

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

- iii) 'Truly bored by this form of sport'. Ruskin was bored by _____.
- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| a) his father's friends | b) reading books |
| c) hunting wild animals | d) playing games |
- iv) The book that the writer finds extremely humorous is
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|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) The Naturalist on the River | b) The Diary of a Nobody |
| c) Ghost Stories of an Antiquary | d) Little Women |
- v) A word in the passage which means the same as 'engrossing and addictive' is
- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| a) balked | b) hooked | c) hilarious | d) trampled |
|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------------|
- vi) A word from the passage which means the same as 'killing' is
- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------|----------|
| a) slaughtering | b) trampled | c) blood-thirsty | d) gored |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------|----------|

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly: (6 marks)

- What books did the narrator 'balk' at reading and why?
- 'I think it all began in the forest rest house'. What began in the forest rest-house?
- What did Ruskin discover when he stayed behind in the rest-house?
- What assumptions did Ruskin make about the identity of the owner of the books?
- What did Ruskin mean when he said that the villagers 'beat' the jungle?
- Explain 'it isn't everyone's cup of tea'. In what context is it used?

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

Handling anger is an important life skill. Counselors report that 50 percent of people who come in for counseling have problems dealing with anger. Anger can shatter communication and tear apart relationships, and it ruins both the joy and health of many. Sadly, people tend to justify their anger instead of accepting responsibility for it. Everyone struggles, to varying degrees, with anger.

Thankfully, it is important to recognize that anger at an injustice inflicted against oneself is also appropriate. Anger has been said to be a warning flag—it alerts us to those times when others are attempting to or have violated our boundaries. Sadly, we do not always stand up for one another, meaning that sometimes we must stand up for ourselves. This is especially important when considering the anger that victims often feel. Victims of abuse, violent crime, or the like have been violated in some way. Often while experiencing the trauma, they do not experience anger. Later, in working through the trauma, anger will emerge. For a victim to reach a place of true health and forgiveness, he or she must first accept the trauma for what it was. In order to fully accept that an act was unjust, one must sometimes experience anger. Because of the complexities of trauma recovery, this anger is often not short-lived, particularly for victims of abuse. Victims should process through their anger and come to a place of acceptance, even forgiveness. This is often a long journey. As God heals the victim, the victim's emotions, including anger, will follow. Allowing the process to occur does not mean the person is living in sin.

Anger can become sinful when it is motivated by pride, when it is unproductive, or when anger is allowed to linger. One obvious sign that anger has turned to sin is when, instead of attacking the problem at hand, we attack the wrongdoer. We are to speak the truth in love and use our words to build others up, not allow rotten or destructive words to pour from our lips. Unfortunately, this poisonous speech is a common characteristic of fallen man. Anger becomes sin when it is allowed to boil over without restraint, resulting in a scenario in which hurt is multiplied, leaving devastation in its wake. Often, the consequences of out-of-control anger are irreparable. Anger also becomes sin when the angry one refuses to be pacified, holds a grudge, or keeps it all inside. This can cause depression and irritability over little things, which are often unrelated to the underlying problem.

Finally, we must act to solve our part of the problem. We cannot control how others act or respond, but we can make the changes that need to be made on our part. Overcoming a temper is not accomplished overnight. But through prayer, and reliance upon God's Holy Spirit, ungodly anger can be overcome. We may have allowed anger to become entrenched in our lives by habitual practice, but we can also practice responding correctly until that, too, becomes a habit and God is glorified in our response.

- On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. (5 marks)
- Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words using the notes made. Also suggest a suitable title. (3 marks)

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. 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.

(OR)

As the President of the Photography Club of St. Mary's School, Ahmedabad, draft a notice in not more than 50 words informing the eleventh graders about a photography competition which will be held in the coming month. Invent all necessary details. (4 marks)

5. 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.

(OR)

You are Anurag / Aruni. The recent case of the death of a youngster due to road rage leaves you deeply distressed. Write a letter to the Editor of a local daily in about 125 to 150 words expressing your concern about the rising aggression among the youth of urban India. Suggest ways and means of tackling this problem. (6 marks)

6. 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.

(OR)

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. (10 marks)

7. 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'.

(OR)

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 or against the topic, write a debate in 150 -200 words. (10 marks)

SECTION - C (LITERATURE)

40 MARKS

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

*Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green
They do not fear the men beneath the tree,
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.*

- Are Aunt Jennifer's tigers real?
- Why are they described as "Bright topaz denizens"?
- What qualities do these tigers exude?
- What does the poet wish to convey through the phrase "sleek chivalric certainty"?

(OR)

*Therefore, on every morrow, we are wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth
Spite of despondence, of inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all unhealthy and o'er darkened ways
Made for our searching.*

- What are we doing 'on every morrow'?
- Explain the phrase 'a flowery band'.
- What does the poet wish to convey through the words 'despondence', 'gloomy', 'unhealthy and o'er darkened ways'?
- What will happen in spite of all negativities?

9. Answer any four of the following questions in about 50 to 60 words each: (4x3=12)

- What was the mood in the classroom when M. Hamel gave his last lesson?
- How did the incident at the Y.M.C.A. pool affect William Douglas later in life?
- What made the peddler think of the world as a rattrap?
- What was ironic about Bama's laughter at the sight of the village elder offering food to the landlord?
- How does the chapter 'The Enemy' prove that humanity emerges victorious over narrow prejudices?

10. Answer the following question in about 150 words: (6 marks)
Why do you think Jack disapproved of Jo's ending to the story of Roger Skunk? What inferences can you draw about Jack's character? (Should Wizard Hit Mommy)
11. Answer the following question in about 150 words: (6 marks)
The lesson 'Lost Spring' describes the pathetic condition of rag pickers and child labourers in India. In spite of laws laid down by the constitution these malpractices are still rampant. Keeping in mind the details from the chapter, write an article on the topic 'Ill-effects on Child Labour in India'.
12. Answer the following question in about 150 words: (6 marks)
'Being over ambitious can prove to be highly destructive'. Analyse the above statement in the light of the events in the novel 'The Invisible Man'.
13. Write a character sketch of Mrs. Hall in about 150 words (The Invisible Man). (6 marks)

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