***General Instructions :***  
*(i) The question paper is divided into three sections :*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section A** | : | Reading | **20 marks** |
| **Section B** | : | Writing & Grammar | **25 marks** |
| **Section C** | : | Literature | **25 marks** |

*(ii) All questions are compulsory.*  
*(iii) You may attempt any section at a time.*  
*(iv) All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order:*

**Q1 :**

**Read the passage given below :**

**(1) The hopping kangaroo is a familiar sight in every snapshot relating to Australia. Member of the kangaroo family can be as small as a rat or as big as a man. Kangaroos are found mainly in Australia, Tasmania and New Guinea. Kangaroos which are big-footed marsupials that evolved in Australia use their short front legs like arms. The mansized kangaroos of Australia are capable of speeding up to 88 km/hr for short distances, their means of locomotion being their powerful hind legs, which carry them over the ground in jumps of 9 m or more at a time.**

**(2) Weighing around 70 kg they have an average lifespan of around six to eight years and a maximum lifetime of 20 years. When bothered by predators kangaroos often head for the water, standing submerged to the chest, and attempting to drown the attacker by holding him under water. Another defensive technique is to get their back to a tree and kick and their adversary with their clawed hind feet, sometimes with sufficient force to kill a man. Normally shy animals, they alert other kangaroos to danger by beating on the ground with their hand feet. This loud alarm signal carries over a long distance.**

**(3) The tail is important for kangaroos. It holds them in balance and supports them when they sit or fight against other kangaroos. The kangaroo uses its short legs as arms. With them it scratches itself, cleans its fur and holds branches when its eats leaves. Kangaroos are marsupials and the females carry newborns in a pouch in front of their abdomens. The babies are born small and climb up into the safety of the pouch. There for the next 225 days or so, they eat, sleep, and grow. Once they reach full development they leave the pouch. A young kangaroo that leaves the pouch is called a 'joey'. To keep from getting too hot the kangaroos take naps in the afternoon and do most of their gazing at night. But the best stay-cool secret of these creatures is the spit bath ! Kangaroos drool and lick saliva all over their faces and bodies to cool down.**

**1.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage, complete the following sentences with appropriate words/phrases.**

**a) When followed by predators kangaroos submerge \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**b) The powerful hind legs help kangaroos to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**c) Kangaroos are mainly found in Australia and are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**d) They use their front legs to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**e) Kangaroos warn others of danger by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**f) The secret of kangaroos to stay cool is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**g) They use their tails to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**h) Before becoming 'joeys' the young ones stay in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer :**

a) to the chest in water and attempt to drown the attackers by holding them under water  
b) locomote over the ground and take jumps of 9 m or more at a time  
c) big-footed marsupials  
d) scratch themselves, clean their fur and hold branches when they eat leaves  
e) beating the ground with their hind feet  
f) the spit bath  
g) hold them in balance and support them when they fight against other kangaroos  
h) pouches in front of their mothersâ€™ abdomens and eat, sleep and grow for 225 days or so

**Q2 :**

**Read the passage given below :**

**1. It is rare to find someone with a good technical and communication skills. You can get far ahead of your colleagues if you combine the two early in your career. People will judge, evaluate, promote or block you based on your communication skills. Since habits form by repeating both goods and bad forms of communication, learn to observe great communicators and adopt their styles and traits âˆ’ in written and verbal forms. The art of listening and learning from each and every interaction, is another secret recipe. Develop the subconscious habit of listening to yourself as you speak and know when to pause.**

**2. Learning what not to say is probably more important than learning what to say. As your career develops, you will realize that the wise speak less. Speak when you have value to add, else refrain. Poorly constructed e-mails with grammatical errors are acceptable between friends, but they should be seriously avoided while communicating formally with your seniors. Avoid any communication in an emotional state when you might say things you will regret later. One unnecessary word uttered at the wrong time or place can ruin a relationship, career or even your life. Such is the power of words. If such a thing happens, you should immediately apologise, else it may haunt you for life.**

**3. Another problem to overcome is speaking too fast, Since our minds are working faster than our speech, we are inclined to speak fast. This does not necessarily mean that the person hearing it will get it any faster. On the contrary, it is always the reverse. So slow down, think before you speak. "When I get ready to speak to people," Abraham Lincoln said, "I spend two-thirds of the time thinking what they want to hear and one-third thinking what I want to say." Adding humour and wit is also essential. But realize that not all jokes are funny and observe certain boundaries. Never say anything that could offend. Remember you are not a comedian who must offend as many people as you can to be witty.**

**2.1 Answer the following question briefly.**

**a. Why is it necessary to have good communication skills?  
b. How can communication skills be developed?  
c. What according to the writer should be avoided while communicating?  
d. Why should you be careful when you ten to be humorous?**

**2.2 Choose the most appropriate meanings of the given words from the options provided.**

**a. evaluate**

**(i) estimate  
(ii) assume  
(iii) punish  
(iv) evolve**

**b. trait**

**(i) treaty  
(ii) trail  
(iii) quality  
(iv) liberty**

**c. utter**

**(i) flatter  
(ii) speak  
(iii) rot  
(iv) unique**

**d. haunt**

**(i) hunt  
(ii) chant  
(iii) trouble  
(iv) avoid**

**Answer :**

2.1      
a) It is necessary to have good communication skills because people judge, evaluate, promote or block a person on the basis of his/her communication skills.  
b) Communication skills can be developed by observing great communicators and adopting their styles and traits both in written and verbal forms.  
c) Speaking unnecessarily, speaking too fast, sending formal e-mails with grammatical errors in them and holding emotional conversations that one might regret later should be avoided while communicating.  
d) One should be careful enough to observe boundaries and not utter anything that could offend anyone.  
2.2      
a. (i) estimate  
b. (iii) quality  
c. (ii) speak  
d. (iii) trouble

**Q3 :**

**The tourism industry can bring valuable income to the country. Using your ideas along with ideas from the MCB unit, Travel and Tourism, write a letter to the editor of a popular daily on how the government and the public can boost the development of this industry. Write the letter in 100-120 words. You are Rama/Ram, 4 Rani Road, Ranchi.**

**OR**

**The youth of different states should be given a chance to meet one another through national meets and other programmes. Taking ideas from the MCB unit, National Integration and your own ideas write an article in 100-120 words on the topic, Youth and National Integration You are Ram/Rama.**

**Answer :**

4 Rani Road,  
Ranchi  
19 March 2015  
The Editor  
The Hindu Daily  
Ranchi  
Sir,  
Subject: The tourism industry needs a boost  
Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I would like to bring to light the issue of the requirement of boost in the tourism industry.  
We know that tourism is necessary for every country. It is a major source of income for both, the locals and the government. But in India, tourism has not been given its due. With only an average of 4 million tourists annually, India is way behind countries like Russia and Singapore. Increasing tourists will increase employment in tourism industry and eventually increasing the quality of life of thousands.  
It is high time that tourism be given its long awaited due. We need to design schemes to keep our tourists safe and happy. The monuments and other tourist spots should be preserved. Extensive work should be done on the cleanliness and beautification of the country so as to make it attractive for the foreign tourists. The government needs improve the hotels industry for the convenience of the tourists. Moreover, every citizen should put put forth his/her hospitable nature towards the tourist so that they do not leave our country disappointed.  
Yours sincerely,  
Rama

**OR**

 Youth and National Integration  
By Ram

India is a country where diversity plays a vital role. The Indian population comprises of many different races, religions, cultures and languages. Fostering national unity among everyone is the most difficult task in India today. Citizens of our country seem to have forgotten that unity is strength. Thus, national integration is the need of the hour. People should be educated on this topic. And what better audience than the youth.  
Through schools and colleges, the young men and women should be taught that India is one and the differences are only superficial. For this, the textbooks should be suitably revised. Moreover, exchange programmes should be taken up to give the youth the chance to meet and grow acquaintanceship with others and their cultures. This will make the youth understand how even diversity brings us close.  
Such programmes should emphasise upon the oneness of the people, rather than the differences. For this, media can also be a good medium to effectively educate the youth and develop national consciousness.

**Q4 :**

**Write a short story in 150-200 words on the basis of the hints provided. Raghav walked fast. It was getting dark. He then realised that he had lost his way ..........**

**OR**

**It was late night. Anjali was about to switch off the light and go to bed when she saw a light outside the window. On close observation she realised that it was a fire ..........**

**Answer :**

Raghav was late that day. He walked fast as it was getting dark. His family had shifted to this locality just last month and he was still not sure about the area. He took the shortcut through the park but then realised that he had taken the wrong exit. He walked on for a while but panic was creeping in. He wanted to reach home as soon as possible. He soon realised that he had lost his way because he did not see the familiar landmarks. He wanted to turn back but he did not want to go through the park again. He glanced at his watch and was horrified to see that it was 10 oâ€™clock. He knew his mother must be waiting for him. Suddenly he heard footsteps behind him and thinking someone was following him, he walked faster. He started running when he heard the footsteps getting nearer. He did not know where he was going, but he ran until he fell down. Someone grabbed him and Raghav screamed loudly. He heard his brother calling out to him. Raghav breathed a sigh of relief and went home with his brother.

**OR**

Anjali was reading an interesting novel when she realised it was quite late. She put down her book and reached out to switch off the light. She saw a light outside the window that opened in her sisterâ€™s room. Being curious by nature, she decided to investigate. As she neared the window, she realised that it was a fire. She was horrified and quickly ran out of the room. Her sisterâ€™s room was locked, maybe she had not seen the fire and was asleep, or maybeâ€¦.! She started calling her sisterâ€™s name loudly. Her parents heard the noise and came there to see what the matter was. She explained about the fire and they banged on the door loudly. Her father rushed to call the fire brigade. Anjali had started crying by now and was relieved when her sister opened the door and came out. She was safe. They went inside to douse the fire and were surprised that there was no fire at all. Upon investigation, they realised the light that Anjali had seen was coming from the mosquito coil that was burning in a corner. Anjali was ashamed of herself and her father had to explain a lot to the fire brigade officers.

**Q5 :**

**Fill in the blanks choosing the most appropriate options from the ones given below. Write the answers in your answer-sheet against the correct blank numbers.  
There are four trees in the garden.     (a)     branches sway in the breeze. The children play     (b)     the trees. Some of the girls**

**Answer :**

(a) - (ii) their  
(b) - (i) under  
(c) - (iii) are

**Q6 :**

**The following paragraph has not been edited. There is one error in each marked line. Write the error and its correction as shown in the example.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | Error | Correction |
| I went to the pool then no one | e.g. | then | when |
| was there. The place being quiet. | a) | ------- | ------- |
| A water was still, and the tiled | b) | ------- | ------- |
| bottom was so white and clean | c) | ------- | ------- |
| as a bathtub. I was timid for going in alone. | d) | ------- | ------- |

**Answer :**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Error** | **Correction** |
| a) | being | was |
| b) | A | The |
| c) | so | as |
| d) | for | about/of |

**Q7 :**

**Read the dialogue given below and complete the paragraph that follows. Write the correct answers in your answer sheet against the correct blank numbers.  
Doctor : Have you got the tests done?**

**Karna : No, I have not.**

**Doctor : Get them done today itself.  
The doctor asked Karna (a) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He replied that (b) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The doctor asked \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer :**

(a) if he had got the tests done  
(b) he had not  
(c) him to get the tests done the same day

**Q8 :**

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

**Patol Babu suddenly felt that he could write a whole thesis on that monosyllabic exclamation. Why had he felt so disheartened when this single word contained a gold-mine of meaning?**

**(a) Why was Patol Babu disheartened?**

**(b) Which was the word that contained a 'gold-mine'?**

**(c) What does the word 'monosyllabic' mean?**

**OR**

**How foolish do your fears seem now, Calpurnia I am ashamed. I did yield to them.**

**Give me my robe, for I will go.**

**(a) Why was Calpurnia afraid?**

**(b) Where did Caesar decide to go?**

**(c) What does the word 'yield' mean?**

**Answer :**

a) Patol Babu had been initially disheartened because the part he had to play was much smaller than he had been led on to believe.  
b) The word that contained a 'gold-mine' was â€˜ohâ€™.  
c) The word 'monosyllabic' refers to words that consist of only one syllable, such as â€˜ohâ€™.

**OR**

a) Calpurnia was afraid because she had seen a nightmare that had many ill omens for Caesar.  
b) Caesar decided to go to the senate at the Capitol.  
c) The world â€˜yieldâ€™ means to â€˜give way.â€™

**Q9 :**

**Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each.**

**(a) Why did the poet try to harm the snake ?**

**(b) How did Michael in the last game save Sebastian ?**

**(c) How did the mariners reach the land of ice and snow ?**

**(d) "The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed". Whose hand and heart are referred to in this line ? Why ?**

**(e) Why did Caesar's will infuriate the Romans ?**

**Answer :**

a) The poet tried to harm the snake because his education told him that in Sicily, gold snakes were venomous and a real man would take a stick and finish it off.  
b) Sebastian had landed with a thud just below the helicopter hatch and Michael had immediately pulled up. As he sat down beside Michael, the helicopter soared into the sky and Michael managed to rescue Sebastian in the final game.  
c) The mariners reached the island of ice and snow by taking the ship southward in their course.  
d) The 'hand' refers to the sculptor's hand and the 'heart' refers to that of King Ozymandias. The statue made by the sculptor seemed to be mocking at the king's self obsession and passion.   
e) Caesarâ€™s will infuriated the Romans because the man who had been branded by the conspirators as a tyrannical despot who lusted for power, was revealed as a person who had made all of the Rome, the heirs to his property after his death.

**Q10 :**

**How does the lesson, 'A Shady Plot' remind us that man has no right to invoke supernatural powers through Ouija boards, Tarot cards etc to solve his problems and that one should face life boldly and overcome difficulties using wit and intelligence. Write in 80âˆ’100 words.**

**OR**

**Respect for all forms of life is an essential value. Unmindful destruction of nature and its creatures deserves just punishment. Write in 80âˆ’100 words this essential value as brought out in the poem, 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'.**

**Answer :**

Ouija boards and tarot cards are appendages used by those who do not know how to face lifeâ€™s adversities and depend on such supernatural paraphernalia to understand life. A Shady Plot shows us how such things can backfire and one should exercise caution in invoking powers over which they do not have any control.

**OR**

Religions function on the basis of man committing a crime or sin, repenting for it and then gaining subsequent pardon from a higher spiritual authority in lieu of his repentance. However, in the poem there is no such eventual pardon in sight as the mariner is doomed to recount the story of his wrong deed for eternity to come. The poem explores the horror emanating from the unmindful destruction of nature and its creatures. It teaches us to respect all forms of life otherwise no matter how much one repents, pardon cannot be expected as no higher spiritual authority will ever condone a wanton act of cruelty.

**Q11 :**

**Attempt the following in 150-200 words.  
Bring out the importance of the diary in Anne's life.  
OR  
Why does Anne call herself 'a bundle of contradictions'?  
OR  
What was the incident of the Frost King? How did it affect Helen?  
OR  
Write a character sketch of Bishop Brooks as he appears in Helen Keller's âˆ’ The Story of My Life.**

**Answer :**

Living in hiding, in the secret annex, was twice as hard for the children than the adults because they were always told to hold on to their opinions at a time when their ideals were being shattered by the mayhem of war. As a young girl growing up during the time of the most destructive war in history, seeing the worst side of human nature brought to the fore, it was next to impossible to believe that there could be such things as truth, justice or a god. This is the juncture at which Anneâ€™s diary became so important in her life. Her writing had a transformative power that took everyday mundane activities and made it into amusing anecdotes, showing us how a claustrophobic space such as the secret annex could also be a fertile ground for creativity and imagination. Anne deftly navigated her inner and outer world, weaving them together through her contemplative stance on life, which was often undercut by her ironic interjections. Her diary not only captures her personal journey but also gives us a commentary on the social and cultural atmosphere and especially, the experience of the war from the perspective of lived reality.

**OR**

Anne believed that her personality was split into two. One side contained her exuberant cheerfulness, her flippancy, the joy in her life and above all, her ability to appreciate the lighter side of things. This side would lead her to appreciate flirtations, a kiss, an embrace and even off-colour jokes. The other side of her was purer, deeper and finer, subsumed under the lighter side of her. She could be an amusing clown for an afternoon and a profound thinker but the former was always a diversion, a comic interlude, soon to be forgotten, which most people hardly knew. Her lighter and more superficial side always stole a march on the deeper side.

**OR**

Helen had written a little story called â€˜The Frost Kingâ€™, which she had sent to Mr. Anagnos of the Perkins Institution for the Blind. The latter was delighted with it and published the story in one of the institutional reports. However, it was discovered that a story similar to her â€˜The Frost Kingâ€™ called â€˜The Frost Fairiesâ€™ by Miss. Margaret T. Canby had appeared before Helen was born, in a book called â€˜Birdie and His Friends.â€™ The two stories were so much alike in thought and language that it was evident Miss Canbyâ€™s story had been read to Helen and that her story was a case of plagiarism. A court of investigation was constituted that consisted of eight people, four blind, four people with vision and votes were cast to arrive at a decision. Mr. Anagnos, who had supported Helen initially, changed tack and cast his vote against her. The incident scarred Helen in such a way that for a very long time, she could not produce any creative work. She became excessively scrupulous about everything she wrote and the thought that whatever she wrote was not her original work tormented her. Miss Sullivan had to console her and allay her fears to in every which way possible in order to restore the confidence that Helen had lost. Eventually, Helen resumed her writing, after being urged by her teacher.

**OR**

Bishop Brooks was in Helen's words, one among many of the 'men of genius' with whom she had had the pleasure of acquaintance. As a child, Helen used to love sitting on his knee and clasping the great hand in her own as Miss Sullivan spelled out his beautiful words about God and the spiritual world. She would listen with the wondrous delight of a child, her spirit could not reach up to his but he would give her a real sense of joy in life. Once, when she had been puzzled by the existence of so many religions in the world, Bishop Brooks had told her that there was one universal religion, the religion of love, the love owed to their Heavenly Father with whole heart and soul and to love every child of god, remembering that the possibilities of good were far greater than that of evil. Bishop Brooks' life was an illustration of his philosophy, love and the widest knowledge blended with faith in his noble soul giving him an insight into life. Bishop Brooks had not taught Helen any special creed or dogma. He had impressed upon her the two great ideas of the fatherhood of god and the brotherhood of man, which she came to believe as the overarching truths of her life. Bishop Brooks had taught her the creed of love.