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OPSC OAS
(Mains)
Previous Year Paper
(English Language)
Paper-II 2021



CSM – 2/21
Compulsory Paper – II
English

Time : 3 hours

Full Marks : 300

The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.

*Answer **all** questions.*

I. Write an essay on **one** of the following in about **1000** words. 100

- (a) Indian Cultural Resources
- (b) Digital India
- (c) Ethical values in Public Service
- (d) Religion as a cohesive force
- (e) Democratic values and Bureaucracy

II. Read the passage below and answer the questions with brief yet analytic bent of mind :

A remarkable ingredient of human nature is here : *Good Temper*. "Love is not easily provoked". Nothing could be more striking than

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(Turn over)

to find this here. We are inclined to look upon bad temper as a very harmless weakness. We speak of it as a mere infirmity of nature, a family failing, a matter of temperament, not a thing to take into very serious account in estimating a man's character. And yet here, right in the heart of this analysis of love, it finds a place ; and again and again returns to condemn it as one of the most destructive elements in human nature. The peculiarity of ill temper is that it is vice of the virtuous. It is often the one blot on an otherwise noble character. You know men who are all but perfect, and women who would be entirely perfect, but for an easily ruffled quick-tempered or "touchy" disposition. This compatibility of ill temper with high moral character is one of the strangest and saddest problems of ethics. The truth is there are two great classes of sins - sins of the *Body*, and sins of *Disposition*. The Prodigal son may be taken as a type of the first, the elder brother of the second. Now society has no doubt whatever as to which of these is the worse. Its brand falls, without a challenge, upon the Prodigal. But are

we right ? We have no balance to weigh on another's sins, and coarser and finer are but human words ; but faults in the higher nature may be less venial than those in the lower, and to the eye of Him who is Love, a sin against Love may seem a hundred times more base. No form of vice, not worldliness, not greed of gold, not drunkenness itself does more to un-Christianise society than evil temper. For embittering life, for breaking up communities, for destroying the most sacred relationships, for devastating home, for withering up men and women, for taking the bloom off childhood ; in short for sheer gratuitous misery-producing power, this influence stands alone. Jealousy, anger, pride, cruelty, self-righteousness, touchiness, doggedness, sullenness are ingredients of ill temper. Judge if such sins of disposition are not worse to live in, and for others to live with than sins of the body. There is really no place in Heaven for a disposition like this. A man with such a mood could only make Heaven miserable for all the people in it.

Questions :

6×5 = 30

- (a) Why, according to the author, will there be no place in Heaven for the bad-tempered ?
- (b) What is the strongest yet saddest aspect of a character and how both reside even in the best of human nature ?
- (c) How do you assess the analogy of the prodigal son and elder brother ?
- (d) How is bad temper a 'vice of the virtuous' ?
- (e) What other vices are narrated and why do you think those to be contained in the ambit of bad temper ?

III. Expand the idea of any **one** of the following : 20

- (a) Cultural Nationalism
- (b) Indian bureaucracy is a neo-colonial practice
- (c) Better to rule in hell than serve in heaven
- (d) Work is worship

IV. Write a precis of the following passage : 40

The interest and value of history is very much more than the key it affords to the literature, art, and monuments of the past. In itself history raises

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(4)

Contd.

and attempts to answer two great questions :

(1) What was the life of men and women in the past ages ? and (2) How did the present state of things evolve out of the past ? The reader can be interested in the past for its own sake, for the value of instruction he finds in former states of society, and former habits of thought which have passed away and left little or nothing behind. Or else the reader may be interested chiefly in the explanation which history alone can afford of the origin of the institutions, beliefs, habits, and prejudices of the various people of the world at the present day. In other words, he can be interested in the past, either for its own sake, or as the parent of the present. Similarly, he may be interested in static views of various past scenes and happenings, or he may be interested principally in the moving stream of events, the causal and evolutionary aspects of the history of mankind.

I will say a little about these two aspects of history separately. First, the value of the reader of discovering what life was in various ages and countries of old : this kind of intellectual curiosity

can in our day be satisfied more fully and more correctly than in any previous age, because of the wonderful work of modern scholarship. It is a relief to escape from our own mechanical age into a world when the crafts-man was more and the machine less, when imagination was more and science was less. Nor is this mere hedonistic escapism. It enlarges the mind and imagination, otherwise imprisoned in the present. We get glimpses of other worlds, human and faulty like ours, but different from our own, and suggesting many things, some of great value, that man has thought, experienced, and forgotten. Indeed, I know of no greater triumph of the modern intellect than the truthful reconstruction of past states of society that have been long forgotten or misunderstood, recovered now by the patient work of archaeologists, antiquarians, and historians. To discover in detail what the life of man on Earth was like a hundred, a thousand, ten thousand years ago is just as great an achievement as to make ships sail under the sea or through the air. How wonderful a thing it is to look back into the

past as it actually was, to get a glimpse through the curtain of old night into some brilliantly lighted scene of living men and women, not mere creatures of fiction and imagination, but warm-blooded realities even as we are. In the matter of reality, there is no difference between past and present; every moment a portion of our prosaic present drops off and is swallowed up into the poetic past.

The motive of history is at bottom poetic. The patient scholar, wearing out his life in scientific historical research, and the reader more idly turning the pages of history, are both enthralled by the mystery of time, by the mutability of all things, by the succession of the ages and generations.

Besides the contemplation and study of the Past for its own sake, there remains the second great value of History, namely, the light it throws on the present. You cannot understand your own country, still less any other, unless you know something of its history. You cannot even understand your own personal opinions, prejudices and emotional reactions unless you know what is your heritage as an Englishman, and how it has come down to

you. Why does an Englishman react one way to a public or private situation, a German another way, a Frenchman in a third way ? History alone can tell you.

In this stage of the world, when many Nations are brought into close and vital contact for good and evil, it is essential, as never before, that their gross ignorance of one another should be diminished, that they should begin to understand a little of one another's historical experience and resulting mentality. It is a fault of the English to expect the people of other countries to react as they do themselves to political and international situations. Our genuine goodwill and good intentions are often brought to nothing, because we expect other people to be like ourselves. This would be corrected if we knew their history, not necessarily in detail but in broad outlines of the social and political conditions which have given to each Nation its present character.

You cannot understand the French unless you know some. thing of the French Revolution, its

causes and effects ; or the Germans, without knowing something of the historical relation of the German to his government, and of the German government to the Army, and of the whole Nation to military ideals, which became in Bismarck's day as potent and precious to them as Parliamentary institutions (and freedom to do what we like) have, in the long course of history, become to us English. You cannot understand the Russians, unless you have some conception of the long centuries during which they were hammered into the sense of community and of absolutism by the continual blows of Tartar and Teuton invasion sweeping over the unbroken Steppes. We are always expecting other countries to 'play the game' as we play it, to see life as we see it, but they insist on following their own harsher traditions. The present is always taking us by surprise (as it did in 1914 and in 1938-39) because we do not sufficiently know and consider the past.

V. Answer as directed :

2×40 = 80

Choose the correct option :

1. Who can count the stars in the sky ?

(Change the voice)

- (a) By whom can the stars in the sky be counted ?
- (b) By whom can be stars in the sky counted ?
- (c) By whom could the stars be counted in the sky ?
- (d) By whom could the stars in the sky be counted ?

2. Two motorcycle mechanics were arrested for their alleged involvement in innumerable vehicle thefts.

(Change the voice)

- (a) The police have arrested two motorcycle mechanics for their alleged involvement in innumerable vehicle thefts.
- (b) The police arrested two motorcycle mechanics for their alleged involvement in innumerable vehicle thefts.
- (c) For their alleged involvement in innumerable vehicle thefts, police had arrested two motorcycle mechanics.

(d) For their alleged involvement in innumerable vehicle thefts, two motorcycle mechanics have been arrested.

3. Transform the following into a complex sentence.

My ambition is to serve the country.

(a) My ambition is that I should serve my country.

(b) My ambition is that I should serve my country.

(c) To serve my country is my ambition.

(d) I serve my country is my great ambition.

4. The meeting has been brought _____ to Monday due to the seriousness of the situation.

(a) on

(b) out

(c) down

(d) forward

5. The swearing _____ ceremony will take place tomorrow.

(a) at

(b) on

(c) in

(d) over

6. Name the kind of adjective used in the sentence .

This fort once belonged to Maharana Pratap.

- (a) Adjective of Number
- (b) Adjective of Quantity
- (c) Demonstrative Adjective
- (d) Distributive Adjective

Detect where the error lies in the following two questions :

7. It was him who came running into the classroom.

- (a) It was him
- (b) Who came
- (c) No error
- (d) Into the classroom

8. The captain along with his team are practicing very hard for the forth coming matches.

- (a) are practicing very hard
- (b) the captain along with his team
- (c) for the
- (d) forth coming matches

9. Choose the correct synonym :

Fostering

- (a) Safeguarding
- (b) Nurturing
- (c) Neglecting
- (d) Ignoring

10. Choose the correct antonym :

Foremost

- (a) Unimportant
- (b) Matured
- (c) Disposed
- (d) Hindmost

11. Improve the sentence :

The workers are hell bent at getting what is due to them.

- (a) Hell bent on getting
- (b) Hell bent for getting
- (c) Hell bent upon getting
- (d) No improvement

Choose the correct one-word substitute :

12. That which cannot be corrected :

- (a) Unintelligible
- (b) Indelible
- (c) Incurable
- (d) Illegible

13. A hater of knowledge and learning is called :

- (a) Bibliophile
- (b) Philologist
- (c) Misogynist
- (d) Misologist

Find the correctly spelt word in the following two questions :

14. (a) Affedevit

(b) Afidevit

(c) Affedivit

(d) Affidavit

15. (a) Agglomeration

(b) Aglomoration

(c) Aglomeration

(d) Agglomeration

16. Choose the correct option :

The miser gazed _____ at the pile of gold coins in front of him.

- (a) avidly
- (b) admiringly
- (c) thoughtfully
- (d) earnestly

17. Correct the sentence :

The man to who I sold my house is a cheat.

- (a) To whom I sell
- (b) Who was sold to
- (c) To who I sell
- (d) To whom I sold

Choose the correct meaning of the phrase :

18. To make clean breast of :

- (a) To praise oneself
- (b) To gain prominence
- (c) To confess without reserve
- (d) To destroy before it blooms

19. To catch a tartar :

- (a) To catch a dangerous person
- (b) To meet with disaster
- (c) To deal with person who is more than one's match
- (d) None of these

20. Choose the proper sequence :

It has been established

P : Einstein was

Q : although a great scientist

R : weak in arithmetic

S : right from his school days

- (a) SRPQ
- (b) QPRS
- (c) QPSR
- (d) RQPS

21. Choose the correct order of the sentences :

S1 : A force exists between everything in the universe.

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(16)

Contd.

P : Normally, it is very small but when one of the bodies is a planet, like earth, the force is considerable

Q : It has been investigated by many scientists including Galileo and Newton.

R : Everything on or near the surface of the Earth is attracted by the mass of Earth.

S : This gravitational force depends on the mass of the bodies involved.

S₆ : The greater the mass, the greater is the Earth's force of attraction on it. We can call this force attraction force.

(a) PRQS

(b) PRSQ

(c) QSPR

(d) QSRP

Select the pair which has the same relation :

22. Thrust : Spear

(a) Mangle : Iron

(b) Scabbard : Sword

- (c) Bow : Arrow
- (d) Fence : Epee

23. Pain : Sedative :

- (a) Comfort : Stimulant
- (b) Grief : Consolation
- (c) Trance : Narcotic
- (d) Ache : Extraction

24. Select the appropriate word and fill in the blank space :

Scientists _____ many experiments and the evidence from these experiments made it clear that an atom is divisible and has a complex structure.

- (a) Completed
- (b) Conducted
- (c) Did
- (d) Have

25. He walks slowly is an adverb of :

- (a) manner
- (b) time

- (c) place
- (d) frequency

26. The scanning electron microscope is extremely useful in _____ details and contours of different surfaces.

- (a) reading
- (b) skimming
- (c) predicting
- (d) studying

27. _____ I have no money to spend, you have nothing to spend.

- (a) Only
- (b) While
- (c) Lest
- (d) Than

28. Despite his best efforts to conceal his anger

- (a) we could detect that he was very happy.
- (b) he failed to give us the impression of his agony.

- (c) he succeeded in camouflaging his emotions.
- (d) people came to know that he was annoyed.

29. It is not easy to remain tranquil when those around you

- (a) behave in socially acceptable manner
- (b) exhibit pleasant mannerism
- (c) are losing their heads
- (d) agree to whatever you say

Choose the word that doesn't express the meaning of the given word :

30. Commensurate :

- (a) Complement
- (b) Suitable
- (c) Disproportionate
- (d) Equivalent

Choose the correct meaning of the given phrase :

31. To cry wolf :

- (a) To turn pale

- (b) To give false alarm
- (c) To listen eagerly
- (d) To keep off starvation

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option in the following questions :

32. At thirty, a change came _____ him.
- (a) on
 - (b) over
 - (c) about
 - (d) into
33. He is an animal! He should be _____.
- (a) put away
 - (b) put off
 - (c) put in
 - (d) put at
34. I study music at _____ University in Boston.
- (a) an
 - (b) the

- (c) a
- (d) None of these

35. When he lived in Hyderabad, he _____ to cinema once a week.

- (a) went
- (b) was going
- (c) has been going
- (d) goes

36. The baby _____ all morning.

- (a) cries
- (b) has been crying
- (c) had been crying
- (d) cried

37. A man of _____ habit is sure to succeed.

- (a) industrial
- (b) industrialise
- (c) industry
- (d) industrious

38. I will forgive you ————— that you do not repeat the offence.

- (a) on condition
- (b) either
- (c) lest
- (d) until

39. I think *that you will like it*. The italicized portion of the sentence is an example of :

- (a) Main clause
- (b) Independent clause
- (c) Subordinate clause
- (d) None of these

40. They themselves admitted their guilt. The underlined word is an example of :

- (a) Reflexive pronoun
- (b) Emphatic pronoun
- (c) Demonstrative pronoun
- (d) Distributive pronoun

VI. Translate the following into English Language :

30

କୁହାଯାଏ ଜଳ ହିଁ ଜୀବନ । ସେହି ଜଳ ଏବେ କ୍ରମଶଃ ଦୁର୍ଲଭ ହେବାକୁ ବସିଲାଣି । ଉତ୍ତମ ପାନୀୟ ଜଳ ଟିକିଏ ପାଇବା ପାଇଁ ଏ ଦେଶର ଅନେକ ଲୋକ ଦହଗଞ୍ଜ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି । କେତେ ହୀନସ୍ଥା ଭୋଗୁଛନ୍ତି । ଏବେ ମଧ୍ୟ ଏମିତି ଗାଁ ଅଛି ଯେଉଁଠି ଲୋକମାନେ ଗାଈ ଗୋରୁ ଗାଧୋଉଥିବା ପୋଖରୀର ପାଣିକୁ ପାନୀୟ ଭାବରେ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରୁଛନ୍ତି । ହୁଏତ ବ୍ୟବହାର କରିବା ପାଇଁ ବାଧ୍ୟ ହେଉଛନ୍ତି । ଉତ୍ତମ ପାନୀୟ ଜଳର ଅଭାବରୁ କେତେ ଲୋକ ଦୁରାରୋଗ୍ୟ ବ୍ୟାଧିର ଶିକାର ହେଉଛନ୍ତି । କେତେ ଜୀବନ ଅକାଳରେ ଝରି ଯାଉଛି । ଏହି ସମସ୍ୟାର କିଂଚିତ୍ ସମାଧାନ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ ସତ୍ୟସାଧୁ ସେବା ସମିତିର ସଦସ୍ୟମାନେ ଆଗେଇ ଆସନ୍ତି । ଜଳକଷ୍ଟ ଭୋଗୁଥିବା ଲୋକଙ୍କ ବ୍ୟବହାର ପାଇଁ ପାନୀୟ ଜଳର ବ୍ୟବସ୍ଥା କରାଯାଏ । ସରକାରୀ ଅଥବା ବେସରକାରୀ ଉଦ୍ୟମରେ ନଳକୂପ ସ୍ଥାପନ କରାଯାଏ ।

ଅତୀତରେ ଆମ ଦେଶର ରଷିକଣ୍ଠରୁ ପରମ ପିତାଙ୍କ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ ଯେଉଁ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ନିବେଦିତ ହୋଇଥିଲା, ତାକୁ ଟିକେ ମନେ ପକାଇବା । ପରମପିତାଙ୍କ ଉଦ୍ଦେଶ୍ୟରେ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ଜଣାଇ ରଷି କହିଥିଲେ, “ମୁଁ ରାଜ୍ୟ ମାଗୁ ନାହିଁ, ସୁଖ ଅଥବା ଧନସଂପଦ କାମନା କରୁନାହିଁ, ପୁନର୍ଜନ୍ମରେ ମୋର ଅଭିଳାଷ ନାହିଁ । ଦୁଃଖତାପକ୍ଳିଷ୍ଟ ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କ ଆର୍ତ୍ତନାଶନ ହିଁ ମୋର କାମନା, ସେତିକି ମୋର ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା ।”

