

SECTION A : READING

20 mks.

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: 12 mks.

1. Today's woman is a highly self-directed person, alive to the sense of her dignity and the importance of her functions in the private domestic domain and the public domain of the world of work. Women are rational in approach, careful in handling situations and want to do things as best as possible. The Fourth World Conference of Women held in Beijing in September 1995 had emphasized that no enduring solution of society's most threatening social, economic and political problems could be found without the participation and empowerment of the women. The 1995 World Summit for Social Development had also emphasized the pivotal role of women in eradicating poverty and mending the social fabric.

2. The Constitution of India had conferred on women equal rights and opportunities – political, social, educational and of employment – with men. Because of oppressive traditions, superstitions, exploitation and corruption, a majority of women are not allowed to enjoy the rights and opportunities, bestowed on them. One of the major reasons for this state of affairs is the lack of literacy and awareness among women. Education is the main instrument through which we can narrow down the prevailing inequality and accelerate the process of economic and political change in the status of women.

3. The role of women in a society is very important. Women's education is the key to a better life in the future. A recent World Bank study says that educating girls is not a charity, it is good economics and if developing nations are to eradicate poverty, they must educate the girls. The report says that the economic and social returns on investment in education of the girls considerably affect the human development index of the nation. Society would progress only if the status of women is respected and the presence of an educated woman in the family would ensure education of the family itself. Education and empowerment of women are closely related.

4. Women's education has not received due care and attention from the planners and policy makers. The National Commission for Women has rightly pointed out that even after 50 years of independence, women continue to be treated as the single largest group of backward citizens of India. The role of women in overall development has not been fully understood nor

has it been given its full weight in the struggle to eliminate poverty, hunger, injustice and inequality at the national level. Even when we are at the threshold of the 21st century, our society still discriminates against women in matters of their rights and privileges and prevents them from participating in the process of national and societal progress. Various Committees and Commissions have been constituted before and after the independence to evaluate the progress in women's education and to suggest ways and means to enhance the status of women. The female literacy rate has gone up in the 20th century from 0.6 percent in 1901 to 39.29 percent in 1991, but India still possesses the largest number of illiterate women in the world. The female literacy index for the year 1991 shows that there are eight States which fall below the national average. The most populous States of the country, UP, MP, Bihar and Rajasthan fall in the category of most backward States as far as female literacy is concerned.

5. The prevailing cultural norms of gender behavior and the perceived domestic and reproductive roles of women tend to affect the education of the girls. Negative attitude towards sending girls to schools, restrictions on their mobility, early marriage, poverty and illiteracy of parents affect the girl's participation in education.

6. Women's political empowerment got a big boost with the Panchayati Raj Act of 1993 which gave them 30 percent reservation in Village Panchayats, Block Samities and Zila Parishads throughout the country. The National Commission for Women was also set up in 1992 to act as lobby for women's issues.

7. The educational system is the only institution which can counteract the deep foundations of inequality of sexes that are built in the minds of people through the socialization process. Education is the most important instrument of human resource development. Educational system should be used to revolutionise the traditional attitudes and inculcate new values of equality.

- [a] i. Mention any two attributes of modern woman. 2**
ii. Why are women's participation and empowerment considered necessary? 2
iii. Which factors adversely affect the education of girls? 2
iv. What benefits did the women get with 'the enactment of the Panchayati Raj Act 1993? 2
v. By what process can we remove the sense of inequality of sexes from the minds of the people? 1
[b] Pick out words from the passage which mean the same as each of the following: 1X3= 3
i. cruel and unfair [para 2] ii. Remove [para 3] iii. Full of people [para 4]

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: 8 mks.

The seasonal problem of water taps running dry is plaguing most of our major cities. With the bigger rivers flowing in trickles and ponds and wells reduced to clay-pits, village women in remote areas have to fetch every drop of water for drinking, cooking, washing and so on, across large distances. This has only worsened a perennial problem, that of widespread

Pollution of water, rendering it unfit for human consumption. The monsoons – and the attendant floods – will not solve this problem. The Delhi Administration is seriously worried about the threat to civic health posed by the polluted waters of the Jamuna. Two new tanks are to be set up to treat sewage. At present only 60 per cent of the 200 million gallons of the city's sewage receives any kind of treatment before it is dumped into the river which supplies water not only to this city but to innumerable towns and villages downstream. The Ganga, the Jamuna, the Cauvery, in fact all our important rivers, serving many urban conglomerations are fast becoming a major source of disease.

A comprehensive bill, introduced in parliament recently, envisages the setting up of Central and State boards for the prevention and control of water pollution. But it will obviously take some time before legislation is passed and effectively implemented. Meanwhile the problem continues to swell.

According to a survey of eight developing countries conducted a couple of years ago, 90 per cent of all child deaths were due to water borne diseases. It is the same unchanged story today. In a country like India, a burgeoning population continuing to use the open countryside as a lavatory means that, with every dust storm and rain, human excreta laden with germs and parasite spores find their way to ponds, shallow wells and even the streams and rivers. Only 18 per cent of the rural folk have access to potable water.

A new threat that has already assumed alarming proportions is from industrial waste which is generally dumped, untreated, into the nearest river. For instance, for every kilogram of processed hide, 30-40 litres of foul smelling waste water has to be disposed of. There are at least 900 licensed tanneries in the organized sector. Putrefied paper and jute waste, metallic waste from straw board and textile mills, sulphur, ammonia, urea, metallic salts and corrosive acids – all find their way to the rivers of India.

It is important not only to make new laws to ensure the purity of water, but also to realize the urgency of implementing them ruthlessly, if we are to avoid a national health disaster cutting across the barrier between towns and the countryside.

[a] On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, in points only, using abbreviations/short forms (minimum 5), wherever possible. Supply a suitable title to it. 5

[b] Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. 3

SECTION – B [Advanced Writing Skills]

35 mks.

3. Your school is organizing a tour to Bombay and Goa during the winter vacation. Write a notice giving detailed information to the students. You are Keshav/Kiran, school pupil leader, St. Columbia's Senior Secondary School, Ameenabad, Lucknow. **5**

OR

Your school is organizing a Science and Technology exhibition. In connection with it, prepare a poster to bring home to the people the importance of conservation of electricity. Your school is A.P. Public School, Daryaganj, Delhi. **5**

4. You are Shreyas/Shristhi, studying in Sun Public School, Allahabad. Your school organized an Inter House Drama Competition for the students of the four houses of your school. Write a report in 100-125 words for your school magazine on the programme. **10**

OR

Write a factual description of the new library cum reading room in your school for the primary class students in 100-125 words. Include details of the layout, display facility, seating arrangement etc.

5. You are Mahendra/Malini living at No. 2, Clement Town, Bangalore. Write a letter to the Editor of 'Deccan Herald' about the poor city bus services and the indifference of drivers and conductors towards the traffic rules. Also suggest ways to improve the services. **10**

OR

Rohtak University is running a correspondence course in MBA. Write a letter to the Director, Correspondence Course Study Centre, Sonapat requesting for a brochure and prospectus. You are Shailendra/Shalini of K.K.Nagar, Delhi.

6. You are Varun/Vani. This year your school arranged a special cultural programme on the theme 'Service and Sacrifice' in commemoration of the International Year of Volunteers. Write an article on this cultural programme for your school magazine in about 150-200 words. **10**

OR

Raghav, a student of class XII, has been asked to make a speech on the 'Ill Effects of Watching Too Much Television.' Write out the speech for him in 125-150 words.

SECTION – C [LITERATURE : TEXT BOOKS & LONG READING TEXTS] 30+15=45 Mks.

7. Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow: **4**

What I want should not be, confused with total inactivity.

Life is what it is about; I want no truck with death.

If we were not so single-minded, about keeping our lives moving,
and for once could do nothing, perhaps a huge silence
might interrupt this sadness, of never understanding ourselves
and of threatening ourselves with death.

- a. What does the poet not want himself to be? **1**
- b. What does the poet advocate? What clarification does she offer? **1**
- c. What is the sadness that the poet refers to? **1**
- d. Do you think that total inactivity referred here by the poet means lethargy and non-working conditions? **1**

OR

... but soon, put that thought away, and
Looked out at Young,
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling,
out of their homes,

- a. Who looked out at Young Trees? **1**
- b. Which thought did she put away? **1**
- c. What do 'Young sprinting trees' signify? **1**
- d. Why does youth like poetess feign to listen to elders but obsessed to their own fancy? **1**

8. Answer any two of the following questions. 2X2=4

- a. Describe the tigers embroidered by Aunt Jennifer on her panels. How do they help to highlight Aunt Jennifer's own life?
- b. What are the things that give sufferings and sadness to man?
- c. Why does the poet compare her mother to 'late winter moon'? What is the pain that the poet feels and why?

9. Answer any six of the following questions. 6X2=12

- a. Describe the conditions of the rag pickers of Seemapuri.
- b. How did the ironmaster finally persuade the peddler to come to his house? What light does this throw on his character?
- c. Who is Geoff? Why does Sophie admire him?
- d. When did Douglas begin to fear water? What was the incident that managed to exacerbate this fear?
- e. Why did the governor allow Evans to appear for his German examination in his prison cell?
- f. In what ways did Hana assist her husband in saving the American prisoner?
- g. Why was Zitkala-Sa terrified when Judewin told her that her hair would be cut?

10. Answer the following question in 100-125 words. 5
What was the order from Berlin? How did that order affect the people of Alsace, particularly M.Hamel and his students?

OR

Though both Mr. Lamb and Derry suffer from a physical disability, their attitude to life is very different. Justify the relevance of this statement with reference to the story 'On the Face of It'?

- 11.** The story 'The Rattrap' focuses on human loneliness and the need to bond with others. Justify the statement by giving examples from the text? (Word limit: 100) **5**
- 12.** What is the gist of the manuscript that Dr. Mortimer read out to Holmes? **8**
- 13.** Write a character sketch of Hugo in so far as his treatment to the farmer's daughter is concerned? **7**

Self-Reliance is the key to success. Good Luck!

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