

CHAPTER 01

Reading Comprehension

(Factual, Descriptive or Literary/
Discursive or Persuasive Passages)

Comprehension involves a thorough understanding of the given passage consisting of one or more paragraphs. It is meant to test the understanding power and intellectual skill of a student. In class XIth Term II examination, passage carrying a total of 8 marks will be asked from Reading Section.

Types of Passages

Type of Passage	Examples	Sources from where passages are taken
Factual passage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A set of facts Report Instructions Description 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newspapers and magazines Reference books Brochures Encyclopaedias
Discursive passage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opinions Argumentative text Persuasive text Interpretative text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newspapers and magazines Reference books
Literary passage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extract from fiction, drama, essay, biography, etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Novels Biographies Short stories Other literary books Dramas
Case based Factual passage	Passage with visual and verbal inputs of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistical data Charts Graphs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newspaper reports Magazines Reference books

Points to be Kept in Mind

- Read the passage carefully and thoroughly to understand its contents. Underline the main ideas and instances, examples and arguments supporting them.
- Underline the words you don't understand and try to guess their meaning from the context. Check the vocabulary related questions and try to find the answers from the context.
- In Multiple Choice Questions, analyse the questions and options carefully before selecting the correct option because some of the four options are closely related.
- Quickly go through the subject matter questions and mark the parts of the passage you feel are the answers to the questions. Make sure you have understood the questions.
- Read the passage again to counter check your answers.

Chapter Practice

• Factual, Descriptive or Literary/Discursive or Persuasive Passages

Read the passages given below.

Passage 1

1. 'Amitabh Bachchan', who left an indelible mark in the history of Indian cinema, was born on 11th October, 1942 in the city of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. His father, Dr. Harivansh Rai Bachchan, was a famous Hindi poet. His mother, Teji Bachchan, was a highly educated and modern-minded woman. Amitabh's primary education was in St. Mary's School, Allahabad. He was then sent to Sherwood, a famous school in Nainital. He graduated from Kirori Mal College, Delhi University. While studying in this college, he decided to make 'acting' his career. Amitabh moved to Bombay (Mumbai) in 1969 at the age of twenty-seven.
2. Amitabh Bachchan started his career in films with the film 'Saat Hindustani' directed by Khwaja Ahmad Abbas in 1969. He was awarded the Filmfare Award for Best Supporting Actor for the film 'Anand'. A new twist in Amitabh's career came in 1973 after the release of the film 'Zanjeer'. He came to be called the 'Angry Youngman' due to the performance of a police inspector in this film.
3. The film 'Sholay' set new records of success and became the most successful commercial film in the history of Hindi Film Industry. After this, Amitabh Bachchan became famous and popular as a superstar. Amitabh Bachchan entered politics in 1984. He was elected M.P. from Allahabad Lok Sabha seat. He resigned from his post in 1987, after 3 years without completing his term as an M.P. and made a distance from politics.
4. Through the television reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' in 2000, Amitabh Bachchan entered the world of television and not only strengthened his financial position but also reached a new height of fame and success. He has worked in more than 150 films.
5. For his achievements, he was honoured with 'Padma Shri' award in 1983 and 'Padma Bhushan' in 2005. He was voted Actor of the Millennium in 1999 by a BBC poll. In 2002, he was awarded the 'Personality of the Year' award by the International Films Academy. He has received 12 Filmfare Awards so far. Apart from this, he has also received 'Best Actor' award from Filmfare 5 times. Amitabh Bachchan was conferred the Dadasaheb Phalke Award on 29th December, 2019 by President Ram Nath Kovind.
6. Amitabh Bachchan is the pride of India. He is rich in versatility. Apart from acting, he has also performed playback songs for many films and has also produced some films as a producer. It is because of his immense success that he is called 'Big B' and 'the great hero of the century'. Amitabh always emphasised that life, time and opportunity do not get repeated. Therefore, we should not lose the courage to succeed even in difficulties.

Questions

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer **any eight** out of the **ten** questions by choosing the correct option.

- (i) Which trait of Amitabh's personality helped him in leaving an indelible mark on the Indian cinema?
 - (a) Steadfastness
 - (b) Irresolution
 - (c) Indolence
 - (d) Audacity

- (ii) A phrase is a small group of words standing together as a conceptual unit.

The writer mentions that Amitabh 'made a distance from politics.'

Select the words from the options that is a correct phrase using 'distance'.

- (a) Beyond walking distance
- (b) Within walking distance
- (c) Off a distance
- (d) Distance coaching

- (iii) Select the option that suitably completes the given dialogue as per the context of the passage.

X. I just want to earn and live my life to the fullest.

Y. That's why, you are (1)

X. Why do you say that?

Y. (2) you for others.

- (a) (1) so valuable and famous (2) are an antithesis
- (b) (1) so pertinent and gracious (2) are an exemplar
- (c) (1) so selfless and caring (2) are so aggressive
- (d) (1) so competitive and combative (2) are so apathetic

- (iv) Which option represents the award that was awarded to Amitabh Bachchan by the President Ram Nath Kovind in the year 2019?

- 1. Padma Vibhushan 2. Dadasaheb Phalke
- 3. Padma Bhushan 4. Padam Shri

- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
- (c) Only 3 (d) Only 4

- (v) Select the option that is correct with reference to the given passage.

- (a) Amitabh was just 19 years old when he moved from Allahabad to Bombay (Mumbai) to start his career in films.
- (b) Amitabh's mother was not so opened-minded in nature.
- (c) Amitabh has also received 'Best Actor' award from Filmfare 7 times.
- (d) In 2002, he was awarded the 'Personality of the Year' award by the International Films Academy.

- (vi) What is the relationship between (1) and (2)?

- 1. He not only strengthened his financial position but also reached a new height of fame and success.
- 2. Through the television reality show 'Kaun Banega Crorepati' in 2000, Amitabh Bachchan entered the world of television.
- (a) (2) is the cause of (1)
- (b) (1) and (2) are independent of each other
- (c) (2) elaborates upon the premise of (1)
- (d) (2) sets the stage of (1)

- (vii) "He came to be called 'Angry Youngman' due to the performance of a police inspector in this film." Which film and role is being referred to in given line?

- (a) The role of a young policeman dissatisfied with and outspoken against the existing social and political structures in the movie 'Zanjeer'.
- (b) The role of a critic and a protector against existing social and political structures in the movie 'Agneepath'

- (c) The role of a young struggler who helps a woman awaiting surgery with seven other countrymen in the movie 'Saat Hindustani'.

- (d) The role of a young gangster dissatisfied, who helps the people of Ramgarh against existing cruelty in the movie 'Sholay'.

- (viii) Which of the following options accurately describes Amitabh Bachchan as 'The Pride of India.'?

- 1. Versatile and skillful
- 2. Thoughtful and observant
- 3. Gracious and Painstaking
- 4. Problem solver and caring

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 and 4
- (c) 3 and 4
- (d) 1 and 2

- (ix) Which quote best summarises the writer's description of the famous superstar Amitabh Bachchan as mentioned in the passage?

- (a) Everyone must accept that we will age and age is not always flattering—Amitabh Bachchan
- (b) You won't achieve success by nailing horseshoe outside your door, your feet need horseshoe to achieve success—Amitabh Bachchan
- (c) I've accepted that I was a failure in politics. I was not qualified for the job—Amitabh Bachchan
- (d) Donate and do not talk about it, they say you do nothing for the society; do and talk about it, they say you seek publicity—Amitabh Bachchan

- (x) Select the option that clearly indicates the situation before and after 1987, in Amitabh's life.

(a)	Before 1987 A superstar in the Indian Film Industry	After 1987 An MP from Allahabad Lok Sabha
(b)	Before 1987 A superstar and MP from Allahabad Lok Sabha	After 1987 Resigned as an MP and moved away from politics
(c)	Before 1987 An MP from Allahabad Lok Sabha	After 1987 An MP from Rajya Sabha
(d)	Before 1987 Won the Filmfare for Best supporting actor	After 1987 Won the Filmfare for Best Actor

Passage 2

1. The art of living is learnt easily by those who are positive and optimistic. From humble and simple people to great leaders in history, science or literature, we can learn a lot about the art of living, by having a peep into their lives. The daily routines of these great men and women not only reveal their different, may be unique lifestyles but also help us learn certain habits and practices they followed. Here are some; read, enjoy and follow in their footsteps as it suits you.
2. A private workplace always helps. Jane Austen asked that a certain squeaky hinge should never be oiled so that she always had a warning whenever someone was approaching the room where she wrote. William Faulkner, lacking a lock on his study door, detached the doorknob and brought it into the room with him. Mark Twain's family knew better than to breach his study door-they would blow a horn to draw him out. Graham Green went even further, renting a secret office; only his wife knew the address and the telephone number. After all, everyone of us needs a workplace where we can work on our creation uninterruptedly. Equally we need our private space too!
3. A daily walk has always been a source of inspiration. For many artists, a regular stroll was essentially a creative inspiration. Charles Dickens famously took three hour walks every afternoon, and what he observed on them fed directly into his writing. Tchaikovsky made do with a two-hour jaunt but wouldn't return a moment early; convinced that doing so would make him ill. Ludwig van Beethoven took lengthy strolls after lunch, carrying a pencil and paper with him in case inspiration struck. Nineteenth century composer Erik Satie did the same on his long hikes from Paris to the working-class suburb where he lived, stopping under street lamps to jot down ideas that came on his journey; it's rumoured that when those lamps were turned off during the war years, his music declined too. Many great people had limited social life too. One of Simone de Beauvoir's close friends puts it this way. "There were no receptions, parties. It was an uncluttered kind of life, a simplicity deliberately constructed so that she could do her work." To Pablo the idea of Sunday was an 'at home day'.
4. The routines of these thinkers are difficult. Perhaps it is because they are so unattainable. The very idea that you can organise your time as you like is out of reach for most of us, so I'll close with a toast to all those who worked with difficulties. Like Francine Prose, who began writing when the school bus picked up her children and stopped when it brought them back; or T.S. Eliot, who found it much easier to write once he had a day job in a bank than he had as a starving poet and even F. Scott Fitzgerald, whose early books were written in his strict schedule as a young military officer. Those days were not as interesting as the nights in Paris that came later, but they were much more productive—and no doubt easier on his liver.
5. Being forced to follow someone else's routine may irritate, but it makes it easier to stay on the path. Whenever we break that trail ourselves or take an easy path of least resistance, perhaps what's most important is that we keep walking.

Questions

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer **any eight** out of the **ten** questions by choosing the correct option.

- (i) If the writer was forced to follow someone else's routine, they would feel.
(a) furious (b) annoyed
(c) humered (d) indifferent
- (ii) Metaphor is a figure of speech in which a word or phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable.
From the given options, choose a phrase from the above passage that can be an example of metaphor.
(a) that we keep walking (b) there were no receptions
(c) close with a toast to (d) All of these

(iii) Select the option that suitably completes the given dialogue as per the context of the passage.

- X. I don't think I can ever be a great writer like William Faulkner.
Y. Why do you think like this ? ... (1) ...
X. No, I don't have weird habits and quirks like him.
Y. ... (2) ... you just have to give it a try.
(a) (1) Of course, you can be a good writer like him
(2) That is true. But what can you do
(b) (1) You can be better than him
(2) Yeah, he was a special one
(c) (1) But, I can see that you are right
(2) Yeah, you don't have any special mannerism
(d) (1) Sure, you can be a great writer like him.
(2) That doesn't really matter

- (iv) According to the passage, why did Erik Satie's music decline?
- (a) During the war years, singing and composing music was banned
 - (b) His inspiration was lost when the lamps on his streets were turned off
 - (c) He was overcome with grief due to the casualties in war
 - (d) He had isolated himself and as a result was driven mad
- (v) During which time did Fitzgerald write the most productively?
- (a) when he would be walking during night in Paris
 - (b) when he would be drinking
 - (c) when he was in Paris
 - (d) when he was in the army
- (vi) What is the relationship between (1) and (2)?
- (1) The people who are hopeful and have a positive outlook in life can easily learn the art of living.
 - (2) A lot can be learnt about a person by looking into their lives.
- (a) (2) is the cause for (1)
 - (b) (1) and (2) are independent
 - (c) (2) elaborates the problem described in (1)
 - (d) (2) sets the stage for (1)
- (vii) According to the passage, why did some artists resort to walking?
- (a) It is an exercise
 - (b) It was a creative inspiration
 - (c) It is essential for improving their health
 - (d) It was helpful in interaction with others
- (viii) Select the option that lists things that Beethoven carried with himself while walking after lunch.
- (a) pen and paper
 - (b) pen and canvas
 - (c) pencil and paper
 - (d) pencil and canvas
- (ix) Which quote best summarises the writer's feelings toward the artists mentioned in the passage?
- (a) Life beats down and crushes the soul and art reminds you that you have one – Stella Adler
 - (b) There is no must in art because art is free – Wassily Kandinsky
 - (c) Art washed away from the soul the dust of everyday life – Pablo Picasso
 - (d) None of the above
- (x) Select the option that lists what we can conclude from the text.
1. All the artists have already learnt the art of living.
 2. If one is hopeful and sanguine, one can learn the art of living.
 3. One should never follow in anyone else's footsteps.
 4. By going on frequent walks, one can become a great artist.
 5. Forcing a person to follow someone else's routine can be irritating.
- (a) 2, 3 and 5
 - (b) 2 and 5
 - (c) 1, 2 and 4
 - (d) 1, 3 and 5

Passage 3

1. Mentioning that “rights and duties are the two sides of the same coin” President Ram Nath Kovind in November, 2019 stressed on the need to perform our duties and create circumstances which would ensure effective protection of rights. Kovind's remark came during a joint sitting on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India organised here in the Central Hall of Parliament.
2. Rights and duties are two sides of the same coin. Our Constitution provides the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression and it also enjoins upon citizens the duty to safeguard public property and to abjure violence. As per the President Kovind, if someone misconstrues the meaning of the freedom of speech and expression and is about to damage some public property, then another, who prevents him from indulging in such an act of violence and anarchy will be seen as a dutiful citizen.
3. Therefore, the President said, “we need to perform our duties and thereby create circumstances which would ensure effective protection of rights.” Addressing Parliamentarians, Kovind said developing the spirit of humanism is also a fundamental duty of citizens and that to serve with compassion towards all, is also inherent in this duty. Mentioning one Muktaben Dagli of Gujarat, the President said: I had the honour of conferring ‘Padma Shri’ to Dagli at Rashtrapati Bhavan this year. Despite losing her eyesight in her childhood, she devoted her whole life to the welfare of others. She has brightened the lives of many visually impaired girls.
4. “Through her organisation, she has been instilling the light of hope in the lives of numerous blind women from many states of India. Citizens like her truly uphold the ideals of our Constitution. They deserve to be called nation-builders.” Kovind suggested that parliamentarians be always ‘mindful’ of their ‘oath and affirmation’ and said that serving people should be our foremost priority.

5. “You (MPs) have taken an oath to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as established by law and to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of the nation. As the President of India, I too have taken an oath to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law to the best of my ability and devote myself to the service and well-being of the people of India.” As citizens and voters expect their representatives to work to solve issues related to their welfare and most of them never get the chance to meet their own MP, he said they, however, have regard for you as the guardians of their hopes and aspirations.

Questions

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer **any eight** out of the **ten** questions by choosing the correct option.

- (i) Which need is President Kovind stressed upon during his speech on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India as mentioned in the paragraph 1?
- To perform our duties to uphold the unity and integrity of the nation
 - To perform our duties to ensure effective protection of rights
 - To perform our duties to ensure the fundamental right to freedom of speech and expression
 - To safeguard public property and to abjure violence
- (ii) A phrase is a small group of words standing together as a conceptual unit. The writer mentions that ‘Rights and duties are two sides of the same coin.’ Select the words from the options that is a correct phrase using ‘duty’.
- Under the duty
 - Off the call of duty
 - Below the call of Duty
 - Above and beyond the call of duty
- (iii) Select the option that suitably completes the given dialogue as per the context in paragraph 3.
- X: I feel honoured to award you the ‘Padma Sri’.
- Y: I wish I could see you (1)
- X: You have inspired so many people.
- Y: (2) Today is
- (1) with my own eyes giving me this award (2) a historic day in India’s calendar
 - (1) but I am visually impaired (2) the most memorable day of my life
 - (1) so selfless and caring (2) the day when I lost the vision of my eyes
 - (1) so gracious and competitive (2) a special day as I have seen you
- (iv) Which option represents the kind of audience President Kovind is addressing to on the occasion mentioned in the passage?
- Muktaben Pankaj Kumar Dagli
 - MPs and Parliamentarians
 - Engineering Students
 - Medical Students

- Only 1
- Only 2
- Only 3
- Only 4

- (v) Select the option that is correct with reference to the given passage.

- Muktaben Dagli is a visually impaired social worker who hails from Mumbai.
- Developing the spirit of humanism is also a fundamental duty of citizens.
- Our Constitution provides the fundamental right to chose any religion and faith.
- To protect women and children is also a fundamental duty of citizens.

- (vi) What is the relationship between (1) and (2)?

- Someone misconstrues the meaning of the freedom of speech and expression and is about to damage some public property.
- Another person, who prevents him from indulging in such an act of violence and anarchy will be seen as a dutiful citizen.

- (2) is the cause of (1)
- (1) and (2) are independent of each other
- (1) elaborates upon the premise of (2)
- (1) sets the stage of (2)

- (vii) “Citizens like her truly uphold the ideals of our Constitution.” What does the Phrase ‘uphold the ideals’ mean in the context of the passage?

- To give moral support or inspiration to something
- To support an idea or principle
- To support against an opponent
- To be an exemplar or an idol to something

- (viii) Which of the following options accurately describes the personality of a ‘nation-builder’ as described by President Kovind?

- Selfless and Benevolent
- Thoughtful and Helpful
- Kind and Philanthropic
- Humanitarian and Liberal

- 1 and 3
- 2 and 4
- 3 and 4
- 1 and 2

- (ix) Which quote best summarises the role and duty of our elected representatives as mentioned in the passage?

- Bad officials are the ones elected by good citizens who do not vote —George Jean Nathan
- We have a responsibility as elected officials to do good public policy in the best interest of all the people—Maxine Waters

- (c) Voting is fundamental in our democracy. It has yielded enormous returns—Arlen Specter
- (d) A politician is a fellow who will lay down your life for his country—Texas Guinan
- (x) As mentioned in the passage, our Constitution always emphasises that-
 - (a) Rights and duties are closely related and cannot be separated from one another. Both go side by side
 - (b) It is committed to freedom, equality, social justice and some form of national unity
 - (c) Since state protects and enforces rights, it becomes a mandate for all citizens to be loyal to the state they belong to
 - (d) We all citizens have taken an oath to bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as established by law and to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of the nation

Passage 4

1. As a seasoned mountaineer who has been on over 100 expeditions, including seven summits of Mount Everest, I am no stranger to spending long periods of time confined to limited spaces, cut off from the rest of the world. In fact, most recently on my climb of Mount Vinson, the highest peak in Antarctica, what was supposed to be a 7-day expedition turned into a 21-day sojourn trapped in a tent, battling sub-zero temperatures and harsh winds.
2. My experiences have taught me several important skills and life lessons. I have learned to use the solitude and isolation to my advantage, by expanding my knowledge, learning new skills and cultivating hobbies that challenge me. A little over three months ago, our lives came to a sudden halt as we were driven indoors, largely unprepared, in a bid to survive the coronavirus. As the world rapidly defines a new normal, I take this opportunity to share with you some insights that I have gained on how to successfully combat lockdown anxiety and transition into this new way of living.
3. One of the biggest similarities of being on a summit and the current situation with coronavirus is accepting that there are various unknown variables which are not in our control. While it is important to take all precautions to ensure our safety, the most important is to prepare ourselves mentally.
4. When I am in the mountains, I must be willing to let the mountain have control, because we humans are small compared to it. Similarly, with this pandemic we must accept that we might not have all the answers right now, but if we continue to be patient and build mental toughness, we will, as Favre-Leuba aptly puts, conquer this frontier and emerge victorious.
5. Maintaining nutrition and health is of paramount importance, particularly in such times. I do not believe in living like a monk, so joining in on the baking trends and treating yourself occasionally is acceptable. However, we must stick to a healthy diet. Good nutrition not only helps to ensure that we stay fit, but it can also do wonders to energy levels and general psychological well-being.
6. Another important lesson that the mountains have taught me, is to engage in hobbies and keep your brain busy. On my summits, even when I am counting every single ounce that goes into my backpack, I make sure to carry books or a Kindle, in case I am confined to my tent for a while. I am a voracious reader, and this keeps my mind occupied.

Questions

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer **any eight** out of the **ten** questions by choosing the correct option.

- (i) Why was the writer's most recent climb of Mount Vinson turned from a 7-day expedition to a 21-day sojourn?
 - (a) Because of the freezing sub-zero temperatures and severe winds
 - (b) Because of the avalanche in Antarctica
 - (c) Because of the sudden lockdown announced during the pandemic
 - (d) Because of the harsh winds and sudden rainfall
- (ii) A phrase is a small group of words standing together as a conceptual unit.
The writer mentions that 'conquer this frontier and emerge victorious.'
Select the words from the options that is a correct phrase using 'victory'.
 - (a) Under the victory
 - (b) Pyrrhic victory
 - (c) Wingless victory
 - (d) Blue victory
- (iii) Select the option that suitably completes the given dialogue as per the context in paragraph 2.
X: We are stuck during this coronavirus lockdown.
Y: We need to be positive (1)

- X: The people need to focus on mental and physical health.
- Y: (2) Let's use
- (a) (1) We should read good books (2) this lockdown as an opportunity to be healthy
- (b) (1) We need to spend time with our family (2) some good sanitizers and masks
- (c) (1) We need to fight like a warrior (2) this solitude and isolation to our advantage
- (d) (1) and fight like a peacemaker (2) this seclusion to be closer to our nears and dears
- (iv) Which option represents the kind of things the writer carries in his backpack during his summits?
1. Books only
 2. Books and a Light
 3. A torch and a Map
 4. Books and compass
- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Only 3
- (d) Only 4
- (v) Select the option that is correct with reference to the given passage.
- (a) Maintaining nutrition and health is of trivial importance.
- (b) Reading books and engaging in hobbies keeps our mind occupied and busy.
- (c) Mount Vinson is the highest peak in Atlanta.
- (d) As a seasoned mountaineer, the writer has been on over 100 expeditions, including eight summits of Mount Everest.
- (vi) What is the relationship between (1) and (2)?
1. I make sure to carry books or a Kindle, in case I am confined to my tent for a while.
 2. I am a voracious reader and this keeps my mind occupied.
- (a) (2) is the cause of (1)
- (b) (1) and (2) are independent of each other
- (c) (2) elaborates upon the premise of (1)
- (d) (2) sets the stage of (1)
- (vii) "One of the biggest similarities of being on a summit." What does the word 'summit' mean in the context of the passage?
- (a) Negotiation
- (b) Mountaintop
- (c) Conclave
- (d) Foundation
- (viii) Which of the following options accurately describes the personality of the writer of the passage?
1. Daring and Impudent
 2. Adventurous and Gourmet
 3. Insatiable and Devoted
 4. Voracious and Keen
- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 and 4
- (c) 3 and 4
- (d) 1 and 2
- (ix) Which quote best summarises the role health and nutrition play in our lives as mentioned in the passage?
- (a) Life is a tragedy of nutrition –Arnold Ehret
- (b) Exercise is king, nutrition is Queen, put them together and you've got a kingdom–Jack Lalanne
- (c) When diet is wrong, medicine is of no use. When diet is correct, medicine is of no need–Ayurvedic proverb
- (d) To eat is a necessity, but to eat intelligently is an art –Francois de La Rohefoucould
- (x) As mentioned in the passage, the writer says that during the pandemic
- (a) It's important to take all precautions to ensure our safety, the most paramount of which is to prepare ourselves mentally
- (b) We all need to unite and conquer this pandemic and emerge victorious
- (c) We need to take care of all safety measures to protect ourselves from the virus
- (d) We all need to focus on good mental and physical health to combat the stress of the lockdown

Passage 5

1. If you have grown up in the capital city which has been plagued by increasing levels of pollution, a breath of fresh air would be a welcome change any time. And if it is accompanied by lush green gardens overlooking your room, all the better. I reveled in this joyous change of scenery, sipping on a fresh filter kaapi, from the balcony of my King room at the Royal Orchid Brindavan Garden in Mysuru.
2. The journey had been arduous, with a change of flights and then, travel by road. And I had been up quite early. But the thought of the piping hot kaapi kept me going. When I finally reached the rather majestic palace, away from the bustle of the main city of Mysuru, I didn't think my weariness would wear off so easily after a refreshing welcome drink. Twelve hours of travel time is rather strenuous after all, and I was sure I'd want to snuggle under the covers for a bit, at least.
3. My fascination with the Southern part of India began during the one year I spent pursuing my higher education in Chennai. I don't say it lightly when I state that I fell in love with the city, the masala dosas, the beach, the people. I couldn't have been more delighted when I was assigned a trip to Mysuru. It was a chance to go back south, to a different location, but I could barely contain my excitement.

4. The Royal Orchid Brindavan Garden, located an hour away from the main city, is often the first choice for locals looking to escape the daily grind, albeit for a few days. Frequented equally by bird-watchers and photographers, the property provides an unmatched view of the gardens as well as the KRS (Krishna Raja Sagar) dam. All the rooms face the gardens, so you can cherish their stunning symmetry from the comfort of your room, with a cup of kaapi in your hands. The heritage property features 24 select spacious rooms with a private balcony. The canopy beds, wooden flooring and the colossal doors, all exude an old-world vintage charm. The property is also equipped with a spa, in case you want to unwind.
5. Mysuru's weather, much like close-by neighbour Bengaluru, is pleasant for most part of the day, the evenings are undeniably better. To further strengthen my belief, a quiet dinner at the open-air Elephant Bar was enough. Over a scrumptious meal, I was told of the many films that had been shot at the property, including massive hits like Linga and KGF.

Questions

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer **any eight** out of the **ten** questions by choosing the correct option.

- (i) Which city does the writer originally belong to as mentioned in the passage?
 - (a) Bangalore
 - (b) Mumbai
 - (c) New Delhi
 - (d) Mysuru
- (ii) A phrase is a small group of words standing together as a conceptual unit.
The writer mentions that 'I didn't think my weariness would wear off so easily.'
Select the words from the options that is a correct phrase using 'wear'.
 - (a) Wear your heart on your sleeves
 - (b) Wear up
 - (c) Wear down
 - (d) Wear too many bands
- (iii) Select the option that suitably completes the given dialogue as per the context in paragraph 2.
X: How can I help you Sir?
Y: Please check my passport (1)
X: Which place are you visiting?
Y: (2) Going to (2).....
 - (a) (1) I am excited to fly to South India (2) Mysuru in Bangalore
 - (b) (1) I am excited to fly to India (2) Visit my hometown
 - (c) (1) Could you assign me a window seat? (2) South India to my hometown
 - (d) (1) Hope I can check in easily now (2) visit my friends at Bangalore
- (iv) Which option represents the features that attracted the writer towards 'The Royal Orchid Brindavan Garden'?
 1. The heritage property features 24 select spacious rooms facing the garden.
 2. The rooms overlook the beautiful Brindavan Gardens as well as the KRS dam.
 3. The in-house spa offers rejuvenating treatments.
 4. It offers indoor and outdoor games with an entertainment zone.
- (v) Select the option that is correct with reference to the given passage.
 - (a) Bangalore and Mysore have a pleasant weather only at nights
 - (b) The writer did his higher education in Bangalore
 - (c) The writer travelled for less than ten hours to reach the Royal Orchid Brindavan Garden in Mysuru
 - (d) The writer is fond of drinking filter coffee
- (vi) What is the relationship between (1) and (2)?
 1. I couldn't have been more delighted when I was assigned a trip to Mysuru.
 2. It was a chance to go back to south, to a different location, but I could barely contain my excitement.
 - (a) (2) is the cause of (1)
 - (b) (1) and (2) are independent of each other
 - (c) (1) elaborates upon the premise of (2)
 - (d) (1) sets the stage of (2)
- (vii) "The first choice for locals looking to escape the daily grind, albeit for a few days." What does the word 'albeit' mean in the context of the passage?
 - (a) Unless
 - (b) Instead
 - (c) And
 - (d) Though
- (viii) Which of the following reasons attract the people towards the Royal Orchid Brindavan Garden as described by the writer in the passage?
 1. The hotel's courtyard-style coffee shop and Elephant Bar - both offer balcony-views of Brindavan Gardens.
 2. It exudes charm and grandeur of the Maharajas era.
 3. The hotel features a swimming pool engulfed in greens.
 4. Royal Orchid Brindavan Garden and Spa is a 4-hour drive from Bangalore.
 - (a) Only 1
 - (b) Only 2
 - (c) Only 3
 - (d) Only 4

(ix) Which quote best summarises the writers' description about the love for the South Indian food?

- (a) The body becomes what the foods are, as the spirit becomes what the thoughts are –Kemetiic Proverb
- (b) If you don't love South Indian cuisine, you are either an alien or your taste buds are spoiled –An Indian Citizen
- (c) The only thing I like better than talking about food is eating –John Walters

(d) I've never been in love before. But I can imagine its similar to the feeling you get when you see your waiter arriving with your food –Zach Galifianakis

(x) "Twelve hours of travel time is rather strenuous after all." What does the writer mean to say in this statement?

- (a) His journey has been memorable and comfortable
- (b) His journey was quite hectic and exhausting
- (c) His travel route was very long and gruelling
- (d) His journey was like a marathon and required lots of energy

Passage 6

1. Amomon means 'fragrant spice plant' in Arabic and Hebrew and in Italian, canella means 'little tube'. These are a few of the many names given to the popular spice known as cinnamon. Dating back as far as 2800 BC, Chinese writings describe cinnamon as an important part of the culture, so much so that over the years this spice was traded right up there with silver. Now-a-days we find it in sweetened cereals, baked goods and sprinkled on various foods such as yogurt. Yet, many do not consider its wealth of healing capabilities including the potential as a weight loss remedy.
2. Cinnamon is derived from the inner bark of the cinnamon tree grown and harvested mostly in Sri Lanka but also found in Brazil, Indonesia, Vietnam, China and Burma. After a cinnamon tree grows for about six to eight years it is cut down leaving a stump to allow it to grow again making it a very sustainable practice. It is then stripped from the bark, dried and packaged as sticks for export.
3. Several studies have been published regarding the weight loss properties of cinnamon which include its unique ability to be used for type 2 diabetes which is a disease often resulting from obesity. When eaten, the spice seems to slow down glucose absorption within the intestines while stimulating insulin production. This normalises blood glucose levels which in turn can indirectly decrease weight gain.
4. "The results of a study demonstrate that intake of 1, 3 or 6 g of cinnamon per day reduces serum glucose, triglyceride, LDL cholesterol and total cholesterol in people with type 2 diabetes and suggest that the inclusion of cinnamon in the diet people with type 2 diabetes will reduce risk factors associated with diabetes and cardiovascular diseases."
5. A study from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, called "Effect of ground cinnamon on after meal blood glucose level in normal-weight and obese adults" found that cinnamon may be effective in moderating post meal glucose level in normal weight and obese adults.
6. Columbia University nutritionist Tara Ostrowe comments to Reader's Digest on the benefits of this spice : "Cinnamon really is the new skinny food ... Scientists already credit cinnamon with helping lower blood sugar concentration and improving insulin sensitivity. When less sugar is stored as fat, this translate into more help for your body when it comes to weight loss".
7. Talk to your doctor about adding cinnamon daily into your healthy diet and exercise program. Add it to your tea, oatmeal, fruit, toast or anything else you can think of, as a small amount will go a long way and potentially assist in your weight loss mission.

Questions

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer **any eight** out of the **ten** questions by choosing the correct option.

(i) According to the passage, cinnamon is mostly grown in which country?

- (a) Brazil
- (b) Sri Lanka
- (c) Indonesia
- (d) Vietnam

(ii) A collocation is a group of words that often occur together.

The writer says that cinnamon helps in weight loss. Select the word from the options that correctly collocates with loss.

- (a) Devastating
- (b) Gain
- (c) Problem
- (d) Fattening

- (iii) Select the option that suitably completes the given dialogue as per the context of the passage.
- X. I have to lose some weight. My weight has increased during this lockdown.
- Y. You should (1)
- X. Why though?
- Y. It (2)
- (a) (1) stop eating so much then (2) will kill you someday
- (b) (1) see a nutritionist (2) will be good to get some professional advice
- (c) (1) try to eat cinnamon every two-three weeks (2) is very flavourful and will work as a sugar substitute
- (d) (1) try to include cinnamon in your food (2) helps in lowering the concentration of sugar in your blood
- (iv) Which of the following signboards contains the most appropriate title for the above passage?
- (a) Amomon Cures Diabetes
- (b) Cinnamon is the Obesity
- (c) Cinnamon : The Miracle Spic
- (d) Amomon : The Magical Drug
- (v) Cinnamon can help reduce the risk of which of the following ailments?
- (a) Kidney infections (b) Type 2 diabetes
- (c) Cardiovascular diseases (d) Both (b) and (c)
- (vi) What is the relationship between (1) and (2)?
1. Cinnamon is the new skinny food.
2. Cinnamon reduces the level of sugar in blood.
- (a) (2) is the cause for (1)
- (b) (1) repeats the situation described in (2)
- (c) (2) elaborates the problem described in (1)
- (d) (2) sets the stage for (1)
- (vii) The writer mentions that “cinnamon may be effective in moderating post meal glucose”. By this, he means that
- (a) Cinnamon increases the glucose created before eating one’s food
- (b) Cinnamon eradicates the glucose created after eating one’s food
- (c) Cinnamon controls the glucose created after eating one’s food
- (d) Cinnamon controls the glucose created before eating one’s food
- (viii) Select the option that mentions how long it takes for the cinnamon to be harvested.
- (a) 6-18 years
- (b) 16-18 years
- (c) 6-8 years
- (d) It is not grown anymore. It is non-renewable
- (ix) Which quote best summarises the writer’s feelings about cinnamon?
- (a) Anyone who gives you a cinnamon roll fresh out of the oven is a friend for life - Daniel Handler
- (b) I really don’t think I need buns of steel. I’d be happy with buns of cinnamon - Ellen Degeneres
- (c) For something warm, try adding cinnamon sticks and nutmeg to apple cider simmering on the stove - Clinton Kelly
- (d) None of the above
- (x) Select the option that lists what we can conclude from the text
1. Cinnamon helps in weight loss.
2. Cinnamon consumption can cure diabetes.
3. Cinnamon is described as an important part of culture in China.
4. Cinnamon can be consumed with tea, oatmeal, fruit and toast.
5. Cinnamon is not grown in Sri Lanka anymore.
- (a) 1, 2 and 4 (b) 1, 3 and 4
- (c) 2, 3 and 5 (d) 2, 3 and 4

Passage 7

May, Bistritz

1. Count Dracula had directed me to go to the Golden Krone Hotel, which I found, to my great delight, to be thoroughly old-fashioned, for, of course, I wanted to see all I could of the ways of the country.
2. I was evidently expected, for when I got near the door I faced a cheery-looking elderly woman in the usual peasant dress ... When I came close she bowed and said, “The Herr Englishman?”
‘Yes,’ I said, ‘Jonathan Harker.’
3. She smiled and gave some message to an elderly man in white shirtsleeves, who had followed her to the door. He went, but immediately returned with a letter:
4. “My friend - Welcome to the Carpathians. I am anxiously expecting you. Sleep well tonight. At three tomorrow, the diligence will start for Bukovina; a place on it is kept for you. At the Borgo Pass, my carriage will await you and will bring you to me. I trust that your journey from London has been a happy one and that you will enjoy your stay in my beautiful land-Your friend, Dracula.” 4 May

5. I found that my landlord had got a letter from the Count, directing him to secure the best place on the coach for me; but on making inquiries as to details he seemed somewhat reticent and pretended that he could not understand my German.
6. This could not be true, because up to then he had understood it perfectly; at least, he answered my questions properly.
7. He and his wife, the old lady who had received me, looked at each other in a frightened sort of way. He mumbled out that the money had been sent in a letter, and that was all he knew. When I asked him if he knew Count Dracula, and could tell me anything of his castle, both he and his wife crossed themselves saying that they knew nothing at all and simply refused to speak further. It was all very mysterious and not by any means comforting. Just before I was leaving, the old lady came up to my room and said in a hysterical way: "Must you go? Oh! Young Herr, must you go?" She was in such an excited state that she seemed to have lost her grip of what German she knew, and mixed it all up with some other language which I did not know at all. I was just able to follow her by asking a number of questions. When I told her that I must go at once and that I was engaged on important business, she asked again:
8. "Do you know what day it is?" I answered that it was the fourth of May. - *An excerpt from Dracula by Bram Stoke*

Questions

Based on your reading of the passage, answer **any eight** out of the **ten** questions by choosing the correct option.

- (i) When the writer reached the Hotel, how did he feel?
 - (a) absurd
 - (b) enthusiastic
 - (c) exasperated
 - (d) enraged

- (ii) Alliteration refers to the occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

From the options given below, choose a phrase from the passage that can be example of alliteration.

- (a) Do you know what day it is?
 - (b) Got a letter from the count
 - (c) Immediately returned with a letter
 - (d) None of the above
- (iii) Select the option that suitably completes the given dialogue as per the passage.
 X : Why are you visiting such a archaic hotel?
 Y :
 - (a) Because new things are so corrupted
 - (b) Because I am also old
 - (c) Because I want to see the culture of the country
 - (d) Because you don't like it
 - (iv) Why did the old lady address the writer as 'Englishman'?
 - (a) He spoke english fluently
 - (b) He was from Britain
 - (c) He loved the United Kingdom
 - (d) She despised the United kingdom
 - (v) Did the old couple, especially the woman, want the writer to leave?
 - (a) Yes, she wanted him gone from her hotel
 - (b) No, she was stopping him from leaving

- (c) yes, she didn't like him from the first day
- (d) No, she hated his friend, Dracula

- (vi) What is the relationship between (1) and (2)?

1. He went, but immediately returned with a letter.
2. I found that my landlord had got a letter from the count.

- (a) (1) contradicts (2)
- (b) (2) elaborates upon the premise in (1)
- (c) (2) repeats the problem discussed in (1)
- (d) (1) is the result of (2)

- (vii) What is the social title of the writer's friend, as mentioned in the passage?

- (a) Count
- (b) Herr
- (c) Duke
- (d) Crone

- (viii) Select the option that lists the language that the old woman was speaking in when she asked the writer if he was really going to leave.

- (a) German
- (b) English
- (c) French
- (d) Mixture of many languages

- (ix) What did the old couple tell the writer when he asked them details about the count and his castle?

- (a) That he and the castle were both scary
- (b) That he was very wealthy and the castle was well kept
- (c) Both (a) and (b)
- (d) Nothing. They refused to speak about it

- (x) Select the option that describes the ending of the passage.

- (a) climatic
- (b) happy
- (c) abrupt
- (d) infuriating

Passage 8

1. The present turn of developments with the continuous discounting and dismissing of the opposition and farmer's struggle for justice through the repeal of the three farm laws only suggests that those who are standing in support of the ruling dispensation at the state and the centre are brazenly, and, at times, violently intolerant of the opposition that is being built up around the public's concerns.
2. The language of violence that was allegedly used by the protectors of constitutional rights and was enacted in the Lakhimpur Kheri road rage killing eight people—four of them being the farmers—only shows that those who are active in proposing violent means to crush the opposition and those who are passively endorsing such proposals by maintaining a rather stoic silence over the spate of violent incidents see no relevance even for the language of pretension and hypocrisy. And what was perceived and what was expressed. Here, it is not necessary to repeat what was promised and what was not delivered by the ruling dispensation. In the local parlance, such discrepancy could be couched in the terminology called 'jumlebaazi'.
3. Arguably, atleast for the time being, this hypocrisy puts the violence on hold. As long as it works for the government, it eliminates the need to resort to more violent options. All those who have been making efforts to expose such 'jumlebaazi' or hypocrisy are being accused of being antinational by supporters of the government, and the moral standards that are used for seeking condemnation of the dissenting voices are hardly applied to those who were levelling such accusations against their opponents. Hence, those who have Hypocrisy hinges on the discrepancy between what was promised and what was delivered been calling others as anti-national do not need to prove their nationalist credentials.
4. However, the use of hypocritical language cannot be accelerated beyond a point. The language of hypocrisy loses its relevance on the count that it becomes difficult for the defenders of the government to use such a language to hide something that is unrealistic. The inability to hide something, which is impossible to achieve, needs the mask of 'jumla'. Even the language of jumla becomes inadequate to offer any effective defence to the party in power. False promises given to the people, however, result in grave moral injury through disillusionment for the common people.
5. What, therefore, debunks hypocrisy is the experience of disillusionment that results from sensitive people's capacity to detect the gap between what was promised and what was delivered by the government. When the government finds it extremely difficult to use the language of jumla, then it is compelled to use the strategies that are deployed to deter the aggrieved sections from expressing their legitimate dissent.

Questions

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer **any eight** out of the **ten** questions by choosing the correct option.

- (i) Which hypocrisy is the writer discussing in the following line as mentioned in the paragraph 3. "Arguably, atleast for the time being, this hypocrisy puts the violence on hold."
 - (a) To maintain a silence on the violent incidents
 - (b) To put the protest to an end using violent means
 - (c) The raged protect against the farm law
 - (d) To safeguard public property and to abjure violence
- (ii) A phrase is a small group of words standing together as a conceptual unit.

The writer mentions 'Stoic silence over the violent incidents.'

Select the words from the options that is a correct phrase using 'silence'.

(a) Dead silence	(b) Silence is silver
(c) Broken silence	(d) Dumb silence

- (iii) Select the option that suitably completes the given dialogue as per the context in paragraph 1.

X: We need to protest against the farm's laws.
Y: The protest should not have any violence ...(1).....
X: It's going to affect most of the farmers in the country.
Y: Today is ...(2)....

 - (a) (1) It affects the integrity of the nation (2) a historic day in India's calendar
 - (b) (1) But we all need to unite together (2) the most memorable day of my life
 - (c) (1) Try to keep the calm (2) the day we have finalized for the meeting between the leaders and protestors
 - (d) (1) Be patient to wait for the decision (2) a special day the law is going to be amended
- (iv) Which option represents the kind of protest the farmers are attempting against the farm laws?
 1. Arbitrary and unpredictable
 2. Peaceful and non-violent
 3. Tyrannical and hypocrite
 4. Ceaseless and defin

(a) Only 1	(b) Only 2
(c) Only 3	(d) Only 4

- (v) Select the option that is correct with reference to the given passage.
- In the Lakhimpur Kheri road rage, eight people were killed and six injured
 - Most of the opposition parties try to give a helping hand to the aggrieved farmers
 - Our government is trying the best to repeal all of the three farm laws
 - The inability to hide something that is unachievable needs the mask of 'jumla'
- (vi) What is the relationship between (1) and (2)?
- Arguably, at least for the time being, this hypocrisy puts the violence on hold.
 - As long as it works for the government, it eliminates the need to resort to more violent options.
- (2) is the cause of (1)
 - (1) and (2) are independent of each other
 - (1) elaborates upon the premise of (2)
 - (1) sets the stage of (2)
- (vii) "False promises given to the people, however, result in grave moral injury through disillusionment for the common people." What does the phrase 'grave moral injury' mean in the context of the passage?
- Serious physical injury
 - Injury to an individual's moral conscience and values
 - To alleviate the confidence of a person
 - Fatal moral injury
- (viii) Which of the following options accurately describes the Lakhimpur Kheri incident?
- Atrocious and Barbarous
 - Thoughtful and Helpful
- Callous and Cold
 - Sensitive and Complex
- 1 and 3
 - 2 and 4
 - 3 and 4
 - 1 and 2
- (ix) Which quote best summarises the role and notions of the opposition in the context of the protest of farmers as mentioned in the passage?
- The greatest power is not money power, but political power –Walter Annenberg
 - Politics is war without bloodshed while war is politics with bloodshed –Mao Zedong
 - We live in a world in which politics has replaced philosophy–Martin L. Gross
 - Every time you work on a political campaign, half the people hate you. That's how it is –Brit any Kaiser
- (x) As mentioned in the passage, "What... debunks hypocrisy is the experience of disillusionment that results from..." By this statement, the writer refers to
- The people's callousness to detect the gap between what was promised and what was delivered by the government
 - The people's sensitiveness to detect the gap between what was promised and what was delivered by the government
 - The people's capacity to detect the gap between what was promised and what was delivered by the government
 - The people's response to detect the gap between what was promised and what was delivered by the government

Passage 9

- Located in Eastern India along the Hoogly river, Kolkata (formerly known as Calcutta) is often referred to as the cultural capital of India. With the grand colonial architecture, rich traditions, beautiful music and art, this city has a unique character. As a home to esteemed artists like Rabindranath Tagore and Satyajit Ray, among others, the people of this city have a special appreciation for literature as well as cinema. The city also provides an unparalleled religious and cultural experience of Durga Puja each year.
- 'Durga Durga' echo the united voices of all the ladies in the household as they move towards the pandals for Puja, wishing for a safe journey ahead in life. The sound of intense beats coming from the dhak mixed with the aroma of the dhunuchi lit in every house, park or corner fills the streets of Kolkata. Clad in the most beautiful attires, adorning the heaviest of jewels and thickest of bangles with sindoor and bindis on their temple, the women seem to walk a step ahead of the men today.
- After all, Durga Puja is the day of the Devi. Nothing but colour and festivity flow through the lanes in the nine days that Maa Durga stays in her basha (house) with her four children, only to be united with her husband Shiva on the tenth day, (also known as Vijayadashami). But does it really end there? The massive grandeur and style of Durga Puja is not restricted to being just a nine-day festival. It houses itself in the hearts of the devotees who utter 'Maa Durga' at the smallest of hiccups in life. The resounding ullu (a high-pitched ululation sound created by striking both cheeks with the tongue, believed to be very auspicious and said to ward off any evil) echoes in the streets of the city long after the Puja is all wrapped up.

4. Celebrated in the month of Ashvin (September – October), Durga Puja (fondly referred to as Puja) is one of the most awaited festivals in India, especially in West Bengal. Even though the weather starts becoming cooler, the air is thick with the warmth radiated by the devotees.
5. The origins of the Devi as a deity are lost in the mists of time. Over time, we find mentions of the Goddess in various texts from the Vedic era and also in the Ramayana and Mahabharata. Even much later, Krittivasi's rendition of Ramayana, composed in the 15th century, speaks of Durga being worshipped with 108 blue lotuses and 108 sacred lamps by Lord Rama before his battle with Ravana. The day that Lord Rama defeated Ravana is celebrated as Dussehra which falls on the tenth day (Dashami) of the Durga Puja.

Questions

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer **any eight** out of the **ten** questions by choosing the correct option.

- (i) Which month and festival is the writer discussing in these lines as mentioned in the passage: "Even though the weather starts becoming cooler, the air is thick with the warmth radiated by the devotees."
 - (a) The festival of Kali Puja which comes after Kartika.
 - (b) The festival of Navaratri which comes in the month of Chaitra.
 - (c) The festival of Durga Puja which comes in the Ashvin.
 - (d) The festival of Durga Puja which comes in the Vaisakha.
- (ii) A phrase is a small group of words standing together as a conceptual unit.
The writer mentions that 'echoes in the streets of the city long after the puja is all wrapped up.'
Select the words from the options that is a correct phrase using 'wrap'.
 - (a) To keep below wraps
 - (b) Wrap around
 - (c) Wrap in
 - (d) To wrap the blindfolds
- (iii) Select the option that suitably completes the given dialogue as per the context in paragraph II.
X: Maa Durga has arrived.
Y: It's our most awaited time of the year (1)
X: I would perform a dhunuchi dance today.
Y: (2) It
 - (a) (1) It affects the integrity of the nation (2) would be so nice to watch you dancing
 - (b) (1) When we should unite together (2) would be the memorable day of my life
 - (c) (1) Try to keep the calm (2) I have practiced it the entire year
 - (d) (1) When we eagerly wait to celebrate (2) spreads a nice aroma everywhere
- (iv) Which option represents the kind of celebrations that are done during the Durga Puja in West Bengal as mentioned in the passage?
 1. Lighting of dhunuchi and playing of dhak
 2. Colourful sweets and bhog distribution
 3. Burning of the Ravana effigies
 4. Decoration of the idols
- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Only 3
- (d) Only 4
- (v) Select the option that is correct with reference to the given passage.
 - (a) Durga puja is a Ten-day festival celebrated across India in the month of Ashvin
 - (b) Kolkata (formerly known as Calcutta) is often referred to as the cultural city of palaces India
 - (c) Krittivasi's rendition of Ramayana, was composed in the 13th century
 - (d) Lord Rama worshipped Durga with 108 blue lotuses and 108 sacred lamps before his battle with Ravana
- (vi) What is the relationship between (1) and (2)?
 1. After all, Durga Puja is the day of the Devi.
 2. The origins of the Devi as a deity are lost in the mists of time.
 - (a) (2) is the cause of (1)
 - (b) (1) and (2) are independent of each other
 - (c) (2) elaborates upon the premise of (1)
 - (d) (1) sets the stage of (2)
- (vii) "Echo the united voices of all the ladies in the household as they move towards the pandals for Puja, wishing for a safe journey ahead in life." What does the phrase 'echo the united voices' refer to the context of the passage?
 - (a) To sing songs together in a group moving towards the pandals
 - (b) The voices of the ladies that resonates as they chant 'Durga Durga' together
 - (c) The sound of footsteps echoed around the hall near the Puja pandals
 - (d) The sound of the resounding ullu while worshipping Durga during the Puja in the pandals
- (viii) Which of the following options accurately describes the feelings of the people towards the Durga Puja festival?
 1. Love and Mortification
 2. Exuberance and Fervor
 3. Dilemma and Passion
 4. Gusto and Excitement
 - (a) 1 and 3
 - (b) 2 and 4
 - (c) 3 and 4
 - (d) 1 and 2

- (ix) Select the option that lists what we can conclude from the text.
1. The women population in India is the largest in Kolkata.
 2. Durga Puja is the most celebrated festival in Kolkata.
 3. The people of Kolkata have a very strong faith and belief in Maa Durga.
 4. The festival of Durga Puja coincides with the festival of Dusshera.
 5. Maa Durga is the only deity the people of Kolkata believe in.
- (a) 1, 2 and 4 (b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 5 (d) 3, 4 and 5

- (x) What does the statement “The day that Lord Rama defeated Ravana is celebrated as Dussehra which falls on the tenth day (Dashami) of the Durga puja” mean?
- (a) Dussehra coincides with the culmination of the nine-day Navratri festival and with the tenth day of the Durga Puja festival
 - (b) Dussehra marks the victory of good over evil as Lord Rama defeated Ravana on this day
 - (c) Dussehra marks the end of nine days of Navratri festivity also known as Durga Puja
 - (d) Dussehra is celebrated on the tenth day or dashami tithi of the shukla paksha of Ashwin month on Hindu calendar

Passage 10

1. Hand washing is as essential as eating food. It is the best way to be healthy and to stay away from various diseases. Soap plays an important role in removing dust, microbes and lubrication, maintaining good health every day. In comparison to the hand sanitizer, soap and water are more efficacious in removing certain microbes, pesticides and other chemical residues that dawdle on hands.
2. Hand sanitizers are more effective in hospitals when hands are in contact with germs, but not soiled or greasy. Other studies also reveal that hand sanitizers might be effective on lubricated hands with certain microbes. When hands are heavily soiled or greasy, for example, after playing outdoor games, gardening, fishing, travelling, executing extension activities such as campaigning and in certain cases, hand sanitizers may not be effective. In such circumstances, washing hands with soap and water is always preferable. Sanitizers cannot remove soil, dirt and grease rather they will make hands sticky, attracting more dirt.
3. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), hand hygiene encompasses the cleansing of hands by using soap and water, antiseptic hand washes, antiseptic hand rubs such as Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers (ABHS), foams or gels, or surgical hand antisepsis. Hand sanitizers as a disinfectant are in more use today because of its ease of availability, lack of water and time and their proven efficacy in lowering microbial load.
4. A review of research works states that limited literature is available in relation to hand sanitizers and washing hands. As COVID-19 has rapidly spread worldwide, panic buying of sanitizers over the coronavirus pandemic has led to stocking up of sanitizer sprays, gels, and so on, without knowing the effect of the sanitizer.
5. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), an alcohol based hand sanitizaer is “an alcohol-containing preparation (liquid, gel, or foam) designed for application to the hands to inactivate microorganisms and/or temporarily suppress their growth. Such preparations may contain one or more types of alcohol, other active ingredients with excipients, and humectants.” In 1966, hand sanitizers came into existence in healthcare facilities and were popularised significantly in early 1990s.
6. Hand sanitizers can be classified as alcohol-based or alcohol-free. Alcohol-based sanitizers comprise between 60 and 95 percent alcohol in the form of ethanol, isopropanol, or n-propanol. Alcohol have tendency to disseminate proteins and counteract certain micro-organisms at this concentration. Alcohol-free products have a property of disinfectants, such as Benzalkonium Chloride (BAC) or on antimicrobial agents, such as triclosan, which is immediate and purposeful. Several sanitizers comprise emollients (e.g. glycerin) that pacify the skin, thickening agents and provides aroma.

Questions

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer **any eight** out of the **ten** questions by choosing the correct option.

- (i) “Such preparations may contain one or more types of alcohol” Which preparations is the writer discussing in these lines of the passage?

- (a) Foams or gels, or surgical hand antisepsis that are only used in hospitals
- (b) Glycerine that pacifies the skin, thickening agents, and provides aroma
- (c) Non-Alcohol-based sanitizers used to clean dirt and germs from the hands
- (d) An alcohol-containing preparation designed for application to the hands to inactivate microorganisms

- (ii) A phrase is a small group of words standing together as a conceptual unit.

The writer mentions that ‘coronavirus pandemic has led to stocking up of sanitizer sprays.’

Select the words from the options that is a correct phrase using ‘stock’.

- (a) Lock and stock
- (b) A laughing stock
- (c) Stock off
- (d) Stock at

- (iii) Select the option that suitably completes the given dialogue as per the context in paragraph I.

X: Wash your hands before you eat anything.

Y: But washing the hands only with water is not sufficient, (1).....

X: Could I use a sanitizer instead of the soap?

Y: No, (2)

- (a) (1) As it would not properly clean your hands (2) the sanitizer is not so effective
- (b) (1) You need a soap to remove germs and dirt (2) the soap is more effective
- (c) (1) You need a sanitizer to remove dirt (2) the soap is not so effective
- (d) (1) The plain water would harm your body (2) its not so effective

- (iv) Which option best summarises the classification of the hand sanitizers as mentioned in the passage?

- 1. Aromatic and disinfecting
- 2. Alcohol-based and alcohol-free
- 3. Spray and gel-based
- 4. Ayurvedic and Herbal

- (a) Only 1
- (b) Only 2
- (c) Only 3
- (d) Only 4

- (v) Select the option that is correct with reference to the given passage.

- (a) Alcohol-based sanitizers comprise between 80 and 95 percent alcohol in the form of ethanol
- (b) In 1986, hand sanitizers came into existence in healthcare facilities
- (c) Alcohol-Based Hand sanitizers (ABHS) are better than foams and gels
- (d) Hand sanitizers might be effective on lubricated hands with certain microbes

- (vi) What is the relationship between (1) and (2)?

- 1. Sanitizers cannot remove soil, dirt, and grease rather they will make hands sticky, attracting more dirt.
- 2. Hand sanitizers are more effective in hospitals when hands are in contact with germs, but not soiled or greasy.

- (a) (2) is the cause of (1)
- (b) (1) and (2) are independent of each other
- (c) (1) elaborates upon the premise of (2)
- (d) (1) sets the stage of (2)

- (vii) “In comparison to the hand sanitizer, soap and water are more efficacious in removing certain microbes, pesticides.” What does the term ‘efficacious’ mean in the context of the passage?

- (a) Skillful and valid
- (b) Dynamic and versed
- (c) Productive and effective
- (d) Futile and vain

- (viii) Which of the following options can accurately describes the hand sanitizers?

- 1. Fumigant and germicide
- 2. Decontaminant and sterilizer
- 3. Germicide and musty
- 4. Cleanser and antihistamine

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 and 4
- (c) 3 and 4
- (d) 1 and 2

- (ix) Which quote best summarises the importance of hand sanitization and cleanliness?

- (a) One hand washes the other ... both hands wash the face –Proverb
- (b) Practice good personal hygiene. Wash your hands before you eat. Be aware of good clean water and food sources –James wright
- (c) Dirty water does not wash clean –Proverb
- (d) We dream of having a clean house–but who actually dreams of doing the cleaning? –Markus Buckingham

- (x) As mentioned in the passage, World Health Organisation (WHO) emphasises that

- (a) alcohol has tendency to disseminate proteins and counteract certain micro-organisms at this concentration
- (b) several sanitizers comprise emollients (e.g., glycerin) that infuriate the skin
- (c) hand sanitizers can be classified as alcohol-based or ethynol-free
- (d) sanitizers were significantly popularized in the healthcare facilities in the early 1980s

Answers

Passage 1

- (i) (a) Amitabh's 'steadfastness' helped him in leaving an indelible mark on the Indian cinema.
- (ii) (a) 'Within walking distance' is the correct phrase using 'distance'.
- (iii) (b) The phrases in option (b) are appropriate to complete the dialogue.
- (iv) (b) Amitabh Bachchan was awarded Dada Saheb Phalke award by the President in 2019.
- (v) (d) The sentence in option (d) is correct in reference to the passage.
- (vi) (d) Because Amitabh entered the television with 'Kaun Banega Crorepati', he gained financial strength and fame and success. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.
- (vii) (a) He played a role in the movie 'zanjeer' which is being referred to in the given line.
- (viii) (a) His versatility, skillfulness, grace and painstaking attributes describes Amitabh as 'the Pride of India'.
- (ix) (b) The quote in option (b) best summarises the writer's description of Amitabh Bachchan.
- (x) (b) Before 1987, Amitabh was a superstar and an MP from Allahabad Lok Sabha and after 1987, he resigned and moved away from politics.

Passage 2

- (i) (b) On being forced to follow someone else's routine, the writer would feel irritated and annoyed.
- (ii) (a) The phrase 'that we keep walking' is an example of metaphor.
- (iii) (d) The phrase in option (d) are appropriate to complete the dialogue.
- (iv) (b) Grik Satie's music declined because his inspiration was lost when the street lamps were turned off during the war.
- (v) (d) Fitzgerald wrote the most productively when he was in the army.
- (vi) (b) Both the statements listed as (1) and (2) are true but unrelated and independent of each other.
- (vii) (b) Some artists resorted to walking as it was a creative inspiration.
- (viii) (c) Beethoven carried pen and paper with himself while walking post lunch.
- (ix) (d) None of the given quotes is correct.
- (x) (b) It can be concluded from the passage that if someone is hopeful and optimistic, they can learn the art of living and forcing someone to follow other's routine can be irritating.

Passage 3

- (i) (b) President Kovind stressed upon the need to perform our duties to ensure effective protection of rights.
- (ii) (d) The phrase "above and beyond the call of duty" is correct using 'duty'.
- (iii) (b) The phrases in option (b) are appropriate to complete the dialogue.
- (iv) (b) MPs and Parliamentarians were the audience President Kovind is addressing to on the occasion mentioned in the passage.

- (v) (b) The sentence in option (b) is correct in reference to the passage.
- (vi) (d) The sentence listed as (1) set the stage for the sentence listed as (2).
- (vii) (b) The Phrase 'uphold the ideals' means to support an idea or principle.
- (viii) (a) President Kovind described a 'nation-builder' as being selfless, benevolent, kind and philanthropic, according to the passage.
- (ix) (b) The quote in option (b) best summarises the role and duty of elected representatives.
- (x) (d) Our constitution always emphasise that rights and duties are closely related and cannot be separated from one another.

Passage 4

- (i) (a) The writer's most recent climb of Mount Vinson was turned from a 7-day expedition to a 21-day Sojourn because of the freezing sub-zero temperatures and server winds.
- (ii) (b) 'Pyrrhic Victory' is the correct phrase using 'victory'.
- (iii) (c) The phrases in option (c) are appropriate to complete the dialogue.
- (iv) (b) The writer carries books and a light in his backpack during his summits.
- (v) (b) The sentence in option (b) is correct in reference to the passage.
- (vi) (c) The sentence listed as (2) tells more about that in (1) and thus, elaborates upon the premise of the sentence in (1).
- (vii) (b) The word 'summit' means mountaintop.
- (viii) (b) Adventurous, gourmet, voracious and keen describes the writer's personality, in the passage.
- (ix) (c) The quote in option (c) best summarises the role health and nutrition play in our lives.
- (x) (a) The writer says that during the pandemic, it's important to take precautions to ensure safety, most important of which is to prepare ourselves mentally.

Passage 5

- (i) (a) The writer originally belonged from New Delhi.
- (ii) (a) 'Wear your heart on your sleeves' is the correct phrase using 'wear'.
- (iii) (a) The phrases in option (a) are appropriate to complete the dialogue.
- (iv) (a) The property features 24 select spacious rooms facing the garden and the rooms overlook the beautiful Brindavan Gardens as well as the KRS dam. These features attracted the writer towards 'The Royal Orchid Brindavan Garden'.
- (v) (d) The sentence in option (d) is correct in reference to the given passage.
- (vi) (d) The sentence listed as (1) introduces and sets the stage for that listed as (2).
- (vii) (d) The word 'albeit' means through.
- (viii) (a) The hotel's courtyard-style coffee shop and elephant Bar attracted the people towards the hotel.

- (ix) (b) The quote in option (b) best summarises the writer's description of the love of for South Indian food.
- (x) (b) In the given statement, the writer means that his journey was hectic and exhausting.

Passage 6

- (i) (b) According to the passage, cinnamon is mostly grown in Sri Lanka.
- (ii) (a) The Phrase 'devastating loss' is the correct collocation.
- (iii) (d) The Phrases in option (d) are appropriate to complete the dialogue.
- (iv) (c) The signboard listed as option (3) contains the most appropriate title for the given passage. The title is 'Cinnamon : the miracle spice'.
- (v) (d) Cinnamon can help reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
- (vi) (a) Cinnamon reduces the level of sugar in blood, which is why, it is called as the new skinny food. Hence, option (a) is the correct answer.
- (vii) (c) By the given phrase, the writer means that glucose created after eating food can be controlled by cinnamon.
- (viii) (c) It takes around 6-8 years for cinnamon to be harvested, according to the given passage.
- (ix) (d) None of the quotes is correct.
- (x) (b) The sentence listed as (1), (3) and (4) can be concluded from the given passage.

Passage 7

- (i) (b) The writer felt excited and enthusiastic when he reached the hotel.
- (ii) (a) The sentence "Do you know what day it is?" is an example of alliteration.
- (iii) (c) The phrase given in option (c) is appropriate to complete the dialogue.
- (iv) (b) The old woman addressed the writer as 'Englishman' because he was from Britain.
- (v) (b) The old woman didn't want him to leave and hence, stopped him too.
- (vi) (b) The sentence (1) mentions that the old man went and got the letter which, as mentioned in sentence (2) was sent by the Count. Hence, the sentence (2) elaborates upon the premise in (1).
- (vii) (a) The writer's friend, Dracula, has the title 'Count'.
- (viii) (b) The woman spoke a mix of German with other languages when she visited the writer to question him.
- (ix) (d) Neither of the old couple talked about the count and his castle.
- (x) (c) The passage ended abruptly, in the middle of a conversation.

Passage 8

- (i) (a) The given line discusses the hypocrisy of maintaining silence in violent incidents.
- (ii) (a) 'Dead silence' is the correct phrase with 'silence'.
- (iii) (c) The phrases given in option (c) are appropriate to complete the dialogue.
- (iv) (a) The protest of the farmers was arbitrary and unpredictable.

- (v) (d) The sentence given in option (d) is correct in reference to the passage.
- (vi) (d) The sentence listed as (1) introduces what hypocrisy does the one listed as (2) elaborates upon it. Hence, (1) sets the state of (2) is the correct answer.
- (vii) (b) The phrase 'grave' moral injury' means injury to an individual's moral conscience and values.
- (viii) (a) The Lakhimpur Kheri incident can be described as atrocious, barbarous, cold and callous.
- (ix) (b) The quote given in option (b) best summarises the role and notion of opposition in context of the protests of farmers.
- (x) (c) According to the passage, hypocrisy results from the people's capacity to detect the gap between what was promised and what was delivered.

Passage 9

- (i) (c) In the given lines, the writer is discussing the festival of Durga Puja which comes in the month of Ashvin.
- (ii) (a) 'Wrap around' is the correct phrase using 'wrap'.
- (iii) (a) The phrases given in option (a) are appropriate to complete the dialogue.
- (iv) (a) The people of West Bengal light dhunuchi and play dhak during the Durga Puja, according to the passage.
- (v) (d) The sentence given in option (d) is correct in reference to the passage.
- (vi) (b) Both the statements are true according to the passage but they are not dependent on each other. Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.
- (vii) (b) The phrase 'echo the united voices' means that the ladies' voices resonates as they all chant together.
- (viii) (b) The people feel exuberance, fervour, gusto and excitement for the festival of Durga Puja.
- (ix) (b) It can be concluded from the passage that Durga Puja is the most celebrated festival in Kolkata and that the people there share a strong faith in Maa Durga.
- (x) (a) The given sentence means that Dusshera coincides with the tenth day of the Durga Puja festival and the culmination of the nine-day Navratri festival.

Passage 10

- (i) (d) The writer is discussing the alcohol-containing preparation designed for application to the hands to inactivate microorganisms, in the given line.
- (ii) (b) 'A laughing stock' is the correct phrase using 'stock'.
- (iii) (b) The phrases given in option (b) are appropriate to complete the dialogue.
- (iv) (b) Hand-sanitizers can be classified as alcohol-based and alcohol-free.
- (v) (d) The sentence given in option (d) is correct in reference to the passage.
- (vi) (c) The sentence listed as (1) elaborates upon the premise of (2).
- (vii) (c) The term 'effacious' means productive and effective.
- (viii) (d) The hand sanitizers can be described as fumigant, germicide, decontaminant and sterilizer.
- (ix) (b) The quote given in option (b) best summarises the importance of hand sanitizers and cleanliness.
- (x) (a) Who emphasises that alcohol has tendency to disseminate proteins and counteract certain micro-organisms.

Chapter Test (Reading)

1. Read the passage given below.

- The term 'child labour' is often defined as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential and their dignity, and that is harmful to physical-mental development. It refers to work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, and interferes with their schooling by depriving them of the opportunity to attend school, obliging them to leave school prematurely or requiring them to attempt to combine school attendance with excessively long and heavy work. The statistical figures about child workers in the world have variation because of the differences in defining categories of age group and engagement of children in formal and informal sector.
- Child labour continues to be a great concern in many parts of the world. In 2008, some 60% of the 215 million boys and girls were estimated to be child labourers worldwide. Major engagement was in agriculture sector, followed by fisheries, aquaculture, livestock and forestry. In addition to work that interferes with schooling and is harmful to personal development, many of these children work in hazardous occupations or activities that are harmful. Incidentally, 96% of the child workers are in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and South America. With respect to the child workers between the ages of 5 and 14, Asia makes up 61% of child workers in developing countries, while Africa has 32% and Latin America 7%. Further, while Asia has the highest number of child workers, Africa has the highest prevalence of child labour (40%).
- The latest global estimates indicate that the number of children in child labour has risen to 160 million worldwide – an increase of 8.4 million children in the last four years. 63 million girls and 97 million boys were in child labour globally at the beginning of 2020, accounting for almost 1 in 10 of all children worldwide.
- This report warns that global progress to end child labour has stalled for the first time in 20 years. The number of children aged 5 to 17 years in hazardous work – defined as work that is likely to harm their health, safety or morals – has risen by 6.5 million to 79 million since 2016. In sub-Saharan Africa, population growth, extreme poverty, and inadequate social protection measures have led to an additional 16.6 million children in child labour over the past four years.
- Additional economic shocks and school closures caused by COVID-19 mean that children already in child labour may be working longer hours or under worsening conditions, while many more may be

forced into the worst forms of child labour due to job and income losses among vulnerable families. The report warns that globally 9 million additional children are at risk of being pushed into child labour by the end of 2022 as a result of the pandemic.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any eight out of the ten questions by choosing the correct answer.

- Select the correct inference with reference to the following, 'This report warns that global progress to end child labour has stalled for the first time in 20 years.'
 - Due to the efforts of the countries child labour has been controlled to a greater extent.
 - Globally the child labour cases have risen due to the delay by the action taken by different governments.
 - Globally the child labour cases have fallen due to the strict course of action taken by different governments.
 - A majority of children involved in the child labour globally have been rehabilitated to ensure their safety and growth.
- According to the data given in the passage
 - Since 2016, around 79 million children aged between 5 to 17 years have been involved more in works dangerous for their health.
 - Africa has the highest prevalence of around 50% child labour.
 - In sub-Saharan Africa, population growth, extreme poverty, and inadequate social protection measures have pushed around 156 lakh children in child labour.
 - India has majority of around 80 lakh children who have been pushed in child labour since 2018.
- Pick the option that lists statements that are NOT TRUE according to the passage.
 - Due to COVID-19 the children who are already in child labour need to work now under more worsening conditions.
 - The latest global estimates indicate that the number of children in child labour has risen to 1600 lakh worldwide.
 - In 2008, some 60% of the 2180 lakh boys and girls were estimated to be child labourers worldwide.
 - Around 86% of the child workers are in the developing countries of Africa, Asia and South America.
 - 1 and 2
 - 2 and 4
 - 3 and 4
 - 1 and 4
- Based on your reading of the passage, select the counter-argument to the given argument.
Argument: I am an Indian and belong to a poor family. I have to work for more than 8 hours in a Dhabha to earn money for our family.

- (a) India is a secular nation and all religions are equal in the eyes of law.
 - (b) Data shows that most of the Indian people equally respect all religions.
 - (c) I do have freedom to choose between my studies and work as my parents are not so rich.
 - (d) Child labour is strictly prohibited in India.
- (v) Select option that displays the correct cause-effect relationship.

Options	Cause	Effect
A	Africa and India have more case of child labour.	Government has taken preventive measures to elevate education.
B	The number of children aged 5 to 17 years work in hazardous conditions.	The health of the children below 17 years is being affected severely.
C	COVID 19 has affected most of the families worldwide.	The families are taking care of their children's education.
D	Child labour is not prohibited in most of the countries.	It's causing more harm to the health of the underprivileged children

- (vi) According to passage, which of the statements is one of the reasons why in 2008, some 60% of the 215 million boys and girls were estimated to be child labourers worldwide?
- (a) Majority of the children from different countries come from families having uneducated parents.
 - (b) Additional children were risked into child labour by the end of 2010 due to poverty.
 - (c) Children already in child labour are working longer hours or under worsening conditions due to the pandemic.
 - (d) Major engagement of the children was in agriculture sector, followed by fisheries, aquaculture, livestock and forestry.
- (vii) As mentioned in the paragraph 1 of the passage, the phrase 'depriving them of the opportunity to attend school' means that
- (a) COVID-19 has pushed the children into child labour as most of the heads of the families have lost their jobs.
 - (b) The lack of good education and teachers is preventing the children from going to schools.
 - (c) The children are being prevented to go to schools due to demand to work because of poverty.
 - (d) Children are unable to go to attend schools due to the virtual education after the pandemic.

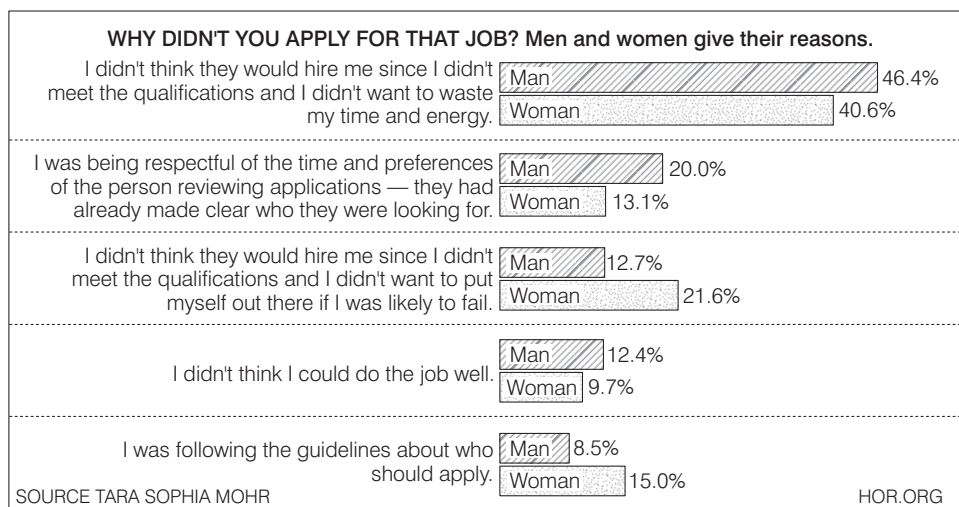
- (viii) Read the two statements given below and select the option that suitably explains them.
1. While Africa has 32% and Latin America 7%.
 2. With respect to the child workers between the ages of 5 and 14, Asia makes up 61% of child workers in developing countries.
- (a) (1) is the problem and (2) is its solution
 - (b) (1) is false but (2) correctly explains it
 - (c) (2) elaborates on (1)
 - (d) (1) is true and (2) is the reason for (1)
- (ix) Find the word similar in meaning to 'deprive' in paragraph 1.
- (a) Enrich
 - (b) Abundance
 - (c) Impoverish
 - (d) Indulge
- (x) Find the word opposite in meaning to 'vulnerable' in paragraph 5.
- (a) Immunity
 - (b) Feebleness
 - (c) Perilous
 - (d) Risky

2. Read the passage given below.

1. You've probably heard the following statistic: Men apply for a job when they meet only 60% of the qualifications, but women apply only if they meet 100% of them. The finding comes from a Hewlett Packard internal report, and has been quoted in Lean In, The Confidence Code and dozens of articles.

It's usually invoked as evidence that women need more confidence. As one Forbes article put it, "Men are confident about their ability at 60%, but women don't feel confident until they've checked off each item on the list." The advice: women need to have more faith in themselves.

2. I was skeptical, because the times I had decided not to apply for a job because I didn't meet all the qualifications, faith in myself wasn't exactly the issue. I suspected I wasn't alone. So, I surveyed over a thousand men and women, predominantly American professionals, and asked them, "If you decided not to apply for a job because you didn't meet all the qualifications, why didn't you apply?"
3. According to the self-report of the respondents, the barrier to applying was not lack of confidence. In fact, for both men and women, "I didn't think I could do the job well" was the least common of all the responses. Only about 10% of women and 12% of men indicated that this was their top reason for not applying.



4. Men and women also gave the same most common reason for not applying, and it was by far the most popular, twice as common as any of the others, with 41% of women and 46% of men indicating it was their top reason: "I didn't think they would hire me since I didn't meet the qualifications, and I didn't want to waste my time and energy."
5. In other words, people who weren't applying believed they needed the qualifications not to do the job well, but to be hired in the first place. They thought that the required qualifications were...well, required qualifications. They didn't see the hiring process as one where advocacy, relationships, or a creative approach to framing one's expertise could overcome not having the skills and experiences outlined in the job qualifications.
6. What held them back from applying was not a mistaken perception about themselves, but a mistaken perception about the hiring process. This is critical, because it suggests that if the HP finding speaks to a larger trend, women don't need to try and find that elusive quality, 'confidence,' they just need better information about how hiring processes really work.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer **any eight** out of the **ten** questions by choosing the correct answer.

- (i) Select the correct inference with reference to the following, 'Men apply for a job when they meet only 60% of the qualifications, but women apply only if they meet 100% of the them.'
 - (a) Women are more qualified than men so they are shortlisted easily after applying for any job.
 - (b) Men are more qualified than women so they are shortlisted easily after applying for any job.
 - (c) Men are more confident than women while applying for jobs.
 - (d) Women are more confident than men while applying for jobs.
- (ii) According to the figure 1 of the passage, it can be concluded that-
 - (a) Women are more apprehensive to work on the professional front due to the fear of failure.
 - (b) Men are more apprehensive to work on the professional front due to the fear of rejection.
 - (c) Women are more concerned about being qualified before applying for any job.
 - (d) Men are more concerned about following the guidelines about applying for any job.
- (iii) Pick the option that lists statements that are TRUE according to the passage.
 1. Hewlett Packard internal report highlights that men need to be more confident than women.
 2. HP report indicates that 46% of men do not apply for a job once they know they are not meeting the required qualifications for the same.
 3. HP report indicates that 55% of women do not apply for a job once they know they are not meeting the required qualifications for the same.
 4. Most of the women lack rich professional background that is very important to boost their confidence.
 - (a) 1 and 2
 - (b) 3 and 4
 - (c) 2 and 4
 - (d) 1 and 4
- (iv) Based on your reading of the passage, select the counter-argument to the given argument.

Argument: Only about 10% of women and 12% of men indicated that the lack of confidence was their top reason for not applying for any job.

 - (a) Women are more qualified and skilled as compared to men.
 - (b) Most of the women are confident about getting any job as compared to men.
 - (c) Men always feel hesitant about getting success when they apply for any job.
 - (d) Men reach to the pinnacle of their professional career very quickly as they are more skilled and confident.

- (v) Select option that displays the correct cause-effect relationship.

Options	Cause	Effect
A	I am a housewife and do not wish to apply for a job.	I need to focus more on my strengths and weaknesses.
B	I do not wish to apply for any job which does not match my qualifications.	I may miss the opportunity which matches my other skills.
C	I am working as a manager in my company.	I feel that I am apt for getting good increment this year.
D	My wife is more qualified than me.	I still need to encourage her to do any work with confidence and dedication.

- (vi) According to passage, which of the statements is one of the reasons why men and women hold back from applying for any job?
- (a) Majority of the men and women believe that good references are necessary before applying.
- (b) They believed they needed the qualifications not to do the job well, but to be hired in the first place.
- (c) They believed that young and experienced candidates are given more chances.

- (d) They do not feel so confident if they lack any skill mentioned in the job description.

- (vii) The phrase 'What held them back from applying for the jobs' means

- (a) the means and ways that fostered the chances of getting a good job.
- (b) what eased their applying processes for getting a job.
- (c) what facilitated them in applying for the jobs.
- (d) what hampered their ideas to apply for the jobs.

- (viii) Read the two statements given below and select the option that suitably explains them.

1. According to the self-report of the respondents, the barrier to applying was lack of confidence.
2. Men and women also gave the same most common reason for not applying for a job which requires good qualifications.

- (a) (1) is the problem and (2) is its solution
- (b) (1) is false but (2) correctly explains it
- (c) (2) elaborates on (1)
- (d) (1) is true and (2) is the reason for (1)

- (ix) Find the word similar in meaning to 'elusive' in paragraph 6.

- (a) Evanescent (b) Enticing
- (c) Inviting (d) Respecting

- (x) Find the word opposite in meaning to 'creative' in paragraph 5.

- (a) Imaginative (b) Imitative
- (c) Talented (d) Fertile

Answers

Passage 1

- (i) (b) (ii) (a) (iii) (b) (iv) (d) (v) (b) (vi) (d) (vii) (c) (viii) (c) (ix) (c) (x) (a)

Passage 2

- (i) (c) (ii) (a) (iii) (c) (iv) (c) (v) (b) (vi) (b) (vii) (d) (viii) (b) (ix) (a) (x) (b)