



Writing Skills Test

Instructions to examinees:

- (i) Answer all **THREE** questions.
- (ii) Answer in **black** pen only.

Q.1 Write an essay of approximately 300 words on any one of the following topics:

- (i) Impact of international political changes on Pakistan
- (ii) COVID-19 – challenges and opportunities
- (iii) Lessons learned from the life of Quaid-e-Azam
- (iv) Effective communication – how to make people hear what they do not want to hear

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)

(Word count also carries mark)

Q.2 Write a précis of 125-135 words of the following passage. *(Word count carries mark)*

According to the Living Planet Index, the global population of animals, birds and fish has decreased by over two-thirds in less than five decades; a startling reminder of the dangers of human excess and myopia. As we witness the catastrophic effects of climate change, the loss of biodiversity, and the spread of zoonotic diseases, it is time to pause and reflect on the contemporary world's relationship with the natural world, including its indifference to the plight of other sentient beings. Apathy and egoism have cost us heavily, and will continue to do so, until better sense prevails. The past few decades have strengthened a single ideological and economic system, but its 'progress' has come at the expense of the environment and natural resources, and it has increased disparity. Rapid urbanisation, rampant consumerism, agricultural expansion, deforestation, and unthinking, unchecked greed have led to the present situation, and we now have to live with its discontents. If sincere efforts are not made to reverse the self-destructive trajectory we are on, we risk leaving behind an uninhabitable world for future generations.

We know that the planet and all species within it are interconnected, and yet the short-sightedness of some has robbed many of a better future. High-profile meetings are held, international accords are signed, and tall promises are made — but then what? The natural habitats of animals continue to be encroached upon, entire forests are decimated, oceans are choked, and the air is made unbreathable. The Living Planet Report goes on to mention that 40% of the world's oceans have been "degraded"; while 75% of the total fish stocks are "overexploited". Another recent study by the UK's National Oceanography Centre found there was 10 times more plastic in the Atlantic Ocean than estimated before. This is not entirely surprising, given that 8 million metric tons of plastic waste is dumped into the ocean each year, and eventually makes its way into the human food supply. The previous year saw an alarming number of whales wash ashore on beaches across the world; their digestive systems bloated with plastic. This included a juvenile sperm whale with 100kg of plastic, rope and netting in his stomach in Scotland. With the COVID-19 pandemic raging in many parts of the world, there is a surge in demand for personal protective equipment, which only adds to the plastic pollution.

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Q.3 Rehmatabad is a metropolitan city and economic hub of the country. During recent monsoon season, it has received multiple spells of heavy rain that collapsed its drainage system.

The electronics market of Rehmatabad has been badly affected as rain and drain water has entered into the basement and ground floor of the market damaging goods worth billions of rupees. Except few traders, none of the traders had insurance of their goods.

It has been decided in the recent meeting of Rehmatabad Electronic Market Association (REMA) to approach the city government and convince it for compensation of their losses.

Write a letter on behalf of Rizwan Alvi, President of REMA, to Asal Khan, the Mayor of Rehmatabad city explaining the detail of losses caused due to collapse of city's drainage system and why the city government should compensate it. Also suggest possible solution(s) in order to avoid recurrence of similar situation in future. You may assume necessary details.

Office of REMA is situated at 01 Circuit Plaza, Electronics Street, Rehmatabad while the Mayor's office is at 42 Municipality Tower, Workaround Road, Rehmatabad.

(15)

(THE END)