

LOYOLA COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI – 600 034

U.G. DEGREE EXAMINATION – GENERAL ENGLISH

FIRST SEMESTER – NOVEMBER 2009

EL 1060 / 1064 - ENGLISH FOR EMPOWERMENT

Date & Time: 03/11/2009 / 1:00 - 4:00 Dept. No.

Max. : 100 Marks

I. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: (5x2=10)

A King put his court to a test for an important post. Powerful and wise men stood around him in great numbers. “You wise men,” said the King, “I have a problem, and I want to see who of you is in a position to solve it.” He led the men to a huge door, bigger than any one had ever seen. The King explained, “Here you see the biggest and heaviest door in my kingdom. Who among you can open it?” Some of the courtiers just shook their heads. Others, who were counted among the wise men, looked at the door more closely, but admitted they couldn’t do it. When the wise men had said this, the rest of the court agreed that this problem was too hard to solve. Only one vizier went up to the door. He checked it with his eyes and fingers, tried many ways to move it, and finally pulled on it with a hefty tug. And the door opened. It had been just left ajar, not completely shut, and nothing more had been needed but the willingness to realize it and the courage to act boldly. The king spoke, “You will get the position at the court for you don’t just rely on what you see or hear; You put your own powers into action and risk a test.”

1. Why did the king decide to test his court?
2. How did the courtiers respond to the situation?
3. Who solved the problem?
4. What is a ‘risk’?
5. Frame sentences using words: ‘realize’, ‘willingness’

II. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: (5x2=10)

A woman came with her little boy to the wise Ali and said, “My son is suffering from a serious problem. He eats dates from morning till night. If I don’t give him any dates, he screams his head off. What shall I do? Please help me.” The wise Ali looked at the child kindly and said to the woman, “My good woman, go home and come back at the same time tomorrow.” The next day, the woman and her son again stood before Ali. The great master sat the boy on his lap, spoke to him in a friendly way and finally took the dates out of his hand as he said, “My son, think always of moderation. There are other things that taste good.” With these words, he let the mother and child go. The woman who was somewhat puzzled asked, “Great master, Why didn’t you say that yesterday? Why did we have to make a long trip to you a second time?”. “My good lady”, Ali answered, “Yesterday I couldn’t have convincingly told your son what I told him today, yesterday I myself had savoured the sweetness of the dates.”

1. Why did the woman take her little son to the wise Ali?
2. What was the serious problem with the little boy?
3. What is ‘moderation’?
4. Why did the wise Ali ask the mother and her son to come on the next day?
5. Frame sentences using words: ‘savoured’, ‘puzzled’.

III. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: (5x2=10)

An eagle’s egg was placed in the nest of a simple chicken. The egg hatched and the little eagle grew up with chicken thought it was a chicken. It never flew more than a few feet because that is what the chicken did. One day the little eagle saw an eagle flying gracefully and majestically in the open sky. It asked the chicken, “what is that beautiful thing?” The chicken replied, “That is an eagle, an outstanding bird, which can fly above the sky. But we can’t fly like that”. The little eagle believed that to be truth. It lived the life of a chicken for a long time. One fine day it happened to slip down from a roof of a house, at the time it found that it could fly like an eagle. From that day it started living a life as an eagle.

1. What did the little eagle see one day?.
2. Who can fly above the sky?
3. When did the eagle realise that it could fly like an eagle?
4. Explain the meaning of the word *outstanding* and use it in your own sentence.
5. What do you learn from the story?.

IV. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: (5x2=10)

IF HE CAN, WHY CAN'T YOU?

CHENNAI: When journalists went in search of G. Veerapandian, a Plus-Two topper in the year 2000, he was making 'parottas' at a roadside eatery in Madurai.

Reacting to his achievement he said he would make it to the an IAS officer.



without taking a break from work, civil services one day and become

Nine years later, Mr. ambition by securing the 53rd Examination, the results of which

Veerapandian accomplished his rank in the All India Civil Services were announced on Monday.

Poverty was no hurdle to this youth who is the first graduate in the family.

His father S.R. Ganesan sells utensils and his mother G. Perumalakkal, who till recently was a conservancy worker in a private hospital, now works as a domestic help. His younger brother and sister are school dropouts.

The government had deposited Rs. 1 lakh in his name for higher education and the Loyola College, Chennai, gave him a free seat.

With Sociology and Tamil literature as optional subjects, he underwent coaching in the Anna Institute of Management. After clearing the preliminary examination and missing the service by a single mark last year, Mr. Veerapandian made it in his fifth attempt.

"While continuing my efforts, I taught civil service aspirants at a coaching centre to earn a living. My inspiration came from a book on the life history of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Lack of facilities or resources should not be hurdles when it comes to pursuing academic goals," he said.

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01. Give the family background of G. Veerapandian IAS in brief.
02. Did poverty come in the way of his attaining the ultimate goal? Elaborate.
03. How did the Government of Tamil Nadu and our college honour him?
04. If G. Veerapandian, a 'C' stream student (2000-2001), gets into the IAS, can you excel in your chosen field? (Write your answer in 2-3 lines).
05. Connect this true life story with your first lesson in the text book, "The Capable I".

V. Answer any FOUR of the following questions in a paragraph of 100 words each:

1. How are the rivers in Chennai a threat to environment? (4x5=20)
2. Why do you think the Pudur people do not allow Vayalur people to touch the pond water? Give three reasons.
3. What were the positive qualities of the student?
4. Explain an incident where you took risk in life.
5. How does education give people genuine freedom.
6. Draw and describe the Johari window.

VI. Fill in the blanks with correct answer:

(10x1=10)

1. The lesson 'We Are Equal' is about-----
a) Equality b) Classroom c) Selfconfidence
2. Beethoven was a great-----
a) Scientist b) Basket ball player c) Composer
3. Malla Reddy was the-----of Yashoda
a) Brother b) Landlord c) Husband
4. The boy was thrown into the lake by-----
a) The boatman b) His mother c) His father
5. People of Pudur and Vayalur had-----clash
a) Communal b) political c) Religious.
6. The part of yourself which is known to you and to others is-----area of your Life.
a) Hidden b) Free c) Dark.
7. A successful candidate is always-----
a) Afraid b) confident c) Silent.
8. The scholar had a lot of-----in the heavy chests.
a) books b) gold c) pearls.
9. The Vizier had a-----as his cell mate.
a) Donkey b) Camel c) Stear.
10. The boy loved to eat a lot of-----
a) Dates b) water melon c) apples.

VII. Answer any TWO of the following questions in about 200 words each: (2x10=20)

01. How can the youth of Pudur and Vayalur solve their caste problem.
02. What steps can be taken by the government to clean rivers.
03. Precautions to avoid future accidents in Mysore lake.
04. What are the complaints made against children? How can the children avoid such complaints against them?

VIII. Develop the following hints into a story. Give an appropriate title for your story: (10 marks)

People lazy--- won't work--- King distressed-- wants to teach them a lesson-- has huge stone put in the middle of the road--- people pass and repass--- all curse stone-- blame Government for not removing it-- stone remains there for 10 days-- no one even tries to remove it-- nobody's business-- at last King has it removed--- under it a big treasure box with notice written "Reward for the Man who removes the stone" --- signed by the King-- box filled with gold coins, jewels-- People ashamed.
