

General Instructions :

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

SECTION A – READING (30 marks)

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:
 - 1 Time management systems have become exceedingly popular in recent years... and with good reason. The ultimate potential benefit of such systems is the ability to optimize how you spend your time in order to extract the best possible results in the shortest period of time. Such systems do come with a price, however, and that price is the time you must spend first learning and then maintaining the system.
 - 2 It's tempting to say that excellent time management is a result of having a great time management system. But I have not found this to be the case. I think the general mindset of time management is far more important than any system. And the mindset of time management is simply that you value your time. It's really a self-esteem issue. If you see your life as valuable and meaningful, then you will value your time as well. If you find yourself wasting a lot of time, you probably don't have a strong enough reason to manage your time well. No system you use will make much difference until you address the underlying issue of self-respect. If your life has no meaningful purpose, then you don't have a compelling enough reason to improve your time management skills. You might get motivated every once in a while, but your motivation to improve just won't last.
 - 3 Time management systems lure you with the promise of greater productivity, more free time, faster income generation, and higher self-esteem. And some of those benefits may indeed be realized. However, another possibility is that your system becomes a distraction that prevents you from achieving real gains. You find yourself investing more and more time in meta-activities like getting organized, prioritizing objectives, and learning the latest productivity software. Actually *doing* the tasks that your system is designed to manage becomes almost an afterthought... perhaps even an annoyance. Instead of helping you increase productivity, your system becomes a means to disguise low productivity. This is a common problem for people who haven't yet identified a purpose for their lives. The system provides the illusion of productivity, but when you strip it down to its bare essence, you find it's a house of straw. There's nothing there. When you sum up all the tasks, they amount to nothing but busywork and trivialities. Whether or not they actually get done is of little consequence in the grand scheme of things. In the long run, no one will care anyway. If you find yourself in this situation, you've simply lost sight of the real purpose of time management.
 - 4 Let's strip away all this complexity and get back to basics for a moment. *What is time management?* The essence of time management is the following:
 1. Decide what to do
 2. Do it
 These appear to be very simple steps at first glance. Even a child can do them. However, when we look at them through the lens of optimization, they become much more complicated. In order to optimize these steps, we must concern ourselves with identifying the "right" or the "best" way to complete each step. So our question becomes, "What is the best action to take right now, and what is the best way to do it?"
 - 5 Answering this question should be the main purpose behind any time management system. Yes, there are side benefits like getting organized, becoming more clear-headed, and reducing stress. But ultimately these benefits all contribute to the decision-action process. What will you do, and how will you do it? Most of the existing literature was focused on step 2. There was a lot of emphasis on how to get things done. However, if step 1 is done incorrectly, then it doesn't matter how well you do step 2. If you decide to do the wrong thing, it makes no difference how well you do it.
- 1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given options: (3)
 - a) The benefit of a time management system is
 - i) to understand how you spend your time.
 - ii) to not waste time.
 - iii) to have the capability to spend time effectively.

- b) 'It is tempting to say that excellent time management is a result of having a great time management system' implies that
- i) to have good time management we need to have a good time management system in place.
 - ii) it may sound very true but it isn't the truth.
 - iii) having a good time management system might result in good time management.
- c) The essence of time management is
- i) decide what to do and do it.
 - ii) identifying the best and right way to do something.
 - iii) deciding the right thing to do.

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly: (5 marks)

- a) What is the price that time management systems come with?
- b) What is the general mindset when it comes to time management?
- c) Explain how time management is an issue of self-esteem.
- d) Why are time management systems alluring?
- e) How does the system sometimes prove to be an illusion?

1.3 Find out words from the passage which mean the same as the following: (3 marks)

- a) extremely (para 1 & 2)
- b) inconsequential (para 3)
- c) focus (para 5)

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

- 1 Is there such a person as a born murderer – in the sense that there are born writers and musicians, born winners and losers? One can't be sure. The urge to do away with troublesome people is common to most of us, but only a few succumb to it.
- 2 If ever there was a born murderer, he must surely have been William Jones. The thing came so naturally to him. No extreme violence, no messy shootings or hackings or throttling; just the right amount of poison, administered with skill and discretion.
- 3 A gentle, civilised sort of person was Mr Jones. He collected butterflies and arranged them systematically in glass cases. His ether bottle was quick and painless. He never stuck pins into the beautiful creatures.
- 4 Have you ever heard of the Agra Double Murder? It happened, of course, a great many years ago, when Agra was a far-flung outpost of the British Empire. In those days, William Jones was a male nurse in one of the city's hospitals. The patients – especially terminal cases – spoke highly of the care and consideration he showed them. While most nurses, both male and female, preferred to attend to the more hopeful cases, nurse William was always prepared to stand duty over a dying patient.
- 5 He felt a certain empathy for the dying; he liked to see them on their way. It was just his good nature, of course.
- 6 On a visit to Meerut, he met and fell in love with Mrs Browning, the wife of a local stationmaster. Impassioned love letters were soon putting a strain on the Agra-Meerut postal service. The envelopes grew heavier – not so much because the letters were growing longer but because they contained little packets of a powdery white substance, accompanied by detailed instructions as to its correct administration.
- 7 Mr Browning, an unassuming and trustful man – one of the world's born losers, in fact – was not the sort to read his wife's correspondence. Even when he was seized by frequent attacks of colic, he put them down to an impure water supply. He recovered from one bout of vomiting and diarrhoea only to be racked by another.
- 8 He was hospitalised on a diagnosis of gastroenteritis; and, thus freed from his wife's ministrations, soon got better. But on returning home and drinking a glass of nimbu-pani brought to him by the solicitous Mrs Browning, he had a relapse from which he did not recover. Those were the days when deaths from cholera and related diseases were only too common in India, and death certificates were easier to obtain than dog licences.
- 9 After a short interval of mourning (it was hot weather and you couldn't wear black for long) Mrs Browning moved to Agra where she rented a house next door to Mr William Jones. I forgot to mention that Mr Jones was also married. His wife was an insignificant creature, no match for a genius like William. Before the hot weather was over, the dreaded cholera had taken her too. The way was clear for the lovers to unite in holy matrimony.
- 10 But Dame Gossip lived in Agra too, and it was not long before tongues started wagging and anonymous letters were being received by the Superintendent of Police. Enquiries were instituted. Like most infatuated lovers, Mrs Browning had hung on to her beloved's letters and billet-doux, and these soon came to light. The silly woman had kept them in a box beneath her bed.

- 11 Exhumations were ordered in both Agra and Meerut. Arsenic keeps well, even in the hottest of weather, and there was no dearth of it in the remains of both victims. Mr Jones and Mrs Browning were arrested and charged with murder.

An extract from Ruskin Bond's 'He said it with Arsenic'

- 2.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given options : (3 marks)
- a) The urge 'to do away' with troublesome people implies –
- i) To keep away from trouble or people ii) To kill them
- iii) To get rid of them
- b) Why was William Jones referred to as a born murderer?
- i) Because he loved murdering people.
- ii) It was part of his inherent nature.
- iii) He murdered someone at a very young age.
- c) Mr Browning was a man who was
- i) Silly ii) Gullible iii) Defiant
- 2.2 Answer the following questions : (5 marks)
- i) Analyse the tone in the line,
'A gentle, civilised sort of person was Mr Jones.'
- ii) Why did the envelopes grow heavier?
- iii) Explain 'But Dame Gossip lived in Agra too'.
- iv) What do you think really happened to Mr Jones's wife?
- v) What did the exhumations reveal?
- 2.3 Find words from the passage which mean the same as – (3 marks)
- a) surrender (Para 1 & 2) b) remote (Para 3 & 4)
- c) gracious / kind / benevolent (Para 7 & 8)
3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

Shivalings are making news once again – this time, not the ones made of ice but ones made of metal, called 'paradshivalings', traded and installed in homes and temples across the country. Each of these has mercury as a key constituent, almost 30 percent by weight – making this, one of the most serious examples of uncontrolled mercury use in the country.

At a time when mercury is being phased out in the West because of its range of proven adverse effects on the central nervous system, India's imports of it have more than doubled in six years – from 254 tonnes in 1996-97 to 531 tonnes in 2002-03 – displacing US as the largest consumer of mercury in the world.

The US has a stringent regulatory system for mercury and is aggressively phasing out its use, but remains a key exporter to India. Spain is the largest exporter of mercury. What adds to the problem is the fact that there is no regulatory system in place in India. After 1992, mercury came under the Open General License which means any trader is free to import as much mercury as he wants. However, there is no inventory of where this mercury is going.

Chlor-alkali plants, which make inputs for fertilizers and pesticides, are the single largest-known consumers of mercury, accounting for, as per official figures, 13 percent of the imports.

Beyond this, is the large unregulated market of thermometer manufacturers and those which make thermostats, button cells and tube lights. Traders at Delhi's Tilak Bazaar, one of the largest mercury wholesale markets in the country, say their buyers are from a range of industries: ayurveda, paints and pesticides, temple and gurdwara builders, bangle makers, the cosmetic industry, and of course, shivaling manufacturers.

After protests by NGOs, the government put pressure on the chlor-alkali industry to start replacing mercury with alternatives. 'We have taken a lead in bringing down our consumption by bringing in better technology', said A. Singh, President of the Chlor-Alkali Manufacturing Association.

'Where is the 87 percent of the mercury going? How is it being disposed? That is why mercury levels are so many times higher than WHO permissible limits', said Chandra Bhushan, Associate Director, Centre for Science and Environment, who compiled a map of mercury hot-spots in the country.

What is worrying experts is the government's seeming indifference. Asked about studies that mercury spill from one thermometer can contaminate a 20 sq-km lake, Secretary, Environment and Forest, Prodipto Ghosh, says he is not impressed.

'If mercury is so dangerous, I would not be alive today', he says. A chemical engineer by training, he says he has handled mercury. 'We will not spend so much money in replacing mercury when the same money can be used for more pressing environmental concerns....We need our own studies to see if it is that injurious to health'.

However, he admits that there is too much mercury coming in and there is no inventory. 'We have asked for more studies, we will decide after due scientific diligence', he said.

Japan's Minamata Tragedy (1956), where 12,000 were affected after eating mercury-poisoned fish set off an international campaign against its use. Several global studies have concluded that mercury has Neuro-toxic effects affecting muscle coordination, behaviour and even memory. It also hampers nerve conduction after long-term occupational exposure, and can even cause renal failure. Chronic exposure to mercury can impair fertility and pregnancy.

- 3.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. (5)
- 3.2 Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. (3)

SECTION B – WRITING SKILLS (30 marks)

4. You wish to offer your house on rent. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words mentioning details regarding size, location etc. to be published in the classified column of a national daily. (4)
5. On Teachers Day this year the Prime Minister decided to do something different. He addressed a large gathering of school students, sharing with them his vision for the nation. An interactive session with the students followed. As a twelfth grader who witnessed the event write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your opinion about such interactive events. (120 words) (6)
6. You have come across several articles in the newspaper about gruesome crimes against the elderly people in your city. You are greatly disturbed by this fact. Write an article on the topic 'Heinous Crimes Against the Aged' analysing the reasons for such crimes and how one can prevent them. (150 - 200 words) (10)
7. Last week as you were coming back from school you happened to see a huge plastic bag full of leftovers of food being flung into the middle of the road from a speeding car. You wondered how people can be so devoid of civic sense. Prepare a speech in about 150 - 200 words to be delivered in the morning assembly on 'lack civic sense in urban India' (10)

SECTION C – LITERATURE (40 marks)

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow : (1x4=4)

Far far from gusty waves these children's faces
Like rootless weeds, the hair torn around their pallor
The tall girl with her weighed down head. The paper
Seeming boy, with rats eyes. The stunted unlucky heir
Of twisted bones, reciting a father's gnarled disease
His lesson from his desk. At the back of the dim class
One unnoted sweet and young. His eyes live in a dream
Of squirrel's game, in tree room other than this.

- a) Why are the children's faces far from the gusty waves?
b) Why is the tall girl's head 'weighed down'?
c) What do the words 'rootless weeds' imply?
d) What was unique about the boy at the back of the class?
9. Answer the following questions in about 50 – 60 words each: (3x4=12)
- a) What did Mr Hammel write on the board at the end of the last lesson? What made him do so?
b) Why did the rattrap peddler sign himself as 'Captain Von Stahle' in the letter that he wrote to Edla?
c) Who do you think is responsible for Derry's pessimistic attitude in the chapter 'On the Face of it'?
d) What impression do you form of Dr. Sadao's father in the chapter 'The Enemy'?
10. What efforts did William Douglas make to overcome his fear of water ? What conclusions can you draw about his character? (125 - 150 words) (6)
11. Analyze how the chapter 'Should Wizard Hit Mommy' exemplifies the fact that an adult perspective of life is different from that of a child. (125 - 150 words) (6)
12. Describe Teddy Henfrey's first encounter with the stranger at 'Coach and Horses'. (125- 150 words) (6)
13. What assumptions did the villagers make regarding the identity of the stranger? (125- 150 words) (6)