

PSC-MA-CSCCE-22-A**PAPER—A****2025****ENGLISH**

Time : 3 hours]

[Full Marks : 300

Notes : (i) **All** questions are compulsory.

(ii) The number of marks carried by each question is indicated at the end of the question.

(iii) Clearly mention the question number and part before attempting.

(iv) The parts of the same question must be answered together and must not be interposed between answers to other questions.

1. Write an essay in about 600 words on *any one* of the following topics :

100

(a) The Role of Youth in Today's India

(b) Technology and Ordinary Citizens

(c) Students and Mental Well-being

(d) The Importance of Outdoor Activities

2. Read the passage given below carefully and write your answers to the questions that follow in clear, correct and concise language :

5×15=75

First introduced in 1927, The Hardy Boys Mystery Stories are a series of books in America about the adventures of brothers Frank and Joe Hardy, teenaged detectives who solve one baffling mystery after another. The Hardy Boys were so popular among young boys that in 1930 a similar series was created for girls featuring a sixteen-year-old detective named Nancy Drew. The cover of each volume of The Hardy Boys states that the author of the series is Franklin W. Dixon; the Nancy Drew Mystery Stories are supposedly written by Carolyn Keene. Over the years, though, many fans of both series have been surprised to find out that Franklin W. Dixon and Carolyn Keene are not real people. If Franklin W. Dixon and Carolyn Keene never existed, then who wrote The Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew mysteries? The Hardy Boys and the Nancy Drew books were written through a process called



ghostwriting. A ghostwriter writes a book according to a specific formula. While ghostwriters are paid for writing the books, their authorship is not acknowledged and their names do not appear on the published books. Ghostwriters can write books for children or adults, the content of which is unspecific. Sometimes they work on book series with a lot of individual titles, such as The Hardy Boys and the Nancy Drew series. The initial idea for both The Hardy Boys and the Nancy Drew series was developed by a man named Edward Stratemeyer, who owned a publishing company that specialized in children's books. Stratemeyer noticed the increasing popularity of mysteries among adults and surmised that children would enjoy reading mysteries about younger detectives with whom they could identify. Stratemeyer first developed each book with an outline describing the plot and setting. Once he completed the outline, Stratemeyer then hired a ghostwriter to convert it into a book of slightly over 200 pages. After the ghostwriter had written a draft of a book, he or she would send it back to Stratemeyer, who would make a list of corrections and mail it back to the ghostwriter. The ghostwriter would revise the book according to Stratemeyer's instructions and then return it to him. Once Stratemeyer approved the book, it was ready for publication. Because each series ran for so many years, Nancy Drew and The Hardy Boys both had a number of different ghostwriters producing books; however, the first ghostwriter for each series proved to be the most influential. The initial ghostwriter for The Hardy Boys was a Canadian journalist named Leslie McFarlane. A few years later, Mildred A. Wirt, a young writer from Iowa, began writing the Nancy Drew books. Although they were using prepared outlines as guides, both McFarlane and Wirt developed the characters themselves. The personalities of Frank and Joe Hardy and Nancy Drew arose directly from McFarlane's and Wirt's imaginations. For example, Mildred Wirt had been a star college athlete and gave Nancy similar athletic abilities. The ghostwriters were also responsible for numerous plot and setting details. Leslie McFarlane used elements of his small Canadian town to create Bayport, the Hardy Boys' fictional hometown. Although The Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew books were very popular with children, not everyone approved of them. Critics thought their plots were unrealistic and even far-fetched, since most teenagers did not experience the adventures Frank and Joe Hardy or Nancy Drew did. The way the books were written also attracted criticism. Many teachers and librarians objected to the ghostwriting process, claiming it was designed to produce books quickly rather than create quality literature. Some libraries—including the New York Public Library—even refused to include the books in their children's collections. Ironically, this decision actually helped sales of the books, because children simply purchased them

when they were unavailable in local libraries. Regardless of the debates about their literary merit, each series of books has exerted an undeniable influence on American and even global culture. Most Americans have never heard of Edward Stratemeyer, Leslie McFarlane, or Mildred Wirt, but people throughout the world are familiar with Nancy Drew and Frank and Joe Hardy.

- (a) Who is a ghost writer?
- (b) How did Edward Stratemeyer develop the Hardy Boys and Nancy Drew book series?
- (c) Who were critical of these books? Why did they not like the books?
- (d) Discuss the features used by McFarlane and Wirt in these books.
- (e) What is your opinion about ghost writing?

3. Make a precis of the following passage in your own words in about one-third of its length. Do not give a title to it :

75

Today there is a lot of talk about the environment. All nations are coming to an agreement to save planet earth. We pollute the earth, we pollute the water; we also pollute the subtle environment through our negative feelings and emotions. We have become a victim of our greed and needs. We are not in control of our mind. We hear a lot about other things in life but we spend very little time to hear about ourselves. How to handle our mind? How to be in the present moment? How to be happy and grateful? This we have not learnt. This is the most unfortunate thing. Then what is the solution? This is where we are reminded of a very fundamental principle that governs our environment, our mind, our emotions and our life in general. Our body has the capacity to sustain much longer the vibration of bliss and peace than it does negative emotions because positivity is in the centre of our existence. As with the structure of atom, protons and neutrons are in the centre of the atom and electrons constitute only the periphery; the same is with our lives; the centre core of our existence is bliss, positivity and joy but it is surrounded by a cloud of negative ions. Through the help of the breath we can easily get over our negative emotions in a short period of time. Through meditation and certain breathing techniques, we can clear this negative cloud. This life has so much to offer to you. You can see this once you take some time off, rejuvenating the soul. Your soul is hungry for a smile from you. If you could give this, you feel energised the whole year and nothing whatsoever can take the smile from you. Everyone wants to be successful in life. But without knowing what is success, you want to be successful. What is the sign of success? Just having a lot of money, is that success? Why do you think money means success? Because money gives you freedom so that you can

do whatever you want. You may have a big bank balance, but, you have stomachaches, ulcers, you may have to go for bypass surgery; can't eat this, can't do this, can't do that. We expend half our health to gain wealth and then spend half our wealth to gain back the lost health. Is this success? In fact, it is very bad mathematics. Look at those who claim to be successful—are they successful? No, they are miserable. Then, what is the sign of success? It is confidence, compassion, generosity and a smile that none can snatch away, being really happy and being able to be more free. These are the signs of a successful person. Take some time off to look a little deeper into yourself and calm the mind down. Thus erasing all the impressions that we are carrying in our minds and experience the presence of the divine that is the very core of our existence.

4. Correct and rewrite the following sentences appropriately. Do not make unnecessary changes in the original sentences : 1×15=15

- (a) Whatever your views may be, I still hold that the purpose of education is to succeed in the life.
- (b) Had you asked me earlier, I will certainly have gone to the movies with you tonight.
- (c) Sam reminded me that I am making more demands on him than in the past.
- (d) The traffic laws of each State varies with regard to speed limit and minimum driving age.
- (e) Never before I have had such a delicious dinner as the one we had last night in your house.
- (f) Next week we will study more about Universe and our solar system.
- (g) When you know everything, you are in a position to chose what you want.
- (h) All the babies in the maternity ward are sleeping, isn't it?
- (i) It is a fact that neither Subash nor Devika are attending the karate classes.
- (j) The Chairman was happy that we selected the most perfect candidate for this task.
- (k) The ships now lying at the bottom of Abukir Bay was rumored to be carrying treasures.

(l) At that very moment they were showing signs of growing nervousness, isn't it?

(m) The Principal forbade us not to use the entire central hall.

(n) It is undeniably true that many amongst us felt the whole building to vibrate.

(o) Neither Tom nor Max are willing to go with us on the trip.

5. Supply the missing words :

1×5=5

(a) I always pray to God to protect me _____ danger.

(b) It is 9 : 35 _____ my watch.

(c) The entire shopping complex was engulfed _____ flames.

(d) It has been snowing in Jammu _____ yesterday.

(e) Why should we worry about matters _____ little importance?

6. Use the correct form of the verbs given in brackets :

1×5=5

(a) The students of class III _____ (perform) a skit on the occasion of Women's Day.

(b) The NSS volunteers took the initiative of _____ (plant) saplings in the campus.

(c) Our neighbours _____ (buy) an electric scooter yesterday.

(d) Rani _____ (throw) the ball so hard that none of her friends could catch it.

(e) I am happy that Sujith and his sister _____ (prepare) well for the board exams.

7. Write the antonyms of the following words :

1×5=5

(a) Paucity

(b) Vociferous

(c) Meticulous

(d) Inquisitive

(e) Noxious

8. Write the synonyms of the following words :

1×5=5

- (a) Affront
- (b) Cryptic
- (c) Vindicate
- (d) Pragmatic
- (e) Imbibe

9. Rewrite the following sentences as directed without changing their meaning :

1×10=10

- (a) It rained heavily. We did not cancel the football match.
(Combine using 'although')
- (b) Sunil said, "I can't come to class on Friday."
(Convert into indirect speech)
- (c) The manager asked us where we were going.
(Convert into direct speech)
- (d) The winning run will be hit by our captain.
(Convert into active voice)
- (e) Isn't wisdom better than riches?
(Change into an assertive sentence)
- (f) Tell Sunitha to meet the Principal.
(Change into an interrogative sentence)
- (g) Lakshadweep is more beautiful than any other island I have seen.
(Change the sentence by using the superlative form of the adjective)
- (h) He did not give me the money. He did not inform me about it earlier.
(Use 'neither...nor')
- (i) She is efficient. She will get a place in the Mumbai Ranji team.
(Combine using 'since')
- (j) Ravi tiptoed into the room. He did not want to disturb the baby.
(Combine using 'lest')

10. Use the following words/idioms to make sentences that bring out the meaning clearly. Do not change the form of the words. (No marks will be given for vague and ambiguous sentences) :

1×5=5

- (a) Adverse
- (b) Sumptuous
- (c) Prolific
- (d) Make two ends meet
- (e) A blessing in disguise

SPACE FOR ROUGH WORK



★ ★ ★