

PART-II

Q. 2. Write a précis of the following passage in about 120 words and suggest a suitable title: (20)

During my vacation last May, I had a hard time choosing a tour. Flights to Japan, Hong Kong and Australia are just too common. What I wanted was somewhere exciting and exotic, a place where I could be spared from the holiday tour crowds. I was so happy when John called up, suggesting a trip to Cherokee, a county in the state of Oklahoma. I agreed and went off with the preparation immediately.

We took a flight to Cherokee and visited a town called Qualla Boundary surrounded by magnificent mountain scenery, the town painted a paradise before us. With its Oconaluftee Indian Village reproducing tribal crafts and lifestyles of the 18th century and the outdoor historical pageant *Unto These Hills* playing six times weekly in the summer nights, Qualla Boundary tries to present a brief image of the Cherokee past to the tourists.

Despite the language barrier, we managed to find our way to the souvenir shops with the help of the natives. The shops were filled with rubber tomahawks and colorful traditional war bonnets, made of dyed turkey feathers. Tepees, cone-shaped tents made from animal skin, were also pitched near the shops. "Welcome! Want to get anything?" We looked up and saw a middle-aged man smiling at us. We were very surprised by his fluent English. He introduced himself as George and we ended up chatting till lunch time when he invited us for lunch at a nearby coffee shop.

"Sometimes, I've to work from morning to sunset during the tour season. Anyway, this is still better off than being a woodcutter ..." Remembrance weighed heavy on George's mind and he went on to tell us that he used to cut firewood for a living but could hardly make ends meet. We learnt from him that the Cherokees do not depend solely on trade for survival. During the tour off-peak period, the tribe would have to try out other means for income. One of the successful ways is the "Bingo Weekend". On the Friday afternoons of the Bingo weekends, a large bingo hall was opened, attracting huge crowds of people to the various kinds of games like the Super Jackpot and the Warrior Game Special. According to George, these forms of entertainment fetch them great returns.

Our final stop in Qualla Boundary was at the museum where arts, ranging from the simple hand-woven oak baskets to wood and stone carvings of wolves, ravens and other symbols of Cherokee cosmology are displayed.

Back at home, I really missed the place and I would of course look forward to the next trip to another exotic place.

Q. 3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (20)

The New Year is the time for resolution. Mentally, at least most of us could compile formidable lists of 'do's and don'ts'. The same old favorites recur year in and year out with the children, do a thousand and one job about the house, be nice to people we don't like, drive carefully, and take the dog for a walk every day. Past experience has taught us that certain accomplishments are beyond attainment. If we remain deep rooted liars, it is only because we have so often experienced the frustration that results from failure.

Most of us fail in our efforts at self-improvement because our schemes are too ambitious and we never have time to carry them out. We also make the fundamental error of announcing our resolution to everybody so that we look even more foolish when we slip back into our bad old ways. Aware of these pitfalls, this year I attempted to keep my resolution to myself. I limited myself to two modest ambitions, to do physical exercise every morning and to read more in the evening. An overnight party on New Year's Eve provided me with a good excuse for not carrying out either of these new resolutions on the first day of the year, but on the second, I applied myself assiduously to the task.

The daily exercise lasted only eleven minutes and I proposed to do them early in the morning before anyone had got up. The self-discipline required to drag myself out of bed eleven minutes earlier than usual was considerable. Nevertheless, I managed to creep down into the living room for two days before anyone found me out. After jumping about in the carpet and twisted the human frame into uncomfortable positions. I sat down at the breakfast table in an exhausted condition. It was this that betrayed me. The next morning the whole family trooped into watch the performance. That was really unsettling but I fended off the taunts and jibes of the family good humoredly and soon everybody got used to the idea. However, my enthusiasm waned, the time I spent at exercises gradually diminished. Little by little the eleven minutes fell to zero. By January 10th I was back to where I had started from. I argued that if I spent less time exhausting myself at exercises in the morning. I would keep my mind fresh for reading when I got home from work. Resisting the hypnotizing effect of television, I sat in my room for a few evenings with my eyes glued to a book. One night, however, feeling cold and lonely, I went downstairs and sat in front of the television pretending to read. That proved to be my undoing, for I soon got back to the old bad habit of dozing off in front of the screen. I still haven't given up my resolution to do more reading. In fact, I have just bought a book entitled 'How to Read a Thousand Words a Minute'. Perhaps it will solve my problem, but I just have not had time to read it.

- Questions:**
1. Why most of us fail in our efforts for self-improvement? (5)
 2. Why is it a basic mistake to announce our resolution to everybody? (5)
 3. Why did the writer not carry out his resolution on New Year's Day? (5)
 4. Find out the words in the above passage which convey the similar meaning to the following:

(1) intimidating (2) peril (3) dwindle (4) repel (5) barb (5) Page 1 of 2

A Memorable Trip to Cherokee

Last May, the narrator went on a trip to Cherokee with John. Their first stop was Qualla Boundary located among the scenic mountains. The Oconaluftee Indian Village and lifestyle of 18th century presented the Cherokee's past before them. As they traced their way to souvenir shops stocked with rubber tomahawks and colorful war bonnets, made of dyed Turkey feathers. The shopkeeper George greeted them and invited them to lunch in a nearby coffee shop. He told them that Cherokee is not merely dependent upon trade. In addition, entertainment activities like 'Bingo Weekends' are another source of income for locals. At last, they went to museum, where they saw different traditional arts, crafts and cosmological symbols of Cherokee. The narrator missed the Cherokee at home and manifested for another trip soon.

[Word count: 131]

Q3

1. Why most of us fail in our effort for self-improvement?

The main reason due to which most of fail in our efforts for self-improvement is that we make resolutions that are too ambitious. Our schemes for self-improvement are so hypothetical and impossible to achieve that we fail to follow them with our hectic schedules.

2. Why ~~is~~ is it a basic mistake to announce our resolutions to everybody?

It is a basic mistake to announce our resolutions to everybody because when we fail to follow our schemes, we look more foolish. When we again fall back to our old schedule, we become a subject of people's judgement. Therefore, it is better to keep our resolution to ourselves.

3. Why did the writer not carry out his resolution on New Year's Day?

The writer made two resolutions, to do physical exercise every morning and to read more in the evening. But, he attended an overnight party on New Year's Eve and this gave him a good excuse to not carry out his resolution on the next day.

4.

(i) Intimidating Unsettling

(ii) Peril Pitfalls

(iii) Dwindle Slip back, waned, diminished

(iv) Repel: Resisting, fended off

(v) Barb: Taunts, jibes

ENGLISH (PRECIS & COMPOSITION)

Q. 4. (a) Correct only FIVE of the following:

(5)

- (i) We were staying at my sister's cape's code vacation home.
- (ii) She recommended me that I take a few days off from work.
- (iii) I tried to explain him the problem, but he had difficulty understanding me.
- (iv) I'll do the grocery shopping for you grandma, Lucy said.
- (v) We took a tent, a cooler, and a sleeping bag.
- (vi) I don't know why you didn't go. If I were you, I should have gone.
- (vii) Kevin says he stopped to travel internationally because of his family.
- (viii) Don't run! Mr. Salman shouted.

(b) Choose the punctuation mark that is needed in each of the following sentences:

(5)

- (i) "It isn't fair!" shouted Martin. Coach Lewis never lets me start the game!"
- (ii) Maureen's three sisters, Molly, Shannon, and Patricia are all spending the summer at their grandmother's beach house.
- (iii) For the centrepieces, the florist recommended the following flowers daisies, tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths.
- (iv) Lily is an accomplished gymnast she won three medals in her last competition.
- (v) Everyone was shocked when Max Smithfield – a studious, extremely bright high school senior decided that college was not for him.

Q4 (a)

- (i) We are staying at my sister's Cape
Codd vacation home.
- (ii) She recommended me ~~that~~ ^{to} I take a
few days off from work.
- (iii) I tried to explain the problem to him,
but he had difficulty understanding
me.
- (iv) I would do the grocery shopping for
you grandma, Lucy said.
- (v) He took a tent, cooler, and a sleeping
bag.
- (vi) Kevin says he stopped travelling internationally
because of his family.
- (viii) 'Don't war!' Mr. Salman commanded.

Q4 (b)

- (i) "It isn't fair" shouted Martin. "Coach Lewis never lets me start the game!"
- (ii) Maureen's three sisters - Molly, Shannon, and Patricia - are all spending the summer at their grandmother's beach house.
- (iii) For the centerpieces, the florist recommended the following flowers: daisies, tulips, daffodils, and hyacinths.
- (iv) Lily is an accomplished gymnast. She won three medals in her last competition.
- (v) Everyone was shocked when Max Smithfield - a studious, extremely bright high school senior - decided that college was not for him.

Q. 2. Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title: (20)

In the heart of bustling cities, urban green spaces stand as oases of tranquility, providing respite from the hustle and bustle. Parks, adorned with vibrant flora, become havens for relaxation and recreation. The greenery offers a sanctuary for diverse wildlife, creating a delicate balance between urban development and environmental preservation. Beyond their aesthetic appeal, city parks play a crucial role in fostering community bonds. Families gather for picnics, friends engage in sports, and individuals find solace amidst nature's embrace. These communal spaces serve as venues for cultural events, open-air concerts, and art installations, enriching the urban experience. The benefits of urban green spaces extend beyond leisure. They contribute to improved air quality, mitigate the urban heat island effect, and promote overall well-being. Access to nature within city limits becomes a vital aspect of mental health, offering a refuge for introspection and rejuvenation. However, the challenge lies in balancing the increasing urbanization with the preservation of green spaces. Sustainable urban planning becomes imperative to ensure the coexistence of concrete jungles and natural havens. Efforts to create and maintain parks, tree-lined avenues, and green rooftops become integral components of shaping cities that prioritize both human and environmental health. As cities evolve, the preservation and enhancement of urban green spaces become a shared responsibility. The vision is to cultivate urban landscapes that seamlessly integrate nature into the tapestry of city life, fostering a sustainable and harmonious cohabitation between human progress and the environment.

Q. 3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given at the end. (20)

"In the heart of innovation, where creativity dances with technology, a new era of possibilities emerges. The digital landscape, once a distant horizon, now envelops every facet of our lives. From communication to commerce, the symbiotic relationship between humanity and technology shapes the contours of our modern existence.

In this age of rapid change, the role of education becomes pivotal. The traditional classroom, with its four walls, expands into the boundless realms of the internet. E-learning platforms and virtual classrooms redefine the notion of education, offering a dynamic space for collaboration and knowledge exchange. The democratization of information, facilitated by digital platforms, challenges traditional hierarchies and empowers learners across the globe.

However, as we navigate the seas of technological progress, questions of ethics and inclusivity arise. The digital divide, a chasm separating those with access to technology from those without, underscores the need for inclusive policies. In this context, the role of educators extends beyond imparting knowledge to fostering a sense of responsibility and ethical conduct in the digital realm.

The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into various aspects of our lives further blurs the boundaries between human and machine. As AI algorithms make decisions that impact society, the importance of ethical considerations and transparency grows exponentially. The intersection of technology and ethics becomes a defining point in the evolution of our digital landscape.

As we stand at the crossroads of innovation, the challenge is not merely to embrace technological advancements but to do so with a mindful and ethical approach. The synergy between humanity and technology holds immense promise, but it is our collective responsibility to navigate this path with wisdom, ensuring that progress aligns with the principles of equity, inclusivity, and ethical awareness."

Questions: (4 marks each)

1. What is the main theme of the passage, and how does it emphasize the evolving relationship between humanity and technology?
2. According to the passage, how does education adapt to the digital landscape, and what challenges and opportunities does this transformation present?
3. Discuss the concept of the digital divide as presented in the passage. Why is inclusivity crucial in the context of technological advancements, and what role do educators play in addressing this divide?
4. Explore the role of ethics in the digital realm, especially concerning artificial intelligence. How does the passage highlight the intersection between technology and ethical considerations?
5. What is the message regarding the responsibility of individuals and society as a whole in navigating the intersection of humanity and technology? How can progress align with principles of equity, inclusivity, and ethical awareness?

Importance of Green Spaces

Urban green spaces provide an escape from busy life in big cities. Beside their aesthetic appeal, they are source of community engagement and sports activities. Moreover, these spaces contribute to improved air quality and protect cities from heat island effect. However, the real challenge is to strike a balance between urbanization and preservation of nature. This balance can only be achieved through sustainable urban planning. Furthermore, the maintenance of such green spaces becomes shared responsibility of community. The goal is to induce green spaces in every urban project to promote sustainability.

[Word count: 100.]

Q3.

1. What is the main theme of the passage, and how does it emphasize the evolving relationship between humanity and technology?

The main theme of the passage revolves around the new era of possibilities that is emerging as a result of technological innovations. It emphasizes the evolving relationship between humanity and technology as the foundation of our modern existence. Every modern aspect of humanity from communication to commerce is dependent on technological advancements.

2. According to the passage, how does education adapt to digital landscape, and what challenges and opportunities does this transformation present?

In this modern age, the role of education has become crucial. The traditional concept of classroom is evolving into a boundless platform through internet. E-learning forums and virtual classrooms redefine the notion of education, offering a dynamic space for collaborations and knowledge exchange. The availability of information, through digital platforms, challenges traditional hierarchies and empowers students across the globe.

3. Discuss the concept of digital divide as presented in the passage. Why is inclusivity crucial in the ~~passage~~ context of technological advancement and what role do educators play in addressing this divide?

The digital divide is a phenomenon of increased disparity between people who can access technology and those who

cannot access technology. In this context, educators are responsible to nurture the sense of inclusivity and spread awareness among the learners regarding the ethical code of conduct of using technology.

4. Explore the role of ethics in the digital realms, especially concerning artificial intelligence. How does the passage highlight the intersection between technology and ethical consideration?

With the advancement in technology, artificial intelligence has become an undeniable part of our daily lives. As AI is capable of making decisions on its own through algorithms, the necessity of defining ethical code of conduct has increased since then.

Therefore, the intersection of technology and ethics becomes a defining point in the evolution of digital landscape.

5. What is the message regarding the responsibility of individuals and society as a whole in navigating the intersection of humanity and technology? How can progress align with principles of equity, inclusivity, and ethical awareness?

The biggest challenge to adapt to technology is the mindful use of it. There is a need for proper ethical code of conduct to avoid any peril to humanity from technology. Moreover, the progress can be aligned with principle of equity, inclusivity, and ethical awareness through collective and well-thought efforts of society.

ENGLISH (PRECIS & COMPOSITION)

Q. 4. Correct only FIVE of the following: (10)

- (i) Chewing slowly, the pepperoni pizza tasted delicious
- (ii) Kicking and screaming, the exasperated father dragged his toddler out of the grocery store.
- (iii) A young girl in the corner, holding a red balloon.
- (iv) Whom do you like more?
- (v) He ordered a meal from the restaurant that was high in protein.
- (vi) My favorite pizza topping is mushrooms they are really tasty I also like pizza with olives.
- (vii) The group asked to hear the report that Shirley and me prepared.
- (viii) I managed finishing the painting.

Q. 5. Rewrite any FIVE of the following sentences with corrected punctuation, without splitting a sentence or adding/changing any word. (05)

- (i) The cordless vacuum one of the least interesting of the household appliances got its start as a moon drill.
- (ii) Dr. Seuss books are famous for their delightful rhymes and nonsense words If I Ran a Zoo, however, likely gave us the real word nerd.
- (iii) There are many theories about Edgar Allan Poe's mysterious death, including rabies, alcoholism, and a truly strange possibility he may have been a victim of a voter fraud scheme.
- (iv) The film critic said, "One of the most misquoted lines in movie history is Play it again, Sam."
- (v) Poorly named animals include: the flying fox, which is really a bat the electric eel, which is really a knifefish and the honey badger, which is the only member of its genus and species!
- (vi) The Haskell Opera House sits right on the US Canadian border with the stage in Quebec and many of the seats in Vermont.
- (vii) Most carnivorous plants attract and digest insects and other invertebrates but some large pitcher plants have been known to digest frogs, rodents, and other vertebrates.
- (viii) Harvey is a good driver moreover he is a very friendly one.

(b) Re-write the following sentences (ONLY FIVE) after filling in the blanks with appropriate Prepositions. (05)

- (i) His research is characterized _____ a deep understanding of genetic mutations.
- (ii) The solution is contingent _____ various factors.
- (iii) The experiment is predicated _____ the assumption of uniform conditions.
- (iv) The project is commensurate _____ the skills of the research team.
- (v) The methodology is impervious _____ external influences.
- (vi) The discussion oscillated _____ two main points.
- (vii) His proposal hinges _____ securing adequate funding.
- (viii) The model is contingent _____ accurate data inputs.

Q4

- (i) Chewing slowly, I found the pepperoni pizza tasted delicious.
- (ii) Kicking and screaming, the toddler was dragged out of the grocery store by his exasperated father.
- (iii) A young girl is holding a red balloon in the corner.
- (iv) Whom do you like the most?
- (v) He ordered a meal - that was high in protein - from the restaurant.
- (vi) My favorite pizza topping is mushrooms, they are really tasty, but I also like pizza with olives.
- (vii) The group asked to hear the report that Shirley and I prepared.
- (viii) I managed to finish the painting.

Q5

(a)

- (i) The cordless vacuum - one of the least interesting of the household appliances - got its start as a moon drill.
- (ii) Dr. Seuss books are famous for their delightful rhymes and nonsense words: If I Ran a Zoo, however, likely gave us the real word 'nerd'.
- (iii) There are many theories about Edgar Allan Poe's mysterious death, including rabies, ~~alcoholism~~ alcoholism, and a truly strange possibility: he may have been victim of a voter fraud scheme.
- (iv) The film critic said, "One of the most misquoted lines in movie history is 'Play it again, Sam'."
- (v) Poorly named animals include: the flying fox, which is really a bat; the electric eel, which is really a knife fish; and the honey badger, which is the only member of its genus and species.

(vi) The Haskell Opera House sits right on the US-Canadian border, with the stage in Quebec and many of the seats in Vermont.

(vii) Most carnivorous plants attract and digest insects, and other invertebrates, but some large pitcher plants have been known to digest frogs, rodents, and other vertebrates.

(viii) Harvey is a good driver, moreover, he is a very friendly one.

Q5

(b)

- (i) His research is characterized by a deep understanding of genetic mutations.
- (ii) The solution is contingent upon various factors.
- (iii) The experiment is predicted by the assumptions of uniform conditions.
- (iv) The project is commensurate with the skills of the research team.
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