Reading Comprehension:

Passage -1 Read the following passage carefully : (12 marks)

1. The titanic, in its watery grave, is a great museum of human history and is at risk of being lost forever because of curious voyagers and treasure hunters, fears Bob Ballard, who first discovered the remains of the iconic ship in 1985. Famous for discovering the great ship, Ballard is a former US Navy Officer and a professor of oceanography.

2. “Titanic is a museum of human history without door and guard. I am deeply concerned about not only the Titanic but all the ancient history that is now at risk. If we cannot save this iconic ship, then there is very little hope we can save ancient ships. The world should realize that you don’t have to go down and take everything and you do not have to do a treasure hunt. This is a common heritage of all of us and if we really want to take steps to preserve human history in the ocean, we need to start with Titanic,” Ballard said in a telephonic interview from London.

3. Ballard, as part of a tie-up, is presenting a documentary called “Save the Titanic” on the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the great ship – April 15, 1912. The ship and her fate continue to fascinate, largely because of the horror that took place that night, with 1,522 passengers and crew losing their lives.

4. Ballard says that despite being on the ocean floor for 100 years, the ship is full of human footprints. “You will find pairs of shoes everywhere. The sea and the life below has claimed everything but they do not know what to do with shoes so you will find a pair of mother’s shoes next to her little daughter and that’s their gravestone. At her wreckage, we almost felt that we were surrounded by the lifeboats of all the people that were in the water at that spot”.

5. Ballard says that the fate of Titanic continues to fascinate so many years after it sank because it is “irony personified in history”. “The story has all the ingredients to make it timelessly fascinating. You have this revolutionary ship that’s unsinkable, and carrying a cross section of people in society. And then, it goes and hits an iceberg and sinks on its maiden journey. It’s an irony personified in history”.

6. Talking about his discovery, which came after great research and 75 years later, Ballard, says it was a somber moment went they first spotted the boiler o the Titanic. “In the 90s, advanced technology gave us double diving capabilities in the Atlantic Ocean. I knew that the Titanic was sitting at almost 12,000 feet. What led me to her discovery was a simple technique that I followed. We decided to look for the debris trail instead of the ship”.

7. Ballard says the ship, if preserved well and not subjected to constant submarine journeys, will last for a long time on the Atlantic floor. “The deep sea, because of its darkness, its cold temperatures and its great pressure, creates a high state of preservation. With a little caution, we can protect the Titanic for future generations to visit.”

8. Ballard has also connected to the people of Belfast, who refused to talk about the tragedy “The ship’s construction took place at Belfast. After the tragedy, families of the workers refused to talk about it because of the shame and sadness in the loss of life involved”.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices:- 1x4=4

(a) The Titanic sank on

(i) its 100th anniversary (ii) 15th April 1912 (iii) an iconic voyage in 1985 (iv) leaving the port of Belfast

(b) The Titanic continues to attract attention because

i) it is irony personified in history (ii) its advanced technology gave double diving technologies (iii) it is a treasure hunt (iv) it is a common need

(c) Ballard’s documentary on the Titanic is titled

(i) a museum of human history (ii)the titanic (iii) save the Titanic (iv) 75 years later

(d) Bob Ballard is a

(i) Former US Navy Officer (ii) A professor of oceanography (iii) Both (i) and (ii)

(iv) None of the above

1.2 Answer the following question briefly:- 1x6=6

(a) What happened on April 15,1912?

(b) Who is Bob Ballard and what did he discover?

(c) Why does Bob Ballard call it a museum of human history?

(d) Why did the people of Belfast refuse to talk about Titanic?

(e) What did Ballard do as part of the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the Titanic?

(f) Explain “it is irony personified.”

1.3 Find the words from the passage which mean the same as:- 1x2

(a) first of its kind (para 5) (b) very solemn or serious (para 6)

Passage -2 Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (10marks)

1.The play of names has almost a touch of fable here-Nirakar, the formless one, regenerating the primal form of a forest that had passed into the mist. For the last 20 years Nirakar Mallick, a small farmer in Orissa’s Kendra Para district, has been greening a coastal landscape that had of late been experiencing more of brown. Droughts, as they are wont to be, are cruel in these parts. At other times, it’s excess water that’s the bane. Nirakar’s latest sally-the rebirthing of a forest on a two hectare stretch circling the river Brahmani near his village- came after the green patch was denuded in the 1999 super cyclone.

2. The tidal waves that had swamped Orissa’s coasts had led to heavy soil erosion, rendering these villages for ever vulnerable to floods. But now thanks to Nirakar, over five thousand trees of sundry varieties cover the area. This has not only helped restore the local ecosystem but also provided a potential source of income to the community. People, however, were sceptical in the beginning. They were losing out on grazing ground for cattle. Some were also suspicious of Nirakar’s motive, fearing he was out to grab government land. But once the trees began shooting up and the entire village looked rejuvenated, everybody was won over. Nirakar, for one, never made any bid to corner the fruits of his labour.

3. So now there are fruit bearing trees in the forest-jackfruit, mango, guava, coconut-as well as timber rich ones like teak, casuarinas, eucalyptus. Not all of the seven thousand seedlings he’d planted, survived the elements. That didn’t deter him, and Nirakar proudly says that as long as he is alive, no one from the area would ever harm a tree.

4.Over the years, Nirakar has spent a small fortune out of his own hard earned savings in greening mission. As a driver in Orissa Lift Irrigation Corporation (OLIC), he‘d get about Rs 3000 a month. From this, he would put aside Rs 500 for planting trees. For the last two years he has not been receiving his salary from the defunct OLIC. He manages to make both ends meet by working his share of the one acre farmland inherited from his father. Born in 1962 in a poor Harijan family in Aliha village, Nirakar inherited a feel for the soil and the green thumb of his father. A good student, he had to quit the studies after class 9th to take up a job. He joined the OLIC in 1982 and got married the same year. Today he is father of trees, two sons and a daughter.

5. Though officially a driver , Nirakar is a jack of all trades, doubling up as mechanic, fitter, electrician and operator at Aliha’s lift irrigation project. For the area’s small farmers who depend on the water supplied through lift irrigation, he is nothing short of a hero.

6. Anti hero too, for some, at a point of time. Traditionally, the Harijans of Aliha never planted coconuts. The Brahmins had told them that if they dared to plant the forbidden fruit, there would be death in the community. Nirakar broke this “divine” taboo. He got about agricultural farm and distributed it among his people. Today almost every courtyard in Aliha village has half a dozen fruit bearing coconut trees and no one died. Nirakar’s wife is an enthusiastic partner in his green ventures. His children also help him. He has now taken a plantation of 20,000 seedlings along the tree kilometers stretch from Manipatna to Singri in his block. Nirakar aims to plant at least one lakh trees before he dies.

7. Recognition has evaded him so far and Nirakar is least bothered. His only regret is that the government has not taken over maintenance of the forest from him so that it can be preserved for posterity. He hopes his good work is not lost after he is gone. He is, as you must have realized by now, crazy about his trees. “The trees speak to me,” he says, “God has paid me back richly in many ways. I need nothing more”.

2.1 Choose the most appropriate option: (1 x 2 = 2)

a) For the last 20 years Nirakar Mallick has been

i) planting trees ii) painting green coastal landscapes iii) living in Orissa’s Kendra para district iv) both i and ii

b)Nirakar has broken the ‘divine taboo’ by

i) planting 7000 seedlings ii)distributing agricultural land among Harijans

iii) successfully leading the green campaign iv) planting coconut trees

2.2 Answer the following questions briefly: (1 x 6 = 6)

a) Give an appropriate title to the passage. b)Why did Nirakar quit his studies in childhood?

c)What is the Para district of Orissa prone to?

d)What happened to the seven thousand seedlings planted by Nirakar?

e)How has Nirakar been running his household for the last two years?

f)Why was Nirakar considered as “a Jack of all trades?”

2.3.Find the words from the passage which mean the same as: (1 x 2)

a) weak (para 2) b) discourage/prevent (para 3)

Note Making:

(Passage – 3) Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

Residents of the Bhirung Raut Ki Gali, where Ustad Bishmillah Khan was born on March 21, 1916, were in shock. His cousin, 94-year -old Mohd Idrish Khan had tears in his eyes. Shubhan Khan, the care-taker of Bismillah’s land, recalled : “Whenever in Dumaraon, he would give rupees two to the boys and rupees five to the girls of the locality”. He was very keen to play shehnai again in the local Bihariji’s Temple where he had started playing shehnai with his father, Bachai Khan, at the age of six. His original name was Quamaruddin and became Bishmillah only after he became famous as a shehnai player in Varanasi. His father Bachai Khan was the official shehnai player of Keshav Prasad Singh, the Maharaja of the erstwhile Dumaraon estate, Bismillah used to accompany him.

For Bishmillah Khan, the connection to music began at a very early age. By his teens, he had already become a master of the shehnai. On the day India gained freedom, Bismillah Khan, then a sprightly 31 year-old, had the rare honour of playing from Red Fort. But Bishmillah Khan won’t just be remembered for elevating the shehnai from an instrument heard only in weddings and naubatkhanas to one that was appreciated in concert halls across the world. His life was a testimony to the plurality that is India. A practicing Muslim, he would take a daily dip in the Ganga in his younger days after a bout of kusti in Benia Baga Akhada. Every morning, Bishmillah Khan would do riyaaz at the Balaji temple on the banks of the river. Even during his final hours in a Varanasi hospital, music didn’t desert Bishmillah Khan. A few hours before he passed away early on Monday, the shehnai wizard hummed a thumri to show that he was feeling better. This was typical of a man for whom life revolved around music. Throughout his life he abided by the principle that all religions are one. What marked Bishmillah Khan was his simplicity and disregard for the riches that come with musical fame. Till the ve ry end, he used a cycle rickshaw to travel around Varanasi. But the pressure of providing for some 60 family members took its toll during his later years.

3.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations where necessary. (05 marks)

3.2 Make a summary of the above passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title. (03marks)

Notice:

Q1. You are the Principal of Bloom Public School, Mathura. Write a notice in not more than 50 words informing that admissions for the New Session likely to begin in March

Q2 You are Rudra / Ria, the Secretary of Gen X Welfare Society, Babulvadi, Guwahati. Draft a notice for all the members of the society informing them to attend a meeting to discuss the issues related to the security of the residents of the society.

Q3. You are Neeti, Secretary, Himachal Handicrafts Association. Write a notice regarding a Mega Sale to be organized on 1st and 2nd November on the occasion of Diwali in not more than 50 words.

Advertisments:

Q1. Draft a suitable advertisement to be published in a local newspaper for the post of PA/Stenographer on behalf of the Manager of Wipro Company, Chennai. Invent necessary details.

Q2. You are Anurag/Aparna of 110,Swasthya Vihar , New Delhi .You wish to let out a portion of your newly built house. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words for publication in the “To-Let” column of The Hindustan Times, giving all necessary details .

Invitation:

Q1. Your father, Mr. Raj Kumar Gupta , residing at K-18 ,13th Cross Malleswaram, Hyderabad wants to celebrate the success of your brother Rohith’s clearing the IITJEE Entrance Examination and securing admission in IIT Powai ,Mumbai. He wants you to draft a formal invitation for him on his behalf. Draft the invitation for him in not more than 50 words.

Letters:

Q1. You are Megha/Maya of class XII of St. Peter School, Pitampura, Delhi. Write a letter to the Manager of Book World, RK Puram, New Delhi inquiring about the availability of few books you need for your school library. Write as secretary of your school library.

Q2. Your are Buavik/Bhawna of Class XII of Tejas International School, Vijay Nagar, Bulandshaher. Write a letter to the Manager of the sports Store, Meerut, complaining about a defective sports watch you purchased from their store. Write as a Sports Secretary of your school.

Q3. As a regular commuter by bus from Noida to Delhi, you have been witnessing rash driving by the bus drivers daily without an exception. Write a letter to the Editor, ‘The Times of India’ drawing the attention of the General Manager, Delhi Transport Corporation to this problem. Your are Priti/Prakash, 15 Udyog Vihar, Noida.

Q4. Read the given advertisement and then write a suitable application in response to it. Sign yourself as Medha / Mohit.

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Article:

Q1. You are Vikranth / Vinitha, a freelance writer much concerned about the discriminatory treatment of women in the Indian society. Write an article in 150 – 200 words throwing light on this problem and giving suggestions for putting an end to it.

Debate:

Q1.Write separate debates in 150 words both for and against the motion. The topic of the debate is “The Right to Education Act is a Realistic and Achievable Goal that will change the Face of Education in India” .You are Rahul/Harshita.

Speech:

Q1.You are a student volunteer of National Literacy Mission (NLM) wing of your school involved in the Adult Literacy Campaign: “Each one, Teach One”. Write out the speech you would be delivering at each place of your visit. Do not exceed 200 words.