

SECTION-A: READING

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:- (12)

When a star explodes in a supernova, it leaves behind a stellar mass for its rebirth. Similarly, the death of a great man results in immortality. The perenniality of Indian culture is analogous to this phenomenon. Even though India was often left distraught by incessant invasions, her spiritually conscious people were mines of creative thought. Their love for truth gave birth to ideas and ideals that continually energised the country. In their creative expression, they emphasised peace and anity. The Big Veda says, “Words are sacred : sages cherish them, the brilliant rule by them.” Great men like Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan effected the integration of mind, body and soul through their wise words, which delivered the message of peace and love. India, in her struggle for freedom, was fortunate to have been under the auspices of such luminaries.

2. Mahatma Gandhi affectionately called Radhakrishnan. Lord Krishna and said he himself was Arjun, his pupil. Indeed, Radhakrishnan’s achievements and teachings validate the traditional Indian belief in the wisdom and indispensability of the guru. The British, who believed that a humiliated mind allowed enslavement, mocked India’s religion and ridiculed her ancient philosophy as important tales of sparrows and parrots. Radhakrishnan sought to break the British fetters on Indian consciousness. He wanted India to believe in herself. Armed with a vast knowledge of Indian religion and philosophy, he spoke of the spiritually advanced character of Indian wisdom. His arguments inspired freedom fighters and scholars alike, turning them into ardent admirers of India, its people and culture.

3. Essentially an idealist, Radhakrishnan corroborates our belief in the efficacy of the good. In works like Indian Philosophy, The Hindu View of Life and An Idealist View of Life, he argues that goodness enables us to live the love in our hearts It was his positive spirit that made the best universities in the world invite him to grace them with his lecture. Radhakrishnan also served India in the highest offices—as the first ambassador to Russia, as vice-president and president.

4. Born in Tiruttani in 1888 and married to Sivakamuamma for 51 years till her death, Radhakrishnan sought spiritual enlightenment and inspiration in her. In his autobiography, he remembers her as an everyday heroine who epitomised selflessness and stood for the victory of mind over matter. He honoured this character of Indian women and dedicated a book, titled Religion and Society, to them. Radhakrishnan wrote, “India, in every generation, has produced millions of women who have never found fame, but whose daily existence has helped civilise

the race, and whose warmth of heart, self-sacrificing zeal, unassuming loyalty and strength in suffering when subjected to trials of extreme severity, are among the glories of this ancient race.”

5. A dutiful teacher, a deeply spiritual thinker, an able policy maker, Radhakrishnan was every bit the visionary India needed. Nobel laureate C.V. Raman beautifully summed up his glorious life. “The frail body of Radhakrishnan enshrined a great spirit—a great spirit which we have learnt to revere and admire, even to worship.”

- A. (a) How does death of a great man result in immortality ? 1
(b) Did the incessant invasions leave India distraught? Why/why not ? 2
(c) What effect did the great men make on India’s struggle for freedom ? 2
(d) How could Radhakrishnan break British fetters on Indian Consciousness ? 1
(e) Which book did he dedicate to Indian women & why ? 1
(f) How does he pay his tribute to the unsung women of the country ? 2
- B. Find words from the passage which convey similar meaning as the following : 3
(a) Lasting for a long time (para 1)
(b) To be a perfect example of (para 4)
(c) The act of being strict /stern (para 4)

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: [8]

1. Education is modern India’s greatest leveler and its redemption. It is the tide that lifts every boat. We are all prisoners of birth, but education has the power to snap the meanest bonds of economic and social enslavement. It is the route out of the caste ghetto, the path out of the slum, the road to the high table. A degree in engineering or medicine gives the child of a mill hand as much opportunity as any son or daughter of privilege.

2. At home and at work, chances are that your domestic help, driver, dhobi, liftman, watchman and peon are doing whatever it takes to send their children to an ‘English-medium’ school, buy them a second-hand computer, pay for their tuition, get them trained in IT. They dream of empowering their child with the kind of ambition they never dared have. And when the child excels in a board exam, gets into big college or lands a good job, all those years of hardship and uncertainty melt away. In that defining moment there is a reinforcement of faith in the future—that it is possible to break the cycle of inequity by honourable means.

3. It is a well-worn cliché that ours is a country of glaring contradictions. Yes, we have one of the biggest education systems in the world—1.2 million schools, 6.3 million teachers and 290 million students, which is itself more than the population of every country in the world except China, India and the US. And yes, literacy has grown from 28% in 1961 to 68% today. But the other end of the scale is crumbling. We still have over 287 million illiterate people (from the age of five)—the largest in any country, and larger than the population of Indians (five and above) at the time of Independence.

4. If India is today considered an emerging super power and if the stereotype has shifted from snake-charmer to IT whiz, some of the credit must go to our education system, to our IITs and IIMs, and to grassroots initiatives like the middaymeal scheme and the Navodaya Vidyalayas. This system has produced one of the world's largest pools of science and tech graduates and created a robust middle class. And with well-educated Indians in influential positions in the developed world, notably the US, India has a voice that commands respect and attention on the global stage.

5. And yet, the many successes cannot hide the system's sprawling underbelly. Millions of underprivileged youth have no access whatsoever to any form of schooling of the 460 million between 6 and 24 years, 170 million are not in the education system. The drop-out rate is depressing : a staggering 90% don't make it to college. There are thousands of schools and colleges, both state-run and private, that provide no real education, and we don't need empirical proof to bear this out. There is enough and more anecdotal evidence. There's a massive deficit of teachers. And of the 4.7 million-odd who teach between classes I and VIII, almost half have not studied beyond senior secondary. Infrastructure is dismal : almost a third of primary and middle schools don't have pucca buildings, 87% have no computers.

6. Ironically, our greatest source of strength is threatening to become our biggest weakness. Our education system is choking. Strategically, we are in danger of losing our global competitive advantage. Entrepreneurs have found that education is a great new business, and there's nothing wrong with that so long as there is a genuine intent to provide quality education. But private education comes at a price, and the question is, can it reach children in slums and villages? If it can, can they afford it ? The answer quite simply is no. As aspirations rise and disparities widen, and as the need for equity assumes even greater urgency, there is only one solution - to redeem the classroom.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using recognizable abbreviations. (minimum 4) wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title. [5]

(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words. [3]

SECTION – B: ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS

3. You are launching a Fairness Lotion in the market showing promising results in a fortnight. Draft a convincing advertisement with in 50 words promoting its sale. (4)

4 Your school is organizing a Science and Technology exhibition in connection with it, prepare a poster to bring home to the people the importance of conservation of electricity. Your school is A. P. Public School, Daryaganj, Delhi (Word limit – 50 words).

5. Annamalai University, Chennai offers different courses of studies through correspondence. Write a letter to the Director, Institute of Correspondence Courses and Continuing Education, Annamalai University inquiring after the details of a course you would like to take and requesting him to send you the prospectus. 10

6. A well – reputed College has advertised for the post of two well-experienced, highly qualified Physics Lecturers on permanent basis. You are Suhas / Sneha of 52-Wellington Road, Mumbai. Write a job application for this post with complete biodata. Invent other details.

7. You observe that aggressiveness and use of abusive language is increasing among teenagers. Disturbed by this trend, you want to emphasise upon students why decent language and behaviour are essential for the development of one's personality. Write an article in 150-200 words for your school magazine conveying your views. You are Komal / Kartik. (10)

8 You are Kamakshi / Kuber. You have been selected to represent your school in an All India School Debate organized by the Lions Club, New Delhi .The topic for the debate is “An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth will make the whole world go blind.’ Write an article in not more than 200 words for or against the motion giving arguments for your stand

SECTION – C: LITERATURE

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

[4]

..... wan, pale
as a late winter's moon
and felt that old
familiar ache, my childhood's fear
but all I said was, see you soon, Amma,
all I did was smile and smile and smile

- i) Mention the poetic device used and explain briefly what it suggests.
- ii) What were the poet's 'childhood fears'?
- iii) Why did the poet only 'smile'?

9. Answer of the following questions in about 30-40 words each:

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- (i) What message does Stephen Spender convey through the poem, 'An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum'?
- (ii) Do you think Pablo Neruda advocates total inactivity and death? Why and why not?
- (iii) Why is 'grandeur' associated with the mighty dead?

10. Answer of the following questions in about 30-40 words each:

- (a) What words were 'thunderclap' for Franz and why?
- (b) How did the instructor build a swimmer out of William Douglas?
- (c) Why are the bangle makers of Firozabad unable to organise themselves?
- (d) What was Sophie's relationship with Geoff? From her perspective, what did he symbolize?
- (e) How does Derek benefit from his brief association with Mr. Lamb?
- (f) Why was Jack not ready to change the end of the story? (Should Wizard Hit Mommy?)
- (g) Write a note on General Takima.

11. Answer the following in about 125-150 words:

a. The theme that runs through the story 'The Rattrap' is that the essential goodness of human beings can be awakened, given the appropriate conditions. Describe how this is borne out by the transformation of the peddler.

b. Bring out the tragic plight of the rag pickers and bangle sellers as described by Anees Jung.

12. Answer the following in about 100- 125 words:

Write a paragraph of about 100 words on the relevance of non-violence and sathyagraha in solving social problem as demonstrated by Gandhiji in the lesson 'Indigo'.

13 Attempt the character sketch of Mr. Hall , Mrs. Hall, Griffins, Thomas Marvel and Dr.Cuss
