

ASSIGNMENT: ENGLISH IN DAILY LIFE (BEGLA-135)

Programme: BAG/2020-21
Course Code: BEGLA-135

Answer all questions

Max. Marks: 100

Section A

1 Read the following passage and answer the questions.

The New Year is a time for resolutions. Mentally, at least most of us could compile formidable lists of 'do's' and 'don'ts' for the year. The same old favorites recur year in year out with monotonous regularity. We resolve to get up earlier each morning, eat less, find more time to play with the children, do a thousand and one jobs about the house, be nice to people we don't like, drive carefully, and take the dog for a walk every day. Past experience has taught us that certain accomplishments are beyond attainment. If we remain deep-rooted liars, it is only because we have so often experienced the frustration that results from failure.

Most of us fail in our efforts at self-improvement because our schemes are too ambitious and we never have time to carry them out. We also make the fundamental error of announcing our resolutions to everybody so that we look even more foolish when we slip back into our bad old ways. Aware of these pitfalls, this year I attempted to keep my resolutions to myself. I limited myself to two modest ambitions; to do physical exercise every morning and to read more every evening. An all-night party on New Year's Eve provided me with a good excuse for not carrying out either of these new resolutions on the first day of the year, but on the second, I applied myself assiduously to the task.

The daily exercise lasted only eleven minutes and I proposed to do them early in the morning before anyone had got up. The self-discipline required to drag myself out of bed eleven minutes earlier than usual was considerable. Nevertheless, I managed to creep down into the living-room for two days before anyone found me out. After jumping about on the carpet and twisting the human frame into uncomfortable positions, I sat down at the breakfast table in an exhausted condition. It was this that betrayed me. The next morning the whole family trooped in to watch the performance. That was really unsettling but I fended off the taunts and jibes of the family good humouredly and soon everybody got used to the idea. However, my enthusiasm waned, the time I spent at exercises gradually diminished. Little by little the eleven minutes fell to zero. By January 10th I was back to where I had started from. I argued that if I spent less time exhausting myself at exercises in the morning I would keep my mind fresh for reading when I got home from work. Resisting the hypnotizing effect of television, I sat in my room for a few evenings with my eyes glued to a book. One night however, feeling cold and lonely, I went downstairs and sat in front of the television pretending to read. That proved to be my undoing, for I soon got back to the old bad habit of dozing off in front of the screen. I still haven't given up my resolution to do more reading. In fact, I have just bought a book entitled 'How to Read a Thousand Words a Minute.' Perhaps it will solve my problem, but I just haven't had time to read it.

- 1a) According to the writer, what have past experiences of New Year resolutions taught us? 2
- 1b) Why, according to the writer, do most of us fail in our efforts for self-improvement? 2
- 1c) Why did the writer not carry out his resolutions on New Year's day? 2
- 1d) The writer eventually failed to implement his New Year's Resolutions because: 1
- a) his family disturbed him.
- b) his resolutions were too ambitious
- c) he was looking for some convincing excuse to forget them.
- 1e) Give a suitable title to the passage. 1
- 1f) In a few lines write your own experience of New Year Resolutions. 2
- 2 Find words from the passage which convey a meaning similar to the following words/phrases 10
- (i) firm decisions (para 1)
- (ii) put together (para 1)
- (iii) overwhelming (para 1)
- (iv) unchanging (para 1)
- (v) stumbling-block (para 2)
- (vi) restricted (para 2)
- (vii) with great zeal (para 2)
- (viii) very tired (para 3)
- (ix) give me away (para 3)
- (x) ward off (para 3)

Section B

- 1 Fill in the blanks with one of the past tenses: simple past, past continuous, present perfect (continuous), or past perfect (continuous). In some cases, more than one answer is possible. The first one is done for you. 10
- A: What happened (happen) to your car?
- B: I _____ (have) an accident yesterday.
- A: How _____ (it/happen)?
- C: I _____ (drive) to work when a dog _____ (come) in front of my car. I _____ (stop) my car suddenly, and the car behind me _____ (hit) my car because the driver _____ (follow) me too closely.
- A: _____ (you get) a ticket?
- B: No, but the driver who hit me did.
- A: Who will pay to have your car fixed?
- B: The other driver. When he _____ (hit) me, he _____ (get) out of his car and gave me his insurance card.
- 2 Fill in the blanks with the appropriate clause. One is done for you as an example. 10
- If I pass this course, I might take a computer course next semester.
- (i) If I work hard, _____
- (ii) If I save a lot of money, _____

- (iii) If I drink a lot of coffee tonight, _____
- (iv) If I eat a lot of sugar, _____
- (v) If I don't get enough sleep, _____
- (vi) _____, I would be fit.
- (vii) _____, I would be better at my job.
- (viii) _____, I would buy a big house for myself and my family.
- (ix) _____, I shall be punished.
- (x) _____, I will be scolded by my father.

- 3 More and more young people leading stressful lives are unable to cope with their situations. Write a dialogue between a counselor and a stressed young person. You must indicate what is causing the young person anxiety. Write in about 250 words.

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Section C

- 1 Write a biographical sketch in about 250 words of a great social worker who impacted society positively. Write about his/her contributions and the cause(s) that were espoused.
- 2 There is an ancient historical monument in your area which is slowly crumbling and needs to be revived. Write to your local leader suggesting ways in which this monument may be saved. Also say why it is important to do so. Write in 250 words.

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