

50th BCS (Written) Examination

Subject Code: 003

Time: 04 Hours

Full Marks: 200

[N.B: Marks are indicated in the right margin.]

Read the text below and answer the questions that follow:

On top of nuclear war, in the coming decades, humankind will face a new existential threat - ecological collapse, that was hardly registered on the political radars in 1960s. Humans are destabilizing the global biosphere on multiple fronts. We are taking more and more resources out of the environment while pumping back into its enormous quantities of waste and poison, thereby changing the composition of the soil, water and atmosphere.

We are hardly even aware of the myriad ways in which we disrupt the delicate ecological balance that has been shaped over millions of years. Consider, for instance, the use of phosphorus as a fertilizer. In small quantities it is an essential nutrient for the growth of plants. But in excessive amounts it becomes toxic. Modern industrial farming is based on artificially fertilizing the fields with plenty of phosphorus, but the high-phosphorus run-off from the farms subsequently poisons rivers, lakes and oceans, with a devastating impact on marine life. A farmer growing corn in Iowa might thus inadvertently kill fish in the Gulf of Mexico

As a result of such activities, habitats are degraded, animals and plants are becoming extinct, and entire ecosystems such as the Australian Great Barrier Reef and the Amazon rainforest might be destroyed. For thousands of years, homo sapiens behaved as an ecological serial killer; now it is morphing into an ecological mass murderer. If we continue with our present course, it will cause not just the annihilation of a large percentage of all life forms, but might also sap the foundations of human civilization. Most threatening of all is the prospect of climate change. During the Holocene period, Earth's climate has been relatively stable. Any deviation from Holocene standards will present human

societies with enormous challenges they never encountered before. It will be like conducting an open-ended experiment on billions of human guinea pigs. Even if human civilization eventually adapts to the new conditions, who knows how many victims might perish in the process of adaptation.

This terrifying experiment has already been set in motion. Unlike nuclear war-which is a future potential-climate change is a present reality. There is a scientific consensus that human activities, in particular the emission of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, are causing the earth's climate to change at a frightening rate. Nobody knows exactly how much carbon dioxide we can continue to pump into the atmosphere without triggering an irreversible cataclysm. But our best scientific estimates indicate that unless we dramatically cut the emission of greenhouse gases in the next twenty years, average global temperature will increase by more than 2°C, resulting in expanding deserts, disappearing ice caps, rising oceans, and more frequent extreme weather events such as hurricanes and typhoons. These changes in turn will disrupt agricultural production, inundate cities, make much of the world uninhabitable, and send hundreds of millions of refugees in search of new homes.

1. Answer the following question in your own words. Copying from the above text may adversely affect your marks. $5 \times 6 = 30$

- How are we making the biosphere unstable?
- How do humans bring disorder to ecological balance?
- How is marine life adversely affected by humans?
- What might gradually undermine the very foundations of human civilization?
- What will happen if there is a departure from Holocene benchmarks?
- What will be the impact of climate catastrophe?

2. Make sentences of your own with each of the following words as directed. (Copying any sentence from the above text must be avoided.) $1 \times 10 = 10$

- ecological (Complex)

- (b) myriad (Simple)
 (c) inundate (Compound)
 (d) adaptation (Affirmative)
 (e) prospect (Negative)
 (f) enormous (Imperative)
 (g) delicate (Negative-Interrogative)
 (h) inadvertently (Complex)
 (i) annihilation (Simple)
 (j) devastating (Compound)
 Please turn over
3. **Change the following words into parts of speech as indicated in brackets:** $1 \times 10 = 10$
 (a) disrupt (into adverb)
 (b) toxic (into noun)
 (c) frightening (into verb)
 (d) resource (into adjective)
 (e) dramatically (into noun)
 (f) cataclysm (into adjective)
 (g) fertilizing (into verb)
 (h) sap (into noun)
 (i) degrade (into adjective)
 (j) terrifying (into noun)
4. **Give a synonym for each of the following words:** $1 \times 5 = 5$
 (a) consensus (b) impact
 (c) thus (d) adaptation
 (e) disappear
5. **Make sentences of your own with each of the following words and phrases. (Direct copying from the above text is not allowed and will result in negative scores):** $1 \times 5 = 5$
 (a) run-off
 (b) morph into
 (c) open-ended experiment
 (d) set in
 (e) subsequently
6. **Give a suitable title for the above passage. Write a summary of it within 100 words. Add your comments within 50 words.**
7. **Write a feature for the op-ed of an English daily, expressing your view that averting human-caused ecological disasters require an immediate and absolute commitment to restoring nature's balance.** 20
8. **Write 2 (two) essays in 600 words each, on the following topics:** $25 + 25 = 50$

- a) Artificial Intelligence and Ethical Considerations
 b) Universal Suffrage with emphasis on the necessity of Free and Fair Elections in a Democracy.

9. **Translate the following passage into English:** 25

বর্তমান জগতে মানুষের জীবন বড় জটিল ও অস্বস্তিকর হয়ে পড়েছে। কী তার কাম্য, কী নয়, এ নিয়ে পণ্ডিতে পণ্ডিতে মতভেদের আর অন্ত নেই। প্রবল বলে কোথাও কিছু আছে কি না, এ সংশয় জনসাধারণে পর্যন্ত সংক্রমিত হচ্ছে। তবু যেসব দেশ ভাগ্যবান সেসব দেশে এ বিপদ কাটিয়ে উঠবার চেষ্টাও কম হচ্ছে না। মানুষের এতদিনের জ্ঞান ও বিশ্বাসের সবকিছুই যদি ঝালিয়ে নিতে হয় তবে তা নিতে হবে। এ সংকল্প যাদের অন্তরে প্রবল তাদের জন্য বেশিরভাগ বিপদ কেটে গেছে বলা যেতে পারে। কেউ কেউ বলতে পারেন, নানা অভাবে জর্জরিত আমাদের এ দেশও এ ধরনের এক ভাগ্যবন্ত দেশ। তাদের মতে, দেশবাসী আজ নিষ্ক্রিয় নয়, তাদের সামনে সকল লক্ষ্যের বড় লক্ষ্য রাষ্ট্রনৈতিক লক্ষ্য স্পষ্ট হয়ে উঠেছে। এসব কথার বিরুদ্ধে কিছু বলতে যাওয়া হয়তো অশোভন। কিছু সন্দেহ কীট যাদের অন্তরে প্রবেশ করেছে, তাদের মনের মাধুর্য উপভোগ করাও সম্ভবপর নয়। আমাদের দেশের আধুনিক চিত্র যে কত বিশৃঙ্খলাপূর্ণ তার কিছু পরিচয় পাওয়া যাবে দেশের শিক্ষার অবস্থা একটু মনোযোগ দিয়ে দেখলে। যে ভাষা আমাদের মাতৃভাষা নয় তার সাহায্যে শিক্ষালাভ করলে তাতে অনেক ত্রুটি যে অনিবার্য হয়ে পড়ে, এ বিষয়ে আমাদের চিন্তাশীলরা বোধ হয় একমত। এ সমস্যার মীমাংসার চেষ্টাও এতদিনে হয়তো আরম্ভ হতো যদি নানা অনিবার্য রাজনৈতিক কারণে শিক্ষা-সমস্যা আমাদের দেশের লোকদের চোখে নগণ্য হয়ে না পড়ত।

10. **Translate the following text into Bangla:** 25
 In a world facing multiple crises that are putting immense pressure on communities. achieving gender equality is now more vital than ever. Ensuring women's and girls' rights across all aspects of life is the only way to secure prosperous and just²⁰ economics and a healthy planet for future generations. One of the key challenges in achieving gender equality by 2030 is an alarming lack of financing with a staggering USD 360 billion annual deficit in spending on gender equality measures. Time is running out. Gender equality remains the greatest human rights challenge. Investing on women is a human rights imperative and

cornerstone for building inclusive societies. Due to conflicts and rising fuel and food prices, recent estimates suggest that 75 percent countries will curb public spending by next few years. Austerity negatively impacts women and crowds out public spending on essential public services and social protection. The current economic system exacerbates poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation, disproportionately affecting women and marginalized groups. Advocates for alternative economic models propose a shift towards a green economy and a caring society that amplifies women's voices.