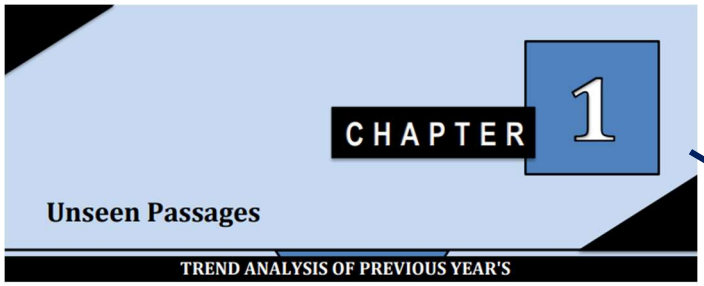
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
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CLASS – X

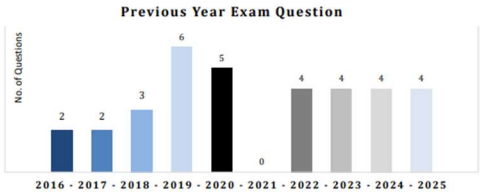
Marks 80

Sections	Competencies	Total marks
Reading Comprehension	Conceptual understanding, decoding, analyzing, inferring, interpreting and vocabulary	20
Writing Skills and Grammar	Creative expression of an opinion, reasoning, justifying, illustrating, appropriacy of style and tone, using appropriate format and fluency. Applying 20 conventions, using integrated structures with accuracy and fluency	20
Language through Literature	Recalling, reasoning, appreciating, applying literary conventions illustrating and justifying etc. Extract relevant information, identifying the central theme and sub-theme, understanding the writers' message and writing fluently.	40
Total		**80**

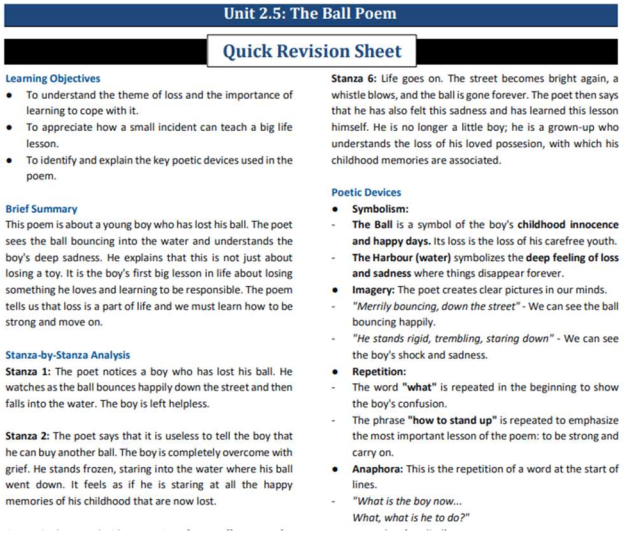
HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CBSE ENGLISH BOOK



CBSE Question Trend Analysis by Topic: Understand the Patterns in Frequently Asked Questions.



Quick Revision Notes: Essential Chapter Points and Summaries for Quick Recall.



Unit 2.5: The Ball Poem

Quick Revision Sheet

Learning Objectives

- To understand the theme of loss and the importance of learning to cope with it.
- To appreciate how a small incident can teach a big life lesson.
- To identify and explain the key poetic devices used in the poem.

Brief Summary

This poem is about a young boy who has lost his ball. The poet sees the ball bouncing into the water and understands the boy's deep sadness. He explains that this is not just about losing a toy. It is the boy's first big lesson in life about losing something he loves and learning to be responsible. The poem tells us that loss is a part of life and we must learn how to be strong and move on.

Stanza-by-Stanza Analysis

Stanza 1: The poet notices a boy who has lost his ball. He watches as the ball bounces happily down the street and then falls into the water. The boy is left helpless.

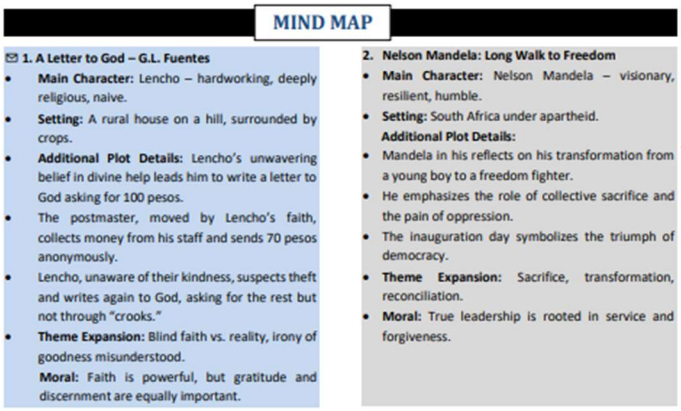
Stanza 2: The poet says that it is useless to tell the boy that he can buy another ball. The boy is completely overcome with grief. He stands frozen, staring into the water where his ball went down. It feels as if he is staring at all the happy memories of his childhood that are now lost.

Stanza 6: Life goes on. The street becomes bright again, a whistle blows, and the ball is gone forever. The poet then says that he has also felt this sadness and has learned this lesson himself. He is no longer a little boy; he is a grown-up who understands the loss of his loved possesion, with which his childhood memories are associated.

Poetic Devices

- **Symbolism:**
  - **The Ball** is a symbol of the boy's **childhood innocence and happy days.** Its loss is the loss of his carefree youth.
  - **The Harbour (water)** symbolizes the **deep feeling of loss and sadness** where things disappear forever.
- **Imagery:** The poet creates clear pictures in our minds.
  - *"Merrily bouncing, down the street"* - We can see the ball bouncing happily.
  - *"He stands rigid, trembling, staring down"* - We can see the boy's shock and sadness.
- **Repetition:**
  - The word **"what"** is repeated in the beginning to show the boy's confusion.
  - The phrase **"how to stand up"** is repeated to emphasize the most important lesson of the poem: to be strong and carry on.
- **Anaphora:** This is the repetition of a word at the start of lines.
  - *"What is the boy now...*
    What, what is he to do?"

Mind Map: A Visual Tool to Connect and Recall Key Concepts Efficiently.



MIND MAP

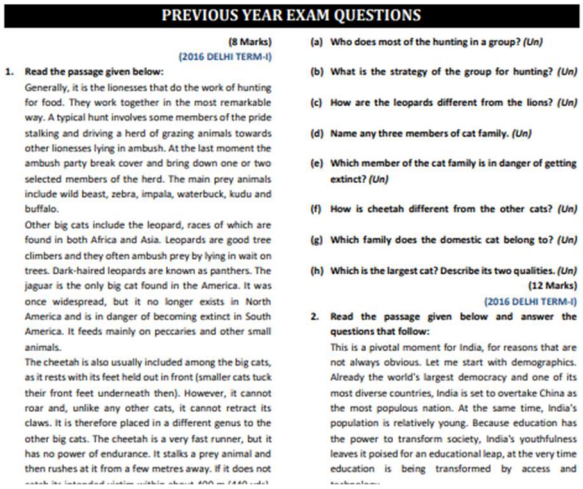
1. A Letter to God – G.L. Fuentes

- **Main Character:** Lencho – hardworking, deeply religious, naive.
- **Setting:** A rural house on a hill, surrounded by crops.
- **Additional Plot Details:** Lencho's unwavering belief in divine help leads him to write a letter to God asking for 100 pesos.
- The postmaster, moved by Lencho's faith, collects money from his staff and sends 70 pesos anonymously.
- Lencho, unaware of their kindness, suspects theft and writes again to God, asking for the rest but not through "crooks."
- **Theme Expansion:** Blind faith vs. reality, irony of goodness misunderstood.
  Moral: Faith is powerful, but gratitude and discernment are equally important.

2. Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom

- **Main Character:** Nelson Mandela – visionary, resilient, humble.
- **Setting:** South Africa under apartheid.
  Additional Plot Details:
- Mandela in his reflects on his transformation from a young boy to a freedom fighter.
- He emphasizes the role of collective sacrifice and the pain of oppression.
- The inauguration day symbolizes the triumph of democracy.
- **Theme Expansion:** Sacrifice, transformation, reconciliation.
- **Moral:** True leadership is rooted in service and forgiveness.

CBSE Previous Year Questions: Detailed Chapterwise and Topicwise Breakdown with Cognitive Level Tagging for the Last 10 Years.



PREVIOUS YEAR EXAM QUESTIONS

(8 Marks)
(2016 DELHI TERM-I)

1. Read the passage given below:

Generally, it is the lionesses that do the work of hunting for food. They work together in the most remarkable way. A typical hunt involves some members of the pride stalking and driving a herd of grazing animals towards other lionesses lying in ambush. At the last moment the ambush party break cover and bring down one or two selected members of the herd. The main prey animals include wild beast, zebra, impala, waterbuck, kudu and buffalo.

Other big cats include the leopard, races of which are found in both Africa and Asia. Leopards are good tree climbers and they often ambush prey by lying in wait on trees. Dark-haired leopards are known as panthers. The jaguar is the only big cat found in the America. It was once widespread, but it no longer exists in North America and is in danger of becoming extinct in South America. It feeds mainly on peccaries and other small animals.

The cheetah is also usually included among the big cats, as it rests with its feet held out in front (smaller cats tuck their front feet underneath then). However, it cannot roar and, unlike any other cats, it cannot retract its claws. It is therefore placed in a different genus to the other big cats. The cheetah is a very fast runner, but it has no power of endurance. It stalks a prey animal and then rushes at it from a few metres away. If it does not

(a) **Who does most of the hunting in a group?** ***(Un)***

(b) **What is the strategy of the group for hunting?** ***(Un)***

(c) **How are the leopards different from the lions?** ***(Un)***

(d) **Name any three members of cat family.** ***(Un)***

(e) **Which member of the cat family is in danger of getting extinct?** ***(Un)***

(f) **How is cheetah different from the other cats?** ***(Un)***

(g) **Which family does the domestic cat belong to?** ***(Un)***

(h) **Which is the largest cat? Describe its two qualities.** ***(Un)***
(12 Marks)
(2016 DELHI TERM-I)

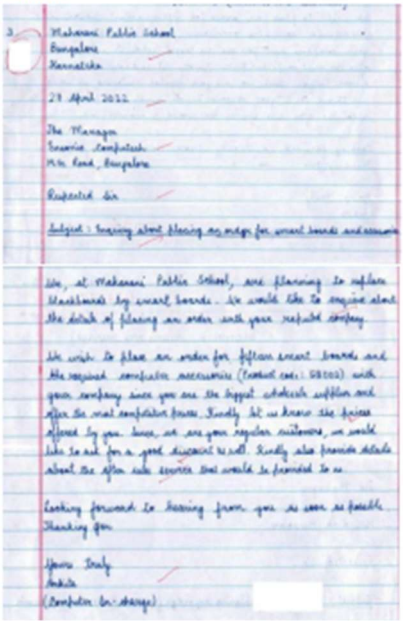
2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

This is a pivotal moment for India, for reasons that are not always obvious. Let me start with demographics. Already the world's largest democracy and one of its most diverse countries, India is set to overtake China as the most populous nation. At the same time, India's population is relatively young. Because education has the power to transform society, India's youthfulness leaves it poised for an educational leap, at the very time education is being transformed by access and

Please confirm if we are eligible for the standard library discount. We prefer to make the payment via cheque upon delivery. Kindly ensure the books are delivered by 25 August 2025 to the above address.
Looking forward to your confirmation and prompt delivery.

Yours sincerely,
Niharika
Incharge, Neighbourhood Library for Children

11. Answer:



Toppers' Answer:
Real Exam Responses for Effective Learning and Insight.

Common Mistakes and Expert Tips:
Avoid Pitfalls and Enhance Your Performance.

I request your esteemed publication to highlight this issue so that the concerned authorities are compelled to act swiftly. Public safety should never be compromised due to administrative delays.

Yours sincerely,
Shobhit Das

Commonly Made Mistake

- ***Format:*** *Missing essential components* ***(sender/receiver addresses, date, subject).***
- ***Placement:*** *Salutation* ***("Dear Sir/Madam")*** *is incorrectly placed (must follow the subject line).*
- ***Closing:*** *No formal sign-off* ***("Yours sincerely").***
- ***Tone:*** *Use* ***formal*** *language; avoid casual phrases.*
  - *Prefer:* ***"I kindly request," "I urge."***
  - *Avoid: "I hope you fix this soon."*
- ***Clarity:*** *Complaint is* ***vague*** *or lacks sufficient context.*
- ***Details:*** *Missing* ***specifics*** *like* ***location, dates, or*** *reference numbers.*

Answering Tips

- *Use the correct format*
- *Keep a formal tone*
- *Be specific and clear*
- *State the exact action you seek*

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TREND ANALYSIS (2016-2025)

No. of Questions Asked in Previous Exams

SECTION-A: READING COMPREHENSION		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
UNIT 1	Unseen Passages	2	2	3	6	5	-	4	4	4	4
SECTION-B: GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS		**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
UNIT-1	Formal Letter Writing	2	2	1	2	2	-	2	3	2	1
UNIT-2	Analytical Paragraph Writing	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	4	3
UNIT-3	Story Writing	3	4	2	4	4	-	-	-	-	-
UNIT-4	Article Writing	2	2	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
UNIT-5	Fill In the Blanks	2	2	1	2	2	-	-	10	10	11
UNIT-6	Error & Corrections	1	1	1	1	2	-	2	6	8	8
UNIT-7	Filling the Omitted Words	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNIT-8	Report the Speech	2	2	1	2	2	-	2	8	7	5
UNIT-9	Rearrange the Sentences	2	2	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
SECTION-C: LITERATURE TEXT BOOKS		**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
PROSE (FIRST FLIGHT)											
UNIT 1.1	A Letter to God	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	1
UNIT 1.2	Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	2	1
UNIT 1.3	Two Stories about Flying	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	3	1	3
UNIT 1.4	From the Diary of Anne Frank	1	-	2	1	1			1	1	1
UNIT 1.5	Glimpses of India	-	2	1	1	1		1	2	3	2
UNIT 1.6	Mijbil the Otter	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
UNIT 1.7	Madam Rides the Bus	-	2	-	1	1	-	2	2	1	1
UNIT 1.8	The Sermon at Benares	1	-	2	1	1	-	2	2	1	-
UNIT 1.9	The Proposal	2	2	1	-	-	-	2	2	-	1
POETRY (FIRST FLIGHT)		**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
UNIT 2.1	Dust of Snow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
UNIT 2.2	Fire and Ice	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNIT 2.3	A Tiger in the Zoo	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
UNIT 2.4	How to Tell Wild Animals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
UNIT 2.5	The Ball Poem	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	1
UNIT 2.6	Amanda!	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	2	1
UNIT 2.7	The Trees	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	2
UNIT 2.8	Fog	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UNIT 2.9	The Tale of Custard the Dragon	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	2	2
UNIT 2.10	For Anne Gregory	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
SUPPLEMENTARY READER		**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**
UNIT 3.1	A Triumph of Surgery	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	1
UNIT 3.2	The Thief's Story	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	2	2	2
UNIT 3.3	The Midnight Visitor	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	2
UNIT 3.4	A Question of Trust	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1
UNIT 3.5	Footprints without Feet	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	2	1
UNIT 3.6	The Making of a Scientist	-	2	-	-	2	-	2	2	1	-
UNIT 3.7	The Necklace	1	2	1	-	2	-	2	1	2	1
UNIT 3.8	Bholi	1	2	-	2	1	-	-	1	1	2
UNIT 3.9	The Book That Saved the Earth	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	2

SECTION-A

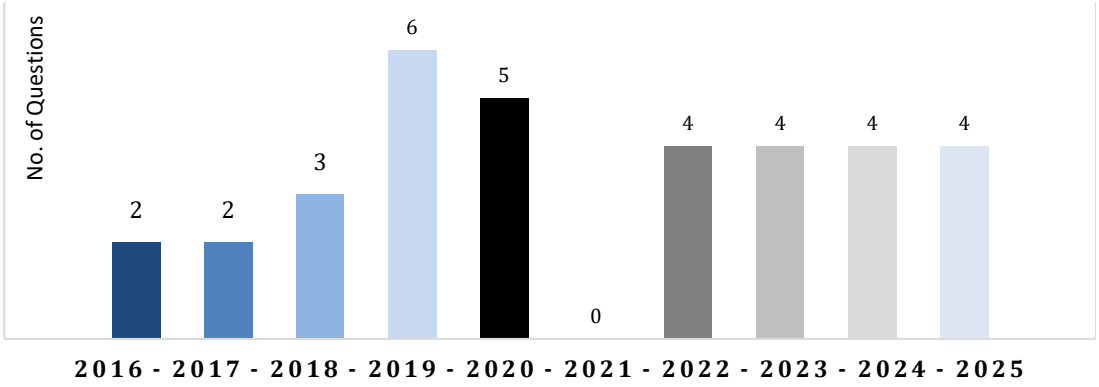
"Reading Comprehension"

CHAPTER 1

Unseen Passages

TREND ANALYSIS OF PREVIOUS YEAR'S

Previous Year Exam Question



Quick Revision Sheet

Introduction to the Reading Section

- Purpose: The section tests your ability to understand, interpret, and evaluate unseen passages.
- Core Skill: You must form answers in your own words, demonstrating comprehension rather than just copying.
- Passage Types: There are two main types of unseen passages you will encounter:

1. Factual Passages
2. Discursive Passages

1. Understanding Factual Passages

- Basic Definition: These passages describe a topic in a straightforward, factual manner.
- Purpose: They help the reader imagine and understand the real-life qualities of a specific place, person, thing, or event.
- Structure: They are typically well-organized, presenting information about the topic in a detailed and orderly sequence.

2. Understanding Discursive Passages

- Basic Definition: The term "discursive" means moving from one topic to another. These passages are often argumentative or exploratory.
- Purpose: They cover broad topics that are discussed in depth, using logical arguments, data, and examples to support different points of view.
- Structure: Unlike factual passages, they do not follow a strict order. The writer may jump between different points and perspectives.

Example 1: Factual Passage (Descriptive)

Passage: Thomson's gazelle is a small antelope native to the grasslands of East Africa. It is easily identified by its tan coat, a distinctive black stripe on its side, and short, ridged horns present on both males and females. An adult gazelle typically stands about 60-70 cm at the shoulder and weighs between 15-25 kg. They are herbivores, primarily feeding on grasses, and are known for their "stotting" behavior—leaping high into the air—which is thought to signal fitness to predators.

Their main predators include cheetahs, wild dogs, and pythons.

Sample Questions & Answers:

Q1. What is the main diet of the Thomson's gazelle?

Answer: The main diet of the Thomson's gazelle consists of grasses.

(Explanation: This is a direct "What" question. The answer is a specific fact taken directly from the passage.)

Q2. Describe one identifying feature of Thomson's gazelle.

Answer: One identifying feature is the distinctive black stripe on its side.

(Explanation: The answer is brief, specific, and uses the passage's information without copying the entire sentence.)

Example 2: Discursive Passage (Argumentative)

Passage: The proliferation of social media has sparked a complex debate about its impact on adolescent social skills. Proponents argue that platforms like Instagram and TikTok provide a vital space for teens to connect with peers, find communities of interest, and express their identities. They suggest that navigating online relationships teaches digital literacy, a crucial skill in the modern world. Conversely, critics contend that this digital interaction often replaces face-to-face communication, potentially stunting the development of empathy and the ability to read non-verbal cues. They point to studies linking heavy social media use with increased feelings of loneliness and social anxiety. Ultimately, the effect is likely not monolithic, but depends on how the technology is used by the individual.

Sample Questions & Answers:

Q1. According to the passage, what are two arguments made by proponents of social media?

Answer: Proponents argue that social media helps teens connect with peers and express their identity, and that it teaches crucial digital literacy skills.

(Explanation: This "What" question requires locating and summarizing two separate points from the text. The answer is a synthesis of the given arguments, put in the student's own words.)

Q2. Why do critics believe social media can be harmful to social skills?

Answer: Critics believe it is harmful because it can replace in-person communication, which may hinder the development of empathy and the ability to understand non-verbal cues.

(Explanation: This is a "Why" question. The answer begins by referencing the critics and then states the cause-and-effect relationship as described in the passage, without using the exact phrases like "stunting the development.")

MIND MAP

COMPLETE GUIDE TO READING COMPREHENSION

1. PASSAGE TYPES

▶ **1.1 SEEN PASSAGE**
- From textbooks (First Flight & Footprints without Feet)
- Requires revision, recall, and prior knowledge
- Focus on character analysis, themes, and literary devices

▶ **1.2 UNSEEN PASSAGE**

‣ 1.2.1 **FACTUAL PASSAGE**
- Purpose: To inform, explain, or describe
- Features: Facts, data, statistics, instructions, reports
- Includes: Graphs, charts, and timelines

‣ **1.2.2 DISCURSIVE PASSAGE**
- Purpose: To discuss, debate, or persuade
- Features: Arguments, counter-arguments, and opinions
- Tone: Analytical and thought-provoking

‣ **1.2.3 LITERARY PASSAGE**
- Purpose: To entertain or evoke emotion
- Features: Story, description, imagery, dialogue
- Focus: Mood, tone, and inferred meanings

2. ESSENTIAL SKILLS TO MASTER

▶ **2.1 Vocabulary Building**
- Using context clues
- Understanding word families
- Learning synonyms and antonyms

▶ **2.2 Logical Reasoning**
- Connecting ideas logically

▶ **2.3 Critical Analysis**
- Identifying the author's bias
- Evaluating the evidence provided

▶ **2.4 Inference**
- Reading between the lines
- Drawing logical conclusions

▶ **2.5 Precision in Writing**
- Writing concise answers
- Using evidence from the text
- Sticking to the word limit

▶ **2.6 Summarization**
- Condensing the main ideas

▶ **2.7 Time Management**
- Allocating time wisely during the exam

3. EFFECTIVE READING STRATEGIES

▶ **3.1 Pre-Reading**
- Scan the questions first
- Preview headings and visuals

▶ **3.2 First Reading**
- Read for overall gist
- Identify the main idea

▶ **3.3 Second Reading**
- Annotate the text
- Mark key points and evidence
- Note down unfamiliar words

▶ **3.4 Post-Reading**
- Mentally summarize the passage
- Connect questions to specific parts of the text

4. QUESTION TYPES & ANSWERING TIPS

▶ **4.1 Factual Questions**
- Answers are directly in the text
- Use quotes sparingly and only if required

▶ **4.2 Inferential Questions**
- Interpret the text and draw conclusions
- Support inferences with contextual evidence

▶ **4.3 Vocabulary Questions**
- Find the contextual meaning
- Use the "replace and check" method

▶ **4.4 Global Questions**
- Suggest a suitable title
- Identify the main idea or theme
- Determine the author's purpose

5. COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

▶ **5.1 Copying Large Chunks**
- Solution: Paraphrase the answer instead

▶ **5.2 Ignoring Word Limit**
- Solution: Be concise and precise

▶ **5.3 Giving Unsupported Answers**
- Solution: Always provide evidence from the text

▶ **5.4 Poor Time Management**
- Solution: Practice with a timer

→ → →

PREVIOUS YEAR EXAM QUESTIONS

(8 Marks)

(2016 DELHI TERM-I)

1. Read the passage given below:

Generally, it is the lionesses that do the work of hunting for food. They work together in the most remarkable way. A typical hunt involves some members of the pride stalking and driving a herd of grazing animals towards other lionesses lying in ambush. At the last moment the ambush party break cover and bring down one or two selected members of the herd. The main prey animals include wild beast, zebra, impala, waterbuck, kudu and buffalo.

Other big cats include the leopard, races of which are found in both Africa and Asia. Leopards are good tree climbers and they often ambush prey by lying in wait on trees. Dark-haired leopards are known as panthers. The jaguar is the only big cat found in the America. It was once widespread, but it no longer exists in North America and is in danger of becoming extinct in South America. It feeds mainly on peccaries and other small animals.

The cheetah is also usually included among the big cats, as it rests with its feet held out in front (smaller cats tuck their front feet underneath then). However, it cannot roar and, unlike any other cats, it cannot retract its claws. It is therefore placed in a different genus to the other big cats. The cheetah is a very fast runner, but it has no power of endurance. It stalks a prey animal and then rushes at it from a few metres away. If it does not catch its intended victim within about 400 m (440 yds), it has to give up. The cat family includes a number of smaller species. Among these are the rare snow leopard of Southeast Asia, the manual of Central Asia, the European lynx, the bobcat and puma of North America, the caracal and serval of Africa and the ocelot and pampas cat of South America.

The domestic cat belongs to the genus Felis. It was almost certainly bred from the African bust cat, rather than the ferocious, tabby-life wild cat of Europe. Other members of this genus include the jungle cat of southeast Asia, the sand cat of Africa, the rare African golden cat and the endangered Geoffroy's cat of South America. One of the largest is the beautiful Temminck's golden cat of southeast Asia which measures over 1 m (3 ft) in length.

On the basis of your reading, answer the following questions:

(a) Who does most of the hunting in a group? *(Un)*

(b) What is the strategy of the group for hunting? *(Un)*

(c) How are the leopards different from the lions? *(Un)*

(d) Name any three members of cat family. *(Un)*

(e) Which member of the cat family is in danger of getting extinct? *(Un)*

(f) How is cheetah different from the other cats? *(Un)*

(g) Which family does the domestic cat belong to? *(Un)*

(h) Which is the largest cat? Describe its two qualities. *(Un)*

(12 Marks)

(2016 DELHI TERM-I)

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

This is a pivotal moment for India, for reasons that are not always obvious. Let me start with demographics. Already the world's largest democracy and one of its most diverse countries, India is set to overtake China as the most populous nation. At the same time, India's population is relatively young. Because education has the power to transform society, India's youthfulness leaves it poised for an educational leap, at the very time education is being transformed by access and technology.

We use new ways to employ technology to enhance teaching and life-long learning. This is not about video-taped lectures posted online; this is a feedback loop of deep cognitive research and practical application of a new kind of interactive learning. The focus is not on the tools, but on the outcomes for each student. The resulting techniques have proven to the faster and more effective than traditional classroom curricula in a variety of subjects.

At the same time, these techniques can create new access to learning at relatively little cost. Closely connected to research in artificial intelligence and machine learning, the technology-enhanced learning techniques being refined in laboratories at various universities, could fuel a dramatic transformation of education in India.

Technology can be a powerful equaliser, levelling the playing field for millions of people in a short time. When

technologies changing quickly, developing countries have an opportunity to leapfrog existing standards, going directly to newer, better tools and methods. Think of the cell phone, which rapidly proliferated in India and other developing nations that were not deeply invested in landlines. Now think of that technological leapfrogging in the field of education, the foundation for human success and new ideas that benefit society.

The scholars are probing the intersection of technology and human possibility, and then translating their findings into practical application. These scholars are deeply grounded in the sciences and technologies they come to study, but also are increasingly adept at innovation and independent problem-solving that leads to new inventions, new companies and whole new fields.

(2 x 4=8)

(a) What are the benefits of having young population in India? *(Un)*

(b) How is technology used for lifelong learning? *(Un)*

(c) How are the new techniques different from traditional classrooms? *(Un)*

(d) How are the scholars trying to help in the field of education? *(Un)*

(1 ×4 = 4)

(e) Choose the appropriate Explanation:

(1) The word that means 'very important/vital *(Un)*

(i) obvious (ii) diverse
(iii) pivotal (iv) populous

(2) The synonym for 'jump' is: *(Un)*

(i) transform (ii) poised
(iii) leap (iv) loop

(3) The antonym of 'rough/rude' is: *(Un)*

(i) equaliser (ii) leapfrog
(iii) proliferated (iv) refined

(4) The antonym of inexpert/unskillful is: *(Un)*

(i) populous (ii) equaliser
(iii) adept (iv) leapfrog

(8 Marks)

(2017 DELHI)

3. Read the passage given below:

Then all the windows of the grey wooden house (Miss Hilton used to live here. She expired last week.), were thrown open, a thing I had never seen before.

At the end of the day a sign was nailed on the mango tree: FOR SALE.

Nobody in the street knew Miss Hilton. While she lived, her front gate was always locked and no one ever saw her leave or saw anybody go in. So even if you wanted to, you couldn't feel sorry and say that you missed Miss Hilton.

When I think of her house I see just two colours. Grey and green. The green of the mango tree, the grey of the house and the grey of the high iron fence that prevented you from getting at the mangoes.

If your cricket ball fell in Miss Hilton's courtyard you never got it back. It wasn't the mango season when Miss Hilton died. But we got back about ten or twelve of our cricket balls.

The house was sold and we were prepared to dislike the new owners even before they came. I think we were a little worried.

Already we had one resident of the street who kept on complaining about us to our parents. He complained that we played cricket on the pavement; and if we were not playing cricket he complained that we were making too much noise anyway.

One afternoon when I came back from school Pal said, "Is a man and a woman. She pretty pretty, but he ugly like hell". I didn't see much. The front gate was open, but the windows were shut again. I heard a dog barking in an angry way.

One thing was settled pretty quickly. Whoever these people were, they would never be the sort of people to complain that we were making noise and disturbing their sleep.

A lot of noise came from the house that night. The radio was going at full volume until midnight when the radio station closed down.

The dog was barking and the man was shouting. I didn't hear the woman.

(1x8=8)

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, complete the following statements:

(a) Nobody went into Miss Hilton's house because her front _____ . *(Un)*

(b) Her house had only two colours, (i) _____ and (ii) _____ . *(Un)*

(c) High iron fence did not let the boys get _____ . *(Un)*

(d) They never got it back if their _____ fell into her courtyard. *(Un)*

(e) The boys were ready to dislike the _____ . *(Un)*

(f) One resident of the street always _____ . *(Un)*

(g) New owners of Miss Hilton's house were (i) _____ and (ii) _____ . *(Un)*

(h) A man was shouting, a dog was barking, only _____ . *(Un)*

(12 Marks)

(2017 DELHI)

4. Read the passage given below:

During our growing up years we as children were taught-both at home and school-to worship the photos and idols of the gods of our respective religions. When we grew a little older, we were to read holy books like The Bhagwad Gita, Bible and Quran; we were told that there are a lot of life lessons to be learnt from these holy books. We were then introduced to stories from our mythologies which taught us about ethics and morality-what is good and what is bad. I also learnt to be respectful towards my parents who made my life comfortable with their hard work and love and care, and my teachers who guided me to become a good student and a responsible citizen.

Much later in life, I realised that though we learn much from our respective holy books, there is a lot to learn from our surroundings. This realisation dawned upon me when I learnt to enquire and explore. Everything around us-the sun, the moon, the stars, rain, rivers, stones, rocks, birds, plants and animals-teach us many valuable life lessons.

No wonder that besides the scriptures in many cultures nature is also worshipped. The message that we get is to save our environment and maintain ecological balance. People are taught to live in harmony with nature and recognise that there is God in all aspects of nature.

Nature is a great teacher. A river never stops flowing. If it finds an obstacle in its way in the form of a heavy rock, the river water fights to remove it from its path or finds an alternative path to move ahead. This teaches us to be progressive in life, and keep the fighting spirit alive.

Snakes are worshipped as they eat insects in the field that can hurt our crops, thus protecting the grains for us. In fact, whatever we worship is our helper and makes our lives easy for us. There are many such examples in nature, but we are not ready to learn a lesson. Overcome with greed, we are destroying nature. As a result we face natural disasters like drought, flood and landslides. We don't know that nature is angry with us. However, it is never too late to learn. If we learn to respect nature the quality of our life will improve.

(2x4=8)

Answer briefly the following questions:

(a) What are we taught in our childhood and growing up years? *(Un)*

(b) Why should we respect our parents and teachers? *(Un)*

(c) What message do we get when we worship nature? *(Un)*

(d) How does a river face an obstacle that comes in its way?*(Un)*

(1x4=4)

Choose meaning of the words given below with the help of options that follow:

(e) guided (para 1) (An)

(i) answered (ii) advised
(iii) fought (iv) polished

(f) explore (para 2) (An)

(i) search (ii) frequent
(iii) describe (iv) request

(g) valuable (para 2) (An)

(i) proper (ii) desirable
(iii) available (iv) useful

(h) harmony (para 4) (An)

(i) beauty (ii) friendship
(iii) discomfort (iv) honesty

(8 Marks)

(2018 DELHI /OUTSIDE DELHI)

5. Read the passage given below:

(1) Tourists to Jammu and Kashmir have another attraction - a floating post office on the Dal Lake in Srinagar, the first in the country. 'Floating Post Office, Dal Lake'- claimed to be the only one such post office in the world - is built on an intricately carved maroon houseboat, fastened on the western edge of the Dal Lake.

(2) This post office lets you avail of all the regular postal services available in the country while being afloat. The seal used on everything posted from the Floating Post Office is unique - along with the date and address, it bears the design of a boatman rowing a shikara on the Dal Lake. The special feature of this post office is that letters posted from here carry a special design which has the picturesque scenery of Dal Lake and Srinagar city. These pictures reach wherever these letters are posted

to and hence promote Kashmir as a tourist destination across the world.

(3) This is actually a heritage post office that has existed since British times. It was called Nehru Park Post Office before 2011. But then the chief postmaster John Samuel renamed it as 'Floating Post Office'.

(4) The post office's houseboat has two small rooms - one serves as the office and the other a small museum that traces the philatelic history of the state at postal department. It has a shop that sells postage stamps and other products.

(5) But for the locals, Floating Post office is more than an object of fascination.₹ 1-2 crore is deposited per month in Floating Post Office by communities living in and around the Dal Lake. The lake has several islets that are home to more than 50,000 people.

(6) The greatest fear is the recurrence of 2014 like floods in which the houseboat had gone for a toss uncontrollably pushed by the flood. Rescue teams had to anchor it using special mechanism in a nearby highland. Then it was brought back on the Dal after the water receded. The biggest boon is that at no time of the year do you need a fan in this post-office!

(1×8=8)

(2018 DELHI /OUTSIDE DELHI)

Attempt any eight of the following questions on the basis of the passage you have read:

(a) What is the location of the Floating Post Office in Srinagar? *(Un)*

(b) What is special about the seal used in the post office? *(Un)*

(c) How is the post office helpful in promoting tourism? *(Un)*

(d) Who renamed the post office as 'Floating Post Office'? *(Un)*

(e) What are the two rooms of the post office used for? *(Un)*

(f) How is the post office beneficial to the locals? *(Un)*

(g) What is the greatest fear that the post office has? *(Un)*

(h) How is the post office a big boon to the people? *(Un)*

(i) Find the word from the passage which means the same as 'attraction'. (para 5) *(Un)*

(12 Marks)

(2018 DELHI /OUTSIDE DELHI)

6. Read the passage given below:

(1) It is an indisputable fact that the world has gone too far with the innovation of new technologies such as mobile phones, the internet and so on, due to which people are able to tour the cosmos virtually sitting at one place using their smart devices or other technological gadgets. Though mobile internet access is oftentimes hurried and short, it can still provide common internet features like alerts, weather data, emails, search engines, instant messages, and game and music downloading.

(2) Due to the easy access of smartphones, communication has been very effective and instant. People are able to convey their message all around the globe to their loved ones without spending hefty sums of money. Adults are always fond of such gadgets and they always welcome and adopt such new technology readily. Further, young people have been able to broaden their minds and improve their skills by doing research on the Internet. For instance, they use smart phones to look up any new word they come across. As we know that most of the universities have online teaching provision and smart phones assist the students to complete their assignments on time.

(3) The mobile phone has been a lifesaver for a lot of people in case of an emergency. Likewise, use of smart phones can be of vital importance in preventing crimes in the society by providing information to the security forces in time.

(4) Nonetheless, for the young the use of mobile phone can be like an addiction and they can misuse it. Young people are also prone to getting involved in undesirable activities on the Internet. This might have adverse effect on their academic performance. Therefore, young people should always be monitored and made aware of its bad outcomes.

(5) Also a major contributor to its popularity is the availability of prepaid or pay as you go services from a phone shop or an online store. This allows subscribers to load text or airtime credits to their handsets by the use of their credit cards, debit cards or by buying a prepaid card from the network they subscribe to. This plan also doesn't commit a particular customer to a contract. If prepaid card is not that appealing to you, then you can opt to subscribe using the pay by month plan.

(2x4=8)

6.1. On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each:

(i) How are smart phones helpful in communication? *(Un)*

(ii) What are the benefits of mobile phones for the young generation? *(Un)*

(iii) How can mobile phones be considered 'lifesavers'? *(Un)*

(iv) Mention any two demerits of mobile phones. *(Un)*

(v) How is a prepaid card useful to mobile phone users? *(Un)*

(1x 4 =4)

6.2. On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer any four of the following:

(a) In para 1, synonym of 'innovation' is _____. *(Un)*

(i) production (ii) sincerity
(iii) invention (iv) prevention

(b) Mobile internet can provide access to: *(Un)*

(i) telegram (ii) emails
(iii) schools (iv) university

(c) Grown-ups should _____ the use of new technology by the young people. *(Un)*

(i) reject (ii) criticize
(iii) monitor (iv) accept

(d) Meaning of the word 'adverse' in para 4 is: *(Un)*

(i) positive (ii) negative
(iii) admirable (iv) unguided

(e) According to the passage, one can opt for a _____ plan if prepaid plan doesn't suit. *(Un)*

(i) yearly (ii) weekly
(iii) monthly (iv) daily

(8 Marks)

(2019 DELHI)

7. Read the following passage carefully.

(1) Few guessed that this quiet, parentless girl growing up in New York City would one day become the First Lady of the United States. Even fewer thought she would become an author and lecturer and a woman much admired and loved by people throughout the world.

(2) Born Anna Eleanor Roosevelt in 1884 to wealthy, but troubled parents who both died while she was young, Roosevelt was cared for by her grandmother and sent to school in England. In 1905, she married her distant cousin, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. She and her husband had six children. Although they were wealthy, her life was not easy and she suffered several personal tragedies. Her second son died when he was a baby. In 1921, her strong athletic husband was stricken with polio, which left him physically disabled for life.

(3) Eleanor Roosevelt was a remarkable woman who had great intelligence and tremendous strength of character. She never let things get her down. She nursed her husband back to good health and encouraged him to remain in politics. She then helped him to become Governor of New York, and in 1933, President of the United States.

(4) While her husband was President, she took a great interest in all the affairs of the country. She became her husband's legs and eyes; she visited prisons and hospitals; she went down into mines, up scaffoldings and into factories. Roosevelt was tireless and daring. During the depression she travelled all over the country bringing goodwill, reassurance and help to people without food and jobs. During World War II she visited American soldiers in camps all over the world. The United States had never known a First Lady like her.

(5) Roosevelt also kept in touch with the American people through a daily newspaper column called 'My Day'. She broadcast on the radio and delivered lectures, all first for a First Lady.

(1x8=8)

(any eight)

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage answer the following questions:

(a) How was Eleanor Roosevelt's personality in contrast to what she became? *(Un)*

(b) Apart from being the First Lady, what else did she have to her credit? *(Un)*

(c) What challenges did she face in her personal life but remained unfazed? *(Un)*

(d) Eleanor was a strong woman who helped her husband become the President of America. How? *(Un)*

(e) What does the statement: 'she became her husband's legs and eyes' mean? *(Un)*

(f) What was her special contribution during the depression? *(Un)*

(g) How did she motivate soldiers during World War II? *(Un)*

(h) What did she do for the first time for a First Lady? ***(Un)***

(i) What side of her personality is reflected in this passage? ***(Un)***

(12 Marks)

(2019 DELHI)

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

(1) Overpowering prey is a challenge for creatures that do not have limbs. Some species like Russell's viper inject poison. Some others opt for an alternative non-chemical method: rat snakes, for instance, catch and push their prey against the ground, while pythons use their muscle power to crush their prey to death. But snakes can't be neatly divided into poisonous and non-poisonous categories.

(2) Even species listed as non-poisonous aren't completely free of poison. The common Sand Boa, for instance, produces secretions particularly poisonous to birds. So the species doesn't take any chance-it crushes its prey and injects poison as an extra step.

(3) Do vipers need poison powerful enough to kill hundreds of rats with just one drop? After all, they eat only one or two at a time.

(4) While hunting animals try their worst to kill most efficiently, their prey use any trick to avoid becoming a meal, such as developing immunity to poison. For instance, Californian ground squirrels are resistant to Northern Pacific rattlesnake poison.

(5) Competition with prey is not the only thing driving snakes to evolve more and more deadly poison. Snakes also struggle to avoid becoming prey themselves.

(6) Some snake killers have partial immunity to poison. Famously, mongooses are highly resistant to cobra poison and with their speed and agility, kill snakes fearlessly. It would be the death of cobras as a species if they didn't evolve a more deadly poison to stop mongooses.

(7) Poison has another important role. It's an extreme meat softener, specific enzymes break up the insides of the prey. Normally, a reptile depends on the sun's warm'rays to aid digestion.

(8) But I wonder if we cannot use venom in our favour. In remote parts of India, local hospitality often involves leather-tough meat. I chew and chew until may jaw ache. If I spit it out or refuse, our hosts would be offended, I swallow like a python stuffing a deer down its throat and hope I don't choke. If only I had poison.

(2x4=8)

8.1. Read the questions-given below and answer any four in 30-40 words each.

(a) Russell viper and rat snake have different methods to attack prey. How? ***(Un)***

(b) How does Sand Boa kill its prey? ***(Un)***

(c) There is a constant tussle between the hunting animal and its prey. Why? ***(Un)***

(d) What makes mongoose a snake predator? ***(Un)***

(e) What difficulty does the writer face when he is entertained in the remote parts of India? ***(Un)***

(1x2=2)

8.2. On the basis of your reading of the above passage fill in any two of the following blanks.

(i) Overpowering..... is a challenge for creatures that do not have limbs. ***(Un)***

(a) a killer (b) humans
(c) a python (d) prey

(ii) Poison..... meat ***(Un)***

(a) enhance taste (b) hardens
(c) softens (d) breaks down

(iii) Californian squirrels are ..... rattle-snake poison ***(Un)***

(a) afraid of (b) helpless against
(c) resistant to (d) indifferent to

(any two) (1x2=2)

8.3. Find words from the passage which mean the same as:

(a) Another (para 1) (An)

(b) Liquid substances released from glands (para 2) (An)

(c) Particular (para 7) (An)

(8 Marks)

(2019 OUTSIDE DELHI)

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

Hyderabad - The City of Nizams

GOLCONDA FORT

(1) In the 16^{th} century, when Golconda was the capital of Qutb Shahi Kingdom, it is believed that a shepherd boy came across an idol on the hill. It was then that the Kakatiya dynasty's ruler built the fort, which is 120 m high. After it was captured by Aurangzeb, the Mughal emperor, the fort fell into ruins.

(2) The beautiful ruins of the fort have a story to tell. They make you wonder how the fort may have looked in its days of glory and grandeur. The fort also organises a sound and light show every day and the history of this fort is narrated in such an interesting manner that even a child can understand and enjoy it. The climb to the fort is a difficult one and unless you are physically fit, you should avoid the climb and relax in the gardens below. The view from the top is breathtaking.

CHARMINAR

(3) The next place is Charminar. The literal meaning of the monument is 'four minarets'. There is a mosque on the second floor. It is said that when the state was hit by severe plague, Sultan Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah, the fifth ruler of the Qutb Shahi dynasty, prayed to end the plague and promised to build a mosque in the very place where he was praying. Thus, Charminar came into being!

(4) The walk from the bottom to the top of the monument is a little frightening, owing to the narrowness of the pathway and the steepness of the steps. Once you reach the top, the view of the crowds moving below will surely lift your spirits.

(5) Make sure you visit the nearby Laad Bazaar, where there are rows of shops selling the famous Hyderabadi glass bangles and lac bangles.

SALAR JUNG MUSEUM

(6) The Salar Jung Museum is the third largest museum in the country and boasts of owning the biggest one-man collection of antiques in the world. A visit to the Salar Jung Museum is a must even if you are not a fan of antique stuff. You can view the Nizam's collection of textiles, arms, metalware, ivory carvings, Indian bronzes and carpets.

(7) The main attraction is definitely the Musical Clock, made by Cook and Kelvy of England. Inside the clock is a timekeeper. Every hour, he comes out and beats a gong as many times as the time indicates. Another attraction of the museum is the Veiled Rebecca, an amazing sculpture made by the Italian sculptor, Giovanni Maria Benzoni.

(1 x8=8)

(2019 OUTSIDE DELHI)

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer any eight of the following questions:

(a) What led to the construction of the Golconda Fort? ***(Un)***

(b) What led to the destruction of the Golconda Fort? ***(Un)***

(c) How is the interest in the Fort kept alive? ***(Un)***

(d) What does the word 'breathtaking' in para 2 mean? ***(Un)***

(e) Why did Quli Qutb Shah build a mosque? ***(Un)***

(f) How does one feel after reaching the top of Charminar? ***(Un)***

(g) What is unique about the Salar Jung Museum? ***(Un)***

(h) What else can one find in this museum apart from antiques? ***(Un)***

(i) Name the two attractions of the Salar Jung Museum. ***(Un)***

(12 Marks)

(2019 OUTSIDE DELHI)

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

Go, Get Yourself a Hobby

(1) Do you have a hobby? Is there anything that you are passionate about? Something creative that you really like doing, or are deeply involved with? Something that grips you, makes you forget all else - even makes you forget to eat or sleep? No, I am not talking about your job or your daily chores.

(2) By developing a parallel line, other than that of your job, and following it like crazy, you energise your life. It will keep you going even when all other activities have stopped.

(3) It did not make much sense to me until I ran into a retired officer turned passionate writer. Let's call him Mr. X.

(4) What was amazing was his appearance. He looked 10 years younger than his self-proclaimed 75- dark grey hair, tall and robust. Well-preserved, as some would say. "I don't want to take much of your time, but just wanted to show you my work," he said. In his bag, he was carrying dozens of books that he had written after retirement. Short stories and novels in his mother tongue and in English, for children and adults.

(5) Mr. X retired after putting in 30 years of service. But he did not retire from life. No way. "In fact, I lead a much busier life now - writing." "So writing is your hobby ?" I asked him. "No, it is my only interest. While I was working, I did not have enough time to write. But now I work 10 – 12 hours a day writing, writing, writing."

(6) "Why? Is that the way you support yourself?" "No, my writings don't pay me financially, but they fulfil me otherwise," he said. Mr. X lives on his savings, but he

relies on his passion to take care of his mental and physical wellbeing. In fact, such is the energy and sense of satisfaction and contentment that he draws from his writing that he has managed to survive many upheavals in life. Thanks to his passion, retirement never became a sad phase of life for him; instead, it gave him a new lease of life, an opportunity to do that which he missed out on or had no time for earlier.

(7) And his level of commitment was impressive. He does not want publicity nor is he interested in advertising himself. "It will take me away from my writing and pull me into the world of Internet. I would rather follow my passion," he says. Gathering his books, he was soon ready to leave - eager to go back to his passion. He left me with the motivation to seek one, too. Thank you Mr. X.

(2x4=8)

(2019 OUTSIDE DELHI)

10.1. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each:

(a) According to the passage, what is a hobby? *(Un)*

(b) According to the writer, what made Mr. X look 10 years younger? *(Un)*

(c) Was writing his livelihood? Why/Why not? *(Un)*

(d) How did the retirement phase become a happy phase of his life? *(Un)*

(e) Why was Mr. X not interested in seeking publicity? *(Un)*

(1x4=4)

10.2. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer any four of the following:

(a) Mr. X lives on his _____ . *(Un)*

(i) savings (ii) profit from business
(iii) son's support (iv) sibling's support

(b) Mr. X has managed to survive many _____ in life due to his obsession. *(Un)*

(i) joys (ii) celebrations
(iii) reunions (iv) upheavals

(c) The word which means 'very enthusiastic' in para 1 of the passage is *(Un)*

(i) creative (ii) grip
(iii) passionate (iv) forget

(d) The word which means 'active and energetic' in para 4 of the passage is. *(Un)*

(i) robust (ii) self-proclaimed
(iii) well-preserved (iv) amazing

(e) Mr. X left the narrator with a motivation to seek a *(Un)*

(i) book (ii) hobby
(iii) sport (iv) pen

(8 Marks)

(2020 DELHI)

11. Read the passage given below:

(1) Caged behind thick glass, the most famous dancer in the world can easily be missed in the National Museum, Delhi. The Dancing Girl of Mohenjo-Daro is that rare artefact that even school children are familiar with. Our school textbooks also communicate the wealth of our 5000 years heritage of art. You have to be alert to her existence there, amid terracotta animals to rediscover this bronze image.

(2) Most of us have seen her only in photographs or sketches therefore the impact of actually holding her is magnified a million times over. One discovers that the dancing girl has no feet. She is small, a little over 10 cm tall - the length of a human palm-but she surprises us with the power of great art-the ability to communicate across centuries.

(3) A series of bangles - of shell or ivory or thin metal- clothe her left upper arm all the way down to her fingers. A necklace with three pendants bunched together and a few bangles above the elbow and wrist on the right hand display an almost modern art.

(4) She speaks of the undaunted ever hopeful human spirit. She reminds us that it is important to visit museums in our country to experience the impact that a work of art leaves on our senses, to find among all the riches one particular vision of beauty that speaks to us alone.

(1×8=8)

(2020 DELHI)

11.1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage answer the following questions.

(a) The dancing girl belongs to *(Un)*

(i) Mohenjo-Daro (ii) Greek culture
(iii) Homosapiens (iv) Tibet

(b) In the museum she's kept among *(Un)*

(i) dancing figures (ii) bronze statues
(iii) terracotta animals (iv) books

(c) Which information is not given in the passage? *(Un)*

(i) The girl is caged behind glass.

(ii) She is a rare artifact.
(iii) School books communicate the wealth of our heritage.
(iv) She cannot be rediscovered as she's bronze.

(d) 'Great Art' has power because *(Un)*
(i) it appeals to us despite a passage of time.
(ii) it is small and can be understood.
(iii) it's seen in pictures and sketches.
(iv) it's magnified a million times.

(e) The jewellery she wears: *(Un)*
(i) consists of bangles of shell, ivory or thin metal.
(ii) is a necklace with two pendants.
(iii) both (i) and (ii) are correct.
(iv) neither (i) nor (ii) is correct.

(f) She reminds us: *(Un)*
(i) of the never say-die attitude of humans.
(ii) why museums in our country are exciting.
(iii) why she will make us come into money.
(iv) of dancing figures.

(g) The synonym of the word "among" in paragraph 1 is…….. . *(Un)*

(h) The size of the dancing girl is equal to the length of human palm. (True/False). *(Un)*

(12 Marks)
(2020 DELHI)

12. Read the following passage carefully.

(1) As the family finally sets off from home after many arguments there is a moment of lull as the car takes off. "Alright, so where are we going for dinner now?" asks the one at the driving wheel. What follows is chaos as multiple voices make as many suggestions.

(2) By the time order is restored and a decision is arrived at, tempers have risen, feelings injured and there is at least one person grumbling.

(3) Twenty years ago, you would step out of home, decision of meal and venue already made with no arguments or opposition and everybody looked forward to the meal with equal enthusiasm. The decision was made by the head of the family and the others fell in line. Today every member of the family has a say in every decision which also promotes a sense of togetherness and bonding.

(4) We empower our kids to take their own decision from a very early age. We ask them the cuisine they prefer, the movie they want to see, the holiday they wish to go on and the subjects they wish to study.

(5) It's a closely connected world out there where children consult and guide each other. A parent's well meaning advice can sound like nothing more than unnecessary preaching. How then do we reach our children through all the conflicting views and make the voice of reason be heard? Children today question choices and prefer to go with the flow.

(6) What then is the best path to take? I would say the most important thing one can do is to listen. Listen to your children and their silences. Ensure that you keep some time aside for them, insist that they share their stories with you. Step into their world. It is not as complicated as it sounds; just a daily half an hour of the quality time would do the trick.

(2 × 4=8)
(2020 DELHI)

12.1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage, answer the following questions in 30-40 words each:

(a) Write one advantage and one disadvantage of allowing every family member to be part of the decision making process. *(Un)*

(b) In today's world, what are parents asking their kids? *(Un)*

(c) Which two pieces of advice does the writer give to the parents? *(Un)*

(d) The passage supports the parents. How far do you agree with the author's views? Support your view with a reason. *(Un)*

(1x4=4)
(2020 DELHI)

12.2. On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following:

(a) The synonym of 'hurt' as given in paragraph 2 is ……. *(Un)*

(b) The word which means the same as 'a style or method of cooking' in paragraph 4 is: *(Un)*
(i) Cuisine (ii) Gourmet
(iii) Gastric (iv) Science

(c) The antonym of 'agreeable' as given in paragraph 5 is ……. . *(Un)*

(d) The antonym of 'simple' as given in paragraph 6 is: *(Un)*
(i) difficult (ii) complicated
(iii) easy (iv) tricky

(2022 DELHI)

13. Read the passage given below: *(Un)*

(1) Milkha Singh, also known as The Flying Sikh, was an Indian track and field sprinter who was introduced to the sport while serving in the Indian Army. He is the only athlete to win gold in 400 metres at the Asian Games as well as the Commonwealth Games, He also won gold medals in the 1958 and 1962 Asian Games. He represented India in the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome and the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. He was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian honour, in recognition of his sporting achievements.

(2) The race for which Singh is best remembered is his fourth-place finish in the 400 metres final at the 1960 Olympic Games. He led the race till the 200 m mark before easing off, allowing others, to pass him. Singh's fourth-place time of 45.73 seconds was the Indian national record for almost 40 years.

(3) From beginnings that saw him orphaned and displaced during the partition of India, Singh became a sporting icon in the country. In 2008, journalist Rohit Brijnath described Singh as "the finest athlete India has ever produced".

(4) He was disappointed with his debut performance at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. "I returned to India, chastened by my poor performance in Melbourne. I had been so excited by the prospect of being part of the Indian Olympics team, but, hadn't realized how strong and professional the competition would be. My success in India had filled me with a false sense of pride and it was only when I was on the track that I saw how inconsequential my talents were when pitted against superbly fit and seasoned athletes. It was then that I understood what competition actually meant, and that if I wanted to succeed on the international arena, I must be prepared to test my mettle against the best athletes in the world".

(5) Then he decided to make sprinting the sole focus of his life.

"Running had thus become my God, my religion and my beloved".

"My life during those two years was governed by strict rules and regulations and a self-imposed penance.

Every morning I would rise at the crack of dawn, get into my sports kit and dash off to the track, where I would run two or three miles cross-country in the company of my coach".

(6) On how he pushed himself through the tough days of vigorous training. "I practiced so strenuously that often I was drained of all energy, and there were times when I would increase my speed to such an extent that after my rounds, I would vomit blood or drop down unconscious, through sheer exercise. My doctors and coaches warned me, asked me to slow down to maintain my health and equilibrium but my determination was too strong to give up. My only focus was to become the best athlete in the world. But then images of a packed stadium filled with cheering spectators, wildly applauding me as I crossed the finishing line, would flash across my mind and I would start again, encouraged by visions of victory".

Based on your reading answer any five questions from the six given below: (5×1=5)

(i) What is Milka Singh known as? What realization did Milkha Singh have when he was on the track during the Melbourne Olympics? *(Un)*

(ii) List any two of Milka Singh's achievements. *(Un)*

(iii) What strict rules and regulations did Milka Singh follow? *(Un)*

(iv) State two consequences of his hard and strenuous practice. *(Un)*

(v) What motivated Milka Singh to become the best athlete in the world? *(Un)*

(vi) Explain the phrase 'I would start again' in the last sentence. *(Un)*

(2022 DELHI)

14. Read the following excerpt from a Case Study. J.K. Rowling - A Journey

The story of Joanne Katheleen Rowling's near magical rise to fame is almost as well known as the characters she creates. Rowling was constantly writing and telling stories to her younger sister Dianne. "The first story I ever wrote down was about a rabbit called Rabbit." Rowling said in an interview. “He got the measles and was visited by his friends including a giant bee called Miss Bee. And ever since Rabbit and Miss Bee, I have always wanted to be a writer, though I rarely told anyone so.

However, my parents, both of whom come from impoverished background and neither of whom had been to college, took the view that my overactive imagination was an amusing personal quirk that would never pay a mortgage or secure a pension.

A writer from the age of six, with two unpublished novels in the drawer, she was stuck on a train when Harry walked into her mind fully formed. She spent the next five years constructing the plots of seven books, one for every year of his secondary school life.

Rowling says she started writing the first book, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, in Portugal, where she was teaching English.

At first nobody wanted to publish Harry Potter. She was told that the plot was too complex. Refusing to compromise, she found a publisher.

Annual earnings of J.K. Rowling From 2010 to 2019



In 1997 Rowling received her first royalty cheque. By book three, she had skyrocketed to the top of the publishing world. A row of zeroes appeared on the author's bank balance and her life was turned upside down. Day and night she had journalists knocking on the unanswered door of her flat.

Rowling's quality control has become legendary, as her obsession with accuracy. She's thrilled with Stephen Fry's taped version of the books and outraged that an Italian dust jacket showed Harry minus his glasses. "Don't they understand that the glasses are the clue to his vulnerability.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer any five of the six questions given below. (5x1=5)

(i) Explain J.K. Rowling's 'near magical rise to fame'. *(Un)*

(ii) What reason did the publishers give for rejecting Rowling's book? *(Un)*

(iii) What was the drawback of achieving fame? *(Un)*

(iv) Why was Rowling outraged with the Italian dust jacket? *(Un)*

(v) Find a word in the last para that means the same 'insecure/helpless'. *(Un)*

(vi) According to the graph, how many years did it take Rowling to become very successful? *(Un)*

(2022 OUTSIDE DELHI)

15. Read the passage given below:

Sifting through the sands of time

(i) When you're on the beach, you're stepping on ancient mountains, skeletons of marine animals, even tiny diamonds. Sand provides a mineral treasure-trove, a record of geology's earth-changing processes.

(ii) Sand: as children we play on it and as adults we relax on it. It is something we complain about when it gets in our food, and praise when it's moulded into castles. But we don't often look at it. If we did, we would discover an account of a geological past and a history of marine life that goes back thousands and, in some cases, millions of years.

(iii) Sand covers not just sea-shores, but also ocean beds, deserts and mountains. It is one of the most common substances on Earth. And it is a major element in man-made items too-concrete is largely sand, while glass is made of little else.

(iv) What exactly is sand? Well, it is larger than fine dust and smaller than shingle. Depending on its age and origin, a particular sand can consist of tiny pebbles or porous granules. Its grain may have the shape of stars or spirals, their edges jagged or smooth. They have come from the erosion of rocks, or from the skeletons of marine organisms which accumulate on the bottom of the oceans, or even from volcanic eruptions.

(v) Colour is another clue to sand's origins. If it is a dazzling white, its grains may be derived from nearby coral outcrops, from crystalline quartz rocks or from gypsum. On Pacific islands jet black sands form from volcanic minerals.

(vi) Usually, the older the granules, the finer they are and the smoother the edges. The fine, white beaches, for instance, are recycled from sandstone several hundred million years old. Perhaps they will be stone once more, in another few hundred million.

(vii) Sand is an irreplaceable industrial ingredient whose uses are legion. But it has one vital function you might never even notice. Sand cushions our land from the sea's impact, and geologists say it often does a better job of protecting our shores than the most advanced coastal technology.

(5 ×1= 5)

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer any five questions from the six given below:

(i) How is sand a 'treasure-trove'? *(Un)*

(ii) How is sand both a pain and a pleasure? *(Un)*

(iii) Name two man-made materials that contain sand. ***(Un)***

(iv) List the different shapes of sand. ***(Un)***

(v) What is the origin of white sand? ***(Un)***

(vi) In what ways are older granules different from recent granules? ***(Un)***

(2022 OUTSIDE DELHI)

16. Read the passage given below:

Extraction and Purification of Drinking Water

(i) Some consumers choose to purchase bottled drinking water, rather than relying on city tap water supplies. Bottled water has typically been extracted from underground sources. If water exists underground, but has no natural exit points, bottling companies may construct a water table well by drilling down to extract water from an unconfined aquifer. This is done when the Earth's natural water level - known as a water table - is much lower than the Earth's surface. In some cases, as with a valley or gully on a mountain, the level of the water table may be higher than the Earth's surface, and a natural spring can emerge. Bottling companies are permitted to extract this water from a hole drilled into the underground spring, but the composition of the water must be identical to that of the naturally surfacing variety nearby.

(ii) Artesian water is drawn from a confined aquifer, a deep underground cavity of porous rock that holds water and bears pressure from a confining layer above it. This water can be accessed if companies drill a vertical channel down into the confined aquifer. Due to the pressurised nature of this aquifer, water will often rise up from within it and form a flowing artesian well, which appears as an explosive fountain at the Earth's surface. However, this only occurs when the surface is lower than the natural water table. If the surface is not lower than the natural water table, it is still possible to draw artesian water by using an extraction pump.

(iii) Some bottled water is advertised as 'purified', which means it has been subjected to a variety of cleansing processes. A common filtering procedure, known as reverse osmosis, involves the water being pressed through microscopic membranes that prevent larger contaminants from passing through. The microscopic size of these holes is such that they can even obstruct germs, but they are most effective against undesirable materials such as salt, nitrates and lime scale. One disadvantage of reverse osmosis is that a lot of unusable water is generated as a by-product of the procedure; this must be thrown away.

(iv) For treating pathogens, an impressive newer option is ultraviolet (UV) light. Powerful UV light has natural antibacterial qualities, so this process simply requires water to be subjected to a sufficient strength of UV light as it passes through a treatment chamber. The light neutralises many harmful germs by removing their DNA, thereby impeding their ability to replicate. A particularly impressive quality of UV light is its ability to neutralise highly resistant viral agents such as hepatitis.

(v) The overall effects of UV light treatment are variable, however, which leaves many municipal water treatment processes relying on chlorination. Its powerful and comprehensive antimicrobial effect notwithstanding, chlorination is also extremely inexpensive and remains the only antimicrobial treatment capable of ensuring water remains contaminant free all the way through the pipes and to the taps of domestic homes. Many members of the public remain suspicious of water that has been treated with such a harsh chemical. Its ease of use and affordability has meant that chlorine often plays an important role in making tainted water supplies safe for consumption immediately after natural disasters have occurred.

(5 × 1= 5)

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer any five questions from the six given below:

(i) Under what conditions does a natural spring emerge? ***(Un)***

(ii) What is a confined aquifer? ***(Un)***

(iii) What forms a flowing artesian well? ***(Un)***

(iv) Explain the term 'purified' water. ***(Un)***

(v) How are pathogens treated? ***(Un)***

(vi) Why is municipal water treated by chlorination? ***(Un)***

(2023 DELHI)

17. Read the passage given below:

(1) Hiking is a great source of pleasure to us besides being beneficial for health. Once we leave the crowded streets of a city and go out for a walking tour away from the mad world, we really feel free. The open air has a bracing effect on the mind. The congestion of the city, the uproar and tumult, the intolerable noise of traffic, the hectic daily routine, all these are forgotten and the mind

is at ease. We then feel like running, leaping, singing and laughing. We travel merrily mile after mile in the company of friends and associates.

(2) Hiking takes us in the midst of nature. The sight of waterfalls, flowers, streams, trees and bushes is pleasing. A connection is established between us and nature. Various sounds of nature, like the murmur of a brook or the song of a bird, acquire a new meaning and significance to us.

(3) You enjoy the beauty of nature. Minute observations like a snake casting its slough, a mouse peeping out of its hole, a squirrel leaping about on the branches of a tree, a bird flying past us, all these are noticed and they arouse our interest. We have no business worries, no fear of the examination, no anxiety about the home. We have leisure to stand, to walk and talk. It is more thrilling and pleasurable to hike in a mountainous region than in the plains. The excitement of climbing up to the top of a hill, the adventure of coming down a slope, the grandeur of sunset behind a mountain - All these sights lend a rare charm and interest to our journey.

(4) We walk along a zig-zag motor road or cut across a mountain path in search of adventure. We may have bright sunny weather or might get caught in a shower of rain. We may look below us into the yawning chasm or up at the mountain peak. The feeling of unlimited freedom makes our hearts leap with joy.

(5) Hiking is one of the healthiest sports. It ensures a complete escape from the urgent and busy activities of life and therefore gives solace to our brain. It regains its lost energy and is able to do twice as much work as before.

(6) The fresh air, beautiful mountains, majestic trees, chirping sound of birds make one's mind and soul at peace with nature.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions below: (10 × 1=10)

(i) To go out for a walking tour is *(Un)*

(a) to stroll (b) to ramble
(c) to hike (d) to saunter

(ii) Why does the writer say that the mind is at ease when you hike? *(Un)*

(a) because hiking is an inexpensive activity.
(b) because it brings families together.
(c) because of intolerable noise of traffic.
(d) because the depressing daily routine is forgotten.

(iii) Complete the following with a phrase. *(Un)*

The various sounds of nature acquire …….

(iv) Infer one reason for the following based on information in paragraph 2. *(Un)*

A contact is established between us and nature.

(v) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word from paragraph 2. *(Un)*

aroma: cooking; fragrance: …… .

(vi) Give one reason why it is a pleasure to hike in the mountains than in the plains. *(Un)*

(a) because observation is sharpened.
(b) because of the excitement of climbing up. and adventure of coming down.
(c) because it is leisure to stand, to walk.
(d) because there are no worries.

(vii) Hiking gives the brain, the rest it needs because *(Un)*

(a) it is a short time activity.
(b) it is one of the healthiest sports.
(c) it makes us sleep peacefully.
(d) it is an escape from our busy schedule.

(viii) List any two examples of minute observations you make while on a hike. *(Un)*

(ix) Supply one point to justify the following: *(Un)*

Hiking gives us a feeling of unlimited joy.

(x) Substitute the word 'leap with joy' with one word similar in meaning in the following sentence from the pässage. *(Un)*

The feeling of unlimited freedom makes our hearts leap with joy.

(2023 DELHI)

18. Read the extract given below:

(1) Necessity is indeed the mother of invention. When areas in and around Leh began to experience water shortages, life didn't grind to a halt. Why? Because a retired civil engineer in the Jammu and Kashmir Government came up with the idea of artificial glaciers.

(2) Ladakh, a cold desert at an altitude of 3,000 -3,500 meters above sea level, has a low average annual rainfall rate of 50 mm. Glaciers have always been the only source of water. Agriculture is completely dependent on glacier melt, unlike the rest of river/ monsoon-fed India. But over the years, with increasing effects of climate change, rainfall and snowfall patterns have been changing, resulting in severe shortage and drought situations. Given the extreme winter conditions, the window for farming is usually limited to one harvest season.