

GENERAL ENGLISH

2016

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 and add a suitable title to it : 40

India's strength rests upon the principles of the unity of man, the unity of thought, and the unity of spiritual experience. She has flourished when they have been well expressed, and she has degenerated when they have been forgotten or submerged.

India lives today because, in spite of centuries of degeneration, these principles have been kept alive in the national consciousness. India shows a resurgence of strength today, and that strength will be measured by the degree to which she can succeed in putting these principles into practice, adapting them to the special conditions of the modern world.

The particular significance of adapting these principles to modern conditions lies in the fact that modern science and the influences of western civilization play a decisive role in the life of India today. Western civilization carries forward the basic idea of Greck civilization- the idea of expression. The expansion and expression of good through society forms the basis of western civilization. Today, under the direct influence of western powers of expression and progress, India is being forced up. The keynote of her own culture is 'thought', and while with the passage of centuries, Indian powers of thought have not diminished, what has diminished is the power of expression. Now we find that western influences have roused India, and her powers of thought can find their fulfilment in expression. The way forward for India lies in combining the power of expression with the power of thought. This becomes possible when both are viewed basically as different aspects of the same urge. For what man everywhere is trying to do consciously or unconsciously- and the whole meaning of his life centres in this- is to transcend all limitations, physical, mental and spiritual.

Thus we find that the interplay of cultures is of significance to the whole world. The west has discovered that no amount of political or

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social manipulation on human conditions can cure the evils of life. Thus, it has come about that, aided by its own science which has demonstrated the physical oneness of the universe, the west is now ready to recognize the basic universal principle of the spiritual oneness of the universe and the divine nature of man.

This integration of cultures does not imply the merging of one culture into another. Western culture would retain its own basic idea, the idea of expression, of going outwards to conquer external nature and thus transcend physical limitations.

But that going outwards would then be based upon the ability to go inwards also. Balance would be achieved, because the power to perceive the underlying spiritual unity of all things, making it possible to transcend mental and spiritual limitations also. Indian culture, similarly could retain its own basic idea, the idea that the aim of man is to manifest the divinity within him, transcending mental and spiritual limitations. But this ability to go deep into the depths of internal nature would be accompanied by great activity, a longing for social improvement and the ability to effect it, fortitude, self-reliance and strength.

Social good will thus become the expression of the underlying spiritual unity. Such an idea leads us to the conception of world culture.

The integration of cultures through the principles which are basic to them all makes possible growth and fulfilment.

Every culture, every nation, has its part to play. The conception of world culture implies wholeness achieved in various ways and achieved without the loss of individual cultural values. It takes man to the very centre of his problem of life on earth, for it shows him not only how to live fully in a glorious universe, but to live in the consciousness of his own true nature which is one with the spirit behind that universe.

2. Write *two* essays selecting one from each Group given below (each essay should be written in about 400 to 500 words) :

50 x 2 = 100

Group-A

- (a) Impact of black money on Indian economy-its intensity and the consequences for the common people.
- (b) Pleasure of reading a good book
- (c) The role of bureaucracy in Indian polity-in the past, present and the future

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Group-B

- (d) Should the people of Assam spend so much time on festivals?
- (e) Heritage tourism- its problems and prospects in Assam.
- (f) Growing urbanization in Assam-its socioeconomic impact

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)

A mysterious force has come into our lives, working silently, screened from the human eye, and understood by only a tiny few. It is smaller than a fingernail, thinner than a leaf, and is covered with microscopic markings. It is powered by minute amount of electricity, no more needed by a torch-bulb and yet is probably one of the most significant machines ever made by man : the silicon chip. Take the most advanced equipment of twenty-five years ago, a television set, for example, or a computer; remove the complex assembly of components and wire which make up the circuit, shrink them all down on to a rectagle a few millimetres across and reproduce the results a thousand times for a few pounds each. That is silicon ship.

It is product of the remarkable technology of microelectronics, which allows us to make devices of sophistication unimaginable only a few years ago. With chips, we can make complex electronic machines which operate in such a way that they are almost intelligent even the most imaginative science fiction writers would never have dared to predict.

They are used not only in futuristic products where such technology might be expected, but also in down-to-earth applications in the home, the office and the factory. Silicon chips are now being used in millions. Hardly can an inhabitant of the western world pass a day without using a silicon chip. They are a vital part of our future, but they have an important role in the present.

Chips are found in cookers and fridges, in telephones and cars, in hifi systems and TV games ; in factories chips control machine tools, paint sprayers and assembly lines. Offices have chips in typewriters and photocopies. Supermarkets have chips in cash registers and petrol stations use them in pumps. Chips in hospitals look for disease and monitor patients' progress. Armies use chips to aim shells and missiles and to spot enemy. Chips carry television pictures around the world

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from one continent to another.

But the chip is not just an extra component added to every conceivable product. It may be responsible for an upheaval in the industrialized world of a scale unknown since the Industrial Revolution. The jobs of millions might be threatened for two reasons: a factory run by chips could carry out automatically many of the processes now performed by human workers. If robots and other automatic equipment replace workers, the workers will lose their jobs. The other reason is that the products using silicon chips need less work to make them.

Electronic circuits put together by machine would replace equipment now machined by skilled workers. The impact would be felt not only on the shopfloor; equipment using chips could displace typists and clerks, draughtsmen and designers. Those, at least, Part of the remarkable nature of the microelectronic chip is the speed of its development. Each year the basic elements can be made smaller and smaller to pack more and more complex circuits into the tiny pieces of silicon. We have already reached the stage where complete computers can be put on one area of the material and yet the technology has still not reached its limits.

In the future, we can look forward to the prospect of having cars which navigate automatically to any preselected destination. We will have our own computer terminals at home to allow us to link up to banks, shops and other services, so that at the touch of a button we could carry out all our banking, shopping and payment of bills by computer. We could even use microelectronics to guard our homes, detecting fire and burglary. Microelectronics even brings the hope of saving countless lives by its application in medicine, bringing sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf and even movement in the paralysed limbs.

Questions:

- (a) What sort of upheaval can the silicon chip cause in the industrial world? 5
- (b) What future prospect does the silicon chip hold for mankind? 5
- (c) "That is a silicon chip." What does the writer mean by this? 3
- (d) What is a silicon chip like in shape and size and how is it powered? 3
- (e) Why does the writer say that the technology of developing the

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- silicon chip has still not reached its limits? 3
- (f) When can the jobs of the workers be treated? 4
- (g) How can the application of the silicon chip in medicine bring hope to the sick? 3
- (h) Briefly mention some of the various uses of the silicon chip in different aspects of life. 4
- (i) Write, in your own words, the summary of the passage. 20
4. Amplify, in about 150 to 200 words, the ideas contained in any one of the following : 20
- (a) The more we study the more we discover our ignorance
(P. B. Shelly)
- (b) If wishes were horses baggars would ride
- (c) Action speaks louder than words
5. Write, in about 150 words, a paragraph on any one of the following topics : 10
- (a) Freedom of expression and reasonable restriction in democratic polity
- (b) Caste or class ---- which of the two is greater bane of Indian society ?
- (c) Nationalism and regionalism can peacefully coexist in India
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) : $2 \times 3 = 6$
- (i) Refuse -- Refuge
- (ii) Deprecate -- Depreciate
- (iii) Alternate -- Alternative
- (iv) Beneficent -- Beneficial
- (v) Imaginary -- Imaginative
- (b) Frame sentences with any five of the following : $2 \times 5 = 10$
- (i) many (as Noun)
- (ii) Very (as Adjective)
- (iii) Black and blue
- (iv) To beggar description
- (v) The fag end
- (vi) To fight shy of
- (c) Give the synonym and antonym of the following : $2 + 2 = 4$
- (i) Onerous

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(ii) **Inspid**

(d) Rewrite the following sentences as directed (any five) $2 \times 5 = 10$

(i) This snake is bigger than any other snake that I have ever seen (Rewrite in positive degree without changing the meaning)

(ii) It never rains but pours.
(Change into an affirmative sentence)

(iii) Ignorance of law is no excuse.
(Change into a complex sentence)

(iv) His father works ___ a bank but he and his elder brother work ___ the railway station.
(fill in the blanks with correct preposition)

(v) I did not feel very well yesterday, but I ___ better today.
(fill in the blank with the correct tense form of the verb 'feel')

(vi) He replied most curtly.
(Use 'reply' as a Noun)

(vii) He used to be quite a good football player.
(Use the appropriate tag)

(e) Change the voice of any five of the following : $1 \times 5 = 5$

(i) Without effort nothing can be gained
(From passive to active)

(ii) It is now time to start the machine.
(From active to passive)

(iii) His behaviour has astonished us.
(From active to passive)

(iv) To whom were you writing a letter?
(From active to passive)

(v) We were alarmed at the news.
(From passive to active)

(vi) Duty must be done.
(From passive to active)

(vii) They say, he is a saint.
(From active to passive)

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

(i) The stranger said to Raja, "Good morning ! I am a tourist from England. I have come to see the tea gardens of Assam. I was

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told to go Jorhat and Dibrugarh to see the gardens. Could you give me some hint how to go there?"

(From direct to indirect form)

- (ii) Raja told the stranger that he could go either by bus or by train as would be convenient to him. Then he told the stranger to hire a taxi cab that would take him to the bus station or the railway station.

(From indirect to direct form)

- (g) Correct any five of the following sentences : 2x5=10

- (i) As three-fourths of the crop are lost the government will have to compensate the loss of the farmers.
- (ii) He does not like to play football or cricket ; his only hobby is to play violin.
- (iii) The wind was blowing eastward.
- (iv) Many a battles were fought on the banks of the Brahmaputra.
- (v) I consider you as my best friend.
- (vi) It is bitter cold today.
- (vii) We were very glad for a rest after our long journey.

7. Around the midnight of 2nd May, 2016 Majuli, the largest river island and the famous seat of Vaisnavite culture, was lashed by a devastating hail storm which ravaged the entire area of the island. Many trees were uprooted, countless houses damaged and electric supply lines were so affected that for days together the river island was plunged in darkness. Namghars of several holy Satras were also damaged. As a government officer, you were sent to assess the quantum of damage and loss of property- both public and private. Make a report in about 250 words describing the loss and estimating the relief and compensation to be paid to the affected people. Also suggest the measures to be taken by the disaster management department of the government to mitigate the suffering of the people. (Address the report to the Deputy Commissioner of the district)

Or

A large number of one-horned rhinos are being killed by poachers in Kaziranga National Park. As a member of the team of journalists selected by the Government of Assam, you have visited the Park. You have gone to the vulnerable areas, talked to the local people of the neighbouring villages and the officers and workers employed in the

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Park.

Write a press report in about 250 words to be published in the Assam Tribune, highlighting the seriousness of the on-going poaching and incorporating the suggestions of the experts and the local people as well as your own extinction.

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Correct any five of the following sentences.

- (i) As first-fourths of the crop are lost the government will have to compensate the loss of the farmers.
- (ii) He does not like to play football or cricket; his only hobby is to play golf.
- (iii) The wind was blowing eastward.
- (iv) Many battles were fought on the banks of the Brahmaputra.
- (v) I consider you as my best friend.
- (vi) It is bitter cold today.
- (vii) We were very glad for a rest after our long journey.

Around the midnight of 2nd May 2010, the island was hit by a cyclone and the famous seat of the government was destroyed. Many trees were uprooted, houses were damaged and the supply lines were affected. For days together the island was plunged in darkness. Members of several NGOs were also damaged. A government officer, you were sent to investigate the damage and loss of property. You were to suggest the department of the government to mitigate the suffering of the people. Also suggest the measures to be taken by the department. Also suggest the report to the government.

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