

## COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH

### REVISION

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

#### THE ART OF LIVING

The art of living is learnt easily by those who are positive and optimistic. From humble and simple people to great leaders in history, science or literature, we can learn a lot about the art of living, by having a peep into their lives. The daily routines of these great men not only reveal their different, maybe unique lifestyles but also help us learn certain habits and practices they followed. Here are some; read, enjoy and follow in their footsteps as it suits you.

A private workplace always helps. Jane Austen asked that a certain squeaky hinge should never be oiled so that she always had a warning whenever someone was approaching the room where she wrote. William Faulkner, lacking a lock on his study door, detached the doorknob and brought it into the room with him. Mark Twain's family knew better than to breach his study door they would blow a horn to draw him out. Graham Green went even further, renting a secret office; only his wife knew the address and the telephone number. After all, every one of us needs a workplace where we can work on our creation uninterruptedly. Equally, we need our private space too!

A daily walk has always been a source of inspiration. For many artists, a regular stroll was essentially a creative inspiration. Charles Dickens famously took three hour walks every afternoon, and what he observed on them fed directly into his writing. Tchaikovsky made do with a two-hour jaunt but wouldn't return a moment early; convinced that doing so would make him ill. Ludwig van Beethoven took lengthy strolls after lunch, carrying a pencil and paper with him in case inspiration struck.

Nineteenth-century composer Erik Satie did the same on his long hikes from Paris to the working-class suburb where he lived, stopping under streetlamps to jot down ideas that came on his journey; it's rumoured that when those lamps were turned off during the war years, his music declined too. Many great people had a limited social life too. One of Simone de Beauvoir's close friends puts it this way. "There were no receptions, parties. It was an uncluttered kind of life, a simplicity deliberately constructed so that she could do her work." To Pablo, the idea of Sunday was an "at home day".

The routines of these thinkers are difficult. Perhaps it is because they are so unattainable. The very idea that you can organize your time as you like is out of reach for most of us, so I'll close with a toast to all those who worked with difficulties. Like Francine Prose, who began writing when the school bus picked up her children and stopped when it brought them back; or T.S. Eliot, who found it much easier to write once he had a day job in a bank than he had as a starving poet and even F. Scott Fitzgerald, whose early books were written in his strict schedule as a young military officer. Those days were not as interesting as the nights in Paris that came later, but they were much more productive and no doubt easier on his liver.

Being forced to follow someone else's routine may irritate, but it makes it easier to stay on the path. Whenever we break that trail ourselves or take an easy path of least resistance, perhaps what's most important is that we keep walking.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, complete each of the statements given below with help of the options that follow:

1. The passage is about:
  - (i) how to practise walking
  - (ii) walking everyday
  - (iii) the life of a genius
  - (iv) what we can learn from the routines of geniuses
2. The writers in the past:
  - (i) followed a perfect daily routine
  - (ii) enjoyed the difficulties of life
  - (iii) can teach us a lot
  - (iv) wrote a lot in books
3. In their daily routines:
  - (i) they had unique lifestyles
  - (ii) they read books and enjoyed them
  - (iii) they did not get any privacy
  - (iv) they did not mind visitors
4. Some artists resorted to walking as it was:
  - (i) an exercise
  - (ii) a creative inspiration
  - (iii) essential for improving their health
  - (iv) helpful in interaction with others
5. What did Jane Austen like?
6. Why do you think Graham Green hired a secret office?
7. What makes it easier for one to stay on the path?
8. Find a word from the passage that is **opposite in meaning** to the underlined word.  
*From humble and simple people to great leaders in history, science or literature, we can learn a lot about the art of living, by having a peep into their lives.*  
a. proud    b. poor    c. modest    d. gentle
9. Find words from the passage which mean the same as each of the following:
  - (i) glance/look
  - (ii) noisy





10. Develop the hints into a paragraph and give a suitable title.

Pollution—addition of any substance or form of energy to the environment at a rate faster than the environment can accommodate. Impacts—present and future existence. Pollution everywhere—water—air—land. Who pollutes— “WE”? We release harmful-poisonous substances—cause harm to humans—other animals—plants. Vehicles—factories—harmful gases—air pollution. Fossil fuel—burning—harmful. Agriculture and factories—release chemicals—pollute river, lakes—crops are destroyed--aquatic animals in danger—no safe drinking water. Garbage—land pollution. If we fail—any remedial measures—we—the victims of our own pollution.

11. Write two-three paragraphs any one of the following topics:

- o Russia – Ukraine War
- o The Covid-19 Pandemic
- o The India of My Dreams

12. Write a letter to the Editor about the growing level of corruption in our society.

13. Write a letter to your uncle enquiring about his health after he has discharged from hospital.

14. Explain the different parts of a formal Business Report in detail.

15. What is Note making so important? What is the difference between Note Making and Note taking? Explain the format of Note making in detail.

16. Underline the **nouns** in the following sentences.

- a. The teacher corrected the paper.
- b. The pilot landed safely.
- c. Has the train arrived?
- d. Keep the room clean and tidy.
- e. The boy saw the wolf.
- f. Mother is baking a cake in the oven.
- g. The clock was broken.
- h. Cindy played the guitar.
- i. The aeroplane dived from the clouds.
- j. Mr. Smith boarded the train.

17. Identify the **Proper nouns** and **Common nouns**.

- a. Chennai is a big city.
- b. China is a very big country.
- c. Jupiter is a planet.
- d. My teacher is from Delhi.
- e. The school remains closed on Saturdays.
- f. Rita is a pretty girl.



18. Fill in the blanks with suitable **Prepositions**.

- a. The books are \_\_\_\_\_ the table.
- b. Bring a grocery bag \_\_\_\_\_ you.
- c. I ate oats and yoghurt \_\_\_\_\_ breakfast this morning.
- d. The watch was a gift \_\_\_\_\_ his aunt.
- e. I sat \_\_\_\_\_ Michael.
- f. Jack and Jill went \_\_\_\_\_ the hill.
- g. Are you going \_\_\_\_\_ school tomorrow?
- h. The class is \_\_\_\_\_ 9:00 am today.
- i. The cup is \_\_\_\_\_ her hand.
- j. I am waiting \_\_\_\_\_ the bus stop.

19. Fill in the blanks with **Adverb** form of the words given in the brackets.

- a. This album is \_\_\_\_\_ popular. (extreme)
- b. She greeted us \_\_\_\_\_ (cheerful).
- c. Ann \_\_\_\_\_ waited for the test result. (eager)
- d. Why did you \_\_\_\_\_ change your mind? (quick)
- e. I \_\_\_\_\_ refused to attend any more meetings. (absolute)
- f. Today the sun is shining \_\_\_\_\_. (bright)
- g. The lion roared \_\_\_\_\_. (loud)
- h. Our soldiers fought \_\_\_\_\_. (brave)
- i. We should always speak \_\_\_\_\_. (polite)
- j. Shwetha can speak Russian \_\_\_\_\_. (fluent)

20. Fill in the blanks with **Adjective** form of the words given in the brackets.

- a. He has an \_\_\_\_\_ command over the language. (excel)
- b. Azim is very \_\_\_\_\_ of his new motorcycle. (pride)
- c. This is a \_\_\_\_\_ piece of writing. (beauty)
- d. She is one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ figures in politics. (influence)
- e. Your proposal is not \_\_\_\_\_ by any means. (accept)
- f. The parents were \_\_\_\_\_ to know their children's results. (anxiety)
- g. Emily qualified for the \_\_\_\_\_ level tennis tournament. (nation)
- h. He decided to play a \_\_\_\_\_ instrument. (music)
- i. He is an \_\_\_\_\_ and sincere student. (obey)
- j. A lot of \_\_\_\_\_ balloons were released in the sky. (colour)

21. Fill in the blanks with the correct **Collective Nouns** given in the box.

army, pride, herd, gang, pack, swarm, colony, litter, bunch, team,

- a. A \_\_\_\_\_ of robbers broke into a jewellery showroom.
- b. I don't remember where I kept the \_\_\_\_\_ of keys.

- c. While on a jungle safari, we saw a \_\_\_\_\_ of lions.
- d. He was chased by a \_\_\_\_\_ of bees.
- e. The \_\_\_\_\_ of soldiers marched in line.
- f. The hockey \_\_\_\_\_ made it into the finals.
- g. The rabbit was attacked by a \_\_\_\_\_ of wolves.
- h. The \_\_\_\_\_ of ants lived under the log.
- i. A \_\_\_\_\_ of cows were grazing in the field.
- j. That \_\_\_\_\_ of kittens was so cute.