

UPC : 52031903
Name of the course : B. Com (Programme)
Name of the paper : English Proficiency
Semester : III
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:

1. This question paper contains six questions.
Each question carries equal weightage (25 marks).
Attempt any THREE questions.

Q. 1 Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow it:

Do you live in a house? You might be surprised to learn that there are many, many kinds of houses. Most people in India are used to houses made of bricks, stones, straw, or mud. But many people around the world live in houses made of grass, soil, or cloth.

Some nomadic people build their houses of straw. Their houses are shaped like domes or half spheres. The homes are small and cool. People can move their houses when they want to move. Since they are nomads, they move often from one place to another in search of food.

People of the Uros tribe of Peru build their houses of reeds (tall, grass like plants). Not only that, they also live on islands that are made of reeds! Their boats are also made of reeds.

In Southern Spain, some people live in underground houses. This kind of house is called a *cueva*. During the winter, the houses stay warm. During the summer, the houses stay cool.

In Yemen, some people live in tall houses made of bricks. These bricks are made of clay, straw, and soil. The bricks last many years - maybe as long as 500 years.

In the Philippines, some people still live in tree houses. The tree houses are made of bamboo with grass roofs. The air is cool and the houses stay dry. The fishermen of Malaysia build their houses on water. They use wood from mangrove trees. This wood stays strong in water. In China, many town houses are made of hard packed soil. The soil becomes as strong as brick when it is packed hard. One large family group lives in a town house.

In the Gobi desert some people live in homes called gels. These homes are made of cloth. Two poles in the centre of the house hold the cloth up. The houses are easy to move and setup. People build their houses to fit the needs of their lives.

The houses are different, but one thing is the same wherever you go. There is no place like home.

(A) State whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F). **10 marks**

- (i) In India, people live in stone and brick houses only.
- (ii) The tribal people of Peru make islands out of reed.
- (iii) The bricks used in making houses in Yemen can last for even five centuries.
- (iv) The wood of mangrove trees becomes soft and pulpy in water.
- (v) It is hot and humid in tree houses.

(B) On the basis of the given passage, answer the following questions briefly (30 – 40 words each) in your own words as far as possible: **5x3=15 marks**

- (i) Why do nomadic people move from one place to another?
- (ii) What is special about *cueba* homes?
- (iii) What are tree houses made of?
- (iv) Why are town houses in China made of hard-packed soil?
- (v) Why do people build homes?

Q. 2 Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow it:

Do you want to look younger and more beautiful? Are you interested in slowing down the ageing process? There is no magic cure for this. The market has many lotions and creams that promise to make your skin turn fair and lovely in 10 days. You buy and use them and realise that most of them do not give any results. There is a better solution. Eat whole grains, fruits, and vegetables which are low in calories and high in fibre and full of nutrients. If you eat a diet rich in these items, you will soon become slim and slow down the ageing process.

It is inevitable that you age as you grow. But you can slow the process of ageing with the right diet – a diet rich in vitamin C which you can get in guava, oranges, grapefruit, and red and green peppers. Vitamin C helps to keep the skin elastic and supple. While oranges are a good source, green peppers, and leafy greens such as spinach are also excellent sources of this important vitamin. Eating food rich in this vitamin can slow down the rate at which your skin tissues lose elasticity, thereby helping you maintain smoother and more youthful skin for years to come.

(A) Complete the summary of the above passage by filling in appropriate words from the text. The first one has been done for you. **10 marks**

There is no magic formula for slowing the process of ageing. It is better to eat a (i) which includes whole grains, fruits, and vegetables as these foods have (ii) calories and high nutrition. They will help you to lose weight as well as (iii) down the ageing process. The natural

____(iv)____ process cannot be stopped. But we can slow it down with a diet that is rich in vitamin C. This ____ (v) ____ is found in oranges, green peppers, spinach etc.

(B) On the basis of the given passage, answer the following questions briefly (30 – 40 words each) in your own words as far as possible: **15 marks**

- (i) What does the passage tell you about lotions and creams in the market?
- (ii) Why should we eat a diet consisting of whole grains, fruits, and vegetables?
- (iii) Which vitamin is useful for looking younger? How does it help your skin?
- (iv) Name 3 sources of the vitamin.
- (v) After reading the passage, do you think there is a „magic cure“ for slowing down the ageing process? Give reasons.

Q. 3 (A) Complete each sentence by selecting the correct word / phrase from the pair given in brackets after the blank: **10 marks**

- (i) He was quite _____ (high / tall) for his age.
- (ii) She may look _____ (plane / plain) but she is very intelligent.
- (iii) Please don't drive fast as there might be an _____ (accident / incident)
- (iv) Her hands are rough because she works with her _____ (bear / bare) hands.
- (v) Can you _____ (here / hear) the dog barking?
- (vi) Please keep _____ (quiet / quite) while the movie is going on.
- (vii) My sister promised to _____ (so / sew) the buttons on my new dress.
- (viii) The strong wind _____ (blue / blew) away the tent.
- (ix) Panda bears are becoming a _____ (rear / rare) species.
- (x) He was arrested for giving _____ (fake / false) information.

(B) Write a letter to the Principal of your college about the unhygienic condition of the college canteen and request her/him to take necessary action. **15 marks**

Q. 4 (A) Complete each sentence by selecting the correct word / phrase from the pair given in brackets after the blank: **10 marks**

- (i) The government is trying hard to solve the problem of _____ (literacy / illiteracy) in the country.
- (ii) It is thought _____ (proper / improper) to wear T-shirts to office meetings.
- (iii) They don't mind the _____ (comfort / discomfort) of a long journey.

- (iv) His _____ (kind / kindness) to animals is well known.
- (v) Don't worry about the dog. He is _____ (harmful / harmless).
- (vi) The government has announced scholarships to _____ (encourage / discourage) poor students.
- (vii) Your injuries will _____ (heal / heel) soon.
- (viii) I read a fairy _____ (tail / tale) to the children.
- (ix) The _____ (whether / weather) looks bad today.
- (x) I don't like to sit _____ (idle / idol) as it makes me unhappy.

(B) Write a paragraph, in about 150 words, on the friendly cricket match between two college teams in which your college team won. **15 marks**

Q. 5 (A) Complete each sentence by selecting the correct word / phrase from the pair given in brackets after the blank: **15 marks**

- (i) She _____ (had lived / has lived) in Delhi all her life.
- (ii) I _____ (have seen / saw) this film before.
- (iii) These days the climate _____ (is changing / changed) rapidly.
- (iv) The children _____ (are asking / had been asking) for a video game for long. I got it for them yesterday.
- (v) I _____ (was cooking / am cooking) when the phone rang.
- (vi) The injury is not serious. You _____ (need / needn't) worry.
- (vii) If you want, you _____ (should / can) go.
- (viii) Rakesh is very busy. But he just _____ (might / might not) come for the film.
- (ix) Sona cut the apple _____ (by / with) a knife.
- (x) How far can we walk _____ (by / on) foot?
- (xi) He is fond _____ (of / for) coffee.
- (xii) The sponsor money was equally distributed _____ (between / on) the two players.
- (xiii) Bachendri Pal is _____ (the / a) first woman to climb Mount Everest.
- (xiv) The Ganga is _____ (a / an) holy river.
- (xv) _____ (a / an) umbrella is very useful in the rainy season.

(B) State whether the given response is appropriate or inappropriate in the given situations. If it is inappropriate, write a suitable response. **10 marks**

- (i) Mother: "Harsh, could you please buy some postage stamps from the post office?"
Harsh: "I don't have the time. Buy it yourself."
- (ii) You: "Uncle, it is raining. Could I borrow your umbrella?"
Uncle: "Sure. Go ahead, take it."
- (iii) Aunt: "Let's go shopping at the mall."

- You: "No, I don't find it an enjoyable place. You go."
- (iv) You: "Excuse me Sir, I want to return these books to the library.
Librarian: "Aha! You are returning the books late? Now pay the fine."
- (v) You: "Ma'am, here's the report that you wanted. It was with the Sales Department."
Boss: "Thank you. Please leave it on my table. I'll look at it later."

Q. 6 (A) Complete each sentence by selecting the correct word / phrase from the pair given in brackets after the blank: **15 marks**

- (i) I _____ (study / am studying) history as an elective subject.
- (ii) I _____ (am coming / have come) here before.
- (iii) I _____ (had worked / has worked) in Italy for five years before moving to France.
- (iv) It _____ (had been raining / has been raining) since morning.
- (v) If you had asked me, I _____ (would have helped / should help) you.
- (vi) Rahul is one of my closest friends. I _____ (had known / have known) him since we were at school together.
- (vii) She _____ (has been playing / playing) the sitar since she was eight years old.
- (viii) I could not enter the house. I _____ (lose / had lost) my keys.
- (ix) She wasn't feeling well. She _____ (must have eaten / must be eating) something bad.
- (x) _____ (Might / May) I close the window?
- (xi) She ran as quickly as she _____ (can / could).
- (xii) He is _____ (an / a) honest man.
- (xiii) Keep these books _____ (over / on) the table.
- (xiv) There is a heavy parcel _____ (of / for) books for you.
- (xv) _____ (A / An) university is a place for higher studies.

(B) Write an appropriate response to the following comments: **10 marks**

- (i) You have not submitted your assignment. Why is that?
- (ii) How long have you lived here?
- (iii) Could you please tell me where the nearest mall is?
- (iv) Shall we go to see the new film?
- (v) What a fantastic movie it was! How did you find it?