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**General Studies and Communication skills**

**SENIOR 5 END OF YEAR EXAMINATIONS, 2019**

**SUBJECT: GENERAL STUDIES AND COMMUNICATION**

**SKILLS**

**COMBINATIONS:**

* **ALL SCIENCE COMBINATIONS**
* **ALL HUMANITIES**
* **ALL LANGUAGES COMBINATIONS**

**DURATION: 3 HOURS**

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Write your names, name of school and class on the answer booklet/sheet.
2. Do not open this question paper until you are told to do so.
3. This paper consists of **TWO** sections: **A** and **B.**

**SECTION A**: Attempt only **ONE** question.

**SECTION B**: Attempt only **ONE** question.

1. You must answer in clear continuous prose.
2. Use only a **blue** or **black** pen.

**SECTION A: Attempt one question**

1. Examine the role of sports and leisure in promoting social development in your country. **(25marks)**
2. Discuss the contribution of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) in global development. **(25marks)**
3. Analyze the causes of famine in African countries. **(25marks)**

**SECTIONB: Attempt one questions**

7) Study the table given below and answer the questions that follow: **(25marks**)

**PEOPLE DEPENDING ON FORMAL SECTOR CREDIT IN URBAN AREAS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Category** | **Percentage of people** |
| Poor house holds | 15% |
| Households with few assets | 47% |
| Well-off house holds | 72% |
| Richer house holds | 90% |

a) Poor household’s share of formal credit in the urban areas is low as compared to that of rich households. Why is it so?  
b) Explain two problems faced by poor households in taking loans from a formal sector.

**8) Read the following passage to answer the given questions based on it. (25marks**)

In order for humans to live, they need access to fresh water. While nearly 70% of the earth’s surface is water, most of it is salt water, which humans cannot drink. Only a small percentage, about 3%, is fresh water. Of this, about 69% is currently frozen as ice caps and glaciers, while another 30% is held underground in the soil or in rock. This means that only one percent of the world’s fresh water—or .03% of the world’s total water—is surface water that humans can access to drink. The small amount of potable (suitable for drinking) water makes its conservation incredibly important, so that water shortages already occurring in some regions do not spread any further. If they do, this may lead to conflicts over the right to use this water

There are many ways in which humans can affect access to fresh water. For example, humans can pollute bodies of water, thereby making them undrinkable. In some cases, they may make physical changes to the land by building over wetlands or damming up rivers. While wealthy countries can afford to make the investments necessary to make sure their residents have access to fresh water, poorer countries often cannot. This means that poorer countries are at greater risk of devastating droughts, which can lead both to dehydration and starvation, as the country is unable to water its crops.

Droughts can also have a negative impact on the *biodiversity* of a region. Biodiversity refers to an abundance of different types of plant and animal species within a particular region. The prefix “bio” means living, while “diversity” refers to different types of things. Around the world, more than 125,000 animal species live entirely in freshwater habitats, including 15,000 species of fish, 4,300 species of amphibians, and 5,000 species of mollusks, such as clams and oysters. Millions of other species, including humans, depend on fresh water to drink. When an area loses a large percentage of its fresh water, many animals die off. In some cases, species go entirely extinct. This leads to a decrease in the region’s biodiversity.

While droughts are natural and, in many places, a frequent occurrence, there are many things that humans do to increase the severity of these droughts. For one thing, humans use much more fresh water to drink and grow crops than they did in the past. The world’s population has doubled in the last 50 years, and all of these people drink water and eat food grown from crops every day. Humanity’s increasing water consumption represents a growing threat to biodiversity

In Africa, where droughts are common, they have been more prolonged than in the past. This is due in part to climate change, as well as a greater demand for water as the continent’s population has increased. During a drought in Kenya that lasted from 2007 to 2009, over 60 elephants died—some of dehydration, others of starvation due to lack of vegetation to eat, and others of diseases that became fatal due to the elephants’ weakened states. Some other endangered animals, such as the white rhinoceros, died too, which brought them closer to extinction.

When the biodiversity of a region declines, the human population suffers as well, in different ways. When a region experiences a significant drought, many animals may die from lack of water and food. If the region is one like Kenya, which depends on its wildlife to draw tourists, the effects of the drought can be devastating. If tourism declines due to high wildlife casualties, then the locals who depend on income from tourism will lose their livelihood. People may then turn to farming to earn money, but crops require water to grow. This can place further strain on the water supply and worsen the original problem of the drought. Sometimes, an imbalance in the system, such as a lack of water, can enter into a feedback loop where the situation only gets worse and worse.

Losses in biodiversity can also lead to problems with the availability of food. As we’ve discussed, a lack of water can prevent farmers from growing crops, which can lead to starvation. However, when a region loses its biodiversity, it disrupts the food chain in many ways. For example, if a species goes extinct, all the species used to feeding on it must find another source of food. Say a particular species of freshwater frog dies because its habitat has been depleted in a drought. This means the population of birds that feeds on this frog may decline as well, as it lacks sufficient food. Conversely, the insects that the frogs fed on may increase in number, as the frogs are no longer around to keep their population in check.

One of the main advantages of biodiversity is that there are certain natural processes that plants and animals perform that humans simply cannot. The billions of bees in the world play a critical role in pollinating the world’s flowers. If they did not do this, the food supply would dwindle and the human population would suffer greatly

Biodiversity can play an important function in the cleaning of water. When water passes through lakes, wetlands, and streams, it often encounters different species of fungi, algae, and bacteria. Many of these microbes actually filter microscopic particles out of the water, making it safe for humans to drink. Even some larger species do similar work. For example, the caddisfly constructs nets underwater that filter out different kinds of particles, which it then eats. Wetlands rich with these filtering organisms act as natural water filtration systems. When the biodiversity of a region declines, many of the organisms critical to this filtering process can disappear. So, pressures on the freshwater supply can cause biodiversity to decrease, which can cut the drinkable water supply even further.

While humans do have some water filtration plants, these plants are expensive and take a lot of energy to maintain. For centuries the water that flowed into New York City was naturally filtered by a northern watershed. As the water flowed south, it was purified. However, as the watershed was polluted and diverted, the water flowing to New York City was no longer filtered. The city faced a choice of spending $6 billion to $8 billion to build a water filtration plant, or just $1 billion to restore the natural watershed. The city wisely chose the latter option

1 a) What is this passage mostly talk about?

b) What is meant by the term biodiversity?

2) Poorer countries are at greater risk during droughts than richer countries. What evidence from the passage that supports this conclusion?

3) What makes the conservation of fresh drinking water so important?

4) Describe the problems caused by the losses in biodiversity

5) How might humans help prevent losses in biodiversity? Use information from the passage to support your answer.