



General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- i. This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- ii. This question paper contains three sections:

Section A:	Reading Skills
Section B:	Creative Writing Skills
Section C:	Literature
- iii. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- iv. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- v. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS

(22)

Reading Comprehension through Unseen Passages

1. Read the following text.

(12)

Over the years, I had seen a lot of guys run kites. But Hassan was by far the greatest kite runner I'd ever seen. It was downright eerie the way he always got to the spot the kite would land before the kite did, as if he had some sort of inner compass.

I remember one overcast winter day, Hassan and I were running a kite. I was chasing him through neighborhoods, hopping gutters, weaving through narrow streets. I was a year older than him, but Hassan ran faster than I did, and I was falling behind.

"Hassan! Wait!" I yelled, my breathing hot and ragged.

He whirled around, motioned with his hand. "This way!" he called before dashing around another corner. I looked up, saw that the direction we were running was opposite to the one the kite was drifting.

"We're losing it! We're going the wrong way!" I cried out.

"Trust me!" I heard him call up ahead. I reached the corner and saw Hassan bolting along, his head down, not even looking at the sky, sweat soaking through the back of his shirt. I tripped over a rock and fell—I wasn't just slower than Hassan but clumsier too; I'd always envied his natural athleticism. When I staggered to my feet, I caught a glimpse of Hassan disappearing around another street corner. I hobbled after him, spikes of pain battering my scraped knees.

I saw we had ended up on a rutted dirt road near Isteqlal Middle School. There was a field on one side where lettuce grew in the summer, and a row of sour cherry trees on the other. I found Hassan sitting cross-legged at the foot of one of the trees, eating from a fistful of dried mulberries.

"What are we doing here?" I panted, my stomach roiling with nausea.

He smiled. "Sit with me, Amir agha."

I dropped next to him, lay on a thin patch of snow, wheezing. "You're wasting our time. It was going the other way, didn't you see?"

Hassan popped a mulberry in his mouth. "It's coming," he said. I could hardly breathe and he didn't even sound tired.

"How do you know?" I said.

"I know."

"How can you know?"

He turned to me. A few sweat beads rolled from his bald scalp. "Would I ever lie to you, Amir agha?"

Suddenly I decided to toy with him a little. "I don't know. Would you?"

"I'd sooner eat dirt," he said with a look of indignation.

"Really? You'd do that?"

He threw me a puzzled look. "Do what?"

"Eat dirt if I told you to," I said. I knew I was being cruel, like when I'd taunt him if he didn't know some big word. But there was something fascinating—albeit in a sick way—about teasing Hassan. Kind of like when we used to play insect torture. Except now, he was the ant and I was holding the magnifying glass.

An excerpt from 'The Kite Runner' by Khaled Hosseini

Q1. Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i. Select the option that best justifies the reason Amir calls Hassan 'the greatest kite runner' (1)
- Hassan could always find a shortcut to reach where the kite landed.
 - It seemed as if Hassan had an inner compass that led him to the kite even before it had landed.
 - Hassan was fast and knew all ways through alleys.
 - Hassan was informed in advance so that he could be near the destination of the kite's landing.

- ii. What significant detail of Amir's thought process is conveyed through this statement – (1)

'I was a year older than him, but Hassan ran faster than I did, and I was falling behind.'

- That Hassan and Amir had considerable age difference.
- That despite being young boys, both Amir and Hassan preferred to chase kites than study.
- That Amir was acutely aware that Hassan was better than him at running and was more athletic than him.
- That Amir was not really keen on chasing kites so was falling behind on purpose.

- iii. Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words, to support the view that the writer's writing style is anecdotal and descriptive. (2)

(1)

iv. Complete the sentence with an appropriate word.

Based on the information given in the excerpt, one can infer that Amir was _____ of Hassan's natural athleticism.

v. Select the option that explains what Amir intends to say through the expression, "We're losing it! We're going the wrong way!" (1)

- They are running in the opposite direction from the kite.
- They are running in the same direction as the kite.
- They cannot waste their time eating mulberries and should be chasing the kite instead.
- They need to pick the right way as Amir is losing his breath and his stomach is roiling.

vi. In about 40 words, bring out the contrast in the personalities and abilities of Hassan and Amir. (2)

vii. In the line, "I'd sooner eat dirt," he said with a look of indignation.', what does Hassan feel indignation for? (1)

viii. What does this line suggest about Amir's possible next action towards Hassan- 'Except now, he was the ant and I was holding the magnifying glass.' Answer in about 40 words. (2)

ix. Read the statements given below carefully: (1)

- Hassan and Amir find the largest kite.
- Hassan beats all contenders to get to the most beautiful kite cut this season.
- Amir beats Hassan near Isteqal Middle School.
- Amir displays signs of potentially bullying Hassan in future.

Identify the option that best summarises the occurrences in the passage.

2. Read the following text. (10)

1. The newest stress buster is paper yoga. Adults are now transitioning from being glued to their smartphones, to lifting stationery and scratching the pages of colouring books in order to beat anxiety, to relax and to destress. They spend hours hunched over the drawing of mandalas, filling into the circle the unspoken words of their mind's chatter, with colours. Apart from being good for mental health, another key reason for the success of these books is that they are multilingual in the way that they speak to adults of all age groups, cultures and dispositions.

2. While the junior versions of these books hold simple and generously proportioned patterns that allow for a child's broad strokes, the adult variants typically have tight kaleidoscopes that require a fine pen and a keen eye. As they do not require special skills to execute, publishers find a huge market for them.

3. All those who want to draw and colour and derive satisfaction from creating something beautiful are potential customers. The technical skills of drawing and colouring or even conceptualization, essentials for the art of drawing, are not in this list of requirements. Thus, the phobia of being an expert or amateur is not a deterrent.

4. While adults are discovering their inner selves through this creative pursuit, art-based therapeutics warn against expecting too much from these books for saving lives or minds. At best, they calm the mind and are a temporary diversion for the mind and cut off the noise of clamouring thoughts. These books, they claim, can offer therapeutic returns only when used in conjunction with a therapist's counsel. As yet the entire process is undergoing a testing time but whatever little of it has emerged, is being hailed as a step in the positive direction.

Q2. Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i. Infer two reasons from paragraph (1) that explain why adult colouring books are a successful and viable business option in the contemporary times. Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- ii. Which of the following is the key contrasting feature between the junior and adult variant of these books: (1)
- a. Junior variants have simple patterns while adult variants have complex patterns.
 - b. Junior variants need adult supervision while adult variants are self-descriptive and come with a set of instructions.
 - c. Junior variants require a fine pen and a keen eye while adult variants don't.
 - d. Junior variants can be created as tight kaleidoscopes while adult variants require more spatial arrangement of figures and patterns.
- iii. Complete the sentence with a suitable phrase from the passage above: (1)
- A huge market is available for the publication of stress busting colouring books because _____.
- iv. Identify the 'potential customers' of these books: (1)
- a. All those who want to draw and express artistic altruism.
 - b. All those who want to destress by drawing and want to create something beautiful.
 - c. All those who are experts at complex pattern making.
 - d. All those who need an alternate diversion from their thoughts and have been prescribed medication by their therapists.
- v. Which of the following best describes the meaning of the word 'deterrent': (1)
- a. A substance or a habit that removes delays but raises red flags
 - b. A small idea that remains unrealized and does not create the stir it was initially expected to create
 - c. That which is intended to discourage or inhibit
 - d. Something that eases the discomfort of something else
- vi. The lack or absence of what causes the 'phobia of being an expert or amateur' as mentioned in the passage? (2)
- vii. Which of the following is **NOT** a warning of art-based therapeutics: (1)
- a. These books are only a temporary diversion.
 - b. These books help channel and cut off the noise of clamouring thoughts.
 - c. These books alone cannot save lives and minds.
 - d. These books can safely replace a therapist's counsel.
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. (1)
- There is a great buzz about the efficacy of Paper yoga through colouring books, but the long term and sustainable impact of the same is yet to be conclusively ascertained.

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

(18)

Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

Q3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

You are associated with an independent organization that works towards the cause of welfare, safety and security of vulnerable women and children. Draft a notice for students of the senior wing of your school inviting volunteers to conduct vocational and literacy classes in the Seemapuri neighbourhood adjoining Delhi. You are Jasveer/Vanya, President of Social Watchdogs Club, Springdales School, Amritsar.

OR

Your school has decided to tackle the various incidents of indiscipline on campus in a more serious manner. Towards this end, a Discipline Committee is being created comprising students of Grade XII. Draft a notice inviting applications for the same and outlining the procedure and criteria of selection. Invent all necessary and relevant details. You are Nikhil/Saron, Headboy/Headgirl of Vidyamandir School, Ranchi.

(4)

Q4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

As the Headboy/Headgirl, Modern Public School, Gandhinagar, draft an invitation letter to invite Dr. JP Batta, renowned lawyer as Chief Guest to the inauguration of the Legal Studies and International Relations Department of your school. Invent all relevant details, addresses etc.

OR

Your school, RLP Public School, Indore, has planned to organized the Annual Fete soon after the Preboard examinations this year. Draft an invitation inviting parents and students to the same. Invent and include all necessary details.

Q5. Attempt ANY ONE in about 120-150 words.

(5)

You are Jai Rattan/Ahaana Sarada, resident of 90/3 Pitampura, New Delhi. You encounter episodes of gross negligence when it comes to water conservation in your area. Taps are left running and colossal wastage of this precious resource is ignored at all levels. As an employee of the Water Department of your area you feel it is very vital to aggressively promote rainwater harvesting to combat water woes, present and future. Express your thoughts, supported by reasoning and evidence, in a letter to the Editor, Hindustan Times, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi. Invent and include all necessary details.

OR

You are Musahid/Rabia, avid musicians and alumni of the prestigious Bhartiya Shastra Sangeet University, Lucknow. Recently, you came across the following advertisement in a newspaper. Apply for the position to Music Maze School, Rohini, Delhi, along with your complete bio data.



come back
Q6. Attempt ANY ONE in about 120-150 words.

(5)

You have been asked to cover the recently held Economics Fest in your school, Bal Vidya Sangam, Tirupati. As Diya Vohra/Dhanvijay, Editor of the school magazine, Bal Patrika, write the report with all relevant details.

OR

You are Kainaath/Aditya Mehra of XII A, Bharat Vidyapeeth School, Greater Noida. Write an article for your school magazine on 'Overcoming Fear'. Recount from the experiences of your friend William Douglas who successfully faced his fear of water and championed it.

SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT

(40)

Q7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two.

(6)

*It would be an exotic moment
without rush, without engines,
we would all be together
in a sudden strangeness.*

1. Why do you think the poet employs words like "exotic" and "strangeness"?

- a) To highlight the importance of everyone being together in an exotic land.
- b) To emphasize the frenetic activity and chaos that usually precedes rush.
- c) To indicate the unfamiliarity of a sudden moment without rush or without engine.
- d) To direct us towards keeping quiet and maintaining silence.

2. The exotic moment will lead to _____

- a) freedom from over indulgence in food and war
- b) avoidance of maddening obsession with pain
- c) relaxation and recreation
- d) a spirit of unity and brotherhood

3. State True or False

The moment of silence will bring humans together

4. The benefits of keeping quiet include _____

- 1) Harmony 2) Nonviolence 3) Brotherhood 4) Meditation

Choose the most appropriate option:

- a) 1&2 b) 2&4 c) 1,2,&3 d) 1,2,3,&4

5. Complete the statement with reference to the extract:

The poet suggests we will all be together when _____

6. The word 'exotic' in the extract most nearly means _____

- a) Unique b) luxurious c) rich d) important

OR

*Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday morning,
I saw my mother, beside me,
doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that
of a corpse and realized with pain
that she was as old as she looked but soon
put that thought away...*

1. Choose the option that best applies to the given extract.

1) a conversation 2) an argument 3) a piece of advice 4) a strategy 5) an observation 6) a suggestion

- a) 1, 3 & 6
b) 2, 4 & 5
c) Only 5
d) Only 1

2. Choose the book title that perfectly describes the condition of the poet's mother.

Title 1 *You're Only Old Once!* by Dr. Seuss

Title 2 *The Gift of Years* by Joan Chittister

Title 3 *Somewhere Towards the End* by Diana Athill

Title 4 *The Book You Wish Your Parents Had Read* by Philippa Perry

- a) Title 1
b) Title 2
c) Title 3
d) Title 4

3. Choose the option that applies correctly to the two statements given below.

Assertion: *The poet wards off the thought of her mother getting old quickly.*

Reason: *The poet didn't want to confront the inevitability of fate that was to dawn upon her mother.*

- a) Assertion can be inferred but the Reason cannot be inferred.
b) Assertion cannot be inferred but the Reason can be inferred.
c) Both Assertion and Reason can be inferred.
d) Both Assertion and Reason cannot be inferred.

4. Choose the option that displays the same literary device as in the given lines of the extract.

*her face
ashen like that
of a corpse...*

- a) Just as I had this thought, she appeared and...
- b) My thoughts were as heavy as lead that evening when ...
- c) I think like everyone else who...
- d) I like to think aloud when ...

5. The tone of the poet in the poem is primarily a combination of _____ and _____.

- 1. *doughtlessness*
- 2. *apprehension*
- 3. *dejection*
- 4. *purposelessness*

- a) 1, 2
- b) 2, 3
- c) 3, 4
- d) 1, 4

6. Name of the poet is _____.

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two.

(4)

The man moaned with pain in his stupor but he did not awaken. "The best thing that we could do would be to put him back in the sea," Sadao said, answering himself. Now that the bleeding was stopped for the moment he stood up and dusted the sand from his hands. "Yes, undoubtedly that would be best," Hana said steadily. But she continued to stare down at the motionless man. "If we sheltered a white man in our house we should be arrested and if we turned him over as a prisoner, he would certainly die," Sadao said. "The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea," Hana said. But neither of them moved. They were staring with curious repulsion upon the inert figure.

1. In which of the following options can the underlined words NOT be replaced with 'stupor'?

- a) She hung up the phone feeling as though she had woken up from a slumber.
- b) The manager complained about the employee's sluggishness.
- c) He seemed to be in a trance when the doctor called upon him last week.
- d) Seeing him in a daze, the lawyer decided not to place him in the witness box.

2. Pick the option that best describes Sadao and Hana in the passage.

- a) Sadao: scrupulous Hana: bold
- b) Sadao: daring Hana: imprudent
- c) Sadao: prudent Hana: wary
- d) Sadao: wary Hana: daring

3. Pick the idiom that best describes the situation which Sadao and Hana were in.

- a) to be like a fish out of water
- b) like water off a duck's back
- c) to be dead in the water
- d) to be in hot water

4. Choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

Statement 1: Sadao and Hana cared about the soldier but were worried about the consequences of being considerate.

Statement 2: Sadao and Hana wanted to shirk their responsibilities of looking after an injured soldier who could be an American.

- a) Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false.
- b) Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true.
- c) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are true.
- d) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 are false.

OR

• *At midnight when the town slept in peace, the dewan and his aged wife dragged the tiger into the car and shoved it into the seat. The dewan himself drove the car straight to the forest where the Maharaja was hunting. When they reached the forest, the tiger launched its satyagraha and refused to get out of the car. The dewan was thoroughly exhausted in his efforts to haul the beast out of the car and push it down to the ground. On the following day, the same old tiger wandered into the Maharaja's presence and stood as if in humble supplication, "Master, what do you command of me?" It was with boundless joy that the Maharaja took careful aim at the beast. The tiger fell in a crumpled heap.*

1. Pick the option that uses the same figure of speech as 'town slept in peace'.

- a) His actions really flared up my temper, so I walked out.
- b) She is going through a rollercoaster of emotions.
- c) My alarm clock yells at me every morning until I get out of bed.
- d) The children were screaming and shouting in the fields.

2. Pick the option that best describes the dewan's attitude.

1. despondent 2. submissive 3. servile 4. dishonourable 5. detestable 6. flattering

- a) 2, 3 and 6
- b) 1, 4 and 5
- c) 2, 4 and 6
- d) 1, 3 and 5

3. Which of the following is **NOT** an example of 'satyagraha'?

- a) People on a hunger strike as a mark of protest against a law.
- b) People resorting to violence to ensure their demands are accepted.
- c) A few people blocking a roadway or passage peacefully.
- d) People participating in a silent march to protest against injustice.

4. Complete the sentence

The old tiger stood as if in _____.

Q9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two.

(6)

The old man was as generous with his confidences as with his porridge and tobacco. The guest was informed at once that in his days of prosperity his host had been a crofter at Ramsjo ironworks and had worked on the land. Now that he was no longer able to do the labour, it was his cow which supported him. Yes, that bossy was extraordinary.

1. Who is the old man mentioned in the above excerpt?

2. Who is a crofter

- (a) A person involved in art and craft work
- (b) A person who works on a rented farmland
- (c) An ironsmith
- (d) A person who deals with all kinds of metal products

3. Choose the characteristics that most appropriately describe the old man mentioned in the excerpt:

(i) Clever and confident (ii) Kind and hospitable (iii) Friendly, frank and honest (iv) Resolute and rigid
(v) Frail and unhealthy (vi) Hesitant and loner

- (a) Both iv and v
- (b) ii and vi
- (c) ii and iii
- (d) i and iv

4. A spirit of _____ underlines the extract

- (a) Loneliness and longing
- (b) Insufficiency and incompetency
- (c) Treachery and trauma
- (d) Loyalty and love

5. Why, in your point of view, the old man behaved in a generous way with the stranger?

6. The phrase *in his days of prosperity* suggests _____.

OR

"I now work in a tea stall down the road," he says, pointing in the distance. "I am paid Rs.800 and all my meals." Does he like the job? I ask. His face, I see has lost the carefree look. The steel canister seems heavier than the plastic bag he would carry so lightly over his shoulder. The bag was his. The canister belongs to the man who owns the tea shop. Sahib is no longer his own master!

1. Who is the speaker?

- (a) The school guard
- (b) Saheb
- (c) Saheb's friend
- (d) Saheb's father

2. Is the speaker happy doing this job? Why/why not?

- (a) Yes. He was happy as he's paid a salary.
- (b) Yes. He was happy as his meals were also taken care of.

(c) No. He was not happy as he does not enjoy his own freedom anymore.

(d) Perhaps. As he still owns that old carefree attitude, even though he works for someone else.

3. What does the writer imply by "The bag was his. The canister belongs to the man who owns the tea shop?"

4. Is he carrying the plastic bag even now? Why/why not?

(a) No, he doesn't have time for rag picking as he has full time employment.

(b) No, as he enjoys his job at the tea stall so much that rag picking doesn't interest him anymore.

(c) No. He enjoys carrying the steel canister instead.

(d) Perhaps. He still teams up with his friends and goes rag picking with them sometimes.

5. Complete the following sentence appropriately:

Working at the tea stall gives Saheb _____.

6. Is being employed at the tea stall a fair deal for Saheb?

Q10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.

(5x2=10)

1. What reasons contributed to Kothamangalam Subbu being considered No. 2 at Gemini studios?

2. Douglas uses sensory details to create a vivid image of the unfortunate experience in the pool. What might be the impact on the reader if the narration were more informative than sensory?

3. How did M. Hamel and the students behave during the last French lesson?

4. How can we infer that Anees Jung's association with the boys, as documented in Lost Spring, is not a recent one?

5. Do we experience things of beauty only for a short moment? How do they make a lasting impression on our minds?

6. Describe the moment in which we keep quiet. What will such a moment accomplish?

Q11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.

(2x2=4)

1. What does the third level refer to? What is the significance of the third level?

2. What demand was made by the British Officer? Why did the Tiger King not agree to it?

3. What is the objective of the 'Students on Ice Programme'?

Q12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 120-150 words.

(5)

The Rattrap offers many instances of unexpected reaction/s from characters to others' behaviour. Pick out instances of these surprises.

OR

Imagine you are Charles Freer Andrews. You are tempted to pen an article about the attributes of a good leader based on your observation of Gandhi's leadership style. Compose the draft of the article.

Q13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 120-150 words.

(5)

Lamb has passed and Derry feels lost without his mentor. However, he remembers Lamb often and relies on his memories of him and his words to draw inspiration in life.