

## SECTION A - READING SKILLS 20

## 1. Read the passage given below:

10

1. Even international students whose first language is English can find themselves struggling to understand an alien academic culture. The problems are very familiar. Students' first problem is often with listening skills. They may feel nervous about this and it is certainly a steep learning curve. They need a structured listening experience, for instance how to pick out the main ideas. They also need help with academic reading — how to approach an article or book, how to skim, read and make notes.

2. However, while a student's confidence in listening skills grows, it is in the area of academic writing where more serious cultural differences become apparent. Much of British education is based on essay writing, but this may be a demanding task for students from other cultures. Suddenly, they are faced with the need to express their own ideas, develop their opinions and evaluate different issues, all in polished English. For some, the concept of originating this kind of written discourse can prove problematic and they may find themselves scoring low marks because of plagiarism or reproducing someone else's ideas. In Britain, plagiarism is regarded as academic theft, though this is not always the case in other countries. Students are expected to do research in a library before tackling an assignment and simply regurgitating lecture notes is also not acceptable.

3. The best way to overcome these hurdles is to be prepared. The first step is to take a test to assess the English language skills needed to cope with the issues of academic culture.

4. If an accredited test indicates that a student's language skills are not sufficient to embark on a university degree, the next step is to consider pre-session-al courses, generally at the university where the student will take a degree. These can last from three weeks to an academic year, so it is wise for students to be realistic about their needs. It is generally accepted that approximately 200 hours of study are needed to improve on one bad score on some tests. Some of the 'new' universities that formed from polytechnics in 1992 are experimenting with new styles of pre-session-al and foundation courses. Elisabeth Jones, Director of the Centre for Language Study at Leeds Metropolitan University explains, "Our courses are monthly and so students from parts of the world with a different academic year can enrol at any time."

5. She feels that language training in new universities is generally more flexible than in older institutions. "Universities like ours can take students with lower language test grades and can put them through a programme that will bring them up to the required standard, though we cannot guarantee how long it will take."

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

i. Select the option that depicts what the writer projects, with reference to the following. 1

Much of British education is based on essay writing, but this may be a demanding task for students from other cultures.

- (a) Warning (b) Anguish  
(c) Concern (d) Exhilaration

ii. Why is an essay writing a demanding task? Answer in about 40 words. 2

iii. Complete the following with a phrase from Paragraph 1. 1

Even international students whose first language is English can find them struggling \_\_\_\_\_

iv. The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (a)-(e) below, identify a set of antonym. 1

- (a) Discourse and lecture
- (b) Assess and evaluate
- (c) Approach and skim
- (d) Nervous and confidence
- (e) Hurdle and embark

v. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

British education is primarily based on \_\_\_\_\_.

vi. What according to the author causes international students to score low marks? State any one reason. (Answer in about 40 words.) 2

vii. Choose the option that incorrectly states the meaning of 'accredited' as used in the passage. 1

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. To credit                           | 2. To thank               |
| 3. Officially recognised or authorised | 4. To give license        |
| 5. Of quality                          | 6. To give an appointment |

Codes:

- (a) 1 and 2 (b) 3 and 4
- (c) 5 and 6 (d) 3 and 6

viii. Based on your reading of the text, list any 1 benefit of pre-sessional courses. 1

**2. Read the passage given below:** 10

1. A black vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) is a carrion feeder that pilots and air traffic specialists have long considered a collision threat, given both its size and flight behaviour. Of Brazil's animal-aircraft incidents in 2020, eight percent involved black vultures. Even discounting the danger, they pose to aircrafts, vultures are widely seen as harbingers of death and decay. Yet, they play an important role in the human-built environment.

2. These carrion-eaters fly in committees and when they are not airborne, camp out on large stands of refuse, packed together like feather-clad beggars. With their sooty plumage and crusty skin, black vultures fit right in with their rank surroundings. Boasting a wingspan of around five feet and the ability to fly at speeds surpassing Usain Bolt in his prime, they are mostly habituated to the many collectors, sifters, and other (bipedal) scavengers who spend quality time at the dump. Gazing, waiting-they will make their move when the time is right.

3. A trash mound is essentially a rookery and nursery for a bird that evolved to eat the flesh of the dead and dying but now thrives on the abundance of trash. Here, where human-coordinated management is absent, vultures are efficient managers of waste.

4. For each story of a potential airline collision resulting from the birds, they cycle millions of tons of nutrients and other material through the food web, eating dog faeces and fish bones with equal gusto. The average Brazilian household throws away 353g of trash per day; the average black vulture consumes 140g a day. Not all household waste is edible-although *Coragyps atratus* does seem to have an affection for gobbling up shreds of plastic grocery bags. Their powerful stomach acid breaks down harmful pathogens of cholera, brucellosis, and anthrax too.

5. As the planet seems to be roiled in flames and losing biodiversity at a rapid clip, vultures are as opportunistic as ever, with their populations growing in both South and North America which makes continued conflict with humans inevitable.

6. Solid waste is typically strewn about communities in rural Latin America. The vultures have taken care of everything; the city has no hope of taking care of itself." In this light, the vultures' general unsightliness, and perhaps the occasional aircraft collision, is a small price to pay. "They're the best thing that ever happened to the Amazon town," says a conservationist.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

i. Why does the writer say that vultures are harbingers of death and decay? 1

- (a) They are responsible for animal-aircraft incidents in Brazil.
- (b) They collide with aircrafts and feed on dead flesh.
- (c) They are responsible for animal-aircraft incidents everywhere in the world.
- (d) They are carrion feeders.

ii. Based on your reading of the text, explain why the writer says that *Coragyps stratus* thrives on the abundance of human-made piles of trash. Rationalise your response in about 40 words. 2

iii. Which outstanding trait of the black vultures the writer wishes to project, with reference to the following statement? 1

Not all household waste is edible-although '*Coragyps atratus*' does seem to have an affection for gobbling up shreds of plastic grocery bags.

iv. The passage includes some word pairs that denote consecutive stages in a process for example, moulding and baking a bread. From the sets (a)-(e) below, identify two sets of words that do not correspond to this relation. 1

- (a) South and North America
- (b) dead and dying
- (c) rookery and nursery
- (d) death and decay
- (e) pilots and air traffic specialists

v. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

The writer compares the black vultures with Usain Bolt because \_\_\_\_\_.

vi. Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, that the black vultures despite their general unsightliness are highly social birds. 2

vii. "They're (the black vultures) the best thing that ever happened to the Amazon town," says a conservationist in Paragraph 6. The options given below provide enough evidence to substantiate this claim except one.

Choose the correct option. 1

- (a) They take care of waste management better than humans.
- (b) They consume even plastics.
- (c) They protect humans from the spread of harmful pathogens.
- (d) They single-handedly keep rural Latin America spick and span.

viii. Complete the statement. 1

Despite the fact that the growing populations of black vultures in both South and North America have sharpened the conflict with humans, they are a blessing for mankind because they consume even non-edible waste like \_\_\_\_\_.

## SECTION B - GRAMMAR 10

3. Complete ANY TEN of the following questions:

i. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence. 1

At one time, Mr. Nigel \_\_\_\_\_ this supermarket.

- (a) owned
- (b) used to own
- (c) had owned
- (d) was owing

ii. Read the conversation between Nisha and Anjali. Complete the narration by reporting Anjali's reply correctly. 1

Nisha : I want to improve my command over the English language.

Anjali : For that you need to do a lot of reading in English.

Nisha said she wanted to improve her command over the English language. Anjali said that

**iii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line.** 1

Principal to a student : You \_\_\_\_\_ with bad girls.

- (a) must not mix
- (b) cannot mix
- (c) may not mix
- (d) None of these

**iv. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line :** 1

We, here in India have so many religions, we eat so many different foods, we wear so much different kinds of dresses.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(a)	much	many
(b)	eat	ate
(c)	have	has
(d)	wear	wears

**v. Complete the given sentence, by filling in the blank with the correct option.** 1

Two years have passed since he \_\_\_\_\_ here.

- (a) has come
- (b) come
- (c) came
- (d) had come

**vi. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket.** 1

They \_\_\_\_\_ (wish) me on my birthday every year.

**vii. Report the dialogue between Parul and Nikhil, by completing the narration.** 1

Parul: Where did you spend your holidays?

Nikhil: I went to many hill stations.

Parul asked Nikhil \_\_\_\_\_. Nikhil replied that he had gone to many hill stations.

**viii. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.** 1

I like to drinking juice in the morning, and tea at lunchtime.

Use the given format for your answer:

Error	Correction

**ix. Transform the following direct speech into reported speech.** 1

“Who now”, they had asked, “will listen to our troubles and protect us from the crocodiles ?”

**x. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.** 1

The father divided his property among his three sons lest they will quarrel afterwards.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

**xi. Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Arthur and Kevin.** 1

Arthur : Kevin, are you going to the hospital again? Is your mother okay?

Kevin : My mother is now better. Thank God, she has been back to normal since Friday.

Arthur asked Kevin if he was going to the hospital again. He also asked him whether his mother was okay. Kevin replied that \_\_\_\_\_ and thanking God, the boy said that his mother had been back to normal since

- (a) his mother was better now
- (b) his mother had been better now
- (c) his mother is better now
- (d) his mother has been better now

xii. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.

I walk 3 kilometres each day to reach my school.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

1

### SECTION C- CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS 10

4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

A. You are Nitish /Nikita, the Head Boy/ Girl of Tagore Public School, Agra. Write a letter to Messers New Star Sports, Kalkaji, New Delhi asking them to send sports equipment for the games and sports department of your school.

5

OR

B. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily complaining against the school-bus drivers for rash-driving and overcrowding of buses causing risk to the lives of innocent school children. You are Dipti/Deepak of C-156, Janakpuri, New Delhi.

5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

A. You are the Head Boy/Head Girl of your school. You decided to make the school population aware of the advantages of tree plantation and tell them how trees can serve as better air-conditioners. Write an analytical paragraph in 100-120 words. Take help of the cues given below.

5

Cues :

Trees keep environment cool by

- taking heat of earth and air
- absorbing carbon-dioxide that helps in controlling temperature rise
- bringing rains
- checking direct sunlight
- providing shade

OR

B. The following table gives information about some of the world's most studied languages. Write an analytical paragraph summarizing the given information by analyzing and reporting the main and relevant information.

S. No.	Languages	No. of people studying a language	Native speakers of a language	Speakers in countries
1.	English	1.5 billion	527 million	101
2.	French	82 million	118 million	51
3.	Chinese	30 million	1.39 billion	33
4.	Spanish	14.5 million	389 million	31
5.	Italian	8 million	67 million	29
6.	Japanese	3 million	123 million	25

## SECTION D - LITERATURE 40

**6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 5**

A. It was only when I began to learn that my boyhood freedom was an illusion when I discovered as a young man that my freedom had already been taken from me, that I began to hunger for it. At first, as a student, I wanted freedom only for myself, the transitory freedoms of being able to stay out at night, read what I pleased and go where I chose. Later, as a young man in Johannesburg, I yearned for the basic and honourable freedoms of achieving my potential, of earning my keep, of marrying and having a family - the freedom not to be obstructed in a lawful life.

- i. Why was freedom an illusion for the speaker? 1
  - ii. Why do you think the speaker mentions some freedoms as 'transitory'? Answer in about 40 words. 2
  - iii. From where does the speaker's hunger for freedom begin? 1
  - iv. State TRUE or FALSE 1
- None of the terms (a)-(d) can be applied to the statement - "I yearned for the basic and honourable freedoms of achieving my potential".
- (a) A hypothesis - a proposed explanation for a phenomenon
  - (b) An Assumption - Something that is taken for granted or assumed to be true
  - (c) A hyperbole - exaggerated statements or claims not meant to be taken literally
  - (d) A premise - a proposition that forms the basis of an argument

**OR**

Max was slender, a little less than tall, with features that suggested slightly the crafty, pointed countenance of a fox. There was about him - aside from the gun - nothing especially menacing. "The report," he murmured. "The report that is being brought to you tonight concerning some new missiles. I thought I would take it from you. It will be safer in my hands than in yours." Ausable moved to an armchair and sat down heavily. "I'm going to raise the devil with the management this time, and you can bet on it," he said grimly. "This is the second time in a month that somebody has got into my room through that nuisance of a balcony!"

- i. State TRUE or FALSE. 1
- None of the terms (a) - (d) can be applied to the statement - The report that is being brought to you tonight concerning some new missiles.
- (a) A hypothesis - a proposed explanation for a phenomenon
  - (b) An assumption - something that is taken for granted or assumed to be true
  - (c) A statement - a definite or clear expression of something in speech or writing.
  - (d) A premise - a proposition that forms the basis of an argument.
- ii. Which word replaces 'sat down heavily' in the sentence- Ausable moved to an armchair and sat down heavily'? 1
  - iii. Was there a balcony in Ausable's room? 1
  - iv. How was Max described in the extract? Answer in about 40 words. 2

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 5

A. *An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy  
As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down  
All his young days into the harbour where  
His ball went. I would not intrude on him;  
A dime, another ball, is worthless.  
Now he senses first responsibility  
In a world of possessions.*

- i. Fill the blank with one word. 1  
The boy's ball went into the dark waters of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. What is the significance of the use of the words 'All his young days into the harbour' to describe the loss of the ball in the poem and how does this word choice contribute to the overall mood and tone of the poem? 1
- iii. Complete the statement with correct facts. 1  
'I' will not intrude on the boy because \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) he won't like the intrusion.  
(b) 'I' wants him to face the situation.  
(c) another ball can be given to him.  
(d) the boy is stubborn.
- iv. Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines. 2

OR

B. *Belinda giggled till she shook the house,  
And Blink said Weeck! which is giggling for a mouse,  
Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,  
When Custard cried for a nice safe cage.  
Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,  
And Mustard growled, and they all looked around.*

- i. In what way does the dragon's desperate wish to remain in a cage challenge the traditional behaviour of dragons? 1
- ii. What is the significance of the use of the words 'giggled' and 'weeck' to describe laughter in the poem and to what effect is this word choice used by the poet? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iii. What can you infer from the repetition 'suddenly, suddenly' in the above extract? 1  
(a) There was an immediate change in the scene.  
(b) It focuses on the hasty attack and the loud noise.  
(c) It emphasises that an unexpected noise was heard  
(d) It draws our attention to the loud cry that occurred.
- iv. Identify the contrasting belief about dragons that does not apply to Custard in the poem. 1

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. 4\*3 = 12

- i. What saddened Valli on her first journey by bus? How did it affect her?
- ii. Explain the symbols used in the poem "Fire and Ice" by Robert Frost.
- iii. "You seem to have done your homework before coming." Who has done the homework and why is it so impressive?

iv. Describe the pirate who comes through the window? What do all of them do when the pirate comes?

v. 'Sympathy and kindness are human virtues'. Write a character sketch of the postmaster with reference to these human virtues.

**9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.  $2 \times 3 = 6$**

i. How can you say that Horace Danby was good and respectable but not completely honest?

ii. Richard's project on the purpose of the twelve tiny gold spots on a monarch pupa was highly valuable in two ways. List the two ways.

iii. How does Think Tank compare the Earth and Earthlings, with Mars and Martians?

**10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.  $1 \times 6 = 6$**

i. "So, in order not to shake the writer's faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea to answer the letter". What does this statement tell us about the postmaster? Was his idea successful? How did the receiver react?

**OR**

ii. Gotami comes to Buddha praying to him to revive her dead son. Buddha asks her to bring a handful of mustard seeds from a house where no one has lost a child, husband, parent or friend. Through this simple act, Buddha communicates the most profound truth of life, not only to Gotami but also to the whole mankind. What is the truth that Buddha communicates? What lesson does Gotami learn? What changes would take place in a common man's life if that truth is understood?

**11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.  $1 \times 6 = 6$**

i. "A good education can change anyone. A good teacher can change everything." Discuss this with reference to Bholi.

**OR**

ii. Give the character-sketch of Matilda.

*Subhi H*  
*Am*