

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 100

Question Paper Specific Instructions

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions :

Attempt all the questions.

Marks allotted for a particular question/part is indicated against it.

Word limit of the answers, if specified, should be adhered to.

You must not disclose your identity in any of your answers.

Answers must be written in **ENGLISH only.**

Q1. Write an essay in about 800 words on any **one** of the following topics : 30

- (a) Economics is as much about human behaviour as about using finite resources
- (b) Who wishes to fight must first count the cost
- (c) Needs are imposed by nature, wants are sold by society
- (d) Consumption of plant-based diet
- (e) Control anger before it controls you

Q2. Write a precis of the following passage in your own words in about one-third of the original length : 30

By the early twenty-first century, environmental issues had been high on the international agenda for a whole generation of political leaders, government officials, scientists, industrialists, and concerned citizens. Since the late 1960s, awareness of the risks and implications of a wide range of international environmental problems has increased greatly, and justifiably so.

Since that time, it has become clear that most of the world's seas and oceans are over-fished. Soil is being degraded and eroded on a large scale

throughout the world. Natural habitats are being destroyed: for example the area of tropical rainforest has reduced by over 50 per cent since 1950, and the process continues largely unabated. As a result, tens of thousands of species of plants and animals are probably becoming extinct each year. The dumping of waste products into the sea, air, and land means that pollution problems are ubiquitous. Huge quantities of waste, including hazardous chemicals, heavy metals, and radioactive materials, have been dumped at sea, either directly or carried by rivers. Together with sewage and oil spills, these have profoundly damaged sea environments, with lakes and semi-enclosed seas proving particularly vulnerable. Billions of people suffer daily air pollution. Acid rain, stratospheric ozone depletion, and climate change are major regional or global problems arising from atmospheric pollution.

Environmental problems are not new. Human societies have long had a major impact on their environment. Their tendency to exploit it as if it were an inexhaustible resource has repeatedly led to disaster, sometimes leading to the loss of entire human communities. Over much of human history, however, the environmental impacts of over-exploitation or pollution have typically been quite local. Communities could often escape the consequences of such activities by moving on to relatively unspoilt areas. Even if they could not, the local impoverishment did not necessarily affect the continued well-being of neighbouring societies. Widespread industrialization and rapid population growth changed this situation. Severe environmental damage and unsustainable exploitation occurred over whole regions of the world. By the late twentieth century, the impacts had become truly global.

Environmental issues first emerged as a focus for international politics in the nineteenth century in the context of international agreements to manage resources. For example, the River Commissions for the Rhine and the Danube, which are now deeply involved with environmental policy, began life as arrangements to facilitate economic use of the rivers as waterways. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) was formed in 1948, more or less as

a 'shipowners' club' to facilitate international shipping and navigation and promote safety. But in 1954 the IMO was given responsibility for implementing a landmark treaty on marine pollution: the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil.

The first international treaty on flora, signed in Berne in 1889, was primarily concerned with preventing the spread of a disease (Phylloxera) which threatened to destroy European vineyards. This was followed by a series of global and regional agreements on flora in the 1920s and 1950s, which were all similarly concerned with maintaining healthy stocks of cultivated plants or preventing disease. Likewise, the first agreement on fauna was the 1902 Convention for the Protection of Birds useful to Agriculture. In 1911 the USA, Canada, and Russia agreed a Convention for the Protection of Fur Seals, which were being unsustainably culled. In 1945, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) was set up, with the conservation of natural resources included in its mandate. The 1946 International Whaling Convention essentially established a club of whaling nations to manage the 'harvesting' of whales.

Even at that time, however, there was emerging concern to protect wildlife for its own sake as well as an economic resource. Conventions were signed to protect birds, in large part due to public pressures mobilized by groups such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. The first international efforts to establish wildlife parks and reserves began as early as 1900 (among the colonial powers in Africa), and were further advanced through a series of Conventions from the 1930s onwards.

It was in the 1960s, however, that international concern about pollution and the preservation of the natural environment began to develop rapidly, particularly in developed countries. Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring* not only stimulated intense concern about the widespread use of DDT and other pesticides, but also helped to launch the modern environmental movement (Carson 1962). Wide awareness of the health risks posed by radioactive fall-out

contributed to the pressures to conclude the ban on nuclear warhead tests in the atmosphere, agreed in 1963. Concern about sea pollution grew, stimulated by disasters such as the spill from the *Torrey Canyon* oil tanker in 1967, and the IMO became increasingly engaged with preventing oil pollution at sea. The problem of transboundary air pollution, and 'acid rain', attracted increasing attention, particularly in Scandinavia and Canada where damage to vulnerable forest and lake ecosystems was becoming manifest. In the mid-1960s, informal discussions began on the development of a new Law of the Sea to govern access to, and use of, the international seas and the seabed: the old regime was collapsing as unilateral claims were being made on transit rights and for economic control of waters up to 200 miles from coasts.

(869 words)

Q3. Write a paragraph in about 200 words on any **one** of the following expressions/statements : 10

- (a) Good fences make good neighbours
- (b) Diversity and inclusion at the workplace
- (c) Rights of persons with disabilities
- (d) The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence
- (e) A little learning is a dangerous thing

Q4. Use the following words, each in a single sentence. Bring out the meaning clearly without changing the form of the word. No credit will be given for a vague or ambiguous sentence. $5 \times 2 = 10$

- (a) Abstain
- (b) Procrastinate
- (c) Redressal
- (d) Recluse
- (e) Inclusive

Q5. Use the following idioms/phrasal verbs in sentences, so as to bring out their meaning clearly :

$5 \times 2 = 10$

- (a) dispose of
- (b) to cry wolf
- (c) hit upon
- (d) put up with
- (e) bank on

Q6. Correct the following sentences without changing their meaning. Do not make unnecessary changes in the original sentence :

$10 \times 1 = 10$

- (a) The plane arrive at 1530 hours.
- (b) You look at though you are distracted.
- (c) He has visited Agra. Has he ?
- (d) I have weep a million tears.
- (e) We had more freedom then many kids today.
- (f) He has been living in Delhi for 1990.
- (g) Where is the boy about which you were speaking ?
- (h) He rushed on my room, panting for breath.
- (i) Nobody accept you knows the truth.
- (j) The sceneries here is very good.

