

Part I: Test of Comprehension Ability
(30 marks)

Q.1 to 6: Read the passage below and answer question nos. 1 to 6 in 4-5 sentences.

(5 marks each)

Horticulture is the science and art of growing plants (fruits, vegetables, flowers, and any other cultivar). It also includes plant conservation, landscape restoration, soil management, landscape and garden design, construction, and maintenance, and arboriculture. In contrast to agriculture, horticulture does not include large-scale crop production or animal husbandry. Horticulture includes growing of fruits, vegetables, flowers, medicinal, aromatic and plantation crops whereas Agriculture is purely into growing of field crops like cereals, pulses, oilseeds. In fact, as part of agriculture, acres of land are cultivated simultaneously for an optimal level of output. Horticulture too is essentially cultivation, but not of the same degree as agriculture. Horticulture is more inclined towards the domestic aspect of cultivation. An activity like growing plants, vegetables, fruits, etc. in a domestic environment is horticulture.

Horticulturists apply their knowledge, skills, and technologies used to grow intensively produced plants for human food and non-food uses and for personal or social needs. Their work involves plant propagation and cultivation with the aim of improving plant growth, yields, quality, nutritional value, and resistance to insects, diseases, and environmental stresses. They work as gardeners, growers, therapists, designers, and technical

advisors in the food and non-food sectors of horticulture. Horticulture even refers to the growing of plants in a field or garden.

By tradition, horticulture deals with garden crops such as fruits, nuts, vegetables, culinary herbs and spices, beverage crops, and medicinals, as well as ornamental plants. Agronomy is involved with grains, pasture grasses and forages, oilseeds, fiber crops, and industrial crops such as sugarcane, while forestry is involved with trees grown for timber and fiber as well as the incidental wildlife. Agronomy is the application of science and technology from the fields of biology, chemistry, economics, ecology, soil science, water science, pest management and genetics to the improvement and management of the major food crops of the world. The edible horticultural crops are used entirely as human food and are often utilized in the living state and thus highly perishable. In contrast, edible agronomic crops are often utilized in the nonliving state, are highly processed, are often used for animal feed, and usually contain a high percentage of dry matter. The precise distinction between horticultural and agronomic crops is traditional. In general, horticultural crops are intensively cultivated and warrant a large input of capital, labor, and technology per unit area of land. In modern days, however, Horticulture is practiced in large agricultural operations, in small farm enterprises, and in home gardens.

In India, it was reported that the production of horticulture crops such as fruit and vegetables have seen an increase over the previous year (2015-16). The production is estimated at 295 million tones in 2016-17 crop year ending June. Compared to the previous year when production was 286.18 million tones, the harvest is 3.1% higher. It is also 2.7% higher over the first advance estimate issued in February 2017 largely due to rise in onion production. According

to the second advance estimate of 2017, the production of vegetables is estimated to be around 175 million tones, which is 3.5% higher than previous year and 3.8% higher than the first estimate. Fruit production during the current year is estimated to be 93 million tones which is 2.9% higher than the previous year (2015-16).

Q. 1. What is Horticulture? How is it different from or similar to 'Agriculture'?

Q. 2. What do horticulturists do to achieve better yield and to improve quality of crops?

Q. 3. Are Horticulture and Agronomy related fields? Explain how. What are the differences, if any?

Q. 4. Are the estimates of Horticultural crops in India helpful?

Q. 5. Give a comparative analysis of production of fruit and vegetables in the years 2015-16 and 2016-17.

Q. 6. Is horticulture an effective method of growing crops?

**Part II: Test of English Language Proficiency
(30 marks)**

Q. 1. Re-arrange the sentences (P,Q,R,S) in the correct order between S1 and S6 and write the order below

S1: Charles Babbage, an English mechanical engineer, originated the concept of a programmable computer.

P: However midway, the project was dissolved with the decision of the British Government to cease funding.

Q: His son, Henry Babbage, completed a simplified version of the analytical engine's computing unit (the mill) in 1888.

R: In 1833 he realized that a much more general design, an Analytical Engine, was possible.

S: He conceptualized and invented the first mechanical computer in the early 19th century.

S6: Henry gave a successful demonstration of its use in computing tables in 1906.

- A. QSPR
- B. QPRS
- C. SPRQ
- D. SRPQ

Q. 2 & 3: Choose the right option which explains the meaning of the phrases.

Q. 2. To hit the nail right on the head

- A. To identify/point out exactly
- B. To announce one's fixed views
- C. To teach someone a lesson
- D. None of the above

Q.3. *To set one's face against*

- A. To oppose with determination
- B. To get out of difficulty
- C. To look at one steadily
- D. None of the above

Q. 4 & 5: Find the correctly spelled word and write it down.

Q.4.

- A. Adventitius
- B. Adventitious
- C. Adventitus
- D. Adventituous

Q. 5.

- A. Affedevit
- B. Afidevit
- C. Affidevit
- D. Affidavit

Question 6 & 7: Correct the following sentences and write down the corrected sentences below:

Q. 6. The capital of Yemen is situating 2190 meters above the sea level.

Q.7. None of two girls who were present appeared to be inclined to listen to any advice.

Questions 8 to 10: Complete the statement with correct words.

Q. 8. Fate smilesthose who untiringly grapple with stark realities of life.

- A. with
- B. over
- C. on
- D. round

Q. 9. The miser gazed.....at the pile of gold coins in front of him.

- A. avidly
- B. admiringly
- C. thoughtfully
- D. earnestly

Q. 10. He passed the examination in the first class because he.....

- A. worked hardly for it
- B. had worked hard for it
- C. was working hard for it
- D. have worked hard for it

Questions 11 to 15: Select the word that is closest in meaning to the given word, from among the choices and write down the answers.

Q. 11. Refute

- A. offer
- B. hurry
- C. deny
- D. resume

Q. 12. Exacerbate

- A. aggravate
- B. clam
- C. allay
- D. pacify

Q. 13. Disparate

- A. even
- B. tantamount
- C. collocate
- D. distinct

Q. 14. Warrant

- A. embargo
- B. justify
- C. violate
- D. dissolve

Q. 15. Ponderous

- A. enthralling
- B. adept
- C. thoughtful
- D. clumsy

Questions 16 to 20: Select the word that is opposite in meaning to the given word, from among the choices and write down the answers

Q. 16. Macabre

- A. terrific
- B. harsh
- C. homely
- D. savage

Q. 17. Cumbersome

- A. bulky
- B. manageable
- C. arduous
- D. substantial

Q. 18. Apposite

- A. appropriate
- B. seemly
- C. improper
- D. sensible

Q. 19. Ossify

- A. soften
- B. petrify
- C. reinforce
- D. steady

Q. 20. Equitable

- A. impartial
- B. discriminatory
- C. objective
- D. fair

Questions 21 to 25: Correct the following statements and write down the correct sentence.

Q. 21. We are playing tennis every day.

Q. 22. Neither Ram or Shyam knows the truth.

Q. 23. What you were doing when called?

Q. 24. You can use my car till tomorrow.

Q. 25. I buy vegetables here because they are too less expensive.

Questions 26 to 30: Choose the correct word to fill in the blanks.

Q. 26. The snow was [drizzling/falling] heavily when I left home.

Q. 27. I [must/ can] have left my keys in my office.

Q. 28. Students are [making/doing] good progress in the course.

Q. 29. Jogging is the [best/good] form of exercise.

Q.30. None of the players [is/are] eligible to play.

Part III: Test of Writing Skills (40 marks)

Write a note on any **two** topics given below in **not more than two to three paragraphs** (20 marks each)

1. Public libraries in India
2. Importance of water conservation
3. Alternate Energy Resources
4. Sports as a professional choice in India