

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) One of the greatest sailing adventures of the past 25 years was the conquest of the Northwest Passage, powered by sail, human muscle, and determination. In 100 days, over three summers (1986-88), Canadians Jeff MacInnis and Mike Beedell accomplished the first wind-powered crossing of the Northwest Passage.
- (2) In Jeff MacInnis's words...Our third season. We weave our way through the labyrinth of ice, and in the distance we hear an unmistakable sound. A mighty bowhead whale is nearby, and its rhythmic breaths fill us with awe. Finally we see it relaxed on the surface, its blowhole quivering like a volcanic cone, but it senses our presence and quickly sounds. We are very disappointed. We had only good intentions - to revel in its beautiful immensity and to feel its power. Mike thinks how foolish it would be for this mighty beast to put any faith in us. After all, we are members of the species that had almost sent the bowhead into extinction with our greed for whale oil and bone. It is estimated that as many as 38,000 bowheads were killed off eastern Baffin Island in the 1800s; today there are about 200 left.
- (3) The fascinating and sometimes terrifying wildlife keeps us entertained during our explorations. Bearded harp and ring seals greet us daily. The profusion of bird life is awesome; at times we see and smell hundreds of thousands of thick-billed murres clinging to their cliff side nests. Our charts show we are on the edge of a huge shoal where the frigid ocean currents up well and mix nutrients that provide a feast for the food chain. At times these animals scare the living daylights out of us. They have a knack of sneaking up behind us and then shooting out of the water and belly flopping for maximum noise and splash. A horrendous splash coming from behind has a heart-stopping effect in polar bear country.
- (4) We have many encounters with the "Lords of the Arctic," but we are always cautious, observant, and ever so respectful that we are in their domain. In some regions the land is totally devoid of life, while in others the pulse of life takes our breath away. Such is the paradox of the Arctic; It's wastelands flow into oasis' that are found nowhere else on the face of the earth. Many times we find ancient signs of Inuit people who lived here, superbly attuned to the land. We feel great respect for them; this landscape is a challenge at every moment.
- (5) We face a 35 mile open water passage across Prince Regent Inlet on Baffin Island that will take us to our ultimate goal - Pond Inlet on Baffin Bay. The breakers look huge from the water's edge. Leaning into the hulls, like bobsledders at the starting gate, we push as hard as we can down the gravel beach to the sea. We catch

the water and keep pushing until we have plunged waist deep, then drag ourselves aboard. Immediately, we begin paddling with every ounce of effort. Inch by agonizing inch, Perception moves offshore. Sweat pours off our bodies. Ahead of us, looming gray-white through the fog, we see a massive iceberg riding the current like the ghost of a battleship. There is no wind to fill our sails and steady the boat, and the chaotic motion soon brings seasickness. Slowly the wind begins to build. Prince Regent Inlet now looks ominous with wind and waves. The frigid ocean hits us square in the face and chills us to the bone.

- (6) We were on the fine edge. Everything the Arctic had taught us over the last 90 days was now being tested. We funneled all that knowledge, skill, teamwork, and spirit into this momentous crossing... If we went over in these seas we could not get the boat back up. Suddenly the wind speed plummeted to zero as quickly as it had begun.... Now we were being pushed by the convulsing waves toward sheer 2,000 foot cliffs. Two paddles were our only power. Sailing past glacier capped mountains, we approached the end of our journey. At 05:08 in the morning of our hundredth day, speeding into Baffin Bay, the spray from our twin hulls makes rainbows in the sun as we complete the first sail powered voyage through the Northwest Passage.
- (7) We have journeyed through these waters on their terms, moved by the wind, waves and current. The environment has always been in control of our destiny; we have only tried to respond in the best possible way. We've been awake for nearly 23 hours, but we cannot sleep. The joy and excitement are too great. Our Hobie Cat rests on the rocky beach, the wind whistling in her rigging, her bright yellow hulls radiant in the morning sunlight. She embodies the watchword for survival in the Arctic - adaptability.

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

- (i) The passage is about the _____ .
 (a) author's sailing adventure through the Northwest passage
 (b) flora and fauna of the Arctic
 (c) survival skills needed while sailing
 (d) saving the Arctic
- (ii) "Lords of the Arctic," (Para 4) refers to _____ .
 (a) Wind breakers (b) Bearded seals
 (c) Polar Bears (d) bowhead whales
- (iii) The author's sailing vessel is named _____ .
 (a) Prince Regent (b) Hobie Cat
 (c) Perception (d) Arctic
- (iv) 'We were on the fine edge' refers to _____ .
 (a) the Prince Regent Inlet (b) the ominous sail
 (c) the frigid ocean (d) their expedition
- (v) _____ embodies the watchword for survival in the Arctic-adaptability.
 (a) The cat (b) Destiny
 (c) The ship (d) None of these
- (vi) The author is an adventure enthusiast who loves _____ .
 (a) nature (b) domestic animals
 (c) Wildlife (d) both 'a' and 'c'
- (vii) According to the passage 'labyrinth' here means _____ .
 1. web 2. maze 3. order 4. line
 (a) 1 and 2 (b) 3 and 4 (c) 1 and 3 (d) 2 and 4

- (viii) Pick out the option that best describes MacInnis's thoughts about the bowhead whales.
- The whales should trust human beings.
 - Human beings have never killed a bowhead whale.
 - Bowhead whales are foolish to trust a human.
 - Only 200 bowhead whales are left today.
- (ix) As given in paragraph 4, Inuit people are
- the migrants of America
 - those who live in jungles
 - the hunters of sea animals in the Arctic
 - the indigenous people of the Arctic
- (x) With reference to the passage we find the author is _____ by the wildlife.
- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| (a) disgusted | (b) terrified |
| (c) fascinated | (d) scared |
- (xi) According to the passage, the skills that helped the author and his partner survive the adventure are
- their team work
 - their strength to adapt the things
 - their positive spirit
 - their knowledge of using technologies
 - their way of sailing the slip
- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| (a) 1, 2, and 3 | (b) 2, 4, and 5 |
| (c) 1, 3, and 4 | (d) 3, 4, and 5 |

2. Read the passage given below.

- (1) Suspense was over when my high school results finally came out. But I was upset. I had not done as well as I had expected. My Father tried to console me. "Why are you worried? You have done very well my dear." "No, I have not Baba," I protested, controlling my tears, and wondering if I had disappointed him. "It does not really matter," he assured me. "Do you know what I got when I finished high school?" I looked into Baba's face and waited for the answer to his own question. "You know," he told me "I have never told you this. I got just a third division. But, look at me, I have done quite well." Baba got a third division! I was almost in shock, but the thought of my having done a lot better than that made me realize that I had no reason to complain. I certainly felt better! "Everything is under control!" said Baba, smiling. That was his favourite phrase. Posted in Kolkata, my father was then a senior official in the Indian Railway Service, and an expert in goods traffic operations. He was soon to become a director with the Railway Board. By the time he retired in 1981, he was general manager of the Central Railways. By the time Baba passed away in November 2000, his name had found place in several hearts as well. He was open, easy to know, and full of life. We were extremely close, but I had so much more to learn about him from many things I came to know after his death.
- (2) In September 2000, he was in hospital for treatment of cancer and given just two months to live. When he found out, his reaction was an extremely rational one. He asked me to fetch files from his cupboard, so that he could explain the details of my mother's pension. He also dictated his will from his hospital bed. "Everything is under control!" After Baba's death, Satish, our old family retainer, was inconsolable. We tried to cheer him up. "Your Baba had scolded me only once in all these years!" he cried. Satish pointed to the watch on his left hand. "I had been coming late for work and everyone in the family was complaining about it," said Satish. "Then, one day, your Baba gave me this watch and told me, 'Now that you have a watch, you can't be late.'" That was the scolding Satish received. On the fourth day after Baba's death, my sister and I had to perform a ceremony. Since several relatives were expected, we decided to order lunch from a caterer

in our locality, reputed for his home cooked food. But, when we went to pay to owner, we got a surprise. He refused to accept any money! “When I wanted to start my catering business, it was your father who lent me money,” he told us. It seems Baba never asked for it back. Now, after four or five years, the caterer wanted to repay that debt. Of course, we made him accept the full payment for the fine food and service. “It was Baba’s gift and it ought to remain so,” I told him.

- (3) Some days later, there was yet another piece of information as we were preparing for the main ceremony. Vikram, my brother drove me to the local market. On recognizing our car, the parking assistant, in his twenties, came running towards us and asked why he had not seen its owner for long. We had to break the news to him and to our utter surprise, he started crying. We were really surprised by this reaction from a stranger – until the man told us that Baba used to pay his daughter’s school fees and buy her books. It seems, it was on my father’s advice that he had even started sending the child to school. More than three years after Baba’s death, as we were looking into Baba’s personal things, we came across an old file with Baba’s certificates and I found among them, his high school diploma from 1937, the one he told me about 30 years earlier, about the third division that had made no difference in his life or career. It had made me see beyond mere marks and first classes as the main road to success. But there was one more fact. Baba had actually got a first division, a rare achievement in his day. Today, years after his passing, when I think of Baba, I see a man who was able to sympathise with others so easily and touch their lives in such a special way.

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

- (i) Father’s revelation of his high school result to the narrator, was to
- criticize the narrator’s inability to obtain good marks
 - make fun of the narrator
 - console and to encourage the narrator
 - to showcase his own achievements
- (ii) “I was almost in shock ...” Pick the option in which the meaning of shock[ed] is not the same as it is in the passage.
- Julie was deeply in shock by her grandmother’s death.
 - He completely shocked everyone with his news.
 - When she went to China, She experienced culture shock.
 - When the doctor noticed that the health of the patient was not improving, he suggested the shock therapy.
- (iii) Based on your reading of the passage choose the option that lists the correct sequence of the events.
- The narrator’s result was declared.
 - The narrator’s father told him about his high-school result.
 - The narrator went to the market with his brother, Vikram.
 - Baba passed away.
 - The narrator realised that his father had actually got a first division.
- (a) 5, 2, 1, 3, 4 (b) 1, 2, 4, 3, 5 (c) 3, 2, 1, 5, 4 (d) 4, 1, 3, 5, 2
- (iv) After the reading of the passage, it can be concluded that the narrator’s father had a _____ approach towards the people and society.
- egoistic
 - inhumane
 - humanitarian
 - barbaric
- (v) How did father react to the narrator’s high school result ?
- He scolded him.
 - He presented him a gift.
 - He consoled him and asked him to not worry about it.
 - He punished him.

- (vi) According to the passage, the narrator's disappointment after seeing his result, shows that
- (a) he was expecting a good result. (b) he already knew about his result.
 (c) he failed to hide it from his parents. (d) he has not studied well.
- (vii) Pick the option that correctly states what DID NOT happen after the narrator's father passed away.
- (a) No one turned out for Baba's condolence.
 (b) Everybody in the nearby area praised Baba for his helping nature.
 (c) The caterer refused to take the money.
 (d) The narrator found Baba's old file with the certificates and his high school diploma in it.
- (viii) According to the passage, The narrator's high school result was
- (a) over exciting. (b) average.
 (c) below average. (d) not as well as he expected.
- (ix) Pick out the option that correctly lists the final feelings of the narrator after finding his father's old file.
1. frustrated 2. satisfied 3. hopeful 4. arrogant
 5. pessimistic 6. disappointed
- (a) 2 and 3 (b) 4 and 6 (c) 1 and 5 (d) 5 and 6
- (x) Choose the correct synonym of 'rational' as given in para 2, from the options given below.
1. logical 2. reasonable 3. agitated 4. thoughtless
 (a) 1 and 4 (b) 1 and 3 (c) 2 and 4 (d) 1 and 2
- (xi) Pick the option which means the same as 'console' given in the paragraph 1.
- (a) upset (b) solace (c) timid (d) passionate

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. Listening to them, I see two distinct worlds one of the family, caught in a web of poverty, burdened by the stigma of caste in which they are born; the other a vicious circle of the sahuks, the middlemen, the policemen, the keepers of law, the bureaucrats and the politicians. Together they have imposed the baggage on the child that he cannot put down. Before he is aware, he accepts it as naturally as his father. ... a flash of it in Mukesh I am cheered. "I want to be a motor mechanic; he repeats."
- (i) Who is being burdened under the baggage of two worlds?
- (a) The author (b) The middlemen (c) A young man (d) The sahuks
- (ii) The phrase 'stigma of caste' here refers to the
- (a) grief stricken life of the bangle makers (b) the untouchables living in Firozabad
 (c) poor families living in the slums (d) children unable to get proper food and clothes
- (iii) Pick the option that means the same as 'vicious'.
- (a) Gentle (b) Accurate (c) Brutal (d) Humane
- (iv) Mukesh's dream that he wanted to be a motor mechanic, suggest that
- (a) He is passionate about driving.
 (b) He is just like other boys of his place
 (c) He is completely different from all the members of his family.
 (d) He has to work to earn his livelihood.
- B. The world had, of course never been very kind to him, so it gave him unwanted joy to think ill of it in this way. It became a cherished pastime of his, during many dreary ploddings, to think of people he knew who had let themselves be caught in the dangerous snare, and of others who were still circling around the bait.

- (i) The peddler's constant thought about the people who had been tempted to touch the bait suggests that
 (a) he did not like the greedy people. (b) he is always cautious to meet his friends.
 (c) he considers the whole world, a rattrap. (d) he is fed up of his poverty stricken life.
- (ii) The peddler gets unusual joy in thinking
 (a) about his future dreams (b) about his past
 (c) about people, lured by wealth (d) ill about the world
- (iii) The word 'plodding' means the same as
 (a) lumber (b) cautiously (c) loudly (d) tiptoe
- (iv) Who is the author of this chapter?
 (a) Louis fischer (b) Adrienne Rich (c) W.B. Yeats (d) Selma Lagerlöf
- C. She crouched close to the sleeping face of the young American. It was a piteously thin face she thought, and the lips were twisted. The man was suffering whether he knew it or not. Watching him, she wondered if the stories they heard sometimes of the sufferings of prisoners were true. They came like flickers of rumour, told by word of mouth and always contradicted.
- (i) The above extract has been taken from
 (a) The Third Level (b) The Enemy
 (c) On the Face of it (d) Evans Tries an O-level
- (ii) Which word in the above extract is the synonym of 'confute'?
 (a) Twisted (b) contradict (c) Flicker (d) Rumour
- (iii) The young American was wounded because he had been
 (a) shot (b) slapped hard (c) beaten up (d) stabbed
- (iv) The wounded person came to the house which belonged to
 (a) The Japanese (b) The Chinese (c) The British (d) U.S.
4. **Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow.** (1 × 4 = 4)
- A. Perhaps the Earth can teach us
 As when everything seems dead
 And later proves to be alive
 Now I will count upto twelve
 And you keep quiet and I will go.
- (i) Pick out the option that is not correct with reference to the poem.
 (a) Silence teaches us to live in harmony.
 (b) By remaining silent, we can spread peace and be productive at the same time.
 (c) The Earth nurtures life and ensures that the cycle of life goes on unhampered.
 (d) The poet appeals to be chaotic and create noises and have fun.
- (ii) Which poetic device has been used by the poet in the line –
 "Perhaps the Earth can teach us".
 (a) Metaphor (b) Alliteration (c) Personification (d) Antithesis
- (iii) The poem 'Keeping Quiet' discusses the need of
 (a) having conversation with each other. (b) maintaining peace and silence.
 (c) maintaining social relations. (d) Fulfilling the generation gap.
- (iv) The poem is written by
 (a) Stephen spender (b) Pablo Neruda (c) John Keats (d) John Byron

OR

B. When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie
Still singed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid

- (i) The tigers in the poem symbolise
- | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1. Splendour | 2. Strength | 3. Threat | 4. Ferociousness |
| 5. Chaos | 6. Weakness | | |
- (a) 4 and 5 (b) 3 and 4 (c) 1 and 2 (d) 2 and 6
- (ii) The rhyme scheme of the above extract is
- (a) aabb (b) abab (c) aaab (d) abba
- (iii) In the poem, Aunt Jennifer's represents
- (a) women in general (b) woman in particular
(c) the freedom of an old woman (d) the strong bonding between animals and humans
- (iv) The significance of 'art' as shown in the poem is —
- (a) it has shown the skills of the poet.
(b) it has become a medium for her to escape from the reality
(c) it shows how much leisure she has
(d) it shows her love for animals.

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

- (i) Adrienne Rich's poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tiger' deals with the themes of
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. womanhood | 2. marriage |
| 3. materialism | 4. self-centredness of women |
| 5. importance of artistic expression | 6. repression of one's personality |
- (a) 1, 3, 4, and 5 (b) 1, 4, 5 and 6
(c) 1, 2, 5 and 6 (d) 2, 3, 4 and 5
- (ii) Pick out the option that is not true about Saheb with reference to 'Lost spring'.
- (a) He is a ragpicker from Seemapuri.
(b) Saheb was overburdened after started working at a tea-stall.
(c) To him remaining bare foot is following their tradition.
(d) His grandfather used to be a king that's why he calls himself Saheb-e-Alam.
- (iii) According to the poem, 'A Thing of Beauty', the things that cause pain and suffering are
1. dark phases of our life
2. failure to score good marks
3. adverse circumstances
- (a) 1 and 2 (b) only 1 (c) 1 and 3 (d) only 3
- (iv) Douglas' mother warned him against swimming in the Yakima river because
- (a) it had strong currents (b) its water is sour and scanty
(c) many people had drowned there (d) it was for fishing only
- (v) Through the poem, 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum', Spender wanted
- (a) to give privilege to all the underprivileged
(b) to improve the condition of the slums
(c) to promote education
(d) to give voice to all the social injustices that exist all over the world.

- (vi) In the short story 'The Rattrap' the author supports the theory of
 (a) selfishness (b) avarice (c) compassion (d) betrayal
- (vii) In the phrase 'sudden strangeness' the poetic device has been used by the poet is
 (a) oxymoron (b) hyperbola (c) alliteration (d) repetition
- (viii) The author has written his short story 'The Last Lesson' in the backdrop of
 (a) of Franco - Prussian War (b) French Revolution
 (c) World War I (d) The Black Day
- (ix) At first the poet compares her mother's appearance to
 (a) a full moon (b) the shining stars (c) a corpse (d) the rising sun
- (x) To improve the poor condition of Champaran Gandhi had to suffer a lot. How did he behave with the officials outside the court?
 (a) He was firm and resolute. (b) He demonstrated his power.
 (c) He said that he would disobey the order. (d) He cooperated with them.

PART - B (40 Marks)

WRITING (16 Marks)

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 3 = 3)

- A. You want to sell your newly built flat. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be inserted in the classified columns of 'The Hindu' giving all necessary details. You are Niranjana, 247, J.P. Nagar, Bangalore.

OR

- B. Your school is organizing a SPICMACAY programme on the occasion of the World Dance Day wherein the renowned Bharatanatyam dancer, Geeta Chandran would be giving a lecture demonstration. As the President, Cultural Society of your school, draft a notice in about 50 words, informing the students about the same. You are Rakhsita/Rohit of MVN Public School.

7. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 3 = 3)

- A. As Secretary of the Literary Club of St. Anne's School, Ahmedabad, draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words for the inauguration of the club in your school.

OR

- B. You are Amit Dubey. You have received an invitation from the Director, Health Services, Punjab who has invited leading medical practitioners of the state to attend a workshop on 'child care' on 25 July, 20×× at 9 a.m. in New Hope Hospital, Ambala. Draft a reply to the invitation in 50 words.

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

- A. You are Ashwini/Asha, a resident of 15, city centre, Haldwani. During your college life, you participated in various curricular and co-curricular activities with meritorious performance. Write a letter to the principal of your college, i.e., Dr. Rajendra Prasad Degree College, Delhi requesting them to issue you a testimonial including the details of your performance.

OR

- B. Write a letter to the commissioner of Delhi Municipal Corporation, explaining your concerns about the mosquito-menace in your locality. Also suggest urgent measures to cope with the problem. You are Lata Prithvi, D-26 Nirvana Complex, Delhi.

9. **Attempt ANY ONE of the following :** (1 × 5 = 5)
- A. It is very important to take significant actions to save our planet. Write an article in about 120-150 words for your school magazine on how can we save and protect our planet. You are Akshay/Akshita of Graham Public School, Indore.

OR

- B. As part of an Entrepreneurship project the commerce students of your school recently launched a product called Oatlicious. They not only set up a company to produce the product but also designed its advertising and marketing strategy. Write an article in about 120-150 words for your school magazine giving details of the enterprise and its launch. You are Akshay/ Akshita of Graham Public School, Indore.

LITERATURE (24 Marks)

10. **Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below, in 30-40 words each.** (2 × 5 = 10)
- (i) How and why was M. Hamel dressed differently that day?
 - (ii) Mention any two long term consequences of the drowning incident on Douglas.
 - (iii) How does the poem, 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum', portray/describe the slum children?
 - (iv) According to Keats what moves away the pain and suffering from human life?
 - (v) What were the poet's feelings as she drove to Cochin airport?
 - (vi) At the crofter's home, why did the peddler feel very happy?
11. **Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below in 30-40 words each.** (2 × 2 = 4)
- (i) How does Evans escape from the jail?
 - (ii) Why Hana had to wash the wounded man herself ?
 - (iii) How did Jo want the wizard to behave when Mommy Skunk approached him?
12. **Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words.** (1 × 5 = 5)
- A. What did the French teacher tell his students in his last French lesson? What impact did it have on them? Why?

OR

- B. Why did Gandhiji consider freedom from fear more important than legal justice for the poor peasants of Champaran?
13. **Attempt ANY ONE out of the following questions in 120-150 words** (1 × 5 = 5)
- A. What efforts were made by Dr . Sadao and Hana to save the life of the injured man?

OR

- B. Discuss the qualities of Mr. Lamb which make him overlook the deformity of Derek.