UP PCS-J (Mains) 2018

English Language · compulsory paper

From the Language paper (Time Allowed: Three Hours. Maximum Marks: 200; printed as one paper in Hindi and English). All questions are compulsory. Marks are allotted against each question. Word limit in questions, wherever specified, should be adhered to. Questions 1 and 2 are given here; questions 3 and 4 appear under Hindi.

1. Write an essay in English on any one of the following topics, in about 500 words: 60 Marks

(a) Corruption in Public Life

(b) Science and Religion

(c) Violence against Women

2. Make a précis of the following passage in your own words in about one-third of its length, and suggest a suitable title to it: 58+2=60 Marks

Conversation is a fine art. It is the art of exchanging thoughts. It is an art which even the least gifted of us can learn. Not everyone can paint or play music, but almost everyone can talk. Conversation, therefore, is that art which gives the greatest pleasure to the greatest number. “To talk”, says R. L. Stevenson, “is our chief business in the world; and talk is by far the greatest source of pleasure. It costs nothing in money; it is all profit; it completes our education, founds and maintains our friendship and can be enjoyed at any age and in almost every state of health.”

Conversation is indeed the most easily teachable of all the arts. All you need to do in order to become a good talker is to find a subject that interests you and your listener. There are, for example, numerous things to talk about. But the important thing is that you must talk about the secret of your popularity. Talk to your friends about the things that interest them, and you will get a name for good fellowship, charming wit and a brilliant mind. There is nothing that pleases people so much as your interest in their interests.

It is just as important to know what subjects to avoid as what subjects to select for good conversation. If you don’t want to be a bore, be careful to avoid certain unpleasant topics. Avoid talking about yourself, unless you are asked to do so. People are interested in their own problems, not in yours. Sickness and death bore everybody. The only one who willingly listens to such talk is the doctor, but he gets paid for it. (293 words)