

PSCSCC MAIN EXAMINATION, 2020  
ENGLISH COMPULSORY

**Time Allowed: Three Hours**

**Maximum Marks: 100**

INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the following instructions carefully before attempting questions:

- a) All questions are compulsory.
  - b) Marks allotted to each question are indicated against it.
  - c) Question paper is divided into two parts i.e. Section-A and Section-B.
  - d) Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to.
  - e) Any page or portion of the page left blank in the answer booklet must be crossed.
- Important:** Whenever a Question is being attempted, all its parts/sub parts must be attempted contiguously. This means that before moving on to the next question, candidates must finish all parts/sub parts of the previous question attempted. This is to be strictly followed.



**NIMBUS**  
ACADEMY FOR IAS  
तमसो मा ज्योतिर्गमय ॥

## SECTION-A

**Q.1 Read the passage below and answers the questions that follow: (Marks 10)**

Our system of education turns young people out of the schools able to read, but for the most part unable to weigh evidence or to form an independent opinion. They are then assailed, throughout the rest of their lives, by statements designed to make them believe all sorts of absurd propositions. ... The art of propaganda, as practised by modern politicians and governments, is derived from the art of advertisement. The science of psychology owes a great deal to advertisers. In former days most psychologists would probably have thought that a man could not convince many people of the excellence of his own wares by merely stating emphatically that they were excellent. Experience shows, however, that they were mistaken in this. If I were to stand up once in a public place and state that I am the most modest man alive, I should be laughed at; but if I could raise enough money to make the same statement on all the buses and on hoardings along all the principal railway lines, people would presently become convinced that I had an abnormal shrinking from publicity. ... Propaganda, conducted by the means which advertisers have found successful, is now one of the recognized methods of government in all advanced countries, and is especially the method by which democratic opinion is created.

There are two quite different evils about propaganda as now practised. On the one hand, its appeal is generally to irrational causes of belief rather than to serious argument; on the other hand, it gives an unfair advantage to those who can obtain most publicity, whether through wealth or through power. ... Suppose, two parties with an equally good case, one of whom had a million pounds to spend on propaganda, while the other had only a hundred thousand. It is obvious that the arguments in favour of the richer party would become more widely known than those in favour of the poorer party, and therefore the richer party would win. This situation is, of course, intensified when one party is the Government. ... The objection to propaganda is not only its appeal to unreason, but still more the unfair advantage which it gives to the rich and powerful. Equality of opportunity among opinions is essential if there is to be real freedom of thought; and equality of opportunity among opinions can only be secured by elaborate laws directed to that end, which there is no reason to expect to see enacted. The cure is not to be sought primarily in such laws, but in better education and a more sceptical public opinion.

- a) What is the passage about? What is its central idea?
- b) "The art of propaganda ... is derived from the art of advertisement". Explain how the passage substantiates this statement.
- c) What does the expression "I had an abnormal shrinking from publicity" mean in the context of the passage? Which word used earlier in the passage does it refer to?
- d) What, according to the passage, are the perils of propaganda?
- e) According to the passage, why does propaganda succeed and what can be an antidote to propaganda?

**Q.2 Make a précis of the following passage and give it an appropriate title: (Marks 8+2=10)**

Media and Information Literacy (MIL) is often called to the rescue these days, as the media is threatened on all sides, in totalitarian and democratic regimes alike. The alert was sounded in France on 7 January 2015, when the French satirical magazine, *Charlie*

*Hebdo*, was attacked. It was an attack on one of the oldest forms of media in the world – caricature. This crisis situation showed the strengths of MIL, but also its limitations. We were well-prepared to respond in terms of resources, but we did not anticipate the impact of social media.

Like pre-digital media, MIL must take a leap forward and include in its concerns what data does to the media – it pushes information to the fore through the regulation of algorithms, linked to people’s search histories. It can enclose people in a “filter bubble” to reinforce the biases of confirmation that support preconceived ideas, and reduce the diversity and pluralism of ideas by monetizing content (clicks by views). It is invasive of privacy and threatens fundamental freedoms by using digital footprints for purposes beyond the user’s control.

The latest crisis stemming from fake news – a blend of rumour, propaganda and plot theory – has shaken up MIL. Fake news is even stronger than disinformation, which is a toxic, but generally discernible mixture of truth and lies. Fake news is a phenomenon that falls into the category of disinformation, but its malicious intent is unprecedented, because information technology makes it trans-border and trans-media, and therefore viral.

Media and Information Literacy must imperatively take into account the digital transformation, which has moved from the “blue continent” to the “dark continent”. In other words, it has gone from surfing, babbling and chatting on platforms controlled by the GAFAM (an acronym for Google, Apple, Facebook, Amazon, Microsoft), to noxious data mining for the purpose of massive manipulation and destabilization.

It is in this respect that the decoding of online propaganda is complex, because it is a question of deciphering a form of disruptive ideology, which is technologically innovative, but paradoxically represents a conservative global revolution – designed to create chaos in existing political systems rather than proposing a system of progressive political thought. [361 words]

**Q.3** Write a letter to the editor of a national newspaper about street begging and suggest the ways to tackle it. **(Marks 10)**

**Or**

You are the Student Union in-charge of your college. Write a letter to the Dean of your institution regarding the deteriorating mental health of students due to exam pressure and competitiveness. Suggest ways to create a healthier environment for students.

**Q.4** Write an essay on any one of the following in about 300 words: **(Marks 10)**

- (a) Work from home during Pandemic: pros & cons
- (b) Unity is strength but uniformity could be disastrous.
- (c) Judicial delays kill the spirit of justice.

**Q.5** Translate the following into English: **(Marks 10)**

- 1) ਪੰਜਾਬ ਵਿੱਚ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਅਪਰੈਲ ਤੋਂ ਔਰਤਾਂ ਲਈ ਸਰਕਾਰੀ ਬੱਸਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੁਫਤ ਬਸ ਸੇਵਾ ਦੀ ਸਹੂਲਤ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ।
- 2) ਕਰੋਨਾ ਮਹਾਮਾਰੀ ਨੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਸਿਹਤ ਢਾਂਚੇ ਦੀਆਂ ਉਣਤਾਈਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਜ਼ਾਹਰ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ।
- 3) ਮੀਡੀਆ ਦੀ ਆਜ਼ਾਦੀ ਤੋਂ ਬਿਨਾਂ ਲੋਕਤੰਤਰ ਸੰਭਵ ਹੀ ਨਹੀਂ।
- 4) ਮੇਰੇ ਇਕ ਸਿੱਤਰ ਨੂੰ ਸਾਰੀ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਘੁੰਮਣ ਦੀ ਖ਼ਬਰ ਹੈ।

- 5) ਜੇ ਮੈ ਲੇਟ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ ਤਾਂ ਚਿੰਤਾ ਨਾਂ ਕਰਿਉ।
- 6) ਮੈਨੂੰ ਜਾਪਦਾ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਵਾਤਾਵਰਣ ਦੇ ਦੂਸ਼ਿਤ ਹੋਣ ਨਾਲ ਮਨੁੱਖੀ ਜੀਵਨ ਵੀ ਖਤਮ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ।
- 7) ਪਿੰਡਾਂ ਵਿੱਚ ਪੜ੍ਹਾਈ-ਲਿਖਾਈ ਲਈ ਸਕੂਲ ਸਥਾਪਿਤ ਕਰਨਾ ਸਾਰੇ ਸਮਾਜ ਦੀ ਇੱਕ ਪਵਿੱਤਰ ਜ਼ਿੰਮੇਵਾਰੀ ਹੋਣੀ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ।
- 8) ਮਾਹਿਰਾਂ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਮੁਕੰਮਲ ਕੀਤੇ ਗਏ ਕਾਰਜਾਂ ਦੀ ਸਮੀਖਿਆ ਕੀਤੀ ਗਈ।
- 9) ਇੱਕ ਵਾਇਰਸ ਨੇ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਉਲਟਾ ਕੇ ਰੱਖ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਹਾਲੇ ਉਸਨੇ ਰੂਪ ਬਦਲ-ਬਦਲ ਕੇ ਆਉਂਣਾ ਹੈ।
- 10) ਮਿਆਂਮਾਰ ਦੀ ਫੌਜ ਨੇ ਮੁਲਕ ਦੇ ਪੂਰਬੀ ਖੇਤਰ ਵਿਚ ਹੋਰ ਹਵਾਈ ਹਮਲੇ ਕੀਤੇ ਹਨ ਜਿਸ ਵਿੱਚ ਬਹੁਤ ਲੋਕ ਮਾਰੇ ਗਏ ਹਨ।

### SECTION-B

- Q.6 Give one word substitute for the following: (Marks 5)**
- a) A person who compiles a dictionary.
  - b) Irrelevant talk.
  - c) Period of gradual recovery of health after illness.
  - d) Irresistible desire to steal.
  - e) Fear of closed spaces.
- Q.7 Use the following words first as noun and then as verb in your sentences: (Marks 5)**
- a) Counter
  - b) Bark
  - c) Reign
  - d) Bang
  - e) Men
- Q.8 Give both synonyms and antonyms of the following words: (Marks 5)**
- a) Abridge
  - b) Reticent
  - c) Benediction
  - d) Myopia
  - e) Fecund
- Q.9 Use the following idioms/phrases in your sentences: (Marks 5)**
- a) To kick the bucket.
  - b) To take to altar.
  - c) To make a mark.
  - d) Fall out.
  - e) To put on the back burner.
- Q.10 Rewrite the following sentences after changing the narration: (Marks 5)**
- a) He said to his wife, "Why did you buy this shirt if you did not like it? You've wasted so much money."
  - b) The gardener told his assistant to water the plants properly.
  - c) He advised his younger brother to go abroad for higher studies.
  - d) The doctor told his patient, "Don't smoke so long as you are under my treatment."

- e) The Commander said to the troops, "Keep your eyes and ears open tonight. Mind you, nobody will sleep. It is a difficult night."

**Q. 11 Change the voice of the following: (Marks 5)**

- So, why didn't she swear it?
- Some of the boys in the neighbourhood formed a super hero club.
- Our eyes, though looking at the same subject, were sharing a different focus.
- She will play the guitar for the talent show.
- The management will pay the workers.

**Q.12 Do as directed: (Marks 5)**

- Researchers were asked to make an analysis of the results. (Rewrite this sentence changing the underlined noun form to verb form).
- A law-abiding citizen pays his taxes promptly. (Rewrite this sentence removing the gender bias).
- I liked the house in which I lived formerly. (Convert into a simple sentence).
- It was a great idea. It was a risky idea. (Combine the sentences with an appropriate connective).
- You should do your work immediately .....? (Add a question tag).

**Q.13 Rewrite the following Paragraph using appropriate punctuation marks. (Marks 5)**

Atima, who was not involved in this experiment said based on your own larval reef fish and shark work, I and others find it hard to believe that there can be a chemical gradient useful in this case. I said my experiment was conducted three times and it is utterly reliable. But Atima, the way she often objects habitually, said can I believe you either. Well if you can't believe me either then we can part our ways was my polite reply. This is how we parted company. What a relief.

**Q. 14 Rewrite the following sentences after making necessary corrections, if needed.**

**(Marks 10)**

- My car gives better mileage from your car.
- I have known him from the last two years.
- Every student have written well.
- You are invited to the wedding. Why didn't you go?
- Would you like to be the actor in your life?
- He fell down the steps, but fortunately he didn't hurt.
- I went to the shop but didn't buy something.
- Even she can't drive, she has bought a car.
- My pair of spectacles need new glasses.
- I saw him yesterday when he was cross the road.

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