

ENGLISH CORE

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum marks : 80

General Instructions :

- (i) This paper is divided into two parts: A and B. All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

PART - A (40 Marks)

READING (20 Marks)

1. Read the passage given below.

- (1) That large animals require luxuriant vegetation has been a general assumption which has passed from one work to another; but I do not hesitate to say that it is completely false, and that it has vitiated the reasoning of geologists on some points of great interest in the ancient history of the world. The prejudice has probably been derived from India, and the Indian islands, where troops of elephants, noble forests, and impenetrable jungles, are associated together in everyone's mind. If, however, we refer to any work of travels through the southern parts of Africa, we shall find allusions in almost every page either to the desert character of the country, or to the numbers of large animals inhabiting it. The same thing is rendered evident by the many engravings which have been published of various parts of the interior.
- (2) Dr. Andrew Smith, who has lately succeeded in passing the Tropic of Capricorn, informs me that, taking into consideration the whole of the southern part of Africa, there can be no doubt of its being a sterile country. On the southern coasts there are some fine forests, but with these exceptions, the traveler may pass for days together through open plains, covered by a poor and scanty vegetation. Now, if we look at the animals inhabiting these wide plains, we shall find their numbers extraordinarily great, and their bulk immense.
- (3) It may be supposed that although the species are numerous, the individuals of each kind are few. By the kindness of Dr. Smith, I am enabled to show that the case is very different. He informs me, that in lat. 24', in one day's march with the bullock-wagons, he saw, without wandering to any great distance on either side, between one hundred and one hundred and fifty rhinoceroses - the same day he saw several herds of giraffes, amounting together to nearly a hundred.
- (4) At the distance of a little more than one hour's march from their place of encampment on the previous night, his party actually killed at one spot eight hippopotamuses, and saw many more. In this same river there were likewise crocodiles. Of course it was a case quite extraordinary, to see so many great animals crowded together, but it evidently proves that they must exist in great numbers. Dr. Smith describes the country passed through that day, as 'being thinly covered with grass, and bushes about four feet high, and still more thinly with mimosa-trees.'
- (5) Besides these large animals, anyone the least acquainted with the natural history of the Cape has read of the herds of antelopes, which can be compared only with the flocks of migratory birds. The numbers indeed of the lion, panther, and hyena, and the multitude of birds of prey, plainly speak of the abundance of the

smaller quadrupeds: one evening seven lions were counted at the same time prowling round Dr. Smith's encampment. As this able naturalist remarked to me, the carnage each day in Southern Africa must indeed be terrific! I confess it is truly surprising how such a number of animals can find support in a country producing so little food.

- (6) The larger quadrupeds no doubt roam over wide tracts in search of it; and their food chiefly consists of underwood, which probably contains much nutriment in a small bulk. Dr. Smith also informs me that the vegetation has a rapid growth; no sooner is a part consumed, than its place is supplied by a fresh stock. There can be no doubt, however, that our ideas respecting the apparent amount of food necessary for the support of large quadrupeds are much exaggerated. The belief that where large quadrupeds exist, the vegetation must necessarily be luxuriant, is more remarkable, because the converse is far from true.
- (7) Mr. Burchell observed to me that when entering Brazil, nothing struck him more forcibly than the splendour of the South American vegetation contrasted with that of South Africa, together with the absence of all large quadrupeds. In his travels, he has suggested that the comparison of the respective weights (if there were sufficient data) of an equal number of the largest herbivorous quadrupeds of each country would be extremely curious. If we take on the one side, the elephants, hippopotamus, giraffe, bos caffer, elan, five species of rhinoceros; and on the American side, two tapirs, the guanaco, three deer, the vicuna, peccari, capybara (after which we must choose from the monkeys to complete the number), and then place these two groups alongside each other it is not easy to conceive ranks more disproportionate in size.
- (8) After the above facts, we are compelled to conclude, against anterior probability that among the mammalia there exists no close relation between the bulk of the species, and the quantity of the vegetation, in the countries which they inhabit.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven given below. (1 × 10 = 10)

- (i) The author is primarily concerned with _____ .
- (a) discussing the relationship between the size of mammals and the nature of vegetation in their habitats
 - (b) contrasting ecological conditions in India and Africa
 - (c) proving that large animals do not require much food
 - (d) describing the size of animals in various parts of the world
- (ii) According to the author, the 'prejudice' (Para 1) has led to _____ .
- (a) errors in the reasoning of biologists
 - (b) false ideas about animals in Africa
 - (c) incorrect assumptions on the part of geologists
 - (d) doubt in the mind of the author
- (iii) The flocks of migratory birds (Para 5) are mentioned to _____ .
- (a) describe an aspect of the fauna of South Africa
 - (b) illustrate a possible source of food for large carnivores
 - (c) contrast with the habits of the antelope
 - (d) suggest the size of antelope herds
- (iv) Darwin quotes Burchell's observations in order to _____ .
- (a) counter a popular misconception
 - (b) describe a region of great splendour
 - (c) prove a hypothesis
 - (d) illustrate a well-known phenomenon
- (v) Among the mammalia, there is no close relation between _____ .
- (a) bulk of the species
 - (b) quantity of the vegetation
 - (c) countries they inhabit
 - (d) all of these

- (vi) The prejudice that large animals require luxuriant vegetation came from _____ .
 (a) India (b) Africa (c) America (d) Sri Lanka
- (vii) Pick the option in which the meaning of 'vitiating' is not the same as it is in the passage.
 (a) Production managers vitiating the machines, ruining them through overloading during production.
 (b) A mistake of fact in some circumstances could vitiate the contract.
 (c) There are several reasons why the pound has vitiating against the euro.
 (d) The recent study has vitiating the earlier theories.
- (viii) Dr. Andrew Smith, behind calling the whole of southern part of Africa, a sterile country was intended to say that
 (a) it is an undeveloped country. (b) it lacks proper vegetation.
 (c) its people are barren and cannot reproduce. (d) it lacks all the natural beauty.
- (ix) The narrator states that, the carnage each day in southern Africa must indeed be terrific! Carnage here means.
 (a) massacre (b) preserving (c) reconciliation (d) cessation
- (x) Pick out the option that correctly states about what happened after Mr. Burchell reached South America.
 (a) He became grief-stricken to see the barren land.
 (b) He became so excited to see the ice covered mountains there.
 (c) He was awestruck by the splendour of the country vegetation.
 (d) He finds it amazing that the country was densed with large quadrupeds.
- (xi) Pick out the option that correctly describes the final outcome or the conclusion of the passage.
 (a) A country's vegetation and its inhabitants are closely related to each other.
 (b) A country which has large number of fauna always had a greater extent of vegetation.
 (c) A country's vegetation and its bulk of species had no relation between them.
 (d) A country's inhabitants has nothing to do with its vegetation.

2. Read the passage given below.

- (1) Classical dance evolved from Tamil Nadu's temples across centuries. The revived and reformed Bharatanatyam keeps the art born of these ancient temples alive even to this day. Once sustained and nurtured in temples as part of a rich and vibrant temple tradition, classical dance in South India has remained over centuries a dynamic, living tradition that is continuously renewed.
- (2) Even 2000 years ago, dance in India was a highly evolved and complex art. It was an integral part of ancient Indian theatre as established by the Natya Shastra, the oldest and exhaustive treatise on theatre and dramaturgy. Dance dramas were performed in temple precincts. Dance movements were crystallised in stone as karanas in temple sculpture. Following the Bhakti movement in the 6th century, dance and music became powerful vehicles of veneration. The deity was treated like a much-loved king, praised and royally entertained with music and dance, as part of the daily sacred rituals of worship. Gifted, highly educated temple dancers or devadasis were supported by the temples that were richly endowed by the rulers. Some 400 temple dancers were dedicated to and maintained by the Brihadeswarar Temple in Thanjavur. Dance evolved as a composite art in temples as dancers, nattuvanars (dance gurus), musicians, poets, composers, architects, sculptors and painters shared a holistic approach to all the arts.
- (3) The evolution of Bharatanatyam derives from the invaluable contribution of The Tanjore Quartet. The four Pillai brothers – Chinnayya, Ponnayya, Sivanandam and Vadivelu – served as court musicians at the kingdom of Maratha king, Serfoji II in the early 19th century. Their legacy to Bharatanatyam has been their restructuring of the dance repertoire into the margam format and their vast and diverse music compositions set specifically for dance. Some of their descendants like Guru Meenakshisundaram Pillai evolved the famous Pandanallur bani (style) and trained many eminent dancers.
- (4) From the temples, dance made its way into the courts of kings and dancers were not just devadasis, but also rajanartakis. By the early 17th century dance forms like sadir or chinna melam, precursors to Bharatanatyam

as we know it today had become popular in the courts of the Maratha rulers in Thanjavur. However, in the 19th century, colonial propaganda perceived such dance as vulgar and immoral. It led to the Anti-Nautch Movement and legislation against temple dance and dancers. Divested of all patronage and temple support, devadasis were thrown into dire straits. In the early 20th century, thanks to enlightened visionaries like EV Krishna Iyer and later, Rukmini Devi Arundale, and the dedication of a handful of devadasis and nattuvanars, classical dance was resuscitated and revived as bharatanatyam. Today, apart from a few cultural festivals in some temples, dance has left the temple for the proscenium stage.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven that follow.

(1 × 10 = 10)

- (i) According to the passage, what kept Bharatnatyam alive even to the present day ?
- Its connection to the temples.
 - The perfection of the artist
 - Its revived and reformed form
 - The perfect moves of the dance form
- (ii) Pick the option that lists statements that are not true according to the passage.
- In India, dance has always been an integral part of ancient theatre.
 - Dancing forms has never been changed or reformed but it is liked by all in its nascent stage only.
 - Although the classical dance has evolved so much that its forms like sadir or chinna reached from temples to courts but it was perceived as vulgar by the colonials.
 - Today, apart from few cultural festivals dance is restricted to the temples only.
- (a) 2 and 4 (b) 1 and 2 (c) 3 and 4 (d) 1 and 3
- (iii) The word 'repertoire', as used in paragraph 3, means the same as
- legacy
 - movement
 - collection
 - perception
- (iv) As given in the passage, the word 'nattuvanars' means
- karanas
 - artform
 - dance gurus
 - disciples
- (v) Pick out the option which is not stated correctly according to the passage.
- The Guru Meenakshisundaram, descendent of Pillai brothers has evolved dance style, called pandanallur bani.
 - The Pillai brothers served the kingdom of Maratha King in the early 12th century.
 - Dance movements were also crystallised in stone as karanas in the structure of temples.
 - In south India, classical dance has remained over centuries a dynamic and living tradition.
- (vi) ... dance has left the temple for the proscenium stage” The phrase proscenium stage refers to
- the back view of the stage.
 - the frontage of the stage.
 - the popularity of the stage.
 - the vast variety of dance, performed on the stage.
- (vii) ...the dedication of a handful of devadasis and nattuvanars classical dance was resuscitated and revived as Bharatnatyam.”
- Pick out the option in which the meaning of 'resuscitate(ed)' is the same as it is in the passage.
- Due to the day's hard worked, both men collapsed but were resuscitated.
 - Hopefully the water will resuscitate the drooping plants.
 - The doctor tried to resuscitate him, but he did not regain consciousness.
 - She submitted a bid to resuscitate her already existing best-seller.

- (viii) ‘... the Bhakti movement in the 6th century, dance and music became powerful vehicles of veneration.’ the phrase ‘vehicles of veneration’ here referred to as
- (a) the medium to gain respect (b) the rich and vibrant tradition
(c) the evolving art form (d) the handful of devadasis
- (ix) According to the passage, In India, Dance was established by
- (a) gurus (b) musicians (c) Rukmini Devi (d) Natya shastra
- (x) The word ‘evolve(d)’ in the 1 paragraph has the same meaning as
- (a) decrease (b) diminish (c) slacken (d) progress
- (xi) Pick out the option that correctly describes the given lines.
‘Today, apart from a few cultural festivals in some temples, dance has left the temple for the proscenium stage.’
- (a) Dance is performed only in temples.
(b) Dance is performed in the theatres only since it was banned in temples.
(c) Dance is completely banished from everywhere now.
(d) Dance is performed in temples only occasionally, and it has occupied the forefront of the stage.

LITERATURE (20 Marks)

3. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY TWO of the three given by answering the questions that follow. (4 + 4 = 8)

A. What does the word ‘thunderclap’ refer to me!

Oh! the wretches; that was what they had put up at the town-hall!

- (i) What does the word ‘thunderclap’ refer to?
- (a) something vague and doubtful (b) something exciting
(c) something overpowering (d) something startling or unexpected
- (ii) The narrator mumbled- “Oh the wretches” – he said so because after the announcement he finds himself
- (a) inadequate (b) unfortunate (c) confident (d) courageous
- (iii) Which figure of speech from those given below is being used by the author, in the line, “What a thunderclap these words were to me!”
- (a) Simile (b) Personification (c) Metaphor (d) Hyperbole
- (iv) Pick out the option that correctly describes author’s feelings when he heard the news.
1. Shocked 2. Surprised 3. Guilty 4. Jealousy
5. Elated 6. Disapproval
- (a) 2, 4, and 5 (b) 1, 3, and 6 (c) 1, 2, and 3 (d) 4, 5, and 6

B. Savita, a young girl in a drab pink dress, sits alongside an elderly woman soldering pieces of glass. As her hands move mechanically like the tongs of a machine, I wonder if she knows the sanctity of the bangles she helps make. It symbolises an Indian woman’s suhaag, auspiciousness in marriage. It will dawn on her suddenly one day when her head is draped with a red veil, her hand dyed with a red veil, her hand dyed with henna, and red bangles rolled onto her wrists. She will then become a bride. Like the old woman beside her who become one money years ago.

- (i) Pick out the option that best describes Savita.
- (a) Young and innocent (b) Old and patient
(c) Young and irritable (d) Old and confused

- (ii) "Savita, a young girl ..., sits alongside an elderly woman, soldering pieces of glass." This means that Savita was
- trying to make the bangles all by herself
 - trying to help the old woman.
 - hungry and disturbing the old woman in doing the work.
 - getting anxious and thus scolding the old woman.
- (iii) The line, "As her hands move mechanically like the tongs of a machine, ..." is an example of
- hyperbole
 - parody
 - simile
 - symbolism
- (iv) Choose the option that best demonstrates the significance of red colour in Indian Hindu culture.
- Aridity and boredom
 - Energetic and vibrant
 - Auspiciousness and purity
 - Calmness and caution
- C. The presidents of the New York central and the New York, New haven and Hartford railroads will swear on a stack of timetables that there are only two. But I say there are those, because I've been on the third level of the Grand Central Station. Yes, I've taken the obvious step. I talked to a psychiatrist friend of mine, among others. I told him about the third level at Grand Central Station, and he said it was a waking dream wish fulfillment. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war worry and all the rest of it, and that I just want to escape.
- (i) Pick out the option which is a correct description of the phrase "waking dream wish fulfillment".
- a pleasant wish that makes one forget the past's terrible experiences.
 - a pleasant wish that takes one to the future
 - a pleasant wish that encourages to work
 - a pleasant wish that makes one forget the present
- (ii) What does the 'third level' signify?
- A third level of dream that is fulfilled
 - A third gate on Grand Central Station
 - A third wish that is going to be accomplished
 - Human tendencies to escape from the harsh realities of the present time
- (iii) Pick out the option that best describes the mental tendency of the narrator.
- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| (1) Disappointed | (2) Escapism | (3) Calm | (4) Satisfied |
| (a) 1 and 3 | (b) 1 and 2 | (c) 3 and 4 | (d) 2 and 4 |
- (iv) "The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry..." Signifies that :
- the world is full of chaos but at the same time means of happiness also for the narrator.
 - the narrator is not at all satisfied with his life.
 - the narrator wanted to explore more about the modern world.
 - the narrator enjoys the feeling of pain and insecurities in his life.

4. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. (1 × 4 = 4)

A. On sour cream walls, donations, Shakespeare's head,
 Cloudless at dawn, civilized dome riding all cities.
 Belled, flowery, Tyrolese valley. Open-handed map
 Awarding the world its world.

- (i) The phrase 'Tyrolese valley' refers to
- the beautiful flowers grown in the valley
 - the vastness of the valley
 - the calmness of the valley
 - the sad atmosphere of the valley

- (ii) The phrase 'sour cream' is an example of
 (a) satire (b) parody (c) personification (d) metaphor
- (iii) In the extract 'Open-handed map, Awarding that world its world' suggests that
 (a) the map has no relevance for the children
 (b) the map helps the children to connect with the world
 (c) the map makes them feel proud to see the place on it, in which they live
 (d) the map helps them plan their journey to the world.
- (iv) To the children, the photo of Shakespeare's head, in the classroom seem like.
 (a) a round-shaped ball (b) a ray of hope
 (c) the rising sun at the horizon (d) the hottest sun at the noon

OR

B. looked out at young

Trees sprinting the merry children spilling
 out of their homes, but after the airport's
 security check, standing a few yards
 I looked again at her, wan, pale
 as a late winters moon and felt that old familiar ache,

- (i) The phrase 'Trees sprinting' refers to
 (a) the tall, dense, thickness of trees (b) fast pace of trees
 (c) falling of trees (d) the withering of trees
- (ii) The poet's another glance at her mother's face filled her with the feeling of
 (a) anxiety and fear (b) only fear
 (c) sadness and guilt (d) only guilt
- (iii) The mother's pale face is compared to the
 (a) paleness of the winter moon (b) paleness of the clouds
 (c) paleness of the summer moon (d) paleness of the rising sun
- (iv) The literary device used by the poet in the following lines is _____ .
 "... as a late winter's moon and felt that old familiar ache, ... "

- (a) personification (b) allegory (c) simile (d) onomatopoeia

5. Attempt ANY EIGHT questions of following from the ten given below. (1 × 8 = 8)

- (i) Franz thought "Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?" means that
 (a) Germans would use their brutal force over everyone.
 (b) Harsh and strict orders will be passed.
 (c) When people are deprived of their essence and are in pain, they find that even the surrounding are affected.
 (d) The Germans will rob France of its language.
- (ii) In the poem, 'My Mother at sixty-six, which poetic device is used by the poet in the phrase- 'Trees sprinting'?
 (a) Metaphor (b) simile (c) personification (d) hyperbole
- (iii) In the lesson 'The Lost Spring' the two parts depict the :
 (a) hard work of the people living in slums
 (b) plight of the street children being forced into labour at such an early age
 (c) the process of bangle making
 (d) the good luck of the ragpickers

- (iv) The lesson 'Deep Water' is written by
 (a) William Douglas (b) Anees Jung
 (c) Louis Fischer (d) Stephen Spender
- (v) Choose the statement that is TRUE with reference to Spender's 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum'.
 (a) The students in the classroom are underprivileged and malnourished.
 (b) The children have all the resources that can make their life better.
 (c) The class room is very large and tidy.
 (d) The school takes no donation and runs on its own.
- (vi) The peddler's perception about the world that it's merely a rattrap shows that he is very.
 (a) optimistic about the world
 (b) pessimistic about the world
 (c) dauntless about the world
 (d) hopeful about the world
- (vii) Pick out the literary device that has been used by the poet in the lines —
 "Let's not speak in any language,
 let's stop for one second."
 (a) alliteration (b) anaphora (c) assonance (d) enjambment
- (viii) With reference to the chapter 'Indigo' Rajkumar Shukla can be described as :
 (a) resolute (b) compliant (c) docile (d) timorous
- (ix) With reference to the poem, 'A Thing of Beauty', which of the following is not true?
 (a) Man and nature are inseparable.
 (b) All beautiful things are a boon for nature.
 (c) Trees only appear beautiful to see.
 (d) Nature provides us good health and mental peace.
- (x) "They pace in sleek chivalric certainty".
 The word 'chivalric' here shows
 (a) the power of males (b) the honour of male dominated society
 (c) a sense of honour towards women (d) the nation of slavery

PART - B (40 Marks)
WRITING (16 Marks)

- 6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 3 = 3)**
- A. You are Manager, Infocom Network C-3, Main shopping center, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi. Draft an Advertisement offering office furniture for sale. Give details. (50 words)
- OR**
- B. You are Akshay/ Yakshi, a student of class XII, St. Joseph's College, Delhi. You are interested in giving tuition in Accountancy to one or two students of class XI. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words for a local newspaper.
- 7. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 3 = 3)**
- A. You are the President, Literary Society of Sunshine International School. Draft an invitation to author, Ms Manjul Bajaj requesting her to conduct a workshop on creative writing in your school. You are Romi/Rohit of Zenith Public School. (50 words)

OR

B. Write a formal reply accepting an invitation to be present in the birthday celebrations of your friend, Suresh's daughter, who lives at 1231, Chattarpur, Delhi. You are Abhisehk Khanna. (50 words)

8. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 5 = 5)

A. Write a Letter in about 120-150 words for the post of the Librarian in Vision Senior Secondary School, Calicut. Also, enclose your bio-data with it. You are Radhika/Rajeev from 21, Cherry Road, Madurai.

OR

B. You are Seetha / Surya living in Bangalore. You and your friends are planning a week long holiday to a hill station. Write a letter in 120-150 words making necessary enquiries from the tour operator before you make your final decision.

9. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 5 = 5)

A. On the occasion of Teacher's Day the Honourable PM of India had an interactive session with students from all over the country through satellite link. Your school also made special arrangements for the students to view the telecast. Write an article in about 120-150 words for your school magazine giving details of the talk and its impact on you. You are Akshay/ Akshita of Brightland Public School.

OR

B. You are Mridul/Mridula, an HT correspondent. You witnessed a protest rally by a youth organisation. Mentioning the purpose of rally, places covered and reaction of public, write a report in 120-150 words for your newspaper.

LITERATURE (24 Marks)

10. Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below, in 30-40 words each. (2 × 5 = 10)

- How is the bangle industry of Firozabad a curse for the bangle makers?
- What did the gift of the rat trap signify?
- The poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' is replete with symbols. Interpret any 2 symbols used in the poem.
- What different images does the poet use to convey the idea of her mother's old age?
- What tempted Franz to stay away from school?
- Why did Gandhiji feel that taking the Champaran case to the court was useless?

11. Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below in 30-40 words each. (2 × 2 = 4)

- "But Sadao searching the spot of black in the twilight sea that night, had his reward". What was the reward?
- Why did Roger Skunk go to the wizard?
- How did 'The World' help Charley to confirm his doubts regarding the existence of a third level?

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words. (1 × 5 = 5)

A. What is the bond that unites old Mr. Lamb and Derry, the boy? How does the old man inspire the boy?

OR

B. Why is an adult's perspective on life different from that of a child's? (Should Wizard hit Mommy?)

13. Attempt ANY ONE out of the following questions in 120-150 words (1 × 5 = 5)

A. Why do you think Gandhiji considered the Champaran episode to be a turning-point in his life?

OR

B. The story 'The Rattrap' is both entertaining and philosophical. Discuss.