2014

ENGLISH
( Science )

( Functional English—I )

Full Marks : 40
Time : 2 hours

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

1. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate words within the brackets (any seven):

(a) His decision of not accepting the money was a matter of —— (principle/principal).

(b) When she did not return home in the evening, her mother got —— (nervous/anxious).

(c) The treaty that was signed by the leaders of the two countries was considered to be —— (historical/historic).

(d) She wanted to get a —— (souvenir/memory) for her friend from the foreign country.
(e) The — (desert/dessert) that she served after the meal was praised by everyone.

(f) The population of India is fast increasing due to an increase in the rate of — (immigration/emigration) from other countries.

(g) Since their plan failed, they had to think of an — (alternate/alternative) strategy.

(h) They had run out of supplies, so the officer-in-charge asked his assistant to fetch the — (stationary/stationery).

2. Read the passage in Annexure—I. The following is a summary of the passage. Fill in the gaps with suitable words:

Contrary to popular belief, an igloo is an ideal place to spend a really cold winter in the — region. Firstly, there is sufficient space for — inside the igloo. In fact, there is enough room to stand up. This is because the centre of the igloo is quite below — level. Secondly, it is warm and comfortable inside as an igloo is made up of — that act as insulators. Moreover, — is kept burning in a stone lamp that — the temperature. In addition to that, the inside of the igloo is lined with —. The third reason to stay in an igloo is that a thin sheet of ice allows the view of the outside and also lets in —. Lastly, an igloo is very comfortable with its floor covered with different layers: the first layer has dry grass and —, the second has animal skin and the topmost layer has —. Therefore, an igloo is roomy, warm, bright and very comfortable.

3. Make notes on the passage in Annexure—I. 10

4. Fill in the blanks using ‘a’ or ‘the’:

(a) I’ve lost — key you gave me yesterday.

(b) She’s looking forward to going to — US.

(c) An orange is — citrus fruit.

(d) Have you got — pen I can borrow?

5. Correct the mistakes of the following (any four):

(a) He used to study Science for three years.

(b) I didn’t knew that you came to stay with me next weekend.

(c) I just write a letter to her when she was phoning me.
(d) In the 1970s people would be less well-off than they are now.
(e) It was the first time I went abroad and I was feeling very excited.

6. Say which of the following opinions belong to which category. Write (i), (ii) or (iii) against the opinions:

   (i) I agree + reason
   (ii) I don't agree or I partly agree + reason
   (iii) Avoiding giving an opinion

(a) I couldn't agree more, but...
(b) It's difficult to say.
(c) I really don't know, I'm afraid.
(d) Quite right.
(e) That's not quite the way I see it.

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Inside the snow house

Spending the winter in an igloo isn’t as uncomfortable as you might think

In fact, life in an igloo isn’t nearly as uncomfortable as you might think. Let's imagine going into a traditional igloo out of a snowstorm in the middle of an Arctic winter...

Room to move
The first thing you notice after crawling down through the entrance tunnel is that the igloo is bigger than it looks from the outside. The floor in the centre of the igloo is quite a bit below ground level, and there's plenty of room to stand up without banging your head.

Heat
It's also quite warm inside. This is partly because the snow blocks that the igloo is made from provide very good insulation, and partly because of a stone lamp burning seal oil – the only form of heating in the igloo. So although it's -30°C outside, it's a fairly comfortable +10°C inside – warm enough to take your wet clothes off and hang them up to dry.

Naturally, the heat melts a thin layer of the snow wall, but to prevent drips (and to provide even more insulation) there are animal skins hanging across the ceiling and down the walls.

It isn’t smoky inside, either – a small hole in the ceiling acts as a chimney, and allows the smoke from the lamp to escape.

Light
Above the entrance tunnel, there’s a thin sheet of ice set into the wall, which acts as a kind of window. You can’t see much through it, but during the few hours of daylight it lets quite a lot of light in. The rest of the time, you can see by the light of the lamp (which is also used for cooking).

A place to sit
Around the walls of the igloo is a wide platform (which is at the same level as the ground outside), where you can sit or lie down. You don't have to sit directly on the snow – the platform is covered with dry grass and animal bones, then with animal skins, and finally with animal furs, and there are more animal furs to use as blankets. So the platform is a comfortable place to stretch out – and warm, too, as it is near the top of the dome where the warmest air is trapped.

A temporary home
In many ways, an igloo is the ideal place to spend a really cold winter. When the weather gets warmer in spring, of course, you no longer need it – which is just as well because that’s the time that igloos start to melt.
Kolkata gets its own set of obelisks

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Kolkata: Artist Paresh Maity, whose works are exhibited at the British Museum in London, the Rubin Museum of Art in New York and the National Gallery of Modern Art in Delhi, has completed a monumental sculpture for public display in Kolkata.

Commissioned by industrialist Sanjeev Goenka, the twin obelisks — each 24.5ft high, 4ft wide and 4ft deep — feature portraits of Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Satyajit Ray, Pandit Ravi Shankar, Mother Teresa and an unknown baul singer.

Obelisks are columns that taper into a pyramid-like shape at the top. Obelisks were prominent in the architecture of the ancient Egyptians, who placed them in pairs at the entrance of temples.

"This is not only the largest sculpture I have attempted, it is also the most ambitious one. I have tried to encapsulate the essence of Bengal and feature those who have shaped its sensibility and continue to inspire," the Padma Shri awardee said.

Maity, who creates simple yet striking images of everything that everyone can relate to, made a name by rediscovering the charm, flavour and magic of India in paintings. Rajasthan has been the human inspiration behind his work, Santiniketan the spirituality of mind, body and soul. In Agra, Maity visualized the beauty of the Taj. In Ajanta-Ellora he recreated the amazing Buddhist frescoes. In the series on Kerala and Varanasi, he captured the tranquility of backwaters and serenity of ghats with aplomb.

His most recent work prior to the twin columns was the 800ft painting that is on display at Terminal 3 at Delhi airport. While that was the largest painting he had attempted, the columns he has now created is his largest sculpture.

"When I was asked to make a sculpture that would be displayed in public, I was excited because it was an opportunity to create something for my own state. But the process of creation was an arduous one," the artist said. For someone known to be prolific (he has done 69 solo exhibitions in 35 years), the fiberglass sculpture kept him engaged for an entire year, making it his most challenging work till date.

The obelisks at Quest Mall