

# ENGLISH CORE

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum marks : 80

## General Instructions :

- (i) This paper is divided into two parts: A and B. All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

## PART - A (40 Marks)

### READING (20 Marks)

#### 1. Read the passage given below.

- (1) The United States Postal Service (also known as USPS, the Post Office, informally known as the P.O., or the U.S. Mail) is the third largest employer in the United States, after the Department of Defense and WalMart. It employs over 785,000 workers in over 14,000 U.S. postal facilities.
- (2) The Postal Service has certainly grown and changed since 1775 when the first Postmaster General – Benjamin Franklin – was named to head the Post Office Department, the forerunner of the current USPS. At that time, members of the Second Continental Congress agreed that the Postmaster General headquarters, or most important offices, would be stationed in Philadelphia, and that the Postmaster would be paid \$1,000 a year for his or her service.
- (3) As the country grew westward, it became necessary for the railroad system to carry the mail. The Railway Mail Service (RMS) was initiated in 1862. The RMS workers sorted mail on the train, and became some of the fastest workers in the system. They sorted about 600 pieces of mail per hour. All the mail had to be sorted before the train reached the first stop, since some of the mail was destined for that first stop on the route.
- (4) By 1918, the Post Office took over air mail from the U.S. Army. The first airplanes used in U.S. air mail were surplus planes from World War I. The Post Office started with only four pilots flying these leftover planes in August 1918, but by the end of that year, the Post Office had hired 36 more pilots. By 1920, over 49 million air mail letters had been delivered.
- (5) The Post Office has used alternate methods of transmission during its history. It owned and operated the first telegraph lines from 1884 to 1887 – when the lines were privatized. It utilized “V-Mail” (Victory Mail) during World War II when U.S. military mail was put on microfilm in the U.S. and printed near its destination, in order to save space on military transport. During the 1980s, Electronic Computer Originated Mail, called ECOM, was used for some bulk mailings. Computer generated mail was printed near its destination, and bore a blue ECOM logo on its special envelopes.
- (6) In 1970, the Postal Reorganization Act, signed by President Richard Nixon, replaced the Post Office Department (a Cabinet-level department) with the independent US Postal Service.  
The independent US Postal Service has streamlined its workload and modernized operations. Today’s multi-line optical character readers (MLOCs) can read the entire address on an envelope, print a barcode on the envelope, and sort the mail at the rate of nine letters per second. The zip code +4, a four digit code

added to the end of the existing 5–digit code, has decreased the number of times a piece of mail needs to be handled.

- (7) Special barcode sorters assign an 11–digit zip code to each address, apply a barcode to each letter, and sort the mail in order of delivery.

The Postal Service has installed automated customer–service equipment in lobbies, and is planning to automate even more of its work, including more machines which will process parcels and forwarded mail. The price of a first–class stamp - recently approved at 44 cents and good for up to one–ounce domestic mail- seems relatively inexpensive compared to its predecessor; the first U.S. postage stamp, issued in 1847. The first stamps, adorned with a picture of Benjamin Franklin, sold for 5 cents apiece. They were used for letters weighing less than one ounce with a travel distance of less than 300 miles. By way of comparison, pay records available for the 1890s indicate that a typical year’s pay for a schoolteacher was around \$500, or 10,000 times the price of a stamp. Stamp prices then seem relatively high when compared to today’s average teacher pay, in the \$40,000 per–year range, or about 1,000,000 times the price of a postage stamp!

**On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven given below. (1 × 10 = 10)**

- (i) The second largest employer in the US is  
(a) United States Postal Service (b) Department of Defense  
(c) Walmart (d) Dominoes
- (ii) The annual salary of a post master was  
(a) \$2000 (b) \$.1000 (c) \$100 (d) \$10000
- (iii) The railway mail service was established in  
(a) 1775 (b) 1980 (c) 1862 (d) 1884
- (iv) How did the RMS become some of the fastest workers in the service?  
(a) By inviting people to sort the mail. (b) By sorting the mail on the train before every stop  
(c) By using pigeons (d) By using computers
- (v) By the end of the year of 1918 the post office had hired a total number \_\_\_\_\_ pilots.  
(a) 4 (b) 36 (c) 40 (d) 38
- (vi) The Postal Reorganization Act was signed by  
(a) Benjamin Franklin (b) Richard Nixon  
(c) The general of the US army (d) The cabinet
- (vii) “The independent US Postal Service has streamlined its workload” here the phrase streamlined its workload means  
(a) Taking up more workload (b) Making more workload  
(c) Organise its workload to work efficiently (d) To decrease the workload
- (viii) The first stamps had a picture of \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(a) U.S. Army (b) Benjamin Franklin (c) Richard Nixon (d) USPS
- (ix) The first postage stamp was priced at  
(a) 44 cents (b) 5 cents (c) 40 cents (d) 300 cents
- (x) Which of the following statement is false?  
(a) Department of Defense is the largest employer in the US.  
(b) Postal Reorganization Act was signed in 1970.  
(c) MLOCRS can sort the mail at the rate of nine letters per second.  
(d) The first U.S. postage stamp, issued in 1849.
- (xi) The word average in the last paragraph means:  
(a) boring (b) regular (c) median (d) not special

**2. Read the passage given below.**

(1) The monsoon is such a welcome respite from the scorching summer thanks to the overcast sky, gentle rain and lush greenery all around. Almost all of us love to savour spicy and crunchy food items, such as fritters (pakoras) and chaats like panipuri, sevpuri teamed with cutting chai as the rainwater lashes against the windowpane. However, the season also brings along a lot of diseases, such as dengue, malaria, conjunctivitis, typhoid, viral fever, pneumonia, gastrointestinal disturbances, diarrhea, food poisoning, cholera, cough and cold and jaundice due to bacteria in the environment. The challenge lies in going about your daily routine without falling ill. If you suffer from low immunity, you are at a higher risk of contracting these diseases.

However, the right dietary tips can strengthen your immunity and help you stay hale and hearty.

- (2) Due to the humid climate, you may not feel too thirsty and consume just one litre of water every day. But you need to be well hydrated as sweat doesn't evaporate quickly in monsoon. Consequently, this prevents the body from releasing heat. So consume a lot of water as it helps to flush out toxins from the body. Ensure that the water is clean, pure and safe to drink. Avoid aerated drinks; instead consume warm beverages, such as green tea with holy basil leaves, ginger, pepper and honey as they have anti-bacterial properties. A bowl of hot vegetable soup is also a good option. The hot beverages increase your body temperature (which will in turn give you warmth) while the ingredients will boost your immunity.
- (3) Consume fruits, such as cherries, bananas, apples, pomegranates, plums, litchis and pears as they are packed with anti-oxidants and are rich in vitamin A, E, C and minerals. Vegetables, such as cauliflower, potatoes, cluster beans, lady's finger, kidney beans, pigeon pea and sprouted grains get spoilt easily due to the humidity. So, they should be avoided. Opt for cooked or steamed veggies. Avoid salads as they comprise raw vegetables that contain active bacteria which lead to various infections and affect the body's immunity. Avoid strong smelling or extra sweet fruits, such as mangoes and jackfruit that attract flies as their excess intake can cause skin irritation and stomach ache. It's also important to store vegetables the right way during the rains. Do not wash the veggies thoroughly before storing, as the moisture will attract pathogenic fungus. These bacteria can spread to other susceptible food items as well, making them unhygienic. Instead, pat dry and store separate food items in different containers. Buy them in limited portions and use them as soon as possible.
- (4) Dehydration makes your hair brittle and scanty. So hydrate yourself. Zinc and iron help to keep your tresses healthy and beautiful. Consume nuts, eggs and walnuts to maintain hair strength. Walnuts are rich in biotin and vitamin E, which are excellent antioxidants. Proteins are important for hair strength too. So add curd to your diet, as it is a great source of protein. Amla juice, oranges and other citrus foods are rich in vitamin C. Vitamin C keeps your hair strong as it helps in production of collagen that among other things strengthens the hair capillaries (ensuring proper nutrient supply to our hair). Also, ensure that you wash your locks on alternate days and cover them well during the monsoon. Dried apricots, roasted sunflower seeds and lentils are better foods to consume during monsoon than other iron-rich foods which are susceptible to microbial attack. Do not forget to eat yummy corn on cob as corn is also rich in iron and zinc.
- (5) So, the secret to enjoy the rains, without the fear of affecting your health is to go light on eating. Have a safe and healthy monsoon.

**On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven that follow.**

**(1 × 10 = 10)**

- (i) Which of these diseases are not brought with the onset of monsoon?  
(a) Typhoid                      (b) Conjunctivitis                      (c) Dengue                      (d) Tuberculosis
- (ii) You are prone to get the diseases brought by seasonal change if  
(a) you oversleep                      (b) you suffer from low immunity  
(c) you are exercising regularly                      (d) you suffer from weak eye sight

- (iii) Drinking water helps in
- (a) keeping the body hydrated (b) flushing toxins out of the body  
(c) building strong bones (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (iv) Raw vegetables should be avoided because:
- (a) they contain active bacteria which lead to various infections  
(b) they are hard to chew  
(c) they attract a lot of flies  
(d) they are poisonous
- (v) The correct way to store veggies is to :
- (a) wash them properly before storing  
(b) buy them in bulks  
(c) pat them dry, store separate items in different food containers  
(d) soak them in water
- (vi) The effects of dehydration on hair is that it :
- (a) makes it brittle and thin (b) makes it smooth  
(c) makes it luscious soft (d) makes it stink
- (vii) Foods to be consumed for healthy strong hair is
- (a) sweets (b) eggs and walnuts (c) bread (d) rice
- (viii) Which vitamin helps in the production of collagen?
- (a) Vitamin A (b) Vitamin B (c) Vitamin C (d) Vitamin D
- (ix) Choose an appropriate heading for the given passage.
- (a) How to store your food during the rainy season  
(b) Beat the monsoon woes by eating right  
(c) Monsoon sickness  
(d) Hair fall Remedy
- (x) Which of these statements is false?
- (a) Warm beverages like soup is healthier option than aerated drinks.  
(b) Vegetables such as cauliflower, bean sprouts, ladies finger are more likely to get spoilt.  
(c) Amla juice, oranges and other citrus foods are rich in vitamin D.  
(d) Iron and Zinc helps in keeping our hair healthy.
- (xi) Synonym of scorching is
- (a) breaking (b) sweltering (c) poaching (d) fluctuating

#### LITERATURE (20 Marks)

3. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY TWO of the three given by answering the questions that follow. (4 + 4 = 8)
- A. My last French lesson ! Why, I hardly knew how to write ! I should never learn any more ! I must stop there, then! Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons, for seeking birds' eggs, or going sliding on the Saar! My books, that had seemed such a nuisance while ago, so heavy to carry, my grammar and my history of the saints, were old friends now that I couldn't give up. And M. Hamel, too; the idea that he was going away, that I should never see him again, made me forget all about his ruler and how cranky he was.
- (i) Who is regretting for not learning the French language properly?
- (a) M Hamel (b) Franz (c) The Germans (d) The villagers

- (ii) Why was M Hamel going away?  
 (a) Because he got a promotion.  
 (b) Because he is old and retiring.  
 (c) Because teaching of French language was going to be banned from schools.  
 (d) Because he was transferred to another school.
- (iii) “About his ruler and how cranky he was.” Means M Hamel was a/an \_\_\_\_\_ teacher.  
 (a) funny (b) lenient (c) strict (d) evil
- (iv) Which word in the passage means “burden”?  
 (a) Lessons (b) History (c) Nuisance (d) Cranky
- B.** You look at me...and then you see my face and you think. ‘That’s bad. That’s a terrible thing. That’s the ugliest thing I ever saw.’ You think, ‘Poor boy.’ But I’m not. Not poor. Underneath, you are afraid. Anybody would be. I am. When I look in the mirror, and see it, I’m afraid of me...
- (i) Who said these lines?  
 (a) Mr Lamb (b) Derek (c) Derek’s mother (d) Stranger
- (ii) People called Derek “poor boy” because  
 (a) They were angry at him (b) They were genuinely concerned for him  
 (c) They felt pity for him (d) They thought the boy needed money
- (iii) What did he mean by the terrible thing?  
 (a) Mr lamb’s legs (b) Derek’s scar on his face  
 (c) Derek’s personality (d) Mr Lamb’s personality
- (iv) Who is afraid of whom according to Derek?  
 (a) Mr Lamb is afraid of Derek (b) Derek is afraid of Mr lamb  
 (c) Everyone is afraid of Derek (d) His mother is afraid of Derek
- C.** It seemed a long way down. Those nine feet were more like ninety, and before I touched bottom my lungs were ready to burst. But when my feet hit bottom I summoned all my strength and made what I thought was a great spring upwards. I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork. Instead, I came up slowly. I opened my eyes and saw nothing but water – water that had a dirty yellow tinge to it. I grew panicky. I reached up as if to grab a rope and my hands clutched only at water. I was suffocating. I tried to yell but no sound came out. Then my eyes and nose came out of the water but not my mouth.
- (i) “Nine feet were more than ninety,” to the narrator because  
 (a) he felt lost in the water  
 (b) he enjoyed the feeling of sinking in the water  
 (c) he was struggling against the water to stay afloat and he was drowning despite his efforts  
 (d) he felt he could go deeper than he already was
- (ii) What did the narrator first do when he reached to the bottom of the pool?  
 (a) He opened his eyes in the water.  
 (b) He tried to breathe under water.  
 (c) He tried to scream for help.  
 (d) He summoned all his strength and tried to make what a great spring upwards.
- (iii) Which line/phrase says the narrator couldn’t breathe?  
 (a) I grew panicky. (b) I was suffocating.  
 (c) I tried to yell but no sound came out. (d) I came up slowly.
- (iv) How did the water look to the narrator at the bottom of the pool?  
 (a) The water had a yellow tinge. (b) The water looked vast.  
 (c) the water looked grey and dark. (d) The water looked like a rope.

4. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. (1 × 4 = 4)

A. I looked again at her, wan, pale  
as a late winter's moon and felt that old  
familiar ache, my childhood's fear, .....

- (i) Who is 'her' in the poem?  
(a) Her is the childhood of the poem (b) 'Her' refers to the mother.  
(c) Her means the poet herself (d) None of these
- (ii) Why did the poet look at 'her' again?  
(a) Because she hadn't seen her mother for a long time.  
(b) Because they were saying goodbye.  
(c) Because she was worried about her aging mother and was afraid of losing her.  
(d) Because she was not able to recognise her mother's face.
- (iii) What was the poet's childhood fear?  
(a) Losing her mother. (b) Losing her youth  
(c) Running into monsters (d) Losing her home
- (iv) The main highlight of the given lines is about  
(a) The poet's mother is old, weak and possibly ill (b) The poet's childhood memories  
(c) The poet's fear of losing her youth (d) The poet's guilt of not being with her mother

B. When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie.  
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.  
The tigers in the panel that she made  
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

- (i) Why are Aunt Jennifer's hands terrified?  
(a) Due to the ordeals and hardships she has had to face being in a patriarchal society  
(b) Due to old age her hands were shaking  
(c) Due to the terror she spread while alive  
(d) Due to her own insecurities
- (ii) Why did she make the tigers?  
(a) She wanted the tiger's design in the embroidery  
(b) She has created tigers which are symbols of confidence and fearlessness because she wants to be like them.  
(c) Because tigers will take care of the bad people  
(d) Because tigers were lucky for Aunt Jennifer
- (iii) How is the tiger that Aunt Jennifer created?  
(a) Quiet and timid (b) Bright and sweet  
(c) proud and unafraid (d) Ugly and evil
- (iv) "ringed with ordeals" signifies  
(a) The ring on her hands (b) The burden of marriage and patriarchy  
(c) Aunt Jennifer's happy life (d) The tiger

5. Attempt ANY EIGHT questions of following from the ten given below. (1 × 8 = 8)

- (i) Douglas had his first trauma of water when he was  
(a) at the YMCA pool (b) at the beach with his father  
(c) at Lake Wentworth (d) diving off a cliff

- (ii) John Keats believed that a thing of beauty  
 (a) was meaningless (b) gives you false pleasure  
 (c) gives you eternal joy (d) doesn't last forever.
- (iii) Saheb was happier picking rags for a living than  
 (a) going to school (b) working as a bangle maker  
 (c) working at a tea stall (d) studying at school
- (iv) Sadao couple put \_\_\_\_\_ before patriotism  
 (a) greed (b) fear (c) humanity (d) work
- (v) Stephen Spender wanted the children in the slum  
 (a) to get a decent education and escape from their dreary lives  
 (b) to give up on their miserable existence  
 (c) for people to come forward and adopt these slum children  
 (d) for the children to hate their parents
- (vi) When Aunt Jennifer embroidered the Tiger, it was supposed to be a symbol of \_\_\_\_\_  
 (a) loss (b) love (c) courage (d) weakness
- (vii) Two adjectives that can be best associated with Evans is  
 (a) petty and competitive (b) bold and daring  
 (c) shrewd and meticulous (d) impulsive and ambitious
- (viii) Pablo Neruda in Keeping Quiet is mainly asking the world  
 (a) to observe total inactivity  
 (b) to leave their jobs and start mediation  
 (c) to suspend useless activities that bring harm to the world  
 (d) to abandon all ambition
- (ix) For Jo the fact that Roger Skunk was made to smell like a skunk again felt like a  
 (a) good ending (b) wrong ending (c) touching ending (d) wise ending.
- (x) The peddler was mostly influenced by \_\_\_\_\_ to mend his ways.  
 (a) Elda (b) Elda's father (c) the crofter (d) ironsmith

## PART - B (40 Marks)

### WRITING (16 Marks)

- 6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following :** (1 × 3 = 3)
- A.** Your grandfather with amnesia aged 75 has been missing for the last three days. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words for the Missing Persons column of a local newspaper. You are Shree. Contact number 98XXXXXX.
- OR**
- B.** The school magazine 'RAMBLINGS' will be published in the first week of December. Students are requested to contribute articles, poems, riddles, short stories, funny anecdotes, cartoons etc to the undersigned by 10th September. Write a notice for school notice board in 50 words.
- 7. Attempt ANY ONE of the following :** (1 × 3 = 3)
- A.** On 30<sup>th</sup> November your school is going to hold its annual sports day. You want Mr. Napoleon Singh a noted football player to give away the prizes to the budding sportspersons of the school. Write a formal invitation in about 50 words requesting him to grace the occasion. You are Karuna/Karan, Sports Secretary, Sunrise Global School, Agra.

OR

B. You have received an invitation to be the judge for a debate competition in St. Ann's School. Send a reply in not more than 50 words, confirming your acceptance.

8. **Attempt ANY ONE of the following :** (1 × 5 = 5)

A. You are Mandeep/Manya, a resident of Flat No. - 97, Good Faith Apartments, M.G. Road, Pune. You placed an order for the supply of several books a month ago. You finally received the books a month late and you found that the books sent weren't the ones you ordered. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the manager of Sai Book Store, Delhi, returning the sent books and cancelling the order. Ask for refund of the amount you paid in advance at the time you placed the order and also the cost you had to bear in order to return the package.

OR

B. You are Roy of 2/A, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi. Write a letter to the Police commissioner (traffic) about inadequate parking facility in the nearby area of New Delhi.

9. **Attempt ANY ONE of the following :** (1 × 5 = 5)

A. Your school recently joined a campaign for water conservation. Write a report on the event.

OR

B. Write an article on the value and appreciation of art and how it enriches our lives. You are Rajiv/Rani.

#### LITERATURE (24 Marks)

10. **Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below, in 30-40 words each.** (2 × 5 = 10)

- (i) Why can't the bangle makers organise themselves into a co-operative?
- (ii) Why did the author go to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire?
- (iii) What does Stephen Spender want for the children of the school in a slum ?
- (iv) How can 'mighty dead' be things of beauty?
- (v) Why did the villagers come to attend the class of M. Hamel?
- (vi) What was Kamala Das' childhood fear ?

11. **Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below in 30-40 words each.** (2 × 2 = 4)

- (i) What doubts did Edla have about the peddler?
- (ii) Why did Charley rush back from the third level?
- (iii) How did Dr Sadao take bullet out of the body of the American soldier?

12. **Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words.** (1 × 5 = 5)

A. Why according to Gandhi the amount of refund didn't matter as much as the act of getting the refund?

OR

B. How did the instructor make Douglas a good swimmer?

13. **Attempt ANY ONE out of the following questions in 120-150 words** (1 × 5 = 5)

A. What efforts does Mr Lamb make to strike up a friendship with Derry, the small boy, who enters his garden ?

OR

B. How far was Stephens helpful for Evans' escape?