

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Full Marks : 100

*Marks for each question is indicated against it.**Attempt all questions.*

1. Write an essay in about 1000 words on any of the given topics: (20)
 - (a) Religion and Politics.
 - (b) Tolerance: The Key to National Unity.
 - (c) Education: an all-round development.

2. Write a précis of the following passage in about *one third* of its original length. Supply a suitable title: (15)

Plastic has long been with us. It became well-known in the 1930s and particularly the 1940s through a great deal of publicity, as a major substitute for another materials. Since then - with far less fanfare - it has steadily increased its influence over our lives. In 1976, plastic outstripped steel to become America's most widely used material.

The basic raw materials for the manufacture of plastic are petroleum and natural gas, but plastic can also be made from coal or – if need be – even from wood. These hydrocarbon materials are processed into a waxy, mouldable (hence the word 'plastic') stuff called resin.

Environmentally, plastics have a good deal to recommend them. Plastic requires only one-tenth of the energy required to produce aluminium, and inspite of the enormous volume involved, plastic accounts for only five per cent of U.S petroleum consumption. But plastics also present some special problems. Although the basic resin-manufacturing process presents a much cleaner face than a steel mill (there is little smoke and soot), it is also true that many of the ingredients are dangerous. Benzene, for example, which goes into the manufacture of styrene, epoxy, polyster and nylon, is a member of the dangerous family of carcinogens. Common types of plastic produce toxic gases in fires, including hydrogen cyanide and hydrogen chloride. The plastic industry counterargues that natural materials such as wood also produce toxic gases when burned, and that non-plastics may be more prone to catching fire or starting fires (as in the case of metal electrical housings). Carbon-reinforced plastics create a particular problem – when burned, they release clouds of tiny fibres that can get into electrical equipment and cause short circuits.

One concern of environmentalists is that many plastics are neither biogradable nor can they be easily recycled, and that used plastic is increasing our already staggering solid waste and litter problem. Recycling plastic bottles does not have the economic incentive that recycling aluminium cans or even glass does, but manufacturers are working to make it more practical. For all that, there is little question that there will be more and more plastic in our future. Visionary



plastics enthusiasts argue that plastic houses will be commonplace 20 to 30 years from now, and, if costs drop, even plastic bridges and domes to cover the whole town could follow. And so, regardless of how we feel about it, we might as well prepare ourselves. Leo Baekland's genie has been out of the bottle for almost 30 years now; no one is going to put it back in.

3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Books are for use, not for show; you should own no book that you are afraid to mark up, or afraid to place on the table, wide open and face down. A good reason for marking favourite passages in books is that this practice enables you to remember more easily the significant sayings, to refer to them quickly, and then in later years, it is like visiting a forest where you once blazed a trail. You have the pleasure of going over the old ground, and recalling both the intellectual scenery and your own earlier self.

Everyone should begin collecting a private library in youth; the instinct of private property, which is fundamental in human beings, can here be cultivated with every advantage and no evils. One should have one's own bookshelves, which should not have doors, glass windows, or keys; they should be free and accessible to the hand as well as to the eye. The best of mural decorations is books; they are more varied in color and appearance than any wallpaper, they are more attractive in design, and they have the prime advantage of being separate personalities, so that if you sit alone in the room in the firelight, you are surrounded with intimate friends. The knowledge that they are there in plain view is both stimulating and refreshing.

There are of course no friends like living, breathing, corporeal men and women; my devotion to reading has never made me a recluse. How could it? Books are of the people, by the people, for the people. Literature is the immortal part of history; it is the best and most enduring part of personality. But book-friends have this advantage over living friends; you can enjoy the most truly aristocratic society in the world whenever you want it. The great dead are beyond our physical reach, and the great living are usually almost as inaccessible; as for our personal friends and acquaintances, we cannot always see them. Perchance they are asleep, or away on a journey. But in a private library, you can at any moment converse with Socrates or Shakespeare or Carlyle or Dumas or Dickens or Shaw or Barrie or Galsworthy. And there is no doubt that in these books you see these men at their best. They wrote for you. They "laid themselves out," they did their ultimate best to entertain you, to make a favourable impression. You are necessary to them as an audience is to an actor; only instead of seeing them masked, you look into their innermost heart of heart. (William Lyon Phelps)

- (a) How is a book compared to 'visiting a forest where you once blazed a trail'? (3)
- (b) What is fundamental in human beings according to Phelps? (3)
- (c) Mention how books are the best decorations at home. (3)
- (d) How are books more convenient as friends than people? (3)
- (e) Make sentences with the given words to show their meaning (any three): (3)
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|--------------------|-------------------|
| (i) Mural | (ii) Recluse |
| (iii) inaccessible | (iv) acquaintance |
| (v) stimulating | |

4. Replace the word in italics with a synonym more appropriate in the context: (5×1=5)
- (a) He *sank* in the swimming pool.
 - (b) He *denied* to help me.
 - (c) You must *hear* the lectures with concentration.
 - (d) The judge *discharged* the prisoner for lack of evidence.
 - (e) It is wonderful coming back to one's *house*.
5. Complete the sentences using an appropriate word. (5×1=5)
- (a) They live in a small house _____ the river. (beside/besides)
 - (b) Prolonged use of powerful drugs will _____ our health. (affect/effect)
 - (c) He is very _____. (industrious/industrial)
 - (d) Celebrities live _____ lives. (luxurious/luxuriant)
 - (e) The house is _____ with rats. (infected/infested)
6. Correct the following sentences. (5×1=5)
- (a) We are playing football every day.
 - (b) The hen has lain six eggs.
 - (c) I have seen him yesterday.
 - (d) He is sleeping for two hours.
 - (e) They discussed about the whole matter
7. Fill in the blanks using appropriate *adjectives* given within the brackets. (5×1=5)
- (a) He is much _____ now. (good)
 - (b) He is too _____ to be taught. (intelligent)
 - (c) The pain was _____ than he could bear. (much)
 - (d) As time went by, things began to get _____. (bad)
 - (e) He is _____ than I thought him to be. (clever)
8. Rewrite the following sentences as directed: (10×1=10)
- (a) The mouse was killed by the cat. (Change to Active)
 - (b) We must listen to his words. (Change to Passive)
 - (c) We hoped to win the game. (Change to Complex)
 - (d) I love him because he was my friend. (Change to Compound)

- (e) I will help you in whichever way it is possible. (Change to Simple)
- (f) He leads a most unhappy life. (Change to Exclamatory)
- (g) This is not an example to be followed. (Change to Interrogative)
- (h) Had I but come one hour sooner! (Change to Assertive)
- (i) He failed to notice me when he came in. (Change to Negative)
- (j) He said, "The country passed through a crisis ten years ago". (Change to Indirect)

9. Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions: (10×1=10)

- (a) China is _____ the north of India.
- (b) He picks a quarrel _____ everybody.
- (c) He insisted _____ me to go there.
- (d) He applied _____ the bank _____ a loan.
- (e) A thief broke _____ the house and decamped _____ the cash.
- (f) She triumphed _____ all her opponents _____ become the champion.
- (g) I cautioned you _____ his tricks.

10. Make sentences with the following idioms and phrases (any five): (5×2=10)

- (a) A dark horse
- (b) Laughing stock
- (c) Turn a blind eye
- (d) A wild goose chase
- (e) Gift of the gab
- (f) A tall order
- (g) Know the ropes
- (h) A big shot

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