

HSC SPECIAL MODEL TEST 2020

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SUBJECT: ENGLISH FIRST PAPER

SEEN PASSAGE

Read the passage and answer the following questions.

Alleviating traffic congestion is one of the major development challenges of our time. Half the world's population already lives in cities, and the United Nations (UN) estimates that the proportion will rise to nearly 70 percent by 2050. Dhaka, the world's densest and fastest growing city, is a case study in how this problem got so bad and why it's so difficult to solve.

Dhaka's infrastructure doesn't match the scale of its population. Just 7 percent of the city is covered by roads, compared with around 25 percent of Paris and Vienna. Dhaka also suffers from the absence of a planned road network. There are 650 major intersections, but only 60 traffic lights, many of which don't work. That means the police force isn't enforcing driving or parking

rules; they're in the intersections, directing traffic.

The cost of Dhaka's traffic congestion is estimated at \$3.8 billion a year, and that's just the delays and air pollution, not the less-tangible losses in quality of life. Paradoxically, the poor infrastructure is one of the reasons why the city is growing so fast. Without roads or trains to whisk them to the suburbs, Dhaka residents have no choice but to crowd into the middle, set up slums between high-rises and walk to work.

Then there are the users of the roads. Besides pedestrians, the narrow lanes are shared by bicycles, rickshaws, Scooters, motorcycles, CNGs, buses and cars. All these modes take up a different amount of space and

have different top speeds. Most people you talk to in Bangladesh blame the traffic jams on the rickshaws. There are too many of them, they say, and they drive so slowly that they trap the cars, buses and CNGs behind them. The government is under pressure to designate some lanes as car-only, to build wider roads and overpasses, to take the slow traffic out from in front of the fast.

And this brings us to the third reason why the traffic problem is so difficult to solve. All of these fixes sound easy and obvious, but they come at a cost. One and a half million people drive rickshaws for a living, plus another few hundred thousand own and repair them. Government efforts to get people out of rickshaws and into buses and trains are going to attract huge opposition.

1. A. Choose the correct answer from the alternatives.

(a) The narrow lanes of Dhaka are mostly occupied by ____.

- (i) rickshaws
- (ii) pedestrians
- (iii) scooters
- (iv) bicycles

(b) Most people blame the traffic jam on ____.

- (i) buses
- (ii) cars
- (iii) rickshaws
- (iv) various carts drawn by hawkers

(c) 'Designate' refers to ____.

- (i) to give someone a specific status
- (ii) to appoint someone to specified post
- (iii) assign a name or title
- (iv) to design something special

(d) The word 'intersection' in line 7 refers to ____.

- (i) a place where two or more roads intersect
- (ii) a place which has many roads
- (iii) a place of recreation
- (iv) a place which has many sections

(e) The best synonym of 'whisk' is ____.

- (i) to stop
- (ii) to happen
- (iii) to move
- (iv) to clarify

B. Answer the following questions.

(a) What is the condition of traffic system in Dhaka?

(b) What are the problems with the rickshaws?

(c) What kinds of pressure is created upon the government?

(d) Why does the author think Dhaka's traffic congestion is difficult to solve?

(e) Why alleviating traffic congestion is a major challenge?

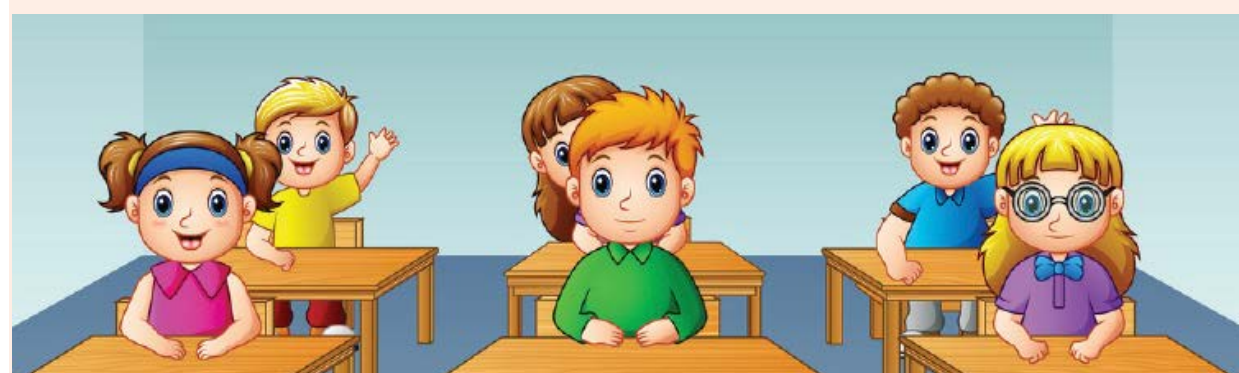
2. Read the following text and make a flow chart showing the major characteristics of adolescence. (One is done for you.)

The time of adolescence is a period of preparation for adulthood during which one experiences several key developments. Besides physical and sexual maturation, these experiences

include movement toward social and economic independence, development of identity, the acquisition of skills needed to carry out adult relationships and roles and the capacity for abstract

reasoning. While adolescence is a time of tremendous growth and potential, it is also a time of considerable risks during which social contexts exert powerful influences.

1. Physical maturation → 2 → 3 → 4 → 5 → 6



SUBJECT: ENGLISH SECOND PAPER

Part A: Grammar

3. Read the passage and then write the antonym or synonym of the words as directed below. .5×10=5

The pioneer of Bangladeshi modern art Zainul Abedin is widely acclaimed for his Bengal 'Famine Sketches'. Through a series of sketches, Zainul not only documented the harsh famine of 1940 but also showed its sinister face through the skeletal figures of the people destined to die of starvation in a man-made plight. He depicted these extremely shocking pictures with human compassion. He made his own ink by burning charcoal and using cheap ordinary packing paper for sketching. He produced a series of brush and ink drawings which later became iconic images of human sufferings.

(a) modern (antonym); (b) wide (synonym); (c) harsh (antonym); (d) die (antonym); (e) plight (synonym); (f) shocking (antonym); (g) human (antonym); (h) compassion (synonym); (i) cheap (antonym); (j) suffering (synonym).

Gap filling activities without clues (for articles)

Dear Students,

Today we will practise gap filling activities without clues of question number 1 of English Second Paper. With a view to evaluating your aptitude in using appropriate articles, a text having 10 gaps will be provided. 5 marks will be allotted for this question. Let's practise.

4. Today women are playing (a) __ important role in all spheres of (b) __ life. They are no longer confined within (c) __ four walls of the kitchens. They have come out of their cocoons and are working hand in hand with (d) __ men. They are joining (e) __ wide range of professions and making a great (f) __ contribution to the economy. Now it has come to (g) __ realisation of all that it is not possible to develop the country keeping women, (h) __ large section of (i) __ population, in (j) __ dark.

5. My mother is (a) __ ideal housewife. She is (b) __ affectionate lady. She manages (c) __ family very nicely. She hopes to see me happy at (d) __ cost of her own life. She does not enjoy (e) __ wink of sleep if I fall sick. She is very kind to (f) __ poor. She is also (g) __ very religious lady. She advises us to follow (h) __ path of truth and honesty. (i) __ woman like her is very rare. She bears a good moral (j) __ character.

ANSWERS

Answer to the question number 1 (A):

- (a) = (ii) pedestrians
- (b) = (iii) rickshaws
- (c) = (iii) assign a name or title
- (d) = (i) a place where two or more roads intersect
- (e) = (iii) to move



Answer to the question number 1 (B):

(a) The condition of traffic system in Dhaka is very bad. Only 7% of the city is covered by roads compared with around 25% of Paris and Vienna. Dhaka also suffers from the absence of a planned network. There are 650 major intersections but only 60 traffic lights, many of which even don't work. Besides, there are various types of vehicles such as bicycles, rickshaws, scooters, motorcycles, CNGs, buses and cars with different speeds which cause serious traffic jams in the city.

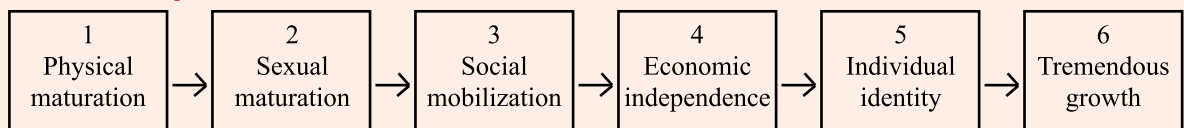
(b) Rickshaws contribute greatly to traffic jams. Many of them move so slowly that they trap the cars, buses and CNGs behind them.

(c) The pressure the government is facing at present in the Dhaka city include designating some lanes for car only, building wider roads and overpasses, taking the slow traffic out from in front of the fast.

(d) The author is right in his statement because one and a half million people pull rickshaws for a living, which bring about a slow movement for other speedy vehicles plying on the roads. This makes Dhaka's traffic congestion difficult to solve. In addition, political patronage, even the government's hesitation to implement any project to reduce this problem is responsible. Consequently, it is growing further complicated day by day.

(e) Alleviating traffic congestion is a major challenge as half the world's population already lives in cities, and the United Nations (UN) estimates that the proportion will rise to nearly 70 percent by 2050.

Answer to the question number 2:



Answer to the question number 3:

(a) ancient; (b) extensive; (c) mild/pleasant; (d) survive; (e) suffering; (f) pleasant; (g) inhuman; (h) sympathy; (i) precious/expensive/costly; (j) plights/affliction.

Answer to the question number 4:

a) an; b) ×; c) the; d) ×; e) a; f) ×; g) the; h) a; i) the; j) the.

Answer to the question number 5:

a) an; b) an; c) the; d) the; e) a; f) the; g) a; h) the; i) A; j) ×

