

Paper—I
(GENERAL ENGLISH)

Full Marks : 150

Time : 3 hours

QUESTION PAPER SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS

***Please read each of the following instructions carefully
before attempting questions***

There are **FOUR** questions printed in ENGLISH.

The number of marks carried by a question/part is indicated against it.

Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Question-cum-Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.

1. Write a précis for each of the following passages :

15×2=30

(a) The hesitation shown by the Central Government in deciding upon full legal protection for one of its most prized natural assets, the Western Ghats in their totality, is a major disappointment and condemned by the inhabitants and the researchers who are concerned about the damage. The idea that whatever is left of these fragile mountainous forests should be protected from unsustainable exploitation in the interests of present and future generations, while presenting sustainable ways of living to the communities that inhabit these landscapes, is being lost sight of. Quite unscientifically, the issue is being framed as one of development-versus-conservation. Given the weak effort at forging a consensus, there is little purpose in the Centre returning to the drawing board with another draft notification to identify ecologically sensitive areas. What it needs is a framework under which scientific evidence and public concerns are debated democratically and the baseline for ESAs arrived at. It is accepted, for instance, that the Ghats play an irreplaceable role in mediating the monsoon over the country and the forests harbour a rich biodiversity that has not even been fully studied. New species continue to emerge each year in an area that has endemic plants and animals, although, as the scientist Norman Myers wrote nearly two decades ago, only 6.8% of primary vegetation out of the original 182500 square kilometer remains in the Western Ghats and Sri Lanka taken together.

(b) It is, of course, much easier to look back 500 years than 50 years. Nonetheless, World War II, the Apollo moon landings, and the prospect of human genetic engineering raised most of the important issues we face in the new Millennium in defining humanness, human rights and science's responsibilities. Postmodernism can be dated from any of these, and each holds its own lessons and cautions. Many scholars date postmodernism from Hiroshima and the Holocaust one on an instantaneous annihilation, the other a systematic one. Together, their application of industrial techniques to human slaughter represents the death of our civilization's dream of moral and scientific progress that had characterized the modern age. The nuclear age is much more ambiguous and uncertain. We now worship science as society's new religion as the quest for everlasting life with God is replaced by our new crusade for immortality on earth.

The modern human rights movement was born from the blood of World War II and the death of the positive law belief that the only law that matters is that which is enacted by a legitimate government, including the Nazi Government. The multinational trial of the Nazi War criminals at Nuremberg after World War II was held on the premise that there is a universal law of

humanity and that those who violate it may be properly tried and punished. Universal criminal law, law that applies to all humans and protects all humans, outlaws crimes against humanity, including Statesanctioned genocide, murder, torture and slavery. Obeying the laws of a particular country or the orders of superiors is no defense.

2. Write an essay on any *one* of the following topics (in 500 words) : 50
- (a) Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts
 - (b) Ethics, social responsibility and human life in the era of artificial intelligence
 - (c) Towards a sustainable future : social and cultural politics of consumerism
3. Prepare reports on the following : 25×2=50
- (a) Your State Government has banned the use of plastic bags. You are a reporter of *The Assam Tribune*. Write a report on how the ban is being ignored and what damage the indiscriminate use of plastic bags is causing to the environment. Sign as Preetam/Preeti (answer in 150 words).
 - (b) Your institution has recently organized an awareness camp on cyber laws and protection against cyber crimes. Draft a report to be published in your institution magazine. Sign as Preetam/Preeti (answer in 150 words).
4. Answer the following : 20
- (a) Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles : 1×4=4
 - (i) It is truly _____ honour to meet _____ President of India.
 - (ii) Someone with _____ beard had come to meet you.
 - (iii) The Rajdhani Express now stops at _____ few more stations.
 - (b) Make sentences with the following : 2×4=8
 - (i) Bolt from the blue
 - (ii) Cost an arm and a leg
 - (iii) Kill two birds with one stone
 - (iv) It takes two to tango

(c) Choose and write the correct meaning :

1×4=4

(i) Inundate

1. Sink
2. Drown
3. Float
4. Flood

(ii) Repeal

1. Redress
2. Pay
3. Repeat
4. Withdraw

(iii) Bonafide

1. Genuine
2. Faithful
3. Good health
4. Loving

(iv) Contrite

1. Concise
2. Hurtful
3. Polite
4. Apologetic

(d) Change the narration for the following :

2×2=4

(i) The man with the pistol warned us not to shout.

(ii) Charu said, "I bought the shirt yesterday. Do you like it?"
