

**MAHARASHTRA STATE COUNCIL OF EXAMINATION, PUNE**

Government Commercial Certificate Examination

**6 JULY, 2018**

[Time : 09-00]

(Total Marks for Sections I and II : 100)

**ENGLISH TYPEWRITING**

(50 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.

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**[Marks : 40]**

Desert Vegetation : These climatic conditions are reflected in the landscape by a characteristic type of vegetation cover. Contrary to popular impression, very few parts of the deserts are entirely barren. Such bare places do occur, but they are rare. Even the grate sandy deserts have a scattering of drought-resistant shrubs in the hollows between the dunes, and where water seepage brings moisture near the surface the result is a profusion of plants. The typical desert scene includes a cover of low shrubs and grasses, which at least after a rain, gives the landscape a distinctly greenish tinge.

The vegetation that can exist under these extreme conditions of drought and high evaporation must be especially adapted to them. This accomplished in various ways. The annuals evade the drought by lying dormant during the long dry period, springing into blom and rapidly completing the life cycle during the rare intervals when water is available. Then there are the

perennials which endure the drought, quickly sending forth leaves and stems during the periods of rain, but remaining brown and apparently dead as long as no moisture reaches them. There are also the succulent plants, such as the cacti, these resist the drought by storing water inside their roots and stems, protecting themselves from evaporation by thick bark, by narrow hairy, or waxy leaves, or by a complete absence of leaves. Such plants are protected also from the attacks of thirsty animals by an armament of thorns.

Desert plants usually grow some distance apart and have a remarkable development of the root system-both laterally to catch the infrequent rains.