

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
(JOINT RECRUITMENT CELL)

MAIN EXAMINATION FOR THE POST OF EXECUTIVE/LEGISLATIVE/COMMITTEE/PROTOCOL ASSISTANT
IN RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT

23rd November, 2008

Paper II : English Essay, Precis and Comprehension

Time: 3 hours

Marks : 150

I. Write an essay on any one of the following given topics in about 500 words: (70 marks)

1. Indo-US relations
2. What India can learn from China?
3. The Feminist Movement in India
4. Rising Religious intolerance in India: causes and solutions
5. India as an Economic Superpower

II. Write a precis of the given passage in about one-third of its number of words and give it a suitable title: (50 marks)

Throughout history the evolution of man into a self-respecting and undebasing individual has been retarded by ethical and religious beliefs. The genius of Galileo, for example, was challenged by the Holy See on the grounds that what he thought he saw in his telescope was wicked and would have a corrupting influence on church scholars, and might possibly test their faith. There are many who still think that the retrograde influence of religion has declined to such an extent that it no longer poses any threat to cultural and scientific progress but this view is apparently a mistake.

The recent and sudden expansion of Islam makes this religion of six hundred million rival in numerical strength the Roman Catholic Church. In both cases ancient myths and taboos are revered as eternal truths. The creeds of both groups remain as static as they were when they were invented. Some of the beliefs are absurd. The fundamental creed of Islam, for example, is that all sins can be forgiven provided there is sufficient debasement demonstrated by the penitent. However, there is one curious exception and that is the unforgivable sin of doubt concerning the omnipotence, omniscience, and beneficence of Allah. For some unexplained reason this special sin is not tolerated and can never be forgiven. As Lord Russell pointed out in the Preface to his book, *Why I am not a Christian*, 'I think all the great religions of the world – Buddhism, Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Communism – are both untrue and harmful.' As a matter of simple logic not more than one of them can be true. But the most disquieting effect of this harm is to the unfettered intelligence. After all, Darwin still suffers from the pangs of purgatory because he published his *Origin of Species* in 1859. 'Religion', as Lord Russell described its effects, has not only done 'untold harm' but has been in constant battle with the spirit of scientific inquiry.

Lord Russell was persuaded that history is against those who think that the threat of the H bomb, or some other more serious weapons, will make men forget their silly quarrels. After all as Lord Russell noted it was 'Noble who invented the Nobel Peace Prize and he was a very keen advocator of peace, but he was also the inventor of dynamite.' In solemn moments of contemplation over this horrible discovery, Nobel thought that dynamite would prevent war. Unfortunately, his hopes were never realised. (406 words)

III. Read the passage given below and answer the questions given thereafter. (30 marks)

Neither misery nor folly seems to me any part of the inevitable lot of man. And I am convinced that intelligence, patience, and eloquence can, sooner or later, lead the human race out of its self-imposed tortures provided it does not exterminate itself meanwhile.

On the basis of this belief, I have had always a certain degree of optimism, although, as I have grown older, the optimism has grown more sober and the happy issue more distant. But I remain completely incapable of agreeing with those who accept fatalistically the view that man is born to trouble. The causes of unhappiness in the past and in the present are not difficult to ascertain. There have been poverty, pestilence and famine, which were due to man's inadequate mastery of nature. There have been wars, oppressions and tortures which have been due to men's hostility to their fellow men. And there have been morbid miseries fostered by gloomy creeds, which have led men into profound inner discords that made all outward prosperity of no avail. All these are unnecessary. In regard to all of them, means are known by which they can be overcome. In the modern world, if communities are unhappy, it is because they choose to be so. Or, to speak more precisely, because they have ignorances, habits, beliefs, and passions, which are dearer to them than happiness or even life. I find many men in our dangerous age who seem to be in love with misery and death, and who grow angry when hopes are suggested to them.

QUESTIONS:

1. What qualities can help humans overcome the pain they inflict on themselves?
2. What are the causes of man's unhappiness?
3. Do these causes vary from age to age?
4. Why are communities unhappy in the modern age?
5. What are the characteristics of 'many men in our dangerous age' that the author speaks of?

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PAPER III: CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

Time: 3 hours

Marks: 100

Attempt any five questions. Answers can be written either in English or in Hindi. All questions should be attempted in the same language. All questions carry equal marks.

1. Briefly discuss the salient features of the Indian Constitution as embodied in the Preamble.
2. Critically examine the relationship between the Fundamental Rights and the Directive Principles of State Policy as determined by India's judiciary.
3. Map the evolution of Parliamentary democracy in India.
4. 'Judicial activism has set in motion a new trend in the functioning of the Indian Polity.' Comment.
5. Is bicameralism in Indian legislatures on the decline? Give reasons in support of your answer.
6. Describe the organisation and progress of Panchayati Raj institutions in India and the extent to which they serve as instruments of rural development.
7. Discuss the major problems surrounding Centre-State relations in India and your views on how best to resolve them.
8. Write short notes on any two of the following:
 - (a) Parliamentary Committees
 - (b) Electoral Reforms
 - (c) Amendment procedure of the Constitution
 - (d) Article 370

भारत की संसद
(संयुक्त भर्ती प्रकोष्ठ)

राज्य सभा सचिवालय में कार्यकारी/विधायी/समिति/नयाचार सहायकों के पद पर भर्ती के लिए मुख्य परीक्षा

23 नवम्बर, 2008

पेपर-III : भारत का संविधान

समय 3 घंटे

अंक: 100

निर्देश : (i) किन्हीं पांच प्रश्नों का उत्तर दें । प्रश्नों के उत्तर अंग्रेजी अथवा हिंदी में दे सकते हैं । सभी उत्तर एक ही भाषा में दें । सभी प्रश्नों के अंक समान हैं । (ii) किसी भी प्रकार का संदेह होने पर अंग्रेजी संस्करण देखें ।

1. भारत के संविधान की उद्देशिका को ध्यान में रखते हुए उसकी विशेषता का संक्षिप्त विवरण दें ।
2. भारत की न्यायपालिका द्वारा यथा निर्धारित मूल अधिकारों और राज्य की नीति के निर्देशक तत्वों के सम्बंध की आलोचनात्मक समीक्षा करें ।
3. भारत में संसदीय प्रजातन्त्र के विकास के बारे में बताएं ।
4. "न्यायिक सक्रियतावाद ने भारतीय राज्यतंत्र के कार्यकरण में एक नयी प्रवृत्ति को गति दी है" टिप्पणी करें ।
5. क्या भारतीय विधानपालिकाओं में द्विसदनीय व्यवस्था की सार्थकता कम होती जा रही है ? अपने उत्तर के समर्थन में तर्क दें ।
6. भारत में पंचायती राज्य संस्थाओं के गठन और प्रगति के बारे में बताएं और यह भी बताएं कि ग्रामीण विकास के साधन के रूप में वे किस सीमा तक उपयोगी सिद्ध हुई हैं ।
7. भारत में केन्द्र सरकार और राज्य सरकार के परस्पर सम्बंधों से सम्बद्ध बड़ी-बड़ी समस्याओं के बारे में बताएं, और यह भी बताएं कि आपके विचारानुसार उनके क्या-क्या समाधान हो सकते हैं ।
8. निम्नलिखित में से किन्हीं दो पर टिप्पण लिखें :

- (क) संसदीय समितियां
- (ख) निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया और व्यवस्था में सुधार
- (ग) संविधान की संशोधन प्रक्रिया
- (घ) अनुच्छेद 370