



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) Myths and realities about vaccination for prevention of COVID-19
(ii) Challenges in documenting economy of Pakistan
(iii) Withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan
(iv) Research and innovation – where does Pakistan stand?

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)

The Sindh School Monitoring System (SSMS) is the first digital system in the education sector in Pakistan that allows transparent and effective monitoring of staff, students and school infrastructure. The SSMS has been set up under the Sindh Global Partnership for Education project in collaboration with World Bank. The government has been at the forefront of this effort and sees immense value in it. The SSMS brings together technology and a robust accountability mechanism to address long-standing governance issues in education.

SSMS has been spread across 15 districts and to the remotest parts of the province. Plans are underway to expand it to the entire province. Up till now more than 210,000 teaching and non-teaching staff have been profiled using biometric information, covering more than 26,200 schools.

The Field Monitoring Assistants (FMAs) from the Sindh government visit each school once every two months to monitor teachers' presence and school infrastructure. They use a fingerprint-based biometric and photo system supported by Global Positioning System (GPS). The transparent and effective system aims to address problems such as teachers who are employed but absent for a lengthy period, missing basic facilities and infrastructure, closed schools and lack of reliable and timely information on school status. To date, disciplinary action has been initiated against more than 46,000 absent and ghost teachers.

The data recorded by FMAs is transmitted in real time to a centralized dashboard. The Education and Literacy Department has access to this information. By receiving data directly from the field, they are able to undertake key administrative and policy actions in a timely manner. They consider this an important step towards improving education outcomes in Sindh.

Teachers also recognize the benefits of the SSMS as it addresses the issue of ghost teachers in school, very often reported in the media. Through thumb impressions, the system acknowledges teachers who come regularly and identifies those who don't. That is why most of the teachers consider the SSMS as a just and fair system. On the other hand, the SSMS is equally appreciated by the students. According to a survey, majority of the students confirmed the regular presence of teachers and its positive impact on their learning process.

As is often the case with reforms, the initiative has faced several implementation challenges. The FMAs go to far-flung areas, at times, security is an issue. Teachers who were habitually absent, resist the system as they feel insecure every time an FMA visits. Despite these challenges, the benefits of regular teachers' attendance continue to emerge. **(10)**

- Q.3 The government of Goodland is planning a mass vaccination drive to prevent its citizens from COVID-19. Vaccination centres have been formed in 153 hospitals across Goodland besides 15 mega centres that would work 24 hours a day. Total population of Goodland is 7 million. The health department has been assigned the task to prepare vaccination plan for citizens of different age groups and develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the vaccination centres to ensure hassle free services without compromising safety and well-being of its citizens.

Assume that you are the secretary of health department and your name is Saeed Mehmood. Write a letter to Firdous Jamal, Managing Director Goodland Medical Association (GMA) detailing the vaccination plan and SOPs (up to **four** procedures) that should be followed at vaccination centres. You may assume further necessary details.

Secretary's office is situated at 13 Quaid Avenue, Goodland while GMA's office is located at 19 Medical Avenue, Goodland. **(15)**

(THE END)