SECTION - A READING 20 MARKS

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. [8]

The phases of the Moon last approximately one month so it was easy for ancient people to measure that length of time. However, every society needs a length of time shorter than a month but longer than a day so the week was invented.

Sunday is, obviously named after the Sun and Monday is named after the Moon. Saturday is named after Saturn. The other days of the week are named after Germanic gods. Tuesday is named after Tiw, the god of war. Wednesday is named after Woden, the chief god. Thursday is named after Thor, the god of thunder and Friday is named after the Goddess Frigg.

In 45 BC Julius Caesar introduced a new calendar with 12 months. He also added a leap year.

The Romans celebrated New Year on 1 March so the name September is derived from Latin words meaning seventh month. October was the 8th month, November was the 9th month and December was the 10th month. In England, New Year was not celebrated in January until 1752. January is named after the Roman god Janus, who was the god of gates, doors, and beginnings. February may be named after the Roman festival of Februa. March is named after Mars the god of war. June is named after the goddess Juno and July is named after Julius Caesar. August is named after Augustus Caesar. The origin of the names of the other months is not certain. April is believed to be derived from the Latin word aperire, which means to open because buds opened at that time. May may be named after the Goddess Maia.

In 1582, Pope Gregory 13th introduced a new calendar. The calendar went forward 10 days and century years (like 1800) would no longer be leap years unless they were divisible by four. Britain adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1752 but in Russia, it was not adopted until after the revolution of 1917.

In the early years of Christianity there was a dispute over the date of Easter. In 325, the Nicean Council decided it should be on the first Sunday after the full moon after the Spring Equinox. That is why the date of Easter changes every year. Christmas is, of course, Jesus’ birthday. However, it is very unlikely Jesus was really born on 25 December! In ancient times most pagans held some kind of mid-winter festival. Instead of abolishing the old pagan festivals the Church took them over and ‘Christianized’ them. In 354 AD 25 December was fixed as the birthday of Christ.

At the end of the 5th century a monk named Dionysius the Short introduced a new way of calculating dates. Previously dates were calculated from the foundation of Rome. Dates were now calculated from before the birth of Jesus (BC) or before Christ and in the year of Our Lord (AD or anno Domini). However, Dionysius miscalculated and Jesus was actually born in at least 4 BC.

Before the Reformation people would often record the date by writing Saint so-and-so's day rather than writing the day of the month. Many saints days were days of rest and our word holiday is derived from holy day.

In an agricultural society life was dominated by the seasons. The old word for Spring was Lenten (related to our word lengthen because the days lengthen at that time). Later it came to mean the days before Easter and it was shortened to Lent. The word Spring was first used for this season in the 16th century.

On the basis of your reading and understanding of the above passage, answer the following:

(i) September is counted as the seventh month in the Roman calendar because

(ii) After which year did the people of England start celebrating New Year in January?

(iii) Who introduced the calculation of dates from before the birth of Jesus?

(iv) The date of Easter changes every year because the Nicean Council in 325 decided that Easter will be celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon after the Spring Equinox. (True/False).

(v) The Gregorian calendar
   (a) came into being in 1583.
   (b) was introduced by Pope Gregory the 12th.
   (c) didn’t count century years as leap years unless they were divisible by four.
   (d) was adopted by Russia before the Russian revolution.

(vi) The word ‘pagan’ in para 6 means people
   (a) who oppose the government.
   (b) with religious beliefs other than the commonly followed.
(c) who wage wars.
(d) are highly religious.

(vii) Which of the following is not true?
(a) Days are named after the Germanic gods.
(b) Jesus was not really born on 25 December.
(c) ‘Holiday’ means a day of rest because it was derived from the combination of the word ‘holy’ and the fact that people referred to saint days to record days and most of the saint days were days of rest.
(d) all of the above

(viii) The word ‘foundation’ in para 7 can be replaced by the word
(a) base
(b) establishment
(c) organisation
(d) incorporation

Ans:
(i) March was the first month for them.
(ii) 1752
(iii) Dionysius the Short.
(iv) True
(v) (c) didn’t count century years as leap years unless they were divisible by four.
(vi) (b) with religious beliefs other than the commonly followed.
(vii) (d) all of the above
(viii) (b) establishment

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. \[2 \times 4 + 1 \times 4 = 12\]
While we may not all possess the ability to paint the Mona Lisa, compose like Mozart, cook like Julia Child, or write like Hemingway, every human being is born with a special talent. Some people are able to find and learn to express their talents early on while others might discover them later in life. We are all creative beings, and creative beings need to create as much as we need to eat, breathe and sleep. Creativity has different meaning for different people and unfortunately, due to many factors (one’s upbringing, religion, busy schedule, et cetera), that creativity is often stifled. Its importance is not valued as much as it should be, which can have a powerful effect on one’s overall ability to achieve true happiness and success in life. If we stifle our creativity or discount its importance, we create blockages in other aspects of life, which can hinder our ability to move forward in different areas like health, work and personal relationships.

No matter how busy one’s schedule is, it is very important to schedule time for self-care, specifically for expressing creativity. Trying out different hobbies is a great way to explore one’s creativity because it can be very enjoyable. Some people find one hobby and fall in love with it so much it becomes their passion. For example, I love to play with natural ingredients and blend essential oils. Making all-natural, organic skin care products and teaching the recipes in my community workshops is one of my passions. Some people prefer to try different hobbies for shorter periods of time, or change them up each season to stay interested and keep trying different things.

One great thing about hobbies is that there are no set rules. Each person gets to decide how often they want to do it and whether they want to stick with it for a long time or move on to something else after trying it for a few weeks or months.

Another valuable aspect of hobbies is that one can enjoy them quietly when enjoying some downtime alone, or as a way to become involved with a community. Book clubs, art or cooking classes, writers’ workshops, knitting circles, gardening clubs - nearly every type of hobby presents an opportunity to meet with other likeminded individuals and build relationships. This could be beneficial on both a personal and professional level. In any business, especially the salon and spa business, teamwork is vital to success. Hobbies can be a great way to create a community among co-workers either in or outside of the spa. Sometimes if co-workers are not getting along, having them participate in a seemingly non-work related hobby, where all participants are novices, can be great for creating common ground. Oftentimes, the simple act of providing an opportunity for a person to find and express his or her own inherent creative talents produces significant positive changes. When people experience something as simple and profound as creating something beautiful from seemingly nothing, they begin to view the world - and daily environments - in a fresh, new way.

2.1 On the basis of your reading and understanding of the above passage, answer the following: \[2\times4=8\]
(i) What is creativity? What do we achieve from creativity?

Ans: Creativity is a special talent in a particular sphere. We achieve true happiness and success in life from creativity.

(ii) How can one explore one’s creativity? What do people do to stay interested in hobbies?

Ans: One can explore one’s creativity by trying out different hobbies. People try different hobbies for shorter periods of time, or change them up each season to stay interested in them.

(iii) How do hobbies help build community or social relationship? In which way, does this benefit us?

Ans: Hobbies present us with opportunities to meet other likeminded individuals. This helps build community or social relationships. This benefits us on both personal and professional levels.

(iv) What kind of workplace problem do hobbies help to solve? How?

Ans: The problem of co-workers not getting along is solved by hobbies. Hobbies create common ground by giving opportunities for the workers to participate in a seemingly non-work related hobby.

2.2 Answer the following questions: \[1\times4=4\]
(v) The synonym of the word ‘stifled’ in para 1 is
(a) free
(b) support
(c) suppress
(d) hide

Ans: (c) suppress

(vi) The word in para 4 which means ‘deep and intense’ is
(a) novice
(b) profound
(c) inherent
(d) significant
SECTION B - WRITING & GRAMMAR
(30 MARKS)

3. Write an article on the role students play in a teacher’s life in 100-150 words. You are Ajay/Anju. [8]

Ans:

Role of a Student in the Teacher’s Life

By Ajay/Anju

Students influence a teacher’s life at both personal and professional level. Technically, a teacher changes or modifies his or her method of teaching according to the character and needs of the students. Personally, a change in the way a teacher looks at life and its various facets can be attributed to the students.

When a student talks with the same charming smile to a teacher who had punished him or her the previous day, the teacher is compelled to think over it. It is a common revelation that interaction with students helps teachers overcome their day-to-day problems and sadness. Teachers feel happy and energised, ready to take on life again. The relationship of a teacher and his or her students thrives on the mutual readiness to learn from each other. The relationship becomes mechanical when this readiness dies.

Describe the annual science exhibition held in your school recently in 100-150 words.

Ans:

Jigyasa, the Chronicler of Young Scientists

‘Jigyasa’, the annual science exhibition of our school is held on the first Monday of December every year. The whole school waits for this event most eagerly. Our school encourages the growth of a scientific temperament in students from an early age and Jigyasa is an opportunity for them to put this scientific temperament to use.

The preparation for the exhibition starts about a month before the event. This is an exhibition-cum-competition. The exhibition is held at two levels: individual and pair. Participants submit application with a synopsis on the project. The science society of the school selects 100 projects based on certain given criteria.

The school is in a different mood and look on the day of the event. Each participant gives his or her best because ‘Young Scientist of the Year’ award is one of the most coveted awards of Delhi Public School. The sincerity and dedication of the students makes the ambiance sacred and sober. The school invites experts from the field of science and research to judge the competition. Even after explaining their projects for three hours at a stretch, students are high on energy and spirit. Such is the strength and attraction of Jigyasa.

4. Write a short story based on the given outline or cue/s in about 150-200 words. [10]

It was 1 a.m. Everyone except the head boy was snoring away in the river-side camp. Head boy, Arun, who enjoyed solitude was lost in the moonlight glimmer of the calm river. The sight of something floating towards him broke his reverie. It could be a log but what if...

Ans:

It was 1 a.m. Everyone except the head boy was snoring away in the river-side camp. Head boy, Arun, who enjoyed solitude was lost in the moonlight glimmer of the calm river. The sight of something floating towards him broke his reverie. It could be a log but what if it was something else. For a second, he thought of calling others. What if they start screaming and this causes something undesirable. When the flotsam was just a yard away, Arun saw bubbles coming out of it. He became nervous.

It was not a log. It was a man. Arun felt as if his voice was choked. He started sweating badly. He didn’t know if it was a body or the man was still alive. What if he lands in a problem on saving him? He called out his friends because it was difficult for him to drag the man alone.

As he had expected, the others started screaming. Sooraj, who was as calm and matured as Arun, jumped into the river with him. The man was alive but not in a good condition. On pumping the man, his breathe grew louder. No sooner did he get back his voice was choked. He started sweating badly. He didn’t know if it was a body or the man was still alive. What if he lands in a problem on saving him? He called out his friends because it was difficult for him to drag the man alone.

As he had expected, the others started screaming. Sooraj, who was as calm and matured as Arun, jumped into the river with him. The man was alive but not in a good condition. On pumping the man, his breathe grew louder. No sooner did he get back his senses, he tried to get up and run away. They came to know that he was a thief who had jumped into the river to escape the police.

Aman’s brother is six years younger to him. He studies in class 9. When he was in class 8, Aman observed that his brother was losing interest in not only studies but also music and sports. How Aman helped his brother get back to his studies and hobbies is a story you think worth knowing. Share Aman’s story in 150-200 words by taking help from the given hints. Give a suitable title and moral to the story. Hints: Aman’s brother studied and played well - became rude and insincere - Aman kept an eye - talked to his teachers and friends - bridged gap between parents and him - slowly Aman’s brother got back to his old form.

Ans:

Aman’s brother is elder to Aman by six years. But
they are best friends. Perhaps, every teenager walks a muddy path till someone shows him or her the pleasure of walking on a dry road. Aman’s brother is no exception to this.

The final exam of class 8 was just two months away. Aman noticed that his brother was not in his usual self. He was not reading story books and newspapers, playing Sudoku, attending basket ball classes and spending time with his parents. Aman knew that it was the right time to take corrective measures.

Aman talked with his brother’s teachers and friends. The teachers were also worried about his new inattentiveness. His friends found it strange that Aman’s brother didn’t play during the recess. At home, Aman started taking his brother for walks though the latter didn’t want to. A lie for a good cause is not a lie. Aman asked his brother to explain him some chapters as he had to complete his project. He also started playing basket ball. Aman asked his parents to not get irritated with his brother, rather talk to him nicely. After a month of concerted effort by Aman, one day, his brother came to him saying that he had scored full marks in Math. Aman’s happiness knew no bounds. His brother thanked him for walking him across the muddy road full of challenges.

**Moral:** Always show the right path to your younger brothers and sisters.

5. Read the sentence given below and fill in the blanks by choosing the most appropriate options from the ones that follow. 1×4=4

He (i) ........... very tall but his skinny frame makes him look like a flag post. The stubby beard on his flesh rotund face (ii) ........... him look older than his age. His overtly aquiline nose gives him a devilish look. No one knows who he is and (iii) ........... he has come from. People wait (iv) ........... his house, like a guard of honour, to see him when he comes out only once throughout the day to dig the ground and keep some utensils in it.

(i) (a) isn’t (b) wasn’t
(ii) (a) make (b) made
(iii) (a) when (b) where
(iv) (a) in (b) at
(c) beside (d) near

**Ans :**

(i) (a) isn’t
(ii) (c) makes
(iii) (b) where
(iv) (d) near

6. The following paragraph has not been edited. There is an error in each line. Write the error along with its correction in the space provided. 1×4=4

The immersion program, that we were eg.

Error Correction
(i) selected in, taught us **intercultural skills.**

**Ans :**

(i) **selected in** 
(ii) **taught us**
(iii) **intercultural skills.**

7. Rewrite the sentences according to the given instruction. 1×4=4

(i) We were asked to come back the next day. (Change the sentence into active voice.)
(ii) He said, “Please come to this room.” (Write the sentence in reported speech.)
(iii) He belongs to a tribe. The tribe rears animals for livelihood. (Join the sentences.)
(iv) He has been learning music since 2011. (Join the sentences using ‘since and making other necessary changes.)

**Ans :**

(i) They/Someone asked us to come back the next day.
(ii) He requested me to go that room.
(iii) He belongs to a tribe that rears animals for livelihood.
(iv) He has been learning music since 2011.

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow. 1×4=4

Few would grudge her the riches she is now reaping. This is what she has to say about her monetary gains from tennis: “Of course, money is a motivation.”

(i) Who does ‘her’ refer to here?
(ii) Give the meaning of the word ‘grudges’.
(iii) Why few grudged her riches?
(iv) What was the other motivation for ‘her’?

**Ans :**

(i) ‘Her’ refers to the tennis legend Maria Sharapova.
(ii) scoff
(iii) May be they were jealous of her and didn’t realise that a lot of sacrifice and hardship went into earning the riches.
(iv) The other motivation for ‘her’ was to get the number one position in the world.

I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
And a small cabin build there, of clay and wattles
9. Answer any five of the following questions in 30-40 words. 2×5=10

(i) How did the author react when the snake fell on him? 
(ii) What did Einstein jokingly call his desk drawer at work? What did Einstein secretly do during his first job? 
(iii) How are noon, evening and midnight at the lake isle of Innisfree? 
(iv) Which title did Maria Sharapova win in 2004? What was the key to Maria’s winning this? 
(v) What attracted the child towards the balloons? Why didn’t his parents give him the balloons? 
(vi) Why didn’t his parents give him the balloons? 
(vii) Who blamed the bricklayer for the collapse of the wall? What had the bricklayer done? 

Ans:

(i) The author was turned into a stone when the snake fell on him. He didn’t jump or tremble or cry out. But his mind was active. 
(ii) Einstein jokingly called his desk drawer at work as “bureau of theoretical physics.” Einstein was actually developing his own ideas in secret during his first job. 
(iii) The noon has a purple glow. The midnight is shiny. The evening is full of linnet’s wings. 
(iv) Maria Sharapova won women’s singles at Wimbledon in 2004. Her toughness was the key to her winning the title. 
(v) The child was attracted by the rainbow glory of their silken colours. His parents didn’t give him the balloons as he was too old to play with such toys. 
(vi) Grandfather had to pay for Toto at Dehra Dun Railway Station because the ticket collector categorised him as a dog. Grandfather travelled with his pet tortoise without paying for its ticket. 
(vii) The merchant blamed the bricklayer for the collapse of the wall. The bricklayer laid a poor bricklayer because his mind was on the dancing girl with anklets jingling going up and down the street. 

10. Answer any one of the questions in 100-150 words. 

What do you think appealed the Swallow to be the messenger of the happy prince? 

Ans:

The Happy Prince’s tears and concern for the misery and suffering of the people and the sight of people facing extreme situations appealed the Swallow to be the messenger of the happy Prince. He saw the little girl whose match sticks had fallen in the gutter and that her father would beat her if she failed to bring money. She had no shoes or stockings, and her little head is bare. 

He saw the ailing boy with his poor mother in a hut. He saw the man who was trying to finish a play for the Director of the Theatre but could not do so due to cold and hunger. He saw the white faces of starving children looking out listlessly at the black streets. Under the archway of a bridge two little hungry boys were lying in each other’s arms to try and keep themselves warm. All these melted his heart. He was also touched by the magnanimity of the happy prince. The Swallow must have thought that if the happy prince was ready to lose everything for the welfare of others, why shouldn’t he help him? 

or 

Describe the character of Sergei. 

Ans:

Sergei was a kind and honest man. Sergei couldn’t tolerate lies and dishonesty. He thought that everyone should earn money by working hard. He was not the
kind of man who took undue advantage of a person’s helplessness and exploited him. When Lushkoff came to his house to chop wood, he felt bad because Lushkoff’s was weak and hungry. He was ashamed of himself for having set a spoiled, drunken, perhaps sick man to work at menial labour in the cold.

Sergei held everyone equally. He didn’t discriminate people on the basis of how rich he was. Though Lushkoff was poor and worked for him, he wasn’t disrespectful to him. He rather recognised Lushkoff’s hard work. Sergei was a resourceful man also. He sent Lushkoff with a letter to his friend so that Lushkoff could get a better job. Sergei never forgot anyone. Even if he met Lushkoff after two years, he could recognise him immediately and talked with him in the most cordial way. Sergei was a man of principles with a kind heart.