



General Instructions:

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains THREE sections–READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A – READING SKILLS (20 marks)

Read the passage given below.

One day, while at work in the coal mine, I happened to overhear two miners talking about a great school for coloured people somewhere in Virginia. I heard one tell the other that not only was the school established for the members of my race, but that opportunities were provided by which poor but worthy students could work out all or a part of the cost of board and at the same time be taught some trade or industry. I resolved at once to go to that school, although I had no idea where it was, or how many miles away or how I was going to reach it. I remembered only that I was on fire constantly with one ambition and that was to go to Hampton.

While at work here, I heard of a vacant position in the household of General Lewis Ruffner, the owner of the salt-furnace and coal mine. Mother applied to her for the vacant position. I was hired at a salary of \$5 per month. I soon began to learn that first of all, she wanted everything kept clean about her, that she wanted things done promptly and systematically and that at the bottom of everything she wanted absolute honesty and frankness. The small amount of money that I had earned had been consumed by my stepfather and the remainder of the family, with the exception of a very few dollars, and so I had very little with which to buy clothes and pay my traveling expenses. Finally, the great day came and I started for Hampton. The distance from Malden to Hampton is about five hundred miles. I had not been away from home many hours before it became painfully clear that I did not have enough money to pay my fare to Hampton.

By walking, begging rides both in wagons and in cars, in some way, after a number of days, I reached the city of Richmond, Virginia, about eighty-two miles from Hampton. When I reached there, tired, hungry and dirty, it was late in the night. I had never been in a large city and this rather added to my misery. When I reached Richmond, I was completely out of money. I had not a single acquaintance in the place and being unused to city ways, I did not know where to go. I lay for the night upon the ground, with my satchel of clothing for a pillow. The next morning, I noticed that I was near a large ship.

I went at once to the vessel and asked the captain to permit me to help unload the vessel in order to get money for food. The captain, a white man, who seemed to be kind-hearted, consented. I worked long enough to earn money for my breakfast and it seems to me, as I remember it now, to have been about the best breakfast that I have ever eaten. My work pleased the captain so well that he told me if I desired I could continue working for a small amount per day. This I was very glad to do. I thanked the captain of the vessel for his kindness and started again. Without any unusual occurrence, I reached Hampton with a surplus of exactly fifty cents with which to begin my education.

I presented myself before the head teacher for an assignment to a class. Having been so long without proper food, a bath and change of clothing, I did not, of course, make a very favourable impression upon her. For some time, she neither refused to admit me nor did she decide in my favour and I continued to linger about her. After some hours had passed, the head teacher said to me: "The adjoining recitation room needs sweeping. Take the broom and sweep it."

I swept the recitation room three times, then I got a dusting cloth, and I dusted it four times. I cleaned every corner of that room. I had the feeling that in a large measure my future depended upon the impression I made upon the teacher in the cleaning of that room. When I was through I reported to the head teacher. She went into the room and inspected the floor and closets; then she took her handkerchief and rubbed it on the woodwork about the walls and over the table and benches. When she was unable to find one bit of dirt on the floor or a particle of dust on any of the furniture, she quietly remarked, "I guess you will do to enter this institution." I was one of the happiest souls on Earth. The sweeping of that room was my college examination. I have passed several examinations since then, but I always felt that this was the best one I had ever passed.

After working in the coal mine, where did the boy work next?

1

At Mrs. Ruffner's house

b) On the ship

c) Did not work

d) At a shop

What happened to the money he had earned at Mrs. Ruffner's house?

1

What did the narrator learn at Mrs. Ruffner's house?

1

To dance

b) To drive

c) To clean

d) To cook

How far was Hampton from Malden? Was he able to hire a coach? What did he do and where did he reach?

2

What did he do in Richmond in order to earn for his journey to Hampton?

1

Substitute the underlined word in the sentence with the word from the passage which means the same.

1

I do not have many friends in this region.

Which characteristics could be associated with the narrator?

2

Complete the given sentence appropriately.

1

The writer did not make a favourable impression on the head teacher because_____.

Read the passage given below.

Read the following telephonic conversation between a candidate and HR Manager regarding a new job opportunity.

Vaishali (HR Manager): Hello! Is this Naksh?

Naksh (Candidate): Yes, Naksh this side. May I know who this is?

Vaishali: Hi Naksh, Vaishali this side from the HR department of SKR Ltd. Is this the right time to talk to you?

Naksh: Yes Ma'am!

Vaishali: I have viewed your profile on Naukri.com. Let me know if you are available in the job market.

Naksh: Yes, Ma'am. I am looking forward to a new job opportunity.

Vaishali: I called you for the position of Tech Support for our Noida office. Would you be comfortable with the profile and the location?

Naksh: Yes, Ma'am. I am currently working as a Tech Support and I would be very much comfortable with the location.

Vaishali: What is your educational background?

Naksh: I have completed my Bachelor of Technology degree in IT from MNT, Jaipur with an aggregate of 87%.

Vaishali: That's great. Let me know about your work experience.

Naksh: I started my career 4 years back as Tech Support.

Vaishali: Okay. With which company are you currently working?

Naksh: I am working in the Tech Support department of Unique Solutions Ltd. for their Noida office.

Vaishali: Tell me something about your roles and responsibilities in your current company.

Naksh: My KRA's include identifying hardware and software solutions, troubleshooting technical issues, diagnosing and repairing faults, resolving network issues, installing and configuring hardware and software, etc.

Vaishali: Excellent! What is your reason for the job change?

Naksh: Actually, I have been working here for the past three years but the kind of work I am getting recently in the support profile is not exactly to my liking. Plus, to be honest, I am also looking for a good pay hike as well as new opportunities to upskill myself. I am looking for a new environment to grow.

Vaishali: Okay. Can you tell me what is your current salary and your expectations?

Naksh: My current salary is 5 LPA. As per industry norms, I am expecting a minimum of 30–40% hike on my current CTC.

Vaishali: We will surely offer you a decent hike on your current CTC based on your interview. Could you let me know what you know about SKR?

Naksh: SKR is one of the leading consultancy firms in the market and with a quality working environment. SKR is like an ocean of endless learning experiences with the latest technologies and practices. Working with SKR will be an amazing opportunity to learn, grow and explore, and give my best.

Vaishali: Good to hear that, Naksh. Would you be available for a Microsoft Teams interview round tomorrow?

Naksh: Yes, Ma'am sure.

Vaishali: Let me know your email id.

Naksh: My email id is nakshsuperxx@gmail.com

Vaishali: Okay, noted.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

Explain briefly two reasons why Naksh was looking for a new job. 2

What is the main attraction for Naksh in SKR Ltd.? 1

- Cooperative staff b) Non–challenging nature of jobs
c) Endless learning opportunities d) Supportive managers

After learning about Naksh's role and responsibilities in his current job, Vaishali remarks **excellent**. Give any two probable reasons for her response. 2

On the basis of the modes of communication mentioned in the text, complete the following

- analogy. 1
- telephone : oral communication : : _____ : written communication
- Naksh informed HR that he would be very much comfortable with their office location.
Why was he comfortable? 1
- Complete the following sentence appropriately. 1
- It can be concluded from the last dialogue that Vaishali would further communicate with Naksh because _____.
- Which of the following assertions can be sustained from the conversation? 1
- HR was convinced that Naksh has a good exposure and skillset.
Naksh was convinced that HR has a good exposure and skillset.
Naksh was convinced that he was selected for the job.
Naksh was selected for the job by HR.
- Naksh's responsibilities include 'troubleshooting technical issues'. Here, **troubleshooting** refers to _____. 1

SECTION B – GRAMMAR (10 marks)

III. Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions.

- (i) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the online update.

By the next month, we shall the project.

- A. has completed B. completing C. completed D. have completed

- (ii) Read the conversation between a traveller and a peasant. Then complete the following in the reported speech.

Traveller: Can you tell me the way to the nearest inn?

Peasant: You must go to the Aheli Inn.

The traveller asked the peasant if he could tell him the way to the nearest inn to which the peasant suggested him _____.

- (iii) Select the option to fill in the blank for the given line.

He is our colleague. We invite him.

- A. can B. must C. dare to D. will

- (iv) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a news report:

The state police have launched a special drive against tractors and trolleys which created chaos in residential areas these days.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A.	against	for
B.	have	has
C.	tractors	tractor
D.	these	this

(v) Complete the given narrative by filling in the blank with the correct option.

I this book since morning.

- A. had been reading B. has been reading
C. have had read D. shall be reading

(vi) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter:

Subject: Request for leave to attend cousin's marriage

Respected Sir/Madam

I am a student in your prestigious institution. I respectfully beg that you (grant) me a five-day leave of absence to attend my cousin's wedding.

(vii) Report the dialogue between a merchant and his servant by completing the sentence:

Merchant: Do you really want any work?

Servant: Yes, if you have any.

The merchant asked the servant if he really wanted any work to which the servant replied
.....

(viii) Identify the error in the given sentence from a school magazine report and supply the correction.

It was the amazing sight to see, a sight which no one could help admiring in spite of the trouble it has caused us all.

Error	Correction

(ix) Suman shared some information with John about a visit to a hill station. Report John's question.

How was your experience with the snow?

(x) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the conversation.

Whose bag is this?

I am not sure. It be Ann's.

- A. might B. must C. should D. would

(xi) Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between a passerby and a farmer.

Passerby: Can you tell me the way to Rampur?

Farmer: Drive for four kms and then turn right.

The passerby asked the farmer if he could tell him the way to Rampur. The farmer replied that
.....

- A. he may drive for four kms and then turn right.
B. he should drive for four kms and then turn right.
C. he might drive for four kms and then turn right.
D. he had to drive for four kms and then turn right.

(xii) Identify the error on a shop's hoarding and supply the correction, for the following sales offer.

Motilal and Sons Jewellers
Vacancy in the post of manager in the new shop

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (10 marks)

IV.

K. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

(5)

L. You are Vivian/Varun of 93/122, Dawn Housing Society, Saket, New Delhi. You are extremely upset about the increase in the bag snatching incidents, especially of young women working in the area. Write a letter to the Editor of The Indian Times making the people aware about the situation. Make suggestions that the authorities should keep in mind while handling this problem.

OR

B. Write a letter to the Tour Manager of Srishti Travels, Surat, seeking information regarding the tour packages offered by the company. You are Amish / Amrita planning to travel around the state of Uttarakhand with your cousins.

2. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

(5)

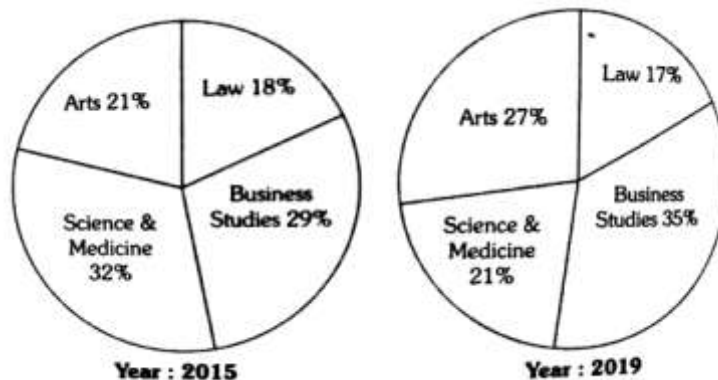
Read the following lines which appeared in the miscellaneous pages of a magazine:

The speaking of English should be made mandatory everywhere in the country right from schools. People should understand the importance of speaking in English is a global language and it should be made compulsory.

Write a paragraph to analyse the given argument. You could think about what alternative explanations might weaken the given conclusion and include rationale / evidence that would strengthen / counter the given argument.

OR

B. The following pie charts show the percentage of students taking admission in different faculties of XYZ University over a certain period of time. Write an analytical paragraph on your understanding of the given data.



SECTION C – LITERATURE (40 marks)

V. Reference to the Context.

(10)

1. Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given.

(5)

1.A. Paris Control? Paris Control? Can you hear me There was no answer, The radio was dead too. I had no radio, no compass, and I could not see where I was. I was lost in the storm. Then, in the black clouds quite near me, I saw another aeroplane. It had no lights on its wings, but I could see it lying next to me through the storm. I could see the pilot's face – turned towards me. I was very glad to see another person. He lifted one hand and waved.

"Follow me," he was saying. "Follow me."

"He knows that I am lost," I thought. "He's trying to help me." He turned his aeroplane slowly to the north, in front of my Dakota, so that it would be easier for me to follow him. I was very happy to go behind the strange aeroplane like an obedient child.

1. Which of the following occurrence DID NOT happen when the pilot of Dakota was in the air? 1
 - a) the radio became dead
 - b) black clouds surrounded the plane
 - c) control tower told the pilot to land immediately
 - d) the compass wasn't working

2. Where did the writer see another plane? 1
 - a) within the storm
 - b) in front of the plane
 - c) near the black clouds
 - d) on the plane's wings

3. According to the writer, why was another plane there? 1

4. Choose an option that lists a statement that is NOT TRUE. 2

The pilot of Dakota did not want to follow the strange aeroplane.

The pilot of Dakota was going towards England.

The city of Paris was 150 kilometres behind the Dakota.

The pilot of Dakota did not purposely go into the storm.

- a) 1 and 2
- b) 3 and 4
- c) 1 and 4
- d) 2 and 3

OR

1.B. Max was slender, a little less than tall, with features that suggested slightly the crafty, pointed countenance of a fox. There was about him — aside from the gun — nothing especially menacing. "The report," he murmured. "The report that is being brought to you tonight concerning some new missiles. I thought I would take it from you. It will be safer in my hands than in yours."

Ausable moved to an armchair and sat down heavily. "I'm going to raise the devil with the management this time, and you can bet on it," he said grimly. "This is the second time in a month that somebody has got into my room through that nuisance of a balcony!"

1. Owning a gun gave a menacing impression to Max's character because 1

- a) a gun is only used by police officials.
- b) he was carrying it without any official license.
- c) a gun has a threatening implication.
- d) the gun was particularly huge.

2. Choose the option that displays the correct analogy. 1

- a) crafty : fox :: menacing : gun
- b) report : missile :: management : devil
- c) crafty : fox :: management : balcony
- d) armchair : grim :: balcony : nuisance

3. Delnaaz is a new tenant in her locality and Mrs. Mehta is the landlady. Choose the option that lists an action that would require Mrs. Mehta to 'raise the devil' with Delnaaz. 1

- 1. She uses the elevator five times a day.
- 2. She feeds the stray dogs in the street.
- 3. She works late at night and stays home in the afternoon only.
- 4. She plays music louder than is necessary late into the night

- a) Option 1 b) Option 2
- c) Option 3 d) Option 4

4. Why can Ausable's annoyance at the balcony when he says, "...nuisance of a balcony..." be called fake? 2

2. Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given. (5)

2.A. But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

1. Fill the blank with one word. 1
When the speaker says that ice could also bring about the end of the world, he refers to _____
the means for destruction.

2. What does the speaker's alignment with those who favour ice, suggest? 1

3. Which of the following best describes the speaker's attitude towards destruction caused by ice? 1
(a) Indifferent (b) fearful (c) dismissive (d) respectful

4. Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines. 2

OR

2.B. I am an orphan, roaming the street.
I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.
The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.

1. The tone of the given lines is _____. 1
 2. Why does the poet want to be an orphan? 2
 3. The golden silence is contrasted with the _____. 1
- (a) chaos of the street (b) constant instructions received
(c) sweetness of freedom (d) hushed, bare feet

4. Which option completes the popular adage given below? 1

_____ silence is gold.

- (a) Precious are words for (b) Speech is silver
(c) Silver is the tongue (d) Ideas may be precious but

VI. Answer ANY FOUR of the following in about 40–50 words each. (4x3=12)

- i. Write a brief character sketch of Chubukov.
- ii. Give a short description of Anne Frank's family.
- iii. What does the author say about the people of Coorg?
- iv. There is not a dull moment when pets are around. Explain how this holds true in case of "Mijbil the Otter".
- v. If you were the family member of the young seagull, would you also decide not to go near him? Elaborate with reason.

VII. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40–50 words each. (2x3=6)

- vi. Her heart was throbbing with a new hope and a new life. When and why did Bholi feel this way?
- vii. Describe Matilda's experience at the dance party. Was it good or bad?
- viii. Imagine Mrs. Pumphrey came to know how Tricki was actually treated. Write a brief note to the narrator on her behalf. You may begin this way:

Dear Mr. Herriot

I recently met Mrs. Mallard when she brought her Pixie to visit dear Tricki. I spoke to her about the great triumph of surgery that had brought him back to me. Imagine my surprise when she told me how mistaken I was! I am writing to you to share.....(continue).....

VIII. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100–120 words. (1x6=6)

- (A) Freedom is inconsequential if it is behind bars of prejudice and narrow mindedness. How would you explain this statement? Support your answer with suitable examples from the real world.

OR

- (B) In all our lives all of us face difficult situations but it is always our attitude, be it negative or positive that guarantees if the end will be good or bad.

Analyse the statement in reference to the poem, 'The Dust of Snow' by Robert Frost.

IX. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100–120 words. (1x6=6)

- R. *He was the most trusting person I had ever met.*

Why was the truth of this statement both a hurdle and an opportunity for Hari Singh in the story, 'The Thief's Story'?

OR

- S. Richard Ebright displayed a well-rounded personality. Do you agree? Elucidate in context of the

lesson, 'The Making of a Scientist'?