

**B.Sc. (Hons.) IN OPTOMETRY AND
OPHTHALMIC TECHNIQUES (BSCHOT)**

Term-End Examination

June, 2019

00654

BOS-001 : COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH

Time : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 70

Note : Answer all questions.

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow (in your own words) :

New Delhi : It seems the common house sparrow has disappeared from the city. But ornithologists maintain that while sparrow numbers are dwindling, the bird has not disappeared entirely from the city and only shifted to more inhabitable parts. Conservationists are now trying to understand why some areas have managed to hold back sparrows and what has driven them away from others. A recent countrywide survey initiative called Citizen Sparrow is now roping in residents who want to report about their experience with sparrows. So far this unique sparrow survey organized by the Bombay National History Society (BNHS) and Ministry of Environment and

Forests (MOEF) has received close to 410 responses from Delhi. Of these, 86 have claimed they have not seen any sparrows at all. But the majority seems to have sighted the bird, which gives new hope to conservationists.

I have seen lots of sparrows in Ghaziabad, in Sheikh Sarai where I live but hardly any in say the Greater Kailash area. What is different in GK and other parts is still a mystery. But certain factors drawing the birds have become clearer, such as they nest more around old buildings, houses or may be in houses where there are old electricity meters, kitchen gardens, shrubs, says co-investigator, BNHS Citizen Sparrow Project, Koustubh Sharma. Another conservationist and birder, Ananda Banerjee says he has seen lots of sparrows in parts of Lutyens Delhi, Mayur Vihar, parts of old Delhi and parts of Noida. He cites urban landscape to be the reason behind the decline in the sparrow population.

“Urban architecture, tall glass buildings that lack nesting spaces for the sparrow, pesticides used in farming that kill the worms that sparrows feed on are some of the reasons. Even our markets have changed. There are not many open markets where they can get grains. But you can see lots of sparrows in Khari Baoli open grain market,” he says. But there is no doubt among conservationists that sparrows are

fast disappearing. Declining number of sparrows and their complete absence from some parts of the city isn't just about missing the tiny bird. It is an indicator of something much graver. Ecologist and forestry expert, Neeraj Khera, who has been studying the sparrow population in Delhi, feels that sparrows are an important indicator species. "There is always a threshold level. Big changes like an epidemic outbreak for instance will not happen overnight, but when we cross the buffer line then changes take place in our ecosystem. Sparrows as an indicator species are very sensitive to change. So it's obvious that a lot must have changed in our ecology to have driven them away," says Khera.

Some of the important factors responsible are air and water pollution, loss of native herbs and shrubs. Another trend being noticed by experts is the increase of rock pigeons in most parts of Delhi. They seem to have almost replaced the sparrows that used to nest in the same places. "Rock pigeons have almost grown out of proportion and taken up the space of sparrows. They can be seen nesting in houses and other buildings. Studies have shown that it is not a welcome change as the excreta of rock pigeon carries a lot of bacterial pathogens, said Khera. She says that sparrow population is moderate in places where there are old government buildings, water bodies or green spaces. Saving the sparrow,

she says is not a lost cause yet. It is the right time to intervene and check further decline. It will take 'Citizen Sparrow' survey a couple of more months to come up with the preliminary analysis of the results from their survey and may offer a stronger argument on why the sparrows are disappearing from the city.

- (a) What is Citizen Sparrow and who initiated it? 2
- (b) What has increased the hope of conservationists? 2
- (c) According to the survey, which type of house is the sparrow's first choice for nesting? 2
- (d) How is the use of pesticides in farming responsible for the decrease in sparrow population? 2
- (e) What did the ecologist Neeraj Khera observe? 2
2. (a) Find out words from the passage that mean the same as the following : $5 \times 1 = 5$
- (i) Becoming less or smaller
 - (ii) Secret/observe/impossible to understand
 - (iii) Picture of inland scenery
 - (iv) Suitable to live in
 - (v) A widespread occurrence of an infectious disease in a community at a particular time

(b) Find the opposites of the following words from the passage : 5×1=5

(i) Disappeared (A) Ambiguous

(ii) Declined (B) Rising

(iii) Threshold (C) Insensitive

(iv) Sensitive (D) Conclusion

(v) Obvious (E) Appeared

3. Write an essay in about 200 – 250 words on any *one* of the following : 15

(a) Our Environment

(b) One Day Cricket Match

(c) Rising Prices

(d) Future of English in India

(e) Corruption in Our Country

4. (a) Convert the following sentences into the passive voice : 5×1=5

(i) The people cheered the king.

(ii) Ashok has written this letter.

(iii) The teacher will forgive him.

(iv) They crowned her queen.

(v) Why did your father turn down such an honourable post ?

(b) Fill in the blanks with the correct article
(a/an/the) : 5×1=5

- (i) Gold is _____ precious metal.
- (ii) _____ reindeer is a native of Norway.
- (iii) John is _____ young boy.
- (iv) He died _____ year ago.
- (v) London is _____ very costly place to live in.

5. Write a letter to the manager of a TV showroom complaining about the non-functioning of the TV set you purchased recently. 15
6. Summarize the passage given below to about 120 words and give it a suitable title. 8+2=10

Bombay is often regarded as India's Capital of Hope. Often wondering why this is so, I made a fruitful trip down to the busy city, solving most of my queries. Bombay consists of seven islands, joined by land reclamation. Many Indians, especially those from the rural areas, regard Bombay as their paradise, since they can find work relatively easily here, as compared to their hometowns, being the pillar for revenue collection (Bombay's economic growth has far outperformed

that of other cities). In fact, its per capita (head) production of goods and services is about three times greater than that of Delhi — India's second most prosperous city. Despite the economic boom, Bombay presented an astonishing image of deterioration when I first stepped into the city.

The ostentatiously dignified imperial buildings, erected by the British, are so overly populated that they look as if they might topple over any minute. There are the 1950s kind of black and yellow taxis, which appeared brutally thrashed, lining up like ants trails, clotting up the small avenues. Amidst the dins of traffic jams, stood the oppressed-looking buildings of Benetton outlets, foreign car dealerships, croissant-serving outlets and so on. Though unemployment is not a significant problem in Bombay, housing is. A visit to Dharavi, a slum area in Bombay will help clarify our imagination. The Bombayites' so called "houses" are actually movable shacks, built from unwanted bits of tarpaulin, tin and cardboard. There are so many of them that a maze of alleys emerged, passable only when I walked sideways like a crab between them. Curious about the living conditions, I wondered around the maze, meeting groups of

scantly clad kids and hungry, stray dogs. Popping my inquisitive head into one of the small huts, I was totally amazed by their living conditions. Estimating about twelve or more Bombayites living in each hut, these two-storey houses are usually partitioned by rough platforms with ceilings no higher than five feet from the ground. Furthermore, these shacks look absolutely bare — no furniture and I deduced that the inhabitants eat and sleep on the ground.

In spite of the poor living conditions, many Indians still hope to migrate to Bombay. Interviewing a few of the newcomers, a majority of them said that they came to Bombay to find jobs. There are some who regard Bombay as buoyant floats, saving them from natural disasters and tyrannies in their homelands.
