

B.A./B.Sc. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2007  
FIRST SEMESTER

COURSE : VOCATIONAL COURSE - FOUNDATION CORE  
PAPER : LANGUAGE AND STUDY SKILLS  
TIME : 2 HOURS MAX. MARKS: 50

- I. Expand the idea contained in the following statement into a paragraph. (10 marks)
- We must build bridges, not walls.  
(Or)
  - There is a tide in the affairs of men.
- II. Use the information given below to prepare a bibliography. (5 marks)
- Read to Understand Oxford University Press Delhi by Donald Dallas 1975.
  - Structures of Patriarchy, Bina Agarwal (editor) 1988 Kali for Women, New Delhi.
  - Tata McGraw Hill Publishing Company Limited New Delhi, English for the Secretary, 1996 by Yvonne Hoban.
  - William Francis Mackey, Language Teaching Analysis Longmans 1965 London.
  - Perspectives on Rabindranath Tagore, T R Sharma Vimal Prakashan, New Delhi 1986.
- III. Write short notes on the following: (5x2=10)
- Index
  - Glossary
  - Blurb
  - Contents
  - Footnotes
- IV. Rewrite as directed: (5 marks)
- Your friends have just arrived at the station. You can't see any suitcase or bag. You ask them.....  
Complete the sentence using the words appropriate to the situation.
  - We can go out now, it ..... (rain) anymore. (Put the verb into the correct form)
  - Her collection of books ..... (be) wonderful. (Put the verb into the correct form)
  - Use the following phrases/idioms in sentences of your own.
    - to blow over
    - to spill the beans

- V. The table below shows the trends of production of food grains in the Eighth Five Year Plan. Write a short paragraph interpreting the information given in the table. (5 marks)

Production of food grains in the Eighth Plan

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Rice	74.7	72.9	80.3	81.8	77.0	81.3
Wheat	55.7	57.2	59.8	65.8	61.1	69.3
Coarse Cereals	26.0	36.6	30.8	29.9	29.0	34.3
Pulses	12.0	12.8	13.3	14.0	12.3	14.5
Food grains	168.4	179.5	184.3	191.5	180.4	199.3
Kharif	91.6	101.5	100.4	101.0	95.1	104.4
Rabi	76.8	78.0	83.9	90.4	85.3	94.9

Source : Economic Survey, Govt. of India, 1997-98, p.114

- VI. Read the following passage on “Impact of Global Warming on Climate”, and answer the questions that follow: (5 marks)

**Impact of Global Warming on Climate**

At the current estimate of half a degree centigrade of warming per decade, vegetation may not keep up. Climatologist James Hansen of the US space agency NASA predicts climate zones will shift toward the poles by 50 to 75 kilometers a year - faster than trees can naturally migrate. Species that find themselves in an unfamiliar environment will die. The 1000-kilometer-wide strip of coniferous forest running through Canada, Russia and Scandinavia could be cut by half, setting in motion a chain reaction. Millions of dying and diseased trees would soon lead to massive forest fires, releasing tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and further boosting global warming.

There are dozens of other possible ‘feedback mechanisms’. Higher temperature will fuel condensation and increase cloudiness, which may actually damp down global warming. Others, like the ‘albedo’ effect, will do the opposite. The albedo effect is the amount of solar energy reflected by the earth’s surface. As northern ice and snow melts and the darker sea and land pokes through, more heat will be absorbed, adding inexorably to the global temperature increase.

Scientists continue to tinker away with their computer models, but the bare-bones facts are clear. Even if we were to magically stop all greenhouse-gas emissions tomorrow the impact on global climate would continue for decades. Delay, any delay, will simply make the problem worse. The fact is that some of us are doing quite well the way things are. In the developed world prosperity has been built on 150 years of cheap fossil fuels. Oil fires cars and powers industry, coal generates electricity and indirectly runs TVs, dishwashers and VCRs. Gas heats water and warms homes and factories.

Material progress has been linked to energy consumption. Today, 75 per cent of all the world’s energy is consumed by a quarter of the world’s population. The average rich-world resident adds about 3.2 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> yearly to the atmosphere, more than four times the level added by each Third World citizen. India, China and Brazil, which make up nearly half the world’s population, accounted for barely 15 per cent of global warming during the 1980s, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency. The US, with just seven per cent of the global population, is responsible for 22 per cent.

Choose which of the alternatives is the correct answer and put the appropriate letter in the space provided for question 1 –4

- 1. In paragraph I the writer is :
  - a. rejecting a scientific belief.
  - b. giving an example.
  - c. reaching a conclusion.
  - d. defending a theory.

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- 2. If greenhouse gas emissions were stopped immediately, the world’s climate
  - a. would soon regain its balance.
  - b. would continue to be affected but without serious consequences.
  - c. would continue to be affected for many years to come.
  - d. would be affected for another 10 years.

\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 3. According to the writer cheap fossil fuels have
  - a. formed the basis of the developed world’s success.
  - b. contributed to the developed world’s success.
  - c. aided the developed world’s building trade.
  - d. caused 150 years of global warming.

\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 4. A person from a developing country
  - a. adds more than 3 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> yearly to the atmosphere.
  - b. adds about 12.8 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> yearly to the atmosphere.
  - c. adds 4 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> yearly to the atmosphere.
  - d. adds less than a ton of CO<sub>2</sub> yearly to the atmosphere.

\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 5. State whether True or False:  
The developed world has decided to reduce its energy consumption
 

\_\_\_\_\_

- VII. a. Read the passage on “Some Rules of Thought” and make notes of the same. (5 marks)
- b. Attempt a summary of the passage with the notes you have made. (5 marks)

**Some Rules of Thought**

To avoid the various foolish opinions to which mankind is prone, no superhuman brain is required. A few simple rules will keep you, not from all error, but from silly error.

If the matter is one that can be settled by observation, make the observation yourself. Aristotle could have avoided the mistake of thinking that women have fewer teeth than men by the simple device of asking

Mrs. Aristotle to keep her mouth open while he counted. Thinking that you know when in fact you do not is a bad mistake, to which we are all prone. I believe myself that hedgehogs eat black beetles, because I have been told that they do; but if I was writing a book on the habits of hedgehogs, I should not commit myself until I had seen one enjoying this diet. Aristotle, however, was less cautious. Ancient and medieval writers knew all about unicorns and salamanders; not one of them thought it necessary to avoid dogmatic statements about them because he had never seen one of them.

Many matters, however, are less easily brought to the test of experience. If, like most of mankind, you have strong convictions on many such matters, there are ways in which you can learn of your own bias. If an opinion contrary to your own makes you angry, that is a sign that you are subconsciously aware of having no good reason for thinking as you do. If someone says that two and two are five, or that Iceland is on the equator, you feel pity rather than anger, unless you know so little of arithmetic or geography that his opinion shakes your own contrary conviction. The most savage controversies are those about the kind of opinion as to which there is no good evidence either way. Persecution is used in theology, not in arithmetic, because in arithmetic there is knowledge, but in theology there is only opinion. So whenever you find yourself getting angry about a difference of opinion, be on the alert; you will probably find, on examination, that your belief is going beyond what the evidence warrants.

A good way of ridding yourself of certain kinds of dogmatism is to become aware of opinions held in social circles different from your own. When I was young, I lived much outside my own country – in France, Germany, Italy and the United States. I found this very profitable in reducing the intensity of my insular prejudices. If you cannot travel, talk to people with whom you disagree, and read a newspaper belonging to a party that is not yours. If the people and the newspaper seem mad, stupid and wicked, remind yourself that you seem so to them. In this opinion both parties may be right, but they cannot both be wrong. This thought should generate a certain caution.

Bertrand Russell, *Unpopular Essays*.

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