

Series WYXZ1/5



Set No. 2

Q.P. Code 2/5/2

Roll No.

Candidates must write the Q.P. Code on the title page of the answer-book.



**ENGLISH**  
(Language and Literature)

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

**NOTE**

- (I) Please check that this question paper contains 19 printed pages.
- (II) Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- (III) Please check that this question paper contains 11 questions.
- (IV) Please write down the serial number of the question in the answer-book before attempting it.
- (V) 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

**General Instructions :**

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

- (i) This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) The question paper contains **three** sections :  
Section A – Reading Skills  
Section B – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills  
Section C – Literature
- (iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A  
Reading Skills

20 marks

1. Read the following passage carefully:

- 1 Floods are not new to India and this subcontinent, but in recent years the problem of flooding has received much greater attention, perhaps largely because it has led to greater damage now than it did in the past. Even though information on the impending occurrence of floods is now more accurate and certainly more timely, often there is very little time or support infrastructure in place by which damage can be minimised. This is particularly true in the case of flash floods resulting from sudden and excessive heavy rain.
- 2 In the case of India, flooding is very much related to the seasonal nature of our rainfall. The monsoons are spread over a short period during the year and often bring a concentrated volume of rain, which cannot be absorbed by the earth and finds an outlet only in the form of streams that join up with our major river systems. Flooding due to heavy rain is confined not only to the main rivers of the country, but also affects smaller tributaries and streams. Once these streams spill over their banks they could cause excessive harm, mainly because those living near the banks of these streams, particularly in mountain areas, do not have easy recourse to moving away quickly.
- 3 One major factor that could lead to a higher severity of flooding in the future is the danger of climate change. While the evidence of the nature of impacts, resulting from climate change on precipitation and flooding at the regional level, is not entirely clear, it could happen that the Indian subcontinent witnesses and suffers the effects of a significantly changed pattern of monsoons. One set of scientists has estimated that the monsoons could be shorter in duration but far more intensive; in other words, much greater precipitation would

take place in a much shorter period of time, thereby increasing the danger of floods. Climate change is the result of human actions through the increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, of which carbon dioxide is the most prominent.

- 4 At the local level also human actions have heightened the danger of floods through the cutting of trees in the mountains as well as in the plains. In case of India, the ecological damage through deforestation of the Himalayas has led to large-scale erosion of the mountain slopes and high levels of siltation. These lead to the deposition of silt on the riverbeds in the plains and hence spillover of water whenever the volume in the river reaches a certain level. With siltation on the riverbeds, flooding occurs even at very shallow water levels. The vulnerability of the population has increased substantially because of population pressures. An example is the stubborn and perhaps helpless settling of slum dwellers on the banks of the river Yamuna in Delhi, who become victims of flooding. What is a mere trickle most of the year, bursts its banks during the monsoons, as has been the case in recent years.
- 5 Flood forecasting is critical to minimising the damage from floods. It is for this reason that the Central Water Commission has set up a network of forecasting stations, which cover the most important flood-prone interstate rivers in the country. These stations produce forecasts that are used to alert the public and to mobilize various official agencies so that they take both preventive as well as relief measures, whenever required. However, even in cases where forecasts have been timely and generally accurate, people have often been reluctant to move away, because in most cases they lack the means and physical options for moving away from a danger zone to one that is relatively safe. In the case of flash floods, forecasts are difficult to make, and often the time available for relief is very short.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below :

10×1=10

- (i) The problem of floods has been considered more important recently because
- (a) floods have led to much greater damage now than in the past.
  - (b) floods are resulting in increased relocation.
  - (c) floods occur only during the monsoon season.
  - (d) of problems of frequent tornadoes and cyclones in the subcontinent.
- (ii) Specify the option that displays what the writer projects with reference to the following statement.

One major factor that could lead to higher severity of flooding in the future is the danger of climate change.

- (a) helplessness
  - (b) speculative
  - (c) denial
  - (d) conviction
- (iii) Complete the following with a phrase from paragraph 3 :

Opinion :	Reason
Some scientists estimate that shorter duration of monsoon season leads to more intensive rainfall.	

- (iv) The writer claims that flood forecasting is critical to minimising the damage from floods. State one reason for the claim.

































