

## Paragraph Writing: General English - Semester - I: Unit - IV (a) - (2016-17)

Write a paragraph in about 80-100 words on any **one** of the following topics: (08 marks)

PERSONAL: (a) My Ambition in Life (b) India of My Dream (c) My College (d) My Favourite Game (e) Mobile Phone and My Life

STATE/ NATION/ MEDIA: (a) My City/ Village (b) My Favourite National Hero (c) India - Unity in Diversity (d) Importance of English in India (e) TV - a boon or curse?

ENVIRONMENT/ SOCIAL LIFE: (a) Pollution (b) Global Warming (c) Trees - Our Best Friends (d) Water - the Elixir of Life (e) Women Empowerment

### PERSONAL

#### 1. MY AMBITION IN LIFE

An ambition is a strong aspiration for honour, power, wealth, or fame. It provides a lifelong purpose. It could be a driving force for hard work and perseverance. It takes years to realize a great ambition. An ambition may or may not be achieved. It is more like a journey than a destination. My ambition in life is to become a teacher. There are thousands occupations available for men and women in today's world. But I choose the profession of teaching. It is not financially a very rewarding job. But it is noble and respectable. A teacher moulds minds and builds generations. I want to share my love of learning with students. I want to help students discover their true potential. TV, mobile phone, and bikes distract students from the path of knowledge. Many sources of knowledge are now available to students. But they are not interested in learning anything. It is a challenge to teach the young students in these circumstances. As a teacher, I would set a personal example of a life dedicated to learning. I pray that God will bless my efforts to shape the future of my students. Nancy Macauliff said:

I touch the future. I teach.

#### 2. INDIA OF MY DREAM

In fact, no nation can be great if its people are not great. Most people talk about the prosperity and glory of India in the past. But I am more interested in the future of India than in its past. I have a dream of a happy and healthy India. In the first quarter of the twenty-first century India has an endless number of problems - poverty, unemployment, starvation, pollution, corruption, illiteracy, terrorism etc. But India has seen many ups and downs in its long history. Indians are brave and hardworking people. Whenever we get a good leadership we work wonders. In the India of my dream no one sleep will hungry and everyone will have self-respect. Let's us not ask what India can do for us but let's ask what we can do for India. Let's all join hands and dedicate ourselves to the selfless service of the nation. In time to come, India will be the light of the world. I summarize my dream of India in the words of our greatest poet Rabindra Nath Tagore. In one of his poems, Tagore said:

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high; ...

Into that haven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

### **3. MY COLLEGE**

I am a student of Bhavan's Sheth R A College of Arts and Commerce. It was established in 1965 by the great Gujarati writer and educationist Shri K M Munshi. My college is located in Khanpur area of Ahmedabad city. The main gate of the college faces the remains of Sultan Ahmad Shah's original wall round the city. My college is affiliated to the Gujarat University, the biggest university in the state. We have about 1800 students in both Commerce and Arts faculties. There are about 25 experts professors in my college and most of them have Ph. D degrees in their subjects. The college has an auditorium, an audio-visual room, a computer lab, a language lab, and a library. The college has a big campus and many facilities for games and sports. Our principal is a great scholar. She speaks six languages including English and Gujarati. The principal is strict about discipline but very kind to the students. In October 2008 my college got 44<sup>th</sup> rank among the best 50 colleges in India. You can visit my college on our website - [www.bhavancollege.org](http://www.bhavancollege.org). As stated in the prospectus, the mission of my college is to be:

... a valued and vital community partner striving to enrich our expanding, challenging and diverse and demanding environment.

### **4. MOBILE PHONE AND MY LIFE**

The mobile phone has become an inseparable part of my life. You see, I can live without food for a day or two but I cannot spend an hour or even a minute without my mobile phone. I carry it with me everywhere I go. My mobile is a wonderful instrument. It is all in one for me - phone, camera, radio, TV, and palmtop. My mobile phone keeps me constantly in touch with my friends. I chat, exchange messages, listen to music, watch video clips, access the internet or play games on my mobile. I talk with my friends even when I walk or ride my bike. I take my mobile to the classroom also but I put it on the vibrator mode when the professors are teaching. At least I can send and receive messages from my mobile even in the classroom. We listen to songs in the classroom when we are free. I have two SIM cards and I change the instrument every year. You see, my life would be dull and boring without the mobile phone. My dad says that I have a mobile mania. But, you know, my mobile is my life. Oh, my friend is calling me on my mobile:

Hello, dear, when are you coming back from your boring lecture...

### **5. MY FAVOURITE GAME**

I am a First Year college student. Our college is interested in the intellectual growth as well as the physical wellbeing of students. It is compulsory for all students to take part in at least one game. I play cricket. It is my favourite game. Of course, cricket is a favourite game of millions of young Indians. Cricket began in England about four hundred years ago. It is now played all over the world. Countries like Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies, and Zimbabwe play international cricket. There are three main kinds of international cricket matches - test match, one-day match, and twenty-twenty match. Cricket is called a "gentlemen's game." It is good for physical fitness. It also cultivates a spirit of sportsmanship. In India, the betting scandal of IPL series has discredited the game of cricket. But still it remains as popular as ever. Life is also a game like cricket. Somebody said:

Life is a cricket, don't lose your wicket.

## **STATE/ NATION/ MEDIA**

### **1. MY CITY**

In 1411, Sultan Ahmed Shah founded the Ahmedabad city on the banks of the Sabarmati. In its long history, Ahmedabad has been ruled by the Ahmed Shahi dynasty, the Mughals, the

Marathas, and the British. For a long time after the birth of Gujarat state, Ahmedabad served as its capital. The administration of the city is under the control of the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC). Once upon a time, because of the growth of the textile industry in the city, Ahmedabad was known as the Manchester of India. Ahmedabad is famous for its rich cultural heritage. The Gandhi Ashram is a world famous monument of the city. Ahmedabad is a multicultural city. People of many faiths, many castes, and many languages live together in the city. The Gujarat University is located in Ahmedabad. Poverty and prosperity go hand in hand in Ahmedabad. The citizens of Ahmedabad are known for their toughness and tenacity in the face of challenges. There is a popular saying:

જબ કુત્તેપે સસ્સા આયા તબ અહમદશાહને શહર બસાયા.

(When a hare attacked a dog, the king founded the city.)

## 2. MY FAVOURITE NATIONAL HERO

Mahatma Gandhi is my favourite national hero. Gandhi's real name was Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. He was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1869 at Porbandar. His autobiography ***My Experiments with Truth*** describes his "experiments" with truth and ahimsa. In his childhood Gandhi smoked *bidis* and stole money. But he soon repented for his guilty behaviour. The boy Gandhi was highly impressed by a play on the life of the truthful King Harishchandra. He studied law in London but failed as a lawyer in India. He went to South Africa to earn his living. In Maritzburg, he was pushed out of the first-class compartment of a train because he was not a white man. This was a turning point in his life. Gandhi fought against the injustice of the British government to the Asians and the Africans. After 1915, he became the most prominent leader of the Indian freedom movement. Gandhi also championed the equality of women and untouchables. Mahatma Gandhi sacrificed his life for humanity. Romain Rolland said about Gandhi that:

He is another Christ.

## 3. INDIA - UNITY IN DIVERSITY

India achieved independence from the British rule on August 15, 1947 and became a federal republic on January 26, 1950. It has 28 states and 07 union territories. India is the largest democracy in the world. In terms of geographical size, India is the seventh largest country in the world. India has a rare religious, cultural, geographical, linguistic, and racial diversity. India is more like a continent than a country. There are followers of eight main religions in India - Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Jainism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, and Judaism. These people have different customs and festivals. There are 22 official languages in India and there are more than 200 local languages. The constitution of India grants certain fundamental rights to all citizens irrespective of caste, religion, or region. But today India faces many great challenges to its unity like casteism, communalism, regionalism, separatism etc. In spite of the endless variety in every sphere of life, India has maintained its political unity. Jawahar Lal Nehru called it India's great tradition of:

... unity in diversity and diversity in unity.

## 4. IMPORTANCE OF ENGLISH IN INDIA

India has 28 states and 07 union territories. It has 22 official languages. Though India adopted Hindi as the national language, the constitution was first written in English. Hindi was expected to replace English by 1965. However, this did not happen. Some people want to retain English and some others want to throw it out of the country. In India, English is a very important language. It is used in administration, education, industry and commerce, science and technology and journalism. Books on science, technology, and education are generally available in English language. People who have a working knowledge of English have better chances for jobs. Only

about five percent of the total population of India is estimated to know English. But English is considered a language of opportunity. More and more people send their children to English medium schools. Millions of learners in the country are eager to learn English but they have limited opportunities to learn the language. Khushwant Singh said:

English language works like magic in India.

## 5. TELEVISION -A BOON OR A CURSE?

TV is an inseparable part of our life. Most houses have a television set with the cable connection. Now we can watch TV programmes round the clock. Mothers even use TV as a babysitter. Children spend hours before it. Some explain the importance of TV in terms of entertainment and education. Others say that TV is an "idiot box" which slows down our thinking. The depiction of violence promotes criminal instincts in young minds. But there also some good uses of TV. News channels give the latest information about events in the world. Channels like *Discovery* and *National Geography* teach us a lot about the natural world. TV has affected our social life. People now spend much more time watching TV rather than socializing. Many people argue that it is a waste of time to watch TV. But it is meaningless to blame TV alone. If we watch it reasonably and wisely, it is a boon. If we watch it unreasonably and unwisely, it is a curse. William Westmoreland said:

Television can paralyze the whole nation.

## ENVIRONMENT/ SOCIAL LIFE

### 1. POLLUTION

Pollution means harm or damage we do to the natural environment. The natural environment consists of air, water, soil, plants, and human and animal life on the earth. Man does not pollute the environment with conscious efforts. But all human activities - manufacturing, transportation, trade, war - give rise to pollution in one way or another. There are three major forms of pollution: air pollution, water pollution, and land or soil pollution. The principal sources of air pollution are "greenhouse" gases from factories and motor vehicles. Factories and vehicles also produce noise pollution. Large cities and towns are full of smoke, dirt, and noise. The sources of water pollution are industrial waste, sewage, and oil spills. Water pollution is injurious to aquatic life in seas and rivers. The pollution of the groundwater is injurious to human life. The major sources of soil pollution are chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and plastic. Pollution is the cause of many diseases and deformities like allergies, asthma, deafness, anxiety, stress and so on. Sunita Narayanan says:

Pollution is a strange kind of suicide.

### 2. GLOBAL WARMING

Global warming is as frightful a word as terrorism and AIDS. In a simple sense, global warming is a noticeable increase in the temperature of the earth's surface. It is a man-made problem. Reasons of global warming are: burning of oil and coal, industrialization, and deforestation. 1991-2000 was the hottest decade in the last millennium. Global warming causes heavy rainfalls in some areas and droughts in others. Sea levels will rise when natural ice caps melt because of high temperatures. World leaders have taken a serious note of the dangers of global warming. The first World Climate Conference was held in 1979. World summits have been organized at Rio de Janeiro (1992), Kyoto (1997), and Copenhagen (2009) to check the rising temperature on the earth's surface. The USA, Europe, and Russia cause the highest degree of global warming in the world. These superpowers now help poorer countries to deal with the threat of global warming. Remember the following points to check global warming:

Consume less oil and coal.  
Grow more trees and protect forests.  
Use solar and wind power in place of electricity.

### 3. TREES - OUR BEST FRIENDS

Jagdish Chandra Bose discovered that trees have life. Trees are our best friends. Good friends always help us even if we may harm them. Similarly trees give us fruits when we throw stones at them. All our food comes directly or indirectly from trees. They provide raw materials for industries which give us employment. We also get medicines from trees. Trees take away carbon dioxide from the air and produce oxygen. Thus they keep the environment clean. Trees bring rain. Their roots hold the soil together and prevent soil erosion. If there were no trees, land would turn into a desert. In fact, trees provide all our basic necessities like food, clothing and shelter. Life would be unthinkable without trees. We should forever remain grateful to trees. It is our duty to save them. They serve mankind in many different ways. We owe our very existence to trees. We must plant more and more trees for our own benefit. Lucy Larcom said:

He who plants a tree plants a hope.

### 4. WATER - THE ELIXIR OF LIFE

Water is a natural resource. It is an elixir of life. There can be no life without water. Plants, animals, and humans will die without water. All ancient civilizations grew up on the river banks. Oceans cover nearly 71% of the surface of the earth. It is a pity that people do not understand the value of water. We need water for drinking, cooking, washing, and cleaning in daily life. We use water in agriculture and industry. But we pollute our rivers and oceans with industrial waste, oil spills, and sewage. With rapid increase in population in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there is a greater demand for water. Scarcity of water is a serious problem in the world today. Indian economy is based on agriculture and the groundwater is important for irrigation. But the level of groundwater is going down. There are conflicts between different states for distribution of river waters. In future there could be wars between nations for water resources. The Gujarat Government has built an ambitious project on the river Narmada to provide water in areas of the state. Let's save water to save life. Lord Mahavira said:

Use water the way you use ghee

### 5. WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Life without women is impossible. Yet women have suffered greatly for centuries. They have always been considered shadow of men. The condition of Indian women is improving but it is still not satisfactory. There is an old proverb: The hand that rocks the world rules the world. This proverb explains the need to empower women in modern age. Women look after the family. Nowadays more and more women get education and employment. Women have made their mark in all professions including education, industry, sports, and politics. But we need to do more to empower women. The world celebrates 8<sup>th</sup> March as the International Women's Day. The United Nations celebrated the year 1975 as the International Women's Year to promote gender equality and women empowerment. In India parents always desire a male child. Female foeticide is a very serious social problem. Now there are only 944 women per 1000 men in India. We need to treat women with more respect. There is a famous Sanskrit verse:

Where women are treated with respect, the gods are pleased.

## Comprehension: General English - Semester - I: Unit - IV (b) - (2016-17)

Read the following passage and answer the questions given below it:

(06 marks)

### EXAMPLE - 1

The sun is a great source of energy if we could only find a good way of using it. Its energy is stored in food by plants and animals which feed on plants, and in this way it is the source of life. No one has yet invented a suitable way of using its rays to drive large machines directly. But this is not impossible.

Solar batteries are now used in satellites to turn the sun's rays into electricity. They give power to the radio sets which broadcast back to the earth from space-ships. Another idea is to use magnifying glasses or curved mirrors to concentrate the sun's rays at a point. This point will become very hot, and perhaps the heat could be used to raise steam. The steam could be used to drive generators. Wires of two different metals of the right kind, when joined together and heated at the joint, produce an electric current.

#### QUESTIONS:

- (1) What is a great source of energy?
- (2) What is not invented yet?
- (3) When do the wires of the two different metals of the right kind produce an electric current?

### EXAMPLE - 2

Late in the afternoon, Swami Vivekanand spoke on Hinduism in the great meeting. He was dressed in yellow robes of a Sanyasi. When he came and stood before the people, they were charmed by his appearance. He was silent for sometime and then he felt divine power in him and began his speech.

Swamiji addressed the gathering as "My dear Sisters and Brothers of America." People clapped their hands and gave him hearty cheers. When the clapping ceased, Swamiji spoke on Hinduism. He said that all the religions of the world were the same. They were all true. Only the paths leading to goal were different. He also said that Hinduism regards every man, woman and child as a part of God. To a Hindu, the service of man was the true service of God.

#### QUESTIONS:

- (1) How was Swamiji dressed? What was its effect on people?
- (2) How did people receive Swamiji's speech?
- (3) What did Swamiji comment about the Hindu religion?

### EXAMPLE - 3

The Egyptians have taught us many things. They were excellent farmers. They knew all about irrigation. They built temples which were afterwards copied by the Greeks. They invented a calendar which proved such a useful instrument for the purpose of measuring time that it has survived with a few changes until the present day. But most important of all, the Egyptians had learnt how to preserve speech for the benefit of future generations. They invented the art of writing.

We are so accustomed to newspapers and books and magazines that we take it for granted that the world has always been able to read and write. As a matter of fact, writing, the most important of all inventions is quite new. Without written documents, we would be like cats and dogs who can only teach their kittens and their puppies a few simple things and who, because they cannot write, possess no method in which they can make use of the experience of those generations of cats and dogs that have gone before them.

**QUESTIONS:**

- (1) In what way the Egyptian calendar proved a useful instrument to mankind?
- (2) Which was the most important invention made by the Egyptians?
- (3) How would we be like, according to the author, without written documents?

**EXAMPLE - 4**

Gradually, *khadi* and the *charkha* began to gain prominence in the Gandhian programme. In 1921 Gandhi proposed that the *charkha* or the spinning wheel be placed on the national flag made of *khadi*. In 1924 the All India Khadi Board was established and the following year the All India Spinners Association was set up with branches in different parts of India. Spinning became a mandatory activity for ashram residents, Vidyapith students and staff and later for reluctant Congress workers. By the later 1930s *khadi* had become the "pivot" of the Gandhian constructive programme, which included promotion of communal unity, removal of untouchability, campaigning for prohibition, basic education, promotion of village industries and village sanitation.

**QUESTIONS:**

- (1) How do we know that the *charkha* was gaining prominence in the Gandhian programme?
- (2) For whom did spinning become a mandatory activity?
- (3) What activities did the Gandhian constructive programme include?

**EXAMPLE - 5**

The son of Irish immigrants, Henry Ford dropped out of school and was employed at the age of 15 as a machinist's apprentice in Detroit. He then set up a small machine shop of his own. Before he founded the Detroit Automobile Company and the Ford Motor Company in partnership with others he had worked for sometime as the chief engineer of the Edison Company. Henry Ford was not an inventor, and he contributed nothing to the scientific evolution of the car. But he did more than any other man to make the motor car a popular and readily available means of transport. Ford's business philosophy was to reduce the unit cost of each car built and thereby increase the volume of sales. He applied the principles of mass production to the making of cars and transformed what had been the sport and pleasure of the few into a useful vehicle for the many. Ford decided that cars must be tough enough to stand up to daily wear and tear on ordinary roads; that they must become cheap enough to be within the reach of ordinary people; that their construction must be simplified so that spare parts could be widely available and easily fitted. These aims were realized in his huge factories, where mechanized and highly organized car production was first undertaken.

**QUESTIONS:**

- (1) How did Henry Ford begin his career as a car manufacturer?
- (2) What was Ford's unique contribution to the development of the car industry?
- (3) What was Ford's business philosophy about the motor car industry?

### **EXAMPLE - 6**

Chocolate is simply delicious. Christopher Columbus was probably the first to take cocoa beans from the New World to Europe in around 1502. However, the natural taste of cocoa was too bitter for most people. Therefore the Europeans added sugar to sweeten the cocoa drink. As a sweet drink, it became very popular. By the 17<sup>th</sup> century, rich people in Europe were drinking it. Later, people started using chocolate in pastries, like pies and cakes. In 1849, an English chocolate maker made the first chocolate bar. In the nineteenth century, the Swiss started making milk chocolate by mixing powdered milk with sweetened chocolate. Milk chocolate has not changed much since the time this process was invented.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

- (1) What did the Europeans do to sweeten the cocoa drink?
- (2) Who made the first chocolate bar and when?
- (3) Who made the milk chocolate and how?

### **EXAMPLE - 7**

On the banks of the Jamuna, near Delhi, there is a quiet place called the Rajghat. It is the samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation. Everyday many people visit it. They place flowers on the samadhi and offer prayers. Why do people do this? Because Mahatma Gandhi lived for truth and justice, for peace and brotherhood and he died for these ideals. Gandhiji served India in many ways. The country had been under the British rule for many years. Gandhiji prepared Indians to fight for freedom but without any violence. It was a non-violent fight. The world had not known before how to fight without violence. Gandhiji called this 'Satyagraha' because this was a non-violent fight for truth. Under his leadership the people won the fight and India became free in 1947.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

- (1) What is Rajghat and where is it located?
- (2) Why do people place flowers and offer prayers on Gandhi's samadhi?
- (3) What is Gandhi's meaning of 'Satyagraha'?

### **EXAMPLE - 8**

There are two types of courage. The first is physical courage, the courage which makes man ready to risk wounds or death. The second is moral courage, the courage which makes a man risk his career, his happiness for what he thinks right or worthwhile. These two types of courage are different from each other. I have known men who had marked physical courage but had no moral courage. On the other hand, men who possessed great moral courage would not take physical risk. I have, however, never met a man with moral courage who would not, when it was really necessary, face danger boldly. Moral courage is higher than physical courage as it is a rarer virtue. To be really great, a man or nation must possess both kinds of courage. Can courage be taught? I am sure, in one sense, physical courage can be taught. But you must train the man not to draw too heavily on his stock of physical courage.

#### **QUESTIONS:**

- (1) What is physical courage?
- (2) What is moral courage?
- (3) Why is moral courage more important than physical courage?