

General Instructions:

Read the instructions carefully and strictly follow them:

- 1. This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.*
- 2. The question paper contains **THREE** sections –*
 - Section – A:** Reading Skills
 - Section – B:** Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
 - Section – C:** Literature Textbook
- 3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each Part.*

Section-A
Reading Skills (20 marks)

Q1. Read the following text: (1X10=10)

- (1) On a Sunday full of possibilities, I'm confused by too many choices. I unlock my phone and innumerable choices pour: movies, music, podcasts, games, and this truly confuses me. Amidst my indecision, a dust-ridden copy of 'The Bell Jar' falls from the bookshelf. My guilt finds respite in the puddle of addictive videos online.
- (2) In a hyperconnected world, books are left to age pale yellow. Reading is seen by the newer generations as mundane. Though the benefits of reading are common knowledge, the privilege of choice overpowers. Many publishers and bookstores have now shut down.
- (3) 'The blast of the digital' has made everything catering to shrinking attention spans, with overwhelming choices from online poetry to captions to tweets. The reading fabric of Gen Z is brief. They are reading rapidly and recklessly. Reading for sole bliss seems to be a thing of the past. Though digital reading might be a new avenue for words, studies suggest that printed text develops better comprehension.
- (4) The Reading Manifesto of October 2023 rightly argues that digital reading is 'superficial' and confined to mere text decoding. Reading text, on the other hand, helps cultivate better cognitive abilities, attention span and vocabulary. We live in an age where fake news prevails. The much-required ability to distinguish between fact and fiction can only be developed by critical reading of printed texts.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

- (i) In paragraph (1), what causes make the author confused? 1
 - (ii) How does the author describe the current state of reading among the new generation? 1
- Choose the correct option:
- (A) They are more engaged with books than ever before.
 - (B) They find reading more exciting than digital media.
 - (C) They view reading as mundane and prefer digital media.
 - (D) They balance their reading between digital media and printed texts.

- (iii) Complete the following suitably and support it with a reason. 2
The difference between digital reading and reading printed text is _____. Paragraph (3)
- (iv) The Reading Manifesto states that digital reading _____. Paragraph (4) 1
(A) is deep and comprehensive
(B) is superior to traditional reading
(C) fosters superficial reading confined to text decoding
(D) has an impact on cognitive skills
- (v) State whether the following statement is **True or False:** 1
Reading only for pleasure is a thing of the past. Paragraph (3)
- (vi) '**Privilege of choice**' in paragraph (2) **means:** 1
(A) Easy and readily available options
(B) Rare and valuable opportunities
- (vii) The phrases "**reading rapidly and recklessly**" and "**overwhelming choices**" 1
convey that Gen Z _____. Paragraph (3)
- (viii) Support the writer's idea that reading has many advantages and it can counteract the 2
spread of fake news. Paragraph (4)

Q2. Read the following passage carefully. (1X10=10)

- (1) Silk is a natural protein fibre, some forms of which can be woven into textiles. Silk has a long history in India. It is known as Resham in eastern and northern India, and Pattu in the southern parts of India. India is the second largest producer of silk in the world after China.
- (2) Silk is renowned for its luxurious qualities with a natural soft and smooth texture that feels comfortable on the skin. One of its unique qualities is to absorb and release moisture, regulating the body temperature, and keeping the wearer cool and dry.
- (3) Silk is one of the strongest natural fibres, but it loses up to 20% of its strength when wet. Its elasticity is moderate to poor: if elongated even a small amount, it remains stretched. It can be weakened if exposed to too much sunlight. It may also be attacked by insects, especially if left dirty.
- (4) The process of silk production is known as sericulture. Silk is produced by several insects; but, generally, only the silk of moth caterpillars has been used for textile manufacturing. To produce 1 kg of silk, 104 kg of mulberry leaves must be eaten by 3000 silkworms.
- (5) So what makes silk so costly? Firstly, cultivation of silk is a labour-intensive work. Secondly, the silk fabric is carefully derived from the larva of the silkworms which spin silk threads around themselves to make cocoons from natural sources. This makes the production limited due to factors like — climate, availability of quality mulberry leaves and time required by silkworms to complete their lifecycle. Thirdly, the intensive work can only be carried out with specialized knowledge and expertise by skilled artisans and craftsmanship. Lastly, superior quality silk fabrics are made from long and uniform silk fibres giving them a smooth and lustrous appearance. Thus, production requires careful selection, adding to the cost.

In 2021, Karnataka was the highest producer of raw silk at 8483 metric tonnes followed by Andhra Pradesh at 5520 metric tonnes with Assam close behind at 5038 metric tonnes. At the other end of the spectrum there was Chhattisgarh (248 metric tonnes), Nagaland (230 metric tonnes) and UP trailed behind at 179 metric tonnes.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

- (i) What does the phrase 'luxurious qualities' in **paragraph (2)** tell you about the silk fabric? 1

- (ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below. 1
- Assertion:** Silk production requires careful selection.
Reason: Long and uniform silk fibres give silk a glossy appearance.
- (A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
 (B) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
 (C) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
 (D) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.
- (iii) Justify the following statement in 40 words with evidence from the text. 2
- Silk whispers luxury! Its price reflects not just its rarity but the value of the meticulous process behind its creation.
- (iv) According to the passage, mention the top two countries that produce silk. 1
- (v) "Factors like climate, availability of quality mulberry leaves and time required by silkworms to complete their lifecycle are important factors for the production of silk." 1
- State any one inference that can be drawn from this.
- (vi) Complete the following with a suitable reason from the text: 1
- Though silk is considered one of the strongest fibres, it is ____.
- (vii) Based on the given text, mention the states which produced the most and the least amount of raw silk in India in the year 2021. 1
- (viii) Complete the sentence suitably. 1
- 104 kgs of mulberry leaves eaten by 3000 silkworms results in ____.
- (ix) With reference to the given passage, give one reason why silk production is considered labour-intensive. 1

SECTION B

Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

- Q3** Complete **ANY TEN** of the following twelve tasks, as directed. 10
- (i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket. 1
- My sister Mona _____ (fall) down when the dog leapt at her.
- (ii) Read the given sentence. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence. 1
- Ninety-seven percent of the Earth's water is salty ocean water and another two percent is trapping in the Earth's ice caps and glaciers.
- | Error | Correction |
|-------|------------|
| | |
- (iii) Complete the given statement, by fill in the blank with the correct option. 1
- A mask is used to hide the identity _____ a person.
- (A) of (B) for (C) being (D) at
- (iv) Rahil and Somil decided to reach the theatre at 5 pm. 1
- Report the question asked by Rahil to Somil.

Which movie are we going to watch?

Rahil asked Somil _____

- (v) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line taken from an article about growing obesity. 1

Obesity in teenage children is a major concern between parents today.

Option no	Error	Correction
A	Teenage	Teenagers
B	Concern	Concerns
C	Between	Among
D	today	now

- (vi) Fill in the blank to complete this message in a poster for safety. 1

Our planet is precious and only we _____ save it.

(A) may (B) can (C) will (D) shall

- (vii) Select the correct option to complete the following sentence from a newspaper article. 1

Most major cities _____ significantly over the last 30 years.

(A) has been growing (B) grew
(C) have grown (D) will grow

- (viii) Identify the error and provide the correct answer. 1

The background music and sound effects plays a major role in the film's success.

Error: _____ Correction: _____

- (ix) Read the dialogue between Amit and his sister Ananya, regarding her travel to the railway station. 1

Amit: Are you sure you can manage to go to the railway station on your own?

Ananya: Oh yes! I have already booked a cab.

Select the correct option to report the Amit's question.

Sister Ananya replied in the affirmative and said that she had already booked a cab.

(A) if she is sure she can manage (B) if she was sure she can manage
(C) if she surely can manage (D) if she was sure she could manage

- (x) Report the dialogue between two friends by completing the sentence. 1

Ankita: Will you help me to plan my itinerary?

Tanu : Yes, indeed ! Where are you going?

Ankita asked Tanu if _____. Tanu enthusiastically replied in the affirmative and asked where she was going.

- (xi) Complete the given sentence with the correct form of verb. 1

It is important to _____ a healthy atmosphere.

(A) creates (B) created (C) creating (D) create

- (xii) Fill in the blank by choosing the right option. 1

_____ I was not feeling well, I ventured out for a walk.

(A) However (B) Though (C) Through (D) Nevertheless

Writing (10 MARKS)

Note : All details presented in the questions in writing section are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

Q4 Attempt any one from (a) and (b) given below :

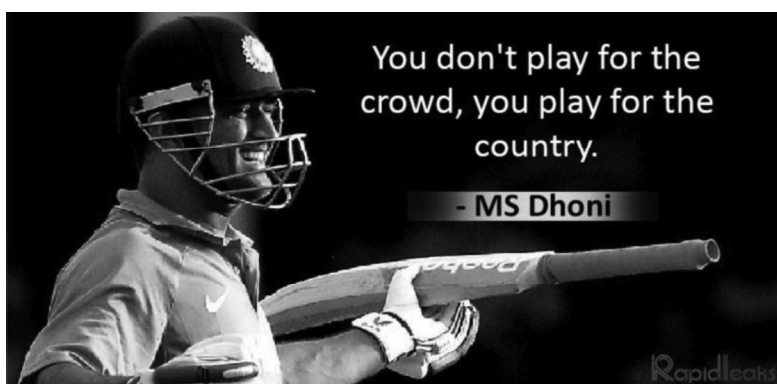
5

- (a) You are disturbed by the poor reading habits of school children today. As a result, communication is impacted, which will have far-reaching consequences. As Shivika/Shiv Gupta of 21, Valley Apartments, Shaambagh, write a letter in about 120 words to the Municipal Councillor of your area, requesting him to create and maintain public libraries as reading zones. Also suggest, how community members can support such projects.
- (b) As Nilima/Nilesh, Sports Secretary of Red Tree Public School, Aakashpur, you believe that the youth today must actively involve itself in sports and other physical activities. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily in about 120 words, suggesting that stadiums and sports centres should be made available to the students to promote participation in sports.

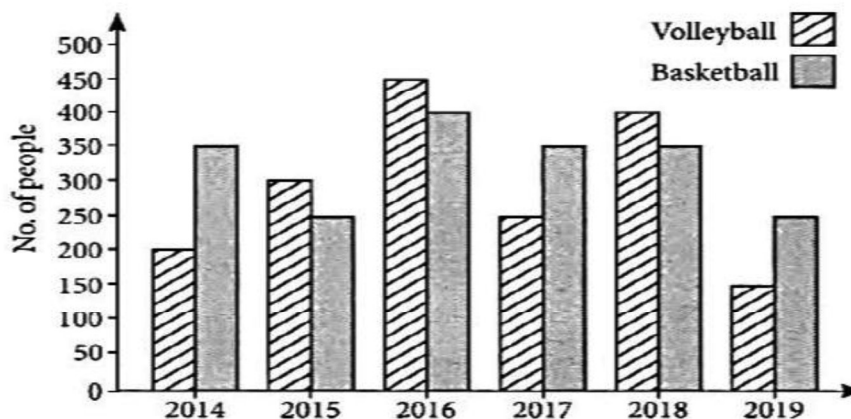
Q5 Attempt any one from (a) and (b) given below :

5

- (a) "Cooperation and helpfulness, rather than a spirit of competition will make you really successful. MS. Dhoni is well known for cooperation with his team; hence he has reached height uncharted by any other cricketer." Analyse this statement in about 100-120 words.



- (b) The given double bar graph shows the preferences of children in a school in playing different games over the span of six years. Write an analytical paragraph about the given information. (100-120 words)



SECTION C (40 MARKS)

Literature

Q6 Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b) :

- (a) NOODLE : (bowing) O Great and Mighty Think-Tank, most 5
powerful and intelligent creature in the whole universe, what are your orders ?
THINK-TANK : (peevisly) You left out part of my salutation, Apprentice Noodle. Go
over the whole thing again.
(The Book That Saved the Earth)

- (i) According to the extract, Noodle is a _____ to Think-Tank. 1
Select the correct option:
(A) carpenter (B) subordinate (C) master (D) friend
- (ii) What does the above extract reveal about the character of Think-Tank ? 2
- (iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. 1
The use of the word 'peevisly' suggests that Think-Tank was feeling _____
(elated/annoyed).
- (iv) How does Noodle describe Think-Tank in his salutation? 1

OR

- (b) He had, in fact, seen his older brother catch his first herring and devour it,
standing on a rock, while his parents circled around raising a proud cackle. And
all the morning the whole family had walked about on the big plateau midway
down the opposite cliff taunting him with his cowardice.
- i) Compare the behavior of sea gull's parents with him and with his older brother. 2
Why did it differ?
- ii) Herring is a type of _____ 1
a. Whale b. Fish c. Bird d. can't say
- iii) Choose a synonym of "tear" . 1
- iv) What do we mean by "his parents circled around raising a proud cackle"? 1
a. They moved around him in a circular path
b. They drew a circle
c. They made a cackle sound which could be heard in a circular area

Q7 Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two.

- (a) *I AM Rapunzel, I have not care;
Life in a tower is tranquil and rare;
I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!
Stop that sulking at once , Amanda !
You're always so moody, Amanda!
Anyone would think that I nagged at you ,
Amanda !*
- (i) Complete the following suitably: 1
Amanda sulked and became moody because_____

- (ii) What does the girls constantly yearn for? What do you pattern about Amanda from the poem? 2
- (iii) What kind of picture is painted by the poet through the line, "life in a tower is tranquil and rare"? 1
- (iv) The tone of the speaker in the exclamation "stop that sulking at once , Amanda !" is 1
1. uncertain
2. aggressive
3 dominating
4. meek
5 moody
- (a) 1,2,4 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 2,4 and 5 (d) 4 and 5

OR

- (b) Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him,
No one mourned for his pirate victim.
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate
Around the dragon that ate the pirate.
(The Tale of Custard the Dragon)
- (i) Complete the following suitably : 1
Belinda's and Mustard's reaction reflected a sense of _____.
- (ii) Select the option that applies the same rhyme scene as the lines of the given extract. 1
- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>(A) I have a cat
I have a house
I have a mouse
I have a hat.</p> <p>(C) People along the sand
all turn to look one way.
The wetter ground like glass
swept their gaze away</p> | <p>(B) She went there
The house was bare
Not a sound was heard
Except the tweet of a bird.</p> <p>(D) The bird flew
to the sky blue
It was beauty true
I have to say</p> |
|---|--|
- (iii) 'Embraced' in this context means: 1
- (A) to accept
(B) to feel awkward and sheepish
(C) to put your arms around someone
(D) to show disagreement
- (iv) What is the irony in the behaviour of the characters in the given extract? 2

**Q8 Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions in 40 – 50 words each :
(3*4=12)**

- (i) Why was Valli's excitement on the bus dampened on her return journey?
(Madam Rides the Bus)
- (ii) Why did Mandela feel that liberation was important for both, the oppressor and the oppressed ? (Nelson Mandela : Long Walk to Freedom)
- (iii) In the poem "For Anne Gregory", how does the poet challenge or conform to the traditional notions of beauty and love?

- (iv) Mijbil's transportation to England was no less than a nightmare for the author. Justify the statement using incidents from the lesson. (Mijbil the Otter)
- (v) Discuss, with examples from the text, the role of the baker in shaping the memories and experiences of the people in Goa. (Glimpses of India)

Q9 Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in 40 – 50 words each. (2*3=6)

- (i) Describe Bholi's initial personality and how it was shaped by her circumstances.
- (ii) Who was Henry? What role did he play in Ausable's plan? (A Midnight visitor)
- (iii) Who played a crucial role in fostering Richard Ebright's scientific curiosity? How?

Q10 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 100 – 120 words. (1*6=6)

- (i) Valli was sensitive, but the same time, she was fearless and quite determined. Compare her attitude with Bholi.
- (ii) Presence of mind and intelligence is more powerful than a gun.' How far is it true in case of Ausable, the secret agent? (A midnight visitor)

Q11 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 100 – 120 words. (1*6=6)

- (i) Horace ends up in prison only to regret that a man should not trust anyone blindly without finding out the truth. Do you think his own foolishness was responsible for his arrest? Give a reasoned answer. (A Question of Trust)
- (ii) Evaluate how Griffin's character is shaped by a combination of personal ambition, the unintended consequences of his scientific pursuits, and the reactions of the society he faces. (Footprints without feet)

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