

Sikkim Public Service Commission

Written Examination for the post of Cooperative Inspector and Cooperative Auditor

PAPER - I GENERAL ENGLISH & GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Time Allowed: 2.00 hours

(COMPULSORY FOR ALL)

Maximum Marks: 100

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Read the instructions carefully before answering the questions: -

1. **IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE EXAMINATION, YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT THIS BOOKLET DOES NOT HAVE ANY UNPRINTED, TORN OR MISSING PAGES OR ITEMS. IF SO, GET IT REPLACED BY A COMPLETE TEST BOOKLET.**
2. **Use only Black Ball Point Pen to fill the OMR Sheet.**
3. Please note that it is the candidate's responsibility to fill in the Roll Number carefully without any omission or discrepancy at the appropriate places in the OMR ANSWER SHEET as well as on SEPARATE ANSWER BOOKLET for Conventional Type Questions. Any omission/discrepancy will render the Answer Sheet liable for rejection.
4. Do not write anything else on the OMR Answer Sheet except the required information.
5. This Test Booklet is divided into three sections - Section A (30 marks), Section B (50 marks) and Section C (20 marks).
6. Section A is General English and Section B is General Knowledge which have to be answered in the OMR Sheet provided to the candidate. Section C is General English - Conventional which has to be answered in the Answer Sheet provided. All Sections are Compulsory.
7. Before you proceed to mark in the OMR Answer Sheet, you have to fill in some particulars as per given instructions.
8. After you have completed filling in all your responses on the OMR Answer Sheet and the examination has concluded, you should hand over the OMR Answer Sheets and the Answer Booklets to the Invigilator only. You are permitted to take with you the Test Booklet.
9. **Marking Scheme**
THERE WILL BE NEGATIVE MARKING FOR WRONG ANSWERS MARKED BY A CANDIDATE IN THE OBJECTIVE TYPE QUESTIONS
 - (i) There are four alternatives for the answer to every question. For each question for which a wrong answer has been given by the candidate, one-third of the marks assigned to the question will be deducted as penalty.
 - (ii) If a candidate gives more than one answer, it will be treated as a wrong answer even if one of the given answers happens to be correct and there will be same penalty as above to the question.
 - (iii) If a question is left blank. i.e., no answer is given by the candidate; there will be no penalty for that question.

DO NOT OPEN THIS TEST BOOKLET UNTIL YOU ARE ASKED TO DO SO

GENERAL ENGLISH
SECTION – A
(MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS)

Read the passage carefully and choose the correct answer from the given options:
(1x10=10)

In India there are 280 million cows. They produce valuable things like milk, dung and calves. But cattle are expensive to keep. The biggest outlay is food – the average cow consumes fodder worth about 10,000 rupees a year.

These expenses are so high that cows are often a poor investment. According to a new and splendidly titled NBER paper, which looks at cow and buffalo ownership in rural areas of northern India, the average return on a cow is -64 percent once you factor in the cost of labour.

If returns on cattle are so bad, why do households buy them? People may not be thinking about economics, of course. Hindus may derive spiritual fulfilment from cow ownership. Households may prefer to produce high quality milk at home, even if doing so costs more.

But the authors suggest that there may also be sound economic reasoning behind cow ownership. According to ICRIER, a think tank, only 7 percent of Indian villages have a bank branch. That means people lack a formal savings mechanism for their spare cash. And although there are informal ways to save – joining a local saving club, for example or simply stuffing money under the mattress- owning a cow may be a better option.

People find spending easier than saving. Immediate pleasures are easier to grasp than future joys and so people make spending decisions that they later regret. Economists refer to this as “myopia”. Cows force people not to be myopic. Compared with money held in saving accounts, the cattle are illiquid assets. Taking cash from a cow is harder than taking money from an account. As a result, temptation spending is trickier.

The paper has implication for poverty-alleviation strategies and for financial services in developing countries. Aid programmes that try to reduce poverty by distributing livestock may be ineffective at raising incomes, if the returns from owning them are so poor. If cows are used as a means of saving, the spread of mobile banking in places like India will provide another, better option. Even then the problem of temptation spending arises. Dean Karlan, one of the authors, is interested in the idea of “commitment saving accounts”, whereby people forgo their right to withdraw funds until they reach a specified level.

- 1. Why do households buy cows despite the fact that the return on cattle is not beneficial?**
 - a. To get high quality milk at home
 - b. For spiritual fulfilment
 - c. Because of ignorance of economic aspects
 - A. Only (a)
 - B. Only (b)
 - C. Only (c)
 - D. All a, b and c

2. **What is economic myopia? Choose your answer in the context of the given passage.**
- A. Spending is easier than saving
 - B. Spending gives pleasure while saving causes hardship
 - C. Spending decision for immediate pleasure at the cost of future repentance
 - D. Inability to see objects clearly placed at a short distance
3. **Which of the following statements is/are contrary to the facts mentioned in the given passage?**
- a. Getting money by selling cows is easier than withdrawing it from savings account
 - b. Cows force people to be economically short-sighted
 - c. Aid programmes that try to reduce poverty by distributing livestock may be ineffective
- A. Only a and b
 - B. Only b
 - C. Only b and c
 - D. Only a
4. **What economic reason has the author suggested behind cow ownership?**
- A. Rural people prefer to exchange goods for milk.
 - B. Cow owners are usually illiterate and hence hesitate to go to bank branches.
 - C. People lack a formal savings mechanism and owning a cow is a better alternative for them.
 - D. People think it is better to have their own cows than to purchase milk from vendors.
5. **Which of the following is not true in the context of the given passage?**
- A. The high expenses to keep cows have become bad investment.
 - B. When the labour cost is also added to the total cost, the average return on a cow gives a negative return.
 - C. The biggest expense on keeping a cow comes on food.
 - D. The NBER paper is concerned with looking at cows and buffalo ownership in the whole of rural India.

Choose the word from the options which is most similar in meaning to the given word from the passage:

6. **SPARE**
- A. Temporary
 - B. Regular
 - C. Extra
 - D. Scanty

7. STUFFING

- A. Misusing
- B. Contents
- C. Sinking
- D. Depositing

Choose the word from the options that is most opposite in meaning to the word given from the passage:

8. OUTLAY

- A. income
- B. expense
- C. plinth
- D. outdo

Choose the word from the options that is most similar in meaning to the word given from the passage:

9. ALLEVIATION

- A. Allotment
- B. Lessen
- C. Inclination
- D. Allowance

Choose the word from the options that is most opposite in meaning to the word given from the passage:

10. FORGO

- A. Reject
- B. Accept
- C. Forgot
- D. Renounce

Read the following passage carefully and choose the correct answer from the given options: (1x5=5)

Many people love the cute koala bear. This animal has been into stuffed toys all over the world. But it is rare to see this creature alive and moving, because it is gradually becoming extinct. The koala, like the kangaroo, is actually a marsupial. It contains a small pouch for its young, like the kangaroo. For this reason, the koala is not related to true bears. In appearance it is a combination of a monkey and a kangaroo. Koalas are native to Australia and they are now chiefly found in New South Wales and Queensland. They are highly protected animals, because their number has greatly diminished in the last ten years.

The koala has been hunted since the middle of this century for fur and food, which has moved it from its normal habitats. Today, anyone found harming a koala is severely punished by law. Koalas get their endearing appearance from a covering of grey fur and little tufts of white hair on the sides of their faces. Their eyes are small and black, set in their head. They have large ears and curved noses but no tail. They use their arms and paws to climb through the trees. Koalas have interesting living habits. They are nocturnal, which means they move around chiefly at night. Koalas do not stay on the ground. They move from tree to tree, carefully lowering and raising themselves by paws. Koalas eat only the leaves of eucalyptus tree, which is another reason that they are now becoming extinct.

The eucalyptus tree is disappearing from their natural habitats, fighting a battle against extinction on their own. Koalas have a surprisingly long-life span, which can range from 9 to 20 years, in rare cases. The koala's worst enemy, besides hunters, is fire. When a tree is inflamed, often they cannot run fast enough to save themselves. Baby koalas are in danger around certain kinds of lizards and eagles, although they are protected today by natural habitats set up for them. It is interesting to note that many koalas die from being hit by cars, and some are even attacked by dogs.

11. What has led the koala bear to move away from its natural habitat?

- A. To escape from being hunted for fur and food.
- B. To avoid the danger from lizards.
- C. It needs a different environment now
- D. The normal habitat does not provide sufficient food

12. Which of the following are causes of danger to koala bears?

- A. Fire, Lizards
- B. Accidents with vehicles, dogs
- C. Both (A) and (B)
- D. The nocturnal habits

13. Which of the following statements is false about koala bears?

- A. Koala bears eat eucalyptus leaves
- B. Koala bears have large ears and curved noses
- C. Koala bears have small black eyes
- D. Koala bears have short tails

14. Which of the following statements is true about koala bears?

- A. They can safely live among animals like birds, dogs and eagles
- B. Koalas have a long-life span
- C. Koala bears are commonly found all over the world
- D. Koalas do not use their paws as much as their arms

Choose the word from the options which is most similar in meaning to the given word from the passage:

15. ENDEARING

- A. Mischievous
- B. Adorable
- C. Funny
- D. Content

Choose the correct synonyms of the words from the given options: (1x5=5)

16. IMPINGE

- A. Soak
- B. Ridicule
- C. Argue
- D. Encroach

17. RETICENCE

- A. Reserve
- B. Sincerity
- C. Frankness
- D. Generosity

18. ASSUAGE

- A. Rub
- B. Prohibit
- C. Ease
- D. Enlarge

19. EXHORT

- A. Encourage
- B. Discourage
- C. Provoke
- D. Casual

20. SOLECISM

- A. Error
- B. Correction
- C. Ending
- D. Beginning

In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Direct/Indirect speech. Out of the alternatives suggested, select the best that expresses the same in Indirect/Direct speech: (1x5=5)

21. Doma asked me, "Did you see the cricket match on television last night?"

- A. Doma asked me whether I saw the cricket match on television the earlier night.
- B. Doma asked me whether I had seen the cricket match on television the earlier night.
- C. Doma asked me did I see the cricket match on television the last night.
- D. Doma asked me whether I had seen the cricket match the last night.

22. He told her, "What a cold day!"

- A. He told her that it was a cold day.
- B. He exclaimed that it was a cold day.
- C. He exclaimed sorrowfully that it was a cold day.
- D. He exclaimed that it was a very cold day.

23. Karma said to her maid servant, "Why are so lazy today?"

- A. Karma asked her maid servant why she was so lazy that day.
- B. Karma asked her maid servant why she had been so lazy that day.
- C. Karma asked her maid servant why she was being so lazy that day.
- D. Karma asked her maid servant why she was lazy yesterday.

24. I said to my sister, "Let us go to some hill station for a change."

- A. I asked my sister to go to some hill station for a change.
- B. I asked my sister that if she would go to some hill station for a change.
- C. I suggested my sister that we should go to some hill station for a change.
- D. I permitted my sister to go to some hill station for a change.

25. He said to the teacher, "Could you please repeat the question?"

- A. He requested the teacher if he could please repeat the question.
- B. He requested the teacher to please repeat the question.
- C. He requested the teacher to repeat the question.
- D. He asked the teacher if he could repeat the question.

Find the correctly spelt word from the following: (1x5=5)

26. A. Harasment
B. Harassment
C. Harrassment
D. Harrasment

27. A. Inundated
B. Innundated
C. Innandated
D. Inandated

28. A. Perserverance
B. Perseverence
C. Preserverance
D. Perseverance

29. A. Skillfull
B. Skilfull
C. Skilful
D. Skielful

30. A. Septaganarian
B. Saptagenarian
C. Septuaganarian
D. Septuagenarian

SECTION -B
(GENERAL KNOWLEDGE)

Choose the correct options for the given questions: (2x25=50)

31. NIGHA, a mobile application to curb election malpractices, is an initiative of which state?

- A. Punjab
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Gujarat
- D. Andhra Pradesh

32. Which Indian state/UT launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Health Card' scheme during its budget?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Assam
- C. Arunachal Pradesh
- D. Chandigarh

33. In which city is India's first under sea tunnel being constructed?

- A. Chennai
- B. Kolkata
- C. Cochin
- D. Mumbai

34. From which among the following places had Mahatma Gandhi launched its first Satyagraha in India?

- A. Kheda
- B. Bardoli
- C. Champaran
- D. Sabarmati

35. In which year was Bharat Ratna announced for Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose?

- A. 1988
- B. 1991
- C. 1992
- D. 1996

36. Which of the following are ritualistic teachings attached to the hymns of the Vedas?

- A. Brahmanas
- B. Upanishads
- C. Aranyakas
- D. Itihasas

37. Humayunama was written by which of the following authors?

- A. Humayun
- B. Khwand Amir
- C. Gulbadan Beghum
- D. Abu Faza

38. Which of the following activities is termed as activity of tertiary sector?

- A. Wheat production
- B. Mobile production
- C. Construction of a dam
- D. Fishing

39. Which among the following is a project of SICA (Sikkim Cricket Association) to make people aware of cricket?

- A. All about cricket
- B. Cricket Funfair
- C. Cricket Next-Gen
- D. Pro-Cricket

40. Which among the following is not correctly matched?

- A. Aga Khan palace – Pune
- B. Bharat Bhawan – Bhopal
- C. Akal Takht – Amritsar
- D. All are correct

41. With which of the following countries does India share maximum length of border?

- A. Pakistan
- B. China
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Nepal

42. Which among the following is the first state to introduce 'Oak Tussar Industry'?

- A. Manipur
- B. Odisha
- C. West Bengal
- D. Assam

43. Who is authorized to remove a minister of state from office?

- A. President
- B. Parliament
- C. Governor
- D. Governor on the advice of Chief Minister

44. What was the title given to the all-women art exhibition held on the occasion of International Women's Day at the Lalit Academy in March 2021?

- A. The Heritage Collection
- B. KhulaAasmaan Art
- C. Akshya Patra
- D. Akriti Art

45. Who was given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Sikkim Strength Lifting Association (SSLA)?

- A. Bhim Raj
- B. Ganesh Subba
- C. Chandra Kumar Chettri
- D. Ram Dhoj Rai

46. Which one of the following schemes launched by the Ministry of Finance has 81% women account holders?

- A. One Stop Centre Scheme
- B. Women Helpline Scheme
- C. Stand- Up India scheme
- D. Ujjwala Scheme

47. Which of the following according to Mahatma Gandhi is an essential principle of Satyagraha?

- A. Infinite capacity of suffering
- B. Non-violence
- C. Truth
- D. All the three

48. In which social media handle has the Union Health Minister launched the official interactive platform called 'Covid India Seva'?

- A. Whats App
- B. Facebook
- C. Twitter
- D. Telegram

49. What is the name of the award to be given to the states for good agricultural production by the Prime Minister?

- A. Krishi Samman
- B. Krishi Samridhi
- C. Krishi Karman
- D. Krishi Keerthi

50. Where does the Luni river, which originates in Pushkar valley of Aravalli range end?

- A. As a tributary to Sabarmati
- B. In the Rann of Kutch
- C. In the Arabian Sea
- D. Near Mount Abu

51. Which of the following is not a classical dance of India?

- A. Kathak
- B. Sattriya
- C. Manipuri
- D. Bhangra

52. For whom did Gandhi say “when I am gone, he will speak my language”?

- A. Sardar Patel
- B. U.N. Dhebar
- C. Jawaharlal Nehru
- D. J.B. Kriplani

53. ‘Maenam Wild Life Sanctuary’ is situated in Namchi, in South Sikkim. Which among the following is the literal meaning of ‘Maenam’?

- A. Treasure house of medicines
- B. Heaven for wild life
- C. Peaceful nature
- D. Nature’s paradise

54. Who was appointed as the Chairperson of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) Champions and Veterans Committee on March 3, 2021?

- A. Vijender Singh
- B. Pinki Rani
- C. Jitender Kumar
- D. Mary Kom

55. What was the theme of the Earth Day 2020, which was also the 50th anniversary of the day?

- A. Golden earth
- B. Earth day 50
- C. Climate Action
- D. Our Earth: Our Life

SECTION - C
(GENERAL ENGLISH - CONVENTIONAL)

56. Write a précis of the following passage (10)

What it is about a neighbourhood that makes a difference in the lives of youth? One answer is the neighbours. Nearly all neighbourhood studies find the demographic or socio-economic characteristics of neighbours are associated with the outcome of interest. According to American sociologist William Julius Wilson for example, living in neighbourhoods with many poor families cuts off youth from main stream society and leads to violence and delinquency. Other research emphasizes the benefits of having neighbours with high socio-economic status for promoting prosocial outcomes and positive educational attainments. Other demographic features of a neighbourhood thought to be important include racial or ethnic homogeneity or heterogeneity, stability (the frequency with which people move in and out), family or household types (e.g. the prevalence of single-parent families), and density or population.

In addition to relationships within the neighbourhood, connections between members of the community and institutions outside the neighbourhood, sometimes referred to as 'bridging ties', are equally important. For example, relationships within the neighbourhood may provide little new information, such as about how to apply to college or about employment opportunities in other parts of the city. A related issue is a neighbourhood's position within the larger metropolitan or regional political economy. Neighbourhoods located within traditionally poor and underserved areas of a city, for example, typically have less political power to effect change.

57. Write an essay on any one topic (10)

Cyberspace and internet- A blessing or curse to the human civilization in the long run.

OR

Changing of social values and cultural transformation in 21st century.
