

16/12/19 E

[This question paper contains 12 printed pages]

Your Roll No. :

Sl. No. of Q. Paper : **3301**

Unique Paper Code : 52031106

Name of the Course : **B. Com. Programme**

Name of the Paper : English Proficiency

Semester : I

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 75

Instructions for Candidates :

- (a) Write your Roll No. on the top immediately on receipt of this question paper.
- (b) Attempt **all** questions.

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

A hunter came across a human skull in a forest. 'Stop, traveller!' said the skull. The hunter was surprised to hear the skull speak. 'What brought you here?' he asked. The skull answered: 'Talking brought me here.'

Amazed, the hunter rushed to the king and reported to him, 'I have found in the forest a skull that talks!' Neither the king nor his courtiers would believe such a thing. So the king along with the hunter and his guards set out to find the truth.

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When they came to the skull, the hunter asked as before, 'What brought you here?' This time there was no answer, for the skull remained silent. The king was very angry at the hunter. 'You tried to make a fool of me!' he shouted and turning to his guards, ordered, 'Cut off his head and leave it in the forest so that the ants may feed on it.'

When everybody had left, the skull spoke again. 'What brought you here?' it asked. The head of the hunter gave the answer: 'Talking brought me here!'

(A) On the basis of the above story, decide whether the following statements are True or False : 3

- (i) The king believed the hunter's claim about the talking skull.
- (ii) The skull did not speak before the king.
- (iii) The king rewarded the hunter for showing him a talking skull.

(B) The sentences below form a summary of the given story. But these sentences are jumbled up. Put them in the correct order. Begin as follows : 5

A hunter found a human skull in the forest. (Sentence 6)

- (i) The skull asked him to stop.
- (ii) The excited hunter reported the matter to the king.

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(iii) It replied that it was there as a result of talking.

(iv) He had the hunter's head cut off in punishment.

(v) He asked the skull how it came to be there in the forest.

(vi) A hunter found a human skull in the forest.

(vii) So he decided to see the skull for himself.

(viii) The king got angry thinking that the hunter had lied to him.

(ix) The hunter was surprised.

(x) But the skull lay totally silent in the presence of the king.

(xi) The king could not believe the hunter's story.

(C) Which of the following best sums up the moral of this story : 2

- (i) We should not talk to skulls.
- (ii) We should be careful about what we talk.
- (iii) We should not tell lies.

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

- (i) Nowadays, more and more women work outside the home. The famous writer Germaine Greer observes: 'Most women still need a

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room of their own and the only way to find it may be outside their homes.' If this is true, can it be done without having a negative effect on the family ?

- (ii) One point in favour of working mothers is that their children often learn to be independent from an early age, which can only be of help to them in the future. Also, in many families, the man's salary alone is not enough to cover all the household expenses. Hence the need for extra income arises and the woman has to work. Moreover, working outside the home gives a woman a sense of her own personal identity and self-confidence. A woman who stays at home will always be known as 'Gupta's wife' or 'Khan's wife' and not as a person in her own right.
- (iii) On the other hand, child care is expensive. Therefore, a large portion of the money a working mother earns will be spent on childcare. What is more, if both parents are working, they see their children only for a few hours in the evening. This can have a bad effect on the development of children. Finally, a working woman has to look after her children as well as the home in her spare time. So, she is actually doing two jobs instead of one, which can be very tiring.
- (iv) To sum up, there are arguments both for and against working mothers. Every family is different and what is good for one family may not necessarily be good for another. The individual mother should be free to decide whether she wants to work outside the home or not.

- (A) Given below are the sub-headings for the paragraphs of the above passage. These sub-headings are jumbled up. Match each sub-heading with the paragraph to which it applies. The paragraphs have been numbered for this purpose. 4

- (i) Why a mother should not work outside the home ?
- (ii) Leave the choice to the individual woman.
- (iii) Should a woman work outside the home ?
- (iv) Why a mother should work outside the home ?

- (B) Note: Answer the following questions in **30-40 words each** on the basis of the given passage but using your own words as far as possible.

- (i) Give any one reason why a woman should work outside the home. 2
- (ii) How is it that a working mother often ends up doing a double job ? 2
- (iii) What does the author say about the effect of working mothers on their children ? 2

- (iv) In the writer's opinion, does the working of a mother outside the home, in general, make a big difference to the household income?

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- (v) Is the writer in favour of working mothers or is s/he opposed to them? Justify your answer.

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3. (A) Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct word from those given in brackets after each blank :

1×5=5

- (i) Do not drive on the (right / wrong) side of the road.
 (ii) The team celebrated its (defeat / victory) by going to a club for a party.
 (iii) The house is in a bad shape because it has been (occupied / vacant) for a long time.
 (iv) Schools need (qualified / unqualified) teachers if they are to improve their results.
 (v) It is (polite / rude) to stare at others.

- (B) Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct word from those given in brackets after each blank :

1×5=5

- (i) Can I have a (peace / piece) of cake please?

- (ii) (Peace / Piece) is necessary for the development of society.

- (iii) This medicine will (lessen / lesson) the pain.

- (iv) The teacher started a new (lessen / lesson) in class today.

- (v) I got this dress very cheap in a (sail / sale).

- (C) Complete the sentences given below by making suitable changes in the form of the words given in brackets.

1×5=5

Example : A cultural(culture) programme was organized for the foreign dignitaries.

- (i) I was lucky to get (admit) to a course of my choice.
 (ii) You have to be regular in class as you are running short of (attend).
 (iii) We had to (short) our trip because we ran out of money.
 (iv) The employee was accused of (bribe).
 (v) He appealed against his (dismiss) from service.

4. (A) Fill in the blanks in the paragraph below by choosing a suitable article (a / an / the) :

1×5=5

Example: There is a big tree opposite our house.

I am _____ (1) _____ student at one of the _____ (2) _____ best universities of my country. I am enrolled in _____ (3) _____ undergraduate course. I hope _____ (4) _____ degree will fetch me _____ (5) _____ good job.

- (B) Complete the following sentences by selecting the correct tense form from those given in brackets after each blank :

1×5=5

Example: I was (am / was) unwell yesterday.

- (i) I _____ (start / started) writing my assignment yesterday.
- (ii) I _____ (completed / have completed) my assignment now.
- (iii) I wish I _____ (am working / have worked) harder.
- (iv) Pollution in Delhi _____ (increases / is increasing) day by day.
- (v) India _____ (won / had won) the series even before the last match began.

- (C) Fill in the blanks in the paragraph below by selecting the correct form of the verb from those given in brackets after each blank.

Example: My father works (work / works) in a private company.

Raju and Rita _____ (1) _____ (are / is) brother and sister. While Raju _____ (2) _____ (are / is) good at studies, Rita _____ (3) _____ (has / have) a passion for singing. She, along with two of her friends, _____ (4) _____ (has / have) formed a rock band that regularly _____ (5) _____ (win / wins) prizes at cultural events.

5. Using the information given below, write a paragraph of about 100 words on the Indian badminton superstar P. V. Sindhu : 10

Name : P. V. Sindhu
 Born : 5 July 1995; Hyderabad
 Started : Sub-Junior Asian Badminton international Championship, Colombo (2009)
 career in
 Coach : P. Gopichand
 Number of : 15
 career titles
 won so far

Major :
achievements

- Bronze in Sub-Junior Asian Badminton Championship, Colombo (2009)
- Gold in Asia Youth Under 19 Championship (2012)
- Silver in Rio Olympics (2016)
- Gold in China Open (2016)
- Gold in Badminton World Federation World Championship (2019)

Honours :

- FICCI Breakthrough Sportsperson (2014)
- Padma Shri (2015)
- Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award (2016)

6. (A) Who is speaking to whom :

Column A in the table below is a list of some spoken comments / expressions.

Column B is a list of who is speaking to whom. The items in Column B are jumbled up. Make the best match of each comment in Column A with the speaker – listener pair in Column B. The first item has been done for you after the table.

Column A
(Comment)

Column B
(Speaker, listener)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. I must apologize for my son's behaviour yesterday. | (a) One friend, to another |
| 2. Hi, Rajiv! Long time no see. | (b) Customer, to shopkeeper |
| 3. Hi, I'm Sarita. Are you also in the first year ? | (c) One neighbour, to another |
| 4. Just a routine check, sir. Sorry for the inconvenience. | (d) Student, to teacher |
| 5. Can I help you carry your books, sir? | (e) One student, to another |
| 6. I'm very disappointed. This product has been giving me trouble since the first day itself. | (f) Security guard, to passenger |

Example:

Comment [Column A]

Spoken by, to
[Column B]

- I. I must apologize
for my son's
behaviour yesterday.
- (c) One neighbour
to another

(B) Identify the suitable response : 5

Given below are responses to the spoken comments / expressions given in Column A in Question VI. (A.) above. These responses are in a jumbled order. Make the best match of comment and response. The first one is done for you below the list of responses.

- (a) That's all right. Please go ahead.
- (b) Oh, thank you. That's very kind of you.
- (c) Hello, Kapil! I'd gone to Shimla to attend a marriage in the family.
- (d) There's no need to, really.
- (e) I'm sorry to hear that. Let me see what I can do about it.
- (f) Hello, I'm Shalini. Yes, I'm a fresher too.

Example:Comment [Column A
of Question VI. (A)]

Correct response

- I. I must apologize
for my son's
behaviour yesterday.
- (d) There's no need
to, really.