

Bridge is essential for the daily functioning of Kolkata and Howrah. Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence. The Howrah Bridge is a lifeline because _____.

- (A) it carries thousands of vehicles and pedestrians every day
- (B) it is the tallest structure in Kolkata

iv. Complete the following with ONE example, with reference to paragraph 3. The Howrah Bridge provides a sense of calm in the early morning because _____.

v. Why does the writer describe the bridge as a "symbol of the city's resilience" in paragraph 2? Because

- (A) The bridge helps people reach work on time.
- (B) The bridge connects the city in both a physical and emotional sense.
- (C) It is the most iconic structure in Kolkata.
- (D) It helps street vendors set up their stalls every day

vi. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 4, to support the following. The Howrah Bridge transforms into a busy hub of activity as the day progresses.

vii. In the line, 'the bridge, towering above them, seems to watch over the river' (Paragraph 3), what does the phrase 'watch over the river' suggest about the bridge's presence?

viii. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 4 :

vehicles: traffic :: street vendors: _____

- (A) river
- (B) stalls
- (C) Howrah
- (D) bridge

ix. Why is it fair to say that the statement 'the Howrah Bridge remains a beacon of the city's strength' in paragraph 5 uses figurative language?

- (A) It suggests the bridge represents Kolkata's enduring spirit.
- (B) It compares the bridge to a literal beacon.
- (C) It emphasizes the physical size of the bridge.
- (D) It describes the lights on the bridge.

x. Assess the potential challenges or benefits of maintaining such an important structure, as suggested in paragraph 5.

2.

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

(1) For a successful functioning of democracy, no doubt, literate people are of great worth. Literacy is considered to be the ability to use language to read, write, listen and speak as well as the ability to perform simple arithmetic. Education should not be limited to literacy. It is because, education broadens the vision of the people and helps to comprehend various phenomena in the right context. No wonder, our constitution framers vehemently felt the need for compulsory education for all children till they attain the age of 14.

(2) Due to the collaborative efforts taken by the central government and state governments, the literacy rate of our country has grown from a very low literacy rate of 12.2% in 1947 to 74.0% in 2011 and it is still growing. With 96.2 percent literacy, Kerala has maintained to be the most literate state in the country, while Andhra Pradesh featured at the bottom with a rate of 66.4 percent, showed a report based on National Statistical Office (NSO) Survey 2020. One of the most affecting factors for literacy is population growth. In global scenario, China and India are the most populated nations of the world claiming to have more than one-third of the world's human population.

(3) India's improved education system is often cited as one of the main contributors to its economy. At the same time, India continues to face stern challenges. Despite growing investment in education, 25% of its population is still illiterate; only 15% of Indian students reach high school, and just 7% of the 15% who make it to high school, graduate.

(4) Drop-out (wastage) is a universal phenomenon of education system in India. The children living in remote rural areas and urban slums are more vulnerable than their counterparts living in urban areas. Further, the drop-out rates are much higher for educationally backward states and districts. Girls in India tend to have higher drop-out rates than boys and orthodox mentality is the sole reason behind it. Failure to complete high school education causes serious implications for the

individuals as well as for the society. It results in negative outcome for the individuals and widens social and economic inequalities already in existence. As such it is desired that wastage at all stages of education should be reduced to zero and efficiency of education system to be improved to the maximum.

(5) The educational planners need to understand and identify the social groups that are more susceptible to drop-out and the reasons for their dropping out for which empirical research support is required. In addition to drop-out, failure (stagnation) is another serious problem in the field of education which results in drop-out.

(6) If a student consistently fails in a class, he loses interest in studies. The parents also get discouraged and lose interest in the child's education. Generally, in the end, the child gives up studies and either gets into some trade thereby helping his parents supplement their income or turns a vagabond menacing the society and thus increasing the burden of the nation. In this way, stagnation damages the primary education to a great extent. Serious deliberation over the grave issue is the demand of time.

KERALA REMAINS AT THE TOP

Literacy rates for those aged 7 or more (%)

State/UT	Male	Female	Person	Gender Gap (% pts)
Kerala	97.4	95.2	96.2	2.2
Delhi	93.7	82.4	88.7	11.3
Uttarakhand	94.3	80.7	87.6	13.6
Himachal	92.9	80.5	86.6	12.4
Assam	90.1	81.2	85.9	8.9
Maharashtra	90.7	78.4	84.8	12.3
Punjab	88.5	78.5	83.7	10
Tamil Nadu	87.9	77.9	82.9	10
Gujarat	89.5	74.8	82.4	14.7
West Bengal	84.8	76.1	80.5	8.7
Haryana	88	71.3	80.4	16.7
Chhattisgarh	85.4	68.7	77.3	16.7
J&K	85.7	68	77.3	17.7
Odisha	84	70.3	77.3	13.7
Karnataka	83.4	70.5	77.2	12.9
Jharkhand	83	64.7	74.3	18.3
MP	81.2	66.5	73.7	15.7
Uttar Pradesh	81.8	63.4	73	18.4
Telangana	80.5	65.1	72.8	15.4
Bihar	79.7	60.5	70.9	19.2
Rajasthan	80.5	67.5	69.7	23.2
Andhra	73.4	59.5	66.4	13.9
India	84.7	70.3	77.7	14.4

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

- i. State whether the following statement is true or false.
 - According to the survey made by NSO 2020, Himachal Pradesh is at the bottom in literacy rate.
- ii. What do you think the author has tried to convey to readers through this passage?
- iii. Find out the word from the paragraph 5, which means the same as 'destitute'.
- iv. According to the para 1 and 2, which statement from the following is CORRECT?
 - A. At the time of India's Independence, the literacy rate stood at 12.8%.
 - B. Literate citizens play a crucial role in ensuring the successful functioning of a democracy.
 - C. At the time of Independence, India's literacy rate was recorded at 12%.
 - D. At the time of India's Independence, the illiteracy rate was 87.1%.
- v. Which of the following is a suitable title for the given passage.

	<p>A. Education in Democracy. B. Poverty in Democracy. C. Literacy in Democracy. D. Illiteracy in Democracy.</p> <p>vi. List the name of countries which claim to have more than one-third of the world's human population.</p> <p>vii. Comment on the reasons of girl's dropout rate as discussed in the passage.</p> <p>viii. Find out the statement from the passage which highlights the discrimination between a girl's and boy's education.</p>	<p>1 2 1</p>
SECTION B – WRITING		18
3.	<p>Attempt any one from the questions given below.</p> <p>a. You are the President of the Cultural Club of The Newtown School, Vir Nagar. As a part of the Annual Community Service Week, you are planning to put up a cultural performance in 'Ahista', a senior citizens' home. Draft a notice in about 50 words, for the school notice board, inviting participation by the students. Add necessary details to the notice.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>b. As the Chief Librarian of Little Wood Library, Siliguri, draft a notice, in about 50 words, informing members about the change in the library's revised winter timings, effective from 1st December 2024. Also inform the members about the newly introduced electronic international journal support service with a remote accessing facility.</p>	4
4	<p>Attempt any one from the questions given below.</p> <p>a. You are the Secretary of the Civil Medical Doctors Association, Kupwara Sector. On the occasion of World Health Day, you are arranging a workshop on Drug Free Pain Management and Reversal. Draft a formal invitation, in about 50 words, to be sent to all the members to attend the workshop.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>b. You are Shri E.A.S. Prasad, a well-known local cricketer. You have been invited as a chief guest for an inter-school cricket championship in D.P.S. Erankulam. Draft an appropriate formal letter of acceptance, in about 50 words.</p>	4
5.	<p>Attempt any one from the questions given below, within 120-150 words.</p> <p>a. You are Priti/ Pramod, a resident of 317, Rajdhani Encalve, Rajbagh. You came across an advertisement, regarding a job vacancy for an Auto-Cad Designer, at BHEL LTD. in the newspaper and wished to apply for the same. Write a letter to the Personal Manager, along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>b. You have been making documentaries on how rivers, the lifeline of our nation, are under serious threat due to river pollution. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, examining the reasons for this pollution and suggesting ways of tackling the issue.</p>	5
6	<p>Attempt any one from the questions given below, within 120-150 words.</p> <p>a. You are Chinmay, a student of class XII. Whenever you are stressed, you listen to music and get relaxed. You strongly believe that music de-stresses you and refreshed your body and mind. Based on your experience, write an article on 'Music As therapy', for a health magazine, highlighting the healing power of music.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>b. The student welfare department of your school put up the following poster regarding an event in the community centre.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p style="text-align: center;">BE-DO-LIVE-WELL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6th to 8th December 2024 10AM to 6:30PM A wellness Workshop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Sharing Common concerns ✦ Reducing stress ✦ Motivation strategies ✦ Joy of Living </div> <p>As Rita/ Rahul, student editor, write a report on the above workshop for the school magazine.</p>	5
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SECTION C – LITERATURE

40

7. Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly.
Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given

6X1 = 6

A. "The little old house with a little new shed
In front of the edge of the road where traffic sped,
A roadside stand that too pathetically pled,
It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread,
But for some of the money, the cash whose flow supports
The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint."

- i. Bring out the main agenda behind extending 'a little new shed' out of the edge of the road.
- ii. Complete the given analogy.
Piteously : _____ :: Contemptuous : Scornful.
- iii. State the literary device associated with 'flower of cities'.
- iv. Briefly elucidate the symbolism associated with 'a dole of bread'.
- v. Identify the rhyme scheme of the given stanza.
- vi. Why was the 'roadside stand' called 'pathetic'?
 - A. Because of the poor owners.
 - B. Because it was not attractive.
 - C. Because it marred the landscape.
 - D. Because it was surrounded by dirt.

OR

B. "Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool,
Find even the ivory needle hard to pull.
The massive weight of Uncle's wedding band,
Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand."

- i. 'Fingers fluttering' is an expression of _____.
- ii. Identify the symbolism associated with 'ivory' needle.
- iii. State the poetic device present in the phrase 'wedding band'
- iv. Aunt Jennifer finds it difficult to express her feelings through her needle work due to:
 - A. The inefficient work she has created.
 - B. Her failing health.
 - C. Oppression and male domination.
 - D. Her husband living outstation.
- v. Comment in brief, on the use of imagery in the given extract.
- vi. What does 'The massive weight' signify?

8. Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly.
Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given:

4X1 = 4

A. "Louisa was pretty worried when I told her all this, and didn't want me to look for the third level any more, and after a while I stopped; I went back to my stamps. But now we're both looking, every weekend, because now we have proof that the third level is still there. My friend Sam Weiner disappeared! Nobody knew where, but I sort of suspected because Sam's a city boy, and I used to tell him about Galesburg- I went to school there - and he always said he liked the sound of the place.

And that's where he is, all right. In 1894.

Because one night, fussing with my stamp collection, I found - Well, do you know what a first-day cover is? When a new stamp is issued, stamp collectors buy some and use them to mail envelopes to themselves on the very first day of sale; and the postmark proves the date. The envelope is

called a first-day cover. They're never opened; you just put blank paper in the envelope."

i. What did the narrator tell Louisa?

- A. That he had been to the third level.
- B. That he had been to Galesburg.
- C. That he had been to Illinois.
- D. That he had met Sam Weiner.

ii. Who was Sam Weiner?

iii. Where did Charley receive the first-day cover from?

iv. Where according to Charley, had Sam disappeared?

- A. Charley realized that it was just his imagination.
- B. Charley thought that Sam was just missing for a couple of days.
- C. Charley had good reasons to believe that Sam went back to old Galesburg.
- D. Charley thought Sam was dead.

OR

B. "You loose all earthly sense of perspective and time here. The visual scale ranges from the microscopic to the mighty: midges and mites to blue whales and icebergs as big as countries (the largest recorded was the size of Belgium). Days go on and on and on in surreal 24-hour austral summer light, and a ubiquitous silence, interrupted only by the occasional avalanche or calving ice sheet, consecrates the place. It's an immersion that will force you to place yourself in the context of the earth's geological history. And for humans, the prognosis isn't good."

i. According to the extract, why is it that one loses all earthly sense of perspective and time here? Pick the reasons that are mentioned in the extract.

- 1. The place is too expensive to afford for the middle-income groups.
- 2. 90% of the Earth's total ice volumes are stored here.
- 3. The place is untouched by humans and their inventions.
- 4. One can hardly experience sunshine for over a week.
- 5. The place gives an extraordinary experience that makes one forget about all the other things.

Which of the above statements are mentioned in the extract?

- A. Options 1,4 and 5
- B. Options 1,2 and 3
- C. Options 3 and 5
- D. Options 2, 3 and 5

ii. What are 'midges and mites' referred to in the same extract?

iii. Days, as discussed in the extract, are rather quiet on the Southern Hemisphere and is interrupted only by:

- A. Falling mass of snow rapidly down a mountain.
- B. The cackle of aquatic animals.
- C. The scream of sea-gulls.
- D. The scream of midges and mites.

iv. State whether the given statement is True or False.

The occasional avalanche or calving ice sheet cleanses the place.

9. Read the following extract and answer the questions accordingly.

Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given:

A. "Since you have been so nice to me all day long, as if I were a captain, I want to be nice to you, in return, as if I were a real captain- for I do not want you to be embarrassed at this Christmas season by a thief; but you can give back the money to the old man on the roadside, who has the money pouch hanging on the window frame as a bait for the poor wanderers.

The rattrap is a Christmas present from a rat who would have been caught in this world's rattrap if he had not been raised to captain. because in that way he got the power to clear himself.

Written with friendship,
And high regard,
Captain Von Stahle."

6x1= 6

- i. Complete the given sentence.-
 "You have been so nice to me". Here, 'you' and 'me' refers to _____.
- ii. According to the given extract, which of the following CANNOT be attributed to the peddler?
 A. Indebtedness.
 B. Reform.
 C. Self-pity.
 D. Self-awareness.
- iii. Why did the peddler gift a rattrap as a Christmas present?
- iv. "the old man on the roadside stand, who has the money pouch hanging on the window frame as a bait for poor wanderers". Identify the tone of this line.
- v. This communication letter includes:
 1. a promise.
 2. regret.
 3. an apology.
 4. shame.

Identify the correct option

- A. Only 4
 B. Only 1
 C. Option 1 and 3
 D. Option 2 and 4
- vi. The word 'frame' has been used to indicate a rigid structure that surrounds something such as a picture, door or a windowpane. There are other meanings of 'frame' too.
 Choose the options that DOES NOT list the meaning of 'frame'
1. A person's body with reference to its size or build.
 2. A single complete picture in a series forming a cinema, television or video film.
 3. The triangular structure for positioning the red balls in a snooker.
 4. A thin solid object that seals a container or hole; a lid.
 A. Option 1
 B. Option 2
 C. Option 3
 D. Option 4

OR

B. All this shows that there was a great deal of national integration long before the A.I.R. and the Doordarshan began broadcasting programme on national integration. This gang of nationally integrated make-up men could turn any decent-looking person into a hideous crimson hued monster with the help of truck-loads of pancakes and a number of other locally made potions and lotions. Those were the days of mainly indoor shooting, and only five percent of the film was shot outdoor.

- i. "All this shows that there was a great deal of national integration". Explain the given line in brief with reference to the Gemini Studio.
- ii. Who were the nationally integrated men?
 A. The make-up artists of a beauty parlour.
 B. The make-up artist who came with the group of Stephen Spondor.
 C. The make-up artist of the Gemini Studio.
 D. The make-up of the AIR.
- iii. Find out the antonym of 'beautiful' from the given extract.
- iv. What does the given extract say about the film-making industry?
- v. State the narrator's role in Gemini Studio, after carefully reading the given extract.
- vi. Complete the given sentence.
 _____ is the name of a make-up brand that the studio used in large amounts.

10. Answer any five of following in about 40-50 words each.

- i. Explain the inference that can be drawn from the line, "Will they make them sing in German, even the pigeons?"
- ii. "What does the writer mean by 'the fiery misery of those subjected to make-up'?"

5x2=10

	<p>iii. "The tigers in the panel that she made Will go prancing, proud and unafraid." Identify and elaborate on the tone of the poet, in the quoted lines.</p> <p>iv. Sophie flits from one dream to another. What trait of her character is brought out by this action?</p> <p>v. "When I sense a flash of it in Mukesh, I am cheered." How is Mukesh's attitude to life different from that of his family and friends?</p> <p>vi. How do you evaluate Mukund Padmanabhan as an interviewer? Mention at least two qualities he displays in his interviews, supported by textual evidences.</p>	
11.	<p>Attempt any two of following in about 40-50 words each.</p> <p>i. Why was it a celebration time for all tigers inhabiting Pratibandhapuram?</p> <p>ii. Why does Derry feel that his mother still treats him like a child despite being fourteen?</p> <p>iii. Why did the clerk at the 'third level' stare at Charley?</p>	2x2 = 4
12.	<p>Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.</p> <p>a. Exploitation is a universal phenomenon. The poor Indigo farmers were exploited by the British Landlords to which Gandhiji objected. Even after our independence, we find exploitation of unorganized labour. The weak have always and at all times been the victim of injustice and exploitation. Discuss the value reflected in the chapter 'Indigo' and the lesson we learn from Gandhiji.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>b. Umberto Eco has a talk with Danny Casey. Danny being a football prodigy, feels his popularity might affect his game as he cannot devote much time to it. What advice will Eco give Casey about time management? Write a paragraph on the interaction between the two and the advice given by Umberto Eco.</p>	1x5 = 5
13.	<p>Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.</p> <p>a. "Gravity works like magic, when an unstoppable force meets and immovable object." Based on the given quote, stage a fictional strange meeting between Mr. Lamb and the Charlie. Do you think Mr. Lamb would have found a cure to Charlie's escapist nature? Elaborate the answer by drafting a conversation between these two characters.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>b. Man always finds himself in a dilemma when he is required to fulfil two or more roles that may be in conflict with each other. Dr. Sadao Hoki was also in the same dilemma, but he rises above his preception and does what his conscience compels him to do. Justify his character appreciating the pain and effort he took to save his enemy's life.</p>	1x5 = 5