

General Instructions :

1. This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All sections are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION - A (READING)

30 MARKS

1. Read the passage given below carefully:

My father died when I was ten, and for the next few years books became a scarce commodity in my life, for my mother and stepfather were not great readers. In my rather lonely early teens I was to discover that books could be good friends, reliable companions, and I seized upon almost any printed matter that came my way, whether it was a girl's classic like 'Little Women', or a 'Hotspur' or 'Champion comic', or a detective story, or 'The Naturalist on the River Amazons' by Henry Walter Bates. The only books I balked at reading were collections of sermons (amazing how often they turned up in those early years) and self improvement books, since I hadn't the slightest desire to improve myself in any way.

I think it all began in the forest rest-house in the Shivalik Hills, a sub-tropical range cradling the Doon valley in northern India. Here my stepfather and his guntoting friends were given to hunting birds and animals that roamed those forests. He was a poor shot so he cannot really be blamed for the absence of wild life today; but he did his best to eliminate every creature that came within his sight.

On one of these shikar trips, we were staying in a rest house near the Timli Pass. My stepfather and his friends were after tigers (You were out of fashion if you weren't after big game) and set out every morning with an army of paid villagers to 'beat' the jungle, that is to make enough noise with drums, whistles, tin trumpets and empty kerosene tins, to disturb the tiger and drive the unwilling beast into the open where he could conveniently be dispatched. Truly bored by this form of sport, I stayed behind in the rest-house and in the course of the morning exploration of the bungalow discovered a dusty but crowded book shelf half hidden in the corner of the back veranda.

Who had left them there? A literary forest officer? A memsahib who had been bored by her husband's camp-fire boasting? Or someone like me who had no enthusiasm for the 'manly' sport of slaughtering wild animals, and brought his library along to pass the time?

Possibly the poor fellow had gone into the jungle one day, as a gesture towards his more blood-thirsty companions and had been trampled by an elephant or gored by a wild boar, or (more likely) accidentally shot by one of his companions – and they had taken his remains away and left his books behind. Anyway, there they were – a shelf of some fifty volumes, obviously untouched for several years. I wiped the dust off the covers and examined the titles. As my reading tastes had not yet formed, I was ready to try anything. The bookshelf was varied in its contents – and my own interests have remained equally wide- ranging.

On that fateful day in the forest rest-house, I discovered two very funny books. One was P.G. Wodehouse's 'Love among the Chickens' an early Ukridge story and still one of my favourites. The other was 'The Diary of a Nobody' by George and Weedon Grossmith, who spend more time on the stage than in the study but are now remembered mainly for this hilarious book. It isn't everyone's cup of tea. Recently I lent my copy to a Swiss friend, who could see nothing funny about it. I must have read it a dozen times; I pick it up whenever I am feeling low and on one occasion it even cured me of peptic ulcer!

Anyway, back to the rest-house. By the time the perspiring hunters came back late in the evening, I had started on M.R. James's 'Ghost Stories of an Antiquary' which had me hooked on ghost stories for the rest of my life.

Ruskin Bond's 'Adventures of a Book Lover'

- 1.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage, complete the following sentences by choosing the correct options from those given below: (6 marks)

- i) After his father's death, books for Ruskin _____.
 - a) were available in plenty
 - b) became meaningless
 - c) were hardly available
 - d) lost their charm
- ii) Ruskin Bond refers to his father and his 'guntoting' friends. This means _____.
 - a) they repaired guns
 - b) they loved hunting
 - c) were engaged in making guns
 - d) they tottered around

3. Read the following poem very carefully and answer the questions that follow: (10 marks)

Oh! there is blessing in this gentle breeze,
 A visitant that while it fans my cheek
 Doth seem half-conscious of the joy it brings
 From the green fields, and from yon azure sky.
 Whate'er its mission, the soft breeze can come
 To none more grateful than to me; escaped
 From the vast city, where I long had pined
 A discontented sojourner: now free,
 Free as a bird to settle where I will.

What dwelling shall receive me? In what vale
 Shall be my harbour? underneath what grove
 Shall I take up my home? and what clear stream
 Shall with its murmur lull me into rest?
 The earth is all before me. With a heart
 Joyous, nor scared at its own liberty,
 I look about; and should the chosen guide
 Be nothing better than a wandering cloud,
 I cannot miss my way. I breathe again!

Trances of thought and mountings of the mind
 Come fast upon me: it is shaken off,
 That burden of my own unnatural self,
 The heavy weight of many a weary day
 Not mine, and such as were not made for me.
 Long months of peace (if such bold word accord
 With any promises of human life),
 Long months of ease and undisturbed delight
 Are mine in prospect; whither shall I turn,
 By road or pathway, or through trackless field,
 Up hill or down, or shall some floating thing
 Upon the river point me out my course?

From 'Prelude' by William Wordsworth

- What does the poet look upon as a blessing?
- Where does the breeze come from?
- Why is the poet grateful for the breeze?
- What does the poet compare himself to in the first stanza?
- What questions does the poet pose with regard to his destination?
- What emotional state does the poet reveal in the last stanza?
- What burden does the poet refer to in the last stanza?
- Find a word from the poem which means the same as 'dissatisfied'.
- Find an antonym of the word 'sadness' from the poem.
- Find a synonym of the word 'freedom' from the poem.

SECTION - B (WRITING)

30 marks

4. You are Anni Jason, the President of the LTS Club of your school. Your school is organizing a Bal Mela on 'Children's day' for the under-privileged children from a nearby slum. The members of the club will be setting up various stalls of games in the mela. Breakfast and lunch will be served to the children. Draft a notice in about 50 words asking students to contribute generously towards the cause and inviting them to attend the mela.

(OR)

Modern Public School, Ghaziabad is enacting the play "Christmas Carol" to raise funds for the education of the economically weaker students. Prepare a poster with all necessary details informing people about the upcoming event in about 50 words. (4 marks)

5. Atrocities on women continue even in urban areas of our country. You are Suresh Kumar of 32/B, Defence Colony, New Delhi. You are deeply concerned about the growing apathy of people towards eve-teasing in local buses. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper expressing your concern about this humiliating treatment meted out to women and suggesting ways in which women can ensure their own safety.

(OR)

You are Kiran Sardana, librarian of St. Mary's School, Mumbai. Write a letter to Scholastics Publishers, Sterling Street, Mumbai in about 125 to 150 words enquiring about the latest children's reading series, both fiction and non-fiction and illustrated Children's Encyclopedia for the school library. Also ask for discount and the mode of payment. (6 marks)

6. The other day you went with your friends to a Korean circus, famous for its extraordinary animal shows. Although you went there for entertainment you returned home highly distressed and upset at what you saw. The cruel and insensitive methods used to make the animals perform dangerous tricks were indeed heartrending. You decide to write an article on the issue of sensitivity to animals to be published in the newspaper. Write this article in about 150 - 200 words.

(OR)

Malala Yousafzai, a 14 year old girl, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize talks about education and terrorism. But in the patriarchal and conservative world she grew up in, a pioneer like Malala would not have been possible without another hero: her father. This is a story about a father and a daughter, more than a story about a girl. Write an article in about 150 - 200 words on the role of parents and education in equipping the girl child with the much needed confidence in a male dominated world. (10 marks)

7. As our knowledge of surgical and diagnostic techniques has increased with time, so has the success rate of organ transplants. However, the number of patients who require organ transplants exceeds the number of organs available, particularly if the patient has a rare blood type. This has led to illegal practice of theft of organs and abuse or kidnapping of people for organs. "The sale of human organs should be legalized". Expressing your stand for/against the topic write a debate in 150 -200 words.

(OR)

The Right to Education Act, 2009 was passed to ensure that all children in India enjoy the fundamental right to education. However, acute shortage of qualified and proficient teachers, non-availability of free books and uniform, mid-day meal crisis raises doubts on the success of this act. Write a debate in 150 to 200 words for or against the topic, 'The Right to Education Act is more of a myth than reality'. (10 marks)

SECTION - C (LITERATURE)

40 MARKS

8. Read the following extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (4 marks)

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

- Why are Aunt Jennifer's hands "terrified"?
- What are 'they' still ringed with?
- What are the tigers symbolic of?
- What will happen to the tigers after Aunt Jennifer's death?

(OR)

*What I want should not be
confused
with total inactivity
Life is what it is about;
I want no truck with death
If we were not so single minded
About keeping our lives moving
And for once could do nothing,
Perhaps a huge silence
Might interrupt this sadness
Never understanding ourselves...*

- What does the poet want?
- What should not be confused with "total inactivity" and why?
- Explain "I want no truck with death".
- What would single minded people do?

9. Answer any four of the following questions in about 50 to 60 words each: (4x3=12 marks)
- a) Analyze how William Douglas successfully overcame his fear of water.
 - b) At what point in the story "Rattrap" did the peddler feel that he had indeed fallen into a Rattrap?
 - c) How does M. Hamel prove himself to be a true patriot? (The Last Lesson)
 - d) What made Zitkala Sa utter the heart rending words "then I lost my spirit"?
 - e) What special privileges did Dr. Sadao enjoy during the wartime? (The Enemy)
10. Answer the following question in about 150 words: (6 marks)
- How was Derry different from Mr. Lamb? In spite of these inherent differences how did Mr. Lamb bring about such a drastic change in Derry?
11. Answer the following question in about 150 words: (6 marks)
- The Champaran episode highlights Gandhi's exemplary leadership qualities. The simplicity and magnetism of his personality, his logical, pragmatic and positive approach speak volumes about the reasons for his success. Keeping in mind Gandhi's methods of dealing with problems in the Chapter Indigo, write an article on 'The Qualities of a Good Leader'.
12. Answer the following question in about 150 words: (6 marks)
- Draw a brief character sketch of Thomas Marvel (The Invisible Man).
13. Answer the following question in about 150 words: (6 marks)
- The death of Griffin proved to be the most poignant and pathetic scene in the novel, 'The Invisible Man'. Narrate the sequence of events that ultimately led to the death of the protagonist.