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

Britain’s first taste of tea was belated – the Chinese had been drinking it for 2,000 years. The English diarist, Samuel Pepys, mentions tea in his diary entry from September 25, 1600. “Tcha,” wrote Pepys, the “excellent and by all Physicians approved, China drink,” was sold in England from 1635, for prices as high as £6 to £10 per pound of the herb (£600 to £1,000, today). In 1662, when King Charles II married the Portuguese princess, Catherine of Braganza, her dowry constituted a chest of tea, and the island of Bombay for an annual lease of £10, equivalent then to the cost of a pound of tea in England. Catherine, who was used to drinking tea in the Portuguese court, had her first sip of the beverage in England in May 1662 – the month of her wedding – at Portsmouth.

In the 18th century, Dutch firm J.J. Vouté & Sons ruthlessly exploited the incapacity of the English East India Company to supply tea to Britain’s thriving domestic elites and coffee houses, smuggling about eight million pounds of tea, annually. Yet, Dutch tea soon became a “name for all teas that are bad in quality and unfit for use.” Meanwhile, the English company began strengthening its commercial ties with China, as Bombay turned into the seed of British India’s commerce, escalating all other European – especially Portuguese and Dutch – operations.

However, with resources depleted due to the Anglo-Dutch wars, by the 18th century, the English were unable to afford the silver that China demanded for continuing trade with Britain. To counter smuggled tea, on the one hand, and the increasing Chinese demand for silver on the other, the British responded by growing opium in India – largely in Bengal, Patna, Benares and the Malwa plateau – and smuggling it into China, in exchange for their beloved beverage.

Still, British tea cultivators were extremely anxious to have Chinese tea and techniques brought to India. In 1788, The Royal Society of Arts began deliberating on the idea of transplanting saplings from China. Then, in 1824, tea saplings were discovered in Assam by Robert Bruce and Maniram Dewan. Tea plantations later expanded across Assam and Darjeeling. In a 19th century lecture to the Royal Society, it was noted that around this time, carpenters and shoemakers from Chinese settlements in Calcutta were being sent up to Darjeeling or Assam, “presumably on the belief that every Chinaman must be an expert in tea cultivation and manufacture,” although many of them had never even seen a tea sapling.

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

(i) Samuel Pepys refer tea as .......... in his diary.
(ii) The cost of a pound of tea in England in 1662 was 10 pounds (True/False)?
(iii) Who took advantage of England’s inability to grow tea in the 18th century?
(iv) England smuggled ......... to China to get tea.
(v) Catherine had her first sip of tea in May 1662 at
   (a) Portuguese court  (b) Bombay
   (c) China           (d) Portsmouth
(vi) Which tea soon became synonymous with “teas that are bad in quality and unfit for use”?
    (a) Assamese   (b) Portuguese
    (c) Dutch      (d) English
(vii) England couldn’t buy tea from China in the 18th century because
     (a) it had lost much wealth in the Anglo-Dutch war.
     (b) China sold tea at an unaffordable rate.
     (c) it had lost in the Anglo-Dutch war.
     (d) it had started growing opium in India.
Though China had been drinking tea for 2000 years, many of them
(a) had not tasted tea in the 19th century.
(b) had not seen a tea sapling in the 19th century.
(c) didn’t like the taste of tea.
(d) many of them didn’t know how to grow tea.

Q2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. \[2 \times 4 + 1 \times 4 = 12\]
The children’s literature being produced in India nowadays includes much more than just stories and folktales rich in morals and traditions. The output of its writers and illustrators in a variety of genres and in a plethora of languages reflects India’s complex and ever-changing multilingual society. They also break through and go beyond long-standing gender, cultural and social stereotypes. The unique challenges and opportunities Indian children’s book creators face— or those in the diaspora writing about India—help create what one of our interviewees poetically calls the “rainbow-colored horizon” of Indian children’s literature.

Children’s publishing in India is poised for growth in every way. With education becoming a priority area, the demand for books for the growing population of young people can only go up.

Traditional retellings have been staple fare for publishers for their very small children’s lists as they are ‘safe’ and they don’t have to worry about copyright. More publishers are becoming willing to publish new authors, experiment with new formats, and find synergy with other media that are competing for the mind-space of the urban child. Maybe future books will be inspired by gaming and more merchandise will be inspired by books. Marketing will remain important in creating a positive buzz around books and reading. Books will influence TV and films and in turn be influenced by them. Comics and graphic formats seem poised for the great leap forward. Young Adult Fiction will have a permeable boundary with Adult Fiction.

Production standards for children’s books will improve as there will be greater exposure to well-produced books world-wide. The internet will create new ways to read and share and peer-review books. It may also enable many new talents to emerge as more people will be able to put up their work online.

2.1 On the basis of your reading and understanding of the above passage, answer the following : \[2 \times 4 = 8\]
(i) Why is Indian children’s literature written in a plethora of languages ?
(ii) Is the author hopeful of a good future of Indian children’s literature? Which sentence says so ?
(iii) How will children’s literature produced world-wide help Indian children’s literature ?
(iv) Which format of children’s literature will become popular in future ?

2.2 Answer the following questions : \[1 \times 4 = 4\]
(v) Which of the following words can replace the word ‘plethora’ in para 1 ?
(a) excess (b) variety
(c) numerous (d) different

(vi) Children’s books will be inspired by
(a) Gaming and TV (b) folktales
(c) TV and films (d) both (a) and (c)

(vii) Which word is the antonym of ‘permeable’ - impassable or porous ?

(viii) Children of which area get exposed to children’s literature as well as other media ?

SECTION B - WRITING & GRAMMAR (30 MARKS)

Q3. Write an article on the need to create awareness or sensitise school students on driving laws and road safety rules in 100-150 words. \[8\]
You met your favourite author in the annual literary meet of your school. Make a diary entry on the meeting in 100-150 words with the help of the hints given below and add your own ideas. You are Mohit/Jyoti.

Hints : was not sure if he would talk to me - author was humble, friendly - answered all my questions patiently and happily - spoke on why reading is important to become a writer - gifted me his autographed latest novel

Q4. Write a short story based on the given outline or cue/s in about 150-200 words. [10]
It was indeed a great surprise for me to get an invitation from the magazine to attend their annual awards function. I didn’t know if I could attend the function as I had many assignments and projects to complete. My curiosity had the better of me. Tears rolled down my cheeks and voice choked when the emcee announced ...

OR
Saurabh and you make great friends. But misunderstanding pushed your friendship on the verge of breaking. You want to share your story with others. Taking help from the hints given below complete the story and supply a suitable title and moral to it.
Met five years back at a tea stall -we taught slum children together - I gradually stopped teaching - I couldn’t buy the stationary for the children- our silence widened the gap further - Saurabh met with an accident - I rushed him to hospital -misunderstanding was cleared.

Q5. Read the sentence given below and fill in the blanks by choosing the most appropriate options from the ones that follow: 1×4=4
(i) ........ not climb the staircase anymore as I was totally spent out (ii) ........ running relentless to save my life from (iii) ........ creature which looked like (iv) ........ Yeti.

(i) (a) did (b) could (c) might (d) had
(ii) (a) from (b) on (c) against (d) over
(iii) (a) those (b) which (c) that (d) this
(iv) (a) a (b) the (c) an (d) none of these

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
Kitty is a lazy Tabby cat. It’s, noisy snore eg. It’s Its 
(i) have often left the guests searching for ___ ___
(ii) the that person which made such ___ ___
(iii) earth-shattering noise. Trip over the tall ___ ___
(iv) column in books while trying to catch the big white lizard is Tabby’s beloved pastime. ___ ___

Q7. Rewrite the sentences according to the given instruction. 1×4=4
(i) Seeta was dumbstruck with joy on meeting her mother after 10 years. (Frame a suitable question for the given statement.)
(ii) Ravi was given some food and a woollen by the stranger. (Change the sentence into active voice)
(iii) The plumber reminded me that I had given him a little more than hundred rupees the previous day. (Change the sentence into a direct speech.)
(iv) Nikhil is the tallest student of the class. (Reframe the sentence using ‘taller’.)

SECTION C - LITERATURE (30 MARKS)

Q8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow. 1×4=4
They, too, aware of sun and air and water,
Are fed by peaceful harvests, by war’s long winter starv’d.
Their hands are ours, and in their lines we read
A labour not different from our own.
(i) Name the poem and poet of the given stanza.
(ii) Who does ‘they’ refer to?
(iii) What leaves the author’s countrymen as well as people of other countries starving?
(iv) What does the author mean by ‘A labour not different from our own’?

OR

“Because I was so young, I used to go to bed at 8 p.m. The other tennis pupils would come in at 11 p.m. and wake me up and order me to tidy up the room and clean it.

(i) Who is the speaker of the above lines? Where was he or she while speaking these lines?
(ii) Who accompanied Maria on her trip to Florida?
(iii) What was the impact of insult and humiliation on Maria Sharapova?
(iv) What price did Maria pay to achieve tennis excellence?

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

(i) In films of which two languages, did Ustad Bismillah Khan work? What was that about the film world which the maestro couldn’t come to terms with?
(ii) What did George and Harris do with the butter?
(iii) What was Santosh determined about from the beginning? When did Santosh protest against the traditional system for the first time?
(iv) Identify any two instances from the story which show that the author and his wife treated Bruno as a family member.
(v) What was the distance between Prashant’s friend’s village and Kalikuda? What scenes did Prashant witness while wading through the water to reach his village?
(vi) What reminded Sergei that he had met the man before? What did the beggar lie to Sergei when the latter had caught his first lie?
(vii) What were Iswaran’s two great qualities?

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

Imagine Ustad Bismillah Khan is going to play the Shehnai in your school annual function. You have been given the duty to introduce and welcome him. How would you introduce him? [8]

OR

The story ‘My childhood’ gives the message that one should follow the religion of humanity. How?

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

Greed never goes unpunished. Does this statement stand valid in the context of ‘The Kingdom of Fools’? Explain. [8]

OR

What message do you get from the story ‘The Happy Prince’?

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