

Question Paper of Main Examination for the post of Stenographer (English)
held on 19.01.2020 - Advt. No. 1/2017.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

MAX MARKS: 80

TIME: 2 HOURS

**Note: Read the instructions, questions and marking scheme carefully.
Do not exceed the word limit.
Attempt all questions.**

1. Write an essay in about **600** words on any **ONE** of the following topics. **(15 Marks)**
- a. The fall of Communism
 - b. The plight of agriculture in India
 - c. Globalisation
 - d. A Space Tourist
 - e. The role of a teacher in the age of the internet

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: **(10 Marks)**

For several years, Mrs. H. T. Miller lived alone in a pleasant apartment (two rooms with kitchenette) in a remodelled brownstone near the East River. She was a widow; Mr. H. T. Miller had left a reasonable amount of insurance. Her interests were narrow, she had no friends to speak of, and she rarely journeyed farther than the corner grocery. The other people in the house never seemed to notice her: her clothes were matter-of-fact, her hair iron-gray, clipped and casually waved; she did not use cosmetics, her features were plain and inconspicuous, and on her last birthday she was sixty-one. Her activities were seldom spontaneous: she kept the two rooms immaculate, smoked an occasional cigarette, prepared her own meals and tended a canary.

Then she met Miriam. It was snowing that night. Mrs Miller had finished drying the supper dishes and was thumbing through an afternoon paper when she saw an advertisement of a picture playing at a neighbourhood theatre. The title sounded good, so she struggled into her beaver coat, laced her galoshes and left the apartment, leaving one light burning in the foyer: she found nothing more disturbing than a sensation of darkness.

- i. Why did Mrs Miller live alone?
- ii. What phrase tells you that Mrs Miller followed a set routine?
- iii. Do you think that Mrs Miller's life was about to change? What makes you say so?
- iv. Why did people not notice Mrs Miller?
- v. Give suitable antonyms (opposite in meaning) for the following:
Narrow; rarely; immaculate; finished.

3. Write a precis of the following passage to **one-third** of its length. Give a suitable title. **(10 Marks)**

The scientific study of language is called linguistics. Questions concerning the philosophy of language, such as whether words can represent experience, have been debated at least since Gorgias and Plato in ancient Greece. Thinkers such as Rousseau have argued that language originated from emotions while others like Kant have held that it originated from rational and logical thought. 20th-century philosophers such as Wittgenstein argued that philosophy is really the study of language. Major figures in linguistics include Ferdinand de Saussure and Noam Chomsky. Estimates of the number

of human languages in the world vary between 5,000 and 7,000. However, any precise estimate depends on the arbitrary and western in its origin distinction (dichotomy) between languages and dialects. Natural languages are spoken or signed, but any language can be encoded into secondary media using auditory, visual, or tactile stimuli – for example, in writing, whistling, signing, or braille. This is because human language is modality-independent. Depending on philosophical perspectives regarding the definition of language and meaning, when used as a general concept, "language" may refer to the cognitive ability to learn and use systems of complex communication, or to describe the set of rules that makes up these systems, or the set of utterances that can be produced from those rules. All languages rely on the process of semiosis to relate signs to particular meanings. Oral, manual and tactile languages contain a phonological system that governs how symbols are used to form sequences known as words or morphemes, and a syntactic system that governs how words and morphemes are combined to form phrases and utterances. Human language has the properties of productivity and displacement, and relies entirely on social convention and learning. Its complex structure affords a much wider range of expressions than any known system of animal communication. Language is thought to have originated when early hominins started gradually changing their primate communication systems, acquiring the ability to form a theory of other minds and a shared intentionality.

4. Write a paragraph on **any one** of the following topics in about **150 words**: **(5 Marks)**

- a. Penny wise pound foolish
- b. Justice delayed is justice denied
- c. Break a leg
- d. The best of both worlds
- e. Rolling stone gathers no moss

5. Find out the **synonyms** of the underlined words from the choices given: **(5 Marks)**

a. He suffered **awful** injuries in the crash.

- i. pleasant ii. great iii. horrible iv. funny

b. The king was regarded as having been an enlightened **despot**.

- i. tyrant ii. brave iii. clown iv. post

c. The **belligerent** countries are having difficulties funding the war.

- i. chummy ii. adorable iii. rich iv. quarrelsome

d. Some of her **cognitive** functions have been impaired.

- i. physical ii. cerebral iii. spiritual iv. complete

e. Holding her painful back, she sat down **gingerly** on the bench.

- i. caustically ii. lazily iii. suddenly iv. cautiously

6. Find out the correct meaning of the idiomatic expressions from the choices given. (5 Marks)

a. Ball is in your court

- i. You have to pick up the ball
- ii. It is up to you to make the next decision or step
- iii. The ground is damp
- iv. You shouldn't argue now

b. Blessing in disguise

- i. To be in a temple
- ii. To skip a prayer
- iii. Something good that isn't recognized at first.
- iv. To prostrate before the enemy

c. Cry over spilt milk

- i. When you complain about a loss from the past.
- ii. To prepare a pudding
- iii. When you spoil the broth
- iv. When nothing is visible

d. Hit the nail on the head

- i. To hang a picture on the wall
- ii. To punish the criminal
- iii. Skipping the burden
- iv. Do or say something exactly right

e. Let the cat out of the bag

- i. To create an illusion in a show
- ii. To share information that was previously concealed
- iii. To kill a rat in the home
- iv. To play a hide and seek game

7. You are Ramakrishna/ Ramalakshmi, Secretary of the Officer's Club, Bangalore. Write a notice giving information regarding the upcoming Tennis Championship Tournament you are conducting in your Club. Include relevant information like date, time, venue, renowned players taking part in it, age group categories, prizes, judges and sponsors for the event. Inform that those who want the tickets well in advance can book them at the specified counters across the city. You can also inform the local shop owners who want to keep their stalls in the club and you can specify the fee they have to pay for it. You can invite the reputed companies to sponsor the prizes. You can inform the details of the grand opening ceremony and the final prize distribution function. (10 Marks)

8. You are Saleem Mohammad/ Mercy Margaret, a Staff Reporter of a National Daily, The Hindu, Chennai. You are asked to cover the All India Science Congress to be held in S V University, Tirupati from 13th to 17th July 2018. Mentioning the entire details write a report.

As usual the Prime Minister would inaugurate the five-day Conference and the inauguration would be followed by a number of sessions where serious discussions on a number of relevant and contemporaneous issues would be discussed. Many noble laureates are attending the conference and there would be a series of plenary sessions in which they would deliver their special talks. Many senior and young scientists all over the country would attend it.

Many interviews with noted scientists by the experts in the field would be held at different venues. The Conference reviews the recent developments in the field of science and technology and takes suitable resolutions about the programs of the future. Make sure that you give an appropriate and striking title to your report. **(10 Marks)**

9. Write a letter to the Managing Director of a Television company complaining him about the problems of the customers who bought their recent model sold in the market.

(10 Marks)