

Section A

Reading Skill

Unseen Comprehension

20 Marks

I. Read the passage given below.

(1) One of the greatest sailing adventures of the past 25 years was the conquest of the Northwest Passage, powered by sail, human muscle, and determination. In 100 days, over three summers (1986-88), Canadians Jeff MacInnis and Mike Beedell accomplished the first wind-powered crossing of the Northwest Passage.

(2) In Jeff MacInnis's words...Our third season. We weave our way through the labyrinth of ice, and in the distance we hear an unmistakable sound. A mighty bowhead whale is nearby, and its rhythmic breaths fill us with awe. Finally we see it relaxed on the surface, its blowhole quivering like a volcanic cone, but it senses our presence and quickly sounds. We are very disappointed. We had only good intentions - to revel in its beautiful immensity and to feel its power. Mike thinks how foolish it would be for this mighty beast to put any faith in us. After all, we are members of the species that had almost sent the bowhead into extinction with our greed for whale oil and bone. It is estimated that as many as 38,000 bowheads were killed off eastern Baffin Island in the 1800s; today there are about 200 left.

(3) The fascinating and sometimes terrifying wildlife keeps us entertained during our explorations. Bearded harp and ring seals greet us daily. The profusion of bird life is awesome; at times we see and smell hundreds of thousands of thick-billed murrelets clinging to their cliff side nests. Our charts show we are on the edge of a huge shoal where the frigid ocean currents up well and mix nutrients that provide a feast for the food chain. At times these animals scare the living daylights out of us. They have a knack of sneaking up behind us and then shooting out of the water and belly flopping for maximum noise and splash. A horrendous splash coming from behind has a heart-stopping effect in polar bear country.

(4) We have many encounters with the "Lords of the Arctic," but we are always cautious, observant, and ever so respectful that we are in their domain. In some regions the land is totally devoid of life, while in others the pulse of life takes our breath away. Such is the paradox of the Arctic; its wastelands flow into oases that are found nowhere else on the face of the earth. Many times we find ancient signs of Inuit people who lived here, superbly attuned to the land. We feel great respect for them; this landscape is a challenge at every moment.

(5) We face a 35 mile open water passage across Prince Regent Inlet on Baffin Island that will take us to our ultimate goal - Pond Inlet on Baffin Bay. The breakers look huge from the water's edge. Leaning into the hulls, like bobsledders at the starting gate, we push as hard as we can down the gravel beach to the sea. We catch the water and keep pushing until we have plunged waist deep, then drag ourselves aboard. Immediately, we begin paddling with every ounce of effort. Inch by agonizing inch, Perception moves offshore. Sweat pours off our bodies. Ahead of us looming gray white through the fog, we see a massive iceberg riding the Current like the ghost of a battleship. There is no wind to fill our sails and steady the boat, and the chaotic motion soon brings seasickness. Slowly the wind begins to build, Prince Regent inlet now looks ominous with wind and waves. The frigid ocean hits us square in the face and chills us to the bone.

(6) We were on the fine edge. Everything the Arctic had taught us over the last 90 days was now being tested. We funneled all that knowledge, skill, teamwork, and spirit into this momentous crossing. If we went over in these sad wit could not get the boat back up. Suddenly the wind speed plummeted to zero as quickly as it had begun.... Now we were being pushed by the convulsing waves toward sheer 2,000 foot cliffs. Two paddles were our only power, Sailing past glacier capped mountains, we approached the end of our journey, At 05:08 in the morning of our hundredth day, speeding into Baffin Bay, the spray from our twin hulls

makes rainbows in the sun as we complete the first sail powered voyage through the Northwest Passage (7) We have journeyed through these waters on their terms, moved by the wind, waves and current. The environment has always been in control of our destiny, we have only tried to respond in the best possible way. We've been awake for nearly 23 hours, but we cannot sleep. The joy and excitement are too great. Our Hobie Cat rests on the rocky beach, the wind whistling in her rigging, her bright yellow hulls radiant in the morning sunlight. She embodies the watchword for survival in the Arctic - adaptability,

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

1x10=10

i) The passage is about the _____.

- a) author's sailing adventure through the Northwest passage
- b) flora and fauna of the Arctic
- c) survival skills needed while sailing
- d) saving the Arctic

ii) "Lords of the Arctic," (Para 4) refers to _____.

- (a) wind breakers
- (b) bearded seals
- (c) polar bears
- (d) bowhead whales

(iii) The author's sailing vessel is named _____.

- (a) Prince Regent
- (b) Hobie Cat
- (c) Perception
- (d) Arctic

(iv) "We were on the fine edge" refers to _____.

- (a) the Prince Regent Inlet
- (b) the ominous sail
- (c) the frigid ocean
- (d) their expedition

(v) _____ embodies the watchword for survival in the Arctic-adaptability.

- (a) Hobie Cat
- (b) Destiny
- (c) Perception
- (d) None of these

(vi) Why does the author feel disappointed to see the bowhead whale disappear into the ocean?

(vii) How does his sailing partner rationalise it?

(viii) What are the author's thoughts about wildlife?

(ix) What is the paradox of the Arctic?

(x) What skills helped the author and his partner survive the adventure?

II. Read the passage given below.

(1) Suspense was over when my high school results finally came out. But I was upset. I had not done as well as I had expected. My father tried to console me. "Why are you worried? You have done very well my dear "No, I have not Baba," I protested, controlling my tears, and wondering if I had disappointed him. "It does not really matter," he assured me. "Do you know what I got when I finished high school?" I looked into Baba's face and waited for the answer to his own question. "You know," he told me "I have never told you this. I got just a third division. But, look at me, I have done quite well" Baba got a third division! I was almost in shock, but the thought of my having done a lot better than that made me realize that I had no reason to complain. I certainly felt better! "Everything is under control!" said Baba, smiling. That was his favourite phrase. Posted in Kolkata, my father was then a senior official in the Indian Railway Service, and an expert in goods traffic operations. He was soon to become a director with the Railway Board. By the time he retired in 1981, he was general manager of the Central Railways. By the time Baba passed away in November 2000, his name had found place in several hearts as well. He was open, easy to know, and full of life. We were extremely close, but I had so much more to learn about him from many things I came to know after his death.

2) In September 2000, he was in hospital for treatment of cancer and given just two months to live. When (he found out, his reaction was an extremely rational one. He asked me to fetch files from his cupboard, so that he could explain the details of my mother's pension. He also dictated his will from his hospital bed. "Everything is under control!" After Baba's death, Satish, our old family retainer, was inconsolable. We tried to cheer him up. "Your Baba had scolded me only once in all these years!" he cried. Satish pointed to the watch on his left hand. "I had been coming late for work and everyone in the family was complaining about it," said Satish. "Then, one day, your Baba gave me this watch and told me, 'Now that you have a watch, you can't be late.'" That was the scolding Satish received. On the fourth day after Baba's death, my sister and I had to perform a ceremony. Since several relatives were expected, we decided to order lunch from a caterer in our locality, reputed for his home cooked food. But, when we went to pay to owner, we got a surprise. He refused to accept any money! "When I wanted to start my catering business, it was your father who lent me money," he told us. It seems Baba never asked for it back. Now, after four or five years, the caterer wanted to repay that debt. Of course, we made him accept the full payment for the fine food and service. "It was Baba's gift and it ought to remain so," I told him.

3) Some days later, there was yet another piece of information as we were preparing for the main ceremony. (Vikram, my brother drove me to the local market. On recognizing our car, the parking assistant, in his twenties, came running towards us and asked why he had not seen its owner for long. We had to break the news to him and to our utter surprise, he started crying. We were really surprised by this reaction from a stranger - until the man told us that Baba used to pay his daughter's school fees and buy her books. It seems, it was on my father's advice that he had even started sending the child to school. More than three years after Baba's death, as we were looking into Baba's personal things, we came across an old file with Baba's certificates and I found among them, his high school diploma from 1937, the one he told me about 30 years earlier, about the third division that had made no difference in his life or career. It had made me see beyond mere marks and first classes as the main road to success. But there was one more fact. Baba had actually got a first division, a rare achievement in his day. Today, years after his passing, when I think of Baba, I see a man who was able to sympathise with others so easily and touch their lives in such a special way.

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

(1 x 10 = 10)

(i) Father's revelation of his high school result to the narrator, was to _____.

(ii) "I was almost in shock..."

Pick the option in which the meaning of shock[ed] is not the same as it is in the passage.

- a) Julie was deeply in shock by her grandmother's death.
- b) He completely shocked everyone with his news.

- c) When she went to China, She experienced culture shock.
- d) When the doctor noticed that the health of the patient was not improving, he suggested the shock therapy.

(iii) Based on your reading of the passage choose the option that lists the correct sequence of the events.

1. The narrator's result was declared.
2. The narrator's father told him about his high-school result.
3. The narrator went to the market with his brother, Vikram.
4. Baba passed away.
5. The narrator realised that his father had actually got a first division.

- (a) 5, 2, 1,3,4 (b) 1, 2, 4, 3, 5 (c) 3, 2, 1, 5, 4 (d) 4, 1, 3, 5, 2

(iv) After the reading of the passage, it can be concluded that the narrator's father had a towards the people and society. approach

(v) How did father react to the narrator's high school result?

(vi) According to the passage, what does the narrator's disappointment after seeing his result show?

(vii) Pick the option that correctly states what DID NOT happen after the narrator's father passed away.

- (a) No one turned out for Baba's condolence.
- (b) Everybody in the nearby area praised Baba for his helping nature.
- (c) The caterer refused to take the money.
- (d) The narrator found Baba's old file with the certificates and his high school diploma in it.

(viii) According to the passage, the narrator's high school result was

(ix) Pick out the option that correctly lists the final feelings of the narrator after finding his father's old file.

1. frustrated 2. Satisfied 3. Hopeful 4. arrogant
 5. pessimistic 6. disappointed
- (a) 2 and 3 (b) 4 and 6 (c) 1 and 5 (d) 5 and 6

(x) Choose the correct synonym of 'rational' as given in para 2, from the options given below.

1. logical 2. Reasonable 3. Agitated 4. thoughtless
- (a) 1 and 4 (b) 1 and 3 (c) 2 and 4 (d) 1 and 2

Section B

Writing skill

60 Marks

Q-2 Attempt any two of the following

10X2=20

A) You are Ashish/Anshu B-94, Fort Road, Narnaul. You have read the advertisement for the post of Accounts officer. You are qualified for Job. Right an application to the Managing Director, HDFC Bank, Rewari.

(b) You have noticed many stray animals on the road . during the busy hours of the day. These animals cause traffic jams as well as accidents. You have already written to the authorities concerned but no action has been taken so far. Write a letter to the Editor, The Hindu, Delhi, drawing attention of the Municipal Committee Charkhi Dadri. You are satish/Sumita 12, M.G-Road, Charkhi Dadri.

(C) Write a letter to the Manager, Lightways Sport, Karnal, placing an order for sports articles to be supplied to your school, ABC Matriculation School Main Bazaar, Jhajjar. Sign yourself as Ravi / Raveena

Q.3 Write a paragraph on any two topics.

10X2=20

a) Travelling in a Crowded Bus

b) Environmental Protection-Need of an hour

c) Importance of Yoga

Q.4 Read the passages carefully and write their summary in your own words with title.

10X2=20

(A) charity is universal duty which is in every man's power to be sometimes exercised since every assistance given to another from a right motive is an act of charity; and is seldom in such infirmity that he cannot benefit his neighbor in any Case. He who cannot relieve the poor can instruct the ignorant, and he who cannot minister to the sick can restore the Wicked.

He who can give little help himself may undertake the duty of alms by inciting the greed of others and recommending petitions that he cannot grant, to those who have more power to give. The widow who puts her mite into her treasury and the poor man who brings a cup of cold water to the thirsty will not lose their reward.

- i. Give the suitable title to this passage.
- ii. Write the summary of it in your based yours own words.

(B) Religion Seems to me to be based primarily and mainly on fear. It is Partly the terror of the unknown and the desire to feel that you have a kind of big brother who will stand by you in all your troubles and conflicts.

Fear is the basis of the whole thing- a fear of the mysterious, fear of failure, fear of death. Fear is the parent of cruelty and therefore, it is not surprising that cruelty and religion go together.

For fear in this world is the foundation of these two things, that we now understand certain things, and can master them with the help of science, which has forced its way step by step against Christianity. Against the Churches, and against all the opposition of the old doctrines.

Science can help as overcome this terrible fear that mankind has lived in for generations. Science can go longer teach us to look for allies in the sky but to look below at our own efforts to make this earth a habitable place.

- I. Give the suitable title to this passage
- II. Write the summary of it in your own words.