Factual Passages

Passage - 1 10 Marks

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow: High-altitude climbing is still a very dangerous task in spite of the availability of oxygen masks and other protective equipment, which modern climbers take along with them. These, of course, are indispensable accessories of climbing, but more important than these is the stamina of the climber, which ultimately determines the success of his attempt to climb. Throughout his journey, death is his constant companion, which he can keep at a distance only with his superb presence of mind. He has to tread every inch of the ground with utmost care, for a false step may not only strike him a fatal blow, but also bring disaster to the whole expedition. That is why, all expeditions invariably take with them local guides who are experienced climbers and who have a thorough knowledge of the nature of the terrain. A huge amount of capital is needed for financing such expeditions and this is generally provided by government or rich private organisations.

The primary objective of a mountaineering expedition is to get to the top of a high mountain, which in the past has withstood all attempts to conquer it. But if an expedition does not reach its destination it should not be presumed that the expedition is a complete failure. Sometimes, operations are temporarily suspended because of bad weather, loss of some valuable equipment or sudden death of a member of the party. Every big expedition includes men who are interested in botany, biology, geology, and various other branches of science, and these men carry with them equipment for recording their observations related to the weather, the terrain, and the different forms of life in the higher altitudes. Other scientists, explorers, and expeditioners utilise the fruits of the earlier expeditioners' observations. Thus, every unsuccessful expedition contributes to the success of later expeditions. The British expedition led by Colonel Hunt would have found the way to Everest much more difficult had not earlier expeditions armed them with useful knowledge about the death-dealing weather which they had to encounter in the vicinity of the summit.

- Q1. (1) Every earlier unsuccessful expedition.
- Q2. (4) Oxygen masks and other protective equipment.
- Q3. (2) death
- Q4. (1) get to the top of a high mountain.
- Q5. (3) bad weather, sudden death & loss of valuable equipment
- Q6. (2) Colonel Hunt
- Q7. (4) with utmost care
- Q8. (1) TRUE
- Q9. (1) FALSE
- Q10. (1) TRUE

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:
Just by the use of colours, you can balance your diet. All you need to do is to
pay a little attention to the food you eat. Nutrition experts strongly recommend
adding colours to your diet. Sweets and candy bars are generally colourful,
but remember they do not contain natural colours, and hence, are not healthy.
The key to good health is a variety of naturally-coloured foods. The deeper the
colour, the greater the benefits. Getting more colours in your diet doesn't mean

you have to drastically change your current eating habits. Have a glass of 100% juice in the morning. Keep a mix of dry fruits at hand for a quick snack. Grab an apple or a banana. Include at least two vegetables in your dinner. Get into the habit of starting your dinner with a salad. Eat fruits for dessert. Always add greens to sandwiches.

Most red fruits and vegetables contain antioxidants, which offer protection against ultraviolet rays and cancer, and helps prevent urinary tract infections and diseases related to the circulatory system. Green vegetables, along with being appealing, possess excellent antioxidant properties that protect the eyes by keeping the retina in good condition and reduce the risk of cancerous tumours. The orange and yellow group of fruits and vegetables is rich in beta-carotene, an antioxidant that improves cell communication, and thereby, helps stop the spread of cancer. The blue and purple group adds an element of richness to the plate, besides influencing the pineal gland (the third eye) and the nervous system. The white group contains sulphur compounds that protect the DNA and flavonoids, an antioxidant that protects cell membranes. Therefore, the more colourful your diet, the better equipped your immune system would be to cope with diseases.

- Q1. (3) They do not contain natural colours.
- Q2. (2) With a salad.
- Q3. (3) Colours
- Q4. (1) Benefits
- Q5. (4) Vegetables
- Q6. (3) Antioxidants
- Q7. (4) antioxidant

Answer Key 1.1

Marks - 20

Q8. (2) FALSE

Q9. (1) FALSE

Q10. (2) TRUE

Factual Passages

Passage - 1 10 Marks

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow: Spices bring to mind the images of tempting cuisines, fascinating voyages, and the bitter struggle for independence. Expressions like 'variety is the spice of life' and 'sugar and spice and all things nice' explain how spices play upon the literary abilities of men of letters.

To the Orientals, spices are indeed the soul of their food. In the western world, spices evoke dreams of exotic tropical islands, exciting expeditions, and the rise and fall of empires. Columbus went westwards in 1492, from Europe, to find a sea route to the land of spices, but found the New World. Eight years later, Vasco da Gama went around Africa and touched Kozhikode, on the south-west coast of India. Long before that, Arabs started trading with the orient through land routes. During the 13th century, Marco Polo experienced attraction towards spices through his travels. The European conquests and trade arrangements in India and the East Indies also have a lot to do with spices.

Thousands of years ago, the great masters of Ayurveda, notably, Sushruta and Charaka, discussed in detail the use of spices for culinary and medicinal purposes. Enterprising soldiers of fortune carried the knowledge of spices to Egypt. There the soldiers used the spices and aromatic herbs in food, medicine, and cosmetics, and for embalming. The conquest of Egypt and Asia by Alexander the Great made spices an article of commercial value in the Mediterranean countries, and central and northern Europe. There are reports of pepper being used in the preservation of meat and to mask the unpleasant odour of stale meat available after long winter storage.

Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine, and Theophrastus, a Greek scholar and botanist, wrote treatises on medicinal plants, including spices.

Q1. (4) They bring to mind the images of tempting cuisines and fascinating voyages.

- Q2. (2) The land of spices
- Q3. (2) Europe
- Q4. (1) Vasco Da Gama
- Q5. (4) 13th Century
- Q6. (2) Culinary and medicinal purposes
- Q7. (2) Hippocrates
- Q8. (1) TRUE
- Q9. (3) Theophrastus
- Q10. (2) TRUE

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow: Demonetisation refers to an economic policy where a certain currency unit ceases to be used as a legal tender. It occurs whenever there is a change in the national currency wherein some of the existing form of currency is pulled from circulation, and retired to be replaced with new notes or coins. Sometimes, a country completely replaces the old currency with new currency. On 8 November 2016, the Indian government decided to demonetise the 500 and 1,000-rupee notes, the two biggest denominations of the Indian currency system. These notes accounted for 86% of the country's circulating cash. With little warning, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced to the citizenry

that these notes would be rendered ineffective with immediate effect. People were given time till the end of the year to deposit or exchange them for newly introduced 2.000- and 500-rupee notes.

The government's goal was to combat India's thriving underground economy on several fronts: eradicate counterfeit currency, fight tax evasion (only le of the population pays taxes), eliminate black money accumulated from money laundering and terrorist financing activities, and to promote a cashless economy. Individuals and entities with huge sums of black money acquired from parallel cash systems were forced to take their large denomination notes to a bank, and account for them satisfactorily and submit the proof of tax paid. If the individual could not provide the proof of making any tax payments on the cash he/she possessed, a penalty of 200% on the tax due was to be imposed. Demonetisation had a severe impact on the gold market. The extraordinary demand for the yellow metal brought a stiff hike in its cost. However, the government made it mandatory that every buyer had to submit his/her PAN card details for purchases made. Erring jewellers were brought to book. Many Indians switched to alternative payment methods. The biggest gainers were mobile wallet companies that offered easy transactions through a large network of partners, Alibaba-backed Paytm saw a sevenfold increase in overall traffic. Customers found the option of prepaid cash cards useful. Other alternatives included mobile payment systems linked to e-commerce businesses like Ola Money, FreeCharge, and Flipkart Wallet.

- Q1. (2) 8 November 2016
- Q2. (4) E-commerce
- Q3. (2) 86%
- Q4. (4) gold market
- Q5. (3) Pan card details

Answer Key 1.2 Marks - 20

Q6. (1) Paytm

Q7. (3) 200

Q8. (1) TRUE

Q9. (2) FALSE

Q10. (1) TRUE

Factual Passages

Passage - 1 10 Marks

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow:

My grandmother's house is like chambered sea shell. It has many rooms, yet it is not a mansion. Its proportions are small and its design is simple. It is a house that has grown organically, according to the needs of its inhabitants. To all of us in the family, it is known as la casa de Mama. It is the place of our origin, the stage for our memories and dreams of Island life.

I remember how in my childhood the house sat on stilts, this was before it had a car park downstairs. It rested on its perch like a great blue bird, not a flying sort of bird, more like a nesting hen, but with spread wings. Grandfather had built it soon after their marriage. He was a painter and house-builder by trade, and a poet and meditative man by nature. As each of their eight children were born, new rooms were added. After a few years, the paint didn't exactly match, nor the materials, so there was a chronology to it, like the rings of a tree, and Mama could tell you the history of each room in her casa. and thus, the genealogy of the family along with it.

Her own room is the heart of the house. Though I have seen it recently, both woman and room have diminished in size, changed by the new perspective of my eyes, now capable of looking over countertops and tall beds. It is not this picture I carry in my memory of Mama's casa. Instead, I see her room as a queen's chamber where a small woman loomed large, a throne room with a massive four poster bed in its centre, which stood taller than a child's head. It was on this bed, where her own children had been born, that the youngest of the grandchildren was allowed to take naps in the afternoons; here too was where Mama secluded herself to dispense private advice to her daughters, sitting on the edge of the bed, looking down at whoever sat on the rocker, where generations of babies had been sung to sleep. To me, she looked like a wise empress right out of the fairy tales I was addicted to reading.

Q1. (3) The author's grandmother's house

- Q2. (3) He was a painter and house-builder.
- Q3. (3) a chambered seashell
- Q4. (2) mansion
- Q5. (1) rooms
- Q6. (3) daughters
- Q7. (1) genealogy
- Q8. (1) TRUE
- Q9. (2) TRUE
- Q10. (1) TRUE

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow: "In the early 1920s, settlers came to Alaska looking for gold. They travelled by boat to the coastal towns of Seward and Knik, and from there, by land, into the gold fields. The trail they used to travel inland is known today as the Iditarod Trail, one of the National Historic Trails designated by the Congress of the United States. The Iditarod Trail quickly became a major thoroughfare in Alaska, as the mail and supplies were carried across this Trail. People also used it to get from place to place, including the priests, ministers, and judges who had to travel between villages. In winter, the settlers only means of travel down this trail was via dog sleds.

Once the gold rush ended, many gold-seekers went back to where they had come from, and suddenly, there was much less travel on the Iditarod Trail. The introduction of the airplane in the late 1920s meant dog teams were no longer the standard mode of transportation, and of course, with the airplane carrying the mail and supplies, there was less need for land travel in general. The final blow to the use of the dog teams was the appearance of snowmobiles. By the mid-1960s, most Alaskans didn't even know the Iditarod Trail existed, or that dog teams had played a crucial role in Alaska's early settlements. Dorothy G. Page, a self-made historian, recognised that only a few people knew about the former use of sled dogs as working animals and about the Iditarod Trail's role in Alaska's colourful history. To raise awareness about this aspect of Alaskan history, she came up with the idea to have a dog sled race over the Iditarod Trail. She presented her idea to an enthusiastic musher, as dog sled drivers are known, named Joe Redington Sr. Soon Page and the Redington were working together to promote the idea of the Iditarod race, and in 1967, the first Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race became a reality."

- Q1. (1) Gold
- Q2. (4) The appearance of snowmobiles
- Q3. (3) early settlements
- Q4. (4) dog sleds
- Q5. (2) 1967
- Q6. (4) Joe Redington Sr
- Q7. (1) Dog

Answer Key 1.3

Marks - 20

Q8. (1) FALSE

Q9. (1) TRUE

Q10. (1) FALSE

Factual Passages

Passage - 1 10 Marks

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow: After water, tea is the most popular beverage in the world. Its popularity has survived thousands of years and has played an important role in many cultures. It is enjoyed both hot and cold, as a refreshing drink, as part of a ceremony, or as a tonic to improve health.

The drink of Asia for hundreds of years, tea is believed to have been brought to Europe by the Dutch. Today, from remote Ladakh in India to Buckingham Palace in London, tea is synonymous with cheer. It is rightly said that there will be no agreement on a perfect cup of tea. Though for tea drinkers, the brew is addictive, the preferred method of preparation and taste differs from person to person and region to region. From traditional black teas, to the newer, and extraordinarily healthy white teas, and recognisable flavoured teas, such as Earl Grey, to exotic blends such as Rooibos Love, there is a flavour and a blend for everyone. Today, many varieties of tea and tea brands are available in the market. An innovation is the tea bag that is easy, quick, and less messy than the traditional way of brewing tea. Green tea is popular in China and the Far East. In Japan, the tea ceremony is a traditional way of greeting guests and is a social occasion. Unlike the tea we are familiar with, green tea is not drunk with sugar or milk. It is an olive-coloured liquid served in porcelain cups. In Morocco, green tea is infused with freshly-plucked mint.

Some scientists believe that tea prevents tooth decay because it is a rich source of fluoride. Tea is also a folk remedy for stomach upsets and flu. In addition, tea is said to have antioxidants that fight cancer and also has anti-ageing properties that fight the free radicals in our bodies. Research suggests that drinking tea reduces the risk of heart disease and cancer, and lowers cholesterol levels in the blood. A welcome thought for inveterate tea drinkers: tea is the new apple-a-day to keep the doctor away.

Q1. (1) Tea makes people cheerful.

- Q2. (4) Using tea bags
- Q3. (1) Dutch
- Q4. (2) cheer
- Q5. (2) the brew
- Q6. (4) Morocco
- Q7. (1) Tooth Decay
- Q8. (1) TRUE
- Q9. (1) TRUE
- Q10. (1) FALSE

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow: The education of a child starts from the family where the mother is the first teacher. But the irony in India is that although the deity of education is a female, that is, Goddess Saraswati, according to Hinduism, innumerable number of women remain illiterate here. They do not remain uneducated by choice but are forbidden from receiving education because of the patriarchal system in the society. Right from the early Vedic period, people have been celebrating the birth of a son, nevertheless, in those days, daughters were not neglected but were educated well. However, during the later Vedic period. daughters were considered a social burden. Only the girls belonging to upper class families

enjoyed the right of education and got proper nourishment. In the medieval period, the conditions deteriorated for the females, even in royal families. Girls could not get the same status as the boys. In Muslim households, they were taught at their homes, while Hindu girls enjoyed the privilege of getting primary education along with the boys in schools. The prevalence of child marriage was excessively practised then. However, in the nineteenth century, many social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Annie Besant, M. G. Ranade. Jyotiba Phule and Swami Dayanand Saraswati came forward for the emancipation of women in India. Raja Ram Mohan Roy especially advocated female education.

Since then, there has been tremendous progress in every field, but unfortunately, girls are still neglected. In most families, the birth of a girl child is not desired and, if accepted, she is considered inferior to boys and her education is not considered important because it seems a waste of money to the majority of the parents. They think it unreasonable because, later on they would be compelled to spend a heavy amount on her dowry. So, the female literacy rate is unsatisfactory. This has a direct impact on the overall development of the nation.

- Q1. (1) Due to the patriarchal system in the society
- Q2. (1) Early Vedic period
- Q3. (3) upper class families
- Q4. (2) family
- Q5. (4) the royal families
- Q6. (2) education
- Q7. (1) emancipation

Answer Key 1.4

Marks - 20

Q8. (2) FALSE

Q9. (2) FALSE

Q10. (2) TRUE

Factual Passages

Passage - 1 10 Marks

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow: Now is the time to save the magnificent cats, before they vanish from the earth forever. There is a little time left to preserve these animals, so immediate action is required. The latest predictions state that tigers will be extinct in the wild by the year 2025. That is less than six short years, from now; less than six years to

save a creature that has been around far longer than us! I cannot imagine, nor would I wish, living in a world without tigers, without

I cannot imagine, nor would I wish, living in a world without tigers, without these magnificent creatures living freely in the forests,

The power and beauty of tigers is indisputable. They are an integral part of the ecosystem as they are a major link in the food chain. Tigers have been bestowed magical and supernatural properties by many societies, and have also been revered as Gods. All living creatures of mother earth depend on one another for survival. We, as human beings, are brothers and sisters to every living being. from the plants to the animals and to each other.

Tigers are often killed in the most barbaric and unbelievably cruel ways. Crimes like the killing of tigers must be stopped right way. We must do whatever we can to stop the killing of this magnificent creature. We can write to our government and the governments of countries with tiger populations and urge them to protect the tiger. Penalties for killing tigers and other protected wildlife need to be strict and deterring, and enforced with equal might to discourage the poaching of tigers, and bring to task those who profit from such killings.

- Q1. (4) 2025
- Q2. (3) Tiger
- Q3. (3) indisputable

- Q4. (3) food chain
- Q5. (2) survival
- Q6. (2) strict and deterring
- Q7. (1) stopped
- Q8. (2) TRUE
- Q9. (1) TRUE
- Q10. (2) FALSE

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow: Children are bombarded with well-crafted TV ads of fast-food chains and other purveyors of high-fat, high-sugar meals and snacks. A recent study reported that two to six-year-olds, who watch television, are more likely to choose food products advertised on TV than children who do not watch such commercials. These highly-effective advertising campaigns, combined with a physically inactive lifestyle, have produced a generation of kids who are at a high risk for obesity-associated medical conditions.

The major health threat is the early development of Type 2 diabetes (adult onset), particularly in children with a family history of the disease. Doctors are reporting a surge in young adolescents developing Type 2 diabetes, which can lead to heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney disease, stroke, limb amputation, and blindness. People who develop diabetes in adolescence face a diminished quality of life and shortened life span, particularly if the disease

progresses untreated. It's a scary prospect for our children, but in many cases, obesity and diabetes are preventable.

When children are spending most of their free time sitting in front televisions and computers, they are not running, jumping or engaging themselves in any sport which would keep their weight down. Parents need to set limits on the time their children are engaged in passive activities. Paediatricians recommend restricting children to one to two hours per day of TV and computer usage, though older children may need additional time for learning activities. Parental involvement remains the most important key to the children's healthy diets. Programs to educate parents about nutrition are essential. Fast foods should be consumed only in moderation. Caregivers, who are often busy and harried, must avoid the temptation to whisk their kids into fast food restaurants or to pick up fast food for dinner. Changing eating habits and lifestyles is not easy, but the health benefit for the children is a wonderful payroll for the parents who are willing to take on the task.

- Q1. (2) well-crafted ads for fast foods
- Q2. (1) By restricting the TV and computer usage of their children to one to two hours a day.
- Q3. (3) Type 2 diabetes
- Q4. (3) not easy
- Q5. (1) healthy diets
- Q6. (1) moderation
- Q7. (1) nutrition

Answer Key 1.5

Marks - 20

Q8. (1) FALSE

Q9. (1) TRUE

Q10. (1) FALSE

Factual Passages

Passage - 1 10 Marks

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow: Information that makes its way to the short-term memory (STN) does so via the sensory storage area. There is much debate about the capacity and duration of the short- term memory. The most accepted theory comes from George A. Miller, a cognitive psychologist, who suggested that humans can remember approximately seven chunks of information. A chunk is defined as a meaningful unit of information, such as a word or name, rather than just a letter or number. Modern theorists suggest that one can increase the capacity of the short-term memory by hunking or classifying similar information together. By organising information, one can optimise the STM and improve the chances of a memory being passed on to long-term storage.

When making a conscious effort to memorise something, such as information for an exam, many people engage in rote rehearsal. By repeating something over and over again, one is able to keep a memory alive. Unfortunately, this type of memory maintenance only succeeds if there are no interruptions. As soon as a person stops rehearsing the information, it has the tendency to disappear. When a pen and paper are not handy, people often attempt to remember a phone number by repeating it aloud. If the doorbell rings or the dog barks, he will, most likely, forget the number instantly, Therefore, rote rehearsal is not an efficient way to pass information from the short-term memory to the long-term memory. A better way is to practise elaborative rehearsal. This involves assigning logical meaning to a piece of information, so that it can be filed away along with other pre-existing long-term memories.

Encoding information logically also makes it more retrievable. Retrieving information can be done by recognition or recall. Humans can easily recall memories that are stored in the long-term memory and used often; however, if a memory seems to be forgotten, it may eventually be retrieved by prompting. The more cues a person is given (such as pictures), the more likely a memory can be

retrieved. This is why, multiple choice tests are often used for subjects that require a lot of memorisation."

- Q1. (1) Via sensory storage area
- Q2. (2) By repeating it over and over again.
- Q3. (3) short-term memory
- Q4. (4) rote rehearsal
- Q5. (1) prompting
- Q6. (2) cues
- Q7. (3) elaborative rehearsal
- Q8. (2) TRUE
- Q9. (1) TRUE
- Q10. (1) FALSE

Passage - 2 10 Marks

Read the following paragraph and answer the questions that follow: Walter Elias Disney (popularly known as Walt Disney) was born on December 5, 1901 in Hermosa, Illinois. He lived most of his childhood in Marceline, Missouri, where he began drawing, painting and selling pictures to neighbours and family friends. Disney attended the McKinley High School in Chicago, where he took drawing and photography classes, and was a contributing cartoonist for the school paper. At night, he took courses at the Chicago Art Institute.

When Disney was 16, he dropped out of school to join the army but was rejected for being underage. Instead, he joined the Red Cross and was sent to France for a year to drive an ambulance. When Disney returned from France in 1919, he moved back to Kansas City to pursue a career as a newspaper artist. His brother, Roy got him a job at the Pesmen-Rubin Art Studio, where he met cartoonist Ubbe Eert Iwwerks, better known as Ub Iwerks. From there, Disney worked at the Kansas City Film Ad Company, where he made commercials based on cut-out animation. Around this time, Disney began experimenting with camera, doing hand-drawn cel animation, and decided to open his own animation business. From the ad company, he recruited Fred Harman as his first employee.

Walt and Harman made a deal with a local Kansas City theatre to screen their cartoons, which they called Laugh-O-Grams. The cartoons were hugely popular, and Disney was able to acquire his own studio, upon which he bestowed the same name. Laugh-O-Gram hired a number of employees, including Harman's brothers, Hugh and Iwerks. They did a series of seven-minute fairy tales that combined both live action and animation, which they called Alice in Cartoonland. By 1923, however, the studio had become burdened with debt, and Disney was forced to declare bankruptcy.

Disney and his brother, Roy, soon pooled their money and moved to Hollywood. Iwerks also relocated to California, and there the three began the Disney Brothers' Studio. Their first deal was with New York distributor Margaret Winkler, to distribute their Alice cartoons. They also invented a character called Oswald the Lucky Rabbit, and contracted the shorts at \$1,500, each."

- Q1. (1) Drawing and photography
- Q2. (2) Walt's brother, Roy got Walt a job at the Pesmen-Rubin Art Studio.
- Q3. (3) the army.

- Q4. (4) France.
- Q5. (1) Fred Harman
- Q6. (2) Hollywood
- Q7. (3) cut-out animation.
- Q8. (2) TRUE
- Q9. (1) FALSE
- Q10. (2) TRUE