

2 0 2 0

(Held in April-May, 2021)

ENGLISH COMMUNICATION

Paper : ENG-AE-1014

(Ability Enhancement Compulsory Course)

Full Marks : 80

Time : 3 hours

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks
for the questions*

1. Read the text given in the Annexure and write the number of the paragraph, against each statement, that deals with each of the following topics : 1×5=5
- (a) Problems in building a connected country
 - (b) Role of the communication sector during the pandemic
 - (c) Access of the Internet to all Indian citizens

- (d) Increasing privatization drive
- (e) Effect of the lockdown on individual households

2. Find the words in the text (given in the Annexure) that match with the meanings below : 1×5=5

- (a) A special advantage
- (b) Thoughtful observation
- (c) Difficulties
- (d) Increased suddenly and strongly
- (e) Very surprising or shocking

3. Read the text given in the Annexure carefully and answer the following questions : 2×5=10

- (a) Why did Asha decide to move back home?
- (b) Make a list of four purposes mentioned in the text for which Indians have used the online mode during the pandemic.
- (c) How did the New Telecom Policy try to create a more level playing field?

(3)

- (d) What is 'digital identity'?
- (e) Write an expanded definition of the term 'Internet subscribers'.

4. Follow the instructions : $5 \times 4 = 20$

- (a) Rewrite the text after completing the dialogues with the correct forms of the verbs : 5

Would you mind (open) the window, please? I (feel) very hot as I (reach) here after walking for almost half an hour. It (be) very surprising that no buses ply on this road. You (stay) in this building for five years, right?

- (b) Change the following sentences into the passive form : $1 \times 5 = 5$

- (i) They are starting a new school.
- (ii) About 100 students have taken admission for the next session.
- (iii) I have noticed that the campus is very beautiful.
- (iv) The school authorities have employed a group of people for maintaining the campus.
- (v) They water the flower plants regularly.

(4)

Or

- (c) Use your own ideas to complete the following sentences : $1 \times 5 = 5$

(i) I'd like to suggest that _____.

(ii) It's high time _____.

(iii) I wish I _____.

(iv) If we do exercises regularly, we _____.

(v) Our teacher suggested that _____.

- (d) Punctuate the following sentences : $1 \times 5 = 5$

(i) Bitul my friend cannot come for my wedding ceremony

(ii) August 21 2021 is the date of my wedding

(iii) before August I need to do a lot of shopping

(iv) I have requested Bitul to come and help me while shopping

(v) he said I will surely come.

(5)

- (e) Choose the appropriate linking expressions from the following list to complete the paragraph : $1 \times 5 = 5$

thus, moreover, finally, for example, one important function

The media fulfils many functions in our lives. (i) _____ is entertainment. On television, particularly, the variety of entertainment programmes is extensive as it ranges from soap operas, to comedy, to sports. Another function is education. A quick look through a television or radio guide will reveal many programmes with an educational focus. (ii) _____, the media can provide important community information in the form of warnings. (iii) _____, the media can warn of the danger of approaching hurricane or tornado. (iv) _____, the media has an important role in shaping our beliefs. Sometimes information is deliberately presented in such a way that it encourages us to believe certain things or to form certain opinions. As

(6)

a result, our beliefs and opinions are influenced. (v) _____, the media serves a variety of purposes in the society that considerably influence our lives.

5. Answer the following questions : $10 \times 4 = 40$

- (a) Write a one-paragraph summary of the text 'A Connected Country' (given in the Annexure) within 150 words.
- (b) 'A smartphone is now a necessity' for Asha's family as stated in the text in the Annexure. Has a mobile phone been more important for your family too after the lockdown? Write a note comparing your experience to that of Asha's family in terms of the usage of mobile phones.
- (c) Write a listing paragraph on why we should protect the environment.

Or

Write a paragraph describing the difference between fast food and health food.

(7)

(d) Study the following graph and write five sentences to describe changes over time :



★ ★ ★

ANNEXURE

A Connected Country

¹When the lockdown was announced on March 24, 2020, Asha, a domestic worker, didn't think it would go beyond the initial 21 days. After months of speculation, she finally packed her bags and left with her two daughters for Kolkata. Many of the houses she worked in had stopped calling their help, and moving back home meant she could save on rent, even as her daughters continued their education through online classes. Asha's smartphone doubled up for classes and as a source of entertainment for her girls. She may have been earning about ₹ 15,000 a month but for her a smartphone is now a necessity.

²Asha's story illustrates the evolution of India's telecom story and what it has meant for millions of Indians. From the days when having a landline was a sign of privilege and the wait to get a connection could run into months and even years to instant mobile connections and a mobile phone for a thousand rupees now, India has leap-frogged technology in connecting millions of Indians. The numbers are astounding—there are 1.17 billion mobile telephone connections in India. As of June 2019, there were also 665.2 million Internet subscribers and 594.6 million for broadband. During the pandemic, India's communications sector emerged as a saviour for the economy as millions of Indians switched to studying, working and shopping from home. India's digital adoption surged during the outbreak with sectors like digital payments, edutech, and public schemes like direct benefit transfers all seeing a rise in usage. India's digital infrastructure emerged as a crucial pillar in this.

³The India's telecom story is also unique because growth has been led by the private sector. The New Telecom Policy announced in 1999 that invited private participation and sought to create a more level playing field is considered a watershed moment in India's telecom story. The policy lowered the fixed license fee payable upfront with the government introducing a revenue-sharing regime. In August 2000, the government opened up domestic long-distance telephony services to private players—a move that ultimately brought down call rates. Import duties on mobile handsets were cut from 25 to 5 percent, and that brought down the prices of mobile handsets.

⁴The next focus will be availability of high-speed Internet as a core utility for delivery of services to every citizen. It will be about a digital identity, a public 'cloud' that stores all information of an individual; greater use of technology in financial transactions enabling more people to go cashless; and participative governance with platforms where citizens can hold lawmakers accountable.

⁵However, a few glitches need to be sorted out. Lack of digital literacy and slow speeds have deepened the digital divide in rural areas. Most telcos don't find it viable to connect far-flung areas, so there is delayed infrastructure development. A Deloitte-Assocham report estimates that India needs over 8 million hot spots (from the current 31,000 hot spots) to reach the global level of one wi-fi hot spot penetration for every 150 people, part of the challenges that the government hopes to address. Meanwhile, even as the telecom companies seek clarity on the auction of the 5G spectrum, the Union Cabinet approved the proposal to auction 2,251.25 megahertz of spectrum worth ₹ 3.92 lakh crore on December 17, 2020.

(Source : *A Connected Country* by Shweta Punj, published in India Today)