

Sample Question Paper

Humanities and Social Sciences

Duration: 2 Hours Total Marks: 50

All questions are compulsory.

Q 1. Read the following passage carefully and summarize it in simple and correct English. (10 marks)

It was a strange ending to a voyage that had commenced in a most auspicious manner. The transatlantic steamship 'La Provence' was a swift and comfortable vessel, under the command of a most affable man. The passengers constituted a select and delightful society. The charm of new acquaintances and improvised amusements served to make the time pass agreeably. We enjoyed the pleasant sensation of being separated from the world, living, as it were, upon an unknown island, and consequently obliged to be sociable with each other.

Have you ever stopped to consider how much originality and spontaneity emanate from these various individuals who, on the preceding evening, did not even know each other, and who are now, for several days, condemned to lead a life of extreme intimacy, jointly defying the anger of the ocean, the terrible onslaught of the waves, the violence of the tempest and the agonizing monotony of the calm and sleepy water? Such a life becomes a sort of tragic existence, with its storms and its grandeurs, its monotony and its diversity; and that is why, perhaps, we embark upon that short voyage with mingled feelings of pleasure and fear.

But, during the past few years, a new sensation had been added to the life of the transatlantic traveler. The little floating island is now attached to the world from which it was once quite free. A bond united them, even in the very heart of the watery wastes of the Atlantic. That bond is the wireless telegraph, by means of which we receive news in the most mysterious manner. We know full well that the message is not transported by the medium of a hollow wire. No, the mystery is even more inexplicable, more romantic, and we must have recourse to the wings of the air in order to explain this new miracle. During the first day of the voyage, we felt that we were being followed, escorted, preceded even, by that distant voice, which, from time to time, whispered to one of us a few words from the receding world. Two friends spoke to me. Ten, twenty others sent gay or sombre words of parting to other passengers.

On the second day, at a distance of five hundred miles from the French coast, in the midst of a violent storm, we received the following message by means of the wireless telegraph:

Q 2. The image below is “The Son of Man” (1964) by Rene Magritte. Critically analyze the image within **500** words. How does the image make you feel? What are the structural elements you see in the foreground and background of the image? What message does the image seem to convey? What can be possible interpretations of the image? (10 marks)



Q3. Choose any 3 out of the following keywords and concepts listed below and explain these as clearly as you can in **300** words. (15 marks)

Keywords for History, Literature, Cultural Studies and Design

Semiotics
Design Thinking
Feminist criticism
Orientalism
Reader response
Historiography
The Annales School
Subaltern Studies

Q4. Choose any **one** out of the following questions and write an appropriate response to it within a **1000**-word limit: (15 marks)

1. What do you understand by Design for Diversity? How would you incorporate its principles in your research for any UI/UX project?
2. Can 'design intervention' help craft revival? Give reasons for your answer and elaborate these with suitable examples from the Indian experience.
3. Discuss at least one major impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on social science research in a brief essay, specifying how your own proposed project deals with it.
4. Write a brief essay discussing the impact of Euro-American forms on popular culture in India, with examples from your own proposed research if applicable.

5. Explain how the contemporary novel has expanded, challenged or subverted the boundaries that had shaped the genre of the modern novel in the first half of the 20th century. Illustrate your essay using at least one such novel that you have read.

6. "Study the historian before you begin to study the facts." Who said this and what does it mean?

7. What is local history? How would you approach a local history of your own town/village/state? What kinds of methods and resources would you use?