

HISSAN CENTRAL EXAMINATION – 2080 (2023)

Grade : XI

F.M.: 75

Time : 3 hrs

COM. ENGLISH (0031 D2)

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions asked thereafter:
[15]

Nepal's Forests Vulnerable to Increasingly Fierce Fires

The fierce wildfires that ravaged the country in the spring of 2021—2,713 incidents in 73 districts—followed an exceptionally dry winter, as forecast by the MET office in its Winter Climate Outlook. Maximum temperatures, MET data show, shot up at many stations by as much as 6C to 9C while the country received scant rain and snow in pocket areas in contrast to the winter of 2020, which saw higher than normal rainfall across the country.

“There has been no rainfall this year since the monsoon retreated. The outlook for this winter also looks hot and dry overall, with higher than normal temperature and less than normal precipitation,” said Kandel. “We need a Plan B to respond to these unpredictable seasons that increase the risk of devastating wildfires and impact agriculture and water availability.”

Wildfires are common in Nepal during the dry season between October and May. They may occur naturally or through human activities and errors but hotter and drier conditions turn them fierce and uncontrollable by adding fuel to the fire, quite literally.

“Prolonged hot and dry conditions dry the treeline, bushes and vegetation in the forest bed, making them highly flammable. Forests then fuel the incoming wildfires. All it takes is a spark,” said Pramod Bhattarai, chief conservation officer at Langtang National Park. “Wildfires then spread quickly and scorch forests, causing devastating and sometimes, irreversible damage to the environment and our precious flora and fauna.”

While the full extent of loss and damage caused by wildfires is unknown due to the lack of reliable data, online platforms that use satellite data offer some hard figures. From 2001 to 2021, according to Global Forest Watch, Nepal lost 6.78 kilo hectares (kha) of tree cover from wildfires and 44.6kha from all other loss drivers. Wildfires were responsible for 13% of tree cover loss in Nepal in the same period, with the highest tree cover loss in the mid-western region, which saw an average of 120ha loss per year.

The most significant loss due to wildfires was recorded in 2009 when NASA's satellite spotted large-scale forest fires in mountain regions, a relatively rare event then. That year, wildfires scorched 1.33kha of tree cover, accounting for 24 percent of all tree cover loss.

Birkha Bahadur Shahi, general secretary of the Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal, which oversees 22,519 forests across the country, is concerned about the loss of forests to wildfires. However, he believes that community ownership and economic incentives, the underlying principles of forest restoration in Nepal, can help prevent wildfires and reduce loss and damage.

"Awareness and prevention are the two tools we have to fight wildfires with. We can't do much about the hot and dry climate, which is causing less rain and delayed snowfall but human activities cause 90 percent of wildfires in Nepal," said Shahi. "That's where we need to intervene to prevent loss and damage."

(News Courtesy: The Kathmandu Post)

A. Fill in the following blanks using NOT MORE THAN THREE words.

[5 × 1=5]

- i. Mr. Shahi is sure about community ownership, forest restoration principles and economic incentives being supportive in that will reduce the loss and damage.
- ii. Extended hot and dry conditions dry out the entire vegetation in the forest bed, provoking them to be
- iii. Maximum temperatures collected at many stations by as much as 6C to 9C a per MET data while the country received in some areas in contrast to the winter of 2020.
- iv. The most significant loss caused by wildfires was, a relatively rare event then.
- v. The complete knowledge of caused by wildfires is unknown due to the lack of reliable data.

B. Find a single word answer to each from the text that has the following glossary:

[5 × 1=5]

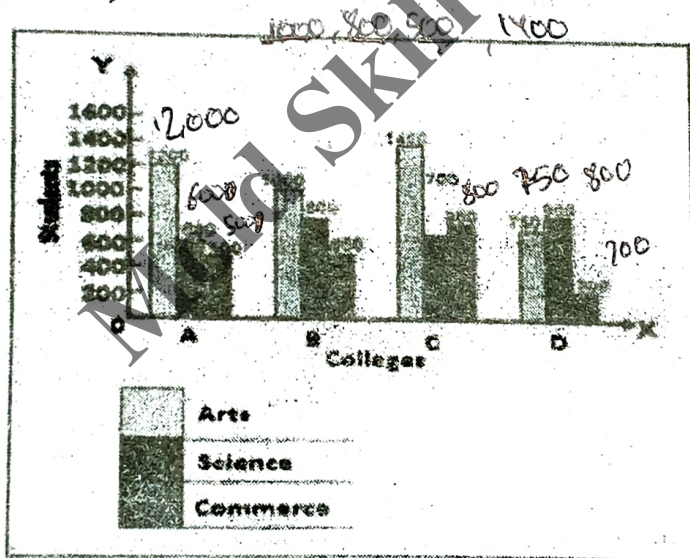
- i. ☒ barely sufficient or adequate
- ii. ☐ to go away from a place or person in order to escape from a danger
- iii. ☒ to take part in something so as to prevent or alter the result or the course of actions
- iv. ☐ exposed to the possibility of being damaged or harmed
- v. ☐ dried out by the extreme heat of the sun

C. Answer the following questions briefly:

[5 × 1=5]

- i. How do the unpredictable seasons affect the environment according to Mr. Kandel?
- ii. Define wildfire in your own words.
- iii. What happens due to prolonged hot and dry weather conditions?
- iv. When are wildfires common in Nepal?
- v. What does the reporter inform the readers about the human activities?

2. Write short answers to the following questions: [5 × 2=10]
- What are the natural and man-made disasters as mentioned by the author? (Scientific Research is a Token of Humankind's Survival)
 - A hyperbole has been used in the poem 'A Red, Red Rose'. Identify one and explain its use in the poem.
 - What is the central theme of Maupassant's 'Two Little Soldiers'?
 - Why did Jonathan think of himself as 'extraordinarily lucky'? (Civil Peace)
 - Discuss the character of Don Gonzalo. (A Sunny Morning)
3. Write long answers to the following questions: [2 × 5=10]
- 'The Oval Portrait' suggests that the woman's beauty condemns her to death. Discuss.
 - 'Refund' is a satire on the present-day education system. Do you think that our education system does not prepare students for life? Explain.
4. Given below is a Multiple Bar Diagram of four colleges that shows the number of students enrolled in different streams. Now, interpret data based on the following chart choosing the most appropriate words and expressions to establish the trend as seen in the chart. (Word Limit: 150) (7)



Multiple Bar Diagram

(Source of the figure: <https://www.toppr.com/guides/business-economics-cs/descriptive-statistics/diagrammatic-presentation-of-data/>)

5. Write a letter to your younger brother/sister advising him/her to be more careful on making friends while he/she is staying away from the family. (Word Limit: 180) [8]
6. Write a travelogue on any of the stirring or enlightening experience you have had quite recently. The place could either be historic, cultural or

religious site. Share your experience visiting the place. (Word Limit: 300)
[10]

7. Follow the instructions as given in parentheses and rewrite the sentences. [10 × 1=10]

- a. The cost of logistics and transportation, together with insurance, will be **born/borne**) by the Crown Agents. (Choose one.)
- b. The players, as well as the captain, (**wants/want**) to win. (Choose the right option.)
- c. When did he sell his property? (Change it into Passive.)
- d. The guard: That ambulance has been parked all afternoon. (Choose one of the verbs: **deny/point out** and change it into Indirect Speech)
- e. I was married in 2010. My best friend flew to the USA the same year. (Use an appropriate relative pronoun and join the sentences.)
- f. We were driving (**up/ onto/along/towards**) the City Centre when we saw the building on fire. (Insert the right preposition.)
- g. You/live/in Pokhara? (Frame a question with **used to**.)
- h. Who is woman in this photograph? (Insert the right article if required.)
- i. He was quite angry. He didn't say anything. (Use **In spite of** to connect the given sentences.)
- j. I look forward **to receive/to receiving** my international guest at the airport on time. (Choose the right option.)

8. Do as assigned in parentheses.

[5 × 1=5]

- a. Rearrange the given list of words in an alphabetical order:
termite termination terminal term (terrace)
(terrible)
- b. What is the plural form of **fungus**.
- c. The suffix **less**, like in the word **baseless** means:
full of with without partly
- d. What is the present participle of "hop"?
- e. Dev has been **burning the midnight oil** lately. The meaning of boldfaced is
 - i. To stay awake until late hours
 - ii. To cook something with a lot of oil ✓
 - iii. To light the oil lamp ✓

THE END