

## **ENGLISH QUIZ**

### **English Comprehension Passages with Questions**

**Direction (1-5):** What, one wonders, is the lowest common denominator of Indian culture today? The attractive Hema Malini? The songs of Vinidh Barati? The attractive Hema Malini? The sons of Vinidh Barati?

Or the mouth-watering Masala Dosa? Delectable as these may be, each yield pride of place to that false (?) symbol of a new era-the synthetic fibre. In less than twenty years the nylon sari and the terylene shirt have swept the countryside, penetrated to the farthest corners of the land and persuaded every common man, woman and child that the key to success in the present-day world lie in artificial fibers: glass nylon, crepe nylon, tery mixes, polyesters and what have you. More than the bicycles, the wristwatch or the transistor radio, synthetic clothes have come to represent the first step away form the village square. The village lass treasures the flashy nylon sari in her trousseau most delay; the village youth gets a great kick out of his cheap terrycot shirt and trousers, the nearest he can approximate to the expensive synthetic sported by his wealthy citybred contemporaries. And the Neo-rich craze for 'phoren' is nowhere more apparent than in the price that people will pay for smuggled, stolen, begged borrowed second hand or thrown away synthetics. Alas, even the uniformity of nylon.

**Q.1.** 'The lowest common denominator' of the Indian culture today is –

- (A) Hema Malini
- (B) Songs of Vividh Barati

- (C) Masala Dosa
- (D) Synthetic fibre

**Q.2. The synthetic fibre has –**

- (A) Always been popular in India
- (B) Become popular during the last twenty years
- (C) Never been popular the last twenty years
- (D) Been as popular as other kinds of fibre

**Q.3. The latest symbol of modernity for the rural people is –**

- (A) The bicycle
- (B) The wristwatch
- (C) The transistor
- (D) The synthetic cloth

**Q.4. The tern 'Neo-rich' means –**

- (A) The aristocracy
- (B) The industrialists
- (C) The newly rich people
- (D) The common people

**Q.5. The tone of the passage is –**

- (A) Tragic
- (B) Ironic
- (C) Sombre
- (D) Satiric

**Direction (6-10):** Most people who bother with the matter at all would admit that the English language is in a bad way, but it is generally assumed that we cannot by conscious action do anything about it. Our civilization is decadent and our language-so the argument runs-must

inevitably share in the general collapse. It follows that any struggle against the abuse of language is a sentimental archaism, like preferring candles to electric light or hansom cabs to aeroplanes. Underneath this lies the half-conscious belief that language is natural growth and not an instrument which we shape for our own purposes.

Now it is clear that the decline of a language must ultimately have political and economic causes it is not due simply to the bad influence of this or that individual writer. But an effect can become a cause, reinforcing the original cause and producing the same effect in an intensified form, and so on indefinitely. A man may take to drink because he feels himself to be a failure, and then fail all the more completely because he drinks. It is rather the same thing that is happening to the English language. It becomes ugly and inaccurate because our thoughts are foolish, but the slovenliness of our language makes it easier for us to have foolish thoughts. The point is that the process is reversible. Modern English, especially written English, is full of bad habits which spread by imitation and which can be avoided if one is willing to take the necessary trouble. If one gets rid of these habits, one can think more clearly, and to think clearly is a necessary first step towards political regeneration: so that the fight against bad English is not frivolous and is not the exclusive concern of professional writers.

**Q.6. Many people believe that nothing can be done about the English language because –**

- (A) Bad habits spread by imitation
- (B) We live in a decadent civilization
- (C) There are too many bad writers

(D) People are too lazy to change their bad habits

**Q.7. The author believes that –**

- (A) It's now too late to do anything about the problem
- (B) Language is a natural growth and cannot be shaped for our won purpose
- (C) The decline in the language can be stopped
- (D) The process of an increasingly bad language cannot be stopped

**Q.8. The author believes that the first stage towards the political regeneration of the language would be –**

- (A) Taking the necessary trouble to avoid bad habits
- (B) Avoiding being frivolous about it
- (C) Clear thinking
- (D) For professional writers to help

**Q.9. The author believes that –**

- (A) English is become ugly
- (B) Bad language
- (C) Our thoughts are becoming uglier because we ae making the language uglier
- (D) Our civilization is decadent so nothing can be done to stop the decile of the language

**Q.10. What causes bad language in the end?**

- (A) The bad influence of individual writers
- (B) The imitation of bad language habits
- (C) Political and economic causes.
- (D) An assumption that nothing can be done about

**ANSWERS**

1. A
2. B
3. D
4. C
5. C
6. B
7. D
8. C
9. C
10. C