SECTION A
(Reading :20 marks)

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

Robert Peary, the first man to reach the North pole, was born in 1856. From the beginning, he was fascinated by the grandeur of Greenland and carried out Arctic explorations from time to time. During his earlier trips he made acquaintance with Eskimos and particularly grew close to a remote tribe, the Arctic Highlanders. He learned from them how to survive in the Arctic wilderness. He copied their fishing methods and understood the value of sledge dogs and the Eskimo snow houses or igloos. As he did not have a suitably equipped ship to deal with polar ice, his earlier attempts were held back.

At last he acquired ‘Roosevelt’, built according to his own specifications. Roosevelt was able to crash through pack ice that would have held any other ship until it was crushed. Finally, Peary left for his expedition at the beginning of March, 1909. When (they were just 214 km from the pole, Peary was left to journey on with only five sledges, 40 dogs, Mathew Henson, an African Bearer and four Eskimos. The final journey was divided into five marches.

At the end of fifth march, Peary took a reading on his sextant, which gave him the latitude and judged himself five km from the pole. After a short rest, they journeyed on April 16, 1909, at last stood at the Pole. Peary built a crude igloo and planted in it the US flag. Though Dr. Frederick Cook, Peary’s friend, also claimed as the first to be at the pole, Robert Peary is usually recognized as the first man at the North pole. Robert Peary died in 1920. He was 63 years old. Peary had a son by an Inuit woman. This son later visited his father's family and his gravesite in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. This biography by Patsy Stevens, a retired teacher, was written in 2007.

(a) What was the reason behind Peary’s earlier trips to Greenland?
(b) What do you know about “Roosevelt”?
(c) When did Peary set out for his first expedition to the Pole?
(d) How far was Peary from the North pole at the end of fifth March?
Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

There was a time when our hills, mountains and even plains were covered with huge forests. As the population grew, trees were cut down to meet the demand for fuel and timber. Thus our wonderful forests came to be destroyed. Now we don’t have enough trees to give us firewood even. So, people are forced to burn cattle-dung which ought to be saved for use as manure. Cattle-dung is very necessary to maintain the fertility of soil. Chemical fertilizers alone can’t help. In many areas where only chemical fertilizers are used, the crop yields have started falling.

There is another grave danger. Now we don’t have enough trees to treat all the carbon-dioxide that is being produced in our homes, factories and by our automobiles. The air remains polluted and it can give us a number of serious diseases.

Trees are man’s best friends. They are God’s greatest gift to man. They are the invaluable wealth of a nation. It is our sacred duty to protect them and look after them well. An average size tree creates sufficient oxygen in one year to provide oxygen for a family of four. Planting trees is important, is evident as they are the natural habitat of the animals and birds, as well as many endangered species.

There are still too few of them to fully offset the changes brought about by global warming. Automobile traffic, manufacturing and other human activities are playing havoc with our environment. Reduce global warming simply by planting trees for the environment. It is the need of the hour if we want to save our planet. Trees not only remove harmful chemicals from the soil, but also help reduce the greenhouses leading to global warming.

(a) What is the main cause of destruction of our forest?
(b) Why are crop yields falling?
(c) How are trees God’s greatest gift to us?
(d) Why is tree plantation important in the current scenario?
(e) What is meant by ‘endangered’? (Para 3)
(f) What is meant by ‘havoc’? (Para 4)
(g) Find the word opposite to ‘increase’. (Para 4)
(h) Find the word opposite to ‘worthless’. (Para 3)
accidents in Delhi. You may include ideas like laxity in the implementation of laws, citizens’
reckless behaviour, underage children driving vehicles, drunken driving etc..

4 You are Lakshay/Lakshita—a great fan of your Grandfather a retired brigadier who had
won man bravery awards. You shared a great weekend with him all alone. He entertained
you by narrarting exciting stories of his military exploits. Imagine you are the grand father.
Narrate an exciting incident in 150-200 words.

5 Complete the following passage by choosing the most appropriate options from the ones
given below. Write your answers in the answer sheets against the correct blank number. Do
not copy the entire passage.

Birbal was one of the nine gems (a) _____ Akbar’s court. He (b) _____ very intelligent. People
still enjoy (c) _____ his stories.

(a) (i) around (ii) over
    (iii) in (iv) to
(b) (i) has been (ii) was
    (iii) is (iv) had been
(c) (i) speaking (ii) talking
    (iii) having read (iv) reading

6 There is an error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction in the answer
sheet as given below :

Albert Einstein holds that imagination is more important
than Knowledge. If knowledge was power, librarians
will rule the world. What makes a student a high
achiever is his clever use of both knowledge or
imagination.

Incorrect        Correct
(a) _____        _____
(b) _____        _____
(c) _____        _____
(d) _____        _____
Look at the words and phrases below. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences. Write the correct sentences in your answer sheet.

Eg: sharing / does / rewards / naturally / come / to humans

Does sharing rewards come naturally to humans?

(a) do / humans / their / share / rewards / with others / equitably

(b) comes / naturally / it / to / children / involves / it / when / collaborative work

(c) are / they / less inclined / it / when / does not / collective action / involve

SECTION C (LITERATURE & LONG READING TEXT: 25 Marks)

8 Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

“When I came back to my village, I saw my grandmother in tears. I was surprised for I had never seen her cry even in the most difficult situations”.

(a) Who is ‘I’ here?

(b) Why was the grandmother in tears?

(c) What do difficult situations refer to?

OR

Read the extract given below and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow.

‘I come from haunts of coot and hern;
I make a sudden sally
And sparkle out among the fern,
To bicker down a valley’.

(A) Who is "I" in these lines?

(B) What is this figure of speech known as?

(C) Why does it bicker down a valley?
Answer the following questions in 30 - 40 words:

9(i) ‘It was like lighting a fuse. Duke shimmied himself U-shaped in anticipation’. Explain.  

(ii) Why was money of no use to the grandmother in ‘How I Taught my Grandmother to Read’?  

(iii) Where did the two roads diverge in ‘The Road Not Taken’. State their significance?  

(iv) Why was Mrs. AI Smith not interested in going over the house?  

10 “We’re well off, but what use is money when I cannot be independent.” Do you agree with the speaker? What gives more satisfaction - money or independence? Elaborate in about 80-100 words.  

OR  

With respect to the central theme of the poem "The Road Not Taken", elaborate in detail the values imbibed in the poem. (80-100 words)  

Attempt either question no. 11 or 12 (in 150-200 words).  

11 Describe briefly the Lilliputian educational programme for children in Lilliput. Give your views on it in 150 - 200 words.  

OR
Elaborate on the character of the Emperor of Lilliput in **150 - 200** words.

12  Why didn’t Montmorency like the idea of going up the river? Did he (Montmorency) enjoy the trip?

**OR**

We sometimes find ourselves caught in the typical situation in which the three friends found themselves at the waterloo station. Elucidate.