

25th June 2014 - English Language Test 2014 for Estate Draughtman Post

Test your comprehension:

A. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

For Crying Out Loud

By Joan Schuman

Birds, insects, and fish don't do it. But adults as well as children do it at times. And yet there are some people who think it shouldn't be done at all. What is it? Crying!

Crying is the only language newborn babies have to express their emotions, or feelings. If they're upset or angry about something, babies can only communicate this to their parents by crying. But as children grow up, they are frequently told, "Don't cry. You're too old to cry. Only babies cry!"

The fear of being teased or embarrassed keeps many people from crying. They think other persons will say they are weak. They have been taught from an early age that big people don't cry. And especially not in public!

Tears are certainly not signs of weakness in people. Crying in both children and adults can be caused by many kinds of feelings. Grief, anger, joy, love, self-pity, and triumph are some of the emotions that can bring tears to one's eyes. We know that when we're hurt or when someone we love dies, we may cry. And when we're overjoyed, or proud, we may cry too.

Some famous people have been seen crying in public. Athletes sometimes have tears in their eyes after an important sports event. And some astronauts have at times been overcome by their emotions. A test pilot once bawled like a baby after a flight. While he was testing a new plane, a lot of stress, or tension build up inside him. When he had landed safely and knew the flight was success, he began to 'let loose' and cry.

When people let loose, they unlock some of the feelings they have been keeping inside them for a while. Keeping feeling inside can cause tension to build up. By crying, a person releases some of this tension and becomes more relaxed.

Many doctors have decided that crying is a healthy thing to do. They have learned that some physical problems can be caused by feelings of stress. People who suffer with aches and pains that have no known physical cause are often people who haven't let loose. Some doctors believe that more men than women have heart attacks and other severe disorders because men have been taught to keep their emotions inside.

Tears that are triggered by emotions or stress are called psychogenic tears. And scientists tell us that human beings are the only creatures who shed this kind of tears. Other animals, such as monkeys, apes,

dogs, and cats, are able to experience fear and pain. But they don't shed tears because of these feelings. At least no one has reported seeing such animals cry because of emotional stress.

There are, however, two kinds of tears that humans share with some other animals. One kind is called continuous tears. There are the tears that are in our eyes most of the time. They help to keep the surfaced of the eyes lubricated, or moist.

Reflex tear is the name given to the other kind of tears. Have your eyes ever watered while you were walking on a cold, windy day? Those were reflex tears in your eyes. These tears also help to wash away bothersome matters such as dust or smoke that might get into your eyes.

Besides expressing emotions, keeping the eyes lubricated, and washing away dust or smoke, tears do one more important thing. They contain a special chemical substance that can kill certain bacteria that might get one's eyes. This substance is called *lysozme*. So protection from disease can be added to the list of useful services that tears perform.

What is it that actually brings tears to our eyes? What process takes place in our bodies that causes us to cry? Dr. Stella Botelho is a scientist who has done research on tears and crying. She maintains that our tears may be "turned on" in number of ways.

There are certain sensitive nerve cells in the eye and eyelids that are called sensor cells. These cells can detect particles of dust or other foreign matter that have entered our eyes. When this happens, sensor cells signal the brain. And the brain then signals the tear gland to "turn on" reflex tears.

In the same way, sensor cells respond when the surface of the eyes becomes too dry. These cells signal the brain, and the brain causes the tear gland to supply more tears to the eyes.

Now what about psychogenic tears? What causes them to appear in our eyes during emotional or stressful times? Dr. Botelho and her helpers are certain that a part of the brain called the hypothalamus is involved. That's the part of the brain that is associated with emotional feelings. It apparently sends signals to the tear gland by way of a particular set of nerves called the parasympathetic nervous system. Dr. Botelho's research has enlarged our understanding of the mechanics of crying.

Additional research remains to be done on tears and crying. But one thing we now know for certain. All crying is normal. And that includes psychogenic crying is normal. And that includes psychogenic crying. In fact, it is beneficial to us. So the next time your mind and your body a great service. And you'll probably discover something you may not have realized. Crying can be a very cheap medicine.

On the basis of your understanding of above fact, respond to the following questions:

A. Copy the phrase that completes each sentence best. 3 marks

1. According to the story, crying
 - a. Can be good for a person

- b. Is a sign of weakness
 - c. Both a and b
2. Many people won't cry because they
- a. Have not feelings
 - b. Are afraid of being teased
 - c. Neither a nor b
3. Crying can be caused by
- a. Grief, anger, and joy
 - b. Love, self-pity and triumph
 - c. Both a and b

B. Write **T** if the statement is true according to the story. Write **F** if the statement is false. 5 marks

- 1. Crying is the only language of newborn babies.
- 2. Crying is not a good way to release tension.
- 3. Men are often taught to keep their emotions inside.
- 4. Animals sometimes cry because of emotional stress.
- 5. The three kinds of tears are psychogenic, continuous, and reflex.

C. Answer the following questions appropriately in short paragraph. (20 marks)

- 1. List four benefits of tears.
- 2. Is your attitude toward crying changed after reading the above fact? If yes, how and if no why not?
- 3. What are the various reasons which make children and adult cry?
- 4. Why do doctors rule out that crying is a healthy thing to do?

D. You can often tell the meaning of a word by reading the word by reading the words around it. Find the word that fits the given meaning. Write the word. 2 marks

- 1. Cried loudly

2. Made greater

B. Writing section

30 marks

A. Keeping the following questions in mind, write a short paragraph each containing 60 words.

10 marks

1. What's going on in your life at the moment? Are you busy? How are you spending your time?
2. Think of a festival or celebration in your country. When does it happen? What do people do?

B. Pretend your friend Rinchen lives in Australia. Write a letter to him about your life, plans and dreams in future.

10 marks

Best of luck