

Section – A Reading Skills (26 Marks)

Q1. Read the passage given below: (10)

1. When M K Gandhi was thrown out of a train in South Africa he had a choice to make - either to ignore the event and live in peace or enter into a conflict and face harassment, hardship and the possibility of getting physically hurt. He chose the latter. Why? Did he not have a guru who had taught him that living in peace and tranquillity was the ultimate objective of life and the best way to achieve this objective was to avoid situations of conflict? Why did he not walk away?

2. The Dalai Lama chose to live in exile rather than live in peace in Tibet. He is a spiritual master himself. He preaches peace around the world. Does he not know that living in peace requires avoiding situations of conflict?

3. Aung San Suu Kyi did not have to stay in jail. Winston Churchill did not have to join the World War. Nelson Mandela did not have to suffer in solitary confinement. Julius Nyerere did not have to fight a war with Idi Amin. There is a long list of people who have embraced conflict, despite standing for peace, otherwise. They had the courage to stand up against repression rather than submit to it.

4. Both the Ramayana and Mahabharata, revered Indian epics, are stories of war, not peace. Krishna did not tell the Pandavas to ignore the incident of Draupadi's humiliation in court (Draupadi vastraharan). He encouraged them to go to war. The Gita says engaging in war to uphold truth is not a matter of choice for a warrior; it is his duty.

5. Most of us are confused between conflict and the method of resolving a conflict. We assume, incorrectly, that Gandhi, as a peace loving person, must have avoided situations of conflict. On the other hand, he faced conflict head-on. Bhagat Singh and Gandhi were both gearing themselves to deal with conflict, except that Gandhi tried to employ peaceful means while Bhagat Singh chose aggression.

6. The duty of a scientist, artist or professor is also to engage in conflict against repressive regimes of knowledge. Any kind of limited knowledge is a form of bondage. Albert Einstein advanced the boundaries of scientific knowledge. James Joyce did the same in the world of literature. He flouted rules of writing as he saw them as restrictions on creativity. Picasso and Ravi Verma for example, explored realms beyond accepted rules in visual art. Every one of them faced criticism and controversy, yet they remained convinced of the nature of their work and the methods they used to fulfil their vision. They remained engaged.

7. One can only conclude from this that the people we admire and even those we worship have all rejected the existing as being adequate and have chosen to engage in conflict to expand the existing. They have redefined the purpose of our life.

8. The purpose of our life is not to live in passive acceptance but to engage with conflict in order to be creative. Creativity is the purpose of life. The purpose is to advance an individual soul and the collective consciousness. The only word of caution here is that we must first settle ourselves spiritually so that we know whether a conflict is justified or not.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage, complete the following statements with the help of given options. 6

(a) Peace loving personalities like Mahatma Gandhi, Dalai Lama, Suu-kyi etc. took the way of conflict so that they could challenge the forces of

- i) peace and harmony
- ii) war and peace
- iii) Tyranny and repression
- iv) peace and progress

(b) Bhagwad Gita says that waging war to uphold truth is

- i) the duty of a warrior
- ii) an excuse of a coward
- iii) a diplomatic stand of a cunning person
- iv) compulsion of an individual

(c) Mahatma Gandhi faced the conflict head on but he employed

- (i) aggression
- (ii) peaceful means
- (iii) strategic moves
- (iv) surrendering tactics

(d) The author wants the scientists, artists and teachers to

- i) support repressive regime
- ii) challenge repressive knowledge
- iii) stand by old theories
- iv) refute old beliefs

(e) The conflict must be

- i) personal ii) general
- iii) justified iv) groundless

(f) People like Albert Einstein, James Joyce have redefined

- i) the literature of the World
- ii) the purpose of our life
- iii) creativity
- iv) controversy

1.2 Answer the following questions as briefly as possible. 2

(a) Name any three people who have embraced conflict, despite standing for peace.

(b) Why did James Joyce flout the rules of writing?

1.3 Find words from the passage that mean the same as: 2

- i) adversity (para 1)
- iii) awareness (para 8)

Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. Today there is a lot of talk about the environment. All nations are coming to an agreement to save planet earth. Like we pollute the earth, we pollute the water; we also pollute the subtle environment through our negative feelings and emotions. We have become a victim of our environment. We are not in control of our mind. We hear a lot about other things in life but we spend very little time to hear about ourselves. How to handle our mind? How to be in present moment? How to be happy and be grateful? This we do not learn.

This is the most unfortunate thing. Then, what is the solution? This is where we miss a very fundamental principle that governs our environment, our mind, our emotions and our life in general.

2. Our body has the capacity to sustain much longer the vibrations of bliss and peace than it does negative emotions because positivity is in the centre of our existence. Just like in the structure of atom, protons and neutrons are in the centre of the atom and electrons are only the periphery, same is with our lives; the centre core of our existence is bliss, positivity and joy, but it is surrounded by a cloud of negative ions. Through the help of the breath, we can easily get over our negative emotions in a short period of time. Through meditation and certain breathing techniques, we can clear this negative cloud.

3. This life has so much to offer to you. You can see this once you take some time off, rejuvenating the soul. Your soul is hungry for a smile from you. If you could give this, you feel energised the whole year and nothing, whatsoever, can take the smile away from you.

4. Everyone wants to be successful in life. But without knowing what success is, you want to be successful. What is the sign of success? Just having a lot of money, is that success? Why do you think money means success? Because money gives you freedoms so that you can do whatever you want. You may have a big bank balance but you may have stomach-aches, ulcers, you may have to go for bypass surgery; can't eat this, can't do this, can't do that. We spend half our health to gain wealth and spend half our wealth to gain back the health. Is this success? It is very bad mathematics.

5. Look at those who claim to be successful - are they successful? No, they are miserable. Then, what is the sign of success? It is confidence, compassion, generosity and a smile that none can snatch away, being really happy and being able to be freer. These are the signs of a successful person.

6. Take some time off to look a little deeper into yourself and calm the mind down. Thus, erase all the impressions that we are carrying in our minds and experience the presence, the divine that is the very core of our existence. This is feeling the presence.

2.1 Answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices:)1x5=5

(a) How do we pollute our environment?

- (i) by becoming victims to our environment
- (ii) by not listening to indications about ourselves.
- (iii) through our negative thoughts and feelings.
- (iv) by not being in control of our mind.

(b) How can we get rid of our negative emotions?

- (i) by keeping longer the vibrations of bliss
- (ii) through meditations and using some breathing techniques
- (iii) by ignoring clouds
- (iv) by preserving the protons and neutrons

(c) In para 2, positivity has been compared to

- (i) protons and neutrons
- (ii) electrons
- (iii) cloud of ions
- (iv) atom

(d) We can feel the presence of the divine at the core of our existence if we

- (i) are healthy
- (ii) take time off
- (iii) can erase the impressions in our minds
- (iv) meditate

(e) 'Sustain' in para 2 means (i) keep alive (ii) experience (iii) remember (iv) create

2.2 Answer the following questions briefly: 1x3=3

- (f) What, according to the author, is 'bad mathematics'?
- (g) What are the true signs of a successful person?
- (h) Usually what is considered as success in our society?

Q3. Read the following passage carefully:

1. The whole movement of man's life is towards greater freedom. As a child grows up, his dependence upon his parents and family progressively diminishes, while his freedom and self-reliance increase all the time. The goal of life seems to be headed in the direction of complete liberty. But what do we understand by the word 'freedom'? Freedom only means the capability of self-government. For the highest function of freedom is to make us capable of governing ourselves. Nietzsche says, "He who cannot obey himself will be commanded." Freedom does not mean liberty to do anything that one pleases. Freedom has no meaning without responsibility, for only the responsible can be truly free for nothing is liable to a greater abuse than freedom.

2. All development is a process whereby we learn how to make the right choices. Hence, it won't be far from truth to say that all values are created in freedom. And what, one may ask, is the purpose of freedom? The purpose of freedom is only one - it is perfection. "The entire process of time and development is from the less to the more perfect, whether it be in moral, ethical, physical, mental or spiritual perfection. Freedom is the necessary condition in which the ideal of perfection may be realised. Complete freedom of choice means complete freedom to do what you want to do - and is the only means to self - realization. The fully realised being is the highest ideal, not only because he fulfils himself, but also because being fully realised, he helps others to achieve their true potential. Mill says, "In proportion to the development of his individuality, each person becomes more valuable to himself and is, therefore, more capable of being more valuable to others."

3. Freedom, rather than meaning unrestricted licence, means total self-discipline, for discipline alone gives us freedom. Discipline is the means of achieving that which a free mind has evolved. Discipline is not an obstruction to freedom, but a passage to it, for the more disciplined you are, the freer you are to do that which you desire. And discipline must be imposed upon you if you cannot discipline yourself. Discipline means order while freedom may exist in chaos. And nothing worthwhile can be achieved where there is disorder and anarchy. Chaos has no power to affect anything worthwhile. So, give up all ideas you may have that freedom meant doing anything that you fancy, for if you fancy disorder, you are not free, but bound. Know that only he has liberty that has control. Only he has speed, which has brakes. Only he must fly, who can land. Only he must start, who can stop. Liberty without control is like a car without brakes. It will crash. Freedom has no meaning to achieve the objectives of humanity.

3.1 On the basis of your reading, make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Supply a suitable title to it.

3.2 Write a summary of the passage based on your notes in about 80 words.

Section B – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills (7+16 Marks)

4. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate options given below: (2)

It (a) _____ too late when Ravi saw the watch. He was taken over by the old fear that he might (b) _____ the train. Once he had missed the train and was stranded for whole night. He (c) _____ up and (d) _____ a taxi.

- (a) (i) was getting (ii) got (iii) gets (iv) have missed
- (b) (i) missed (ii) have missed (iii) miss (iv) misses
- (c) (i) hurries (ii) hurried (iii) would hurry (iv) hurriedly
- (d) (i) hires (ii) hired (iii) would hire (iv) hiring

5. Rewrite the following sentences by placing the words in the correct order. (1×3 = 3)

- i) Children / vacations / cannot /for fun / meant / are / compromise / and
- ii) comes from / the / most of / flavour / its / of / aroma / food.
- iii) grew up / of the / amidst / Siddharth / pleasure / the / at / royal court / Kapil-vastu

6. You are R.V. Singh looking for an independent house in East Delhi on rent. Draft a suitable advertisement to be published in Hindustan Times stating all your requirements and expected rent.

OR

You are the General Manager of Pioneer Software Solutions. Hyderabad. You need three software engineers for your organization. Draft an advertisement for the classified column of a national daily.

7. Your school is holding an exhibition of the handicraft objects made by the students. Prepare a poster announcing the event and showing its highlights. (3)

OR

You are Simar / Smriti of Lotus International School, Jodhpur. Your school is organizing a workshop on “Prevention of Drug Abuse” in the coming week. Prepare a poster with complete information for the students of class X-XII.

8.

Narcotics Control Bureau is organizing a declamation contest in your school as part of its observance of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Write a speech in about 150 words on the topic , “ Youth and Drug Abuse”.

OR

"Our Good Earth", an environmental awareness magazine has launched a marathon 'Clean Your City' campaign. As an active participant write a speech to be read out in the morning assembly urging students to participate in the campaign in 150-200 words.

9. ‘Cell phones should be allowed during class’ . Write a debate either for or organist the motion. (120 – 150 words)(5)

OR

The Debating Club of your school is organizing a debate on the topic ‘Violent video games should be banned’ . Draft a speech in about 150- 200 words either for or against the motion.

SECTION--C: LITERATURE (31 marks)

Q 10. Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow:

A. Extract from Poem 1x3=3marks

And of this circumstance

There is nothing to say at all.

Its silence silences.

- a) What does 'this circumstance' refer to?
- b) Explain: 'Its silence silences.'
- c) The last line has the following literary devices.
 1. Personification 2. Alliteration 3. Simile 4. Metaphor
 - i) 1 & 2 Both
 - ii) Only 1
 - iii) Only 2
 - iv) 1 & 4 Both

OR

And forever, by day and night,

I give back life to my own origin,

and make pure and beautify it;

(For song, issuing from its birth-place, after fulfilment, wandering,

Reck'd or unreck'd. duly with love returns./

- a) How does the rain give back life to its origin?
- b) Why are the last two lines in brackets?
- c) The expression 'Reck'd or unreck'd' implies all of the following EXCEPT
 - i) cared for or not cared for
 - ii) wrecked or unwrecked
 - iii) heeded or not heeded
 - iv) listened to or not listened to

B. Extract from Hornbill (1x3=3)

The new pharaoh promoted the worship of the Aten, the sun disk, changed his name to Akhenaten, or 'servant of the Aten,' and moved the religious capital from the old city of Thebes to the new city of Akhetaten, known now as Amarna. He further shocked the country by attacking Amun, a major god, smashing his images and closing his temples. "It must have been a horrific time," said Ray Johnson, director of the University of Chicago's research centre in Luxor, the site of ancient Thebes. "The family that had ruled for centuries was coming to an end, and then Akhenaten went a little wacky."

1. What major religious change did the new pharaoh promote?

- a) Worship of Amun
- b) Worship of Ra
- c) Worship of Aten
- d) Worship of Osiris

2. What significant action did the pharaoh take regarding the religious capital?

- a) He moved it from Thebes to Memphis
- b) He moved it from Thebes to Akhetaten
- c) He kept the religious capital in Thebes
- d) He moved it from Memphis to Thebes

3. How did the pharaoh demonstrate his opposition to the god Amun?

- a) By building new temples for Amun
- b) By promoting Amun's worship
- c) By smashing Amun's images and closing his temples
- d) By ignoring Amun's existence

OR

“I get you! You are suggesting that I made a transition from one world to another and back again?”

Gangadharant asked. “Fantastic though it seems, this is the only explanation I can offer. My theory is that catastrophic situations offer radically different alternatives for the world to proceed. It seems that so far as reality is concerned all alternatives are viable but the observer can experience only one of them at a time.

i. Who made a transition from one world to another and back again?

- a) Gangadharant
- b) Rajendra Deshpande
- c) Vinay Gaitonde
- d) None of these

ii. By ‘all alternatives’ the speaker mean....

iii. Write a word that can be replaced with ‘viable’.

C. Extract from Snapshot (1x4=4)

Every branch of the Garoghlanian family was living in the most amazing and comical poverty in the world. Nobody could understand where we ever got money enough to keep us with food in our bellies, not even the old men of the family.

1. Who is the speaker of the above lines?

- (a) Aram
- (b) William Saroyan
- (c) Uncle Khosrove
- (d) None of the above

2. Why has the poverty been mentioned as “most amazing and comical”?

- (a) they never resorted to any unfair deeds to earn money or food
- (b) they never placed their happiness before others
- (c) they never prayed to get rid of their deprivation
- (d) none of the above

3. What was the tribe famous for?

4. How did the boys follow the rules of the tribe?

OR

I looked up. The girl put cups ready on the tea-table. She had a broad back. Just like her mother. She poured tea from a white pot. All it had was a gold border on the lid, I remembered. She opened a box and took some spoons out. ‘That’s a nice box.’ I heard my own voice. It was a strange voice. As though each sound was different in this room.

1. Who is the girl?

- a. the daughter of Mrs. S
- b. the daughter of Mrs. Dorling
- c. cousin of the narrator
- d. Mrs. Dorling

2. What did the narrator remember?

- a. that the tea pot was hers
- b. that the things no longer belonged to her
- c. what she had forgotten about the tea pot
- d. all of the above

3. Why was each sound different?

- a. because of the strange and different atmosphere
- b. due to different languages
- c. because of the mixed feelings
- d. as the things no longer belonged to her

4. Why did the narrator find her own voice ‘strange’?

Q 11. Answer any TWO out of the following four questions in 30-40 words each: (3x2=6 marks)

- a) Everybody including the sparrows mourned the grandmother's death. Elaborate.
- b) Why did the narrator want to forget the Address finally?
- c) Explain 'terribly transient feet'
- d) Why did the Egyptians resent Carter's investigation?

Q 12. Answer any ONE out of the following two questions in 30-40 words: (3x1=3 marks)

Describe Aram's feelings when he saw his cousin Mourad at his window with a beautiful white horse one fine morning.

OR

What changes does Mrs. Pearson want in her family?

13. Answer any ONE out of the following questions in 120-150 words: (6 marks)

Both 'We're Not Afraid to Die' and 'The Adventure' are adventurous stories. How is the adventure that the former relates different from and/or similar to the adventure related to the latter?

OR

Would you agree that the author's grandmother was a person strong in character? If yes, give instances that show this. (The Portrait of a Lady)

14. Answer any ONE out of the following questions in 120-150 words: (6 marks)

The narrator mentions ' a crazy streak' running in his family. Which two characters show this streak in their behaviour and words and how? 6 marks

OR

Do you think that the issues raised in the play 'Mother's Day' have any contemporary relevance? Justify your stand.