

B.Voc. DEGREE EXAMINATION, NOVEMBER 2018

BRANCH XI- ENGLISH

THIRD SEMESTER

COURSE : FOUNDATION CORE

PAPER : ENGLISH FOR COMMUNICATION - III

TIME : 3 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 100

SECTION A

I. Read the following editorial and answer the questions that follow: (20)

No Space for Dissent in Delhi

Published: 03rd October 2018 04:00 AM | Last Updated: 03rd October 2018 02:43 AM

Thousands of farmers who marched for days from Haridwar in Uttarakhand and on their way to New Delhi were stopped from entering the national capital at the border. While the government and police did not officially cite any reason for disallowing the protesters from reaching Delhi, it was speculated that the farmers were stopped because their march coincided with the visit of United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres. The police perhaps felt that the farmers, whose demands range from implementation of the Swaminathan Commission's recommendations and loan waiver to payment of sugarcane dues, could cause nuisance during a high-profile visit. In the end, it was the common people who suffered the most as several roads were blocked to ensure that the farmers were stopped at the borders of Delhi.

But the decision of the Delhi and UP police raises questions about their ability to handle large crowds. Some months ago, the Maharashtra and Mumbai Police smoothly managed a similar march of farmers, who walked from Nashik to Mumbai. The day they were supposed to enter Mumbai to converge on the historic Azad Maidan where they subsequently held a large demonstration, Mumbai's school students had their board exams. On the state government's appeal, the farmers marched quietly through the streets of Mumbai in the dead of the night to avoid traffic jams that could have inconvenienced the students. The government's handling of the situation and the gesture of the farmers drew praise from all quarters.

The Delhi and UP police's action also smacks of denying people the right to hold a protest and to dissent. No matter what the compulsion, the police should not have stopped the farmers as the right to demonstrate is fundamental in a democracy. The police ham-handedness also comes within days of the recent ruling of Justice D Y Chandrachud, who said that voices of opposition cannot be muzzled as dissent was a symbol of a vibrant democracy.

1. The farmers who were stopped were marching from (1)
 - a. Haridwar to New Delhi
 - b. Nashik to Mumbai
 - c. Uttarakhand to Mumbai
 - d. Nashik to New Delhi
2. Why does the writer say that "it was **speculated** that the farmers were stopped because their march coincided with the visit of United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres" instead of giving this definitely as the reason? (2)
3. Name any two demands of the farmers. (2)
4. The farmers' march in Mumbai coincided with _____ . (1)

5. Explain in your own words how the Mumbai police handled the march. (2)
6. Contrast the ways in which the New Delhi and Mumbai police handled the respective marches. (2)
7. Which two of the following statements are true about the editorial? (2)
 - a. The writer believes that the Delhi police were correct in stopping the farmers
 - b. The writer has no opinion regarding the incident
 - c. The writer believes that everybody has the right to dissent
 - d. The writer appreciates the farmers marching in the night in Mumbai
 - e. The writer thinks that Justice D Y Chandrachud should not have said anything
8. Given below are some words used in the passage. From the list given after each word, select the word that comes closest in meaning to it as used in the editorial. (4)
 - a. Dissent
 - i. go down a staircase
 - ii. to make an opposite point of view known
 - iii. socially or conventionally correct
 - iv. none of the above
 - b. Speculate
 - i. to believe on uncertain grounds
 - ii. wear glasses to see better
 - iii. have a bit of dirt on one's clothing
 - iv. none of the above
 - c. Gesture
 - i. signature
 - ii. sign
 - iii. to stay in someone else's house
 - iv. none of the above
 - d. Vibrant
 - i. having the seven colours of the rainbow
 - ii. full of energy
 - iii. a kind of insect
 - iv. none of the above
9. Make sentences of your own with any four of the following words. Your sentences should bring out the meaning of the word as used in the editorial. Do not copy the sentence in the editorial. (4)

| | | | |
|------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|
| (a) cite | (b) fundamental | (c) compulsion | (d) historic |
| (e) ruling | (f) inconvenience | | |

II. Read the following opinion piece and answer the questions that follow. (20)

The garden opposite the Taj

by Rana Safvi

THE HINDU

SEPTEMBER 30, 2018 00:15 IST UPDATED: SEPTEMBER 29, 2018 21:45 IST

The most visited monument in India is the Taj Mahal in Agra. Guides and locals tell you stories of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan's love for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, when they walk you up to the main chamber housing the cenotaphs of the emperor and his wife. As they walk you towards the back of the monument, where the Yamuna flows, they point across the bank and tell you in hushed tones that this was where Shah Jahan dreamed of a mausoleum in black marble for himself, but he was imprisoned by his son Aurangzeb before he could build it. French traveller Jean-Baptiste Tavernier was the first to mention the story of a black Taj Mahal, and it caught the popular imagination in later centuries. However, archaeological excavations have found no evidence of any foundation on which such an edifice could have been built.

I have also heard this story many times. Though I never believed it, I didn't realise the importance of that piece of land across the Yamuna, known as Mahtab Bagh, till a friend, Roshna Kapadia, gifted me *The Moonlit Garden: New Discoveries at the TajMahal*, edited by Elizabeth B. Moynihan. This book describes the India-U.S. project undertaken by the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery at the Smithsonian Institution, of which Moynihan was a key member, along with the Archaeological Survey of India. The researchers concluded that the Bagh's proportions are similar to the Taj, and it is also aligned with the monument, which means that Shah Jahan had built it as a part of the main tomb complex.

Soon after the Taj Mahal was ready, Shah Jahan moved to the new city of Shahjahanabad in present-day Delhi, and possibly did not visit Agra for some years. Aurangzeb, who did visit Agra in 1652, said in a letter, which is quoted by Moynihan, that the dome of the mausoleum had developed a leak and needed repair. He got it repaired. He also said that though the octagonal pool and pavilions of the Mahtab Bagh were in good shape, the garden was inundated and had to be restored. This establishes the connection between the two parts separated by the river. The Bagh's position on the lower bank of the Yamuna made it prone to flooding. It was lost in the sands of time till it was discovered in the 1990s.

On a recent trip to Agra, I read a few more books on the Bagh. A discussion with a Ph D student from Cambridge University, Sarthak Malhotra, whose M Phil thesis was on the Taj Mahal, led me to another wonderful resource: *TajMahal: Multiple Narratives*, by Amita Baig and Rahul Mehrotra. It was while reading this book that the entire picture unfolded before my eyes, and I was able to reimagine the Mahtab Bagh as it was supposed to be.

Most tourists don't visit Mahtab Bagh as it is a relatively long drive from the Taj and they don't realise its importance. This is where the grief-stricken emperor came by boat from his palace and sat in the now-destroyed pavilions to look at the reflection of the teardrop in the octagonal pool.

The pool was discovered in 1993 under two or three meters of sand. When it was full, the reflection of the Taj would fall in it, in perfect symmetry. The beautiful garden, which was once home to many trees, has been redone and is a shadow of its former self. But the reflection of the Taj Mahal in the river, and in the pool if you visit during the monsoon, makes you forget everything else. As the pool was dry, I sat on the edge of the low wall that forms a boundary on the riverbank, to watch the sunset. As the sun came down and flooded the white marble beauty on the other side of the river with every imaginable hue, I could empathise with the emperor who would have sat in quiet contemplation of his lost love.

1. Match the people's names in Column A to their descriptions in Column B (6)

| Column A | Column B |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Shah Jahan | a. Imprisoned his father |
| 2. Aurangzeb | b. The writer's friend |
| 3. Jean-Baptiste Tavernier | c. Ph D scholar from Cambridge |
| 4. Elizabeth B. Moynihan | d. Emperor of India |
| 5. RoshnaKapadia | e. French traveller |
| 6. SarthakMalhotra | f. Editor of <i>The Moonlit Garden: New Discoveries at the TajMahal</i> |

2. What do you think is the main idea in the opinion piece? (1)
 - a. Shah Jahan's love for Mumtaz Mahal
 - b. tombs of the Mughal emperors
 - c. the black Taj Mahal
 - d. the importance of Mahtab Bagh
3. What is the Black Taj? (2)
4. Why don't many tourists visit Mahtab Bagh? (1)
5. Why did Shah Jahan visit Mahtab Bagh? (1)
6. What, according to the author, establishes the connection between the Taj Mahal and the Mahtab Bagh? (3)
7. Name the book and its author(s) that allowed the author to recreate the Mahtab Bagh for us. (2)
8. In each of the following sentences, replace the underlined word/phrase with an equivalent from the choices given in brackets. The first one is done as an example. (4)
 - a. ... locals tell you stories of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan's love for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, when they walk you up to the main chamber housing the cenotaphs of the emperor and his wife. (monument/possessions/writings)
Answer: monument
 - b. He also said that though the octagonal pool and pavilions of the Mahtab Bagh were in good shape, the garden was inundated and had to be restored. (filled with dates/full of flowers/flooded)
 - c. However, archaeological excavations have found no evidence of any foundation on which such an edifice could have been built. (formerly a cave/diggings/formation of a garden)
 - d. The beautiful garden, which was once home to many trees, has been redone and is a shadow of its former self. (not as beautiful as before/visible only as a shadow/can be seen only by farmers)
 - e. I could empathise with the emperor who would have sat in quiet contemplation of his lost love. (beliefs/thoughts and memories/letters)

SECTION B

III. Read the given passage and make notes on it. (10)

A grassland is a biome in which the dominant plants are grasses rather than trees or tall shrubs. Often described as “seas of grass,” grasslands cover about one fourth of Earth's surface. They are usually found in the interiors of every continent except Antarctica. Although grasslands vary in climate and the type of plant and animal life they support, most have several things in common. They are covered with grasses, which may be of different heights and varieties. They are usually windy and dry for part of the year. They occur primarily on flat land or gently rolling hills, but a few are found on mountains where the environment is suitable. Grasslands are considered transition zones between deserts, which receive little rain, and forests, which get a lot of rain.

Grasslands develop as a result of changes in climate, changes in plant communities, and fires.

Grasslands first appeared millions of years ago after mountains formed and caused climates to change. In North America, for example, the Rocky Mountains blocked moist air traveling across the continent from the Pacific Ocean, making the middle part of the continent drier. This caused trees to die and be replaced by grasses, which could adapt to the drier climate. The same process happened on

other continents, allowing grasslands to form in places such as central Asia and South America. Grasslands throughout the world were fairly well established about 5million years ago, covering more than 40% of Earth's surface.

Grasslands also develop through a process called succession, a slow sequence of changes in a plant community. In dry areas, the growth of mosses and lichens may be followed by the growth of leafy, non woody plants. Gradually, the grasses, which are hardier plants, begin to take over and become the major form of plant life in the area. In ponds or other areas of still or slow-moving water, submerged plants like pondweed, grow beneath the water. Dead stems and leaves from these plants make the water thick, shallow, and slow moving. This dead matter forms a thick layer of organic material in which plants that must be anchored in soil, such as reeds and grasses, begin to grow. As this process continues, the pond fills with decaying plants until the water is gone and a grassland has developed.

Fires help form and sustain grasslands. Most naturally occurring fires are started by lightning. Lightning strikes the ground, igniting dried grass. All vegetation (trees, shrubs, flowers) and grass are completely burned. The grass regrows because it has adapted to this dry environment and has a very deep root system and, often, underground stems. Fire helps to eliminate competition from trees, shrubs, and flowers for nutrients, water, and growing space, making it easier for grass to grow. People may start fires that help establish grasslands. As far back as the Stone Age, hunters burned forests so that grasses would grow and attract the wild animals they relied on for food. Later, shepherds and herders burned brush and trees to encourage the growth of grasses for grazing.

- IV. Summarise the above passage. (10)
- V. Write a narrative essay in about four to five paragraphs on any one of the following: (20)
- A trip to my favourite place
 - The day I got my biggest surprise
 - The day so far

SECTION C

VI. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given in brackets.

1. (10x1=10)

Once upon a time, there _____1_____ (live) a family of Doves. One day, they invited the Raven, the Crane, the Heron and the Owl to lunch and asked them to come to their house by 12.00 noon.

It was 11.30 am but only two of them were ready: the Raven _____2_____ (polish) his beak and the Heron had scrubbed himself. But the Crane _____3_____ (pluck) his worn out feathers since 9 o'clock that morning. The Owl _____4_____ (sharpen) his claws when the Raven and the Heron came to his house. Together, they picked up the Crane and went to the Doves' house, thinking that the Doves _____5_____ (finish) getting lunch ready for them.

But when they reached the Doves' house, they found that nothing was ready at all.

"I _____6_____ (try) to start the fire since this morning, but I'm not able to," said one of the Doves.

“I too tried”, said another Dove, “but nothing happened.”

Everybody went silent. They _____ 7 _____ (wonder) what to do when the Owl remembered something. “Two days back, I was very hungry. I _____ 8 _____ (search) for food from the previous day, but I could not get anything. Suddenly I _____ 9 _____ (notice) that a man wearing an orange shirt had stopped by a house. He took something out of his bag and gave it to the people living in the house. It smelt wonderful.”

Now everybody tried to find a way to call the man in the orange shirt. But the last time I saw, they had not succeeded. I’m sure that by the time you peep in they _____ 10 _____ (find) a way of calling that man.

2.

(10x0.5=5)

- a. If I _____ (be) you, I _____ (buy) a new phone.
- b. I _____ (give) a lot of money to charity if I _____ (be) a millionaire.
- c. If I _____ (have) the choice, I _____ (be) a bird.
- d. We _____ (travel) to Monaco if the King of that place _____ (be) our friend.
- e. The CBI _____ (not accuse) him if they _____ (not have) enough proof.

VII. Rewrite as directed

(5x1=5)

1. Ratan said, “OK, I’ll bring the book tomorrow.” (Rewrite as reported speech)
2. Karthik asked his mother if she had a holiday the next day. (Rewrite as direct speech)
3. Suzanne agreed to go to the beach with her friends. (Rewrite as direct speech).
4. “Will the dress be ready by January?” asked Brinda to the tailor. (Rewrite as reported speech)
5. “No,” said my mother, “I will not allow you to use a mobile phone when you are in Church.” (Rewrite as reported speech)
