

MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL ARTS
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER 2023

Total time: 2 hours, total marks: 100.

The written test will be for 2 hours. No personal interview will be conducted. Admission will be based upon performance in the written test ONLY for 2023.

The test will be in 2 parts: MCQ for Part I. Essay-type questions for Part II.

Part I contains THREE divisions: 15 General Awareness questions, 15 Logical Reasoning and Quantitative Aptitude questions, and Reading Comprehension of 10 marks. Each question carries 1 mark. Total marks for Part I is 10.

The Part I OMR sheet is to be filled in with BLACK BALL POINT PEN ONLY. Please carry black ball point pens.

Part II contains essay type questions: discipline-specific and general. Three essays of 20 marks each are to be attempted. This section tests the candidate's ability to think originally, formulate cogent arguments, and articulate with clarity and precision. Total marks for Part II will be 60.

PART I

General and social awareness (total marks: 15*1=15)

1. Myths, along with rituals and religious rites _____.
 - a) are the same the world over.
 - b) function to create context for humans (Correct).
 - c) have no truth except for the Western religions.
 - d) are only symbolic in western religions

2. The only method Western science has of studying cultural change through time is _____.
 - a) oral tradition
 - b) social behavior
 - c) group identity
 - d) d. Archaeology and Ethno-archaeology (Correct)

3. Which city hosted the 2022 Winter Olympic Games?
 - a) Beijing (Correct)

- b) Seoul
 - c) Paris
 - d) Oslo
4. Which among the following scholars introduced the concept of 'soft power'?
- a) Robert Keohane
 - b) John Mearsheimer
 - c) Joseph Nye (Correct)
 - d) Andrew Moravschik
5. When did India establish full diplomatic relations with Israel?
- a) 1948
 - b) 1950
 - c) 1971
 - d) 1992 (Correct)

Reasoning and quantitative (total marks: $15*1 = 15$)

1. All Ukrainians are East Slavs; Some East Slavs are not Russians; Some Russians are Belarussians; Some Belarussians are not East Slavs
Conclusion:
- a) Some Russians are not East Slavs
 - b) Some East Slavs are Russians
 - c) Some Belarussians are not Ukrainians (correct)
 - d) Some Ukrainians are not Belarussians
2. The Department uses weather data to ascertain that the probability it will rain at a place on some given day as 0.4. Blue skies are also expected over the course of the day.
What is the probability that either it rains or the skies are blue?
- a) greater than 0.4 (correct)
 - b) 0.4
 - c) less than 0.4
 - d) insufficient data

Reading Comprehension (total marks: $10*1 = 10$)

Cricket in South Asia is a Carnavalesque, festive game. It carries not merely the baggage of competition and achievement, but is also a participatory cultural event that evokes images of religious festivals, convivial social gatherings, picnics and theatre. It is now gradually becoming a substitute for war, a means of redeeming self esteem and expressing xenophobia, and a depot of weird conspiracy theories. No country now loses a game because the other side is better, a country loses only because its cricketers and cricket administrators are under patriotic, corrupt, greedy or self-centered.

Unfortunately for ultra nationalists and fortunately for the rest, cricket is one game in which the best training, organization and preparation do not yield corresponding results. It is a subversive game that rebels against the productivity principle on which is build the world of globalised capitalism. Luck plays a

major role in the final outcome of a match or series. In this respect, cricket is unlike football, tennis or chess. The grandeur of cricket and the clichéd reference to its glorious uncertainties come from a cultivated ignorance of this inner contradiction in the game. Cricketers and their fans-to-say nothing of the experts-have to learn to live with the unpredictability without getting overly judgemental or paranoiac. All games have some built-in uncertainties, only cricket has turned the gracious acceptance of this into a measure of character.

Let us not forget that in cricket the 22 players involved are never on the field at the same time. Consequently, one team may play in full sunshine, While the other may have to play under an overcast sky when the ball begins to swing. One team may bat on a green top, the other on a wearing pitch. You can never truly equalise the outer conditions for the two teams. So a cricketer not merely plays against the opposition, but also against his own fate. That is one reason why it is typically Indian or if you prefer, South Asian game.

This is a cultural region that recognizes the role of destiny in human affairs. All cricketers are superstitious because of the nature of their job. Only south Asians are not embarrassed about it and have unashamedly build ritualised ways of dealing with destiny as a normal part of a cricketer's life. If you want a game where the investment of money, hard training and ruthless professionalism will pay predictable results, and the results will be a pure reflection of skill and talent, you should choose another game.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any eight out of ten questions by choosing the correct option.

1. The meaning of the first sentence is :
 - (a) that cricket is seasonal like festivals
 - (b) that during cricket matches carnivals are organized
 - (c) that a cricket match is a cultural event like a festival or a carnival (correct)
 - (d) that cricket is not a game but a carnival festival
2. How is cricket becoming a substitute for war?
 - (a) Countries stake their image and self-esteem on the outcome of the game (correct)
 - (b) Political interests have invaded the game
 - (c) Cricket teams receive international funding.
 - (d) The spectators are filled with patriotic sentiments.
3. It (cricket) rebels against the productivity principle means that :
 - (a) Cricket does not produce results
 - (b) Cricket is played by rebels
 - (c) The principles of crickets are rebellious and unproductive
 - (d) Training and preparation do not necessarily bring success (correct)
4. Cricketers are superstitious. This can be understood because they :
 - (a) Believe in the role of destiny (correct)
 - (b) Learn to live with unpredictability
 - (c) Know that luck plays a major role in their success
 - (d) All of the above

5. 'Baggage' in paragraph 1 means :
- (a) Elements
 - (b) Cricket bats and balls etc.
 - (c) Luggage (correct)
 - (d) Hand bags

PART II

Essay type (20*3=60)

1. Write a critical essay on the notion of 'love'
 2. Write an essay on the relationship between body and space.
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