



Writing Skills Test

Q.1 Write an essay of approximately 350 words on any one of the following topics:

- (i) Empowerment of women
- (ii) Importance of tolerance in society
- (iii) Benefits of China Pakistan Economic Corridor
- (iv) The growing menace of environmental pollution

(Note: word count carries marks)

Your essay will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Introduction and conclusion.
- Quality of text, use of idioms and phrases.
- Language, vocabulary, organization and logical presentation of ideas.

(15)

Q.2 Write a précis of 120-125 words of the following passage (*Word count carries marks*).

Gender bias in research: A myth or reality?

The generalization that men are from Mars and women are from Venus is arguably among the most popular gender-related clichés of all times. The cliché alludes to differences in the manner in which men and women perceive, interpret, and approach various aspects of and situations in life. But when a generalization such as this begins to influence the opportunities available to men and women in professional fields, including researchers or scientists, it assumes a different significance. When the professional capabilities of male or female researchers are evaluated on the basis of their gender, it leads to an imbalance in the career growth opportunities available to both. Ideally, the arena of research, where conclusions are drawn only after objective evaluation, should not witness gender discrimination. But several researchers and individuals from within academia have spoken about the existence of a gender bias in various fields of research. Let's discuss "the Yale study of 2012," which was conducted to investigate gender bias in the field of research.

The Yale study

A group of researchers from Yale University conducted an experiment on scientists to look for evidence of gender bias. They tested the hypothesis that the scientists in their lab were not likely to be biased because they were trained to be objective. In their randomized double-blind study, they asked 127 experienced science faculty to assess an application for a laboratory manager position. All 127 participants received the same application, but with a male or female name. The assessment results revealed that the participants tended to rate the male applicant more positively than the female applicant. The male applicants were also selected for a higher salary range than the female applicants. Mediation analyses conducted by the researchers revealed that the participants perceived the female applicant as being less competent.

Conclusion

Social and cultural constructs of gender as well as perceptions of what men or women are capable of achieving, obstruct scientific development. Studies such as these prove that gender discrimination is exercised, albeit subtly or subconsciously, in scientific field as well. The investigators concluded that interventions at the faculty level could help eliminate instances of subconscious gender discrimination exhibited by the study participants.

(Total word count = 368) (10)

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- Q.3 Assume you are Abdul Basit, Manager Marketing of Classic Uniform Company Limited, a manufacturer of workers uniforms for corporate customers. On 12 December 2016, you have received an order from Taimoor Petroleum Limited (TPL) for supply of 2,500 sets of shirts and trousers of various sizes for their staff posted at the petrol/gas stations throughout the country at a price of Rs. 1,400 per set. The delivery schedule as per the order was as follows:

	No. of sets
15 February 2017	1,000
15 April 2017	1,000
15 June 2017	500

The first consignment was delivered on time. However, due to a major fire in the factory of your fabric supplier on 25 February 2017, it would not be possible for you to manufacture the cloth for quite some time.

TPL is a valued customer and you would certainly want to retain their business.

Required:

Write a letter to Mr Shahid Khan, Purchase Manager, Taimoor Petroleum Limited, situated at Plot No. 100 The Mall, Lahore explaining the situation and requesting him to extend the delivery dates. You may use your imagination to provide any other information you consider helpful for a positive response from TPL.

(15)

(THE END)