

Std. 12
4-12-2014

Second Unit Test in ENGLISH

Time : 1½hr.
M. Marks: 50

This paper is divided into 3 sections:

Section A	Reading	15 marks
Section B	Writing	10 marks
Section D	Literature	25 marks

SECTION - A (READING)

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:
 - 1 It is my firm belief that the relationship between the United States and India - bound by our shared interests and our shared values - will be one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century. This is the partnership I've come here to build. This is the vision that our nations can realize together.
 - 2 My confidence in our shared future is grounded in my respect for India's treasured past - a civilization that's been shaping the world for thousands of years.
Indians unlocked the intricacies of the human body and the vastness of our universe. It's no exaggeration to say that our Information Age is rooted in Indian innovations - including the number zero.
 - 3 Of course, India not only opened our minds, she expanded our moral imaginations - with religious texts that still summon the faithful to lives of dignity and discipline, with poets who imagined a future "where the mind is without fear and the head is held high" and with a man whose message of love and justice endures - the father of your nation, Mahatma Gandhi. I've always found inspiration in the life of Gandhiji and his simple and profound lesson to be the change we seek in the world. And just as he summoned Indians to seek their destiny, he influenced champions of equality in my own country, including a young preacher named Martin Luther King. After making his pilgrimage to India a half-century ago, Dr. King called Gandhi's philosophy of non-violent resistance "the only logical and moral approach" in the struggle for justice and progress.
 - 4 An ancient civilization of science and innovation; a fundamental faith in human progress -- this is the sturdy foundation upon which you have built ever since that stroke of midnight when the tricolor was raised over a free and independent India. And despite the skeptics who said this country was simply too poor, or too vast, or too diverse to succeed, you surmounted overwhelming odds and became a model to the world.
 - 5 Instead of slipping into starvation, you launched a Green Revolution that fed millions. Instead of becoming dependent on commodities and exports, you invested in science and technology and in your greatest resource - the Indian people. And the world sees the results, from the supercomputers you build to the Indian flag that you put on the moon.
 - 6 Instead of resisting the global economy, you became one of its engines - reforming the licensing raj and unleashing an economic marvel that has lifted tens of millions of people from poverty and created one of the world's largest middle classes.
 - 7 Instead of succumbing to division, you have shown that the strength of India - the very idea of India - is its embrace of all colors, all castes, all creeds. It's the diversity represented in this chamber today. It's the richness of faiths celebrated by a visitor to my hometown of Chicago more than a century ago - the renowned Swami Vivekananda. He said that, "holiness, purity and charity are not the exclusive possessions of any church in the world, and that every system has produced men and women of the most exalted character."
 - 8 And instead of being lured by the false notion that progress must come at the expense of freedom, you built the institutions upon which true democracy depends - free and fair elections, which enable citizens to choose their own leaders without recourse to arms - an independent judiciary and the rule of law, which allows people to address their grievances; and a thriving free press and vibrant civil society which allows every voice to be heard. This year, as India marks 60 years with a strong and democratic constitution, the lesson is clear: India has succeeded, not in spite of democracy; India has succeeded because of democracy.

An extract from President Obama's address to the Indian Parliament

- a) What is the common thread that binds the relationship between India and the U.S?
- b) How has India expanded the moral imagination of the west?
- c) How did Gandhi influence Martin Luther King?
- d) How has India become a model to the world?
- e) Explain the line : 'the diversity represented in this chamber'.
- f) Name the institutions upon which true democracy depends.
- g) What is the underlying tone of the passage?
- h) Find a word from the passage that means the same as 'overcome'. (para 3 & 4)

(1x8=8 marks)

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

Corruption not only has become a pervasive aspect of Indian politics but also has become an increasingly important factor in Indian elections.

The extensive role of the Indian state in providing services and promoting economic development has always created the opportunity for using public resources for private benefit.

As government regulation of business was extended in the 1960s and corporate donations were banned in 1969, trading economic favours for under-the-table contributions to political parties became an increasingly widespread political practice. During the 1980s and 1990s, corruption became associated with the occupants of the highest echelons of India's political system.

Rajiv Gandhi's government was rocked by scandals, as was the government of P.V. Narasimha Rao. Politicians have become so closely identified with corruption in the public eye that a Times of India poll of 1,554 adults in six metropolitan cities found that 98 percent of the public is convinced that politicians and ministers are corrupt, with 85 percent observing that corruption is on the increase.

The prominence of political corruption in India in the 1990s is hardly unique to India. Other countries also have experienced corruption that has rocked their political systems. What is remarkable about India is the persistent anti-incumbent sentiment among its electorate. Since Indira's victory in her 1971 "garibi hatao" election, only one ruling party has been re-elected to power in the Central Government.

In an important sense, the exception proves the rule because the Congress (I) won re-election in 1984 in no small measure because the electorate saw in Rajiv Gandhi a "Mr. Clean" who would lead a new generation of politicians in cleansing the political system. Anti-incumbent sentiment is just as strong at the state level, where the ruling parties of all political persuasions in India's major states lost eleven of thirteen legislative assembly elections held from 1991 through spring 1995. Corruption in simple terms may be described as 'an act of bribery'. Corruption is defined as the use of public office for private gains in a way that constitutes a breach of law or a deviation from the norms of society. Scales of corruption can be Grand, Middling or Petty and payment of bribes can be due to collusion between the bribe taker and the bribe giver, due to coercion or even anticipatory.

This was the outburst of Mahatma Gandhi against rampant corruption in Congress ministries formed under 1935 Act in six states in the year 1937. The disciples of Gandhi however, ignored his concern over corruption in post-Independence India, when they came to power.

Over sixty years of democratic rule has made the people so immune to corruption that they have learnt how to live with the system even though the cancerous growth of this malady may finally kill it. The Tehelka episode surcharged the political atmosphere of the country but it hardly exposed anything that was unknown to the people of this biggest democratic polity.

Politicians are fully aware of the corruption and nepotism as the main reasons behind the fall of Roman Empire, the French Revolution, October Revolution in Russia, fall of Chiang Kai-Shek Government on the mainland of China-and even the defeat of the mighty Congress party in India. But they are not ready to take any lesson from the pages of history.

- a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. (5 marks)
- b) Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. (2 marks)

SECTION - B (WRITING)

3. Spicmacay is organising a Bharatnatyam recital by the renowned dancer Smt. Kanika at Mount Carmel Public School, Rohini. Prepare a formal invitation to the event. Supply all necessary details. (4 marks)
4. P.M. Narendra Modi has launched the Swachh Bharat Movement and has directly linked it to the economic growth of the country. A clean India will provide the much needed impetus to the tourism industry, reduce government expenditure on health and increase employment. But change begins at home. Every citizen should do his bit in this regard rather than wait for the government to act. Write an article in about 150 to 200 words emphasizing and elaborating the role of an individual in making this mass movement a success. (6 marks)

SECTION - C (LITERATURE)

5. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (4 marks)
- Those who prepare green wars,
Wars with gas, wars with fire,
Victory with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade doing nothing.*
- a) Who does the poet refer to when he says, 'those' who prepare green wars?
b) What are 'green wars, wars with gas, wars with fire'?
c) Explain the irony inherent in the line, 'Victory with no survivors'.
d) What does 'putting on clean clothes' symbolize?
6. Answer the following questions in about 50 to 60 words each: (3x5=15 marks)
- a) Analyse the emotional turmoil that Kamala Das goes through while bidding farewell to her mother.
b) How were Bama and ZitkalaSa different in their handling of their respective oppressive environments?
c) 'This another of your wild stories?' What do these words reveal about the speaker and the person spoken to? (Going Places)
d) The chapter 'Tiger King' satirizes several frailties of human nature. Elucidate some of them.
e) How were Stephens and Jackson inadvertently responsible for facilitating the escape of Evans?
7. Answer the following question in around 150 to 200 words: (6 marks)
- 'But promises like mine abound in every corner of his bleak world' with reference to Sahib in the chapter 'Lost Spring' analyse the paradox in the above lines.
(OR)
How do the vibrant colours of the bangles of Ferozabad stand in contrast to the depressing reality of the life of the bangle makers?

-X-X-X-X-X-