

1. Write an essay in about 600 words on any one of the following:

- a) Youth as Demographic Dividend or Democratic Responsibility?
- b) Globalization in Retreat? Nationalism, Sovereignty and the Future of World Order.
- c) Development without Dignity is a Distorted Dream.
- d) The Power of Narrative in Shaping Nations.

2. Read carefully the passage given below and write your answers to the questions in clear, correct and concise language: (word limit 65-70 words), (5×15=75)

In the age of relentless industrial expansion, certain landscapes quietly transform into what environmental scholars call "sacrifice zones." These are regions where ecological degradation and human suffering are tolerated—sometimes even normalized—in the name of economic progress. The term suggests a troubling moral calculus: some places; and often some communities, are implicitly deemed expendable so that others may enjoy prosperity. Sacrifice zones rarely emerge by accident. They are usually the outcome of deliberate political and economic decisions that concentrate hazardous industries—oil refineries, chemical plants, mining operations, or waste disposal sites—in specific geographic locations. These areas are frequently inhabited by marginalized communities who possess limited political influence and fewer resources to resist such encroachments. Consequently, environmental harm becomes unevenly distributed, creating what many scholars describe as environmental injustice.

The physical consequences of living in a sacrifice zone can be severe. Polluted air thick with industrial emissions, contaminated groundwater, and soil saturated with toxic residues gradually erode both ecological stability and human health. Residents may experience higher rates of respiratory illness, cancer, and other chronic conditions. Yet the damage extends beyond the corporeal. Over time, a sense of dispossession settles upon the community as ancestral lands, cultural practices, and everyday livelihoods become increasingly incompatible with a poisoned environment.

Despite these hardships, sacrifice zones also reveal remarkable forms of resistance and resilience. Local, community organizations, and environmental advocates often mobilize to challenge the structures that have rendered their homes disposable. Through protests, legal battles, and alliances with scholars and journalists, they seek to expose the hidden costs of industrial prosperity. In doing so, they compel society to confront an uncomfortable question: can economic development truly be called progress if it depends on the systematic abandonment of certain places and people?

The concept of sacrifice zones therefore forces a broader ethical reflection. It reminds us that environmental crises are not merely ecological problems but deeply social and political ones. Who benefits from development, and who bears its burdens? Until these questions are addressed with fairness and accountability, sacrifice zones will continue to exist as stark reminders of the unequal geography of modern progress.

- What is meant by the term "sacrifice zones," and why does the author describe it as a "moral calculus"?
- According to the passage, what factors contribute to the creation of sacrifice zones?
- Explain how environmental damage in sacrifice zones affects communities beyond physical health.
- How do residents and activists respond to the conditions of sacrifice zones?
- What ethical question does the concept of sacrifice zones raise about economic development?

3. Make a précis of the following passage in one-third of its length. The précis must be written in your own words. A title to the précis is not required. (75)

In contemporary ecological discourse, few concepts generate as much alarm as the idea of invasive species. Conservation policies across the world frequently portray these organisms as ecological villains—intruders that must be eradicated to protect native biodiversity. Governments invest enormous resources in programs designed to remove or control species that are perceived as outsiders to a particular ecosystem. Yet this dominant narrative, while powerful, often reflects a deeper nativist bias embedded within conservation thinking.

The prevailing assumption is that ecosystems possess a stable, original state composed of "native" species that evolved together in harmonious balance. Any organism arriving from elsewhere is therefore treated as a disruptive force that threatens ecological integrity. However, ecological history tells a far more complex story. Ecosystems are not static museums of purity but dynamic systems that have continually changed over millennia through migration, climatic shifts, and geological transformations. Species have always moved across landscapes, sometimes gradually and sometimes abruptly, reshaping communities in unpredictable ways.

By rigidly privileging nativeness, conservation efforts may unintentionally oversimplify ecological processes. Some introduced species do cause harm, but many integrate into ecosystems without catastrophic consequences. In certain cases, they even create new habitats or stabilize environments altered by human activity. When conservation discourse demonizes all non-native species, it risks substituting ideology for careful scientific evaluation.

Moreover, the language used to describe invasive species often echoes cultural anxieties about outsiders, employing metaphors of invasion, contamination, and defence. Such rhetoric may subtly reinforce exclusionary attitudes rather than promote nuanced ecological understanding. The result is a conservation framework that sometimes prioritizes the restoration of an imagined historical purity over the protection of evolving and resilient ecosystems.

A more reflective approach to ecology would acknowledge that wildness is not defined by rigid boundaries of belonging. Instead, it emerges from the complex interactions of diverse organisms adapting to ever-changing environments. Recognizing this complexity may help conservation science move beyond nativist dogma and toward a more flexible, evidence-based understanding of nature.

4. a) Rewrite the following sentences after making necessary corrections. Do not make unnecessary changes in the original sentence. (10×1=10)
- i. Each of the participants were required to submit their proposal before the deadline.
 - ii. The number of applicants applying for the fellowship have increased considerably this year.
 - iii. Neither the principal nor the teachers was satisfied with the students' performance.
 - iv. Hardly had she completed the report than the manager asked for several revisions.
 - v. One of the most significant discoveries in modern science have changed our understanding of the universe.
 - vi. No sooner had the committee finalized the policy when objections were raised by several members.
 - vii. The quality of the books available in the library have improved remarkably over the years.
 - viii. If the government would have implemented stricter environmental policies earlier, many ecosystems would have been preserved.
 - ix. Every researcher and scholar are expected to follow ethical guidelines while conducting their work.
 - x. One of the reasons for the delay were the incomplete documents submitted by the applicants.

b) Supply the missing words.

- i. The success of the project depends _____ the cooperation of all members.
- ii. He was accused _____ violating the rules of the institution.
- iii. The proposal was brought _____ for discussion during the meeting.
- iv. The scholar was deeply engrossed _____ his research work.
- v. She refrained _____ making any comment on the controversial issue.

c) Use the correct form of verbs given in the brackets.

(5×1=5)

- i. By the time the lecture began, most students _____ (arrive) in the hall.
- ii. If she _____ (work) harder, she would have achieved better results.
- iii. The committee _____ (discuss) the proposal for more than two hours before reaching a decision.
- iv. When I entered the room, they _____ (debate) an important issue.
- v. Neither the manager nor the employees _____ (be) willing to accept the new policy.

d) Give the antonyms of the following:

(5×1=5)

- i. Intransigent
- ii. Cacophony
- iii. Profligate
- iv. Obdurate
- v. Epistemic

a) Rewrite each of the following sentences as directed without changing the meaning:

(10×1=10)

- i. As soon as the announcement was made, the audience erupted in applause.
(Rewrite using No sooner... than)

- ii. It is possible that he misunderstood the instructions.
(Rewrite beginning with He may...)
- iii. The problem was so complicated that it could not be solved easily.
(Rewrite using too... to)
- iv. People believe that the ancient manuscript contains valuable historical information.
(Rewrite in the passive voice)
- v. Although the weather was extremely harsh, the expedition continued its journey.
(Rewrite beginning with Despite)
- vi. As soon as she completed her research, she published the findings in a journal.
(Rewrite using Hardly... when)
- vii. Only a few scholars have understood the significance of this theory.
(Rewrite beginning with Few scholars...)
- viii. He not only criticized the policy but also suggested several improvements.
(Rewrite using Not only... but also at the beginning of the sentence)
- ix. If you do not follow the instructions carefully, you may encounter difficulties.
(Rewrite beginning with Unless)
- x. It is necessary for every candidate to submit the application before the deadline.
(Rewrite beginning with Every candidate must...)

b) Use the following words to make sentences that bring out their meaning clearly. Do not change the form of the words.
(Ambiguous and meaningless sentences will not be awarded) (5×1=5)

- i. Obstreperous
- ii. Perspicacious
- iii. Pulchritude
- iv. Recondite
- v. Sycophantic

c) Choose the appropriate words to fill in the blanks.

(5×1=5)

- i. The committee remained _____ about the proposal despite repeated requests for clarification. (silent / silently)
- ii. The scientist explained the concept _____ so that even beginners could grasp it. (clear / clearly)
- iii. The students waited _____ outside the examination hall for the results to be announced. (anxious / anxiously)
- iv. The new policy had a _____ impact on small businesses across the region. (significant / significantly)
- v. The speaker argued _____ that ethical considerations must guide technological development. (forceful / forcefully)

d) Use these idioms/phrases in sentences of your own to bring out their meaning clearly. Do not change the form of the words.

(5×1=5)

- i. Pyrrhic victory
- ii. To grasp the nettle
- iii. A Gordian knot
- iv. To tilt at windmills
- v. A Pandora's box