

General Instructions:

- All the questions are compulsory.
- Read the questions carefully.
- Questions of 2 marks are to be answered in approximately 20-30 words each
- Questions of 3 marks are to be answered in approximately 30-50 words each.

SECTION 'A': READING (20 MARKS)**1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**

Nepal, a small, mountainous country tucked between India and China, may seem completely foreign to many Americans. Cows walk down busy streets unharmed, 24 different languages are spoken, and people eat two meals of rice and lentils every day. Nepali holidays, many of which are related to the Hindu religion, can seem especially bizarre to Americans unfamiliar with the culture. However, if we look beyond how others celebrate to consider the things they are celebrating, we find surprising similarities to our own culture.

The biggest holiday in Nepal is Dashain, a ten-day festival for the Hindu goddess Durga that takes place in September or October. According to Hindu beliefs, Durga defeated the evil demons of the world. To thank the goddess, people visit temples in her honour and sacrifice goats or sheep as offerings. Throughout the year, most Nepalis do not eat much meat because it is expensive, but Dashain is a time to enjoy meat every day. Children fly colourful, homemade kites during Dashain. People also construct enormous bamboo swings on street corners and in parks. Every evening people gather at these swings and take turns swinging. Nepalis say that by swinging, people can relieve the earth of their weight, if only for a few minutes out of the year. Dashain is a time for people to eat good food, relax, and enjoy themselves!

Aside from eating and enjoying themselves, during Dashain, people also receive blessings from their elders. Schools and offices shut down so people can travel to be with their families. Reuniting with family reminds people of the importance of kindness, respect, and forgiveness. People also clean and decorate their homes for Dashain. And, like many holidays in the United States, it is a time for shopping. Children and adults alike get new clothes for the occasion. People express appreciation for all that they have while looking forward to good fortune and peace in the year to come.

During American holidays, people may not sacrifice goats or soar on bamboo swings, but we do often travel to be with family members and take time off work or school to relax. No matter how we celebrate, many people around the world spend their holidays honouring family, reflecting on their blessings, and hoping for good fortune in the future.

- Which of the following is NOT a similarity between Nepali and American holidays as mentioned in the passage? 01
 - Spending time with family
 - Offering sacrifices to deities
 - Enjoying festive meals
 - Expressing gratitude and hopes for the future
- Why do Nepalese people swing on bamboo swings during Dashain? 01
 - It is a tradition to honour their ancestors.
 - They believe it brings good luck and prosperity.
 - It is a way to relieve the earth of their weight.
 - It is a form of physical exercise.
- What is the primary purpose of the passage? 01
 - To criticize Nepali culture.
 - To promote Nepali tourism.
 - To compare and contrast Nepali and American holidays.

- d) To describe the details of Dashain festival.
- iv. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an activity during Dashain? 01
- a) Visiting temples b) Preparing sweets
c) Flying kites d) Decorating homes
- v. What is the main idea of the passage? 01
- a) Nepali people are very religious.
b) Dashain is the most important festival in Nepal.
c) There are similarities between Nepali and American holidays despite cultural differences.
d) People should travel to Nepal to experience Dashain.
- vi. The author suggests that the most important aspect of holidays is: 01
- a) The religious rituals involved.
b) The opportunity to travel and relax.
c) The chance to spend time with family and loved ones.
d) The exchange of gifts and presents.
- vii. How does the author compare Nepali and American Holidays? 02
- viii. What is the biggest holiday in Nepal? 01
- ix. What are some of the activities that people engage in during Dashain, besides eating and enjoying themselves? 01

2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

The Amazon rainforest, often referred to as the “lungs of the Earth” is a vast expanse of lush greenery teeming with life. This intricate ecosystem plays a crucial role in regulating global climate patterns, producing oxygen, and harboring an incredible diversity of plant and animal species. Unfortunately, the Amazon is facing unprecedented threats due to deforestation, mining, and agricultural expansion.

Deforestation, driven by the demand for timber, agricultural land, and other resources, has led to the loss of millions of acres of rainforest. This destruction not only reduces biodiversity but also exacerbates climate change. The trees in the Amazon absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, and release oxygen. With fewer trees, the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere increases, contributing to global warming.

Moreover, the Amazon rainforest is home to countless indigenous communities who have lived in harmony with the forest for centuries. Deforestation and the encroachment of outsiders have disrupted their way of life, leading to the erosion of their cultural heritage and livelihoods.

Conservation efforts are underway to protect the Amazon rainforest, but the challenges are immense. Sustainable development, indigenous rights, and international cooperation are crucial for the preservation of this vital ecosystem. The future of our planet depends on our ability to protect the Amazon.

- I. What is the primary function of the Amazon rainforest in regulating the global climate? 01
- a) Producing oxygen b) Absorbing carbon dioxide
c) Maintaining water cycle d) All of the above
- II. Which of the following is NOT a threat to the Amazon rainforest? 01
- a) Deforestation b) Reforestation
c) Mining d) Agricultural expansion
- III. How do indigenous communities contribute to the preservation of the Amazon rainforest? 01
- a) By advocating for deforestation b) By living in harmony with the forest
c) By causing environmental damage d) By promoting unsustainable practices
- IV. What is the significance of the Amazon rainforest in terms of biodiversity? 01
- a) It has a low diversity of species. b) It is a biodiversity hotspot.
c) It has no impact on biodiversity. d) It is moderately diverse.
- V. The word “exacerbated” in the passage means: 01
- a) Reduced b) Worsened c) Improved d) Stabilized

- VI. What is the tone of the passage? 01
 a) Optimistic b) Neutral
 c) Concerned d) Humorous
- VII. Why is the Amazon rainforest called the “lungs of the Earth”? 01
- VIII. What led to the erosion of the culture and livelihood of the Amazon rainforest? 01
- IX. How can we help protect the Amazon rainforest? 02

SECTION ‘B’: WRITING & GRAMMAR (25 MARKS)

3. Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions from the options given below: 1 x 3 = 3

i. Reshma travelled ____ her father all ____ the world when she was 12 years old.

1. With, around
2. By, above
3. With, over
4. For, around

ii. When Mom will serve the dinner, get the books ____ the table.

1. From
2. Off
3. Of
4. Out

iii. My Fathers-in-law lives ____ Stanley Road.

1. At
2. On
3. By
4. In

4. Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct adverbs from the given options. 1 x 3 = 3

out	swiftly	ahead	fairly	too
previously	frequently	once	slightly	so

- i. Jack ran to the store ____.
- ii. The grades are ____.
- iii. We have seen this ____.

5. Change the following sentences from active voice to passive voice. 1 x 3 = 3

- I. The dog chased the cat.
- II. The dog bit the boy.
- III. The peon rang the bell.

6. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate conjunctions in the following sentences: 1 x 3 = 3

- I. Deepak _____ Santhosh are best friends.
- II. Make sure you work hard _____ you will not be able to score good marks.
- III. _____ Anna does not cook much, she loves baking.

7. Fill the blanks with the appropriate interjection. 1 x 3 = 3

- I. _____ What are you doing there?
- II. _____ He is dead.
- III. _____ we have won the game.

8. You are Shyam/ Shyamli Verma of class VIIIA. You have lost your library book which was issued to you, in the playground. Draft a notice for the school notice board, informing the students about it.

OR

Yesterday it was your first day in your new school. You made new friends. Teachers were good to you and you liked the infrastructure of the school. Write about your experiences and feelings about the new school in your diary. 05

9. Write an article on any ONE of the given topics: 05

- a. Health is wealth
- b. Digital India

OR

Write a letter to the local daily newspaper complaining about the mis happenings due to lack of street light.

SECTION 'C': LITERATURE (35 MARKS)

10. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions.

Sit up
Say please
Less noise
Shut the door behind you
Don't drag your feet
Haven't you got a hankie?
Take your hands out of your pocket
Pull your socks up
Stand straight.

- i. Who is giving these instructions? 01
(a) The poet (b) An adult (c) A child (d) The teacher
- ii. Why would the child need a hankie? 01
(a) To clean his mouth. (b) To clean his shoes.
(c) To clean his bag. (d) To clean his slate.
- iii. What does walking by dragging feet suggest? 01
- iv. Why is the child asked to stand straight? 02

11. Read the extract given below and answer the following questions.

Mridu and Meena followed Ravi out. The beggar was already in the garden, making himself quite at home. He had spread his upper cloth under the neem tree, and was leaning against its trunk, apparently prepared to take a little snooze while he waited for the alms to appear. "Go away!" said Ravi sternly. "My Paati says it's time you found another house to beg from!" The beggar opened his eyes very wide and gazed at each of the children one by one. "The ladies of this house," he said, at last, in a voice choked with feeling, "are very kind souls".

- i. Who did Mridu and Meena follow out of the house? 01
A) Ravi B) The beggar C) Their parents D) None of the above
- ii. Where did the beggar make himself comfortable in the garden? 01
A) Under a mango tree B) Under a neem tree
C) On a bench D) Under a banyan tree
- iii. What did Ravi tell the beggar to do? 01
A) Stay in the garden B) Leave the garden
C) Ask for more alms D) None of the above
- iv. Why did Ravi ask the beggar to leave the garden? 02

12. Answer any four of the following questions: -

4x2=8

- i. How did the king and the hermit help the wounded man?
ii. How does Ravi get milk for the kitten?
iii. Would you like to be a rebel? If yes, why? If not, why not?
iv. "He liked to tease and play". Who is teasing whom? How?
v. Name some other creatures that live in anthills and why.

13. Answer any three of the following questions: -

3x3=9

- i. Who was the bearded man? Why did he ask for the king's forgiveness?
ii. What three things did Gopal do before he went to buy his hilsa-fish?
iii. Is there a room in your house or a house in your neighbourhood/locality where you would rather not go alone, and never at night?
iv. Kari learned the commands to sit and walk. What were the instructions for each command? What is "the master call?"

14. Answer any two of the following questions: -

2 x 4 = 8

- i. Why did the daimio reward the farmer but punish his neighbour for the same act?

- ii. "Death in an open field is better than life in a small hut," Chandni said to herself. Was it the right decision? Give reasons for your answer.
- iii. Who advised Golu to go to the Limpopo River and why?