

Unique Paper Code: 72032801_OC

Name of the Paper: English A-

Name of the Course: AECC

Semester: I

Marks: 75

Time limit: 3 + 1 (One hour reserved for downloading of Question Paper, scanning and uploading of Answer Sheets)

Instructions for Candidates:

1. Answer any FOUR out of the six questions.
2. All questions carry equal marks
3. Answers to be written between 400-600 words each.

1. Read the passage given below and **paraphrase** it in your own words:

One in three Indians lives in a city today. Our megacities are among the fastest growing urban locations in the world. Much has been said about developing Indian cities into 'smart cities'- but much more needs to be said about making these ecologically smart cities, where birds, insects, mammals and trees can thrive alongside human beings. When we think of biodiversity, cities are usually the last places that come to mind, but many actually provide habitat to multiple species. Take Delhi - it might surprise you to know that the capital city itself is home to nearly 500 species of birds. While our cities, once replete with open spaces and wetlands, started by being rich troves of biodiversity, urbanisation patterns are now causing a decline in the numbers and welfare of diverse species. This can change if we change how we design our cities.

Logically, cities with a higher percentage of green spaces, ponds and lakes have a higher number of birds. However, many of these habitats are now found only in the campuses of universities and schools. As per eBird, a global citizen science initiative, a higher number of bird species has been recorded in the campus of the Valley School in Bengaluru than in the Bannerghatta National Park which is on the edge of the same city. A recent study in Delhi found that just 39 (less than five-hectare sized) ponds in the city are home to over 173 species of birds - but these ponds and green spaces don't enjoy the protection available to national parks and sanctuaries and often give way to poorly envisioned infrastructure. Protecting these from being built over can make an enormous difference to preserving multiple species, from chameleons to butterflies, tiny frogs and nimble squirrels to mighty hawks. Such trees shelter us as well- buildings surrounded by these are buffered from traffic's sound pollution and

numerous pollutants from urban industry. It makes sense therefore to take a leaf out of the urban designs of college and school campuses and prioritise and plan green spaces, lush with trees, across apartment complexes, IT parks and corporate buildings. In recent efforts to encourage urban biodiversity, attention is being paid to lake and wetland development. Two years ago, a large package was announced to develop 59 lakes within the city of Bengaluru. Environmentalists welcomed this, particularly since the effort also aimed at reducing untreated sewage entering such water bodies. But there is a flip side as well - such plans often come with packages for the gardening of these spaces. This means native trees and vegetation get replaced with ornamental garden plants which not only require higher maintenance but also lack the ability to support biodiversity. Urban development models should take into account the huge ecological services native species play and the invasive potential of non-native species which can often damage biodiversity. Our ideas of aesthetic urban spaces must be imbued with an ecological sensibility that encourages us to choose native trees and flowers over uniform green lawns, tree front office spaces over glass-front cubicles and large trees to shade parking lots over tin sheets that heat them up. Prioritising local ecology over western aesthetics holds the key to protecting urban biodiversity.

2. Write a **dialogue** with your friend where you both discuss the importance of having green open spaces and water bodies within your city as part of the urban developmental model.
3. Oral communication is not simply about the words that we speak. The paralinguistic aspects of our speech, body language and other aspects of non-verbal communication that we use along with it provide meaning to it. Explain the relevant features giving suitable examples.
4. Write an **interview** with a first year student of your college asking her about her experience of being a student in the long distance mode and her disappointment, if any, at not being able to experience campus life.
5. You are a part of the college NSS group which runs an afternoon program within the college premises to teach the poor children in the vicinity of the college. Prepare a **report** to be submitted to the Principal where you provide the details of the program and the achievements of the team so far. Also highlight the future plans for this initiative.
6. You are a volunteer at an NGO which has been providing food and medicines to jobless migrants and the poor. Write a **letter** to the District Magistrate of your area drawing her attention to the problems being faced by these people. Also, write in detail about the kind of support that the NGO requires from the district administration for this activity.