

Reg. No. :

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U.G. (CBCS) DEGREE EXAMINATION,
NOVEMBER 2024

Third Semester

English

Non Major Elective — ENGLISH FOR COMPETITIVE
EXAMINATIONS

(For those who joined in July 2021 and 2022 only)

Time : Three hours

Maximum : 75 marks

PART A — (10 × 1 = 10 marks)

Answer ALL questions.

Choose the correct answer :

1. Find the One Word Substitution for the given sentence: **One who is skilful.**
(a) Disciplined (b) Diligent
(c) Different (d) Dexterous
2. What does the idiom '**Once in a blue moon**' mean?
(a) Romantic moment (b) Occasionally
(c) Rarely (d) Often

3. Choose the synonym for the word given bold: The **crust** of the bread is burnt.
 - (a) Inside
 - (b) Surface
 - (c) Interior
 - (d) Infamous
4. Choose the antonym for the word given in bold: **Recession** causes unemployment.
 - (a) Poverty
 - (b) Computerisation
 - (c) Education
 - (d) Inflation
5. Give meaning for the given word: **SUPERVENE**
 - (a) Ensue
 - (b) Displace
 - (c) Interfere
 - (d) Precede
6. Give opposite for the given word: **ARROGANT**
 - (a) Flattering
 - (b) Humble
 - (c) Polite
 - (d) Pleasant
7. Find the suitable word to complete the sentence: She did not quite anticipate the _____ of protest.
 - (a) Account
 - (b) Hoax
 - (c) Stockpile
 - (d) Ignominy
 - (e) Deluge
8. Find out the common error in the following sentence: **I have much friends.**
 - (a) Many
 - (b) Lot
 - (c) More
 - (d) Of

9. Choose the synonym for the word given: **Domain**
 - (a) Area
 - (b) Main
 - (c) Marketing
 - (d) Fielding
10. Choose the synonym for the word given: **Ecstatic**
 - (a) Animated
 - (b) Enraptured
 - (c) Bewildered
 - (d) Fitful

PART B — (5 × 5 = 25 marks)

Answer ALL questions by choosing either (a) or (b).

Each answer should not exceed 250 words.

11. (a) Choose the best meaning of the phrases in BOLD:
 - (i) **Dance to someone's tune**
 - (1) Argue with others on petty matters
 - (2) Delay in making a decision
 - (3) Do what others want you to do
 - (4) Be engaged in an energetic activity
 - (ii) **Leave no stone unturned**
 - (1) Try everything possible
 - (2) Leave the path halfway
 - (3) Not make enough efforts
 - (4) Turn everything upside down

(iii) **Throw in the towel**

- (1) Think of a solution
- (2) Face the situation
- (3) Drop something
- (4) Admit defeat

(iv) **Tit for tat**

- (1) To reward people for the good done
- (2) To do harm as done to you
- (3) To make someone angry
- (4) To take advantage of someone

(v) **Bite your tongue**

- (1) Be impossible to be understood
- (2) Get bruises in the mouth
- (3) Talk for a long time
- (4) Stop yourself from saying something

Or

(b) Choose the correct One Word Substitute for the given sentences:

- (i) Child bereaved of one or both the parents.

- (1) Desolate
- (2) Destitute
- (3) Orphan
- (4) Lout

- (ii) A gift left by will.

- (1) Alimony
- (2) Parimony
- (3) Legacy
- (4) Property

- (iii) One who always runs away from danger?

- (1) Escapist
- (2) Timid
- (3) Coward
- (4) Shirker

(iv) A poem written on the death of someone loved and lost.

- (1) Ode
- (2) Epic
- (3) Sonnet
- (4) Elegy

(v) One who despises persons of lower social position?

- (1) Prim
- (2) Snob
- (3) Prig
- (4) Aristocrat

12. (a) Choose the synonym for the word given in bold:

(i) The import of technology as an alternative to **indigenous** technology has not been discussed fully.

- (1) Aboriginal
- (2) Indigent
- (3) Terrestrial
- (4) Native

(ii) The **ascending** temperature in many parts of the world confirms global warming which is an environmental hazard.

- (1) Mounting
- (2) Shooting
- (3) Falling
- (4) Rising

(iii) Reading fiction is an **absorbing**, creative and entertaining hobby.

- (1) A concentrating
- (2) An engrossing
- (3) A fascinating
- (4) An enriching

(iv) The data is **misleading**.

- (1) Illusory
- (2) Deceptive
- (3) Misplaced
- (4) Misinformative

(v) Graduation day is a **momentous** day for most students.

- (1) Memorable
- (2) Melancholy
- (3) Important
- (4) Hectic

Or

(b) Choose the antonym for the word given in bold:

(i) There was **dismal** atmosphere in the dressing room of the defeated team.

- (1) Cheerful
- (2) Dreadful
- (3) Gloomy
- (4) Jovial

(ii) What he tells me **confirms** my ideas.

- (1) Verifies
- (2) Contradicts
- (3) Opposes
- (4) Strengthens

(iii) There are no permanent **adversaries** in politics.

- (1) Associates
- (2) Allies
- (3) Collaborators
- (4) Partners

(iv) There is not a trace of **vanity** in her behaviour.

- (1) humility
- (2) Selflessness
- (3) Modesty
- (4) Dignity

(v) All the employees of this organization want to have an **lenient** officer.

- (1) Capable
- (2) Strict
- (3) Strong
- (4) Conservative

13. (a) Give Synonym for the following words:

(i) Incise

- (1) To scribe
- (2) To supersede
- (3) To protect
- (4) To produce

(ii) Hung

- (1) Praise
- (2) Pray
- (3) Request
- (4) Attack

(iii) Pudgy

- (1) Short and fat
- (2) Thin and short
- (3) Thin and fat
- (4) Obese

- (iv) Shambolic
(1) Organized
(2) Unorganized
(3) Damaged
(4) Rotten

- (v) Infer
(1) Reduce
(2) Idea
(3) Deduced
(4) Notify

Or

(b) Give Antonym for the following words:

- (i) Terrify
(1) Frighten
(2) Alarm
(3) Soothe
(4) Terrorize

- (ii) Terrific
(1) Great
(2) Magnificent
(3) Mediocre
(4) Wonderful

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- (iii) Subjugate
(1) Enslave
(2) Liberate
(3) Subject
(4) Control

- (iv) Subjective
(1) Personal
(2) Individual
(3) Non objective
(4) Impersonal

- (v) Stupendous
(1) Huge
(2) Inconsequential
(3) Gargantuan
(4) Astounding

14. (a) Pick out the most effective word from the given words to fill in the blank and make a meaningful sentence.

- (i) He _____ all his energies to bear upon the task.
(1) Put
(2) Organized
(3) Brought
(4) Devoted

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(ii) Successful people are genuinely very efficient in _____ their tasks.

- (1) Making
- (2) Attaining
- (3) Achieving
- (4) Completing

(iii) Rabindranath Tagore was a _____ writer of his times.

- (1) True
- (2) Fantastic
- (3) Profound
- (4) Prolific

(iv) The _____ conclusion is that people will have to live with rising prices.

- (1) Final
- (2) Ultimate
- (3) Inescapable
- (4) Hopeless

(v) The rain water that does not flow to the rivers, _____ beneath the soil to form underground water.

- (1) Flows
- (2) Penetrates
- (3) Seeps
- (4) Percolates

Or

(b) Read the following sentences and identify and correct the errors.

- (i) I travel in the first class.
- (ii) We sat under the shade of a tree.
- (iii) He got down his bicycle.
- (iv) She fell in the hands of ruffians.
- (v) He took the business into his hand.

15. (a) Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions complete the statements given below:

SYMPATHY

I lay in sorrow, in deep distress;

My grief a proud man heard;

His looks were cold, he gave me gold, But not a kindly word.

My sorrow passed – I paid him back The gold he gave to me;

Then stood erect and spoke my thanks And blessed his charity I lay in want and grief and pain;

A poor man passed my way,

He bound my head, he gave me bread He watched me night and day How shall I pay him back again For all he did to me?

Oh, gold is great, but greater far Is heavenly sympathy.

Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option:

- (i) How did the proud man help the poet when he was in deep distress?
- (1) He gave him jewels
 - (2) He took him home
 - (3) He gave some money
 - (4) He pitied the poet
- (ii) What did he not give to the poet:
- (1) Money
 - (2) Gold
 - (3) Food
 - (4) Sympathy
- (iii) How did the poor man take care of the poet:
- (1) The poor man gave him some food and money
 - (2) The poor man gave him good and kind words
 - (3) The poor man gave him food and took care of him day and night
 - (4) He took the poet home and bound his head which was hurt

- (iv) Which of the following statements is not true:

- (1) The poet repaid his debt to the proud man only by thanking him
- (2) The poet blessed the charity of the rich man
- (3) When the poet was in sorrow, he was given money
- (4) The poet says, he cannot repay the poor man for his sympathy

- (v) Which word in the poem means "giving money to a person who is in need":

- (1) Charity
- (2) Sympathy
- (3) Kindness
- (4) Distress

Or

- (b) Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

Garbage is a great environment hazard. It comes from various sources – used paper, tiffin packing's plastic bags, ice-cream wrappers, bottle caps, fallen leaves from trees and many more. Garbage makes the premises ugly, unkempt and breeds diseases. A lot of trash that is thrown away contain

material that can be recycled and reused such as paper, metals and glass which can be sent to the nearest recycling centre or disposed of to the junk dealer. It also contains organic matter such as leaves which can enrich soil fertility. A compost pit can be made at a convenient location where the refuse can be placed with layers of soil and an occasional sprinkling of water. This would help decomposition to make valuable fertilizer. This would also prevent pollution that is usually caused by burning such organic waste.

Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option:

- (i) Garbage originates from _____.
 - (1) Used paper, tiffin, packings, plastic bags and fallen leaves from trees
 - (2) Leftovers of food
 - (3) Fallen branches from trees
 - (4) Building materials
- (ii) Garbage can create havoc to the mankind by _____.
 - (1) Spreading foul smell
 - (2) Slowing our vehicles on the road
 - (3) Spreading several diseases
 - (4) All the above

- (iii) What happens to the disposed material at the recycling centre?

- (1) It is thrown away
- (2) It is recycled for reuse
- (3) It is sold to the rag pickers
- (4) It is dumped into the ground

- (iv) Fallen leaves from trees are useful because they

- (1) Solve the problem of fuel wood in village households
- (2) Enrich water quality
- (3) Enrich soil fertility
- (4) Beautify landscape

- (v) Which of these is correct with reference to a composite pit?

- (1) The refuge is placed with layers of soil with an occasional sprinkling of water
- (2) It contributes to the manufacture of useful fertilizer
- (3) It prevents pollution
- (4) All the above

PART C — (5 × 8 = 40 marks)

Answer ALL questions, choosing either (a) or (b).

Each answer should not exceed 600 words.

16. (a) Choose the correct One Word Substitute for the given sentences:

- (i) A woman having several husbands at the same time
 - (1) Polygamy
 - (2) Polyandry
 - (3) Polysexual
 - (4) Polyglot
- (ii) A person who has no money to pay off his debts
 - (1) Insolvent
 - (2) Debtor
 - (3) Pauper
 - (4) Beggar
- (iii) A person who hates women
 - (1) Intolerant
 - (2) Misogamist
 - (3) Bigamist
 - (4) Gullible

(iv) A sleeping room for many persons

- (1) Boarding
- (2) Hostel
- (3) Dormitory
- (4) Dwelling

(v) A process involving too much official formality

- (1) Red-tapism
- (2) Bureaucracy
- (3) Diplomacy
- (4) Nepotism

(vi) A large-scale departure of people from a territory

- (1) Migration
- (2) Immigration
- (3) Exodus
- (4) Aberration

(vii) A post without remuneration

- (1) Involuntary
- (2) Voluntary
- (3) Sinecure
- (4) Honorary

(viii) A disease that spreads by means of germs carried in atmosphere

- (1) Infectious
- (2) Epidemic
- (3) Contagious
- (4) Endemic

Or

(b) Choose the best meaning of the Idiom and phrases in bold:

(i) **To cross swords**

- (1) To defend
- (2) To fight
- (3) To rob
- (4) To kill

(ii) **To give up the ghost**

- (1) To become rational
- (2) To suffer
- (3) To fight evil forces
- (4) To die

(iii) **Hobson's choice**

- (1) Feeling of strength
- (2) Feeling of insecurity
- (3) Excellent choice
- (4) Accept or leave the offer

(iv) **To be at loggerheads**

- (1) To face stiff opposition
- (2) To have tough encounter
- (3) To tax one's mind and body
- (4) To be at enmity or strife

(v) **To talk through one's hat**

- (1) To talk wisdom
- (2) To speak fluently
- (3) To speak at random
- (4) to talk nonsense

(vi) **To snap one's fingers**

- (1) To accept immediately
- (2) To be anxious
- (3) To become contemptuous of
- (4) To speak abruptly

(vii) **To lose one's head**

- (1) To become nervous
- (2) To become confused and over excited
- (3) To lose the balance
- (4) To go mad

(viii) To smell a rat

- (1) To misunderstand
- (2) to suspect a trick or deceit
- (3) To see hidden meaning
- (4) None of these

17. (a) Choose the correct Synonym for the given word in BOLD:

(i) He had **insidiously** wormed his way into her affections.

- (1) Politely
- (2) Secretively
- (3) Hardly
- (4) Forcefully

(ii) His close friends, who was senior to him in the office, did not hesitate to **reprimand** him when he misplaced one important file.

- (1) Demote
- (2) Rebuke
- (3) Suspend
- (4) Penalize

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(iii) One must not be **callous** to womenfolk.

- (1) Kind
- (2) Hard hearted
- (3) Arrogant
- (4) Proud

(iv) Last fortnight the rains came to the parched soils of India after the merciless drought had already **sapped** the vitality and livelihood of millions of peasants.

- (1) Decreased
- (2) Demolished
- (3) Destroyed
- (4) Drained away

(v) That young man is quite **sanguine** about the result of his competitive examination.

- (1) Optimistic
- (2) Anxious
- (3) Depressed
- (4) Pessimistic

(vi) He tried to **cajole** her but it was in vain.

- (1) Rejoice
- (2) Inspire
- (3) Enjoin
- (4) Coax

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(vii) The new government decided to *rescind* most of the decisions of its predecessor.

- (1) Re-consider
- (2) Impose
- (3) Modify
- (4) Repeal

(viii) He had the *nerve* to suggest that I was cheating.

- (1) strength
- (2) Capacity
- (3) Audacity
- (4) Courage

Or

(b) Choose the correct Antonym for the given word:

(i) At least some students are in the habit of doing their exercises in a *slovenly* manner.

- (1) Neat
- (2) Proper
- (3) Decent
- (4) Correct

(ii) The error in the newspaper article is *accidental*.

- (1) Permissible
- (2) Usual
- (3) Conventional
- (4) Intentional

(iii) He is a man of *mellow* temper.

- (1) Fickle
- (2) Hot
- (3) Irrational
- (4) Excitable

(iv) *Crestfallen* he returned as he had never faced such humiliation in the whole of his life.

- (1) Vinglorious
- (2) Indignant
- (3) Triumphant
- (4) disturbed

(v) The explosion and the plane's take off occurred *simultaneously*.

- (1) Cotemporary
- (2) Coincident
- (3) Separately
- (4) Momentarily

- (vi) She was surprised by his *amiability*.
- (1) Petulance
 - (2) Sincerity
 - (3) Prudence
 - (4) Pessimism
- (vii) We should not *belittle* the value of small things.
- (1) Extol
 - (2) Praise
 - (3) Inflate
 - (4) Expand
- (viii) Self-reliance has been *adopted* as an important objective of economic planning in modern India.
- (1) Refused
 - (2) Forsaken
 - (3) Denied
 - (4) Discarded

18. (a) Pick out the most effective Synonym from the given words:

- (i) Recompense
- (1) Rebuke
 - (2) Reward
 - (3) Decompensate
 - (4) Reconcile

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- (ii) Infallible
- (1) Never successful
 - (2) Never failing
 - (3) Never tired
 - (4) Faulty
- (iii) Lair
- (1) Ordinary
 - (2) Hiding place
 - (3) Pleasing
 - (4) Strong
- (iv) Conscientious
- (1) Sincere
 - (2) Revolutionary
 - (3) Miserly
 - (4) Hateful
- (v) Apoplexy
- (1) loss of money
 - (2) loss of fame
 - (3) loss of business
 - (4) loss of feeling

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(vi) Verdant

- (1) stale
- (2) fresh
- (3) prosperous
- (4) important

(vii) Veritable

- (1) imaginary
- (2) strong
- (3) of variety
- (4) pinching

(viii) Stint

- (1) tenure
- (2) strong
- (3) amusing
- (4) pinching

Or

(b) Pick out the most effective Antonym from the given words:

(i) Erratic

- (1) irregular
- (2) unsteady
- (3) odd
- (4) constant

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(ii) Extinct

- (1) vanished
- (2) lost
- (3) thriving
- (4) departed

(iii) Fortitude

- (1) courage
- (2) weakness
- (3) valour
- (4) resolution

(iv) Goody-goody

- (1) devilish
- (2) prudish
- (3) uptight
- (4) puritan

(v) Hostile

- (1) unfriendly
- (2) allied
- (3) opposing
- (4) aggressive

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(vi) Impudent

- (1) insolent
- (2) rude
- (3) impertinent
- (4) reverent

(vii) Luscious

- (1) delicious
- (2) delightful
- (3) nauseating
- (4) delectable

(viii) Magnificent

- (1) fantastic
- (2) superb
- (3) ordinary
- (4) extraordinary

19. (a) Pick out the most effective word from the given words to fill in the blanks to make the sentence meaningfully complete:

(i) He made a slight _____ of judgment for which he had to repent later.

- (1) error
- (2) slip
- (3) mistake
- (4) blunder
- (5) inexactness

(ii) Planets move in elliptical _____ round the sun.

- (1) figures
- (2) orbits
- (3) shapes
- (4) circles

(iii) The brilliant students will be _____ scholarships.

- (1) honoured
- (2) awarded
- (3) rewarded
- (4) forwarded

(iv) His first failure did not _____ him from making another attempt.

- (1) interfere
- (2) forbid
- (3) frighten
- (4) forwarded

(v) He works _____ from morning to evening daily without break.

- (1) continually
- (2) continuously
- (3) continuing
- (4) continued

(vi) You should enjoy as much as you can because old age will soon _____ you.

- (1) hold
- (2) weaken
- (3) catch
- (4) stop

(vii) The _____ weather also affected the road transportation.

- (1) non-relenting
- (2) inclement
- (3) disrupted
- (4) iconoclast

(viii) The firm is _____ heavy losses due to wrong policies.

- (1) making
- (2) maintaining
- (3) incurring
- (4) reporting

Or

(b) Spot out the errors in the following sentences:

- (i) I have purchased a new scissor.
- (ii) Punam does not like vegetable.
- (iii) Tell me the content of his letter.
- (iv) He old woman always wears a spectacle.
- (v) We must give aim to the beggar.
- (vi) Your trouser is dirty.
- (vii) He is weak in study.
- (viii) I am feeling out of sort.

20. (a) Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

We give undue importance to our health and the treatment of diseases. A large number of medicines treat only the symptoms of the disease and not the root cause. In fact, the cause of many chronic ailments is still being researched. It is here that Yoga therapy comes to our assistance. Yoga emphasizes treatment of the root cause of an ailment. It works in a slow, subtle and miraculous manner. Modern medicine can claim to save a life at a critical stage but, for complete recovery and regaining of nominal health, one must believe in the efficiency of Yoga therapy. The Yogic way of life includes a code of ethics, regulations, discipline, combined

with prayer and meditation. Even a discussion of these subjects helps one relieve mental tensions and change attitudes. Simple Asanas help to stretch and relax the whole body and release tensions. The sincere practice of Yoga postures is beneficial for the mind and body. The continued practice of Yoga has a profound effect on time inner dimensions of life. Yoga aims at developing the mental, physical, spiritual and emotional facilities. Other forms of physical exercises, like aerobics, assure only physical well-being. They have little to do with the development of the soul and mind.

Answer the following questions briefly

- (i) What do most of the medicines treat?
- (ii) What does the phrase 'Chronic ailments' refer to?
- (iii) How is yoga different from other forms of treatment?
- (iv) What does the yogic way of life include?
- (v) How does 'Simple Asanas' help?
- (vi) How does sincere practice of yoga benefit us?
- (vii) How does yoga therapy work?
- (viii) Is yoga better than physical exercises? Why?

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- (b) Read the following poem and answer the questions that follow.

The Fallen Leaves-Robert Service

Why should I be the first to fall

Of all the leaves on this old tree.

Though sadly' soon I know that all

Will lose their hold and follow me.

While my birth brothers bravely' blow,

Why should I be the first to go?

Why should I be the last to cling

Of all the leaves on this bleak booth?

I've fluttered since the fire of spring

And I am worn and withered now.

I would escape the Winter gale.

And sleep soft silvered by a Snail,

When swoop the legions of the snow

To pitch their tents in roaring weather

We fallen leaves will lie below

And rot rejoicingly together;

And from our rich and dark decay

Will laugh our brothers of the May.

Answer the following questions:

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- (i) Who is complaining?
 - (ii) Which season is being referred to here?
 - (iii) What is the complaint of the last leaf?
 - (iv) From when have the leaves been fluttering?
 - (v) What does the snail do? Which season is mentioned?
 - (vi) How do the fallen leaves react now?
 - (vii) Why would they escape the Winter gale'?
 - (viii) Explain the last 2 lines.
-