

A complete study notes for success in the coming exam.....

JPSC

Jharkhand Combined State Civil Services Main Examination 2024

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PAPER - II

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

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Syllabus for English Language & Literature

PART-I

- (a) History of English Language : (i) Indo-European Family of Language
- (ii) Teutonic Verbal system, Teutonic Accent
- (iii) The First Sound Shifting or Grimm's Law
- (iv) Old English (Dialects of Old English, Characteristics of Old English, Old English Vocabulary)
- (v) Middle English (Dialects of Modern English; Characteristics of Middle English; Rise of Standard English)
- (b) The Definition of Poetry : its characteristics, purpose, forms of poetry-- lyric, sonnet, ode, ballad, free verse, blank verse, rhymed verse, poetic terms--alliteration, resonance, rhyme scheme, meter-- its types.
- (c) Comprehension (A passage containing approximately 1000 words to be set) :
- (d) Grammar : (i) Noun, Verb, Adjective, Adverb, Article, Preposition, Subject-Verb Agreement, Narration, Voice, Transformation, Clause.
 - (ii) Single-word substitution
 - (iii) Correction of errors
 - (iv) pairs of words
 - (v) Idioms and Phrases

PART-II

- (e) History of English Literature (British, American, Colonial and Post-Colonial Writing) from the 14th century up to the 21st century : Poetry, Drama, Prose, Novel, Criticism, Biography, Autobiography, Short-Stories (General introduction of eminent poets, dramatists, novelists, prose-writers, short-story writers, autobiographers, biographers, popular writers)
- (f) Fiction and Drama (Critical Study and Explanation) : (i) Kanthapura: Raja Rao (ii) A Passage to India: E. M. Forster (iii) Macbeth : William Shakespeare (iv) Arms and the Man : G.B. Shaw
- (g) Poetry (Critical Study and Explanation) : (i) The Quality of Mercy : William Shakespeare (ii) The Little Black Boy : William Blake (iii) The Solitary Reaper: William Wordsworth (iv) Mutability: P.B. Shelley (v) I Think Continually of Those Who were Truly Great (vi) Heaven of Freedom: Rabindranath Tagore (vii) A Soul's Prayer: Sarojini Naidu
- (h) Prose (Critical Study and Explanation) : (i) On Habits: A.G. Gardiner (ii) India Again: E. M. Forster (iii) Playing the English Gentleman : Mahatma Gandhi (iv) Of Studies: Francis Bacon (v) Mr. Know All: Somerset Maugham (vi) The Homecoming: Rabindranath Tagore (vii) The Cherry Tree: Ruskin Bond
 - (i) Essay : On socio-economic or current topic.

Part-I : English Language

(a) History of English Language

English language, West Germanic language of the Indo-European language family that is closely related to Frisian, German, and Dutch (in Belgium called Flemish) languages. English originated in England and is the dominant language of the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, Ireland, New Zealand, and various island nations in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. It is also an official language of India, the Philippines, Singapore, and many countries in sub-Saharan Africa, including South Africa. English is the first choice of foreign language in most other countries of the world, and it is that status that has given it the position of a global lingua franca. It is estimated that about a third of the world's population, some two billion persons, now use English.

English belongs to the Indo-European family of languages and is therefore related to most other languages spoken in Europe and western Asia from Iceland to India. The parent tongue, called Proto-Indo-European, was spoken about 5,000 years ago by nomads believed to have roamed the southeast European plains. Germanic, one of the language groups descended from this ancestral speech, is usually divided by scholars into three regional groups: East (Burgundian, Vandal, and Gothic, all extinct), North (Icelandic, Faroese, Norwegian, Swedish, and Danish), and West (German, Dutch [and Flemish], Frisian, and English). Though closely related to English, German remains far more conservative than English in its retention of a fairly elaborate system of inflections. Frisian, spoken by the inhabitants of the Dutch province of Friesland and the islands off the west

coast of Schleswig, is the language most nearly related to Modern English. Icelandic, which has changed little over the last thousand years, is the living language most nearly resembling Old English in grammatical structure.

Modern English is analytic (i.e., relatively uninflected), whereas Proto-Indo-European, the ancestral tongue of most of the modern European languages (e.g., German, French, Russian, Greek), was synthetic, or inflected. During the course of thousands of years, English words have been slowly simplified from the inflected variable forms found in Sanskrit, Greek, Latin, Russian, and German, toward invariable forms, as in Chinese and Vietnamese. The German and Chinese words for the noun man are exemplary. German has five forms: Mann, Mannes, Manne, Männer, Männern. Chinese has one form: ren. English stands in between, with four forms: man, man's, men, men's. In English, only nouns, pronouns (as in he, him, his), adjectives (as in big, bigger, biggest), and verbs are inflected. English is the only European language to employ uninflected adjectives; e.g., the tall man, the tall woman, compared to Spanish el hombre alto and la mujer alta. As for verbs, if the Modern English word ride is compared with the corresponding words in Old English and Modern German, it will be found that English now has only 5 forms (ride, rides, rode, riding, ridden), whereas Old English ridan had 13, and Modern German reiten has 16.

In addition to the simplicity of inflections, English has two other basic characteristics: flexibility of function and openness of vocabulary.

Flexibility of function has grown over the last five centuries as a consequence of the loss of inflec-

tions. Words formerly distinguished as nouns or verbs by differences in their forms are now often used as both nouns and verbs. One can speak, for example, of planning a table or tabling a plan, booking a place or placing a book, lifting a thumb or thumbing a lift. In the other Indo-European languages, apart from rare exceptions in Scandinavian languages, nouns and verbs are never identical because of the necessity of separate noun and verb endings. In English, forms for traditional pronouns, adjectives, and adverbs can also function as nouns; adjectives and adverbs as verbs; and nouns, pronouns, and adverbs as adjectives. One speaks in English of the Frankfurt Book Fair, but in German one must add the suffix -er to the place-name and put attributive and noun together as a compound, Frankfurter Buchmesse. In French one has no choice but to construct a phrase involving the use of two prepositions: Foire du Livre de Francfort. In English it is now possible to employ a plural noun as adjunct (modifier), as in wages board and sports editor; or even a conjunctive group, as in prices and incomes policy and parks and gardens committee. Any word class may alter its function in this way: the ins and outs (prepositions becoming nouns), no buts (conjunction becoming noun).

Openness of vocabulary implies both free admission of words from other languages and the ready creation of compounds and derivatives. English adopts (without change) or adapts (with slight change) any word really needed to name some new object or to denote some new process. Words from more than 350 languages have entered English in this way. Like French, Spanish, and Russian, English frequently forms scientific terms from Classical Greek word elements. Although a Germanic language in its sounds and grammar, the bulk of English vocabulary is in fact Romance or Classical in origin.

English possesses a system of orthography that does not always accurately reflect the pronunciation of words; see below Orthography.

Indo-European Family of Language

Indo-European languages, family of languages spoken in most of Europe and areas of European settlement and in much of Southwest and South Asia. The term Indo-Hittite is used by scholars who believe that Hittite and the other Anatolian languages are not just one branch of Indo-European but rather a branch coordinate with all the rest put together; thus, Indo-Hittite has been used for a family consisting of Indo-European proper plus Anatolian. As long as this view is neither definitively proved nor disproved, it is convenient to keep the traditional use of the term Indo-European.

The well-attested languages of the Indo-European family fall fairly neatly into the 10 main branches listed below; these are arranged according to the age of their oldest sizable texts.

Anatolian

Now extinct, Anatolian languages were spoken during the 1st and 2nd millennia BCE in what is presently Asian Turkey and northern Syria. By far the best-known Anatolian language is Hittite, the official language of the Hittite empire, which flourished in the 2nd millennium. Very few Hittite texts were known before 1906, and their interpretation as Indo-European was not generally accepted until after 1915; the integration of Hittite data into Indo-European comparative grammar was, therefore, one of the principal developments of Indo-European studies in the 20th century. The oldest Hittite texts date from the 17th century BCE, the latest from approximately 1200 BCE.

Indo-Iranian

Indo-Iranian comprises two main subbranches, Indo-Aryan (Indic) and Iranian. Indo-Aryan languages have been spoken in what is now northern and central India and Pakistan since before 1000 BCE. Aside from a very poorly known dialect spoken in or near northern Iraq during the 2nd millennium BCE, the oldest record of an Indo-Aryan language is the Vedic Sanskrit of the Rigveda, the oldest of the