

Bhavan's Tripura Vidyamandir

Subject: English

Total :- 50 Marks

Sec:

Name of the student:

Reading Section

(A) Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

Evolution has designated vultures to be the ultimate scavengers. Enormous wingspans allow them to circle in the air for hours. Their beaks, while rather horrifying, are weak by bird standards, made to scoop and eat flesh. However unappealing they may seem, vultures serve an important role in the ecological cycle: processing the dead bodies of animals.

Only 20 years ago, India had plenty of vultures—flocks so enormous they darkened the skies. But by 1999, their numbers had dropped due to a mysterious kidney ailment. By 2008, 99.9 per cent of India's vultures were gone. It was finally discovered that they had been killed by a drug called diclofenac (a pain reliever along the lines of aspirin or ibuprofen).

Indians revere their cows, and when a cow showed signs of pain, they treated it with diclofenac. After the animal died, the vultures would eat the corpse. And though they boast perhaps the world's most efficient digestive system, vultures cannot digest the drug.

India banned the use of diclofenac for veterinary use in 2006, but it's still widely used. The near-extinction of vultures has caused disease in the country, as rats and dogs moved in to take their place—spreading pathogens that would have otherwise been destroyed by the vultures.

Vultures need large ranges to scan for food and undisturbed areas in which to nest. They also need an abundance of prey species since they rely more on chance than their own hunting skills to eat. All of these things have been reduced by human activity. Meanwhile, there is a dramatic increase in secondary poisoning. Vultures feed on carcasses laced with poison, intended to kill jackals or other predatory carnivores. Or they are poisoned by the lead in animals left behind by hunters.

Choose the correct answer from the following:

$$1 \times 5 = 5$$

- (1) Vultures serve an important role in the ecological cycle as ____
 - a) they eat less.
 - b) they process the dead bodies of animals.
 - c) they help to maintain food webs.
 - d) they clear grounds with their wings.
- (2) The reason behind vultures dying is ____
 - a) they feed on carcasses laced with poison, intended to kill jackals or other predatory carnivores.
 - b) they are hunted.
 - c) they do not get enough food.
 - d) they are diseased.
- (3) Why are the vultures' beaks considered weak?
 - a) they are of no use.
 - b) they are meant to scoop and eat flesh only.
 - c) they are used to kill their prey.
 - d) none of them
- (4) What is an interesting fact given in the passage about the vultures?
 - a) they eat fresh bodies.
 - b) they cannot digest drugs.
 - c) they are enormous.
 - d) they have strong beaks.
- (5) Choose the option that correctly states the two meanings of 'boast' as used in the passage —
 - a) to brag about oneself
 - b) to exaggerate
 - c) to degrade oneself
 - d) to become shy
 - e) to show corrosion and defeat

i) b and c ii) c and a iii) d and e iv) a and b

(B) Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

Far below the surface of the Earth, a remarkable and often unseen network of waterways exists: the subterranean rivers. Unlike their surface counterparts, these rivers carve their paths through dark, cavernous spaces, often within limestone landscapes where the rock has been eroded over millennia. The journey of their water begins as rainfall seeps through the ground, slowly dissolving the rock and creating vast underground systems of tunnels, caves, and channels.

The life of a subterranean river is shaped by its unique environment. Lacking sunlight, these ecosystems are entirely devoid of plant life. Instead, they support a specialised community of organisms known as troglobites, which have adapted to the eternal darkness. These creatures, such as blind cave fish and albino crustaceans, often have no pigmentation and a heightened sense of smell, touch, and hearing to navigate their world. The water itself, filtered through layers of rock and soil, is often crystal clear and pristine, a stark contrast to many of the polluted rivers on the surface.

Human interaction with these rivers is limited but has a profound impact. While some are a source of clean drinking water, others have become popular tourist destinations, attracting adventurers to explore their hidden depths. However, this has also led to conservation challenges, as fragile cave systems and their unique inhabitants can be easily disturbed. The study of these rivers, known as hydrogeology, continues to reveal new secrets about our planet's complex geology and the incredible resilience of life in extreme conditions.

Choose the correct answer from the following:

1X5 = 5

1. In what type of landscape are subterranean rivers most commonly found?
 - a. Granite mountains
 - b. Volcanic plains
 - c. Limestone landscape
 - d. Sandy deserts
2. What is the primary process that forms the tunnels and caves for these rivers?
 - a. Tectonic plate movement
 - b. Volcanic activity
 - c. Erosion by rainfall dissolving rock
 - d. Glacial melting
3. What are the organisms that have adapted to live in these rivers called?
 - a. Troglobites
 - b. Photophiles
 - c. Hydrophytes
 - d. Epigeans
4. Which of the following is a common characteristic of troglobites?
 - a. Brightly coloured skin
 - b. Exceptional eyesight
 - c. Absence of pigmentation
 - d. A diet of plants
5. What is the name of the scientific field dedicated to studying these rivers?
 - a. Hydrology
 - b. Geography
 - c. Hydrogeology
 - d. Speleology

Section B

Writing and Grammar section

- 1) You are Arjun/Anjali. It rained heavily today and you rescued a puppy from drowning. Write your Diary entry with the help of the hint points:-

Heavy rain and flood - puppy trapped – you rescued – puppy shivering – felt joy and pride.

5

Or

You are walking back home after school when you find a wallet lying on the road. Write a short story about what happens next. Give your story a suitable title and write the moral.

Hints:-wallet with money and ID – temptation vs honesty – return to owner – gratitude and reward – moral.

Grammar

1X7=7

- 2) i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets for the given portion of a letter :-
I believe that with your support and (Cooperate), we can find a mutually agreeable solution that meets the expectations of all stakeholders.
- ii) Read the dialogue between Bharti and her mother, Geeta regarding Geeta's birthday plans.
Bharti: Do you want to go to a hill station on your birthday?
Geeta : No, I want to stay at home and call my friends over.
Select the correct option that reports the above dialogue.
Bharti asked Geeta if she wanted to go to a hill station on her birthday. Geeta replied in the negative and said that -----
a) She wants to stay home and call her friends for celebrating.
b) I wanted to stay home and call my friends to celebrate.
c) She wanted to stay at home and call her friends over.
d) She wants to stay home by calling her friends to celebrate.
- iii) Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence from a preface of a book.
Writing this book have been a journey of exploration and discovery.
Use the given format for your response:-
- | Error | Correction |
|-------|------------|
| | |
- iv) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete an announcement on a flight.
In thirty minutes, our flight attendant _____ meal service.
a) Will began b) will begin c) should begin d) can begin
- v) Not all information which _____ in the news is suitable for every age.
a) Have provided b) Is provided c) Provided d) Have been provided
- vi) The fire _____ when the residents were sleeping
a) broke out b) break out c) was breaking out d) will broken out
- vii) Write the correct indirect speech of the following sentence:
Ravi said to Poonam , "I am going to Kashmir tomorrow".

Section C Literature

1) Answer any one of the following reference to the context:-

1X4=4

"She had baked them all in the oven,
And the last one was on the tray
And somehow it happened to be
Bigger than the others were that day."

- a) Who is 'she' in the above lines?
b) What is 'them' referring to?
c) Why is the size of the last cake important in the story?
d) What does this incident lead to?

Or

“Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both”

- a) Who is the speaker in these lines?
- b) What does “two roads diverged” mean?
- c) Why was the speaker sorry?
- d) What does the ‘yellow wood’ suggest?

2) Answer any one of the following reference to the context:

1X4=4

‘Why are you weeping then?’ asked the swallow.

“You have quite drenched me.”

- a) Who is the swallow speaking to?
- b) Why was the listeners weeping?
- c) What does this reveal about the listener?
- d) What was the swallow’s initial reaction before realizing it was tears?

Or

“She was thinking about the fun they had.”

- a) Who is she?
- b) Who does ‘they’ refer to?
- c) What fun is being talked about?
- d) Why does this thought appeal to her?

3) Answer any five from the following question:-

5X3=15

- a) Why did Einstein write a letter to Franklin Roosevelt?
- b) What two ‘important’ and ‘earth shaking’ decisions did the doctor take while he was looking into the mirror?
- c) What characteristic does Abdul Kalam inherited from his parents?
- d) What are the three things the poet wants to do when he goes back to innisfree?
- e) How did Saint Peter punish the old lady for her selfishness?
- f) According to the king who is the real culprit? Why does he escape punishment?

4) Answer any one of the following questions -

5X1=5

- a) What does the story 'The Happy Prince' teaches about the importance of empathy and Compassion? Use example from the text.

Or,

How does the chapter “My childhood’ emphasize the idea that a strong moral foundation, instilled by family, is more important than material prosperity for a child's development?