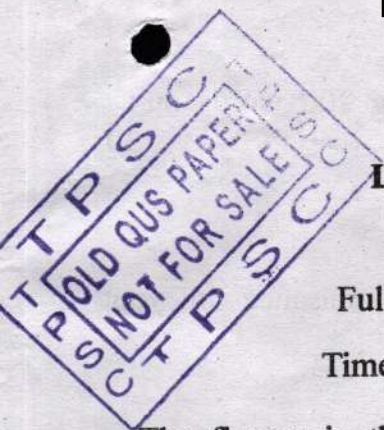




LANGUAGE
PAPER-I

Full Marks – 100

Time – Three hours

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

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.

Write your answers strictly according to directions.

1. Write an essay of about 400 words on any *one* of the following topics/ideas : 20

(a) Social responsibilities for the care of the aged.

Or

(b) "Waste not, want not."

2. Write an essay of about 400 words on any *one* of the following topics/ideas : 20

(a) How to deal with traffic offences ?

Or

(b) "No pain, no gain."

[Turn over

3. Write a report, not exceeding 200 words on : 30

Either

- (a) An instance of public nuisance in your locality.

Or

- (b) Your visit to a primary school in your neighbourhood.

4. Write a precis of *one* of the following :

- (i) Passages in the precis sheet. 25
 (ii) Give suitable title to the passage. 5

Water is life. Our bodies are made mostly of water and our survival depends on it. All life forms on planet earth are nurtured by water. Hence, ancient civilisations revered water, acknowledging its role as the driving force of nature. Scriptures of the two oldest religions of the world – Zoroastrianism and Hinduism – venerate water as a deity. While the Zend Avesta reveres Aredvi, the river goddess who nourishes people and lands and

grants fertility, healing and wisdom, the Puranas worship Ganga, the river goddess who feeds, purifies and liberates humankind.

With time, the relationship between human beings and water seems to have undergone many changes. The idolisation turned into utilitarianism followed by consumerism and finally has given way to exploitation. Over the last 100 years or so, we have been exhausting water reserves faster than they can be replenished. A recent report by Niti Ayog claims that around 21 Indian cities will run out of groundwater and face severe water scarcity by 2020. When we all know how essential water is for survival of many life forms including ours, it is surprising that most of us are either silent spectators or willing participants in the massive wastage and contamination of this precious natural resource.

What could explain such a thoughtless and negligent attitude? Perhaps, the answers can be found in the prevailing psychological makeup in many of us, characterised by alienation, narcissism and greed. Nowadays, many people feel a deep disconnect with themselves, others and their

environment. They feel alone, empty and vulnerable and in order to overcome their negative emotions they crave for intense pleasure.

270 words

Or

When you understand a means as an end, then this will happen. Money is just a means to do whatever we wish to do. The reason why everybody keeps a certain amount of money is so that tomorrow morning, he does not have to worry, 'Where is my breakfast going to come from?'. Once survival is taken care of, you can put yourself into what you value most. Otherwise, every morning you you'll have to go in search of food. So, money is just a means to organise a few things.

Now, a whole lot of people everywhere are going at it as if money is their goal. Money is not your goal, it's just a means. So, for the span of life that you have, the intelligence that you have and the capability that you have, how much means do you need? That's something you must gauge. Otherwise, you will have means and you will not

have any end. You have a car, but you don't know where to go, what is the point? Once you know where to go, and you know if you get on the bus, you will go there in six hours; if you get into your car, you will go there in two hours, therefore, you get a car. Now you don't know where you want to go, but you have a rocket – what is the point?

We must understand this – life is not a conquest. How profound is your experience when you sit here? This all there is to your life. Other arrangements we make are just for convenience. How much convenience do you want? Convenience will work only to a certain point; it will never transform itself into well-being.

280 words.

