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Strive Edge IAS Academy

H7N

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Time : 3 Hours

Full Marks : 250

The figures in the right-hand margin indicate marks.

*Answer **all** questions.*

1. Write an essay (in about **1000 words**) on any one of the following topics : 80

- (a) Indian Democracy : Challenges and Opportunities
- (b) Environment and Sustainable Development
- (c) Science, Technology, Ethics for a Futuristic India
- (d) Education, Human Resources and National Development
- (e) "A Society Is Judged by How It Treats Its Weakest Members"

2. Make sentences with the following pairs of words to indicate the difference in meaning : 4×5=20

- (a) Coarse/Course
- (b) Fair/Fare
- (c) Heal/Heel
- (d) Pail/Pale
- (e) Stair/Stare



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3. Turn the following into indirect speech : 2×5=10

- (a) "Please don't tell anybody what happened", Rani said to me.
- (b) Amit said to me, "I had an accident yesterday."
- (c) The police officer said to them, "Where are you going?"
- (d) The interviewer said to Sanju, "Why did you apply for the job?"
- (e) Rahul said, "Let's go to a movie."

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4. Frame sentences with the following idioms :

2×5=10

- (a) Burn the midnight oil
- (b) Call a spade a spade
- (c) Leave no stone unturned
- (d) Throw in the towel
- (e) Close in on

5. Rewrite the following sentences **correctly** :

2×5=10

- (a) I can't think of anybody whom to invite.
- (b) Ravi's father, whom we hope will be out of hospital soon, is cheerful.
- (c) Raju can never return back to his country.
- (d) It's ages since we have met.
- (e) Except for your help, I would have failed.

6. Give the antonyms of the following words :

2×5=10

- (a) Abundant
- (b) Benevolent
- (c) Diligent
- (d) Humble
- (e) Vigorous



7. Rewrite the sentences according to the instructions given in brackets :

2×5=10

- (a) They have very little money. They are happy. (Use 'in spite of')
- (b) There was a possibility that Sachin would phone. So, I didn't go out. (Use 'in case')
- (c) Ritu finished her homework, and she went to bed. (Turn into a simple sentence)
- (d) They should have offered Sunil the job. (Turn into passive voice)
- (e) Virat is the best player in the team. (Use the comparative degree)

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8. Supply the missing words :

- (a) The landlord deducted a small amount from the security deposit for normal wear and _____ of the apartment.
- (b) Such opportunities come once in a blue _____, so make the most of them.
- (c) Criticism is part and _____ of working in public service.
- (d) The union leaders consulted the rank and _____ before accepting the company's offer.
- (e) After years of trial and _____, the scientists finally developed an effective vaccine.

9. Write a précis of the following passage. Give an appropriate title to your précis : 45

India's constitutional democracy is distinguished not merely by the existence of written laws but by the continuous interaction between institutions, citizens, and democratic values. The Constitution established a framework that sought to reconcile unity with diversity, liberty with equality, and individual rights with collective welfare. It envisioned a political system in which power would be distributed across different organs of the State and levels of government, thereby preventing excessive concentration of authority. However, the vitality of a constitutional democracy ultimately depends less on the elegance of its legal provisions than on the commitment of public institutions and citizens to uphold constitutional morality.

One of the defining features of Indian polity is its capacity to accommodate social, linguistic, cultural, and religious diversity within a single political framework. Federalism, linguistic reorganization of States, independent constitutional bodies, and judicial review have all contributed to maintaining this delicate balance. Yet these institutional mechanisms cannot function effectively in isolation. Democratic governance requires informed public participation, political accountability, and respect for the rule of law. Elections, while indispensable, represent only one dimension of democracy; equally important are transparency, responsible public discourse, and the protection of civil liberties.

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The increasing complexity of governance has introduced new challenges. Rapid technological change, the expansion of social media, and the growing influence of digital communication have transformed political participation. While these developments have broadened access to information and enabled greater citizen engagement, they have also facilitated the spread of misinformation, intensified political polarization, and weakened reasoned public debate. Consequently, democratic institutions are required not only to adapt to technological innovation but also to preserve the integrity of public discourse without compromising constitutional freedoms.

Another enduring challenge lies in balancing economic development with social justice. A rapidly growing economy can generate prosperity, but unequal access to education, healthcare, employment, and public services may deepen existing disparities. Constitutional governance therefore demands that development be evaluated not solely in terms of economic indicators but also in terms of its capacity to promote inclusion, dignity, and equal opportunity. Public policy must continuously negotiate competing priorities while remaining faithful to constitutional principles.

Ultimately, the resilience of Indian democracy rests upon an informed citizenry, impartial institutions, ethical political leadership, and an unwavering commitment to constitutional values. Laws and institutions provide the architecture of governance, but their effectiveness depends upon public trust and civic responsibility. A Constitution, however comprehensive, cannot by itself guarantee democratic success; it acquires life only when its principles are translated into everyday political practice.



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10. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow :

9×5=45

Oliver Twist

Orphaned from childbirth, Oliver Twist spends the first nine years of his life living in the 'care' of a woman named Mrs. Mann. He is brought up with little food and few comforts. On his ninth birthday, Mr. Bumble, a minor church official known as the parish beadle, informs Mrs. Mann that Oliver is too old to stay at her establishment and puts him to work at the main workhouse.

Oliver, being now nine years old, was removed from the tender mercies of Mrs. Mann, in whose wretched home not one kind word or look had ever lighted the gloom of his infant years, and was taken into the workhouse. The members of this board were very sage, deep, philosophical men; and when they came to turn their attention to the

workhouse, they found out at once, what ordinary folks would never have discovered – the poor people liked it! It was a regular place of public entertainment for the poorer classes; a tavern where there was nothing to pay; a public breakfast, dinner, tea, and supper all the year round; a brick-and-mortar Elysium where it was all play and no work. 'Oho!' said the board, looking very knowing; 'we are the fellows to set this to rights; we'll stop it all, in no time.' So, they established the rule, that all poor people should have the alternative of being starved by a gradual process in the workhouse, or by a quick one out of it. With this view, they contracted with a corn-factor to supply periodically small quantities of oatmeal; and issued three meals of thin gruel a day, with an onion twice a week, and half a roll on Sundays.

The room in which the boys were fed, was a large stone hall, with a copper at one end: out of which the master, dressed in an apron for the purpose, and assisted by one or two women, ladled the gruel at mealtimes. Of this festive composition each boy had one porringer and no more – except on occasions of great public rejoicing, when he had two ounces and a quarter of bread besides.

The bowls never wanted washing. The boys polished them with their spoons till they shone again; and when they had performed this operation (which never took very long, the spoons being nearly as large as the bowls), they would sit staring at the copper, with such eager eyes, as if they could have devoured the very bricks of which it was composed. Boys have generally excellent appetites. Oliver Twist and his companions suffered the tortures of slow starvation for three months: at last they got so voracious and wild with hunger, that one boy, who was tall for his age, and hadn't been used to that sort of thing (for his father had kept a small cook-shop), hinted darkly to his companions, that unless he had another basin of gruel per diem, he was afraid he might some night happen to eat the boy who slept next to him, who happened to be a weakly youth of tender age. He had a wild, hungry eye; and they implicitly believed him. A council was held; lots were cast who should walk up to the master after supper that evening, and ask for more; and it fell to Oliver Twist.

The evening arrived; the boys took their places. The master, in his cook's uniform, stationed himself at the copper; his pauper assistants ranged themselves behind him; the gruel was served out; and a long grace was said over the short commons. The gruel disappeared; the boys whispered to each other, and winked at Oliver; while his next neighbours nudged him. Child as he was, he was desperate with hunger, and reckless with misery. He rose from the table; and advancing to the master, basin and spoon in hand, said, somewhat alarmed at his own temerity:



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Please, sir, I want some more. The master was a fat, healthy man; but he turned very pale. He gazed in stupefied astonishment on the small rebel for some seconds, and then clung for support to the copper. The assistants were paralysed with wonder; the boys with fear. 'What!' said the master at length, in a faint voice. 'Please, sir,' replied Oliver, 'I want some more.'

The master aimed a blow at Oliver's head with the ladle, pinioned him in his arms, and shrieked aloud for Mr. Bumble.

The board were sitting in solemn conclave when Mr. Bumble rushed into the room in great excitement, and addressing a gentleman in a high chair, said, 'Mr. Limbkins, I beg your pardon, sir! Oliver Twist has asked for more!'

There was a general start. Horror was depicted on every countenance. 'For more?' said the chairman. 'Compose yourself, Bumble, and answer me distinctly. Do I understand that he asked for more, after he had eaten the supper allotted by the dietary?' 'He did, sir,' replied Bumble. 'That boy will be hung,' said a gentleman in a white waistcoat. 'I know that boy will be hung.'

Nobody disputed the opinion. Oliver was ordered into instant confinement, and a bill was next morning pasted on the outside of the workhouse gate, offering a reward of five pounds to anybody who would take Oliver Twist off their hands. In other words, five pounds and Oliver Twist were offered to any man or woman who wanted an apprentice to any trade, business, or calling.

- (a) Why was Oliver removed from Mrs. Mann's care, and where was he taken?
- (b) How does Dickens describe the attitude of the workhouse board towards the poor?
- (c) What was the daily diet provided to the boys in the workhouse?
- (d) Why did the boys decide that someone should ask the master for more food?
- (e) Why was Oliver chosen to ask the master for more gruel?



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