
Reading

Reading comprehension or reading the passage is the ability of making meaning from text. The main objective to read the passages is to gain an overall understanding of what is described in the text. In Class X examination reading section consist of 20 Marks.

Types of Passages

In the examination, two types of passages have been included

- (i) **Factual Passage** (300–350 words) A factual passage is composed of information in a direct manner about a particular subject. These passages focus completely on details or facts. It may include instructions, a report or a description. It helps the reader to develop a complete idea of a specific person, place, object or being.
- (ii) **Discursive Passage** (350–400 words) A discursive passage may include the opinion of a person which are generally argumentative, persuasive and interpretative. It allows students to arrive at a conclusion through reasoning and understanding rather than intuition. It presents a balanced and objective approach towards the subject being discussed.

Types of Questions

In the examination, the students are tested on a variety of questions that test their inferential and understanding skills.

In Factual Passage

- **8 Objective Type Questions** (including Multiple Choice Questions) are asked carrying 1 mark each.

In Discursive Passage

- **4 Short Answer Type Questions** are asked carrying 2 marks each.
- **4 Objective Type Questions** (including Multiple Choice Questions) to test vocabulary are asked carrying 1 mark each.

Vocabulary based questions may include word formation, meanings, synonyms and antonyms.

Steps to Attempt Reading Comprehension

1. Read each and every line of the passage carefully. Reading the passage twice is always helpful, as it helps in better understanding and makes it easier for the students to find answers.
2. If the title of the passage is given, read it first, as it gives the central idea of the passage.
3. Underline the difficult words while reading the passage, as you might be tested on these words in the very short answer type questions.
4. Always give emphasis on the beginning and end of the passage. These parts often hold the most important information of the passage.
5. While answering, be sure that you've clearly understood the question. Answer must be relevant to the question.
6. Ensure that you answer the question according to the marks it carries.
7. Try to use your own language and frame the answer according to the question.
8. Make sure that you use the same tense in the answer in which the question has been asked.
9. Write the question number on each answer very carefully in the answer sheet to avoid mistakes.

How to Answer Vocabulary Based Questions

These questions test the student's knowledge of words and their meanings in the context that they are written in the passage, as well as the meaning of proverbs and idioms commonly used.

The types of questions asked are

- **Word Meaning Based** If you are not sure of the meaning of the word, you will have to guess it from the context in which it is used. Just find a word or a phrase from the options given that makes the same sense as before.
- **Synonym Based** Rewrite the sentence in which the word is used, inserting only one word from the options given so that the sentence makes the same sense as before.
- **Antonym Based** Rewrite the sentence in which the word is used, inserting only one word from the options given so that the sentence makes the opposite sense from before.
- **One Word Substitution Based** Rewrite the sentence in which the word is used, inserting only one word from the options given so that the sentence makes the same sense as before.

Solved Examples

Factual Passages

(8 Marks)

Passage 1

Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Philosophy of Education

Philosophy of Education is a label applied to the study of the purpose, process, nature and ideals of education. It can be considered a branch of both philosophy and education. Education can be defined as the teaching and learning of specific skills and the imparting of knowledge, judgement and wisdom and is something broader than the societal institution of education we often speak of.

Many educationalists consider it as a weak and woolly field, too far removed from the practical applications of the real world to be useful. But philosophers dating back to Plato and the Ancient Greeks have given the area much thought and emphasis, and there is a little doubt that their work has helped shape the practice of education over the millennia.

Plato is the earliest important educational thinker, and education is an essential element in 'The Republic'. In it, he advocates some rather extreme methods: removing children from their mothers' care and raising them as wards of the state, and differentiating children suitable to the various castes, the highest receiving the most education, so that they could act as guardians of the city and care for the less able. He believed that education should be holistic including facts, skills, physical discipline, music and art. Plato believed that talent and intelligence are not distributed genetically and thus is found in children born to all classes, although his proposed system of selective public education for an educated minority of the population does not really follow a democratic model.

Aristotle considered human nature, habit and reason to be equally important forces to be cultivated in education, the ultimate aim of which should be to produce good and virtuous citizens. He proposed that teachers lead their students systematically and that repetition be used as a key tool to develop good habits. He emphasised the balancing of the theoretical and practical aspects of subjects taught, among which he explicitly mentions reading, writing, mathematics, music, physical education, literature, history and a wide range of sciences, as well as play, which he also considered important.

Questions

1. The study of the purpose, process, nature and ideals of education is called (1)

(a) philosophy of knowledge	(b) philosophy of education
(c) philosophy	(d) child education
2. Education can be defined as (1)

(a) something far removed from reality	(b) imparting of knowledge and judgement
(c) a weak and woolly field	(d) talent
3. Who believes that education should be holistic? (1)

(a) Plato	(b) Aristotle	(c) Ancient Greeks	(d) Socrates
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4. Where is intelligence found as per Plato? (1)

(a) Selective public	(b) Children of all classes	(c) Virtuous citizens	(d) Teachers
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5. According to Aristotle, which forces are equally important in the field of education? (1)

(a) Talents and intelligence	(b) Nature, habit and reason
(c) Good habits and discipline	(d) Theory and practice
6. Which of the following are essential elements of education? (1)

(i) Reading	(ii) Literature	(iii) Physical education	(iv) Dance
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Codes

(a) i and ii	(b) ii and iii	(c) i, ii and iii	(d) All of these
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7. Plato proposed a system of for a minority educated population. (1)
8. Aristotle advocated some extreme methods to educate children. (True/False) (1)

Answers

- (b) The study of the purpose, process, nature and ideals of education is called philosophy of education
- (b) Education can be defined as imparting of knowledge, judgement and wisdom.
- (a) Plato believes that education should be holistic.
- (b) As per Plato intelligence is found in children of all classes.
- (b) According to Aristotle, nature, habit and reason are the forces which are equally important in the field of education.
- (c) Reading, literature and physical education are the essential elements of education.
- selective public education.
- This statement is false according to the passage.

Passage 2

Read the given passage given carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The History of Marbles

Nobody has the faintest idea when the first marbles rolled across the earth's surface, but small stones, deliberately chipped and rounded, have been unearthed at Stone Age excavations on three continents. Today, marbles from ancient Rome and Greece occupy places of honour in places like the British Museum and New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Shakespeare mentions 'Cherry Pit', a game of marbles; marbles appear in a Pieter Bruegel painting and are referred to by the Roman poet, Ovid.

Marbles are small, hard balls that are used in a variety of children's games and are so named after the 18th century practice of making them from marble chips. Marble games date back to antiquity and ancient games were played with sea- rounded pebbles, nuts and seeds of some fruits. The young Octavian (later the emperor Augustus) like other Roman children played games with nut marbles and engraved marbles have been dug up from the earthen mounds built by some early North American Red Indian tribes. Early settlers in the USA found the Red Indians playing marble games with what archaeologists now refer to as 'game stones'.

The object of marble games is to roll; throw, drop, or knuckle marbles against an opponent's marbles, often to knock them out of a prescribed area and so win them.

Year after year, nearly 200 million marbles are turned out by the mixing, shaping and rolling machines of marble making factories. The demand for marbles is constantly increasing. In addition to children's games, like knuckling, marbles are also used in numerous other games. Chinese Checkers, a perennially popular game, requires 60 marbles for each game, 10 each for six other different colours.

In the 20th century, marbles have been made of a variety of materials: baked clay, glass, steel, plastic etc. During World War II, engineers perfected the little glass balls to such a degree that they could be substituted for steel bearings. Tons of these glass balls go to the lithographers and engravers, to be used in smoothing the surface of copper printing plates. Special marbles are made for this purpose, to withstand the punishment of being rolled back and forth over the metal surfaces.

Questions

- When were the marbles first found?

(a) Stone Age	(b) Roman Empire (Augustan age)	(1)
(c) World War II	(d) Early 18th century	
- What is the correct order of information given below?

(i) Marbles are used in smoothing copper printing plates.	(1)
(ii) Marbles, in 18th century were made of marble chips.	
(iii) Chinese Checkers is a popular marble game.	
(iv) Marbles appeared in the works of Ovid.	

Codes

(a) ii, iii, iv and i	(b) i, iii, ii and iv	(c) iv, ii, iii and i	(d) i, ii, iii and iv
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- Chinese checkers requires

(a) 10 marbles	(b) 6 marbles	(c) 60 marbles	(d) 20 marbles	(1)
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Reading (Section A)

- Who used marbles for smoothing purposes?

(a) Artists	(b) Engineers	(c) Engravers	(d) Children	(1)
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- How does Shakespeare mention the marbles?

(a) As game of marbles	(b) As 'Cherry Pit'	(c) As a painting	(d) Both (a) and (b)	(1)
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- Which of the following things are used to make marbles?

(i) Glass	(ii) Plastic	(iii) Clay	(iv) Steel	(1)
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Codes

(a) i and ii	(b) ii and iv	(c) ii and iii	(d) All of these
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- played games with nut marbles.

(a) i and ii	(b) ii and iv	(c) ii and iii	(d) All of these	(1)
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- The first appearance of marble remains a mystery. (True/False)

				(1)
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Answers

- (a) Marbles were found in stone age.
- (c) is the correct order of information.
- (c) 60 marbles
- (c) Engravers used marbles for smoothing purposes.
- (d) The mentions of marbles made by Shakespeare is as a game of marbles called 'Cherry Pit'.
- (d) Glass, plastic, clay and steel are used to make marbles.
- Octavian
- This is the true statement, that the first appearance of marble remains a mystery.

Discursive Passages

(12 Marks)

Passage 1

Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Rote Learning

- The painstaking memorisation of mathematical tables, historical dates, capitals of countries and even poems leaves an indelible mark on every adult who has attended school. However, all educators deprecate this rote system learning by orally reciting and consigning lessons to memory as mindless and mechanical, which goes against critical thinking and creativity. But is this dichotomy between creativity and rote learning part of a lazy binary thinking?
- We often hear about people who can repeat or memorise the entire dictionary or telephone directory. Indians have a history of highly developed systems of memorisation, perfected through centuries of Vedic learning. From a typically Western perspective, the permanency of the written word has been pitted against the 'unconscious operation of memory' of oral cultures and held to be more reliable in cultural transmission. However, refuting this thesis, Fritz Stall, an Indian scholar observes that the oral tradition in India is remarkable, 'because it has led to scientific discoveries that are of enduring interest'. Of course, this mugging up can be aural (i.e. chanting aloud) or visual-mentally storing images in a visual map.
- The advantages of rote memorisation-like it expands areas of the mind to great possibilities are now becoming evident to the world. Various accounts from ancient India, including those from travellers point to the fool-proof system of oral memorisation and the capacity to absorb volumes of data. A parallel dimension of transmission of knowledge also existed in India, with a flexible mode of oral communication through which knowledge was disseminated. One instance is the narrative performative tradition of recitation, which extended basic story through interpolations, conscious extensions and embedding of sub-narratives. Many Indian myths, legends, epics and fables such as Jataka stories were spread through this process. While the story remains the same, the interpretation changes according to who says it, where it is said and how it is said.
- A related question pertains to cognition-how can we transmit principles using memorisation as a creative tool rather than as a mechanical process of repetition? Bhaskara's Lilavati, the seminal 12th century illustrates how memorisation and creativity go together. The fact that Bhaskara's methods still figure in Indian consciousness was recently brought home in a news report on the Ramanujan School of Mathematics in Patna, which trains youngsters from poor families to clear the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) entrance test.

Questions

1. Why are all educators against rote learning? (2)
2. How does Western perspectives understand rote learning? (2)
3. What is narrative performative? (2)
4. Why is Bhaskara relevant in the present? (2)
5. The synonym of 'abhor' as given in para 1 is (1)
(a) consigning (b) deprecate (c) mindless (d) against
6. The antonym of 'smooth' as given in para 2 is (1)
(a) refuting (b) mugging (c) pitted (d) aural
7. The antonym of 'rigid' as given in para 3 is (1)
8. The synonym of 'automatic' as given in para 4 is (1)

Answers

1. Although rote learning is a part of the Indian education system, it has been opposed by educators. For educators rote learning is a mindless and mechanical act that goes against critical thinking and creativity.
2. A typical Western perspective goes against rote learning. It pits the 'unconscious operation of memory' of oral cultures against the permanency of the written word and holds the latter more reliable for cultural transmission.
3. Narrative performance is an alternative parallel dimension of oral tradition in India. According to narrative performative tradition of recitation, the stories are extended through interpolations, conscious extensions and embedding of subnarratives.
4. Bhaskara illustrated how memorisation and creativity go together. In the present, his method is used by Ramanujan School of Mathematics in Patna where youngsters from poor families are trained for IIT entrance tests.
5. (b) deprecate
6. (c) pitted
7. flexible
8. mechanical

Passage 2

Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The Cup That Cheers

1. If you're addicted to coffee and doctors warn you to quit the habit, don't worry and keep relishing the beverage, because it's not that bad after all! In fact, according to a new study, the steaming cup of coffee even beat fruits and vegetables as the primary source of antioxidants. The study by the University of Scranton states that coffee is the number one source of antioxidants in American diet and both caffeinated and decaf versions appear to provide similar antioxidant levels.
2. "Americans get more of their antioxidants from coffee than any other dietary source. Nothing else comes close to it" said the study's lead researcher, Doctor Joe Vinson, adding that high antioxidant level in food and beverages don't necessarily translate into levels found in the body. Antioxidants in general have been linked to a number of potential health benefits, including protection against heart disease and cancer, but Vinson said that the benefits ultimately depend on how they are absorbed and utilised in the body.
3. The researchers analysed the antioxidant content of more than 100 different food items, including vegetables, fruits, nuts, spices, oils and common beverages. The data was compared to an existing US Department of Agriculture database on the contribution of each type of food item to the average estimated US per capita consumption.
4. The results were surprising. Coffee came out on the top, on the combined basis of both antioxidants per serving size and frequency of consumption. It outranked popular antioxidant sources like tea, milk, chocolate and cranberries.
5. Of all the foods and beverages studied, dates actually have the most antioxidants of all based solely on serving size, but since dates are not consumed at anywhere the level of coffee, the drink comes as the top source of antioxidants, Vinson said.
6. Besides keeping you alert and awake, coffee has been linked to an increasing number of potential health benefits, including protection against liver and colon cancer, type II diabetes and Parkinson's disease, according to some recently published studies.
7. The researchers, however advised that one should consume coffee in moderation, because it can make you jittery and cause stomach pains.

Questions

1. According to whom coffee not bad for health? (2)
2. How is coffee beneficial for health? (2)
3. List some of the health benefits of coffee. (2)
4. Are there any side effects of coffee? If yes, what? (2)
5. in para 1 means 'taking pleasure in'. (1)
6. The antonym of 'misuse' in para 2 is (1)
7. in para 4 means 'be better'. (1)
(a) Outranked (b) Popular (c) Top (d) Surprising
8. in para 7 is the opposite of 'calm'. (1)
(a) Moderation (b) Pains (c) Jittery (d) Consume

Answers

1. The University of Scranton in its study revealed that coffee is beneficial for one's health and is not bad for health. According to this study a steaming cup of coffee is more beneficial than fruits and vegetables.
2. Coffee produces antioxidants in higher quantities than both fruits and vegetables. Antioxidants then protects the human body against various deadly disease.
3. Coffee protects against heart disease, liver and colon cancer, type II diabetes and Parkinson's disease.
4. Yes, there can be certain side-effects of coffee if it is consumed at higher quantities. It can make a person jittery and can also cause stomach pains. Hence, one should consume coffee in moderation.
5. taking pleasure in.
6. misuse.
7. (a) be better.
8. (c) calm.

Exam Practice

Factual Passages

Read the given passages carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Passage 1

1. Caged behind thick glass, the most famous dancer in the world can easily be missed in the National Museum, Delhi. The Dancing Girl of Mohenjodaro is that rare artefact that even school children are familiar with. Our school textbooks also communicate the wealth of our 5000 year heritage of art. You have to be alert to her existence there, amid terracotta animals to rediscover this bronze image.
2. Most of us have seen her only in photographs or sketches, therefore the impact of actually holding her is magnified a million times over. One discovers that the dancing girl has no feet. She is small, a little over 10 cm tall—the length of a human palm but she surprises us with the power of great art the ability to communicate across centuries.
3. A series of bangles of shell or ivory or thin metal clothe her left upper arm all the way down to her fingers. A necklace with three pendants bunched together and a few bangles above the elbow and wrist on the right hand display an almost modern art.
4. She speaks of the undaunted, ever hopeful human spirit. She reminds us that it is important to visit museums in our country to experience the impact that a work of art leaves on our senses, to find among all the riches one particular vision of beauty that speaks to us alone.

CBSE 2020

Questions

1. The Dancing Girl belongs to (1)
(a) Mohenjodaro
(b) Greek culture
(c) Homo sapiens
(d) Tibet
2. In the museum she's kept among (1)
(a) dancing figures (b) bronze statues
(c) terracotta animals (d) books
3. Which information is not given in the passage? (1)
(a) The girl is caged behind glass.
(b) She is a rare artefact.
(c) School books communicate the wealth of our heritage.
(d) She cannot be rediscovered as she's bronze.

(8 Marks)

4. 'Great Art' has power because (1)
(a) it appeals to us despite a passage of time.
(b) it is small and can be understood.
(c) it is seen in pictures and sketches.
(d) it is magnified a million times.
5. The jewellery she wears (1)
(a) consists of only bangles of shell or ivory or thin metal.
(b) is a necklace with two pendants.
(c) Both (i) and (ii) are correct
(d) Neither (i) nor (ii) is correct
6. She reminds us (1)
(a) of the never-say-die attitude of humans.
(b) why museums in our country are exciting.
(c) why she will make us come into money.
(d) of dancing figures.
7. The synonym of the word "among" in para I is..... (1)
8. The size of the dancing girl is equal to the length of human palm. (True/False) (1)

Passage 2

The Floating Post Office

1. Tourists to Jammu and Kashmir have another attraction—a floating post office on the Dal Lake in Srinagar, the first in the country. Floating Post Office, Dal Lake' claimed to be the only one such post office in the world— is built on an intricately carved maroon houseboat, fastened on the Western edge of the Dal Lake.
2. This post office lets you avail of all the regular postal services available in the country while afloat. The seal on everything posted from Floating Post office is unique—along with the date and address, it bears the design of a boatman rowing a shikara on the Dal Lake. The special feature of this post office is that letters posted from here carry a special design which has the picturesque scenery of Dal Lake and Srinagar city. These pictures reach wherever these letters are posted to and hence promote Kashmir as a tourist destination across the world.
3. This is actually a heritage post office that has existed since British times. It was called Nehru Park Post Office before 2011. But then the chief postmaster John Samuel renamed it as 'Floating Post Office'

Reading (Section A)

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Passage 3

4. The post office's houseboat has two small rooms—one serves as the office and the other a small museum that traces the philatelic history of the state postal department. It has a shop that sells postage stamps and other products.
5. But for the locals, floating post office is more than an object of fascination. ₹ 1-2 crore is deposited per month in Floating Post Office by communities living in and around the Dal Lake. The lake has several islets that are home to more than 50,000 people.
6. The greatest fear is the recurrence of 2014 like floods in which the houseboat had gone for a toss uncontrollably pushed by the flood. Rescue teams had to anchor it using special mechanism in a nearby highland. Then it was brought back on the Dal after the water receded. The biggest boon is that at no time of the year do you need a fan in this post-office.

CBSE 2018 (Modified)

Questions

1. What is the unique tourist attraction on the Dal Lake (1)
(a) House boats (b) Shikara ride in lake
(c) Floating post office (d) None of these
 2. What is a special features of letters posted from the floating post office? (1)
(a) It shows a museum on the stamps
(b) It shows a beautiful scenery of Dal lake
(c) It shows a boatman
(d) Both (a) and (c)
 3. What is the greatest fear that the post office has?(1)
(a) Recurrence of flood (b) No deposit of money
(c) Both (a) and (b) (d) None of these
 4. What is the name of chief post master who renamed Nehru Park Post Office? (1)
(a) John Abbey (b) Richard
(c) John Samuel (d) Edward
 5. How much money is contributed by the communities living in and around the Dal Lake? (1)
(a) 50 Thousand (b) 40 Lakhs
(c) 1-2 Crore (d) 5 Crore
 6. What products are sold by the shop situated inside the house boat? (1)
(a) Tea
(b) Kashmiri shawls
(c) Postage stamps and other products
(d) None of the above
 7. The lake has several that are home to more than 50,000 people. (1)
 8. Tourism is promoted by the special design of the seal carrying a picturesque scenery of Dal Lake. (True/False) (1)
1. Perhaps the environmental crisis at hand has not yet touched your life, but the time is shortly to come. Recent NASA reports of a 60 per cent loss of ozone over the Arctic provide an explanation for increased severity in the world's weather patterns which has only begun to affect us, whether directly or indirectly. The social, political and economic implications are difficult to imagine as our ozone layer continues to thin, forests disappear and desertification is occurring at an alarming rate.
 2. Today, almost 1 million acres of forest disappear each week. This alarming rate of deforestation is forcing many world economies to rethink their business and manufacturing practices.
A 70 feet tree cut for its lumber takes 65 year to replace. A 70 feet bamboo cut for the market can be replaced in less than 3 months and bamboo is officially recognised as the world's fastest growing plant. Some species can grow 3 feet per day!
 3. Driven by the constantly growing consumer demand for environmentally friendly products, bamboo is gaining momentum as a reliable source of high quality and durable green building material over traditional non-sustainable products. Bamboo is known to produce 30 per cent more oxygen than a hardwood forest of comparable size, while preventing erosion, restoring soil, providing sweet edible shoots and removing toxins from contaminated soil. Ecologists tout bamboo as a logical, renewable source of building material. Many promote bamboo planting for erosion prevention, and to reverse the effects of global warming. Being a grass, bamboo regenerates without replanting after harvesting.
 4. Traditional hardwood lumber trees, such as oak, maple and birch, take 40-50 years to regenerate. In the meantime, there is less oxygen produced, less carbon dioxide consumed, and more soil run-off in the spot where those trees were harvested—all producing negative environmental effects. Our planet is suffering from resource depletion, habitat loss, species extinction and ecosystem pollution. The choice of bamboo as building material will greatly help reverse those negative trends. (1)

Questions

1. Use of bamboo, as a building material is gaining momentum due to (1)
(a) consumer demand for durable products
(b) for strong products
(c) for environmentally friendly products
(d) because it is cheap

2. What is the correct order of information given below (1)
- Traditional hardwood lumber trees such as oak, maple take 40-50 years to generate.
 - A 70 feet bamboo cut for the market can be replaced in less than 3 months.
 - According to recent NASA report, there is a 60 per cent loss of ozone over the Arctic.
 - Our planet is suffering from resource depletion, habitat loss and ecosystem pollution.

Codes

- (a) iv, iii, i, ii (b) iii, ii, i, iv
(c) i, ii, iii, iv (d) iii, i, ii, iv

3. The problems that are troubling the earth are (1)
- Species Extinction
 - Resource Depletion
 - Desertification
 - Pollution

Codes

- (a) I and II (b) I, III and IV
(c) II and III (d) I, II and III

4. The greatest advantage of bamboo as building material is that (1)
- it is very strong
 - very reliable
 - totally renewable
 - guaranteed

5. The most appropriate sub-heading to para 3 of the passage is (1)
- Need for Environmentally Friendly Products
 - Bamboo-Most Reliable Material
 - Alarming Rate of Deforestation
 - Global Warming at Its Peak

6. What happens when traditional hardwood trees are cut? (1)
- Soil run off occurs
 - Less oxygen is produced
 - Less consumption of carbon dioxide
 - All of the above

7. produces 30% more oxygen than a hardwood forest of comparable size. (1)

8. The author is promoting the use of hardwood lumber trees as a building material (True/False)(1)

Passage 4

Whats Your Approach

- Once a man saw three masons along with some labourers constructing a temple. He observed the masons for three days and found that though the three of them were doing the same kind of work, there was a marked difference in their approach to their job.
- He saw that the first mason reported for his work late, did his work halfheartedly and sluggishly, enjoyed a

longer respite, frequently checked the time on his wristwatch and left the work before time.

- The second mason was very punctual in arriving and leaving, and did his work methodically. The third mason, however, would come before time, take little rest in the interval and often worked overtime.
- The man naturally got curious and wanted to know the three masons' outlook on their work. He asked them what they were doing. The first mason tapped his big belly with his hand and said, "I am earning food for myself." The second said, "I am constructing a building." The third mason looked at the huge building and said, "I am building the house of God."

CBSE 2019 (Modified)

Questions

- For how long did a man observe them? (1)
(a) 4 days (b) 3 days
(c) 3 hours (d) 4 hours
- What was the first mason's approach towards his work? (1)
(a) The first mason did not want to work.
(b) The first mason considered himself superior than the other two masons.
(c) The first mason did the work only to earn money.
(d) The first mason was time bound.

- The man was curious because (1)
(a) the second man was careful and others were not
(b) the third man was lazy
(c) the first man was very devoted
(d) all three had different approaches of their job

- The three masons were (1)
(a) talking to the man
(b) eating and talking to each other
(c) constructing a temple
(d) Both (b) and (c)

- What was the third mason's routine? (1)
(a) He would come late and leave early
(b) He would come early and leave late
(c) He came on time and left on time
(d) None of the above

- How can you describe the second mason? (1)
I. Punctual II. Hard working
III. Careful IV. Lazy

Codes

- (a) I and II (b) II and III
(c) II and IV (d) IV and I
- The man was shocked to find the three masons but with different approaches. (1)
 - The first man was careful in his job. (True/False) (1)

Passage 5

Cataract

- Cataract is the major cause of blindness, which is also caused by a damage to the cornea. It occurs more often in old age. As one starts growing old, the lens of the eye hardens, loses its transparency and becomes opaque. It obstructs the light rays from entering the eye.
- The onset of cataract blurs the vision. Sometimes, the cataract patient sees multiple images instead of a single object image. Because of the gradual development of cataract, the afflicted person loses his/her vision and the world becomes dark to him/her.
- The development of cataract is a complex process. However, the following factors can be attributed to its formation. Cataract generally develops in old age but sometimes, children are born with cataract because of hereditary defect. Eye injuries too, can cause cataract.
- People exposed to sunrays for longer periods develop cataract earlier than others. Researchers opine that the smoke inhaled while smoking, carries substances internally damaging the eyes.
- Ultraviolet radiation, invisible to the human eye, is linked to skin cancer. The victim loses vision and the world becomes dark to him. CBSE 2019 (Modified)

Questions

- What is the major cause of blindness? (1)
(a) Old age (b) UV rays
(c) Cataract (d) Smoking
- What is the correct order of information given below? (1)
I. A person with cataract sees multiple images.
II. In cataract, the lens hardens and becomes opaque.
III. Smoking results in cataract.
IV. Children can be born with cataract.

Codes

- (a) I, II, III, IV (b) II, I, IV, III
(c) IV, II, III, I (d) I, IV, III, II
- The lens of the eye becomes opaque in old age because (1)
(a) it is genetic
(b) the lens hardens
(c) UV rays produce more dangerous cells
(d) of eye injuries
 - Because of cataract, a victim ultimately (1)
(a) loses eyesight (b) grows old
(c) sees blurry (d) Both (a) and (c)
 - What type of cancer is caused by ultraviolet radiation? (1)
(a) Blood (b) Liver (c) Stomach (d) Skin

- The following are the causes of cataract (1)
I. Genetics II. Eye injuries
III. Cholesterol
IV. Smoking while drinking

Codes

- (a) III and IV (b) I and III
(c) I and II (d) III and II
- develop cataract earlier than others. (1)
 - Smoking internally damages the eyes. (True/False) (1)

Passage 6

Indian Spices

- Spices bring to mind images of tempting culinary art, fascinating travels and the bitter struggle for supremacy. Expressions like 'Variety is the spice of life' and 'Sugar and spice and all that's nice' show how spellbound men of letters were about spices.
- To Orientals, spices are indeed the soul of food. In the Western world, it evokes dreams of exotic tropical islands, exciting expeditions to find routes to the source and the rise and fall of empires. Columbus went Westwards in 1492 from Europe to find a sea route to the land of spices but found the New World. Eight years later, Vasco da Gama went round Africa and touched Kozhikode on the South-West coast of India.
Long before that, Arabs started trading with the Orient through land routes. During the 13th century, Marco Polo experienced the attraction of spices in his travels. Even the European conquests and trade arrangements in India and the East Indies had a lot to do with spices.
- Thousands of years ago, great masters of Ayurveda (the Indian system of medicine), notably Sushruta and Charaka, discussed in detail the use of spices for culinary and medicinal purposes. Enterprising soldiers of fortune took the knowledge of spices to Egypt. There they used spices and aromatic herbs in food, medicine, cosmetics and for embalming. The conquest of Egypt and Asia by Alexander the Great made spices an article of commerce in Mediterranean countries and later in central and Northern Europe. There are reports of pepper being used in meat, both to aid preservation and to mask the unwelcome odour of deterioration of quality during the long winter storage.
- Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, and Theophrastus, a Greek scholar and botanist, wrote

The climb to the fort is a difficult one and unless you are physically fit, you should avoid the climb and relax in the gardens below. The view from the top is breathtaking.

Charminar

- The next place is Charminar. The literal meaning of the monument is 'four minarets'. There is a mosque on the second floor. It is said that when the state was hit by severe plague, Sultan Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the fifth ruler of the Qutb Shahi dynasty, prayed to end the plague and promised to build a mosque in the very place where he was praying. Thus, Charminar came into being!
- The walk from the bottom to the top of the monument is a little frightening, owing to the narrowness of the pathway and the steepness of the steps. Once you reach the top, the view of the crowds moving below will surely lift your spirits.
- Make sure you visit the nearby Laad Bazaar, where there are rows of shops selling the famous Hyderabad glass bangles and lac bangles.

Salar Jung Museum

- The Salar Jung Museum is the third largest museum in the country and boasts of owning the biggest one-man collection of antiques in the world. A visit to the Salar Jung Museum is a must even if you are not a fan of antique stuff. You can view the Nizam's collection of textiles, arms, metalware, ivory carvings, Indian bronzes and carpets.
- The main attraction is definitely the musical clock, made by Cook and Kely of England. Inside the clock is a timekeeper. Every hour, he comes out and beats a gong as many times as the time indicates. Another attraction of the museum is the Veiled Rebecca, an amazing sculpture made by the Italian sculptor, Giovanni Maria Benzeni. *CBSE 2019 (Modified)*

Questions

- Goloconda Fort was constructed by (1)
 - Aurangzeb
 - Muhammad Quli Qutb
 - ruler of Kakatiya dynasty
 - Nizam
- What is the correct order of information given below? (1)
 - Charminar means four minarets.
 - Near it, there is a famous bangles market.
 - It was constructed as a promise.
 - The view from its top is beautiful.

Codes

 - I, II, III, IV
 - I, III, IV, II
 - I, IV, II, III
 - I, III, II, IV

- keeps the interest in fort alive. (1)
 - The story
 - The architecture
 - The view
 - The light and sound show
- A is located on the Charminar (1)
 - a temple
 - mosque
 - museum
 - church
- The musical Clock in Balar Jung museum is made by (1)
 - the tunekeeper
 - Giovanni Maria Benzeni
 - Nizam
 - Cook and Kely of England
- Salar Jung Museum houses (1)
 - Textiles
 - Arms
 - Paintings
 - Utensils

Codes

 - II and IV
 - I and II
 - I and III
 - III and IV
- has rows of shops selling the famous Hyderabad glass bangles and lac bangles. (1)
- Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah was the sixth ruler of the Qutb Shahi dynasty. (True/false) (1)

Passage 12

Rafting : An Enthusiastic Activity

- Rafting or white water rafting is a challenging and recreational activity of using an inflatable raft to navigate a river or other bodies of water. This is usually done on white water or different degrees of rough waters for its thrill and excitement. The development of this activity as a leisure sport has become popular since the mid-1970s. White water rafting can be a dangerous sport, especially if basic safety precautions are not observed. It has its share of injuries and fatalities. It is generally advisable to discuss safety measures with a rafting operator before signing on for a trip. The equipment used and the qualifications of the company and raft guides are essential information to be considered. But like most outdoor sports, rafting has become safer over the years. Expertise has increased and equipment has become more specialised and better in quality.
- Risks in rafting stem from both environmental dangers and improper behaviour. Rafting is often played for the adrenaline rush and this often becomes a problem for people and their own safety. Certain features on rivers are inherently unsafe and have remained consistently so despite the passage of

- time. These would include fallen trees, dams, rocks and high waterfalls. White water rafting accidents have occurred but are not common. Rafting with experienced guides is the safest way to avoid such features. Thousands of people safely enjoy raft trips every year.
- Rafting contributes to the economy of many regions, which in turn may contribute to the protection of rivers from hydroelectric power generation, diversion for irrigation and other development. Additionally, white water rafting trips can promote environmentalism. By experiencing first-hand the beauty of a river, individuals who would otherwise be indifferent to environmental issues may gain a strong desire to protect and preserve that area because of their positive outdoor experience.

Questions

- What is water rafting? (1)
 - A challenging activity
 - A recreational activity
 - It is full of thrill and excitement
 - All of the above
- The accidents occur due to (1)
 - environmental change
 - improper behaviour
 - over excitement
 - Both (a) and (b)
- The sport of white water rafting became popular since (1)
 - 1980s
 - 1960s
 - 1970s
 - mid-1970s
- Rafting has become safer with (1)
 - proper equipment
 - expertise trainer
 - less natural calamities
 - Both (a) and (b)
- Rafting contributes to the protection of rivers from activities such as (1)
 - hydroelectric power generation
 - diversion for irrigation
 - other development
 - All of the above
- White water rafting trips promotes (1)
 - climate change
 - environmentalism
 - natural beauty
 - wild animals
- In river rafting is used to navigate a river or other bodies of water. (1)
- River rafting is a recreational activity. (True/False) (1)

Passage 13

- Motivations for realism in underdeveloped countries are understandably different from those in developed countries. There, it is a sheer physical necessity for the very act of man's survival. In third world countries, which are predominantly rural, the only level that can lift human life above its present subhuman level is rural development. Rural life in such countries has been

stagnating for centuries on end. Nothing worthwhile has been done to ameliorate the conditions of the rural population, which is only slightly different from that of their quadruped counterparts.

- Ignorance, ill health and poverty have become synonymous with rural life in the undeveloped and underdeveloped countries. But the worst tragedy is that the concerned human populations have taken this state of affairs for granted, as something unalterable, something for which there is no remedy.
- Every day of hope has gone out of their lives. In such countries, rural development is the inevitable condition of any material or non-material advancement.

As such, enlightened sections of all such countries have been taking ever growing interest in the question of rural development. This was also part of the legacy of their freedom struggle. In countries like India, it is well known that attempts at rural development were an inseparable part of the Independence Movement. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi realised quite well that the real India lived in her stagnating villages.

- Cities, which were mostly the products of Western colonialism, were just artificial showpieces. Even in cities, there were two worlds. The posh areas, where the affluent few, mostly the products and custodians of imperial interest, lived, were little islands engulfed by the vast ocean of dirt represented by the vast majority of people.
- Cities were by no means unknown to India but, in ancient India, they were integral parts organically related to the rest of the country and society. But modern cities are exotic centres of commercial and industrial exploitation. Cities in ancient India were the flowers of cultural and artistic excellence of the nation, whereas modern cities are just parasites, preying on and debilitating the country.

Questions

- The urgent need of the hour in underdeveloped countries is (1)
 - removing ignorance
 - rural development
 - better living conditions
 - eradication of poverty
- What is the correct order of the information as given in the passage? (1)
 - In ancient India, cities were integral part of organically related to the rest of the country.
 - In third world countries, rural life has been stagnating for a long time.

- (iii) During the freedom struggle rural development was an integral part of the Independence Movement.
- (iv) Modern cities are exotic centres of commercial and industrial exploitation.

Codes

- (a) i, ii, iii, iv (b) ii, i, iv, iii
(c) ii, iii, i, iv (d) i, ii, iii, iv
3. In undeveloped and underdeveloped countries what has become synonymous with rural life? (1)
(a) Poverty (b) Ignorance
(c) Ill-health (d) All of these
4. What has been referred to as 'artificial showpieces' in the passage? (1)
(a) Villages (b) Districts
(c) Cities (d) Modern cities
5. The modern cities have been called as centres of (1)
(a) commercial exploitation
(b) industrial exploitation
(c) economic development
(d) Both (a) and (b)
6. The cities in ancient India were (1)
(a) well planned
(b) place of artistic and cultural excellence
(c) full of commercial activities
(d) a tourist place
7. Attempts at rural development were part of Indian Independence Movement. (1)
8. Mahatma Gandhi worked for upliftment of rural India. (True/False) (1)

Passage 14

1. Keep your watch accurate. For some people, moving up the time on their watch will help them get up earlier. For others, they will remember that the time on the watch is wrong and will disregard it altogether. It may be helpful to set your watch just two minutes ahead instead of five or ten.
2. Keep a clock, phone, computer or anything that displays time in each room of your house. One of the easiest ways to run late is simply by not realising that the time is passing as quickly as it is.
3. Set all your clocks and watches to the same time. Don't be an optimist. Things usually take longer than what you'd expect, even without major delays. If you have a dinner appointment at 7:30 p.m., don't think you can work till 7 p.m., then take a bath, dress and reach on time. Realistically, calculate the time you will take at each step and then add 10 minutes more to allow for unexpected delays, or you cannot get to your job in time.
4. Wake up when you are supposed to wake up. Don't hit the snooze button, keep on lying in bed, and watch TV at the very start of your day. Maybe try

even setting your clock 10 minutes earlier than you need. If you have difficulty with this, move your alarm clock to somewhere away from your bed; that way, you have to get up to turn it off. Commit yourself to being 15 minutes early for everything.

If you have to reach your place of work at 8:00, don't even tell yourself this.

Just tell yourself (and everyone else who listens - but don't annoy them or make them think that they are late or early!) "I have to be at work at 7-45." If you do this, you will be on time even with little unforeseen delays. You will be on time even with a traffic jam

CBSE 2019 (Modified)

Questions

1. How can moving up the time help people? (1)
(a) They get up early
(b) They get late
(c) They disregard their work
(d) None of the above
2. The most appropriate title for the passage can be (1)
(a) Accurate Time (b) Worth Of Time
(c) Bye, Bye Delays!
(d) A Stitch In Time Saves Nine
3. According to the passage easiest way to run late is (1)
(a) Get up late
(b) Not realising that time is passing quickly
(c) Setting the clock 10 min early
(d) Calculating the time using wrong means
4. One can get up on time by (1)
(a) setting the clock early
(b) adding 10 minutes to your calculated time
(c) move alarm away from bed
(d) don't sleep at all
5. How will some people react to the act of moving up the time? (1)
(a) They will get late
(b) They will consider it wrong
(c) They will disregard it
(d) Both (b) and (c)
6. What can you do to wake up early. (1)
I. Do not sleep
II. Move away from alarm
III. Set the clock to 10 minutes early
IV. Calculate your time
- Codes
(a) I and III (b) II and III
(c) II and IV (d) II and I
7. Commit yourself for everything. (1)
8. The time we calculate for a work is always correct. (True/False) (1)

Discursive Passages

Read the given passages carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Passage 1

1. As the family finally sets off from home after many arguments there is a moment of lull as the car takes off. "Alright, so where are we going for dinner now?" Asks the one at time driving wheel. What follows is a chaos as multiple voices make as many suggestions?
2. By the time order is restored and a decision is arrived at, tempers have risen, feelings injured and there is at least one person grumbling.
3. Twenty years ago, you would step out of home, decision of meal and venue already made with no arguments or opposition and everybody looked forward to the meal with equal enthusiasm. The decision was made by the head of the family and the others fell in line. Today every member of the family has say in every decision which also promotes a sense of togetherness and bonding.
4. We empower our kids to take their own decisions from a very early age. We ask them the cuisine they prefer, the movie they want to see, the holiday they wish to go on and the subjects they wish to study.
5. It's a closely connected world out there where children consult and guide each other. A parent's well-meaning advice can sound like nothing more than unnecessary preaching. How then do we reach our children through all the conflicting views and make the voice of reason be heard? Children today question choices and prefer to go with the flow.
6. What then is the best path to take? I would say the most important thing one can do is to listen. Listen to your children and their silences. Ensure that you keep some time aside for them, insist that they share their stories with you. Step into their world. It is not as complicated as it sounds; just a daily half an hour or the 'quality time' would do the trick.

CBSE 2020

Questions

1. Write one advantage and one disadvantage of allowing every family member to be a part of the decision making process. (2)
2. In today's world, what are parents asking their kids? (2)
3. Which two pieces of advice does the writer give to the parents? (2)
4. The passage supports the parents. How far do you agree with the author's views? Support your view with a reason. (2)

5. The synonym of 'hurt' as given in paragraph 2 (1)
(a) cuisine (b) gourmet (c) gastric (d) science
6. The word which means the same as 'a style or method of cooking' in paragraph 4 is (1)
7. The antonym of 'agreeable' as given in paragraph 5 is (1)
8. The antonym of 'simple' as given in paragraph 6 is (1)
(a) difficult (b) complicated
(c) easy (d) tricky

Passage 2

1. Some people get emotional satisfaction from talking about how awful other people are. But research has found that when you talk negatively to, say, a friend about how awful a colleague is, the listening friend is more likely to associate the negativity to you rather than to the person you're describing. Researchers call this 'spontaneous trait transference'. So, it's best to go easy on bad-mouthing others because it may backfire anyway.
2. It takes a big person to accept outwardly and inwardly that they screwed up. I'm not saying we should never blame other people. Sometimes others are at fault and they need to know it and stand up. But being able to accept responsibility when that's right means we actually become less helpless and passive.
3. If everything is someone else's fault, then what part do I play in my own life? Are my actions entirely without consequence? Am I that powerless? Or do all my actions only lead to good outcomes?
4. Knowing we can accept responsibility when things go wrong means we can also accept credit when things go well. We do, as individuals, have an effect on life; and that's a good thing.
5. But we need to develop the capacity to be objective enough about ourselves to avoid assuming we could never possibly have created problems ourselves. We also need to distinguish between accepting responsibility and punishing ourselves unduly.
6. If you are used to just dishing out the blame and not accepting your part, remember the research that shows being able to apologise in relationships makes them much more likely to last and thrive. Don't always be too quick to blame yourself, but, just now and then, admit to co-workers or your partner or friend that, yes, you too are human and you made a mistake. People will respect you for it.

7. Ever noticed how some people get more hung up on assigning blame than actually fixing a problem? If people feel you blame them unfairly, they will resent you. They may even come to hate you. People instinctively hate injustice. People can be shouted at, cursed at, and blamed, but still not know what it is they did wrong.
8. As the wise Roman emperor, Marcus Aurelius, said, "How much more grievous are the consequences of anger than the causes of it." Life is full of people who take emotional shortcuts and blame other people unfairly or aggressively; for the sake of the human race, don't be one of them. But I wouldn't blame you if you were.

Questions

- Why is it best to go easy on bad-mouthing? (2)
- What makes a person less helpless and passive? (2)
- What objective quality should a person develop? (2)
- What is the meaning of the quote by Marcus Aurelius in the passage? (2)
- The word in para 1 is the antonym of wonderful. (1)
- The word in para 2 means the same as 'externally'. (1)
- Which word is an antonym of 'distinguish' in para 5? (1)
(a) confuse (b) unite (c) lose (d) allow
- Which of the following words is a synonym of 'dishing' in para 6? (1)
(a) dispensing (b) apportioning
(c) cooking (d) charging

Passage 3

The Dangers of Crash Dieting

1. Crash dieting may help you lose weight, in the short term, but, ultimately it can hinder weight loss in the long term, as most of the weight that you have lost with crash dieting will bounce back, meaning you will gain all the weight that you have lost and more. Crash dieting not only removes fat but also lean muscle and tissue. Contrary to the belief of many who start this diet, this form of dieting is neither healthy nor successful in achieving long term weight loss as it induces the slowing down of the body's basal metabolic rate - the body seeks to conserve every calorie and so weight loss becomes increasingly difficult. Basal metabolic rate is the amount of calories your body needs on a daily basis, to maintain its regular activities. This means your body will need

fewer calories than it did previously, making weight gain more likely once you stop dieting.

- Most crash diets involve eating low-calorie foods for several weeks or eating the same food or food groups for several weeks. Even if you're only trying the diet for a week or two, eating such a strict diet of the same foods can cause nutritional deficiencies. Eliminating one or more food groups will not provide you with adequate, long-term nutrition. Nutritional deficiencies such as this can have multiple immediate side effects such as haggard look, dark under eyes, dull skin, sloppy posture and less stamina.
- This is also why exercise is recommended in any weight-loss plan to build muscle and maintain your metabolic rate. Again common mistakes that are observed with exercise are joining the gym only till the New Year, so that you can lose weight and once the party is over, the party for not exercising continues. On the other hand, we have some who make New Year resolutions and with the gym memberships which are so tempting, especially during the New Year, take up annual memberships, which is not bad, what is bad is to break the resolution. It is good to take up an exercise programme during the new year and to make a resolution about exercise, provided you do not break your resolution, and continue exercising year long. What is important is consistency.

Questions

- What harm does crash dieting do? Mention any two. (2)
- What is the basic flaw in diet plans? (2)
- Why is exercise important? (2)
- What is the writer's view on gym membership? (2)
- The word in para 1 means the same as 'opposite'. (1)
- The word in para 2 is the antonym of 'adding'. (1)
- Which of the following words means the opposite of 'joining' in para 3? (1)
(a) Disconnecting (b) Dividing
(c) Losing (d) Withdrawing
- Which of the following words is a synonym of 'resolution' in para 3? (1)
(a) Purpose (b) Dedication
(c) Commitment (d) Determination

Passage 4

Money : Good or Evil

Many of us grew up hearing the admonition that money is the root of all evil. Money, in and of itself, is neither evil nor good; it is only what happens with money once it is in our hands that gives it qualities of being either good or evil. Money can be a tool, and it is a necessary tool for simply maintaining our daily lives. We need money to put a roof over our heads so that we are safe, warm and dry. Money provides food to keep us alive so that we can continue to function and clothes us so that we can function in a socially acceptable manner. And it takes money to keep us healthy so that we can continue to lead productive, meaningful lives.

Money can also be a test. Needing to earn money can test our ingenuity, our determination and even our humility when we find it necessary to generate work for ourselves or we have to take a job that feels like it is several steps back from where we rightfully could be in our employment. Being financially unable to do and have many of the things we'd like to do and have for ourselves, as well as for sharing with others, can test our attitudes and our willingness to live our lives realistically.

Ironically, having an abundance of money can be an even more challenging test of the persons that we truly are. When we can afford to do anything we want to do and to have anything we want to have, we are faced with the choice of whether we use our money solely to benefit ourselves or we use it to make the world a better place for others, as well as for ourselves.

Having significant wealth can open our eyes to the opportunities available to reach out to others who need our help, or it can blind us to anything and everything beyond our own ever-escalating desires for possessions, prestige and power, thereby testing to the very limit the true nature of our character as human beings.

Questions

- What gives money the attributes of good or evil? (2)
- Why do we need money? (2)
- Why is lack of money referred to as a test? (2)
- Having abundant money is challenging, according to the author. Why? (2)
- The word in para 1 means the same as 'fruitful'. (1)

- The word in para 2 is the antonym of 'unjustifiably'. (1)
- Which of the following words in para 4 means the same as 'deprive of perception'? (1)
(a) Unseeing (b) Blind
(c) Abundance (d) Desires
- Which of the following words is an antonym of 'effortless' in para 3? (1)
(a) Opposing (b) Inspiring
(c) Demanding (d) Exciting

Passage 5

Kalesar Reserve Forest

- Spread over an area of 11,570 acres, Kalesar Reserve Forest is the only one of its kind in Haryana. It is home to a wide range of wild flora and fauna including three elephants, a male tiger, 16 male and female leopards, 19 panthers and some other animals as well.
- Spread on both sides of Yamunanagar - Paonta Sahib Road in Yamunanagar district, it was designated a national park through a government notification in December 2003. However, it is alleged, lack of sufficient funds is proving to be a hindrance in wildlife conservation in the national park. The Divisional Forest Officer revealed that it is the only forest in Haryana with a natural 'sal' tree belt.
- As for the steps taken to ensure protection of wildlife and environment, it was disclosed that staff had been given weapons by the State Government to tackle the menace posed by poachers. The state had also set up two special environmental courts, one each at Kurukshetra and Faridabad, to deal with crimes related to poaching and illicit felling of trees from the area. Eight watering holes have been dug up across the forest area to ensure that wildlife does not stray into human habitats on its fringes in search of drinking water. Similarly, earthen dams have been constructed to conserve rainwater for the future use of wildlife.
- It was disclosed that work to fence the area would be undertaken in the near future and more steps taken to ensure that wild fauna does not face drinking water problem in their natural habitat in the reserve forest. *CBSE 2019 (Modified)*

Questions

- What is unique about Kalesar Reserve Forest?
- Which animals are found in Kalesar forest?
- What is proving to be a hindrance to conserving wildlife in the national park?

- Why have two special environmental courts been set up?
- Which word in the passage means 'natural environment in which a particular species live'?
(a) Habitat (b) Flora
(c) Fauna (d) Waterhole
- Which word in para 3 is a synonym of 'danger/risk'?
(a) Disclosed (b) Fringes
(c) Poaching (d) Menace
- The word illicit means
- The antonym of conceal as given in para 4 is

Passage 6

Sustainable Development

- "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." The concept of sustainable development can be interpreted in many different ways but, at its core, it is an approach to development that looks to balance different and often competing needs along with an awareness of the environmental, social and economic limitations we face as a society. All too often development is driven by one particular need without fully considering the wider or future impacts. We are already seeing the damage this kind of approach can cause, from large-scale financial crisis caused by irresponsible banking to changes in global climate resulting from our dependence on fossil fuel based energy sources. The longer we pursue unsustainable development, the more frequent and severe its consequences are likely to become, which is why we need to take action now.
- Living within our environmental limits is one of the central principles of sustainable development. One implication of not doing so is climate change. But the focus of sustainable development is far broader than just the environment. It's also about ensuring a strong, healthy and just society. This means meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal well-being, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunities for all.
- Sustainable development is about finding better ways of doing things, both for the future and the present. People need to change the way they work and live now, but this doesn't mean that the quality of life will be reduced.

The impacts of our decisions as a society have very real consequences for people's lives. Poor planning of communities, for example, reduces the quality of life for the people who live in them. Sustainable development provides an approach to making better decisions on the issues that affect all of our lives. By incorporating health plans into the planning of new communities, for instance, society can ensure that residents have an easy access to healthcare and leisure facilities. Small actions, taken collectively, can add up to real change.

Questions

- What is at the core of the concept of sustainable development? (2)
- How has development caused widespread damage to world climate and financial systems? (2)
- Explain the focus of the concept of sustainable development. (2)
- Give an example of the use of the concept of sustainable development for improving the quality of life for people. (2)
- The word in para 1 means the same as 'reckless'. (1)
- The word in para 2 is the antonym of 'discouraging'. (1)
- Which of the following words is a synonym of 'implication' in para 2?
(a) Suggestion (b) Consequence
(c) Hint (d) Involvement (1)
- Which of the following words is a synonym of 'impacts' in para 3?
(a) Effects (b) Collisions (1)
(c) Influences (d) Reverberations

Passage 7

Quizzing

The Mastermind quiz is billed as a "battle of minds". This is fought in two halves. In the first, each of four participants faces a barrage of questions, for two minutes, on any topic of his or her choice. In the second round, the questions are on general knowledge. There are two points for each correct answer and zero for wrong answer and passes. In the event of a tie, the person who has passed fewer questions wins. Questions can be bizarre, but they are answered none the less.

Reading (Section A)

"It absolutely amazes you that these guys know so much. In KBC, it used to be, that this guy knows so little," says Basu after the show. Siddhartha Basu was the director of Kaun Banega Crorepati (KBC).

This year's Mastermind final was won by Ramanand Janardhana, a 22 year-old software engineer from Pune. Janardhana had Agatha Christie's 'Tommy and Tupence' novels as his specialist topic. He even knew that Tommy used asofotida to create a stink in his room.

There are, of course, all sorts of quizzers. The diary-toting, Manorama yearbook, wielding variety will typically prepare for a contest by 'studying'. He knows that the best questions, the ones that get the 'wah-wahs', are always repeated. He is a solid quizzer, because he knows the obvious. There is the other kind, like Janardhana, who claim they do nothing extra to prepare for quizzes. They read the papers and magazines, watch TV, and become quizzers because they enjoy the test of recall.

It was a test the nation took when KBC fever was at its height. But long before KBC, there were quiz societies across the country, in places from Guwahati to Gandhinagar. Kolkata was the hub of the game; quizzing in India began here in 1967. Even now, the majority of quizzers are from Kolkata. Of the four 2002 Mastermind finalists, two were from that city. Quizzing is big in school and college festivals. It's the 'literary' highlight of all fests. There are even professional quizzers, who, like mercenaries, play for money and the thrill of the game. They represent various organisations at different times.

Most quizzers grow out of active quizzing after college. Some, the really hardcore devotees of the game, keep at it. "I don't get tired of quizzing," says Pinaki Prasad Roy, a Mastermind finalist. "I get excited." Roy is a 46-year old finance professional from Kolkata, and has been a quizzer for three decades. Curiosity is the most essential quality for a quizzer. A fantastic memory and instant recall help. And for Mastermind at least, the choice of specialist subject is critical. In this year's event, Janardhan took an unassailable lead in the specialist round itself.

Questions

- Why do we call the 'Mastermind' quiz as "a battle of minds"? (2)
- What is so absolutely amazing about mastermind quiz? (2)
- Why is there a mention of a person called Ramanand Janardhana in the passage? (2)
- Who are solid quizzers as per the passage? (2)

- The word is para 2 is synonym of 'very strange'. (1)
- The word is para 3 is antonym of 'fragrance'. (1)
- Which of the following words is synonym of 'people who fight for money'. (1)
(a) Quizzer (b) Selfish
(c) Mercenary (d) Generous
- Which of the following word is an antonym of 'professional in para 8? (1)
(a) Skilled (b) Expert
(c) Incompetent (d) Qualified

Passage 8

- What is intelligence? And how can one be intelligent all the time? One has to understand the basic fact that intelligence and intellect are at two opposite poles. A person who is an intellectual would have all the knowledge of the world but won't know how to give it shape. Knowledge burdens the individual if he does not have the intelligence to express it.
- Intelligence is an integral part of the individual which finds fulfilment in expression. An intellectual who is burdened by excessive knowledge can never flow with intelligence. Intelligence demands that an individual be sensitive of his acts, thoughts and emotions. It also demands that the individual be inquisitive about the working of life and of one's own mind.
- Intelligence implies that the individual be supple and flow along with life's source, so as to be one with the sublime realities of love, bliss and peace. Intelligence is the basic knowledge of life which is transformed into knowing.
- The transformation process between knowledge and knowing requires the individual to be inquisitive, sensitive and observant. To do all this, the individual has to be in the present. This being in the present brings the individual back to harmony.
- Once he is able to observe his own thoughts and actions, he can clearly see his repressions, motivations and prejudices. This sets into motion the wheel of intelligence, which dispels ignorance behind thoughts, actions and emotions.
- Intelligence strengthens the integration and harmony of the individual. Strengths to act intelligently according to the situation helps in obliterating thought processes which perpetuate fear, remorse and conflict within.

7. This conscious understanding of one's fear, remorse and conflict opens the doors of intelligence so that we can first understand and then transcend them. Otherwise, we remain in a state of ignorance. The art of understanding is what suffuses us with wisdom.
8. And the art of understanding oneself provides strength. The art of being wise and strong is intelligence. Without this basic intelligence, an individual is tapped within himself manifesting inner conflicts, hatred and ignorance in the external world.
9. Meditation also helps a person understand what others are trapped in. Once they handle the situation, the doors of intelligence and compassion are further opened. Without basic understanding about oneself, compassion can never flower. Without compassion, all intelligence is ignorance.

Questions

- What is the difference between intellect and intelligence? (2)
- What are the traits of intelligent people? (2)
- What is the advantage of being intelligent? (2)
- How does intelligence change into ignorance? (2)
- The word in para 1 is the synonym of 'oppresses'. (1)
- The word in para 4 is the antonym of 'uninterested'. (1)
- Which of the following words means the same as 'obliterating' in para 6? (1)
 - Erasing
 - Disappearing
 - Damaging
 - Sustaining
- Which of the following words means the same as 'compassion' in para 9? (1)
 - Emotion
 - Enthusiasm
 - Pity
 - Obsession

Passage 9

Positive Thinking

1. Is your glass half-empty or half-full? How you answer this age-old question about positive thinking may reflect your outlook on life, your attitude towards yourself, and whether you're optimistic or pessimistic — and it may even affect your health. Indeed, some studies show that personality traits such as optimism and pessimism can affect many areas of your health and well-being.

The positive thinking that typically comes with optimism is a key part of effective stress management. And effective stress management is associated with many health benefits. If you tend to be pessimistic, don't despair—you can learn positive thinking skills.

2. Positive thinking doesn't mean that you keep your head in the sand and ignore life's less pleasant situations. Positive thinking just means that you approach unpleasantness in a more positive and productive way.
- You think the best is going to happen, not the worst. Positive thinking often starts with self-talk. Self-talk is the endless stream of unspoken thoughts that run through your head. These automatic thoughts can be positive or negative. Some of your self-talk comes from logic and reason. Other self-talk may arise from misconceptions that you create because of lack of information. If the thoughts that run through your head are mostly negative, your outlook on life is more likely pessimistic. If your thoughts are mostly positive, you're likely an optimist — someone who practises positive thinking.

3. It's unclear why people who engage in positive thinking experience these health benefits. One theory is that having a positive outlook enables you to cope better with stressful situations, which reduces the harmful health effects of stress on your body. It's also thought that positive and optimistic people tend to live healthier lifestyles—they get more physical activity, follow a healthier diet and don't smoke or drink alcohol in excess.
4. We must try and incorporate positive thinking in our lives to derive countless benefits it has to offer. It will not only help us achieve goals higher than set but will also enhance our ability to perform. The effects of positive thinking don't stop as soon as the good feelings subside, if we practise optimism in every aspect of our lives.

Questions

- How can one manage stress effectively? (2)
- What does positive thinking mean according to the writer? (2)
- What is self-talk? (2)
- What is the theory behind experiencing health benefits due to positive thinking? (2)
- The word in para 1 means the same as 'of course'. (1)
- The word in para 2 is the antonym of 'deliberate'. (1)

Reading (Section A)

- Which of the following words is nearest in meaning to 'optimistic' in para 3? (1)
 - Ideal
 - Confident
 - Smart
 - Buoyant
- Which of the following words is a synonym of 'enhance' in para 4? (1)
 - Expand
 - Improve
 - Enlarge
 - Prosper

Passage 10

Views on Selfie

- 'Selfie' is defined as a photograph that one has taken of oneself, typically taken with a smartphone or webcam and shared via social media. But because it seems to be all the rage to be negative about popular things, many people have labelled selfie-taking as negative. Teenagers with an affinity for taking pictures of themselves are considered to be 'self-absorbed', or it is suggested that perhaps they spend too much time wallowing in their own narcissism.
- While there could be a case for such thinking, I think that people labelling selfie-taking teenagers as self-obsessed are simplifying things. I fail to understand why actually liking yourself and sharing that self-love with others through social media is seen as negative and why those who do it should be scorned. People are basically taking selfies because they can, and the easy access to portable camera phones makes it easy.
- The great thing about selfies is that they allow you to control your image. If you are taking the picture, you do not give someone else the power to manipulate how you look. They allow you to put yourself 'out there' and let the world know that you exist. Andrea Letamendi, a clinical psychologist and research fellow at UCLA, noted in a study and was quoted in a Time magazine article as saying, "Self-captured images allow young adults and teens to express their mood states and share important experiences."

- Selfies are sometimes more than just trying to look pretty. They can be about empowering yourself and sharing that feeling with others.
- There is an overwhelming pressure in society today that we must all be beautiful, skinny and perfect, like a lot of the celebrities and models that we see in magazines, on TV and in movies. There's an entire industry of diet pills, cosmetics and hundreds of other appearance-changers that prey on people's (both women and men!) lack of self-esteem. It's depressing to feel that you aren't good enough or aren't pretty enough or anything like that. In a world where teenagers are under constant scrutiny, I see no problem with us trying to find ways to love ourselves. If taking a pretty photo and sharing it with others completes that, then so be it.

Questions

- What is thought about teenagers who are fond of taking selfies? (2)
- What is the author's opinion about people who post their selfies on social media? (2)
- How does taking selfies allow us to control our image in other's minds? (2)
- What strong pressure is there on people in society today, according to the passage? (2)
- The word in para 1 is the antonym of 'modesty'. (1)
- The word in para 2 means the same as 'rebuffed'. (1)
- Which of the following words in para 3 means the same as 'inform others about their'? (1)
 - Control
 - Share
 - Manipulate
 - Signal
- Which of the following words is an antonym of 'self-esteem' in para 5? (1)
 - Humility
 - Deprecation
 - Criticism
 - Worthlessness

Passage 11

- Floods are not new to India and this sub-continent, but in recent years the problem has received much greater attention perhaps largely because it has led to much greater damage than in the past. Even though information on the impending occurrence of floods is now more accurate and certainly more timely, often there is very little time or support infrastructure in place by which damage can be minimized. This is particularly true in the case of flash floods resulting from sudden and excessively heavy rain.
 - In the case of India flooding is very much a function of the seasonal nature of our rainfall. The monsoons are spread over a short period during the year and often bring a concentrated volume of rain, which cannot be absorbed by the earth and finds outlet only in the form of streams that join up with our major river systems.
- But, flooding is not confined only to the main rivers of the country, often smaller tributaries and streams can cause heavy damage as well. Once these streams spill over their banks they could cause excessive harm, mainly because those living near the banks of these streams particularly in mountain areas do not have easy recourse to moving away quickly.

3. On major factor that could lead to a higher severity of flooding in the future is the danger of climate change. While the evidence of the nature of impacts resulting from climate change on precipitation and flooding at the regional level is not entirely clear, it could happen that the Indian sub-continent witnesses and suffers the effects of a significantly changed pattern of monsoons. One set of scientists has estimated that the monsoons could be shorter in duration, but far more intensive. In other words, much greater precipitation would take place in a much shorter period of time, thereby increasing the danger of floods.

Climate change is the result of human actions through the increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, of which carbon dioxide is the most prominent.

4. At the local level also human actions have heightened the danger of flood through the cutting of trees in the mountains as well as in the plains.

In the case of India, the ecological damage through deforestation of the Himalayas has led to large-scale erosion of the mountain slopes and high levels of siltation. This leads to deposition of silt on the river beds in the plains and hence spill over of water whenever the volume in the river reaches a certain level.

With siltation on the river beds, flooding occurs even at very shallow water levels. The vulnerability of the population has increased substantially because of population pressures, symbolized, for instance, by the stubborn and perhaps helpless settling of slum dwellers on the banks of the river Yamuna in Delhi, which is merely a trickle most of the year, but bursting its banks during the monsoons as has been the case this year.

Questions

1. Why problem of floods has received greater attention recently? (2)
2. Why does India suffer from floods during monsoons? (2)
3. How has human activity heightened the danger of floods throughout the country? (2)
4. Who are the worst hit people during the floods and why? (2)
5. The word in para 3 is similar in meaning to 'harshness'. (1)
6. The word in para 1 is antonym of benefit or improvement. (1)

EXAM PRACTICE

7. Which of the following words means the same on 'Erosion' in para 4. (1)
 - (a) Strengthen
 - (b) Construct
 - (c) Breakup
 - (d) Disintegrate
8. Which of the following words is antonym of 'shallow' in para 4. (1)
 - (a) Serious
 - (b) Low
 - (c) Deep
 - (d) Slight

Passage 12

1. Overpowering prey is a challenge for creatures that do not have limbs. Some species like Russell's viper inject poison. Some others opt for an alternative non-chemical method - rat snakes, for instance, catch and push their prey against the ground, while pythons use their muscle power to crush their prey to death. But snakes can't be neatly divided into poisonous and non-poisonous categories.
2. Even species listed as non-poisonous aren't completely free of poison. The common Sand Boa, for instance, produces secretions particularly poisonous to birds. So the species doesn't take any chance - it crushes its prey and injects poison as an extra step.
3. Do vipers need poison powerful enough to kill hundred of rats with just one drop? After all, they eat only one or two at a time.
4. While hunting animals try their worst to kill most efficiently, their prey use any trick to avoid becoming a meal, such as developing immunity to poison. For instance, Californian ground squirrels are resistant to Northern Pacific rattlesnake poison.
5. Competition with prey is not the only thing driving snakes to evolve more and more deadly poison. Snakes also struggle to avoid becoming prey themselves.
6. Some snake killers have partial immunity to poison. Famously, mongooses are highly resistant to cobra poison, and with their speed and agility, kill snakes fearlessly. It would be the death of cobras as a species if they didn't evolve a more deadly poison to stop mongooses.
7. Poison has another important role. It's an extreme meat softener; specific enzymes break up the insides of the prey. Normally, a reptile depends on the Sun's warm rays to aid digestion.
8. But I wonder if we cannot use venom in our favour. In remote parts of India, local hospitality often involves leather-tough meat. I chew and chew until my jaw ache. If I spit it out or refuse, our hosts would be offended, I swallow like a python stuffing a deer down its throat and hope I don't choke, if only I had poison.

CBSE 2019 (Modified)

Questions

1. Russell viper and rat snake have different methods to attack prey. How? (2)
2. How does Sand Boa kill its prey? (2)
3. There is a constant tussle between the hunting animal and its prey? Why? (2)
4. What makes mongoose a snake predator? (2)
5. in para 1 means the same as another. (1)
 - (a) Opt
 - (b) Alternative
 - (c) Prey
 - (d) Divided
6. The word from para 7 is a antonym of general. (1)
 - (a) extreme
 - (b) normally
 - (c) specific
 - (d) aid
7. in para 2 refers to liquid substances released from glands. (1)
8. in para 6 is a synonym of immune. (1)

Passage 13

Go, Get Yourself a Hobby

1. Do you have a hobby? Is there anything that you are passionate about? Something creative that you really like doing, or are deeply involved with? Something that grips you, makes you forget all else and even makes you forget to eat or sleep? No, I am not talking about your job or your daily chores.
2. By developing a parallel line, other than that of your job, and following it like crazy, you energise your life. It will keep you going even when all other activities have stopped.
3. It did not make much sense to me until I ran into a retired officer turned passionate writer. Let's call him Mr X.
4. What was amazing was his appearance. He looked 10 years younger than his self-proclaimed 75-dark grey hair, tall and robust. Well-preserved, as some would say. "I don't want to take much of your time, but just wanted to show you my work," he said. In his bag, he was carrying dozens of books that he had written after retirement. Short stories and novels in his mother tongue and in English, for children and adults.
5. Mr X retired after putting in 30 years of service. But he did not retire from life. No way. "In fact, I lead a much busier life now - writing." "So writing is your hobby?" I asked him. "No, it is my only interest.

While I was working, I did not have enough time to write. But now I work 10 - 12 hours a day writing, writing, writing."

6. "Why? Is that the way you support yourself?" "No, my writings don't pay me financially, but they fulfil me otherwise," he said. Mr. X lives on his savings, but he relies on his passion to take care of his mental and physical well-being. In fact, such is the energy and sense of satisfaction and contentment that he draws from his writing that he has managed to survive many upheavals in life. Thanks to his passion, retirement never became a sad phase of life for him; instead, it gave him a new lease of life, an opportunity to do that which he missed out on or had no time for earlier.
7. And his level of commitment was impressive. He does not want publicity nor is he interested in advertising himself. "It will take me away from my writing and pull me into the world of Internet. I would rather follow my passion," he says. Gathering his books, he was soon ready to leave-eager to go back to his passion. He left me with the motivation to seek one, too. Thank you Mr. X.

CBSE 2019 (Modified)

Questions

1. According to the passage, what is a hobby? (2)
2. According to the writer, what made Mr. X look 10 years younger? (2)
3. Was writing his livelihood? Why/Why not? (2)
4. How did the retirement phase become a happy phase of his life? (2)
5. The word which means 'active and energetic' in para 4 of the passage is (1)
 - (a) robust
 - (b) self-proclaimed
 - (c) well-preserved
 - (d) amazing
6. The word which means 'very enthusiastic' in para 1 of the passage is (1)
 - (a) creative
 - (b) grip
 - (c) passionate
 - (d) forget
7. in para 7 is an antonym of faithlessness. (1)
8. in para 6 is a synonym of tenure. (1)

EXAM PRACTICE

Passage 14

Obesity

1. An epidemic of obesity or being overweight is affecting many countries in the world; more than 300 million people are obese or overweight. Obesity could be for a particular reason. In India, some people tend to be overweight because of their high calorie diet and lack of physical activities. In the United States, obesity is more prevalent in lower income groups. Obesity is now well recognised as a disease in its own right. Though obesity commonly means being overweight, it is defined as an excess amount of body weight that includes muscle, bone, fat and water. 'Obesity' specifically refers to an excess amount of body fat.
2. A certain amount of body fat is needed to store energy, keep warm and absorb the shocks. Usually men with more than 25% body fat and women with more than 35% body fat are regarded as obese. Obesity tends to run in families suggesting a genetic cause. Environmental factors include lifestyle behaviour such as what a person eats and his or her level of physical activity. So, one should choose more nutritious food which is low in fat, and become more active.
3. Then, there are psychological factors. Negative emotions such as boredom, sadness and anger are the main culprits. Then there is also 'binge eating' i.e. when people eat large amounts of food thinking that it is beyond their control how much they eat. Those with the most severe binge eating problem are also likely to have more symptoms of depression and low self-esteem.

4. Obesity is a health hazard giving rise to many serious medical conditions like type 2 diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure and stroke. Obesity is also linked to a higher rate of certain types of cancer. There are many ways of losing weight but exercise is the best as it is free from any type of harmful side effects.
CBSE 2019 (Modified)

Questions

1. What are the main reasons for obesity in India? (2)
2. Why do we need body fat? (2)
3. What are the symptoms of people with 'binge eating problem'? (2)
4. Which are the most common negative emotions which lead to overeating? (2)
5. The word outbreak is a synonym of as used in para 1. (1)
6. as used in the para 1 is an antonym of uncommon. (1)
7. as used in para 2 is a synonym of hereditary. (1)
(a) Shocks (b) Genetic
(c) Nutritious (d) Active
8. as used in para 3 is an antonym of innocent. (1)
(a) Culprit
(b) Binge
(c) Negative
(d) Low esteem

Answers

FACTUAL PASSAGES

PASSAGE 1

1. (a) Mohenjodaro
2. (c) terracotta animals
3. (d) she cannot be rediscovered as she's bronze.
4. (a) it appeals to us despite a passage of time.
5. (d) Neither (i) nor (ii) is correct
6. (b) why museums in our country are exciting
7. amid
8. True

PASSAGE 2

1. (c) The unique tourist attraction on the Dal Lake is floating post office.
2. (b) It shows a beautiful scenery of Dal lake
3. (a) The greatest fear that the post office has is 'recurrence of flood'. People are really scared about flood affecting them again.
4. (c) John Samuel is the name of the chief post master who had renamed it.
5. (c) The communities living in and around the Dal Lake contribute around ₹ 1-2 crores every month.
6. (c) The shops sell postage stamps and another products.
7. islets
8. The statement is true. Tourism is promoted by the special design of the seal carrying a picturesque scenery of Dal Lake.

PASSAGE 3

1. (c) As bamboo is environmentally friendly product, its use is gaining momentum.
2. (b) is the correct order of information as provided in the passage.
3. (d) The earth is troubled by species extinction, resource depletion and desertification.
4. (c) The greatest advantage of bamboo as building material is that it is totally renewable.
5. (b) Bamboo most Reliable Material is correct sub heading for para 2.
6. (d) All of these is the correct answer.
7. Bamboo
8. The statement is false. The author of is promoting the use of Bamboo and not of hardwood lumber trees.

PASSAGE 4

1. (b) The man observed them for 3 days.
2. (b) The first mason worked only to earn money for his livelihood.
3. (d) The man was curious because all three had different approaches of their job.
4. (c) The three masons were constructing a temple.
5. (b) The third mason would come early and leave late
6. (a) The second mason can be described as punctual and hard working.
7. doing the same work
8. This statement is false according to passage.

PASSAGE 5

1. (c) Cataract is the major source of blindness.
2. (b) is the correct order of the information given in the passage.
3. (b) The lens of the eye becomes opaque in old age because the lens hardens.
4. (a) Because of cataract, a victim ultimately loses eyesight.
5. (d) Skin cancer is caused by ultraviolet radiations.
6. (c) Genetics and eye injuries are the causes of cataract.
7. People exposed to sunrays for longer periods
8. This statement is true as smoking internally damages the eyes.

PASSAGE 6

1. (a) The spices are indeed the soul of food for the orientals. For them food cannot be prepared without spices.
2. (b) Hippocrates had written treatises on medicinal plants, including spices.
3. (c) Columbus wanted to reach the land of spices when he started his journey.
4. (c) During the 13th century Marco Polo experienced the attraction only for spices.
5. (b) Sushruta and Charaka discussed the use of spices for culinary as well as medical purposes.
6. (c) Pepper was used for preservation of meat and masking of its foul odour.
7. commerce
8. It is a true statement that India is home to a variety of spices.

PASSAGE 7

- (a) Defence mechanism of human body protects us from diseases
- (d) is the correct order of information
- (c) By covering cuts and abrasions we can keep a check on micro-organism penetration
- (a) Suppressing fever in initial stages can be poisonous or dangerous
- (b) Common factors for defense mechanism of our body is most appropriate sub heading to para 2.
- (c) Hypothalamus is the correct answer.
- Diseases
- This is a true statement that sneezing and coughing are some of the reflex phenomena.

PASSAGE 8

- (b) The Sahitya Akademi in India promotes Indian literature throughout the world.
- (a) Jawaharlal Nehru established the Sahitya Akademi.
- (c) The sole motive of the Sahitya Akademi is to promote Indian Literature throughout the world.
- (b) Sahitya Akademi gives the awards in 24 languages.
- (d) Both by translating in several language and organising programmes for the winner is the correct answer.
- (c) A book should contribute to literature to be eligible for the award
- three
- It is a false statement. Sahitya Akademi was inaugurated on 12th March, 1954.

PASSAGE 9

- (d) Eleanor Roosevelt was the First Lady of USA who, became her husband's legs and eyes and delivered lectures on radio.
- (b) is correct order of the information given in the passage
- (b) Eleanor Roosevelt's husband become the President of the United States in 1933.
- (a) Roosevelt's grandmother cared for her after her parents.
- (b) Roosevelt kept in touch with American people through a daily newspaper column called 'My Day'.
- (c) Daring and bold are the words that best describes Eleanor Roosevelt.
- the depression
- This statement is false.

PASSAGE 10

- (b) Power foods provide richest type of nutrition.
- (a) The combination of chickpeas and onion is a rich source of iron.
- (d) Sulphur compounds in onion and garlic help in the absorption of iron and zinc.

- (c) Green tea is the best source of catechins.
- (d) All of the given options can make us enjoy power foods in the most effective manner.
- (b) Banana shake with yogurt is one of the enriching food as suggested in the passage.
- easily absorbable
- The statement is false. Some power foods are not expensive and they are easily available for a poor person also for example banana, chickpeas, onions and dhania.

PASSAGE 11

- (c) Golconda Fort was constructed by ruler of Kakatiya dynasty.
- (b) is correct order of the information given in the passage.
- (d) The light and sound show
- (b) mosque
- (d) The Musical Clock in Balar Jung Museum was made by Cook and Kely of England.
- (c) Salar Jung Museum houses textiles and arms.
- Laad Bazaar
- This statement is false. Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah was the fifth ruler of the Qutb Shahi dynasty.

PASSAGE 12

- (d) Water rafting is an activity full of thrill, excitement and it provides recreation also.
- (d) The accidents occur due to environmental changes and improper behaviour.
- (d) In the mid 1970. White water rafting as a sport became popular.
- (b) Rafting has become safer with proper equipment and expertised trainers.
- (d) From all of the above stated activities the rivers are protected with the help of Rafting.
- (b) Environmentalism is promoted by white water rafting trips.
- an inflatable raft
- It is a true statement that river rafting is a recreational activity.

PASSAGE 13

- (b) Rural development is the urgent need of the hour.
- (c) is the correct order of information.
- (d) Poverty, ignorance and ill-health are synonymous with rural life in undeveloped and underdeveloped countries.
- (c) Cities have been referred to as 'artificial showpieces'.
- (d) Both commercial exploitation and industrial exploitation are found in modern cities.
- (b) In ancient India, cities were places of artistic and cultural excellence.
- an inseparable
- The statement is true. Mahatma Gandhi was concerned about the welfare of rural India.

Reading (Section A)

PASSAGE 14

- (a) Moving up the time help people to get up early.
- (b) Bye Bye, Delays can be the most appropriate title for the passage.
- (b) Not realising that time is passing quickly
- (c) To get on time one should more alarm away from his/her bed.
- (d) Some people react to the act of moving up the time wrong and they disregard it.
- (b) II and III
- being 15 minutes early
- The statement is false, as time we calculate for a work is not always correct.

DISCURSIVE PASSAGES

PASSAGE 1

- An advantage of allowing every family member to be a part of the decision making process is that it promotes a sense of togetherness and bonding. But it has a disadvantage that sometimes the voice of reason is lost and wrong decisions are taken.
- In today's world, the parents ask their children about their wishes and desires. They ask them which cuisine they prefer, the movie they want to see, the holiday they wish to go on and the subjects they wish to study.
- The writer advises the parents to listen to their children and their silences. He also suggests the parents to spend some time with their children and insist that they share their stories with you.
- The passage does support the parent to some extent. The writer poses the parents to be the voice of reason who could guide their children and help them take the right decision.
- injured
- conflicting
- (a) cuisine
- (b) complicated

PASSAGE 2

- It is best to go easy on bad-mouthing because when you bad-mouth someone, the listener is likely to associate the negativity to you rather than to the person you're describing. Thus, it may backfire.
- Accepting our mistakes outwardly and inwardly and being able to take responsibility makes us less helpless and passive.
- A person should develop the objective quality of giving up the assumption of always being right. They should have the courage to accept that they can be wrong too.
- The meaning of the quote in the passage is that the consequences of anger are worse and more hurtful than its cause. The repercussions of anger may leave one feeling awful.
- awful
- outwardly
- (a) Confuse
- (b) Apportioning

PASSAGE 3

- Crash dieting can harm in two ways
 - It induces the slowing down of the body's basal metabolic rate so that weight loss becomes increasingly difficult.
 - It can cause nutritional deficiencies leading to side effects such as haggard look, dark under eyes, dull skin, sloppy posture and less stamina.
- The basic flaw in diet plans is that they involve eating low-calorie foods for several weeks or eating the same food or food groups for several weeks, both of which can cause nutritional deficiencies.
- Exercise is important because, in any weight-loss plan, it helps to build muscle and maintain your basal metabolic rate, thus keeping you healthy and active.
- The writer's view on gym membership is that joining the gym only for a short time is not good. You must make a New Year resolution to take up an annual membership and not break your resolution. You should continue exercising throughout the year.
- contrary
- eliminating
- (d) withdrawing
- (c) commitment

PASSAGE 4

- Money in itself is neither good nor evil. It is attributed with positive or negative qualities on the basis of what happens with money once it is in our hands.
- We need money to maintain our lives. We need it to put a roof over our heads, to buy food to eat and for clothes to function in a socially acceptable manner.
- Lack of money to maintain a reasonable life creates a need to earn it, which tests our ingenuity, determination as well as humility. It also tests our attitude and willingness to live a realistic life.
- Having abundant money tests the very limit of our true nature. Possessing significant wealth can open our eyes to the opportunities to help others or it can blind us to anything beyond our selfish desires and motives.
- productive
- rightfully
- (b) Blind
- (c) Demanding

PASSAGE 5

- Kalesar Reserve Forest is a unique national park in Haryana which spreads over an area of 11570 acres.
- Kalesar forest is a home to a wide range of wild flora and fauna including
 - 3 elephants
 - 16 male and female leopards
 - a male tiger
 - 19 panthers and other animals as well.

- Lack of sufficient funds is proving to be a hindrance to conserving wildlife in the national park.
- Two special environmental courts have been set up in Kurukshetra and Fardabad to deal with crimes related to poaching and illicit deforestation.
- (a) Habitat
- (c) Menace
- not allowed by law
- disclosed

PASSAGE 6

- The core concept of sustainable development is an approach to development that tries to balance different and usually competing needs along with an awareness of our society's environmental, social and economic limitations.
- All other Development fulfils one particular current needs without considering its wider impact or its future effects. This approach to development has already caused widespread harmful changes in global climate and a large-scale financial crisis.
- The focus of the concept of sustainable development is to ensure a strong, healthy and just society by meeting the diverse needs of all existing and future people, encouraging personal well-being, helping social cohesion and inclusion of all communities, besides creating equal opportunities for all.
- An example is the use of the concept of sustainable development in planning of new communities by incorporating health plans into the planning. This ensures that residents of new communities have easy access to healthcare and leisure facilities, thus improving their quality of life.
- irresponsible
- promoting
- (b) Consequence
- (a) Effects

PASSAGE 7

- We call Mastermind quiz as battle of minds as it is a contest between very intelligent persons and the participants face a shower of questions.
- An absolutely amazing thing about the contestants is that they all have knowledge of so many things.
- Ramanand Janardhana's name has been mentioned because he was a quizzier who won Mastermind finals. He was a software engineer from Pune and had Agatha Christie's 'Tommy and Tupence' novels as his specialist topic.
- The solid quizzers are those who are very studious people. They know the obvious and enjoy the test of recall.
- bizarre
- stink
- (c) Mercenary
- (c) Incompetent

PASSAGE 8

- The difference between intellect and intelligence is that while intellect is the knowledge that one possesses, intelligence is the ability to apply this knowledge. Thus, an intellectual is not necessarily intelligent.
- Intelligent people have the traits of being sensitive to their thoughts, emotions, acts as well as surroundings. They are also sensitive to feelings of others.
- The advantage of being intelligent is that the person is at harmony with himself and the world around him. He can act as the situation requires. He acts intelligently as well as becomes fearless.
- Intelligence changes into ignorance when one lacks compassion and understanding about oneself or when one is not able to handle situations.
- burdens
- inquisitive
- (a) Erasing
- (c) Pity

PASSAGE 9

- One can manage stress effectively with a positive attitude that comes with optimism along with a habit of looking for the best in every situation.
- Positive thinking refers to an approach of facing difficult times with a more realistic attitude and good spirit. It encourages one to look for opportunities even in the dark.
- Self-talk is the continuous flow of thoughts in our minds. These thoughts can arise due to logical reasons as well as on baseless and incomplete information.
- Positive thinking enables people to deal with stressful situations with a calm mind, thus reducing the harmful effects of stress on our health. People with positive thinking tend to live healthier lives.
- indeed
- automatic
- (b) Confident
- (b) Improve

PASSAGE 10

- Teenagers who are fond of taking selfies are thought to be either 'self-absorbed' or too much in love with themselves, so they spend too much time in thinking about themselves.
- The author's opinion about people who post their selfies on social media is that they are basically taking selfies because they can, and the easy access to portable camera phones makes it easy. The author also says that there is nothing wrong about loving yourself and telling others about it.
- Taking selfies allows us to control our image in other's minds by not giving anyone else the power to manipulate how we look. Selfies allow us to project our true self to the world and let the world know that we exist.

Reading (Section A)

- The very strong pressure on people in society today, according to the passage, is that we must all be beautiful, thin and perfect-looking, similar to many celebrities and models that we see in magazines, on TV and in movies.
- Narcissism
- scorned
- (b) Share
- (a) Humility

PASSAGE 11

- The problem of floods has received greater attention recently because floods cause much greater damage and misery specially flash floods which are caused due to sudden and extensive rains.
- In India people suffer from floods during monsoons as the water cannot be absorbed by the earth. Due to intensive rains rivers as well as small streams also swell up and cause heavy damage.
- Human activities such as cutting down of trees in mountains as well as in plains results in increased concentration of greenhouse gases and specially of carbon dioxide. As a result one can witness the changed patterns of monsoons.
- The worst hit people during the floods are those who have settled on the banks of rivers. As the danger level of water rises, these people have to be evacuated to safer places.
- severity
- damage
- (d) Disintegrate
- (c) Serious

PASSAGE 12

- To attack its prey, a Russell viper injects poison while rat snakes catches and pushes their prey against the ground.
- Sand Boa produces secretions that are particularly poisonous to birds. So, it first crushes its prey and then injects the poison as an extra step to kill its prey.
- There is a constant tussle between the hunting animal and its prey because while the hunting animals try their worst to kill their prey, the other (prey) uses any trick to avoid becoming a meal.

- Mongoose are highly resistant to cobra poison. In addition, their speed and agility allows them to easily kill snakes making them snake predators.
- (b) Alternative
- (c) Specific
- Poison
- Resistant

PASSAGE 13

- According to the passage, a hobby is an activity that interests a person. It fills an individual with a sense of satisfaction and contentment while taking care of ones mental and physical well-being.
- According to the writer, Mr-X Looks 10 years younger because of his stress free and satisfied life. The reason behind Mr X's contentment was the sense of energy and calmness that he derived from his hobby, that is, writing.
- Writing was Mr X's hobby which fulfilled him on mental and physical level. It was not a means of financial gains. Hence, writing was not a means of livelihood for Mr X.
- Because of following his passion for writing Mr X was satisfied with his life. It filled him with ease and confidence. As a result, his retirement was not a sad phase in his life. It infact brought to him a new opportunity to follow his passion.
- (a) robust
- (c) passionate
- Commitment
- Lease

PASSAGE 14

- The high calorie diet and lack of physical activities results in obesity in the people of India.
- We need body fat in certain amounts to store energy, keep warm and absorb the shocks.
- People with severe binge eating problem have symptoms of depression and low self-esteem.
- Negative emotions such as boredom, sadness and anger leads to overeating.
- epidemic
- prevalent
- (b) Genetic
- (a) Culpit