

I/ geng (a & c) (i)

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(1st Semester)

GENERAL ENGLISH

(**Arts/Commerce**)

FIRST PAPER

Full Marks : 75

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

1. Write down the following sentence as instructed : 1×5=5

I have a lot of calls today.

- (a) Make it present continuous tense.
- (b) Make it present perfect tense.
- (c) Make it simple future tense.
- (d) Change the sentence into interrogative.
- (e) Make the sentence negative.

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(Turn Over)

(2)

2. Fill up the blanks with appropriate modal verbs/auxiliary verbs : 1×5=5

- (a) Liana — play the piano when he was four.
- (b) You — go to the disco tomorrow.
- (c) You — think about your future.
- (d) We will — to do better next time.
- (e) You are not very well, you — see a doctor.

3. Rewrite the following sentences converting the active/passive into passive/active : 1×5=5

- (a) We are baking the bread here.
- (b) Bell invented the telephone.
- (c) The cheque had been signed by the manager.
- (d) The papers were all blown away by the wind.
- (e) Nelson Mandela had presented the medals.

(3)

4. Change the narration : 1×10=10

- (a) "I will go home soon," John said to marry.
- (b) "How are you feeling?" he said to me.
- (c) He said to her, "I have bought this ring for you."
- (d) She said, "Are you writing a poem or a story?"
- (e) "May you live long," she said.
- (f) She told me that I was OK.
- (g) He told his mother that he would become a brave general one day.
- (h) The queen ordered her maid to make her bed.
- (i) The servant asked his master to pardon him that time.
- (j) He asked his guest whether he would like a cup of tea.

5. Underline the -ing words and mention whether they are gerund or participle : 1×5=5

- (a) Smoking is injurious to health.
- (b) Walking is considered the best exercise.

(4)

- (c) He walks with a walking stick.
- (d) The farmer was on his dying bed.
- (e) Giving to the poor is always blessed.

6. Write the précis of the following and supply a suitable title :

5

A young couple meets and falls in love in the city. Later they get married and decide to move to a rural area. They plan to start a family. This may have been the case years ago, but today more couples are choosing to settle down in the city. In my opinion, a city has more to offer a new family than a rural area. These things include jobs, institutions, and support systems.

There are more work opportunities for young couples in a city than in a rural area. Unemployment is much lower in urban centres. One reason for this is that many jobs in rural areas are seasonal. It is more common for large companies to be based in the city. Even though the cost of living is higher in the city than it is in a rural area, people who work in the city tend to have much higher salaries. Furthermore, financial stress is a leading cause of divorce and leads to the breakup of families.

(5)

The city offers important institutions such as the best hospitals and schools that rural areas don't always have. For instance, people who get sick or have babies in rural areas often have to travel to the city for medical attention. This can lead to bills and transportation problems. While their parents have to commute to work, kids sometimes have to travel a long way on a bus to school. All of the travel takes away from family time. In addition, kids who grow up in rural areas are less likely to go to post-secondary schools. Most have to go to the city to get a good education.

It is more likely that a young couple will have the support of friends and family in the city than in a rural area. When a young couple moves away from this support system, they often feel isolated. On the other hand, small communities are usually close and friendly. It doesn't take long to meet new friends in a small town. People look out for each other and the crime rate is much lower. Even still, you can never replace your best friends and relatives. Consequently, birthdays and holidays feel lonely without grandparents and childhood friends to join in the celebration.

(377 words)

(6)

7. Write a short story on any *one* of the following topics : 5

(a) Your family or your pet(s)

(b) How you spend your Sunday (write in the first person)

(c) Imagine that you are ten years older than you are now))

8. Write an essay on any *one* of the following topics : 15

(a) Is life in the city preferable to life in the country?

(b) Some desirable improvements for your hometown

(c) Positive and negative effects of cell phones

9. The Hero Honda Company is inviting applications for the post of Sales Manager. Applicants should be at least 28 years of age with at least 3 years' selling experience. Write a letter applying for this post. Resume should also be included. 10

(7)

Or

Your college is organizing an expedition to Sikkim. Write a letter to your parents asking them to send you money for this expedition.

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

The Mayan Indians lived in Mexico for thousands of years before the Spanish arrived in the 1500s. The Maya were an intelligent, culturally rich people whose achievements were many. They had farms, beautiful palaces, and cities with many buildings. The Mayan people knew a lot about nature and the world around them. This knowledge helped them to live a better life than most people of that time, because they could use it to make their lives more comfortable and rewarding. Knowledge about tools and farming, for instance, made their work easier and more productive.

In ancient Mexico there were many small clearings in the forest. In each clearing was a village with fields of corn, beans, and other crops around it. To clear the land for farms, the Maya cut down trees with stone axes. They planted seeds by digging holes in the ground with pointed sticks. A farmer was

able to grow crops that produced food for several people. But not every Maya had to be a farmer. Some were cloth makers, builders, or priests.

The Maya believed in many gods, including rain gods, sun gods, and corn gods. The people built large temples to honour the Mayan gods. Skillful workers built cities around these temples. It was difficult for them to construct these cities, because they had no horses to carry the heavy stone they used to build with. Workers had to carry all of the building materials themselves. Today, many of these ancient Mayan cities and temples are still standing.

Although the cities that the Maya built were beautiful, and the people worked hard to build them, very few of the people lived in them. Usually, only the priests lived in the cities.

The other people lived in small villages in the forests. Their houses were much simpler than the elaborate structures in the cities. They lived in small huts with no windows. The walls were made of poles covered with dried mud, and the roof was made of grass or leaves. Most Maya lived a simple life close to nature.

Measuring time was important to the Maya, so they developed a system for measuring it accurately. Farmers needed to know when to plant and harvest their crops. Mayan priests made a system to keep track of time. They wrote numbers as dots (...) and bars (-). A dot was one and a bar was five.

The Mayan priests studied the Sun, Moon, stars, and planets. They made a calendar from what they learned. The year was divided into 18 months of 20 days each with five days left over. The Mayan calendar was far more accurate than the European calendars of the time.

Around the year 800, the Maya left their villages and beautiful cities, never to return. No one knows why this happened. They may have died from an infectious disease. They may have left because the soil could no longer grow crops. Archaeologists are still trying to find the lost secrets of the Maya. They are still one of our greatest mysteries.

(a) Write the meaning of the following words as used in the passage : $1 \times 5 = 5$

(i) Achievements

(ii) Productive

(10)

(iii) Elaborate

(iv) Infectious

(v) Accurate

(b) What were some of the occupations of the Mayans?

(c) What was it that enabled the Mayans to live a better life than other people of their times?

(d) How do we know that the Mayans were religious people?

(e) What are the probable reasons that led to the demise of the Mayans?

(f) What types of house did the Mayans live in?
