

PAPER I : ENGLISH FOR B.ED GENERAL GRADUATES

ROYAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION BCSE-B.ED GRADUATES EXAMINATION 2012

PAPER I : ENGLISH FOR B.ED GENERAL GRADUATES

Date : 08 January 2013
Total Marks : 100
Examination Time : 3 hours
Reading Time : 15 minutes (prior to examination time)

READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY:

1. Write your Roll Number clearly in the space provided in the Answer Booklet.
2. The first 15 minutes for reading time is provided to do the following:
 - ✓ Check the number of question pages;
 - ✓ Check printing errors, if any;
 - ✓ Clarify doubts; and
 - ✓ Read the instructions.You are NOT permitted to write during this time.
3. All answers should be written on the Answer Booklet provided. You are not allowed to write anything on the question paper or any other materials.
4. All answers must be labeled with appropriate question numbers (Section, Question and sub-Question Numbers wherever applicable). Unlabelled answers will NOT be assessed or awarded marks.
5. This paper comprises of four distinct Sections:
 - Section A: To assess comprehension skills.
 - Section B: To assess writing skills.
 - Section C: To assess language and grammar skills.
 - Section D: To assess précis writing skills.
6. All questions are compulsory.
7. This Question Paper comprises of 10 pages including this Instruction page.

Section A: Comprehension

Direction: Read the excerpt given below carefully and answer the questions that follow according to the directions given. Use your own words in your answers as far as possible. [35 marks]

from Brave and Bold - by Horatio Alger, Jr.

There was a thumping of feet, mingled with a clapping of hands, as the professor closed his speech, and a moment later a boy of sixteen, occupying one of the front seats, rose, and, advancing with easy self-possession, drew from his pocket a gold pencil case, containing a pencil and pen, and spoke as follows:

"Professor Granville, the members of your writing class, desirous of testifying their appreciation of your services as teacher, have contributed to buy this gold pencil case, which, in their name, I have great pleasure in presenting to you. Will you receive it with our best wishes for your continued success as a teacher of penmanship?" With these words, he handed the pencil case to the professor and returned to his seat.

The applause that ensued was terrific, causing the dust to rise from the floor where it had lain undisturbed till the violent attack of two hundred feet raised it in clouds, through which the figure of the professor was still visible, with his right arm again extended.

"Ladies and gentlemen," he commenced, "I cannot give fitting utterance to the emotions that fill my heart at this most unexpected tribute of regard and mark of appreciation of my humble services. Believe me, I shall always cherish it as a most valued possession, and the sight of it will recall the pleasant, and, I hope, profitable hours which we have passed together this winter. To you, in particular, Mr. Rushton, I express my thanks for the touching and eloquent manner in which you have made the presentation, and, in parting with you all, I echo your own good wishes, and shall hope that you may be favored with an abundant measure of health and prosperity."

This speech was also vociferously applauded. It was generally considered impromptu, but was, in truth, as stereotyped as the other. Professor Granville had on previous occasions been the recipient of similar testimonials, and he had found it convenient to have a set form of acknowledgment. He was wise in this, for it is a hard thing on the spur of the moment suitably to offer thanks for an unexpected gift.

"The professor made a **bully[1]** speech," said more than one after the exercises were over.

"So did Bob Rushton," said Edward Kent.

"I didn't see anything extraordinary in what he said," sneered Halbert Davis. "It seemed to me very commonplace." "Perhaps you could do better yourself, Halbert," said Kent.

"Probably I could," said Halbert, haughtily. "Why didn't you volunteer, then?"

"I didn't care to have anything to do with it," returned Halbert, scornfully.

"That's lucky," remarked Edward, "as there was no chance of your getting appointed."

"Do you mean to insult me?" demanded Halbert, angrily.

"No, I was only telling the truth."

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Halbert turned away, too disgusted to make any reply. He was a boy of sixteen, of slender form and **sallow**[2] complexion, dressed with more pretension than taste. Probably there was no boy present whose suit was of such fine material as his. But something more than fine clothes is needed to give a fine appearance, and Halbert's mean and insignificant features were far from rendering him attractive, and despite the testimony of his glass, Halbert considered himself a young man of distinguished appearance, and was utterly blind to his personal defects.

What contributed to feed his vanity was his position as the son of the richest man in Millville. Indeed, his father was **superintendent**[3], and part owner, of the great brick factory on the banks of the river, in which hundreds found employment.

Halbert found plenty to fawn upon him, and was in the habit of strutting about the village, swinging a light cane, neither a useful nor an ornamental member of the community.

After his brief altercation with Edward Kent, he drew on a pair of kid gloves, and looked about the room for Hester Paine, the lawyer's daughter, the reigning belle among the girls of her age in Millville. The fact was that Halbert was rather smitten with Hester, and had made up his mind to escort her home on this particular evening, never doubting that his escort would be thankfully accepted. But he was not quick enough. Robert Rushton had already approached Hester, and said, "Miss Hester, will you allow me to see you home?" "I shall be very glad to have your company, Robert," said Hester.

Robert was a general favorite. He had a bright, attractive face, strong and resolute when there was occasion, frank and earnest at all times. His clothes were neat and clean, but of a coarse, mixed cloth, evidently of low price, suiting his circumstances, for he was poor, and his mother and himself depended mainly upon his earnings in the factory for the necessaries of life.

Hester Paine, being the daughter of a well-to-do lawyer, belonged to the village aristocracy, and so far as worldly wealth was concerned, was far above Robert Rushton. But such considerations never entered her mind, as she frankly, and with real pleasure, accepted the escort of the poor factory boy.

Scarcely had she done so when Halbert Davis approached, smoothing his kid gloves and pulling at his necktie. "Miss Hester," he said, consequentially, "I shall have great pleasure in escorting you home."

"Thank you," said Hester, "but I am **engaged**[4]."

"Engaged!" repeated Halbert. "And to whom?"

"Robert Rushton has kindly offered to take me home."

"Robert Rushton!" said Halbert, disdainfully. "Never mind. I will relieve him of his duty."

"Thank you, Halbert," said Robert, who was standing by, "I won't trouble you. I will see Miss Paine home."

"Your escort was accepted because you were the first to offer it," said Halbert.

"Miss Hester," said Robert, "I will resign in favor of Halbert, if you desire it."

"I don't desire it," said the young girl, promptly. "Come, Robert, I am ready if you are."

With a careless nod to Halbert, she took Robert's arm and left the schoolhouse.

Mortified and angry, Halbert looked after them, muttering, "I'll teach the factory boy a lesson. He'll be sorry for his impudence."

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Question 1

(1x15 = 15 Marks)

For each of the following questions, choose the correct answer and write down the letter of the correct answer chosen in the Answer Sheet against the question number. E.g. 16 (c).

(i) The excerpt given above deals mainly with:

- A. Wealth
- B. Contrasting characters
- C. Love
- D. None of the above.

(ii) The person who just finished his speech is:

- A. a teacher of writing
- B. a professor in the University.
- C. a retired teacher
- D. a teacher

(iii) Professor Granville wished his students:

- A. Profitable hours
- B. health and wealth
- C. fitting emotional utterances
- D. a lot of appreciations

(iv) In the excerpt, the word numbered [1] means:

- A. useless
- B. excellent
- C. good
- D. average

(v) “Professor Granville had on previous occasions been the recipient of similar testimonials...”

The extract above informs the readers about:

- A. the Professor’s services.
- B. the Professor’s retirement
- C. the Professor’s abilities.
- D. previous Gifts of appreciation from his students

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(vi) "... dressed with more pretension than taste"

The above extract from the excerpt best illustrates

- A. pride and prejudice
- B. a lack of understanding.
- C. a wealthy character.
- D. a miserly character.

(vii) "...through which the figure of the professor was still visible, with his right arm again extended."

In this extract, the professor had his arm extended again because:

- A. he wanted to silence the crowd
- B. the dust was disturbing him
- C. he was about to speak again
- D. he was simply overwhelmed

(viii) Miss Paine accepted the escort of the poor factory boy because:

- A. She was genuine in her thoughts
- B. She loved the factory boy
- C. She hated Halbert
- D. She had no choice

(ix) Which of the following statements is true according to the excerpt?

- A. Robert was an aristocrat
- B. Miss Paine was an exceptionally beautiful lady
- C. Halbert was very rich and kind
- D. Professor Granville was very emotional receiving the unexpected gift of appreciation.

(x) Which of the following statements is not true according to the excerpt?

- A. Professor Granville was a successful teacher of writing.
- B. The applause raised a lot of dust.
- C. Miss Paine and Robert were engaged and to be married soon.
- D. Halbert belonged to a rich family in Millville.

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(xi) In the excerpt, the word numbered [2] refers to:

- A. Halbert's character
- B. Halbert's look
- C. Halbert's pretensions
- D. Halbert's social status

(xii) Hester Paine in the excerpt can be described as a:

- A. a very attractive young lady
- B. a well mannered and sensible young lady.
- C. a young lady with a pure heart.
- D. a young lady in love with a poor factory boy.

(xiii) "This speech was also vociferously applauded."

The underlined word in the excerpt means:

- A. appreciated
- B. appreciated and acknowledged
- C. appreciated thunderously
- D. appreciated quietly and meaningfully

(xiv) The word numbered [3] in the excerpt above describes:

- A. an officer
- B. a policeman
- C. a supervisor
- D. someone in charge

(xv) "... after his brief altercation with Edward..."

In the above statement taken from the excerpt, the underlined word means

- A. argument
- B. anger
- C. alternative
- D. annoyance

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Question 2.

(20 Marks)

Read the following questions carefully and answer them briefly.

- (i) The author of the excerpt sets up a contrast between two young men- Halbert and Robert. Identify their differences with reference to their physique, background and character. (2+2+2 marks)
- (ii) By setting up the contrast what does the author seem to say about wealth? (5 marks)
- (iii) How many speeches did Professor Granville make according to the excerpt? Give instances from the excerpt. (5 marks)
- (iv) What was gifted to Professor Granville and why? (2 marks)
- (v) The word **engaged** [4] in the excerpt can have more than one meaning. State two meanings of the word in two sentences of your own. (2 marks)

Section B (Writing)

Given below are three questions. Write an essay in about 800 words in response to any one of the questions. [30 Marks]

The essay will be assessed using the following criteria:

- *Thought and content: 15 marks*
- *Communicative competence: 10 marks*
- *Style and presentation: 5 marks*

1. Any teaching concerning discipline must be geared towards the development of mind of the students. How true is this for you as a teacher graduate?
2. It is often said that teachers are there in the schools solely for the students. What does this mean to you as a teacher?
3. Sherig Century has been celebrated with great fervor all over the country in varied ways. Did you feel you were a part of the celebrations? Why or why not?

Section C (Language and Grammar)

Read the directions to the following questions carefully and answer them.

[15 Marks]

Question 1

(1x5 = 5 Marks)

For each of the following questions, choose the correct answer and write down the letter of the correct answer chosen in the Answer Sheet against the question number. E.g. 6 (c).

(i) Hitler's army marched down the streets of Germany. The underlined word is an example of:

- A. abstract noun
- B. collective noun
- C. proper noun
- D. common noun

(ii) As faithful as a dog... In English this is:

- A. a metaphor
- B. an idiom
- C. a simile
- D. an exaggeration

(iii) A dog alive is better than a dead lion means:

- A. A dog is better as a domestic animal
- B. Something is better than nothing.
- C. A dead lion is useless.
- D. A live lion would be more useful

(iv) This is a matter _____ little importance.

- A. with
- B. in
- C. of
- D. for

(v) Now I will not forgive him _____ he were not among those who cheated me.

- A. even though
- B. as though
- C. even if
- D. if ever

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Question 2

(1x5 = 5 Marks)

Find a suitable preposition to fill in the blanks and write it in your answer sheet. Do not write the sentence.

- (i) He has been waiting _____ 6 o'clock.
- (ii) I have no _____ to your proposal.
- (iii) Dorji goes to the Lhakhang _____ auspicious days.
- (iv) They killed the mad dog _____ a gun.
- (v) The rat fell _____ the bath tub.

Question 3

(1x5 = 5 Marks)

Construct a sentence using each word in its exact form. You must not change the form of the given word. You should have five different sentences.

- (i) except
- (ii) accept
- (iii) alter
- (iv) altar
- (v) alternate

Section D (Précis writing)

Given below is an extract of approximately 235 words. Read the extract carefully and write a summary keeping in mind the following: [20 Marks]

- *Your summary should be written in one paragraph.*
- *Your summary should include the main points.*
- *Your summary must not exceed 80 words or one third of the length of the extract.*

“To be good is noble but to teach others how to be good is nobler – and no trouble”, said a well known writer. This may account for the great preponderance of preaching over practice. We do not mean the preaching which we get from the pulpit, but that which is given freely and without stint in the buses, in the streets and even in the homes of our land. Where is the parent who does not discover himself telling his child not to do just what he himself does regularly? How many people are there who are certain that they know just how to make a fortune, and who tell others so and they have never made anything save financial mistakes. The man who cannot find his way even to a modest competence knows just how to save the nation from all its economic ills. It is no trouble to preach, but it is considerable trouble to carry out what we preach. This is so true that the honest preacher preaches to himself even more than to his hearers in every season. Only the man who is striving to climb the loftiest heights knows just how difficult is the way. And so the man who climbs as he preaches will preach all the more earnestly and effectively, because he is trying to answer his own prayers and work out his own salvation.