

## WBCS COMPULSORY ENGLISH MOCK TEST-II

PAPER II

Solution

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***1. Write a letter (within 250 words) to the editor of a newspaper raising a concern about rapid diminishing of wetlands from urban landscapes.***

To,  
The Editor,  
The Daily News  
Kolkata  
Date: 09/06/2017

Subject: Diminishing of wetlands from urban areas

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Wetlands once used to be a common feature of every urban landscape. Now they have started to diminish rapidly. Through your valued newspaper column I would like to put forward this problem to secure attention of citizens and the government. Wetlands not only enhance aesthetic values to a city but also comprise an important component of our ecosystem.

Wetlands are one of the most productive ecosystems in the nature, sheltering a diverse species of flora and fauna. They are homes to uncountable amphibians and are breeding grounds for many exotic migratory birds. They also play a vital role in carbon sequestration by acting as sinks for carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. They also act as natural ventilators.

During heavy rainfall city ponds act as natural storehouse of excess water, saving cities from flooding. Moreover wetlands help in recharging ground water level and eventually improve water quality. During dry summer season these water bodies provide a huge network of underground irrigation through water percolation to distant areas, keeping surroundings green.

Despite their importance very little have been done to protect them other than designating only a few as Ramsar Convention sites. In addition, due to lack of awareness many people use local ponds as a dumping ground, particularly during festival seasons. These water bodies are suffocated with the leftovers from rituals, and over a prolonged abuse they are losing their depth recently. Promoters and builders are taking advantage of this grave situation by acquiring these wetlands as sites for construction.

The civic bodies as well as the government should take initiative in order to protect wetlands through awareness programs and legal means before it is too late.

Thanking you  
Yours sincerely,  
XYZ  
Place: Kolkata

**2. Draft a report on excessive summer heat wave blowing through your city and how it has changed the daily life of residents. (250 words)**

An extreme heat wave has disrupted daily lives of Kolkata

or

Kolkata is battling with scalding heat wave

Kolkata, -Date-, The mercury has already touched a historic record high temperature of 49° Celsius in Kolkata. The dry air along with scalding heat has brought the daily life of Kolkata to a standstill. From school going children to old people, all are struggling.

Around 150 cases of fresh sun strokes incidents have been reported in a single day. The city heat has already claimed around 100 lives altogether, acute dehydration is partially responsible for such high mortality.

People are now so afraid that they are seldom coming out to streets after 11 AM. Although people are crowding at air-conditioned supermarkets, roadside vendors are badly losing their business. City has never experienced such an economic asymmetry before.

Sale of air conditioners and refrigerators have increased by multiple folds. Excessive use of these gadgets are in fact worsening the situation by releasing more heat into the environment.

In order to cope up with the excessive heat, municipality has issued a long list of emergency advisories. People have been encouraged to drink lots of water to effectively battle heat. Households are advised to adopt a natural way of cooling using wet coconut coir mats rather than using air conditioning.

The city of Kolkata along with its resident are now patiently waiting for a refreshing cool shower.

(~ 210 words)

**3. Write a dialogue between two co-passengers in a train how social media have shaped the modern economy in India. [Exambes Mock Test II 2017]**

Situation: A book belonging to Mr. X falls from train shelf. Mr. Y sitting across bends to pick up the book for Mr. X.

X: Thank you very much. By the way, I am Mr. X.

Y: You are welcome Mr. X. I am Mr. Y, going to Krishnanagar. What a coincidence, yesterday I went to College street for this book, however, my bad luck. Today it is falling from the sky (smilingly).

X: Last month I was searching for it online. Few days ago my Facebook page started flashing reviews on this book with a long list of comments from various readers. It magically persuaded me to place an order immediately. Certainly, a wonderful bliss of technology, and at the same time very scary. Anyways, while buying online I always get a competitive price, no convenience premium, and sometimes even free delivery. Moreover, online shopping is a wonderful experience.

Y: You are absolutely right. Social media have empowered both the buyer and the seller. No doubt an unparalleled tectonic shift from the traditional concept of market place. Social media is working like a match maker, bringing sellers and buyers together. Social media are now equipped with intelligent machine learning techniques. It understands user's mood, emotion, and need -- when to give an information and how to persuade. Sometimes social media platforms are also able to predict the colour of background advertisement in which a user will be most vulnerable.

X: One of my neighbors who is a wonderful painter has been undergoing through a hard time. For some reasons the art community could not recognize his talent. I have suggested him to open a Facebook profile. Within a month he has started getting quotations on his paintings from across the country.

Y: It is absolutely an inspiring story. Social media time and again have proven to be an impartial platform for recognizing talent. This is the power of an open market where information is free, and judgment has freedom. I am also sometimes amazed to see the magnitude of parallel economy that social media is supporting.

X: I would also like to substantiate with the fact that an efficient democratic reviewing system through social media has helped in transforming the market more competitive, fair, and efficient. Moreover, customer's satisfaction which was missing in the classical market system has now gained a new glory.

Y: My destination has come. Thank you Mr. X for leading an enlightening discussion. It has been wonderful speaking to you. Have a nice rest of the journey.

**4. Make a précis of the following passage and add a suitable title: (40 marks)**

In many parts of the world, gender inequality takes the savage form of unusually high mortality rates of women and a consequent preponderance of men in the total population. This contrasts particularly sharply with the preponderance of women found in societies with little or no gender bias in health care and nutrition. It has been widely observed that, given similar health care and nutrition, women tend typically to have lower age-specific mortality rates than men. It is interesting that even female fetuses tend to have a lower probability of miscarriage than male fetuses. Even though, everywhere in the world, more male babies are born than female babies (and an even higher proportion of male fetuses are conceived than female fetuses), in those places in which men and women receive similar health care and attention, the overabundance of men is gradually reduced and then reversed. So the populations of Europe and North America have about 105 or more females per 100 males, and this

higher female-male ratio, comes about as a result of the greater survival chance of females in different age groups. In contrast with this pattern, in many regions of the world, women receive less - sometimes far less - care than men, and in particular, girls often receive very much less support than boys. As a result of this gender bias in health care and social attention, mortality rates of females are unusually high compared with what may be expected from the local male mortality rates. Indeed, quite often female mortality rates actually exceed the male rates, in total contrast with what is biologically expected and what is actually observed in the pattern of mortality in Europe and North America.

The concept of 'missing women' was devised to give some idea of the enormity of this phenomenon by focusing on the women who are simply not there, primarily due to unusually high mortality compared with normal female-male mortality ratios. The methodology involves finding some way - unavoidably rather rough - of estimating the quantitative difference between the actual number of women in these countries, and the number we could expect to see had the gender ratio in survival been similar, in these countries, to that in other regions of the world where there is not such a significant anti-female bias in health care and other social influences relevant for survival.

Ans:

#### Gender inequality links to missing women

The menace of gender inequality is manifested in the form of high mortality rates of women and over dominance of males in the demography. However, in a society where there is no gender bias female population naturally dominates because of their low age-specific mortality rate and lower probability of miscarriage of female fetuses than male counterpart. Despite of these biological advantages male babies are born more in number than female babies. In North American and European countries for every 100 males there are 105 females and this higher female-male ratio is a result of higher chance of survival for females. There is a disparity between biologically expected number and what is actually observed. To highlight the magnitude of this problem the concept of 'missing women' has been devised, focusing on the women who are simply not present due to unusually high mortality rates.

#### 5. Translate the following passage into English : (40 marks)

ভারতবর্ষের ইতিহাসে অষ্টাদশ শতক একটি অত্যন্ত গুরুত্বপূর্ণ ও বহু বিতর্কিত অধ্যায়। এই শতকের প্রথম দিকেই মোগল সাম্রাজ্যের বিশাল মহীরুহ প্রায় ধরাশায়ী, আর সেই সুযোগে ভারতবর্ষের বিভিন্ন প্রান্তে স্বাধীন কয়েকটি রাজ্যের উত্থান। আবার এই শতকেরই মাঝামাঝি, পলাশির পরে, ইংরেজরা বাংলার রাজনৈতিক ও অর্থনৈতিক ক্ষমতা কুক্ষিগত করে। একটি শতকে এত সব ঘটনাক্রম বিরল। তাই এই শতক নিয়ে বিতর্কের শেষ নেই। ইরফান হাবিব, আতহার আলি, সতীশচন্দ্র প্রমুখের কাছে অষ্টাদশ শতক অবক্ষয়ের প্রতীক। তাঁরা বার বার এই শতককে চিহ্নিত করেছেন 'অন্ধকারের যুগ' হিসেবে— চারদিকে রাজনৈতিক অস্থিরতা, ব্যবসাবাণিজ্য ও অর্থনীতিতে অচলাবস্থা, শিল্প-সংস্কৃতির অবক্ষয়। অন্য দিকে, পিটার মার্শাল, ত্রিস বেলি, মুজাফফর আলম, বার্টন স্টাইন, ফ্র্যাঙ্ক পারলিন, আন্দ্রে ভিক্স প্রমুখের বক্তব্য, কোনও কোনও অঞ্চলে অবনতি দেখা গেলেও, অনেক জায়গায় কিন্তু বেশ অগ্রগতি হয়েছিল। এই বিতর্ক যে এখনও সজীব, তার প্রমাণ বর্তমান শতকের শুরুতেই সীমা আলাভি, পিটার মার্শাল ও রিচার্ড বার্নেটের সম্পাদনায় পরপর তিনটি প্রবন্ধ সংকলন প্রকাশিত হয়েছে।

#### 5. Translation:

In the history of India, eighteenth century is a very significant (*important/ crucial*) and much controversial chapter. In the beginning of this century the great Mughal empire almost fell down, and taking this advantage few states in various parts of India emerged Independent. Again in the middle of this very century, after Plassey, Britishers appropriated political and economical powers in Bengal. So many incidents happening in a century is rare (*uncommon*). Therefore there is no end to controversy for this century. According to IrfanHabib, Atohar Ali, Satish Chandra and others, eighteenth century is the symbol of degradation. They have time and again identified this century as a 'dark age'-- everywhere there is political unrest, stagnation in business and economy, and erosion in art and culture. On the other hand, Peter Marshal, Chris Beli, MuzafarAlam, Barton Stine, Frank Parlin Andre Vilc and others opine that although some regions have regressed, but many places have very much progressed. This debate is still alive, its testimony is three consecutive essay compilations published in editorials in the beginning of this very century by SeemaAlvi, Peter Marshal and Richard Barnard.