

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Module – 1**

#### **Section – A (Reading)**

**A. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**

We live in an age of great hurry and great speed. Men have lost their inward resources. They merely reflect, like a set of mirrors, opinions which they get from outside. When they get a little leisure, they turn to material diversions from outside rather than to inward resources. In other words, this internal vacuum is responsible for mental and nervous troubles. The cure for this is not so much treatment by medicine and surgery but a recovery of faith in the ultimate goodness, truth and the decency of things. If we are able to recover that faith, if we are able to live in this world with our consciousness centred in the ultimacy of the spirit, many of the problems to which we are subject today may be overcome. Our people were regarded as aspiring after metaphysical insight and religious bliss, but we seem to forget that it never occurred to them to equate eternal life with either the surrender of the mind or the sacrifice of the body. When the Upanishad writer was asked to define what is meant by spiritual life or life eternal, he gave the answer that it consists of the play of the vital organism, the satisfaction of the mind, the abundance of tranquility of the spirit. Body, mind and spirit must be integrated and they must lead to a harmonious developed life. If we get that, we have life eternal.

**A.1. Complete the following statements:**

- (i) We live in an age of great \_\_\_\_\_.
- (ii) The author suggests that the cure for this is \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iii) 'Life eternal' means \_\_\_\_\_.
- (iv) Our internal emptiness is responsible for \_\_\_\_\_.

**A.2. Complete the summary using one word in each blank :**

In this age of great hurry and speed men have lost (i) \_\_\_\_\_ resources. This is responsible for their mental and (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ troubles. If we recover our faith in the goodness of life we can overcome many of our (iii) \_\_\_\_\_. Our people tried to seek (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ insight and religious bliss. For spiritual life, there should be a proper integration of body, mind and spirit.

## **Section – C (Grammar)**

### **Subject – Verb Agreement**

#### **Look at the sentences below:**

- I am rich.
- He is intelligent.
- The puppy chases the cat.
- They are right.

In the above sentences, the verb agrees with its subject in number and person. A singular subject takes a singular verb, while a plural subject takes a plural verb. There are a few exceptions to this rule.

#### **General Rules:**

- (i) Two or more singular subjects joined by ‘and’ usually take a verb in the plural. For example:
- She and her classmate have arrived.
  - Sita and Seema are here.
  - Pinky, Lily and Meenu go to the same school.

**NOTE:** But if two nouns suggest only one idea, or refer to the same person or thing, the verb must be singular.

#### **For example,**

- My teacher and guide is here.
- With the death of Bose, a great leader and patriot was lost.
- Slow and steady wins the race.
- The horse and carriage is at the door.

- (ii) When the subject consists of two nouns or pronouns joined by ‘with’, ‘along with’ or ‘as well as’, the verb agrees with the first one of the subjects.

#### **For example:**

- The captain, with all his men, was drowned.
- The house, with its furniture was burnt.
- Ashok, as well as Anil, likes tea.
- The master as well as his servant is guilty.

- (iii) When two or more subjects in the singular are joined by or, nor, either... or, neither... nor, the verb is put in the singular.

**For example:**

- Jack or Tom is to blame.
- Neither Raman nor Harry was present.
- Neither her mother nor her father likes tea.

**NOTE:-** But when the subjects joined by ‘or’, ‘nor’, ‘either...or’, ‘neither...nor’, are of different numbers or persons, the verb agrees with the subject nearest to it.

**For example:**

- My aunt or her children are arriving tomorrow.
- Either the boy or his parents have done this.
- Neither my aunt nor my uncle is arriving tomorrow.
- Either he or I am to blame.

- (iv) If the subject is preceded by ‘each’, ‘every’, ‘either’, ‘neither’, ‘every one’, the verb is usually singular.

**For example:**

- Each of these boys is intelligent.
- Either of the two boys has done this.
- Every farmer, potter and blacksmith was present.
- Every boy and every girl was present.

- (v) A collective noun may take a singular or a plural verb. If the collection is thought of as a whole the verb is singular; if the individuals or members of the group are thought of separately, the verb is plural.

**For example:**

- The committee has decided this – here ‘committee’ is thought of as a whole.  
but
- The committee have decided this, means the members of the committee have decided this  
Similarly
- The jury decides that you will be punished.

- (vi) Some nouns which are plural in form but singular in meaning, take a singular verb;

**For example:**

- No news is good news.

- (vii) When the plural noun is the name of something or a place, it takes a singular verb.

**For example:**

- The United States has a big army.
- The Arabian Nights is an interesting book.

- (viii) When some special quantity or amount is considered to be one whole, the plural form generally takes a singular verb.

**For Example**

- Eighty kilometres was covered in an hour.
- Ten kilograms of rice is required immediately.

- (ix) Nouns like a pair of shoes, a pair of jeans are taken as singular and hence they use the singular form of verb.

**For Example:**

- A pair of shoes is lying on the shelf.
- This pair of jeans is too tight for me.

- (x) Fractions take a plural verb if the reference is to a number, but they take a singular verb if the reference is to a quantity or amount.

**For Example:**

- Two third of the clothes in the closet are mine.
- Two fifth of her free time is spent in social work.

- (xi) If two subjects are joined with not only ... but also then the verb agrees with the latter subject.

**For Example:**

- Not only her parents but her sister also has contributed towards her success.

- (xii) 'None' when refers to an amount or quantity takes a singular verb.

**For Example:**

- None of the work was done.

- (xiii) None followed by plural noun or pronoun usually takes a plural verb.

**Example:**

- None of these movies have been released so far.

- (xiv) Words like ‘much’, ‘more’, ‘little’, ‘less’ take a singular verb.

**For Example:**

- Little has been achieved so far.
- More than half the match is over.
- Much of my activity is over.

- (xv) Phrases like ‘a lot of’, ‘a great- deal of’, ‘plenty of’, ‘most of’, ‘some of’, take a singular verb when they refer to amount or quantity.

**For Example:**

- A lot of time was wasted.
- Plenty of help was available.

- (xvi) Phrases like ‘a lot of’, ‘a great- deal of’, ‘plenty of’ take a plural verb when they refer to number.

**For Example:**

- Lots of people are taking part in the race.
- Plenty of schools are closing on the 13<sup>th</sup> of May.

- (xvii) The phrase ‘the majority of’ (refers only to number) takes a plural verb.

**For Example:**

- It being Sunday, the majority of shops are closed.

- (xviii) Phrases like ‘a pair of shoes’, ‘a pair of scissors’ take a singular verb.

**For Example:**

- This pair of scissors is meant to cut only paper.

- (xix) However, if we omit ‘a pair of’ and merely use the plural word, it takes a plural verb.

**For Example:**

- My shoes are lying under the bed.
- These scissors are meant to cut only paper.

## **EXERCISE**

### **C1. Tick the correct option:**

- (i) My trousers (have/ has) gone to the laundry.
- (ii) Not only your qualifications but your attitude also (is/ are) important for getting a good job.
- (iii) A lot of books in the shop (deal/ deals) with child psychology.
- (iv) Plenty of light (come/ comes) through this glass window.
- (v) None of these buses (go/ goes) to the railway station.
- (vi) The Prime Minister along with his cabinet ministers (believe/ believes) in strengthening ties with our neighbours.
- (vii) More than half the crowd (have/ has) already left.
- (viii) A series of lectures (was/were) delivered on environmental pollution.
- (ix) This pair of earrings (are/ is) simply exquisite.
- (x) A majority of children in this school (belong/ belongs) to affluent families.

### **C2. Fill in the blanks choosing the correct option given in the bracket:**

- (i) \_\_\_\_\_ (is/ are) either of the twins singing in the competition?
- (ii) Somya as well as Rachna \_\_\_\_\_ (is/ are) tall.
- (iii) A large amount of money \_\_\_\_\_ (has/ have) been spent.
- (iv) Most of the boys in our class \_\_\_\_\_ (like/ likes) to play football.
- (v) Either Peter or his friends \_\_\_\_\_ (has/ have) played this trick.
- (vi) Each of these pens \_\_\_\_\_ (cost/ costs) rupees ten.
- (vii) A combination of colours \_\_\_\_\_ (charm/ charms) the eye.
- (viii) The quality of the apples \_\_\_\_\_ (were/ was) good.

- (ix) Each one of these houses \_\_\_\_\_ (are/ is) to let.
- (x) Neither he nor his parents \_\_\_\_\_ (was/ were) present.

**C3. Identify the incorrect sentences and correct them:**

- (i) The general as well as his staff were there.
- (ii) Each of the children was given a packet of sweets.
- (iii) The study of mathematics require brain.
- (iv) Neither of these questions appear difficult.
- (v) Pink and green is my favourite combination.
- (vi) Lamb's tales are an interesting book.
- (vii) Each boy and each girl was presented with a toy.
- (viii) A thousand kilometres are a great distance.
- (ix) One of those boys have stolen my pen.
- (x) Two and two make four.

**C4. In each of the following sentences, put the verb in agreement with its subject:**

- (i) Fire and water \_\_\_\_\_ not agree.
- (ii) Each first class ticket \_\_\_\_\_ a hundred rupees.
- (iii) That lady with her three children \_\_\_\_\_ my neighbour.
- (iv) Neither of us \_\_\_\_\_ present there.
- (v) Not one of you \_\_\_\_\_ done this work properly.

**C5. You have already learnt about subject-verb agreement. Read the following sentences write whether they are true (T) or false (F).**

- (i) Subjects, like mathematics, statistics and physics, are singular.
- (ii) Some abstract nouns, like news and politics, take a singular verb.
- (iii) Expressions that tell the amount of time, money, weight or volume take a singular verb.

- (iv) Some nouns, like trousers, pants, shorts, scissors and pliers, except when mentioned as a pair, are always plural and always take a plural verb.
- (v) 'Each' and 'every' are singular quantifiers and therefore, take singular verbs.
- (vi) When we use one singular noun and one plural noun in sentences with 'either ..... or' and 'neither .... nor', the verb is singular.

**C6. Decide which of the following sentences are correct (✓) and which of them are incorrect (×)**

- (i) No man or woman is free from faults. \_\_\_\_\_
- (ii) Either you or he are mistaken . \_\_\_\_\_
- (iii) Either the cat or the dog has eaten it. \_\_\_\_\_
- (iv) Neither my friend nor I am to be blamed. \_\_\_\_\_
- (v) Many a man have been ruined by drugs. \_\_\_\_\_
- (vi) Neither of the two men was very strong. \_\_\_\_\_
- (vii) Each one of the girls were given a prize. \_\_\_\_\_
- (viii) Every boy and every girl are present in the class. \_\_\_\_\_
- (ix) Our happiness or our sorrow are due to our own actions. \_\_\_\_\_
- (x) The horse and carriage is at the door. \_\_\_\_\_

**C7. Fill in the blanks so that the subject agrees with the verb.**

- (i) The horse and the carriage \_\_\_\_\_ at the door.
- (ii) Time and tide \_\_\_\_\_ for none.
- (iii) Fire and water \_\_\_\_\_ not agree.
- (iv) In him \_\_\_\_\_ centered their love and affection.
- (v) His knowledge of Indian vernaculars \_\_\_\_\_ far beyond the common.

**Section – D (Literature)**

**The Palindrome (RTC)**

**D.1.** "Don't come back till you have learnt enough to earn your living."

- (i) Who are the speaker and the listener?
- (ii) Why does the speaker not want the person addressed to come back till then?

**D.2.** "The goddess was quite stunned for a moment."

- (i) Why was the goddess stunned? Why did she also feel insulted?
- (ii) What was Raman's explanation for his reaction?
- (iii) How did the goddess curse him for his impugntiy?



## Proverb Time

- |             |  |   |  |
|-------------|--|---|--|
| <b>P.1.</b> | Advice is less heeded when often most needed | – | When a problem is serious, people do not follow the advice given.            |
| <b>P.2.</b> | Time is money                                | – | Time is valuable and should not be wasted.                                   |
| <b>P.3</b>  | Unwillingness easily finds an excuse         | – | A person who does not want to do something always finds a reason to avoid it |

## Module – 2

### Section – B (Writing)

- B.1. Write a story of about 150 words –**

Beginning with “The teacher woke me up and said.....”

## **Section – C (Grammar)**

- C.1. The answer to this crossword are synonyms for the clues.**

		<sup>1</sup> C								<sup>2</sup> M	
	<sup>3</sup> C		N		P		R		C		
<sup>4</sup> O										R	
		T								<sup>6</sup> D	
<sup>7</sup> P			J		<sup>8</sup> D			E			
		M			E					S	
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S		O								I	
					A						
		A	<sup>9</sup> A			I		U		Y	
E		Y									

### Clues down

- (i) existing or belonging to the same time (an adjective)
- (ii) a vast number of persons or things (a noun)
- (iv) burdensome; unjustly strict or harsh (an adjective)
- (v) a person who resists authority or control (a noun)

- (vi) predetermined course of events; fortune (a noun)  
(viii) boldly resistant (an adjective)

**Clues across**

- (iii) an evil and unlawful plan made in secret by two or more persons (a noun)  
(vii) a preconceived opinion or feeling about a person or thing (a noun)  
(ix) in a manner that suggests mental distress or uneasiness (an adverb)

**C.2. Unjumble these words and match them to their synonyms.**

(i)	Lvei	_____	Feeble
(ii)	Guh	_____	Wealthy
(iii)	Akew	_____	Embrace
(iv)	Earn	_____	Slender
(v)	Irhc	_____	Battle
(vi)	Mesll	_____	Close
(vii)	Msil	_____	Burglar
(viii)	hfeti	_____	Mistake
(ix)	Ihtfg	_____	Bad
(x)	roerr	_____	odour

**Section – D (Literature)**

**Michelangelo**

**D.1. How was Michelangelo helped by Lorenzo de' Medici?**

**D.2. “When he was thirteen, he was apprenticed to Domenico Ghirlandaio, who taught him to paint frescoes”.**

- (i) Who is 'he' here?  
(ii) Who was Domenico Ghirlandaio?  
(iii) What are 'frescoes'?

**D.3. Which works of art is Michelangelo famous for? What is unique about each of them?**

**D.4. Why was his father unhappy with him?**

**Proverb Time**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>P.4.</b> An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. | – | It is easier to prevent something from happening than to repair the damage or cure the disease later. |
| <b>P.5.</b> April showers bring May flowers                  | – | Something bad or unpleasant today may bring good things in the future.                                |

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