

Part - I: Comprehension Ability (30 marks)

Q. 1 to 6: Read the passage below and answer the questions 1 to 6 in 4-5 sentences.

(5 marks each)

Nature has gifted us with some precious and valuable resources and water is one of them. All living beings need water for their survival and to carry out their survival and to carry out their vital life processes. Our Planet, Earth, has three –fourths of its surface area covered with water and only one- fourth has land masses. Water continues to be an essential requirement of life. But Earth has a finite amount of fresh, usable water. Fortunately, water is naturally recycled (collected, cleansed, and distributed) through the hydrologic cycle. Humans have developed the technology to speed this process. However, because of diverse factors such as drought, flood, population growth, contamination, etc., water supplies may not adequately meet a community’s needs.

Conserving water is important because it keeps water pure and clean while protecting the environment. Conserving water means using our water supply wisely and being responsible. As every individual depends on water for livelihood, we must learn how to keep our limited supply of water pure and away from pollution. Water conservation involves changing habits. Since many of these habits have evolved over a lifetime, they can prove difficult to alter. The simplest habits involve turning off water whenever it is not being used. When water is needed for rinsing dishes, it can be held in a sink rather than allowing it to flow unused down the drain. An individual may simply use less water. For example, some people use a hose to “sweep” sidewalks, when a broom works well. People can shorten their shower times or reduce the amount of water they use when bathing.

Other conservation methods may initially require more effort and funds, but in the long run will save money and resources. For example, households can install low-flow showerheads with smaller holes that reduce water flow and increase pressure. A capped bottle weighted with stones takes up space in a toilet tank, reducing the amount of water available to flush down the drain.

Over the years rising populations, growing industrialization, and expanding agriculture have pushed up the demand for water. Efforts have been made to collect water by building dams and reservoirs and digging wells; some countries have also tried to recycle and desalinate (remove salts) water. Water conservation has become the need of the day. The idea of ground water recharging by harvesting rainwater is gaining importance in many cities.

In the forests, water seeps gently into the ground as vegetation breaks the fall. This groundwater in turn feeds wells, lakes, and rivers. Protecting forests means protecting water 'catchments'. In ancient India, people believed that forests were the 'mothers' of rivers and worshipped the sources of these water bodies.

Some ancient Indian methods of water conservation

Our ancient religious texts and epics give a good insight into the water storage and conservation systems that prevailed in those days. The Indus Valley Civilization, that flourished along the banks of the river Indus and other parts of western and northern India about 5,000 years ago, had one of the most sophisticated urban water supply and sewage systems in the world. The fact that the people were well acquainted with hygiene can be seen from the covered drains running beneath the streets of the ruins at both Mohenjodaro and Harappa.

In ancient times, houses in parts of western Rajasthan were built so that each had a rooftop water harvesting system. Rainwater from these rooftops was directed into underground tanks. This system can be seen even today in all the forts, palaces and houses of the region. Underground baked earthen pipes and tunnels to maintain the flow of water and to transport it to distant places, are still functional at Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh, Golkunda and Bijapur in Karnataka, and Aurangabad in Maharashtra.

Rainwater harvesting

In urban areas, the construction of houses, footpaths and roads has left little exposed earth for water to soak in. In parts of the rural areas of India, floodwater quickly flows to the rivers, which then dry up soon after the rains stop. If this water can be held back, it can seep into the ground and recharge the groundwater supply.

This has become a very popular method of conserving water especially in the urban areas. Rainwater harvesting essentially means collecting rainwater on the roofs of building and storing it underground for later use. Not only does this recharging arrest groundwater depletion, it also raises the declining water table and can help augment water supply. Rainwater harvesting and artificial recharging are becoming very important issues. It is essential to stop the decline in groundwater levels, arrest sea-water ingress, i.e. prevent sea-water from moving landward, and conserve surface water run-off during the rainy season.

Town planners and civic authority in many cities in India are introducing bylaws making rainwater harvesting compulsory in all new structures. No water or sewage connection would be given if a new building did not have provisions for rainwater harvesting. Realizing the importance of recharging groundwater, the CGWB (Central Ground Water Board) is taking steps to encourage it through rainwater harvesting in the capital and elsewhere. A number of government buildings have been asked to go in for water harvesting in Delhi and other cities of India.

Some of the benefits of rainwater harvesting are as follows

- Increases water availability
- Checks the declining water table
- Is environmentally friendly
- Improves the quality of groundwater through the dilution of fluoride, nitrate, and salinity
- Prevents soil erosion and flooding especially in urban areas

1. Explain briefly 'water conservation'.
2. What are the simple measures one can take in daily life for water conservation?
3. What is rain water harvesting? Enlist its benefits.
4. What are the measures taken by town planners and civic authorities to enforce rainwater harvesting?
5. Explain methods of water conservation in Ancient India.
6. How is water naturally conserved in forests?

Part II: Test of English Language Proficiency (30 marks)

Question 1 to 9: Choose the most appropriate Prepositions for the following:

1. Every one of us will have to atone _____ his or her sins.

- A) of
- B) for
- C) by
- D) with

2. After the treatment, he was discharged _____ the hospital.

- A) for
- B) of
- C) from
- D) with

3. Akshay is an excellent employee. He should ask his manager ____ a raise.

- A) with
- B) for
- C) to
- D) of

4. We have to get ____ the train at the next station.

- A) from
- B) off
- C) down
- D) out

5. Ajay plays ____ his school cricket team.

- A) with
- B) for
- C) to
- D) in

6. He sat ____ the chair

- A) with
- B) for
- C) on
- D) in

7. He drove ____ the bridge.

- A) with
- B) over
- C) on
- D) in

8. She put the flowers ____ the window

- A) with
- B) over
- C) by
- D) in

9. He swam ____ the lake.

- A) at
- B) over
- C) by
- D) in

Question 10 to 12: Choose the most appropriate meaning for the underlined word for the particular sentence.

10. I hear the sound of running water again, but this time it's from a **faucet** and not from the chasm.

In this sentence, **faucet** means:

- A) a cavity or vessel used to contain liquid
- B) a cabinet containing an automatic record player
- C) a regulator for controlling the flow of a liquid
- D) a cascade of water descending over a steep incline

11. Such smoke grenades emit burning particles within a **radius** of about 17 meters, he said.

In this sentence, **a radius** means:

- A) a figure
- B) a center
- C) a region
- D) a height

12. They go and sing and play just about one day, and that's the last you'll ever see them in the **choir**.

In this sentence, **choir** means:

- A) a group of people who habitually attend a given church
- B) a tabular array of the days, usually for one year
- C) a law established by following earlier judicial decisions
- D) a chorus that sings as a part of a religious ceremony

Questions 13 to 18: Read the following and choose the most appropriate word (A, B, C, or D) to fill the blanks below:

The development of public libraries as a movement may be said to have started by Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III, the ruler of Baroda state**13**.... 1906. During his visit to USA he was**14**..... by the public library system in that country. In order to**15**.... libraries along modern lines, the Maharaja appointed an American librarian William Allenson Borden**16**..... curator of libraries in his state. During his tenure of office that is in between 1910-13, Borden could organize a very good network of free library services in the state. However, this example did not set a pace in the later development due to..... **17**..... of interest on the part of the state government. But the contribution made by Maharaja Sayajirao III would be....**18**..... in golden letters in the history of public library movement in India.

13. A) in B) from C) on D) at
14. A) impressed B) affected C) disturbed D) impress
15. A) organize B) organizing C) organized D) organizer
16. A) for B) as C) to D) in
17. A) lakh B) plenty C) lack D) lacks
18. A) right B) wrote C) write D) written

Questions 19 to 23: For each question below, determine the relation between the pair of the words in the question and then select, from the options, the pair having a similar relationship to the first pair.

19. *Wine : Grapes :: ? : ?*

- A) Champagne : Raisins
B) Liquor : Intoxicating
C) Vineyard : Winery
D) Vodka : Potatoes

20. *Dermatologist : Skin :: ? : ?*

- A) Paleontologist : Statues
- B) Cardiologist : Heart
- C) Astrologist : Future
- D) Psychologist : Insanity

21. *Drama : Playwright :: ? : ?*

- A) Act : Actor
- B) Word : Author
- C) Review : Critic
- D) Opera : Musician

22. *Triangle : Quadrilateral :: ? : ?*

- A) Plain : Solid
- B) Pentagon : Hexagon
- C) Rectangle : Octagon
- D) Regular : Irregular

23. *Satellite : Orbit :: ? : ?*

- A) Ball : Bond
- B) Missile : Trajectory
- C) Moon : Phase
- D) Rocket : Projectile

Questions 24 to 26: Select the word that is CLOSEST in meaning to the given word, from among the choices and write down the answers.

24. *PROMINENT*

- A) conspicuous
- B) invisible
- C) hollowed
- D) concave

25. *CATASTROPHE*

- A) disaster
- B) triumph
- C) ovation
- D) boon

26. *FLODDING*

- A) effortless
- B) light
- C) obtuse
- D) clear

Questions 27 to 30: Select the word that is OPPOSITE in meaning to the given word, from among the choices and write down the answers.

27. *ENTHRAL*

- A) fascinate
- B) mesmerize
- C) bore
- D) thrill

28. *VIRTUE*

- A) honor
- B) goodness
- C) probity
- D) vice

29. *AUDACIOUS*

- A) bold
- B) obvious
- C) cowardly
- D) fearless

30. *SIGNIFICANT*

- A) distinct
- B) extreme
- C) alive
- D) unimportant

Part III: Writing Skills (40 marks)

Write a note on any **two** topics given below in **not more than three-four paragraphs**

[20 marks each]

1. Yoga for health
2. Role of libraries in education
3. Student discipline