

H.S. 1ST YEAR EXAMINATION

2013

General English

Full Marks: 100

Section A: Reading

1. The New Year is a time for resolutions. Mentally, at least, most of us could compile formidable lists of 'dos' and 'don'ts'. The same old favorites recur year in year out with monotonous regularity. We resolve to get up earlier each morning, eat less, find more time to play with the children, do a thousand and one jobs about the house, be nice to people we don't like, drive carefully, and take the dog for a walk everyday. Past experience has taught us that certain accomplishments are beyond attainment. If we remain inveterate smokers, it is only because we have so often experienced the frustration that results from failure. Most of us fail in our efforts at self improvement because our schemes are too ambitious and we never have time to carry them out. We also make the fundamental error of announcing our resolutions to everybody so that we look even more foolish when we slip back into our bad old ways. Aware of these pitfalls, this year I attempted to keep my resolutions to myself. I limited myself to two modest ambitions: to do physical exercise every morning and to read more of an evening. An all-night party on New Year's Eve provided me with a good excuse for not carrying out either of these new resolutions on the first day of the year, but on the second, I applied myself assiduously to the task. The daily exercise lasted only eleven minutes and I proposed to them early in the morning before anyone had got up. The self-discipline required to drag myself out of bed eleven minutes earlier than usual was considerable. Nevertheless, I managed to creep down into the living room for two days before anyone found me out. After jumping about on the carpet and twisting the human frame into uncomfortable positions, I sat down at the breakfast table in an exhausted condition. It was this that betrayed me. The next morning the whole family trooped in to watch the performance. That was really unsettling, but I fended off the taunts and jibes of the family good-humorously and soon everybody got used to the idea. However, my enthusiasm waned. The time I spent at exercises gradually diminished. Little by little the eleven minutes fell to zero. By January 10th, I was back to where I had started from. I argued that if I spent less time exhausting myself at exercises in the morning, I would keep my mind fresh for reading when I got home from work. Resisting the hypnotizing effect of television, I sat in my room for a few evenings with my eyes glued to book. One night, however, feeling cold and lonely, I went downstairs and sat in front of the television pretending to read. That proved to be my undoing, for I soon got back to my old bad habit of dozing off in front of the screen. I still haven't given up my resolution to do more reading. In fact, I have just bought a book entitled How to Read a Thousand Words a Minute. Perhaps it will solve my problem but I just haven't had time to read it!

A. Choose the correct one: $1 \times 6 = 6$

2. Our favourite past time
3. Pledging not to do certain things
4. Pledging doing certain things
5. Pledging doing and not doing certain things
6. Past experiences have taught us that
7. All accomplishments are attainable
8. Most of our promises are true
9. All our accomplishments are not attainable
10. We can do everything and anything
11. By January 10th, the narrator
12. Achieved what he aimed to do
13. Did nothing at all
14. Was to back to square one
15. Progressed and achieved
16. The narrator wanted to save his energy in their morning for
17. Exercises
18. Reading
19. Playing
20. Taking rest
21. The best time for resolutions is:
22. Your birthday
23. The new year's Eve
24. The new year
25. Christmas Day
26. Which of the following words in the passage stands for 'mesmerizing'?
27. Resolved
28. Betraying
29. Diminished
30. Hypnotizing

B. On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, using recognizable abbreviations whenever necessary. Use a format you consider suitable. Supply a suitable title. 8

1. New year: a time for resolution
2. Resolve to get up earlier each morning,
3. Eat less,
4. Find more time to play with the children,
5. Be nice to people we don't like,
6. Drive carefully and take the dog for a walk every day.
7. Certain accomplishments are beyond attainment.
8. Most of us fail in our efforts at self-improvement.
9. We also make the fundamental error of announcing our resolutions to everybody.
10. The narrator's resolutions
11. To keep his resolutions to himself,
12. To do physical exercise every morning and to read more of an evening.
13. The narrator's failure
14. The daily exercises lasted only eleven minutes.

15. By January 10th, he was back to where he started from.

Abbreviations used:

Don't: Do not

Acmlpsments: Accomplishments

Fndamntal: Fundamental

2. Read the following passage and write a summary on it. 6

As what geographers have estimated, about twenty percent of the earth's surface is occupied by deserts. A majority of us view deserts as one unique kind of landscape – areas with little or not rainfalls.

In actual fact, there are differences between the deserts, though in varying degrees. While it is common for laymen like us to see deserts as rocky or covered with gravel or pebbles, there are some where large sand dunes inhabit. Despite the fact that rainfall is minimal, temperatures do change in deserts, ranging from seasonal ones to daily changes where extreme hotness and coldness are experienced in the day and night.

Unfavourable conditions in the deserts, especially the lack of water, have discouraged many living things from inhabiting these landscapes. Nevertheless, there are exceptionally surviving ones which through their superb tactics, have managed to live through and are still going strong. One such kind is the specialist annual plants which overcome seasonal temperature changes with their extremely short, active life cycles. In events of sudden rain, the plant seeds pullulate and grow very quickly to make full use of the rain water. Their flowers bloom and set seeds that ripen quickly in the hot sun too. Once the water runs dry, the mother plant dies, leaving behind the drought-resistant seeds, waiting patiently for the next rainy season to arrive.

The Cacti, a native in American deserts, adapts to the dry surroundings by having unique body structures. The plant has swollen stems to help store water that carries it through months. By having sharp pines instead of leaves, water loss through respiration is minimized. Besides, these pointed pines also help the plant ward off grazing animals, thus enhancing its survival period.

Besides plants, there are also animals with distinct surviving tactics in deserts too. For instance, Skinks (desert lizards) metabolize stored fats in their bulbous tails, producing water to supplement their needs, just like what camels do with the stored food in their humps during long journeys through deserts. Antelopes like the addax, have very low water needs and hence are able to tolerate the conditions in deserts, extracting moisture from the food they eat.

Finally, there are the sand grouses (desert birds) which do not have special features to overcome the drought-like nature in deserts. Hence, to survive in these hot, dry deserts, they need to spend a large part of their time flying in search of waterholes.

SECTION B: WRITING

3. You are Neeraj/Nandita working for India Today Last Week you attended a seminar on 'Pleasure of Eye Donation', organized by the Young Buzz of your district. Write a report of this

seminar in about 100 words taking help from the hints given in the output for the Times of India. Seminar 'Pleasure of eye donation' – organized by young buzz all famous eye surgeons of the town-spoke on the importance of eye donation-50 volunteers offered donation after death-seminar, a great success. 7

Or

Imagine yourself to be a reporter of New Age, Delhi. Taking help from the input given below, write a report on the running over of two young school children by a Blue Line bus in Guwahati in about 100 words.

4. To enforce strict discipline in schools and colleges is a great problem now-a-days. As Mohan/Mohini, write an article in about 100-150 words for the Hindustan Times about the problems and your views on punishment as a corrective measure. 7

5. Write a letter to the General Manager, MTNL, complaining against unsatisfactory working of your telephone. 6

SECTION – C

6. Correct the following sentences: 1×4=4

- (a) There is still little water in the tank; use it sparingly.
- (b) I am knowing you.
- (c) He usually is going to school at 7 a.m.
- (d) The clerk has already typed the letter before the Principal summoned him to do so.

7. In the passage below, there is an error in each line. Fine the error and write the correct word in your answer sheet. The first one has been done as an example. $\frac{1}{2} \times 8 = 4$

Sometimes even those children which work e.g. whichwho hard Fail where they are guided by those a when

People who no one has ever told about b whom Human psychology. Those which think that c who Hard work is everything they offer No offer place to know how the child can play and d children Tell no stories when the child can enjoy e children Knowing about child psychology wilhelp...Greatly in understanding when a child behaves how...Properly. It is the best way where everything anything...Ab..out the child can be known. Then we think if...Of it, we shall understand everything.