

General Instructions:

1. This paper is divided into four sections: A, B, C, and D. All sections are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and questions, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION - A (READING)

1. Read the passage given below and then answer the questions which follow:

During summer, the British rulers of India used to climb up the mountains to the comfort of Shimla in Himachal Pradesh. That class of rulers has vanished, but the post office that used to serve them at Shimla Mall still exists; though more as a stunning timber-made landmark. Written on a copper plate above the entrance of the post office is the date of inauguration of the building: 1883. India had begun changing by then. Calls for self-rule were growing, and the Indian National Congress was just two years away from its formation.

One among Shimla's Englishmen of that era was Rudyard Kipling, who became the towering chronicler of colonial life in India. He left an indelible imprint of the days of the Raj in Shimla, the Himalayan headquarters of the British. India's colonial rulers had built several "hill stations" like Ooty in Tamil Nadu, Shillong in Meghalaya, Matheran in Maharashtra and Murree in Pakistan, but it was Shimla alone that had the distinction of becoming the "summer capital".

Kipling, who won the Nobel Prize for literature in 1907, immortalised the Shimla of deodars, the imperial-era post office, red-painted St Andrew's Church and timber bungalows with fire places. In his short story collection Plain Tales from the Hills, he writes that Shimla (or Simla, as he called it) was the venue of private garden parties, tennis matches, picnics and rides. He found the place throbbing with opportunities of adventure, including that of the romantic kind.

As an Englishman living in the hill station, Kipling brought the inside view of the British Raj. He also had a keen 'outsider's eye', which helped him observe the European hijinks in Shimla with humour and compassion. The fact that he was born in Bombay to Alice and John Kipling in 1865 perhaps helped him gain that ability. Kipling senior was head of the department of architectural sculpture in JamsetjeeJeejeebhoy School of Art. As a child, Rudyard was educated in England, but his parents summoned him to India when he turned 17. He landed the job of a journalist and travelled to different parts of the country before returning to the west in 1889. By the time of his departure, he had written a great deal about Shimla and its colonial culture of patronage, fun and administration.

More than a century later, Shimla continues to be known as the Queen of the Hills. But the unregulated construction boom that took place after Independence has marred its reputation a reason journalist Archana Phul called the city a "Himalayan slum". A view of the city from my hotel room projects the chaotic vision of Shimla rather than its heritage town tag. Though the Mall, with its colonial era structures and churches, is on top of the town, the lower layers have grown with scant regard for principles of town planning.

The 21st century Shimla is striving to strike a balance between the past and the present; between rampant urbanisation and calls for conservation.

- a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognisable abbreviations where necessary, also suggest a suitable title. (3)
- b) Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 50 words using the notes made. (1)

SECTION - B (WRITING)

2. Prepare a poster to be put in the school entrance lobby of the School Millennium Hall announcing the Xavier Fair 2014. (50 words) (3)

SECTION - C (GRAMMAR)

3. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect words and the correction against the correct blank number in your answer sheet. The first one has been done for you as an example. (2)

Traders of nearly 2,250 roads and streets across Delhi **on**
 got any respite from sealing and demolition by the Municipal
 Corporation of Delhi followed the Supreme Court's order on
 September 29 allowing continuation of commercial activities
 in residential areas, pending the final decision in the matter. a) _____
 But the MCD's sealing drive has already claimed four lives. b) _____
 c) _____
 d) _____

4. Rearrange the following words and phrases to form a meaningful sentence. (1)
- a) knowledge / thousands / was / the / students / once / and / teachers / a /
 empire / all over / that / the world / from / region / of / Nalanda / attracted /
- b) the Archaeological / university / has / little of / monasteries / and / by / of which /
 left / of / India / the ancient / are / Survey / looked after / the ruins / time /

SECTION - D (LITERATURE)

5. Read the following and answer the questions below: (2)

*Where did my childhood go?
 It went to some forgotten place,
 That's hidden in an infant's face,
 That's all I know.*

- a) What does the poet mean by 'some forgotten place'?
- b) What emotional state of the poet is depicted in and through these lines?
6. Answer the following questions in about 30-40 words: (2x4=8)
- a) What is the holistic and ecological view of the world endorsed by Nani Palkhiwala?
- b) "We have not inherited this earth from our forefathers; we have borrowed it from our children." Elucidate the statement keeping in mind the lesson 'The Ailing Planet'.
- c) Albert felt the medical certificate almost burning a hole in his pocket. Reason it out.
- d) What were Einstein's views on education as revealed in his conversation with his History teacher?