

CBSE CLASS X

English Language & Literature (184)

ANSWER KEY

From previous CBSE Board Exam questions

Code: 6NE84M**Questions: 49****Maximum Marks: 450****Generated: 2026-06-15 13:05**

SELECTIONS USED

Source	Previous-year board
Subject	English Language & Literature
Lessons	Reading Skills
Year	2022-2026
Questions selected	49

Composition — Types: 49 reading_comprehension

Q1.

[10]

1. Necessity is indeed the mother of invention. When areas in and around Leh began to experience water shortages, life didn't grind to a halt. Why ? Because a retired civil engineer in the Jammu and Kashmir Government came up with the idea of artificial glaciers.
2. Ladakh, a cold desert at an altitude of 3,000 - 3,500 meters above sea level, has a low average annual rainfall rate of 50 mm. Glaciers have always been the only source of water. Agriculture is completely dependent on glacier melt, unlike the rest of river/monsoon-fed India. But over the years, with increasing effects of climate change, rainfall and snowfall patterns have been changing, resulting in severe shortage and drought situations. Given the extreme winter conditions, the window for farming is usually limited to one harvest season.
3. It is located between the natural glacier above and the village below. The one closer to the village and lowest in altitude melts first, providing water during April–May, the crucial sowing season. Further, layers of ice above melt with the increasing temperature, thus ensuring continuous supply to the fields. Therefore, farmers have been able to manage two crops instead of one. It costs about 1,50,000 and above to create a glacier.
4. Fondly called the glacier man, he has designed over 15 artificial glaciers in and around Leh since 1987. In recognition of his pioneering effort, he was conferred the Padma Shri by The President of India.
5. There are a few basic steps followed while creating an artificial glacier. River or stream water at high altitude is diverted to a shaded area of the hill, facing north, where the winter sun is blocked by a ridge or a mountain range. At the start of winter i.e., in November, the diverted water is made to flow on sloping hills facing distribution channels. Stone embankments are built at regular intervals which impede the flow of water, making shallow pools which freeze, forming a cascade of ice along the slope. Ice formation continues for 3-4 months resulting in a large accumulation of ice which is referred to as an 'artificial glacier'.

Read the extract given below. Based on your understanding of the extract, answer the questions below.

- (i) Infer one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 1. Areas in and around Leh began to experience water shortage but life didn't grind to a halt. [1]
- (ii) Select from the passage the appropriate option to fill in the blanks : Agriculture is completely dependent on unlike the rest of river/monsoon-fed India. [1]
 - (a) rainfall pattern
 - (b) climate change
 - (c) glaciers melt
 - (d) extreme winter conditions
- (iii) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 3 : icing : cake :: layers : [1]
- (iv) Select the correct option to complete the following sentence : At the start of winter the diverted water is made to flow [1]
 - (a) on sloping hills facing distribution channels.
 - (b) on high altitude.
 - (c) on ice–cold water level.
 - (d) on mountain range.
- (v) From the chart select the months of water surplus. [1]
 - (a) January, February.
 - (b) November, December.

(c) July, August, September.

(d) March, April.

(vi) Fill in the blank by selecting from the passage the correct option : The have been the only source of water in areas in and around Ladakh. [1]

(a) glaciers

(b) rivers

(c) streams

(d) water springs

(vii) The word 'located' in paragraph 3 means : [1]

(a) found

(b) locally found

(c) situated

(d) adapted

(viii) Write any two steps followed while creating the glaciers. [1]

(ix) List one reason why artificial glaciers seem the best option. [1]

(x) Select the most suitable title from the following for the passage : [1]

(a) Water Shortage.

(b) New Ways to Pool Water.

(c) Artificial Glacier.

(d) River Beds.

Previously asked in: 2023 2/4/1 Q2

◆ **Reading Skills**

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Artificial Glaciers/Water Scarcity in Ladakh Passage

Reading Comprehension – Factual/Informational Passage (Artificial Glaciers/Water Conservation)

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Model Answer

(i) Life didn't grind to a halt because a retired civil engineer came up with the innovative idea of creating artificial glaciers to tackle the water shortage.

(ii) (c) glacier melt

(iii) icing : cake :: layers : **ice** (artificial glacier / layers of ice)

(iv) (a) on sloping hills facing distribution channels.

(v) (c) July, August, September.

(vi) (a) glaciers

(vii) (c) situated

(viii) Two steps in creating an artificial glacier:

1. River or stream water at high altitude is diverted to a shaded, north-facing area of the hill where winter sun is blocked.

2. Stone embankments are built at regular intervals to impede water flow, making shallow pools that freeze and form a cascade of ice along the slope.

(ix) Artificial glaciers are the best option because they are located between the natural glacier and the village, melting early (April–May) during the crucial sowing season when water is most scarce, enabling farmers to grow two crops instead of one.

(x) (c) Artificial Glacier.

Explanation

- Each answer is drawn directly from the passage; avoid adding outside information.
- For (iii), the analogy compares layers on a cake (icing) to layers of **ice** forming the artificial glacier — both build up in strata.
- For (viii), any two clearly stated steps from paragraph 5 earn full marks.
- For (x), the passage is specifically about artificial glaciers as a solution — that is the central theme, making (c) the best title.

Q2.

[10]

1. Hiking is a great source of pleasure to us besides being beneficial for health. Once we leave the crowded streets of a city and go out for a walking tour away from the mad world, we really feel free. The open air has a bracing effect on the mind. The congestion of the city, the uproar and tumult, the intolerable noise of traffic, the hectic daily routine, all these are forgotten and the mind is at ease. We then feel like running, leaping, singing and laughing. We travel merrily mile after mile in the company of friends and associates.
2. Hiking takes us in the midst of nature. The sight of waterfalls, flowers, streams, trees and bushes is pleasing. A connect is established between us and nature. Various sounds of nature, like the murmur of a brook or the song of a bird, acquire a new meaning and significance to us.
3. You enjoy the beauty of nature. Minute observations like a snake casting its slough, a mouse peeping out of its hole, a squirrel leaping about on the branches of a tree, a bird flying past us, all these are noticed and they arouse our interest. We have no business worries, no fear of the examination, no anxiety about the home. We have leisure to stand, to walk and talk. It is more thrilling and pleasurable to hike in a mountainous region than in the plains. The excitement of climbing up to the top of a hill, the adventure of coming down a slope, the grandeur of sunset behind a mountain - All these sights lend a rare charm and interest to our journey.
4. We walk along a zigzag motor road or cut across a mountain path in search of adventure. We may have bright sunny weather or might get caught in a shower of rain. We may look below us into the yawning chasm or up at the mountain peak. The feeling of unlimited freedom makes our hearts leap with joy.
5. Hiking is one of the healthiest sports. It ensures a complete escape from the urgent and busy activities of life and therefore gives solace to our brain. It regains its lost energy and is able to do twice as much work as before.
6. The fresh air, beautiful mountains, majestic trees, chirping sound of birds make one's mind and soul at peace with nature.

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

(i) To go out for a walking tour is [1]

- (a) to stroll.
- (b) to ramble.
- (c) to hike.
- (d) to saunter.

(ii) Why does the writer say that the mind is at ease when you hike ? [1]

- (a) because hiking is an inexpensive activity.
- (b) because it brings families together.
- (c) because of intolerable noise of traffic.
- (d) because the depressing daily routine is forgotten.

(iii) Complete the following with a phrase : The various sounds of nature acquire..... [1]

(iv) Infer one reason for the following based on information in paragraph 2. A contact is established between us and nature. [1]

(v) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word from paragraph 2. aroma : cooking ; fragrance : [1]

(vi) Give one reason why it is a pleasure to hike in the mountains than in the plains. [1]

- (a) because observation is sharpened.

- (b) because of the excitement of climbing up and adventure of coming down.
- (c) because it is leisure to stand, to walk.
- (d) because there are no worries.

(vii) Hiking gives the brain, the rest it needs because [1]

- (a) it is a short time activity.
- (b) it is one of the healthiest sports.
- (c) it makes us sleep peacefully.
- (d) it is an escape from our busy schedule.

(viii) List any two examples of minute observations you make while on a hike. [1]

(ix) Supply one point to justify the following : Hiking gives us a feeling of unlimited joy. [1]

(x) Substitute the word 'leap with joy' with one word similar in meaning in the following sentence from the passage.
The feeling of unlimited freedom makes our hearts leap with joy. [1]

Previously asked in: 2023 2/4/1 Q1

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Floods/Environment Passage

Reading Comprehension – Hiking/Nature Passage

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Model Answer

(i) (c) to hike.

(ii) (d) because the depressing daily routine is forgotten.

(iii) The various sounds of nature acquire **a new meaning and significance to us.**

(iv) Hiking takes us into the midst of nature — the sight of waterfalls, flowers, streams, trees and bushes brings us close to the natural world, establishing a connect between us and nature.

(v) aroma : cooking ; fragrance : **flowers**

(vi) (b) because of the excitement of climbing up and adventure of coming down.

(vii) (d) it is an escape from our busy schedule.

(viii) Two examples of minute observations while hiking:

- A snake casting its slough.
- A mouse peeping out of its hole.

(ix) Hiking gives us a feeling of unlimited joy because the freedom of being away from the city — walking along mountain paths, facing the weather, and looking at vast scenery — makes our hearts leap with joy.

(x) The word that can substitute '**leap with joy**' is **exult** (to rejoice greatly / be elated).

Source: Reading Passage — "Hiking"

Explanation

- (iii) Quote directly from paragraph 2; partial answers lose marks.
- (iv) Infer means explain *why* using evidence from the paragraph — don't just restate the quote.
- (v) "Fragrance" relates to flowers as "aroma" relates to cooking — both are pleasant smells from their sources.
- (viii) Any two from: snake casting slough, mouse peeping out, squirrel leaping on branches, bird flying past.
- (x) Acceptable synonyms: *exult*, *rejoice*, *jubilate*. Examiners accept any correct single word.

Q3.

[10]

(1) Many young people aged between 6 and 25 belong to the Scout movement. It is a worldwide organization, which was set up to help young people achieve their full potential as they grow up.

(2) The organization was established in 1907 by a British general called Robert Baden-Powell. While in the army, he wrote a publication about scouting (which means searching and keeping watch) and how to survive in the wild, called 'Aids to Scouting'. He realized how popular this was, and the result was another book, 'Scouting for Boys', which had less emphasis on the military. To test his ideas, he held a week-long camp for 21 boys from various schools in London, Poole and Bournemouth. This took place in August 1907, on Brownsea Island, in Southern England. These boys had the chance to enjoy outdoors, which became another of the movement's objectives.

(3) The Scout Movement quickly got established in Europe. It then spread throughout the world, starting in Chile in 1909. To begin with, the focus was on boys aged 11 to 18. However, as the movement grew, it was clear that younger boys, older boys and girls all wanted to be involved. Baden-Powell's sister set up the Girl Guides in 1910, and in 1914 she started Rosebuds, later renamed Brownies, for younger girls. The movement's intention to help young people play useful roles in society applies equally to girls and boys. By 2010, there were 32 million scouts, and by 2006, there were 10 million guides around the world, from a total of 216 different countries.

(4) 2007 marked 100 years of the Scout Movement, and events took place around the world to celebrate this centenary. To mark the occasion, a colourful badge was produced for scouts to sew onto their uniforms or bags. The design included the official scout emblem, as well as the phrase, 'one world one promise', and images of doves and the globe.

(5) 2007 was also the 150th anniversary of Baden-Powell's birth. To honour both occasions, a flame was lit at Baden-Powell's grave in Nyeri. This is the place in Kenya where he spent the last few years of his life. The flame was then carried through several countries until it reached the UK.

Read the following text, an excerpt from a case study titled "Scouts and Guides Around the World." Answer the following questions based on your reading of the above passage:

(i) Infer one reason for the following, based on the information given in paragraph 4: 'Colourful badge was sewn on to the uniform and bags of the Scouts'. [1]

(ii) From paragraph 1, we can infer that Scout Movement was set up _____. [1]

(iii) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 4. 10 years : decade :: 100 years : _____ [1]

(iv) After reading the passage, bring a contrast between the books 'Aids to Scouting' and 'Scouting for Boys'. [2]

(v) What does the writer mean by the following phrase? 'One world one promise.' [1]

(vi) According to the chart, which country took maximum time to introduce 'Guiding' after 'Scouting'? Choose your answer from the options given below: [1]

- (A) India
- (B) Indonesia
- (C) Thailand
- (D) Philippines

(vii) List two reasons why a flame was lit at Baden-Powell's grave in 2007. (a) _____ (b) _____ [2]

(viii) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option: The establishment of Scout movement from 1907 to 2006 showed _____ results. [1]

- (A) uniform

- (B) encouraging
- (C) inconsistent
- (D) disappointing

Previously asked in: 2024 2/3/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Analogy-Based Vocabulary Question from Passage

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Bird Migration Passage

Inferential Reading – Implied Meaning of Phrases

Reading Comprehension – Factual and Inferential (Case Study/Informational Text)

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Model Answer

(i) The colourful badge was sewn onto uniforms and bags to mark/celebrate the centenary of 100 years of the Scout Movement in 2007.

(ii) From paragraph 1, we can infer that the Scout Movement was set up **to help young people achieve their full potential as they grow up.**

(iii) 10 years : decade :: 100 years : **centenary**

(iv) 'Aids to Scouting' was written by Baden-Powell while he was in the army and focused heavily on military scouting and survival in the wild. In contrast, 'Scouting for Boys' had **less emphasis on the military** and was more focused on general scouting activities suited for boys.

(v) The phrase 'one world one promise' means that scouts across the entire world, regardless of their country or background, are united by one common commitment — the Scout promise and its shared values of peace and brotherhood (symbolised by doves and the globe).

(vi) (C) **Thailand**

(Scouting introduced in 1911; Guiding introduced in 1957 — a gap of **46 years**, the maximum among all listed countries.)

(vii)

(a) 2007 marked the **100th anniversary (centenary) of the Scout Movement.**

(b) 2007 was also the **150th anniversary of Baden-Powell's birth.**

(viii) (B) **encouraging**

(The movement grew from a small camp in 1907 to 32 million scouts and 10 million guides across 216 countries by 2006.)

Source: "Scouts and Guides Around the World", paragraphs 1–5 and table.

Explanation

- **Q(i):** "Infer" means give a reason from the text — the badge was for the centenary celebration.
- **Q(iii):** "Centenary" is explicitly used in paragraph 4 for 100 years — always look for the exact word from the passage in analogy questions.
- **Q(iv):** This is a 2-mark contrast question — you must clearly state what each book focused on. One point per book = 2 marks.
- **Q(vi):** Calculate the gap for each country from the table: Thailand (1957–1911 = 46 years) is the largest gap. Philippines is 8 years; India is 2 years; Indonesia is 0 years.
- **Q(viii):** "Encouraging" fits because growth from 0 to 32 million scouts in 216 countries is positive/impressive — not uniform, inconsistent, or disappointing.

Q4.

[10]

(1) Mango (*Mangifera indica*) is Asia's most popular fruit, and it has gained popularity around the world. It has long been a component of culture and religion as a useful and tasty fruit. In addition to taste, it has many good qualities thus making it to be called as "King of Fruits". Major mango-growing states in India include Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are the leading states in mango production.

(2) Mango is grown in an area of 5.58 million hectares of area in the world. India is the largest producer of mangoes with 46.02 and 45.88 percent of the total world area and production, respectively. However, India being the major shareholder in terms of mango production, exports only 0.52% of its total production indicating the huge gap in exporting of mangoes. Peru exports about 46%, Thailand 24%, Mexico 18% and Brazil 11% of their total mango production. These countries are the bigger challenges for Indian mango exports. Hence, efforts are needed to evolve cheap transportation mechanism, increase the trade agreements with major importing countries and enhance the productivity.

(3) The top importing country is United States of America, however, India exports only two percent of its total exports to the USA. The USA, European countries, the UK, Malaysia and Russia can be the other hotspots where India can target to export the mangoes. The critical issue for exporting to the USA is transportation cost (due to sea route distance) and limited shelf life of mango, while for Europe transportation costs as well as competition by African countries are the major hurdles.

The following chart shows the major export destinations of Indian mangoes in 2019-20:

Table: Major Export Destination of Indian Mangoes in 2019-20

(Adapted for academic usage.)

Read the passage given below and answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

- (i) Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of Para (1): We can say that for becoming the king of jungle, Lion has to be the strongest, bravest and the fiercest. Similarly, Mango is known as the king of fruits because _____. [1]
- (ii) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of Para (2): The statement that, India is the largest producer of Mangoes with 45.88 percent of the total world production can be attributed to Indian orchardists, is a/an _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____ (subjective judgement/objective detail) [1]
- (iii) Justify the following in about 40 words: India being the major shareholder in terms of mango production, exports only 0.52% of its total production. [2]
- (iv) Based on the table, which three countries were at par with each other in terms of mango import from India in 2019-20? [1]
- (v) The top mango importing country is the U.S.A., however, India exports only two percent of its total exports to the U.S.A. State any one inference that can be drawn from this. [1]
- (vi) In the given sentence taken from para-2, select the option that correctly replaces the underlined word, with its most likely antonym. These countries are the bigger challenges for Indian mango exports. [1]
- (A) enigmas
(B) solutions
(C) provocations

(D) disputes

(vii) Why is India described as the largest producer of mangoes in the world? (Answer in about 40 words.) [2]

(viii) Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage? [1]

(A) India needs to produce more mangoes so that more can be exported.

(B) The UAE imported most mangoes from India in 2019-20.

(C) India is the largest producer of mangoes and by putting in more efforts, has the potential to be the largest exporter too.

(D) More study is needed to find ways to increase the export of mangoes from India.

Previously asked in: 2024 2/2/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills Fact vs Opinion in Reading Comprehension

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Agriculture/Crop Rotation Passage

Inferential and Analytical Questions – Analogy Completion

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Model Answer

(i) Mango is known as the King of Fruits because, in addition to its great taste, it has many good qualities (such as cultural importance, wide popularity, and nutritional value).

(ii) The statement is a **fact** because it is an **objective detail** (it is a verifiable, data-based figure, not a personal judgement).

(iii) India exports only 0.52% of its production because of challenges like high transportation costs, limited shelf life of mangoes, fewer trade agreements with major importing countries, and stiff competition from countries like Peru, Thailand, and Mexico, which export far higher percentages of their production.

(iv) **U.S.A., Kuwait, and Bahrain** were at par with each other, each accounting for **2%** of Indian mango exports in 2019-20.

(v) India is unable to fully tap the potential of its largest importing market due to high transportation costs (sea route distance) and the limited shelf life of mangoes.

(vi) **(B) solutions**

(vii) India is described as the largest producer of mangoes because it accounts for 46.02% of the total world mango-growing area and 45.88% of total world mango production. Major producing states include Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu.

(viii) **(C)** India is the largest producer of mangoes and by putting in more efforts, has the potential to be the largest exporter too.

Source: Passage on Mango Export, Paras 1–3 and Table

Explanation

- (i) The analogy asks you to mirror the structure — pick qualities stated in Para 1 (taste + many good qualities).
- (ii) "Fact vs opinion" and "objective vs subjective" — a percentage figure from data is always a fact/objective detail.
- (iii) 2 marks = 2 valid reasons from the passage (transportation, shelf life, competition, fewer trade agreements).
- (iv) Read the table carefully — USA, Kuwait, Bahrain all show 2%.
- (v) Draw a logical inference linking the two given facts; the passage hints at transportation cost and shelf life.
- (vi) "Challenges" is negative; its antonym among the options is "solutions" (B).

- **(vii)** Quote both statistics (area % and production %) — examiners expect both numbers.
- **(viii)** The passage's central argument is that India *can* become a top exporter with effort — option C captures this best.

Q5.

[10]

(1) Fossil fuels (oil, coal, and natural gas) are our most traditional sources for power generation. The energy that's produced from any source other than fossil fuels is termed as alternative energy. Between the two sources, using alternative energy has a lower environmental impact.

(2) We now know that alternative energy sources are the sources we use to supplement or even replace traditional energy sources used for power generation. You could almost say the same thing about renewable energy sources. But there is one subtle difference between the two. All renewable energy sources fall under the category of alternative energy sources, but it doesn't work the other way around.

(3) That's because renewable energy sources are derived from naturally replenished sources or processes of Earth, such as the sun, wind, and water. We refer to these resources as renewable or sustainable since, unlike fossil fuels, this naturally occurring continual renewal makes them inexhaustible. However, alternative energy sources are exhaustible, and therefore not renewable. That's the difference!

(4) The equipment necessary to harness energy from alternative sources used to be so expensive that it wasn't practical for consumer use. However, thanks to increased demand, more experienced energy developers, competitive supply chains, improved renewable technologies, and enhanced energy efficiency capabilities, that's no longer the case.

(5) When it comes to energy efficiency, the leader of the renewable energy pack is wind energy. Behind wind comes geothermal energy, hydropower, nuclear energy, and then solar power. Wind power serves both individuals and entire communities. It is versatile, and can be produced from small-scale windmills or wind turbines on residential properties. It can also be produced from large-scale offshore wind farms in the ocean.

(6) We generate geothermal power by tapping into underground reservoirs of hot water and steam. Geothermal electricity can directly heat and cool buildings. Generated from the energy of moving water, hydroelectricity (also known as hydropower) is produced when water behind a dam causes turbine blades to move as it flows through an intake. The turbine blades then rotate a generator to produce electricity that is sent to power homes.

(7) Nuclear energy is created in the form of heat through the fission process of atoms. The initial fission process creates energy and triggers a chain reaction that repeats the process and generates more energy. In nuclear power plants, the heat that fission produces creates steam. The steam then rotates a turbine, which leads to the production of electricity.

(8) Solar power most commonly refers to the use of solar cells to create energy. On a small scale, you may see a few solar panels on a house roof used to produce energy for just that one home. On a larger scale, you may see a solar farm used as a power plant to produce electricity for its consumers.

Read the following text and answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

(i) Which of the following statements best describes the difference between renewable energy sources and alternate energy sources? [1]

- (A) Alternative energy sources are more expensive than renewable energy sources.
- (B) Renewable energy sources are inexhaustible whereas alternate energy sources could be exhaustible.
- (C) Alternative energy sources are as renewable as renewable energy sources.
- (D) Renewable energy sources are exhaustible but alternative energy sources are inexhaustible.

- (ii) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from para (4)? Rationalise your response in about 40 words. "However, thanks to increased demand, more experienced energy developers, competitive supply chains, improved renewable technologies, and enhanced energy efficiency capabilities, that's no longer the case". [2]
- (iii) Complete the sentence appropriately: In the past, alternative energy sources were not used much by the consumers because _____. [1]
- (iv) The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (a) to (e) below, identify two sets of antonyms: [1]
- (a) generate and produce
 - (b) exhaustible and inexhaustible
 - (c) subtle and versatile
 - (d) power and energy
 - (e) sustainable and exhaustible
- (v) Who is the leader of renewable energy pack and why? [1]
- (vi) Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, the difference between geothermal electricity and hydroelectricity. [2]
- (vii) What is the message conveyed by the passage? [1]
- (A) Only those energy sources should be used which are renewable.
 - (B) Wind energy is a renewable as well as inexhaustible source of energy.
 - (C) There are plenty of renewable energy sources that can be used to replace traditional energy sources.
 - (D) Alternative energy sources are the emerging energy trends and are still evolving.
- (viii) State whether the following statement is True or False with reference to the given extract. Hydroelectricity as a renewable energy source is used for residential as well as commercial purposes. [1]

Previously asked in: 2024 2/2/1 Q1; 2024 2/3/1 Q1 – 2×

◆ **Reading Skills**

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Passage

Inferential Reading – Implied Meaning of Phrases

Unseen Passage – Factual/Discursive (Central Idea & Assertion-Reason)

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Model Answer

- (i) (B) Renewable energy sources are inexhaustible whereas alternate energy sources could be exhaustible.
- (ii) The tone is **optimistic/positive**. The writer is hopeful and encouraging, highlighting that factors like increased demand, better technology, and improved efficiency have made alternative energy practical and affordable for consumers – something that was not possible earlier.
- (iii) In the past, alternative energy sources were not used much by consumers because the equipment necessary to harness energy from these sources was so expensive that it wasn't practical for consumer use.
- (iv) The two sets of antonyms are:
- **(b)** exhaustible and inexhaustible
 - **(e)** sustainable and exhaustible
- (v) Wind energy is the leader of the renewable energy pack because it has the highest energy efficiency among all renewable sources. It is also versatile – it can power individuals, communities, and even large offshore wind farms.
- (vi) Geothermal electricity is generated by tapping underground reservoirs of hot water and steam, and can directly heat and cool buildings. Hydroelectricity, on the other hand, is produced from the energy of moving water – water behind a dam moves turbine blades, which rotate a generator to produce electricity for homes.
- (vii) (C) There are plenty of renewable energy sources that can be used to replace traditional energy sources.

(viii) False. The passage states that hydroelectricity is sent to power homes; it does not mention commercial purposes.

Source: Passage on Alternative and Renewable Energy, Paras 1–8

Explanation

- **(i)** Para 3 directly states renewable sources are inexhaustible; alternative sources are exhaustible — making (B) the clear answer.
- **(ii)** Tone questions need a label + justification. "Optimistic" fits because the writer shifts from a problem to a hopeful resolution using "however."
- **(iii)** The answer is a direct lift from Para 4 — always look for direct evidence in comprehension.
- **(iv)** Antonyms must be opposite in meaning. "Sustainable" and "exhaustible" are opposites; so are "exhaustible" and "inexhaustible." Sets (a) and (d) are synonyms, not antonyms.
- **(v)** Para 5 is the source — quote efficiency + versatility for a complete 1-mark answer.
- **(vi)** Keep the comparison crisp: source of generation + use/output for each. Don't mix them up.
- **(vii)** The passage covers multiple renewable sources as alternatives to fossil fuels — (C) captures the central message best.
- **(viii)** The passage only mentions homes for hydroelectricity (Para 6), so "commercial purposes" makes the statement False.

Q6.

[10]

- (1) The National Education Policy 2020 proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of education, including the educational structure, regulations and governance, to create a new system which is aligned with the aspirational goals of 21st century students. According to the policy, by 2025, at least 50% of learners through the school and higher education system shall have exposure to skill education, for which a clear action plan with targets and timelines are to be developed.
- (2) The policy aims to overcome the social status hierarchy associated with skill education and integration of skill education into mainstream education in all educational institutions in a phased manner. Beginning with skill exposure at early ages in middle and secondary school, quality skill education will be integrated smoothly into school and higher education.
- (3) Every child will learn at least one skill and is exposed to several more. This would lead to emphasizing the dignity of labour and importance of various vocations involving Indian arts and artisanship.
- (4) The development of skill capacities will go hand-in-hand with the development of 'academic' or other capacities. To achieve this objective, secondary schools will have to collaborate with Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Polytechnics, Local Industry, etc. Skill labs will also be set up and created in the schools in a Hub and Spoke model, which will allow other schools to use the facility. Higher education institutions will offer skill education either on their own or in partnership with industry and other institutions.

The Global Scenario of Students in Skill Education Sector.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions based on your understanding of the extract.

- (i) Based on the reading of the extract, list 2 objectives of NEP 2020. [2]
- (ii) Fill in the blank with appropriate option from those given in the brackets, based on the understanding of paragraph (4). The statement: "The development of skill capacities will go hand-in-hand with the development of academic or other capacities" is a / an _____ (fact / opinion) because it is a / an _____ (subjective judgement / objective detail) [1]
- (iii) Select the option that corresponds to the meaning of the statement given below: "According to the policy, by 2025, at least 50% of learners through the school and higher education system shall have exposure to skill education." [1]
- (A) Maximum 50% learners shall have exposure to technical education.
 (B) Minimum 50% learners shall have exposure to technical education.
 (C) Minimum 50% learners shall have exposure to skill education.
 (D) Maximum 50% learners shall have exposure to skill education.
- (iv) Based on the understanding of the passage, complete the following statement appropriately: The benefit of the hub and spoke model will be _____. [1]
- (v) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word / phrase from paragraph (3): Racism : condemn :: _____ : respect [1]
- (vi) As per the Global Scenario which country has the maximum percentage of students in Skill Education and what can be the possible reason? [2]
- (vii) Fill in the following blank choosing the most appropriate option from the ones given below: As per NEP 2020, skill exposure will begin at _____. [1]
- (A) middle and secondary school
 (B) primary school
 (C) higher school
 (D) senior secondary school
- (viii) Justify the statement – 'The NEP will create an awareness and appreciation of Indian arts and artisanship.' [1]

Previously asked in: 2024 2/1/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Reading Comprehension – Factual/Discursive Passage

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Model Answer**(i)** Two objectives of NEP 2020:

- To revamp all aspects of education to align with the aspirational goals of 21st century students.
- To overcome the social status hierarchy associated with skill education and integrate it into mainstream education.

(ii) The statement is a **fact** because it is an **objective detail** stated in the policy document.**(iii) (C)** Minimum 50% learners shall have exposure to skill education.**(iv)** The benefit of the hub and spoke model will be that **skill labs set up in one school can be shared and used by other schools**, making the facility accessible to more students.**(v)** Racism : condemn :: **dignity of labour** : respect**(vi)** As per the Global Scenario, **South Korea** has the maximum percentage (96%) of students in skill education. A possible reason is that South Korea has a well-established vocational training system with strong government support and close industry-education linkages, making skill education a mainstream and respected career path.**(vii) (A)** middle and secondary school**(viii)** NEP 2020 states that every child will learn at least one skill and be exposed to several more, which will emphasize the **dignity of labour and the importance of various vocations involving Indian arts and artisanship**, thus creating awareness and appreciation for them.

Explanation

- Answer each sub-question strictly from the passage; do not add outside information except for (vi) where a *reasonable inference* is acceptable.
- (ii) is tricky — since the statement is presented as a policy declaration (objective), it is a **fact**, not an opinion.
- (v) The analogy asks for something that is *respected* just as racism is *condemned* — "dignity of labour" fits perfectly from paragraph (3).
- For (vi), South Korea's 96% is clearly the highest; a brief logical reason earns the second mark.

Q7.

[10]

- (1) Held every year on 21 May, UNESCO leads the celebration of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development highlighting not only the richness of the world's cultures, but also the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development.
- (2) A recent international emergency has proved the intrinsic value of the cultural and creative sector at generating social cohesion, educational resource or personal well-being in times of crisis. It has also underscored the sector's potential to generate economic growth, something which is too often underestimated.
- (3) With the adoption in September 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations, and the resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2015, the message of the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is more important than ever. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can best be achieved by drawing upon the creative potential of the world's diverse cultures and engaging in continuous dialogue to ensure that all members of society benefit from sustainable development.
- (4) Bridging the gap between cultures is urgent and necessary for peace, stability and development. Cultural diversity is a driving force of development, not only with respect to economic growth, but also as a means of leading a more fulfilling intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual life. This is captured in the culture conventions, which provide a solid basis for the promotion of cultural diversity. Cultural diversity is thus an asset that is indispensable for poverty reduction and the achievement of sustainable development.
- (5) At the same time, acceptance and recognition of cultural diversity in particular through innovative use of media and Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) are conducive to dialogue among civilizations and cultures, respect and mutual understanding.
- (6) In 2001, UNESCO adopted the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. Next, in December 2002, the UN General Assembly, in its resolution 57/249, declared May 21 to be the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, and in 2015, the Second Committee of the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development, affirming culture's contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development, acknowledging further the natural and cultural diversity of the world, and recognizing that cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development.
- (7) The day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to achieve the goals of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions adopted on 20 October, 2005.

Read the text given below and answer the following questions based on the above passage.

- (i) Based on the reading and understanding of the above passage, list 2 points to describe the purpose of UNESCO leading the celebration of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. (a) _____ (b) _____ [1]
- (ii) Select the option that corresponds to the meaning of the following sentence from para (2). The recent international emergency has proved the intrinsic value of the cultural and creative sector at generating social cohesion, educational resource or personal well-being in times of crisis. [1]
- (A) the real worth of cultural sector at generating social cohesion during pandemics
(B) the real worth of creative sector at undermining the social cohesion during an international emergency
(C) questioning the real worth of creative sector at generating education resource during an international emergency
(D) highlighting the real worth of cultural and creative sector at generating social cohesion and educational resource during an international emergency
- (iii) Based on your reading of the passage, examine in about 40 words how Sustainable Development Goals can be achieved. [2]

(iv) What is the tone of the writer in the given line from paragraph (4)? Rationalise your response in about 40 words: "Cultural diversity is an asset." [2]

(v) The phrase 'bridging the gap' in paragraph (4) refers to: [1]

- (A) widening the differences
- (B) connecting two disparate ideas
- (C) supporting the bridging
- (D) filling in the space between two connected things

(vi) In sets a-e below, identify two sets of synonyms. a. richness and poverty b. intellectual and moral c. reduction and promotion d. essential and intrinsic e. urgent and crucial [1]

- (A) a and c
- (B) b and e
- (C) d and e
- (D) b and d

(vii) Complete the sentence appropriately: The Second Committee of UN General Assembly in 2015 adopted _____. [1]

(viii) Complete the following sentence: _____ is urgent and necessary for peace, stability and development. [1]

Previously asked in: 2024 2/1/1 Q1

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Passage

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Model Answer

(i)

(a) To highlight the richness of the world's cultures.

(b) To emphasize the essential role of intercultural dialogue for achieving peace and sustainable development.

(ii) (D) highlighting the real worth of cultural and creative sector at generating social cohesion and educational resource during an international emergency.

(iii) The 17 SDGs can best be achieved by drawing upon the creative potential of the world's diverse cultures and engaging in continuous dialogue. This ensures that all members of society benefit equally from sustainable development, with culture playing a key enabling role.

(iv) The tone is **persuasive and assertive**. The writer strongly argues that cultural diversity is not a barrier but an indispensable asset — essential for poverty reduction and sustainable development. The use of "indispensable" reflects confidence and urgency in promoting cultural diversity's value.

(v) (D) filling in the space between two connected things.

(vi) (C) d and e — "essential" and "intrinsic" are synonyms (both mean fundamentally important); "urgent" and "crucial" are synonyms (both mean critically necessary).

(vii) The Second Committee of the UN General Assembly in 2015 adopted the resolution on Culture and Sustainable Development, affirming culture's contribution to the three dimensions of sustainable development.

(viii) **Bridging the gap between cultures** is urgent and necessary for peace, stability and development.

Source: Passage on World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

Explanation

- (i) Pull two distinct points directly from para 1 — don't paraphrase loosely; the examiner checks for accuracy.
- (ii) Option D is correct because it captures both "cultural AND creative sector" and both outcomes (social cohesion + educational resource). Options A/B/C each miss or distort one element.

- **(iii)** 2-mark answers need two developed ideas (~40 words). Quote para 3 closely: "creative potential of diverse cultures" + "continuous dialogue."
- **(iv)** Name the tone (persuasive/assertive), then justify with textual evidence. 2 marks = tone + reasoning.
- **(v)** "Bridging the gap" idiomatically means reducing/filling the distance between things — D is closest. B uses "desperate" (wrong word) and is conceptually off.
- **(vi)** Check carefully: d (essential ≈ intrinsic ✓) and e (urgent ≈ crucial ✓). Both pairs are correct → answer C.
- **(vii)/(viii)** Direct retrieval from paras 6 and 4 respectively — copy accurately for full marks.

Q8.

[10]

- (1) In today's contemporary online shopping landscape, a perfect storm of choice engulfs consumers. Research consistently indicates that individuals presented with a limited selection tend to make more confident and efficient decisions compared to those confronted with overwhelming choices.
- (2) Consequently, assisting consumers in navigating the vast expanse of options available online has evolved into a thriving industry on a global scale. Many brands and retailers now employ marketing strategies revolving around the aspects given in the table below :
- (3) For a relatively new breed of consumer product startups, a different approach emerges entirely. Rather than attempting to navigate the existing sea of products, these companies claim to revolutionize conventional consumer choices. Some brands offer limited, functional, mid-priced products, instilling customer confidence and breaking the cycle of consumerism.
- (4) The global product abundance could be more equitable. Unfortunately, creators often prioritize wealthier consumers.
- (5) For startups promising accessible simplicity, their very structure may eventually lead them back to an overwhelming array of choices. Most of these companies rely on hundreds of millions of dollars in venture capital funding, and their inventors typically expect rapid growth. (Adapted for academic usage)

Read the following text and answer the questions based on the passage above.

- (i) What does the use of the phrase 'a perfect storm of choice', by the writer, in paragraph 1, tell us about their feelings? [1]
- (A) The consumers are elated
(B) The consumers are confused
(C) The consumers are confident
(D) The consumers are decisive
- (ii) Identify the word in paragraph 2, that indicates that the writer feels assisting consumers has become a profitable industry. [1]
- (iii) Based on the aspects mentioned in the table, mention the marketing approach that is primarily concerned with understanding consumers based on various factors. [1]
- (iv) Complete the following analogy approximately, based on your understanding of the table : Cataloging people by gender, income level, personal interests etc. is to Data utilization as Algorithms, influencers, and ad tech are to _____. [1]
- (v) Which aspect in the table pertains to presenting consumers with carefully selected choices to assist decision-making? [1]
- (A) Challenge
(B) Data utilization
(C) Marketing trends
(D) Retail assistance
- (vi) Based on your understanding, fill the blank with the appropriate option from those given in brackets : The solution to combat choice fatigue to _____ (follow / employ / recommend) lifestyle influencers on Instagram who provide self-improving content and product references. [1]
- (vii) Complete the sentence suitably : The different approach to revolutionise consumer choices is to _____. [1]

(viii) Complete the following with a suitable reason : The writer believes that the global product abundance cannot be equitable because _____. [1]

(ix) In the context of the last paragraph though the startups promise simplicity of access, what are the drawbacks of such a structure? [2]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/6/1 Q2

♦ **Reading Skills**

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Floods/Environment Passage

Reading Comprehension – Online Shopping/Consumer Behaviour Passage

Word Choice / Vocabulary in Context

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Model Answer

(i) (B) The consumers are confused

(ii) The word is "**thriving**" — it indicates that assisting consumers has become a profitable industry.

(iii) The marketing approach primarily concerned with understanding consumers based on various factors is **Data utilization** (digital advertising, cataloging people by gender, income level, personal interests, etc.).

(iv) Cataloging people by gender, income level, personal interests etc. is to Data utilization as Algorithms, influencers, and ad tech are to **Retail Assistance**.

(v) (D) Retail Assistance

(vi) The solution to combat choice fatigue is to **employ** lifestyle influencers on Instagram who provide self-improving content and product references.

(vii) The different approach to revolutionise consumer choices is to offer limited, functional, mid-priced products that instil customer confidence and break the cycle of consumerism.

(viii) The writer believes that global product abundance cannot be equitable because creators often prioritize wealthier consumers, ignoring those with lower purchasing power.

(ix) Although startups promise accessible simplicity, their structure has two major drawbacks. First, they rely on hundreds of millions of dollars in venture capital funding, which creates pressure to expand rapidly. Second, because investors typically expect rapid growth, these startups are eventually pushed to offer more and more products, leading them back to the same overwhelming array of choices they originally sought to eliminate — defeating their own purpose.

Source: Passage on online shopping and consumer choices

Explanation

- (i) "Perfect storm" signals chaos/confusion, not happiness or confidence.
- (ii) "Thriving" directly means flourishing/profitable — pick the single word the question asks for.
- (iii) & (iv) & (v) These are table-based — map descriptions to their correct Aspect labels carefully.
- (vi) "Employ" fits grammatically and contextually; "follow" is informal, "recommend" changes the subject.
- (vii) Paraphrase paragraph 3 accurately — key idea is "limited, functional, mid-priced products."
- (viii) Paragraph 4 is the source — stick to "creators prioritize wealthier consumers."
- (ix) For 2 marks, identify **two** drawbacks: (1) venture capital dependency and (2) pressure for rapid growth → return to overwhelming choices. Both points must appear.

Q9.

[10]

(1) Creativity is our most precious resource and the most inexhaustible one. As anyone who has ever spent any time with children knows, every single human being is born creative; every human being is innately endowed with the ability to combine data and perceptions, materials and ideas and devise new ways of thinking and doing. What fosters creativity? More than anything else: the presence of other creative people, contrary to that creativity is the province of great individual geniuses. In fact creativity is a social process. Our biggest creative breakthrough comes when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people.

(2) Cities are centres of creativity. With their diverse populations, dense social networks and public spaces, people can meet spontaneously and spark or catalyse new ideas. With their infrastructure for finance, organization and trade, they allow the idea to swiftly reach its destination.

(3) A study tracking the decline of unconventional thinking ability as children age, states that while 98 percent of 3 to 5 years olds exhibited creative thinking, this dwindled to 10 percent among 13 to 15 years olds and a mere 2 percent among 25 years olds. Thus, adulthood witnesses the erosion of innate creativity. There is a variance in creative vitality across cities. Although all cities harbour creative individuals by default, some are saturated with leaders, institutions, and people that inhibit creativity.

(4) Creativity (or the lack of it) follows the same general contours of the great socio-economic divide – our rising inequality – that plagues us. According to estimates, roughly one-third people are able to do work which engages our creative faculties to some extent, whether as artists, musicians, writers, techies, innovators, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, journalists or educators. That leaves a group termed “the other 66 percent”, in which their creativity is subjugated, ignored or wasted.

(5) Creativity itself is not in danger. It is flourishing all around us – in science and technology, arts and culture, in our rapidly revitalizing cities. But we still have a long way to go if we want to build a truly creative society that supports and rewards creativity of each one of us. (Created for academic usage / 410 words)

Read the following text and answer the questions based on the passage above.

(i) The central idea of this passage is that : [1]

- (A) social interaction is necessary to nurture creativity.
- (B) creativity and ideas are gradually declining in all societies.
- (C) the creativity divide is widening in societies in line with socio-economic trends.
- (D) more people should work in jobs that engage their creative faculties.

(ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below : Assertion : Creativity is the province of great individual genius is not true. Reason : Creativity is a social process. [1]

- (A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation and assertion.
- (B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
- (C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
- (D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

(iii) Identify the word in paragraph 1 which means something that cannot be used-up or depleted. [1]

(iv) What important trends does a study tracking the decline in creative thinking ability in children reveal? Answer in about 40 words. [2]

(v) Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank. Our biggest creative breakthrough comes when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people. Creativity is thus a _____ (economic, industrial, social) process. [1]

(vi) According to the passage, where does creativity thrive apart from arts and culture? [1]

(vii) Complete the following with a suitable reason : About thirty-three percent citizens engage their creative faculties in tasks that use _____. [1]

(viii) In the context of the last paragraph, explain how does the passage view the future of creativity in society. [2]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/6/1 Q1

♦ Reading Skills

Unseen Passage – Factual/Discursive (Central Idea & Assertion-Reason)

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Model Answer

(i) (A) social interaction is necessary to nurture creativity.

(ii) (A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

(iii) The word is **inexhaustible**.

(iv) The study reveals a sharp decline in creative thinking with age. While 98% of children aged 3–5 showed creative thinking, this dropped to 10% among 13–15 year olds and further to just 2% among 25 year olds. Thus, innate creativity erodes significantly as one reaches adulthood.

(v) Creativity is thus a **social** process.

(vi) According to the passage, creativity thrives in **science and technology** and in **rapidly revitalizing cities**, apart from arts and culture.

(vii) About thirty-three percent citizens engage their creative faculties in tasks that use **their creative skills** — as artists, musicians, writers, techies, innovators, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, journalists, or educators.

(viii) The passage views the future of creativity with cautious optimism. It states that creativity is not in danger and is flourishing in science, technology, arts, culture, and revitalizing cities. However, it also cautions that society still has a long way to go before it can truly support and reward the creativity of every individual.

Source: Reading Comprehension Passage (Created for academic usage)

Explanation

- (i): Para 1 focuses on social interaction fostering creativity — the central theme.
- (ii): The assertion correctly contradicts the myth of individual genius, and the reason (social process) directly explains *why* that myth is wrong — so it's the correct explanation.
- (iii): "Inexhaustible" = cannot be used up/depleted; it appears in the first sentence of Para 1.
- (iv): 2-mark answer needs both the specific statistics AND the conclusion ("adulthood witnesses erosion"). Always include the numbers from the passage.
- (v): Directly lifted from Para 1 — "creativity is a social process."
- (vi): Para 5 lists science & technology, arts & culture, and cities — the question asks *apart from* arts and culture.
- (vii): Para 4 says roughly one-third engage creative faculties — list any examples from the passage to complete the answer naturally.
- (viii): 2-mark answer needs *both* the optimistic view (flourishing) AND the cautionary note (long way to go) from Para 5.

Q10.

[10]

(1) The climate and landscape in Uttarakhand vary greatly with altitude (186 – 7619 m), from the largest glaciers in the higher elevation to the subtropical forests in the lowest elevation.

(2) The lowlands along the border of U.P. are covered by the drier Terai-Savanna grasslands, the moist deciduous forest of the Upper Gangetic Plains form the Bhabhar belt. Due to the extensive agricultural practices, most of these lowland forests have been cleared. Snow and bare ice occupy the highest altitudes.

(3) This state occupies 53,483 sq.km., (1.63% of India's total land area). Out of 13 districts, Uttarkashi occupies the maximum area of 8039 sq. km., while Champawat covers the minimum area of 1634 sq. km. Uttarakhand experiences four types of seasons, namely, Monsoon (June to September), Post-monsoon (October to November), Cold weather (December to February) and Pre-monsoon (March to May). The normal annual precipitation in the state is 1446 mm. Rain usually starts at the end of April and lasts until September. The monsoon rainfall is 78% of the annual rainfall. This makes the state prone to flood during monsoon. Bageshwar receives the maximum normal annual rainfall (1872 mm). 81% falls of this rainfall occurs in the monsoon season. Haridwar receives the minimum normal annual rainfall (1107 mm).

(4) Due to the differences in topographical features, temperatures vary widely. During March and April, temperatures rise until they peak in May and June, when the mean maximum temperature in the southern and valley regions is between 34° and 38 °C, and the mean minimum temperature is between 20° and 24 °C. Temperatures can reach 42 °C in the valleys and southern half of the state and 30 °C in two-kilometre-high elevations on some days. Day and night temperatures begin to dip around the end of September and reach the lowest in January and early February. January is the coldest month, with an average maximum temperature of 20 °C and an average lowest temperature of 6 °C. The mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures range from 10° to 12 °C at altitudes of 2 km.

(<https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4441/14/12/1879/>)

(338 words)

Read the following text and answer the questions based on the passage above:

- (i) Fill in the blank suitably : The variance in climate and landscape of Uttarakhand as per paragraph 1 is marked by _____. [1]
- (ii) Based on your understanding of the paragraph 2, fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets. Most of the lowland forests are _____ (maintained/cleared) due to the _____ (large-scale/small-scale) agricultural practices. [1]
- (iii) Based on the passage, which of the districts has the lowest rainfall in Uttarakhand ? [1]
- (iv) In the given sentence taken from paragraph 3, select the option that correctly replaces the underlined word, with its most likely Antonym. Rain usually starts at the end of April and lasts until September. [1]
- (A) begins
(B) arrives
(C) ends
(D) commences
- (v) 'This makes the state of Uttarakhand prone to flood during monsoon.' Justify the statement with reference to the passage given above in 30-40 words. [2]
- (vi) Which two districts have maximum and minimum rainfall in the state ? [1]

- (A) Bageshwar and Chamoli
- (B) Nainital and Rudraprayag
- (C) Haridwar and Garhwal
- (D) Bageshwar and Haridwar

(vii) Complete the given table : Assertion: The temperatures vary widely in the state of Uttarakhand. Reasoning: _____ [1]

(viii) How is Bhabhar belt formed ? [1]

(ix) State which of the given statements is not true : [1]

- (A) January is the coldest month, with an average maximum temperature of 20 °C and an average lowest temperature of 6 °C.
- (B) The mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures range from 15 to 20 °C at altitudes of 2 km.

Previously asked in: 2025 2/5/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Floods/Environment Passage

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Forests/Ecology Passage

Word Choice / Confusing Words

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Model Answer

(i) The variance in climate and landscape of Uttarakhand is marked by **altitude (186 – 7619 m)**.

(ii) Most of the lowland forests are **cleared** due to the **large-scale** agricultural practices.

(iii) **Haridwar** has the lowest rainfall in Uttarakhand (1107 mm normal annual rainfall).

(iv) **(C) ends**

('Lasts' means continues until a point; its antonym is 'ends'.)

(v) The monsoon rainfall accounts for 78% of the total annual precipitation of 1446 mm. Such a heavy concentration of rainfall within a short period (June–September) overwhelms drainage systems, making Uttarakhand highly prone to flooding during the monsoon season.

(vi) **(D) Bageshwar and Haridwar**

(Bageshwar receives the maximum – 1872 mm; Haridwar receives the minimum – 1107 mm.)

(vii)

| Assertion | Reasoning |

|---|---|

| The temperatures vary widely in the state of Uttarakhand. | This is due to the differences in topographical features across the state. |

(viii) The Bhabhar belt is formed by the **moist deciduous forests of the Upper Gangetic Plains** along the lower foothills of Uttarakhand, bordering U.P.

(ix) Statement **(B)** is **not true**.

The passage states that the mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures range from **10° to 12 °C** at altitudes of 2 km — not 15° to 20 °C as stated in option (B).

Source: Passage on Climate and Landscape of Uttarakhand, paragraphs 1–4

Explanation

- **(i)** The key phrase "vary greatly with altitude" is directly in paragraph 1 — copy it precisely.
- **(iv)** 'Lasts' = continues/persists; its antonym is 'ends' (C). Students often confuse antonym with synonym here.

- **(v)** Must link two facts: 78% rainfall concentrated in monsoon + total annual precipitation = reason for flood risk. Two marks need two connected points.
- **(vii)** The reasoning must come from paragraph 4's opening line: "Due to the differences in topographical features."
- **(viii)** Students sometimes confuse Bhabhar with Terai — Bhabhar is specifically the moist deciduous forest belt of the Upper Gangetic Plains.
- **(ix)** A direct fact-check against paragraph 4: the passage clearly says 10°–12 °C, making option B false.

Q11.

[10]

- (1) ChatGPT can search. It cannot research. The platform has attracted the world's attention because of the speed with which it assembles and produces information in a logical sequence, powered by artificial intelligence, as if a human being were prompting it to write.
- (2) Curious about understanding what ChatGPT can do, I opened an account and asked if it would replace research in the future. Promptly, it replied : "As an AI language model, I don't hold personal beliefs, but I can present arguments on both sides of the topic."
- (3) The answer amused me. The speed with which it typed the information across the screen was mind-boggling. I could not read the answer as fast as it typed out the sentence. But, when it had finished, I read through the document. It was impressive. It was truly informative.
- (4) Five different points had been explained briefly in seconds. I would have thought of those five points in an hour or more, depending on the complexity of the topic. "AI : Catalyst, not Conqueror : ChatGPT and the future of research" was the title that it threw up to my question. It matched my opinion about the future of research after ChatGPT. The write-up had an introduction and a conclusion, just as our English teachers have taught us.
- (5) The document came from countless databases, as that is what it's designed to do. By contrast, when I research a subject for an 800-word article, I visit five or six authoritative sources; I don't go to a million as most are copies.
- (6) The difference between the write-up of ChatGPT and my research article is the former is a mere summary. When I write, I search new ideas and knit them in a way that reflect my thoughts and perspective. I choose only what is original, unique and fresh and process them in my mind to create a fresh angle.
- (7) Research has no value if it only summarises known information. Even a literature survey in your subject requires you to say what you will do with it further, and how.
- (8) Research is not a joke. Years ago, I had asked my professor, later on my supervisor, "How can I publish an article in research journals ?"
- (9) He answered, "When you have read everything on the subject, and have something original to add to the existing body of research." My head swam.
- (10) Excellent research is a daunting task and calls for hard intellectual work. When you research, you don't go wide; you go deep. You thoroughly investigate a minor concept, researching it extensively, substantiating each claim with reliable sources, experiments, models and beyond. It took years to discover the atom and the theory of gravitation. ChatGPT can summarise these discoveries, but it cannot add to them. It does not have the mental wherewithal for that.

(openpage@thehindu.co.in/461words)

Read the following text and answer the questions based on the passage above:

- (i) Which of the following statements best summarises the author's views about ChatGPT ? [1]
- (A) It can summarise discoveries.
 - (B) It assembles and produces information.
 - (C) Its information is based on numerous databases.
 - (D) It can only search but not research.

- (ii) What did the professor suggest to the author's question of how he could publish his research journal ? (Answer in 40 words only.) [2]
- (iii) Complete the given analogy : Dependable : reliable : rational : _____. [1]
- (iv) Mention one basic difference between the write-up of ChatGPT and author's research article. [2]
- (v) Complete the sentence appropriately. The author noticed that the write-up produced by ChatGPT had an introduction and a conclusion, just as he learnt in his English class but it still lacked _____. [1]
- (vi) The author was moved by the _____ with which the ChatGPT was producing the article. [1]
- (A) originality
(B) information
(C) rationality
(D) speed
- (vii) State whether the given statement is True/False : Research is not beneficial if it only summarises the known information. [1]
- (viii) Quote the answer of ChatGPT, from the above given passage, when it was asked whether it would replace research in the future ? [1]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/5/1 Q1

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Comprehension of a Passage

Factual/Discursive Passage Comprehension

Inferential Reading – Implied Meaning of Phrases

Reading Comprehension

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Model Answer

- (i) (D) It can only search but not research.
- (ii) The professor told the author that he could publish in a research journal only when he had read everything on the subject and had something **original** to add to the existing body of research. It meant research must contribute new knowledge, not merely repeat what is already known.
- (iii) Dependable : reliable : rational : **reasonable**
- (iv) ChatGPT's write-up is a mere summary drawn from countless databases. In contrast, the author's research article presents original, unique ideas processed through his own perspective and thinking, creating a fresh angle that adds new value to the existing body of knowledge.
- (v) ...but it still lacked **original thought, a unique perspective, and the ability to add anything new to the existing body of knowledge.**
- (vi) (D) speed
- (vii) **True.** The passage states: "Research has no value if it only summarises known information."
- (viii) ChatGPT replied: *"As an AI language model, I don't hold personal beliefs, but I can present arguments on both sides of the topic."*
-

Explanation

- (i) The very first line of the passage is the key: "ChatGPT can search. It cannot research." Option D captures this directly.
- (ii) Quote/paraphrase paragraph 9 closely; the examiner looks for "read everything" + "original addition."
- (iii) The analogy is synonym-based: dependable = reliable, so rational = reasonable.
- (iv) Paragraph 6 is the source — contrast "mere summary" vs. "original ideas/fresh angle."
- (v) The missing element is originality/personal perspective — inferred from paragraphs 6 and 7.

- **(vi)** Paragraph 3: "speed...mind-boggling" — answer is D.
- **(vii)** Straight lift from paragraph 7.
- **(viii)** Direct quote from paragraph 2 — copy it exactly for full marks.

Q12.

[10]

(1) Electric vehicles (EV) market is growing rapidly all over the world. In India also the EV market has gained significant momentum. It has grown more after the implementation of FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacture of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) scheme in 2015 by Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises.

(2) Electric vehicles are solutions to be independent and free from imported energy resources. Electric cars can bring a major change to India in becoming self-sustainable. EV could also be the alternative to decrease carbon dioxide gas. Carbon dioxide from automobiles is one of the causes of air pollution.

(3) An EV can be used for flexible load, for standardizing the grid with substantial share of fluctuating renewable energy generation. EV emits 30-80% less greenhouse gas when compared with Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicle. EVs do not consume any energy when it is stationary as compared to ICE vehicles where fuel is consumed when it is idle. EV is recognised as promising alternatives to vehicles and will potentially replace ICE vehicles in the near future.

(4) The electric vehicles have low emissions, high efficiency and smooth operation. The energy consumption and emissions for plug in hybrid electric vehicles found that compared to gasoline vehicles there is 37.5% less energy consumption and 35% less greenhouse gas emissions.

The government have started financial policies to encourage EV adoption; however, decision makers have to plan a long-term perspective to get them implemented efficiently.

Read the following text and answer the questions based on the passage above.

I What does the phrase 'gained significant momentum' in paragraph (1) tell us about the impact of EV market? [1]

- A It is momentarily important
- B It has developed very quickly
- C It has gained profit
- D It has to develop a significant market

II Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below: Assertion: Electric vehicles can bring a major change to India. Reason: It can bring India to becoming self-sustainable. [1]

- A Both the Assertion and Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- B Both the Assertion and Reason are true but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- C The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
- D The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

III Give two benefits of using Electric vehicles over Internal Combustion Engine vehicles. [2]

IV With reference to the passage, the word 'idle' in paragraph (3) most nearly means _____. [1]

V How do electric vehicles contribute to diminishing a country's reliance on imported energy? [1]

VI Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank: EV could be the alternative to _____ (enhance / reduce) the carbon dioxide gas emission. [1]

VII Give evidence from the passage to show that government is encouraging the use of Electric Vehicles. [1]

VIII Complete the sentence suitably: The result of the implementation of FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacture of Electric vehicles) is _____. [1]

IX Complete the following with a suitable reason: The long-term perspective by decision makers is to ensure _____. [1]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/4/1 Q2

♦ Reading Skills

Fact vs. Opinion – Identifying Statement Type

Reading Comprehension – Factual/Discursive Passage

Vocabulary in Context – Phrase Meaning

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Model Answer**I.** B — It has developed very quickly.**II.** A — Both the Assertion and Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion. (EVs make India self-sustainable by freeing it from imported energy, which directly explains the major change.)**III.** Two benefits of EVs over ICE vehicles:

- EVs emit 30–80% less greenhouse gas compared to ICE vehicles.
- EVs do not consume any energy when stationary, whereas ICE vehicles consume fuel even when idle.

IV. The word 'idle' in paragraph (3) most nearly means **stationary / not moving / at rest** (when the vehicle is running but not in motion, consuming fuel unnecessarily).**V.** Electric vehicles are solutions to be independent and free from imported energy resources, thus reducing a country's reliance on foreign energy.**VI.** EV could be the alternative to **reduce** the carbon dioxide gas emission.**VII.** Evidence: *"The government have started financial policies to encourage EV adoption."* This shows the government is actively encouraging the use of Electric Vehicles.**VIII.** The result of the implementation of FAME scheme is **that the EV market in India has grown significantly / gained further momentum**.**IX.** The long-term perspective by decision makers is to ensure **that the financial policies encouraging EV adoption are implemented efficiently**.*Source: Reading passage on Electric Vehicles (EV), paragraphs 1–4*

Explanation

- **I & II** are direct inference/MCQ — pick the answer closest to the passage's meaning.
- **III** needs two distinct points; always quote figures from the passage (30–80%, stationary vs. idle) for full marks.
- **IV** — 'idle' here means the engine is running but the vehicle is not moving; 'stationary' is the passage's own clue word.
- **V, VI, VII, VIII, IX** — lift key phrases directly from the passage; paraphrase minimally. Examiners reward accuracy to the text over creative rewording.

Q13.

[10]

(1) Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is now high on the international agenda and ESD is seen as a way to encourage greater sustainable consumption and production, to counter the effects of climate change, address threats to biodiversity and provide more effective disaster risk reduction. Education for Sustainable Development is seen by UN as a lifelong process from early childhood to higher and adult education and goes beyond formal education. As values, lifestyles and attitudes are established from an early age, the role of education is of particular importance for children! ESD has often been associated with curriculum projects linked with recycling; energy and water conservation; pollution reduction and sustainable consumption – all developed to contribute towards achieving a more sustainable future.

(2) Research from developmental psychology, longitudinal studies, social–cultural analysis, and neuroscience have all shown that it is in the early years that children have the greatest capacity to learn, and it is in these years that many of our fundamental attitudes and values are first put into place. Children are already investigating issues related to recycling, energy conservation, waste disposal and changes in their local environment. ESD in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is of great significance. The development of ESD and ECCE requires more than just curriculum development. It provides the possibility of a transformational reconstruction.

(3) UNICEF reports show that children under the age of eight represent the highest percentage of affected population in today's global emergencies. A UNESCO survey has shown that the ministries of education, environment and sustainable development in 97 UN member states identify poverty as the highest priority area to be addressed in achieving sustainable development. In fact, reductions in poverty and inequality are widely recognised as the priority in efforts to create a more sustainable world. At a global level, millions of children start school carrying the handicap that comes with the experience of malnutrition, ill-health and poverty. Yet, equitable access to high-quality pre-school programmes remain a problem in both rich and poor countries. Sustainable development projects that enable rapid progress in maternal health, child nutrition and survival already exist, even in some of the world's poorest countries. Linking health and education agenda has been recognised as extremely important.

Read the following text and answer the questions based on the passage above.

I Complete the following with a suitable explanation with reference to paragraph (1). ESD is now high on the international agenda because _____. [1]

II Based on the given passage, How does UN view ESD as a lifelong process? What are the critical areas of emphasis? (Paragraph 1) [2]

III List two curriculum projects that ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) has been linked with. (Paragraph 1) [1]

IV Complete the following suitably: Many of our fundamental attitudes and values are put into plan in the early years as _____. (Paragraph 2) [2]

V Substitute the underlined word with the correct word from paragraph (2): ESD in Early Childhood Care and Education provides the possibility of transformational reconstruction. [1]

- A positive change
- B power to reform
- C negative impact
- D creative

VI What do UNICEF reports reveal about the vulnerability of children under the age of eight during global emergencies? (Paragraph 3) [1]

A UNICEF reports highlight the resilience of children under the age of eight during global emergencies.

B UNICEF reports indicate that children under the age of eight are rarely affected by global emergencies.

C UNICEF reports show that children under the age of eight represent the highest percentage of affected population in global emergencies.

D UNICEF reports suggest that children under the age of eight are primarily responsible for responding to global emergencies.

VII What remains a problem in both rich and poor countries? What has been recognised as crucial? (Paragraph 3) [1]

VIII Complete the sentence with the correct response: The writer's tone in the passage is _____. [1]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/4/1 Q1

♦ **Reading Skills**

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Passage

Reading Comprehension

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Model Answer

I. ESD is now high on the international agenda because it encourages sustainable consumption and production, counters climate change, addresses threats to biodiversity, and provides more effective disaster risk reduction.

II. The UN views ESD as a lifelong process spanning from early childhood to higher and adult education, going beyond formal education. Critical areas of emphasis include values, lifestyles, and attitudes, with particular importance placed on children, since these are established from an early age.

III. Two curriculum projects ESD has been linked with:

- Recycling
- Energy and water conservation

IV. Many of our fundamental attitudes and values are put into place in the early years as children have the greatest capacity to learn during this period, as shown by research from developmental psychology, neuroscience, and longitudinal studies.

V. B — power to reform

('Transformational reconstruction' implies the power to bring about fundamental reform and change.)

VI. C — UNICEF reports show that children under the age of eight represent the highest percentage of affected population in global emergencies.

VII. Equitable access to high-quality pre-school programmes remains a problem in both rich and poor countries. Linking the health and education agenda has been recognised as crucial/extremely important.

VIII. The writer's tone in the passage is **informative and persuasive** (the writer presents facts and research to convince readers of the importance of ESD).

Source: Reading Comprehension Passage — Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3

Explanation

- **I & IV:** Complete-the-sentence questions need a phrase that flows grammatically; lift key ideas directly from the passage.
- **II:** Two-mark questions need two distinct points — here: span of ESD + critical areas.
- **III:** List questions need exact examples from the text; any two from the four listed are acceptable.
- **V:** "Transformational reconstruction" = fundamental reform = **power to reform (B)**. "Positive change" is too vague; "power to reform" best captures the structural meaning.
- **VI:** This is a direct-retrieval MCQ — option C matches the passage verbatim.
- **VII:** Two parts in one mark — keep both answers brief.

- **VIII:** The tone question tests reading inference; "informative and persuasive" is standard for such passages that present data and argue a case. Examiners accept "analytical and informative" too.

Q14.

[5]

Extraction And Purification Of Drinking Water

1. Some consumers choose to purchase bottled drinking water, rather than relying on city tap water supplies. Bottled water has typically been extracted from underground sources. If water exists underground, but has no natural exit points, bottling companies may construct a water table well by drilling down to extract water from an unconfined aquifer. This is done when the water level is known as a water table. In some cases, as with a valley or gully on a mountain, the level of the spring can emerge. Bottling companies are permitted to extract this water from a hole drilled into the underground spring, but the composition of the water must be identical to that of the naturally surfacing variety nearby.
2. Artesian water is drawn from a confined aquifer, a deep underground cavity of porous rock that holds water and bears pressure from a confining layer above it. This water can be accessed if companies drill a vertical channel down into the confined aquifer. Due to the pressurised nature of this aquifer, water will often rise up from within it and form a flowing artesian well, which appears as an explosive fountain at the surface when the surface is lower than the natural water table. If the surface is not lower than the natural water table, it is still possible to draw artesian water by using an extraction pump.
3. [Bottled water] has been subjected to a variety of cleansing processes. A common filtering procedure, known as reverse osmosis, involves the water being pressed through microscopic membranes that prevent larger contaminants from passing through. The microscopic size of these holes is such that they can even obstruct germs, but they are most effective against undesirable materials such as salt, nitrates and lime scale. One disadvantage of reverse osmosis is that a lot of unusable water is generated as a by-product of the procedure; this must be thrown away.
4. For treating pathogens, an impressive newer option is ultraviolet (UV) light. Powerful UV light has natural antibacterial qualities, so this process simply requires water to be subjected to a sufficient strength of UV light as it passes through a treatment chamber. The light neutralises many harmful germs by removing their DNA, thereby impeding their ability to replicate. A particularly impressive quality of UV light is its ability to neutralise highly resistant viral agents such as hepatitis.
5. The overall effects of UV light treatment are variable, however, which leaves many municipal water treatment processes relying on chlorination. Its powerful and comprehensive antimicrobial effect notwithstanding, chlorination is also extremely inexpensive and remains the only antimicrobial treatment capable of ensuring water remains contaminant-free all the way through the pipes and to the taps of domestic homes. Many members of the public remain suspicious of water that has been treated with such a harsh chemical. Its ease of use and affordability has meant that chlorine often plays an important role in making tainted water supplies safe for consumption immediately after natural disasters have occurred.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer any five questions from the six given below:

- (i) Under what conditions does a natural spring emerge? [1]
- (ii) What is a confined aquifer? [1]
- (iii) What forms a flowing artesian well? [1]
- (iv) [Question about reverse osmosis / filtration — text partially missing in the source] [1]
- (v) How are pathogens treated? [1]
- (vi) Why is municipal water treated by chlorination? [1]

Previously asked in: 2022 2/3/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Water/Environment Passage

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Model Answer

(i) A natural spring emerges when, in some cases such as a valley or gully on a mountain, the level of the spring can come to the surface naturally.

(ii) A confined aquifer is a deep underground cavity of porous rock that holds water and bears pressure from a confining layer above it.

(iii) Due to the pressurised nature of the confined aquifer, water rises up and forms a flowing artesian well, appearing as an explosive fountain at the surface when the surface is lower than the natural water table.

(iv) Reverse osmosis involves pressing water through microscopic membranes that block contaminants. It is most effective against salt, nitrates, and lime scale, but produces a lot of unusable waste water as a by-product.

(v) Pathogens are treated using ultraviolet (UV) light. Water passes through a treatment chamber where powerful UV light neutralises harmful germs by removing their DNA, preventing them from replicating.

(vi) Municipal water is treated by chlorination because UV treatment has variable effects. Chlorination is inexpensive, has a powerful antimicrobial effect, and keeps water contaminant-free all the way through the pipes to domestic taps.

Source: "Extraction and Purification of Drinking Water," Paragraphs 1–5

Explanation

- The question asks for **any five** out of six, but it is safer to attempt all six and let the examiner credit the best five.
- Each answer must come **directly from the passage** — no outside knowledge.
- Keep each sub-answer to **1–2 sentences** only (1 mark each).
- Key examiner tip: use the **exact words/phrases** from the passage where possible (e.g., "porous rock," "confining layer," "removing their DNA") — this signals comprehension and earns full marks.

Q15.

[5]

Sifting through the sands of time

1. [Sand contains] skeletons of marine animals, even tiny diamonds. Sand provides a mineral treasure-changing processes.
2. Sand : as children we play on it and as adults we relax on it. It is something we complain about when it gets in our food, and praise [it in other contexts]. If we were to examine it closely, we would discover an account of a geological past and a history of marine life that goes back thousands and, in some cases, millions of years.
3. Sand covers not just sea-shores, but also ocean beds, deserts and mountains. It is one of the most common substances on Earth. And it is a major element in man-made items too — concrete is largely sand, while glass is made of little else.
4. What exactly is sand? Well, it is larger than fine dust and smaller than shingle. Depending on its age and origin, a particular sand can consist of tiny pebbles or porous granules. Its grain may have the shape of stars or spirals, their edges jagged or smooth. They have come from the erosion of rocks, or from the skeletons of marine organisms which accumulate on the bottom of the oceans, or even from volcanic eruptions.
5. [The colour of sand varies by location:] grains may be derived from nearby coral outcrops, from crystalline quartz rocks or from gypsum. On Pacific islands jet black sands form from volcanic minerals.
6. Usually, the older the granules, the finer they are and the smoother the edges. The fine, white beaches, for instance, are recycled from sandstone several hundred million years old. Perhaps they will be stone once more, in another few hundred million.
7. Sand is an irreplaceable industrial ingredient whose uses are legion : but it has one vital function you might never even notice. Sand does a better job of protecting our shores than the most advanced coastal technology.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer any five questions from the six given below:

- (i) [Question about the passage — text partially missing in the source] [1]
- (ii) How is sand both a pain and a pleasure? [1]
- (iii) Name two man-made materials that contain sand. [1]
- (iv) List the different shapes of sand. [1]
- (v) What is the origin of white sand? [1]
- (vi) In what ways are older granules different from recent granules? [1]

Previously asked in: 2022 2/3/1 Q1

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Comprehension of a Passage

Factual/Inferential Comprehension of Discursive Passage

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Model Answer

(Note: Sub-question (i) is unanswered as the question text is missing from the paper. Answering the remaining five as required.)

- (ii) Sand is a pain when it gets into our food, but a pleasure as children play on it and adults relax on it.
- (iii) Two man-made materials that contain sand are **concrete** (largely sand) and **glass** (made of little else).

(iv) Sand grains may have the shape of **stars or spirals**, with edges that are either **jagged or smooth**.

(v) White sand originates from **sandstone that is several hundred million years old**. It has been recycled over millions of years into fine, white beach sand.

(vi) Older granules are **finer** and have **smoother edges**, whereas recent (younger) granules tend to be coarser with more jagged edges.

Source: "Sifting through the Sands of Time", Paragraphs 2, 3, 4, 6

Explanation

- Each answer is strictly one sentence/line — matching the 1-mark weightage per sub-question.
- All answers are lifted directly from the passage; examiners reward accuracy over elaboration for comprehension questions.
- For (iv), list both shapes AND edge types — the passage combines them, and a complete answer should too.
- Sub-question (i) is skipped as its text is missing; in the exam, answer whichever five you choose from the six — you are not penalised for skipping one.
- Avoid adding outside knowledge; stick entirely to the passage.

Q16.

[5]

Extraction And Purification Of Drinking Water

1. Some consumers choose to purchase bottled drinking water, rather than relying on city tap water supplies. Bottled water has typically been extracted from underground sources. If water exists underground, but has no natural exit points, bottling companies may construct a water table well by drilling down to extract water from an unconfined aquifer. This is done when the water level, known as a water table [is below the surface]. In some cases, as with a valley or gully on a mountain, the level of the [land dips below the water table level, and a] spring can emerge. Bottling companies are permitted to extract this water from a hole drilled into the underground spring, but the composition of the water must be identical to that of the naturally surfacing variety nearby.
2. Artesian water is drawn from a confined aquifer, a deep underground cavity of porous rock that holds water and bears pressure from a confining layer above it. This water can be accessed if companies drill a vertical channel down into the confined aquifer. Due to the pressurised nature of this aquifer, water will often rise up from within it and form a flowing artesian well, which appears as an explosive fountain at the [surface] when the surface is lower than the natural water table. If the surface is not lower than the natural water table, it is still possible to draw artesian water by using an extraction pump.
3. [Once extracted, bottled water must be purified.] [It has] been subjected to a variety of cleansing processes. A common filtering procedure, known as reverse osmosis, involves the water being pressed through microscopic membranes that prevent larger contaminants from passing through. The microscopic size of these holes is such that they can even obstruct germs, but they are most effective against undesirable materials such as salt, nitrates and lime scale. One disadvantage of reverse osmosis is that a lot of unusable water is generated as a by-product of the procedure; this must be thrown away.
4. For treating pathogens, an impressive newer option is ultraviolet (UV) light. Powerful UV light has natural antibacterial qualities, so this process simply requires water to be subjected to a sufficient strength of UV light as it passes through a treatment chamber. The light neutralises many harmful germs by removing their DNA, thereby impeding their ability to replicate. A particularly impressive quality of UV light is its ability to neutralise highly resistant viral agents such as hepatitis.
5. The overall effects of UV light treatment are variable, however, which leaves many municipal water treatment processes relying on chlorination. Its powerful and comprehensive antimicrobial effect notwithstanding, chlorination is also extremely inexpensive and remains the only antimicrobial treatment capable of ensuring water remains contaminant-free all the way through the pipes and to the taps of domestic homes. Many members of the public remain suspicious of water that has been treated with such a harsh chemical. Its ease of use and affordability has meant that chlorine often plays an important role in making tainted water supplies safe for consumption immediately after natural disasters have occurred.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer any five questions from the six given below:

- (i) Under what conditions does a natural spring emerge? [1]
- (ii) What is a confined aquifer? [1]
- (iii) What forms a flowing artesian well? [1]
- (iv) [What is reverse osmosis and what are its disadvantages?] [1]
- (v) How are pathogens treated? [1]
- (vi) Why is municipal water treated by chlorination? [1]

Previously asked in: 2022 2/1/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Water/Environment Passage

Reading Comprehension – Factual/Informational Passage

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Model Answer

(Answering any five — all six answered; examiner will credit the first five.)

- (i) A natural spring emerges when the level of the land, as in a valley or gully on a mountain, dips below the water table level.
- (ii) A confined aquifer is a deep underground cavity of porous rock that holds water and bears pressure from a confining layer above it.
- (iii) Due to the pressurised nature of the confined aquifer, water rises up and forms a flowing artesian well, appearing as an explosive fountain at the surface when the surface is lower than the natural water table.
- (iv) Reverse osmosis is a filtering process where water is pressed through microscopic membranes to remove contaminants. Its disadvantage is that a large amount of unusable water is generated as a by-product and must be discarded.
- (v) Pathogens are treated using ultraviolet (UV) light. Water passes through a treatment chamber where UV light neutralises harmful germs by removing their DNA, preventing them from replicating.
- (vi) Municipal water is treated by chlorination because UV treatment has variable effects. Chlorination is inexpensive, has a powerful antimicrobial effect, and keeps water contaminant-free all through the pipes to domestic taps.

Source: "Extraction and Purification of Drinking Water," Paragraphs 1–5

Explanation

- The question says "any five," but writing all six is safe practice — the examiner credits only the first five attempted.
- Each answer must be drawn **directly from the passage**; do not add outside knowledge.
- 1 mark each = one clear sentence (or two very short ones) per sub-question. Avoid over-writing.
- Key examiner check: Does your answer use the passage's own phrasing/facts? That is what fetches the mark.

Q17.

[5]

Sifting through the sands of time

1. [Sand contains] skeletons of marine animals, even tiny diamonds. Sand provides a mineral treasure-changing processes.
2. Sand : as children we play on it and as adults we relax on it. It is something we complain about when it gets in our food, and praise [it at the beach. If we were to examine a handful of sand,] we would discover an account of a geological past and a history of marine life that goes back thousands and, in some cases, millions of years.
3. Sand covers not just sea-shores, but also ocean beds, deserts and mountains. It is one of the most common substances on Earth. And it is a major element in man-made items too — concrete is largely sand, while glass is made of little else.
4. What exactly is sand? Well, it is larger than fine dust and smaller than shingle. Depending on its age and origin, a particular sand can consist of tiny pebbles or porous granules. Its grain may have the shape of stars or spirals, their edges jagged or smooth. They have come from the erosion of rocks, or from the skeletons of marine organisms which accumulate on the bottom of the oceans, or even from volcanic eruptions.
5. [In different locations, the composition of sand varies.] Grains may be derived from nearby coral outcrops, from crystalline quartz rocks or from gypsum. On Pacific islands jet black sands form from volcanic minerals.
6. Usually, the older the granules, the finer they are and the smoother the edges. The fine, white beaches, for instance, are recycled from sandstone several hundred million years old. Perhaps they will be stone once more, in another few hundred million.
7. Sand is an irreplaceable industrial ingredient whose uses are legion : but it has one vital function you might never even notice. Sand does a better job of protecting our shores than the most advanced coastal technology.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer any five questions from the six given below:

- (i) [What does sand provide according to paragraph 1?] [1]
- (ii) How is sand both a pain and a pleasure? [1]
- (iii) Name two man-made materials that contain sand. [1]
- (iv) List the different shapes of sand. [1]
- (v) What is the origin of white sand? [1]
- (vi) In what ways are older granules different from recent granules? [1]

Previously asked in: 2022 2/1/1 Q1

♦ Reading Skills

Factual Passage Comprehension

Factual and Inferential Comprehension of a Passage

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Model Answer

(Note: Answering five out of six — omitting (i) as the passage for paragraph 1 is incomplete/unclear.)

- (ii) Sand is a pain when it gets into our food, but a pleasure when children play on it and adults relax on it at the beach.

(iii) Two man-made materials containing sand are **concrete** (largely sand) and **glass** (made of little else).

(iv) Sand grains may have the shape of **stars or spirals**, with edges that are either **jagged or smooth**.

(v) White sand originates from **sandstone that is several hundred million years old**, which has been recycled over time into fine, white beach sand.

(vi) Older granules are **finer** and have **smoother edges** compared to recent granules, which tend to be coarser with more jagged edges.

Source: "Sifting through the Sands of Time," paragraphs 2–6

Explanation

- **Answer strictly from the passage** — do not add outside knowledge.
- Each answer is **one to two sentences** (1 mark each); going longer wastes time.
- Use **key words from the passage** (e.g., "sandstone several hundred million years old" for white sand) — examiners look for these.
- For (vi), the contrast must be clear: older = finer + smoother; recent/newer = coarser + jagged. Both points together earn the mark.
- If paragraph 1 text is garbled in your paper, attempt (i) only if readable; otherwise pick the five clearest questions as allowed.

Q18.

[5]

The story of Joanne Kathleen Rowling's near magical rise to fame is almost as well known as the characters she creates.

Rowling was constantly writing and telling stories to her younger sister Dianne. "The first story I ever wrote down was about a rabbit called Rabbit." Rowling said in an interview. "He got the measles and was visited by his friends including a giant bee called Miss Bee. And ever since Rabbit and Miss Bee, I have always wanted to be a writer, though I rarely told anyone so.

However, my parents, both of whom come from impoverished backgrounds and neither of whom had been to college, took the view that my overactive imagination was an amusing personal quirk that would never pay a mortgage or secure a pension.

A writer from the age of six, with two unpublished novels in the drawer, she was stuck on a train when Harry walked into her mind fully formed. She spent the next five years constructing the plots of seven books, one for every year of his secondary school life.

Rowling says she started writing the first book, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, in Portugal, where she was teaching English.

At first nobody wanted to publish Harry Potter. She was told that plot was too complex. Refusing to compromise, she found a publisher.

In 1997 Rowling received her first royalty cheque. By book three, she had sky rocketed to the top of the publishing world. A row of zeroes appeared on the author's bank balance and her life was turned upside down. Day and night she had journalists knocking on the unanswered door of her flat.

Rowling's quality control has become legendary, as her obsession with accuracy. She's thrilled with Stephen Fry's taped version of the books and outraged that an Italian dust jacket showed Harry minus his glasses. "Don't they understand that the glasses are the clue to his vulnerability."

Annual earnings of J.K. Rowling from 2010 to 2019.

Read the following excerpt from a Case Study. J.K. Rowling – A Journey. On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer any five of the six questions given below.

- (i) Explain J.K. Rowling's 'near magical rise to fame'. [1]
- (ii) What reason did the publishers give for rejecting Rowling's book? [1]
- (iii) What was the drawback of achieving fame? [1]
- (iv) Why was Rowling outraged with the Italian dust jacket? [1]
- (v) Find a word in the last para that means the same as 'insecure/helpless'. [1]
- (vi) According to the graph, how many years did it take Rowling to become very successful? [1]

Previously asked in: 2022 2/4/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Case Study / Factual Passage – J.K. Rowling

Reading Comprehension

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Model Answer

(i) Rowling started as an unknown writer with unpublished novels, but after Harry Potter became a hit, she skyrocketed to the top of the publishing world and became enormously wealthy and famous — a rise so rapid it seemed almost magical.

(ii) The publishers rejected Rowling's book saying the plot was **too complex**.

(iii) The drawback of achieving fame was that journalists knocked on the door of her flat day and night, leaving her with no privacy.

(iv) Rowling was outraged because the Italian dust jacket showed Harry **without his glasses**, which she considered an important clue to his vulnerability.

(v) The word is "**vulnerability**" (meaning insecure/helpless).

(vi) According to the graph, it took Rowling approximately **6–7 years** (from 2010–11 to 2016–17) to become very successful, as earnings jumped to 95 million dollars in 2016–17.

Source: J.K. Rowling – A Journey (Case Study passage)

Explanation

- Answer only **five** of the six sub-questions as instructed; here all six are covered so the student can choose any five.
- (i) requires paraphrasing the phrase "near magical rise" using passage details — connect humble beginnings to sudden success.
- (ii) & (iv) are direct retrieval — quote/paraphrase the passage exactly.
- (v) is a vocabulary question; the word "**vulnerability**" appears in the final paragraph and means helpless/insecure.
- (vi) needs graph reading — the dramatic spike is in 2016–17, so count years from the graph's start.
- Keep each answer to 1–2 sentences; these are 1-mark questions.

Q19.

[5]

(1) Milkha Singh, also known as The Flying Sikh, was an Indian track and field sprinter who was introduced to the sport while serving in the Indian Army. He is the only athlete to win gold in 400 metres at the Asian Games as well as the Commonwealth Games. He also won gold medals in the 1958 and 1962 Asian Games. He represented India in the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome and the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. He was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian honour, in recognition of his sporting achievements.

(2) The race for which Singh is best remembered is his fourth-place finish in the 400 metres final at the 1960 Olympic Games. He led the race till the 200 m mark before easing off, allowing others to pass him. Singh's fourth-place time of 45.73 seconds was the Indian national record for almost 40 years.

(3) From beginnings that saw him orphaned and displaced during the partition of India, Singh became a sporting icon in the country. In 2008, journalist Rohit Brijnath described Singh as "the finest athlete India has ever produced".

(4) He was disappointed with his debut performance at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. "I returned to India, chastened by my poor performance in Melbourne. I had been so excited by the prospects of being part of the Indian Olympics team, but, hadn't realized how strong and professional the competition would be. My success in India had filled me with a false sense of pride and it was only when I was on the track that I saw how inconsequential my talents were when pitted against superbly fit and seasoned athletes. It was then that I understood what competition actually meant, and that if I wanted to succeed on the international arena, I must be prepared to test my mettle against the best athletes in the world."

(5) Then he decided to make sprinting the sole focus of his life. "Running had thus become my God, my religion and my beloved". "My life during those two years was governed by strict rules and regulations and a self-imposed penance. Every morning I would rise at the crack of dawn, get into my sports kit and dash off to the track, where I would run two or three miles cross-country in the company of my coach."

(6) On how he pushed himself through the tough days of vigorous training. "I practiced so strenuously that often I was drained of all energy, and there were times when I would increase my speed to such an extent that after my rounds, I would vomit blood or drop down unconscious through sheer exercise. My doctors and coaches warned me, asked me to slow down to maintain my health and equilibrium but my determination was too strong to give up. My only focus was to become the best athlete in the world. But then images of a packed stadium filled with cheering spectators, wildly applauding me as I crossed the finishing line, would flash across my mind and I would start again, encouraged by visions of victory."

Read the passage given below. Based on your reading answer any five questions from the six given below.

- (i) What is Milkha Singh known as? What realization did Milkha Singh have when he was on the track during the Melbourne Olympics? [1]
- (ii) List any two of Milkha Singh's achievements. [1]
- (iii) What strict rules and regulations did Milkha Singh follow? [1]
- (iv) State two consequences of his hard and strenuous practice. [1]
- (v) What motivated Milkha Singh to become the best athlete in the world? [1]
- (vi) Explain the phrase 'I would start again' in the last sentence. [1]

Previously asked in: 2022 2/4/1 Q1

♦ Reading Skills

Reading Comprehension – Factual/Biographical Passage (Milkha Singh)

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Model Answer

(i) Milkha Singh is known as "The Flying Sikh." At Melbourne, he realised that his success in India had given him a false sense of pride; on the track, he saw how inconsequential his talents were against superbly fit and seasoned athletes.

(ii) Two achievements: (a) He is the only athlete to win gold in 400 m at both the Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games. (b) He was awarded the Padma Shri for his sporting achievements.

(iii) Every morning he would rise at the crack of dawn, put on his sports kit, and run two or three miles cross-country with his coach.

(iv) Two consequences: (a) He was often drained of all energy. (b) After his rounds, he would sometimes vomit blood or drop down unconscious.

(v) The image of a packed stadium filled with cheering spectators wildly applauding him as he crossed the finishing line motivated him to keep going and become the best athlete.

(vi) "I would start again" means that whenever exhaustion or pain made him want to quit, visions of victory and a cheering crowd renewed his determination and he resumed his training with fresh energy.

Explanation

- The question says "answer any **five** from six," but to be safe, all six are answered here — choose any five in your exam.
- Each answer must be drawn **strictly from the passage**; do not add outside information.
- Keep each answer to 1–2 sentences only (1 mark each).
- For (vi), "explain the phrase" means interpret its meaning in context, not just paraphrase it — show *why* he started again.

Q20.

[5]

The story of Joanne Kathleen Rowling's near magical rise to fame is almost as well known as the characters she creates.

Rowling was constantly writing and telling stories to her younger sister Dianne. "The first story I ever wrote down was about a rabbit called Rabbit." Rowling said in an interview. "He got the measles and was visited by his friends including a giant bee called Miss Bee. And ever since Rabbit and Miss Bee, I have always wanted to be a writer, though I rarely told anyone so.

However, my parents, both of whom come from impoverished backgrounds and neither of whom had been to college, took the view that my overactive imagination was an amusing personal quirk that would never pay a mortgage or secure a pension.

A writer from the age of six, with two unpublished novels in the drawer, she was stuck on a train when Harry walked into her mind fully formed. She spent the next five years constructing the plots of seven books, one for every year of his secondary school life.

Rowling says she started writing the first book, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, in Portugal, where she was teaching English.

At first nobody wanted to publish Harry Potter. She was told that plot was too complex. Refusing to compromise, she found a publisher.

In 1997 Rowling received her first royalty cheque. By book three, she had sky rocketed to the top of the publishing world. A row of zeroes appeared on the author's bank balance and her life was turned upside down. Day and night she had journalists knocking on the unanswered door of her flat.

Rowling's quality control has become legendary, as her obsession with accuracy. She's thrilled with Stephen Fry's taped version of the books and outraged that an Italian dust jacket showed Harry minus his glasses. "Don't they understand that the glasses are the clue to his vulnerability."

Annual earnings of J.K. Rowling from 2010 to 2019.

Read the following excerpt from a Case Study. J.K. Rowling – A Journey. On the basis of your understanding of the passage answer any five of the six questions given below.

- (i) Explain J.K. Rowling's 'near magical rise to fame'. [1]
- (ii) What reason did the publishers give for rejecting Rowling's book ? [1]
- (iii) What was the drawback of achieving fame ? [1]
- (iv) Why was Rowling outraged with the Italian dust jacket ? [1]
- (v) Find a word in the last para that means the same as 'insecure/helpless'. [1]
- (vi) According to the graph, how many years did it take Rowling to become very successful ? [For the Visually Impaired Candidates: (vi) What has become legendary about Rowling ?] [1]

Previously asked in: 2022 2/2/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Case Study / Factual Passage – J.K. Rowling

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Model Answer

(i) Rowling started as an unknown writer with two unpublished novels, but after Harry Potter was published, she quickly rose to the top of the publishing world and earned enormous fame and wealth.

(ii) The publishers rejected Rowling's book saying that the plot was too complex.

(iii) The drawback of achieving fame was that day and night journalists knocked on the door of her flat, disturbing her privacy completely.

(iv) Rowling was outraged because the Italian dust jacket showed Harry without his glasses. She felt the glasses were a clue to Harry's vulnerability and could not be omitted.

(v) The word is "**vulnerability**" (meaning insecure/helpless).

(vi) According to the graph, it took Rowling approximately **6–7 years** (from 2010–11 to 2016–17) to become very successful, as her earnings jumped dramatically to 95 million dollars in 2016–17.

Explanation

- **Answer any FIVE** — attempt all six and let the examiner pick the best five, which is the safer strategy.
- Each sub-question carries **1 mark**, so one clear, direct sentence is enough per answer.
- For (v), the word must be lifted directly from the last paragraph — "vulnerability" is the only match.
- For (vi), read the bar graph carefully: earnings stay low (5–19 million) from 2010–2016, then spike to 95 million in 2016–17, indicating ~6–7 years to peak success.
- Avoid long explanations; examiners reward precision over length for 1-mark answers.

Q21.

[5]

(1) Milkha Singh, also known as The Flying Sikh, was an Indian track and field sprinter who was introduced to the sport while serving in the Indian Army. He is the only athlete to win gold in 400 metres at the Asian Games as well as the Commonwealth Games. He also won gold medals in the 1958 and 1962 Asian Games. He represented India in the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome and the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo. He was awarded the Padma Shri, India's fourth-highest civilian honour, in recognition of his sporting achievements.

(2) The race for which Singh is best remembered is his fourth-place finish in the 400 metres final at the 1960 Olympic Games. He led the race till the 200 m mark before easing off, allowing others to pass him. Singh's fourth-place time of 45.73 seconds was the Indian national record for almost 40 years.

(3) From beginnings that saw him orphaned and displaced during the partition of India, Singh became a sporting icon in the country. In 2008, journalist Rohit Brijnath described Singh as "the finest athlete India has ever produced".

(4) He was disappointed with his debut performance at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. "I returned to India, chastened by my poor performance in Melbourne. I had been so excited by the prospects of being part of the Indian Olympics team, but, hadn't realized how strong and professional the competition would be. My success in India had filled me with a false sense of pride and it was only when I was on the track that I saw how inconsequential my talents were when pitted against superbly fit and seasoned athletes. It was then that I understood what competition actually meant, and that if I wanted to succeed on the international arena, I must be prepared to test my mettle against the best athletes in the world."

(5) Then he decided to make sprinting the sole focus of his life.

"Running had thus become my God, my religion and my beloved."

"My life during those two years was governed by strict rules and regulations and a self-imposed penance. Every morning I would rise at the crack of dawn, get into my sports kit and dash off to the track, where I would run two or three miles cross-country in the company of my coach."

(6) On how he pushed himself through the tough days of vigorous training. "I practiced so strenuously that often I was drained of all energy, and there were times when I would vomit blood or drop down unconscious through sheer exercise. My doctors and coaches warned me, asked me to slow down to maintain my health and equilibrium but my determination was too strong to give up. My only focus was to become the best athlete in the world. But then images of a packed stadium filled with cheering spectators, wildly applauding me as I crossed the finishing line, would flash across my mind and I would start again, encouraged by visions of victory."

Read the passage given below and answer any five questions from the six given below.

- (i) What is Milkha Singh known as? What realization did Milkha Singh have when he was on the track during the Melbourne Olympics? [1]
- (ii) List any two of Milkha Singh's achievements. [1]
- (iii) What strict rules and regulations did Milkha Singh follow? [1]
- (iv) State two consequences of his hard and strenuous practice. [1]
- (v) What motivated Milkha Singh to become the best athlete in the world? [1]
- (vi) Explain the phrase 'I would start again' in the last sentence. [1]

Previously asked in: 2022 2/2/1 Q1

♦ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension (Biography/Factual Passage)

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Model Answer

(i) Milkha Singh is known as "**The Flying Sikh.**" On the track at Melbourne, he realised that his success in India had given him a false sense of pride and that his talents were inconsequential against superbly fit, seasoned athletes.

(ii) Two achievements: (a) He is the only athlete to win gold in 400 m at both the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. (b) He was awarded the **Padma Shri**, India's fourth-highest civilian honour.

(iii) He followed a self-imposed penance — rising at the crack of dawn every morning, putting on his sports kit, and running two or three miles cross-country with his coach.

(iv) Two consequences: (a) He was completely drained of energy. (b) At times he would vomit blood or drop down unconscious due to sheer exercise.

(v) The vision of a packed stadium with cheering spectators wildly applauding him as he crossed the finishing line motivated him to push through hardship and become the best athlete in the world.

(vi) "I would start again" means that whenever Milkha Singh was exhausted and ready to give up, the inspiring vision of victory — a crowd cheering for him — renewed his determination, and he resumed his rigorous training with fresh energy.

Source: Reading passage on Milkha Singh, paragraphs 1–6

Explanation

- The question asks you to attempt **any five** of the six sub-questions; answer all six here and choose which five to write in the exam.
- Each sub-question carries **1 mark**, so keep each answer to **1–2 sentences** only — do not over-write.
- Answers must come **directly from the passage**; avoid adding outside information (e.g., do not list achievements not mentioned in the text).
- For (vi), "explain the phrase" means interpret its meaning in context — show you understand *why* he started again, not just *that* he did.

Q22.

[10]

(1) Starting Monday, the country's low-cost Mars mission with the red planet for an extended period will enter the "blackout" phase snapping communication with the satellite. From June 8 to 22 the Sun will block Mars from the Earth snapping communication with the satellite.

(2) A senior Indian Space Research Organisation official said. "This will be for the first time that there will be a communication break for such a long period of about 15 days. During this period, there will be no communication with the satellite", he added.

(3) Expressing confidence about regaining control over the satellite once the blackout phase is over, he said, "the scenario has been tested and the line of communication will be established." The spacecraft's life has been extended for another six months in March due to surplus fuel.

(4) Stating that the spacecraft has been "configured" for the blackout, the ISRO official said, "we are not sending any commands to the spacecraft now, till 8th June few hours of signals will be sent by the spacecraft that will be for about two to three hours per day". In May next year, the mission will have to go through a similar phase once again, if there is another extension of mission life when the Earth will come between the Sun and Mars.

(5) Scripting space history, India on September 24 last successfully placed its low-cost Mars spacecraft in orbit around the red planet in its very first attempt, breaking into an elite club of three countries.

Read the passage given below :

(i) Infer one reason for the following based on information in paragraph 1. The 'blackout' phase is significant _____. [1]

(ii) Choose the appropriate option to fill in the blank. From paragraph 1 & 2, we can infer that there will be _____ 1. no communication with the people. 2. blackout phase. 3. satellite will get no communication. 4. moon will block the earth. 5. the communication break will be for 15 days. [1]

- (a) 1, 2 & 3
- (b) 1, 3 & 4
- (c) 2, 3 & 5
- (d) 3, 4 & 5

(iii) The communication with the satellite will break for approximately _____ days. [1]

- (a) 10
- (b) 15
- (c) 20
- (d) 25

(iv) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phase from paragraph 2 : aroma : cooking : : _____ : space research (Clue – just like aroma is integral to cooking, similarly _____ is/are integral to Space Research.) [1]

(v) According to ISRO official till 8th July, when Sun will block Mars, _____ signal / signals per day will be sent to the spacecraft. [1]

- (a) no
- (b) considerable
- (c) indefinite
- (d) only for few

(vi) Select the correct option to complete the following sentence : The ISRO officials are _____ about their control over the spacecraft after the blackout phase. [1]

- (a) doubtful
- (b) apprehensive
- (c) confident
- (d) jittery

(vii) The spacecraft's life was extended by six months because of [1]

- (a) extra fuel
- (b) incomplete work
- (c) lack of communication amongst ISRO officials
- (d) technical problems in its landing

(viii) Read the following sentences : (A) The blackout was a sudden development. (B) Because of this, the officials are very nervous about the success of the spacecraft. [1]

- (a) Both (A) & (B) are true.
- (b) Both (A) & (B) are false.
- (c) (A) is true and (B) is false.
- (d) (A) is false and (B) is true.

(ix) Substitute the word 'nonpareil' with one word similar in meaning in the following sentence from paragraph 5. India managed to get into the nonpareil club of Mars spacecraft in orbit. [1]

(x) The word 'fascination' in the opening sentence means the same as [1]

- (a) enchantment
- (b) boredom
- (c) disinterest
- (d) ugliness

Previously asked in: 2023 2/6/1 Q2

◆ **Reading Skills**

Data Interpretation / Application from Passage

Discrete/Factual Passage with Data Interpretation

Factual Passage Comprehension

Inferential Reading – Implied Meaning of Phrases

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Model Answer

(i) The 'blackout' phase is significant because it will be the first time communication with the satellite will be completely snapped for such a long period of about 15 days, due to the Sun blocking Mars from the Earth.

(ii) (c) 2, 3 & 5

(iii) (b) 15

(iv) aroma : cooking :: **communication** : space research

(Just as aroma is integral to cooking, communication is integral to space research.)

(v) (d) only for few

(The official stated that till 8th June, signals will be sent for about two to three hours per day — i.e., only for a few hours.)

(vi) (c) confident

(vii) (a) extra fuel

(The spacecraft's life was extended due to surplus/extra fuel.)

(viii) (b) Both (A) & (B) are false.

(The blackout was planned and configured for in advance; ISRO officials expressed confidence, not nervousness.)

(ix) The word 'nonpareil' can be replaced with **elite**.

(India managed to get into the elite club of Mars spacecraft in orbit.)

(x) (a) enchantment

Explanation

- For **(i)**, always use the passage to support your inference — the key detail is "first time" + "15 days."
- For **(iv)**, the analogy tests vocabulary in context; "communication" is the concept central to the entire passage and to space research.
- For **(viii)**, both statements contradict the passage — the blackout was pre-planned ("configured") and officials were "confident," so both are false.
- For **(ix)**, "nonpareil" means unrivalled/elite; the passage itself uses "elite club" in paragraph 5 — use that word directly.
- **(x)** is a vocabulary question; "fascination" means enchantment/charm, so (a) is correct.

Q23.

[10]

(1) Mankind's fascination with gold is as old as civilization itself. The ancient Egyptians held gold in high esteem. Gold had religious significance for them, and King Tutankhamen was buried in a solid gold coffin 3300 years ago. The wandering Israelites worshipped a golden calf, and the legendary King Midas asked that whatever he touched be turned into gold.

(2) Not only is gold beautiful, but it is virtually indestructible. It will not rust or corrode. Gold coins and products fabricated from the metal have survived undamaged for centuries. Gold is extremely easy to work with. One ounce, which is about the size of a cube of sugar, can be beaten into a sheet nearly 100 square feet in size, and becomes so thin that light can pass through it. An ounce of gold can also be stretched into a wire 50 miles long. Gold conducts electricity better than any other substance except copper and silver, and it is particularly important in modern electronic industry.

(3) People have always longed to possess gold. Unfortunately, this longing has also brought out the worst in human character. The Spanish conquerors robbed palaces, temples and graves and killed thousands of people in their ruthless search for gold. Even today, the economy of South Africa's gold mines depend largely on the employment of black labourers who are paid about 40 pounds a month, plus boarding and lodging. They work in conditions that can only be described as cruel. About 400 miners die in South Africa each year.

(4) Much of the gold's value lies in its scarcity. Only about 80,000 tons have been mined in the history of the world. All of it can be stored in a vault 60 feet square, or a super tanker. Great Britain was the first country to adopt the gold standard, when the Master of the Mint, Sir Issac Newton, established a fixed price for gold in 1717. The discovery of gold in the last half of the nineteenth century in California, (1848) and later in Australia and South Africa changed everything. Before the discovery, there wasn't enough gold around for all the trading nations to link their currencies to the precious metal.

(5) An out-of-work prospector named George Harrison launched South Africa into the gold age in 1886 when he discovered the metal in a farm near what is now Johannesburg. Harrison was given a 12 pounds reward by the farmer. He then disappeared and was eaten by a lion.

(6) One of the biggest gold mining areas in the Soviet Union is the Kolyma River region, once infamous for its prison camp. The camp has gone, but in a way nothing has changed. Many ex-prisoners have stayed on to work in the mines and are supervised by ex-guards.

(7) Despite the current rush to buy gold, 75 percent of the metal goes into making jewellery. Italy is the biggest consumer of gold for this purpose, and many Italian jewellers even tear up their wooden floors and burn them to recover the tiny flecks of gold. Historically, the desire to hoard gold at home has been primarily an occupation of the working and peasant classes, who have had no faith in paper money. George Bernard Shaw defended their instincts eloquently, "You have to choose between trusting the natural stability of the honesty and intelligence of the members of the government," he said "and with due respect to these gentlemen, I advise to vote for gold."

Read the following passage and answer the questions given below.

(i) When was King Tutankhamen buried ? [1]

- (a) 1717
- (b) 1886
- (c) 3300 years ago
- (d) 1848

(ii) Why did Egyptians hold gold in great esteem ? [1]

- (a) because it is a good conductor of electricity.
- (b) because of its religious significance.
- (c) for lovely gold ornaments.
- (d) because it is indestructible.

(iii) According to the passage, which of the following statements is NOT true ? [1]

- (a) Gold is the best conductor of electricity.
- (b) Apart from gold, copper and silver are good conductors of electricity.
- (c) Gold can be easily beaten, hence it is easy to work with.
- (d) Gold plays an important role in the modern electronics industry.

(iv) Select the option that displays what the writer projects, with reference to the following. The wandering Israelites worshipped a golden calf _____. [1]

- (a) importance of religion
- (b) importance of the metal
- (c) good conductor
- (d) can replace money

(v) How were the black labourers exploited ? [1]

(vi) Complete the following with the phrase from paragraph 1 : Opinion | Reason King Tutankhamen was buried in a solid gold coffin 3300 years ago. [1]

(vii) Based on your reading of the text, list 2 reasons why the writer says that, Not only is gold beautiful but it is virtually indestructible. [1]

(viii) Who launched South Africa into the gold age ? [1]

- (a) Issac Newton
- (b) George Harrison
- (c) George Bernard Shaw
- (d) A farmer

(ix) Select the option that corresponds to the following : The ancient Egyptians and the modern electronic industry both hold gold in high esteem. [1]

- (a) The hardworking student came first because of his diligent practice.
- (b) Monesty is underrated whereas strategy is appreciated.
- (c) The vibrant colours made the interiors look luminous.
- (d) The steaming food was both appetizing and tasty.

(x) Supply one point to justify the following : The desire to hoard gold at home has been primarily an occupation of the working and peasant classes. [1]

Previously asked in: 2023 2/6/1 Q1

♦ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Passage-based MCQs

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Model Answer

(i) (c) 3300 years ago

(ii) (b) because of its religious significance.

(iii) (a) Gold is the best conductor of electricity.

(Gold conducts electricity better than any other substance **except** copper and silver, so it is NOT the best conductor.)

(iv) (b) importance of the metal

(v) Black labourers in South Africa's gold mines were paid only about 40 pounds a month and were made to work in cruel conditions. About 400 miners died each year, showing extreme exploitation.

(vi) Opinion: King Tutankhamen was buried in a solid gold coffin 3300 years ago.

Reason: **Gold had religious significance for them** (the ancient Egyptians).

(vii) Two reasons:

1. Gold will not rust or corrode.
2. Gold coins and products fabricated from the metal have survived undamaged for centuries.

(viii) (b) George Harrison

(ix) (d) The steaming food was both appetizing and tasty.

(Both sentences praise a single subject for two different qualities simultaneously — "both...and" structure.)

(x) The working and peasant classes had no faith in paper money, so they preferred to hoard gold as a reliable and stable store of value, trusting it more than government-backed currency.

Source: Passage — Paragraphs 1–7

Explanation

- (iii) is a common trap — students must read carefully; gold is *not* the best conductor; copper and silver are better.
- (vi) asks for the **reason** from para 1 — the religious significance line is the direct justification.
- (ix) tests rhetorical/structural similarity: both the passage sentence and option (d) use "both...and" to praise one subject for two qualities simultaneously.
- (x) needs the direct textual reason: "no faith in paper money" — add one supporting inference for full credit.

Q24.

[10]

1 Unsafe water kills more people each year than do war and all other forms of violence combined. Meanwhile, our drinkable water sources are finite : less than 1 percent of the Earth's water is actually accessible to us. Without action, the challenges will only increase by 2050, when global demand for freshwater is expected to be one-third greater than it is now.

2 Water is able to dissolve more substances than any other liquid on Earth. Water pollution is the release of substances into subsurface groundwater or into lakes, streams, rivers, estuaries, and oceans to the point where the substances interfere with beneficial use of the water or with the natural functioning of ecosystems. In addition to the release of substances, such as chemicals, trash, or microorganisms, water pollution may also include the release of energy, in the form of radioactivity or heat, into bodies of water. The key causatives of water pollution in India are urbanization, deforestation, industrial effluents and agricultural run-offs with the use of insecticides and pesticides. The other causes are social and religious offerings in water bodies and the use of detergents and fertilizers.

3 Water pollution can have disastrous consequences on the ecosystem. Furthermore, toxic chemicals can travel through the food chain and get into our bodies, causing diseases and death.

4 There is no single or simple answer to stop the water pollution crisis. However, there are many solutions to prevent water pollution, both in our daily lives and within industries. They are wastewater treatment, reducing plastic waste and water conservation. In addition to this, we must have water-efficient toilets, stormwater management and ozone wastewater treatment.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

(i) Infer one reason for the following, based on information in para 1. Less than 1 percent of the Earth's water is actually accessible to us. [1]

(ii) Select the appropriate option to fill in the blank: Water is uniquely vulnerable to _____. [1]

- (a) season
- (b) pollution
- (c) water bodies
- (d) extreme weather conditions

(iii) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 2: vulnerable : resilient :: artificial : _____. (Clue : just as resilient is the opposite of vulnerable, similarly the opposite of artificial is _____.) [1]

(iv) Select the correct option to complete the following sentence: Water pollution can have disastrous consequences on _____. [1]

- (a) the ecosystem
- (b) weather conditions
- (c) unexpected rainfall
- (d) flash floods

(v) From the chart, identify two causes of water pollution in our homes. [1]

(vi) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option: One of the solutions of preventing water pollution is _____. [1]

- (a) building industries near water bodies
- (b) water conservation and reducing plastic waste
- (c) avoiding swimming

(d) reducing farming

(vii) Substitute the word causative with one word similar in meaning in the following sentence: The key causative of water pollution in India must be addressed. [1]

(viii) According to the writer, water pollution is defined as _____. (Para 2) [1]

(ix) List one way in which religious rituals impact water bodies. [1]

(x) Select the most suitable title for the passage from the following: [1]

- (a) Water Pollution — A Concern
- (b) Unsafe Water — A Menace
- (c) Universal Solvent Water — An Urgent Need
- (d) Global Concern

Previously asked in: 2023 2/5/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Floods/Environment Passage

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Water/Environment Passage

Inferential Reading – Implied Meaning of Phrases

Word Choice / Confusing Words

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Model Answer

(i) Our drinkable water sources are finite, meaning the total supply is limited. Since only a tiny fraction of all Earth's water is fresh and accessible, less than 1% is available for human use.

(ii) (b) pollution

(Water dissolves more substances than any other liquid, making it uniquely vulnerable to pollution.)

(iii) natural

(Just as resilient is the opposite of vulnerable, **natural** is the opposite of artificial.)

(iv) (a) the ecosystem

(Para 3 states: "Water pollution can have disastrous consequences on the ecosystem.")

(v) Two causes of water pollution in our homes (from the chart/passage):

- Use of detergents and fertilizers
- Social and religious offerings in water bodies

(vi) (b) water conservation and reducing plastic waste

(vii) The word similar in meaning to **causative** is **cause** (or *factor*).

(viii) According to the writer, water pollution is defined as the release of substances into subsurface groundwater or into lakes, streams, rivers, estuaries, and oceans to the point where they interfere with the beneficial use of water or the natural functioning of ecosystems.

(ix) Religious rituals impact water bodies through **social and religious offerings** made directly into them, which act as pollutants and interfere with the natural functioning of the water bodies.

(x) (b) Unsafe Water — A Menace

(The passage focuses on the dangers of unsafe/polluted water and its widespread harmful impact.)

Source: Reading Comprehension Passage — Water Pollution

Explanation

- Each sub-question carries 1 mark, so one precise line/point per answer is enough.
- For analogy (iii), the passage uses "natural functioning," making **natural** the clear antonym of artificial.

- For (v), home-based causes mentioned are detergents/fertilizers and religious offerings — avoid industrial ones like effluents.
- For (vii), "cause" or "factor" are both acceptable synonyms for "causative."
- For (x), option (b) best covers the passage's central theme — danger of unsafe/polluted water across all paragraphs. Option (a) is too narrow; (c) and (d) are vague.
- Always quote or closely paraphrase the passage for definition-type answers (viii).

Q25.

[10]

1 Floods are not new to India and this subcontinent, but in recent years the problem of flooding has received much greater attention, perhaps largely because it has led to greater damage now than it did in the past. Even though information on the impending occurrence of floods is now more accurate and certainly more timely, often there is very little time or support infrastructure in place by which damage can be minimised. This is particularly true in the case of flash floods resulting from sudden and excessive heavy rain.

2 In the case of India, flooding is very much related to the seasonal nature of our rainfall. The monsoons are spread over a short period during the year and often bring a concentrated volume of rain, which cannot be absorbed by the earth and finds an outlet only in the form of streams that join up with our major river systems. Flooding due to heavy rain is confined not only to the main rivers of the country, but also affects smaller tributaries and streams. Once these streams spill over their banks they could cause excessive harm, mainly because those living near the banks of these streams, particularly in mountain areas, do not have easy recourse to moving away quickly.

3 One major factor that could lead to a higher severity of flooding in the future is the danger of climate change. While the evidence of the nature of impacts, resulting from climate change on precipitation and flooding at the regional level, is not entirely clear, it could happen that the Indian subcontinent witnesses and suffers the effects of a significantly changed pattern of monsoons. One set of scientists has estimated that the monsoons could be shorter in duration but far more intensive; in other words, much greater precipitation would take place in a much shorter period of time, thereby increasing the danger of floods. Climate change is the result of human actions through the increased concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, of which carbon dioxide is the most prominent.

4 At the local level also human actions have heightened the danger of floods through the cutting of trees in the mountains as well as in the plains. In case of India, the ecological damage through deforestation of the Himalayas has led to large-scale erosion of the mountain slopes and high levels of siltation. These lead to the deposition of silt on the riverbeds in the plains and hence spillover of water whenever the volume in the river reaches a certain level. With siltation on the riverbeds, flooding occurs even at very shallow water levels. The vulnerability of the population has increased substantially because of population pressures. An example is the stubborn and perhaps helpless settling of slum dwellers on the banks of the river Yamuna in Delhi, who become victims of flooding. What is a mere trickle most of the year, bursts its banks during the monsoons, as has been the case in recent years.

5 Flood forecasting is critical to minimising the damage from floods. It is for this reason that the Central Water Commission has set up a network of forecasting stations, which cover the most important flood-prone interstate rivers in the country. These stations produce forecasts that are used to alert the public and to mobilize various official agencies so that they take both preventive as well as relief measures, whenever required. However, even in cases where forecasts have been timely and generally accurate, people have often been reluctant to move away, because in most cases they lack the means and physical options for moving away from a danger zone to one that is relatively safe. In the case of flash floods, forecasts are difficult to make, and often the time available for relief is very short.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below:

- (i) The problem of floods has been considered more important recently because [1]
- (a) floods have led to much greater damage now than in the past.
 - (b) floods are resulting in increased relocation.
 - (c) floods occur only during the monsoon season.

(d) of problems of frequent tornadoes and cyclones in the subcontinent.

(ii) Specify the option that displays what the writer projects with reference to the following statement. 'One major factor that could lead to higher severity of flooding in the future is the danger of climate change.' [1]

- (a) helplessness
- (b) speculative
- (c) denial
- (d) conviction

(iii) Complete the following with a phrase from paragraph 3: Opinion: Some scientists estimate that shorter duration of monsoon season leads to more intensive rainfall. Reason: _____ [1]

(iv) The writer claims that flood forecasting is critical to minimising the damage from floods. State one reason for the claim. [1]

(v) Even when the prediction is accurate, people do not evacuate the places where the warning is given. [1]

- (a) True
- (b) False

(vi) Supply one point to justify the following: The worst hit people are slum dwellers. [1]

(vii) Based on your reading of the text, list two reasons why the writer says that in spite of timely forecasting people have suffered. [1]

(viii) The writer says that forecasts are difficult to make and time available is very short. Select the reason for it. [1]

- (a) Flash floods
- (b) Cyclonic rain
- (c) Tornadoes
- (d) Landslides

(ix) What connect does the writer draw between tributaries and floods? (Para 2) [1]

(x) Which of the following statements is/are false? The vulnerability of the population has increased substantially because of population pressures symbolised by: I. People are superstitious. II. Difficult to evacuate flood-affected areas. Select the correct option: [1]

- (a) Only I
- (b) Only II
- (c) Both I and II
- (d) None of the above

Previously asked in: 2023 2/5/1 Q1

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Floods/Environment Passage

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Forests/Ecology Passage

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Model Answer

(i) (a) floods have led to much greater damage now than in the past.

(ii) (b) speculative

(The writer uses phrases like "could happen" and "is not entirely clear," indicating a speculative tone.)

(iii) "much greater precipitation would take place in a much shorter period of time, thereby increasing the danger of floods."

(iv) Flood forecasting is critical because it helps alert the public and mobilise official agencies to take both preventive and relief measures in time.

(v) (a) True

(People are often reluctant to move even with accurate forecasts as they lack the means and physical options to evacuate.)

(vi) Slum dwellers settle on the banks of rivers like the Yamuna, which is a mere trickle most of the year but bursts its banks during monsoons, making them helpless victims of flooding.

(vii) Two reasons:

1. People lack the means and physical options to move from a danger zone to a safe place.
2. In the case of flash floods, forecasts are difficult to make and the time available for relief is very short.

(viii) (a) Flash floods

(ix) Flooding is not confined only to major rivers; smaller tributaries and streams also spill over their banks, causing excessive harm, especially to those living in mountain areas who cannot move away quickly.

(x) (a) Only I

(Statement I is false — the text mentions population pressure and helpless settling, not superstition. Statement II is not directly stated as a symbol of vulnerability either, but superstition is clearly absent from the text.)

Explanation

- **MCQs (i, ii, viii, x):** Always locate the exact line in the passage. The writer's use of "could" and "is not entirely clear" signals speculation for (ii). For (x), superstition is never mentioned in the passage, making Statement I false.
- **Short answers:** Quote or closely paraphrase the passage — examiners reward textual accuracy.
- **(iii)** is a direct-lift from Para 3; identify the cause-effect phrase precisely.
- **(vii)** needs two distinct points — don't repeat the same idea in different words.
- Keep each answer to 1–2 lines; these are 1-mark questions.

Q26.

[10]

1. According to a new study, a vast blanket of pollution stretching across South Asia is cutting down sunlight by 10 per cent over India, damaging agriculture, modifying rainfall patterns and putting hundreds of thousands of people at risk.
2. It is said that the haze, which can cause problems such as acid rain, has the potential to damage crops and trees. Ash falling on leaves can aggravate the impact of reduced sunlight on the Earth's surface. The pollution that is forming the haze could be leading to several hundreds of thousands of premature deaths as a result of higher levels of respiratory diseases.
3. The haze has cut down sunlight over India by 10 per cent (so far) — a huge amount! As a repercussion, the North-West of India is drying up. Prof. V. Ramanathan said when asked specifically about the impact of the haze over India. He said it was too early to reach a conclusion but that the effects were beginning to be understood.
4. Prof. V. Ramanathan was asked whether the current droughts in most parts of India after over a decade of good monsoons was owing to the haze. He said that it was too early to reach a conclusion. If the droughts persist for about four to five years, then we would start suspecting that it may be because of the haze. India, China and Indonesia are the worst affected owing to their population density, economic growth and depleting forest cover.

Read the following passage carefully. Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

(i) Infer one reason for the following based on the information in paragraph 1: In India rainfall patterns are changing. [1]

(ii) The pollution spreading across South Asia is affecting India by _____. Choose the correct option from the ones given below: [1]

- (a) I, II and III
- (b) I, III and IV
- (c) II, III and IV
- (d) I, II and IV

(iii) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 2. possibility : _____ :: suspecting : doubting [1]

(iv) Select the correct option to complete the sentence. _____ droughts were caused by the haze. [1]

- (a) Strong evidence suggested that
- (b) Past surveys confirmed that
- (c) There has not been enough time to determine that
- (d) Superstitious people believe that

(v) From the following pie chart, identify one reason each which does and does not contribute to weather disruption. [1]

(vi) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option. Ash falling on leaves can _____ the impact of reduced sunlight. [1]

- (a) worsen
- (b) encourage
- (c) diminish
- (d) support

(vii) Select the option that correctly identifies the meaning of the word used in the following sentence from paragraph 3. The haze has cut down sunlight over India... As a repercussion, the North-West of India is drying up. [1]

- (a) destroying

- (b) halting
- (c) continue
- (d) blocking

(viii) List any two countries which are affected due to depleting forest cover. [1]

(ix) Select the option that correctly identifies the meaning of 'depleting' as used in paragraph 4. [1]

- (a) destroying
- (b) halting
- (c) continue
- (d) blocking

(x) Select the option that titles paragraphs 1–4 appropriately with reference to information in the text. [1]

- (a) 1. Impact of Pollution in South Asia 2. Effects of Acid Rain 3. Understanding Consequences of Haze 4. Debate over Droughts
- (b) 1. Impact of Droughts 2. Understanding Acid Rain 3. Effect of Haze 4. Debate over Pollution
- (c) 1. Impact of Pollution in South Asia 2. Effects of Acid Rain 3. Debate over Droughts 4. Understanding Haze
- (d) 1. Impact of Haze 2. Understanding Acid Rain 3. Debate over Pollution 4. Effect of Haze

Previously asked in: 2023 2/2/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Comprehension of a Passage

Factual/Discursive Passage Comprehension

Factual/Inferential Comprehension of Discursive Passage

Inferencing and Sentence Completion

Inferential Reading – Implied Meaning of Phrases

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Model Answer

(i) A vast blanket of pollution stretching across South Asia is modifying rainfall patterns in India by cutting down sunlight by 10 per cent, which disrupts the water cycle and changes monsoon behaviour.

(ii) (a) I, II and III

The pollution is cutting sunlight, damaging agriculture, and modifying rainfall patterns — all mentioned in paragraph 1.

(iii) possibility : **potential** : : suspecting : doubting

(The word "potential" in paragraph 2 means possibility.)

(iv) (c) **There has not been enough time to determine that**

Prof. Ramanathan clearly stated "it was too early to reach a conclusion" about droughts being caused by the haze.

(v) (Based on the pie chart reference)

- **Does contribute** to weather disruption: Pollution/haze (as supported by the passage).
- **Does not contribute**: A factor unrelated to atmospheric pollution (e.g., wildlife diversity, as per the chart segments).

(Note: Exact answer depends on legible chart labels.)

(vi) (a) **worsen**

"Aggravate" means to make worse; hence "worsen" is the correct synonym.

(vii) (d) **blocking**

"Cut down sunlight" means the haze is **blocking** sunlight from reaching the Earth's surface.

(viii) Two countries affected due to depleting forest cover: **India** and **China** (mentioned in paragraph 4).

(ix) (a) **destroying**

"Depleting" means gradually reducing or exhausting — closest in meaning to destroying/diminishing forest cover.

(x) (a) 1. Impact of Pollution in South Asia 2. Effects of Acid Rain 3. Understanding Consequences of Haze 4. Debate over Droughts

Each title accurately reflects the central idea of its respective paragraph.

Explanation

- **Key strategy:** Each answer must come directly from the passage — no outside knowledge needed.
- For **(iii)**, identify the word in paragraph 2 that means "possibility" → **potential**.
- For **(vii)**, "cut down sunlight" = blocking light; do not confuse with "destroying" (that's for depleting).
- For **(ix)**, "depleting forest cover" = forests gradually reducing/being destroyed → **(a) destroying** is closest among the options.
- For **(x)**, match each paragraph's main idea to the title: para 1 = pollution's impact; para 2 = acid rain effects; para 3 = understanding haze consequences; para 4 = debate over whether haze causes droughts.
- For **(v)**, since the pie chart is not fully legible, refer to what the passage identifies as causes of weather disruption (pollution, haze) vs. unrelated factors.

Q27.

[10]

1. Organic food is very popular these days. It can also be very expensive. Some organic food costs twice as much as non-organic food. Parents of young children and even some pet owners, will pay high prices for organic food if they think it is healthier. But many others think organic food is just a waste of money.
2. There is one main difference between organic and non-organic food. Organic farms do not use agricultural chemicals such as pesticides that stop insects from damaging crops. In many countries, foods that claim to be organic must have special labels that guarantee they were grown organically.
3. Some people thought this was indeed true. But over a period of time organic farming has become a big business, with many organic foods now being grown by large agricultural companies that sell their products far from where they are grown. Organic beauty products have also become more popular. At first, only small companies produced these products. But as demand overtook supply, big food companies that had been selling non-organic products for many years also began selling organic products.
4. Is organic food safer and more nutritious? This is an important part of the debate. Many farmers and consumers believe it is safer and more nutritious. They think agricultural chemicals can cause serious illnesses. However, recent studies have shown that eating organically-grown produce reduces your chances of developing heart diseases. Many doctors think it is more important to stop dangerous bacteria from contaminating foods. These bacteria can contaminate both organic and non-organic fruits and vegetables, and doctors recommend washing produce carefully before eating it. Meat, fish and chicken can also become contaminated so washing your hands before handling these foods is also very important.

Read the following passage carefully. Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

- (i) People are willing to pay high prices for organic food because [1]
 - (a) it is not easily available.
 - (b) it helps in weight loss.
 - (c) it is produced by small companies.
 - (d) it does not contain agricultural chemicals.
- (ii) Select the option that displays what the writer projects with reference to the following: "Is organic food safer and more nutritious? This is an important part of the debate." [1]
 - (a) denial
 - (b) confirmation
 - (c) caution
 - (d) acceptance
- (iii) Complete the following with a phrase from paragraph 3. Opinion: Big food companies have started selling organic food products. Reason: _____ [1]
- (iv) The writer contrasts organic food to non-organic food. State one point of comparison between the two. [1]
- (v) Based on your reading of the text, list one benefit of eating organic food. [1]
- (vi) What connect does the writer draw between contamination of food and washing hands? [1]
- (vii) The writer says that people believe that it is safer and more nutritious to eat organic food. Select the reason for his sceptical view. [1]
 - (a) the price decides the popularity
 - (b) there is no confirmed evidence
 - (c) it is tastier
 - (d) it is marketed by big food companies

- (viii) Supply one point to justify the following: Some people think organic also means _____ [1]
- (ix) Supply one method of how we can control the contamination of organic and non-organic food. [1]
- (x) List one factor that certifies food to be organic. [1]

Previously asked in: 2023 2/2/1 Q1

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Comprehension of a Passage

Factual/Discursive Passage Comprehension

Factual/Inferential Comprehension of Discursive Passage

Inferential Reading – Implied Meaning of Phrases

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Model Answer

- (i) (d) it does not contain agricultural chemicals.
- (ii) (c) caution
- (iii) Reason: **demand overtook supply** (big food companies that had been selling non-organic products for many years also began selling organic products because demand overtook supply).
- (iv) Organic farms do **not** use agricultural chemicals such as pesticides, whereas non-organic farms do use them to protect crops from insects.
- (v) Eating organically-grown produce reduces your chances of developing heart diseases.
- (vi) The writer states that meat, fish, and chicken can become contaminated; therefore, washing hands before handling these foods is important to control the spread of dangerous bacteria.
- (vii) (b) there is no confirmed evidence
- (viii) Some people think organic also means **environment-friendly / naturally grown / produced without harmful chemicals**, i.e., grown in a way that is closer to nature and free from artificial pesticides.
- (ix) Doctors recommend **washing produce carefully before eating** it to control contamination of both organic and non-organic food.
- (x) In many countries, foods must carry **special labels that guarantee they were grown organically** — this certification certifies food to be organic.

Source: Reading Comprehension Passage on Organic Food, Paragraphs 1–4

Explanation

- (i): The passage directly says parents pay high prices if they think it is **healthier** — linked to no agricultural chemicals (option d).
- (ii): The writer raises the question without confirming either side — this signals **caution**, not confirmation or denial.
- (iii): The exact phrase "demand overtook supply" from paragraph 3 is the expected answer.
- (iv): The passage states the **one main difference** — use vs. non-use of pesticides/agricultural chemicals.
- (v): Pick the one benefit explicitly stated — reduced risk of heart disease (paragraph 4).
- (vi): Focus on the cause-effect link: contamination of meat/fish/chicken → wash hands before handling.
- (vii): The writer presents the debate without proof, saying "many believe" but not confirming — hence **no confirmed evidence**.
- (viii): The passage implies organic = naturally grown without chemicals; "environment-friendly" is an acceptable inference.
- (ix): Stick to the passage's own recommendation — **washing produce carefully**.
- (x): The passage clearly states special labels/certification is the marker of organic food.

Q28.

[10]

- (1) Increasing traffic congestion every year is causing increasing air pollution, wasting time and productivity and diverse respiratory diseases. Moreover, the cost of solving or reducing traffic congestion is enormous. However, neglecting the traffic jam problem would increase the social problems among citizens.
- (2) The number of vehicles has increased considerably in the city in the past five years. Due to this increase, the city roads witness frequent traffic congestions, but above all, the vehicles emitting pollutants are affecting the environment adversely.
- (3) The Capital's vehicular population saw an addition of more than five lakh vehicles last year, registering an increase of over 4%, according to the Delhi Economic Survey 2020-21.
- (4) In spite of the largest road network, through metro and bus services in major cities the transport system is not being able to keep pace with the growing demand. Consequently, more and more people use their private vehicles, leading to increased congestion on the roads. In spite of these challenges people in India prefer road travel over air and other means of travel.
- (5) Citizens of Delhi/NCR have, time and again, pondered over the possibilities of how to reduce the traffic congestion in the city, especially during the peak hours. People should use public transport, the government must increase the facilities of public transport, people should avoid the unnecessary collection of vehicles and should use carpool and vehicle sharing.
- What is required is proper implementation of corrective measures by citizens to get an organized traffic management system.

Read the passage given below and answer the questions:

- (i) Infer one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 1. Reducing traffic congestion is not easy. [1]
- (ii) Select the appropriate option to complete the following sentence. The reasons for increased traffic congestion are _____. [1]
- (a) 4, 5
(b) 1, 5
(c) 1, 2
(d) 2, 3
- (iii) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word / phrase from the paragraph 5. organized : chaotic :: lowest : _____. Clue : Just as organized is an antonym of chaotic, lowest is an antonym of _____. [1]
- (iv) The vehicles emit pollutants which affect _____ badly. [1]
- (v) Complete the following sentence. Use of public transport will reduce _____. [1]
- (vi) Select the appropriate option which states the methods of reducing traffic congestions. [1]
- (a) 1, 4, 5
(b) 3, 5
(c) 2, 3, 4
(d) 1, 3
- (vii) Analyze the status of traffic between the years 2019-2022. [For the visually challenged candidates only: What is required to get an organized traffic management system?] [1]
- (viii) Give the reasons for increase in vehicular congestion. [1]

(ix) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option. There are _____ consequences of increasing vehicular congestion. [1]

- (a) beneficial
- (b) adverse
- (c) implicit
- (d) explicit

(x) Substitute the underlined word with ONE WORD similar in meaning in the following sentence. Citizens of Delhi/NCR have time and time again pondered over the possibilities of how to reduce traffic congestion. [1]

Previously asked in: 2023 2/1/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Factual Passage Comprehension

Factual/Discursive Passage Comprehension

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Model Answer

(i) The cost of solving or reducing traffic congestion is enormous, which makes it difficult to address easily.

(ii) (d) 2, 3

(Paragraph 2 mentions increase in number of vehicles; paragraph 3 gives the specific statistic of 5 lakh vehicles added.)

(iii) organized : chaotic :: lowest : **peak**

(Peak is the antonym of lowest, as used in paragraph 5 — "peak hours.")

(iv) The vehicles emit pollutants which affect **the environment** badly.

(v) Use of public transport will reduce **traffic congestion / the use of private vehicles on roads**.

(vi) (b) 3, 5

(Wait — paragraph 5 mentions solutions: use public transport, carpool, vehicle sharing. Option (b) is correct.)

(vii) According to the Delhi Economic Survey 2020-21, Delhi's vehicular population increased by more than five lakh vehicles, registering over 4% growth. This indicates traffic congestion worsened steadily between 2019 and 2022.

[For visually challenged]: Proper implementation of corrective measures by citizens is required to get an organized traffic management system.

(viii) The number of vehicles has increased considerably. Also, the public transport system is unable to keep pace with growing demand, so more people use private vehicles, leading to increased congestion.

(ix) (b) adverse

(x) The word is **repeatedly**.

(Citizens of Delhi/NCR have repeatedly pondered over the possibilities of how to reduce traffic congestion.)

Source: Passage on Traffic Congestion, Paragraphs 1–5

Explanation

- **(ii)** Paragraphs 2 and 3 give direct reasons (vehicle increase + statistical data). Paragraph 1 gives consequences, not reasons.
- **(iii)** "Peak hours" appears in paragraph 5; peak = opposite of lowest.
- **(vi)** Only paragraph 5 gives solutions; paragraph 3 just gives statistics. The correct answer is **(b) 3, 5** — but note paragraph 3 has no solutions; examiners likely intended **(a) 1, 4, 5** or **(b)**. Check your specific paper's answer key.
- **(x)** "Time and again" = repeatedly. Other options like "frequently" or "often" are also acceptable but "repeatedly" is the closest single-word substitute.

- Always answer strictly from the passage; do not add outside information.

Q29.

[10]

(1) If you're like most kids, you may love snow. Not only can it get you out of school, but it's also fun to play with. Who doesn't love to sled and build snowmen? Snow can also be dangerous, too. You may have heard your parents talk about how difficult it can be to drive in snow. Car accidents aren't the only dangers created by snow. If you're ever skiing in the mountains, you'll want to be aware of avalanches. An avalanche is a sudden flow of snow down a slope, such as a mountain. The amount of snow in an avalanche will vary based on many things, but it can be such a huge pile that it can bury the bottom of a slope in dozens of feet of snow.

(2) Avalanches can be caused by many things. Some of them are natural. For example, new snow or rain can cause built up snow to loosen and fall down the side of a mountain. Earthquakes and the movement of animals have also been known to cause avalanches. Artificial triggers can also cause avalanches. For example, snowmobiles, skiers, gunshots and explosives have all been known to cause avalanches. Avalanches usually occur during the winter and spring, when snowfall is greatest. As they are dangerous to any living beings in their path, avalanches have destroyed forests, roads, railroads and even entire towns.

(3) Warning signs exist that allow experts to predict – and often prevent – avalanches from occurring. When over a foot of fresh snow falls, experts know to be on the lookout for avalanches. Explosives can be used in places with massive snow build-ups to trigger smaller avalanches that don't pose a danger to persons or property. When deadly avalanches do occur, the moving snow can quickly reach over 80 miles per hour. Skiers caught in such avalanches can be buried under dozens of feet of snow. While it's possible to dig out of such avalanches, not all are able to escape.

(4) If you get tossed about by an avalanche and find yourself buried under many feet of snow, you might not have a true sense of which way is up and which way is down. Some avalanche victims have tried to dig their way out, only to find that they were upside down and digging themselves farther under the snow rather than to the top! Experts suggest that people caught in an avalanche try to "swim" to the top of the moving snow to stay close to the surface. Once the avalanche stops, do your best to dig around you to create a space for air, so you can breathe easier. Then, do your best to figure out which way is up and dig in that direction to reach the surface and signal rescuers.

Read the passage given below and answer the questions given below:

(i) Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option: Avalanche can be caused by [1]

- (a) new snow or rain.
- (b) heavy winds.
- (c) high altitude.
- (d) global warming.

(ii) Comment on warning signs exist which allow experts to predict avalanches in two sentences. [1]

(iii) Mention two reasons which destroyed the natural scenery. [1]

(iv) Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'massive': [1]

- (a) tiny
- (b) lengthy
- (c) bulky
- (d) extensive

(v) The writer will agree with one of the given statements (paragraph 4): [1]

- (a) People caught in the Avalanche can try to swim to the top.
- (b) Put on an oxygen Mask.

- (c) Digging is not possible.
- (d) Should not come close to the surface.

(vi) Select the option that corresponds to the following relation below: You may not have an idea of which way is up and which way is down. [1]

- (a) The crowd will gather at Gate No. 1 and disperse from Gate No. 2.
- (b) Due to the torrential rain, there was a heavy flooding.
- (c) The guest felt uneasy and uncomfortable watching the child's performance.
- (d) The more the effort, the bigger the gain.

(vii) The major causes which do not trigger an avalanche: [1]

- (a) Earthquakes
- (b) Snow fall
- (c) Rain
- (d) Plastic waste

(viii) Explosives can be used in places _____. (complete the sentence) [1]

(ix) The word 'deadly' in the (3) paragraph most nearly means: [1]

- (a) likely to cause death
- (b) harmful
- (c) very boring
- (d) scary

(x) Select the most suitable title for the above passage: [1]

- (a) Avalanches
- (b) Adventure with Snow
- (c) Ice Games
- (d) Calamity

Previously asked in: 2023 2/1/1 Q1

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Comprehension of a Passage

Factual/Inferential Comprehension of Discursive Passage

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Model Answer

(i) (a) new snow or rain.

(ii) When over a foot of fresh snow falls, experts know to watch for avalanches. Warning signs help experts predict and often prevent avalanches from occurring.

(iii) Two reasons that destroyed the natural scenery:

- Avalanches have destroyed forests.
- Avalanches have destroyed roads and railroads.

(iv) (a) tiny

(v) (a) People caught in the Avalanche can try to swim to the top.

(vi) (c) The guest felt uneasy and uncomfortable watching the child's performance.

(Both phrases express opposites/contrast: up-down :: uneasy-uncomfortable are paired contrasting feelings.)

(vii) (d) Plastic waste

(viii) Explosives can be used in places **with massive snow build-ups to trigger smaller avalanches that don't pose a danger to persons or property.**

(ix) (a) likely to cause death

(x) (a) Avalanches

Explanation

- **(i)** Paragraph 2 directly states new snow or rain causes snow to loosen and fall.
- **(ii)** Answers must come strictly from paragraph 3.
- **(iii)** The passage mentions forests, roads, railroads, and towns — any two natural/built elements count.
- **(iv)** 'Massive' means very large; its antonym is 'tiny.'
- **(v)** Paragraph 4 explicitly advises "swimming" to the surface.
- **(vi)** The stem uses two contrasting directions (up/down); option (c) mirrors two contrasting states in one experience — this is the intended analogy.
- **(vii)** Earthquakes, snowfall, and rain are all mentioned as triggers; plastic waste is never mentioned.
- **(viii)** Complete the sentence directly from paragraph 3 — no paraphrasing needed.
- **(ix)** 'Deadly' literally means causing or capable of causing death.
- **(x)** The entire passage revolves around avalanches — what they are, causes, warnings, and survival. 'Avalanches' is the most precise title.

Q30.

[10]

- (1) After more than two years of restrictions, the hospitality industry is now cautiously hopeful. Tourism constituted a significant portion of India's GDP and generated around 100 million jobs in 2019. But the sector was severely hit in India — like in other countries — in the past two years.
- (2) Indians are now travelling with a vengeance — revenge travel, as the phenomenon is called. And many, experts say, now prefer to travel within the country instead of flying to more expensive destinations abroad. The industry is also benefitting from new trends borne of the pandemic such as micro-holidays and workcations.
- (3) According to a survey, 51 percent of Indian travellers believed that international travel remained an important means of expanding their horizons and connecting with other cultures. Over two years, the survey said, Indian travellers are now dreaming about their next international trip and more than 70 percent of Indians are excited about being able to travel internationally.
- (4) There has also been an increase in the number of students going abroad to study. The increasing desire to study overseas is credited to the availability of short-duration courses of two-to-three-year duration. This has become more pronounced because of growing aspirations and affordability among the middle-class students from Tier II and Tier III cities.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

- (i) Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraphs 1 and 2. We can say that the situation when people were travelling with a vengeance is comparable to people going out to dine in hordes, because _____. [1]
- (ii) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 1. The statement that, 'Tourism constituted a significant portion of India's GDP and generated around 100 million jobs in 2019', is a/an _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____ (subjective judgement/objective detail). [1]
- (iii) Justify the following in about 40 words. After being cooped up inside their houses for more than two years, Indians are now excited about being able to travel internationally. [2]
- (iv) Based on the given table, for which purpose did Indian foreign travel increase in 2022 as compared to 2019? [1]
- (v) The industry is also benefitting from new trends borne of the pandemic such as micro-holidays and workcations. Which of these new trends is reflected in the table and how? [1]
- (vi) As per the given table, for which purpose did maximum number of Indians undertake foreign travel in 2019 and in 2022? State any one inference that can be drawn from this. [1]
- (vii) Why are students today choosing to go abroad to study? (Answer in about 40 words.) [2]
- (viii) Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage? [1]
- A International travel remains an important means of expanding the horizons and connecting with other cultures.
B Though travel, both domestic and international, has picked up, it has yet to reach its previous levels.
C Indians are excited about being able to travel internationally.
D The study needs to include experts from Tourism Department to offer any recommendations for further research.

Previously asked in: 2024 2/5/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Factual Passage Comprehension

Factual and Inferential Comprehension of a Passage

Reading Comprehension - Factual Passage

Word Choice / Confusing Words

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Model Answer

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(i) ...just as people who were deprived of dining out for a long time rush to restaurants in large numbers to make up for the lost experience, Indians, after two years of travel restrictions, began travelling eagerly and in large numbers to compensate for the time lost.

(ii) The statement is a **fact** because it is an **objective detail**.

(iii) According to the survey, more than 70 percent of Indians are excited about travelling internationally. After over two years of restrictions that kept people confined to their homes, there is a strong pent-up desire to explore the world, expand horizons, and connect with other cultures, making international travel highly anticipated.

(iv) **Education** — In 2019, 5.8 lakh Indians travelled abroad for education, which rose to 6.5 lakh in 2022.

(v) **Workcations** is reflected in the table. The number of Indians travelling abroad for **residency** (72.5 L in 2022) and **visit** (40.9 L in 2022) remained high, suggesting people combining work with travel/stay abroad. (Accept: any reasonable link to the data.)

(vi) In both 2019 (89.5 L) and 2022 (72.5 L), **Residency** was the purpose for which the maximum number of Indians travelled abroad. **Inference:** Despite the pandemic, Indians' desire to settle/stay abroad remained consistently the highest compared to all other purposes.

(vii) Students today choose to study abroad because of the availability of short-duration courses of two to three years. Additionally, growing aspirations and increasing affordability among middle-class students from Tier II and Tier III cities have made overseas education more accessible and attractive.

(viii) **C** — Indians are excited about being able to travel internationally.

Explanation

- (i) The analogy must explain *why* the comparison holds — i.e., both involve making up for a forced deprivation. Don't just restate the analogy.
- (ii) A fact = verifiable/objective detail. An opinion = subjective. Numbers and statistics = facts.
- (iii) Use para 3: 70%+ excited, two years of restrictions = justification. Stay within ~40 words.
- (iv) Education is the only category that shows a net increase from 2019 to 2022 (5.8L → 6.5L). All others dropped.
- (v) "Workcations" (working while vacationing) best links to residency/visit data. Examiners accept reasonable justification.
- (vi) Always state the figure AND the inference — both parts are needed for the mark.
- (vii) Two reasons from para 4: short-duration courses + rising aspirations/affordability in Tier II & III cities.
- (viii) Option C directly matches the survey's key finding (70%+ excited). Option A is only 51%, B is not from the survey, D is irrelevant.

Q31.

[10]

(1) The words probiotics, prebiotics, and postbiotics may sound like variations of the same thing, but what a difference a prefix makes. The first is a category of health-promoting microbes. The latter two groups are types of beneficial molecules. But all three biotics are critical for supporting the community of microscopic organisms that live in the gastrointestinal tract, known as the gut microbiome. With both beneficial and harmful bacteria living in the human body, these diet-related factors — the biotics — help tip the balance in the positive direction. It is important to understand their differences, as even as they work together.

(2) Despite their importance for the gut microbiome, the health benefits of these biotics, which are present in certain foods or result from their metabolism, extend beyond the digestive tract. A growing body of scientific evidence has linked prebiotics, probiotics, and postbiotics, with improvements in metabolic diseases — including obesity and cholesterol abnormalities — depressive symptoms and poor sleep quality, among many other conditions.

(3) Besides promoting general gut health, consuming food rich in probiotics can improve irritable bowel syndrome and antibiotic-related diarrhea, prevent travel-related illness, synthesize vitamins and increase nutrient absorption, and decrease the risk of common infections. In fact, when consumed regularly, probiotics have been found to reduce the occurrence of upper respiratory tract infections (like the common cold).

(4) Many different types of beneficial bacteria are considered probiotics. The most common ones include *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium*, of which there are many strains, each with different health benefits, to match what it is you are looking for, says Gregor Reid. Many different types of beneficial bacteria are considered probiotics.

(5) Some foods, such as yogurt, kefir, kimchee, and fermented soybeans and kombucha naturally contain probiotics. But things can get complicated: not all fermented foods or yogurts contain probiotics, Reid says. As a consumer, a good starting point is to look for the label to check if specific strains of bacteria are listed.

(6) Simply put, prebiotics are sources of food for those beneficial microbes — the probiotics. They are typically a form of carbohydrate or fiber that humans are unable to digest. As a result, they move through the digestive tract to the intestine, where beneficial bacteria (probiotics) can feast on them.

(7) When you consume foods that are rich in probiotics and prebiotics, the microbes in your gut consume the undigestible prebiotic fiber and produce bioactive compounds called postbiotics. They are ultimately the endgame that we want — they affect how our gut operates and keeps the good bacteria there and the bad bacteria out.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

(i) Which of the following best reflects the author's attitude towards probiotics? [1]

- A Probiotics, prebiotics and postbiotics are variations of the same thing, with just a difference of a prefix.
- B All fermented foods or yogurts naturally contain probiotics.
- C All three biotics are equally important to support microscopic organisms that live in the gut microbiome.
- D Only probiotics are important as they can improve irritable bowel syndrome and antibiotic-related diarrhea.

(ii) The health benefits of these biotics extend beyond the digestive tract. Rationalise your response in about 40 words. [2]

(iii) Complete the sentence appropriately. To get the right probiotic and to match your specific health requirement, it is important to see the label for _____. [1]

(iv) The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (A)–(E) below, identify two sets of antonyms. [1]

- A increase and decrease
- B probiotic and postbiotic
- C beneficial and harmful
- D feast and fermented
- E consuming and digestive

(v) Complete the sentence appropriately. The author wants to stress the fact that there is not just one type of beneficial bacteria considered as probiotic, in fact, some probiotics have _____. [1]

(vi) Based on the reading of the passage, examine in about 40 words, the importance of prebiotics for the human gut and how they are related to probiotics. [2]

(vii) As a consumer, if you want to pick a probiotic product, what is the most important thing to keep in mind? Pick the best answer. [1]

- A Any fermented product that contains probiotics.
- B Checking the label for specific strains of bacteria.
- C Any probiotic products available in a grocery store are safe to pick.
- D Consulting a doctor before picking any probiotic product.

(viii) Despite their importance for the gut microbiome, the health benefits of these biotics, which are present in certain foods or result from their metabolism. As per this statement from the passage, how relevant are the biotics for humans? Pick the best answer. [1]

- A Their relevance has been proven by scientific evidence.
- B Not very relevant as more study is needed.
- C Their relevance cannot be generalised for everyone.
- D Only probiotics are relevant for humans.

Previously asked in: 2024 2/5/1 Q1

◆ Reading Skills

Factual/Discursive Passage Comprehension

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Model Answer

(i) C — All three biotics are equally important to support microscopic organisms that live in the gut microbiome.

(ii) Scientific evidence has linked all three biotics with improvements beyond digestion — including metabolic diseases like obesity and cholesterol abnormalities, depressive symptoms, and poor sleep quality. Thus, their health benefits extend well beyond the gastrointestinal tract to overall human health.

(iii) ...specific strains of bacteria listed on the label, since different strains of *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium* offer different health benefits to match individual requirements.

(iv) The two sets of antonyms are:

- A — *increase* and *decrease*
- C — *beneficial* and *harmful*

(v) ...many different strains, each with different health benefits, so the right strain can be chosen to match a specific health requirement.

(vi) Prebiotics are indigestible carbohydrates or fibers that serve as food for probiotics. They pass undigested into the intestine, where beneficial bacteria (probiotics) feed on them. Without prebiotics, probiotics would lack nourishment, making both essential to a healthy gut.

(vii) B — Checking the label for specific strains of bacteria.

(viii) A — Their relevance has been proven by scientific evidence.

Explanation

- (i): Para 1 clearly states all three biotics are "critical" — option C is the only accurate reflection; A contradicts para 1, B contradicts para 5, D is too narrow.
- (ii): Must cite para 2 directly — metabolic diseases, depression, sleep quality are key examples. Two marks = two supporting points.

- **(iii):** Para 5 says check label for "specific strains"; para 4 clarifies strains have different benefits — combine both.
- **(iv):** Antonyms = words with opposite meanings. "Increase/decrease" (para 3) and "beneficial/harmful" (para 1) are clear pairs. B, D, E are not antonym pairs.
- **(v):** Para 4 — "many strains, each with different health benefits" is the key phrase to reproduce.
- **(vi):** Paras 6–7 are the source. Prebiotics = food for probiotics; without this relationship, postbiotics cannot be produced either.
- **(vii):** Para 5 explicitly recommends checking label for specific strains — B is directly stated; A is warned against.
- **(viii):** Para 2 states "a growing body of scientific evidence has linked" all three biotics to health improvements — A is correct.

Q32.

[10]

(1) Rotation of crops is a universal phenomenon which is practised by most of the farmers of the tropical and temperate countries. The main objective of rotation of crops is to obtain higher agricultural returns on the one hand, and to maintain the soil fertility on the other.

(2) In other words, the rotation of crops helps in making agriculture more sustainable. The importance of crop rotation is more in the areas where farmers grow two, or more than two crops in the same field in a year. Irrigation facilities have also been appreciably developed in the country during the last three decades. The availability of water to the arable land has helped in the intensification of agriculture.

(3) In the areas such as Punjab and Haryana, where the Green Revolution is a big success, one soil exhaustive crop (rice) is followed by another soil exhaustive crop (wheat). Subsequently, the field vacated by wheat is devoted to either rice or maize or cotton. Thus, in one year, the farmers are harvesting three soil exhaustive crops from the same field. Such a rotation of crops may fetch more income to the farmers, but depletes the soil fertility at a faster pace.

(4) A number of field studies were conducted to assess the traditional crop rotation pattern. One such field study about the changes in the rotation of crops was conducted in the village Banhera (Tanda), Haridwar district. The main rotation of crops of the village is shown in the table below.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions based on it.

(i) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of para 2. One of the reasons that there has been an intensification of agriculture in the country is the development of irrigation facilities is a/an _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____ (subjective judgement/objective detail).

[1]

(ii) Based on your understanding of paras 1 and 2, state whether the following statement is true or false. If proper irrigation facility is provided, higher agricultural returns can be obtained by making crop rotation more sustainable.

[1]

(iii) Justify the following in about 40 words. Crop rotation may fetch more income to the farmers, but depletes the soil fertility at a faster pace. [2]

(iv) Based on the table, mention the years when the land was left fallow for maximum number of days. [1]

(v) The study conducted in village Banhera (Tanda) reflects that during the years 1960 to 1965, from April to June, the land was left fallow or uncultivated throughout. State any one inference that can be drawn from this. [1]

(vi) Select the option that correctly states the significance of crop rotation as given below: (1) Crop rotation is done to obtain higher agricultural returns. (2) Higher agricultural returns can be obtained by harvesting soil exhaustive crops. (3) Crop rotation demands that land should be left fallow for a few months to increase the fertility of soil. (4) Better irrigation facility to the arable land has helped in the intensification of agriculture. (5) If crops to be harvested are chosen wisely, crop rotation can help in maintaining fertility of soil. [1]

(A) (1), (2) and (4)

(B) (1) only

(C) (3) and (5)

(D) (1) and (5)

(vii) Crop rotation is helping in making agriculture more sustainable. Mention one benefit and one drawback of crop rotation. (Answer in about 40 words) [2]

(viii) Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage? [1]

(A) The study needs to include more valid data to support the practice of crop rotation.

(B) Crop rotation is a sustainable practice that can transform the agricultural sector.

(C) The impact of crop rotation on soil has not been thoroughly explained.

(D) Crop rotation is independent of the type of crops harvested and availability of water for irrigation.

Previously asked in: 2024 2/4/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Agriculture/Crop Rotation Passage

Reading Comprehension

Word Choice / Confusing Words

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Model Answer**(i)** It is a **fact** because it is an **objective detail**.**(ii) True.** Para 1 states crop rotation aims for higher agricultural returns, and para 2 confirms that irrigation availability helps intensify agriculture, making crop rotation more sustainable.**(iii)** As seen in Punjab and Haryana, farmers harvest three consecutive soil-exhaustive crops (rice → wheat → rice/maize/cotton) in one year. While this increases income, continuous exhaustion of soil nutrients without adequate recovery depletes soil fertility rapidly.**(iv)** The land was left fallow for the **maximum number of days (210)** in the years **1961, 1963, and 1965**.**(v)** One inference: The Zaid season (April–June) was considered unsuitable for cultivation, possibly due to **lack of irrigation facilities or unfavourable climatic conditions**, so farmers chose to leave the land fallow during this period.**(vi) (D) (1) and (5)****(vii) Benefit:** Crop rotation helps maintain soil fertility and makes agriculture more sustainable by preventing continuous nutrient depletion.**Drawback:** When only soil-exhaustive crops are rotated (as in Punjab/Haryana), it depletes soil fertility at a faster pace despite fetching higher income.**(viii) (B) Crop rotation is a sustainable practice that can transform the agricultural sector.***Source: Passage on Rotation of Crops, Paras 1–4 and Table.*

Explanation

- **(i)** Fact vs. opinion: since irrigation development is a documented, verifiable detail, it is a fact and an objective detail — not a subjective judgement.
- **(ii)** Combine paras 1 and 2 logically; both irrigation and crop rotation contribute to better returns.
- **(iii)** Use the specific Punjab/Haryana example from para 3 — examiners expect textual evidence.
- **(iv)** Read the table carefully; 210 fallow days appear in odd years (1961, 1963, 1965).
- **(v)** Any reasonable inference about why Zaid was always fallow is acceptable — focus on irrigation or climate.
- **(vi)** Statement (2) is wrong (soil-exhaustive crops reduce fertility); (3) is not stated in the passage; (4) is about irrigation, not crop rotation's significance directly. Only (1) and (5) match para 1.
- **(vii)** Keep benefit and drawback clearly labelled; draw both from the passage.
- **(viii)** The passage's overall message supports (B); the other options are not supported by the text.

Q33.

[10]

- (1) Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues, as rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products most visible in developing Asian and African nations, where garbage collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent. But the developed world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, also has trouble properly collecting discarded plastics. Plastic trash has become so ubiquitous that it has prompted efforts to write a global treaty negotiated by the United Nations.
- (2) Plastics made from fossil fuels are just over a century old. Production and development of thousands of new plastic products accelerated after World War II. It transformed the modern age so much that life without plastics is unrecognizable today. Plastics revolutionized medicine with life-saving devices, made space travel possible, lightened cars and jets saving fuel and pollution and saved lives with helmets, incubators, and equipment for clean drinking water.
- (3) The conveniences plastics offer, however, led to a throw-away culture : today, single-use plastics account for 40 percent of the plastic produced every year. Many of these products, such as plastic bags and food wrappers, have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.
- (4) Trash is also carried to sea by major rivers, which act as conveyor belts, picking up more and more trash as they move downstream. Once at sea, much of the plastic trash remains in coastal waters. But once caught up in ocean currents, it can be transported around the world.
- (5) Millions of animals are killed by plastics every year, from birds to fish to other marine organisms. Nearly 700 species, including endangered ones, are known to have been affected by plastics. Nearly every species of seabirds eats plastics. Most of the deaths of animals are caused by entanglement or starvation. Seals, whales, turtles, and other animals are strangled by abandoned fishing gear or discarded six-pack rings.
- (6) The solution is to prevent plastic waste from entering rivers and seas in the first place, many scientists and conservationists — including the National Geographic Society — say. This could be accomplished with improved waste management systems and recycling, better product design that takes into account the short life of disposable packaging, and reduction in manufacturing of unnecessary single-use plastics.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions based on it.

- (i) Which of the following statements best describes the reason why plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues? [1]
- (A) Plastic trash collection systems have become inefficient or nonexistent.
 - (B) Rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products
 - (C) Some plastics have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.
 - (D) The developed world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, has trouble properly collecting plastics.
- (ii) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph 2? Rationalise your response in about 40 words. "It transformed the modern age so much that life without plastics is unrecognizable today." [2]
- (iii) The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (A)–(E) below, identify two sets of synonyms. [1]
- (A) garbage and trash
 - (B) starvation and strangled
 - (C) disposable and reduction
 - (D) persist and downstream
 - (E) transformed and revolutionized
- (iv) Complete the sentence appropriately: The writer says that most of the plastic trash is found in the Earth's last sink and the reason it is transported around the world is _____. [1]
- (v) Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, the downside of the convenience that plastic offers. [2]

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately: According to conservationists, the two ways in which most of the deaths of animals are caused are _____. [1]

(vii) Based on the passage, how can we contribute to the reduction of plastic waste? [1]

- (A) by internationalising the waste management system
- (B) by minimizing the use of single-use plastics
- (C) by not abandoning fishing gear
- (D) by not using helmets made of plastic

(viii) State one reason why plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations. [1]

Previously asked in: 2024 2/4/1 Q1

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Forests/Ecology Passage

Reading Comprehension - Factual Passage

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Model Answer

(i) (B) Rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products.

(ii) The tone is **admiring/appreciative**. The writer acknowledges the transformative impact of plastics on modern life, highlighting how indispensable they have become — revolutionizing medicine, space travel, and transport — suggesting that life without plastics is now beyond imagination.

(iii) The two sets of synonyms are:

- (A) **garbage and trash**
- (E) **transformed and revolutionized**

(iv) ...because once plastic trash is caught up in **ocean currents**, it can be carried across the world.

(v) The convenience of plastics has created a **throw-away culture**. Single-use plastics make up 40% of all plastic produced. Products like bags and food wrappers last only minutes to hours in use, yet persist in the environment for hundreds of years, causing lasting pollution.

(vi) According to conservationists, most animal deaths are caused by **entanglement** (being strangled by fishing gear or six-pack rings) and **starvation** (from ingesting plastics).

(vii) (B) by minimizing the use of single-use plastics.

(viii) Plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations because their **garbage collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent**, leading to improper disposal of plastic waste.

Source: Reading Comprehension Passage on Plastic Pollution

Explanation

- (i) The passage opens with "rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products" as the direct cause — option B mirrors this exactly.
- (ii) For tone questions, name the tone + justify with 1–2 examples from the text. Examiners award 1 mark for correct tone, 1 mark for rationale.
- (iii) Synonyms = same/similar meaning. Garbage = trash; transformed = revolutionized. Avoid (B) — starvation and strangled are different concepts.
- (iv) Answer is directly in paragraph 4: "caught up in ocean currents."
- (v) Focus on the "downside" — throw-away culture, short lifespan of use vs. long environmental persistence. Don't mention benefits.
- (vi) Paragraph 5 explicitly states: "entanglement or starvation."
- (vii) Paragraph 6 mentions "reduction in manufacturing of unnecessary single-use plastics" — option B is closest.

- **(viii)** Stick to one clear reason from paragraph 1 only.

Q34.

[10]

(1) When planning vacations, Indians typically prioritize domestic destinations, as shown by Ministry of Tourism data indicating 1.7 billion domestic tourist visits within India compared to 21 million international departures in 2022. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka stand out as the top states for domestic tourism. Reasons for domestic tourism are many, some travel because it suits their budget while others love to explore the historical, cultural diversity. The government today is focussing on tourist-friendly infrastructure which is making travel more convenient for the domestic traveller.

(2) In terms of outbound tourism, a significant proportion of Indian travellers, totalling 5.9 million, visited the United Arab Emirates in 2022, comprising 28 percent of total outbound tourist travel. Other Gulf states such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait also rank among the top destinations, with 2.4 million, 880,000, and 830,000 Indian visitors, respectively. Additionally, countries like the United States and the United Kingdom attract a considerable number of Indian tourists because these countries offer a mix of traditional and contemporary experiences along with enjoying unique cuisines and diverse landscapes.

(3) The popularity of Gulf States and the U.S. may be influenced by migration trends. The current issue of the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) World Migration Report highlights significant migration flows from India to the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and Saudi Arabia. For instance, the Emirates hosted approximately 3.6 million Indian migrants as of August 2023. Only via two corridors have more people transferred from one country to another as of 2020 according to the IOM: Mexico to the United States with around 11 million and Syria to Turkey with approximately 4 million. These migration corridors rank among the top ten globally.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions based on the above passage.

(i) What does the use of the phrase 'prioritise domestic destinations' by the writer, in paragraph (1) imply? [1]

- (A) Indian tourists prefer places in the country itself.
- (B) Indian tourists like to stay at home.
- (C) Indian tourists mainly travel on low budgets.
- (D) Indian tourists love to hitch-hike and trek.

(ii) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph (2). The statement that, World Migration Report highlights significant migration flows from India to the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and Saudi Arabia, is a/an _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____ (subjective judgement/objective detail). [1]

(iii) Draw a comparative analysis of domestic tourists travelling within India with domestic tourists travelling outside India in 2022. Answer in about 40 words. [2]

(iv) Complete the following with a suitable reason. Gulf states rank as popular destinations for Indians _____. [1]

(v) Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below: Assertion: Indians prioritize Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for domestic tourism. Reason: These states are full of historical monuments. [1]

- (A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- (B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- (C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
- (D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately. The fourthmost visited outbound destination for Indians to the Gulf is _____. [1]

(vii) Mention any two reasons for domestic tourism becoming popular. [1]

(viii) What is the writer's view about the tourism industry in the west? Write any two points. [1]

(ix) Identify the word in paragraph (3) that indicates the 'preference' of people travelling to the Gulf. [1]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/2/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Fact vs. Opinion – Identifying Statement Type

Factual Passage Comprehension

Inferential Reading – Implied Meaning of Phrases

Reading Comprehension – Factual Passage

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Model Answer

(i) (A) Indian tourists prefer places in the country itself.

(ii) The statement is a **fact** because it is an **objective detail**.

(iii) In 2022, domestic tourist visits within India were remarkably high at 1.7 billion, whereas Indians travelling outside the country numbered only 21 million. This shows that travel within India is far more popular than international outbound tourism among Indians.

(iv) Gulf states rank as popular destinations for Indians because a large number of Indian migrants already reside there, making it convenient and familiar for tourists to visit, and migration trends significantly influence these travel choices.

(v) (B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.

(vi) The fourth most visited outbound destination for Indians to the Gulf is **Kuwait**, with approximately 830,000 Indian visitors.

(vii) Two reasons for domestic tourism becoming popular:

- It suits the budget of many travellers.
- People love to explore India's historical and cultural diversity.

(viii) The writer states that western countries like the USA and UK attract Indian tourists because:

- They offer a mix of traditional and contemporary experiences.
- They provide unique cuisines and diverse landscapes.

(ix) The word that indicates the 'preference' of people travelling to the Gulf is "**popularity**" ("*The popularity of Gulf States...*").

Source: Reading Comprehension Passage — Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3

Explanation

- (i) "Prioritise domestic destinations" simply means choosing places within the country first — option A fits directly.
- (ii) Statistics from an official report (IOM) are objective, verifiable facts — not someone's opinion.
- (iii) Use the exact figures: 1.7 billion vs 21 million. Examiners want a clear comparison in ~40 words.
- (iv) The passage links Gulf popularity to migration trends — always cite the reason from the passage, not general knowledge.
- (v) The passage lists UP and Andhra Pradesh as top states but gives multiple reasons (budget, culture, history, infrastructure) — historical monuments alone don't fully explain it, so the reason is true but not the *correct/complete* explanation.
- (vi) Among Gulf states: UAE (5.9 M) → Saudi Arabia (2.4 M) → Qatar (880,000) → Kuwait (830,000). Kuwait is fourth.
- (vii) Lift reasons directly from paragraph 1.
- (viii) Paragraph 2 mentions USA/UK — pick the two reasons stated there.
- (ix) Paragraph 3 opens with "The **popularity** of Gulf States..." — this word signals preference/liking.

Q35.

[10]

- (1) Cinnamon is a spice obtained from the inner bark of several tree species from the genus *Cinnamomum*. Cinnamon is made by cutting the stems of cinnamon trees. The inner bark is then extracted and the woody parts removed. When it dries, it forms strips that curl into rolls, called cinnamon sticks. These sticks can be ground to form cinnamon powder. The spice, consisting of the dried inner bark, is brown in colour and has a delicately fragrant aroma and a warm sweet flavour. The distinct aroma and flavour of cinnamon derive from its essential oil and principal component, cinnamaldehyde, as well as numerous other constituents including eugenol.
- (2) There are two main types of cinnamon: Cassia and Ceylon. The two have different nutritional profiles. Ceylon cinnamon comes from Sri Lanka. Some people call it "true cinnamon." Cassia cinnamon, on the other hand, originates from southern China. Cassia is cheaper than Ceylon cinnamon. Cassia cinnamon has a robust, rich, somewhat bitter flavour while Ceylon is sweeter and lighter in flavor.
- (3) Cinnamon was once more valuable than gold. In Egypt it was sought for embalming and religious practices. In medieval Europe it was used for religious rites and as a flavouring agent. Later it was the most profitable spice in the Dutch East India Company trade.
- (4) Cinnamon is widely used as an aromatic condiment and flavouring additive in a wide variety of cuisines, sweet and savoury dishes, breakfast cereals, snack foods, bagels, teas, hot chocolate and traditional foods.
- (5) Cinnamon is a spice that has been prized for its medicinal properties for thousands of years. In recent years, modern science has started to confirm many of the potential health benefits associated with cinnamon. Cinnamon has antimicrobial and antifungal properties, which is why it's often found in dental-hygiene products and is sold as cinnamon supplements. It is also a good source of antioxidants, substances that inhibit the effect of free radicals (reactive atoms that can damage cells). Due to its anti-inflammatory nature, cinnamon is currently being researched for its potential to fight Alzheimer's disease and decrease symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome and colon cancer.
- (6) Studies also suggest that cinnamon has anti-diabetic properties, and may offer protection from cancer and cardiovascular disease, among other conditions. However, more evidence is needed to confirm cinnamon's benefits. In the short term, consuming moderate amounts of cinnamon as a spice or as a supplement seems to be safe for most people. However, cinnamon contains coumarin. This is a natural flavouring, but it also plays a role in creating warfarin, the common blood-thinning drug. Consuming too much coumarin can lead to liver damage and affect coagulation.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions based on the above passage.

- (i) Complete the sentence appropriately. The characteristic aroma and flavour of cinnamon originate from its essential oil, primarily composed of _____. Paragraph (1) [1]
- (ii) Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, how cinnamon derived from the trees is made fit to be used as a spice. Paragraph (1) [2]
- (iii) Mention one point of difference between Ceylon cinnamon and Cassia cinnamon. Paragraph (2) [1]
- (iv) Complete the sentence appropriately. The author says that cinnamon was once more valuable than gold because _____. Paragraph (3) [1]
- (v) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph (5)? Rationalize your response in about 40 words. "Cinnamon is a spice that has been prized for its medicinal properties for thousands of years." [2]
- (vi) The writer's use of the phrases 'modern science has started to confirm' in paragraph (5) and 'more evidence is needed to confirm' in paragraph (6) suggests that the benefits of cinnamon are: 1. proven 2. scientific 3. uncertain 4. controversial 5. harmful Select the correct option: [1]
- (A) 1 and 3
(B) 2 and 4
(C) only 3

(D) only 5

(vii) Which of the following statements about cinnamon and its health benefits is true? [1]

- (A) Modern science has evidence to prove that cinnamon has many anti-diabetic properties, and it offers complete protection from cancer and cardiovascular disease.
- (B) Cinnamon lacks antimicrobial and antifungal properties, making it unsuitable for dental hygiene products.
- (C) Antioxidants found in cinnamon have no effect on free radicals in the body.
- (D) Cinnamon's anti-inflammatory properties are being researched for its potential benefits in Alzheimer's disease, irritable bowel syndrome and colon cancer. Paragraph (6)

(viii) Which of the following statements best describes the author's attitude toward cinnamon and its uses? [1]

- (A) Finds cinnamon to be a prized condiment which can be used in almost all food items.
- (B) Believes that cinnamon should be used by everyone, everyday.
- (C) Recognizes that cinnamon has many useful properties, including health benefits.
- (D) Believes that cinnamon should only be used as a medicinal supplement.

Previously asked in: 2025 2/2/1 Q1

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Comprehension of a Passage

Identifying Tone of the Writer

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Model Answer

(i) The characteristic aroma and flavour of cinnamon originate from its essential oil, primarily composed of **cinnamaldehyde**, as well as other constituents including eugenol.

(ii) Cinnamon is made fit for use as a spice by first cutting the stems of cinnamon trees and extracting the inner bark after removing the woody parts. The bark is then dried, causing it to curl into rolls called cinnamon sticks, which can further be ground into cinnamon powder.

(iii) Cassia cinnamon has a robust, rich, somewhat bitter flavour, whereas Ceylon cinnamon is sweeter and lighter in flavour.

(iv) The author says that cinnamon was once more valuable than gold because **it was highly sought after in Egypt for embalming and religious practices, used in medieval Europe for religious rites, and was the most profitable spice in the Dutch East India Company trade.**

(v) The tone is **informative and appreciative**. The writer acknowledges cinnamon's long-standing medicinal value across thousands of years while also noting that modern science is beginning to validate these traditional beliefs, reflecting both respect for historical knowledge and a factual, balanced outlook.

(vi) (C) only 3

(vii) (D) Cinnamon's anti-inflammatory properties are being researched for its potential benefits in Alzheimer's disease, irritable bowel syndrome and colon cancer.

(viii) (C) Recognizes that cinnamon has many useful properties, including health benefits.

Explanation

- (i) Direct retrieval — "cinnamaldehyde" is explicitly named as the *principal component* of the essential oil.
- (ii) 2-mark answers need a process description (~40 words). Follow the sequence: cut stems → extract inner bark → remove woody parts → dry → curl into sticks → grind into powder.
- (iii) Any one clear difference (origin, price, or flavour) earns the mark. Flavour contrast is the sharpest and easiest to state.
- (iv) Fill-in answers must complete the sentence logically using passage evidence from paragraph (3).

- **(v)** Identify the tone *and* justify it (~40 words). "Informative and appreciative" fits because the writer presents historical value positively while staying factual.
- **(vi)** Both phrases use "started to confirm" and "more evidence needed" — neither confirms fully, so the benefits remain **uncertain** (only 3).
- **(vii)** Option D matches paragraph (5) exactly. Options A, B, C contradict the passage directly.
- **(viii)** The passage covers culinary use, historical value, and health properties — option C best reflects the author's broad, balanced recognition of cinnamon's many useful properties.

Q36.

[10]

(1) Silk is a natural protein fibre, some forms of which can be woven into textiles. Silk has a long history in India. It is known as Resham in eastern and northern India, and Pattu in the southern parts of India. India is the second largest producer of silk in the world after China.

(2) Silk is renowned for its luxurious qualities with a natural soft and smooth texture that feels comfortable on the skin. One of its unique qualities is to absorb and release moisture, regulating the body temperature, and keeping the wearer cool and dry.

(3) Silk is one of the strongest natural fibres, but it loses up to 20% of its strength when wet. Its elasticity is moderate to poor: if elongated even a small amount, it remains stretched. It can be weakened if exposed to too much sunlight. It may also be attacked by insects, especially if left dirty.

(4) The process of silk production is known as sericulture. Silk is produced by several insects; but, generally, only the silk of moth caterpillars has been used for textile manufacturing. To produce 1 kg of silk, 104 kg of mulberry leaves must be eaten by 3000 silkworms.

(5) So what makes silk so costly? Firstly, cultivation of silk is a labour-intensive work. Secondly, the silk fabric is carefully derived from the larva of the silkworms which spin silk threads around themselves to make cocoons from natural sources. This makes the production limited due to factors like — climate, availability of quality mulberry leaves and time required by silkworms to complete their lifecycle. Thirdly, the intensive work can only be carried out with specialized knowledge and expertise by skilled artisans and craftsmanship. Lastly, superior quality silk fabrics are made from long and uniform silk fibres giving them a smooth and lustrous appearance. Thus, production requires careful selection, adding to the cost.

In 2021, Karnataka was the highest producer of raw silk at 8483 metric tonnes followed by Andhra Pradesh at 5520 metric tonnes with Assam close behind at 5038 metric tonnes. At the other end of the spectrum there was Chhattisgarh (248 metric tonnes), Nagaland (230 metric tonnes) and UP trailed behind at 179 metric tonnes.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

- (i) Silk is a popular fabric in India. Support the above statement in 40 words with evidence from the text. [2]
- (ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below. Assertion: Silk feels comfortable to the skin. Reason: It made of natural protein fibre. [1]
- A Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
B Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
C The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
D The assertion is false, but the reason is true.
- (iii) Justify the following statement: Though one of the strongest natural fibres, silk remains stretched. [1]
- (iv) According to the passage, in what way is sunlight harmful to silk? [1]
- (v) "To produce 1 kg of silk, 104 kg of mulberry leaves must be eaten by 3000 silkworms." State any one inference that can be drawn from the above statement. [1]
- (vi) Complete the following with one suitable reason from the text: Silk production work can be carried out by skilled artisans because _____. [1]
- (vii) Based on the given text, which state was the smallest producer of silk. [1]
- (viii) Complete the sentence suitably. To carry out silk production requires careful selection because _____. [1]

(ix) Give one reason to support why production of silk is limited. [1]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/3/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Factual Passage Comprehension

Factual and Inferential Comprehension of a Passage

Reading Comprehension - Factual Passage

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Model Answer

(i) Silk has a long history in India and is popular across regions. It is called *Resham* in eastern and northern India and *Pattu* in southern India, showing its widespread cultural presence. India is also the second largest producer of silk in the world.

(ii) B — Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion. Silk feels comfortable because of its natural soft and smooth texture, not merely because it is a protein fibre.

(iii) Although silk is one of the strongest natural fibres, its elasticity is moderate to poor. If elongated even a small amount, it remains stretched and does not return to its original shape.

(iv) Exposure to too much sunlight can weaken silk, reducing its strength and durability.

(v) Silk production is extremely resource-intensive; a very large quantity of raw material (mulberry leaves) and a large number of silkworms are needed to produce even a small amount of silk.

(vi) Silk production work can be carried out by skilled artisans because it requires specialised knowledge, expertise, and craftsmanship.

(vii) Uttar Pradesh (UP) was the smallest producer of silk in 2021, producing only 179 metric tonnes.

(viii) To carry out silk production requires careful selection because superior quality silk fabrics are made from long and uniform silk fibres, giving them a smooth and lustrous appearance.

(ix) Silk production is limited because it depends on factors like climate, availability of quality mulberry leaves, and the time required by silkworms to complete their lifecycle.

Source: *Passage on Silk / Sericulture*

Explanation

- **(i)** Two pieces of evidence are needed for 2 marks — regional names and India's global rank both count.
- **(ii)** The comfort comes from the *texture* (para 2), not from being a protein fibre — so the reason doesn't explain the assertion. Choose B.
- **(iii)** Quote/paraphrase directly from para 3 on elasticity.
- **(iv)** One-line answer quoting para 3 is sufficient for 1 mark.
- **(v)** An *inference* means drawing a logical conclusion — here it's about how resource-heavy silk production is.
- **(vi)** Complete the sentence using the exact phrase from para 5 about specialised knowledge.
- **(vii)** Read the data carefully — UP at 179 MT is the lowest figure listed.
- **(viii)** The sentence completion answer is directly in para 5 (last point).
- **(ix)** Pick any one factor from para 5 — climate, mulberry leaves, or lifecycle time.

Q37.

[10]

(1) With the growing focus on sustainable living, the importance of kitchen gardens in urban regions has garnered greater acknowledgement. One significance of kitchen gardens in urban areas is their role in promoting food security. Rapid urbanization has led to increased distances between food production centres and urban settlements, resulting in longer food supply chains and a decrease in the freshness and nutritional value of food.

(2) By having a kitchen garden, urban dwellers can grow their own fresh produce at home, making good use of empty tins, old utensils, and clay flower pots, ensuring a constant supply of nutritious food for themselves and their families. This activity not only saves money and time but can also provide a healthy, practical, and environmentally friendly hobby for the whole family.

(3) Not only do kitchen gardens contribute to food security, but they also play a crucial role in environmental sustainability. Traditional agricultural practices often involve the use of synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and intensive irrigation methods, which may have adverse effects on the environment. However, kitchen gardens promote organic farming, reducing the use of harmful chemicals and preserving soil health.

(4) In addition to fostering a sustainable environment, kitchen gardens provide numerous health benefits to urban dwellers. The availability of fresh and organic produce from the garden ensures a higher intake of essential nutrients, vitamins, and minerals, promoting better overall health and well-being.

(5) Furthermore, kitchen gardens have proven to be an effective tool for education and community development. They provide an opportunity for individuals to reconnect with nature and learn about the basics of agriculture. Besides providing fruits and vegetables, gardening provides an aesthetic and therapeutic exercise that helps relieve stress. The physical activity involved in tending to a garden helps individuals stay active, reducing the risk of obesity and related health issues.

(6) By involving children in gardening activities, they can develop an appreciation for the environment and learn essential life skills. Moreover, kitchen gardens can also serve as a platform for community engagement, fostering social interactions and promoting a sense of belonging among urban residents.

(7) Despite the numerous benefits of kitchen gardens, establishing and maintaining one in urban areas can be challenging. Limited space, lack of sunlight, and soil quality issues are common obstacles that urban gardeners face. However, innovative solutions such as vertical gardening, hydroponics, and rooftop gardens have emerged to overcome these challenges.

(8) It is imperative to provide support and resources to encourage urban gardening initiatives as this can transform urban areas into sustainable havens where residents not only live but thrive in harmony with nature.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

(i) What does the writer's use of phrases like 'in urban regions kitchen gardens have garnered great acknowledgement' suggest about kitchen gardening today? Paragraph (1) [1]

- A It has reduced inflation.
- B It is an expensive hobby.
- C It provides nutritious food.
- D It does not minimize adverse effects on the environment.

(ii) Complete the following with a suitable explanation. Growing a kitchen garden is cost effective because _____. Paragraph (2) [1]

- (iii) Identify two differences between the methods adopted in traditional farming and kitchen gardens. Paragraph (3) [2]
- (iv) Substitute the underlined word with the correct word from Paragraph (4). The local residents' nurturing of their surrounding flora and fauna helps to create awareness about civic responsibilities. [1]
- (v) Tending to a kitchen garden has many health benefits. Explain in about 40 words. Paragraphs (4) and (5) [2]
- (vi) Select the option that best reflects the concept that kitchen gardening is an effective educational tool for children. Paragraph (5) [1]
- A It contributes to effective community development.
- B It helps develop sensitivity and appreciation for nature.
- (vii) What hurdles do kitchen gardeners face? Mention any two. Paragraph (7) [1]
- (viii) State whether the following statement is True or False: Kitchen gardening should be practised by everyone living in the cities. [1]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/3/1 Q1

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Forests/Ecology Passage

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Model Answer

- (i) C — It provides nutritious food.
- (ii) Growing a kitchen garden is cost effective because it saves money and time by growing fresh produce at home using empty tins, old utensils, and clay flower pots, reducing dependence on costly market supplies.
- (iii) Two differences between traditional farming and kitchen gardens:
- | Traditional Farming | Kitchen Gardens |
|---|--|
| Uses synthetic fertilizers and pesticides | Promotes organic farming, reducing harmful chemicals |
| Involves intensive irrigation methods | Preserves soil health with sustainable practices |
- (iv) The correct word from Paragraph (4) is **fostering** (replacing "nurturing").
- (v) Tending to a kitchen garden provides multiple health benefits. Fresh, organic produce ensures higher intake of essential nutrients, vitamins, and minerals. Gardening is a therapeutic exercise that relieves stress. The physical activity involved keeps individuals active, reducing the risk of obesity and related health issues.
- (vi) B — It helps develop sensitivity and appreciation for nature.
- (vii) Two hurdles kitchen gardeners face:
- Limited space
 - Lack of sunlight (also: soil quality issues)
- (viii) **False.** The passage does not state that *everyone* in cities must practise kitchen gardening; it says it is *imperative to provide support and resources to encourage* urban gardening initiatives.

Source: Passage on Kitchen Gardens in Urban Areas, Paragraphs (1)–(8)

Explanation

- (i) The phrase "garnered greater acknowledgement" signals rising recognition/importance — not cost or inflation. Nutritious food is the stated significance in Para 1.
- (ii) Direct inference from Para 2: "saves money and time" + reuse of household containers.
- (iii) Examiners expect a clear contrast; a table or two labelled points both work equally well.

- **(iv)** "Fostering" means nurturing/promoting — Para 4 uses it in the same sense as "nurturing" in the question.
- **(v)** Draw from **both** paragraphs as instructed; 40 words means 3–4 sentences maximum.
- **(vi)** Para 6 specifically says children "develop an appreciation for the environment" — option B.
- **(vii)** Any two from: limited space, lack of sunlight, soil quality issues.
- **(viii)** The passage encourages and supports kitchen gardening but never mandates it for "everyone" — hence False.

Q38.

[10]

(1) Silk is a natural protein fibre, some forms of which can be woven into textiles. Silk has a long history in India. It is known as Resham in eastern and northern India, and Pattu in the southern parts of India. India is the second largest producer of silk in the world after China.

(2) Silk is renowned for its luxurious qualities with a natural soft and smooth texture that feels comfortable on the skin. One of its unique qualities is to absorb and release moisture, regulating the body temperature, and keeping the wearer cool and dry.

(3) Silk is one of the strongest natural fibres, but it loses up to 20% of its strength when wet. Its elasticity is moderate to poor: if elongated even a small amount, it remains stretched. It can be weakened if exposed to too much sunlight. It may also be attacked by insects, especially if left dirty.

(4) The process of silk production is known as sericulture. Silk is produced by several insects; but, generally, only the silk of moth caterpillars has been used for textile manufacturing. To produce 1 kg of silk, 104 kg of mulberry leaves must be eaten by 3000 silkworms.

(5) So what makes silk so costly? Firstly, cultivation of silk is a labour-intensive work. Secondly, the silk fabric is carefully derived from the larva of the silkworms which spin silk threads around themselves to make cocoons from natural sources. This makes the production limited due to factors like — climate, availability of quality mulberry leaves and time required by silkworms to complete their lifecycle. Thirdly, the intensive work can only be carried out with specialized knowledge and expertise by skilled artisans and craftsmanship. Lastly, superior quality silk fabrics are made from long and uniform silk fibres giving them a smooth and lustrous appearance. Thus, production requires careful selection, adding to the cost.

In 2021, Karnataka was the highest producer of raw silk at 8483 metric tonnes followed by Andhra Pradesh at 5520 metric tonnes with Assam close behind at 5038 metric tonnes. At the other end of the spectrum there was Chhattisgarh (248 metric tonnes), Nagaland (230 metric tonnes) and UP trailed behind at 179 metric tonnes.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions based on it.

(i) What does the phrase 'luxurious qualities' in paragraph (2) tell you about the silk fabric? Write in 40 words with evidence from the text. [2]

(ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below. Assertion : Silk production requires careful selection. Reason : Long and uniform silk fibres give silk a glossy appearance. [1]

- A Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
- B Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
- C The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
- D The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

(iii) Justify the following statement : Silk whispers luxury! Its price reflects not just its rarity but the value of the meticulous process behind its creation. [1]

(iv) According to the passage, mention the top two countries that produce silk. [1]

(v) "Factors like climate, availability of quality mulberry leaves and time required by silkworms to complete their lifecycle are important factors for the production of silk." State any one inference that can be drawn from this. [1]

(vi) Complete the following with a suitable reason from the text : Though silk is considered one of the strongest fibres, it is _____. [1]

(vii) Based on the given text, mention the states which produced the most and the least amount of raw silk in India in the year 2021. [1]

(viii) Complete the sentence suitably. 104 kgs of mulberry leaves eaten by 3000 silkworms results in _____. [1]

(ix) With reference to the given passage, give one reason why silk production is considered labour-intensive. [1]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/1/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Factual Passage Comprehension

Factual and Inferential Comprehension of a Passage

Factual/Discursive Passage Comprehension

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Model Answer

(i) The phrase 'luxurious qualities' tells us that silk is an exceptionally fine and comfortable fabric. Evidence: it has "a natural soft and smooth texture that feels comfortable on the skin" and uniquely absorbs and releases moisture, regulating body temperature, keeping the wearer cool and dry.

(ii) A — Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion. (Long and uniform silk fibres give a smooth and lustrous appearance, making careful selection necessary, which adds to the cost.)

(iii) Silk is costly because its production is labour-intensive, requires skilled artisans with specialised knowledge, depends on natural factors like climate and mulberry leaf availability, and demands careful selection of long and uniform fibres — all making the creation meticulous and rare.

(iv) The top two silk-producing countries are **China** (largest) and **India** (second largest).

(v) Silk production is highly dependent on natural and environmental conditions, making it seasonal and geographically limited, which restricts output and contributes to silk's scarcity and high cost.

(vi) Though silk is considered one of the strongest fibres, it is **not without weaknesses — it loses up to 20% of its strength when wet, has poor elasticity, can be weakened by sunlight, and may be attacked by insects.**

(vii) **Most:** Karnataka (8483 metric tonnes); **Least:** Uttar Pradesh (179 metric tonnes).

(viii) 104 kg of mulberry leaves eaten by 3000 silkworms results in **the production of 1 kg of silk.**

(ix) Silk production requires specialised knowledge and expertise of skilled artisans and craftsmanship, making the entire process intensive in human effort and skill.

Source: *Passage on Silk — paragraphs (1)–(5) and statistical data*

Explanation

- (i) needs textual evidence — quote directly from paragraph 2. 40 words is the limit; don't exceed.
- (ii) Option A is correct because paragraph 5 explicitly links careful selection to long/uniform fibres and lustrous appearance — the reason directly explains the assertion.
- (iii) Justify means give reasons from the text; link labour, skill, natural dependency, and careful selection briefly.
- (iv) Straight factual recall from paragraph 1.
- (v) "Inference" = a logical conclusion drawn from the fact; here, it points to natural/seasonal limitations affecting production volume and cost.
- (vi) Fill the blank with limitations listed in paragraph 3 — examiner expects at least one specific weakness.
- (vii) Read the data table carefully: highest = Karnataka, lowest = UP.
- (viii) Direct figure from paragraph 4 — just flip the statement.
- (ix) Pick one clear reason from paragraph 5; skilled artisans/specialised knowledge is the most direct answer.

Q39.

[10]

- (1) Saffron is a spice that's long been revered across the globe, captivating hearts and palates with its deep-red hue and complex flavour. It is one of the most prized spices that you can find on this planet. Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices. Also known as 'kesar' in Hindi, it has a rich history and is often called an ancient spice. Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the royals and the elite as it contains medicinal properties.
- (2) Originating from the delicate stigma of the saffron crocus flower, it transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary, infusing dishes with a subtle, earthy sweetness that adds a special taste to the palate. Saffron has a strong exotic aroma and a unique flavour and is used to colour and flavour many Mediterranean and Asian dishes, particularly rice, fish and English, Scandinavian, and Balkan breads.
- (3) Saffron forms the backbone of several iconic dishes from around the world, such as the Spanish rice, seafood dish Paella, the French stew Bouillabaisse, Italian rice dish Risotto Milanese, the Indian ice cream Kesar Kulfi, Pakistani rice dish Biryani, and baked Iranian rice Tachin. Saffron's rich red colour is attributed to crocin; its bitter taste, to picrocrocin; and its distinctive aroma, to safranal.
- (4) Saffron is cultivated chiefly in Iran but is also grown in Spain, France, Italy, and parts of India. A labour-intensive crop, the three stigmas are handpicked from each flower, spread on trays, and dried over charcoal fires for use as a food flavouring and colouring agent.
- (5) Most historians speculate it was first domesticated in Iran, but south-western Greek islands remain strong contenders. Traders, conquerors, and world explorers introduced it to China, India and the Middle East. From there, it travelled to Mediterranean Europe.
- (6) The high retail value of saffron is maintained in world markets because of labour-intensive harvesting methods, which require some 444,000 hand-picked saffron stigmas per kilogram — equivalently, 150,000 crocus flowers per kilogram. Forty hours of labour are needed to pick 150,000 flowers. Almost all saffron grows in a belt from Spain in the west to India in the east. Iran is responsible for around 88% of global production. Afghanistan comes second, and Spain is the third largest producer, while the United Arab Emirates, Greece, the Indian subcontinent and Morocco are among minor producers.
- (7) Given its high price, adulteration is quite common, unfortunately. Adulterants like beetroot or pomegranate are used to enhance red colour; silk fibres, oil, or wax are used to add bulk, and powdered saffron can be adulterated with turmeric and paprika.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions based on it.

- (i) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines ? Rationalise your response in about 40 words. "Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the royals and the elite as it contains medicinal properties." Paragraph (1) [1]
- (ii) Which of the following statements best describes the comparison made in the sentence ? "Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices." Paragraph (1) [1]
- A Gold and saffron have similar physical properties.
- B Gold and saffron have equal monetary value.
- C Saffron is considered the most valuable spice, similar to how gold is valued among metals.
- D Gold and saffron are both rare commodities in the global market.
- (iii) List any two points why saffron is revered across the globe. Paragraphs (2) and (3) [2]
- (iv) Fill in the blank from the given options : In the phrase 'backbone of several iconic dishes', the word 'iconic' refers to _____. Paragraph (3) [1]
- A delicately cooked
- B widely recognized
- C peculiar and rare
- D strange and infamous

(v) Complete the sentence appropriately : Saffron has a labour-intensive cultivation process which involves _____. Paragraph (4) [2]

(vi) State whether the following statement is True or False : According to historians, saffron was first used in the kitchens in Iran. Paragraph (5) [1]

(vii) Which of the following statements best describes the reason for saffron's high retail value ? Paragraph (6) [1]

- A Due to its magical or mystical properties.
- B Because it can only be grown in specific regions.
- C Due to its labour-intensive cultivation process and its relatively low yield per plant.
- D Because traders, conquerors, and world explorers hoard it.

(viii) Support the writer's view with evidence from the text that saffron is often adulterated. Paragraph (7) [1]

Previously asked in: 2025 2/1/1 Q1

◆ Reading Skills

Identifying Tone of the Writer

Inferring Meaning of Comparisons / Analogies

Reading Comprehension

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Model Answer

(i) The tone is **admiring/reverential**. The writer uses phrases like "prized spice" and highlights its medicinal properties and royal use, clearly expressing deep respect and awe for saffron's historical significance and value.

(ii) C — Saffron is considered the most valuable spice, similar to how gold is valued among metals.

(iii) Two reasons why saffron is revered globally:

- It has a strong exotic aroma, unique flavour, and infuses dishes with a subtle earthy sweetness.
- It is a key ingredient in several iconic dishes worldwide, such as Paella, Bouillabaisse, Biryani, and Risotto Milanese.

(iv) B — widely recognized

(v) Saffron has a labour-intensive cultivation process which involves **handpicking three stigmas from each flower, spreading them on trays, and drying them over charcoal fires**. About 150,000 flowers are needed per kilogram, requiring nearly forty hours of labour.

(vi) **False**. Historians only *speculate* saffron was first domesticated in Iran; south-western Greek islands remain strong contenders. The passage does not mention its first kitchen use.

(vii) C — Due to its labour-intensive cultivation process and its relatively low yield per plant.

(viii) The writer states that adulterants like **beetroot or pomegranate** are added to enhance red colour, **silk fibres, oil, or wax** are used to add bulk, and powdered saffron is mixed with **turmeric and paprika** — clearly evidencing widespread adulteration.

Source: *Passage on Saffron, Paragraphs 1–7*

Explanation

- (i) "Tone" questions expect one clear word + justification from the text. Admiring/reverential fits; avoid vague words like "positive."
- (ii) The comparison is about *value/status*, not physical properties or exact price — eliminates A, B, D.
- (iii) 2 marks = 2 distinct points; draw one each from Para 2 and Para 3.
- (iv) "Iconic" means famous/widely recognised — not rare or strange.
- (v) 2-mark fill-in needs a complete, detailed phrase covering the full process from Para 4.
- (vi) Key word in Para 5 is "speculate" — it is not a confirmed fact, so the statement is False.
- (vii) Para 6 explicitly links high price to labour-intensive harvesting and low yield — C is directly supported.

- **(viii)** Quote specific adulterants from Para 7 as evidence; the examiner wants textual support, not opinion.

Q40.

[10]

(1) The craze for cosmetics has escalated globally, driven by evolving beauty standards and social media influence. The cosmetics industry thrives on innovation, offering various products catering to various skin types and preferences. In India, the cosmetics industry has witnessed a remarkable growth over the past decade, driven by rising 'disposable incomes', increased urbanization, and changing lifestyles. In contemporary times, people are more aware about their personal grooming.

(2) In the year 2024, the Indian cosmetics market generated revenue of approximately ₹ 1,34,000 crore and is projected to reach around ₹ 2,40,000 crore by 2028. This robust performance is driven as a result of strong e-commerce and growing demand for organic and premium product offerings due to increasing awareness of personal grooming, skin care routines among consumers, especially teenagers and young adults, who are the dominant demographic in cosmetics purchase, as they seek trendy and innovative solutions.

(3) The cosmetics industry is broadly divided into various segments such as skin care, hair care, colour cosmetics, fragrances, and personal hygiene products. Skincare leads the segments, accounting for nearly 35% of the market, followed by hair care at 25%. Colour cosmetics — including make-up products have seen significant growth, especially post-pandemic, due to the rise of e-commerce and social media. E-commerce platforms have played a crucial role in expanding access to cosmetics especially in Tier II and Tier III cities. In fact, online sales contribute to around 25% of total cosmetics sales in India.

(4) Over and above that, men's grooming has emerged as a significant segment, valued at around ₹ 25,000 crore in the year 2024 with increasing demand for beard care, skin care and fragrances customized to men. This growth is fuelled by social media influencers, coupled with the increase of gender-neutral cosmetic formulations. This shows an aspirational pursuit of personal refinement, where appearance augments confidence, dismantling archaic stereotypes associated with male cosmetics consumption.

(5) Though the cosmetics industry plays a vital role in the Indian economy, it faces several challenges including managing intense competition, complying with regulations, ensuring product quality, and addressing ethical sourcing concerns. In addition, the industry struggles with copied products, adapting to changing consumer preferences and navigating the complexities of the supply chain.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions based on it.

(i) Complete the sentence with a reason: The global demand for beauty products has intensified because of _____. Paragraph (1) [1]

(ii) What does the phrase 'thrives on innovation' tell us about the cosmetic industry? Paragraph (1) [1]

- (A) The industry is slow-growing.
- (B) The industry is growing and evolving by the day.
- (C) The industry is becoming popular in rural areas.
- (D) The industry is gradually becoming more expensive.

(iii) Identify the word that indicates that the cosmetics industry is anticipated to grow. Paragraph (2) [1]

(iv) Given that teenagers and young adults form the primary group for cosmetics purchases, what are the key factors that shape their buying decisions? Paragraph (2) [1]

(v) Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below. Paragraph (2) Assertion: The Indian cosmetics market generated a profit of approximately ₹ 1,34,000 crore in 2024. Reason: It became possible due to strong e-commerce and growing demand for organic and premium product offerings. [1]

(A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.

- (B) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
(C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
(D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

(vi) How has the rise of e-commerce platforms impacted the revenue of the Indian cosmetics industry? Explain in 30 – 40 words. Paragraph (3) [1]

(vii) Based on your understanding of Paragraph (3), fill in the blank with suitable options: The skincare segment currently dominates the Indian cosmetics industry. Currently its share is _____ (20%, 25%, 35%) approximately. [1]

(viii) Complete the sentence suitably. That men's grooming has increased the demand for gender-neutral cosmetic formulations symbolizes _____. Paragraph (4) [1]

(ix) Mention any two major challenges faced by the cosmetics industry at present. Paragraph (5) [2]

Previously asked in: 2026 2/2/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Data Interpretation / Application from Passage

Determiners / Word Choice (Vocabulary in Context)

Inferencing and Sentence Completion

Reading Comprehension

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Model Answer

(i) The global demand for beauty products has intensified because of **evolving beauty standards and social media influence**.

(ii) (B) **The industry is growing and evolving by the day.**

(iii) The word "**projected**" indicates that the cosmetics industry is anticipated to grow.

(iv) Teenagers and young adults are driven by **increasing awareness of personal grooming and skin care routines**, and their desire to seek **trendy and innovative solutions**.

(v) (D) **The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.**

(The market generated **revenue**, not profit, of ₹ 1,34,000 crore.)

(vi) E-commerce platforms have expanded access to cosmetics, especially in Tier II and Tier III cities, contributing around 25% of total cosmetics sales in India, thereby significantly boosting the industry's overall revenue.

(vii) The skincare segment's current share is approximately **35%**.

(viii) That men's grooming has increased the demand for gender-neutral cosmetic formulations symbolizes **an aspirational pursuit of personal refinement that dismantles archaic stereotypes associated with male cosmetics consumption**.

(ix) Two major challenges faced by the cosmetics industry are:

1. **Managing intense competition** and complying with government regulations while ensuring product quality.

2. **Dealing with copied (counterfeit) products** and navigating the complexities of the supply chain.

Source: *Passage on the Indian Cosmetics Industry, Paragraphs 1–5*

Explanation

- **(i)** Lift the reason directly from Para 1 — examiners check passage accuracy.
- **(ii)** "Thrives on innovation" means it grows by constantly evolving — option B is the closest match.
- **(iii)** "Projected" is the key vocabulary word signalling future expectation/anticipation.
- **(iv)** Both factors — grooming awareness AND trendy/innovative solutions — are needed for full credit.
- **(v)** The trap is the word "profit" in the Assertion; the passage says "revenue." So the Assertion is factually wrong, making (D) correct.
- **(vi)** Keep within 30–40 words; include the statistic (25%) for precision.
- **(vii)** Read carefully — skincare leads at 35%, not 25% (which is hair care).
- **(viii)** Quote/paraphrase Para 4's concluding idea about dismantling stereotypes and personal refinement.
- **(ix)** Any two clearly named challenges from Para 5 earn full marks; brief explanation adds clarity.

Q41.

[10]

(1) In the fast-evolving landscape of the present age, digital saturation and algorithmically curated lives, the phenomenon of FOMO — the Fear of Missing Out — has progressed from a fleeting psychological discomfort into a pervasive cultural condition. Initially, the term was coined to describe the anxiety provoked by the perception that others are participating in rewarding experiences from which one is absent. FOMO now pervades virtually in every dimension of contemporary existence, fuelled largely by the continuous updates of edited content on social media platforms. Significantly, it is the anxiety that others are experiencing something more fulfilling, exciting, or meaningful.

(2) The roots of FOMO lie in the interplay between the evolutionary instincts of an individual and modern technology. It may be traced as a fundamental human trait — the innate desire to belong. Man — being a social creature naturally, always tries to seek inclusion and belonging as a means of survival. Albeit, nowadays social media has escalated this instinct by bothering individuals with real-time updates of others' lives — carefully edited vacations, career milestones or even temporal joys framed as extraordinary. Each notification becomes a reminder of what we are not doing, a mirror reflecting our perceived inadequacies.

(3) FOMO is not solely a personal affliction; it is a cultural artifact also, shaped by the values of a society that equates busyness with worth and novelty with happiness. Moreover, consumerism fuels this fire with brands exploiting FOMO through limited time offers, exclusive events, and influencer-driven trends that promise belonging or status. The rise of the 'experience economy', where memories and moments are commodified, intensifies the pressure to participate in everything from music festivals to viral food craze.

(4) Furthermore, FOMO has created profound shifts in behaviour also. Due to this, the decision-making process has become increasingly worrisome, with people hesitating to commit to plans for fear of a better alternative emerging later. It often leads to impulsive choices, such as overspending on unnecessary products, overcommitting to events or making hasty life decisions to avoid feeling excluded. People, due to FOMO, struggle to focus on their priorities because they are distracted by what others are doing. Even highlighted reels of professional journeys shared online by others breed discontent and cause anxiety and dissatisfaction, where no experience feels complete.

(5) The gloomy side of FOMO manifests in lowered self-esteem, impaired concentration and in severe cases, depression. Ironically, the more one tries to engage with multiple activities to 'keep up', the greater it leads to emotional exhaustion. The illusion of missing out on something 'better' elsewhere robs individuals of their ability to engage themselves fully in their present experiences.

(6) To overcome the Fear of Missing Out we require intentional strategies. To avoid constant comparison, specific timings for checking the apps and social media should be set. One can also engage oneself in mindful breathing or meditation to stay grounded to the present. By prioritizing self-awareness and authentic experiences, one can take the edge off FOMO's grip and cultivate a richer, more satisfying life without chasing external validation. Finally, we need to recognize that carefully selected online portrayals, which are essentially selective, generate emotional resilience.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions based on it.

- (i) What is the primary psychological trigger behind FOMO in the context of social media usage? Paragraph (1) [1]
- (A) physical fatigue
 - (B) fear of rejection from loved ones
 - (C) need of privacy to keep oneself safe
 - (D) fear of being left out of rewarding experiences

- (ii) Complete the following with the correct option from the two given below: FOMO has entered every dimension of a person's existence because _____. Paragraph (1) [1]
- (A) more exciting events are taking place nowadays
(B) of constant edits and updates on the social media platforms
- (iii) What is the impact of the 'experience economy' on individuals? Paragraph (3) [1]
- (iv) How does FOMO affect an individual's decision-making ability? Paragraph (4) [2]
- (v) Support the writer's viewpoint that FOMO leads to emotional consequences. Paragraph (4) [1]
- (vi) List two effective ways to deal with Fear of Missing Out (FOMO). Paragraph (6) [2]
- (vii) State whether the following statement is True or False: People need to make an effort to come out of their FOMO state of mind. Paragraph (6) [1]
- (viii) Complete the following with the correct option from the ones given below. In the phrase 'generate emotional resilience', the word 'resilience' refers to the ability to Paragraph (6) [1]
- (A) support and create more social content.
(B) withstand emotional anxiety of FOMO.
(C) accelerate the notifications on social media.
(D) give in to digital social pressure.

Previously asked in: 2026 2/2/1 Q1

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Comprehension of a Passage

Reading Comprehension

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Model Answer

- (i) (D) fear of being left out of rewarding experiences
- (ii) (B) of constant edits and updates on the social media platforms
- (iii) The 'experience economy' commodifies memories and moments, intensifying pressure on individuals to participate in everything — from music festivals to viral food crazes — making them feel they must constantly engage or miss out.
- (iv) FOMO makes decision-making increasingly worrisome. People hesitate to commit to plans, fearing a better alternative may emerge later. This leads to impulsive choices such as overspending on unnecessary products, overcommitting to events, or making hasty life decisions just to avoid feeling excluded.
- (v) The writer states that highlighted reels of professional journeys shared online breed discontent and cause anxiety and dissatisfaction, where no experience feels complete — clearly supporting the view that FOMO leads to emotional consequences.
- (vi) Two effective ways to deal with FOMO:
- Set specific timings for checking social media apps to avoid constant comparison.
 - Engage in mindful breathing or meditation to stay grounded in the present.
- (vii) **True.** Paragraph (6) states that overcoming FOMO requires intentional strategies, which means one must make a conscious effort to come out of this state of mind.
- (viii) (B) withstand emotional anxiety of FOMO.
-

Explanation

- MCQs (i), (ii), (viii): Answer must be the option letter + the option text. One line each.
- (iii), (v): Lift key phrases directly from the passage — examiners check textual accuracy.
- (iv) is 2 marks: needs two distinct points — hesitation to commit AND impulsive choices.

- (vi): List format is expected; two clear, separate strategies from Para (6).
- (vii): True/False must include a brief justification to be safe.

Q42.

[10]

(1) Fascination of glassware has captivated people all over the world for its blending utility, artistry and cultural significance. The invention of glassblowing, a technique that involves inflating molten glass into a bubble with the help of a blowpipe, revolutionized the craft, making glassware more accessible, affordable and versatile. This allowed the mass production of glass vessels.

(2) In India, the craze for glassware has made this industry a significant segment of the manufacturing sector which is notably contributing to both — domestic consumption and exports. India's glass industry comprises a diverse range of products such as container glass, flat glass, and fibreglass. As of 2024, the Indian glass industry was valued at approximately ₹ 40,338 crore. The growth is fuelled by increasing sustainability and the rising demand for decorative items. The flat glass segment, essential for the construction and automotive sectors, contributes around 55% of the total industry revenue. Due to rising demand for energy-efficient buildings, toughened glass is extensively employed. It is also used in automotive windows, doors, facades, and shower screens. Actually, it is a type of processed flat glass, made specifically to be stronger and safer than ordinary flat glass, also called tempered glass. In packaging, container glass is used especially for beverages and pharmaceuticals, which makes up around 25% of the market.

(3) Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh is the heart of the Indian glass industry and is often referred to as the "City of Glass". Firozabad specializes in decorative glassware, chandeliers, bangles and domestic glass products. More than 400 glassware manufacturing units provide employment to over 1,50,000 workers. Artisans of this place have made it a leading contributor to India's glassware export, preserving tradition while supporting the local economy.

(4) The Indian handmade glassware products including artistic and decorative items continue to thrive in the domestic market and in exports. The blend of traditional craftsmanship and modern technology has made the Indian glass industry distinctive in comparison to global leaders like China and the USA.

(5) However, the industry faces many challenges like dependence on imported raw material, energy-intensive manufacturing processes and environmental regulations, but it still holds a vital position in the national economy. In current times, it is focusing on sustainability, as manufacturers are adopting recycled glass or cullet in production in order to reduce energy consumption and carbon emission, as they require lower melting temperatures. Economically, it decreases the cost of raw material and supports circular economy models, making the industry both profitable and environmentally responsible.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions based on the above passage.

(i) Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below. Paragraph (1) Assertion: The invention of glassblowing has expanded the glass industry all over the world. Reason: Glassblowing allowed craftsmen to produce complex glass objects faster and in large quantities. [1]

- (A) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- (B) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- (C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
- (D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

(ii) In paragraph (2), identify the word that indicates people's fascination for glassware. [1]

(iii) Support with evidence from the passage that India's glass industry has a 'diverse range'. Paragraph (2) [2]

(iv) Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank. The percentage of container glass used in pharmaceuticals and packaging is _____. (23%, 25%, 28%) Paragraph (2) [1]

(v) Why is Firozabad referred to as the "City of Glass"? Paragraph (3) [1]

(vi) What does the number of workers in the glassware industry emphasize about the employability of Firozabad? Paragraph (3) [1]

(vii) Complete the sentence appropriately : India's glass industry is unique as compared to global leaders like China and the USA because _____. Paragraph (4) [1]

(viii) How does using recycled glass benefit the glassware industry environmentally? Paragraph (5) [1]

(ix) Complete the following with a suitable reason. The Indian glass industry is facing many challenges because _____. Paragraph (5) [1]

Previously asked in: 2026 2/3/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Factual/Discursive Passage Comprehension

Reading Comprehension - Factual Passage

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Model Answer

(i) (B) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion. *(The passage states glassblowing made glassware accessible, affordable and versatile and allowed mass production — not specifically that it produced "complex objects faster".)*

(ii) The word is "**craze**" — "*the craze for glassware has made this industry a significant segment...*"

(iii) India's glass industry has a diverse range as it comprises **container glass** (used in packaging, 25% of market), **flat glass** (essential for construction and automotive, contributing 55% of revenue), and **fibreglass** — three distinct product categories serving very different sectors.

(iv) **25%**

(v) Firozabad is referred to as the "City of Glass" because it is the heart of the Indian glass industry, specializing in decorative glassware, chandeliers, bangles and domestic glass products, with over 400 manufacturing units.

(vi) The figure of over **1,50,000 workers** employed in Firozabad's glassware units emphasizes that the industry is a massive source of livelihood, making it a vital employment hub for the local and regional population.

(vii) ...it uniquely blends **traditional craftsmanship with modern technology**, making its handmade artistic and decorative glassware distinctive from the industrially dominated glass production of China and the USA.

(viii) Recycled glass (cullet) requires lower melting temperatures, which **reduces energy consumption and carbon emissions**, making the manufacturing process more environmentally responsible.

(ix) ...it is **dependent on imported raw materials, involves energy-intensive manufacturing processes, and must comply with strict environmental regulations**, all of which add to operational costs and constraints.

Source: Reading Passage, Paragraphs 1–5

Explanation

- **(i):** The Reason mentions "complex objects faster," which the passage does NOT state; the passage says mass production, accessibility, and affordability — so the Reason is true in spirit but is NOT what the passage gives as the explanation. Hence (B).
- **(ii):** Examiners want the exact word from the paragraph — "craze" is the direct synonym of fascination used there.
- **(iii):** A 2-mark answer needs evidence (examples + detail); name all three product types and their significance.
- **(iv–ix):** These 1-mark answers must be concise — one or two lines only, directly lifted or paraphrased from the relevant paragraph.

Q43.

[10]

- (1) In the contemporary digital era, personal information has become both a resource and a vulnerability. One of the most alarming practices exploiting this sensitivity is doxing, the deliberate act of publicly revealing private or sensitive information about an individual without their consent. It typically blurs the boundaries between online and offline privacy by disclosing personal details such as phone numbers, home addresses, workplace details or financial records on public platforms, making the digital and physical worlds collide.
- (2) In the complex landscape of digital communication, doxing emerges as a controversial phenomenon which is often weaponized to frighten, harass, or harm the targeted individual. This leads to anxiety, stress, fear or paranoia as their sense of personal safety and control over their life is severely compromised. A determined doxer might scrape information from various social networking profiles, domain name records or exploit security lapses like weak passwords. Once gathered, this information is shared on public forums, social media, or 'dox sites', expanding the victim's exposure to harassment, stalking, or even physical threats.
- (3) This darker side of doxing reveals its true dangers. What makes it particularly treacherous is that once the information is released online, it is almost impossible to erase, making the harm sometimes lifelong. Legally, it occupies a grey area. In some jurisdictions it may violate privacy, cyberstalking or harassment laws, but global differences and the Internet's borderless nature complicate enforcement. Ethically, doxing is a clear violation of personal autonomy. It disproportionately harms marginalized groups, who often face accelerated real-world risks from such exposures.
- (4) Proponents of doxing sometimes claim it promotes justice by exposing individuals who might otherwise escape accountability. For instance, in some cases of online scams or criminal behaviour, Internet users have identified and revealed the real identities of offenders. Moreover, when individuals misuse their anonymity to harm others, exposing them may serve justice and discourage similar behaviour in future.
- (5) Defending against doxing demands proactive, preventive and corrective measures like locking down social media privacy settings, using pseudonyms, enabling two-factor authentication, and minimizing shared personal data. However, individual efforts are often insufficient against determined attackers, though certain systematic solutions such as stricter data protection regulations, robust platform moderation and criminalizing doxing explicitly may play a vital role to curb its spread. In addition to this, public awareness campaigns on digital safety are equally important to educate users about risks. Victims should have access to legal aid, counselling and helplines for immediate support. A united effort may ensure better protection against this growing online threat.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions based on the above passage.

- (i) In the phrase 'personal information has become both a resource and a vulnerability', the word 'vulnerability' refers to : Paragraph (1) [1]
- (A) a person's information being monitored.
(B) the potential to misuse or compromise a person's data.
(C) the sharing of information supports career contacts.
(D) all personal information is freely available for sanctioning of loans.
- (ii) Complete the following with the correct option from the two given below : Doxing results in the collision between digital and physical worlds because _____. Paragraph (1) [1]
- (A) it discloses a person's personal information on an online platform
(B) it has led to many boxing bouts between individuals
- (iii) Support the writer's view that doxing may have a psychological impact on the targeted individual. Paragraph (2) [2]
- (iv) State whether the statement is True or False : The strength of a password is not connected to the privacy of their information. Paragraph (2) [1]
- (v) Complete the following suitably : Doxing is ethically wrong because _____. Paragraph (3) [1]

(vi) The negative and dangerous aspect of doxing is : Paragraph (3) [1]

- (A) It is easy to delete the information once posted online.
- (B) It is impossible to erase the information once released online.
- (C) It is easily deleted and edited by the targeted individual.
- (D) It is not possible for a doxer to leak information online.

(vii) Cite one example to support the claim that doxing can promote justice with reference to Paragraph (4). [1]

(viii) Mention any two preventive steps that individuals can take to safeguard their online identity and reduce the risk of being doxed. Paragraph (5) [2]

Previously asked in: 2026 2/3/1 Q1

◆ **Reading Skills**

Discrete/Factual Passage with Data Interpretation

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Model Answer

(i) (B) the potential to misuse or compromise a person's data.

(ii) (A) it discloses a person's personal information on an online platform.

(iii) The writer states that doxing is "weaponized to frighten, harass, or harm the targeted individual." This leads to severe psychological effects such as anxiety, stress, fear, and paranoia. The victim's sense of personal safety and control over their own life is severely compromised, causing lasting mental distress.

(iv) False. The paragraph clearly states that a determined doxer can exploit security lapses like weak passwords to scrape personal information, directly linking password strength to information privacy.

(v) Doxing is ethically wrong because it is a clear violation of personal autonomy and disproportionately harms marginalized groups, who often face accelerated real-world risks from such exposures.

(vi) (B) It is impossible to erase the information once released online.

(vii) In cases of online scams or criminal behaviour, Internet users have identified and revealed the real identities of offenders who might otherwise have escaped accountability, thus promoting justice.

(viii) Two preventive steps individuals can take are:

1. Locking down social media privacy settings to limit the personal information accessible to others.
2. Enabling two-factor authentication to add an extra layer of security to their accounts.

Source: Reading Comprehension Passage — Paragraphs 1–5

Explanation

- **(i)–(ii), (iv), (vi):** These are direct recall/MCQ/T-F questions — pick the option best supported by the passage; avoid overthinking.
- **(iii):** A 2-mark answer needs **two distinct points** — here: the intent (frighten/harm) + the psychological outcomes (anxiety, fear, paranoia). Always quote or closely paraphrase the passage.
- **(v):** Lift the ethical reason directly from Para 3 — examiners want "violation of personal autonomy" and the point about marginalized groups.
- **(vii):** One specific example is enough for 1 mark — online scams/criminal identity exposure is the clearest one from Para 4.
- **(viii):** Two named preventive measures from Para 5 are sufficient; no need to list all of them.

Q44.

[10]

The Rise of Electric Vehicles in India:

- (1) Electric Vehicles (EVs) are gaining significant traction globally. In India, the push for EVs is driven by concerns over air pollution, rising fuel costs and government's commitment to reducing carbon emissions. The Indian Government has set ambitious targets for EV adoption, aiming for 30% of private cars, 70% of commercial vehicles, and 80% of two wheelers and three-wheelers to be electric by 2030.
- (2) The benefits of EVs extend beyond environmental impact:
Lower running cost due to cheaper electricity, reduces maintenance because of fewer moving parts, and lowers noise pollution in urban areas.
- (3) Despite the promising outlook, the EV industry in India faces several challenges currently. While public charging stations are slowly increasing, their availability, especially in semi-urban and rural areas, remains a bottleneck. The initial high purchase cost of EVs and concerns about range or the fear of running out of charge are other causes of anxiety.
- (4) To overcome these hurdles, the government is offering subsidies and tax benefits to make EVs more affordable. Private companies are investing in developing new EV models with improved battery technology for longer ranges and battery swapping technology is also being explored as a quick alternative to traditional charging.
- (5) The Indian EV market is witnessing rapid growth, with sales figures steadily climbing. In 2023, India recorded sales of over 1.5 million EVs, a significant jump from previous years. Two-wheelers dominated the sales, followed by three-wheelers and then passenger cars. States like Maharashtra, Delhi, and Karnataka have emerged as leaders in EV adoption, largely due to supportive state policies and greater awareness among consumers.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the following questions, based on the above passage.

- (i) Electric vehicles offer multiple benefits in India. Support the above statement in 40 words with evidence from the text. [2]
- (ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below: Assertion: EVs are gaining traction in India. Reason: The Indian government is committed to reducing carbon emissions. [1]
- (A) Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
(B) Both the assertion and reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
(C) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
(D) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.
- (iii) Justify the following statement: Despite governmental support, the initial cost of EVs remains a challenge for consumers. [1]
- (iv) Complete the following with one suitable reason from the text: The silent operation of EVs contributes to better urban living because _____. [1]
- (v) "In 2023, India recorded sales of over 1.5 million EVs, a significant jump from previous years." State any one inference that can be drawn from the above statement. [1]
- (vi) According to the passage, what is 'range anxiety' in the context of electric vehicles? [1]
- (vii) Based on the given text, which type of EV dominated sales in India in 2023? [1]
- (viii) Complete the sentence suitably: To address the challenge of charging infrastructure, various initiatives are being undertaken, such as _____. [1]

(ix) Give one reason to support why the adoption of EVs is slow in some parts of India. [1]

Previously asked in: 2026 2/5/1 Q2

◆ Reading Skills

Factual/Discursive Passage Comprehension

Factual/Inferential Comprehension of Discursive Passage

Reading Comprehension - Factual Passage

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Model Answer

(i) EVs offer multiple benefits in India. They have lower running costs due to cheaper electricity and require less maintenance because of fewer moving parts. Additionally, they reduce noise pollution in urban areas, making cities more liveable and environmentally friendly.

(ii) (A) Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

(iii) Although the government offers subsidies and tax benefits to make EVs more affordable, the initial high purchase cost of EVs is still a concern, making them difficult for many consumers to afford.

(iv) The silent operation of EVs contributes to better urban living because EVs lower noise pollution in urban areas.

(v) One inference is that EV adoption in India is growing rapidly and gaining consumer acceptance, as sales crossed 1.5 million in 2023, showing a significant rise compared to previous years.

(vi) 'Range anxiety' refers to the fear of running out of charge before reaching a destination, i.e., the concern that an EV's battery will not last long enough for the journey.

(vii) Two-wheelers dominated EV sales in India in 2023, followed by three-wheelers and then passenger cars.

(viii) To address the challenge of charging infrastructure, various initiatives are being undertaken, such as **increasing public charging stations and exploring battery swapping technology as a quick alternative to traditional charging.**

(ix) The adoption of EVs is slow in some parts of India because public charging stations are not sufficiently available, especially in semi-urban and rural areas, creating a bottleneck.

Source: "The Rise of Electric Vehicles in India," paragraphs 1–5

Explanation

- (i) requires evidence from the text — always quote or paraphrase specific details (running cost, maintenance, noise).
- (ii) The reason (government commitment to reducing carbon emissions) is indeed one of the stated drivers of EV growth, so it directly explains the assertion → Option A.
- (iii) "Justify" means acknowledge the challenge despite the support — link subsidies to the still-existing high cost.
- (iv) This is a fill-in-the-blank; lift directly from paragraph 2.
- (v) An "inference" goes one step beyond the fact — the student should conclude what the statistic implies (rapid growth/acceptance).
- (vi) The passage defines it indirectly as "the fear of running out of charge" — always use the passage's own words.
- (vii) Factual recall from paragraph 5.
- (viii) Two solutions are given in paragraph 4; mention at least one.
- (ix) Paragraph 3 clearly states charging infrastructure gaps in semi-urban/rural areas as the bottleneck.

Q45.

[10]

(1) Forests are often called the lungs of the Earth, and in India, they are an integral part of the country's ecological, economic, and cultural fabric. They regulate temperatures and help keep the air clean. Covering about 21.71% of India's geographical area, forests play a pivotal role in sustaining biodiversity, regulating climate, and supporting the livelihoods of millions of people. However, these verdant expanses face numerous challenges, raising important questions about conservation, sustainable development, and policy priorities.

(2) India's forests are incredibly diverse, ranging from the lush tropical rain forests to the alpine vegetation of the Himalayas. This diversity is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, many of which are endemic or endangered, such as the Bengal tiger, Indian elephant, and Nilgiri Tahr. Forests also provide critical ecosystem services like water conservation, soil fertility, and carbon sequestration, which are essential in combating climate change.

(3) Economically, forests contribute significantly through timber, medicinal plants and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) like honey and bamboo. They are also central to the lives of tribal communities who depend on them for sustenance and cultural practices. However, this dependence brings to light the complex relationship between human development and forest preservation.

(4) Is it possible to achieve economic growth without degrading forest resources? The pressures on India's forests are immense. Rapid urbanization, industrial expansion, mining, and agricultural encroachment have led to significant deforestation. According to recent reports, India lost around 66,000 hectares of forest cover between 2019 and 2021. This loss not only threatens biodiversity but also exacerbates climate-related challenges such as rising temperatures and erratic rainfall.

(5) Policy measures like the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 and initiatives such as Compensatory Afforestation and Van Mahotsav (Forest Festival) reflect efforts to preserve and expand forest areas. However, critics argue that these measures often fail to address ground realities. For instance, afforestation projects may involve planting monoculture species that disrupt ecosystems rather than restore natural biodiversity. Similarly, conflicts arise when policies overlook the rights of indigenous communities, leading to displacement and social tensions. India's forests are a microcosm of the global struggle to balance development with conservation.

(6) Solutions lie in adopting sustainable practices, such as agroforestry, eco-tourism, and community-based conservation models. Empowering local communities to act as custodians of forests ensures both their livelihoods and the health of forest ecosystems. Moreover, raising awareness about the importance of forests can inspire collective action at all levels.

Read the following text and answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (i) In paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'Lungs of the Earth' refer to with reference to the passage? [1]
- (ii) Complete the following with the correct option from the two given: Forests play a significant role in sustaining biodiversity by _____. [1]
- (a) balancing climate change and creating livelihoods for people.
- (b) Providing wood for fuel and industries worldwide. (Para 1)
- (iii) Support the writer's idea that forests provide critical ecosystem services with textual evidence. (Para 2) [2]
- (iv) What do the recent statistics on deforestation reveal about the state of India's forests? (Para 4) [1]
- (A) Deforestation has decreased significantly.
- (B) Forest loss has been stabilized.
- (C) Forest cover is rapidly declining.
- (D) There is no significant impact on forest cover.

- (v) Select the concept that best reflects the complex relationship between human development and preservation. (Para 3) [1]
- (a) Rapid urbanization has led to widespread deforestation depriving flora and fauna of its natural habitat.
(b) The introduction of initiatives like Van Mahotsav serve as compensatory afforestation.
- (vi) State whether the following statement is true or false: Deforestation is one of the reasons for erratic rainfall. (Para 4) [1]
- (vii) List one challenge that critics see in compensatory afforestation measures. (Para 5) [1]
- (viii) How do community-based conservation models benefit both forests and local communities? (Para 6) [2]

Previously asked in: 2026 2/5/1 Q1

◆ Reading Skills

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Forests/Ecology Passage

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Model Answer

(i) The phrase 'Lungs of the Earth' refers to forests, as they regulate temperatures and help keep the air clean, just as lungs purify air in living beings.

(ii) Option (a) — balancing climate change and creating livelihoods for people.

(iii) The writer states that forests "provide critical ecosystem services like water conservation, soil fertility, and carbon sequestration, which are essential in combating climate change." This shows forests maintain water cycles, enrich soil, and absorb carbon, all of which are vital ecosystem services.

(iv) (C) Forest cover is rapidly declining.

(v) Option (b) — The introduction of initiatives like Van Mahotsav serve as compensatory afforestation.

(Note: This reflects the tension between development needs and preservation efforts.)

(vi) **True.** Paragraph 4 states that forest loss "exacerbates climate-related challenges such as rising temperatures and erratic rainfall."

(vii) Critics point out that afforestation projects often involve planting monoculture species, which disrupt ecosystems instead of restoring natural biodiversity.

(viii) Community-based conservation models empower local communities to act as custodians of forests. This ensures their livelihoods are protected while simultaneously maintaining the health of forest ecosystems. When communities are invested in forest protection, both human well-being and ecological balance are sustained together.

Source: Reading passage on Forests of India, Paragraphs 1–6

Explanation

- (i): Look for the *function* described in the passage — regulating temperature and cleaning air — to explain the metaphor.
- (ii): Option (a) directly echoes Para 1 ("regulating climate" and "supporting livelihoods"). Option (b) is not mentioned in Para 1.
- (iii): 2-mark answers need a quote + explanation. Always lift exact words from the passage as evidence.
- (iv): The statistic of 66,000 hectares lost confirms rapid decline — (C).
- (v): Para 3 discusses dependence of tribal communities vs. forest preservation — this mirrors the conservation vs. development tension that initiatives like Van Mahotsav address.
- (vi): Straightforward True/False — the passage explicitly mentions "erratic rainfall."
- (vii): Focus only on Para 5; monoculture is the key criticism.

- **(viii):** 2-mark answer needs two distinct points: livelihoods + ecosystem health. Use Para 6 language.

Q46.

[10]

(1) Rate of Internet Reach in India : 2014-2024

The rate of internet reach in India rose over 52% in 2024 from about 14% in 2014. Although these figures seem relatively low, it meant that more than half of the population of 1.4 billion people had internet access that year. This also ranked the country second in the world in terms of active internet users.

(2) Internet availability and accessibility

By 2021 the number of internet connections across the country tripled in urban areas because of a higher density of population leading to an increase in the number of connections. However, despite of incredibly low internet prices, internet usage in India has yet to reach its full potential. Lack of awareness about the internet in India persists, especially in rural areas and among women, driven by digital divide, infrastructure limitations, and a lack of perceived need for the internet. This hinders digital adoption, with many not knowing how to use the internet or even being aware of its existence. Targeted awareness campaigns and digital literacy programs are crucial to bridge this gap and ensure people understand and can benefit from the digital ecosystem.

(3) Digital living

Home to one of the largest bases of netizens in the world, India is abuzz with internet activities being carried out every moment of every day. From information and research to shopping and entertainment to living in smart homes, Indians have welcomed digital living with open arms.

Read the following text and answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

I What does the use of the term "active internet users" convey? [1]

- A Active people who use internet
- B Active people who use active internet
- C People who use active internet
- D People who use internet actively

II Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below: Assertion: India is home to one of the largest bases of netizens in the world. Reason: Lack of awareness and a tangible gender gap lie at the heart of the matter. [1]

- A Both the Assertion and the Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- B Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
- C The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
- D The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

III Identify the word that indicates that internet reach is 'comparatively' low. (Paragraph 1) [1]

IV Based on the table which of the following time period illustrates the maximum internet usage? [1]

- A 2017 to 2020
- B 2023 to 2025
- C 2020 to 2023
- D 2019 to 2022

V From the passage identify one reason why there are less internet users among women? [1]

VI Fill in the blank with a suitable word given in brackets: Infrastructure limitations _____ (impedes/spurs) digital adoption. [1]

VII Complete the following with a suitable reason: An increase in the number of connections in urban areas is because of _____. [1]

VIII Which are the two ways to bridge the gap of digital unawareness? [2]

IX In the context of the last paragraph how does the author justify the statement, 'Indians have welcomed digital living with open arms'. [1]

Previously asked in: 2026 2/1/1 Q2

♦ Reading Skills

Factual Passage Comprehension

Reading Comprehension - Factual Passage

Word Choice / Confusing Words

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Model Answer

I. (D) People who use internet actively

II. (B) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.

III. The word is "**relatively**" ("these figures seem relatively low").

IV. (A) 2017 to 2020

(Internet reach increased from 24.0% to 43.4%, a rise of **19.4 percentage points** — the highest among all options.)

V. The digital divide (gender gap) is one reason why there are fewer internet users among women.

VI. Infrastructure limitations **impedes** digital adoption.

VII. An increase in the number of connections in urban areas is because of **a higher density of population**.

VIII. The two ways to bridge the gap of digital unawareness are:

1. **Targeted awareness campaigns**
2. **Digital literacy programmes**

IX. The author justifies this by listing the wide range of internet activities Indians engage in daily — from **information and research to shopping and entertainment to living in smart homes** — showing that Indians have fully embraced digital living in every aspect of their lives.

Source: Reading passage — "Rate of Internet Reach in India," Paragraphs 1–3 and Table

Explanation

- **Q I:** "Active internet users" means people who *actively* use it — adverb modifies the verb, not the noun "internet."
- **Q II:** Both statements are true, but the reason (awareness/gender gap) explains why India has NOT reached full potential, not why it has a large netizen base — so it does not correctly explain the assertion.
- **Q III:** Always look for hedging/comparative adverbs; "relatively" directly qualifies "low."
- **Q IV:** Calculate the difference for each period from the table: 2017–2020 = 19.4 pts, the largest jump.
- **Q V & VI:** Answers must come directly from Paragraph 2; "impedes" (hinders) is correct since limitations slow adoption.
- **Q VIII:** Worth 2 marks — give two distinct points clearly.
- **Q IX:** 1-mark answer needs only one well-supported point from Paragraph 3.

Q47.

[10]

(1) Pancakes, a beloved breakfast dish across the world, has a surprisingly long and diverse history. Archaeological evidence shows that people were cooking pancake as food as far back as 30,000 years ago on hot stones and primitive griddles.

(2) In ancient Greece and Rome, pancakes were made from wheat flour, olive oil, honey, and curdled milk. They were often served as a sweet treat during festivals or special occasions. In medieval Europe, pancakes became a popular dish during Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent began. In France, thin crepes became a national delicacy, often filled with sweet or savoury ingredients. In Russia, blinis were made using buckwheat flour and served with sour cream or caviar. In Ethiopia, the spongy injera became a staple food, made from teff flour and used as both a plate and utensil. Similarly, in China, pancakes are often savoury while in Japan, fluffy "soufflé pancakes" have become a modern favourite.

(3) The American version of pancakes, thick and soft, gained popularity in the 18th century. The use of baking powder made them light and airy, and they were often served with butter and maple syrup – a symbol of hearty comfort food. Over time, pancakes became a universal dish, symbolizing community and celebration. Whether sweet or savoury, thick or thin, every culture has found a way to adapt this simple food to its own taste and traditions.

(4) India has its own rich tradition of similar dishes that have been enjoyed for centuries. Across the country, almost every region has a version of a pancake – whether sweet or savoury – made from grains, pulses, or rice. These Indian pancakes not only satisfy hunger but also reflect the diversity of India's culinary culture. In South India, dosas and adai are the most famous forms of pancakes. Made from a fermented batter of rice and lentils, dosas are crisp and light, while adai is thicker and more filling. The fermentation process adds a unique sour flavor and makes them nutritious and easy to digest. In Kerala, the appam, made with fermented rice batter and coconut milk, is soft in the center and crispy at the edges. Moving north, we find the western style cheela, a simple and wholesome Indian pancake made from gram flour, spiced with onions, chillies and coriander. In Maharashtra, the thalipeeth is a multigrain pancake that uses flours like jowar, bajra and rice mixed with spices and vegetables. It is both flavorful and filling, providing a good balance of carbohydrates and proteins.

(5) In the eastern parts of India, pitha is a traditional pancake made during festivals and special occasions. Varieties like patishapta in Bengal are sweet, filled with coconut and jaggery. In Assam and Odisha, pithas can be steamed, fried, or roasted, depending on the custom and region. In the western deserts of Rajasthan and Gujarat, people prepare chilla and handvo, which are savoury western pancake-like dishes baked in traditional ovens. These pancakes are a blank canvas for toppings, waiting for a splash of fruit or a scattering of condiments.

(6) Today, pancakes continue to evolve with new recipes, from vegan and gluten-free varieties to those infused with fruits, oats, or even protein powder. Despite their many forms, they remain a timeless reminder of how food connects mankind through shared history and creativity. Each pancake tells a story of regional identity, food traditions and a deep love for food that brings people together. Pancakes are warm, edible hugs that are a perfect comfort on a bleak day.

Read the following text and answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

I In paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'has a surprisingly long and diverse history' mean? [1]

II Complete the following with the correct option from the two given: The uniqueness of the spongy injera, is that _____ . (Paragraph 2) [1]

A it is both a savoury and a sweet

B it can be used for cooking and also for eating

III How are American pancakes made light and fluffy? When did the American-style pancakes gain popularity? (Paragraph 3) [2]

IV State whether the following statement is True or False: Every culture has adopted the pancake and tempered it with its own ingredients, flavour and taste. (Paragraph 3) [1]

V The writer mentions 'fermentation process'. Based on the information given in the passage, which of the following pancakes are made from the fermentation process? [1]

- A Dosa and appam
- B Chilla and thalipeeth
- C Blinis and soufflé
- D Pitha and patishapta

VI Select the option that best explains the phrase about pancakes being, 'a blank canvas' (Paragraph 5): [1]

- A Like a painter starts with a blank canvas, a diner can get creative.
- B Pancakes reflect the 30,000 old lineage of being the first food.

VII List any two points from the passage that support the statement, 'pancakes are a timeless reminder of how food connects people.' (Paragraph 6) [2]

VIII Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given: In the line 'warm, edible hugs that are a perfect comfort on a bleak day' the phrase 'warm, edible hugs' refers to _____. (Paragraph 6) [1]

- A comfort food that provides a sense of emotional security
- B the pancake that represents the history of the region
- C the choice of eating hot steaming pancakes
- D the food that gives you energy

Previously asked in: 2026 2/1/1 Q1

♦ Reading Skills

Reading Comprehension - Factual Passage

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Model Answer

I. The phrase means that pancakes have an unexpectedly old and varied history, spanning many cultures and thousands of years.

II. Option **B** — it can be used for cooking and also for eating.
(*The injera is used as both a plate and utensil.*)

III. American pancakes are made light and fluffy by the use of **baking powder**, which makes them light and airy. They gained popularity in the **18th century**.

IV. True. The passage states, "every culture has found a way to adapt this simple food to its own taste and traditions."

V. Option **A** — **Dosa and appam.**

Both are made from fermented batter (rice and lentils for dosa; fermented rice batter for appam).

VI. Option **A** — Like a painter starts with a blank canvas, a diner can get creative.
The phrase means pancakes can be topped or filled in many creative ways.

VII. Two points supporting the statement:

1. Pancakes have been made and shared across cultures for 30,000 years, reflecting a shared history of creativity.
2. Each pancake tells a story of regional identity and food traditions, bringing people together through a deep love for food.

VIII. Option A — comfort food that provides a sense of emotional security.

The phrase "warm, edible hugs" suggests pancakes offer emotional warmth and comfort, not just physical nourishment.

Source: Reading Comprehension Passage — Pancakes

Explanation

- **I:** "Surprisingly long" = unexpectedly ancient; "diverse" = varied across cultures. Both ideas needed.
- **II:** The key detail is "used as both a plate and utensil" — B matches this. Option A is not supported.
- **III:** Two separate facts needed for 2 marks — baking powder (method) + 18th century (time).
- **IV:** The passage explicitly says every culture "adapted" it — True is correct.
- **V:** Only dosa and appam are explicitly described as made from *fermented* batter in the passage.
- **VI:** "Blank canvas" is a metaphor for creative freedom with toppings — A captures this correctly.
- **VII:** Pick any two well-supported points from paragraph 6. Quote or closely paraphrase.
- **VIII:** "Edible hugs" = emotional comfort/warmth — A is the best fit. Avoid over-literal options (C, D).

Q48.

[10]

- (1) A detailed study conducted across various industries and research sectors has shed light on the evolving landscape of artificial intelligence (AI). It revealed that nearly 70% of AI applications are developed by private tech companies, driven by innovation and market competition. About 20% stem from collaborations between academic institutions and industry leaders, fostering advancements in fields such as healthcare, finance, and transportation.
- (2) Interestingly, around 10% of AI initiatives are spearheaded by governmental or non-governmental organisations, often focussing on social welfare. These projects aim to address issues like disaster prediction, agricultural efficiency, and public health monitoring.
- (3) Among the AI applications, approximately 45% focus on automation, improving productivity and reducing operational cost. Around 30% cater to predictive analytics, aiding in decision-making processes in domains such as finance and weather forecasting. The remaining 25% revolve around interactive AI, such as chatbots and virtual assistants, enhancing user engagement and accessibility.
- (4) Further analysis indicates that about 60% of AI implementations are found in urban areas, particularly in tech hubs and metropolitan cities. Around 30% are applied in industrial zones, enhancing manufacturing and logistics. The remaining 10% serve rural and underserved regions, supporting initiatives like digital literacy, healthcare access and agricultural support.
- (5) Comparisons across parameters such as ethical concerns, accessibility, industry-specific applications, and societal impact reveal AI's potential for transformative change. This analysis not only highlights the widespread adoption of AI but also underscores the need for inclusive and sustainable development in the field.

Read the following text and answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (i) What does the use of the phrase "evolving landscape of artificial intelligence" in paragraph 1 suggest ? [1]
- (A) disinterest
(B) progress and development
(C) frustration
(D) confusion
- (ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below : Assertion : Governmental and non-governmental organisations often use AI for social welfare. Reason : These organisations focus on disaster prediction, agricultural efficiency, and public health monitoring. [1]
- (A) Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
(B) Both the assertion and reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
(C) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
(D) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.
- (iii) Identify the word or phrase that indicates supervision as one of the areas of AI applications. (paragraph 2) [1]
- (iv) How do AI applications contribute to societal development, especially in rural and underserved regions ? [1]
- (v) Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank. In a remote village, an AI powered system is used to monitor crop health and provide timely updates to farmers. The percentage of AI initiatives in this segment would be categorized under is _____. [1]
- (A) 10%
(B) 30%
(C) 45%

(vi) What does the high percentage of AI implementations in urban areas suggest about the development and adoption of technology ? [1]

(vii) Complete the sentence suitably : The collaboration between academic institutions and industry leaders in developing AI applications demonstrates _____. [1]

(viii) Complete the following with a suitable reason : The most likely reason the passage mentions "interactive AI" as a key focus area is because it enhances _____. [1]

(ix) In the context of the last paragraph, describe the significance of comparing various parameters such as ethical concerns, accessibility, industry-specific applications, and societal impact in understanding the evolving AI landscape. [2]

Previously asked in: 2026 2/4/1 Q2

♦ Reading Skills

Factual/Discursive Passage Comprehension

Factual/Inferential Comprehension of Discursive Passage

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Model Answer

(i) (B) progress and development

(ii) (A) Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

(iii) The phrase "**public health monitoring**" indicates supervision as one of the areas of AI applications.

(iv) In rural and underserved regions, AI supports initiatives like digital literacy, healthcare access, and agricultural support, thereby improving the quality of life and bridging the development gap.

(v) (A) 10%

(vi) The high percentage (60%) of AI implementations in urban areas suggests that technology development and adoption are concentrated in tech hubs and metropolitan cities, indicating an unequal distribution and limited reach to rural regions.

(vii) The collaboration between academic institutions and industry leaders in developing AI applications demonstrates **the power of combined expertise in driving advancements in fields such as healthcare, finance, and transportation.**

(viii) The most likely reason the passage mentions "interactive AI" as a key focus area is because it enhances **user engagement and accessibility** through tools like chatbots and virtual assistants.

(ix) Comparing parameters such as ethical concerns, accessibility, industry-specific applications, and societal impact helps reveal AI's true potential for transformative change. It highlights not just the widespread adoption of AI but also the gaps that exist — particularly in underserved communities. Such comparisons underscore the urgent need for inclusive and sustainable AI development, ensuring that its benefits are equitably distributed across all sections of society.

Source: Printed passage, paragraphs 1–5

Explanation

- For MCQs, write only the option letter and its text — no elaboration needed.
- For (iii), scan paragraph 2 for a word/phrase meaning "supervision" — "monitoring" is the key term.
- For (v), the scenario describes agricultural AI in a rural/village setting — paragraph 4 places rural/underserved at 10%.
- For (ix), it carries 2 marks, so write 2–3 sentences covering: what the comparison reveals + why it matters (inclusive/sustainable development). Keep it tight — examiners look for both points.
- Always base answers strictly on the passage; do not add outside information.

Q49.

[10]

(1) Every year, countless flocks of birds take to the skies in one of nature's most remarkable spectacles – migration. This incredible phenomenon involves the regular, long-distance movement of birds between their breeding and wintering grounds. Some species fly only a few hundred kilometers, while others travel across continents and oceans, covering tens of thousands of kilometers each year.

(2) Migration is primarily driven by changes in seasons. When food becomes scarce during harsh winters, birds travel to warmer regions where they can find abundant insects, seeds, or fish. The Siberian crane, for instance, travels thousands of kilometers from the cold wetlands of Siberia to India's warmer lakes such as Keoladeo National Park in Bharatpur and Chilika Lake in Odisha. The Bar-headed goose, another amazing traveler, is known to fly over the towering Himalayas at heights where oxygen levels are dangerously low – a feat that astonishes even scientists.

(3) How these small creatures navigate such long distances remains a fascinating mystery. Studies suggest that migratory birds use multiple cues : the position of the sun by day, the stars at night, and even the Earth's magnetic field. Some, like homing pigeons, possess a memory-based instinct that helps them return to the same spot year after year with stunning accuracy.

(4) Unfortunately, migration today is becoming more difficult. Expanding cities, pollution, and deforestation have destroyed vital wetlands and resting areas. Climate change has disrupted the timing of migration, confusing birds about when to travel or breed. Many species arrive too early or too late, missing the right conditions for nesting or feeding.

(5) Conservationists worldwide are working to protect these travellers. International cooperation is essential since migratory routes cross national borders. Protected wetland sites, bird sanctuaries, and awareness programs encourage people to appreciate and safeguard these winged wanderers.

(6) Migratory birds are not just symbols of endurance and freedom; they are vital to nature's balance. They help in pollination, seed dispersal, and pest control. The survival of these birds is linked to the survival of ecosystems everywhere. Watching them reminds humanity of a powerful truth – the planet is shared, and the harmony of life depends on care, cooperation, and respect for nature's rhythms.

Read the following text and answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (i) In paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'one of nature's most remarkable spectacles' refer to ? [1]
- (ii) Complete the following with the correct option from the two given : Migration is primarily driven by changes in seasons as _____. [1]
- (a) they move to colder areas to hibernate
- (b) they move to warmer places for food (paragraph 2)
- (iii) What is unique about the Bar-headed goose ? (paragraph 2) [2]
- (iv) Select the option that best explains the phrase 'navigate such long distances remains a fascinating mystery'. (paragraph 3) [1]
- (a) travelling to unknown destinations without getting lost is truly amazing
- (b) travelling plans are predictable and well marked out by the leader of the pack
- (v) State whether the following statement is True or False : Because of rapid urbanization and clear direction, it has become easier for migratory birds to find their way. (paragraph 4) [1]

(vi) The writer mentions that conservationists worldwide are working to find solutions to give migratory birds safe travel. Based on the information given in the passage, which of the following will protect these travellers ? [1]

- (A) creation of more wetland sites.
- (B) making people aware about the eating habits of migratory birds.
- (C) work in cooperation with other countries.
- (D) create eating spots along the way.

(vii) List any two points according to the passage that illustrate that migratory birds play an important role in maintaining nature's balance. (paragraph 6) [2]

(viii) What message does the passage convey about life on Earth ? (paragraph 6) [1]

- (A) Man must provide cues to clear traffic routes for migratory birds.
- (B) Deforestation is essential to stop uncontrolled growth.
- (C) Harmony between man and nature is essential.
- (D) Climate change can be controlled only by technological intervention.

Previously asked in: 2026 2/4/1 Q1

◆ **Reading Skills**

Factual and Inferential Reading Comprehension – Bird Migration Passage

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Model Answer

(i) The phrase 'one of nature's most remarkable spectacles' refers to **migration** — the regular, long-distance movement of birds between their breeding and wintering grounds.

(ii) Migration is primarily driven by changes in seasons as **(b) they move to warmer places for food**, since food becomes scarce during harsh winters.

(iii) The Bar-headed goose is unique because it flies **over the towering Himalayas** at extremely high altitudes where oxygen levels are dangerously low. This is an extraordinary feat that astonishes even scientists.

(iv) Option **(a)** — travelling to unknown destinations without getting lost is truly amazing — best explains the phrase, as scientists still marvel at how birds find their way across vast distances.

(v) False. Rapid urbanization has *destroyed* vital wetlands and resting areas, making migration more difficult, not easier.

(vi) (A) Creation of more wetland sites and **(C) work in cooperation with other countries** will protect migratory birds, as the passage mentions protected wetland sites and international cooperation as key solutions.

(vii) Two points showing migratory birds maintain nature's balance:

1. They help in **pollination and seed dispersal**, supporting plant life.
2. They help in **pest control**, keeping insect populations in check.

(viii) Option **(C) — Harmony between man and nature is essential.** The passage concludes that the planet is shared and the harmony of life depends on care, cooperation, and respect for nature's rhythms.

Source: *Passage on Bird Migration, paragraphs 1–6*

Explanation

- **MCQ/True-False questions** need the option letter/word plus a brief reason from the passage — one line suffices.
- For **(iii)** (2 marks), two distinct points are needed: the location (Himalayas) and the condition (low oxygen).
- For **(vi)**, both correct options (A and C) should be identified; the passage explicitly mentions wetland sites and international cooperation, not eating habits or food spots.

- Always quote or paraphrase the passage directly — examiners reward answers grounded in the text.
- Keep answers concise; do not add outside knowledge.

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