

SECTION A: READING(15 Marks)

A1. Read the given passage carefully.

(8)

1. Hobbies help us grow as a person. The best way to have a new hobby is to try something new. All of us are unique, and this is the reason why our hobbies and interests are different. Once we find an activity we are passionate about, we can explore that activity more. When you get hooked, you will realize that your hobby has become an integral part of your life. Having a hobby that we enjoy brings us joy and refreshes us. Hobbies help us to manage our leisure and unplanned time more productively. It also affords you the opportunity to learn new skills in your work. But these are not the only benefits of having a hobby.

2. It feels great to be skilled and good at something, doesn't it? And this is what that makes you confident. It can take some time to develop your hobby so that you may be able to tell that you are skilled. But, the journey of experiencing your hobby is very rewarding in itself. With the exposure to different types of activities these days, it doesn't matter which activity you choose. Whether you are pursuing a craft, sports, puzzles, or skill development, your hobby should be a diversion and a passion. Simultaneously, if your hobby gives you a sense of purpose, then you will be more confident about challenging yourself in your hobby and help you prepare for learning new things at work.

3. Hobbies allow you to enhance your life. Hobbies allow you to destress yourself while remaining mentally productive. Having hobbies promotes better health and may lower the risk of having high blood pressure. Enjoying a few hours of your hobby a week can also reduce the risk of depression and dementia. Hobbies refocus your mind on something that you enjoy doing. Hobbies that include physical activities create chemical changes in your body that help to reduce stress.

Even if it doesn't involve physical activities, you can still reap the benefits of having a hobby. Getting a short break from work and doing something you are passionate about can rejuvenate your mind and help prepare you to handle challenges in the future in a better way.

5. Hobbies may provide an opportunity for you to socialize with people and that can be an additional benefit for your overall well-being. You can connect with people who enjoy doing the same things that you do. You can meet new people, discuss your hobby and get connected to a bigger circle that may even help you turn your hobby into your profession. The internet provides numerous groups and forums to connect with people who enjoy doing the same things that you want to do.

6. Some hobbies require creativity and if you develop creativity through your hobby, it can be beneficial. Creativity can help you experience new things at school and work. The skill of being creative is essential in today's world.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

i. When a person gets hooked on a hobby, he realises that:

(a) it has become an integral part of our life.

(b) It has much more benefits than we realised.

(c) it is much more enjoyable to have a hobby.

(d) it is quite essential for us to learn some skills through our hobbies.

ii. The journey of experiencing a hobby is quite:

- (a) challenging for a person.
- (b) rewarding in itself.
- (c) demanding in itself.
- (d) inspirational for a person.

iii. State any one way through which hobbies enhance your life?

iv. Getting a hobby means having a short break from work and doing something you are passionate about which can

- (a) give you a peace of mind from all the other problems of daily hectic life and make you feel refreshed.
- (b) help you enhance and improve your skills and push you forward on your path to success.
- (c) make you enjoy and appreciate your life much more as you are happy pursuing what you love.
- (d) rejuvenate your mind and help prepare you to handle challenges in the future in a better way.

v. List any two benefits of having a hobby.

vi. What is essential in today's world?

vii. Supply 1 point to justify the following: Hobby provides you with an opportunity to socialise with people.

viii Choose an option that is clearly a synonym of the word '**hooked**'.

- (a) opposed
- (b) indifferent
- (c) willing
- (d) captivated

A2. Read the given passage carefully.

The sage of science, Einstein, was sitting in a depressive and pensive mood one evening. His eyes were brimming with tears. The pain was evident on his face. He peeped out of the window of his room. The sun had set a few minutes back. The sky was filled with a reddish glow. At this sunset, he felt that it was humanity that had sunk into devilish darkness and the reddish glow in the sky was the blood of humanity spilling all over the sky from earth. With tired steps, he walked back to his chair and settled down. It was the 9th of August 1945. Three days back, he had felt the same agony as if someone had torn him apart. He was deeply hurt and depressed when he heard on the radio that America had dropped an atom bomb on the Japanese city, Hiroshima. Today, within three days another bomb was dropped on another city, Nagasaki and lakhs of people had been killed.

He had heard that the blast released so much energy that it had paled all past destructions in comparison and death had played out a pitiable dance of destruction. The flames that broke out of the bomb were burning, melting and exploding buildings. Scared of the heat of the bomb, people had jumped into lakes and rivers, but the water was boiling and the people too were burnt and killed. The animals in the water were already boiled to death. Animals, trees, herbs, fragrant flowering plants were all turned into ashes. The atomic energy destruction had just not stopped there. It had entered the atmosphere there and had spread radiation that would affect people for generations to come and would also bring about destructive irreversible biological change in animals and plants.

As the news of the atomic attack reached Einstein, and he became aware of the glaring horror of the abuse of atomic energy, his distress and restlessness knew no bounds. He could not control himself and picked up his violin to turn his mind on to other things. While playing the violin, he tried to dissolve his distress in its sad notes, but couldn't. He was burning on the embers of destruction; his heart was filled with an ocean of agony and tears just continued streaming uncontrollably out of his eyes. Night had fallen. His daughter came up and asked him to eat something as he had not taken anything for the last four days. His voice was restrained and he said, "I don't feel like eating."

He could not sleep that night. Lying down, he was thinking how he had drawn the attention of the then American President Roosevelt towards the destructive powers of an atomic bomb. He had thought that this would be used to scare Hitler and put an end to the barbarism that Hitler was up to. However, Roosevelt kept him in the dark and made false promises. Eventually, he had abused Einstein's equation of $E = mc^2$ that resulted in the destructive experiments. His actions had made science and scientists as murderers. Einstein kept on thinking for a long time. Eventually, he slipped into sleep. When he woke up at dawn, there was a new dawn in him too. The atomic threat had transformed his heart.

The next day, he decided to disassociate himself from the scientific policy of the government and all governmental institutions. He decided to open educational institutions for children, adolescents and youth-institutions where along with science, spirituality will be compulsorily taught.

To inaugurate this institution, he had invited two great philosophers, Bertrand Russell and Albert Schweitzer. Ten other great scientists who had won Nobel Prizes in different fields were also invited. They all saw a different Einstein, not a great scientist but a sage in him. The institution was opened by garlanding a photo of Mahatma Gandhi. While garlanding the Mahatma, he became emotional and said with a lump in his throat, "I bow down to the great man who fought for the independence of his country through non-violence. He could do so because he was a truthful man and true spiritualist."

Those who teach science should be taught, spirituality too. Without harmony between science and spirituality, the destruction would continue unabated. A few years after this institution was built, a Japanese delegation came to meet him. Einstein broke down in the meeting and said. "You can give me any punishment and I will accept it. Anyway, I have decided to lead my life in penitence." The Japanese were moved by this sincerity and forgot their grief.

Based on your understanding of the above passage, answer each of the questions given below. (7X1=)

- i. Which event in 1945, according to Einstein, turned science and scientists into murderers?
- ii. What did Einstein feel while looking at the sunset from his room's window?
- iii. Give a brief description of the disaster when the atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city, Nagasaki.
- iv. What did Einstein do to show his displeasure over the atomic attack?
- v. What was Einstein's reaction when the Japanese delegation met him?
- vi. What did Einstein think of Mahatma Gandhi?
- vii. Find words/phrases from the passage which are similar in meaning to each of the following:
 - a. mental pain (para 1)
 - b. regret/remorse (para 7)

SECTION B : WRITING(15 Marks)

B1. Write a letter to the editor of a national newspaper expressing your concern about how the excessive use of technology is affecting students' learning. Highlight the impact on attention span, critical thinking, and social skills, and suggest possible solutions to address this issue. (6)

B2. Complete the story using your own imagination in about 120-150. Add a suitable title and moral to it. (5)

While exploring an old lighthouse near the school, Kabir, along with his dog and three friends found a dusty map hidden inside a locked drawer. The map showed the location of a hidden treasure. They decided

OR

Write a diary entry in about 120-150 words from the perspective of Mr. Pooter, describing his excitement and pride in his new home, as well as the various problems and imperfections that need to be addressed, showcasing his slightly pompous and self-important personality.

B3. Read this conversation between Raj and Pradeep. Raj was going out and so he left a message for his father. Write the message in about 50 words. (4)

Pradeep: Can I speak to Mr Sharma?

Raj: I'm sorry. He's out of station.

Pradeep: When is he expected back?

Raj: He will be home by tomorrow evening.

Pradeep: Could you please remind him that Alok's wedding is on January 30th? We had planned to go together. But since my son is in hospital, I will not be going for the wedding. Rajiv is going and he can join him. Tell him to give me a ring when he comes back.

Raj: Sure, Uncle.

SECTION C: GRAMMAR (20 Marks)

C1. **Rearrange the words to make meaningful sentences.** (3)

- a) neither / dreams/ real/ reliable/ are/ nor
- b) many languages/ there/ sects/ beliefs/ are/ religious/and/ here
- c) have/ the danger/ of flood/ human actions/ heightened the

C2. **Put these sentences into passive voice.** (4)

- a) The doctors are discussing the disease of the patient.
- b) How many movies do they show every month?
- c) Did they do trekking on their trip?
- d) Don't take your studies casually.

C3 . **Change the following sentences into indirect speech.** (4)

- a) Arun and Varun said, We are happy to make our presentation this Monday morning.
- b) Reena said to her friend, Can you describe your new watch?
- c) The General said, "Splendid! You have won the battle."
- d) The old woman said to Simmi, "Kindly hold my hand."

C4. **Fill in the blanks using suitable prepositions.** (2)

- a) She is not good _____ dancing at all, but she listens attentively _____ her instructor.
- b) Remove the lid _____ an opener.
- c) Hardwork is key _____ success
- d) The man is ashamed _____ his conduct

C5. Fill in the missing modals using the appropriate modals. (4)

- a) When we were kids, we _____ stay up late on weekends. (could / must / might / can)
- b) If you don't understand the problem, you ____ ask the teacher for help. (should / might / must/ would)
- c) I'm not sure where she is, but she _____ be in her office.(can/ must/ may / would)
- d) _____ you help me with my homework?(could / should / Might / will)

C6. Fill in any the blanks by choosing the correct options from those given below: (3)

- (a) Ruchika said that there were many people who_____ her.
- (b) The patient _____before the doctor arrived.
- (c) It _____since morning.
- (d) He talks as if he_____ a powerful man.
- (e) Rain _____ the important source of water.
- (f) The cattle _____ in the field now.

- a. (i) know (ii) knows (iii) were knowing (iv) knew
- b. (i) has died (ii) had died (iii) was died (iv) died
- c. (i) has rained (ii) rains (iii) is raining (iv) has been
- d. (i) were (ii) is (iii) was (iv) are
- e. (i) was (ii) has been (iii) is (iv) had been
- f. (i) was grazing (ii) is grazing (iii) had been grazing (iv) grazes

SECTION D: LITERATURE (20 Marks)

D1. Answer the following questions with reference to the given lines.

i) **"If you can fill the unforgiving minute**

With sixty seconds' worth of distance run."

(3X3=9)

- a) Name the poet and also specify who is addressing the poem to whom?
- b) Why is the poet addressing the minute as unforgiving?
- c) What is the advice given by the poet in these lines?

ii) **"I've a balm for bruised hearts, brother, sleep for aching eyes"**

- a) Name the poem and who is ' I ' here?
- b) Why is the poet in pain?
- c) What will bring relief to the poet's pain?

iii) **"Such beggars as he are not to be met with everyday."**

- a) Who said this line and to whom it was addressed?
- b) Why don't we meet such beggars everyday?
- c) What impact did the beggar have on the speaker's friend?

D2. Answer the following questions in 40-60 words.

(4X1=4)

- a) Why was Mr. Pooter irritated with his friend Mr. Gowing?
- b) What should we do when something we dedicated our life to building is destroyed?
- c) What amazing thing happened in the cook's life at the age of 24?
- d) Under what conditions could Hughie marry Laura?

- D3. Answer the following questions in 60-80 words. Attempt **ANY FIVE**. **(5X2=10)**
- a) Why did Mr. Pooter feel cheated by the ironmonger Mr. Farmerson?
 - b) What is causing the fragments of the domestic walls? What will happen if knowledge is not free accessible?
 - c) How did Holmes convince Watson to go and fetch Mr. Culverton?
 - d) What fun did the children have in the woods while searching for water?
 - e) How did the media influence the cook's life? Discuss both the advantages and disadvantages.
 - f) Describe the part that Watson played in Holmes' plot? What does this say about Watson's character and his attitude towards his friend, Holmes.

- D4. Justify, giving appropriate examples in about 60-80 words. **(2X2=4)**
- a) Triumph and Disaster are imposters.
 - b) Holmes pretended to be on the verge of death instead of directly confronting Culverton Smith.
 - c) Kindness is valued more than wealth in the story, 'The Model Millionaire'. Justify its theme.

- D5. Give the character sketch of **any two** of the following. **(1.5X2=3)**
- a) Culverton Smith
 - b) The long nosed one
 - c) The Baron Hausberg

BEST WISHES