

GENERAL ENGLISH

Full Marks: 300

Time: 3 Hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions :*

1. Write a precis of the following passage : 50

America is a man-made world ; moreover it is a world which man has made by means of machinery, I am thinking not only of the physical environment, but also and quite as much of thought and emotions. Not only in the great cities but in lonely farms on the prairie and in mining camps on the Rockies, the radio disseminates all the latest information, so that half the topics of conversation on a given day are the same in every household throughout the country. Uniformity in the physical apparatus of life world be no grave matter, but uniformity in matters of thought and opinion is much more dangerous. It is, however a quite inevitable result of modern inventions. Production is cheaper when it is unified and on a large scale than when it is divided into a number of small units. This applies quite as much to the production of opinions as to the production of pins. The principal sources of opinion in the present day are the school, the church, the press, the cinema and the radio. The teaching in the elementary schools must inevitably become more and more standardized as more use is made of apparatus. It may, I think, be assumed that both the cinema and the radio will play a rapidly increasing part in school education in the near future. This will mean that the lessons will be produced at a centre and will be precisely the same wherever the material produced at this centre is used, some churches. I am told, send



out every week a model sermon to all the less educated of their clergy, who, if they were governed by the ordinary laws of human nature, are no doubt grateful for being saved the trouble of composing a sermon of their own. This model sermon, of course deals with some burning topic of the moment, and aims at rousing a given mass emotion throughout the length and breadth of the land. The same things applies in a higher degree to the Press, which receives everywhere the some telegraphic news and is syndicated on a large scale. Reviews of any books I find are, except in the best newspaper, verbally the same from New York to San Francisco, and from Maine to Texas, except that they become shorter as one travels from the north-east to the south-east.

Perhaps the greatest of all forces for uniformity in the modern world is the cinema, since its influence is not confined to America but penetrates to all parts of the world. The cinema embodies broadly speaking Hollywood's opinion of what is liked in the middle West.

Our emotions in regard to love and marriage, birth and death are becoming standardized according to this recipe. To the young of all lands Hollywood represents the last word in modernity, displaying both the pleasures of the rich and the methods to be adopted for acquiring riches. I suppose the talkies will lead before long to the adoption of a universal language, which will be that of Hollywood.

2. Write an essay on any one of the following topics : 100

- (a) The tyranny of custom
- (b) Propaganda in the modern world
- (c) The scientific outlook of life
- (d) The cult of violence

(Turn Over)

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

In 490-470 B.C. sparta and Athens, forgetting their jealousies and joining their forces, fought off the effort of the Persians under Darius and Xerxes to turn Greece into a colony of an Asiatic empire, in this struggle of youthful Europe against the senile East, Sparta provided the army and Athens navy. The war over, sparta demobilized her troops and suffered the economic disturbances natural to that process, while Athens turned her navy into a merchant fleet, and became one of the greatest trading cities of the ancient world, Sparta relapsed into agricultural seclusion and stagnation, while Athens become a busy mart and port, the meeting place of many races of men and of diverse cults and customs, whose contact and rivalry begot comparison analysis and thought. Traditions and dogmas rub one another down to a minimum in such centres of varied intercourse, where there are a thousand faiths we are apt to become sceptical of them all. Probably the traders were the first sceptics ; they had seen too much to believe too much ; and of diverse cults and customs, whose contact and rivalry begot comparison analysis and thought.

Traditions and dogmas rub one another down to a minimum in such centres of varied intercourse, where there are a thousand faiths we are apt to become sceptical of them all. Probably the traders were the first sceptics ; they had seen too much to believe too much ; and the general disposition of merchants to classify all men as either fools or knaves include them to question every creed.

Gandually, too, they were developing science ; mathematics grew with the increasing complexity of exchange, astronomy with the



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increasing audacity of navigation. The growth wealth brought the leisure and security which are the prerequisite of research and speculation, men now asked the stars not only for guidance on the seas but as well for an answer to the riddles of the universe, the first Greek philosophers were astronomers. "Proud of their achievements", says Aristotle, "men pushed farther afield after the Persian wars ; they took all knowledge for their province, and sought ever wider studies" Men grew bold enough to attempt nature explanations of processes and events before attributed to supernatural agencies and power magic and ritual slowly gave way to science ; and philosophy began.

At first philosophy was physical ; it looked out upon the material world and asked what was the final and irreducible constituent of things. But the most characteristic and fertile development of Greek philosophy took form with the sophists travelling of wisdom ; who looked within upon their own thought and nature, rather than out upon the world of things. They were all clever men and many of them were profound, there is hardly a problem or a solution in our current philosophy of mind and conduct which they did not realize and discuss. They asked questions about anything they stood unafraid in the presence of religion or political taboos ; and boldly sub opened every creed and institution to appear before the judgment of reason. In politics, they divided into two schools. One like Rousseau, argued that nature is God, and civilization bad that by nature all men are equal, becoming unequal only by class-made institutions ; and that law is an invention of the strong in chain and rule weak.

Another school, like Nietzsche, claimed that nature is beyond good and evil ; that by nature all men are unequal, that morality is

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an invention of the weak to limit and duty the strong, that power is the supreme virtue and the suprnment the desire of man, and that of all forms of government the wisest and most natural is aristocracy. **-Will Durant**

**Questions :**

- (a) Write a summary of the above passage. 40
- (b) What circumstances made Athens a prosperous city? 5
- (c) Narrate the factors responsible for the gradual decline of 'magic and ritual' and the beginning of philosophy. 5
- (d) How did the sophists contribute to the development of Greek philosophy? 5
- (e) In what context does the author mention the names of Rousseau and Neitzsche? 5
4. Amplify the ideas contained in any two of the following : 30×2=60
- (a) Experince is the best teacher.
- (b) Sweet are the uses of adversity.
- (c) Chaity begins at home.
- (d) Make hay while the sun shines.
- (e) Peace had her victories no less renowned than war.
5. Suggest the antonyms of any five of the following words : 2×5=10
- (i) rural
- (ii) frivolous
- (iii) conservative \*\*\*\*\*
- (iv) Parsuade
- (v) analytic
- (vi) hindrance
- (vii) discreet

**(Turn Over)**



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

- (i) better (as a verb)
- (ii) finish (as a noun)
- (iii) keep (as a noun)
- (iv) bare (as a verb)
- (v) loud (as an adjective)
- (vi) fast (as an adverb)

7. Rewrite the following as directed (any five);  $2 \times 5 = 10$

- (a) The sun rose and the fog dispersed.  
(Turn it into a simple sentence)
- (b) Who would not free from a state of bondage?  
(Make it as active)
- (c) Your behaviour has greatly astonished me.  
(Change into passive)
- (d) He said that he would go there.  
(Turn it into direct speech)
- (e) My regiment is bound for India yours for Gibraltar.  
(Punctuate the sentence)
- (f) He must confess his fault to escape being fined.  
(Turn it into a compound sentence)
- (g) He paid off his father's debts.  
(Turn it into complex sentence)

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