

Section A : Reading (20 marks)

Q1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

(8)

Machhli turned into an adult at the turn of the 21st century and her very best years were spent guarding prime areas below the Ranthambhore Fort and around a series of three lakes. Centred in the middle of this area is the Rajbagh Palace, where kings and queens lived in times gone by. This summer palace became a citadel for her till 2011.

It was her primary day shelter from where she looked out from Mughal arches and *chhatris* at the ramparts of the fort and watched crocodiles glide by and deer graze below. This was the splendid setting in which she lived. The turn of the century was a difficult moment and poachers were rampant across western and central India. By 2004, the Sariska tiger reserve lost all its tigers due to poaching and Ranthambhore lost half of its tigers for the same reason. Machhli survived this crisis and her remarkable reproductive success regenerated the tiger population.

She was also a master predator and left a huge impact in the annals of the natural history of wild tigers. She was the first tigress in the world to attack a 12-foot crocodile that was edging towards her prey and her cubs. She slowly became the star of endless BBC films that were broadcast to millions across the world. There is no other tigress that provided such an education on the tiger's natural history as she did. The true campaigner for tiger rights! She ruled the lakes of Ranthambhore with an iron fist and tolerated no intrusions. Even big male tigers got the brunt of her anger and the respect she commanded was legendary.

But slowly age takes a toll and as she crossed the age of 12, her canines were worn out and one of them was broken. Machhli, from my records, was the longest living wild tigress in the world and when she died on the morning of August 18, she left behind a void.

J.1. Complete the sentence given below:

Rajbagh palace was home to _____ in the distant past. (1)

1.2. Briefly describe the 'splendid' setting in which Machhli lived. (1)

1.3. What was the crisis faced by tigers at the turn of the century? (1)

1.4. What quality of Machhli is revealed through her encounter with the 12-foot crocodile? (1)

1.5. Explain why the phrase 'iron fist' is used in the context of Machhli? (1)

1.6. How did Machhli get to be known as 'the true campaigner for tiger rights'? Explain in your own words. (2)

1.7. Find one word from the passage which means the same as 'a fort/ fortress'. (1)

Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

(1.

Mansukhbhai Prajapati, a craftsman based in Gujarat, is the creator of Mitticool – a clay refrigerator that works without electricity. The Mitticool refrigerator is a low-cost, no-maintenance device that can be used to store water, fruits, vegetables and milk for days. Mansukhbhai says that Mitticool retains the original taste of fruits and vegetables. Mitticool is an eco-friendly and an innovation that makes efficient use of energy. It has attracted the attention, interest and praise of many people from around the world.

Mansukhbhai's family were potters by profession. As a child, even though Mansukhbhai used to help his father, his mind and interests lay elsewhere. The family hoped that Mansukhbhai would do well in academics, but he dropped out of school and began working in a ceramic tile factory. He dreamt of owning a factory of his own, and zeroed in on an idea.

His family manually made 100 clay *tavas* or flat pans in a day using the potter's wheel. Mansukhbhai thought that he could make many more using a machine, like in the tile factory. So, he borrowed Rs. 30,000, set up a small factory, experimented with different materials and methods and finally was able to make hundreds of clay *tavas* in a single day! As he began getting feedback about these *tavas*, he looked for ways to make them better and to come up with innovative clay products. Soon, he had designed and begun producing clay water filters.

A newspaper headline referring to clay pots as 'the poor man's fridge' set Mansukhbhai thinking. He realized that many people in India couldn't afford a fridge because of the cost and problems with power supply. And that is how the Mitticool refrigerator happened. The Mitticool refrigerator has won Mansukhbhai several awards and encouraged him to make things that would help the masses, especially people in rural areas.

In the last eight years, Mansukhbhai has developed and sold many non-stick clay *tavas*, clay pressure cookers, clay dishes and more. He travels to promote his clay products and is forever trying to improve or customize them. For instance, his factory has already manufactured water filters of different capacities as well as clay thermos flasks. He is thrilled that his 'natural fridge' is an item of luxury for the poor. The man whom the former President of India Dr A P J Abdul Kalam called 'a true scientist' hopes to build houses that do not require electricity at all.

- 2.1. What is the claim-to-fame for Mitticool? (1)
- 2.2. List four key features of Mitticool besides the fact that it works without electricity. (2)
- 2.3. Briefly describe Mansukhbhai's childhood. (2)
- 2.4. List **any two** personality traits of Mansukhbhai as revealed through the passage. (2)
Substantiate your choice of adjectives with suitable examples.
- 2.5. Complete the sentence: (1)
'The poor man's fridge' is a description for _____.
- 2.6. What is the next goal that Mansukhbhai desires to achieve? (1)
- 2.7. Find **one word** from the passage which means the same as following : (3)
i) working productively with no waste of money or effort (para-1)
ii) opinion/responses of customers (para 3)
iii) modify to suit a person or task (para 5)

Section B : Writing and Grammar (25 marks)

- Q3. ✓ You have just witnessed a winning performance by your school team in an inter-school event (sports, cultural, quiz, or any other). In a diary entry, describe the event briefly highlighting your feelings of joy and euphoria as a member of the audience. (120 words) (5)
- Q4. ✓ Write a short story using **any one** of the following opening lines in about 250 words: (10)

✓ i) *The old woman turned and smiled.*

(OR)

✓ ii) *He was born with a silver spoon.*

- Q5. ✓ The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correct word in the answer sheet against the correct blank number. DO NOT COPY THE PASSAGE. (4)

Many feels that theatre is a way for them to escape their lives for a while but enter a new reality where there are lessons to be learn and voices to be heard. It is considered to be one of a most sublime collaborative arts. Artists worked together, putting together the different arts, unlike music, acting, and dancing, to make something big than themselves. People who are active thespians often has stronger mental capabilities than most non thespians.

Incorrect

Correct

- | | |
|-----------|-------|
| (a) _____ | _____ |
| (b) _____ | _____ |
| (c) _____ | _____ |
| (d) _____ | _____ |
| (e) _____ | _____ |
| (f) _____ | _____ |
| (g) _____ | _____ |
| (h) _____ | _____ |

Done

Section C : Literature and Novel (25 marks)

Q8. Read the extracts given below then answer the questions that follow:

*By thirty hills I hurry down...
By twenty thorpes, a little town,
And half a hundred bridges...*

- 1. Which stage of the brook's journey is described in these lines? (1)
- 2. How is this stage different from the brook's journey later in the poem? (1)
- 3. How can one relate this stage to life? (1)

(OR)

*A down the glen rode armed men-
Their trampling sounded nearer.*

- ✓ 1. Who were the armed men and what was the task given to them? (1)
- ✓ 2. To whom did the trampling sound nearer and why? (1)
- ✓ 3. What did the 'runaway' couple fear? (1)

Q9. Attempt the following questions in 50-60 words:

- ✓ a. Explain the line "the music in my heart I bore long after it was heard no more", from the poem, 'The Solitary Reaper'. (2)
- ✓ b. What do you think are some of the challenges the grandmother would have had to face as an elderly woman trying to learn to read? Explain with reference to 'How I Taught My Grandmother to Read'. (2)

✓ Mrs Al Smith and Juliette are no match for Gaston. Explain with two examples from 'Villa For Sale'. (2)

✓ d. What does the fork or the divergence in the road signify in 'The Road Not Taken'? (2)

Q10. Adversity brings forth the best in people and so it did for both Duke and Chuck. Explain with reference to 'A Dog Named Duke' in about 100 words. (4)

(OR)

The only people who never make mistakes are the ones who have never tried. The poet in 'The Road Not Taken' takes a momentous decision which decides the course of his life.

What message does the poem impart to the reader? (100 words)

Q11. a. The novel 'Three Men in a Boat' provides an insight into human character and pulls apart all pretence. It reveals how the protagonists really are, lazy, self-indulgent, and at times quite foolish. Elaborate using at least two examples. (100 words) (5)

b. Describe the personality of Harris using examples from the first ten chapters of the novel, 'Three Men in a Boat'. (100 words) (5)

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