

CARMEL COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND COMMERCE FOR WOMEN
SEMESTER-END EXAM, OCTOBER 2019

Semester: III of B.A.

Subject: English

Paper Name and Code: Skill Enhancement Course, English for Competitive Exams

Duration: 2 hours

Date: 5th Nov 2019

Marks: 80

Instructions: 1. All questions are compulsory.

2. Figures to the right indicate maximum marks.

I. i. Direction for Questions 1 - 10: In the following passage there are blanks, each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each, five words are suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate word in each case.
(10) 16

Not a ... (1) ... passes without a controversy ... (2) ... over the national sports awards. The ... (3) ... that arises every year following the announcement of the Khel Ratna, Arjuna and Dronacharya awards often ... (4) ... to accusations of bias, regionalism and ... (5) ... Representations to the Sports Minister, interventions ... (6) ... Chief Ministers, Union Ministers and politicians have all ... (7) ... part of the game, though the rules stipulate that any form of "canvassing" could lead to disqualification of an ... (8) ... In practice, no such disqualification takes ... (9) ... and aspiring candidates readily plead their cases with the Sports Minister even after the recommendations of the awards panel become public ... (10).

1. a. distance
b. year
c. right
d. second
2. a. harming
b. developing
c. surrounding
d. erupting
3. a. debate
b. understanding
c. struggle
d. discussion
4. a. permits
b. allows
c. leads
d. results

5. a. honesty
b. complexity
c. encourage
d. manipulation
6. a. for
b. by
c. from
d. with
7. a. become
b. crossed
c. affected
d. lasted
8. a. award
b. game
c. entry
d. theory
9. a. part
b. toll
c. role
d. place
10. a. Choice
b. Fury
c. Property
d. Knowledge

ii. Choose the correct answer and fill in the blanks.

(6)

1. Sameer intends to start his own business in _____ years. (some/ a few/ few/ a couple)
2. Yesterday, I saw a movie that my friends _____ the week before. (seen/ have seen/ had seen/ were seeing)
3. Don't give me the parcel now. In any case I _____ you once again before I leave for Bombay. (meet, will be meeting, met, may meet)
4. We must guard ourselves _____ all possible infections. (for, with, against, over)
5. Indians are doubtful _____ winning the match against the West Indies. (in, to, at, of)
6. The Government should ban _____ sprays which destroy the Ozone layer. (all, every, each, any)

II. Discuss any current affairs issue of your choice.

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III. Read the passage below and answer the questions by choosing the most appropriate option.

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Nature writing is nonfiction or fiction prose or poetry about the natural environment. Nature writing encompasses a wide variety of works, ranging from those that place primary emphasis on natural history facts (such as field guides) to those in which philosophical interpretation predominate. It includes natural history essays, poetry, essays of solitude or escape, as well as travel and adventure writing.

Nature writing often draws heavily on scientific information and facts about the natural world; at the same time, it is frequently written in the first person and incorporates personal observations of and philosophical reflections upon nature.

Modern nature writing traces its roots to the works of natural history that were popular in the second half of the 18th century and throughout the 19th. An important early figure was the "parson-naturalist" Gilbert White (1720 – 1793), a pioneering English naturalist and ornithologist. He is best known for his *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* (1789).

1. Nature writing emphasizes on

- i. Historical facts about the nature
- ii. Philosophical interpretations of nature
- iii. Scientific information and facts

Choose the most appropriate

- a. None of the above
- b. Only (i) and (ii)
- c. All the above
- d. Only (i) and (iii)

2. Based on the passage what is the period to which the modern nature writing can be traced to:

- a. 1850 till 1999
- b. 1850 to 1899

c. 1750 till 1899

d. 1750 till 1900

3. Which statement summarizes the above passage:

a. The passage talks about the life and lessons of Gilbert White, a profound naturalist and ornithologist.

b. The passage talks about how the nature writing is missing in the modern era and needs to be revived.

c. The passage talks about from where the writers draw inspiration for nature writing, and how its importance is diminishing in the modern era.

d. The passage talks about what nature writing is, the different types of nature writing, its style, and about the roots and pioneer of modern nature writing.

e. Which word aptly describes the word "reflections" as used in the passage.

Opinion

b. Reproduction

c. Images

d. None of the above

5. According to the passage, what kind of works are written as part of nature writing?

i. Natural history essays and essays of solitude or escape

ii. Poetry

iii. Travel and adventure writing

Choose the correct options

a. Only (i)

b. Only (i) and (ii)

c. Only (ii) and (iii)

d. All the above

6. Ornithology is the study of:

a. Insects

b. Wildlife

- c. Snakes
- d. Birds

IV. Write a précis of the following passage:

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WhatsApp has been abuzz with two new features it's currently working on. WhatsApp users could soon get self-destructing messages and dark mode. These features are currently in development on WhatsApp beta.

WhatsApp is pretty late with new features as self-destructing messages and dark mode is already available on a number of apps. Popular messaging apps like Telegram and Signal already offer self-destructing messages. As for dark mode, this UI feature has been around on apps like Twitter and YouTube for months now. Instagram also just enabled dark mode on its app. Here, we'll talk about how self-destructing messages and dark mode will work on WhatsApp.

Self-destructing messages

This feature will enable messages to automatically disappear from chats after a set interval of time. Currently available for group chats, WhatsApp users can choose messages to disappear after 5 seconds, 1 hour, 1 day, 7 days or 30 days. Once this is enabled all messages in that will self-destruct after the scheduled time. Unlike 'Delete for Everyone', this feature will not leave any trace of messages deleted in the chat.

Dark mode

News about WhatsApp dark mode has been doing rounds since last year. What started as a rumour eventually showed up in some beta updates of WhatsApp. A new update now shows WhatsApp has made more developments on dark mode. As spotted by WABetaInfo, WhatsApp dark mode shows a 'blue night' colour background. Text colour is however still not optimised for dark mode on WhatsApp. WhatsApp will give users the choice to switch from light theme to dark theme. Users can also choose system default which will automatically change according to the phone's dark theme or light theme.

Source: hindustantimes.com (2019)

V. Write a piece of descriptive writing on any subject of your choice.

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VI. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper drawing attention to a matter of social concern.

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