

General instructions:

- i) This question paper contains THREE sections - READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
- ii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION – A : READING SKILLS (22Marks)

1. Read the following text: (12 marks)

- 1 In the vibrant city of Mumbai, where the air is thick with the scent of spices and the streets pulsate with the rhythm of life, a mischievous 17-year-old named Aryan embarked on a whimsical journey of self-discovery. With a mischievous glint in his eye and a contagious laugh that echoed through the bustling streets, Aryan was known for his quick wit and humorous antics.
- 2 One sunny day, fate led Aryan to an unexpected treasure hidden amidst a dusty stack of comic books in his cluttered room. As he pulled out the hidden gem, a book titled "The Hilarious Quest for Self-Discovery," he felt a tingling sensation of anticipation. Little did he know that this book would become his portal to a world of laughter and self-revelation.
- 3 With the book as his guide, Aryan embarked on a journey filled with colourful adventures and uproarious laughter. His first escapade took him to the chaotic Crawford Market, where he immersed himself in the art of bargaining. Amidst the vibrant stalls and enthusiastic vendors, Aryan's quick wit and clever comebacks became his secret weapons. Each interaction became a comedic dance of negotiation, leaving both parties in stitches of laughter.
- 4 From the bustling markets, Aryan ventured into the realm of fiery street food. He fearlessly confronted plates overflowing with mouth-watering delicacies, each packed with a fiery punch that could bring tears to the eyes of the bravest. As he took his first bite, a symphony of flavours exploded in his mouth, accompanied by a delightful tingling sensation. Amidst the laughter and cries for water, Aryan discovered the beauty of culinary bravery and the unforgettable joy of embracing life's spicy surprises.
- 5 Throughout his journey, Aryan's laughter-filled path led him through the vibrant streets of Mumbai, where he mastered the art of maneuvering a colourful auto-rickshaw amidst the instrumentals of honking horns. He found himself dancing to Bollywood tunes with abandon, his body moving in sync with the infectious rhythm of the city. In an unforeseen twist, he stumbled upon a street play and, with his natural flair for comedy, unintentionally became the star of the show. His improvisations and slapstick humour had the crowd roaring with laughter, and Aryan revelled in the euphoria of bringing joy to others through his comedic charm.
- 6 As Aryan's journey came to a close, he reflected on the transformative power of laughter and the intricacies of self-discovery. The colourful tapestry of his adventures had unravelled the layers of his own personality, revealing the beauty of his unique comic spirit. Through laughter, Aryan had found a path to understanding himself and embracing the joy that lay hidden within.

Answer the following questions based on the reading of the given passage:

- 1.1 Complete the sentence with the appropriate option. (para 4) 1
Aryan's fearless approach in trying fiery street food represented his _____.
A. cautious nature and aversion to take risks
B. unwavering determination to prove his culinary expertise
C. willingness to embrace new experiences
D. exceptional talent for appreciating symphonies
- 1.2 Briefly explain the role of "*The Hilarious Quest for Self-Discovery*," in Aryan's journey of self-discovery. 2
- 1.3 What did Aryan unravel during his interactions with the bustling streets of Mumbai? 2
- 1.4 Select the reasons that make the title, "*Laughing Through the Streets of Mumbai: A Journey of Self-Discovery*" suitable for this passage. 1
i) Presents the merits of bargaining, as economically viable, when purchasing items from the streets of Mumbai.
ii) Captures the theme of isolation and identity crisis in the story.

MCG to SHUT 20 SITES		
Total waste collection sites 34	Sites shut by MCG 20	CCTVs to be installed 34



WHAT'S THE PLAN?		
24X7 monitoring of the sites	Beautification of sites (planters, round concrete seats and boundary walls)	Upgrade of sites proposed by the waste management firm.

It was also decided in the meeting that in order to manage horticultural waste, four composting plants will be installed by the horticulture wing of the civic body. In the meeting, a representative from waste management from Ecogreen said a material recovery facility with a capacity of 150 tons will be operational in Badshahpur within two months.

Answer the following questions based on the given passage:

- 2.1 After reading the passage, state any two functions of a commissioner of a Municipal Corporation. 2
- 2.2 The team of the commissioner and his officials exudes 1
 - A. policy making for a new amendment.
 - B. planning for a concert.
 - C. intellectual group discussion for a seminar.
 - D. cooperation and team spirit for a clean city.
- 2.3 The commissioner of MCG gave directions 1
 - A. to monitor waste management.
 - B. to check illegal dumping of waste.
 - C. to have proper dumping stations for waste.
 - D. to emphasize on town planning.
- 2.4 These secondary waste collection points receive waste from _____. 1
 - A. slum area
 - B. residential societies and condominiums
 - C. commercial buildings
 - D. multi storey office spaces
- 2.5 State **true** or **false**. 1
A number of dumping points were closed because they were upgraded for better usability.
- 2.6 Complete the following statement with the information given in the text: 1
CCTV footings will help _____.
- 2.7 The closing down of garbage dumping points is done to _____. 1
 - A. restrict the number of eyesore sites
 - B. beautify the city and for better town planning
 - C. increase the workload of the workers
 - D. harass the public
- 2.8 What are the strategies planned against the violators? 2

SECTION – B : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

3. Attempt **ANY ONE** of two, in about 50 words. 4
- A. You are Anusha Raj, the President of the Social Science club in your school. Your club is organizing a visit to a local handloom centre. Draft a notice in about 50 words, for the school notice board, informing the students of classes X - XII about this event and encouraging them to participate in it and buy handloom goods.
- (OR)
- B. You are Arun Solanki, a member of Residents Welfare Association, Saraswati Vihar, Delhi. You wish to help the children of your housing society with oral communication skills and have planned a one-month course. Draft a notice for your society's bulletin board giving all the necessary details.
4. Attempt **ANY ONE** of two, in about 50 words: 4
- A. You are Amit / Amita. You have received an invitation from the Director, Health Services, Punjab who has invited leading medical practitioners of the state to attend a workshop on 'Child Care' in New Hope Hospital, Ambala. Draft a reply of acceptance for this invitation.
- (OR)
- B. You are Faiz / Farzana, living at 39, Udampur Colony, Shimla. Draft a formal invitation for all the family members inviting them for a dinner party to congratulate your grandparents on their golden wedding anniversary.
5. Attempt **ANY ONE** of two, in about 120-150 words: 5
- A. The UNO Bank needs Public Relation Officers (PROs) in their branches all over India. The bank is offering handsome salaries to freshers who have excellent command over English. You are Ritika / Rakesh. Draft a job application along with your resume to the HR Manager, UNO Bank, New Delhi.
- (OR)
- B. Students are required to cope with a lot of pressure in today's competitive environment. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily highlighting the increasing stress faced by the students and suggest ways to combat the same. You are Rakesh / Ritika.
6. Attempt **ANY ONE** of two, in about 120-150 words: 5
- A. Recent floods in many metropolitan cities of the country during the monsoon season laid bare the hollowness of the claims of the civic authorities of their preparedness. Write an article on the common man's woes during the monsoon and the need for accountability of the officials concerned. You are Smriti / Samarth.
- (OR)
- B. Write a report of a glittering musical concert which was held in your city during the Diwali season. Many noted and budding musicians were present to grace the occasion. You are Yash / Yashika, Staff Correspondent of 'The Indian Express'.

SECTION – C : LITERATURE (40 Marks)

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two, given: (1 x 6 = 6)
- A. Tiny vestiges of the old terror would return. But now I could frown and say to that terror, "Trying to scare me, eh? Well, here's to you! Look!" And off I'd go for another length of the pool.
- This went on until July. But I was still not satisfied. I was not sure that all the terror had left. So I went to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire, dived off a dock at Triggs Island, and swam two miles across the lake to Stamp Act Island. I swam the crawl, breast stroke, side stroke, and back stroke. Only once did the terror return. When I was in the middle of the lake, I put my face under and saw nothing but bottomless water. The old sensation returned in miniature.
- (Deep Water)
- i) Why did Douglas go to swim at Lake Wentworth?

- ii) Select the option that lists the correct inference based on the information in the text.
- Triggs Island and Stamp Act Island are both located in Lake Wentworth.
 - Lake Wentworth is a part of Triggs Island.
 - Stamp Act Island is two miles away from New Hampshire.
 - Lake Wentworth is connected via docks to New Hampshire.
- iii) What was the reason for the return of terror?
- Superstitions about the dock at Triggs Island.
 - Recent reports of drowning.
 - Prior drowning experiences.
 - Warnings by experienced swimmers.
- iv) Douglas mentions that 'the old sensation returned in miniature.'
He means that he felt the familiar feeling of fear _____.
- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| A. at regular intervals | B. on a small scale |
| C. repeatedly | D. without being noticed |
- v) How did Douglas handle the old sensation?
- vi) Why has the word 'terror' been used repeatedly in the extract?

(OR)

- B. That morning she had felt so happy when she thought how homelike and Christmassy she as going to make things for the poor hungry wretch. She could not get away from the idea all at once, and that was why she had interceded for the vagabond.
"I am thinking of this stranger here," said the young girl. "He walks and walks the whole year long, and there is probably not a single place in the whole country where he is welcome and can feel at home. Wherever he turns he is chased away. Always he is afraid of being arrested and cross-examined. I should like to have him enjoy a day of peace with us here — just one in the whole year." The ironmaster mumbled something in his beard.

(The Rattrap)

- i) Complete the following sentence:
Edla wished the peddler to have a peaceful day because _____.
- ii) Complete the following analogy by selecting the suitable word from the extract.
Single : multiple :: abroad : _____
- iii) In the above extract, Edla comes across as _____.
- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| A. conscientious | B. pretentious |
| C. compassionate | D. precarious |
- iv) Based on the above extract, choose the statement which is **TRUE**.
- Relationships are rattraps in this world.
 - Money is the key to any charity.
 - Vagabonds end up being criminals and should be punished for their crime.
 - Occasions like Christmas are a time for charity and sharing happiness.
- v) In the context of the given extract, which day is referred to in the expression, 'just one day in the whole year'?
- vi) What does the expression 'he is cross examined' suggest?
8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two, given: (1 x 4 = 4)
- A. You lose all earthly sense of perspective and time here. The visual scale ranges from the microscopic to the mighty: midges and mites to blue whales and icebergs as big as countries (the largest recorded was the size of Belgium). Days go on and on and on in surreal 24-hour austral summer light, and a ubiquitous silence, interrupted only by the occasional avalanche or calving ice sheet, consecrates the place. It's an immersion that will force you to place yourself in the context of the earth's geological history. And for humans, the prognosis isn't good.

(Journey to the end of the Earth)

- i) According to the extract, select the reasons because of which one loses all earthly sense of perspective and time here.
 1. The place is too expensive to afford for the middle income groups.
 2. The place is covered and stored with large volumes of ice.
 3. The place is untouched by humans and their inventions.
 4. One can hardly experience sunshine for over a week.
 5. The place gives an extraordinary experience that makes one forget about all other things.

A. 3, 4, 5 B. 2, 4, 5 C. 1, 5 D. 2, 3, 5
- ii) The poetic device used in 'icebergs as big as countries' is _____.
- iii) Complete the following statement.
The 'visual scale' refers to _____.
- iv) Four people give a reason for the author's feeling while travelling. Choose the option that correctly summarizes it based on your understanding of the extract:

Person 1	Person 2	Person 3	Person 4
I think the author is being paranoid.	According to me, she is bewildered by the travel duration.	As far as I can judge, Tishani Doshi is being hypocritical because she is comparing the two places.	In my opinion, she is amazed by the grandeur of the icy region.

- A. Person 1 B. Person 2 C. Person 3 D. Person 4

(OR)

B. At midnight when the town slept in peace, the dewan and his aged wife dragged the tiger to 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.'

(The Tiger King)

- i) 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.
- ii) Describe the dewan's attitude.
- iii) State whether the statement is **true** or **false**.
The dewan and tiger are symbolic of the victimization that happens under the conceit of power.
- iv) Pick the option that lists the display of crumpled heap.



A



B



C



D

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two, given: (1 x 6 = 6)

A. *Fishermen in the cold sea
would not harm whales
and the man gathering salt
would look at his hurt hands.
Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.*

(Keeping Quiet)

- i) What is 'fishermen' symbolic of?
- ii) What message does the poet seem to give?
 - A. That people who are rich will not get affected, but poor people will have to suffer.
 - B. That desire for more and more progress has done more destruction than development.
 - C. That people who are laborious will incur more destruction.
 - D. That people who want development will only focus their personal well-being.
- iii) Identify **any one** line that uses the poetic device of Alliteration.
- iv) What does the term 'brothers' symbolize?

A. Siblings	B. Mankind
C. Men and women	D. Kin and brethren
- v) What does the poet mean by 'green wars'?
- vi) The verse, 'Victory with no survivors' means _____.
 - A. the victory which comes in after sacrificing all the men who were fighting
 - B. the war is won but there is no one alive to celebrate the victory
 - C. the sacrifice and loss of fellow humans and species
 - D. the tales of heroic deeds that will become futile after the wars

(OR)

B. *Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;
And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.*

(A Thing of Beauty)

- i) Pick the quote that matches best with the lines,
'And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead.'
 - A. The difference between a hero and a coward is one step sideways.
 - B. When a great man dies, for years the light he leaves behind him, lies on the paths of men.
 - C. The only people who fear death are those with regrets.
 - D. Only great souls know there is grandeur in charity.
- ii) 'An endless fountain of immortal drink' refers to an 'infinite source of strength'.
(True / False)

- iii) Choose the options that can be inferred from the given extract.
1. The bushes with fragrant flowers lift the human spirit and bring joy.
 2. Death is inevitable and everyone faces it no matter how powerful.
 3. Immortality is achieved by man when he drinks the nectar from heaven.
 4. Legendary heroes and their heroic deeds instill inspiration in us.
- A. 1, 3 B. 2, 4 C. 1, 4 D. 2, 3
- iv) Pick the option that uses the same poetic device as in the 'mighty dead'.
- A. Sleepless nights B. Deafening silence
C. Glaring lights D. Time is a thief
- v) Explain the phrase, 'grandeur of dooms'.
- vi) Why is the fountain 'endless'?
10. Answer **ANY FIVE** of the following six questions in about 40-50 words. (2 x 5 = 10)
- i) Give two reasons why, according to Pablo Neruda, 'keeping quiet' is essential to attaining a better, more peaceful world. (Keeping Quiet)
 - ii) In "Deep Water", which qualities of the swimming instructor played a role in helping Douglas overcome his fear?
 - iii) Why was Franz able to understand everything that day? Give any two reasons. (The Last Lesson)
 - iv) Why does Anees Jung say that the bangle makers are caught in a vicious web? (Lost Spring)
 - v) What is the central idea of the poem, "A Thing of Beauty"?
 - vi) State any two qualities of Raj Kumar Shukla that impressed Gandhiji. (Indigo)
11. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions in about 40-50 words. (2 x 2 = 4)
- i) What considerations influenced the Tiger King to get married? (The Tiger King)
 - ii) Galesburg, Illinois during 1894 is referred to as a 'wonderful town.' Why? (The Third Level)
 - iii) What does the programme 'Students on Ice' aim at? How is it operated? (Journey to the End of the Earth)
12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in about 120-150 words. 5
- A. Gandhiji's contribution towards the social and cultural upliftment of the people of Champaran proves that he never contented himself only with large political and economic solutions. Justify.
(OR)
- B. "My Mother at Sixty-Six" is an emotional account of the poet about her old mother. Discuss.
13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in about 120-150 words. 5
- A. "In this way the hundredth tiger took its final revenge upon the Tiger King." Comment on this statement with reference to the story.
(OR)
- B. The ending of story "The Third Level" has an element of shock and surprise for the readers. Comment.