



TIME - 3 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS - 100

SECTION -A (READING - 30 MARKS)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

(12)

1. In 1582, King Philip II of Spain received a letter from the Mughal Emperor Akbar of India. Akbar wrote: "As most men are fettered by bonds of tradition, and by imitating ways followed by their fathers ... everyone continues, without investigating their arguments and reasons, to follow the religion in which he was born and educated, thus excluding himself from the possibility of ascertaining the truth, which is the noblest aim of the human intellect. Therefore we associate at convenient seasons with learned men of all religions, thus deriving profit from their exquisite discourses and exalted aspirations."
2. Akbar the Great chided Philip for the anti-Protestant excesses of the Spanish Counter-reformation. Spain's Catholic inquisitors had by this time mostly rid the country of Muslims and Jews, so turned their murderous attentions to Protestant Christians instead, particularly in Spanish-ruled Holland.
3. Although Philip II did not heed Akbar's call for religious tolerance, it is indicative of the Mughal emperor's attitudes towards people of other faiths.
4. Akbar is also renowned for his patronage of the arts and sciences. Miniature painting, weaving, book-making, metallurgy, and technological innovations all flourished under his reign.

Who was this emperor, famed for his wisdom and goodness? How did he become one of the greatest rulers in world history?

5. Akbar was born to the second Mughal Emperor Humayun and his teenaged bride Hamida Banu Begum on October 14, 1542 in Sindh, now in Pakistan. Although his ancestors included both Genghis Khan and Timur (Tamerlane), the family was on the run after losing Babur's newly-established empire. Humayun would not regain northern India until 1555.

With his parents in exile in Persia, little Akbar was raised by his uncle in Afghanistan, with help from a series of nursemaids. He practiced key skills like hunting, but never learned to read. Nonetheless, throughout his life, Akbar had texts on philosophy, history, religion, science and other topics read to him, and could recite long passages of what he had heard from memory.

6. In 1555, Humayun died just months after retaking Delhi. Akbar ascended the Mughal throne at the age of 13, and became Shahanshah ('King of Kings'). His regent was Bayram Khan, his childhood guardian and an outstanding warrior/statesman.
7. The young emperor almost immediately lost Delhi once more to the Hindu leader Hemu. However, in November of 1556, General Bayram Khan and Khan Zaman I defeated Hemu's much larger army at the Second Battle of Panipat. Hemu himself was shot through the eye as he rode into battle atop an elephant; the Mughal army captured and executed him.
8. When he came of age at 18, Akbar dismissed the increasingly overbearing Bayram Khan and took direct control of the empire and army. Bayram was ordered to make the hajj to Mecca; instead, he started a rebellion against Akbar. The young emperor's forces defeated Bayram's rebels at Jalandhar, in the Punjab; rather than executing the rebel leader, Akbar mercifully allowed his former regent another chance to go to Mecca. This time Bayram Khan went.

I. On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option. (1X4=4)

a) According to Akbar one can ascertain the truth if one:

- i) breaks the bond of tradition
- ii) uses reasons
- iii) questions the way one has been brought up to think
- iv) all of the above

b) Philip-II was:

- i) Jew
- ii) Protestant Christian
- iii) Catholic
- iv) Muslim

c) Akbar wrote to Philip II:

- i) to congratulate him for winning a war
- ii) to urge him to be tolerant of other religions
- iii) Philip was reforming the country
- iv) he was trying to conquer Holland

d) Akbar ordered Bayram Khan to make the Hajj as:

- i) Akbar wanted to punish him
- ii) Bayram had become overbearing
- iii) Bayram was not interested in war any more
- iv) both (i) and (ii)

II. Answer the following questions as briefly as possible. (1X5=5)

e) What according to Akbar was the noblest aim of intellect?

f) Whom was Phillip-II executing and why?

g) What was Akbar's approach towards Arts and Sciences?

h) Which incident proves that Akbar was a kind ruler?

i) Who was Adham Khan? Why did Akbar execute him?

III. Find words from the passage which mean the same as:

(1X3=3)

a) Rebuked (para 2)

b) pinpointing (para 3)

c) stealing (para 9)

2. Read the following passage carefully:

(10)

1) Basset Harrowcluff returned to the home and his fathers, after an absence of four years, distinctly well pleased with himself. He was only thirty-one, but he had put in some useful service in an out-of-the-way , though not unimportant, corner of the world. He had quieted a province, kept open a trade route, enforced the tradition of respect which is worth the ransom of many kings in out-of-the-way regions, and done the whole business on rather less expenditure than would be requisite for organizing a charity in the home country. In Whitehall and places where they think, they doubtless thought well of him. It was not inconceivable, his father allowed himself to imagine, that Basset's name might figure in the next list of Honours.

2) Basset was inclined to be rather contemptuous of his half-brother, Lucas, whom he found feverishly engrossed in the same medley of elaborate futilities that had claimed his whole time and energies, such as they were, four years ago, and almost as far back before that as he could remember. It was the contempt of the man of action for the man of activities, and it was probably reciprocated. Lucas was an over-well nourished individual, some nine years Basset's senior, with a colouring that would have been accepted as a sign of intensive culture in an asparagus, but probably meant in this case mere abstention from exercise. His hair and forehead furnished a recessional note in a personality that was in all other respects obtrusive and assertive. There was certainly a suggestion of Jewish extraction. Clovis Sangrail, who knew most of his associates by sight, said it was undoubtedly a case of protective mimicry.

3) Two days after Basset's return, Lucas frisked in to lunch in a state of twittering excitement that could not be restrained even for the immediate consideration of soup, but had to be verbally discharged in spluttering competition with mouthfuls of vermicelli.

"I've got hold of an idea for something immense," he babbled, "Something that is simply It."

flitted in and out of 'Gambirinus' for one or two evenings, and returned home with an air of subdued importance and the asparagus tint slightly intensified. The great idea was generally forgotten a few weeks later in the excitement of some new discovery.

I. Answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option: (1X2=2)

a) Basset was truly a man of action as he:

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| i) had quieted a province | ii) had kept open a trade route |
| iii) had enforced military action | iv) both (i) and (ii) |

b) Basset disliked Lucas as:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| i) Lucas was his half brother | ii) He liked asparagus |
| iii) he threw silly luncheon parties | iv) both (i) and (ii) |

II. Answer the following questions as briefly as possible. (1X6=6)

- c) Why did people think well of Basset?
- d) What was Lucas' appearance like?
- e) How did Lucas behave at luncheon one day?
- f) What would Lucas do after he made one of his discoveries?
- g) What would be Lucas' demeanor after he returned home from town?
- h) What happened to his ideas eventually?

III. Find words from the passage which are similar in meaning to the following: (1X2=2)

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|--------------------------|----------------------|
| a) unimaginable (para 1) | b) absorbed (para 2) |
|--------------------------|----------------------|

3. Read the following passage carefully: (8)

People tend to amass possessions, sometimes without being aware of doing so. They can have a delightful surprise when they find something useful which they did not know they owned. Those who never have to change house become indiscriminate collectors of what can only be described as clutter. They leave unwanted objects in drawers, cupboards and attics for years in the belief that they may one day need them. Old people also accumulate belonging for two other reasons, lack of physical and mental energy, and sentiment. Things owned for a long time are full of associations with the past, perhaps with the relatives who are dead, and so they gradually acquire a sentimental value.

Some things are collected deliberately in an attempt to avoid wastage. Among these are string and brown paper, kept by thrifty people when a parcel has been opened. Collecting small items can be a mania. A lady cuts out from newspapers sketches of model clothes that she would like to buy if she had money. As she is not rich, the chances are that she will never be able to afford such purchases. It is a harmless habit, but it litters up her desk. Collecting as a serious hobby is quite different and has many advantages. It provides relaxation for leisure hours, as just looking at one's treasure is always a joy. One doesn't have to go out for amusement as the collection is housed at home. Whatever it consists of - stamps, records, first editions of books, china - there is always something to do in connection with it, from finding the right place for the latest addition to verifying facts in reference books. This hobby educates one not only in the chosen subject, but also in general matters which have some bearing on it.

There are other benefits also. One gets to meet like-minded collectors to get advice. Compare notes, exchange articles, to show off one's latest find. So one's circle of friends grows. Soon the hobby leads to travelling, perhaps a meeting in another town, possibly a trip abroad in search of a rare specimen, for collectors are not confined to one country. Over the years one may well become an authority on one's hobby and will probably be asked to give informal talks to little gatherings and then, if successful, to large audience.

A. On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary - minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it.

(5)

(3)

- ✓ 4. You have planned to organize a summer camp for the children of age group 10-13 years for developing their creative skills in art—craft, clay modeling, music etc. in your school during the month of May. Draft a notice in not more than 50 words for your notice-board giving details. Mention the last date of registration of the students. You are Reena/Roshan, Secretary Art and Craft Club, B.V. Public School, Chandigarh. (4)
5. You are a member of the Eye Bank Society. Write a letter to the editor to spread awareness regarding the importance of bequeathing one's eyes after death. Highlight how important the donation is for the blind. (6)
6. You are Nitin/Navya. You have to participate in a debate for the motion, 'Westernization has eroded Indian culture'. Write this debate in 150-200 words. (10)
7. These days young boys and girls are attracted towards hefty pay packages offered by multinational companies especially in the call-centres. But the same has created a health hazard for these ambitious children as they are prone to obesity, blood pressure, heart problems and above all exposed to high levels of stress. Write an article on such hazards in 200 words. (10)

SECTION -C TEXT BOOKS AND EXTENDED READING TEXT (40 MARKS)

8. Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow: (1X 4 =4)
- Those who prepare green wars,
Wars with gas, wars with fire, victory with no survivors
Would put on clean clothes and walk about
With their brothers in the shade, doing nothing.
- What are green wars?
 - How will the few moments of introspection affect the people?
 - Explain the irony in "Victory with no survivors".
 - Name the poem and the poet.
9. Answer the following questions in about 40-50 words each. (4X3=12)
- What does the line "Therefore are we wreathing a flowery band to bind us to earth" suggest to you?
 - What is the misadventure that William Douglas speaks about?
 - Do you think Sadao's final action of sending the enemy to a safe place was the best possible solution? Give reasons for your answer.
 - What does Jack actually want Jo to know and understand in the story told by him that day?
10. Answer the following question in 150 words: (6)
- Saheb lost all the joy and freedom by working in the tea stall where he was no longer his own master. Do you think his decision was wise or could he have made a better choice? Do you think Mukesh was in a better situation compared to Saheb? Give reasons for your answer.
11. 'Man proposes God disposes'. This is the sentiment that is amply proved by the story 'The Tiger King'. Explain in 150 words. (6)
12. All encounters, however ugly, have an element of humour in them and reflect human nature at its most absurd. Explain with reference to any one encounter in 'The Invisible Man'. (150 words) (6)

13. Griffin is on the run once he is exposed as the 'Invisible Man'. Describe how he meets Marvel and forces him to do his bidding. (150 words) (6)

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9. Although he was out from under Bayram Khan's control, Akbar still faced challenges to his authority from within the palace. The son of his nursemaid, a man called Adham Khan, killed another adviser in the palace after the victim discovered that Adham was embezzling tax funds. Enraged both by the murder and by the betrayal of his trust, Akbar had Adham Khan thrown from the parapets of the castle. From that point forward, Akbar was in control of his court and country, rather than being a tool of palace intrigues.

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