

UPC : 62031107  
Name of the course : B. A. Programme  
Name of the paper : English Proficiency  
Semester : I  
Marks : 75  
Time limit : 3 + 1 hours (1 hour is reserved for the downloading of the question paper and the scanning and uploading of the answer sheets)

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

This question paper contains six questions.

Each question carries equal marks (25 marks).

Attempt any **THREE** questions.

Do **BOTH PARTS** – (A) and (B) – of each question that you choose.

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

In a certain kingdom, the king wanted to see how responsible the citizens of his kingdom were. So he had a large rock placed in the middle of a roadway. He hid nearby to see how the people would react to the stone.

Soon a minister came that way riding a horse chariot. He became angry on seeing the big stone in the middle of the road. However, instead of doing anything about it, he simply ordered the charioteer to drive past it. "I have a hundred more important things to attend to," he said out aloud.

A little later, two soldiers came riding down the road. The big stone surprised them too. "Should we push it to the side of the road?" one of them asked. But the other replied, "We are soldiers. This is not our job. Leave it alone." And so they moved to the side instead and rode away.

Then came a group of merchants. They cursed the stone and the king. "The king should take better care of the roads of the kingdom," one of them said angrily. And they walked around the stone and moved on.

By now the king was feeling very disappointed and unhappy. But he decided to wait a little longer as he could see somebody coming. It was a poor farmer carrying a basket of vegetables on his head. The farmer stopped on seeing the stone. "Where has this come from?" he wondered, "This will cause great inconvenience if not an accident". He set his basket down and tried to push the stone. The stone was heavy and the farmer had to use all his strength to move it. He was covered in sweat by the time he rolled it to a side.

Coming back to pick up his basket of vegetables, the farmer was surprised to see a purse where the stone had been. A note was attached to it. With delight, he read: "These gold coins are for the good citizen who pushes the rock out of the way."

**(A)** Re-arrange the following sentences in the order in which they occur in the above story. You may begin as follows: **10 marks**

1. Sentence (ix)
2. Sentence ..., etc.

- (i) The traders only cursed the king on seeing the stone on the road.
- (ii) They did not feel that removing it was a part of their duty.
- (iii) A farmer felt that the stone had to be removed.
- (iv) But he moved on as he felt that he had more important work to do.
- (v) Using all his energy, he pushed it to a side.
- (vi) A minister saw the stone.
- (vii) He hid himself nearby to observe what would happen.
- (viii) Unexpectedly, he found a handsome reward for his deed.
- (ix) A king wanted to test his subjects.
- (x) Two soldiers rode past the stone.
- (xi) He had a big stone placed in the middle of a road.

**(B)** On the basis of the given passage, answer the following questions in not more than 30 words each, in your own words as far as possible: **5 x 3 = 15 marks**

- (i) What impression do you get of the minister?
- (ii) How did the merchants react to the stone?
- (iii) Why did the king feel sad?
- (iv) What sort of a man was the farmer?
- (v) What do you think is the moral of the story?

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

An epidemic is a disease that spreads quickly among an unusually large number of people in a community. Examples of epidemic diseases include typhus, influenza, bubonic plague, malaria, and smallpox. An epidemic that has spread across a large region, typically across multiple continents or even the whole world is called a pandemic. Covid is an example of a pandemic that is now raging across the world.

One way an epidemic can begin is if the food or water gets infected with a disease. If the local water supply of a city gets infected, then a number of people of the city will become sick, starting an epidemic. Many epidemics begin when a new disease is introduced to a population. This occurred when the Europeans brought smallpox to the Americas killing as much as ninety percent of the native population. Natural disasters and wars can trigger the start of epidemics by bringing in new diseases.

Insects can carry diseases and transmit them from person to person. Examples of insect-borne diseases include the bubonic plague and malaria. Infection can also travel through the air, usually when a person coughs or sneezes. Examples of airborne diseases include influenza, measles, and tuberculosis. Some diseases can be spread through infected food or water. Examples include cholera, dysentery, and typhoid fever.

Even though epidemics can spread quickly and kill millions of people, they eventually do come to an end. When an epidemic first starts out it affects the weakest and most susceptible people. Those who survive may build up immunities to the disease. Over time, the disease finds fewer and fewer hosts it can easily attack and so it slows down and comes to an end.

Some diseases are seasonal. The flu, for example, is spread more easily during the winter and tends to die out come spring time. Mosquitoes become inactive during the cold weather leading to a fall in malaria cases in winter.

- (A) On the basis of the above passage, state what causes the spread of the following diseases: **5 x 2 = 10 marks**

	Name of the Disease	How it is spread
(i)	cholera	
(ii)	malaria	
(iii)	influenza	
(iv)	dysentery	
(v)	measles	

- (B) On the basis of the given passage, answer the following questions in not more than 30 words each, in your own words as far as possible: **5 x 3 = 15 marks**

- How does a pandemic differ from an epidemic?
- Give *one* example each of an epidemic and a pandemic.
- List *three* ways in which an epidemic can start.
- List *three* things that contribute to the spread of disease among a population.
- What is *one* way that an epidemic may die out?

- Q. 3 (A)** Complete each sentence by selecting the correct word / phrase from the pair given in brackets after the blank: **15 marks**

- The \_\_\_\_\_ (stationary / stationery) shop is closed on Sunday.
- I requested the \_\_\_\_\_ (principal / principle) to allow me to change my elective subject.
- The government has decided to \_\_\_\_\_ (accept / except) the recommendations of the committee.
- Our fans will be disappointed if we \_\_\_\_\_ (loose / lose) the match.
- She opened the box as she could not \_\_\_\_\_ (bare / bear) the suspense any more.
- His subjects loved him because he was a \_\_\_\_\_ (just / unjust) king.
- It's \_\_\_\_\_ (safe / unsafe) to be out alone in the dark.
- The company dismissed the employee because of his \_\_\_\_\_ (satisfactory / unsatisfactory) performance.
- Students who are \_\_\_\_\_ (irregular / regular) in attending classes will not be allowed to take the exam.
- The police have seized the samples of \_\_\_\_\_ (impure / pure) milk.
- I am \_\_\_\_\_ (bored / boring) with study.
- Don't be \_\_\_\_\_ (anger / angry) with me; I didn't break the cup.
- My teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (encouraged / encouragement) me to work harder.
- This movie has a very \_\_\_\_\_ (interest / interesting)

story.

(xv) The old couple takes a walk every \_\_\_\_\_ (daily / day).

- (B)** Write a paragraph of about 100 words on how the Covid pandemic has affected your life. Below are some of the points that you can consider. However, your answer should not be a list of points; it should read like a connected paragraph. **10 marks**

- Your study and college life
- The work of your parents
- Your interaction with your friends and neighbours
- Your entertainment (eating out, shopping, etc)
- Your physical and mental health

- Q. 4 (A)** Complete each sentence by selecting the correct word / phrase from the pair given in brackets after the blank: **15 marks**

- (i) One of my friends \_\_\_\_\_ (sing / sings) beautifully.  
(ii) A white and a black dog \_\_\_\_\_ (are / is) playing in the park.  
(iii) Neither of the parcels \_\_\_\_\_ (has / have) arrived.  
(iv) Either the clerk or the peon \_\_\_\_\_ (has / have) stolen the money.  
(v) My neighbour and friend \_\_\_\_\_ (has / have) agreed to look after our dog in our absence.  
(vi) Let us have our dinner as papa \_\_\_\_\_ (will / won't) be eating out today.  
(vii) Don't carry heavy woollens, you \_\_\_\_\_ (will / won't) need them this time of the year.  
(viii) Don't worry, I \_\_\_\_\_ (may / will) lend you my notes.  
(ix) I \_\_\_\_\_ (can / can't) help you with this topic as I have prepared it well.  
(x) My mother \_\_\_\_\_ (will / would) wake me up at 6 every morning so that I would be ready on time for school.  
(xi) If you wish to get well, you \_\_\_\_\_ (may / must) do what the doctor advises.  
(xii) Be quiet, the children \_\_\_\_\_ (are sleeping / sleep).  
(xiii) We \_\_\_\_\_ (have been waiting / waiting) for the bus for over an hour.

India \_\_\_\_\_ (xiv) \_\_\_\_\_ (had won / won) the series even before the last match \_\_\_\_\_ (xv) \_\_\_\_\_ (began / begin).

- (B)** Write a paragraph of about 100 words on the 11<sup>th</sup> President of India, the late Dr A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, using the information given below: **10 marks**

Name	: Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam
Birth	: 15 October 1931, in a poor fisherman's family, in Rameshwaram (Tamil Nadu)
Education	: Studied physics and aerospace engineering
Profession	: Scientist at DRDO and ISRO; President of India, 2002 – 2007
Contribution	: • contributed to India's civilian space

		programme
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>contributed to the development of Ballistic Missile and Launch Vehicle Technology; known as the 'Missile Man' of India</li> <li>played a major role in India's Pokhran - II nuclear tests in 1998</li> </ul>
Awards & Honours	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Padma Bhushan (1981),</li> <li>Padma Vibhushan (1990);</li> <li>Bharat Ratna (1997)</li> </ul>
Interests	:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>teaching and interacting with students</li> <li>writing Tamil poetry</li> <li>playing the <i>veena</i></li> </ul>
Date of passing away	:	27 July 2015

**Q. 5 (A)** Complete each sentence by selecting the correct word / phrase from the pair given in brackets after the blank: **15 marks**

- (i) Don't worry, I \_\_\_\_\_ (may / will) reach on time.
- (ii) This is not fair, they \_\_\_\_\_ (may / must) listen to us.
- (iii) Carry an umbrella, it \_\_\_\_\_ (may / may not) rain today.
- (iv) I \_\_\_\_\_ (can / could) run very fast when I was young.
- (v) Help! I \_\_\_\_\_ (can / can't) breathe.
- (vi) Either Raju or Rita \_\_\_\_\_ (has / have) hidden my bag.
- (vii) Neither of the suspects \_\_\_\_\_ (has / have) confessed to the crime.
- (viii) The black and white dog \_\_\_\_\_ (belong / belongs) to my neighbour.
- (ix) One of the teachers \_\_\_\_\_ (are / is) on leave today.
- (x) I \_\_\_\_\_ (have submitted / submitted) my assignment yesterday.
- (xi) Don't disturb her, she \_\_\_\_\_ (does / is doing) her homework.
- (xii) The children \_\_\_\_\_ (have been playing / playing) since morning.
- (xiii) My neighbours \_\_\_\_\_ (have left / left) for their village last week.
- The train \_\_\_\_\_ (xiv) \_\_\_\_\_ (had left / left) by the time I \_\_\_\_\_ (xv) \_\_\_\_\_ (reach / reached) the station.

**(B)** Who is speaking to whom: **10 marks**  
 Make the best match of the spoken expressions given in Column A with the speaker – listener pairs given in Column B.

	Column A (Comment)		Column B (Speaker, listener)
(i)	Good morning, ma'am!	(a)	Boss, to new employee
(ii)	How about some tea and <i>samosas</i> at the canteen?	(b)	A customer, to a waiter

(iii)	Could you tell me the way to the nearest post office, please?	(c)	A student, to a friend
(iv)	Welcome to the company, Mr Sinha. I wish you success in your new appointment.	(d)	Student, to teacher, in corridor
(v)	Can you get us some water, please?	(e)	Man, to a stranger on the street

**Q. 6 (A)** Complete each sentence by selecting the correct word / phrase from the pair given in brackets after the blank: **15 marks**

- (i) Take a deep \_\_\_\_\_ (breath / breathe).
- (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ (It's / Its) very hot today.
- (iii) Don't go \_\_\_\_\_ (their / there) in the dark.
- (iv) The tired traveller wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ (lay / lie) down.
- (v) He requested a lower \_\_\_\_\_ (berth / birth) because of his back problem.
- (vi) My parents are too \_\_\_\_\_ (old / young) to live without my support.
- (vii) The child got a toffee for giving the \_\_\_\_\_ (right / wrong) answer.
- (viii) The party is confident that it will \_\_\_\_\_ (lose / win) the elections.
- (ix) Put out the clothes in the sun to \_\_\_\_\_ (dry / wet) them.
- (x) The bag is not \_\_\_\_\_ (strong / weak) enough to take this weight.
- (xi) A group of \_\_\_\_\_ (excited / exciting) children got off the bus.
- (xii) The child had a \_\_\_\_\_ (guilt / guilty) look on its face.
- (xiii) Her father is a \_\_\_\_\_ (power / powerful) man.
- (xiv) I had a very \_\_\_\_\_ (comfortable / comforting) journey.
- (xv) Raising children can be very \_\_\_\_\_ (challenge / challenging) for a single parent.

**(B)** Make the best match of the spoken expressions given in Column A with the responses given in Column B: **10 marks**

	Column A (Comment)		Column B (Response)
(i)	Good morning, ma'am!	(a)	It's very kind of you, Sir. I shall not disappoint you.
(ii)	How about some tea and samosas at the canteen?	(b)	Good morning, Vaishali! Not coming to the class today?
(iii)	Could you tell me the way to the nearest post office, please?	(c)	Certainly, Sir. I'll bring it in a minute.
(iv)	Welcome to the company, Mr Sinha. I wish you success in your new appointment.	(d)	Sorry, I'm new to the area.

(v)	Can you get us some water, please?	(e)	Terrific! Just what I need.
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