West Bengal Judicial Service (Mains) 2022

English Composition and Précis Writing · compulsory paper

Time: 3 hours · Full marks: 100

1. Write an essay on any one of the following topics:
(a) Women in the workplace
(b) Deforestation and ecological disasters
(c) Nationality and economic migration in a globalized world
(d) Social media and self-restraint (30)

2. Write a précis of the following passage and add a suitable title. (20+5=25)

That Machiavelli's Prince contains the most immoral things and that Machiavelli has no scruples about recommending to the ruler all sorts of deception, of perfidy, and cruelty is incontestable. There are however, not a few modern writers who deliberately shut their eyes to this obvious fact. Instead of explaining it they make the greatest efforts to deny it. They tell us that the measures recommended by Machiavelli, however objectionable in themselves, are only meant for the "common good". The ruler has to respect this common good. But where do we find this mental reservation? The Prince speaks in quite a different, in an entirely uncompromising way. The book describes, with complete indifference, the ways and means by which political power is to be acquired and to be maintained. About the right use of this power it does not say a word. It does not restrict this use to any consideration for the commonwealth. It was only centuries later that the Italian patriots began to read into Machiavelli's book all their own political and national idealism. In any word of Machiavelli, declared Alfieri, we find the same spirit, a spirit of justice, of passionate love for freedom, of magnanimity and truth.

3. Write a dialogue between two friends on any one of the following topics:
(a) The spirit and the letter of the law
(b) The use of Indian languages in official discourse (15)

4. Write a letter on any one of the following topics (write 'X', 'Y', 'Z' in place of name, address etc.):
(a) On how the climate crisis is impacting traditional agriculture.
(b) On how the digital divide is hampering educational progress. (15)

5. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below: (5×3=15)

The British, under the East India Company's rule disrupted the whole economic order of India, they turned the traditional land system topsy turvy, they smashed the trades and manufactures of the land and disrupted the relationship between these two sectors of the Indian economy, systematically drained the wealth of our country to their own, and destroyed the very springs of production of our economy. Every class of Indian society suffered at this new spoliator's hands. The landlords were dispossessed and the peasants rendered paupers, the merchant bourgeoisie of India liquidated as an independent class and the artisans and craftsmen deprived of their productive professions. Such unprecedented destruction of a whole economic order and of every class within it could not but produce a great social upheaval and that was the national uprising of 1857. The all-destructive British policy produced a broad popular rebellion against its rule.

(a) How did the British disrupt Indian economy?
(b) How did the people suffer under the rule of the East India Company?

(c) What was the result of the economic disruption?

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