

English for Competitive Exams

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English Language

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Important

* Answer **all** questions *on this paper* itself.

○ Part A - Grammar and Vocabulary

Question 01

Fill in the blanks in the following text using the prepositions given in the box. Use each preposition only once. There is one preposition extra.

under	with	out of	for	into	on
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A woman had a frog made of gold. She wanted to make some ornaments (i)it. Since she could not trust any goldsmith with the work, she made her son learn (ii)..... a goldsmith. When the young man had learnt the art, she gave him the gold frog (iii) instructions to make her the ornaments. What her son did was something no other goldsmith would have dared to do. He put a live frog (iv).....the furnace where he worked and when he blew (v) the fire, the frog hopped away. At once the young man shouted “Mother, see how the gold frog is running away”.

(05 marks)

Question 02

Fill in each blank with the correct form of the verb given within brackets.

Akbar, the great Mogul Emperor of India, had a very intelligent courtier. His name was Raja Birbal. One day, Akbar (i) (boast) that he could please any person in his empire.

(ii).....(Hear) this, Raja Birbal started laughing.

Then Emperor Akbar said, “Birbal, why (iii) you..... (laugh) mockingly? Am I not able to give my subjects anything they wish (iv) (have)? Don’t you know that I am the Emperor of India?”

“It is true that you are a very powerful ruler. But that (v) (not mean) you can

please everybody. Can you prove that you are able to give any person what he (vi).....(wish) to have? I am sure you can't please even a little child. I will prove it”, said Birbal.

The following day, Birbal's men brought him to the palace in a cradle. Birbal was lying in the cradle, (vii) (suck) his thumb and crying. Akbar wanted to know why he (viii)..... (cry).

Birbal told him that he wanted to drink some fresh milk off a cow. So the Emperor got him some fresh

milk. When Birbal (ix)(finish) drinking it, he began to cry again.

“What do you want now?” asked Akbar.

“(x) (Put) the milk back into the cow.” said Birbal and began to cry louder. The

Emperor then realized that he could not please everyone.

(10 marks)

Question 03

Underline the correct word from those given within brackets to fill in the blanks in the following text.

Some say that ‘a little learning is dangerous’. However, in my experience (i)(as, since, because, until) a lawyer, I would say that (ii) (all, some, every, many) member of the

public could benefit by (iii) (much, each, a, many) little knowledge, if not of the law itself, at

least of what is to (iv)(being, be, should, has) done when he encounters ‘a legal problem’. The law touches most aspects of our lives; yet unlike science, history or literature, it is a subject about which most people receive no formal education. (v)

..... (Much, Many, Every, This) people's first encounter with the law comes only (vi)

.....(until, since, when, although) they receive summons to appear in courts. However, it is important to appear in the court on the (vii)

..... (that, due, these, prior) date; otherwise one may lose the case by default. Although a person

(viii) (has, is, been, was) entitled to appear and argue (ix)..... (his/ he/him/ himself) case in person before any court in the country, it is (x).....(agreeable, advisable, prohibited, compulsory) to retain a lawyer.

(10 marks)

Question 04

Underline the correct word from those given within brackets.

- (1) In Singapore, chewing gum was officially..... in 1992. (excluded/ rejected/ banned/ restricted)
- (2) Sri Lankan universities provide hostel facilities for the most.....students. (deserving/ applicable/ urgent/ compatible).
- (3) Dr. Ray Wijewardene tried to soil fertility and to manage weeds. (control/grow/ accelerate/ improve)
- (4) If we can understand and accept people who are different from us, we can.....a better society. (dictate, create, achieve, accomplish)
- (5) This disease is thought to havein the tropics. (originated/ started/ commenced/ begun)

(5 marks)

Question 05

Underline the correct word-ending, selecting from those given within brackets.

The hospital's consulting (i) diet.....(ery/ric/ician) was giving a lecture to several community nurses.

“The rubbish we put into our stomachs and consume should have killed most of us sitting here, years ago. (ii) Consum.....(e/ption/able) of meat is terrible. It will attack your stomach lining. Chinese food is extremely bad. Vegetables can be (iii) disast... (rous/er/rously) because of fertilizers and pesticides and none of us realizes the long-term damage being done by the rotten bacteria in our drinking water. However, there is one food that is (iv) incredi... (ble/bility/ bly) dangerous and we all have, or will, eat it at some time in our lives.”

“Now, is anyone here able to tell me what food it is that (v) definit... (e/ely/ive) causes the most grief and suffering for years after eating it?”

A 65-year-old nursing sister sitting in the front row stood up and said, 'Wedding cake'.

(5 marks)

Part B - Reading & writing

Question 06

Undertline the option that best expresses the meaning of the sentences given below.

- (1) No sooner had Ravi arrived home than it started to rain.
- (i) It had rained before Ravi arrived home.
 - (ii) It started to rain as soon as Ravi arrived home.
 - (iii) After it started to rain, Ravi arrived home.
 - (iv) Ravi arrived home and after sometime, it started to rain.
- (2) Nirmala won't help the visitors until they reveal their identity.
- (i) Nirmala was not in favour of helping the visitors at all.
 - (ii) The visitors wanted Nirmala to help them and revealed their identity.
 - (iii) The visitors won't reveal their identity but Nirmala will help them.
 - (iv) Nirmala will help the visitors provided they disclose their identity.
- (3) Whenever Sugath goes to England, he makes it a point to watch a Shakespeare play.
- (i) Sugath is sure to watch a Shakespeare play when he goes to England.
 - (ii) Although Shakespeare plays are not very interesting, Sugath would watch them.
 - (iii) England is popular for Shakespeare plays, so Sugath goes there to watch them.
 - (iv) Sugath goes to England in order to watch a Shakespeare play.
- (4) Palm Tree hotel is not a cheap place for locals to stay.
- (i) Locals very often stay at Palm Tree hotel as it is cheap.
 - (ii) Palm Tree hotel is so expensive that locals can't afford to stay there.
 - (iii) Although Palm Tree hotel is expensive, locals prefer to stay there.
 - (iv) If locals want to stay in a cheap place, the best place is Plam Tree hotel.
- (5) Had Sureni helped Mohamed, he would have passed the examination.
- (i) Sureni helped Mohamed so that he could pass the examination.
 - (ii) Sureni helped Mohamed but he could not pass the examination.
 - (iii) Sureni did not help Mohamed so that he could not pass the examination.
 - (iv) Sureni did not help Mohamed but he could pass the examination.

(5 marks)

Question 07

Read the following text and answer the questions (a) and (b).

Kandy to Jaffna Peace Bike Ride **The start**

The bike ride starts at Palkelele International Stadium, Kandy.

Your *Start Time* is printed on the address label of the envelope. Please arrive no earlier than 30 minutes before that time. We allocate an equal number of cyclists for each *Start Time* to ensure a steady flow. Please keep to the time you've been given so we can keep to our schedule and avoid delaying other riders.

Ride carefully

We put together as many facilities as possible to ensure you have a trouble-free day. But we also rely on you to ride safely. Although many roads are closed to oncoming traffic, this is not always the case and you should be aware that there could be vehicles coming in the opposite direction. Please do not attempt reckless overtaking – remember it is NOT a race.

Wear a helmet

Every year we are delighted to see more riders wearing protective helmets, but we would like to see every cyclist on the ride wearing one. More than half of reported injuries are to the head, and a helmet gives the best protection.

Requesting assistance

If you have an accident, ask official organizers for help; they are in contact with the support services. To call for help from our official organizers, give a 'thumbs down' signal.

Refreshment stops

Look out for these along the route. Most are organized by voluntary clubs and their prices give you real value for money. They are also raising money for their local communities, so please give them your support.

(a) Underline the most appropriate response in each of the questions from (i) - (iv).

- (i) This text is most likely to be
- (a) an advertisement published in a newspaper about the bike ride.
 - (b) an information guide sent to participants of the bike ride.
 - (c) a note on the rules and regulations of the bike ride.

(d) a news item giving the details of the bike ride.

(ii) Which of the following is **not** indicated in this text?

- (a) Why it is important to wear helmets during the ride.
- (b) Why it is important for each participant to report in time.
- (c) What should be done in case of an accident.
- (d) What should be done if a 'thumbs down' signal is not responded to.

(iii) Which of the following is true?

- (a) According to the text, this event is organized annually.
- (b) Over 50% of the accidents during the event occur due to alcohol use.
- (c) The winners of this event will be given cash awards.
- (d) All the roads are closed to oncoming traffic on this day.

(iv) Which of the following should a cyclist do if there is an accident?

- (e) Communicate it directly to support services.
- (f) Communicate it to volunteers working there.
- (g) Communicate it to official organizers.
- (h) Give a 'thumbs up' signal.

(b) Do the following statements agree with the information given in the above text ?

In boxes (v) - (x) write **True**, **False** or **Not Given**.

True	If the statement is correct
False	If the statement is wrong
Not Given	If there is no sufficient information on this

Statements	
(v) The destination of the Peace Bike Ride will be Jaffna.	
(vi) Cyclists should not arrive more than half an hour before their allocated starting time.	
(vii) Rider Identity Card of each cyclist will be sent before the event.	
(viii) Refreshments are given free of charge to all participants during the ride.	
(ix) All participants will start riding at the same time.	
(x) Only male participants will take part in this event.	

(10 marks)

Question 08

Write a paragraph beginning with the given sentence. Use about **75 – 100** words. Do not exceed the word limit. Do **not** write more than one paragraph.

Proper actions should be taken to control the Dengue Menace in the country.....

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(10 marks)