

COMBINED COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION (MAIN)

GENERAL ENGLISH

Time : 3 hours

Full Marks : 200

Note : (1) The figures in the right-hand margin indicate full marks for the questions.

(2) Answer the questions following the instructions strictly.

(3) Write legibly, to the point and in your own words as far as practicable.

1. Read the passage carefully and answer in your own words the questions that follow in not more than 5-6 sentences each : 10×5=50

Putting aside the need to earn a living, I think there are four great motives for writing, at any rate for writing prose. They exist in different degrees in every writer, and in anyone writer the proportions will vary from time to time, according to the atmosphere in which he is living.

Sheer egoism is one of the reasons for why a person chooses to be a writer. Desire to seem clever, to be talked about, to be remembered after death, to get your own back on the grown-ups who snubbed you in childhood, etc., etc. It is humbug to pretend this is not a motive, and a strong one. Writers share this characteristic with scientists, artists, politicians, lawyers, soldiers, successful businessmen—in short, with the whole top crust of humanity. The great mass of human beings are not acutely selfish. After the age of about thirty they almost abandon the sense of being individuals at all—and live chiefly for others, or are simply smothered under drudgery. But there is also the minority of gifted, willful people who are determined to live their own lives to the end, and writers belong in this class. Serious writers, I should say, are on the whole more vain and self-centered than journalists, though less interested in money.

Aesthetic enthusiasm is another factor that spurs people to write. Perception of beauty in the external world, or, on the other hand, in words and their right arrangement. Pleasure in the impact of one sound on another, in the firmness of good prose or the rhythm of a good story. Desire to share an experience which one feels is valuable and ought not to be missed. The aesthetic motive is very feeble in a lot of writers, but even a pamphleteer or writer of textbooks will have pet words and phrases which appeal to him for non-utilitarian reasons; or he may feel strongly about

