

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme

Examinations for all Posts (Common questions)

PAPER - I GENERAL ENGLISH

Full Marks : 50

(Answer all the questions. You do not need to copy the questions)

1. **Make a précis of the following passage in about one third of its length. Give title to it and mention the word count. (5 marks)**

Diet plays an important role in the prevention of many chronic diseases. Eating a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lean protein can help reduce the risk of conditions such as heart diseases, diabetes and certain cancers. On the other hand, a diet high in processed and unhealthy foods can increase the risk of these diseases. It is important to be aware of the types of food we eat and tries to include nutrient-dense options in our diet. (124 words)

2. **Write a letter to the Programme Officer applying Earned Leave for two days mentioning the reason for leave. (10 marks)**

3. **Read the following passage and answer the following five questions. Select the correct answer. (5 marks)**

Many great inventions are initially greeted with ridicule and disbelief. The invention of the airplane was no exception. Although many people who heard about the first powered flight on December 17, 1903 were excited and impressed, others reacted with peals of laughter. The idea of flying an aircraft was repulsive to some people. Such people called Wilbur and Orville Wright, the inventors of the first flying machine, impulsive fools. Negative reactions, however, did not stop the Wrights. Impelled by their desire to succeed, they continued their experiments in aviation.

Orville and Wilbur Wright had always had a compelling interest in aeronautics and mechanics. As young boys they earned money by making and selling kites and mechanical toys. Later, they designed a newspaper-folding machine, built a printing press, and operated a bicycle-repair shop. In 1896, when they read about the death of Otto Lilienthal, the brothers' interest in flight grew into a compulsion.

Lilienthal, a pioneer in hang-gliding, had controlled his gliders by shifting his body in the desired direction. This idea was repellent to the Wright brothers, however, and they searched for more efficient methods to control the balance of airborne vehicles. In 1900 and 1901, the Wrights tested numerous gliders and developed control techniques. The brothers' inability to obtain enough lift power for the gliders almost led them to abandon their efforts.

After further study, the Wright brothers concluded that the published tables of air pressure on curved surfaces must be wrong. They set up a wind tunnel and began a series of experiments with model wings. Because of their efforts, the old tables were repealed in time and replaced by the first reliable figures for air pressure on curved surfaces. This work, in turn, made it possible for the brothers to design a machine that would fly. In 1903 the Wrights built their first airplane, which cost less than \$1,000. They even designed and built their own source of propulsion—a lightweight gasoline engine. When they started the engine on December 17, the airplane pulsated wildly before taking off. The plane managed to stay aloft for 12 seconds, however, and it flew 120 feet.

By 1905, the Wrights had perfected the first airplane that could turn, circle, and remain airborne for half an hour at a time. Others had flown in balloons and hang gliders, but the Wright brothers were the first to build a full-size machine that could fly under its own power. As the contributors of one of the most outstanding engineering achievements in history, the Wright brothers are accurately called the fathers of aviation.

- 1) *The idea of flying an aircraft was _____ to some people.*
 - A. Boring
 - B. distasteful
 - C. exciting
 - D. needless
 - E. Answer not available
 - 2) The Wrights' interest in flight grew into a _____.
 - A. financial empire
 - B. plan
 - C. need to act
 - D. foolish thought
 - E. Answer not available
 - 3) People thought that the Wright brothers had _____.
 - A. acted without thinking
 - B. been negatively influenced
 - C. been too cautious
 - D. been mistaken
 - E. acted in a negative way
 - 4) Lilienthal's idea about controlling Airborne vehicles was _____ the Wrights.
 - A. proven wrong by
 - B. opposite to the ideas of
 - C. disliked by
 - D. accepted by
 - E. improved by
 - 5) The Wrights designed and built their own source of _____.
 - A. force for moving forward
 - B. force for turning around
 - C. turning
 - D. force for going backward
 - E. None of the above
4. **Choose the word or set of words that complete the sentence meaning fully.**
(5 marks)
- 1) She went to the library _____ to find that it was closed.
 - A. seldom
 - B. never
 - C. only
 - D. solely
 - 2) The ties that bind us together in common activity are so _____ that they can disappear at any moment.
 - A. tentative
 - B. tenuous
 - C. consistent
 - D. restrictive

- 3) Her reaction to his proposal was _____. She reject it _____
A. inevitable-vehemently
B. subtle-violently
C. clever-abruptly
D. sympathetic-angrily
- 4) His _____ directions misled us we did not know which of the two roads to take.
A. complicated
B. ambiguous
C. narrow
D. fantastic
- 5) It would be difficult for one so _____ to believe that all men are equal irrespective of caste, race and religion.
A. emotional
B. democratic
C. intolerant
D. liberal

5. Select the pair of words which are related in the same way as the capitalized words are related to each other. (5 marks)

1) SCALES : JUSTICE

- A) Weights : Measures
B) Laws : Courts
C) Torch : Liberty
D) Launch : Peace

2) HOBBLE : WALK

- A) Gallop : Run
B) Stammer : Speak
C) Stumble : Fall
D) Sniff : Smell

3) FRAYED : FABRIC

- A) Watered : Lawn
B) Renovated : Building
C) Thawed : Ice
D) Worn : Nerves

4) YOLK: EGG

- A) Rind : Melon
B) Nucleus : Cell
C) Stalk : Corn
D) Web : Spider

5) BAMBOO : SHOOT

- A) Bean : Sprout
B) Pepper : Corn
C) Oak : Tree
D) Holly : Spring

6. For each of the following capitalized words, four words or phrases are given of which only one is synonymous with the given word. Select the synonym. (5 marks)

- 1) DEFER
 - A) Respect
 - B) Disliked
 - C) Postponed
 - D) Disrespect
- 2) DUBIOUS
 - A) Clear
 - B) Undoubtedly
 - C) Hesitant
 - D) Doubtful
- 3) COARSE
 - A) Impolite
 - B) Rough
 - C) Polished
 - D) Improper
- 4) PROXIMITY
 - A) Nearness
 - B) Aloofness
 - C) Completely
 - D) Nearly
- 5) ABSTAIN
 - A) Stay
 - B) Tempt
 - C) Refrain
 - D) Pardon

7. Fill in the blanks by selecting appropriate alternative. (5 marks)

- 1) I met him only a week _____
 - A) Back
 - B) Past
 - C) Ago
 - D) Previous
- 2) Jane asked me _____
 - A) Why are you angry
 - B) Why I am angry
 - C) Why I was angry
 - D) Why was I angry
- 3) Even after repeated warnings, he _____ to office on time.
 - A) Never come
 - B) Never comes
 - C) is never coming
 - D) have never come
- 4) He told his wife that _____ from Germany.
 - A) He will like to visit France
 - B) He was liking to visit France
 - C) He would like to visit France
 - D) He is liking to visit France

- 5) Some people can _____ even with murder.
- A) Get on
 - B) Get out
 - C) Get off
 - D) Get away

8. Choose the correct antonym from the choices for each of the following capitalised words. (5 marks)

- 1) INDIFFERENT
 - A) Curious
 - B) Varied
 - C) Alike
 - D) Uniform
- 2) DISCREET
 - A) Wise
 - B) Diplomatic
 - C) Prudent
 - D) Careless
- 3) OBSOLETE
 - A) Free
 - B) Ancient
 - C) Current
 - D) Cultured
- 4) RATIONAL
 - A) Sound
 - B) Insane
 - C) Judicious
 - D) Sensible
- 5) SCEPTICAL
 - A) Doubtful
 - B) Convinced
 - C) Questioning
 - D) Cynic

9. Supply the correct article (a, an or the). (5 marks)

- 1) Our math teacher is ____ European.
- 2) What is ____ largest city in Canada?
- 3) Can I ask ____ question?
- 4) Jane is ____ interesting person.
- 5) Lisa is ____ youngest student in her class.

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