

GENERAL ENGLISH

Full Marks: 300

Time: 3 Hours

1. Write a precis of the following passage :

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The word civilization has the same root as the word city. Civilization was born in the city and ever since in like between the two has been an intimate one. But this is sooner stated than we realize that something more than merely life in congested urban setting is at issue. The Greeks and Romans were city dwellers, but so is bureaucracy man. The people of today's new nations either one or shortly will be urban dwellers. The new civilization of the Orient is urban. Half of the world's ten largest cities one outside the circle of advanced industrial powers that reaches across the Northern Hemisphere from America to Russia. Japan has as many cities of over a million as the United States does. In numbers alone China and India win chance down. They lead the world by a substantial margin in urban concentrations of over a million. In Africa, where there are about as many people as in North America six cities have either arrived at or are pressing the one million mark, and the urban population is increasing at an unprecedented rate.

Urban problems are by no means identical everywhere. But everywhere the trend towards urbanization is accelerating. And in today's developing areas, just as earlier in Europe, the city is the entity in which modernization takes place. In this the city continues to play its immemorial role. All complex societies, among the social insects as well as among men, have been produced in cities. As with most other human institutions, the city has seldom been the result of rational design. With very few exceptions it has

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remained the creature of accident. Ancient cities, which in many cases were states, were also in some ways like modern factories. They provided a milieu in which capital could be accumulated. They permitted the demand for specialized functions to find expression. They facilitated the exchange of goods and services. These functions were seldom either the results or the continuing objects of rational organization and design. Instead, the typical city of history was unaware that it possessed an underlying principle of organization. Cities usually provided for their religious, political, economic, military education and reproductive needs through a hierarchical system of castes.

Looking back beyond these caste systems one can surmise how they may have developed, first out of tribal institutions and then through the introduction of slave systems and the imposition of supervisory military and priestly orders. This was roughly the way Plato accounted for the institutions of the ancient city-state. A smoothly functioning caste-system eliminated the need for explicit social organization. Government could be reduced to a minimum so long as the traditional caste system was rigidly enforced. Urban order, again like the regime of the modern factory had two imperatives. One was individual and the other was collective. The first necessity was for everyone to do his job properly and with good grace. This meant that each citizen should believe in the justice of his own lot and in that of all others. If this happened the entire system could maintain itself in harmony. The result would be the growth of a city which was more than a mere random collection of functions. It was more like a living organism. It had its own integrity and its own spirit or personality. It was the collective counterpart of a living person. When this occurred one could describe the second imperative of the city.

With an organic city, as with a man, one could speak of two just or

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proper function for the body politic taken as a whole. This could only be to achieve the good life. Achieving the good life of the city as a whole also required a way of insuring that each member performed his proper function. So, what was right, or just, from the stand point of the body politic as a whole could not really be different from what was the just and proper functioning of each individual. Two orders of justice were involved but each had to be in harmony with the other. However, a serious problem arose because the identity between justice in the large and in the small might not be immediately apparent to the individual citizen. Each individual's self-interest leads him to disparage the humdrum circumstance of his own lot with that of those more fortunate. If the traditional bonds of the caste system weaken, the city experiences discord and crisis.

Plato pointed out that this reveals the deep logic of politics implicit in the city and in civilization; a logic of justice and of justification. The office of politics was to insure that the good of the whole corresponded with the good of its parts.

2. Write an essay on any one of the following topics : 100
- (a) Indian Women from tradition modernity.
 - (b) Economic liberalization.
 - (c) Work - culture amongst our youth : how to cultivate it.
 - (d) The world beyond 2000.
 - (e) India is independent but not free.
3. Read the following and answer the questions that follow :

The most obvious and inescapable effect scientific technique is that it makes society more organic, in the sense of increasing the inter-dependence of its various parts. In the sphere of production, this has two forms. There is first the very interconnection of individuals engaged in a common enterprise, e.g., in a single factory; and secondly, there is the relation, less intimate but still essential between one enterprise and another. Each of these

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(4)

become more important with every advance in scientific technique.

A peasant in a unindustrialized country may produce almost all his own food by means of very inexpensive tools. These tools, some of his clothes, and a few things such as salt, are all that he needs to buy. His relations with the outer world are thus reduced to a minimum. So long as he produces, with the help of his wife and children, a little more food than the family requires, he can enjoy almost complete independence, though at the cost of hardship and poverty. But in a time of famine he goes hungry, and probably most of his children die.

His liberty is so dearly bought that few civilized men would change places with him. This was the lot of most of the population of civilized countries till the rise of industrialism.

Although the peasant's lot is in any case a hard one, it is apt to be rendered harder by one or both of two enemies : the money-lender and the landowner. In any history of any period, you will find roughly the following gloomy picture; 'At this time the old hardy yeoman stock had fallen upon evil days. Under threat of starvation from bad harvests, many of them had borrowed from urban landowners, who had none of their traditions, their ancient piety, or their patient courage. Those who had taken this fatal step became, almost inevitably, the slaves or serfs of the members of the new commercial class. And so the sturdy farmers, who had been backbone of the nation, were submerged by supple men who had the skill to amass new wealth by dubious methods.

— Bertrand Russell

Questions :

- (a) Write a summary of the above passage. 40
- (b) How did the farmer become a slave of the money-lender and the landowner? 5

(5)

- (c) What are the effects of the application of scientific technique in production ? 5
- (d) Give a pen-picture of the life of a peasant in the pre-industrial age. 5
- (e) Why does the author say that few civilized men would prefer the liberty that the peasant in the pre-industrial age enjoyed ? 5
4. Amplify the ideas contained in any two of the following :
30×2=60
- (a) Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown.
- (b) Those who write, write; those who cannot, criticize
- (c) The pot calls the kettle black.
- (d) Misfortunes never come singly.
- (e) Live and let live.
- (f) No smoke without fire.
5. Suggest the opposite words for any five of the following :
2×5=10
- (i) lender
- (ii) busy
- (iii) asset
- (iv) attractive
- (v) amateur
- (vi) cheap *****
- (vii) rigid

(6)

6. Frame sentence to illustrate the use of the following words in parts of speech shown within brackets . (any five) $2 \times 5 = 10$

- (i) call (as a noun)
- (ii) fast (as adverb)
- (iii) close (as an adjective)
- (iv) move (as an noun)
- (v) round (as a preposition);
- (vi) but (as a pronoun);
- (vii) till (as preposition)

6. Rewrite the following as directed. (any five) 10

(i) Darwin is famous for his doctrine of evolution.
(Use the noun form of famous)

(ii) Better to reign in hell than serve in heaven.
(Substitute an Adjective formed from 'prefer' for 'better')

(iii) India stands for peace, That should be known to everybody.
(Join into one complex sentence)

(iv) They proposed to hold a meeting. (Change the voice)

(v) As soon as he came, he made, objections.

(Use the Negative form)

(vi) Everybody dislikes a liar (Make it interrogative)
