealthy individuals are given lighter sentences
- IV. What explanation does the author give for the retention of certain English laws in America?
- (a) Americans admire English laws
(b) These laws align with American democratic ideals
(c) The laws are deeply rooted in American habits and civil legislation
(d) Legal professionals resist changes due to familiarity with these laws
- V. What metaphor does the author use to describe the influence of democracy in American society?
- (a) A strong river (b) A layer covering the surface
(c) A deep-rooted tree (d) A thick fog
- VI. According to the passage, why is civil legislation difficult to change in a nation?
- (a) The general public is highly resistant to change
(b) Civil laws are closely tied to national identity
(c) Civil laws are mainly known to legal professionals who have an interest in maintaining them
(d) Changing civil laws require international approval
- VII. How are these means of action hostile to the poor man? 02
- VIII. What are the two means of action in civil and criminal procedures? 02

SECTION – B WRITING AND GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)

3. You are Anirban. You recently visited your grandparents' house. Write a diary entry, in 100-150 words, expressing your happiness and joy. You can take the help of the following cues: 05
- Time gap since the last visit.
 - Time taken to reach them.
 - How did you spend your time there?
 - Returning gifts given by them.

OR

Write a paragraph on "India of my Dreams" 05

4. Interpret the sequence of pictures below and write a short story in 200 words. Also, give a suitable title to your story. A prompt has been given to help you start writing the story. 05



Rohan went to the market with his grandma to buy vegetables. In a shop, he saw a man selling sweet corn cobs. He asked his grandma how.....

OR

Develop a story based on the given outlines in about 200 words. Give a suitable title to it. 05

13-year-old boy – holidays at grandparents' house – a remote village with ruins around – disheartened to see no school or hospital – often heard stories of kings and queens – hidden treasures – walking near the pond – saw a golden snake – ran and fell into a deep hole – in the ground – hidden underground passage – two small rooms full of treasure – manage to come out of by holding creepers – told grandfather and villagers – treasures used to build schools, colleges, hospitals – everyone happy – praised the boy.

5. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given in brackets. Choose the appropriate tense (present, past, or future) for each sentence. 1x3=03

- a) While I _____ (watch) TV, she _____ (cook) dinner.
b) By the time they _____ (arrive) at the party, everyone _____ (leave).
c) When the bell _____ (rings), the students _____ (leave) the classroom.

6. Fill in the blanks with suitable modals given in the box. 1x2=02

Must May Will Should

Ruby: Papa, I have not seen Qutab Minar, we (a).....visit it.

Papa: Yes, we (b)..... all go together next week.

7. Read the passage below and fill in the blanks with appropriate determiners 1x2=02

John Boyd Dunlop did not have (a) sturdy health which (b) farmer requires

8. Identify the part of the sentence that contains an error related to subject-verb concord. 1 x 3 = 3

1. One of the students (1)/ in the debate competition (2)/ were awarded first place. (3)/ No error (4)
2. The captain of the team (1)/ along with his players (2)/ are ready for the match. (3)/ No error (4)
3. Each of the participants (1)/ have to submit (2)/ their projects by tomorrow. (3)/ No error (4)

SECTION C – LITERATURE (40 MARKS)

8. He also felt a special interest in a fellow student, Mileva Marie, whom he found to be a “clever creature”. This young Serb had come to Switzerland because the University in Zurich was one of the few in Europe where women could get degrees. Einstein saw in her an ally against the “Philistines”- those people in his family and at the university with whom he was constantly at odds. The couple fell in love.

- i. Why did Einstein feel a special interest in a fellow student? 01
- ii. Why did Mileva choose the university in Zurich to get her degree? 01
- iii. Which aspect of Einstein's life is referred to here? 01

OR

Suddenly there came a dull thud as if a rubber tube had fallen to the ground ... surely nothing to worry about. Even so, I thought I would turn around and take a look. No sooner had I turned than a fat snake wriggled over the back of the chair and landed on my shoulder. The snake's landing on me and my turnings were simultaneous. I didn't jump. I didn't tremble. I didn't cry out. There was no time to do any such thing. The snake slithered along my shoulder and coiled around my left arm above the elbow. The hood was spread out and its head was hardly three or four inches from my face!

- i. What kind of noise did the narrator hear? 01
- ii. What did he think at first about the noise he had heard? 01
- iii. What had happened? 01

9. “And both that morning equally lay

In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way
I doubted if I should ever come back."

- i. Why did the poet leave the first road? 01
- ii. Why would the poet like to come back? 01
- iii. The expression 'leaves no step had trodden black' means: 01

OR

Where they harness the swift reindeer
To the sledges, when it snows;
And the children look like bear's cubs
In their funny, furry clothes

- i. "Where they harness" Whom does 'they' here refer to? 01
- ii. How do children look when they wear warm furry clothes? 01
- iii. What is the means of travel when it snows in Northland? 01

10. Read the questions carefully and answer any four questions: 4x3=12

- i. Why was Margie doing badly in Geography? What did the county inspector do to help her?
- ii. Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the USA?
- iii. How does the wind make fun of weaklings?
- iv. What does the speaker mean when he says that "peace comes dropping slow"?
- v. What feeling does every tinkle on the shingle create for the poet?

11. Read the questions carefully and answer any five questions: - 5x2=10

- i. What happened when the lost child reached the temple door?
- ii. Why does grandfather take Toto to Saharanpur and how?
- iii. Why does the author say that Iswaran seemed to more than make up for the absence of a TV in Mahendra's living quarters?
- iv. What are the two strange things the guru and his disciple found in the kingdom of fools?
- v. When does the child realise that he has lost his way? How have his anxiety and insecurity been described?
- vi. What is the importance of facing your fears? What is the role of belief in shaping our lives?

12. Fools cannot continue with their follies for long. How can you justify this statement about the story "In the Kingdom of Fools"? 06

OR

'If there is a part of the brain especially devoted to mischief, that part was largely developed in Toto.' Justify the statement. Why did even grandfather realise that Toto was not the sort of pet they could keep for long? 06

13. "Father who seems hard from outside is not so from within." How does Kezia begin to see her father as a human being who needs her sympathy? 06

OR

Which values of life strengthened Evelyn against the handicap of her deafness? What does her career teach to handicapped people? 06