

General Instructions:

- The Question Paper contains THREE sections - READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
- Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
- This question paper has 8 printed sides.

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (22 marks)

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

12 m

1. Read the following text.
 1. The gentle morning breeze stirred the leaves, casting picturesque shadows of buildings and trees on the ground. The birds' harmonious melodies created a grand symphony that signalled a new day. The fresh air was pristine, and the morning dew evaporated from the grass and leaves. The prominent sunlight was mirrored from one building to the next, creating a dreamy kaleidoscope. However, beyond the horizon, dark and vengeful clouds begin to imprint their marks on the crystal-clear blue sky, hinting at the impending arrival of a powerful thunderstorm.
 2. Soon, the once beautiful golden sky was swallowed up by dense patches of clouds, washing away every bit of its brilliance. As dull clouds approached, they created openings in the unclear sky, simulating an abstract painting with every imaginable colour. The air grew heavy, suffocating the city, and the wind screamed, beckoning the ash grey clouds. The usually busy streets were deserted, projecting images of a ghost town. The mightiest of trees were bent almost in half, their branches torn away like paper limbs, creating devastating sounds of destruction.
 3. A bolt of lightning shattered the silence that had fallen upon the city streets, followed by deafening rumbles of thunder. Then, everything retreated into oblivion, as if patiently waiting for another round of attack from the heavens. The relentless wind held its breath and lowered its intensity. Suddenly, jagged streaks of pure light ripped open the leaden sky, sending a downpour of rain that fell like millions of miniature arrows, destroying everything in their paths.
 4. As the storm raged on, the city seemed to come to a standstill, as if frozen in time. But amidst the chaos and destruction, there was a strange sense of beauty and awe-inspiring power. As if the storm had the ability to cleanse the city of impurities, and bring forth a sense of rejuvenation. The sheer force of nature was on full display, reminding people of their own insignificance in the face of its might. The sky opened, releasing heavy rain that flooded every city street, creating a complex network of racing rivers, sweeping everything away with excessive force and strong currents.
 5. Then as quickly as it had arrived, the storm began to dissipate, its fury giving way to a serene atmosphere. The sounds of anger from the gods above tapered off as they made peace. A few streaks of sunlight filtered through the almost-white clouds, droplets of water fell softly, pattering

on the roofs and sliding off the leaves and branches that had survived the storm. The sun was visible in the sapphire sky, reflecting off the puddles of water on the ground. The day continued as it was.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i In the line, 'The prominent sunlight was mirrored from one building to the next, creating a dreamy kaleidoscope', of paragraph 1, explain, in about 20-30 words, the significance of a 'dreamy kaleidoscope'. 1
- ii Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to paragraph 2.
The dull clouds can be called powerful because _____ . 1
- iii Select the correct option to complete the sentence. (Refer para 3) 1
What image does the phrase "millions of miniature arrows" create in the reader's mind?
A. The raindrops were heavy and large, causing significant damage to the surroundings.
B. The rain was gentle and refreshing, falling softly on the city streets.
C. The raindrops were small and sharp, seemingly piercing everything in their path.
D. The rain created a colourful rainbow, adding beauty to the city's skyline.
- iv The writer says that the storm cleanses the city and brings forth a sense of rejuvenation. How might this be likened to emotional cleansing? Answer in about 20-30 words. (Refer para 4) 2
- v How does the last line of the passage, 'The day continued as it was', share a motivational message? 2
- vi Select the option that is LEAST likely to be an example of imagery. 1
A. A bolt of lightning shattered the silence
B. Branches torn away like paper limbs.
C. The wind beckoned the ash grey clouds.
D. Gentle morning breeze stirred the leaves.
- vii Analyse the role of the storm as a powerful instrument of symbolism in the text. Answer in about 30-40 words. (Give any two points) 2
- viii Select the correct option to complete the sentence. 1
The main purpose of the complete passage is to _____ .
A. celebrate the destructive and disruptive power of a storm.
B. contrast the tranquillity of nature with the havoc of a storm.
C. highlight the insignificance of various forces of nature, other than the storm.
D. emphasise the beauty created by myriad hues in the sky, in the absence of a storm.
- ix Read the five headlines (a) -(e), given below: 1
(a) Impending Storm Disrupts a Serene Morning
(b) Torrential Rains Lash the Cityscape
(c) Power of Nature Unleashed
(d) Storms: A Common Occurrence
(e) The Calm Before the Storm
Identify the option that displays the headline that DOES NOT correspond with the occurrences in the passage.

Read the following text.

10m

1. The bottled water market is a symbol of a new lifestyle and health-consciousness rising in India. While a substantial portion of the population struggles to get safe drinking water, a new generation, particularly in metropolitan areas, is becoming accustomed to paying high costs for bottled water. The bottled water market has grown by 40-45 percent since 2018.
2. Higher disposable income, increasing taste for hygiene, improved price, easier availability of packaged drinking water, and lack of safe drinking water are driving the demand for bottled water. India is among the top ten bottled water users in the world. According to a study conducted by the World Wide Fund for Nature(WWF), India is the world's largest consumer of packaged drinking water, with an estimated annual consumption of 22 billion litres.
3. Based on products, the market is segmented into flavoured water, purified water, mineral water, sparkling water and others. Fig1 displays the preferences.

India Bottled Water Market,
by Product (%) in 2021

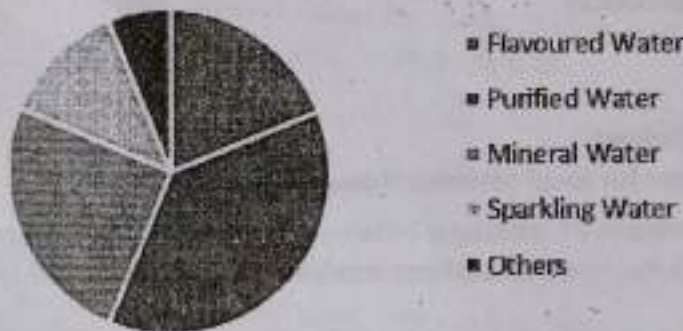


Fig. 1

4. The surge in demand for bottled water has also raised concerns about the environmental impact of plastic waste. A recent report by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) estimated that India generates over 26,000 tons of plastic waste per day, with a significant portion coming from discarded water bottles. A separate study conducted by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences found that the growth of the bottled water industry has had negative impacts on local communities, particularly in rural areas. The study found that groundwater sources were being depleted due to over-extraction by the bottled water industry, leading to reduced access to water for local communities.
5. To address these concerns, some government agencies and civil society organisations in India have advocated for alternatives to bottled water, such as water filters and community-based water treatment systems. Additionally, efforts are underway to promote the recycling of plastic waste, including water bottles. Despite these efforts, the demand for bottled water in India is expected to continue to grow in the coming years. As such, it is important to strike a balance between meeting the needs of consumers and addressing the environmental and social impacts of bottled water consumption.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.

- iv. Explain in 30-40 words, one social and cultural factor influencing the preference for bottled water over other sources of water in urban areas. 2
- v. Paragraphs 1-2 mention the growth in the bottled water market. Select the option which displays the long-term economic impact of the bottled water market's growth in India. 1
- Increased investment in alternative sources of water.
 - Decreased dependence on imported beverages.
 - Expansion of recycling facilities and creation of jobs.
 - Adoption of community-based water treatment facilities.
- vi. Based on Fig. 1, infer ONE likely reason why sparkling water has only 11% of the market share of bottled water in India? 1
- vii. Provide evidence, from Fig. 1 that supports the inference that health-consciousness is a significant factor driving consumer choices for bottled water. 1
- viii. What does "others" signify in Fig.1? 1
- Unpopular choices
 - Limited availability
 - Government-regulated products
 - Niche preferences
- ix. Supply the CAUSE for the listed effect. 1
- EFFECT - Reduced access to water for local communities. (Refer para 4)
- x. Which of the following is an example of striking a balance between the preference for bottled water consumption and the need to address environmental and social impacts? (Refer Para 5) 1
- Urging stricter regulations on bottled water pricing to ensure accessibility for all.
 - Purchasing bottled water from companies using sustainable packaging practices.
 - Investing in advertisement campaigns to raise awareness about health benefits of bottled water.
 - Expanding marketing efforts to promote bottled water consumption in rural areas.
- xi. Explain in 30-40 words why the heading - SHIFTING PARADIGMS: BOTTLED WATER'S SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT, ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, AND FUTURE SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES IN INDIA - appropriately captures what this case-based article presents. 2

SECTION B : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

- xii. Attempt in about 50 words. 4
- In the capacity of the President of RWA, Golden Gardens Apartment, Pune, write a notice informing residents of the distribution of new colour coded waste bins, along with the instruction manual for effective waste segregation. Mention that the bins are to be collected from the community centre. Also mention that the segregation instructions stated in the manual are to be strictly followed. Include relevant details.
- xiii. Attempt in about 50 words. 4
- Draft an invitation for the opening of your Law Firm, Gupta and Jones, on 5 January 2024, at 5pm, at the Oasis Centre, M G Road, Mysore. Acclaimed professor of Financial Law, Dr. Joytum Das, Digshum University, would be the Guest of Honour. Write on behalf of Advocates Tiku Gupta and Margaret Jones.

Attempt in about 120-150 words.

The Travel Magazine is looking for graduates in Journalism for the post of a reporter. You are Jasmine Singh from 21, Rajpur Road, Dehradun. Write a letter to The Travel Magazine, along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post.



The Travel Magazine

Join Our Travel Magazine as a Reporter!

You need to have -

- A Degree in Journalism
- A Passion for Travel & Proficiency in Photography

Apply, with your Bio-data, within 10 days, to HR Manager at careertravel@gmail.com

6 Attempt in about 120-150 words.

Three cyclists, who were part of a cycling expedition from Jaipur to Ahmedabad suffered multiple injuries due to the potholes covered with rainwater. Write a report of the incident for your national daily, as their local correspondent. Use the following cues to draft your report.

- several prior accidents on the circuit
- cycling group - injuries, but no fatalities
- gradual worsening of road condition - impact on commuters/ citizens
- government's response

SECTION C : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)

7. Read the given extract and answer the questions given.

*Why keep your money (this crossly) and go along.
The hurt to the scenery wouldn't be my complaint
So much as the trusting sorrow of what is unsaid:
Here far from the city we make our roadside stand
And ask for some city money to feel in hand
To try if it will not make our being expand,
And give us the life of the moving-pictures' promise
That the party in power is said to be keeping from us.*

i What does the speaker wonder in line 1?

- ii Select the correct option for the following Assertion - Reasoning
 Assertion : The speaker refers to the possible harm to the scenery.
 Reasoning : The speaker is angry about the lack of awareness about the natural environment, in city people. 1
- A. Both the assertion and the reasoning are true and the reasoning explains the statement.
 B. Both the assertion and the reasoning are true, but the reasoning does not explain the statement.
 C. The assertion is false, but the reasoning is true.
 D. The assertion is true, but the reasoning is false.
- iii Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
 The phrase, "trusting sorrow" refers to _____.
- iv The speaker sees the roadside stand as a means to bridge something. State what it is. 1
- v State whether TRUE or FALSE. 1
 The concluding lines are underscored by a sense of bitterness and resentment.
- vi Which of the following best summarises the theme conveyed in the extract? 1
- A. The benefits of rural living and the importance of supporting local businesses.
 B. The challenges and inequities faced by rural communities and a longing for urban life.
 C. The beauty of the natural environment and the need to protect it from human impact.
 D. The struggles of small business owners and the importance of government support.
8. Read the given extract and answer the questions given. 4
- "Your majesty may kill ninety-nine tigers in exactly the same manner. But ..."* the astrologer drawled. *But what? Speak without fear.*
"But you must be very careful with the hundredth tiger."
"What if the hundredth tiger were also killed?"
"Then I will tear up all my books on astrology, set fire to them, and..."
"And..."
"I shall cut off my tuft, crop my hair short and become an insurance agent," the astrologer finished on an incoherent note.
- i Give one reason why the writer might have chosen the word 'drawled' to associate with the proclaiming of the astrologer's predictions. 1
- ii For the line, "What if the hundredth tiger were also killed?", identify the tone which corresponds with it. 1
- A. Uneasy
 B. Uncertain
 C. Apprehensive
 D. Authoritative

- iii complete the following appropriately. 1
- The use of "And...", in the extract, suggests that the Tiger King expects _____ 1
- iv What does the astrologer's response reveal about his character? 1
- A. He is willing to sacrifice his beliefs for the Maharaja's success.
- B. He is fearful of the consequences of his prediction coming true.
- C. He is confident in the accuracy of his prediction.
- D. He is manipulating the Maharaja for his personal gain.
9. Read the given extract and answer the questions given. 6
- Umberto Eco: When I presented my first Doctoral dissertation in Italy, one of the Professors said, "Scholars learn a lot of a certain subject, then they make a lot of false hypotheses, then they correct them and at the end, they put the conclusions. You, on the contrary, told the story of your research. Even including your trails and errors." At the same time, he recognised I was right and went on to publish my dissertation as a book, which meant he appreciated it. At that point, at the age of 22, I understood scholarly books should be written the way I had done - by telling the story of the research. This is why my essays always have a narrative aspect. And this is why probably I started writing narratives(novels) so late - at the age of 50, more or less.*
- i Select which one of the following captures the essence of the extract. 1
- 1) "Umberto Eco's Reflections on his Thesis and Chosen Approach".
- 2) "Unveiling the Academic Odyssey: A Glimpse into Umberto Eco's Voyage for Scholarly Supremacy".
- ii Complete the following with the correct option. 1
- The statement "Scholars learn a lot of a certain subject, then they make a lot of false hypotheses, then they correct them and at the end, they put the conclusions", can be seen as capturing_____.
- A. an introduction to scholarly research
- B. a presentation outline for a scholarly project
- C. a process of scholarly inquiry
- D. a reference exercise to build on the scholastic points
- iii Fill in the blank with an appropriate word.
- The fact that Eco reflects on this experience and acknowledges the professor's impact on his approach, implies a sense of _____, towards the professor's insights and support.
- iv Select the term that can best describe Eco, at the age of 22, based on the given descriptions.
- 1) Amateur: Someone who engages in an activity or pursuit for pleasure or personal interest, typically without formal training or professional expertise.
- 2) Novice: Someone who is new or inexperienced in a particular field, activity, or

skill but is actively learning and acquiring knowledge.

3) Greenhorn: Someone who is inexperienced and lacks knowledge or understanding in a specific area.

- v Why, according to Umberto Eco, did he start writing narratives at a later age? 1
- A. He wanted to experiment with a different form of storytelling.
 - B. He was focused on academic writing and research earlier in his career.
 - C. He needed more life experience to enrich his storytelling.
 - D. He believed scholarly books should precede narrative writing.

vi What is the significance of the professor's response to Umberto Eco's dissertation? 1

10 Answer the following questions, in about 40-50 words. 5x2=10

- i The use of "bright topaz" and "a world of green" sets a contrast. Infer what it represents.
- ii Why is it fair to say that the story, *The Rattrap*, bears evidence that societal norms and values can both constrain and inspire individuals?
- iii Assess the significance of the excellent Mess and the role of coffee, in fostering intellectual and social interactions at Gemini Studios.
- iv How does M. Hamel's compassionate response to Franz's inability to recite the rule for the participle, contribute to the overall message of the story?
- v An interview's impact on the subjects, particularly celebrities, is often perceived as an intrusion or a diminishing experience. Infer two reasons for such a perception.

11 Answer the following questions, in about 40-50 words. 2x2=4

- i "But Sadao searching the spot of black in the twilight sea that night, had his reward." What was the reward?
- ii Examine the role of personal experiences and observations in shaping Bama's perspective on social inequality and the caste system.

12 Answer the following question, in about 120-150 words. 5

Imagine that Rajkumar Shukla, the persistent crusader, reads about Douglas and his perseverance during his lifetime. In his diary, he pens down the similarities between the challenge/s both faced. As Shukla, write this diary entry.
You may begin like this:

Saturday, 17 March 1927

8:30pm

*I came across an excerpt from *Of Men and Mountains* by William O Douglas, in which he narrates his experience of overcoming specific challenges related to his fear. I could totally relate...*

13 Answer the following question, in about 120-150 words. 5

Derry has chosen to address the school assembly on the World Inclusion Day, using one of Mr Lamb's quotes - Why is one green, growing plant called a weed and another 'flower'? Imagine you are Derry and write the speech draft.

*****THE END*****