

CBSE CLASS X

English Language & Literature (184)

QUESTION PAPER

From previous CBSE Board Exam questions

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Questions: 49

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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)

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

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)

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

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)

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

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

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

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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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)

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

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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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