

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

PAMPHLET CONTAINING THE

QUESTION PAPERS

OF THE

Open Competition

HELD IN

JUNE, 1953

FOR APPOINTMENT AS

Male Assistant Preventive Officer

IN THE

Waterguard Service of the Customs and Excise
Department



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English. Paper 1

Time allowed, 1 hour

Write on ONE of the following subjects, and give its number on your answer form.

1. What do you consider to be the most important invention of all time ?
 2. Discuss the picture of American life which might be formed by an uncritical filmgoer.
 3. What ought to be the rights and the responsibilities of a young man of your age ? Ought those of a young woman to be different ?
 4. Why is it that members of our family are often more irritating to us than strangers ?
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English. Paper 2

Time allowed, 1 1/4 hours

Read the following passage, which is taken from "With Wingate in Burma" by David Halley (William Hodge & Co., 1944), and then answer the questions below.

We reached the Shweli River shortly after nightfall, and received orders to have a meal and rest for a couple of hours, preparatory to making the crossing at moonrise.

The Shweli River is, at this point, about 180 yards across. The banks are soft sand, gently sloping. The first fifty yards of water from the southern bank (on which, of course, we were) are very deep, and the current is fast, flowing at a good four knots. Then comes a sandbank, several feet clear of the water, and beyond that the remaining hundred yards or so is only waist deep, and quite fordable.

Before the crossing began, there were one or two preliminary jobs to be done. First, the deep part of the river must be swum, with pegs and a rope, in order to make an endless pulley-rope on which our rubber dinghies could be operated. We had only four of these with us, but that number should be easily sufficient—though the crossing would be fairly slow, each dinghy carrying only six men.

As always when volunteers were wanted, the difficulty was, not to get sufficient, but to choose the number you wanted without giving too much offence to those you refused. However, those chosen stripped to the skin, and succeeded in safely ferrying the rope and the stakes out to the sandbar, which was as far as it would be necessary for us to use the dinghies. These men were some of our strongest swimmers, and it was quite clear from the comparatively heavy weather they made of the trip that the ordinary man, laden with rifle and pack, would not have had the slightest hope of getting over. Without our rubber dinghies we should have been, quite literally, sunk.

The rope was duly passed on pulleys round the stakes, the dinghies were attached by smaller ropes and a running noose to the parent rope, and the ropeway was ready.

To Captain Williams was given the task of taking his platoon across first. At moonrise the first twelve men, the Captain included, took their places in the dinghies, and the crossing began. At first all went well. They pulled themselves across hand over hand, and as they went over, the empty dinghies on the other reach of the ropeway came back, received their complement of men, and were in turn handed across. The only pauses were occasioned as each dinghy reached a spot where there was a large knot in the rope. Over this the slip-knot of the tie-ropes had to be lifted and eased every time, an annoying but unavoidable delay.

About thirty-five men had made the sandbank in safety, and there appeared to be no reason why the rest of us should not follow them in accordance with schedule, when one of the dinghies, manned by a sergeant and five privates, reached the point where was the aforementioned knot. As usual, the slip-knot refused to pass over it. This particular sergeant evidently considered he knew a thing or two more than those who had gone before. Why waste time fiddling about when there was a much more direct method available for dealing with this obtrusive knot. He raised his jungle-knife, and before anyone could stop him had struck the knot off the rope with one fell sweep.

Into the water fell the rope. Downstream at a hearty four knots disappeared one sergeant and eleven other ranks and, what was at this moment more important, our only four rubber dinghies, worth to us at this juncture considerably more than their weight in any precious metal you care to mention.

For a minute or two there was a stupefied silence. It was the sort of disaster which leaves one utterly speechless. Then the dams broke, and it was well for that sergeant, poor fellow, that he was at that moment being carried away to an extremely uncertain fate on the inhospitable waters of the river, rather than with his mates. The flood of fury was soon over. What cannot be cured must be endured. Our boats were gone, and there was an end of that. Major Scott gave Captain Williams, gibbering with fury on the sandbank, instructions to treat the men he had with him as a separate command and be on his way. We shouted good wishes across the stream, and they went. And that was the last we saw of them.

We now turned to consideration of our own problem. Full daylight was now here. It was quite impossible to cross without craft of some kind. The country behind us and around us was more than likely by now swarming with Japs, so that visits to villages with the object of borrowing dugouts must be fraught with considerable possibilities of danger. Yet it was certain that this was no healthy place for us to be, and we must get out of it as soon as possible. The river must be crossed. So Major Scott decided to build rafts. Bamboo and other timber was there in plenty for the chopping down ; each man was still wearing his coil of rope, and also had at his disposal yards and yards of string collected from the parachutes, and treasured against just such an emergency as this. As another string to his bow, the Major also wirelessly to headquarters, asking them to send rubber dinghies to our rescue. But we were not very sanguine about the success of this appeal. H.Q. probably had their own problems to deal with.

We retired four or five hundred yards from the river bank into the jungle, put out sentries, and set to building our rafts, each small party getting together to make their own to their own specifications.

All day long the jungle resounded to the sound of jungle-knives. The noise we made must have been audible miles away. We were working against time, and in any case, when working with Indian wood, quietness is the last thing one can hope to achieve. While we worked we waited for the arrival of a party from H.Q. bearing succour ; and equally, if subconsciously, we waited for the arrival of the Japs.

But neither came. The day wore on to evening, and with the arrival of darkness we moved up to the river bank again, taking our rafts with us.

These were of all shapes and of all sizes. But they all closely resembled each other, we found, in one important particular.

As soon as they were put into the water, they sank.

QUESTION 1

Write a summary of the above passage, which contains about 1,000 words. Your summary should give the substance of the narrative clearly and accurately, and should not exceed 250 words in length ; a longer summary will lose marks.

QUESTION 2

Explain clearly and briefly the meaning of each of the five underlined words and phrases, as it is used in the passage.

QUESTION 3

Re-write each of the following sentences in correct English. (Do not make any unnecessary alterations) :—

- (i) The reason he gave for his absence was because his wife had been ill.
- (ii) If I felt like him I would resign.
- (iii) The firm could neither please its customers or its employees.
- (iv) The car missed the pillar-box by inches, thus narrowly avoiding a serious accident.
- (v) Due to the heavy holiday traffic it will be necessary to leave a clear passage between each of the sheds.

Arithmetic

Time allowed, $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours

You will lose marks if your working is not clear.

You are not restricted to arithmetical methods.

Various data are given on the cover of the answer book.

1. The distance between two towns, measured on a map is $7\cdot32$ in. If the Representative Fraction of the map (ratio of map distance to corresponding ground distance) is $1 : 500,000$, what is the distance between the towns in miles, correct to one decimal place ?
What is the Representative Fraction of another map on which the distance between the same towns is $14\cdot44$ inches ? Express your answer in the form $1 : n$, giving the number n correct to four significant figures.
2. A rectangular plate 50 cm. long, 8 cm. wide, and 1 cm. thick is marked out in squares by lines drawn 2 cm. apart parallel to the sides of the plate. Square holes of side 1 cm. are now punched in the plate; the centres of the holes are at the corners of the marked out squares, and the sides of the holes are parallel to the sides of the plate. How many holes are there in the grating so formed ?
What weight of nickel is required to cover the grating *all over* with a deposit weighing $0\cdot012$ gm. per sq. cm. ?
3. A fruit farmer bought 620 young apple trees at $12s\ 6d$ each to start a new orchard. In the first season there was an average yield of 15 lb. a tree, and the crop sold at $4\frac{1}{2}d$ a lb. Expenses were as follows :—
Rent, £30 per annum.
Wages, £120 per annum.
Spraying, £60.
Gathering and packing, $6d$ per 75 lb.
Find by how much the farmer was out of pocket at the end of the season.
The yield in the next season was 80 per cent greater, the selling price was $5d$ a lb., and expenses were at the same rate as in the first season. Calculate (i) the profit or loss made *on this season*, and (ii) by how much the farmer was out of pocket on the whole venture at the end of the second season. Give your answers to the nearest penny.

4. In a harbour the low water and high water levels are 4 ft. 6 in. and 15 ft. 3 in. respectively. What is the mean depth of water in the harbour ?

On a certain day the times of high water are 8.13 a.m. and 8.31 p.m. Find (i) the time of low water (assumed to be half-way between the times of high water), and (ii) the times of mean depth (assumed to be half-way between the times of high water and the time of low water).

When three-quarters of the interval between the time of low water and the time of high water has elapsed, the water level has risen seventeen-twentieths of the way between low water level and high water level. At what time in the afternoon does this occur, and what is the water level to the nearest half-inch ?

General Paper I

Time allowed, 1 ½ hours

*Answer any THREE questions. Your answers should be concise and to the point.
All the questions carry equal marks.*

1. What reasons can you suggest for the fact that it is rare in this country for women to receive the same pay as men for the same work ; and what arguments can be advanced (i) in favour of and (ii) against the introduction of "equal pay" ?
2. If it is the duty of the State to see that children receive the type of education most suited to their abilities, should boarding schools be under State control ?
3. To what extent, and for what reasons, has the international situation improved during the last few months ?
4. Draw a rough sketch map of Africa to show the position of North and South Rhodesia, and Nyasaland, and explain fully why these places have been in the news recently.
5. On both sides of the Atlantic it is often said that between the U.S.A. and Western Europe there should be "Trade not Aid". What facts help to account for this slogan ?
6. In what ways and for what reasons does the Government seek to increase agricultural production in Great Britain ?
7. Explain the meaning of any *five* of the following terms or phrases often used in accounts of proceedings in Parliament :—
Black Rod, the Woolsack, the Second Reading, the Committee Stage, to "Catch the Speaker's eye", an Order Paper, a Division, the Opposition Whip, the "House was counted out".
8. Which living composer has, in your opinion, contributed most to Great Britain's musical reputation today ? Indicate the reasons for your choice, and give some account of his work.
9. What characteristics make a novel especially suitable for adaptation as (i) a film or (ii) a radio play or serial ?
Illustrate your answer by referring in some detail to any *two* such novels.
10. For what purpose or purposes are the following used :—
a thermostat, a sextant, a barograph, a gyrocompass, a blow lamp ?
Describe the construction of any *one* of them, and explain the principle on which it works.

General Paper 2

Time allowed, 1 hour

Answer question 1 and ONE other question. Questions 2 and 3 carry equal marks.

1. Read the following passages carefully and then give brief answers to the questions about them. Your answers must be based solely on the information contained in the passages. Give reasons for your answers in every case.

(a) Nobody can deny that the impression of a storm at sea, for example, or a boxer's fist moving towards the audience, or an aircraft crashing, is incomparably more vivid and powerful in three dimensions than in the old flat films. It follows therefore that any film that has a sincere and powerful message, and is not mere superficial comedy of family relationships, will in future have to use three dimensions. This is confirmed by the fact that the great metropolitan cinemas are already re-equipping, leaving flat films for the suburbs and small towns.

- (i) Do the sentences beginning "It follows" and "This is confirmed by" actually follow from and confirm what has been said in the previous sentence?
- (ii) Assuming that the writer believed that they follow and confirm, what can you deduce about his tastes and opinions on subjects other than the use of three dimensions in films?

(b) It can be proved by the following argument that the school meals service is being used to demoralise the nation. It is easy to provide vegetarian meals, but this is not done, and the children of 100,000 vegetarians are incidentally being prevented from enjoying the full benefit of our educational system. The fact that British Railways and all the great hospitals provide vegetarian meals without extra charge shows that it can only be by deliberate intention that the school meals service, which is heavily subsidised, does not do so.

- (i) What is the main flaw in this argument?
- (ii) What is the "demoralisation" to which the writer refers in the first sentence?
- (iii) Why does the writer mention the subsidy on school meals?

(c) Television will make an important contribution to the health and stability of our society. It strengthens family ties by keeping children at home, and the outside broadcasts give them a wider outlook—the only secure basis for family life—by taking them outside their own narrow circle. Because there is only one programme, dissension within the family is avoided, and even when we also have commercial television, with its repellent advertising slogans, we can rely on the British public's sober taste and dislike of anything offensive to established opinion to mitigate its worst effects, and ensure that there will be no lessening of family solidarity.

- (i) What does the writer mean by a healthy and stable society?
- (ii) Accepting his own standards, do you think that he proves his point?

2. The following statements were made in the course of a discussion on the desirability of setting up industries in country districts. Read them carefully and then

- (i) say in what respects the speakers agree and disagree,
- (ii) comment on any points in the arguments put forward by each speaker which seem to you particularly strong or particularly weak, giving reasons for your opinions,
- (iii) state what you consider to be the point of view on which each passage is based, and the standpoint from which each speaker is examining the problem.

A. For obvious reasons it is desirable that industry in this country should be more widely dispersed than at present, and much recent investigation would seem to show that there is little real disadvantage in establishing industries in country towns.

Labour in these areas is adaptable, and after training, efficient. Country people unaccustomed to working in factories sometimes find the factory discipline irksome at first, but against this must be set their old-fashioned standards of obedience to authority, their conscientiousness, and pride in their work. They have, moreover, no tradition of militant trade union organisation.

Transport is, of course, an important consideration, especially as it is those industries which depend on raw materials from abroad, and on overseas markets for their finished products, which have the best chance of success. But few towns are far from a railway, and road transport can prove efficient and flexible.

Factory amenities are likely to be better in these areas than in crowded industrial towns, since more land is available, and factories can be pleasantly situated among trees and lawns. Labour turnover will thus be small, not only by virtue of the agreeable working conditions but also because alternative employment will not be readily available locally.

Experience also suggests that industrialists will not take advantage of these possibilities unless there is some special inducement for them to do so. Once they reach a certain size towns appear to attract new industry without special action, but the smaller towns will not be used as sites for industries unless the government intervenes and offers some special advantages or concessions to firms who might otherwise not be prepared to take what appears to them (probably quite unjustifiably) to be a serious risk.

B. There are some country towns which stand to benefit from a moderate degree of industrialisation. Towns which are below a certain size (a size which has not yet been determined exactly) are unlikely to achieve this without outside intervention. When towns have reached a certain size they seem to develop spontaneously, and indeed some restriction on their growth may be desirable, but below this they do not usually develop without artificial stimulation.

It is only when towns are successfully discharging their functions as centres devoted to meeting the needs of the surrounding agricultural area that they can hope to attract small industries which can find an outlet for their goods in the region served. When such towns are successfully discharging this function, suitable industrial development should be encouraged to provide openings for employment for people from the countryside.

There are, however, dangers which must be watched. It is very necessary that the interests of such workers should be carefully safeguarded. Country people are often reluctant to assert themselves, they are traditionally obedient to authority, and as there will be little alternative employment for dissatisfied workers, trade union organisation must be encouraged in order to ensure just conditions of work and a satisfactory relationship between management and workers.

The amenities of the town and countryside must be preserved. The new factories must be confined to the minimum space needed for efficient working so that agricultural land is not sacrificed unnecessarily. Factory buildings should, as far as possible, be screened by trees and shrubs.

Transport does not, as is often wrongly supposed, present a serious difficulty. Light industry is not so dependent on the facilities which only the railways can offer, and vans and lorries will provide a more adequate and convenient form of transport.

3. A firm owning a large chain of general stores in both town and country areas recently made an analysis of the trade at each of its branches. The following table shows the amount of trade in certain selected commodities at two of its branches of approximately equal size, expressed as a percentage of the "normal"; the normal (100) being the average for a branch in the chain as a whole.

Study the table carefully, and then answer the questions below.

	Branch A	Branch B
	Amount of trade expressed (as a percentage of the "normal")	
Rationed goods	90	105
Bread : wrapped	30	170
unwrapped	5	25
Cakes	25	105
Toilet soap	60	140
Kitchen soap	135	50
Cleaning materials	95	105
Breakfast cereals	90	125
Tinned goods : fruit and vegetables	35	170
meat and fish	85	125
soups	15	170
"luxury" foods	10	130
Sauces, pickles, etc.	85	120
Sweets and chocolate	30	130
Dog and cat foods	70	180
Feeding stuff for poultry	190	nil
Electric light bulbs	45	10
Gas mantles and fittings	nil	20
Candles	210	70
Paraffin oil	480	35
Garden seeds : flowers	40	35
vegetables	180	10
Garden fertilisers and sundries	65	15
Garden tools	120	10
Imported fruit	60	140
Fresh fruit	20	180
Fresh vegetables	35	155
Cut flowers	10	170

- (i) Using only the information provided by the table write as full a description as possible of the two areas in which the shops are situated and the kind of people who live there.
- (ii) Does the table provide a reliable guide about the types of food eaten by the people in the two districts? Give reasons for your answer.

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