

SECTION-A (READING)**Q1. Read the passage given below : (12M)**

The Narendra Modi government is readying an amendment in the Indian Succession Act of 1925 that will allow Christian women to get rights in the property of their deceased children. As per Sections 41 to 48 of Indian Succession Act, 1925, governing Christians, it gives mothers no right to inherit property of deceased children who have not left behind any will. All such properties are to be inherited by the father. If the father is not alive, the properties go to the siblings. Section 41 of the Act provides that rules of distribution where the intestate has left no lineal descendants shall be contained in Sections 42 to 48, “after deducting the widow’s share if he has left a widow”. The law ministry had asked the Law Commission to give its recommendations on removing this inequality against women in the Succession Act that continued since the British era, though Britain itself removed this gender-based discrimination in the 1950s. The Law Commission on Friday gave its report to the government proposing changes in Sections 41 to 48 of the Act. The Indian Succession Act, 1925 is “archaic in nature and fosters an approach that solidifies distinctions based on gender and thus prejudicial and unfair to status of women and Christian mother of deceased intestate”, the law panel said, recommending repeal of these provisions. Christians are the third largest religious community in India, after Hindus and Muslims. The government has been receiving representations from community leaders seeking removal of this anomaly which deprived a mother of her rightful share in her children’s wealth. The government will soon bring an amendment in Parliament based on the recommendations of the Law Commission, sources said “A plain reading of provisions built in Sections 42 to 46 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 reveals how the scheme envisioned therein incorporates a preferential approach towards men and is unfair and unjust towards Christian women,” Law Commission chairman Justice A P Shah said. Provisions in Sections 42 to 46 reveal how the scheme envisioned is unfair and unjust. According to Section 42, where the deceased’s father is living and there are no lineal descendants, father succeeds to property and mother gets no share. Preferential approach is writ large, the law panel said. Further, even in case where the deceased’s father does not survive, provisions of Section 43 require the mother to equally share with brothers or sisters of the deceased, rather being entitled to what her husband was entitled to. “Unfairness runs through provisions of Sections 44 and 45 as well, and it is only when neither father, brother, sister or the children of the deceased intestate are living that the property goes to the mother under Section 46 — a situation to a great extent created by forces of divine circumstances,” the commission said, strongly recommending repeal of all such provisions and giving mother first and equal rights as father.

I. Answer briefly: ($4 \times 2 = 8$)

1. Why is the Indian Succession Act 1925 governing Christians being amended?
2. What has the Law Ministry asked the Law Commission to do in this regard?
3. Why and what have the Christians of India been representing to the government of India?
4. How will the proposed amendments affect the rights of mothers?

II. Vocabulary: ($4 \times 1 = 4$)

1. The opposite of the word ‘alive’ in the passage is:
(a) deceased (b) died (c) dead (d) death
2. Synonym for ‘brothers and sisters’ is:
(a) siblings (b) children (c) wards (d) descendants

3. The most appropriate option for the word 'remove' in the passage is:
(a) eliminate (b) extract (c) option (d) repeal

4. Choose the right verb of the word 'discrimination':
(a) discriminate (b) discriminating (c) discriminated (d) none of these

Q2. Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow: (12M)

If we would see our dream of Panchayat Raj, i.e., true democracy realized, we would regard the humblest and lowest Indian as being the ruler of India with the tallest in the land. This presupposes that all are pure, or will become pure if they are not. And purity must go hand-in-hand with wisdom. No one would then harbour any distinction between community and community, caste and out-caste. Everybody would regard all as equal with oneself and hold them together in the silken net of love. No one would regard another as untouchable. We would hold as equal the toiling labourer and the rich capitalist. Everybody would know how to earn an honest living by the sweat of one's brow, and make no distinction between intellectual and physical labour. To hasten this consummation, we would voluntarily turn ourselves into scavengers. No one who has wisdom will ever touch opium, liquor or any intoxicants. Everybody would observe Swadeshi as the rule of life and regard every woman, not being his wife, as his mother, sister or daughter according to her age, never lust after her in his heart. He would be ready to lay down his life when occasion demands it, never want to take another's life. If he is a Sikh in terms of the commandment of the Gurus, he would have the heroic courage to stand singlehanded and alone—without yielding an inch of ground—against the "one lakh and a quarter" enjoined by them. Needless to say, such a son of India will not want to be told what his duty in the present hour is.

1.Vocabulary: (4 × 1 = 4)

1. Choose the most appropriate synonym of the word 'fulfilled'.
(a) Realised (b) Fulfilment (c) Consummated (d) Attained
2. The phrase used in the passage meaning by working hard is:
(a) toiling labour (b) sweat of one's brow (c) concave to stand (d) without yielding
3. The synonym for the word 'quicken' in the passage is:
(a) hasten (b) shorten (c) enhance (d) accelerate
4. Those who sweep and clean are called:
(a) cleanness (b) dusters (c) scavengers (d) sweepers

SECTION : B (WRITING SKILLS)

Q3. You are PETER, Vice President, Customer Care, Shopmart Online. You have received a letter of inquiry from a dissatisfied customer seeking information about your company's REFUND policy. Write a letter of reply in about 120-150 words to the customer giving information about the same. (80-100 words) (6M)

Q4. Complete the story given below in 150-200 words. (8M)

Once upon a time.A boy was walking on the beach.....

Q5-A- Look at the words and phrases given below. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences as shown in example: (2M) (ANY TWO)

- (a) if/something/then/in return for/should be/it is so/it
- (b) self-respect/come out of/something/has/our/self/that/and/is/that
- (c) people/look at/tend to/you look/the way/yourself/at/you

Q5-B- Supply the appropriate word/words to complete the following passages: (4M)

Dr. Sadao Hoki's house (a) built on a spot of the Japanese coast where like (b) little boy he had often, (c) The low, square stone house (d) set (e) rocks well (f) a narrow beach that was outlined with bent pines. His father wanted Sadao to (g) medicine. He sent him to America (h) studying medicine.

SECTION : C (LITERATURE)

Q6. Answer the following questions in 40-50 words. (14M)

1. Justify the title 'The Summit within'. (3M)
2. Why is adventure, which is risky, also pleasurable? (2M)
3. What do we understand about Macavity and her work? (3M)
4. Write down all the incidents which Bipin has forgotten (3M)
5. What is the central idea of the poem The School Boy? (3M)