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HPSAS (Main)—2015

GENERAL ENGLISH

(Compulsory)

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 150

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow : 10

As civilization proceeds in the direction of technology, it passes the point of supplying all the basic essentials of life—food, shelter, clothes and warmth. Then, we are faced with a choice between using technology to provide and fulfil needs which have hitherto been regarded as unnecessary or, on the other hand, using technology to reduce the number of hours of work which a man must do in order to earn a given standard of living. In other words, we either raise our standard of living above that necessary for comfort and happiness or we leave it at this level and work shorter hours. I shall take it as axiomatic that mankind has, by that time, chosen the latter alternative. Men will be working shorter hours in

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their paid employment. It follows that the housewife will also expect to be able to have more leisure in her life without lowering her standard of living. It also follows that human domestic servants will have completely ceased to exist. Yet the great majority of the housewives will wish to be relieved completely from the routine operations of the home such as scrubbing the floors or the bath or the cooker, or washing the clothes or washing up, or dusting or sweeping, or making beds.

Questions :

- (i) What are the basic essentials of life ?
- (ii) What alternatives does the man have after his basic needs have been fulfilled ?
- (iii) Why will housewives wish to be relieved of their routine work ?
- (iv) Why will the domestic servants cease to exist in the technological civilization ?
- (v) Give a suitable title to the passage.

2. Make a precis of the following passage and also suggest a suitable title : 30

Reading or enjoyment of books has always been regarded among the charms of a cultured life and is respected and envied by those who rarely give themselves that privilege. This is easy to understand when we compare the difference between the life of a man who does no reading and that of a man who does. The man who has not the habit of reading is imprisoned in his immediate world, in respect to time and space. His life falls into a set routine; he is limited to contact and conversation with a few friends and acquaintances, and he sees only what happens in his immediate neighbourhood. From this prison there is no escape. But the moment he takes up a book, he immediately enters a different world, and if it is a good book, he is immediately put in touch with one of the best talkers of the world. This talker leads him on and carries him into a different country or a different age,

or unburdens to him some of his personal regrets, or discusses with him some special line or aspect of life that the reader knows nothing about. An ancient author puts him in communication with a dead spirit of long ago, and as he reads along, he begins to imagine what that ancient author looked like and what type of person he was Now to be able to live two hours out of twelve in a different world and take one's thoughts off the claims of the immediate present is, of course, a privilege to be envied by people shut up in their bodily prison. Such a change of environment is really similar to travel in its psychological effect. (287 words)

3. Write an essay in about 250 words on : 30

All men are not born equal.

Or

The country I would choose to live in other than my own.

4. Distinguish between any *five* of the following 'words in pairs' by using them in sentences : 10

- (i) Right/rite.
- (ii) Farther/further
- (iii) Insight/incite
- (iv) Decease/disease
- (v) Corps/corpse
- (vi) Lightning/lightening
- (vii) Confidant/confident
- (viii) Superficial/superfluous.

5. Correct the following sentences by using suitable articles wherever necessary : 10

There was collision between car and cyclist at crossroads near my house early in morning. Cyclist was taken to hospital with concussion. Driver of car was treated for shock. Witnesses say that car was going at ninety kilometres hour.

6. Correct any *five* of the following sentences : 15

- (i) There are clouds above the South Delhi for the last two days.
- (ii) None of the two leaders was present in the meeting on last Sunday.
- (iii) We'll have to move upstairs if the river rose any higher.
- (iv) If you paint the walls white the room would be much brighter.
- (v) If she had listened to my directions she would not turn down the wrong street.
- (vi) Would you mind to put your pet snake somewhere else ?
- (vii) He hates answer the phone, and very often just lets it ring.

7. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense in the letter given below : 30

Dear Hema

I just (hear) that my mother isn't very well, and I (like) to go and see her. The trouble is I can't take my dog

Sheru with me. You (think) you (be able) possibly look after him for a week ? You (have) him for a week last year, you (remember), and you (say) he (be) no trouble, and (get) on well with your dog.

If you (can) have him, I (can) bring him along any time that (suit) you. He (have) his own bed and bowl, and I (bring) enough tinned dog food to last him a week.

But if you (not be) convenient, (not hesitate) to say so. There (be) quite good kennels near here, and they (take) him if I (ask). He (be) there once before and (seem) to get on all right.

8. Put in the correct prepositions or adverbs. In some cases two words are required :

15

- (i) There's no point in doing the old regulations if you are going to introduce equally stupid new ones.

- (ii) I don't think I'd like to share a flat with her. I'd find it difficult to liveher standards of tidiness.
- (iii) The music faded in the distance as the street players moved on.
- (iv) I can't account the disappearance of the pictures; they were all there yesterday.
- (v) He didn't want to go to the the cinema but they begged so hard that he gave and went with them.