

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time : 3 Hours

Max. Marks: 150

Note:

- (1) Attempt all the questions.
 - (2) Write the answers only in the space provided below each question which is printed in the Answer Script. Any deviation will not be considered for valuation.
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1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow. 2x10 =20

A car drew up outside the Swan Hotel and a young man got out. Pausing only for an instant to see that he had come to the right place, he went into the hotel and rang the bell on the counter of the bar.

Mrs. Crump, the landlady, who was busy in the kitchen at the time, hurried out, wiping her hands. The young man raised his hat. "Excuse me," he said. "I'm looking for my uncle, Mr. White. I believe he is staying here."

"He was staying here," Mrs. Crump corrected him. "But I'm afraid that he went back to London yesterday."

"Oh dear," said the young man, looking disappointed. "I understood that he was going to stay here until the end of the month. At least, that is what his servant told me when I rang up his house."

"Quite right," said Mrs. Crump. "He intended to stay here the whole of July, as he always does. But yesterday he got a telegram to say that one of his relatives was ill. So he caught the train back to London immediately."

"I wish he had let me know," the young man said. "I wrote him a letter saying that I was coming. I've had all this trouble for nothing. Well, since he isn't here, there is no point waiting."

He thanked Mrs. Crump and went out. Mrs. Crump went to the window and watched him drive off. When his car was out of sight, she called out:

"You can come out now, Mr. White. He's gone."

"Many thanks, Mrs. Crump," he said, laughing. "You did that very well. These nephews of mine never give me any peace. That young man is the worst of them all. As you see, when he needs money, he even follows me into the country. Well, perhaps next time he won't warn me by writing a letter!"

Questions:

- (i) What is the story about?
- (ii) How did Mrs. Crump know that someone had entered the hotel?
- (iii) Did the young man come to the right hotel?

- (iv) How do you know that Mr. White was a regular visitor to the hotel?
- (v) Why did the young man come to the hotel?
- (vi) Why was Mr. White hiding?
- (vii) Why did Mrs. Crump watch the young man drive off?
- (viii) "Many thanks, Mrs. Crump," he said laughing. Why do you think Mr. White laughed?
- (ix) "Well, perhaps next time he won't warn me by writing a letter!" What does Mr. White mean by this?
- (x) Which word in the passage means the same as serves no purpose?

2. Read the passage given below and make a precis reducing it to one-third of its original length. Give an appropriate title for the passage. Use the special sheets for writing the precis which are attached to your answer booklet. 15

The Ganga means different things to different people. To one man it is just a river, useful for transporting goods from one bank to the other. To another, it is helpful in generating electricity. To yet another, it is the source of water for his fields. But to devout Hindus, it is a river, mother, and a goddess all in one. Its water is holy. The Ganga is holy for the living as well as the dead. After death, the ashes of most Hindus are consigned to the sacred water of the Ganga, which is supposed to give salvation.

The Ganga has deep associations with our history, religion, and culture. Rishis and Sages meditated on the banks of the Ganga in ancient times. Convenience of water transport encouraged the growth of cities on its banks. Great cities like Varanasi, Prayag, Rishikesh, and Haridwar were built on its banks. They are all well-known as places of pilgrimage. The Ganga has witnessed some of the most eventful happenings in Indian history. It has witnessed yagvas, as well as battles on its banks.

According to Hindu mythology, the Ganga descended to the earth as a result of the efforts of King Bhagiratha to win moksha for his ancestors. The king led an ascetic life and offered prayers for many years. It was then that the Ganga came to the earth to take into her lap the bones and ashes of the dead, washing away the sins of the dead as well as those who lived and had a dip in her holy waters. (260 words)

3. Read the jumbled sentences given below and form a meaningful paragraph by rearranging them. Rewrite the complete paragraph in your answer book. 10

- (i) A man at the village center began asking the locals a variety of questions - but they, being unable to answer most of them, referred the man to Nasrudin.
- (ii) "Can you help me out and answer a few questions?" the man asked Nasrudin.
- (iii) Nasrudin eyed a sack of apples the man was carrying and replied, "I'll answer each question for one apple."
- (iv) The man agreed, asked the questions one by one, and paid an apple each time - each of which Nasrudin immediately ate while he answered the question.
- (v) Finally, the man ran out of apples.
- (vi) "OK, I'm going now," the man said.
- (vii) "But before I do, I just want to know one thing."
- (viii) "What?" Nasrudin asked.
- (ix) "How did you eat so many apples?"
- (x) "Since you have no more apples," Nasrudin responded, "I can't answer you."

4. Correct the following sentences without changing their meaning.

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- (i) The apples taste bitter.
- (ii) He drinks coffee every day because it is his habit.
- (iii) The furniture of the cottage was of poor quality.
- (iv) He spends a lot of money on clothes.
- (v) He is taller than any other boy in the class.
- (vi) He denied that he was a thief.
- (vii) I will go home after the college closes.
- (viii) Dr. Shukla is one of the best surgeons in this city.
- (ix) What is your name?
- (x) I do not know when he will come.

5. Make sentences using the following idiomatic expressions:

2x5 =10

- (i) on the eve of
- (ii) to make both ends meet
- (iii) the lion's share
- (iv) at a stone's throw
- (v) ups and downs
- (vi) null and void
- (vii) to build castles in the air
- (viii) by hook or by crook
- (ix) to break loose
- (x) to fall flat

6. Give the synonyms of the following words:

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- (i) blame
- (ii) keen
- (iii) share
- (iv) identical
- (v) trouble
- (vi) prevent
- (vii) popular
- (viii) interest
- (ix) attractive
- (x) arrive

7. Give the antonyms of the following words:

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- (i) acknowledge
- (ii) brave
- (iii) quit
- (iv) foolish
- (v) assist
- (vi) freedom
- (vii) cruel
- (viii) victory
- (ix) miserable
- (x) please

8. Write the correct spellings of the following words:

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- (i) hoping
- (ii) separate
- (iii) general
- (iv) intentionally
- (v) development
- (vi) recommendation
- (vii) argument
- (viii) consensus
- (ix) dependent
- (x) license

9. Make sentences with the following pairs of words clearly bringing out the difference in meaning between the two grammatical types.

2x5= 10

- (i) bark (verb); bark (noun)
- (ii) open (verb); open (noun)
- (iii) bank (verb); bank (noun)
- (iv) mind (verb); mind (noun)
- (v) crop (verb); crop (noun)

10. Fill in the blanks in the following sentences using suitable articles/prepositions/conjunctions.

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- (i) _____ ten thousand people attended the prime minister's meeting.
- (ii) He has to spend _____ good deal of money on medicines.
- (iii) Ten thousand people attended the Prime Minister's meeting.
- (iv) I don't agree _____ your proposal.
- (v) I'm very anxious _____ my mother's health.
- (vi) The reason why this magazine sells so well is _____ it is written in a pleasant style.
- (vii) This is a different kind of camera _____ that.
- (viii) Napoleon was _____ soldier as well as a politician.
- (ix) Students are prohibited from bringing their mobile phones _____ class.
- (x) We're in a hurry so I'll give you _____ story in a nutshell.
- (xi) The examination will begin _____ Monday.

11. Give appropriate one-word substitutes for the following expressions.

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- (i) The life history of a person that is written by himself
- (ii) Study of the earth
- (iii) A place where bees live
- (iv) A person who thinks that good things will always happen
- (v) That can be carried easily

12. Insert appropriate punctuation marks in the following sentences.

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Hey what are you doing here what a pity you didn't come yesterday but never mind you must come with us to the show tomorrow

13. In the sentences given below some words are underlined. Identify the parts of speech of the underlined words. **5**

- (i) Kartik has to start all over again because he didn't follow the professor's instructions.
- (ii) I found a bag full of coins in it.
- (iii) She worked on her assignment quickly.
- (iv) There are five mangoes in the refrigerator.
- (v) The crocodile which weighs over 2000 pounds was captured.

Keyfairs