

Introduction

- The word 'comprehension' means to fully understand the text using one's intellect. A comprehension passage is a text set for testing the reader's ability to comprehend (understand) the meaning being implied by the text and the theme of that particular passage. The students need to fully understand the text by using their intellect.
- Questions based on a passage generally appear as a chronological relationship with the passage. Usually the first question has the answer in the initial paragraphs and so on but if the answers are inferential then the matter might have to be collected from various paragraphs and for this, one needs to be familiar with the entire passage.

Types of Comprehension Passage :

1. **Factual Passages** : As the name suggests, factual passages give some facts, be it historical or about the achievements of a particular person. They can also provide instructions. They can be reports or even descriptions of something.
2. **Discursive Passages** : These kinds of passages involve an opinion. They have a logical flow and are argumentative in nature.
3. **Literary Passages** : These are the extracts from a literary piece.

TIPS TO KNOW

How to read a passage for comprehension :

Following are some guidelines that should be followed while attempting an unfamiliar passage:

1. Read silently. Do not read aloud.
 2. Read the entire sentence together to make out the sense or meaning.
 3. Read the passage thoroughly to determine the main idea before you have a good look at the questions.
 4. Don't panic about the words you do not understand.
 5. Go through the questions carefully and read that part again which contains the answer.
 6. Initially if you are unable to understand the meaning of a word, try to make out the meaning of that particular word in context of the passage.
 7. Answers must be relevant and to the point.
 8. Write complete sentences for the answers.
 9. Try to write the answers in your own words and if required they can be copied from the passage.
 10. Maintain the order in which the questions appear in the test paper.
 11. Read the passage thoroughly first and then the questions.
 12. Give a second reading to the passage. This time keep marking the points you feel, can be the answers to the asked questions.
 13. While answering the questions, be very specific and write simple and to the point sentences.
 14. Write your answers in your own words as much as possible. Do not copy from the passage and write.
 15. Do not give information which has not been included in the passage.
 16. When asking the vocabulary questions, your answer should be in the same parts of speech as the question.
- *Spl. Note : This section contains passages from the previous years' question papers but the questions are reframed as per the latest CBSE pattern/design.*



Marking Scheme

One Passage of 12 marks

- Multiple Choice Questions
- Very Short Answer Questions

1 × 5 = 5 marks

1 × 7 = 7 marks

Previous Years' Questions

Passages

(12 marks each)

Q. 1. Read the passage and on the basis of your understanding of the passage answer the questions given below:

(12)**(SQP 2018-19) (MQ)**

1. India has never subscribed to the doctrine of militarism and war in her history. Here war was never treated as an ideal. It was only tolerated as unavoidable and inevitable, and all attempts were made to check it and bring it under control. In spite of the frequency of wars in ancient India, in spite of highly developed military organization, techniques of war and imperialism and in spite of the open justification of war as national policy, the heart of India loved pacifisms as an ideal capable of realization. India's symbolic role was that of a peacemaker and it sincerely pinned its faith on the principle of "Live and let live". At least philosophically, India's intelligence supported the cause of peace not only in national affairs but in international affairs also. All the great seers of the yore visualized the unity of life, permeating all beings, animate or inanimate, which ruled out killing and suicidal wars.

2. This doctrine of philosophical pacifisms practiced by ancient Aryans is, no doubt, a question of controversial nature. Certainly, the great Indian teachers and savants stuck to this doctrine tenaciously and in their personal lives they translated it into practice and preached it to masses and even to princes of military classes.

3. Another culture of those times, the existence of which has been proved by the excavations of Mohen-jo-Daro, also enunciated the doctrine of pacifism and friendship to all. Strangely enough, the Indus Valley civilization has revealed no fortification and very few weapons.

4. Ahimsa or the doctrine of non-violence in thought, speech and action assumed a gigantic importance in the Buddhist and Jain period. By a constant practice of this virtue, man becomes unassailable by even wild beasts, who forgot their ferocity the moment they entered the circumference of his magnetic influence. The monks and nuns of these churches were apostles of peace, who reached every nook and corner of the world and delivered the message of love to the war-weary humanity. The greatest votary was the royal monk Ashoka, who in reality was responsible for transforming Ahimsa as an act of personal virtue, to Ahimsa as an act of national virtue.

5. Many historians recounting the causes of the downfall of the Mauryas, hold the pacific policy of Ashoka which had eschewed the aggressive militarism of his predecessors, responsible for an early decay of the military strength of the state and its consequent disintegration, leading to the rise of Sungas, Kanvas and Andhras. But, in reality the fault lies in the weak successors of Ashoka, who could not wield the weapon of non-violence with a skill and efficiency, which required the strength of a spiritual giant like Ashoka. They failed due to their subjective weakness: Pacifism itself was no cause of their failure.

6. Besides the foregoing philosophical and religious school of thought, even many political authorities gave their unflinching support to the cause of pacifisms. They recognized the right of rivals to exist, not mainly as enemies, but as collaborators in the building of a civilization operation. Thus, for centuries, in the pre-Mauryan India, scores of small independent republics existed and flourished without coming in clash with each other.

7. With regard to Kautilya, the much maligned militarist and the so called Machiavelli of India, He thinks that the object of diplomatic is to avoid war.

8. The Mahabharata observes in this connection: "A wise man should be content with what can be obtained by the expedients of conciliation, gift and dissension." It denounces the warring world of men by comparing it to a dog-kennel. "First there comes the wagging of tails, then turning of one round to other, then the showing of teeth, then the roaring and finally comes the commencement of the fights. It is the same with men; there is no difference whatsoever." Yajnavalkya adds: „War is the last expedient to be used when all others have failed." Likewise, Sri Krishna whose Bhagwad-Gita has been styled by some as "a song of the battle", should not be considered out and out a militarist. When all the three expedients were exhausted, then alone the fourth was resorted to.

9. All possible avenues of peace such as negotiation, conciliation through conference, meditation and so on, were explored by before resorting to war. This proves that the heart of ancient India was sound and it longed for peace, although war also was not treated as an anathema and was to be avoided as far as possible.

(Extract from 'Culture India-Pacifism has been the Ideal' by Sri Indra)



- (A) Answer each of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option: (1×5=5)
- The heart of India loved ____
 - A highly developed military organization
 - Techniques of wars and imperialism
 - Loans
 - Pacifism
 - Principle of "Live and let live" means
 - Imperialism
 - Militarism
 - Frequency of wars among nations
 - Role of peace makers
 - Aryans preached and practiced this to the masses
 - Non-violence
 - Freedom of speech and action
 - Philosophical Pacifism
 - Mahabharata compares the warring world to
 - Wise men
 - Dog kennel
 - Song of the battle
 - Militarist
 - Unearthing Mohan-jo-Daro reinforced the following regarding Pacifism
 - as there was no fortification and very few weapons
 - they delivered the message of love
 - as they were apostles of peace
 - thinks that the object of diplomatic is to avoid war

Answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. (d) Pacifism | 1 |
| 2. (d) Role of peacemakers | 1 |
| 3. (c) Philosophical Pacifism | 1 |
| 4. (b) Dog kennel | 1 |
| 5. (a) as there was no fortification and very few weapons | 1 |

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2018-2019]

- (B) Fill in the blanks (1 × 4 = 4)
- The doctrine of _____ pacifisms was practiced by ancient Aryans.
 - _____ assumed a gigantic importance in Buddhist and Jain period.
 - _____ is the last expedient to be used.
 - The greatest votary was the royal monk _____.

Answers

- philosophical
- Ahimsa
- War
- Asoka

- (C) Pick out the words/phrases from the passage which mean the same as the following phrases. (1×3=3)
- express in definite and clear terms (para 3)
 - defensive wall (para 3)
 - the beginning (para 8)

Ans. Value Points : 1 enunciated 2 fortification
3 commencement

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2018-19]

Q. 2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: 12

1. If one early June morning you are suddenly stopped in your walk by a ringing "pip-piu-pie-pee-piu-piu" call coming from the trees in your park or garden, you will feel your heart suddenly lifted. Look around and you may see two large, handsome, black-and-white birds with long coattails chasing each other among the trees. They are pied cuckoos, that have come from Africa, and are said to announce the arrival of the greatest show on earth - the Indian monsoon. Be assured, the curtains will rise in a month or so.



2. To get a proper view of the onset of the monsoons, you really need to be stationed on the coastline of India or up in the hills. The grand show of grey clouds approaches like an airborne army, preceded by cool breezes, filling the air with electric charge so that you feel very happy. Spear of lighting flickers in the sky and the sound of thunder makes you feel excited.

And then, it pours. The cracked earth without any green cover sucks down the flood of water-and then Mother Nature goes mad. Seeds scattered or buried like grains of sand or pebbles in the ground suddenly come to life. Shoots of plants rocket skywards, roots plunge into the soft, spongy earth sucking up water and nutrients. It's a hint the grasshoppers have been waiting for. And bugs, beetles, caterpillars, centipedes, etc. emerge in their billions, feasting on the fresh green plants in the fields (to the annoyance of many a farmers) as also on each other.

3. There are miracles and there is music too: singing golden frogs appearing in large numbers in rain filled ditch, taking part in a group song that bollywood would have envied. They vanish the very next day. They'd been waiting patiently all through the blistering summer, deep underground, conserving whatever moisture they had soaked up. Fireflies wink through the trees in the hills, sending their greenish signals to one another in codes as precise as any we may use for our most secret messages.

4. All this is what the birds have been waiting for. Most birds have spent the spring and summer courting and now it's time to settle down. Baby birds need a lot of high protein at frequent intervals, which the rich supply of insect life so happily provides: Caterpillars are eaten up in millions, as are furry moths, earthworms slurped down like noodles, spiky dragonflies beaten to bits to soften them up into baby food. The long-legged storks and herons - get busy with fishing.

As for the big guys like lions and tigers in the jungles: they too had it relatively easy during the summer when their thirsty prey came to the waterholes. Now, with water easily available, in streams and ponds all over, they need to work harder for their meals. But yes, this is, perhaps, compensated by the arrival of baby deer - and fawns are sweet and soft, not very experienced in the merciless ways of the lions and tigers, even if they may seem more like a snack than a main course meal. The animals get a rest from us, parks and sanctuaries too close down, not so much out of kindness as because the roads become impassable.

5. And then, just as you are beginning to get tired of the green mould on your shoes, belts and bags, and of all the snuffles and snuffles that the rains also bring (bacteria and viruses also love this season), the clouds begin to disperse and float away in large armies. But before this happens, at least once, do go out in the midst of a downpour, raise your face to the heavens and dance and sing and celebrate this, the greatest show on earth.

A. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage answer each of the questions given below by choosing one of the options that follow: 1 × 5 = 5

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>(a) The winged messengers from Africa:</p> <p>(i) bring rain from Africa</p> <p>(ii) bring the message that the rains are coming soon.</p> <p>(iii) create a lot of horrible noise.</p> <p>(iv) are not welcome.</p> <p>(b) Baby birds benefit from the rains because:</p> <p>(i) the mummy bird cannot fly in the rain.</p> <p>(ii) they need a lot of noodles.</p> <p>(iii) the rain brings a lot of insects which they eat.</p> <p>(iv) they like wet nests.</p> <p>(c) Humans don't visit the animals in sanctuaries during the rainy season because:</p> <p>(i) humans don't like to get wet.</p> <p>(ii) the paths to the sanctuaries become waterlogged.</p> | <p>(iii) baby animals are born in the sanctuaries.</p> <p>(iv) humans get bitten during the rainy season.</p> <p>(d) The green mould that grows on leather comes:</p> <p>(i) from the creepy insects that come with the rain.</p> <p>(ii) because grass becomes very green during the rainy season.</p> <p>(iii) because of the moisture in the air during the rainy season.</p> <p>(iv) from fluffy clouds in the sky.</p> <p>(e) Lions and tigers have easy life during summer because</p> <p>(i) there is easy availability of water everywhere</p> <p>(ii) they are not able to catch fawns</p> <p>(iii) humans visit the sanctuaries a lot during summer</p> <p>(iv) thirsty animals come to the waterholes as easy preys.</p> |
|---|---|

Answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. (ii) bring the message that the rains are coming soon | 1 |
| b. (iii) the rain brings a lot of insects which they eat | 1 |
| c. (ii) the paths to the sanctuaries become waterlogged | 1 |
| d. (iii) because of the moisture in the air during the rainy season | 1 |
| e. (iv) thirsty animals come to the waterholes as easy preys. | 1 |

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2018]



- B. Fill in the blanks:** $1 \times 4 = 4$
- (1) Pied _____ have come from Africa.
- (2) The greatest show on the earth is the Indian _____.
- (3) _____ wink through the trees in the hills.
- (4) The storks and _____ get busy with the fishing.

Answers

1. cuckoos
2. monsoon
3. fireflies
4. herons

- C. Find words the passage which mean the same as each of the following:** $1 \times 3 = 3$
- (i) declare (para 1)
- (ii) disappear (para 3)
- (iii) a heavy fall of rain (para 5)
- Ans.** (i) announce (ii) vanish (iii) downpour $1 \times 3 = 3$
[CBSE Marking Scheme, 20188]

Q.3 Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: 12

1. When you grow up in a place where it rains for five months a year, wise elders help you to get acquainted with the rain early. They teach you that it is ignorance to think that it is the same rain falling every day. Oh no, the rain is always doing different things at different times. There is rain that is gentle, and there is also rain that falls too hard and damages the crops. Hence, the prayer for the sweet rain that helps the crops to grow.

2. The monsoon in the Naga hills goes by the native name, Kluhthotei (which means the rice-growing season). It lasts from May to early or mid-October. The local residents firmly believe that Durga Puja in October announces the end to rain. After that, one might expect a couple of short winter showers, and the spring showers in March and April. Finally, comes the "big rain" in May; proper rainstorms accompanied by heart-stopping lightning and ear-splitting thunder. I have stood out in storms looking at lightning arc across dark skies, a light-and-sound show that can go on for hours.

3. This is the season when people use the word sezuo and suzu to refer to the week-long rains, when clothes don't dry and smell of mould, when fungus forms on the floor and when you can't see the moon or the stars

4. The wise learn to understand its ways. I grew up hearing my grandfather say, "It's very windy this year. We'll get good rain." If the windy season was short and weak, he worried there might not be enough rain for the crops. I learned the interconnectedness of the season from childhood, and marvelled at how the wind could bring rain. Another evening, many rainy seasons ago, my paternal aunt observed the new moon and worried, "its legs are in the air, we're in for some heavy rain." She was right. That week, a storm cut off power lines and brought down trees and bamboos.

5. Eskimos boast of having a hundred names for snow. Norwegians in the north can describe all kinds of snow by an equal amount of names: pudder, powder snow, we snow, slaps extra wet snow, tight snowfall, dry snow, and at least 95 more categories of snow. Likewise, in India we have names and names for rain. Some are common, some are passing into history.

6. The rains are also called after flowering plants and people believe that the blossoming of those plants draws out rain. Once the monsoons set in, field work is carried out in earnest and the work of uprooting and transplanting paddy in flooded fields is done. The months of hard labour are June, July and August. In August, as the phrago plant begins to bloom, a rain will fall. This August rain, also called phrago is a sign that the time for cultivation is over. If any new grain seeds are sown, they may not sprout; even if they do sprout, they are not likely to bear grain. The rain acts as a kind of farmer's almanac.

7. The urban population of school-goers and office-goers naturally dislikes the monsoon and its accompanying problems of landslides, muddy streets and periodic infections. For non-farmers, the month of september can be depressing, when the rainfall is incessant and the awareness persists that the monsoons will last out till October. One needs to have the heart of a farmer to remain grateful for the watery days, and be able to observe - from what seems to the inexperienced as a continuous downpour - many kinds of rain. Some of the commonly known rain-weeks are named after the plants that alternately bloom in August and September. The native belief is that the flowers draw out the rain.

8. Each rain period has job to fulfil: October rain helps garlic bulbs to form, while kumunyo rain helps the rice bear grain. Without it, the ears of rice cannot form properly. End October is the most beautiful month in the Naga hills, as the fields turn gold and wild sunflowers bloom over the slopes, all heralding the harvest. Prayers go up for protecting the fields from storms, and the rains to retreat because the grain needs to stand in the sun and ripen. The cycle nears completion a few weeks before the harvest, and the rain does retreat so thoroughly from the reaped furrows that the earth quickly turns hard. The months of rain becomes a distant memory until it starts all over again.

- A. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, complete the statements given below with the help of the options that follow:** (1×5 = 5)
- (a) **The rains are called after flowering plants because**
- (i) heavy rains kill plants.
 - (ii) flowers grow in the rainy season.
 - (iii) it is believed that the plants bring the rain.
 - (iv) flowers grow all the year round.
- (b) **The rain is like a calendar for farmers because**
- (i) it tells them when to sow and when to harvest.
 - (ii) it tells them the birthdays of their children.
 - (iii) each month has a time for plantation.
 - (iv) different kinds of rain tell different things.
- (c) **People who live in cities don't like rain because**
- (i) it brings mud and sickness with it.
 - (ii) they are not bothered about the farmers.
 - (iii) they don't like the plants that grow during the rain.
 - (iv) going shopping becomes difficult.
- (d) **People pray asking the rain to retreat cause**
- (i) the fungus and mould need to dry.
 - (ii) children don't get a chance to play.
 - (iii) the crops need the sun and heat to ripen.
 - (iv) they like to pray.
- (e) **People do not complain about sezuo because.**
- (i) it is a week long rain
 - (ii) it is a farmer's friend
 - (iii) it brings food
 - (iv) both (ii) & (iii)

Answers

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|--|---|
| (a) (iii) it is believed that the plants bring the rain. | 1 |
| (b) (i) it tells them when to sow and when to harvest. | 1 |
| (c) (i) it brings mud and sickness with it. | 1 |
| (d) (iii) the crops need the sun and heat to ripen. | 1 |
| (e) (iv) both (ii) & (iii) | 1 |

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2018]

- B. Fill in the blanks:** (1 × 4 = 4)
- (1) Khuthotei is the native name of monsoon in _____.
- (2) The _____ rain comes in May.
- (3) _____ have a hundred names for snow.
- (4) The rain is the _____ of farmers.

Answers

1. Naga hills
2. big
3. Eskimos
4. almanac

- C. Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following:**

- (i) flowering (para 6)
- (ii) nonstop (para 7)
- (iii) withdraw (para 8)

Ans. (i) Blossoming/to bloom (ii) Incessant/continuous
(iii) retreat

1 × 3 = 3

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2018]

- Q. 4. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :**

[Delhi Set I/II/III, Outside Delhi Set I/II/III, Foreign Set I/II/III 2017] 12

We sit in the last row, bumped about but free of stares. The bus rolls out of the dull crossroads of the city, and we are soon in open countryside with fields of sunflowers as far as the eye can see, their heads all facing us. Where there is no water, the land reverts to desert. While still on level ground we see in the distance the tall range of the Mount Bogda, abrupt like a shining prism laid horizontally on the desert surface. It is over 5,000 metres high, and the peaks and under permanent snow in powerful contrast to the flat desert all around. Heaven Lake lies part of the way up this range, about 2,000 metres above sea level, at the foot of one of the higher snow-peaks.

As the bus climbs, the sky brilliant before, grows overcast. I have brought nothing warm to wear. It is all down at the hotel in Urumqi. Rain begins to fall. The man behind me is eating overpoweringly smelly goat's cheese. The bus window leaks inhospitably but reveals a beautiful view. We have passed quickly from desert through arable land to



pasture and the ground is now green with grass, the slopes dark with pine. A few cattle drink at a clear stream flowing past moss-covered stones; it is a constable landscape. The stream changes into a white torrent, and as we climb higher I wish more and more that I had brought with me something warmer than just the pair of shorts that have served me so well in the desert. The stream (which, we are told, rises in Heaven Lake) disappears, and we continue our slow ascent. About noon, we arrive at Heaven Lake, and look for a place to stay at the foot, which is the resort area. We get a room in a small cottage, and I am happy to note that there are thick quilts on the beds.

Standing outside the cottage we survey our surroundings. Heaven Lake is long, sardine-shaped and fed by snow melt from a stream at its head. The lake is an intense blue, surrounded on all sides by green mountain walls, dotted with distant sheep. At the head of the lake, beyond the delta of the inflowing stream, is a massive snow-capped peak which dominates the vista; it is part of a series of peaks that culminate, a little out of view, in Mount Bogda itself.

For those who live in the resort there is a small-hall by the shore. We eat here sometimes, and sometimes buy food from the vendors outside, who sell kabab and naan until the last buses leave. The kababs, cooked on skewers over charcoal braziers, are particularly good; highly spiced and well-done. Horse's milk is available too from the local Kazakh herdsmen, but I decline this. I am so affected by the cold that Mr. Cao, the relaxed young man who runs the mess, lends me a spare pair of trousers, several sizes too large but more than comfortable. Once I am warm again, I feel a pre-dinner spurt of energy—dinner will be long in coming—and I ask him whether the lake is good for swimming in.

"Swimming?" Mr. Cao says, "You aren't thinking of swimming, are you?"

"I thought I might. I confess. What's the water like?"

He doesn't answer me immediately, turning instead to examine some receipts with exaggerated interest. Mr. Cao, with great off-handedness, addresses the air. "People are often drowned here", he says. After a pause, he continues. "When was the last one?" This question is directed at the cook, who is preparing a tray of mantou (squat white steamed bread rolls), and who now appears, wiping his doughy hand across his forehead. "Was it the Beijing athlete?" asks Mr. Cao.

(A) On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options that follow : 1 × 5 = 5

1. **One benefit of sitting in the last row of the bus was that :**
 - (a) The narrator enjoyed bumps
 - (b) No one stared at him
 - (c) He could see the sunflowers
 - (d) He avoided the dullness of the city
2. **The narrator was travelling to :**
 - (a) Mound Bogda
 - (b) Heaven Lake
 - (c) A 2000 metre high snow peak
 - (d) Urumqi
3. **On reaching the destination the narrator felt relieved because :**
 - (a) He had got away from the desert
 - (b) A difficult journey had come to an end
4. **Mount Bogda is compared to :**
 - (a) A horizontal desert surface
 - (b) A shining prism
 - (c) A constable landscape
 - (d) The overcast sky
5. **Which animal's milk is available from local herdsmen?**
 - (a) Horse
 - (b) Cow
 - (c) Goat
 - (d) Camel

Answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. (b) No one stared at him | 1 |
| 2. (a) Mount Bogda / (b) Heaven Lake | 1 |
| 3. (d) There were thick quilts on the bed | 1 |
| 4. (b) A shining prism | 1 |
| 5. (a) Horse | 1 |

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017]

- (B) Fill in the blanks:** (1 × 4 = 4)
- (1) The narrator went on a trip to Mount _____.
 - (2) _____ Lake lies part of the way up the range.
 - (3) The milk of _____ is available from local herdsmen.
 - (4) _____ are squat white steamed bread rolls.

Answers

1. Bogda
2. Heaven
3. horse
4. Mantou

(C) Answer any three of the following questions in 25-30 words: (2 × 3 = 6)

1. What is the geography of Mount Bogda and Heaven Lake?

Ans. Value Points : The tall range of the Mount Bogda, abrupt like a shining prism is laid horizontally on the deserts surface. It is over 5,000 metres high, and the peaks under permanent snow, in powerful contrast to the flat desert all around. Heaven Lake lies part of the way up this range, about 2,000 metres above sea level, at the foot of one of the higher snow-peaks.

2. How was the stay at Heaven Lake?

Ans. Value Points : Mount Bogda was a nice place to stay. It was at the foot of the Heaven Lake and is a resort area. The room was in a small cottage, and there were thick quilts on the beds.

3. Describe the view of Heaven Lake as observed from outside the cottage.

Ans. Value Points : Heaven Lake is long, sardine shaped and fed by snowmelt from a stream at its head. The lake is an intense blue, surrounded on all sides by green mountain walls, dotted with distant sheep. At the head of the lake, beyond the delta of the in flowing stream, is a massive snow-capped peak which dominates the vista; it is part of a series of peaks that culminate, a little out of view, in Mount Bogda itself.

4. Why was narrator thankful to Mr. Cao?

Ans. Value Points : Mr. Cao lends the narrator a spare pair of trousers, several sizes too large but more than comfortable to make him warm again.

(D) Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following : 1×3=3

(1) Upward movement (para 2)

(2) Sellers (para 4)

(3) Increased (para 6)

Ans. (1) ascent (2) vendors (3) exaggerated 1 × 3 = 3
[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017]

AI Q. 5. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

[Delhi Comptt Set I/II/III, Outside Delhi Comptt Set I/II/III 2017] 12

The art of living is learnt easily by those who are positive and optimistic. From humble and simple people to great leaders in history, science or literature, we can learn a lot about the art of living, by having a peep into their lives. The daily routines of these great men not only reveal their different, maybe unique life styles but also help us learn certain habits and practices they followed. Here are some; read, enjoy and follow in their footsteps as it suits you.

A private workplace always helps. Jane Austen asked that a certain squeaky hinge should never be oiled so that she always had a warning whenever someone was approaching the room where she wrote. William Faulkner, lacking a lock on his study door, detached the doorknob and brought it into the room with him. Mark Twain's family knew better than to breach his study door - they would blow a horn to draw him out. Graham Greene went even further, renting a secret office; only his wife knew the address and the telephone number. After all everyone of us needs a workplace where we can work on our creation uninterruptedly. Equally we need our private space too!

A daily walk has always been a source of inspiration. For many artists, a regular stroll was essentially a creative inspiration. Charles Dickens famously took three hour walks every afternoon, and what he observed on them fed directly into his writing. Tchaikovsky could make do with a two - hour jaunt but wouldn't return a moment early; convinced that doing so would make him ill. Ludwig van Beethoven took lengthy strolls after lunch, carrying a pencil and paper with him in case inspiration struck. Nineteenth century composer Erik Satie did the same on his long hikes from Paris to the working-class suburb where he lived, stopping under street lamps to jot down ideas that came on his journey; it's rumored that when those lamps were turned off during the war years, his music declined too. Many great people had limited social life too. One of Simone de Beauvoir's close friends puts it this way. "There were no receptions, parties. It was an uncluttered kind of life, a simplicity deliberately constructed so that she could do her work." To Pablo the idea of Sunday was an "at home day".

The routines of these thinkers are difficult. Perhaps it is because they are so unattainable. The very idea that you can organize your time as you like is out of reach for most of us, so I'll close with a toast to all those who worked with difficulties. Like Francine Prose, who began writing when the school bus picked up her children and stopped when it brought them back; or T.S. Eliot, who found it much easier to write once he had a day job in a bank than he had as

a starving poet and even F. Scott Fitzgerald, whose early books were written in his strict schedule as a young military officer. Those days were not as interesting as the nights in Paris that came later, but they were much more productive - and no doubt easier on his liver.

Being forced to follow someone else's routine may irritate, but it makes it easier to stay on the path. Whenever we break that trail ourselves or take an easy path of least resistance, perhaps what's most important is that we keep walking.

(A) On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options that follow : 1 × 5 = 5

1. **The passage is about:**
 - (a) how to practise walking
 - (b) walking everyday
 - (c) the life of a genius
 - (d) what we can learn from the routines of geniuses
2. **The writers in the past:**
 - (a) followed a perfect daily routine
 - (b) enjoyed the difficulties of life
 - (c) can teach us a lot
 - (d) wrote a lot in books
3. **In their daily routines :**
 - (a) they had unique life styles
 - (b) they read books and enjoyed them
 - (c) they did not get any privacy
 - (d) they did not mind visitors
4. **Some artists resorted to walking as it was :**
 - (a) an exercise
 - (b) a creative inspiration
 - (c) essential for improving their health
 - (d) helpful in interaction with others
5. **To Pablo, the idea of Sunday was an**
 - (a) at home day
 - (b) off day
 - (c) at a mall day
 - (d) at friend's place day

Answers

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. (d) what we can learn from the routines of geniuses | 1 |
| 2. (a) followed a perfect daily routine | 1 |
| 3. (a) they had unique lifestyles | 1 |
| 4. (b) a creative inspiration | 1 |
| 5. (a) at home day | 1 |

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 1 × 5 = 5

- (B) Fill in the blanks:** (1 × 4 = 4)
- (1) William Faulkner did not have a _____ on his door. (3) _____ thought Sunday as at home day.
- (2) A daily walk is a source of _____. (4) _____ worked at a bank.

Answers

1. lock
2. inspiration
3. Pablo
4. T. S. Eliot

(C) Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following : 1 × 3 = 3

- (1) glance/look (para 1),
- (2) noisy (para 2)
- (3) not achievable (Para 4)

Ans. Value Points : (1) Peep, (2) squeaky
(3) unattainable 1+1+1
[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017]

Q. 6. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow : [CBSE SQP-2017] 12

A fisherman, enfeebled with age, could no longer go out to sea so he began fishing in the river. Every morning he would go down to the river and sit there fishing the whole day long. In the evening he would sell whatever he had caught, buy food for himself and go home. It was a hard life for an old man. One hot afternoon while he was trying to keep awake and bemoaning his fate, a large bird with silvery feathers alighted on a rock near him. It was Kaha, the

heavenly bird. "Have you no one to care for you, grandpa?" asked the bird. "Not a soul." "You should not be doing such work at your age," said the bird. "From now on I will bring you a big fish every evening. You can sell it and live in comfort." True to her word, the bird began to drop a large fish at his doorstep every evening. All that the fisherman had to do was take it to the market and sell it. As big fish were in great demand, he was soon rolling in money. He bought a cottage near the sea, with a garden around it and engaged a servant to cook for him. His wife had died some years earlier. He had decided to marry again and began to look for a suitable woman.

One day he heard the royal courtier make an announcement. Our king has news of a great bird called Kaha," said the courtier. "Whoever can give information about this bird and help catch it, will be rewarded with half the gold in the royal treasury and half the kingdom!" The fisherman was sorely tempted by the reward. Half the kingdom would make him a prince!

"Why does the king want the bird?" he asked. "He has lost his sight," explained the courtier. "A wise man has advised him to bathe his eyes with the blood of Kaha. Do you know where can she be found?" "No...I mean ...no, no..." Torn between greed and his sense of gratitude to the bird, the fisherman could not give a coherent reply. The courtier, sensing that he knew something about the bird, informed the king. The king had him brought to the palace.

"If you have information about the bird, tell me," urged the king. "I will reward you handsomely and if you help catch her, I will personally crown you king of half my domain." "I will get the bird for you," cried the fisherman, suddenly making up his mind. "But Kaha is strong. I will need help." The king sent a dozen soldiers with him. That evening when the bird came with the fish, the fisherman called out to her to wait. "You drop the fish and go and I never get a chance to thank you for all that you've done for me," he said. "Today I have laid out a feast for you inside. Please alight and come in." Kaha was reluctant to accept the invitation but the fisherman pleaded so earnestly that she finally gave in, and alighted. The moment she was on the ground, the fisherman grabbed one of her legs and shouted to the soldiers hiding in his house to come out. They rushed to his aid but their combined effort could not keep Kaha down.

She rose into the air with the fisherman still clinging onto her leg. By the time he realised he was being carried away, the fisherman was too high in the air to let go. He hung on grimly, and neither he nor Kaha were ever seen again.

(A) On the basis of your understanding of the passage above, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option that follow : 1 × 5 = 5

1. **Why was the king desperately looking for Kaha the bird ?**
 - (a) The king wanted a pet bird.
 - (b) A wise man advised the king to capture the bird for good luck.
 - (c) Kaha was the only heavenly bird with silvery feathers.
 - (d) The king was blind and required Kaha's blood for his eyes.
2. **Why did the bird volunteer to bring fish for the old man ?**
 - (a) The old man was inexperienced at fishing.
 - (b) The bird took pity on the old man and wanted to help him.
 - (c) The bird had caught more fish than required.
 - (d) The bird wanted to make the old man rich.
3. **What led the courtier to sense that the fisherman might know something about Kaha ?**
 - (a) The courtier had observed Kaha alight at the fisherman's house every evening.
 - (b) The courtier had seen the fisherman talk to Kaha.
 - (c) The fisherman fumbled when asked about Kaha.
 - (d) Word went around that the fisherman was in contact with Kaha.
4. **Which of the following is not true about Kaha ?**
 - (a) Kaha was a very considerate bird.
 - (b) The blood of Kaha was precious.
 - (c) Kaha was a strong bird.
 - (d) Kaha saved the fisherman from the King's wrath.
5. **Whom did the king sent with the fisherman to catch Kaha?**
 - (a) his son.
 - (b) his soldiers.
 - (c) his hunters.
 - (d) other fishermen.

Answers

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. (a) The king wanted a pet bird. | 1 |
| 2. (b) The bird took pity on the old man and wanted to help him. | 1 |
| 3. (c) The fisherman fumbled when asked about Kaha. | 1 |
| 4. (d) Kaha saved the fisherman from the King's wrath. | 1 |
| 5. (b) his soldiers | 1 |

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017]



- (B) Fill in the blanks: (1 × 4 = 4)
- (1) The name of heavenly bird is _____.
- (2) The heavenly bird promised to bring a big _____ everyday.
- (3) The _____ wanted the bird to restore his lost sight.
- (4) The bird took the _____ away with him.

Answers

1. Kaha
2. fish
3. king
4. fisherman

- (C) Pick out the words/phrases from the passage which are opposite in meaning to the following: 1×3=3
- (1) Take off (Para 1),
- (2) Released (Para 4)
- (3) Individual (Para 4)
- Ans. Value Points : (1) alight (2) Grabbed/catch
(3) Combined
[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017] 1×3=3

Q. 7. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

[Delhi Set I/II/III, Outside Delhi Set I 2016] 12

Maharana Pratap ruled Mewar only for 25 years. However, he accomplished grandeur to such an extent during his reign that his glory surpassed the boundaries of countries and time turned him into an immortal personality. He along with his kingdom became synonymous with valour, sacrifice and patriotism. Mewar had been a leading Rajput kingdom even before Maharana Pratap occupied the throne. Kings of Mewar, with the cooperation of their nobles and subjects, had established such traditions in the kingdom, which augmented their magnificence despite the hurdles of having a smaller area under their command with less population. There did come a few thorny occasions when the flag of the kingdom seemed as if sliding down. But their flag once again soared high in the sky thanks to the gallantry and the brilliance of the people of Mewar.

The destiny of Mewar was good in the sense that, barring a few kings, most of its rulers were competent and patriotic. This glorious tradition of the kingdom almost continued for 1500 years ever since its establishment, right from the reign of Bappa Rawal. In fact only 60 years before Maharana Pratap, Rana Sanga drove the kingdom to the pinnacle of fame. His reputation went beyond Rajasthan and reached Delhi. Two generations before him, Rana Kumbha had given a new stature to the kingdom through victories and developmental work. During his reign, literature and art also progressed extraordinarily. Rana himself was inclined towards writing and his works are read with reverence even today. The ambience of his kingdom was conducive to the creation of high quality work of art and literature. These accomplishments were the outcome of a longstanding tradition sustained by several generations.

The life of the people of Mewar must have been peaceful and prosperous during the long span of time; otherwise such extraordinary accomplishments in these fields would not have been possible. This is reflected in their art and literature as well as in their loving nature. They compensate for lack of admirable physique by their firm but pleasant nature. The ambience of Mewar still remains lovely, thanks to the cheerful and liberal character of its people.

One may observe an astonishing piece of workmanship not only in the forts and palaces of Mewar but also in public utility buildings. Ruins of many structures which are still standing tall in their grandeur are testimony to the fact that Mewar was not only the land of the brave but also a seat of art and culture. Amidst aggression and bloodshed, literature and art flourished and creative pursuits of literature and artists did not suffer. Imagine, how glorious the period must have been when the Vijaya Stambha, which is the sample of our great ancient architecture even today, was constructed. In the same fort, Kirti Stambha is standing high, reflecting how liberal the then administration was which allowed people from other communities and kingdoms to come and carry out the construction work. It is useless to indulge in the debate whether the Vijaya Stambha was constructed first or the Kirti Stambha. The fact is that both the capitals are standing side by side and reveal the proximity between the king and the subjects of Mewar.

The cycle of time does not remain the same. Whereas, the reign of Rana Sanga was crucial in raising the kingdom to the acme of glory, it also proved to be his nemesis. History took a turn. The fortune of Mewar—the land of the brave, started waning. Rana tried to save the day with his acumen which was running against the stream and the glorious traditions for some time.

- (A) On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options that follow : 1 × 5 = 5
1. Maharana Pratap became immortal because :
- (a) he ruled Mewar for 25 years
- (b) he added a lot of grandeur to Mewar
- (c) of his valour, sacrifice and patriotism
- (d) both (b) and (c)



2. **Difficulties in the way of Mewar were :**
- lack of cooperation of the nobility
 - ancient traditions of the kingdom
 - its small area and small population
 - the poverty of the subjects
3. **During thorny occasions :**
- the flag of Mewar seemed to be lowered
 - the flag of Mewar was hoisted high
 - the people of Mewar showed gallantry
 - most of the rulers heaved a sigh of relief
4. **Mewar was lucky because :**
- all of its rulers were competent
 - most of its people were competent
 - most of its rulers were competent
 - only a few of its people were incompetent
5. **Whose reign was crucial as well as nemesis of Mewar?**
- Maharana Pratap
 - Rana Sanga
 - Rana Kumbha
 - Bappa Rawal

Answers

- (d) both (b) and (c)
- (c) its small area and small population
- (a) the flag of Mewar seemed to be lowered / (c) the people of Mewar showed gallantry (Any one)
- (b) most of its people were competent / (c) most of its rulers were competent / (d) only a few of its people were incompetent.
- (b) Rana Sangha [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] $1 \times 5 = 5$ (Any one)

- (B) **Fill in the blanks:** (1 × 4 = 4)
- (1) Maharana _____ Pratap _____ ruled _____ administration of Mewar.
- (2) Mewar was _____ established _____ by _____
- (3) _____ reflects the liberal administration of Mewar.
- (4) The reign of _____ was crucial as well as nemesis for Mewar.

Answers

- Mewar
- Bappa Rawal
- Kirti Stambha
- Rana Sanga

- (C) **Find words from the passage that mean the same as the following :** $1 \times 3 = 3$
- bravery (para 1)
 - surprising (para 4)
 - evidence (para 4)

Ans. Value Points : (1) valour (2) astonishing, (3) testimony / sample [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2016] 3

OR



[Topper's Answer, 2016]

Q. 8. Read the following passage carefully.

[CBSE, SQP, 2015-16] 12

One of the greatest sailing adventures of the past 25 years was the conquest of the Northwest Passage, powered by sail, human muscle, and determination. In 100 days, over three summers (1986-88), Canadians Jeff MacInnis and Mike Beedell accomplished the first wind-powered crossing of the Northwest Passage.

In Jeff MacInnis's words...our third season. We weave our way through the labyrinth of ice, and in the distance we hear an unmistakable sound. A mighty bowhead whale is nearby, and its rhythmic breaths fill us with awe. Finally we see it relaxed on the surface, its blowhole quivering like a volcanic cone, but it senses our presence and quickly sounds. We are very disappointed. We had only good intentions - to revel in its beautiful immensity and to feel its power. Mike thinks how foolish it would be for this mighty beast to put any faith in us. After all, we are members of the species that



had almost sent the bowhead into extinction with our greed for whale oil and bone. It is estimated that as many as 38,000 bowheads were killed off eastern Baffin Island in the 1800s; today there are only about 200 left.

The fascinating and sometimes terrifying wildlife keeps us entertained during our explorations. Bearded harp and ring seals greet us daily. The profusion of bird life is awesome; at times we see and smell hundreds of thousands of thick-billed murres clinging to their cliffside nests. Our charts show that we are on the edge of a huge shoal where the frigid ocean currents upswell and mix nutrients that provide a feast for the food chain. At times, these animals scare the living daylight out of us. They have a knack of sneaking up behind us and then shooting out of the water and belly flopping for maximum noise and splash. A horrendous splash coming from behind has a heart-stopping effect in polar bear country.

We have many encounters with the "Lords of the Arctic," but we are always cautious, observant, and ever so respectful that we are in their domain. In some regions the land is totally devoid of life, while in others the pulse of life takes our breath away. Such is the paradox of the Arctic; it's wastelands flow into oasis' that are found nowhere else on the face of the earth. Many times we find ancient signs of Inuit people who lived here, superbly attuned to the land. We feel great respect for them; this landscape is a challenge at every moment.

We face a 35 mile open water passage across Prince Regent Inlet on Baffin Island that will take us to our ultimate goal - Pond Inlet on Baffin Bay. The breakers look huge from the water's edge. Leaning into the hulls, like bobsledders at the starting gate, we push as hard as we can down the gravel beach to the sea. We catch the water and keep pushing until we have plunged waist deep, then drag ourselves aboard. Immediately, we begin paddling with every ounce of effort. Inch by agonizing inch, perception moves offshore. Sweat pours off our bodies. Ahead of us, looming gray-white through the fog, we see a massive iceberg riding the current like the ghost of a battleship. There is no wind to fill our sails and steady the boat, and the chaotic motion soon brings seasickness. Slowly the wind begins to build. Prince Regent Inlet now looks ominous with wind and waves. The frigid ocean hits us square in the face and chills us to the bone.

We were on the fine edge. Everything that we had learned in the Arctic over the last 90 days was now being tested. We funneled all that knowledge, skill, teamwork, and spirit into this momentous crossing... If we went over in these seas we could not get the boat back up. Suddenly the wind speed plummeted to zero as quickly as it had begun.... Now we were being pushed by the convulsing waves toward sheer 2,000 foot cliffs. Two paddles were our only power. Sailing past glacier capped mountains, we approached the end of our journey. At 05:08 in the morning of our hundredth day, speeding into Baffin Bay, the spray from our twin hulls makes rainbows in the sun as we complete the first sail powered voyage through the Northwest Passage.

We have journeyed through these waters on their terms, moved by the wind, waves and current. The environment has always been in control of our destiny; we have only tried to respond in the best possible way. We've been awake for nearly 23 hours, but we cannot sleep. The joy and excitement was too great. Our Hobie Cat rests on the rocky beach, the wind whistling in her rigging, her bright yellow hulls radiant in the morning sunlight. She embodies the watchword for survival in the Arctic - adaptability.

(A) On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option: (1 × 5 = 5)

1. The passage is about the
 - (a) Author's sailing adventure through the North-west Passage
 - (b) Flora and fauna of the Arctic
 - (c) Survival skills needed while sailing
 - (d) Saving of the Arctic
2. "Lords of the Arctic," (Para 4) refers to the
 - (a) Wind breakers
 - (b) Icebergs
 - (c) Polar Bears
 - (d) Inuits
3. The author's sailing vessel is named
 - (a) Prince Regent
 - (b) Hobie Cat
 - (c) Perception
 - (d) Arctic
4. 'We were on the fine edge' refers to
 - (a) The Prince Regent Inlet
 - (b) The ominous sail
 - (c) The frigid ocean
 - (d) Their expedition
5. In how many days was the first sail powered voyage through Northwest Passage completed?
 - (a) 100
 - (b) 365
 - (c) 1000
 - (d) 2000

Answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. (a) Author's sailing adventure through the North-west Passage. | 1 |
| 2. (c) Polar Bears | 1 |



3. (b) Hobie Cat	1
4. (b) The ominous sail	1
5. (a) 100	1

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2017]

- (B) Fill in the blanks: (1 × 4 = 4) "Lords of the Arctic.
- (1) Jeff and Mike completed first wind-powered crossing of _____ Passage. (3) The wastelands of Arctic flow into _____.
- (2) _____ are referred to as (4) Prince Regent Inlet looks ominous with _____ and wind.

Answers

- Northwest
- Polar bears
- oasis
- waves

1 × 4 = 4

- (C) Pick out the words/phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following : (3) dropped sharply (Para 6)
- (1 × 3 = 3) Ans. Value Points : (1) profusion (2) ominous (3) plummeted
- (1) abundance (Para 3)
- (2) threatening (Para 5)

Q. 9. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : [CBSE Comptt. 2015] 12

Suspense was over when my high school results finally came out. But I was upset. I hadn't done as well as I had expected. My father tried to console me. "Why are you worried? You have done very well my dear." "No, I haven't, Baba," I protested, controlling my tears, and wondering if I had disappointed him. "It doesn't really matter," he assured me. "Do you know what I got when I finished high school?" I looked into Baba's face and waited for the answer to his own question. "You know," he told me. "I've never told you this. I got just a third division. But, look at me, I've done quite well." Baba got a third division! I was almost in shock, but the thought of my having done a lot better than that made me realize that I had no reason to complain. I certainly felt better! "Everything is under control!" said Baba, smiling. That was his favourite phrase. Posted in Kolkata, my father was then a senior official in the Indian Railway Service, and an expert in goods traffic operations. He was soon to become a director with the Railway Board. By the time he retired in 1981, he was the general manager of the Central Railways. By the time Baba passed away in November 2000, his name had found place in several hearts as well. He was open, easy to know, and full of life. We were extremely close, but I had so much more to learn about him from many things I came to know after his death.

In September 2000, he was in hospital for treatment of cancer and given just two months to live. When he found out, his reaction was an extremely rational one. He asked me to fetch files from his cupboard, so that he could explain the details of my mother's pension. He also dictated his will from his hospital bed. "Everything is under control!" After Baba's death, Satish, our old family retainer, was inconsolable. We tried to cheer him up. "Your Baba had scolded me only once in all these years!" he cried. Satish pointed to the watch on his left hand. "I had been coming late for work and everyone in the family was complaining about it," said Satish. "Then, one day, your Baba gave me this watch and told me, 'now that you have a watch, you can't be late.'" That was the scolding Satish received. On the fourth day after Baba's death, my sister and I had to perform a ceremony. Since several relatives were expected, we decided to order lunch from a caterer in our locality, who was reputed for his home cooked food. But, when we went to pay the owner, we got a surprise. He refused to accept any money! "When I wanted to start my catering business, it was your father who lent me money," he told us. It seems Baba never asked for it back. Now, after four or five years, the caterer wanted to repay that debt. Of course, we made him accept the full payment for the fine food and service. 'It was Baba's gift and it ought to remain so,' I told him.

Some days later, (as we were preparing for the main ceremony) there was yet another piece of information. Vikram, my brother drove me to the local market. On recognizing our car, the parking assistant, in his twenties, came running towards us and asked why he had not seen its owner for long. We had to break the news to him and to our utter surprise, he started crying. We were really surprised by this reaction from a stranger – until the man told us that Baba used to pay his daughter's school fees and buy her books. It seems, it was on my father's advice that he'd even started sending the child to school. More than three years after Baba's death, as we were looking into Baba's personal things, we came across an old file with Baba's certificates and I found among them, his high school diploma from 1937, the one he'd told me about 30 years earlier, about the third division that had made no difference in his life or career. It had made me see beyond mere marks and first classes as the main road to success. But there was one more fact. Baba had actually



got a first division, a rare achievement in his day. Today, years after his passing, when I think of Baba, I see a man who was able to sympathise with others very easily and who had touched their lives in some very special way.

- (A) On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options. (1 × 5 = 5)
- Why was the narrator in tears when her school results came out ?
 - She did better than she expected
 - She did not do as expected
 - Her Baba had not done well
 - Her Baba had done better than her
 - On knowing the result, how did the narrator's father react ?
 - He scolded her
 - He beat her
 - He consoled her
 - He made fun of her
 - Why did the narrator say that she had nothing to complain ?
 - She had done better than her father
 - She had done as well as her father
 - She had topped in her school
 - She had not worked hard at all
 - Choose the option that is not correct.
 - Baba was a senior official in the Indian Railway Service
 - Baba was to become a director with the Railway Board
 - Baba was the General Manager of the Central Railways
 - Baba had got a third division in high school
 - Which division did Baba actually get?
 - First
 - Second
 - Third
 - Failed

Answers

(i) (b) She did not do as expected	1
(ii) (c) He consoled her	1
(iii) (a) She had done better than her father	1
(iv) (d) Baba had got a third division in high school	1
(v) (a) First	1

- (B) Fill in the blanks: (1 × 4 = 4)
- The narrator called father by the name of _____.
 - The father told that he had got _____ division in high school.
 - The narrator retired as general manager of _____.
 - The _____ refused to accept money for arranging food service after the father's death.

Answers

- Baba
- third
- Central Railways
- caterer

- (C) Find words from the passage that mean the same as the following : (1 × 3 = 3)
- tension/anxiety (Para 1)
 - servant (Para 2)
 - on the farther side (Para 3)
- Ans. Value Points : (1) Worried (2) retainer (3) across

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

[Delhi & Outside Delhi 2015] 12

For four days, I walked through the narrow lanes of the old city, enjoying the romance of being in a city where history still lives—in its cobblestone streets and in its people riding asses, carrying vine leaves and palm as they once did during the time of Christ.



This is Jerusalem, home to the sacred sites of Christianity, Islam and Judaism. This is the place that houses the church of the Holy Sepulchre, the place where Jesus was finally laid to rest. This is also the site of Christ's crucifixion, burial and resurrection.

Built by the Roman Emperor Constantine, at the site of an earlier temple to Aphrodite, it is the most venerated Christian shrine in the world. And justifiably so. Here, within the church, are the last five stations of the cross; the 10th station where Jesus was stripped of his clothes, the 11th, where he was nailed to the cross, the 12th, where he died on the cross, the 13th, where the body was removed from the cross, and the 14th, his tomb.

For all this weighty tradition, the approach and entrance to the church is nondescript. You have to ask for directions. Even to the devout Christian pilgrims walking along the Via Dolorosa—The Way of Sorrows—first nine stations look clueless. Then a courtyard appears, hemmed in by other buildings and a doorway to one side. This leads to a vast area of huge stone architecture.

Immediately inside the entrance is your first stop. It's the stone of anointing : this is the place, according to Greek tradition, where Christ was removed from the cross. The Roman Catholics, however, believe it to be the spot where Jesus' body was prepared for burial by Joseph.

What happened next ? Jesus was buried. He was taken to a place outside the city of Jerusalem where other graves existed and there, he was buried in a cave. However, all is long gone, destroyed by continued attacks and rebuilding; what remains is the massive—and impressive—Rotunda (a round building with a dome) that Emperor Constantine built. Under this, and right in the centre of the Rotunda, is the structure that contains the Holy Sepulchre.

"How do you know that this is Jesus' tomb ?" I asked one of the pilgrims standing next to me. He was clueless, more interested, like the rest of them, in the novelty of it and in photographing it, than in its history or tradition.

At the start of the first century, the place was a disused quarry outside the city walls. According to the gospels, Jesus' crucifixion occurred 'at a place outside the city walls with graves nearby'. Archaeologists have discovered tombs from that era, so the site is compatible with the biblical period.

The structure at the site is a marble tomb built over the original burial chamber. It has two rooms, and you enter four at a time into the first of these, the Chapel of the Angel. Here the angel is supposed to have sat on a stone to recount Christ's resurrection. A low door made of white marble, partly worn away by pilgrims' hands, leads to a smaller chamber inside. This is the 'room of the tomb', the place where Jesus was buried.

We entered in a single file. On my right was a large marble slab that covered the original rock bench on which the body of Jesus was laid. A woman knelt and prayed. Her eyes were wet with tears. She pressed her face against the slab to hide them, but it only made it worse.

(A) On the basis of your understanding of this passage answer the following questions with the help of the given options : 1 × 5 = 5

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>(1) How does Jerusalem still retain the charm of the ancient era ?</p> <p>(i) There are narrow lanes.
(ii) Roads are paved with cobblestones.
(iii) People can be seen riding asses.
(iv) All of the above</p> <p>(2) Holy Sepulchre is sacred to</p> <p>(i) Christianity
(ii) Islam
(iii) Judaism
(iv) All of the above</p> <p>(3) Why does one have to constantly ask for directions to the church ?</p> <p>(i) Its lanes are narrow.</p> | <p>(ii) Entrance to the church is nondescript.
(iii) People are not tourist-friendly.
(iv) Everyone is lost in enjoying the romance of the place.</p> <p>(4) Where was Jesus buried ?</p> <p>(i) In a cave
(ii) At a place outside the city
(iii) In the Holy Sepulchre
(iv) Both (i) and (ii)</p> <p>(5) Where was the body off Jesus laid?</p> <p>(i) Floor
(ii) Rock bench
(iii) Marble slab
(iv) Wooden bench</p> |
|---|---|

Answers

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. (d) All of the above | [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015] 1 |
| 2. (a) Christianity | [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015] 1 |
| 3. (b) Entrance to the church is nondescript | [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015] 1 |
| 4. (d) both (a) and (b) | [CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015] 1 |
| 5. (iv) Rock bench | 1 |



- (B) Fill in the blanks: (1 × 4 = 4)
- (1) The narrator is visiting the city of _____.
- (2) The city is built at the site of a temple to _____.
- (3) _____ is a round building with a dome built by Constantine.
- (4) The _____ of Jesus occurred at a place outside the city walls.

Answers

1. Jerusalem
3. Rotunda
2. Aphrodite
4. crucifixio

- (C) Find words from the passage which mean the same as : 1 × 3 = 3
- (1) A large grave (para 3)
- (2) Having no interesting features/dull (para 4)
- (3) line (para 10)

Ans. (1) Tomb, (2) Nondescript, (3) File

[CBSE Marking Scheme, 2015]

Q. 11. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

[CBSE SQP, 2014-15] 12

Many of us believe that “small” means “insignificant”. We believe that small actions and choices do not have much impact on our lives. We think that it is only the big things, the big actions and the big decisions that really count. But when you look at the lives of all great people, you will see that they built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions that they performed every day. They transformed their lives through by step-by-step or day-by-day approach. They nurtured and nourished their good habits and chipped away their bad habits, one by one. It was their small day-to-day decisions that added up to make tremendous difference in the long run. Indeed, in matters of personal growth and character building, there is no such thing as an overnight success.

Growth always occurs through a sequential series of stages. There is an organic process to growth. When we look at children growing up, we can see this process at work: the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk and then finally to run. The same is true in the natural world. The soil must first be tilled and then the seed must be sown. Next, it must be nurtured with enough water and sunlight and only then will it grow into trees laden with ripe fruits.

Gandhi understood this organic process and used this universal law of nature to his benefit. Gandhi grew in small ways, in his day-to-day affairs. He did not wake up one day and find himself to be the “Mahatma”. In fact, there was nothing much in his early life that showed signs of greatness. But from his mid-twenties onwards, he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way every day. Day by day, hour by hour, he risked failure, experimented and learnt from mistakes. In small as well as large situations, he took up the responsibility rather than avoiding it.

People have always marveled at the effortless way in which Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks. He displayed a great deal of self-mastery and discipline which was amazing. These things did not come easily to him. Years of practice and disciplined training went into making his success possible. Very few saw his struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties, or his inner efforts to overcome them. They only saw the victory, but not the struggle.

This is a common factor in the lives of all great people: they exercise their freedoms and choices in small ways that make great impact on their lives and their environment. Each of their small decisions and actions, add up to have a profound impact in the long run. By understanding this principle, we can move forward, with confidence, in the direction of our dreams. Often when our ‘ideal goal’ looks too far from us, we become easily discouraged, disheartened and pessimistic. However, when we choose to grow in small ways, by taking small steps one at a time, our achievement becomes easy.

- (A) On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option. (1 × 5 = 5)
1. The main idea in the first paragraph is that :
- (a) Big things, big actions and big decisions make a person great
- (b) Small actions and decisions are important in one’s life
- (c) Overnight success is possible for all of us
- (d) Personal changes are not important
2. What does the writer mean by saying ‘chipped away at their bad habits’?
- (a) Steadily gave up bad habits
- (b) Slowly produced bad habits
- (c) Gradually criticized bad habits
- (d) Did not like bad habits
3. Which of the following statements is true in the context of the third paragraph ?
- (a) Gandhi became great overnight

- (b) Gandhi showed signs of greatness in childhood itself
- (c) Every day Gandhi made efforts to change himself in some small way
- (d) Gandhi never made mistakes
4. **What is done by great people to transform their lives ?**
- (a) They approach life on a day-to-day basis
- (b) They build character in small ways
- (c) They believe in performing everyday
- (d) All of these
5. **How can we grow in small ways?**
- (a) by getting disheartened
- (b) by dreaming little
- (c) by taking small steps one at a time
- (d) None of these

Answers

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. (b) Small actions and decisions are important in one's life. | 1 |
| 2. (a) Steadily gave up bad habits. | 1 |
| 3. (c) Every day Gandhi made efforts to change himself in some small way. | 1 |
| 4. (b) They build character in small ways. | 1 |
| 5. (c) by taking small steps one at a time | 1 |

- (B) **Fill in the blanks:** (1 × 4 = 4)
- (1) We need to _____ away our bad habits.
- (2) The soil needs to be _____ before sowing the seeds..
- (3) Gandhi grew in _____ ways in his day-to-day affairs.
- (4) We see the victory of Gandhi, not his _____.

Answers

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| 1. chip | 2. tilled |
| 3. small | 4. struggles |

- (C) **Pick out words from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following.** (1 × 3 = 3)
1. intentionally / purposely (Para 3)
2. of deep significance, far-reaching (Para 5)
3. trust in someone or something (Para 5)
- Ans. Value Points : (1) deliberately (2) profound (3) impact

Q. 12. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

[Comptt. Delhi, Outside Delhi 2014] 12

The effects of plastic bags on the environment are really quite devastating. While there are many objections to the banning of plastic bags based solely on their convenience, the damage to the environment needs to be assessed too.

There is no way to strictly limit the effects of plastic bags on the environment because there is no disposal method, that will really help to eliminate the problem. While reusing them is the first step, most people don't do that. These bags are not durable enough to survive numerous trips to the store. The best a citizen can do is to reuse them.

The biggest problem with this is that once they have been soiled they end up in the trash, which then ends up in the landfill or is burned. Either of these solutions is not good for the environment. Burning emits toxic gases that harm the atmosphere and increase the level of VOCs in the air while landfills hold them indefinitely as a part of the plastic waste problem throughout the globe.

One of the greatest problems is that an estimated 300 million plastic bags end up in the Atlantic Ocean alone. These bags are very dangerous for the sea life, especially for those of the mammal variety. Any hunting mammal can easily mistake the size, shape and texture of the plastic bag for a meal and find its airway cut off. Needless deaths from plastic bags are increasing every year.

The environmental balance of the waterways is being thrown off by the rate of plastic bags finding their way into the mouths and intestinal tracts of sea mammals. As one species begins to die off at an abnormal rate, every other living organism in the waterways is also impacted.



The indefinite period of time that it takes for the average plastic bag to break down can be literally hundreds of years. Every bag that ends up in the woodlands of the country threatens the natural progression of wildlife. Because the breakdown rate is so slow the chances that the bag will harmlessly go away are extremely slim. Throughout the world plastic bags are responsible for the suffocation deaths of woodland animals as well as for inhibiting soil nutrients. The land litter that is made up of plastic bags has the potential to kill over and over again. It has been estimated that one bag has the potential to unintentionally kill one animal every three months due to unintentional digestion or inhalation.

While it's a noble thought to place the plastic bags in the recycling bin every week, studies have proven that there are very few recycling plants that actually recycle them. Most municipalities either burn them or send them off to the landfill after sorting. This is because it can be expensive to recycle this type of plastic. It doesn't melt down easily and is often not fit to be reused in its original form.

The premise of recycling these bags is nice. Yet funding for the upgrading of the recycling units just has not happened and thus less than 1% of all bags are sent to recycling plants worldwide. Most are left to become a pollution problem in one way or another.

There are always alternatives to plastic bags and the search for better and more alternatives continues. Paper bags are a possible option but they also take their toll on the environment. The use of trees to increase the production of paper products will also have a negative environmental effect.

Reusable plastic bags are being introduced to regions that want to outlaw the plastic bags altogether. These are stronger and more durable and can be used for three to five trips to the store. Of course, the reusable cloth bag is fast becoming a favourite among the environmental supporters. While so far no bag is without its issues, these are the bags that are currently recommended for use to help protect environmental concerns.

- (A) On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions with the help of the given options : (1 × 5 = 5)
1. People object to the banning of plastic bags because they are :
 - (a) durable
 - (b) convenient
 - (c) easily disposable
 - (d) useful
 2. The environmental balance of the waterways is being thrown off because :
 - (a) the amount of plastic bags is decreasing the water level
 - (b) the breaking rate of these bags is slow
 - (c) many species of sea mammals are dying
 - (d) there are 300 million plastic bags lying in Atlantic Ocean
 3. What do most municipalities do to the plastic bags?
 - (a) send them off to the landfill
 - (b) recycle them
 - (c) clean and send them for reuse
 - (d) leave them undestroyed
 4. The best option to replace plastic bags is :
 - (a) paper bags
 - (b) reusable plastic bags
 - (c) cloth bags
 - (d) all of the above
 5. What is the first step to solve the problem of plastic waste?
 - (a) Reuse
 - (b) Replace
 - (c) Recycle
 - (d) All of these

Answers

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. (b) convenient | 1 |
| 2. (c) many species of sea mammals are dying | 1 |
| 3. (a) send them off to the landfill | 1 |
| 4. (c) cloth bags | 1 |
| 5. (a) Reuse | 1 |

- (B) Fill in the blanks: (1 × 4 = 4)
- (1) There is no _____ method to eliminate the problem of plastic bags.
 - (2) Burning of plastic bags emits _____ gases.
 - (3) Plastic bags choke the _____ tract of sea mammals.
 - (4) _____ bags are an alternative to plastic bags.

Answers

- | | |
|---------------|----------|
| 1. disposal | 2. toxic |
| 3. intestinal | 4. Paper |



(C) Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following : (1 × 3 = 3)

- (1) Choking (para 6)
(2) Costly (para 7)

(3) brought in (para 10)

Ans. Value Points : (1) suffocation (2) expensive
(3) introduced

Q. 13. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

12

[CBSE SQP I, 2012 Delhi & Outside (Comptt.) Set I, II, III, 2010]

Only the son of prosperous parents is apt to be spoiled, especially so in India. And when that son happens to be the only child for the first eleven years of his existence, there is little hope for him to escape this spoiling. My two sisters are very much younger to me, and between each of the two, there is a long stretch of years. And so I grew up and spent my early years as a somewhat lonely child with no companions of my age. I did not even have the companionship of children at school for I was not sent to any kindergarten or primary school. Governesses or private tutors were supposed to be in charge of my education.

Our house itself was far from being a lonely place, for it sheltered a large family of cousins and near relations, as per the manner of Hindu families. But all my cousins were much older than me and were students at the high school or the university and considered me far too young for their work or their play. And so in the midst of that big family I felt rather lonely and was left by a great deal to my own fancies and solitary games.

We were Kashmiris. Over two hundred years ago, early in the eighteenth century, our ancestor came down from that mountain valley to seek fame and fortune in the rich plains below. Those were the days of the decline of the Mughal Empire after the death of Aurangzeb, and Farrukhsiar was the Emperor. Raj Kaul was the name of that ancestor of ours and he had gained eminence as a Sanskrit and Persian scholar in Kashmir. He attracted the attention of Farrukhsiar during the latter's visit to Kashmir, and probably at the Emperor's instance, the family migrated to Delhi, the imperial capital, in the year 1716. A jagir with a house situated on the banks of a canal had been granted to Raj Kaul, and, from the fact of this residence, 'Nehru' (from nahar, a canal) came to be attached with his name. Kaul had been the family name; this changed to Kaul-Nehru; and in later years, Kaul dropped out and we became simply Nehru.

The family experienced many changes in fortune during the unsettled times that followed and the jagir dwindled and vanished away. The Revolt of 1857 put an end to our family's connection with Delhi, and all our old family papers and documents were destroyed in the course of it. The family, having lost nearly all its possessions, joined the numerous fugitives who were leaving the old imperial city and went to Agra.

My father was not born then but my two uncles were already young men and possessed some knowledge of English. This knowledge saved the younger of the two uncles, as well as some other members of the family from a sudden and disgraceful end. He was journeying from Delhi with some family members, among whom was his young sister, a little girl who was very fair, as some Kashmiri children are. Some English soldiers met them on the way and they suspected this little aunt of mine to be an English girl and accused my uncle and others of kidnapping her. From an accusation to justice and then to punishment was usually a matter of minutes in those days, and my uncle and others of the family might well have found themselves hanging on the nearest tree. Fortunately for them, my uncle's knowledge of English delayed the matter a little and then someone who knew him passed that way and rescued him and the others.

(Jawaharlal Nehru)

A. On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option. 1×5=5

1. What are reasons for which Nehru could have been a spoilt son of his rich parents ?
 - (a) He had two sisters
 - (b) He was the only son and only child for the first eleven years
 - (c) He had no friends
 - (d) He was not sent to school
2. How did he receive his early education ?
 - (a) At home
 - (b) By governesses
 - (c) By private tutors
 - (d) All of the above
3. Why did he feel lonely in the midst of a large family of cousins ?
 - (a) He did not get along with them.
 - (b) They were the students of the high school.
 - (c) They were much older than him.
 - (d) He liked being alone.
4. What saved his two younger uncles ?
 - (a) Their wealth
 - (b) Their strength
 - (c) Their knowledge of English
 - (d) Their relation to Nehru family
5. What delayed the matter a little?
 - (a) Uncle's skill
 - (b) Uncle's knowledge of English
 - (c) Uncle's contacts
 - (d) Uncle's vibrant nature



Answers

1. (b) He was the only son and only child for the first eleven years
2. (d) All of the above
3. (c) They were much older than him
4. (c) Their knowledge of English
5. (b) Uncle's knowledge of English

1×5=5

- B. Fill in the blanks:** (1 × 4 = 4) name as their residence was attached to a _____.
- (1) Nehru had _____ sisters.
 - (2) _____, an ancestor of Nehru, was a Sanskrit and Persian scholar.
 - (3) The name "Nehru" attached to their _____.
 - (4) After the Revolt of 1857, their family shifted to the city of _____.

Answers

1. two
2. Raj Kaul
3. nahar
4. Agra

- C. Pick out words from the passage which mean the same as the following :**

- (1) Fall/decrease (para 3)
- (2) Disappeared (para 4)
- (3) Travelling (para 5)

- Ans. (1)** Decline
(2) Vanished
(3) Journeying

1×3=3

Commonly Made Error

- Many students do not read the passage and jump over to catchy words.
- Many students write long sentences.
- Some students do not add suitable headings.
- Most of the students are not able to summarise their notes.

Answering Tips

- The passage must be read twice thoroughly before starting to make the notes.
- The students must try to understand the theme and message conveyed by the passage.
- Avoid long sentences.
- Add suitable headings and collect all related information under that heading.
- Summary is to be written on the basis of notes prepared.



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