

T.C-020

108/DD/23

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DEPARTMENTAL EXAMINATIONS

DEPARTMENTAL TEST FOR AUDIT SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS

DEPARTMENT – FIRST PAPER (PRECIS AND DRAFT)

(Without Books)

Maximum Time : 2.30 hours

Maximum Marks : 100

N.B. – (1) Answer all questions.

(2) Marks will be deducted for bad handwriting

I. Write an essay on any ONE of the following topics in not more than 6 pages. (30)

(a) Importance of Electricity in our life-Discuss.

(b) A Sound Mind in a Sound Body – Elaborate.

(c) A Walk by the Riverside-Describe in your own words.

II. Make a precis of the following passage reducing it to one third of its length. (20)

The orderly came back in few minutes with a rifle and five cartridges and meanwhile some Burmese had arrived and told us that the elephant was in the paddy fields below, only a few hundred yards away. As I started forward practically the whole population of the quarter flocked out of the houses and followed me. They had seen the rifle and were all shouting excitedly that I was going to shoot the elephant. They had not shown much interest in the elephant when he was merely ravaging their homes, but it was different now that he was going to be shot. It was a bit of fun to them, as it would be to an English crowd; besides, they wanted the meat. It made me vaguely uneasy. I had no intention of shooting the elephant – I had merely sent for the rifle to defend myself if necessary – and it is always unnerving to have a crowd following you. I marched down the hill, looking and feeling a fool with the rifle over my shoulder and an evergrowing army of people jostling at my heels. At the bottom when you got away from the huts, there was a metalled road and beyond that a miry waste of paddy fields a thousand yards across, not yet ploughed but soggy from the first rains and dotted with coarse grass. The elephant was standing eighty yards from the road, his left side towards us. He took not the slightest notice of the crowd's approach. He was tearing up bunches of grass, beating them against his knees to clean them and stuffing them into his mouth. (272 words)

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- III. (a) Write a letter to the Mayor of the Corporation or Chairman of your Municipality about the problems of sanitation in your ward. (1 × 15 = 15)
- (b) Write a letter to the editor of a popular newspaper expressing your views on the reservation issue. (1 × 15 = 15)

IV. Make a note on the following passage. (20)

The colour of animals is by no means a matter of chance; it depends on many considerations, but in the majority of cases tends to protect the animal from danger by rendering it less conspicuous. Perhaps it may be said that if colouring is mainly protective, there ought to be but few brightly coloured animals. There are, however, not a few cases in which vivid colours are themselves protective. The kingfisher itself, though so brightly coloured, is by no means easy to see. The blue harmonizes with the water, and the bird as it darts along the stream looks almost like a flash of sunlight.

Desert animals are generally the colour of the desert. Thus, for instance, the lion, the antelope, and the wild donkey are all sand-coloured. "Indeed," says Canon Tristram, "in the desert, where neither trees, brushwood, nor even undulation of the surface afford the slightest protection to its foes, a modification of colour assimilated to that of the surrounding country is absolutely necessary. Hence, without exception, the upper plumage of every bird, and also the fur of all the smaller mammals and the skin of all the snakes and lizards, is of one uniform sand colour."

The next point is the colour of the mature caterpillars, some of which are brown. This probably makes the caterpillar even more conspicuous among the green leaves than would otherwise be the case. Let us see, then, whether the habits of the insect will throw any light upon the riddle. What would you do if you were a big caterpillar? Why, like most other defenseless creatures, you would feed by night, and lie concealed by day. So do these caterpillars. When the morning light comes, they creep down the stem of the food plant, and lie concealed among the thick herbage and dry sticks and leaves, near the ground, and it is obvious that under such circumstances the brown colour really becomes a protection. It might indeed be argued that the caterpillars, having become brown, concealed themselves on the ground, and that we were reversing the state of things. But this is not so, because, while we may say as a general rule that large caterpillars feed by night and lie concealed by day, it is by no means always the case that they are brown; some of them still retaining the green colour. We may then conclude that the habit of concealing themselves by day came first, and that the brown colour is a later adaptation.