GENERAL ENGLISH

Marks for each question is indicated against it.
Attempt all questions.

1. Write an essay on any one of the following topics: (20)
   - Growth in Nursing Care
   - Role of Media in Good Governance
   - Be the Change you want to see in others
   - A week without internet and technology

2. Write a précis of the given passage: (10)

   Speech is regarded as a great blessing but it can also be a great curse, for, while it helps us to make our intentions and desires known to our fellows, it can also, if we use it carelessly, make our attitude completely misunderstood. A slip of the tongue, the use of an unusual word or of an ambiguous word, may create an enemy where we had hoped to win a friend. Again, different classes of people use different vocabularies. The ordinary speech of an educated listener as showing pride; unwittingly, we may use a word which bears a different meaning to our listener, from what it means to our own classes. Thus speech is not a gift to use lightly without thought but one which demands careful handlings. Only a fool will express himself alike to all kinds and conditions of men.

3. Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

   The Rajputs occupy an honoured place in the history of India. They were a war-like people, proud and patriotic. They were jealous of their honour, and would lay down their lives to uphold it. They loved their homes and fought bravely to defend the honour of their women folk. Nothing would tame their spirits. Perils only called forth their courage and poverty only increased their power of resistance. None could fight like them. Their motto was “Better death than dishonour.”

   (a) What is the theme of the passage? (2)
   (b) What are the antonyms of ‘proud’ and ‘patriotic’? (2)
   (c) What is meant by the expression ‘tame their spirits’? (2)
   (d) Why, according to the writer, did the Rajputs occupy an honoured place in history? (2)
   (e) Which of the following statements is not true in the context of the passage: (2)
      (i) The Rajputs achieved eminence in history due to their bravery
      (ii) They were homely people and would fight to uphold women’s honour
      (iii) They would exhibit great courage in moments of danger
      (iv) They could not face the challenge of poverty
4. Make meaningful sentences with the given idioms and phrases: (10×1=10)
   (a) a dead loss
   (b) a couch potato
   (c) aver and anon
   (d) break a leg
   (e) for the nonce
   (f) take umbrage
   (g) a dime a dozen
   (h) beat the clock
   (i) whale of a time
   (j) weather the storm

5. Make separate sentences with the given pairs of words to show their differences: (5×2=10)
   (a) aisle isle
   (b) dessert desert
   (c) raise raze
   (d) hoard horde
   (e) elicit illicit

6. Identify the part of speech of the words in italics in the following sentences: (10×1=10)
   (a) The child is asleep.
   (b) He speaks as his father does.
   (c) She speaks like her mother.
   (d) Children like sweets.
   (e) Some say one thing and others another.
   (f) Some forty scientists were present in the meeting.
   (g) Let us go up the hill.
   (h) She asks it as a right.
   (i) His house is near the bus station.
   (j) They are near relatives.

7. Fill in the blanks with verbs in agreement with the subject: (10×1=10)
   (a) Ten minutes ___________ allowed to each speaker.
   (b) The chairman and proprietor ___________ out of town.
   (c) Either he or I ___________ in the wrong.
   (d) The players, as well as the captain, ___________ to win the match.
   (e) Either answer ___________ acceptable.
   (f) Not only the school but also the library ___________ closed
   (g) No smoking or drinking ___________ allowed.
   (h) Most of Benito’s shirts ___________ at least one pocket.
   (i) If I ___________ you, I would buy a new bicycle.
   (j) None of the clocks in the house ___________ right.

8. Give the synonyms and antonyms of any five of the following words: (5×2=10)
   (a) accord
   (b) veteran
   (c) concede
   (d) infringe
   (e) prudence
   (f) rustic
   (g) sycophant
   (h) taciturn
   (i) wile
   (j) zenith
9. Correct the sentences: (10×1=10)
   
   (a) Where are your luggages?
   
   (b) What beautiful sceneries!
   
   (c) The populations of that town is very diverse.
   
   (d) As an old friend, may I give you an advice?
   
   (e) The Nile is longest river in Africa.
   
   (f) John sat between Harry and I.
   
   (g) That couple has none children.
   
   (h) If water freezes, it has become a solid.
   
   (i) I wish that it was true.
   
   (j) He wrote his paper really good.
   
   * * * * * * *