



2025

Y21

BOOKLET NO.

104786

**English Language
(Qualifying Paper)**

Paper – 2

Time Allowed : Three Hours

Maximum Marks : 300

Medium : English

Type of Paper : Conventional/Descriptive

Question Paper Specific Instructions

Please read each of the following instructions carefully before attempting questions :

1. All questions are to be attempted.
2. The number of marks carried by a question is indicated against it.
3. Wherever option has been given, only the required number of responses in the serial order attempted shall be assessed. Unless struck off, attempt of a question shall be counted even if attempted partly. Excess responses shall not be assessed and shall be ignored.
4. Candidates are expected to answer all the sub-questions of a question together. If sub-question of a question is attempted elsewhere (after leaving a few page or after attempting another question) the later sub-question shall be overlooked.
5. Answers must be written in ENGLISH only.
6. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to and if answered in longer or shorter than the prescribed length, marks will be deducted.
7. Any page or portion of the page left blank in the Answer Booklet must be clearly struck off.



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- Q1.** Write an essay in about **600** words on **any one** of the following topics. **100**
- (1) Should education be made free ?
 - (2) Environmental effects of urbanization.
 - (3) If I could become a scientist.
 - (4) The ethical use of internet.
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- Q2.** Read carefully the passage given below and write answers the questions that follow in clear, correct and concise language. **75**

Philosophy, often defined as the love of wisdom, is the study of ultimate causes and a critical analysis of human experience. Consciously or unconsciously, everyone develops a philosophy of life – a theory of the world and the individual's relation to it – that shapes attitudes and actions. Even the uneducated hold simple beliefs that guide their lives, for life without some philosophy is unimaginable. To think that only scholars possess philosophy is mistaken; even those who deny its need adhere to a hidden philosophy, whether materialistic, superstitious, or skeptical. Thus, each person develops ethical, logical and epistemological positions, however personal or limited. Given this universality, it is wise to construct a systematic and intelligent philosophy after critically examining life and experience. Carried to its logical end, philosophy is not a private affair but a science and art of human life, aiming at a universal outlook acceptable to all rational minds. Problems arise from restricting philosophy to sense, reason or understanding, but intuition, which penetrates deeper into reality, is the true foundation of a complete philosophy. Indian thought emphasizes this intuitive element, which complements intellect and will. Philosophy is therefore a world view, integrating intellect, will and feeling to explain the universe through ultimate principles rather than mere empirical observations. It harmonizes various aspects of life and satisfies the deepest human needs. As William James notes, philosophy is the spirit of education, nurturing the spiritual growth of man through rational and appealing methods, not dogmatic instruction.

Questions :

- (1) How is philosophy commonly defined and in what ways does it influence the life of every individual, educated or uneducated ?
 - (2) Why does the author argue that even those who reject the need for philosophy still possess a philosophy of their own ?
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- (3) According to the passage what makes intuition an essential foundation for a complete philosophy and how does Indian thought view it ?
- (4) How does philosophy differ from mere empirical observation and what role does it play in harmonizing human life ?
- (5) What does William James mean when he describes philosophy as “the spirit of education”, and how should philosophy be taught according to the passage ?

Q3. Make a precis of the following passage in about one-third of its length. Do not give a title to it. The precis should be written in your own words. 75

At three O'clock on a Sunday morning, Rakesh Bajarang Kolekar, a 30-year old auto rickshaw driver from Navi Mumbai's Belapur West area, was woken up by an urgent and sharp knock on his door. When he opened the door, he saw an elderly woman standing outside, who had fallen seriously ill. Desperate to reach a hospital, she had already been turned away by two other auto drivers. With no other option left, she requested Rakesh to help her. He immediately agreed. "I took her to the nearest hospital," Rakesh recalls. "All I could think was: what if it had been my mother, sick and unable to get help ? Or what if it had been me ? That night I realised my auto could serve as an ambulance."

The episode changed Rakesh's perspective. In a city as vast and crowded as Navi Mumbai, ambulances are often too few to meet the demand, especially during the peak of the COVID-19 crisis. The shortage meant that not only COVID patients but even those suffering from unrelated illnesses were left stranded, unable to reach hospitals in time. Rakesh resolved not to turn anyone away. "I don't distinguish between COVID and non-COVID cases. I take everyone who comes to me," he explains.

He quickly transformed his auto into a makeshift ambulance. It was now equipped with an infrared thermometer, sanitizers and a pulse oximeter. To protect himself, he invested in PPE gear and installed a divider inside the rickshaw. Within just five weeks, he had transported 63 patients – 41 of them COVID-positive. Rakesh, who also works as a Physics teacher in a private school, never let the risks discourage him. "Doctors, nurses, and hospital staff face COVID patients round the clock. If they chose to stay home, what would become of the rest of us ? Compared to their sacrifice, ferrying a few patients is a very small thing," he says with quiet determination. His family, especially his wife, supported his decision wholeheartedly, understanding both the risks and the necessity of his service.

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Rakesh's selfless example finds a parallel in Pune, where Dinesh Yadav also turned his auto into an emergency lifeline. Dinesh was shaken by images flooding his WhatsApp and Facebook: scenes of families carrying their sick relatives on their shoulders, young people gasping for breath outside hospital gates, and countless patients dying while waiting for help. The ambulance crisis struck him deeply. "If an ambulance even arrived, it would demand ₹ 7,000 for a journey of just six or seven kilometers. How can a poor person choose between paying that or buying medicines?" he asks.

Determined to help, Dinesh fitted his auto with an oxygen cylinder. When he shared with his wife that refilling the cylinder would cost ₹ 700 to ₹ 800 each time, she did not hesitate: she offered to sell her jewellery to cover the expenses. Soon after, help began pouring in. Someone spread Dinesh's Account details, and generous contributions allowed him not only to continue his ambulance service but also to distribute ration kits to needy families.

Yet Dinesh's efforts were not without obstacles. One day, while transporting a patient from one hospital to another, he was stopped by the police. The officers accused him of illegally selling oxygen. By the time the misunderstanding was cleared, the patient had tragically passed away. The memory still troubles him. "Why harass those who are working for a good cause?" he asks bitterly. "This is a time when people should rally together, not leave each other to fend for themselves." Despite the setback, Dinesh continues his work, now with an e-pass that allows him to move freely across the city during lockdowns.

Similar stories of innovation and compassion emerged from other parts of India as well. In Satara, a district place in Western Maharashtra, Rahul Shikhare was horrified by images circulating on social media: men carrying the bodies of their wives on their shoulders, patients being pulled in carts because no ambulances were available. "I felt I had to invent something that could be within everyone's reach," he explains.

These stories of Rakesh Kolekar from Navi Mumbai, Dinesh Yadav from Pune, and Rahul Shikhare from Satara show how ordinary individuals rose to extraordinary challenges during one of the darkest chapters in recent history. They remind us that acts of courage and empathy do not always come from official institutions or professionals, but often from people moved by conscience and compassion. By turning their autos into life-saving vehicles, they became symbols of hope and resilience for their communities.



- Q4. (a)** Rewrite the following sentences after making necessary corrections. Do not make unnecessary corrections in the original sentence. **10**
- 1) The book and the pen is lying on the table since yesterday.
 - 2) She don't likes to go for evening walks.
 - 3) A bouquet of flowers were gifted to the leader.
 - 4) John is studying Marathi since five years.
 - 5) The childrens are shouting loudly.
 - 6) Lata sings very sweetly song at the concert.
 - 7) This issues needs to be addressed quickly.
 - 8) Rohan is junior than Rishabh in this office.
 - 9) The boss asked the employees that why they were late.
 - 10) The thief was caught and handing over to the police officer.
- Q4. (b)** Supply the missing words in the following sentences. **5**
- 1) The judge examined the case under close _____ before giving her verdict.
 - 2) Hema showed great courage in the face of _____ and never gave up.
 - 3) Indian soldiers fought with great _____ to defend the borders.
 - 4) The doctor advised the patient not to eat _____ food.
 - 5) The jury took the final _____ after hours of discussion.
- Q4. (c)** Use the correct forms of the verbs given in bracket. **5**
- 1) The bus _____ (leave) before we reached the station.
 - 2) The boys _____ (make) a lot of noise when the teacher entered.
 - 3) The Chief Minister and his Cabinet _____ (discuss) the new policy now.
 - 4) I wish I _____ (know) the correct answer.
 - 5) Rahul _____ (not finish) his assignment yet.
- Q4. (d)** Write the antonyms of the following. **5**
- 1) Benevolent × _____
 - 2) Candid × _____
 - 3) Fragile × _____
 - 4) Ignorant × _____
 - 5) Optimistic × _____



Q5. (a) Rewrite the following sentences as directed without changing the meaning. **10**

- 1) Joseph is rich. Joseph is not happy.
(Combine into single sentence using 'although')
- 2) The captain praised the players for their brilliant performance.
(Change into passive voice)
- 3) The father told his son that honesty is the best policy.
(Change into direct speech)
- 4) He can play the Piano, _____ ?
(Add a question tag)
- 5) If you practice hard, you will win the race.
(Rewrite using 'unless')
- 6) This is a very wonderful news.
(Change into exclamatory sentence)
- 7) Everybody liked the film.
(Rewrite in negative form)
- 8) This tree is the largest in the garden.
(Rewrite using the comparative degree)
- 9) The box is so heavy that I cannot lift it.
(Rewrite using 'too to')
- 10) She is beautiful. She is intelligent.
(Combine using 'not only but also')

Q5. (b) Use the following words to make sentences that bring out their meaning clearly. Do not change the form of the words. No marks will be given for vague and ambiguous sentences. **5**

- 1) assent
 - 2) breach
 - 3) literary
 - 4) monitor
 - 5) principle.
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Q5. (c) Choose the appropriate words to fill in the blanks.

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- 1) Rohan made a _____ remark that offended Seema.
(coarse/course)
- 2) The speaker's speech was full of _____ for the organizers.
(prays/praise)
- 3) The archaeologists tried to _____ the ruins of the old fort.
(excavate/exchequer)
- 4) The Government built a dam to control the _____ of river.
(flow/flaw)
- 5) Rocky showed great _____ during the scuffle with the thieves.
(valor/valour)

Q5. (d) Use the following idioms/phrases in sentences of your own to bring out their meaning clearly.

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- 1) At the eleventh hour.
 - 2) To hit the nail on the head.
 - 3) To turn a deaf ear.
 - 4) Cry over split milk.
 - 5) To smell a rat.
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