

GENERAL ENGLISH

823529

Time: 3 Hours

Full Marks: 100

Instructions : (1) Answer all questions.

(2) The figures in the right-hand margin indicate full marks for the questions.

1. Write an essay in about 300 words on any **one** of the following : 25
 - (a) Tourism and economic development
 - (b) Importance of technology in education
 - (c) Asian Games—2018
 - (d) Natural Disasters
2. Write a letter to the editor of a prominent local daily of your area to help generate awareness among the masses about the importance of planting trees and preserving our natural resources. 20
3. Write a precis of the following passage adding a suitable title to it : 15

People differ in reading ability. For example, those who have been reading for a long time tend to understand what they have read more quickly and more automatically than do new readers. In addition, older readers bring more background experiences to their reading. They can use their experiences to fill in important information that is not clearly stated in the text.

A good reader uses various reading techniques. The technique depends on the type and difficulty of the material, the purpose for reading it, and the reader's own language development and familiarity with the subject.

Most people use different reading techniques for different reading situations. For example, a mystery enjoyed simply for entertainment may be read rapidly. But a classic Russian novel may call for slow, careful reading. Technical texts could lead to job advancement or that tell how to fix something usually require thoughtful reading.

Reading flexibility improves with experience. Beginners may tend to read everything somewhat awkwardly, advancing slowly word by word because they doubt their ability to recognize words. In time, they learn that different reading materials make different reading demands on their abilities.

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4. Read this passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

In 1964, an American journalist called Norman Cousins developed a serious problem with his back. It turned out that he had an illness called ankylosing spondylitis, which was extremely painful and, according to doctors, incurable. He was admitted to hospital, unable to move, and prescribed a course of strong pain-killing drugs. Cousins knew that negative emotions could make you ill, and began to wonder whether positive emotions particularly laughter might make you better.

He stopped taking the drugs, and moved out of the hospital into a hotel room, which was not only a more cheerful place to be but was also much cheaper. There he hired a lot of comedy films and started to watch them. He found that every time he laughed, the laughter acted as an anaesthetic and gave him relief from pain. And the effect lasted some time: 10 minutes' laughter could give him around two hours free from pain.

More importantly, he found that he was slowly getting better, and eventually recovered completely from the illness.

For many years, the medical profession refused to take Cousins' claims seriously, but now things are changing and some American hospitals have set up 'laughter rooms', where patients can watch videos, listen to cassettes and read joke books, instead of sitting around feeling depressed.

In fact, laughter has become such an important part of our overall wellness that now there are professional laughers who can be hired to make us laugh. A lady from Delhi, Malini Chawla, works as a professional laugher. For a fee, she will come and laugh non-stop for you. Her record is 90 minutes. She guarantees that you will soon be laughing with her — even though you might not know what you're laughing about.

(a) Answer the following questions :

2×6=12

- (i) Give a suitable title to the passage.
- (ii) What is the name of the disease that Norman Cousins suffered from? Which part of his body was affected?
- (iii) What are the steps that Cousins took to treat his illness?
- (iv) What change did he notice in his medical condition after taking those steps?
- (v) Where can you find 'laughter rooms' and what are they for?
- (vi) What does a professional laugher do?

(b) Find the words in the passage that match the definitions given below :

1×3=3

- (i) A change which is a result or consequence of an action
- (ii) Employ the temporary use of something for an agreed payment
- (iii) A substance that induces insensitivity to pain

5. Correct and rewrite the following sentences : 1×5=5
- (a) Police are looking at the matter.
 - (b) Most of the ice were melted.
 - (c) Have your office got a phone?
 - (d) The meeting will be on friday.
 - (e) One of my brothers are a musician.
6. Make sentences using the following idioms and phrases (any five) : 2×5=10
- (a) In the heat of the moment
 - (b) Once in a blue moon
 - (c) Sit on the fence
 - (d) Call it a day
 - (e) Pull someone's leg
 - (f) Beat around the bush
 - (g) Leave no stone unturned
7. Do as directed : 2×5=10
- (a) He leaves for his office at 8 a.m. (Turn into interrogative without changing the tense)
 - (b) My house is small. It is comfortable. (Join the two sentences using a suitable coordinator)
 - (c) You believe in ghosts. (Add a question tag)
 - (d) Mohan said to his teacher, "I will complete all my assignments tomorrow." (Change it into indirect speech)
 - (e) No other student in the class is as hard working as Seema. (Rewrite the sentence using the superlative adjective)