

Mains Question Paper English 31 Jan 2026 OPSC OCS

CSM—2/24
PART—I/PAPER—II
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Time : 3 Hours

Full Marks : 250

The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.

Answer **all** questions.

1. Write an essay (of **800–1000 words**) on any *one* of the following topics : 80

- (a) Social media and public opinion
- (b) Artificial intelligence and public life
- ✓ (c) Development and environmental concern
- (d) Critical thinking and good governance

2. Correct the errors : 2×10=20

- ✓ (a) He came here by the sea but went by the air.
- ✓ (b) Baidnath Babu is living happy and leisurely life after his retirement from his service.
- ✓ (c) The Indian team defeated the English by an inning.
- ✓ (d) Bhavna studies in a women's college.
- ✓ (e) What is his programme of tomorrow?
- ✓ (f) Let me buy some fruits.
- ✓ (g) There are two grey hair on his coat collar.
- ✓ (h) Wages are paid by a day.
- ✓ (i) Either of these four books is useful.
- ✓ (j) You can drive enough fast to reach the station in time.

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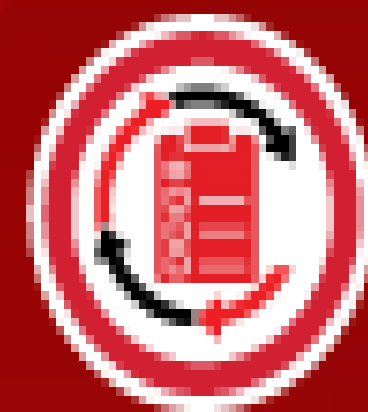
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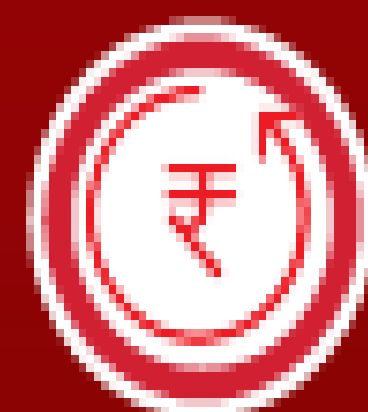
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3. Make sentences with the following pairs of words to indicate the difference in meaning : 4×5=20

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✓ (a) Vacation : Vocation

✓ (b) Aspire : Inspire

✓ (c) Affirm : Confirm

✓ (d) Brake : Break

✓ (e) Blew : Blue

4. Give the antonyms of the following words : 2×5=10

✓ (a) Eligible

✓ (b) Fictional

✓ (c) Hideous

✓ (d) Ferocious

✓ (e) Imminent

5. Turn the following into indirect speech : 2×5=10

✓ (a) They said, "contentment is happiness".

✓ (b) The magistrate said to the accused, "do tell me the truth or I will send you to jail".

✓ (c) The teacher said to the students, "read at least eight hours daily".

✓ (d) Pankaj said, "Alas! I am undone".

✓ (e) She said, "I am going away tomorrow".

6. Rewrite the sentences according to the instructions given in brackets : 2×5=10

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- ✓ (a) The party continued, even though it was raining heavily. (Use 'despite')
- ✓ (b) The coffee was very hot to drink. (Use 'too')
- ✓ (c) Because it was raining, we decided to stay inside and read a book. (Turn into a simple sentence)
- ✓ (d) Please remove your shoes before entering my house. (Turn into passive voice)
- ✓ (e) The movie was interesting. (Use the comparative degree)

7. Supply the missing words : 2×5=10

- (a) I will not go to London until and _____, I receive a call from him.
- ✓ (b) There should be no ifs and _____, before you decide to go on this trip.
- ✓ (c) After the unbearable summer it is raining cats and _____ since morning.
- ✓ (d) It becomes difficult to work when there are many men that leads to many _____.
- ✓ (e) The protagonist in the novel appeared to be a damsel in _____.

8. Frame sentences with the following idioms : 2×5=10

- ✓ (a) Castles in the air
- ✓ (b) Hang by a thread
- ✓ (c) Get through with
- ✓ (d) Null and void
- ✓ (e) Pull one's punches

9. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions :

2×5=10

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- (a) Shakespeare had a great insight _____ human nature.
- (b) An honorary degree was conferred _____ him.
- (c) He never parted _____ the silver cup that he had got as a reward.
- (d) I continued to smile _____ his threats.
- (e) His attainments are _____ yours.

10. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

7×5=35

In a quiet corner of the bustling city, there stood an old, dusty library. While most people hurried past, its unassuming exterior hid an incredible secret. The librarian, an elderly woman named Ms. Abernathy, was not an ordinary librarian; she was the guardian of a magical library. One sunny afternoon, Sarah, an eighth-grader with an insatiable love for books, stumbled upon the library. She had always been drawn to stories of magic and adventure, and something about the library's unassuming facade piqued her curiosity. As she stepped inside, a small bell above the door tinkled, announcing her arrival. Ms. Abernathy greeted her with a warm smile, sensing Sarah's keen interest in books. Sarah soon discovered the true enchantment of the library. Its shelves held volumes that could transport readers to other worlds. She found herself immersed in tales of knights and dragons, enchanted forests, and talking animals. These books had a way of making her feel like she was right there, part of the adventure. As the weeks passed, Sarah spent hours at the library, delving into one captivating story after another. She uncovered a book about a boy who could fly, and as she read, she felt her feet lifting off the ground. She found herself soaring over the city, experiencing the thrill of flight. Another day, she read about a time-travelling watch, and suddenly, she was witnessing historical events unfold before her eyes. One day, as Sarah was browsing the shelves, she noticed a book titled "The Lost Amulet of Althoria." The cover featured a golden amulet with a shimmering blue gem. Ms. Abernathy explained that this was a unique book — it was unfinished. No one knew how the story ended because no reader had ever returned the book. Sarah decided to take on the challenge. She opened the book and was immediately drawn into a tale of a young adventurer, Alaric, on a quest to find the lost amulet. She felt herself journeying through dark forests,

crossing treacherous rivers, and facing mythical creatures. The more she read, the deeper she became entangled in the story. It was as though she had become Alaric, feeling his determination and bravery. As the days turned into weeks, Sarah's friends and family grew concerned. She had become so absorbed in the book that she neglected her usual activities. Ms. Abernathy gently reminded her to take breaks, but Sarah was determined to reach the end of the story. Finally, one evening, as Sarah read the last page, she found herself standing in a clearing, facing an ornate door. Through the door, she saw a dazzling chamber with the lost amulet resting on a pedestal. With a deep breath, she opened the door and approached the amulet. As she touched it, a burst of blue light enveloped her, and she felt herself returning to the library. When she opened her eyes, she was back among the dusty bookshelves, holding the book in her hands. Ms. Abernathy congratulated her on completing the unfinished story. Sarah had not only finished the tale but had also experienced an adventure unlike any other. From that day on, Sarah continued to visit the magical library, understanding that the real magic was not just in the stories but in the way they made her feel and the adventures they allowed her to live.

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- ✓ (a) Where did Sarah discover the magical library?
- ✓ (b) What made Sarah's visit to the library so enchanting?
- ✓ (c) How did Sarah experience flight while reading a book?
- ✓ (d) What was unique about the book titled "The Lost Amulet of Althoria"?
- ✓ (e) How did Sarah complete the story in "The Lost Amulet of Althoria"?

✓ 11. Make a précis of the following passage. You need not add a title :

35

India's history, spanning millennia, is a tapestry woven with threads of ancient civilizations, powerful empires, diverse cultures, and periods of both remarkable progress and challenging strife, culminating in a modern nation striving for progress and unity. The story of India begins with the Indus Valley Civilization (c. 2500-1900 BCE), a sophisticated urban society that thrived in the Indus River Valley, showcasing advanced planning, trade, and a unique script. Following the decline of this civilization, the Vedic period (c. 1500-500 BCE) saw the rise of Indo-Aryan culture, with the