

THE QUESTION PAPER CONTAINS 5 PAGES AND 13 QUESTIONS

**Instructions :**

- (i) All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) You may attempt any section at a time.
- (iii) All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

**SECTION A - Reading**

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1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

1. I was born the 30th of November, 1835, in the almost invisible village of Florida, Monroe County, Missouri. I suppose Florida had less than three hundred inhabitants. It had two streets, each a couple of hundred yards long; the rest of the avenues mere lanes, with rail fences and cornfields on either side. Both the streets and the lanes were paved with the same material—tough black mud in wet times, deep dust in dry.
2. Most of the houses were of logs—all of them, indeed, except three or four; these latter were frame ones. There were none of brick, and none of stone. There was a log church, with a puncheon floor and slab benches. A puncheon floor is made of logs whose upper surfaces have been chipped flat with the adz. The cracks between the logs were not filled; there was no carpet; consequently, if you dropped anything smaller than a peach, it was likely to go through. The church was perched upon short sections of logs, which elevated it two or three feet from the ground. Hogs slept under there, and whenever the dogs got after them during services, the minister had to wait till the disturbance was over. In winter there was always a refreshing breeze up through the puncheon floor; in summer there were fleas enough for all.
3. A slab bench is made of the outside cut of a saw-log, with the bark side down; it is supported on four sticks driven into auger holes at the ends; it has no back and no cushions. The church was twilighted with yellow tallow candles in tin sconces hung against the walls. Week days, the church was a schoolhouse.
4. There were two stores in the village. My uncle, John A. Quarles, was proprietor of one of them. It was a very small establishment, with a few rolls of "bit" calicoes on half a dozen shelves; a few barrels of salt mackerel, coffee, and New Orleans sugar behind the counter; stacks of brooms, shovels, axes, hoes, rakes, and such things here and there; a lot of cheap hats, bonnets, and tinware strung on strings and suspended from the walls; and at the other end of the room was another counter with bags of shot on it, a cheese or two, and a keg of powder; in front of it a row of nail kegs and a few pigs of lead, and behind it a barrel or two of New Orleans molasses and native corn whisky on tap. If a boy bought five or ten cents' worth of anything, he was entitled to half a handful of sugar from the barrel; if a woman bought a few yards of calico she was entitled to a spool of thread in addition to the usual gratis "trimmin's"; if a man bought a trifle, he was at liberty to draw and swallow as big a drink of whisky as he wanted.
5. Everything was cheap: apples, peaches, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, and corn, ten cents a bushel; chickens, ten cents apiece; butter, six cents a pound; eggs, three cents a dozen; coffee and sugar, five cents a pound; whisky, ten cents a gallon. I do not know how prices are out there in interior Missouri now, but I know what they are here in Hartford, Connecticut. To wit: apples, three dollars a bushel; peaches, five dollars; Irish potatoes (choice Bermudas), five dollars; chickens, a dollar to a dollar and a half apiece, according to weight; butter, forty-five to sixty cents a pound.

(An Excerpt from Mark Twain's Autobiography)

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices:

(a) Lanes in Florida were paved with .....

- (i) wet earth and shingles
- (ii) black mud in wet times and deep dust in the dry months
- (iii) black mud in wet times and dry mud in dry times
- (iv) dry mud in wet times and wet mud in dry times

(b) During weekdays the local church served as a .....

- (i) bazaar
- (ii) pilgrim spot
- (iii) schoolhouse
- (iv) priest's lodgings



(c) If a boy customer bought five to ten cents' worth of goods he was entitled to .....

(i) a spoonful of molasses free

(ii) a bale of calico

(iii) a cheese or two

(iv) half a handful of sugar

(d) The church was twilighted with .....

(i) red candles

(ii) beautiful lighthouse

(iii) yellow bulbs

(iv) yellow tallow candles

1.2 Answer the following questions briefly.

(a) Mention two facts about the writer's early life.

(b) How were the houses built in his village?

(c) What bonus was offered to customers at the local store?

(d) Write four aspects of the local church in the writer's village.

(e) What was the cost of a bushel of apples in Hartford Cost?

(f) How were the streets of Florida in 1835?

1.3 Find words/phrases from the passage which mean the same as:

(a) existing naturally in a place (para 4)

(b) as a result (para 2)

2. Read the given poem carefully and answer the questions that follow.

A father sees his son nearing manhood.

What shall he tell that son?

"Life is hard; be steel; be a rock."

And this might stand him for the storms

and serve him for humdrum monotony

and guide him among sudden betrayals

and tighten him for slack moments.

"Life is a soft loam; be gentle; go easy."

And this too might serve him.

Brutes have been gentled where lashes failed.

The growth of a frail flower in a path up

has sometimes shattered and split a rock.

A tough will counts. So does desire.

So does a rich soft wanting.

Without rich wanting nothing arrives.

Tell him too much money has killed men

and left them dead years before burial:

the quest of lucre beyond a few easy needs

has twisted good enough men

sometimes into dry thwarted worms.

Tell him time as a stuff can be wasted.

Tell him to be a fool every so often

and to have no shame over having been a fool

yet learning something out of every folly



hoping to repeat none of the cheap follies  
 thus arriving at intimate understanding  
 of a world numbering many fools.  
 Tell him to be alone often and get at himself...  
 Carl Sandburg

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2.1 On the basis of your reading of the above poem, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given options.

- (a) The father asked his son to be hard as steel to \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) face the problems of life boldly (ii) be able to bear setbacks  
 (iii) be unaffected during sad times (iv) youthful days of man
- (b) The underlying theme of the poem is that \_\_\_\_\_  
 (i) one should earn a lot of money (ii) one should be tough and strong  
 (iii) one shouldn't behave like a fool (iv) one should not be gentle and easy going 2

2.2 Answer the following questions briefly.

- (a) Explain the line: "Life is a soft loam; be gentle; go easy."  
 (b) Which line tells that 'love is more powerful than cruelty'.  
 (c) Why has the poet described the life both as hard and soft at the same time?  
 (d) What wonders can a tough will do?  
 (e) What does the 'quest of lucre' signify?  
 (f) Why should one be a fool and be at oneself sometime? 6

2.3 Which words from the poem can be replaced by the following words?

- (a) boring (lines 5-10) (b) riches (lines 15-20) 2

3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the follow.

- Every living creature has a time machine that regulates activities. It tells man or animal when to wake up, when to sleep, when to slow down physiological activities, regulating the body temperature and release of specific hormones at the proper time. A few call it biological clock while others refer to it as circadian (circa, about; dian, day) clock. Its study is known as chronobiology.
- The human body clock completes its cycle over a period of about 24 hours. In the normal circumstances activities of nerve cells drive the clock. In day-to-day life, one never experiences the rhythms of this state because the clock is always influenced by time cues in the environment.
- These cues, called "zeitgebers" (a German word meaning "time givers"), synchronise the clock with the daily solar cycle. Daylight, physical activity, diet and social behaviours are the well known zeitgebers. How they influence the clock is still unknown, but it is certain that all the cues are interdependent. For example, regular cycle of sleep and activity affects the time we eat, social interaction and even exposure to daylight.
- To prove that humans possess an internal, self-sustaining clock and do not simply adjust their behaviour in response to environmental time cues, it was essential to create a "time-free" environment. The first experiments of this kind were carried out in the late 1970s and early 1980s by groups in Europe and the US. During the experiment, which continued for months, the subject chooses when he or she eats and sleeps, but no information is given about time — no TV, no radio, no social contacts and no clock. It soon emerged that subjects placed in such an environment do not slip into random habits but maintain a routine, powerful evidence for the existence of an internal body clock in men. All of the subjects in the experiments, regardless of whether they were interested in what they were doing, tended to wake up at regular times.
- Every person to an extent has an alarm clock fitted in the mind. Give it a try. Think and set the time in your brain before you go off to sleep. To your assignment your brain will transmit signals and you will wake up at the required time. Our biological clock is set accordingly and that's the reason that counsellors suggest students not to disturb their clock during the exams as it disturbs the whole metabolism. The 24-hr body clock should start at the regular time to have optimum performance during the exams. If we are regular and keep our routine under check we hardly need reminders for day-to-day activities. We need not see the clock for our lunch, dinner or other times.



- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using headings and subheadings. Use recognisable abbreviations, wherever necessary (minimum 4). Use a format you consider suitable. 5
- (b) Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. 3

### SECTION B: ADVANCED WRITING SKILLS

30 MARKS

Q4. An inter class drama competition is to be held in St. Stephens School, Visakhapatnam. As Akash, Head Boy of the school draft a notice to be put up on the notice board inviting entries. Provide all necessary information in about 50 words. 4

You are Reshma/Rajan Head Girl/Head Boy of Moonrise Public School, Chandigarh. A cooking competition is going to take place in your school. Write a notice to be displayed on the school notice board informing the students of the competition and inviting them to participate. Draft the notice in about 50 words giving all necessary details. 4

Q5. You are Shekhar/Shweta of 4, Balaji Road Kurnool. You bought LED lights (2 wall lights, 4 mirror lights and a panel light) from Indigo Lights a month ago. Many of the lights got fused within a month though the guarantee period is a year. Write a letter of complaint in 120-150 words to the Manager, Indigo Lights, Kurnool about your grievance asking him to do the needful immediately. 6

Or

You are Deepak/Dhanya 14, Mall Road Kochi. You saw an advertisement put up by Excellent Coaching Centre which provides coaching for Medical Entrance Exam. As you are interested in enrolling yourself, write a letter in 120-150 words to the Director, Excellent Coaching Centre, Chennai requesting him to inform you about the necessary details. 6

Q6. Newspapers report news with honesty and sincerity. As Dev, write an article in 150-200 words on 'Importance of Newspapers in Life'. You are Dev/Devika. 10

Or

The Green Club of your school celebrated 'Van Mahotsava and Environment Protection Week' involving students of your school. Eminent environmentalists, journalists and celebrities were also invited. Write a report in 100-125 words on the activities performed for a local daily. You are Amrit/Amrita, Secretary of the Club. 10

Q7. A newspaper had a news item on a clay modelling competition as part of the International Day of the Deaf. Inspired by it write a speech in 150-200 words to be delivered during the morning assembly on the problems of the differently abled and how we can make their lives comfortable in society. 10

Or

'The Internet cannot replace a classroom teacher'. Write a debate in 150-200 words either for or against the motion. 10

### SECTION C: TEXT BOOKS & EXTENDED READING TEXT (Novels) 40

Q8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow: 1×4=4

Break O break open till they break the town  
and show the children to green fields, and make their world  
Run azure on gold sands, .....

- Name the poem and the poet. 1
- Who are the 'children' referred to in these lines? 1
- What does the poet want for the children? 1
- What is the poet's attitude towards these children? 1

Or

'A bower quiet for us, and a sleep  
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.  
Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing  
A flowery band to bind us to earth',  
.....

- Name the poem and the poet. 1
- What does the bower provide us with? 1
- What are we doing every morning? 1
- Give antonym of the word, 'quiet'. 1



Q.9. Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each :

3×4=12

- (a) Who were sitting on the back benches on the day of the last lesson? Why?
- (b) When did Douglas' dislike of water first begin?
- (c) How do beautiful things influence our lives?
- (d) How did the Tiger King save his kingdom from the British?
- (e) What did Dr. Sadao understand more about the wound on peering into it?
- (f) How was Mukesh different from other bangle makers?

Q.10. Answer the following in 120-150 words:

6

"All we have to fear is fear itself." Describe Douglas's experiences which led to the making of this statement.

Or

What kind of life did Saheb lead at Seemapuri?

Q.11. Answer the following in 120-150 words:

6

A doctor is supposed to be gentle and humane. How did Sadao show these qualities in the story, "The Enemy"?

Or

Different generations can have different views. Such differences should be respected. What is the difference between Jo's and Jack's views on Roger Skunk story.

Q.12. Answer the following in 120-150 words:

Why did the invisible man decide to reveal himself? How did he do it?

Q.13. Answer the following in 120-150 words:

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Attempt a character sketch of Mrs. Hall.

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