
SECTION – A

Q.1 Read the following passage carefully:

Last week a friend of mine called up sounding distraught. Given that she is generally a ‘glass in half-full’ sort of person. I thought that there must be a major crisis in her life. As it turns out, I was right. She was suffering a serious case of mid-life crisis, sparked off by a visit to a five-star hotel too.

It happened thus. She walked in and found a gaggle of excitable 20-somethings gibbering excitedly amongst themselves. They were still gathered around the sink when she emerged to wash her hands. And then, lipstick liberally re-applied, they started trooping out when one of them stopped and asked: “Whose bag is that?”

Without missing a beat, the other replied, pointing to my hapless friend , “That’s aunty’s.”

Yes, you heard right. It was that dreaded ‘a’ word – Aunty.

My friend, a well-preserved woman in her 40s, is used to seeing people do double-takes when she reveals her age and assuring her that she looks at least a decade younger. So, the ‘aunty’ bit was a fell blow that left her catatonic for the rest of the evening.

When she called me the next morning, she still sounded devastated. Did she really look so old that 20-something young women would refer to her as ‘aunty’? Did this mean that she was well and truly middle-aged now? Were the best years of her life over? Was she now on a slippery slope heading inexorably downwards?

I have to confess that I wasn’t terribly sympathetic. As someone who acquired her first niece at the age of 12 (in my defense, my sister is 15 years older than me). I have become accustomed to being called ‘masi’ or ‘bua’ over the years. So what, I asked my friend, was the big deal about being called ‘aunty’? After all, technically speaking, she could have given birth to any of those young 20-somethings. And her kid’s friends called her ‘aunty’ anyway, right?

That wasn’t the point, said my friend. “Standing there at the sink, I had this sudden epiphany. Now when people looked at me, they no longer saw me as an attractive woman. They saw an ‘aunty’. And as I stood there, I realized that soon nobody would see me at all.”

Yes, that’s a fear that all of us harbor at some level, don’t we? That as age takes its toll and nature wreaks its worst on us, we will turn into invisible woman. The women whom nobody pays attention to; who are looked through at parties; ignored as they try to make purchases at a store. The women whom nobody leaps up to open the door for. The women nobody wants to chat up or flirt with.

In other words – the women who fit into the ‘aunty’ category.

And, for obvious reason, this is especially hard for women who have been considered beautiful or sexy in their dewy youthfulness. They are used to being the centre of attention in any room they walk into. They are accustomed to being treated with deference. They are used to being

objects of desire. They are conditioned to think of themselves as special. So suddenly being reduced to 'aunty' status comes as something of a shock.

And to an extent, it was this "Beautiful Woman' syndrome that lay at the root of my friend's trauma. It was a bit like the jolt an actress feels when she's first told that she was not being tested for the heroine's role, but for the role of the hero's mother.

But part of it was also down to the fact that ours is the generation of women who refuse to age. We are unwilling to let nature take its course when it comes to our appearance. Instead, we rely on extreme medical procedures to keep looking young for as long as we can.

Ours is the generation that embraces Botox and Fillers, treating them as lunch-time procedures. Ours is the generation that treats cosmetic surgery as an essential beauty aid, treating face-lifts as extreme facials. And not surprisingly, our is a generation that looks much younger than our mothers did at our age.

We exercise and diet so that we weigh the same as we did in our 20s. We wear the same clothes as our grown-up daughters. We colour our hair every five weeks to get rid of those graying roots. We slather on the anti-ageing cream last thing at night.

We look in the mirror in the morning and we see a young person staring back at us. Yes, the jaw line is a little slack, there is incipient creeping of the neck, and the laugh lines run a little bit deeper. But hey, nobody would put us down for 40-somethings. We don't look a day over 35!

And then, you walk into a five-star hotel loo and a 20-something calls you 'aunty'. That's when you know that the game is well and truly over. You have tipped irrevocably into middle age – and there is no coming back.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage complete the following:

- (a) The author's friend was distraught because.....
- (b) The author thought that.....
- (c) The author wasn't very sympathetic because.....
- (d) All women fear that after a certain age they.....
- (e) Our generation looks much younger than our mothers did at our age because.....
- (f) The game is over – The author means.....

1.2 Write the contextual meaning of the following words:

- (a) irrevocably
- (b) catatonic
- (c) epiphany
- (d) inexorably

Q.2 Read the following poem carefully:

We've just left the dinner table, when I hear music coming from my daughter's computer. It surprises me that my daughter Ida is listening to music from a time she refers to as the very old

days. "What are you playing?" I ask. "Its Phil Collins", is her prompt reply, while she shows how, with a few strokes, she can download almost any song from the Internet. Times have certainly been changing since I scratched my first Beatles record. Tactfully I don't mention that I had bought the record she's listening to before she was born. The concept of a phonograph record belongs to bygone age and I don't want to spoil the pleasure she'll get from discovering her "own" new favourite musician.

The music brings memories flooding back. I have sudden urge to bring back my record collection from the attic, where is has mouldered for almost a decade. Only one thing stops me : my turntable succumbed to the damp air in a cellar where I stored it for a good ten years. No, I don't care if turntables are ancient technology : I will find one. And I will restore my long lost record collection – which took up a good amount of shelf space – to its former glory. Buying something as un-cool as a turntable takes courage and planning. I find a promising TV and radio store in the phone book but I am expecting a mountain of questions from the clerk, who will most certainly have been born and raised after the demise of the turntable.

Read the following questions and write the option you consider the most appropriate n your answer sheet:

- (a) Old days here refers to.....
- (i) a few day ago
 - (ii) a time in the past
 - (iii) a time very long ago
 - (iv) a time when the writer was young
- (b) Times have been changing means.....
- (i) Time has changed from morning to evening
 - (ii) With advancement in science and technology things have changed
 - (iii) The way things are done, is being changing
 - (iv) None of the above
- (c) The writer decides not to tell his daughter about the record because.....
- (i) She will not understand what a record is
 - (ii) He did not have the record with him for showing it to people
 - (iii) He did not want to spoil the fun she was having.
 - (iv) He wanted to keep it as a surprise.
- (d) The writer's record collection was stored in.....
- (i) A shelf
 - (ii) the cellar
 - (iii) the old cupboard
 - (iv) inside a box
- (e) The meaning of the word *mouldered* is
- (i) Covered with dirt or filth
 - (ii) Slowly decay or disintegrate
 - (iii) Shaped into something particular
 - (iv) A reason for doing something

Q.3 Read the following passage carefully:

"A turntable? Coming right up!" says the young man behind the counter. He disappears into the storeroom and before I can say long-playing record, he's back with a small cardboard under his arm. It's too good to be true. An hour later my new acquisition is in the living room and a respectful atmosphere descends. I've sorted my records into piles all over the floor. I find a Beatles album.

Behind the wonderful music now flowing through the loud-speaker is the unmistakable sound of vinyl. It doesn't take long for my twelve year old son's eagle eye to spot the turntable and he has to try it out. Jonas is technically minded, a child of the computer age, yet I sense a certain reverence as he picks up the tone arm and tries to place it in middle of the record. Brought up in the CD age how could he know what's wrong? I say in a soothing voice : "The starting groove is on the edge of the record." "Does it matter which side is up?" queried my daughter. "It does matter", I replied. Soon we were listening to a Phil Collins number we both like. The generation gap vanishes as the music takes over. I relish the moment to the full and cast a glance at Ida. She's relaxed and smiling.

Read the following questions and write the option you consider the most appropriate in your answer sheet:

- (a) The writer was surprised because.....
- (i) He did not expect the young shopkeeper to know about a turntable
 - (ii) The shopkeeper found the music of his choice.
 - (iii) The shopkeeper agreed to look for a turntable and get it for him.
 - (iv) None of the above.
- (b) The meaning of the word *acquisition* is
- (i) The learning or developing of a skill
 - (ii) Buy or obtain
 - (iii) Accept or admit the truth
 - (iv) Free from a criminal charge
- (c) The writer's son is curious because.....
- (i) He has never seen a record
 - (ii) He has never seen a turntable
 - (iii) He has a technical mind
 - (iv) None of these
- (d) Writer's son and daughter showed a lot of.....
- (i) Love for music
 - (ii) Interest
 - (iii) Respect for the technology of the past
 - (iv) All of the above
- (e) The generation gap disappeared as they all.....
- (i) Liked music.
 - (ii) Liked listening to the same kind of music.
 - (iii) Liked the turntable
 - (iv) Loved old time music.

SECTION – B

Q.4 You are Sammer. You recently came to know about the sad plight of baby Falak. You are really sad and heart to hear the news. Write a diary entry expressing your feelings.

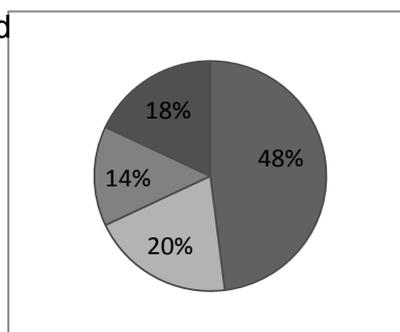
Q.5 A pie diagram showing the data is given below:

(a) 48 % - children cannot read and

Write in English.

(b) 18% - children can only read

(c) 20% - can read and write



(d) 14 % cannot even recognise

alphabets

Study the given data carefully and analyse the number of children who can actually successfully use the language and those who cannot use the language at all. Write a summary to this effect in not more than 100 words.

Q.6 You are Revathy. You happened to see the following news item in the newspaper about the popularity of Indian handicrafts abroad. But you are unhappy about the lack of recognition given to the artisans by the Government. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper about the difficulties they faced and the steps to be taken to solve their problems. Using the information given below and your own ideas, write the letter in not more than 120 words.

INDIAN HANDICRAFTS SOUGHT AFTER

New Delhi : Indian Handicrafts are in great demand in the US, Europe and the Gulf countries. The artisans feel their products are not given the required publicity. Further the products are bought from them at very low prices by the middlemen and sold later at high prices abroad. They hope that the Government will do something in this regard.

Q.7 You are Manasi. You visited “The Green Garden Resort” during the holidays. Write an article in not more than 120 words for your school magazine about why the place attracted you. Include the following in your article:

- Accessibility
- Reasonable charges
- Hygienic surroundings
- Scenic beauty
- Facilities available



SECTION – C

Q.8 Look at the notes below. Then use the information to complete the paragraph by writing a suitable word or phrases in each space. Choose the most appropriate option from those given below.

GALAPAGOSIS ISLANDS

Visitors to these Pacific Islands – leave unstamped – mail them – return home – picture postcards – show up – since 1960s – self-perpetuating post office probably set up – to get news from their family, friends – tradition persisted – post office – establish – 1950s – barrel – replaced – many times – weather worn plaques remain

Tradition has it that visitors of these Pacific Islands leave unstamped, addressed postcards and letters in a barrel at Post Office Bay, to await pick up by other tourists who affix postage and (a)..... when they return home. Picture postcards (b)..... in the barrel since the late 1960s, when tourists began visiting the Galapagos Islands. The self-perpetuating post office (c)..... by whalers in the late 1790s as a way to get news to and from friends and family. The tradition persisted even after a post office (d)..... On the island of Floreana in the 1950s.

- (a) (i) mail (ii) mailed (iii) mailing them (iv) will mail
 (b) (i) showing up (ii) Shown up (iii) have shown up (iv) show up
 (c) (i) setting up (ii) was set up (iii) set up (iv) is set up
 (d) (i) establishing (ii) is established (iii) was established (iv) establishing

Q.9 Fill in the blanks by choosing the most appropriate option from those given below.

In his picture (a).....excellence, the path Anand chose (b)..... the one involving hard work. However, (c).....many know that Anand has been honoured with one (d) The most celebrated awards (e) the mobile ecosystems, started with one (f)..... amazing journey (g)..... Coimbatore. He studied (h)..... Carmel Garden School in Coimbatore.

- (a) (i) of (ii) in (iii) at (iv) from
 (b) (i) is (ii) was (iii) has been (iv) will be
 (c) (i) no (ii) not (iii) nil (iv) never
 (d) (i) if (ii) from (iii) of (iv) on
 (e) (i) on (ii) in (iii) if (iv) at
 (f) (i) he (ii) his (iii) the (iv) of
 (g) (i) on (ii) in (iii) at (iv) from
 (h) (i) at (ii) in (iii) on (iv) of

Q.10 The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each line. The error has been underlined. Replace the error with the correct word.

Wandering along the streets of New York City,

- (a) My daughter and me stop at shoes stores
 (b) wherever we happens to be. This is their choice
 (c) These women, who as little girl, teetered around
 (d) the house balances like cranes in my mother's
 (e) high heels. I sits on the bench and wait while they
 (f) try on shoe on shoe, readjusting their positions
 (g) in the mirror, eye downcast considering their feet.
 (h) "So?", one of them will ask me. "What do you think
 of these?" "I love them," I say about every pair.

Q.11 Read the conversation between Jain and Manna and complete the dialogue in a suitable way.

Jain : When is the fancy dress competition in your school?

Manna: It is after two weeks.

Jain : Are you taking part in it?

Manna: Yes, I am taking part as an engine driver.

Jain : Why have you chosen that?

Manna : So that I reach late.

Jain asked Manna when the fancy dress competition in her school was.

Manna replied that (a).....

Jain enquired whether (b).....

Manna said that (c).....

Jain asked why (d).....

Q.12 Rearrange the following words and phrases to form meaningful sentences.

(a) of its resistance / becomes a / it reflects/ a house / the personality / home when /

(b) has to look / no rules / how our / there are / as to / home /

(c) thing is / inhabiting them / should enjoy / the important / that we/

(d) about / houses are / our lives / personal statements /

Q.13A Read the following extract and answer the questions by, choosing the most appropriate options from those given below.

But you shall shine more bright in these contents

That unswept stone, besmear'd with sluttish time.

(a) What does the poet mean by unswept stone?

- (i) The stone which is used to make statues.
- (ii) the statues which are neglected and crumble to dust.
- (iii) the stone on which the poet has written his poetry.
- (iv) the stones which were preserved by princes.

(b) What two things is the poet talking about and comparing in the two lines?

- (i) time and values
- (ii) verses and statues
- (iii) time and statues
- (iv) verses and poet

(c) What does the poet mean by *sluttish time*?

- (i) the time which passes away quickly.
- (ii) the time which moves sluggishly.
- (iii) the time which is dirty and cares for no one.
- (iv) the time in which the poetry is written.

Q.13B Read the following extract and answer the questions:

For several days Ali had not come to the post office. There was no one with enough sympathy or understanding to guess the reason, but all were curious to know what had stopped the old man. At last he came again, but it was a struggle for him to breathe and on his face were clear signs of approaching end. That day he could not contain his impatience.

- (a) Why did Ali not come to the post office many days?
- (b) Why couldn't Ali contain his impatience?
- (c) What was the attitude of the people at the post office?

Q.13C Read the following extract and answer the questions:

Aye, I'm right enough but for a kit of a headache I wouldn't mind beting that I'm not the first in this house to be carried to the cemetery, I always think Henry there looks none too healthy.

- (a) What made everyone in the house think that the grandfather had died?
- (b) What plans had Melia and Elizabeth made when they came to know their father was dead?
- (c) How did grandfather make all their plans unsuccessful?

Q.14 Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each.

- (a) What startling revelation did the grandfather make?
- (b) What kind of relationship do Mrs Packletide and Mrs Loona Bimberton share?
- (c) Who disturbs the mirror's meditation and how?
- (d) What does the author come to know about the two boys when he went with them to their village?
- (e) How did the people at the post office treat Ali?

Q.15 Answer any one of the following questions in about 150 words.

- (a) In trying to grab the things belonging to the grandfather the children completely disregard modesty, decency and filial obligation. Explain the statement taking instances from the play "The Dear Departed"
- (b) The poem is a monologue in which the mirror has been personified. The poet has used the device of personification very efficaciously. Explain.