Q1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. [8]

Birds are natural wonders of beauty. Flying is the prerogative solely of birds. The entire universe is their home. Their mellifluous calls, queenly dance, gossamer quill and artistic sculpture make them special. India has quite a few forest reserves which are home to some rarely seen and endangered species of birds.

Located about 24km from the Chennai City Centre, Namnangalam is a massive forest sprawling across 2400 hectares, of which 320 is reserved. It is a bird watcher’s paradise and houses about 85 species of birds including the red-wattled lapwing, the white-breasted kingfisher, Indian eagle owl and several others. It is also said to be home to rare territorial orchids.

Amarambalam Reserve Forest is one of the largest reserve forests of Kerala. Situated in the Western Ghats, it covers a height ranging from 40m-2500m above sea level and sees heavy rainfall making for a thick forest cover. This forest reserve in India sees a variety of birds, some endemic to the region, and some endangered and near threatened species as well. It is also home to the Lion Tailed Macaque and the Nilgiri Tahr. The forest continues from the Silent Valley National Park and forms a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

Kumarakom bird sanctuary also known as Vembanad bird sanctuary is situated in land of attraction, Kerala, near the famous Vembanad Lake. It offers a home to a large number of migratory birds like Flycatcher, Teal, Siberian Stork, Crane, Parrots and Wood Beetle. Other bird sanctuaries in Kerala are Mangalavanam and Thattekkad bird sanctuary, situated on the banks of the Periyar River and famous for some of the rarest species of birds and other unique fauna.

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

(i) How big is the Namnangalam forest reserve?
(ii) Where is Silent Valley National Park?
(iii) Which river flows by the Mangalavanam and the Thattekkad bird sanctuary?
(iv) The bird which is not found in the Namnangalam forest reserve is:
   (a) Wood Beetle    (b) red-wattled lapwing
   (c) the white-breasted kingfisher (d) Indian eagle owl
(v) Which of the following is a migratory bird?
   (a) Lion Tailed Macaque    (b) Indian eagle owl
   (c) Siberian Stork    (d) The Nilgiri Tahr
(vi) The word in para 3 whose antonym is ‘Foreign’ is
   (a) home    (b) endemic
   (c) national (d) reserve
(vii) Which of the following is true about Kumarakom bird sanctuary?
   (a) It is home to rare territorial orchids.
   (b) It is in Chennai.
   (c) Red-wattled lapwing is found here.
   (d) It is famous for migratory birds.
(viii) The word ‘quill’ in para 1 can be replaced by
   (a) beaks    (b) tail
   (c) feather (d) eyes
Q2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. [2 × 4 + 1 × 4 = 12]

The majority of children around the world have at least one sibling. The sibling relationship is likely to last longer than any other relationship in one’s lifetime and plays an integral part in the lives of families. Yet, in comparison to the wealth of studies on parent-child relationships, relatively little attention has been devoted to the role of siblings and their impact on one another’s development. In recent decades, research has focused on sibling relations in early childhood, and the shift from examining the role of structural variables (e.g., age, birth order) towards more process variables (e.g., understanding of their social worlds) has proved to be a fruitful direction. Siblings are viewed as an integral component of family systems and as an important context for learning and development but there are a number of methodological and conceptual challenges to studying siblings from this perspective.

In early childhood, four major characteristics of sibling relations are prominent. First, sibling interactions are emotionally charged relationships defined by strong, uninhibited emotions of a positive, negative and sometimes ambivalent quality. Second, sibling relations are defined by intimacy: as youngsters spend large amounts of time playing together, they know each other very well. This long history and intimate knowledge translates into opportunities for providing emotional and instrumental support for one another, engaging in pretend play, for conflict, and for understanding others’ points of view. Third, sibling relations are characterized by large individual differences in the quality of children’s relations with one another. Fourth, the age difference between siblings often makes the issues of power and control as well as rivalry and jealousy, sources of contention for children, but also provide a context for more positive types of complementary exchanges, such as teaching, helping, and care giving interactions. Broadly speaking, the characteristics of sibling relations sometimes make them challenging for parents, because of the potentially emotional and highly charged nature of the relationship. One issue that arises due to age differences is differential parental treatment.

2.1 On the basis of your reading and understanding of the above passage, answer the following : [2×4=8]
(i) What has given a fruitful direction to the research on siblings in the recent decades?
(ii) Which perspective of studying sibling is challenging? What kind of challenges are these?
(iii) Why sibling relationship in the early childhood is important?
(iv) Does age difference between siblings always result into rivalry? How do you know?

2.2 Answer the following questions : [1×4=4]
(v) A synonym for the word ‘context’ in para 1 is:
(a) theory (b) viewpoint
(c) background (d) premise

(vi) The word ‘ambivalent’ in para 2 means:
(a) uninhibited (b) uncertain
(c) intimate (d) complimentary

(vii) An antonym for the word ‘contention’ in para 2 is:
(a) harmony (b) disagreement
(c) discord (d) friction

(viii) The expression ‘potentially emotional’ in para 2 means to
(a) be more intimate.
(b) be emotionally challenging.
(c) have a scope to be emotionally stronger.
(d) be emotionally disturbing.

SECTION B - WRITING & GRAMMAR (30 MARKS)

Q3. Write an article on ‘How to get a healthy life?’ in 100-150 words. You are Megha/Mahesh.
OR

Describe a place of entertainment that you recently visited with your cousins in 100-150 words.

Q4. Write a short story based on the given outline or cue/s in about 150-200 words. [10]

Abhishek didn’t know that the day which had started with nothing unusual would soon turn out to be a turning point in his life. He was sweeping the dry leaves and freshly bloomed Gardenia that had fallen off. Suddenly, he felt as if...

OR

One Sunday afternoon, when not only your family but also the entire neighbourhood was enjoying a nap, you felt as if something was burning. Write a story on what happened that afternoon in 150-200 words with a title and a moral.

Q5. Read the sentences given below and fill in the blanks by choosing the most appropriate options from the ones that follow. [1×4=4]
The whole human civilisation is (i) .......... but the fattest story book with unlimited pages. This book has the life story of (ii) .......... man who has walked the face of this earth. It starts from nowhere and ends at nowhere (iii) .......... as long as the human civilisation flourishses, pages after pages (iv) .......... be added to this book.

(i) (a) nothing (b) something
(c) everything (d) anything
(ii) (a) some (b) few
(c) every (d) all
(iii) (a) with (b) over
(c) since (d) for
(iv) (a) should (b) will
(c) may (d) must

Q6. 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]

Error Correction

(i) The tingling sensation and numbness in the hand are not something to be ignored for an aftermath of typing for long hours. You should be in the initial stage of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome.

Q7. Rewrite the sentences according to the given instructions. [1×4=4]

(i) Someone has arranged the books on the table. (Write the sentence in passive voice.)
(ii) Be careful with that flower vase. You might break it. (Join the sentences using ‘lest’)
(iii) Mohan said to me, “I have arrived today.” (Change the sentence into reported speech.)
(iv) I gifted myself some new story books yesterday. (Write the sentence in present perfect tense. Make necessary changes)

SECTION C - LITERATURE (30 MARKS)

Q8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow. [1×4=4]

He glides through the water away from the stroke. O let him go over the water into the reeds to hide

(i) Who does ‘He’ refer to in the given stanza?
(ii) What is ‘He’ escaping from?
(iii) What kind of body does ‘He’ have?
(iv) Where is ‘He’ generally found?

OR

Thinking to humour his disconsolate charge by a gift of sweets, the man took him to the counter of the sweet shop. “What sweets would you like, child?” he asked. The child turned his face from the sweet shop and only sobbed, “I want my mother, I want my father!”

(i) Name the text and the author.

(ii) Who does ‘man’ refer to here?

(iii) Which sweet did the child wish to have when he was with his parents?

(iv) Give the meaning of the word ‘disconsolate’.

Q9. Answer any five of the following questions in 30-40 words. 2×5=10

(i) Where and what did the Tibetan immigrants in Nepal sell?

(ii) How did Santosh take to mountaineering?

(iii) Why is the poet’s beloved at peace now?

(iv) What did the Swallow see and hear while taking the ruby for the thirsty boys?

(v) ‘Everything felt surreal’? Who spoke the given line? What did the speaker mean by this?

(vi) Which program did the women in the shelter join? How did Prashant engage the children?

(vii) What was Johnsy suffering from? Why wasn’t Johnsy recovering even after the doctor treated her every day?

Q10. Answer any one of the questions in 100-150 words.

Who do you think was happier – Kangaroo or Duck? Why? [8]

OR

How did Montmorency spoil their packing?

Q11. Answer any one of the questions in 100-150 words.

“In fact, he is little better than a beggar!” The mayor says this on seeing The Happy Prince on a frosty morning. This statement expresses the irony of the story. Explain the irony. [8]

OR

Describe the character of Iswaran.

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