

RASHTRIYA INDIAN MILITARY COLLEGE, DEHRADUN
ENTRANCE EXAMINATION – JUN 2025

SUBJECT: ENGLISH

TIME: 2 hrs

MM: 125

Instructions:

1. Read all the questions thoroughly before answering.
 2. Use blue / black ball pen to answer the questions.
 3. The question paper can be retained by the candidates post examination.
 4. The question paper comprises three sections.
 5. Do not indicate/ write/ convey your name/ any identification mark anywhere on the answer sheet (except the Index Slip). This will lead to disqualification.
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| (a) Reading Section | - 35 Marks |
| (b) Writing Section | - 50 Marks |
| (c) Grammar | - 40 Marks |
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SECTION A – READING (35 MARKS)

- Q.1 Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow: [15 Marks]

The beaver had made a dam about yards long, and it had formed out of the quickly flowing stream, a wide stretch of water about twelve feet deep. The dam was so firm and broad that it was easy for me to walk along. After a hundred and fifty yards I came to a 'beaver's castle', a great heap of log, skilfully fitted together, the lower part covered with earth and plants. The upper logs were put loosely together, so that the air could pass through to the interior.

In the late autumn, before land and water are covered with snow and ice, the beaver has to make its dwelling frost proof. It collects young trees and gnaws the stems in a double cone until the tree falls. Then the long stems are gnawed into small sections, the thin twigs bitten off, and the logs are dragged to the dwelling. There, the timber is piled on the 'castle'. Sometimes to a height of ten or a dozen feet. Mud is brought up from the bottom of the lake and packed between the logs with the animal's clever forepaws. The interior is lined with the finest wood shavings. In this tall shelter, the beaver remains high and dry, protected from frost throughout the winter.

The only access to the dwelling is under the water, and even the forest wolves are unable to pull the firm building apart.

The water is the beaver's element. On land it moves slowly and awkwardly. Thus, it is vital for the beaver to have water in which it can swim, and where nature has not provided this condition for it, it creates it with its claw.

The beavers' activities change whole landscapes with this dam, for instance, on which I was standing, beavers had turned a whole wooded alley into a lake; trees that had stood there had been killed by the water and had disappeared. Aquatic game had settled there. Ducks swam past us, and great must have been the number of fish, as swarms of trout had swum past me in the clear stream. Wide stretches of meadow had come into existence on the banks, with flat landing places to which well-beaten beaver tracks led. Many years of building, gnawing and dragging must have gone to the completion of this immense work, creating a new region for the beavers to live in.

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| (a) What evidence in the passage suggests that beavers build fairly strong dams? | [2 marks] |
| (b) How does a beaver ensure that its 'Castle' is well ventilated? | [1 mark] |
| (c) How does a beaver make a tree fall? | [1 mark] |
| (d) Why do beavers build dams? | [1 mark] |
| (e) Quote two sentences from the passage that tell us that beavers just love being in or near water. | [2 marks] |
| (f) Mention two changes that may be brought about in the landscape by the activity of beavers? | [2 marks] |
| (g) In not more than 40 words describe a beaver's "Castle" and write how the animal makes it frost proof? | [2 marks] |

(h) Give the meaning of the following words as in the passage. One word answer or short phrases will be accepted. [4 marks]

- (i) Gnaws (Para 2)
- (ii) Access (Para 3)
- (iii) Vital (Para 4)
- (iv) Aquatic (Para 5)

Q.2 Read the poem and answer the questions given below:

[10 Marks]

A mind untouched by truth's embrace,
Finds joy within its sheltered space.
No weight of knowledge, fears untold,
No burdens borne, no secrets cold.

The world may burn, yet eyes stay blind,
No troubled thoughts disturb the mind.
In blissful dreams, no worries stay,
No storms to chase the light away.

But is it bliss or fleeting lie?
A bubble bound to break and die?
For truth once seen can't be dismissed,
And ignorance is bliss – until it's missed.

(a) What is the central theme of the poem?

[1 mark]

- (i) The power of knowledge.
- (ii) The beauty of dreams.
- (iii) The comfort of ignorance.
- (iv) The importance of curiosity.

(b) Why is ignorance considered bliss?

[1 mark]

- (i) It helps people understand the truth.
- (ii) It shields people from worries and burdens.
- (iii) It makes people more intelligent.
- (iv) It allows people to control their destiny.

(c) What does the phrase "sheltered space" suggest in the poem?

[1 mark]

- (i) A physically safe home.
- (ii) A mind protected from harsh realities.
- (iii) A place of deep wisdom.
- (iv) A distant island.

(d) What does the line "No storms to chase the light away" mean?

[1 mark]

- (i) Ignorance helps the world.
- (ii) Ignorance causes storms in life.
- (iii) The world is free from problems.
- (iv) Ignorance creates an illusion of safety.

(e) What do the last two lines mean?

[1 mark]

- (i) Ignorance once lost cannot be regained.
- (ii) Truth is more dangerous than Ignorance.
- (iii) Knowledge always leads to happiness.
- (iv) Ignorance is permanent and unbreakable.

(f) What does the poet say about knowledge?

[1 mark]

- (i) It is unnecessary.
- (ii) It is a burden but also valuable.
- (iii) It is always harmful.
- (iv) It should be avoided.

- (g) Why does the poem describe ignorance as a bubble? [1 mark]
- (i) It is colourful and attractive.
 - (ii) It is fragile and will eventually break.
 - (iii) It floats aimlessly.
 - (iv) It is made of air.
- (h) What does the poem imply about reality? [1 mark]
- (i) Reality is always joyful.
 - (ii) Reality is harsh.
 - (iii) Reality is an illusion.
 - (iv) Reality can be ignored forever.
- (i) What tone does the poem take towards ignorance? [1 mark]
- (i) Fully supportive.
 - (ii) Completely dismissive.
 - (iii) Both accepting and skeptical.
 - (iv) Unconcerned.
- (j) What is the deeper message of the poem? [1 mark]
- (i) Ignorance is always the best choice.
 - (ii) Knowing the truth can be painful but necessary.
 - (iii) Knowledge has no real value.
 - (iv) People should remain unaware of their surroundings.

Q.3 Read the poem and answer the questions given below:- [10 Marks]

No ties of blood, no spoken vow,
 Yet in our heart, a kinship now.
 A shared smile, a helping hand,
 Across all lands, we understand.
 Through laughter bright & tearful days,
 A silent strength in countless ways.
 We lift each other when we fall,
 Answering to a common call.
 Though tongues may differ, hues may vary,
 A single spirit we all carry.
 For in the depths of every soul,
 A brother's love can make us whole.
 No room for hate, no space for strife,
 But gentle kindness, giving life.
 A tapestry of hearts entwined,
 A brotherhood for all mankind,
 Let's bridge the gaps, the walls tear down,
 A wear compassion's golden crown.
 For in this bond, so pure & true,
 A better world begins anew.

- (a) What is the central theme / message of this poem? [2 marks]
- (b) Explain in your own words what "brotherhood" means according to this poem? [2 marks]
- (c) What is the "common call" that is referred to in the second stanza? [1 mark]
- (d) Despite differences in language & appearance, what do we all carry? [1 mark]
- (e) What does the word "kinship" means in the first stanza? [1 mark]
- (f) What is the rhyme scheme of second stanza? [1 mark]
- (g) What actions are suggested to strengthen this bond in the final stanza? [2 marks]

SECTION B – WRITING (50 MARKS)

Q.4 You are Raghu / Megha. You have moved to another city on account of your mother's change of job. Write a letter to a friend whom you are missing a lot. This friend is from your previous school. Ask him / her some ways where you can reunite again. [15 marks]

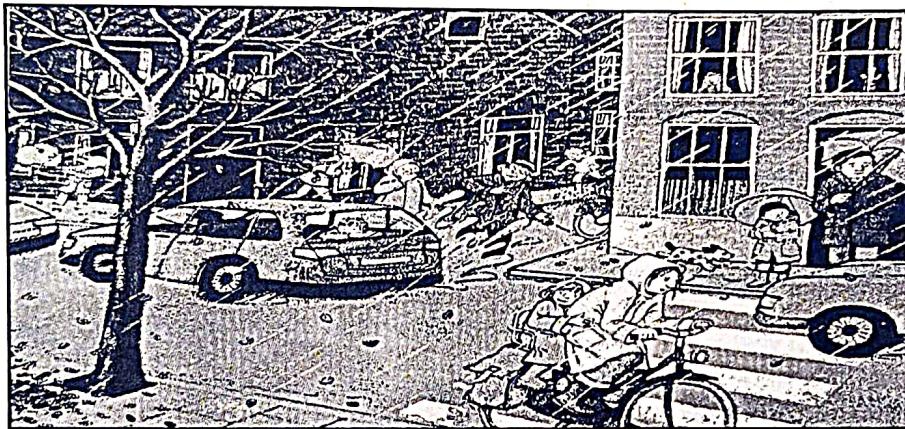
Q.5 Surveys conducted among school children have repeatedly revealed that the children today are a lazy, unhealthy generation. Consequently obesity is a common problem that afflicts them. Write an article in around 175 words on this issue for a parenting magazine. In your article, include the following:- [15 marks]

- (a) A catchy headline.
- (b) Reason explaining laziness in children that leads to obesity.
- (c) Solutions to improve the conditions of obesity and ways to tackle it.

Q.6 Write a paragraph each on any TWO of the following topics in about 80-100 words:- [2 x 5 = 10]

- (a) Travel as part of education.
- (b) Artificial Intelligence in military operations.
- (c) Opportunity: Its value and use.

Q.7 Look at the picture given below and write a story in about 150 words. [10 marks]



SECTION C – GRAMMAR (40 MARKS)

Q.8 Rewrite the sentences by following the instructions or hints within brackets. [1 x 10 = 10]

- (a) He is talented but he is not confident. (Change it into simple sentence).
- (b) She didn't want to wear any colourful dress. (Change it into a complex sentence)
- (c) Besides being helpful, he is sincere. (Change it into a compound sentence).
- (d) Not many knew how to play football. (Transform it into an affirmative sentence).
- (e) Rohit Sharma is the most talented batsman in the world. (Transform it into a negative sentence).
- (f) Kalpana said to Ayush, "Did your brother come back yesterday?" (Change it into indirect speech).
- (g) Sudhir said that he would have bought a car if he had wanted. (Change it into direct speech).
- (h) He knew why she was angry with him. (Change into passive voice).
- (i) Were they being welcomed by her? (Change into active voice).
- (j) He likes to study alone in a quiet place. (Change it into a negative interrogative sentence).

Q.9 Fill in the blanks with the best options. [1 x 5 = 5]

- (a) You _____ as well stay at home.
(i) may (ii) can (iii) shall (iv) could
- (b) He _____ always come home whenever he felt hungry.
(i) could (ii) should (iii) would (iv) might
- (c) It is surprising that he _____ play for his country till the age of 45.
(i) could (ii) should (iii) would (iv) must
- (d) I _____ admit, initially I wasn't happy with your performance.
(i) shall (ii) should (iii) would (iv) must

- (e) If the party is boring, you _____ always leave.
 (i) may (ii) can (iii) shall (iv) could

Q.10 Choose the options that would replace the underlined words and improve the expressions. [1 x 5 = 5]

- (a) No child must be selected education.
 (i) Prevented (ii) Disallowed (iii) Denied (iv) Refused
- (b) He had better listens to what she said.
 (i) Has better listened (ii) Had better listened (iii) Has better listen
 (iv) Had better listen
- (c) Many are called little are chosen.
 (i) A little (ii) Few (iii) Less (iv) Lesser
- (d) He wanted to be the best in the class. Either does she.
 (i) Neither did (ii) Nor did (iii) So did (iv) Either did
- (e) He will likely spend time with his parents. Chances are very high.
 (i) Possibly (ii) Perhaps (iii) Probably (iv) Maybe

Q.11 Choose the meaning of the following phrases from the given options.

[1 x 5 = 5]

- (a) Be in clover.
 (i) Have a prosperous life. (ii) Have a tough life.
 (iii) To be confused. (iv) To be in poverty.
- (b) Chew the fat.
 (i) Think hard. (ii) Be angry.
 (iii) Do physical exercise. (iv) Talk casually with someone.
- (c) Go under the knife.
 (i) Lose a competition. (ii) Start a strict diet.
 (iii) Undergo surgery. (iv) Take a dangerous risk.
- (d) Water off a duck's back.
 (i) Something gained without effort. (ii) Something found by chance.
 (iii) Something that has no impact. (iv) Something that happens frequently.
- (e) A slap on the wrist.
 (i) A serious consequence. (ii) A sign of affection.
 (iii) A mild punishment. (iv) A serious warning.

Q.12 Fill in the blanks using appropriate modals.

[1 x 5 = 5]

- (a) Every traitor _____ be punished.
 (b) _____ your challenge me?
 (c) You _____ to keep your dress clean.
 (d) I _____ ask for money, I have enough.
 (e) Your eyesight is not perfect. You _____ glasses.

Q.13 Write the meaning of the given idioms.

[1 x 5 = 5]

- (a) Best of both worlds.
 (b) Every cloud has a silver lining.
 (c) Get your act together.
 (d) Let the cat out of the bag.
 (e) Piece of cake.

Q.14 Write the idiom for the given meaning.

- (a) To avoid talking directly about something.
 - (b) To stop working on something.
 - (c) To be in the same difficult situation as someone else.
 - (d) To hope for good luck.
 - (e) To study hard.
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