

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) Nuclear capability gives a status to the country in the community of nations. No nation can afford to make destructive use of the nuclear energy without risking a World War. That is why America did not make use of nuclear weapon in the Vietnam War though it had become a matter of prestige for her. Similarly Russia preferred to pull out her missile bases from Cuba instead of coming in direct conflict with a nuclear power, America. But India, since she started adopting nuclear technology, had decided to make only peaceful use of nuclear energy. The fear expressed by Pakistan and the comments made in the Chinese press are more for the sake of propoganda than for the projection of truth.
- (2) India needs nuclear energy in order to meet her power shortage. She has been depending upon hydroelectric power which is undependable because of the uncertainty of rainfall. Good quality of coal which is another source of energy cannot be extracted commercially because it lies very deep and the cost of extraction is very high. India is not producing much of oil, rather she has to import nearly 74 per cent of her total consumption. So the only alternative with India is to have a cheaper and more dependable source of energy. The known reserves of thorium in India are sufficient to last many hundred years. That is why India has already commissioned two nuclear power stations, one at Tarapur and the other at Rana Pratap Sagar. Each one has the installed capacity of producing 420 M.W. of electricity. Two other at Kalpakkam, are operational. This energy will be able to meet the power shortage throughout the country. If industries work at their full capacity, production will be higher and so per capita income will increase and inflation will be neutralized.
- (3) With the help of controlled nuclear explosions, artificial dams can be made. In fact for building a dam there should be two huge mountain walls enclosing a deep valley just near the course of a river. These conditions are not available at all the places. So with the help of controlled nuclear explosions mountains can be blown up. This can also help in laying roads in the mountainous areas. In fact, some of the borders of India have mountainous terrain and the movement of the army is quite difficult. So even for the sake of national security it is necessary to have roads in those areas.
- (4) With the help of radiation the shelf life of vegetables and fruits can be increased. In the tropical countries like India, it is necessary that the perishable fruit stuffs are preserved for a long time. Radiation can check the sprouting of onions and potatoes which are much in demand in foreign countries. Similarly fruits like

bananas and mangoes which have much export potential can be preserved for a very long time. The texture and taste of the fruit do not undergo any change.

- (5) Nuclear technology can also be harnessed for medical purposes. It is said that radioactive iodine is used for detecting the disease of the thyroid glands. Similarly, India of U.N. experts, radiated vaccine which can immunize sheep from lungworm disease, which used to take a heavy toll of sheep every year.
- (6) Properly processed nuclear fuel is also used for artificial satellite in space. Weather satellites can predict cyclones and the rainfall with extreme accuracy. Communication satellites can help in conveying the messages to very long distances. In a huge country like India, communication satellites are necessary.
- (7) Radiation is also used for preparing the mutant seeds. Many varieties of rice and some cereals have been prepared at Tarapur laboratory. This will increase our agricultural production and help India to become economically better off. So for India it is necessary to make peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

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

- (i) India needs nuclear energy in order to _____ .
 - (a) gain status in the community of nations
 - (b) meet her power shortage
 - (c) increase her might
 - (d) frighten the hostile countries
- (ii) Coal, another source of energy, cannot be extracted commercially because _____ .
 - (a) it lies very deep
 - (b) the cost of extraction is very high
 - (c) it lies very deep and the cost of extraction is very high
 - (d) it is risky for the miners to extract it
- (iii) In India _____ are sufficient to last many years.
 - (a) nuclear power stations
 - (b) Reserves of thorium
 - (c) vegetables and fruits
 - (d) radioactive iodine
- (iv) _____ is also used for preparing mutant seeds.
 - (a) Nuclear energy
 - (b) Artificial satellites
 - (c) Radiation
 - (d) None of these
- (v) India is making _____ use of nuclear energy.
 - (a) peaceful
 - (b) satellite
 - (c) medical
 - (d) explosive
- (vi) Nuclear energy can help the country in its economic growth by _____ .
 - (a) producing electricity
 - (b) increasing agriculture production
 - (c) making radiation
 - (d) making satellites
- (vii) “India needs nuclear energy in order to meet her power shortage.
Pick out the option that explain the above statement more accurately.
 - (a) Nuclear energy can be destructive only.
 - (b) India has used nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only.
 - (c) India has been using nuclear energy for destructive purposes.
 - (d) Nuclear energy can never be useful for us in many ways.
- (viii) “India has been depending upon hydroelectric power which is undependable because of the uncertainty of rainfall.
If it's not uncertain then it would be
 - (a) speculative
 - (b) vague
 - (c) erratic
 - (d) predictable
- (ix) According to the passage, radiation can help in increasing the _____ of vegetable and fruits.
 - (a) durability
 - (b) redolence
 - (c) taste
 - (d) sauciness

- (x) In what ways nuclear energy can be helpful for us?
- It helps to increase the shelf life of fruits and vegetables.
 - It is helpful for farming purposes only.
 - It is useful in preparing the mutant seeds.
 - All of these.
- (xi) According to the passage, which disease can be detected with the help of nuclear technology?
- Immunity disorder
 - Hormonal imbalance
 - Diseases of thyroid glands
 - Iron deficiency

2. Read the passage given below.

- We often make all things around us the way we want them. Even during our pilgrimages we have begun to look for whatever makes our heart happy, gives comfort to our body and peace to the mind. It is as if external solutions will fulfil our needs, and we do not want to make any special efforts even in our spiritual search. Our mind is resourceful—it works to find shortcuts in simple and easy ways.
- Even pilgrimages have been converted into tourism opportunities. Instead, we must awaken our conscience and souls and understand the truth. Let us not tamper with either our own nature or that of the Supreme.
- All our cleverness is rendered ineffective when nature does a dance of destruction. Its fury can and will wash away all imperfections. Indian culture, based on Vedic treatises, assists in human evolution, but we are now using our entire energy in distorting these traditions according to our convenience instead of making efforts to make ourselves worthy of them.
- The irony is that humans are not even aware of the complacent attitude they have allowed themselves to sink to. Nature is everyone's Amma and her fierce blows will sooner or later corner us and force us to understand this truth. Earlier, pilgrimages to places of spiritual significance were rituals that were undertaken when people became free from their worldly duties. Even now some seekers take up this pious religious journey as a path to peace and knowledge. Anyone travelling with this attitude feels and travels with only a few essential items that his body can carry. Pilgrims traditionally travelled light, on foot, eating light, dried chickpeas and fruits, or whatever was available. Pilgrims of olden days did not feel the need to stay in special AC bedrooms, or travel by luxury cars or indulge themselves with delicious food and savouries.
- Pilgrims traditionally moved ahead, creating a feeling of belonging towards all, conveying a message of brotherhood among all they came across whether in small caves, ashrams or local settlements. They received the blessings and congregations of yogis and mahatmas in return while conducting the dharma of their pilgrimage. A pilgrimage is like penance or sadhana to stay near nature and to experience a feeling of oneness with it, to keep the body healthy and fulfilled with the amount of food, while seeking freedom from attachments and yet remaining happy while staying away from relatives and associates.
- This is how a pilgrimage should be rather than making it like a picnic by taking a large group along and living in comfort, packing in entertainment, and tampering with environment. What is worse is giving a boost to the ego of having had a special darshan. Now alms are distributed, charity done while they brag about their spiritual experiences!
- We must embark on our spiritual journey by first understanding the grace and significance of a pilgrimage and following it up with the prescribed rules and rituals - this is what translates into the ultimate and beautiful medium of spiritual evolution. There is no justification for tampering with nature.
- A pilgrimage is symbolic of contemplation and meditation and acceptance, and is a metaphor for the constant growth or movement and love for nature that we should hold in our hearts.
- This is the truth !

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

- (i) Pick out the option that is not true according to the passage.
- A pilgrim can keep his body healthy
- by travelling a lot of places
 - by travelling light
 - by keeping free from attachment
 - by eating small amount of food
 - by eating snacks and rich food
- (a) Both 1 and 2 (b) only 2 (c) 1, 3, 4, and 5 (d) only 4

- (ii) As given in the passage, it states that most of the time, people prefer to do
 (a) what is beneficial for them (b) what is good for the society
 (c) what makes their heart happy (d) what is asked by their elders.
- (iii) Pick out the option that means the same as 'render' given in paragraph 3.
 (a) withhold (b) suppress (c) return (d) conceal
- (iv) Pick out the option that is TRUE about the pilgrimages, as discussed in the above passage.
 (a) Pilgrimages have been converted into tourism nowadays.
 (b) Pilgrimages should be performed at the young age only.
 (c) One should avoid eating food while on a pilgrimage.
 (d) Pilgrimages should be done for the purpose of fun only.
- (v) As per your understanding of the passage, choose the words that best describe the response of nature against cleverness shown by us.
 1. Catastrophic 2. Gratifying 3. Buoyant 4. Detrimental
 (a) 2 and 3 (b) 1 and 4 (c) 1 and 2 (d) 3 and 4
- (vi) The word 'Amma' used by the writer signifies
 (a) the importance of a mother
 (b) the importance of nature without 'whom' we cannot survive.
 (c) the destructive Power of nature.
 (d) the author's nostalgia for his mother.
- (vii) As the word 'Brotherhood' can be replaced with 'fraternity', the word 'sisterhood' can be replaced with
 (a) solidarity (b) celibacy (c) sorority (d) spinsterhood
- (viii) According to passage, how do we satisfy our ego?
 (a) By having special darshan (b) By distributing alms
 (c) By treating pilgrimage like a picnic (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (ix) Choose the word from the following which is the antonym for 'contemplation'.
 (a) Avoidance (b) Rumination (c) Study (d) Revere
- (x) Choose the word from the given options which means the same as 'complacent'
 (a) Very traditional (b) Very satisfied
 (c) Very cruel (d) Very lethargic
- (xi) According to the passage, a pilgrim should embark upon the spiritual journey by
 (a) understanding its significance (b) helping other pilgrims
 (c) following its rituals and rules (d) Both (a) and (c)

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. ... But Gandhi was vehemently opposed. He said, " You think that in this unequal fight it would be helpful if we have an Englishman on our side. This shows the weakness of your heart. The cause is just and you must rely upon yourselves to win the battle. ...
 "He had read our minds correctly," Rajendra Prasad comments, "and we had no reply ... Gandhi in this way taught us a lesson in self-reliance".
 Self-reliance, Indian independence and help to sharecroppers were all bound together.
- (i) Gandhi taught the sharecroppers a lesson of self-reliance so that
 (a) they could believe in themselves and be self-dependant.
 (b) they get to know to fight amongst themselves only.
 (c) they understand that British could not be trusted
 (d) they learn and follow civil disobedience

- (ii) Find out the word from the given extract which means the same as ‘fiercely’.
 (a) self-reliance (b) correctly (c) vehemently (d) independence
- (iii) Rajendra Prasad who was a lawyer later on became
 (a) the Prime Minister of India (b) the first President of India
 (c) the Judge of supreme court (d) the Chief minister of Bihar
- (iv) The above extract has been taken from
 (a) The Lost Spring (b) The Last Lesson
 (c) Indigo (d) Deep Water

B. Once upon a time there was a man who went around selling small rattraps of wire. He made them himself at odd moments, from the material he got by begging in the stores or at the big farms. But even so, the business was not especially profitable, so he had to resort to both begging and petty thievery to keep body and soul together. Even so his clothes were in rags, his cheeks were sunken, and hunger gleamed in his eyes.

- (i) The peddler had to resort to both begging and thievery.

The above sentences demonstrates that

- (a) The peddler was very greedy.
 (b) The peddler do not like to sit idle.
 (c) The peddler wants to become rich.
 (d) The peddlers earning was not enough for the survival.

- (ii) Through peddler’s appearance it is signified that he was a/an

- (a) beggar (b) thief (c) unfortunate man (d) crofter

- (iii) The peddler’s rattraps were made of

- (a) wood (b) steel (c) sticks (d) wire

- (iv) Who is the author of this chapter?

- (a) Alphonse Daudet (b) Salman Rushdie
 (c) Selma Lagerlöf (d) Louis Fischer

C. It had happened when I was ten or eleven years old. I had decided to learn to swim. there was a pool at the Y.M.C.A. in Yakima that offered exactly the opportunity. The Yakima River was treacherous. Mother continually warned against it, and kept fresh in my mind the details of each drowning in the river. But the Y.M.C.A. pool was safe. It was only two or three feet deep at the shallow end; and while it was nine feet deep at the other, the drop was gradual.

- (i) What was the narrator wished to do?

- (a) To learn swimming (b) To learn singing
 (c) To learn skiing (d) To learn drilling

- (ii) The correct synonym of the word ‘treacherous’ is

- (a) reliable (b) congenial (c) hazardous (d) adventurous

- (iii) The Y.M.C.A. pool seemed safe to the narrator because

- (a) no one comes there for swimming.
 (b) there were no dangerous animals in it.
 (c) it was shallow and not so deep from any sides.
 (d) its water is fresh and clean.

- (iv) “Mother continually warned against it”. ‘It’ here refer to

- (a) the river (b) the pool (c) the narrator (d) the Y.M.C.A.

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

A. ... but soon
 put that thought away, and
 looked out at young
 trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes.

- (i) The above extract has been taken from
 (a) Keeping Quiet (b) Aunt Jennifer's Tiger
 (c) My Mother at Sixty-six (d) A Thing of Beauty
- (ii) The poet started looking out at the young trees to
 (a) enjoy the weather outside (b) the chase the moving trees
 (c) to distract her attention from her ailing mother's face
 (d) to count the vehicles running on the road
- (iii) In the above extract, the young sprinting trees signify.
 1. energy 2. fast pace of life 3. youthfulness 4. life
 5. death
 (a) 2, 4 and 5 (b) 2, 3 and 4 (c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) 3, 4 and 5
- (iv) Which thought did the poet put away?
 (a) The thought of reaching home.
 (b) The thought about the fun she had in her childhood.
 (c) The thought of her school days.
 (d) The thought of her mother's impending death.

OR

B. Far far from gusty waves these children's faces.

Like rootless weeds, the hair torn round their pallor :

The tall girl with her weighed-down head.

The paper seeming boy, with rat's eyes.

- (i) What does the expression - 'rootless weeds' refers to ?
 (a) The dull faces of the children. (b) The badly maintained wall of the classroom.
 (c) The tall girl sitting with her head down. (d) The off-white colour of the walls.
- (ii) The tall girl sitting with a weighed down head symbolises
 (a) the disinterest of students in studies (b) depression due to the poverty stricken life
 (c) health issues faced by the slum children (d) her ignorance towards studies.
- (iii) As per your understanding of the poem, choose the phrases that suggest the children are suffering from malnutrition.
 1. gusty waves 2. rootless weeds 3. weighed-down head
 4. Paper-seeming boy with rats eyes 5. the torn hair
 (a) 1 and 3 (b) 4 and 5 (c) 2 and 4 (d) 3 and 4
- (iv) In the phrase 'gusty- waves' the poetic device has been used by the poet is
 (a) personification (b) imagery
 (c) pun (d) metaphor

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

- (i) As per your understanding of the text, pick out the option that best describes the condition of the peasants in Champaran.
 (a) The peasants were very happy since all their needs and demands have always been fulfilled.
 (b) They were all independent and do not need anyone for their help.
 (c) They were rich and satisfied.
 (d) they were terror stricken and oppressed because of their difficulties.

- (ii) In the poem 'A Thing of Beauty' the poet talks about grandeur. Whose grandeur is he talking about?
- (a) The beautiful grand castles (b) the dark tomb of our ancestors
(c) the dooms of mighty dead (d) all beautiful things exist on the earth
- (iii) Throughout the whole story, Douglas had spoken about
- (a) the fear of height (b) the fear of dogs
(c) the fear of swimming (d) the fear of water and the way to overcome it.
- (iv) It makes Pablo Neruda excited to think about the _____ moment that will come when everyone is silent.
- (a) painful (b) terrible (c) unbelievable (d) exotic
- (v) "I wonder if she knows that sanctity of the bangles she helps make." the phrases 'sanctity of the bangles' symbolises.
- (a) Richness of culture (b) bangle making provides a good profit
(c) auspiciousness of marriage (d) bangle making is a skillful art
- (vi) Pick out the phrase that implies a bleak future of the students with reference to the poem, 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum'.
- (a) Sour cream walls (b) future is painted with a fog
(c) Shakespeares' head (d) awarding the world its world
- (vii) Alphonse Daudet's 'The Last Lesson' deals with the themes of
1. identity 2. certainty 3. linguistic chauvinism
4. love 5. ambivalence towards tradition
- (a) 2 and 4 (b) 3 and 5 (c) 1 and 3 (d) 2 and 5
- (viii) Through the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' it is clear that the poet has an attitude of _____ towards Aunt Jennifer.
- (a) love (b) hatred (c) wonder (d) sympathy
- (ix) In the story 'The Rattrap', the author gives its readers the message that
- (a) Kindness encourages criminals.
(b) Love and Kindness are powerless.
(c) Kindness and love are powerful reformers.
(d) Thieves need admonishment
- (x) What distinctive feature has Kamala Das used in her poem 'My Mother At Sixty-six'?
- (a) Metaphors-and rhyme scheme
(b) Simile and quatrains
(c) Personification and alliteration
(d) narrative style that consist of a single sentence in a set of 14 lines.

PART - B (40 Marks)

WRITING (16 Marks)

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 3 = 3)
- A. You lost your wristwatch in your school auditorium. Write a notice in not more than 50 words for your school notice board giving a detailed description of the watch. You are Anirudh/Arundhati of class XII of Springfield School Pune.

OR

B. Your School, St. Joseph School, Jaipur needs a canteen manager. On behalf of the Principal, write an advertisement in about 50 words to be published in the classified columns of a local daily. Mention the educational and professional qualifications, other qualities required in the manager, who to apply to.

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

A. You are Riya/Ryan living at 40, Krishna Colony, Manali. You decided to hold a lunch party to congratulate your grandparents on their golden wedding anniversary. Draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words to all family members to attend a grand lunch at home.

OR

B. Write a formal reply to Mrs. and Mr. Kapoor regretting your inability to attend the wedding ceremony of their daughter due to a prior engagement. You are Mrs. S.K. Ahuja. Invent other details by yourself. (50 words)

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

A. Two main parks in your locality have suffered from neglect on the part of local authorities. They have virtually been taken over by undesirable elements. As a result the residents have stopped going to the parks. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your concern about the problems the neglect has created and suggest measures to reclaim the parks for children. You are Gautam/Gauri of 2, Gobind Enclave, Meerut.

OR

B. You intend to join coaching classes at International Coaching Centre situated in Raipur. The institute specializes in teaching science to classes XI-XII. Write a letter of enquiry in 120-150 words addressed to the Administrator in-charge of the institute seeking information about the timing, duration, staff, transport and other necessary details for joining the institute. You are Rajesh/Rajni 2, Library Road, Jabalpur.

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

A. You are Amrit/Amrita of B.M.B. Public School, Dalmianagar. Your school celebrated Environment week. Giving details of the celebrations, write a report in 120-150 words for your school magazine.

OR

B. Visiting new places and meeting new people enhance our understanding and knowledge besides being a source of great pleasure. Write an article in 150-200 words on 'Travel, a Source of Knowledge and Pleasure.' You are Gopal/Govindi.

LITERATURE (24 Marks)

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

- (i) Franz reached school late. Yet, M. Hamel did not scold him. Why?
- (ii) Describe the crofter's hospitality towards the peddler.
- (iii) Explain Douglas' statement, "The instructor was finished. But I was not finished."
- (iv) What were the poet's feelings as she drove to Cochin airport?
- (v) What makes human beings love life in spite of all the troubles they face?
- (vi) How does the poet describe Aunt Jennifer's tigers?

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

- (i) Was Roger Skunk's story different from the other stories narrated by Jack? How?
- (ii) Dr Sadao was a calm person in general. What made him raise his voice at Hara? How did she react?
- (iii) What did Derry's mother think of Mr. Lamb?

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

A. Why does the writer say that promises like hers abound in every corner of his (Saheb's) bleak world? What can be done to help others like him?

OR

B. Elaborate how the Champaran episode is considered as the turning point in Gandhi ji's life.

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

A. There are many others who, like Derry and Mr. Lamb, are differently abled. Although provisions have been made to make life easier for them, the society views them with pity in their eyes. How, do you think, that makes the differently abled feel? Base your answer on what you have understood from the story 'On the Face of It'.

OR

B. How did the question paper and correction slip help the prisoner and the Governor?