

Note-making

Practice Questions

Courtesy ZIET Bhubaneswar

PASSAGE-1

Q.1 Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

8 Marks

In Democratic countries, any efforts to restrict the freedom of the Press are rightly condemned. However, this freedom can be easily abused. Stories about people often attract far more public attention than political events. Though we may enjoy reading about the lives of others, it is extremely doubtful whether we would equally enjoy reading about ourselves. Acting on the contention that facts are sacred, reporters can cause untold sufferings to individuals by publishing details about their private lives. Newspapers exert such tremendous influence that they can not only bring about major changes to the lives of ordinary people but can even overthrow a government.

The story of a poor family that acquired fame and fortune overnight, dramatically illustrates the power of the Press. The family lived in Aberdeen, a small town of 25,000 inhabitants in South Dakota. As the parents had five children, life was a perpetual struggle against poverty. They were expecting their sixth child and were faced with even more pressing economic problems. If they had only one more child the fact would have passed unnoticed. They would have continued to struggle against economic odds and would have lived in obscurity. But they suddenly became the parents of quintuplets, four girls and a boy, an event which radically changed their lives. The day after the birth of the five children, an aeroplane arrived in Aberdeen bringing sixty reporters and photographers. The news was of national importance, for the couple had become the parents of the only quintuplets in America. The rise to fame was swift. Television cameras and newspapers carried the news to everyone in the country. Newspapers and magazines offered the family huge sums for the exclusive rights to publish their photographs. Gifts poured in not only from unknown people, but from baby food and soap manufacturers who wished to advertise their products. The old farmhouse the family lived in was to be replaced by a new \$100,000 home. Reporters kept pressing for interviews so lawyers had to be employed to act as the spokesmen of the family at press conferences. The event brought serious changes to the town itself. Plans were announced to build a huge new highway as Aberdeen was now likely to attract

thousands of tourists. Sign posts erected on the outskirts of the town directed tourists not to Aberdeen, but to 'Quint-City U.S.A.' The local authorities discussed the possibility of erecting a 'quint museum' to satisfy the curiosity of the public and to protect the family from inquisitive tourists. While the five babies were still quietly sleeping in oxygen tents in a hospital nursery, their parents were paying the price for fame. It would never again be possible for them to lead normal lives. They had become victims of commercialisation, for their names had acquired a market value. The town itself received so much attention that almost every one of the inhabitants was affected to a greater or lesser degree.

- (a) **On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, using at least 4 recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title.**
- (b) **Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words.**

PASSAGE-2

Q.1 Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

8 Marks

The work which Gandhiji had taken up was not only the achievement of political freedom but also the establishment of a social order based on truth and non-violence unity and peace; equality and universal brotherhood and maximum freedom for all. This unfinished part of his experiment was perhaps even more difficult to achieve than the achievement of political freedom. In the political struggle, the fight was against a foreign power and all one could do, was either join it or wish it success and give it their moral support. In establishing the social order of his pattern there was a likely possibility of a conflict arising between groups and classes of our own people. Experience shows that man values his possessions even more than his life because in the former he sees the means for perpetuation and survival of his descendants even after his body is reduced to ashes. A new order cannot be established without radically changing the mind and attitude of men towards property and at some stage or the other, the 'haves', have to yield place to the 'have-nots'. We have seen in our time, attempts to achieve a kind of egalitarian society and the picture of it after it was achieved. But this was done by and large, through the use of physical force.

The root cause of class conflict is possessiveness or the acquisitive instinct. So long as the ideal that is to be achieved is one of securing maximum material satisfaction possessiveness is neither suppressed nor eliminated but grows on

what it feeds. Nor does it cease to be such—it is possessiveness, still, whether it is confined to only a few or is shared by many.

If egalitarianism is to endure, it has to be based not on the possession of the maximum material goods by a few or by all but on voluntary, enlightened renunciation of those goods, which cannot be shared by others or can be enjoyed only at the expense of others. This calls for substitution of spiritual values for purely material ones. The paradise of material satisfaction that is sometimes equated with progress these days neither spells peace nor progress. Mahatma Gandhi has shown us how the acquisitive instinct inherent in man could be transmuted by the adoption of the ideal of trusteeship by those who 'have' for the benefit of all those who 'have-not' so that, instead of leading to exploitation and conflict, it would become a means and incentive for the amelioration and progress of society respectively.

- (a) **On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it, using at least 4 recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title.**
- (b) **Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words.**

PASSAGE-3

Q.1 Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

8 Marks

For those who failed to keep pace with the advances in mountaineering equipment in the past two decades, it's a whole new world of synthetic marvels that may just have taken the sting off taming Everest.

Take boots. Earlier, climbers used heavy leather shoes with soles that were hobnailed into the uppers. An hour before the start of the expedition, they needed to be waxed to make them waterproof. No wax meant instant frostbite. And if the boots were left outside the tent, they would be frozen, making it extremely difficult to slip the feet in. The only solution was to sleep with the boots inside the sleeping bag.

Today's boots come lined with the magic of plastic. They don't freeze and are lightweight. The One Sport Everest is extremely warm, with a lining of Alveolite insulation and another layer of Alveolite in the built-in over-gaiter. And they weigh less than a kilo. The sleeping bag is the key to survival in the Death Zone of 26,000 ft and above. Earlier, the bags were stuffed with goose feathers. Today, they sidestep the down-versus-synthetic conundrum by swinging both ways. While feathers are layered next to the body for warmth,

the synthetic, quick-drying Primaloft, lies on the outside for its moisture-shedding properties.

The old faithful ice-axe was wooden with a steel head, sturdy, but heavy and undimensional. Not any more. The latest ice-axes are made of titanium and are feather-weight. They also have curvatures and teeth that allow a climber to be suspended, in mid air with only the ice-axe for support. Similarly, pitons and ice screws have transformed-all are titanium.

Another area where a revolution has been quietly at work is oxygen cylinders. If one doesn't believe in Reinhold Messner's code of bagging the summit by "fair means", take heart. The old days, when cylinders weighed 10 kg, are over. The state-of-the-art Russian-built oxygen systems consist of a stiff plastic mask, a regulator and an orange steel Kevlar gas canister. They weigh less than 3 kg. Not only are they lighter, but they also have more capacity.

In fact, everything has changed. The tents are lighter, sturdier and can breathe. The mittens with fleece inners assure frost-free security. Even the food is precooked and dehydrated. All one needs to do is add water and heat.

Camp cookers too have become lighter, smaller, and more efficient. A steel-mesh bull's eye in the middle of the ultra-efficient LP gas burner keeps the flame roaring when the wind is doing likewise. But the handiest feature is its integrated starter. No more the temperamental matches. Just open the valve, flick the index finger, and.... Houston, we have ignition.

Technology can keep you in a better frame of mind, but as Captain M.S. Kohli, who led the Indian team in 1965, says, "In the end, you still need to climb that mountain."

- (a) **On the basis of your reading of the passage make notes on it, using at least 4 recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title.**
- (b) **Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words.**

PASSAGE-4

Q.1 Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

8 Marks

So often these days we hear and speak of the conquest of nature, 'the taming of 'river', 'the war against insects' and so on. Often these phrases are used without consciously attaching any values to them, but they have underlying them an attitude of hostility towards Nature and Nature's creatures, a view point which seems to assume. Nature as an enemy that needs to be vanquished. Alternatively, Nature seen merely as a 'resource' to be 'exploited' - take the

maximum out of it, regardless of what this does to natural processes and other creatures which depend on these processes. It is this attitude which sees fellow humans too as a resource to be exploited, or other human communities as enemies to be conquered.

There is a growing back of sensitivity and respect for our fellow creatures. This attitude is being drilled into a child by social forces, which can only be countered by environmental education. Yet, sadly, in most cases this is not done. What is done is talk about the food web and the energy cycles and ecological balance and how removal of any elements disrupts the whole system, and how this can affect human beings too. What this approach lacks is the essential interaction with Nature and with other humans. Indeed in many environmental activities the opposite takes place. A classic example of this is making of a herbarium, or even worse, and insect collection, as common in both formal and non formal education in India. A child is often encouraged to pluck leaves and flowers and run after butterflies with a net, and is part of a large group of children similarly marauding a patch of nature within it. Such a child is not likely to develop any strong feeling of respect for nature, or for the individual "specimens" pressed in the plant file or trapped in a jar. It is even worse when the activity is also competitive, like a child who collects the maximum. A lot of knowledge may be gained, but it is gained in a value system which emphasises exploitation and conquest, 'not sensitivity and respect. Learning under a tree, (Santivana) rather than in a classroom, is indeed the Indian tradition, is far more effective and long lasting.

The alternative is to take up activities where ecological balances, ecological diversities, animal behaviour, human plurality and other such concepts and systems are introduced with the stress on their intrinsic worth. Materials, processes, living beings do not exist only for human use, but more importantly they are worthwhile in themselves.

A frog is as much in love with its life as the human child is with its mother : the feelings of the frog must be respected. The final thrust of environmental education seems to be embodied in the vital question : 'Am I doing something which disrespects or violates some other creature's right to live and live freely ? If I am, what can I do to minimize the damage I am causing ?

Once again, the Indian tradition of ahimsa comes out as infinitely more relevant than much of what we learn in modern education.

- (a) **On the basis of your reading of the passage make notes on it, using at least 4 recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title.**
- (b) **Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words.**

PASSAGE-5

Q.1 Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

8 Marks

Self-reliance is a sure key to success and happiness. A self-reliant person always depends upon his own energy, capacity to work, prudence and the resources. Therefore, a self-reliant person is master of himself and the circumstances as he does not depend on others. Such a person is always calm, sure, confident and self-possessed. He is firm, prompt in action and even ready to face any challenge, and fertile of resources. While others who are not independent, are surely much handicapped. It is really a slavery to depend on others for help, guidance and aid or resources. And a slave is always at a great disadvantage. A person is most happy and satisfied when he relies upon his own strength, power and resources. He even walks without crutches or outside support.

Self-reliant people have always been found sure, self-assured, decisive, optimistic, free, independent and bold. They do not suffer from indecision or delay. They are rich in expediency, quick in action, and steadfast in decision. Their will-power is very strong, their resolutions unflinching. They are the makers and masters of their destiny. They never blame fate, circumstances or the tools for they make their own tools and use them with greatest skill and concentration which is at their command. Their work, their creations and achievements bear the stamp of their personality. They are original in ideas and in shaping things and events. They achieve what they will because they are self-dependent, resolute, single-minded and self-controlled. They know well their strength and weakness and so use their energies and resources in such a way as never to expose their weakness. And when they achieve their victories, their ambitions and goals, then their joy in an unalloyed bliss for the glory is not to be shared by others. Self-reliance is the best support, the best tool and the shortest way to success. Lord Budha said "You are both friend and enemy of yourself. The heaven and hell lies within you. It is upto you what you choose. You are your own lamp, guide and staff. Never depend on others. Be the maker of your destiny. Help yourself and the world will help you". It reminds us of the famous saying "God helps those who help themselves" All successful men and women have been self-reliant. They achieved what they desired because they did not depend on others. They ran fast and in time on the roads of self-reliance. A man walking with the crutches of others help cannot think of running a race, he cannot compete, he is sure to end with the crutches.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the passage make notes on it, using at least 4 recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary. Use a format you consider appropriate. Supply a suitable title.
- (b) Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words.

PASSAGE-6

Q.1 Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

8 Marks

In ancient India, during the Vedic age, women were given education in the same way as men. It was during the Muslim period that women began to be kept in strict puma . Neither were there proper arrangements, nor did the parents dare send their daughters out to receive education. During the freedom struggle, it was realised by our leaders that without active participation of women in the freedom movement, India would never become free. Since then the necessity of educating women has been increasingly felt. Women have to play an important role in the development of the country. If we want to make democracy successful, women must be educated. They are the builders of happy homes. It is in their lap that the children receive their first lesson. As the mothers are, so will be the children. Moreover, certain professions are most suitable to the nature of women. Women make the best nurses. Primary education can be given only by women. There are many other professions in which women can play a very important part. In a nutshell the progress of the country depends upon female education. We must give up our conservative outlook. The need of female education was never so great as it is to-day.

All now accept the necessity of giving education to women. But there are differences of opinion on the type of education which should be given to them. Indeed, it is a very important issue. Should boys and girls be given the same kind of education ? Or should there be different type of education for boys and girls ? If we decide to give different type of education to girls, then of what type should it be ? These are the questions which must be answered. Wrong type of education can cause greater harm than good to our girls.

Some feel that women should be given a different kind of education from the one given to boys. Women have to discharge their duties as good mothers. Their education should be such as may enable them to run their homes efficiently and make them good mothers. Their sphere of activity is entirely different from that of men. So must be their education.

Another question is whether there should be co-education or not. Opinions differ widely on this issue. There are men who strongly advocate co-education at all stages. On the other extreme are those who are deadly against it. But the truth lies in between these two extremes. Boys and girls may be educated together in primary and university classes. But co-education in high school and inter classes is full of dangers. We should take full advantage of co-education as well as safeguard ourselves against its evil effects. This will be the best policy for giving education to women.

Q. A. Make notes on the passage using appropriate abbreviations. Also supply an apt heading.

Q. B. Make a summary of the passage.

PASSAGE-7

Q.1 Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

8 Marks

Rising prices are causing a great concern to the Indian economists at the present moment. It is true that prices can never remain stationary. A certain amount of fluctuation is inherent in the very nature of prices. In a developing economy, they usually display an upward trend. But if prices keep rising persistently, they cause great hardship to the people. They spare neither the rich nor the poor, neither the producer nor the consumer. They make economic activities uncertain and unstable, causing great unrest in the minds of the people.

Inflation is a self-accelerating process. It is a phenomenon that feeds on itself and initiates a very vicious cycle. Rising prices drive people to demand increased wages and salaries. Since such demands are resisted in the beginning, they resort to pressure tactics like strikes and demonstrations. But such tactics only decrease production and aggravate the situation. And if the demands are met, there is a fresh spurt in prices. All benefits accruing from additional income are neutralised. Then fresh demands are raised and this cycle goes on.

The fixed-income groups like salaried people, wage-earners and pensioners are the most helpless victims of inflation. As prices rise, their real income gets eroded. The additional dearness allowance which the government sanctions from time to time proves of no use to them, because their purchasing power actually goes down. Inflation induces businessmen to invest their money in

non-productive assets like gold and land whose real worth is not affected by rising prices. High prices also adversely affect the exports of the country and distort the balance of foreign trade.

Numerous factors can be cited to explain price rise in India. First, our economic planning has suffered from serious drawbacks right from the beginning. During the various Five-Year Plans, while the public expenditure persistently increased, the production targets-were never realised. This forced the Government to resort to deficit financing. There was a rapid increase in the money supply without a corresponding increase in production. The resulting imbalance inevitably led to inflation.

The taxation policy of the government has also contributed to price rise. A sound policy of direct taxes would not only have yielded higher revenue but also have enabled the government to give relief in indirect taxes, which invariably lead to inflation. Defective tax structure has encouraged tax evasion and led to the accumulation of black money. This is an example of evil multiplying evil. The parallel economy in our country that thrives on black money and smuggling has always encouraged rise in prices.

Steep rise in the population of the country after independence is another major factor responsible for causing inflation. During the last thirty years alone, the population has gone up by about 75 per cent. Rising population multiplies demands for all kinds of goods and services and leads to an all-round price-hike.

Slow increase in agricultural and industrial production, faulty distribution and marketing system, and an unprecedented hike in oil prices in the international market can be cited as some other important factors that have aggravated the situation. Our agriculture has been rather slow to respond to innovations. Industry has been faced with shortage of inputs like coal, power, raw materials. But even the things produced are not properly distributed. Majority of Indians have no community consciousness. There is no organised consumer resistance to price rise. Instead, our masses get scared by the rumours of scarcities and tend to hoard as much as they can. This further intensifies the crisis. Indians also believe in ostentatious living. They indulge in wasteful expenditure that directly affects the prices.

Q. A. Make notes on the passage using appropriate abbreviations. Also give an apt title.

Q. B. Make a summary of the passage.

PASSAGE-8

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follows : 8 Marks

Occasional self-medication has always been part of normal living. The making and selling of drugs has a long history and is closely linked, like medical practice itself, with belief in magic. Only during the last hundred years or so has the development of scientific technique made it possible some of the causes of symptoms to be understood, so that more accurate diagnosis has become possible. The doctor is now able to follow up the correct diagnosis of many illness- with specific treatment of their causes. In many illness of which the causes remain unknown, he is still limited, like the unqualified prescribe, to the treatment of symptoms. The doctor is trained to decide when to treat symptoms only and when to attack the cause. This is essential difference between medical prescribing and self-medication. The advance of technology has brought about much progress in some fields of medicine, including the development of scientific drug therapy. In many contries public health organization is improving and people's nutritional standard has risen. Parallel with such, beneficial trends are to which have an adverse effect. One is the use of high pressure advertising by the pharmaceutical industry which has tended to influence both patients and doctors and has let to the over use of drug generally. The other is the emergence of the sedentary society with its faulty ways of life: Lack of exercise, over-eating, unsuitable eating, insufficient sleep, excessive smoking and drinking. People with disorder arising to self-medication and so add the taking of pharmaceutical of the list. Advertiser go to great length to catch this market. Clever advertising aim at chronic suffers who will try anything because doctors have not been able to cure them, can induce such faith in preparation, particularly if steeply prized, that is will produce-by suggestion-a very real effect in some people. Advertisement are also aimed at people suffering from mild complaints such as simple cough and cold which clear up by themselves within a short time. These are the main reasons, why laxatives, indigestion remedies, pain killers, cough mixers, tonics, vitamins and iron tablets, nose drops,. Ointments, and many other preparations are found in quantity in many households. It is doubtful whether taking these things ever improves a person's health, it may even makes it worse. Worse, because the preparations may contain unsuitable ingredients; worse because the taker may become dependent on them; worse because they might be taken in excess; worse because that may cause poisoning and worst of all because symptoms of some serious underlying cause may be asked and therefore medical help may not be sought. Self diagnosis is a greater danger than self medication.

- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it, in points only, using sub-headings. Also write at least 4 recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary (minimum 4). Use a format you can**

consider suitable. Supply an appropriate title to it.

(b) Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words.

PASSAGE-9

Q.1 Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

8 Marks

Medical experts have cautioned against extensive use of aluminum cookware and foils, especially for acidic food preparations containing tamarind, tomatoes and green leafy vegetables which could lead to aluminum toxicity and consequent nerve disorder. The use of aluminum cookware should be limited and their use for making acidic food preparations should be avoided as they increase aluminum leaching into food warn scientists from National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad.

Chronic exposure to high levels of aluminum through food and water could lead to nerve and brain disorder such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease, they say. Studies at NIN have shown that chronic exposure of rats to high aluminum and calcium deficient diets lead degeneration of nerves and impairment of some brain functions.

Earlier studies too have linked high aluminum intake with dementia and bone diseases. Keeping in view evidence of a link between high aluminum content in drinking water and senile dementia and Alzheimer's disease, a reduced intake of aluminum by kidney patients and elderly persons is advisable.

NIN scientists say in a report that they have also advised regular monitoring of aluminum in blood for dialysis patients. Patients with kidney disorders are particularly susceptible to aluminum is present in water, soil, plants and cooking utensils. It is added to drinking water as aluminum sulphate at the treatment plants, while soil contamination with it leads to accumulation in vegetables.

It is also used in medicine such as antacids, analgesics and anti-diarrhoeals in food and food activities, foils, wrapping papers and cookware and in water purification processes. NIN studies showed especially green leafy vegetables, spices and in the form of 'Sambhar' contribute significantly to aluminum uptake.

Aluminum containing food additives are generally used as buffers, neutralising agents, dough strength emulsifying agents for processed cheese and thinkers. Studies on experimental rats also showed that deficiencies of certain minerals such as calcium and iron enhance aluminum absorption and accumulation in tissues over a long period.

Recent reports indicate that most individuals consume aluminum daily from natural resources. Additional aluminum is injected through pressure cookers, roasting pans, frozen dinner trays, foil wrappers.

The use of aluminum in packaging food is on the increase and is becoming a potential source of contamination.

Studies also show that certain dietary factors such as citrate and nutritional deficiencies of essential minerals such as calcium and iron significantly enhance aluminium absorption and accumulation in tissues. Aluminium toxicity is greater when there is calcium deficiency in the body.

- (a) **On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it using heading and sub headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary (minimum 4). Your notes should be in points only.**
- (b) **Write a summary of the above passage in 80 words only. Suggest a suitable title.**

PASSAGE-10

Q.1 Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow :

8 Marks

We have been talking about the evils of child abuse for the last 10 years in this country. But the number of working children seems to be increasing. Instead of building up a groundwell of public opinion against child labour and for compulsory primary education, we are still talking about child labour as being necessary for the survival of the family. The debate has not changed radically in the last 10 years. The result is that children continue to work in the most hazardous conditions and compulsory education is still a dream.

The presence of child labour in hazardous industries is a gross violation of human rights. If children are not dying in explosions, they are dying a slow but sure death in the glass, brassware, lock, slate, balloon, brick-kiln and other industries.

With their power employers of child labour get away scot-free. If at all compensation is paid, it is the state that dishes out the cash.

Not only are children working in hazardous industry, they are also engaged in the most hazardous processes in industries which adults do not want to touch. In the glass industry children are primarily engaged in removing molten glass from the furnaces. Since the furnaces are designed for adults, the child's face is almost touching the wall of the furnaces. It is not all.

Accidents happen all the time and most of them go unreported. Doctors refuse to treat injured and severely ill patients. A common complaint I heard from

workers in all the industries I studied- glass, lock, brassware, pottery and gemstone- was that doctors tell them to come back to them for treatment when they are better. Doctors refuse to treat severely injured patients, as they have to necessarily report medico-legal cases.

What then is going to be the fate of Indian children? Will Rohtak become another statistic or yesterday's news? Are we still going to justify child labour in India as an economic necessity for the family? The children who are found working are those that are able to work. What about the children who are too ill or injured working in hazardous occupations? The word "hazardous" is not defined anywhere, not in the Constitution of India and in the Child Labour (prohibition and regulation) Act 1986. Child labour has to be banned uniformly.

Or will the state take notice only when it becomes an international issue, as is the case with the carpet industry? Child labour in hazardous industry at least needs to be banned by a residential order or something dramatic and serious like that. The message needs to get home to all employers of child labour that this situation just cannot continue. Parents also cannot be allowed to justify sending their children to work in such industries on the grounds of poverty. A massive countrywide campaign needs to be launched-like the campaign on the girl child-staling clearly the punitive action which would be taken if children were found to be employed.

We cannot wait for the perfect programme to be developed before child labour is banned in hazardous employments. The word "hazardous" needs to be defined and defined now. If all work is considered hazardous then let all work be banned for children.

- 1. On the basis of your reading of the passage make notes on it using subtitles and at least 4 abbreviations. Give the passage a Title.**
- 2. Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words, using your notes.**