

ENGLISH

General Instructions:

- i) 15-minutes prior reading time is allotted for question paper reading.
- ii) The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
- iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section – A : Reading Skills (20 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully: (10 marks)

The term “poor-quality medicines” is something of a catch-all. It includes “sub-standard” medicines that have had inadequate quality control or that have degraded from improper storage or the passage of time. Also it includes falsified medicines – fakes – that claim to be what they are not. These may not be made by the manufacturer whose name is on the package and they may not contain the stated ingredients in the stated quantities.

Poor-quality medicines might not work. They usually have none or only part of the active ingredient they are supposed to contain. This would mean that the illnesses of those people who consume them would be left to take their own course. Consuming them can even kill you because the contaminants in the medicines can end up causing severe infections.

Poor-quality medicines can be life-threatening if you take them. Antimicrobial drugs (including antibiotics and antivirals) that have too little active ingredients are generally accepted to help disease-causing bugs evolve so that they develop resistance to treatment even with good-quality antimicrobials and then these bugs spread.

Conditions like tuberculosis and HIV are getting harder to treat. In future, routine surgery could become risky and cancer treatment more challenging. There is a real danger of returning to a time where any one of us could pick up an infection and find that medicines are unable to produce the intended results. In 2010, Indians consumed the most antibiotics per person in the world. Medicines, including antimicrobials, are easily available over the counter despite rules that forbid this. A recent study found that a large number of antibiotics were on sale without being approved either in India or in the country of the manufacturer. On an international level, further complicating the picture is the fact that different countries have different standards of quality. Ensuring medicine quality is a global challenge. A pill might be manufactured from ingredients sourced from multiple countries, shipped via several ports, packaged and repackaged in various countries and ultimately sold via an internet pharmacy. The number of points at which fakes or substandards could enter the chain is staggering, so international coordination and regulation is essential. Ensuring good quality medicines should be a common agenda worldwide.

- Srinath Perur

Glossary:

active ingredient - a chemical component in a medicine responsible for its intended effects

antivirals - drugs that treat infections caused by viruses

(394 words)

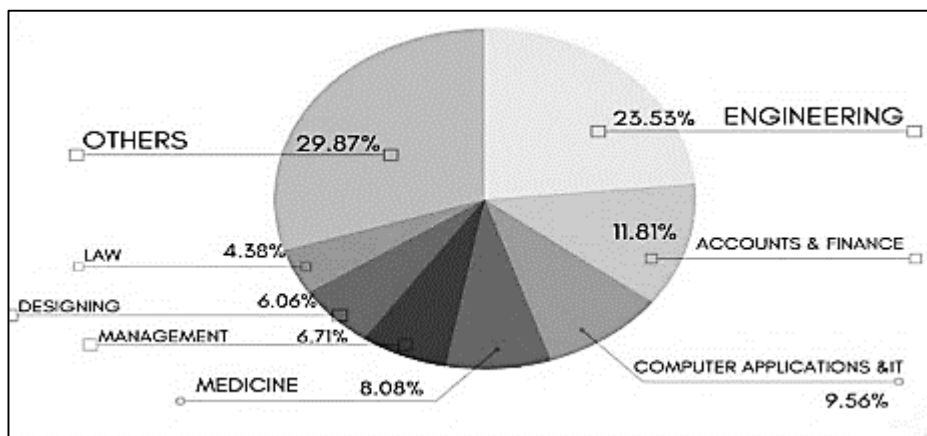
Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

- i) The term ‘poor quality medicines’ is considered to be a ‘catch-all’ because it _____. 1
 - A. helps consumers identify various medicines.
 - B. highlights that authentic medicines are good.
 - C. indicates that the issue is related to quality and helps authorities to stay vigilant.
 - D. includes medicines that are both fake and fail to meet appropriate quality standards.
- ii) The writer points out that antimicrobials are easily available over the counter in India despite rules that forbid this. Based on your understanding of this issue, how can you purchase medicines responsibly? 2
- iii) Select the option that conveys the meaning of ‘staggering’. 1
 - A. shocking
 - B. damaging
 - C. detectable
 - D. unplanned
- iv) Which of these statements is **NOT** true about poor-quality antimicrobials? 1
 - A. They misrepresent the amount of active ingredients that they contain.
 - B. The effects caused by them can be reversed with appropriate medication.
 - C. They can pose a serious threat to people who consume them.
 - D. The bugs exposed to them can adapt themselves to become a stronger variant.

- v) Effective quality control alone cannot guarantee the eradication of poor quality medicines because _____. 2
- vi) Which of these best describes the central theme of the passage? 1
 - A. The origin and evolution of drug-resistant microbes.
 - B. The alarming reality and impact of poor-quality medicines.
 - C. The struggles and benefits of developing high-quality medicines.
 - D. The unique issues and challenges in low- and middle-income countries.
- vii) State **TRUE** or **FALSE**. 1
International symbiosis is mandatory in ensuring that medicine is of good quality.
- viii) What is a real danger in the future? 1

2. Read the passage given below: (10 marks)

The average age of India was 27 in 2020 which meant that much of the country comprised of youth. But still the unemployment crisis is raging the country. The main reason behind this problem is that there is a huge number of youth passing out from schools and colleges every year unaware of the many new career options and job roles being added to various industries. A recent survey by Mindler, an online career-counselling platform, has proved that the majority of Indian students are aware of just seven career paths, even though there are 250 career options that can be pursued in India -- most new and in-demand.



If parents and teachers can build their own awareness regarding new career options coming up, then they can play a very helpful part in their child's career decisions. Mr Bhargava, the Head of 'SANTUSHTI NGO' stresses that parents need to remember that shaping a student's profile with the right set of activities in sync with their strength, capability and dreams is the way forward. "Children feel much more confident in choosing a particular career when they are supported by their parents. Thus, parents play a vital role in this entire process," he says. (206 words)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

- i) Which important issues does the passage throw light upon? (Mention any 2) 2
- ii) According to the given pie chart, _____ is the least popular career option among students. 1
- iii) State **TRUE** or **FALSE**: 1
Career counselling of students may help in reducing unemployment.
- iv) Choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below: 1
Statement 1: Indian youths are facing unemployment crisis.
Statement 2: Teachers push students into common career options.
 - 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 cannot be inferred.
 - D. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred.
- v) What is the conclusion of the survey conducted by Mindler? 1
- vi) Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word. 1
Every child is unique. Hence, his/ her _____ should always be taken into consideration when deciding on a future career.
- vii) According to the given pie chart, which two fields have roughly the same preference among students? 1
- viii) How do parents play a vital role in their child's career selection? 2

WRITING

NOTE: All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.

4. A. You are Apurva/Mohit, a resident of Model Town, Kolkata. You are very much inspired to watch reality shows on 'dance', at various channels on T.V and wish to join dance classes to learn classical dance. Write a letter to Pt. Lokenath Maharaj, Director, Nritya Kala Academy Group, Behala, Kolkata, enquiring about the dance classes in about 120 words. 5

(OR)

- B. You are Neha/Naitik, a resident of Amryllis Park, Mumbai. You recently saw a documentary about the youth of the nation titled, 'A Country in Good Hands'. Write a letter of appreciation to the Editor of The Youth Times, in not more than 120 words, drawing his/ her attention to the good that the youngsters around you are doing. Suggest ways in which they can further contribute to the betterment of society. 5

5. A. The table below shows risk of death posed by five different causes in two income groups of people along with the world average of these deaths. Study the data carefully and then summarize it in the form of an analytical paragraph in 100-120 words. 5

Causes	World	Low and Middle Income	High Income
	Risk Percentage of Death		
Indoor smoke from solid fuels	3.3	3.9	0.0
Unsafe drinking water, insanitation, lack of hygiene	3.2	3.8	0.1
Urban outdoor air pollution	2.0	1.9	2.5
Global climate change	0.2	0.3	0.0
Lead exposure	0.2	0.3	0.0

(OR)

- B. Read the following excerpt from an article that appeared in the magazine section of a local daily:
 The World Health Organization defines mental health as a "state of well-being whereby individuals recognize their abilities, are able to cope with the normal stresses of life, work productively and fruitfully, and make a contribution to their communities."
 Write a paragraph to analyze the given argument.
 You could think about what alternative explanations might weaken the given conclusion and include rationale/evidence that would strengthen/counter the given argument. 5

SECTION – C : LITERATURE (40 marks)

6. Read the two given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two: 5

A. "...and she also asked a few discreet questions here and there. This way she picked up various small details about the bus journey. The town was six miles from her village. The fare was thirty paise one way — "which is almost nothing at all," she heard one well-dressed man say, but to Valli, who scarcely saw that much money from one month to the next, it seemed a fortune".
 (Madam Rides the Bus)

- i) Select the option that correctly captures the application of the word 'picked up' as used in the extract. 1
 A. They won't let him out of hospital until his health has picked up quite a lot.
 B. Rather gingerly, George picked up the tiny bundle.
 C. They picked up the conversation from where they left off yesterday.
 D. She picked up Spanish when she was living in Mexico.
- ii) Mention one small detail about the bus journey Valli picked up and how. 2
- iii) Replace the underlined word with its right synonym contextually. 1
 She also asked a few discreet questions here and there.
 A. careful B. tactless C. unnoticeable D. conspicuous
- iv) From the given extract we can infer that Valli is _____. 1

(OR)

B. "Well, it's time I did some real work, I told myself; I'm out of practice. And if I don't take the money, he'll only waste it on his friends. After all, he doesn't even pay me. Anil was asleep. A beam of moonlight stepped over the balcony and fell on the bed. I sat up on the floor, considering the situation. If I took the money, I could catch the 10.30 Express to Lucknow. Slipping out of the blanket, I crept up to the bed. Anil was sleeping peacefully. His face was clear and unlined; even I had more marks on my face, though mine were mostly scars."

(The Thief's Story)

- i) Why did Hari Singh say, "it's time I did some real work"? 2
- ii) "...he'll only waste it on his friends. After all, he doesn't even pay me."
This indicates that _____. 1
A. Hari Singh was convincing himself about the act he was to commit.
B. Hari Singh was annoyed with Anil.
C. Anil was a spendthrift.
D. Hari Singh was blaming Anil.
- iii) What did Hari plan to do after stealing the money? 1
- iv) Complete the analogy by selecting the suitable word from the extract.
frown : smile :: blemishes: _____ 1
7. Read the two given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two. 5
- A. *"Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,
And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed.
But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine,
Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,
With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm,
He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm"*
(The Tale of Custard the Dragon)
- i) Which option lists the quotes that support the ideas in the extract? 1
1) Fear makes strangers to be friends.
2) If you're brave enough to start, you're strong enough to finish.
3) Courage doesn't mean you don't get afraid. Courage means you don't let fear stop you.
4) You get in life what you have the courage to ask for.
A. 1 B. 1, 2 and 3 C. 2 and 3 D. 1 and 4
- ii) What is the poet's purpose of using the onomatopoeic words given in the extract? 1
A. It is to emphasize on the might and boldness of Custard.
B. It is to introduce the character Custard to the readers.
C. It is to impress upon the readers that Custard was ready.
D. It is to make Custard bold enough to face the situation.
- iii) Pick an option that best fits the usage of the word 'trickled' as used in the extract. 1
A. The pizza trickled up to my mouth.
B. Students trickled into the classroom as the teacher entered.
C. Tears trickled down her cheeks as she heard the sad news.
D. His enthusiasm for the task slowly trickled away.
- iv) "He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm." Why is this comparison been used here? 2
- (OR)
- B. *"Or if some time when roaming round,
A noble wild beast greets you,
With black stripes on a yellow ground,
Just notice if he eats you.
This simple rule may help you learn
The Bengal Tiger to discern.
If strolling forth, a beast you view,
Whose hide with spots is peppered,
As soon as he has lept on you,
You'll know it is the Leopard.
'Twill do no good to roar with pain,
He'll only lep and lep again."*
(How to Tell Wild Animals)
- i) According to the poet, how can you identify a leopard? 2
- ii) Identify the option that explains the poetic device used.
With black stripes on a yellow ground...
...Whose hide with spots is peppered 1
A. A word formed from a sound.
B. A word or phrase repeated at intervals.
C. A word or expression used in place of a living being.
D. A word or phrase that creates a mental image through vivid description.

- iii) State whether the following statement is **TRUE** or **FALSE**:
The extract tells us the similarities between tigers and leopards. 1
- iv) Identify the option that has the same rhyme scheme as these 4 lines. 1
- "Or if some time when roaming round,
A noble wild beast greets you,
With black stripes on a yellow ground,
Just notice if he eats you."*
- A. The sky is very sunny.
The children are funny.
Under the tree we sit,
But just for a bit.
- B. I lost two cities, lovely ones. And, vaster,
some realms I owned, two rivers, a continent.
I miss them, but it wasn't a disaster.
—Even losing you (the joking voice, a gesture)
- C. The people along the sand
All turn and look one way.
They turn their back on the land.
They look at the sea all day.
- D. Others abide by our question. Thou art free.
We ask and ask—Thou smilest and art still,
Out-topping knowledge. For the loftiest hill,
Who to the stars uncrowns his majesty,
8. Answer **ANY FOUR** of the following five questions in about 40-50 words: (4 x 3 = 12 marks)
- i) How did the desire for the freedom of his people change Nelson Mandela's life?
(Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom)
- ii) What historical information does the chapter 'Coorg' provide? (Glimpses of India)
- iii) What happened when Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom? (Mijbil the Otter)
- iv) Life is full of trials and tribulations. Kisa Gotami also passes through a period of grief in her life. How does she behave in those circumstances? What lesson does a reader learn from the story of her life? (The Sermon at Benaras)
- v) 'Human beings can't go beyond external appearance.' How does the poem 'For Anne Gregory' justify this statement?
9. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions in about 40-50 words: (2 x 3 = 6 marks)
- i) 'If the theory proves correct, it will be a big step towards understanding the processes of life.' What is the theory and who proposed it? (The Making of a Scientist)
- ii) Noodle avoids offending Think-Tank but at the same time corrects his mistakes. What does this say about the character of Noodle? (The Book That Saved the Earth)
- iii) Why did Dr. Herriot expect a call from Mrs. Pumphrey? (A Triumph of Surgery)
10. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in about 100-120 words: (1 x 6 = 6 marks)
- Neighbours must have a cordial relationship which Lomov and Natalya did not have. Describe the fight between them. (The Proposal)
- (OR)
- Describe the struggle of the roots, leaves, small twigs and long boughs to free themselves and break open the artificial barriers created by man. What happens to the house when the trees move out of it? (The Trees)
11. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in about 100-120 words: (1 x 6 = 6 marks)
- Read the following quote:
- "We are too involved in materialistic things, and they don't satisfy us. The loving relationships we have, the universe around us, we take these things for granted."
Matilda was never satisfied with her life and desired more. The given quote reflects her character. Justify. (The Necklace)
- (OR)
- Importance of education is one of the themes of the chapter 'Bholi'. Do you agree? Why or why not? (Bholi)