

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PAPER I

(One hour and a half allowed)

Answer **three** questions, **Question 1** and **any two** of the remaining questions.

1. Read the following passage carefully and then answer the questions which follow.

The Town Bus

- The London Transport Executive's decision to reduce its bus services by 5 per cent is symptomatic of a malaise that in time will probably be felt by bus organizations in most of the big towns. The country bus has a vigorous
- (5) present life and a reasonably bright future: it has already won much traffic from branch railway lines and seems likely to win more: it can also depend on regular customers in all villages which are a few miles from the nearest market town. The town bus, however, has to
- (10) meet increasing competition from other forms of transport, and in many cases the services it offers have deteriorated. The main advantage of the bus over suburban or underground railways is in its more frequent stopping places: it is not so many years since
- (15) buses would stop wherever they were hailed, and that, ideally, is what a bus should do. Congestion in the streets and bus crews' dislike of too frequent starting and stopping have combined to push stopping-places farther and farther apart. The bus, like the train, now
- (20) tends to run only between 'stations' and a good electric train service can win passengers from the bus. In London this is in fact happening, and traffic on the underground is increasing as bus traffic declines. High fares are another major discouragement to bus
- (25) passengers; instead of jumping on a bus for a journey of a quarter of a mile or so people now choose to walk.

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- The motor-assisted bicycle is often a cheaper means of travelling to work than going by bus, and it offers the additional advantage of independent transport. Buses (30) are still crowded at peak times with passengers, but these are costly crowds to carry, for to provide enough buses at peak periods means spending money on vehicles and crews which are under-employed for much of the rest of the day. More towns may have to follow (35) London's example in reducing their bus services, but if this means less congestion in the streets and slightly faster travel for all other road vehicles (including the remaining buses) it need cause no tears. Some reduction in fares is probably the next essential step if town buses (40) are to avoid running into even greater difficulties.

(With acknowledgement to the *Manchester Guardian*)

- (a) Summarize the above passage in not more than 120 words. State in brackets at the end the number of words you have used.
- (b) Give the meaning of *four* of the following words as they are used in the passage:
- (i) symptomatic (line 2)
 - (ii) vigorous (line 4)
 - (iii) deteriorated (line 12)
 - (iv) peak (line 30)
 - (v) congestion (line 36)
 - (vi) essential (line 39)
- (c) What exactly is (i) a branch railway line (line 6), (ii) a suburban railway (line 13), (iii) a bus crew (line 17), (iv) a motor-assisted bicycle (line 27)?
- (d) Explain the placing of the apostrophe in the phrases:
- (i) London Transport Executive's decision (line 1)
 - (ii) bus crews' dislike (line 17)

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- (e) Explain the use of the semi-colon at the start of line 25.
- (f) Why are there inverted commas placed round 'stations' in line 20?
2. (a) Give the meaning of the word 'fresh' as used in any *eight* of the following phrases:
- (i) the fresh shoots of a plant
 - (ii) fresh eggs
 - (iii) fresh meat
 - (iv) to feel fresh
 - (v) fresh paint
 - (vi) a fresh wind
 - (vii) fresh air
 - (viii) fresh water
 - (ix) fresh news
 - (x) a fresh complexion
- (b) Explain the meaning of any *four* of the following expressions, and give, by means of a sentence, an example of the use of each of these four:
- (i) a gentleman's agreement
 - (ii) a Job's comforter
 - (iii) a titanic struggle
 - (iv) a chip off the old block
 - (v) once in a blue moon
 - (vi) handsome is as handsome does
 - (vii) to carry coals to Newcastle
3. (a) Form the opposite of each of *four* of the following words by the addition of a prefix:
mature, similar, noble, legible, rational, complete

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- (b) Write down an adjective corresponding to each of *four* of the following words:
voice, credit, spectacle, labour, benefit, example
- (c) Compose sentences (four in all) to show the use of *four* of the following:
- (i) *round* as a noun
 - (ii) *that* as a pronoun
 - (iii) *as* as a conjunction
 - (iv) *each* as an adjective
 - (v) *off* as an adverb
 - (vi) *coin* as a verb

4. (a) Rewrite *two* of the following sentences in order to remove any errors.

- (i) Uncle Tom has agreed to share his money between you and I.
- (ii) The dog had hurt it's paw.
- (iii) The number of accidents on the road are increasing.
- (iv) Crossing the road her heel stuck in a manhole cover.

- (b) Choose *three of the following names* and write

- (i) a word formed from the name, and
- (ii) the meaning of that word.

Olympus; Pasteur; Mars; Titan; Tantalus;
Elizabeth.

(e.g. Name: Hercules

Word: Herculean

Meaning: needing great strength to perform,
difficult.)

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