

UPC : 62031107
Name of the course : B. A. (Programme)
Name of the paper : English Proficiency
Semester : I
Marks : 75
Time limit : 3 + 1 hours (1 hour is reserved for the downloading of the question paper and the scanning and uploading of the answer sheets)

INSTRUCTIONS:

This question paper contains six questions.

Each question carries equal marks (18.75 marks).

Attempt any **FOUR** questions.

Attempt both parts of whichever question you choose to do.

I. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow it.

Once there was a very old man whose eyes had become dim and ears dull of hearing. His hands and knees trembled. When he sat at a table he could hardly hold a spoon and split the soup upon the table-cloth or let it run out of his mouth. His son and his son's wife were disgusted at this, so the old man at last had to sit in the corner behind the stove. They gave him his food in an earthenware bowl and not even enough of it. And he used to look towards the table with his eyes full of tears.

Once his shaking hands could not hold the bowl, and it fell to the ground and broke. His son's wife scolded him but he said nothing and only sighed. Then they bought him a wooden bowl for a few paise out of which he had to eat.

One day when they were sitting they saw the little grandson of four years collecting some bits of wood upon the ground. 'What are you doing there?' asked the father. 'I am making a little bowl,' answered the child, 'for you to eat out of when you are old.'

The man and his wife looked at each other for a while and began to weep. Then they took the old grandfather to the table and thenceforth always let him eat with them and said nothing even if he did spill a little of anything.

(A) Put the following sentences in the order in which they occur in the story. 1 x 10

- (i) The old man was turned away from the table.
- (ii) The child said that he was preparing for his parents' old age.
- (iii) Then on he was given food in a wooden bowl.
- (iv) He could not even eat his food properly.
- (v) The old man was taken back to the table.
- (vi) His parents were filled with shame.
- (vii) A man was very old.
- (viii) Once the bowl fell from his hands and broke.
- (ix) His son and daughter-in-law did not like this.

(x) The little grandson was seen collecting bits of wood one day.

(B) Answer the following questions in three to four sentences each, using your own words as far as possible.

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|---|------|
| (i) Why was the old man turned away from the table? | 3 |
| (ii) Why was the old man given a wooden bowl? | 3 |
| (iii) What is the moral of this story? | 2.75 |

II. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow it.

1. Climate refers to the average atmospheric conditions, such as temperature and precipitation (rain, hail, snow, etc.), for a given place over a period of time.

2. Climate change is a term that we increasingly hear in the news these days. This relates to changes in the Earth's average temperature. Climate change occurs naturally through things like volcanic eruptions, changes in the Earth's orbit and variations in the Sun's energy. However, in recent years, temperatures have been increasing more rapidly than in the past. Global temperatures are around 1 °C higher than they were around 300 years ago. According to estimates, the increase is likely to double within this century itself.

3. Climate change is causing global temperatures to increase and average sea levels to rise. This could result in a change to the location of the Earth's climate belts, which would make it difficult for some countries to grow food. Coastal and low-lying areas could get flooded. Tropical diseases like malaria could spread to places that are further north and south.

4. Most scientists agree that human behaviour is causing this increase in temperature. Deforestation and the burning of fossil fuels release greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and methane, into the atmosphere. These gases absorb the sun's heat that is reflected from the Earth. A greater concentration of greenhouse gases means that more heat is absorbed and so the planet warms up.

5. Climate change can be managed by limiting or preventing greenhouse gas emissions. This can be achieved through the use of renewable energy, such as solar panels, and new technology, such as electric vehicles. Also, we need to learn to live with climate change. Flood defences need to be built to protect against rising sea levels. We have to develop new crops that are drought-resistant.

(A) The above passage consists of five paragraphs. These are numbered for your convenience. Below are some headings. Choose a suitable heading for each of the five paragraphs. Note that two *extra* headings have been given in the list. 2 x 5

- (i) Action of governments on climate change
- (ii) Reasons for climate change
- (iii) Meaning of climate change
- (iv) Dealing with climate change
- (v) Definition of climate

- (vi) Reversing climate change
- (vii) Effects of climate change
- (B) Answer the following questions in three to four sentences each, using your own words as far as possible.
 - (i) Should we be worried about climate change? Why or why not? 3
 - (ii) Can we reverse climate change? If not, what can we do about it? 3
 - (iii) Does this passage make a positive or a negative comment on the effect of human activity on climate? Justify your answer. 2.75

- III. (A) Fill in the blanks with the opposites of the words given in the box below. 2 x 5
The first one is done for you.

careless, early, small, sweet, tall, unhappy

Example: (i) *Don't worry; he is a very careful driver. (careless – careful)*

- (i) ~~Don't worry; he is a very _____ driver.~~
 - (ii) This medicine has a _____ taste.
 - (iii) She is so _____ that she can't reach the top shelf of the cupboard.
 - (iv) He had a _____ childhood.
 - (v) The delivery boy had a _____ packet in his hand.
 - (vi) Why are you _____ for the class?
- (B) Write a paragraph of 100 – 150 words on the Indian Native Dog based on the information given below. 8.75

Type	:	one of the oldest dog breeds in the world, dating back to possibly 4,500 years
General appearance	:	medium-sized, erect ears, almond-shaped dark brown eyes, and a curved tail
Colour	:	mostly brown or black, sometimes with white markings
Height	:	dogs: 20 – 25 inches; bitches: 18 – 23 inches
Weight	:	dogs: 20 – 30 kg; bitches: 15 – 25 kg
Health	:	few health issues as they are a naturally evolved breed
Life span	:	10 – 13 years
Temperament	:	very alert and social, highly intelligent and easily trainable, make for loving family pets

- IV. (A) Fill in the blanks by selecting the correct item from the pair given in brackets. 1 x 10
- (i) The guests _____ (have left / left) yesterday.
 - (ii) We _____ (have taken / taken) all precautions.
 - (iii) I wish things _____ (are / had been) different!
 - (iv) Traffic on the roads _____ (increase / is increasing) day by day.

- (v) The black and white dog _____ (belong / belongs) to my neighbour.
- (vi) The jury _____ (was / were) divided in their verdict.
- (vii) The authorities _____ (ought / should) listen to the voice of the people.
- (viii) The college _____ (may / will) be definitely closed tomorrow.
- (ix) I need a driver; I _____ (can / can't) drive.
- (x) We _____ (might / must) reach on time and not keep our hosts waiting.

(B) Write a paragraph of 100 – 150 words on your daily routine on a typical day. You can write about when you get up, when you go to bed at night, and about the things that you do at different times of the day. 8.75

V. (A) Fill in the blanks by selecting the correct item from the pair given in brackets. 1 x 10

- (i) The _____ (weather / whether) is getting colder.
- (ii) She did not _____ (accept / except) his proposal.
- (iii) _____ (Whose / Who's) at the door?
- (iv) Come _____ (here / there); I want to talk to you.
- (v) There's a big market for skin _____ (lightening / lightning) creams.
- (vi) What a _____ (depressed / depressing) movie!
- (vii) He looks _____ (relaxed / relaxing) after the holidays.
- (viii) This chair is very _____ (comfortable / comforting).
- (ix) There is no _____ (improve / improvement) in the patient's condition.
- (x) The child loves _____ (challenge / challenging) tasks.

(B) For each comment in Column 1, decide whether it is formal or informal (Column 2). Then match it with the most suitable response from Column 3. The first one is done for you. 5 x (0.75 + 1)

Example: (i) *Excuse me. Could you please tell me how I can reach Mall Road from here?* – Formal – Definitely. Bus No. 102 goes there.

	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
(i)	Excuse me. Could you please tell me how I can reach Mall Road from here?	Formal	Fine, Sunita. And you?
(ii)	Best of luck for today's paper, Nitin!	Informal	That's OK. I too was looking the other way.
(iii)	Hello, Rashida! How're you doing?	Formal	Thanks! Same to you, Neha!

(iv)	I must apologize for my son's behavior yesterday.	Informal	Definitely. Bus No. 102 goes there.
(v)	Oops, my fault! I didn't see you.	Formal	Good morning. Welcome to the class.
(vi)	Good morning, sir. I am Vikas, a new student.	Informal	There's no need to, really.

VI. (A) Fill in the blanks by selecting the correct item from the pair given in brackets. 1 x 10

- (i) It _____ (has been raining / is raining) since the morning.
- (ii) The train _____ (had left / left) before we reached the station.
- (iii) The college _____ (shift / shifted) to a new building last year.
- (iv) Politics _____ (has / have) ruined the atmosphere of educational institutions.
- (v) Neither of them _____ (are / is) known to me.
- (vi) The Principal, together with his staff, _____ (are / is) in a meeting right now.
- (vii) A box of matches _____ (cost / costs) little.
- (viii) We _____ (ought / should) be kind to stray animals.
- (ix) What a beautiful scene! _____ (Must / Shall) we stop here for a while?
- (x) You _____ (shall / should) save more if you wish to buy a scooter.

(B) For each comment in Column 1, decide whether it is formal or informal (Column 2). Then match it with the most suitable response from Column 3. The first one is done for you. 5 x (0.75 + 1)

Example: (i) *Thanks for your help, Shilpi.* – Informal – *Anytime, Vicky!*

	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
(i)	Thanks for your help, Shilpi.	Formal	Definitely, sir. Please come this way.
(ii)	Good morning, Mrs. Sinha. How are you?	Informal	Good morning, Sunil. I didn't see you in class yesterday. All well?
(iii)	Any idea about when the results will be out?	Formal	That's OK. See you tomorrow.
(iv)	I'd like to see the latest smartphones that you've got.	Informal	Sorry, I don't know.
(v)	Good morning, ma'am.	Formal	Anytime, Vicky!
(vi)	Sorry, I must rush	Informal	Good morning, Mrs. Khan!

	now.		I'm fine, thank you. And how are you keeping?
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