

**MAHARASHTRA STATE COUNCIL OF EXAMINATION, PUNE**

Government Commercial Certificate Examination

**2 JULY, 2018**

[Time : 11-30]

(Total Marks for Sections I and II : 100)

**ENGLISH TYPEWRITING**

(30 Words Per Minute)

**SECTION - II**

[Time Allowed : 7 Minutes]

**Note :** Do not type the 'SPEED PASSAGE' again.

Type the following speed passage in SEVEN MINUTES. Use DOUBLE or ONE and HALF LINE SPACING and a Margin of FIFTEEN SPACES on the left.

---

**[Marks : 40]**

We find little that is romantic in the post office today; but there was a time, over a hundred years ago, when the carrying of the mails was a hazardous venture, and the mail-runner, or hirkara as he was called, had to be armed with as word or spear. That was before the railways and the air services made the delivery of the mail a routine affair.

Though the first public postal service was introduced in India in 1774, the Kings and Emperors of India had always maintained their, own personal postal system. Their rule was effective partly due to their excellent means of communication, by which despatches were passed on from hand to hand either by runner or horseman. When Ibn Batuta was travelling in India in the middle of the fourteenth century he found an organised system of couriers established throughout the country.

“There is a foot-courier at a distance of every mile,” wrote Ibn Batuta, “at every three miles there is an inhabited village, and outside it three sentry boxes where the couriers sit prepared for motion with their loins girded. In the hands of each is a whip about two cubits long, and upon the head of this are small bells.”