

SECTION A – READING (45 MARKS)

Q.1 Read the passage and answer the questions that follow: [15 Marks]

Passage

Next time you see a pretty ivory carving in a shop window, think of the elephant that died for it. Animal heads stuck on a wall as trophies, tiger skins on the floor, butterflies within glass frames—all decorative items but do we really need them?

Take for example elephants, the fatalities are horrifying. Between 1863 and 1900, over forty thousand elephants were captured or killed in India. Today bull elephants with tusks have all but disappeared from the Kerala jungles. The African elephant is also depleting at an alarming rate. The bad news is that now even walruses are being hunted in the Arctic for their tusks.

The use of elephant tusks can, over time, be substituted by Brazil nut, sandal-wood bone or other material. Some ingenious craftsmen are using plastic instead of ivory for inlay work in wood.

The uses of rhinoceros horn in Chinese medicine, and for making dagger handles, is another example of how callous the animal trade can be. Prized by oil-rich Arabs, every dagger means the killing of a rhino. There were 65,000 black rhinos in Africa in 1970. Twenty years later, only 2,400 were left. No other animal has been threatened with such rapid extinction before and all for dagger handles and dubious oriental medicine.

In Zimbabwe and Namibia, a unique experiment was attempted to save the rhino. The rhinos are being scientifically dehorned. It was thought that as the poachers are not interested in anything else, the killing would stop too. The problem is that the horn grows back and dehorning is an expensive process.

(a) Given below is the summary of the paragraph. Complete it by writing the missing word against the correct blank number. [08 marks]

Question

Between 1863 and 1900 over 40 thousand elephants were:

(i) _____ or (ii) _____ in India as a result (iii) _____.

Elephants with (iv) _____ have disappeared from (v) _____ jungles.

The (vi) _____ of African elephant is also (vii) _____ and man has now turned to killing (viii) _____ for tusks.

Answer (a)

(i) captured

(ii) killed

(iii) animal trade / hunting for ivory

- (iv) tusks
- (v) Kerala
- (vi) population / number
- (vii) depleting
- (viii) walruses

(b) On the basis of your reading of the passage complete the following statements as briefly as possible. [04 marks]

Question & Answers

(i) Items used as substitutes for tusks are :

- (a) _____
- (b) _____

Answer:

- (a) Brazil nut
 - (b) sandal-wood bone
- (You may also write: plastic)*

(ii) Animal trade is callous because _____.

Answer:

it kills animals for decorative items, tusks, horns and dagger handles.

(iii) Extinction of rhino in twenty years is rapid because _____.

Answer:

their number fell from 65,000 to only 2,400 in twenty years.

(iv) The dehorning experiment proved to be futile because

- (a) _____
- (b) _____

Answer:

- (a) the horn grows back
- (b) dehorning is expensive

(c) Give one word from the passage of the same meaning [03 marks]

Question

- (i) Without a like or equal – _____
- (ii) Of uncertain outcome – _____
- (iii) Marked by originality – _____

Answer (c)

- (i) unique
- (ii) dubious
- (iii) ingenious

Q.2 Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:- [15 Marks]

Passage

Supposing you have to make a payment of Rs. 100/- you can do so in rupee-coin; but it would be cumbersome to pay in nickel or copper coins, because they are heavy to carry and also because it takes much time to count them. The government therefore permits you to make the payment in rupee notes. What are these rupee notes really? They are a kind of money, right enough, although they are made of paper instead of metal. You can use them in just the same way that you use ordinary money. The reason why they are made of paper and used in that way save the trouble of carrying metal coins about - of course, paper is lighter than metal - and they also have using silver and other metals when they are scarce. What makes these mere pieces of paper bear the value of the number of rupees, which is printed upon them? Why should a piece of paper, with "100" printed on it be worth twenty times as much as a piece of paper with "five" printed on it and also worth guarantees that the piece of paper is worth the amount printed on it and promises to pay the amount to anybody who wishes to exchange the paper for the rupee coins. Also if you think about it you can easily realize those crores and crores of more rupee-coins would have to be minted, if all paper money was abolished.

Perhaps you may ask, "Then why not have paper money only? Why use silver and nickel and copper at all." The answer is because money must, as we have already said, be something so useful that everyone wants. Also because the metals are the best form of money; and thirdly because it would keep prices at their proper natural level. If any Government prints too much paper money, then prices go up at once. The supply of money is increased and therefore its value (in food, cloths, books, houses, land, tools and everything else) goes down.

Questions and Answers

(a) State two reasons, why does the government allow payment to be made in paper notes? [2 marks]

Answer:

The government allows payment in paper notes because:

1. Paper notes are lighter and easier to carry than metal coins.
 2. They save time in counting and avoid the trouble of carrying many coins.
-

(b) What is more valuable and why? To have 100 rupee-coins in silver or a Rs 100 note in paper? [2 marks]

Answer:

Both are equally valuable because the Rs 100 note represents the same value as 100 rupee-coins. The government guarantees its value and promises payment equal to the amount printed on it.

(c) Why should we not have only paper money? Why should we not print as much of it as possible? [3 marks]

Answer:

We should not have only paper money because:

1. Money should have some real value and usefulness, like metals.
 2. Metals are considered a better and more stable form of money.
 3. If too much paper money is printed, prices rise and the value of money falls.
-

(d) Why should the prices of commodities go up when there is plenty of paper money? [2 marks]

Answer:

When there is too much paper money, the supply of money increases, so the value of money decreases. As a result, prices of goods and commodities go up.

(e) Write the meaning of 'Cumbersome' and 'abolished' as inferred from the passage. Also write sentences in your own words. [2 marks]

Answer:

1. Cumbersome = difficult to carry or manage / troublesome

Sentence: Carrying a bag full of coins is very cumbersome.

2. Abolished = ended completely / done away with

Sentence: The old rule was abolished by the school principal.

(f) What is the real use of money according to you? State any two. [2 marks]

Answer:

Two real uses of money are:

1. It is used to buy goods and services.
 2. It makes trade and payment easy and convenient.
-

(g) Why does the government print only a certain number of paper notes, and not as many as it likes arbitrarily? [2 marks]

Answer:

The government prints only a limited number of paper notes because printing too much paper money would increase the supply of money, reduce its value, and cause prices to rise. Therefore, paper money must be controlled carefully.

Q.3 Read the given poem and answer the questions that follow:- [15 marks]

Poem

Does the road wind up-hill all the way?
Yes, to the very end.
Will the day's journey take the whole long day?
From morn to night, my friend.
But is there for the night a resting-place?
A roof for when the slow, dark hours begin.
May not the darkness hide it from my face?
You cannot miss that inn.
Shall I meet other wayfarers at night?
Those who have gone before.
Then must I knock, or call when just in sight?
They will not keep you waiting at that door.
Shall I find comfort, travel-sore and weak?
Of labour you shall find the sum.
Yea, beds for all who come.

Questions and Answers

(a) What makes the journey up-hill long and tedious? [2 marks]

Answer:

The journey is up-hill all the way and lasts from morning to night, so it becomes long and tedious.

(b) Where can the traveller stop for rest? [2 marks]

Answer:

The traveller can stop for rest at an inn / a resting-place / a roof for the night.

(c) What is most welcome to the traveller at the end of the journey? [1 mark]

Answer:

Comfort and a bed for rest are most welcome to the traveller at the end of the journey.

(d) Why does the traveller ask questions all the way as he travels up-hill? [3 marks]

Answer:

The traveller asks questions because he is tired, uncertain and anxious about the difficult journey ahead. He wants to know:

- whether the road is long,
 - whether there is a place to rest,
 - whether he will find comfort and company at the end.
-

(e) Change any four questions in the poem into declarative statement. [4 marks]

Answer:

1. The road winds up-hill all the way.
2. The day's journey takes the whole long day.
3. There is a resting-place for the night.
4. The traveller will meet other wayfarers at night.

(You can write any other four correct declarative statements from the poem.)

(f) Explain in your own words the line – 'Of labour you shall find the sum'. [3 marks]

Answer:

The line means that at the end of life's hard journey, a person will get the result or reward of all his hard work and struggles. It suggests that after labour and suffering, one will finally receive rest, peace and the fruit of one's efforts.

Q.4 Write an essay on any ONE of the following topics :- (Word limit 120–150 words.) [15 Marks]

Topics given in the question

- (a) Co-operation**
- (b) Why I want to join RIMC**
- (c) My most unforgettable person**

(a) Essay on Co-operation

Co-operation means working together to achieve a common goal. It is one of the most important qualities in human life. No person can live happily and successfully without the help of others. Co-operation teaches us unity, discipline, kindness and mutual respect.

At home, family members co-operate with one another in daily work. In school, students and teachers work together to create a good learning environment. In games too, co-operation among team members is necessary for success. Even in society and in the nation, progress is possible only when people help and support one another.

Co-operation removes selfishness and develops the feeling of brotherhood. It makes difficult tasks easy and creates peace and harmony. We should always be ready to co-operate with our parents, teachers, friends and neighbours. A co-operative person is liked and respected by everyone.

(b) Essay on Why I Want to Join RIMC

RIMC is one of the most prestigious institutions in India. I want to join RIMC because it gives quality education, discipline, leadership training and a chance to serve the nation. My dream is to become an officer in the Indian Armed Forces, and I believe RIMC is the right place to begin that journey.

RIMC helps students grow physically, mentally and morally. It provides excellent education along with sports, personality development and military values. Life in RIMC teaches self-confidence, punctuality, courage and responsibility. These qualities are very important for success in life.

I want to study in an environment where discipline and patriotism are given great importance. By joining RIMC, I will get an opportunity to improve myself and prepare

for a bright future in the defence services. It will help me become a responsible citizen and a proud servant of the nation.

(c) Essay on My Most Unforgettable Person

The most unforgettable person in my life is my mother. She is the one who loves me the most and always supports me in every situation. She takes care of the whole family and works hard from morning till night without complaining.

My mother is kind, loving, patient and understanding. She teaches me good manners, honesty, discipline and respect for others. Whenever I face any difficulty, she encourages me and gives me the strength to move forward. Her words always fill me with confidence.

I can never forget the sacrifices she makes for our happiness. She always puts the needs of the family before her own. She is not only my mother but also my guide, teacher and best friend. I admire her deeply and want to become a good human being like her. That is why she is the most unforgettable person in my life.

Q.5 Write a letter to your mentor describing your strength, weakness and the other qualities you possess. You are Naman / Niti from Prarthna Colony, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. [10 Marks]

Answer to Q.5

Prarthna Colony
Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh

Date: 10 April 2026

Dear Mentor,

I hope you are doing well. I am writing this letter to share with you my strengths, weaknesses and some other qualities that I possess.

One of my greatest strengths is that I am sincere and hardworking. I complete my tasks on time and always try to give my best in studies as well as other activities. I am also disciplined, honest and respectful towards my teachers and elders. I enjoy learning new things and I remain calm even in difficult situations.

At the same time, I know that I also have some weaknesses. Sometimes I become nervous while speaking in front of many people. I also overthink small mistakes. However, I am working on these weaknesses and trying to improve myself every day.

I believe I am a responsible, helpful and determined person. With your guidance, I hope to become a better version of myself.

Yours sincerely,
Naman / Niti

Q.6 You are Darsh / Tanvi of Merry Public School, Hapur. You are concerned about the terrible floods and droughts that result in heavy loss of human lives and loss of livestock every year. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily urging the central and state government to take measures to minimise such natural calamities. [10 Marks]

Answer to Q.6

Merry Public School
Hapur

Date: 10 April 2026

To
The Editor
A National Daily

Subject: Need for effective measures to reduce the impact of floods and droughts

Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I would like to draw the attention of the central and state governments towards the serious problem of floods and droughts in our country. Every year these natural calamities cause heavy loss of human life, crops, property and livestock.

Floods destroy villages, roads and fields, while droughts lead to water scarcity, crop failure and starvation. Poor farmers suffer the most. The government must take proper steps such as building strong embankments, improving drainage systems, constructing water reservoirs, promoting rainwater harvesting and planting more trees. Early warning systems and timely rescue arrangements should also be strengthened.

Relief funds should reach the affected people quickly, and farmers must be given compensation and support. Long-term planning and proper management can reduce the damage caused by such disasters.

I hope the concerned authorities will take immediate action.

Yours faithfully,
Darsh / Tanvi

Q.7 Look at the picture given below and write a story in about 120–150 words. [10 Marks]

Answer – Story Writing

The Changing Times

The picture shows how times have changed from 1986 to 2026. In 1986, children spent their free time playing outdoors under the trees. They laughed, ran, talked to one another and enjoyed nature. Their games kept them active, healthy and happy. They made friends easily and learned sharing, teamwork and cooperation.

In 2026, the picture is very different. Children are sitting together, but instead of talking or playing, they are busy looking at their mobile phones. Though they are physically close, they seem mentally far away from each other. Technology has made life easier, but it has also reduced outdoor games and real human interaction.

This picture gives us a clear message. We should use technology wisely, but we must not forget the joy of outdoor games, friendship and real communication.

Moral: Technology should be used wisely and in balance.

Q.8 Rewrite the sentences by following the instructions given in the brackets

(a) He left the hospital as soon as the police came.

(Negative sentence)

Answer: He did not leave the hospital until the police came.

(b) Besides being intelligent, he is honest.

(Compound sentence)

Answer: He is intelligent and also honest.

(c) He was too happy to control himself.

(Compound sentence)

Answer: He was very happy, so he could not control himself.

(d) She wanted to know why he was absent.

(Simple sentence)

Answer: She wanted to know the reason for his absence.

(e) He was late sometimes.

(Negative sentence)

Answer: He was not always punctual.

(f) Hari said, "My father left for Tokyo yesterday."

(Change into indirect speech)

Answer: Hari said that his father had left for Tokyo the previous day.

(g) Dinesh asked Geeta where she had been the day before yesterday.

(Change into direct speech)

Answer: Dinesh said to Geeta, "Where were you the day before yesterday?"

(h) He knew how to solve the problem.

(Change into passive voice)

Answer: It was known to him how the problem could be solved.

(i) He was being requested by his brother to complete the project.

(Change into active voice)

Answer: His brother was requesting him to complete the project.

(j) Nadal is the best tennis player on clay courts.

(Use "better")

Answer: Nadal is better than any other tennis player on clay courts.

Q.9 Rearrange the following words and phrases to form meaningful sentences

(a) and a very / the king / talented sculptor / Pygmalion was / of Cyprus.

Answer: Pygmalion was the king of Cyprus and a very talented sculptor.

(b) was a / about twenty / childhood / delight / years ago.

Answer: About twenty years ago, childhood was a delight.

(c) work and play / different things / they see / as two.

Answer: They see work and play as two different things.

(d) in this / many stages / poem / life has / a man's / the poet described.

Answer: In this poem, the poet has described many stages of a man's life.

(e) playing / feel / is a / waster of / they / time / that.

Answer: They feel that playing is a waster of time.

Q.10 Give an idiom or phrase which mean the following:- [05 Marks]

(a) Reverse a situation

→ Turn the tables

(b) Very different from each other

→ Poles apart

(c) From a reliable source

→ Straight from the horse's mouth

(d) Very quickly

→ In the blink of an eye

(e) Completely or thoroughly

→ Inside out

Q.11 Underline the part in each of the following sentences as per the grammatical term given within brackets against each sentence. [1 × 10 = 10 Marks]

(a) All are coming tomorrow. (Predicate)

Answer: are coming tomorrow

(b) Running is a good exercise. (Gerund)

Answer: Running

(c) Look at the smiling faces. (Participle)

Answer: smiling

(d) They gave me money. (Object)

Answer: money

(e) Is Ram with all his friends coming to our house? (Subject)

Answer: Ram with all his friends

(f) They helped me with the prize. (Preposition)

Answer: with

(g) They went back when we arrived. (Adverb)

Answer: back

**(h) Notwithstanding their effort, they couldn't reach the final road.
(Preposition)**

Answer: Notwithstanding

(i) One must do only one work. (Determiner)

Answer: One

(j) If he comes home, they will be happy. (Conjunction)

Answer: If

Q.12 Insert 'which', 'that', 'where' or 'whose' whichever is most suitable. [1 × 03 = 03 Marks]

(a) The child **whose** parents were left behind is in the custody of the police.

(b) The house **where** this photo was taken has since been rebuilt.

(c) The proposal **that** he put forward was accepted by all.

Q.13 Select the most appropriate antonym:- [2 Marks]

(a) Tragedy.

Options:

- (i) Romance
- **(ii) Comedy** ✓
- (iii) Humorous

Answer: (ii) Comedy

(b) Lenient.

Options:

- (i) Rude
- **(ii) Harsh** ✓
- (iii) Annoyed

Answer: (ii) Harsh

(c) Miserly.

Options:

- (i) Extravagant
- **(ii) Generous** ✓
- (iii) Hospitable

Answer: (ii) Generous

(d) Violent.

Options:

- (i) Tame
- **(ii) Gentle** ✓
- (iii) Harmless

Answer: (ii) Gentle