

THE QUESTION PAPER IS DIVIDED INTO THREE SECTIONS.

Section A	Reading	20 Marks
Section B	Writing & Grammar	25 marks
Section C	Literature Textbook & Long Reading Text	25 marks

General Instructions:

1. All questions are compulsory
2. You may attempt any section at a time.
3. All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

SECTION A: READING

1. Read the following passage carefully:

In 1631, Shah Jahan, emperor during the Mughal empire's period of greatest prosperity, was grief-stricken when his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal, a Persian princess, died during the birth of their 14th child, Gauhara Begum. Construction of the Taj Mahal began in 1632. The court chronicles of Shah Jahan's grief illustrate the love story traditionally held as an inspiration for Taj Mahal. Emperor Shah Jahan himself described the Taj in these words:

Should guilty seek asylum here,
Like one pardoned, he becomes free from sin.
Should a sinner make his way to this mansion,
All his past sins are to be washed away.
The sight of this mansion creates sorrowing sighs;
And the sun and the moon shed tears from their eyes.
In this world this edifice has been made
To display thereby the creator's glory.

The main finial was originally made of gold but was replaced by a copy made of gilded bronze in the early 19th century. This feature provides a clear example of integration of traditional Persian and Hindu decorative elements.

The minarets, which are each more than 40 metres (130 ft) tall, display the designer's penchant for symmetry. They were designed as working minarets—a traditional element of mosques, to call the Islamic faithful to prayer. In line with the Islamic prohibition against the use of anthropomorphic forms, the decorative elements can be grouped into either calligraphy, abstract forms or vegetative motifs.

Throughout the complex, passages from the Qur'an are used as decorative elements. A labour force of twenty thousand workers was recruited across northern India. Sculptors from Bukhara, calligraphers from Syria and Persia, inlayers from southern India, stonecutters from Baluchistan, a specialist in building turrets, another who carved only marble flowers were part of the thirty-seven men who formed the creative unit.

Ever since its construction, the building has been the source of admiration transcending culture and geography. No evidence exists for claims that describe, often in horrific detail, the deaths, dismemberments and mutilations which Shah Jahan supposedly inflicted on various architects and craftsmen associated with the tomb.

- 1.1 On the basis of the reading of the above passage, answer the following questions briefly: (1 x 8 = 8 marks)
 - a) In whose memory was Taj Mahal built?
 - b) What will happen to a sinner if he enters the premises of the Taj Mahal?
 - c) What is the special feature of the minarets?
 - d) Name the forms used for decorations of minarets.
 - e) Name the common elements found throughout, in the structure of Taj Mahal.
 - f) Which calligraphers were the part of creative team?
 - g) How did the places like Baluchistan and Bukhara contribute in the making of Taj Mahal?
 - h) Is there any truth in the claims that Shah Jahan butchered or tortured the artisans?

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

An American trainer, once mischievously explained to the bunch of young people, that an average American has an IQ of a 14-year-old Indian school-going kid. Does that make you feel proud? Me too.

Indians are relatively smarter people; give a lot of emphasis to education and family values. India is a country of intelligent, God-fearing, law-abiding, family-oriented people. Or is it? The obvious question is what is the reason for this deplorable state of affairs? Ask any knowledgeable Indian and the reply – our politicians continue to fail the hardworking population. But wait... isn't India the world's largest democracy, where people choose leaders to represent them by the process of voting? So why would 1.2 billion resilient people from the world's oldest civilisation choose criminals, inefficient, corrupt and dishonest people to represent them?

It's not the people who vote that elect the government in India but the people who do not vote. They unknowingly become responsible for undeserving candidates winning elections. The result is criminals become law-makers, the corrupt become custodians and the indecorous summon morality.

So has the world's largest democracy ever had a government actually endorsed by the majority? The numbers do not say so. In general, a large proportion of the poor, illiterate and disadvantaged population is the regular voter, which the politicians want to lure for obvious reasons. However, the scholarly and cultured stay away from the 'pedestrian' and 'unbefitting' mess of politics, so they become futile and worthless for the political class. And as a result we end up with undeserving people playing the most important role in shaping the future of our country for generations to come.

If the 300 million strong and growing educated, upwardly mobile middle class starts questioning their leaders, the real issues like corruption, crime and growth would replace junk issues like caste and religion in the elections.

Political parties would be forced to address real issues and money and muscle power would lose their significance. All the other tools like bogus voting, caste cards, appeasement, freebies, pre-election liquor supply can become ineffective, if the people who matter also start caring. If we are able to convince ourselves that we not only deserve but can also get good governance, things would change. Only if we could say 'Yes I care', instead of saying 'who cares?'

- 2.1 Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each: (2 x 4 = 8 marks)
- Are the politicians really to be blamed for hopeless situation of Indian politics?
 - What are the real issues that need to be solved in our country?
 - What are the writer's views regarding our present day citizens?
 - How can good governance be implemented?
- 2.2 Pick out the correct meaning of the words, taken from the passage, from the choices given below: (1 x 4 = 4 marks)
- Deplorable

a) honorable	b) respectable	c) pathetic	d) graceful
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 - Resilient

a) brittle	b) fragile	c) cracking	d) flexible
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 - Endorsed

a) show	b) support	c) oppose	d) denounce
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 - Futile

a) useless	b) effective	c) fruitful	d) useful
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SECTION B: WRITING & GRAMMAR

3. You are Roy/Rina, a resident of 61, Sanganer, Udaipur. You are very disturbed about the fact that female literacy is vehemently discouraged in your city and so the State is centuries behind the modern times. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily expressing your views regarding the issue, giving some solutions to the problems the girls of this state will confront in future. [Word limit : 100-200] (5 marks)
4. Complete the story, on the basis of the beginning given below: [Word Limit: 150-200] Provide a suitable title. (10 marks)
- Rehan found a map in an old book in his school library. The map showed a tunnel leading to a buried treasure! Rehan did some quick thinking and figured out that it's buried in the cemetery adjacent to the school building...!
5. Complete the following passage given below using one word only: ($\frac{1}{2} \times 6 = 3$ marks)
- Meanwhile to (a)_____ dismay, we found that after four hours of climbing (b)_____ the wall, we were lost. No torches (c)_____ allowed. Only (d)_____ another two hours did we find ourselves (e)_____ the top. We (f)_____ to reach the next village at day break.

6. In the passage given below, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and the word that comes after it in your answer sheet. Ensure that the word that forms your answer is underlined as shown: (1/2x8=4 marks)

When electricity flows a wire, tiny particles called electrons move through the wire. Each electron a very small electric charge. The electrons move, they produce electricity. To make bulb in a room to light up, two million electrons flow second. The electrons come from sources batteries or the generators. Each electron has negative charge. The electrons the negative terminal and flow through the wire to the positive terminal complete an electric circuit.

e.g. flows through a

- a) _____
 b) _____
 c) _____
 d) _____
 e) _____
 f) _____
 g) _____
 h) _____

7. Look at the words and the phrases below. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences as shown in the example: (3 marks)

Example: sedentary / lifestyle / habits / to / modern / has led
 Modern lifestyle has led to sedentary habits.

- a) daily / want to / remain / then / you / healthy / if / exercise /
 b) when the /air / get / early / is / and / fresh / up / cool
 c) so that / you / inhale / air / more / may / fast / fresh / walk.

SECTION - C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND LONG READING TEXT

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: (3 marks)

When wasteful war shall statues overturn,
 And broils root out the work of masonry,
 Nor Mars his sword nor war's quick fire shall burn
 The living record of your memory.

- a) In what way, according to the poet, is the 'living record' all powerful?
 b) How is the above extract, a reflection of the poet's state of mind?
 c) What does the word 'broils' suggest?

(OR)

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

The newly awakened father's heart in him was reproaching him for having failed to understand Ali's anxiety.

- a) How did 'his heart awaken'?
 b) What was Ali anxious about?
 c) Write a synonym for 'reproaching'.

9. Answer the following questions in 30-40 words each: (2x4=8 marks)

- a) Explain how the character of the devious frog represents the fact that one must never be put down by anyone and should not let anyone damage our self-esteem.
 b) What is the message conveyed by Sylvia Plath through her poem 'Mirror'?
 c) Why did the narrator feel that the selfless action of the two boys gave promise of a greater hope for human society?
 d) After being let down by his daughters, what tough decision does the grandfather make?

10. Answer any one of the following questions in about 80 -100 words. (4 marks)

Ali possessed a certain qualities that made him endure the day to day struggles that we too encounter in our life. Elaborate on how we must prepare ourselves to face such challenges.

(OR)

The grandfather's condition in the story evokes anger, frustration and helplessness. Elaborate on a possible solution to the problems, faced by people in his situation.

11. Answer any one of the following questions in about 150-200 words. (10 marks)

Mr. Dussle's non-compromising attitude led to various conflicts between him and the occupants of the annexe. Give a brief note of it.

(OR)

Describe how the fountain pen, which was an important part of Anne's life, got 'cremated'?

