

PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
(JOINT RECRUITMENT CELL)

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

17.05.2014

Paper-I: English Essay, Precis, Comprehension and Grammar

Time: 3 hours

Marks: 150

I. Write an essay on any one of the following topics in about 500 words: (60 Marks)

- (i) The influence of Social media in our lives (ii) The rising crime against women and other vulnerable sections
(iii) The fight against corruption and nepotism in public life (iv) Equal and accessible education for all
(v) Growing cyber crimes and vulnerability of minors (vi) Conserving the resources of Planet Earth

II. Write a précis of the given passage in about one-third of its length and give it a suitable title. (40 marks)

The central government's decision to introduce amendments to marriage laws seems to have stirred up a hornets' nest with every campaigning group expressing discontent or disagreement with it. At the centre of the controversy are two issues: irretrievable breakdown of a marriage and division of property at the time of divorce. At the periphery are other issues like reducing the waiting period for mutual consent divorce with the discretion of the judges and rights of adopted children to be on par with biological children in custody battles. The last one is non-controversial and has never been a contentious issue in matrimonial litigation. In fact, rights of adopted children are considered on par with rights of biological children on every issue, including property inheritance. Reducing the waiting period in divorces by mutual consent with the discretion of the presiding judge of the trial court (but not routinely) after ascertaining that the consent of the parties is an informed consent will also not give rise to much controversy. Introducing the breakdown theory into our marriage laws has been done on a case to case basis by the higher courts. Through this amendment the trial courts would be given similar powers. Though slightly controversial, it fades into inconsequence when compared to the government's proposal to divide the husband's property at the time of divorce.

The amendment's ambiguity and lack of transparency is disturbing. Since the bill has not been placed in the public domain, opinions expressed on it, both by experts as well as lay people, appear to be mere hypothesis or knee-jerk reactions. A bill which hopes to bring in changes of such magnitude as altering property relationships would need far greater clarity. Otherwise, it would end up creating confusion, chaos and even greater acrimony in divorce proceedings. Rather than rendering divorces easy, it might result in achieving the exact opposite effect. The bill has led to several erroneous presumptions. At one level it is assumed that women's groups are seeking the amendment that will make divorces easy and help women to walk out of marriages and "move on". While doing so they can also walk out with half of the man's hard-earned property. Put this way, the proposition appears to be blatantly unjust to men.

Here we must trace the history of this amendment. In August 2010, the government brought a bill to Parliament to introduce the provision of an irretrievable breakdown of marriage which was touted as a "pro-women measure" which would do away with the need for "washing dirty linen in public" and set women free. But due to opposition to it by several women's organisations it was referred to the Joint Select Committee of Parliament. (447 words)

III. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow. (25 Marks)

It is a pity that Caste even today has its defenders. The defences are many. It is defended on the ground that the Caste System is but another name for division of labour and if division of labour is a necessary feature of every civilized society then it is argued that there is nothing wrong in the Caste System. Now the first thing is to be urged against this view is that Caste System is not merely division of labour. *It is also a division of labourers.* Civilized society undoubtedly needs division of labour. But in no civilized society is division of labour accompanied by this unnatural division of labourers into watertight compartments. Caste System is not merely a division of labourers which is quite different from division of labour - it is an hierarchy in which the divisions of labourers are graded one above the other. In no other country is the division of labour accompanied by this gradation of labourers. There is also a third point of criticism against this view of the Caste System. This division of labour is not spontaneous; it is not based on natural aptitudes. Social and individual efficiency requires us to develop the capacity of an individual to the point of competency to choose and to make his own career. This principle is violated in the Caste System in

so far as it involves an attempt to appoint tasks to individuals in advance, selected not on the basis of trained original capacities, but on that of the social status of the parents. Looked at from another point of view this stratification of occupations which is the result of the Caste System is positively pernicious. Industry is never static. It undergoes rapid and abrupt changes. With such changes an individual must be free to change his occupation. Without such freedom to adjust himself to changing circumstances it would be impossible for him to gain his livelihood. Now the Caste System will not allow Hindus to take to occupations where they are wanted if they do not belong to them by heredity. If a Hindu is seen to starve rather than take to new occupations not assigned to his Caste, the reason is to be found in the Caste System. By not permitting readjustment of occupations, caste becomes a direct cause of much of the unemployment we see in the country. As a form of division of labour the Caste system suffers from another serious defect. The division of labour brought about by the Caste System is not a division based on choice. Individual sentiment, individual preference has no place in it. It is based on the dogma of predestination. Considerations of social efficiency would compel us to recognize that the greatest evil in the industrial system is not: so much poverty and the suffering that it involves as the fact that so many persons have callings which make no appeal to those who are engaged in them. Such callings constantly provoke one to aversion, ill will and the desire to evade. There are many occupations in India which on account of the fact that they are regarded as degraded by the Hindus provoke those who are engaged in them to aversion. There is a constant desire to evade and escape from such occupations which arises solely because of the blighting effect which they produce upon those who follow them owing to the slight and stigma cast upon them by the Hindu religion. What efficiency can there be in a system under which neither men's hearts nor their minds are in their work? As an economic organization Caste is therefore a harmful institution, inasmuch as, it involves the subordination of man's natural powers and inclinations to the exigencies of social rules.

Questions:

- (a) How does Caste system find its defenders even today?
- (b) What is the difference between division of labour and division of labourers?
- (c) How, according to the author, is Caste system against efficiency?
- (d) Explain in your own words the concept underlying the expression "dogma of predestination".
- (e) Summarize the author's argument in two to three sentences.

IV. Grammar: Answer the following questions as per instructions given against each: (25 Marks)

1. Rewrite in passive voice: "Everyone loves a drought."
2. Rewrite in passive voice: "They consider John to be honest."
3. Rewrite in active voice: "Innocent people are being tortured by the police."
4. Rewrite in active voice: "It is believed that planets influence our lives."
5. Rewrite as a simple sentence: "Even though he failed, he did not lose heart."
6. Rewrite as a complex sentence: "He lost his job due to his obstinacy."
7. Join the sentences using an appropriate conjunction: "He was dead tired. It appeared so."
8. Change into indirect speech: "Maya told her brother: 'Please leave me alone.'"
9. Change into indirect speech: "Maya said: 'Pratap, why are you so late today?'"
10. Change into direct speech: "Maya wondered whether she would ever be able to succeed."
11. Fill in the blank with the correct preposition: "It is important to get hold of all the material that they have relied ___."
12. Fill in the blank with the correct preposition: "His refusal to meet the delegation gave rise ___ a series of protests."
13. Fill in the blank with an article if necessary: Today I went to ___ school to meet the headmistress.
14. Fill in the blanks with an article if necessary: Today my daughter went to ___ school by bus.
15. Fill in the blank with the appropriate modal verb: "_____ I come and pick you up in the evening?"
16. Fill in the blank with the appropriate modal verb: "_____ you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to call us."
17. Use the correct form of the verb given in brackets: "The manager asked me whether I (be) there since the morning."
18. Use the correct form of the verb given in brackets: "By next January, I (complete) 10 years of service."
19. Use the correct form of the verb given in brackets: "If you had taken the metro, you (reach) in time."
20. Use the correct form of the verb given in brackets: "The committee (be) unanimous in approving the proposal by the chairman."
21. Rewrite by using the noun form of the underlined word: The news that the convict was acquitted shocked everyone.
22. Rewrite correcting the errors: "The prosecution failed miserably as the evidences they produced were weak."
23. Rewrite correcting the errors: "One of my friend is coming to meet me today." *
24. Rewrite in positive degree: "Mohan was the tallest boy in the class."
25. Rewrite in comparative degree: "Mohan was the tallest boy in the class."

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Paper-II: CONSTITUTION OF INDIA

- Instructions:** (i) Attempt any five questions.
(ii) Answers can be written either in English or in Hindi. All questions should be attempted in the same language.
(iii) All questions carry equal marks.

Time: 3 hours

Marks: 100

1. 'The Preamble encapsulates the fundamental values of the Indian Constitution.' Explain.
2. Inclusive growth is possible only through participatory governance. Answer with reference to the Panchayati Raj Institutions' functioning in India.
3. What are the Directive Principles of State Policy? How have these been interpreted by the judiciary after 1977?
4. How does the Parliament control the Union Executive? How effective is its control?
5. How are new States formed in India? What challenges does the formation of new States pose to federal governance?
6. What is meant by 'Judicial Activism'? Evaluate its role in reducing corruption in public life.
7. How would you differentiate between the passage of a Constitution Amendment Bill and of an Ordinary Legislative Bill?
8. Write short notes on any two:
 - (i) Finance Commission
 - (ii) Article 356
 - (iii) Right to property
 - (iv) Public interest litigation