

PART 'A' – GENERAL ENGLISH

All questions carry equal marks of 2 (two) each. Attempt all questions.

Direction (Questions 1-3): Tick the correct meaning of the given idioms and phrase.

1. *Fair weather friend*
 - (a) A friend who is fair to us ()
 - (b) A friend who deserts us in difficulties ()
 - (c) A friend whom we love the most ()
 - (d) A friend who loves us the most ()
2. *Hale and hearty*
 - (a) Strong and healthy ()
 - (b) Angry but happy ()
 - (c) Clumsy and calm ()
 - (d) Weak and ill ()
3. *Tricks of the trade*
 - (a) A particular profession ()
 - (b) A trick to deceive ()
 - (c) Special skills or knowledge ()
 - (d) An easy task ()

Direction (Question 4 - 6): Select the appropriate synonym/antonym of the given words as directed in the bracket:

4. *Repugnant (antonym)*
 - (a) Odious ()
 - (b) Pleasant ()
 - (c) Austere ()
 - (d) Sombre ()
5. *Comply (antonym)*
 - (a) Defer ()
 - (b) Consent ()
 - (c) Adhere ()
 - (d) Oppose ()
6. *Baffle (Synonym)*
 - (a) Flummox ()
 - (b) Condemn ()
 - (c) Rebuke ()
 - (d) Foresee ()

Directions (Questions 7-9): Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions:

7. You have to leave your shoes _____ the door when you enter the house
 - (a) In ()
 - (b) Over ()
 - (c) To ()
 - (d) By ()

8. It was a long walk, so he began moving slowly _____ the town.

- (a) for ()
- (b) towards ()
- (c) until ()
- (d) at ()

9. They rise _____ the morning lark, and labour till almost dark.

- (a) along ()
- (b) for ()
- (c) at ()
- (d) with ()

10. In the sentence identify the segment which contains the grammatical error.

The Prime Minister, along with the other ministers, have left for America.

- (a) for America ()
- (b) have left ()
- (c) The Prime Minister along with ()
- (d) the other ministers ()

11. Select the correct passive form of the given sentence.

The farmer is ploughing the fields

- (a) The fields were ploughed by the farmer. ()
- (b) The fields are being ploughed by the farmer. ()
- (c) The fields are ploughed by the fanner. ()
- (d) The fields have been ploughed by the farmer. ()

Directions (Questions 12-14): Identify the underlined words and choose the most appropriate answer from the following choices:

12. Hunting tigers is a favourite sport in this country.

- (a) gerund ()
- (b) participle ()
- (c) adjective ()
- (d) noun ()

13. I spent the whole day studying English subject

- (a) gerund ()
- (b) participle ()
- (c) adjective ()
- (d) noun ()

14. The windows were *cracked* when the rain storm came through
- (a) gerund ()
 (b) participle ()
 (c) adjective ()
 (d) Past participle ()

Directions (Questions 15-18): Analyse the following sentences and pick out the correct option:

15. Everybody likes freedom
- (a) assertive ()
 (b) affirmative ()
 (c) interrogative ()
 (d) negative ()
16. Every dark cloud has a silver lining
- (a) assertive ()
 (b) affirmative ()
 (c) interrogative ()
 (d) negative ()
17. No other gas is as light as Hydrogen
- (a) assertive ()
 (b) affirmative ()
 (c) interrogative ()
 (d) negative ()
18. Who among the two boys has better knowledge of the neighbourhood?
- (a) assertive ()
 (b) affirmative ()
 (c) interrogative ()
 (d) negative ()

Direction (Questions 19-21) : Identify the part of speech of the words in italics in the following sentences.

19. Mr. Rex and his family have moved in the *new* building.
- (a) Noun ()
 (b) Pronoun ()
 (c) Verb ()
 (d) Adjective ()
20. There was a pool *nearby*
- (a) Verb ()
 (b) Adverb ()
 (c) Adjective ()
 (d) Noun ()
21. This garden is the most famous one in the whole *city*
- (a) Verb ()
 (b) Adverb ()
 (c) Adjective ()
 (d) Noun ()

Directions (Questions 22-23): A sentence has been given in Direct/Indirect Speech. Out of the four alternatives , select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Indirect/Direct speech.

22. The student said, "Let me come in."
- (a) The student told that let he be allowed to come in ()
 (b) The student said that if he is allowed to come in ()
 (c) The student requested to let him come in ()
 (d) The student requested that he might be allowed to come in ()
23. He asked me if I would like to have lunch with him that day.
- (a) He said to me, "Can you have lunch with me today?" ()
 (b) He said to me, "Would you like to have lunch with me today?" ()
 (c) He said to me, "You can if you like to have lunch with me today." ()
 (d) He said to me, "Do you like to have lunch with me today?" ()

Directions (Questions 24 - 25) : Identify the kind of tenses of the sentences given below:

24. The boys are playing hockey.
- (a) Simple present ()
 (b) Present continuous ()
 (c) Simple past ()
 (d) Past continuous ()
25. He will have left the house by then.
- (a) Present perfect ()
 (b) Past perfect ()
 (c) Future perfect ()
 (d) Simple present ()

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PART 'B' - ESSAY WRITING (20 MARKS)

*This Part should be answered only on the **Answer Sheet** provided.*

26. Write an essay in about 500 words on any **1 (one)** of the following given topics:

- a) Smart Phone - a boon or a curse
- b) Traffic congestion and measures to improve it in Mizoram
- c) Role and significance of NGOs in Mizoram

PART 'B' - ENGLISH COMPREHENSION (30 MARKS)

This Part should be answered only on the Answer Sheet provided.

27. Direction for questions 1-10: Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions on the basis of information provided in the passage.

The coal crisis brings a sense of *déjà vu* (experience of something that is actually happening) as the storyline seems similar to what happens when there is a shortage of sugar or onions. The difference is that the shortage of farm products or food is normally due to crop failure while the reasons for coal shortage are more human-made.

India has the world's fifth-largest coal reserves. Theoretically, therefore, there is no physical shortage as we can mine as much as we want to. For this to happen, miners, which includes Coal India, must invest more money in coal production. During the monsoon season, rains do not just stop the mining process but can also affect coal stocks – this is somewhat like the excess grains problem. Today, while the government has been saying that the supplies are at their highest, the power generating companies are complaining that their stocks are low. Normally, they maintain around 30 days of inventory, but, currently, this has come down to three days. Such shortages invariably lead to outages, some of which are already being witnessed in some pockets of the country.

Several states say that they are running out of coal. Will this situation get reversed? Probably conditions will improve with time, but one does not know when. Demand surges and disruption in supplies can exacerbate the issue. On the supply side, because of low investment, coal cannot be mined more than the capacity which exists today. Hence, the increase in supplies will be gradual. But that has its challenges. In terms of demand, producers should have sprung into action when stocks were getting depleted and not waited till the crisis to flagging the issue. Ideally, if supplies were not available, provision for imports should have been made. However, coal crisis can happen due to a surge in international coal price, shortage of coal stockpiles at power generation centres, poor financial health of power distribution companies, logistical issues and heatwaves are among the primary reasons behind the coal conundrum. The main reasons of coal shortage is the increasing power demand. In 2022, the demand increased to 132 billion units (BU) per month from 106.6 BU a month in 2019. India can reduce its reliance on coal by diversifying its energy sources and increasing the share of natural gas, nuclear and hydro power in its energy mix. These sources can provide flexibility and stability to the grid and complement the variable output of renewable energy.

1. What is the position of India in the world in coal reserves? (2)
2. What are the two disadvantages of the monsoon season? (2)
3. What is the difference between the coal crisis and food crisis as mentioned in the above passage? (4)
4. Which of the following statements is/are true to the context of the passage? (2)
5. Why can't coal be mined more than the capacity despite its existence? (3)
6. Why are the examples of sugar and onions given in the passage with coal crisis? (4)
7. Which of the following words (written in bold letter) is wrongly spelled? (2)

Probably conditions will improve with time, but one does not know when.

Demand **surges** and **disruption** in supplies can **exacerbate** the issue.

8. What are the factors that can result coal crisis in India? (5)
9. What is the main reason of coal shortage as given in the passage? (2)
10. How can India reduce reliance on coal? (4)

