
Public Service Commission, CTA Dharamsala

English Question Paper

Post: Office Assistant

Time: 3 Hours

5 January 2023

Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions:

(a) This question paper contains 05 pages and is divided into four sections as follows:

Sections		Marks
A	Reading	25
B	Writing	25
C	Translation	15
D	Grammar	15

(b) All the questions are compulsory.

(c) You may attempt any section at a time.

(d) All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

Section A: Reading

(25 Marks)

Q.1. Following is an excerpt from an article published as part of the Guardian Long Read. Read the excerpt carefully and answer the following questions.

Are we really prisoners of geography?

by Daniel Immerwahr

Russia's war in Ukraine has involved many surprises. The largest, however, is that it happened at all. Last year, Russia was at peace and enmeshed in a complex global economy. Would it really sever trade ties – and threaten nuclear war – just to expand its already vast territory? Despite the many warnings, including from Vladimir Putin himself, the invasion still came as a shock.

But it wasn't a shock to the journalist Tim Marshall. On the first page of his 2015 blockbuster book, Prisoners of Geography, Marshall invited readers to contemplate Russia's topography. A ring of mountains and ice surrounds it. Its border with China is protected by mountain ranges, and it is separated from Iran and Turkey by the Caucasus. Between Russia and western Europe stand the Balkans, Carpathians and Alps, which form another wall. Or, they nearly do. To the north of those mountains, a flat corridor – the Great European Plain – connects Russia to its well-armed western neighbours via Ukraine and Poland. On it, you can ride a bicycle from Paris to Moscow.

You can also drive a tank. Marshall noted how this gap in Russia's natural fortifications has repeatedly exposed it to attacks. "Putin has no choice", Marshall concluded: "He must at least attempt to control the flatlands to the west." When Putin did precisely that, invading a Ukraine he could no longer control by quieter means, Marshall greeted it with wearied understanding, deploring the war yet finding it unsurprising. The map "imprisons" leaders, he had written, "giving them fewer choices and less room to manoeuvre than you might think".

There is a name for Marshall's line of thinking: geopolitics. Although the term is often used loosely to mean "international relations", it refers more precisely to the view that geography – mountains, land bridges, water tables – governs world affairs. Ideas, laws and culture are interesting, geopoliticians argue, but to truly understand politics you must look hard at maps. And when you do, the world reveals itself to be a zero-sum contest in which every neighbour is a potential rival, and success depends on controlling territory, as in the boardgame Risk. In its cynical view of human motives, geopolitics resembles Marxism, just with topography replacing class struggle as the engine of history.

Geopolitics also resembles Marxism in that many predicted its death in the 1990s, with the cold war's end. The expansion of markets and eruption of new technologies promised to make geography obsolete. Who cares about controlling the strait of Malacca – or the port of Odesa – when the seas brim with containerships and information rebounds off satellites? "The world is flat," the journalist Thomas Friedman declared in 2005. It was an apt metaphor for globalisation: goods, ideas and people sliding smoothly across borders.

Yet the world feels less flat today. As supply chains snap and global trade falters, the terrain of the planet seems more craggy than frictionless. Hostility toward globalisation, channelled by figures such as Donald Trump and Nigel Farage, was already rising before the pandemic, which boosted it. The number of border walls, about 10 at the cold war's end, is now 74 and climbing, with the past decade as the high point of wall-building. The post-cold war hope for globalisation was a "delusion", writes political scientist Élisabeth Vallet, and we're now seeing the "reterritorialisation of the world".

1.1 Answer the following questions based on your reading of the passage:

(2 × 10 = 20)

- (a) Why did the invasion of Ukraine come as a shock?
- (b) Who is the author of the essay *Are we really prisoners of Geography?* And also, who is the author of the bestselling book, *Prisoners of Geography*?
- (c) According to the essay, what is the definition of the word: Geopolitics?
- (d) Who wrote the book, *The World is Flat*? What was the author proposing with that book?

- (e) In the essay, name two figures who are said to be hostile to globalization.
- (f) In what way does the author think Geopolitics resembles Marxism?
- (g) Explain the topography of Russia according to the author, Tim Marshall.
- (h) What made us assume that the geography was obsolete?
- (i) What makes the author, Élisabeth Vallet think that the post-cold war globalization was a “delusion”?
- (j) Where was the article published?

1.2 Based on your reading of the excerpt, summarize the passage in about 250-300 Words. (5 Marks)

Section B: Writing (25 Marks)

Q.2. Write an essay on any of the following topics. (15 marks)
(Word limit: 250 – 300 words)

1. Living through the COVID Pandemic
2. My Roles and Responsibilities as a Tibetan Youth

Q.3. You are **James Norman**, and you have been a subscriber to the weekly magazine named Conundrum for the past three years. Your subscription ID is CD2014. You have not received the magazine for the past three weeks, and your letters to customer care regarding the same have gone unanswered.

Write a letter to **Avinash Gupta**, the Sales Manager of the Conundrum, about the issue and request his assistance in solving the matter. (10 marks)

Section C: Translation (15 Marks)

Q.4. Translate the following passage in to English: (15 marks)

ཕྱི་ལོ་ ༡༩༥༩ ལོར་དུས་འགྱུར་མི་བཟད་པའི་དབང་གིས་བོད་ཀྱི་ཆེ་འབངས་འབྲུམ་ལ་ཉེ་བ་བྱིས་མཆེས་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་ཁག་
ཏུ་བཅན་གྱིས་དུ་ཡོང་དགོས་བྱུང་བའི་སྐབས་བོད་རིགས་ན་གཞོན་ནམས་ལ་དང་རབས་དང་སློལ་རྒྱན་ཟུང་དུ་འབྲེལ་
བའི་ཤེས་ཡོན་སློབ་སྦྱོང་ཆེད་ལྷན་ཞིག་སྦྱོང་རྒྱུའི་ཆེད་སྤྱི་ནོར་ཡགོངས་ཡསྐབས་མགོན་ཆེན་པོའི་ཐབས་མཁས་ཀྱི་མཛད་
རྒྱུས་ལ་བརྟེན་ནས་བཅན་གྱིས་བོད་མིའི་གཞི་རིམ་གྱི་གཏན་ཉིན་སློབ་གྲྭ་ཁག་མང་གསར་འཛུགས་ཐུབ་པ་བྱུང་། སྐབས་
དེར་ཕྱི་ནང་གི་གནས་བབས་གང་ཅིའི་ཆ་ནས་གནས་ལུལ་རྒྱལ་ཁབ་སོ་སོའི་སློབ་སྦྱོང་གི་ལམ་སློལ་དང་སློམ་གཞི་ལ་མ་

བརྟེན་ཐབས་མེད་བྱང་ཡོད་ནའང་། སློམ་གཞི་དེའི་ནང་བོད་ཀྱི་སྐད་ཡིག་དང་། བོད་ཀྱི་རིག་གནས་སྡེ་འཛུགས་སློབ་ཆན་
 དུ་ཚུད་ཐུབ་པ་མ་ཟད། དེང་རབས་ཀྱི་སློམ་གཞི་དང་མཐུན་པའི་སློབ་དེབ་གསར་བསྐྱེགས་དང་། དགེ་ཆན་འོས་སྤྱོད་
 སོགས་གནས་དུས་དང་བསྟུན་པའི་ལས་དོན་མང་པོ་བཅུམས་ཏེ་གྲུབ་འབྲས་རྒྱལ་ཆེན་ཐོན་ཡོད། རིམ་བཞིན་བཅོན་
 གྲུལ་བོད་མིའི་སློབ་གྲྭ་ཁག་བརྟན་མྱོང་སྤྱོད་ཆུ་གས་བྱང་བ་དང་བསྟུན་བོད་མིའི་འབྲུལ་ཕྱགས་ཀྱི་དམིགས་ཡུལ་དང་དགོས་
 མཁོར་འཆམས་པའི་ཤེས་ཡོན་སློབ་སྤྱོད་གི་ལམ་སློལ་ཆད་ལྡན་ཞིག་བསྐྱེད་ཆུ་དགོས་གཤམ་ཤིན་ཏུ་ཆེ་ཡང་། ཐོག་མའི་ཇ་
 དག་གི་དུས་སྐབས་སུ་གཞན་གཤམ་བྱས་པའི་ལམ་སློལ་ཆུ་ངན་ལམ་ཤོར་ལྟ་བུ་གོམས་གཤིས་སུ་འཇགས་ཏེ་དེ་ལས་
 གཞན་པའི་ལམ་སློལ་ཞིག་བསམ་ཞིབ་ལག་བསྟར་བྱ་དགོས་མཐོང་མ་ཐུབ་པའམ། མཐོང་ཡང་བྱེད་མ་ཐོད་པའི་དབང་
 གིས་མི་ལོ་བཅུ་ཕྲག་ཁ་ཤས་དེ་སྤར་འདས།

Section D: Grammar

(15 Marks)

Q.5. Complete the sentence using the correct form of the verb. (5 Marks)

- I only _____ for four hours last night. (SLEEP)
- They _____ the escaped prisoner in their storehouse. (HIDE)
- Approval should be _____ before doctors carry out such operations. (SEEK)
- I've _____ my radio to the office so I can listen to the cricket. (BRING)
- The doctor _____ one of her patients in the supermarket. (MEET)
- The fire _____ very rapidly because of the strong wind. (SPREAD)
- The whole document needs to be _____. (REWRITE)
- He _____ surgery for a heart problem. (UNDERGO)
- He cut his head and _____ all over the carpet. (BLEED)
- It really hurt when the nurse _____ the needle into my arm. (STICK)

Q.6. Complete each sentence by choosing the correct preposition. (5 marks)

- I left my book _____ (down/without/behind) in the classroom.
- The children gathered _____ (about/against/around) the teacher for a story.
- You must hand it to me _____ (by/inside/on) 6 pm.
- We shared the cake _____ (between/around/among) all of us.

- (e) I am totally _____ (opposite/beside/against) the proposals to cut costs.
- (f) _____ (At/Upon/With) your arrival, you will be taken directly to your hotel.
- (g) What are you hoping to achieve _____ (in/as/for) your new job?
- (h) The weather will remain good _____ (round/across/inside) the south.
- (i) Don't feel guilty _____ (from/about/with) being late.
- (j) The proposal is _____ (for/with/under) consideration at the moment.

Q.7. Choose the correct option. (5 marks)

- (a) Which word **means** the action of delaying or postponing something:
 - (i) resumption (ii) procrastination (iii) continuation
- (b) Which word is **similar** to *appendix*?
 - (i) assortment (ii) supplement (iii) preface
- (c) Which word is the **opposite** of *timid*?
 - (i) dashing (ii) bold (iii) shy
- (d) Choose the **synonym** of *to thrash*
 - (i) to pin (ii) to grasp (iii) to beat up
- (e) The place or shelter of an Eskimo is called
 - (i) Caravan (ii) Igloo (iii) Hamlet