

2016-17
GENERAL ENGLISH**Full Marks: 300****Time: 3 Hours**

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

1. Write a precis of either of the following passages and add a suitable title to it : 40

Constitution of a country lays down the basic structure of the political system under which its people are to be governed. It establishes the main organs of the state—the legislature, the executive and the judiciary, defines their powers, demarcates their responsibilities and regulates their relationships with each other and with the people.

In a democracy, sovereignty vests in the people and ideally the people govern themselves. But with the growing complexities of administration and the size of the Nation-States, direct democracy is no more feasible. In the modern representative democracies, people exercise their inalienable right to decide how and by whom they should be governed. The very first and the most fundamental application of their sovereignty by the people is in giving to themselves a Constitution which outlines the ground rules under which certain powers are transferred to different organs of the state and are to be exercised by them. The Constitution of a country may also be described as its foundational law which ordains the fundamentals of its polity and on the altar of which all other laws and executive acts of the state are to be tested for their validity and legitimacy.

Every Constitution represents the vision and values of its founding fathers and is based on the social, political and economic ethos and faith and aspirations of the people.

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It is wrong to regard a country's Constitution as a mere inert documents. For, Constitution is not only what is written in the text of the Constitution. Constitution is a living organism of functioning institutions. It keeps constantly growing, evolving. Every Constitution gets meaning and content only from the manner in which, and the people by whom, it is operated, the effects it acquires from how it is interpreted by courts of the land and the conventions and practices that grow around it in the actual process of its working.

2. Write *two* essays selecting *one* from each Group given below. (Each essay should be written in about 400 to 500 words) : $50 \times 2 = 100$

GROUP—A

- (a) Role of Mass Media in transforming the society
- (b) State the Indian Railways and the proposal for introduction of Bullet Trains
- (c) Political emancipation of women

GROUP—B

- (a) India's Look East Policy and the North-East : Challenges and Opportunities
 - (b) Industrialization in Assam : Problems and Prospects
 - (c) The diversified important traditional festivals of Assam
3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow. (Answers should be in your own words. Lifting of sentences from the given passage will entail deduction of marks) :

The Russian leader, Stalin, is supposed to have asked how many divisions the Pope had. Like the Roman Catholic Church, the British Commonwealth does not operate in the realms of realpolitik. It is closer, perhaps, to the world of Lewis Carroll than to that of Bismark.

As an idea, the Commonwealth dates from the year of Queen Elizabeth's birth, 1926, it was to be an association of 'autonomous

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communities within the Empire' unified in one respect only : by their allegiance to the sovereign as the head of the state. Even this requirement was dropped in 1949 when India asked to remain a member of the Commonwealth even though, as a newly-independent republic, it had ended its allegiance to the crown. Still, even today, Elizabeth is Queen not only of the United Kingdom, but of 17 other countries as well as of the other Nation-States in the Commonwealth, 26 are republics which recognize her only as head of the Commonwealth, and the other five (Brunei, Lesotho, Malaysia, Tonga and Swaziland) have monarchs of their own. The 49 countries have a population of around one billion.

The Commonwealth has one unifying factor : the Queen as its head. It is noteworthy, if not miraculous, that there has been this continuity, that the monarch of the imperialist nation should be accepted with affection and respect by the newly independent sovereign states. The reason lies in the status the Commonwealth offers, and in the framework it provides for useful work to be done. It is remarkable, for example, that all Commonwealth countries without exception, gave Britain moral support during the Falkland crisis. The Commonwealth has seen much disunity as well, and a number of countries have ceased to be members, usually for political reasons. In 1948, Palestine became Israel. In 1949 the Republic of Ireland, neutral during '39-'45 War, also left. In 1972, after war with India, and the creation of Bangladesh, Pakistan also departed. But the most significant departure has been that of South Africa, in 1961.

The key issue of the Commonwealth is, of course, race, and in particular hostility to racism as practised by white people. For the past 15 years, the focus of attention has been upon South Africa, especially upon the severing of sporting links with that country. The refusal of

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the former Thatcher Government to impose economic sanctions on the apartheid-ridden country has caused tension not only between Britain and other Commonwealth countries, but also between the Queen and her Prime Minister. The Queen has to remain above all the issues, all the arguments. That she does so is one of the wonders of modern politics. The very looseness of the Commonwealth may be its greatest virtue, given the number of one-party states, military dictatorships, and personal regimes within it. Each member takes or gives what the realpolitik of its own government requires. Through the Commonwealth, for example, Canada has attained a degree of influence among third world countries which otherwise would never have been possible. But the Commonwealth is also limited : for military help in a domestic crisis Grenada had to turn to the United States.

Still, Alice in Wonderland or not, a two-metre high portrait of the Queen does hang outside the entrance of Zimbabwe's Senate. An official explained : "She's not there because we love the royal family, but because she is the head of the Commonwealth."

It's a matter of independence plus.

Questions :

- (a) With whom is the Queen identified? 3
- (b) Why is the Commonwealth compared to the Catholic Church? 5
- (c) How did relations between British government and other Commonwealth members become strained? 5
- (d) By what criteria can member states of the Commonwealth be recognised? 4
- (e) How did Canada attain influence among the third world countries? 3
- (f) Why is it necessary for members of the Commonwealth to be tolerant of each other? 3

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- (g) What is the main limitation of the Commonwealth? 4
- (h) Why do you see the portrait of the Queen outside the entrance of Zimbabwe's Senate? 3
- (i) Write, in your own words, the summary of the passage. 20
4. Amplify, in about 150 to 200 words, the idea contained in any *one* of the following : 20
- (a) If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?
- (b) Make hay while the sun shines
- (c) Necessity is the mother of invention
5. Write, in about 150 words, a paragraph on any *one* of the following topics : 10
- (a) Cultural heritage of Assam
- (b) Communal harmony
- (c) Deforestation and its impact
6. (a) Frame sentences with any *three* of the following pairs of words to show the difference in their meaning. (Candidates must attempt both the words in a pair) 2×3=6
- (i) Affection—Affectation
- (ii) Eligible—Illegible
- (iii) Seize—Seige
- (iv) Canvas—Canvass
- (v) Confident—Confidant
- (b) Frame sentences with any *five* of the following: 2×5=10
- (i) Above (as noun)
- (ii) Much (as adjective)
- (iii) Once in a blue moon
- (iv) Cat out of the bag
- (v) By hook or by crook
- (vi) White elephant

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(c) Give the synonym and antonym of the following words :2+2=4

(i) Abstain

(ii) Incredible

(d) Rewrite the following sentences as directed (any five) 2×5=10

(i) Kolkata is larger than any other town in India.

(Change into positive degree without changing the meaning)

(ii) I know his intention. (Change into a complex sentence)

(iii) The match (start) before we (reach) the stadium.

(Rewrite the sentence by using the verbs in the brackets in their correct form)

(iv) He could not come on account of illness.

(Change into a compound sentence)

(v) India is the largest democracy in the world.

(Rewrite in comparative degree without changing the meaning)

(vi) I am fond _____ music, so I will go to the concert _____ pleasure.

(Fill in the blanks with correct preposition)

(vii) Please ask the boys to come in, ____ (Add a question tag)

(e) Change the voice of any five of the following : 1×5=5

(i) He was declared leg before wicket by the umpire.

(From passive to active)

(ii) Is the state helping the poor? (From active to passive)

(iii) What cannot be cured must be endured.

(From passive to active)

(iv) Nothing can be gained without labour.

(From active to passive)

(v) The teacher is teaching us a new lesson.

(From passive to active)

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(vi) Please keep the book on the table.

(From active to passive)

(vii) The food will be served soon. (From passive to active)

(f) Change the form of narration of the following : $3+2=5$

(i) "Meghna", Rishav said, "I have a very important matter to discuss with you today, so you must give me your attention. Sit down and rest here for a while before I began."

(From direct to indirect form)

(ii) Meghna told Rishav that she was very tired that day and asked him if he could wait till the next day.

(From indirect to direct form)

(g) Correct any *five* of the following sentences : $2 \times 5 = 10$

(i) Each of the boys were given food.

(ii) Whom do you like to meet this evening?

(iii) My father admitted me into that school.

(iv) They persisted to go to the Book Fair inspite of the rain.

(v) I would do it if I was he.

(vi) She is working in this office since 2010.

(vii) He is a man of childish simplicity.

7. Human trafficking in modern days has become a global issue that entails global solutions to combat it. According to the National Crime Record Bureau of India, in 2015, 6877 cases of human trafficking were registered in the country of which 1499 cases were registered in Assam itself. In the year 2015, Assam also registered the highest number of child trafficking cases, i.e., 1317 of 3490 all India registered cases. Thus, according to the National Crime Bureau of India 2015, Assam emerges as India's hub of human trafficking.

As a government officer, you were assigned to investigate the matter

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and submit a detail report of the scenario. Make a report in about 250 words highlighting the nature of the social evil of human trafficking in Assam and suggesting effective measures to curtail it.

Address the report to the Deputy Commissioner of the district. 30

Or

India in recent times is experiencing huge influx of illegal immigration from its neighbouring countries that is posing serious security threat to the entire nation. Assam, in particular, has witnessed a huge infiltration of illegal migrants from Bangladesh that is not only posing threat to the identity of Assamese people but is adversely affecting the social, economic and political environment of Assam.

Write a press report in about 250 words to be published in the Assam Tribune, highlighting the seriousness of the illegal immigration influx, outlining the shortcomings of government policies to effectively tackle the problem and suggest measure to not only deal with the current situation but to curtail future reoccurrence of such situation. 30
