

APPROACH TO GENERAL PAPER QUESTIONS

General guidance for candidates

SECTION A

This area consists of different topics, such as environment issues, culture, technology, education, family life, health science, the law, economics, entertainment and many others. However, for purposes of assessment, a candidate is expected to have general knowledge and facts on a given topic in a question. It is, therefore, important that you keep yourself updated with current affairs through reading of books and newspapers, participating in debates and listening to news.

Tips to consider

- Identify and define keywords in the question.
- Then answer the question accordingly, bearing in mind that if it requires two sides, answering only one will lead to loss of marks.
- For each indented paragraph, one should state the point explain it and give relevant examples.
- For neatness, a candidate should not skip lines as they write their essays.
- A candidate should consider that about 15 marks are awarded for correct spelling, grammar and expressions. As such, check the language usage, spellings and general sentence construction.

SECTION B

Number 5 tests logical and scientific reasoning of students, while number 6 involves comprehension of an English prose passage where on interpreting the words in the passage, a candidate is able to answer the questions. While finding meanings of words, candidates should refrain from using the same words as those whose definition they are giving. Note that, whereas spellings and general expressions are awarded 15 marks for section A, they carry 10 marks for section B.

SECTION A (sample answer)

Question 1: Examine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the socio-economic and political development of your

country (50 Marks).

Definition

The COVID-19 pandemic is a respiratory health condition caused by the coronavirus. It affects noticeable soft parts of the body like the nostrils (nose, throat, eyes and lungs), leading to breathing challenges and death. Some of its symptoms include cough, shortness of breath and fever. It has affected many countries in the West as well as Africa, leaving many people hospitalised and others dead. Many countries around the world have enforced strict lockdowns, where all people, except essential workers are expected to stay at home in order to contain the spread of the disease

Positive impact (P)

- It has increased awareness through various educative programmes to the masses. Different print and electronic channels or forms to the people have enhanced vital updates of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- It has accelerated research and close consultation by all concerned medical people on a possible vaccine or cure.
- It has united key global organisations and bodies like the WHO, UNICEF and the African Union in a bid to mitigate the effects of the pandemic.
- The lockdown and restriction of movement policy has brought families together and helped to create more quality time among parents and their children.
- Promoted more innovation and productivity of local manufacturers in the making of sanitizers and face masks.
- Enhanced more social corporate responsibility by governments and private individuals. The drive to share food items and other basic household particulars is a case in point.

Negative impact (N)

- Lives have been massively lost in many countries.
- Likely to increase unemployment and subsequent long-term economic hardships.
- The banking industry will certainly suffer most due to less business operations.

(4) Travel and adventure both for business and tourism will be greatly affected.

(5) The COVID-19 pandemic threatens all the social services and efforts to improve household income.

(6) The health sector is heavily constrained across the world since many hospitals are overwhelmed and lack protective gear, such as gloves, masks and gowns as well as medical equipment, such as ventilators.

(7) A lot of disruptions in various fields among which education, sports, charity, and other recreation services have had significant negative effects on the affected population.

Note: What other points can you think of?

MARK ALLOCATION

SP = up to 05 marks; GE = up to 10 marks; DEF = up to 05 marks

CONTENT

Positive impacts (P) — any 5 points, each up to 03 marks = 15 marks

Negative impacts (N) — any 5 points, each up to 03 marks = 15 marks

Total = X/50 Mark.

NOTE:

- Explain the idea/point correctly and fully.
- Give at least one or two examples in each paragraph.
- Ensure no use of abbreviations or any misleading information in your answer.
- Try to reflect maturity of thought in your answer.
- Spell the words correctly.
- Pay specific attention to the content quality — It is NOT how much the candidate writes, but rather how correctly one answers the question.
- Always practice answering various topical essay questions in order to achieve perfection.

Look out for the question approach for Section B next Friday

ECONOMICS, LITERATURE & ICT TOMORROW