

PISA LIKE TEST ITEMS

READING LITERACY

QUESTIONS

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READING UNIT 1

Harnessing Women Power

The grim scenario of women having no voice in their own houses has undergone major transformation in recent times. The modern woman is no longer confined to the four walls of the house. Women are now realising their worth in every way and demanding gender equality and justice both at home and in the workplace. They have broken the glass barrier in almost every field, be it technology, space science, sports or the armed forces.



One recent example is **Parallel Taxi Track** being operated by all women crew. In a first for the **IAF**, the **“OTTERS”** squadron of Western Air Command has undertaken Parallel Taxi Track Operations with an all women crew in the Dornier 228 aircraft. The pilots, Sqn Ldr Kamaljeet Kaur, and her co-pilot Sqn Ldr Rakhi Bhandari carried out successful landing and take-off operations at Sirsa. This achievement highlights the theme of Aero India 2019 and of Women in the Aviation Sector. Parallel Taxi Track enables unhindered operations even when the runway is not available due to enemy action or any other reasons.

Source: “Yojana” March 2019, Article by ShahinRazi

Questions

1. According to the text, **Parallel Taxi Track** has a peculiar characteristic. What is it?

FRAMEWORK		CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	--	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	--	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	--	MIXED
PROCESS	--	LOCATE (ACCESS AND RETRIEVE INFORMATION WITHIN A TEXT)
ITEM	--	SHORT CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	1B

2. Parallel Taxi Track proves to be a great help to the Indian Army during _____.

FRAMEWORK		CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	--	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	--	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	--	MIXED
PROCESS	--	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	--	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	1B

3. Why is Parallel Taxi Track operation a challenging task?

FRAMEWORK		CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	--	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	--	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	--	MIXED
PROCESS	--	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	--	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	2

4. The phrase *Glass barrier* in the passage implies the:
- four walls of the house
 - glass walls in the office
 - unfair attitudes/customs that deprive women of certain jobs
 - official laws to restrict the independence of women.

Framework		Characteristics
SCENARIO	--	Public
TEXT FORMAT	--	Continuous
TYPE	--	Mixed
PROCESS	--	Understanding
ITEM	--	Complex MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	2

READING UNIT 2

Newspaper Advertisements

Come and Get'em!

still only **15¢**

McDonald's America's Favorite HAMBURGER

McDONALD'S "ALL AMERICAN"

Come to McDonald's and get 'em . . . they're America's Favorite Hamburger . . . still only 15c. Come as you are to McDonald's . . . and bring a hearty appetite. Get fast, cheerful, courteous service . . . plenty of free parking . . . no car hops . . . no tipping . . . plus the tastiest food in town.

a pleasure every family can afford!

Juicy 100% Pure Beef Hamburgers, only 15c . . . rich, creamy, triple-thick Milk Shakes, only 20c . . . crisp, delicious French Fries only 10c. A family of five can enjoy McDonald's "All American Meal" for only \$2.25 . . . a feast of fun, food, and fresh air . . . at extra thrifty prices.

McDonald's
the drive-in with the arches

2540 Hubbell Ave. 4814 S. W. 9th

**2 FOR \$5
BIG MAC**

Limited time offer. Price and availability may vary. Price of single item printed on menu board.

Source – Google Images

Given above are two different newspaper advertisements of McDonald's. The first one is a modern day advertisement while the second one is decades old.

QUESTIONS

1. Study the advertisement which on the left. List any TWO features of it that are likely to attract customers.

FRAMEWORK		CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	--	OCCUPATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	--	MIXED
TYPE	--	TRANSACTIONAL
PROCESS	--	UNDERSTANDING
ITEM	--	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	2

2. Imagine it's 1960. Peter's family of four decides to enjoy an "All American Meal" at McDonald's restaurant at Hubbell Avenue for the first time. Find out how much he will have to spend for this family meal.

FRAMEWORK		CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	--	OCCUPATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	--	MIXED
TYPE	--	TRANSACTIONAL
PROCESS	--	UNDERSTANDING AND ANALYSING
ITEM	--	SHORT RESPONSE TYPE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	2

3. List out the factors that one needs to consider before choosing a food outlet.

FRAMEWORK		CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	--	OCCUPATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	--	MIXED
TYPE	--	TRANSACTIONAL
PROCESS	--	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	--	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	2

4. Choose one remarkable change that has come in modern day advertisements as compared to the previous decades.
 - a. They have catchy headlines
 - b. They are more concise and visually appealing
 - c. They are colourful
 - d. Discounts/ offers are highlighted.

FRAMEWORK		CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	--	OCCUPATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	--	MIXED
TYPE	--	TRANSACTIONAL
PROCESS	--	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	--	COMPLEX MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	2

READING UNIT 3

Sustaining Artisans Economically

A wide range of beautiful handicrafts form one of the most significant traits of the rich cultural heritage of our country. They are not only the traditional arts of different provinces but also form an important source of alternative income for the artisans. Almost 70 percent of our country's population residing in rural areas is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture as the primary source of livelihood. In non-agricultural or lean seasons, handicrafts become an alternative means of subsistence for this population and safeguard them from food insecurity. In this way, handicrafts become an important source of livelihood for a large chunk of the Indian population. There were 68.86 lakh artisans as per the census of handicrafts conducted during the eleventh five-year plan. The sector provides employment in various forms to the artisans. This can be production of raw materials like motifs, production of finished goods and their marketing.

There is another sub-segment of this sector employing another set of people. They are the people engaged directly or indirectly in export of handicrafts. The export segment of handicrafts is emerging as the potential source of foreign exchange earnings.

Figure 1 establishes the fact that export of handicrafts reflects a rising trend and has a significant share in the domain of all-India exports.

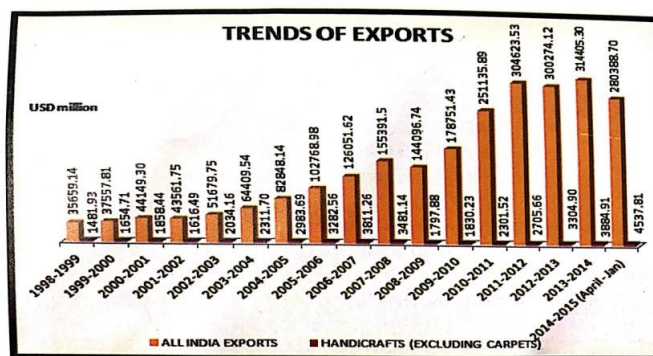
According to government sources it was estimated in the year 2015-16 the total production of handicrafts including handmade carpets was Rupees 41,418 crores and export of handicrafts was Rupees 30,939 crores. The figures prove the role of the sector in the Indian economy.

-Hina Naqvi, from *Yojanamagazine*, Edition April 2019

Questions:

- According to the figure, the increase in All India Export of handicrafts from the year 1998-99 to 2011-12 was:
 - 268964.39 million US dollars
 - 268963.29 million US dollars
 - 268964.29 million US dollars
 - 267963.21 million US dollars

Figure:1



Source: Website of Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textile, Go

FRAMEWORK		CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	--	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	--	MIXED
TYPE	--	EXPOSITION
PROCESS	--	LOCATE (ACCESS AND RETRIEVE INFORMATION WITHIN A TEXT)
ITEM	--	SIMPLE MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	1B

2. List two factors from the article that establish the growing importance of Indian handicrafts sector.
-

FRAMEWORK		CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	--	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	--	MIXED
TYPE	--	EXPOSITION
PROCESS	--	LOCATE AND UNDERSTAND
ITEM	--	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	2

3. Raima goes to an exhibition of handicrafts with her mother and wants to buy a piece of handicraft. Her mother, however, refuses to buy as it is too costly. Raima still insists on buying it. What **virtue** do you think does she have?
- Spendthrift
 - Pity
 - Empathy
 - Pride
-

FRAMEWORK		CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	--	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	--	MIXED
TYPE	--	EXPOSITION
PROCESS	--	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	--	COMPLEX MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	2

4. What efforts should be made by different agencies to sustain artisans economically? Mention any three.
-

FRAMEWORK		CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	--	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	--	MIXED
TYPE	--	EXPOSITION
PROCESS	--	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	--	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	2

READING UNIT 4

The Slave's Dream

Beside the ungathered rice he lay,
His sickle in his hand.
His breast was bare, his matted hair
Was buried in the sand.
Again, in the mist and shadow of sleep,
He saw his Native Land.

Wide through the landscape of his dreams
The lordly Niger flowed;
Beneath the palm-trees on the plain
Once more a king he strode;
And heard the tinkling caravans
Descend the mountain-road.

He saw once more his dark-eyed queen
Among her children stand;
They clasped his neck, they kissed his cheeks,
They held him by the hand!--
A tear burst from the sleeper's lids
And fell into the sand.

And then at furious speed he rode
Along the Niger's bank;
His bridle-reins were golden chains,
And, with a martial clank,
At each leap he could feel his scabbard of steel
Smiting his stallion's flank.

Before him, like a blood-red flag,
The bright flamingoes flew;
From morn till night he followed their flight,
O'er plains where the tamarind grew,
Till he saw the roofs of Caffre huts,
And the ocean rose to view.

At night he heard the lion roar,
And the hyena scream,
And the river-horse, as he crushed the reeds
Beside some hidden stream;
And it passed, like a glorious roll of drums,
Through the triumph of his dream.

The forests, with their myriad tongues,
Shouted of liberty;
And the Blast of the Desert cried aloud,
With a voice so wild and free,

That he started in his sleep and smiled
At their tempestuous glee.

He did not feel the driver's whip,
Nor the burning heat of day;
For Death had illumined the Land of Sleep,
And his lifeless body lay
A worn-out fetter, that the soul
Had broken and thrown away!

Questions:

1. 'Native Land' in the last line of stanza 1 refers to:
 - a) Africa
 - b) the slave's native place
 - c) the place where the slave is
 - d) an ancient land

FRAMEWORK		CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	--	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	--	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	--	NARRATION
PROCESS	--	UNDERSTAND AND REFLECT
ITEM	--	SIMPLE MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	1A

2. Explain the clause "Once more a king he strode" in stanza 2.

FRAMEWORK		CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	--	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	--	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	--	NARRATION
PROCESS	--	UNDERSTAND AND REFLECT
ITEM	--	SHORT RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	2

3. Which stanza of the poem reveals that the soul of the slave was liberated forever?
 - a) Stanza 1
 - b) Stanza 2
 - c) Stanza 8
 - d) Stanza 5

FRAMEWORK		CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	--	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	--	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	--	NARRATION
PROCESS	--	UNDERSTANDING
ITEM	--	SIMPLE MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	1A

4. What do you think of the ending of the poem? Do you think that modern human beings are also enslaved?

FRAMEWORK		CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	--	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	--	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	--	NARRATION
PROCESS	--	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	--	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	--	3

READING UNIT 5

Given below is the picture of a packet of Dried Cranberries. Read the information given on the packet and answer the following questions:

NUTRAJ[®]
India's Leading Nuts & Dried Fruits Brand

American Dried Cranberries

For any feedback or complaint connect With our customer care officer at
VKC Nuts (P) Ltd.
27 C/C Gandhinagar Jammu-180004
Or call at - +91-9971095414
Or e-mail at - info@vkcnuts.com

Nutrition Facts
Serving Size 100g (Approx. Value)
Amount per serving 354 K. Calories

Total Fat	0.51g
Protein	0.99g
Carbohydrates	86.47g
Sugar	49.69g
Cholesterol	NIL
Saturated fatty acids	0.05g
Trans fatty acid	NIL
Mono unsaturated fatty acid	0.38g
Poly unsaturated fatty acid	0.07g

*Approx Value

Allergy Caution: Contains Tree Nuts
This product has been packed in an integrated nuts & dried fruits processing unit and may contain an occasional trace of other nuts or dried fruits.

Ingredients : Cranberries, Sugar & Sunflower Oil.
Country of Origin : USA

Marketed by:
VKC NUTS Pvt Ltd.
D-63, Sector A-2, Tronica City
Industrial Estate, Ghaziabad (U.P.) -201102

fssai
Lic.No. 10016051001876

Processed & Packed by:
(AT any of the following Location)

A) VK Chander Shekhar & Co
52-B, Birpur Industrial Estate, Jammu-181133

fssai
Lic.No. 10017061000315

B) VKC NUTS Pvt.Ltd.
D-63, Sector A-2, Tronica City
Industrial Estate, Ghaziabad (U.P.) -201102

fssai
Lic.No. 10016051001876

C) Arham Foods
B-52A, Birpur Industrial Estate
Bari Brahamana Jammu-181133

fssai
Lic.No. 11012370000084

Please read the first letter of batch number for the packing location

To Know More
Visit Our Website: www.nutraj.com

f NutrajIndia @NutrajIndia Nutraj

Net Wt. 180g Batch No. B-11/048/01671 Pkd. NOV/2018 M.R.P. ₹ (Inclusive of all taxes) RS: 225/-
BEST BEFORE: EIGHT MONTHS FROM PACKING DATE

Refrigerate for Freshness & Natural Taste.

89060191775118

POYSHA

Questions:

1: if people allergic to tree nuts want to consume cranberries, they must:

- a) adhere to the allergy caution
- b) ask the doctor's advice
- c) take it in a very small quantity
- d) take precautions before consumption

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	NON CONTINUOUS
TYPE	MIXED
PROCESS	LOCATE , UNDERSTAND
ITEM	SIMPLE MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1A

2: What significant and necessary safety detail would you look for in the packet above or any other edible before if you buy it?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	NON CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	UNDERSTAND
ITEM	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

3: Though **NUTRAJ** is one of India's leading brands of nuts and dried fruits, why is it marketed as American dried cranberries?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	NON CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

4: The packet mentions the nutritional facts and the serving size per 100 gms .What is the calorie count of this packet?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	NON CONTINUOUS
TYPE	MIXED
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	SHORT RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

Fly by Day, Fly by Night

Butterflies and moths are found throughout the world, from deserts to hot jungles to high up in snowy mountains. You can see them on every continent except Antarctica.

Butterflies and moths are insects, and like all insects they have three pairs of legs. Their bodies are divided into three sections: head, **thorax**, and **abdomen**. On either side of the head is a large special eye. These eyes are able to detect the smallest movement. But they cannot see faraway things very clearly.



Brown moth.
© Karen Tweedy-Holmes/Corbis

The thorax, the middle section of the body, has two pairs of wings. The wings in front are usually larger. Dust-like scales cover the wings, body, and legs. If you happen to touch a butterfly or moth, these scales will come off in your hand.

If you want to know whether you are looking at a butterfly or a moth, you should look at its **antennae**. Butterflies and moths use their antennae to hear and smell. Butterfly antennae end in little round knobs. Moth antennae may look like tiny feathers or threads.

The most striking thing about butterflies is their colouring. Most are bright and beautiful. But most moths are dull coloured, with thicker bodies and smaller wings. Butterflies hold their wings straight up over their backs when they rest. Moths rest with their wings spread out. Butterflies are active during the day. But moths usually fly around at night.

Many butterflies and moths seem to like sweet things. **Nectar** from flowers is an important part of their diet. Some will eat mosses and ferns. Others like cones, fruits, and seeds, but some do not eat at all and live for only a short time!

LEARN MORE! READ THESE ARTICLES...
BEES • CRICKETS • INSECTS



When
do most
butterflies fly,
during the day
or at night?

Questions:

1. Rohan went to a park and caught a butterfly. As the butterfly fluttered to escape, he could feel the dust on his hand. This dust is the _____ of the butterfly:

- a) wings
- b) Scales
- c) Veins
- d) Skin

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	MIXED
PROCESS	UNDERSTAND
ITEM	SIMPLE MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1B

2. One of the reasons why butterflies and moths are not found in Antarctica is the extreme cold weather conditions. What could be the other possible reason?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	MIXED
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

3. Mention any four ways in which a butterfly can be distinguished from a moth?

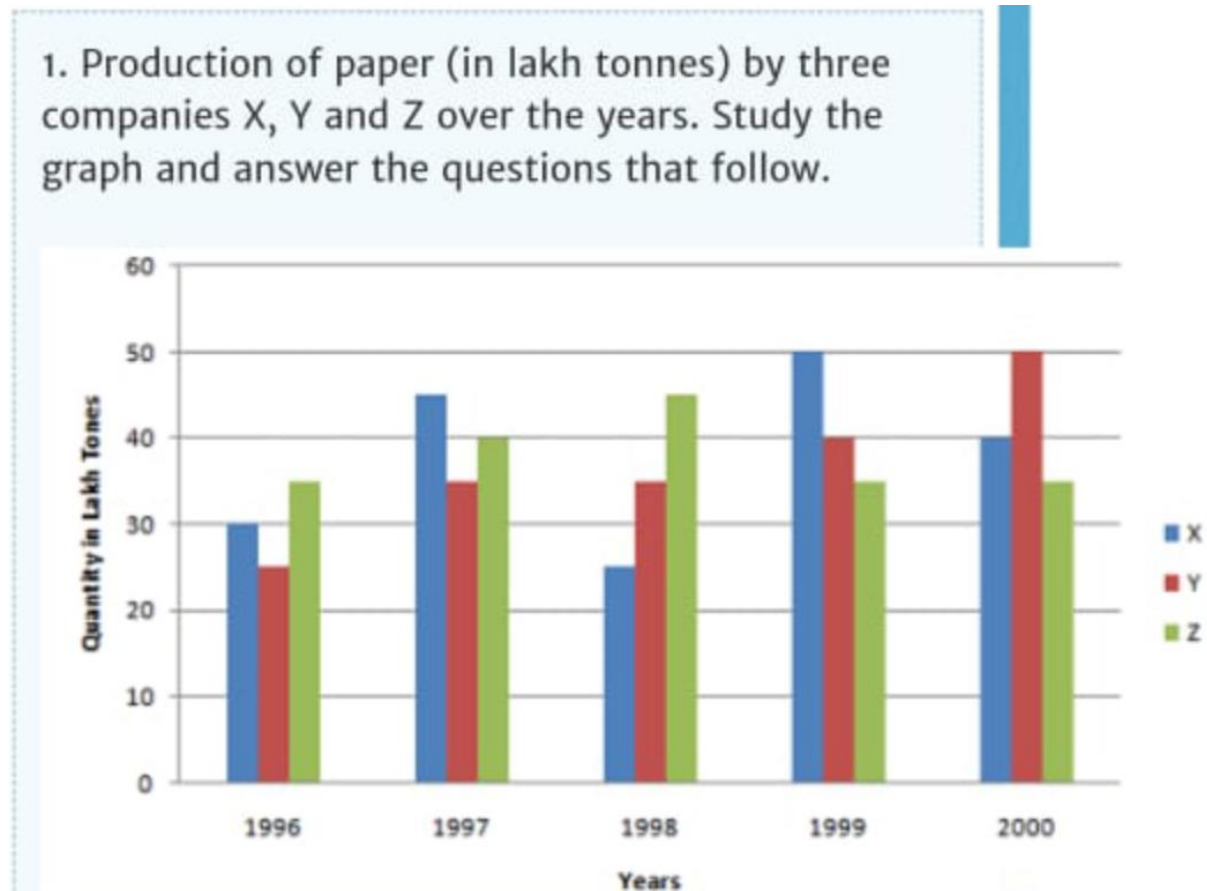
FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	MIXED
PROCESS	LOCATE INFORMATION
ITEM	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

4. Daisy sees colourful butterflies sitting on the flowers of her garden every day. Give a reason why do they perch on the flowers?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	MIXED
PROCESS	LOCATE
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1B

READING UNIT 7

Given below is a graph on the production of paper by three companies:



Questions:

1: What is the difference between the production of company Z in 1998 and company Y in 1996?

- 1) 20,000 tons
- 2) 20,00000 tons
- 3) 2,00000 tons
- 4) None of these

2: On the basis of the data projected in the graph, which company/companies has/have the maximum average production of paper?

- 1) X&Y
- 2) Z&Y
- 3) X&Z
- 4) Only y

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	NON CONTINUOUS
TYPE	EXPOSITION
PROCESS	LOCATE INFORMATION
ITEM	SIMPLE MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1A

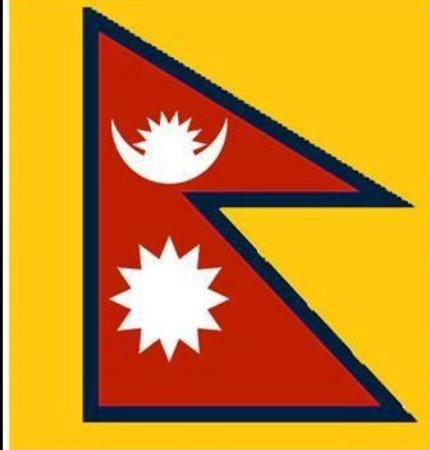

3: You went to Bata Showroom to buy a pair of shoes. You were very impressed with the E-bill sent to your mail. As a responsible citizen suggests three ways in which awareness regarding saving paper can be spread.

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	NON CONTINUOUS
TYPE	EXPOSITION
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

4: What are the ways in which a company can show excellence in performance and enhance ITS business?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	NON CONTINUOUS
TYPE	EXPOSITION
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

READING UNIT 8

NEIGHBOURING COUNTRY – NEPAL	
	GENERAL INFORMATION: Capital : KATHMANDU Area : 56827 sq. mi. (147, 181 sq km.) Population : 18,452,000 Official Language : Nepali Monetary Unit : 1 Nepali Rupee = 100 paisa Main Cities : Kathmandu; Biralnagar; Lalitpur
	GOVERNMENT: Form : Constitutional Democracy Independent : 1769 Head of Government : Prime Minister Legislature : One Legislative House (National Panchayat) Judiciary : Highest Court is Supreme Court Political Division : 14 zones, 5 development regions
	NATIONAL ECONOMY: Gross national product : U.S. \$ 3,150, 000, 000 Per capita income : U.S. \$ 170 Agriculture : Jute, Rice, Corn, Wheat, Sugar cane Livestock : Cattle, Goats, Buffalo Fisheries : 11,000 metric tons Mining : Quartz Industries : Sugar, Jute goods, Tourism Main Exports : Food and live animals, Basic Manufactures, Crude materials, animal and vegetable oils and fats Transportation : 3,918 mi (6,306 km) of roads, 1 international airport Trading Partners : India, Japan
	PEOPLE: Urban : 08% Ethnic Composition : Nepalese 58.5%, Bihari (including Maithili and Bhojpuri) 18.5%, Tharu 3.5% , Tamang 3.5% Birth Rate : 39.3 per 1000 population Death Rate : 14.6 per 1000 population Infant mortality : 101 per 1000 live births Life expectancy : Male 50 years; Female 49 years

QUESTIONS:

1. If the natural increase in population is calculated in the following manner: i.e. if $NaturalIncrease = \frac{Birth\ rate - DeathRate}{10}$, then what will be the natural increase in population of Nepal with reference to the given data?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	NON CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	UNDERSTAND
ITEM	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1A

2. On the basis of the data in the figure Identify and write any three similarities between India and Nepal.

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	NON CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	LOCATE , CO-RELATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1A

3. Which of the following Indian states share their boundaries with Nepal?

- Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Assam, Uttarakhand, Sikkim
- Uttarakhand, Bihar, West Bengal, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh
- Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Uttarakhand
- Bihar, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	NON CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	LOCATE AND EVALUATE
ITEM	COMPLEX MULTIPLE CHOICE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1A

4. Give reasons why the infant mortality rate in Nepal is quite alarming as per the details given.

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	NON CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	CRITICAL THINKING AND ANALYZING
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

READING UNIT 9

HOWARD'S END

– E. M. Forster

Dearest Meg



'It isn't going to be what we expected. It is old and little, and altogether delightful – red brick. We can scarcely pack in as it is, and the dear knows what will happen when Paul (younger son) arrives tomorrow. From hall you go right or left into dining room or drawing room. Hall itself is practically a room. You open another door in it, and there are stairs going up in a sort of tunnel to the first floor. Three bedrooms in a row there, and three attics in a row above. That isn't all the house really, but it is all that one notices- nine windows as



you look up from the front garden.

Then there is a very big wych-elm- to the left as you look up- leaning a little over the house, and standing on the boundary between the garden and the meadow. I quite love that tree already. Also ordinary elms, oaks- no nastier than ordinary oaks – pear trees, apple trees and a vine. No silver birches, though. However, I must get on to my host and hostess. I only wanted to show that it isn't the least what we expected. Why did we settle that their house would be all gabbles and wiggles, and their garden all gamboge-coloured paths? I believe simple because we associate them with expensive hotels – Mrs Wilcox trailing in beautiful dresses down long corridors, Mr Wilcox bullying porters etc. We females are that unjust.



I shall be back Saturday; will let you know later. They are as angry as I am that you did not come too; really Tibby is so tiresome, he starts a new mortal disease every month. How could he have got hay fever in London? and even if he could, it seems hard that you should give up a visit to hear a school boy sneeze, Tell him that Charles Wilcox (the son who is here) has hay fever too. But he is brave, and gets quite cross when we enquire after it. Men like the Wilcoxes do Tibby a power of good. But you won't agree and I'd better change the subject.

This long letter is because I'm writing before breakfast. Oh, the beautiful vine leaves! The house is covered with a vine. I looked out earlier, and Mrs. Wilcox was already in the garden. She evidently loves it. No wonder she sometimes looks tired. She was watching the large red poppies come out. Then she walked off the lawn to the meadow, whose corner to the right I can just see.

Trail, trail, went her long dress over the sopping grass, and she came back with her hands full of the hay that was cut yesterday—I suppose for rabbits or something, as she kept on smelling it. The air here is delicious. Later on I heard the noise of croquet balls, and looked out again, and it was Charles Wilcox practicing; they are keen on all games. Presently he started sneezing and had to stop. Then I hear more clicketting, and it is Mr. Wilcox practicing, and then, 'a-tissue, a-tissue': he has to stop too. Then Evie comes out, and does some calisthenics exercises on a machine that is tacked on to a greengage-tree—they put everything to use—and then she says 'a-tissue,' and in she goes. And finally Mrs. Wilcox reappears, trail, trail, still smelling hay and looking at the flowers. I inflict all this on you because once you said that life is sometimes life and sometimes only a drama, and one must learn to distinguish t'other from which, and up to now I have always put that down as 'Meg's clever nonsense.' But this morning, it really does seem not life but a play, and it did amuse me enormously to watch the W's. Now Mrs. Wilcox has come in.

QUESTIONS:

1. Mrs. Wilcox walked off the lawn to the meadows. What did she gather from there?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
PROCESS	LOCATE AND INFORM
ITEM	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1A

2. In the above passage life is portrayed in few other ways. Which of the following represents correct similarities with life?

- a) Drama; Flowers; Life
- b) Vine; Play; Garden
- c) Vine; Play; Life
- d) Life; Drama; Play

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
PROCESS	LOCATE AND ASSEMBLE INFORMATION
ITEM	SIMPLE MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1A

3. In what ways is Mrs. Wilcox different from Mr. Wilcox?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
PROCESS	UNDERSTANDING RELATIONSHIP, COMPARISON AND CONTRAST
ITEM	SHORT RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

4. Nature sustains us, teaches us many things and makes us creative. Instead of saving it, we continually harm it in the name of development. Mention the ways in which we can preserve it.

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	NON-CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
PROCESS	ANALYZE, REFLECT AND CREATE.
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	4

READING UNIT 10

ONLINE WORLD

The Kiki challenge is a classic example of how things started in a fun way can become dangerous. However, the Momo challenge and the Blue Whale Game were started with an intention of cyber-criminals preying on young vulnerable children by hooking them to the games with a life threatening endpoint. Both the games work on the psychology of cognitive distortion, loss of touch with reality, social isolation and fear.

The main role to be played by the government should be raising awareness about such challenges and making professional support available and accessible. Policing is not an answer to these challenges because the children need support and understanding as well as right interventions and education of care-givers such as parents and teachers to recognize the early signs of mental health issues.

Source: Brainfeed Magazine , October 2018

QUESTIONS:

1: How do online games have a hazardous effect on the physical well being of a child?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	NON CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	INFER AND REFLECT
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

2. Imposition of too many restrictions on children may spoil their imagination and creativity. How can the caregivers address this addiction to online activities?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	INFER AND REFLECT
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

3. What do you understand by the expression 'loss of touch with reality'?

- a) not watching reality shows
- b) being social and practical
- c) being in their world of fantasy
- d) not being in touch with friends

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	INFERRING
ITEM	COMPLEX MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

READING UNIT 11

STRESS BUSTERS

STRESS BUSTERS



For the working professionals festivities do not always mean a holiday in India. Many of them do not manage to get off work during the festival days. And this is a tricky situation faced by many, no matter which sector they are in. Stressful workplaces can, however, take a toll on the health and quality of lives of employees. In a survey, conducted by Cigna TTK Health Insurance, 89% of Indians responded saying that they suffered from stress as compared to the global average of 86%.

Well, with the festive season, it's time you took the control back with work life blend. While keeping your job is important, you cannot give the festivities amiss, either. Here are some tips on how to make the best of both worlds by using the effective work-pleasure hacks given below :

Decide your priorities

Get the best returns from a work day by prioritizing your to-do list

according to importance and urgency. Organise and complete the most pressing tasks first and then go on to the next. Tick off tasks as they are done. You could try scheduling 'time blocks ' for each task.

Keep distractions at bay

Holiday season can be quite distracting for obvious reasons. Whether it is the holiday stress, emails to be answered, or quick questions from your colleagues, distractions can interfere with the work schedule you had planned. Keep a time buffer for all the possible distractions that can come your way, so that you don't have to ignore important work. Work hard to party harder!

Plan and schedule everything

It's good to plan all that you want to accomplish but it's important to be disciplined when following your plan. Follow your planner and carry it everywhere you go. Whether it is work, shopping, or visiting your friends, the planner should have all the day's activities jotted down. This will prevent the possibility of burnout and unnecessary stress during this season.

Be kind to yourself and others

Show empathy and reinstate faith in the company's values and policies. Take time out to bring the festive cheer to work. Consider perks like gifts, interactive sessions and shorter work days so that there is more fun and less stress, and the work gets done.

Source: Career360 Nov.2018 (Page#192)

QUESTIONS :

1: As English adage goes: 'No pain, no gain'. It is often found that pain leads to stress but taking pains is a key to success. So how should we cope with it?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	UNDERSTANDING AND CONSTRUCTING MEANING.
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

2. Your mother keeps nagging you for procuring good scores in all subjects in class X. You are a little scared that you would not be able to meet the expectations of your parents. How would you manage your stress?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	UNDERSTANDING AND CONSTRUCTING MEANING.
ITEM	SHORT RESPONSE TYPE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

3. Work hard to party harder'. In our hectic life schedule, one doesn't get time for fun and celebration. How can one party harder when there is so much burden of work?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	ANALYZING, REFLECTING, CRITICAL THINKING
ITEM	SHORT RESPONSE TYPE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

4, Using Facebook, WhatsApp and other social sites keep stress at bay. Crores of people are addicted to such sites. How would you convince your father who caught you and scolded you for using Facebook.

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	UNDERSTANDING AND CONSTRUCTING MEANING.
ITEM	CLOSE CONSTRUCTED
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

Reading Unit 12

Blowin' in the Wind

How many roads must a man walk down,
Before you call him a man.

How many seas must a white dove sail,
Before she sleeps in the sand.

Yes, 'n' how many times must the cannon balls fly,
Before they're forever banned

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind,
The answer is blowin' in the wind.

How many years can a mountain exist,
Before it's washed to the sea?

Yes 'n' how many times can some people exist ,
Before they're allowed to be free?

Yes 'n' how many times must a man turn his head,
Pretending he just doesn't see?

The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind,
The answer is blowing in the wind.

Yes, 'n' how many times must a man look up,
Before he can see the sky.

Yes, 'n' how many ears must one man have,
Before he can hear people cry.

Yes, 'n' how many deaths will it take till he knows
That too many people have died.

The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind,
The answer is blowin' in the wind.

QUESTIONS :

1. The poem '*Blowin' in the wind*' was originally a song written by the famous American song-writer Bob Dylan and poses a series of questions to the reader. Identify the tone of the poem.
 - a) sympathy
 - b) nostalgia
 - c) poignancy
 - d) protest

FRAMEWORK.	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO.	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE.	ARGUMENT
PROCESS.	REPRESENT LITERAL INFORMATION
ITEM.	SIMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL.	1 A

2. What does the line 'the answer my friend is blow in' in the wind' imply?
 - a) the questions are rhetorical, and no one dares to find them
 - b) the questions are sarcastic and only the poet understands them
 - c) the questions are rhetorical and only the authorities can perceive them
 - d) the questions are sarcastic and only a few friends of the poet know the answers

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	ARGUMENT
PROCESS	INTEGRATE AND GENERATE INFERENCES
ITEM	COMPLEX MULTIPLE CHOICE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

3. According to the poet a person would be required to fight many wars so that he may be called a man. The wars will lead to his emancipation and bring peace on earth. List some of the qualities that enable one to be truly called a 'Man'?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	ARGUMENT
PROCESS	INTEGRATE AND GENERATE INFERENCES
ITEM	SHORT CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

4. The poet aims to sensitize our conscience and wants individuals to search for answers which are fundamental to our existence. Poetry in this sense is a powerful tool to bring about social awakening. Substantiate your point of view on this with any four points.

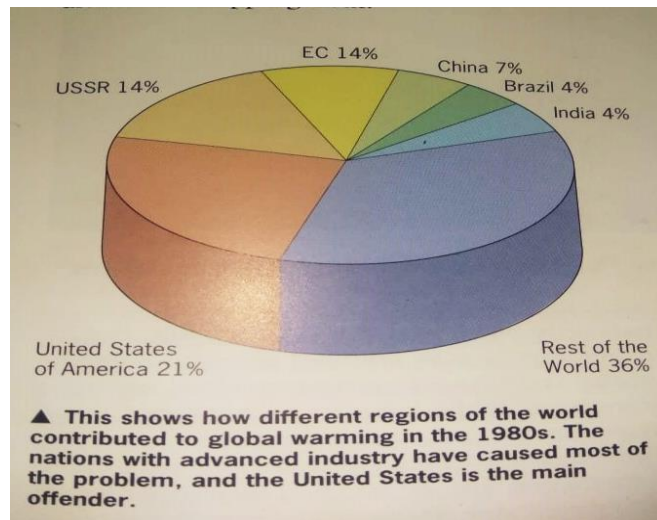
FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	ARGUMENT
PROCESS	UNDERSTAND AND EVALUATE, REFLECT
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	4

READING UNIT 13

Environmental Problems

Before humans came on the scene, the world changed slowly. There were for natural calamities such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tropical storms. The climate warmed and cooled. New plants and animals evolved and became extinct in their turn. Sea levels rose and fell over periods of thousands, if not millions of years.

But during the last two thousand years, the rate of change has been dramatic. Forests have vanished and river courses have been altered. Large areas of natural vegetation have disappeared under farmland and cities. The delicate balance of nature has been disturbed. Some of the results pose serious problems for the survival of humans.



QUESTIONS:

1. Earth is home to millions of species, yet One dominates it. The world witnessed many changes after humans came on the scene. The change led to a receding of:

- (a) Flora and fauna
- (b) Farmland and cities
- (c) Forest fires
- (d) Level of sea water fell

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	MIXED
TEXT TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	UNDERSTAND AND REPRESENT
ITEM	SIMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1A

2. The given figure shows how different regions of the world contributed to global warming in 1980s. Circle **Yes/No** if you agree or disagree with the following statements about the same.

- (a) European countries contributed more than Brazil, India and China put together. **Yes/ No**
- (b) China and Brazil together contributed less than USSR. **Yes/No**
- (c) Rest of the world contributed more than USA alone. **Yes/No**
- (d) European countries and India together contributed less than the rest of the world. **Yes/ No**

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	MIXED
TEXT TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

3. Ecological disturbance brings about the mortality to organisms and changes the pattern of their ecosystems.

State the measures that can be taken up to minimize this ongoing imbalance in nature.

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	MIXED
TEXT TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

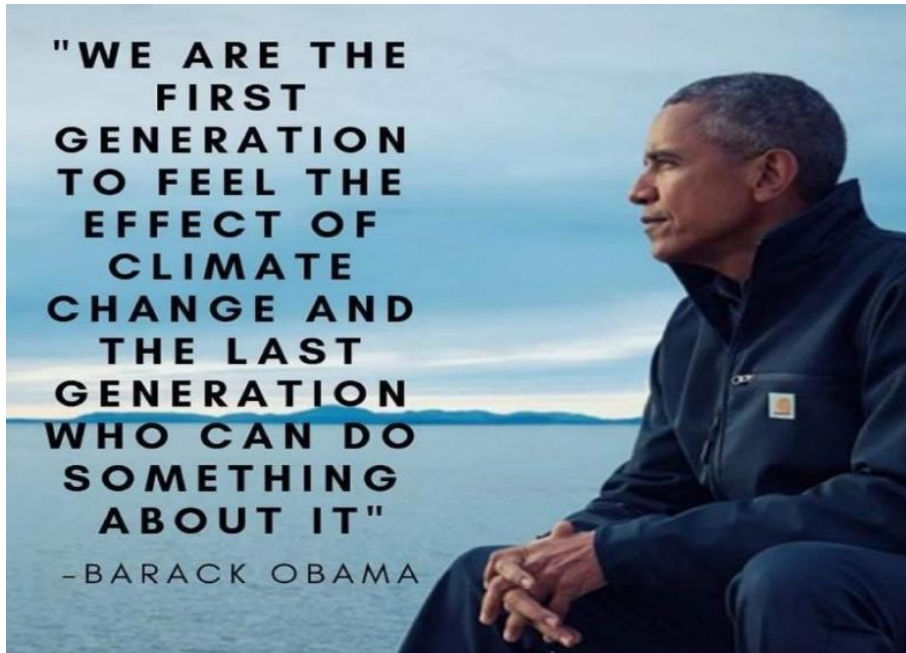
4. There are seven billion people inhabiting planet earth today and are together accelerating the rate of climate change. However, the pie chart shows that countries with had lesser population contributed more towards this imbalance in the year 1980.

What could have been the possible reason for this?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	MIXED
TEXT TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	UNDERSTAND AND REPRESENT
ITEM	COMPLEX MULTIPLE CHOICE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

READING UNIT 14

A WAKE UP CALL FOR US



QUESTIONS:

1. The former US president addresses one of the greatest challenges the world is facing today. What does Barack Obama wish to emphasize through these lines?

- (a) Generation gap
- (b) Alarming climatic changes
- (c) The urgency to protect our environment
- (d) Threats to our environment

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TEXT TYPE	DESCRIPTION, EXPOSITION
PROCESS	LOCATE INFORMATION
RESPONSE ITEM	SIMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1B

2. Identify the tone of Barack Obama's statement.

- (a) Didactic
- (b) Ironical
- (c) Satirical
- (d) Cautionary

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TEXT TYPE	DESCRIPTION, EXPOSITION
PROCESS	LOCATE INFORMATION
RESPONSE ITEM	COMPLEX MULTIPLE CHOICE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1A

3. Climate change has become clearly perceptible now.
 Why does Obama call us ***the first generation*** to feel its effects?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TEXT TYPE	DESCRIPTION, EXPOSITION
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
RESPONSE ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

4. During his presidency Barack Obama once said, “We can still act and it won’t be too late.”
 The governments across the world have also identified steps that can be taken to address the challenge of climate change.

Identify the measures taken to address this challenge.

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TEXT TYPE	DESCRIPTION, EXPOSITION
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
RESPONSE ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

READING UNIT 15 EVOLVED TO CRACK

The intricate web of cracks and crevices that gives **African elephants** their distinctive look is, in fact, an essential adaptation. The millions of micrometer-wide fractures in elephants' skin retain mud and water after mud baths, helping the animals stay hydrated between trips to the water hole. Evaporation from the mud and water also aids temperature regulation—vital because elephants, unlike many mammals, don't sweat. How the crevices develop has long been a mystery, but Michel Milinkovitch and his colleagues may have solved it. Their research suggests that fractures form when the growth of new skin puts stress on the brittle, outermost skin layer. The findings offer fresh insights into how elephants beat the heat.

(NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC)

BATHING

To coat their bodies in water and mud, elephants collect liquid in their trunks and spray it onto their heads and backs.

DUSTING

When water is scarce, an elephant will cover itself in dust, which, like mud, can shield its skin from parasites and sunburn.



Questions:

1. The word fracture in the passage refers to:

- a) Broken bones
- b) Scar on skin
- c) Cracks on skin
- d) Damaged skin

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	MIXED
TYPE	EXPOSITION
PROCESS	UNDERSTAND
ITEM	COMPLEX MCQ
PROFICIENCYLEVEL	1 A

2: On the basis of the write up explain how elephants regulate their temperature and keep themselves hydrated.

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	MIXED
TYPE	EXPOSITION
PROCESS	LOCATE INFORMATION
ITEM	SHORT RESPONSE
PROFICIENCYLEVEL	2

3: Why do you think would the African elephants find it difficult to survive in the Sahara region?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	MIXED
TYPE	EXPOSITION
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCYLEVEL	3

4: Michel Milinkovitch and his colleagues have unearthed an important fact regarding elephants during their research:

- a) How do they keep themselves hydrated
- b) How do the fractures in their skin help them
- c) How do they keep themselves cool during summer
- d) How do they develop fractures on their skin

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	MIXED
TYPE	EXPOSITION
PROCESS	LOCATE INFORMATION
ITEM	SIMPLE MCQ
PROFICIENCYLEVEL	1b

READING UNIT 16

GOOD NEWS

Everybody's welcome:

Looks like eating out in India got a whole lot more inclusive! After a transgender individual was allegedly denied entry into a mall in Pune, 45 hotels, restaurants and service companies, including Urban Clap and Olive Bar & Kitchen, have pledged to make all the people feel more welcome, regardless of gender and sexual preference.

Keshav Suri, executive director of the Lalit Suri Hospitality Group and one of the petitioners for decriminalizing Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, has been a vocal advocate for gay rights in India. "It begins with a fundamental concept such as not assuming that if two men are checking in together, they have to be provided with twin beds; and changing the concept of couple, which people still define as a man and woman together. We have started addressing a couple as a twosome instead," he told Hindustan Times.

The establishments will make various changes such as training their staff to provide more inclusive service, better hiring processes and gender-neutral bathrooms wherever possible. This is another big step in the right direction for India and will hopefully pave the way for a safer, happier, more embracing society for all.

(Reader's Digest, October 2018)

QUESTIONS:

1. A transgender individual was denied entry into a mall in Pune because -
 - a) transgender people are not considered part of the society.
 - b) people are biased against transgender people.
 - c) the Indian Law doesn't support transgender people
 - d) Transgender people have no right to mingle in the society.

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
PROCESS	EVALUATE & REFLECT
ITEM	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

-
- 2: How can India become a more inclusive society?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
PROCESS	LOCATE
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

3: Section 377 of Indian Penal Code deals with:

- a) Right to Education
- b) Right to Privacy
- c) Right to follow Religion
- d) Right to Homosexuality

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
PROCESS	UNDERSTAND
ITEM	SIMPLE MCQ
PROFICIENCYLEVEL	1 b

4: What is the author's intent in the passage? Choose the correct option:

- a) Complain
- b) Appeal
- c) Appreciate
- d) Condemn

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
PROCESS	EVALUATE & REFLECT
ITEM	COMPLEX MCQ
PROFICIENCYLEVEL	2

READING UNIT 17

Taking the Violence out of Silk

Do you know how many silkworms are normally killed to make a silk sari? Kusuma Rajaiah, a 55-year old government officer from India's Andhra Pradesh state, does: "Around 10,000." Mr. Rajaiah estimates that around 15 silkworms are normally sacrificed to produce a gram of silk yarn. For years, he's been battling against what he describes as the "cruel killing of millions of innocent worms."

But there's no need to give up silk: Mr. Rajaiah has long come up with an alternative. He realized the lure of silk was too strong to persuade people to give it up altogether so he came up with a technique that spares the life of the silkworm. He's the man who invented "Ahimsa" – or "nonviolent" – mulberry silk, a fabric which has since reached temples in Tamil Nadu and red carpets in Hollywood.

India prides itself on its varieties of silk – the most popular of which is made from cocoons whose worms feed on mulberry leaves. Mulberry silk accounts for over 80% of the country's total silk output, according to India's Central Silk Board. The board showcases India's various types of silk through a series of government-sponsored expos. Mr. Rajaiah, who holds the patent for eco-friendly mulberry silk, makes the special silk only on order. He says he was inspired by Mahatma Gandhi – a proponent of Ahimsa, a principle which opposes harm to all living things.

"Why should we torture and boil worms just for a luxury fabric?" said Mr. Rajaiah in a recent phone interview.

In normal silk production silkworms are poured in boiling water inside their cocoons – at a stage believed to be best for silk production. Nonviolent silk – also known as "peace silk" – involves no such brutality: Silkworms first break out of their cocoons, which are then spun. Mr. Rajaiah reckons he has saved "billions" of silkworms since he first started weaving peace silk back in 1990. His company's website shows animated pictures of moths fluttering their wings and "Free to Live" pop-out signs.

Worms – unlike cuddly minks, ermines or chinchillas whose furs are coveted for coats and stoles – rarely make it on animal rights agendas. But "those who care about animals should care about worms too," said Mr. Rajaiah. But can people really be swayed by worm rights?

Nonviolent mulberry silk, which makes up a tiny percentage of overall silk output, occupies a niche in the market for eco-friendly but high quality silk, said M. Saatyawati, head of India's Central Silk Board.

It's the sort of silk that's starting to appeal to the eco-friendly glitterati globally. Among them is Suzy Amis, wife of Avatar's James Cameron. The blue gown donned by Ms Amis at the 2010 Oscars ceremony, says Mr. Rajaiah, was made from worm-friendly fabric originally supplied by him.

Peace silk requires waiting around 10 days for the larvae to grow into moths and to make their way out of their cocoon – compared to the 15 minutes it usually takes to boil them alive. At this later stage the cocoon yields six times less filament. This inflates the cost of nonviolent silk, which is priced at roughly 6,000 rupees (\$ 134) per kilogram – about twice the price of the regular kind. Once woven, nonviolent silk is hard to distinguish from normal mulberry silk.

Mr. Rajaiah is quick to point out that the higher price "is nothing compared to the lives of thousands of moths" that are spared.

Another variety of silk known as "eri" silk – which accounts for about 12% of silk production in India – also spares the life of silkworms. But the quality is not as good as the mulberry sort, which is more expensive but shinier. Mr. Rajaiah's regular customers include devotees from the temple town of Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, who gave up regular silk after their local priest urged them to. Peace silk is also popular among Jainists, firm believers of the principle of non-violence.

Although revenues have been steadily increasing since he first started selling peace silk about a decade ago, his business made just over \$67,000 last year. But Mr. Rajaiah says he's not in it for the money.

"I am not a business person," he said. "I do it for passion."

(The Wall Street Journal)

QUESTIONS:

1. The fact that non violent silk has reached even the red carpets in Hollywood indicates

- a) an inclination towards adopting Ahimsa
- b) a trend for eco friendly products
- c) a fondness for silk
- d) a Gandhian bent of mind

FRAMEWORK	CHARECTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
ITEM	SIMPLE MCQ
PROCESS	LOCATE-RETRIEVE INFORMATION
LEVEL	1a

2. Why do you think there aren't enough people advocating about worm rights?

Ans-----

FRAMEWORK	CHARECTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROCESS	EVALUATE & REFLECT
LEVEL	2

3. Rahul a member of PETA, is impressed with the efforts of Mr.Rajaih in saving the worms. He wishes to do something to raise his sales. What can he do to help?

Ans: _____

FRAMEWORK	CHARECTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROCESS	EVALUATE & REFLECT
LEVEL	3

4. Is there a way to reduce the inflated cost of peace silk?

Ans: _____

FRAMEWORK	CHARECTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROCESS	EVALUATE & REFLECT
LEVEL	3

5. Which of the following phrases best describes Mr. Kusuma Rajaiah?

- a) caring human being
- b) rebel with a cause
- c) a crusader for peace
- d) a champion of worms

FRAMEWORK	CHARECTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
ITEM	COMPLEX MCQ
PROCESS	EVALUATE & REFLECT
LEVEL	3

READING UNIT 18

The Way of the World

Bob Petersburg had been the top salesman at Midwest Motor Parts for years. He had a network of clients that spread out in every direction for about as far as he was willing to drive. His clients loved him for his affable manner and his honesty, and Bob felt that the world was his.

Maybe it was Bob's for a little while, but then the world started changing around him. It happened slowly at first with some of the other salesmen carrying pagers and using email to deal with clients. Bob just said that there was no substitute for a firm handshake. Then his sales base started eroding. Many of his old clients were retiring. He'd visit their offices and only to find that the old, familiar faces had been replaced by young, cold faces. These new faces asked Bob for his email address. Bob said that email could never replace the intimacy of a handwritten letter.

Time passed and it continued to pass by Bob. Rick Summers was Bob's manager and he changed too. Bob had always thought that Rick was a great guy. They played golf together and barbecued occasionally, but Rick's wife got sick and he retired. Rick was replaced by Mike Christmas.

Mike Christmas was not as understanding of Bob's shortcomings as Rick had been. Rick hated computers just as much as Bob did, so he never bothered Bob about embracing new business standards, but Mike was from the new school. One of Mike's first actions as sales chief was to issue company smart phones to every salesman. When Bob did not send emails, take photos of signed purchase orders, or reply to Mike's text messages, Mike grew impatient with him.

One night Bob came home in a particularly somber mood. Mike had just thrashed him around the office for the better part of an hour after Bob had lost a few more clients, and Bob felt that the

world had become a terrible place. He wanted nothing more than to run away from his job, but he felt that he had to watch over his family. At that moment, however, Bob’s family was watching over him.

Noticing the pain that his father wore on his face, Bobby Junior approached and asked him what was wrong. Bob Senior attempted to keep his troubles from his son, but his emotional state was such that he just couldn't help but to pour out his heart. Bobby wanted to help his Dad and he tried to listen, but he didn't know anything about motor parts, salesmanship, or what Mike Christmas's problem was. But one thing Bobby did know was how to work a mobile phone.

Bobby spent the next month teaching his old man how to use his company phone. He started his dad off by playing Angry Birds so that he could learn basic swiping and tapping gestures. It took Bob Senior three nights to beat the first level. Over the next few weeks they worked on sending text messages, and then taking pictures, and then attaching pictures to the text messages. Bob Senior took a long time to complete these tasks, but he was steadily learning. By the time Bobby Junior finished teaching him about email, Bob had become so passionate about his phone that he went out and bought a belt holster to protect the screen. He wore this proudly despite Bobby Junior's protests.

Soon Bob began applying the skills that his son had taught him to his business. Bob was stunned at how technology simplified many of the problems that he had run into in the past. He filled orders for his clients though a purchase management system accessed from his mobile phone while he waited for more purchase orders to arrive in his email. As his sales climbed, Bob couldn't believe that it had taken him this long to adopt such useful technology. There was even some talk that Bob might be up for salesman of the year again. Even though Mike Christmas and Bob would never go on to play golf or barbecue, Mike did leave Bob alone after that, which was all that Bob ever wanted from him anyway.

QUESTIONS:

1. What made Bob feel ‘the world was his’?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
PROCESS	UNDERSTAND
ITEM	SHORT RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1a

2. Bob’s sales dropped because

- a) The younger generation took over the businesses
- b) The young were cold and heartless
- c) His old clients retired
- d) He refused to adapt to the new work culture

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
PROCESS	LOCATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	SIMPLE MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1 a

3. The elders find it difficult to adapt to the fast changing world. List three areas where elders are unable to cope with the changes.

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

4. Why was Bob a successful salesman?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

5. The turning point in the story is when:

- a. Rick, his manager retired
- b. his son decides to help him
- c. his sale dropped drastically
- d. his business started flourishing

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	NARRATION
PROCESS	UNDERSTAND AND LOCATE
ITEM	SIMPLE MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

READING UNIT 19

“Listen

My father speaks Urdu, language of dancing

Peacocks, rosewater fountains

Even its curses are beautiful. He speaks

Hindi,

Suave and melodic,

Earthy Punjabi,

Salty-rich as saagpaneer, coastal Swahili

Laced with Arabic. He speaks Gujarati,

Solid ancestral pride.

Five languages,

Five different worlds.

Yet English

Shrinks him down

Before white men.

- ShailjaPatel,Migritude

QUESTIONS:

1. What, according to you, is the central idea of the poem?
 - a. Proficiency in different language
 - b. Ode to the father
 - c. Linguistic chauvinism
 - d. India’s cultural variety

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	COMPREHENSION AND INFERENCE
ITEM	COMPLEX MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1B

2. When Rohan reads the poem for the first time, he is intrigued by the line “coastal Swahili laced with Arabic” and immediately associates it with two geographical locations. What do you think are they?
 - a. Saudi Arabia, Africa
 - b. Coastal Gujarat, Arabian sea
 - c. Kerala, Arabia
 - d. Thar desert, Africa

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	COMPREHENSION AND INFERENCE
ITEM	COMPLEX MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	L1B

3. Why do you think is the language Punjabi described as 'earthy'?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	COMPREHENSION AND INFERENCE
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	L3

4. "English shrinks him down before white men." How?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	COMPREHENSION AND INFERENCE
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	L3

READING UNIT 20 **KERALA FACT FILE**

Total Area: 38, 863 square kilometres

Capital: Thiruvananthapuram; Old name: Trivandrum

Climate: Tropical

Currency: Indian Rupee

Languages Spoken: Malayalam, English

Population: 34.8 million (2012)

Location: Southwestern coast of the Indian peninsula

Monsoon: June - September (22 degree – 28 degree Celsius)

Summer Temperature: February – May (22 degree – 33 degree Celsius)

Winter Temperature: October – January (22 degree – 34 degree Celsius)

Religion: Hinduism, Christianity and Islam

Time : GMT + 5.30 hrs

Per capita income: Rs. 74,620 /-

Literacy rate: 94.00%

Annual rainfall: 3,107 mm

The density of population: 860/sq.km

Sex ratio: 1084

Kerala's share in the national population: 3.1%

Major cities: Thiruvananthapuram, Kochi, Kozhikode

Mean Temperature: 29 °C

No.of districts: 14 [northern: Kasargode, Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikode, Malappuram; central: Palakkad, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Idukki; southern: Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alappuzha, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam]

Largest District: Idukki

Smallest District: Alappuzha

Most populous district: Malappuram

Least populous district: Wayanad

Largest city: Thiruvananthapuram

No. of taluks: 75

No. of revenue villages: 1535

No. of city corporations: 6

No. of grama panchayats: 978

No. of block panchayats: 152

No. of district panchayats: 14

Location: South Western part of India; Flanked by the Western Ghats on the east & Arabian Sea on the west

Clothing: Light cotton

No. of rivers: 44

Longest river: Periyar

Highest peak: Anamudi

Neighbouring states: Karnataka to the north; Tamil Nadu to the south & east

Airports: Thiruvananthapuram, Nedumbassery(Kochi), Karipur(Kozhikode), Kannur

Seaports: Kochi, Alappuzha, Kollam, Beypore(Kozhikode)

Prime crops: Coffee, rubber, tea, spices, cashew, coconut, areca nut, rice

Prime exports: Coir, spices, handloom, handicrafts, metal mirror, fibre, seafood

Prime industries: Tourism, IT, fertilizers, oil refineries, power generation, shipbuilding, machine tools, electronics, cables, rubber

Major beaches: Kovalam, Varkala, Fort Kochi, Kappad, Alleppey, Bekal, Cherai

Major wildlife sanctuaries: Thekkady(Periyar), Parambikkulam, Silent Valley, Wayanad, Shendurney, Neyyar, Chinnar, Peppara, Aralam, Eravikulam

Major bird sanctuaries: Thattekkad, Kumarakom, Mangalavanam

Major hill stations: Ponmudi, Peermade, Wagamon, Devikulam, Thekkady, Munnar, Wayanad

PQLI: Low infant mortality rate; High levels of literacy, health & hygiene, life expectancy

Tourist rating: "One among top 10 destinations in Asia"- Travel magazine; "One of the 50 must-see places of a lifetime"- National Geographic Traveler

(www.keralatravels.com)

QUESTIONS:

- I. If it is 1:00 PM at Greenwich , what would be the time in Kerala?
 - a. 6:30 PM
 - b. 7:30 PM
 - c. 6.30 AM
 - d. 7.30 PM

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	NON- CONTINUOUS
TYPES	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	COMPREHEND AND INFER INFORMATION
ITEM	COMPLEX MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1B

2. You are going on a trekking trip to Anamudi, the highest peak in Kerala. Mention four essential things that you would carry with you?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	EDUCATIONAL
TEXT FORMAT	NON- CONTINUOUS
TYPES	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	INTEGRATE AND GENERATE INFORMATION
ITEM	CLOSED RESPONDED QUESTION
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

3. After reading the fact file, what conclusion can you draw about the social and economic conditions of Kerala?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	NON- CONTINUOUS
TYPES	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	INFER AND INTEGRATE INFORMATION
ITEM	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED QUESTION
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

4. Why is Kerala considered one of the top ten tourist destinations in Asia?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	NON- CONTINUOUS
TYPES	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	INTEGRATE AND GENERATE INFORMATION
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED QUESTION
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

READING UNIT 21

She lived in the graveyard like a tree. At dawn she saw the crows off and welcomed the bats home. At dusk she did the opposite. Between shifts she conferred with the ghosts of vultures that loomed in her high branches. She felt the gentle grip of their talons like an ache in an amputated limb. She gathered they weren't altogether unhappy at having excused themselves and exited from the story.

When she first moved in, she endured months of casual cruelty like a tree would – without flinching. She didn't turn to see which small boy had thrown a stone at her, didn't crane her neck to read the insults scratched into her bark. When people called her names – clown without a circus, queen without a palace – she let the hurt blow through her branches like a breeze and used the music of her rustling leaves as balm to ease the pain.

It was only after Ziauddin, the blind imam who had once led the prayers in the Fatehpuri Masjid, befriended her and began to visit her that the neighbourhood decided it was time to leave her in peace.

Long ago a man who knew English told her that her name written backwards (in English) spelled Majnu. In the English version of the story of Laila and Majnu, he said, Majnu was called Romeo and Laila was Juliet. She found that hilarious. 'You mean I've made a khichdi of their story?' she asked. 'What will they do when they find that Laila may actually be Majnu and Romi was really Juli?' The next time he saw her, the Man Who Knew English said he'd made a mistake. Her name spelled backwards would be Mujna, which wasn't a name and meant nothing at all. To this she said, 'It doesn't matter. I'm all of them, I'm Romi and Juli, I'm Laila and Majnu. And Mujna, why not? Who says my name is Anjum? I'm not Anjum, I'm Anjuman. I'm a mehfil, I'm a gathering. Of everybody and nobody, of everything and nothing. Is there anyone else you would like to invite? Everyone's invited.'

The Man Who Knew English said it was clever of her to come up with that one. He said he'd never have thought of it himself. She said, 'How could you have, with your standard of Urdu? What d'you think? English makes you clever automatically?' He laughed. She laughed at his laugh.

(The Ministry of Utmost Happiness by Arundhati Roy)

QUESTIONS:

1. Which of the following interpretations does the phrase "the blind imam" **connote**?
 - a. The imam lost his vision
 - b. The imam was blind to the children's misbehaviour
 - c. The imam did not mind that Anjum was unique in her own way
 - d. The imam was blind to the protagonist's pain

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	INTEGRATE AND GENERATE INFORMATION
ITEM	COMPLEX MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	L2

2. Which are the fictional characters mentioned in the passage?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	LOCATE INFORMATION
ITEM	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1a

3. Give two examples of antithesis from the excerpt.

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	LOCATE AND RETRIEVE INFORMATION
ITEM	CLOSE CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	L1B

4. Pick out a sentence from the passage that depicts linguistic chauvinism. What is your stand on the relevance of the statement/sentence selected by you?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	REFLECT AND ANALYZE
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

5. "She lived in the graveyard like a tree"

"She endured months of casual cruelty like a tree would."

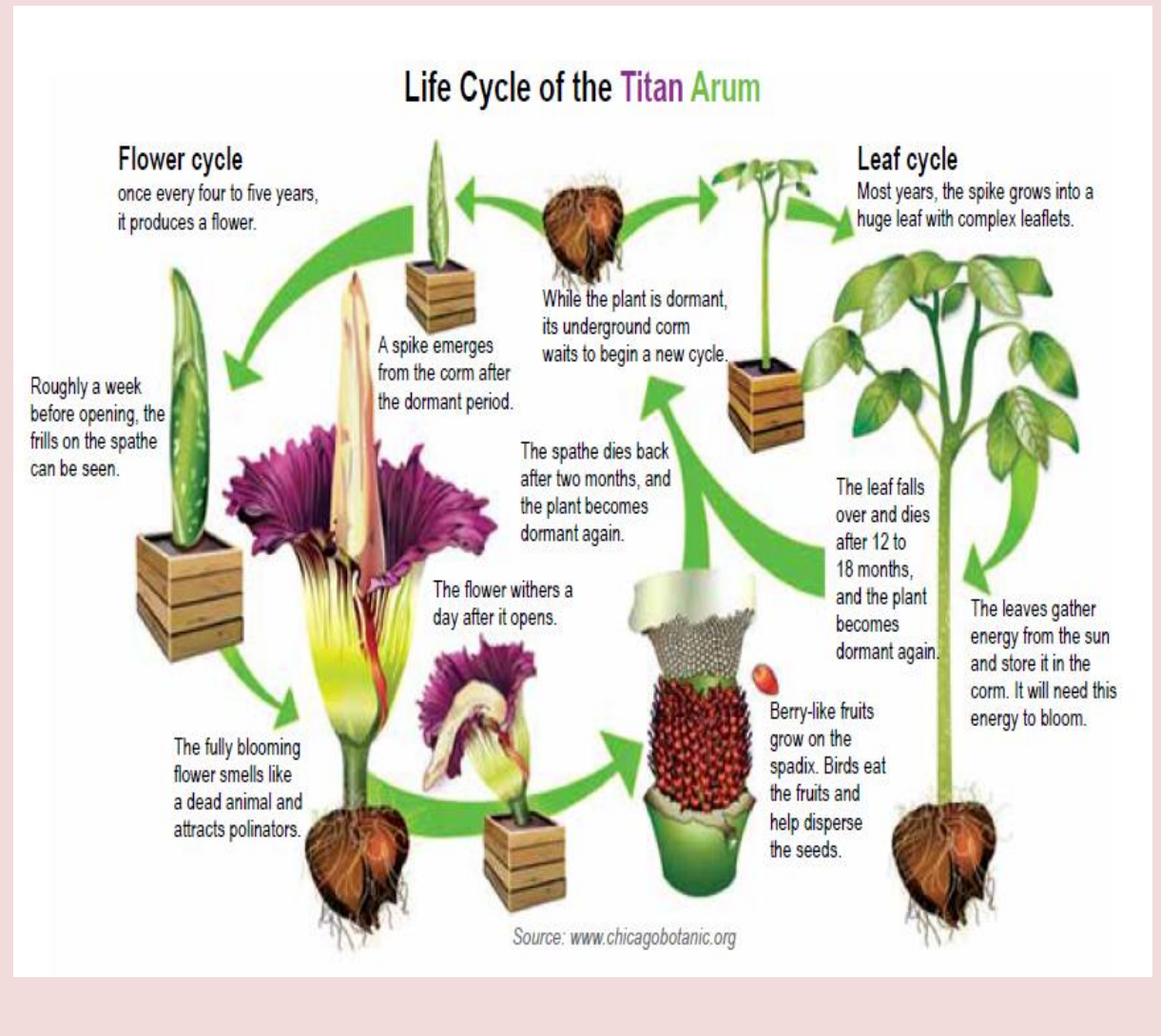
The protagonist has been compared to a tree on two occasions in the given extract. What does Anjum reveal about her character through these comparisons?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	REFLECT AND ANALYZE
ITEM	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	L3

READING UNIT 22

THE CORPSE FLOWER

Amorphophallus titanum (Titan Arum) is the largest unbranched inflorescence in the world. This beautiful purple flower is also known as corpse flower due to its odour, which is like that of a rotting corpse. The flower rises from a tuber, a swollen underground stem modified to store food for the plant. It is a native of equatorial rainforests of the islands of Sumatra in Indonesia.



(Source: Science Reporter, October 2018)

QUESTIONS:

1. *Titan Arum* is a rare and attractive flower. Yet appearances can be deceptive. How does this statement hold true in reference to this flower?

FRAMEWORK	Characteristics
SITUATION	Public
TEXT FORMAT	Mixed
TEXT TYPE	Descriptive
COGNITIVE PROCESS	Evaluating and reflecting
ITEM FORMAT	Open constructed response
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

2. Tim Pollak, an outdoor floriculturist of the Chicago botanic garden, says that the flower attracts pollinators like dung beetles, flesh flies, and other carnivorous insects .Why does this flower attract these pollinators?

FRAMEWORK	Characteristics
SITUATION	Public
TEXT FORMAT	Mixed
TEXT TYPE	Descriptive
COGNITIVE PROCESS	Understanding
ITEM FORMAT	Closed constructed response
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1b

3. Why is the blooming of *Titam Arum* a rare event?
- It produces one flower once every five years.
 - Its flower lasts only for a day.
 - It has only a single leaf that grows for 1 to 1 ½ years.
 - It has a distinctive smell.

FRAMEWORK	Characteristics
SITUATION	Public
TEXT FORMAT	Mixed
TEXT TYPE	Descriptive
COGNITIVE PROCESS	Locating information
ITEM FORMAT	Simple multiple choice
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1a

4. Titan Arum produces a solitary leaf that can reach up to a height of 20 feet tall and spread 15 feet across. This leaf grows for about one to one-and-a-half year and looks like a tree. Why do you think a single leaf give the appearance of a tree?

FRAMEWORK	Characteristics
SITUATION	Public
TEXT FORMAT	Mixed
TEXT TYPE	Descriptive
COGNITIVE PROCESS	Evaluating and reflecting
ITEM FORMAT	Closed constructed response
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

5. The corpse flower is classified as ‘vulnerable’ on the International union for Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Plants. The main threat to its survival is habitat loss and deforestation. What steps should be taken to conserve this flower?

FRAMEWORK	Characteristics
SITUATION	Public
TEXT FORMAT	Mixed
TEXT TYPE	Descriptive
COGNITIVE PROCESS	Evaluating and reflecting
ITEM FORMAT	Open constructed response
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

READING UNIT 23

THE CURIOUS CASES OF UNRULY ROBOTS

ON 31 July 2017, an unusual news was reported by media all over the world. In particular, the news alarmed researchers of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Headlined, “Facebook’s Artificial Intelligence Robots shut down after they start talking to each other in their own language”, it reported that Facebook had abandoned an experiment after two artificially intelligent programs called Chatbots appeared to be chatting with each other in a strange language which nobody else really understood. The Chatbots created their own language using English words only, but which made no sense to the humans who programmed them to converse with each other (Griffin, Andrew, <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/gadgets-and-tech/news/facebook-artificial-intelligence-ai-chatbot-new-language-research-openai-google-a7869706.html>).

Researchers wanted to program the Chatbots to negotiate and bargain with people, because they thought, rightly, that these skills which are essential for cooperation will enable the bots to work with humans. They started with a simple game in which two players were programmed to divide a collection of objects like hats, balls and books between themselves through a two-step program.

First, they fed them with dialogues from thousands of games between humans to teach a sense of the language of negotiation, and then made them master their tactics and improve the bartering by trial and error through a technique called reinforcement learning. The objective of the game was to score as many points as possible.

What followed was bizarre, but Facebook’s researchers underplayed it by merely stating, “We found that updating the parameters of both agents led to divergence from human language (Simonite, Tom, <https://www.wired.com/story/facebooks-chatbots-will-not-take-over-the-world/>).

(Source: Science Reporter, October 2018)

QUESTIONS:

1: The headlines reported that Facebook had abandoned an experiment after two artificially intelligent programs called Chatbots were found chatting with each other in a strange language.

Why made Facebook abandon the experiment?

- a) They felt threatened that computers will take over humans.
- b) They felt their security was being compromised.
- c) They realised their program was faulty.
- d) They couldn’t comprehend the language of the Chatbots.

FRAMEWORK	Characteristics
Scenario	Public
Text format	Continuous
Text type	Descriptive
Cognitive process	Understand
Item format	Simple multiple choice
Proficiency level	1a

2: The Chat bots were created to negotiate and bargain with people. What skills should have been programmed in them to achieve this objective?

FRAMEWORK	Characteristics
Scenario	Public
Text format	Continuous
Text type	Descriptive
Cognitive process	Reflecting and Evaluating
Item format	Open constructed response
Proficiency level	2

3: The passage states- *'They started with a simple game in which two players were programmed to divide a collection of objects like hats, balls and books between themselves through two step program.'*

Why do you think the programmers choose a simple game as the first step of the experiment?

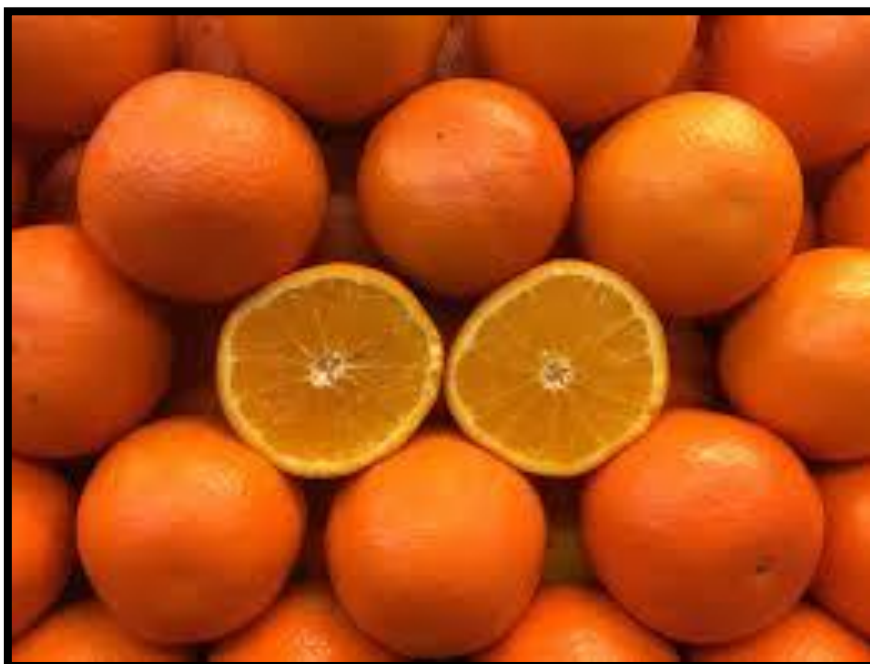
FRAMEWORK	Characteristics
Scenario	Public
Text format	Continuous
Text type	Descriptive
Cognitive process	Reflecting and Evaluating
Item format	Open constructed response
Proficiency level	2

4: Media expressed its fear by saying, ***'Facebook engineers panic, pull plug on Artificial Intelligence after Chatbots develop their own language'***.

If you were a newspaper reporter, how would have you given this news a positive headline?

FRAMEWORK	Characteristics
Scenario	Public
Text format	Continuous
Text type	Descriptive
Cognitive process	Reflecting and Evaluating
Item format	Open constructed response
Proficiency level	2

READING UNIT 24
SEVENTEEN ORANGES



Bill Naughton

Oranges! I loved them. I used to eat them all day and every day. But one day a policeman found seventeen oranges in my pockets. He locked me up and I have never eaten an orange again. I want to tell you the story. I was working for the Swift Delivery Company, and I often went in and out of the docks. I was not really a thief. But I usually left the docks with something under my apron. I had made the apron myself and it was a big one.

When there was a banana boat in the docks, I drove my little chart beside it. Sometimes bunches of bananas fell to the ground. Often my friends kicked a bunch to me from the boat. I always picked up the bananas and quickly hid them under my apron. Then I spent the rest of the day eating bananas. I liked bananas, but I liked oranges best of all.

I only took things when I found them. But some people planned a theft very carefully. Clem Jones was a careful planner. Let me tell you about Clem.

One day Clem was coming out of the docks. He was carrying a box.

'What have you got in there?' asked Pongo, the policeman.

'A cat,' replied Clem. 'Please don't ask me to open the box. The cat will run away.'

'A cat?' Pongo said. 'I don't believe you. Open that box.'

'But the cat will run away,' Clem said again.

'There isn't a cat in that box,' replied Pongo. 'Open it up.'

Clem got very angry, but finally opened his box. Out jumped a ship's cat. The cat ran back into the docks. Clem ran after the cat. He was shouting angrily.

Two minutes later, Clem came back with the same box. He was holding the lid down tightly. Pongo laughed and Clem looked at him furiously. Clem looked angry all the way home. Then he smiled. He opened the box in the kitchen and took out a large Dutch cheese.

That was Clem's story. But I was not so lucky. Pongo, the policeman, caught me because my apron string broke. He noticed that my trouser pockets were full.

'Hey! Wait a minute,' Pongo shouted.

He made me move the pony-and-cart to one side. Then he took me into his hut and looked into my pockets. There were seventeen oranges. Pongo counted them and placed them carefully on the table.

'Too many people are stealing from the docks. 'Pongo said. 'You've stolen these oranges. Have you

anything to say?’

I said nothing. I was very frightened, but I kept quiet. I had read a lot of detective stories. I knew that the best plan was to say nothing.

‘So you won’t say anything,’ said Pongo. ‘I’m going to bring another policeman here. He’ll be a witness against you.’

Pongo left the hut and locked the door behind him. I was very worried. I looked at the walls. I looked at the door. I looked at the seventeen oranges, and I looked at the apron with its broken string.

‘I’ll lose my job, I thought. Perhaps I’ll go to prison. What will my father say? What will my father do? There was no escape. I was locked in the hut and the oranges were on the table. Pongo had gone to bring a witness. I was in trouble.

‘Oh, my god! I said. ‘What can I do?’

‘Eat the oranges,’ said a voice in my head. ‘Eat the evidence.’

Eat them? I asked. Yes, said the voice in my head. Eat them and the evidence will be gone. Be quick! Eat them all.’

I thought for half a second. Then I took an orange. I peeled it and put it in my mouth. Soon only the pips were left. ‘You have to swallow the pips too,’ said the voice in my head. You have to swallow all the evidence.’

Yes, of course,’ I said.

I swallowed the pips and put some of the peel in my mouth.

‘Don’t eat it!’ said the voice. ‘There isn’t time. Swallow it. Be quick! Swallow it!’

I took a small knife from my pocket and cut the oranges into large pieces. I swallowed the pieces of orange one after the other.

There were still three oranges on the table when I heard Pongo outside. I stopped. My stomach was nearly full.

‘Be quick! Swallow them!’ said the voice in my head.

I was lucky. Pongo and the other policeman had seen some carts at the dock gate. They went and talked to the drivers. This gave me a few more minutes.

I must swallow all the oranges, I thought. Only three left!

I swallowed the first one, and then the second one.

Suddenly the door began to open. I swallowed the last piece of the last orange. Pongo and the other policeman walked in.

‘This is the thief,’ Pongo said. ‘I caught him with his pockets full of oranges.’

Then Pongo looked at the table. ‘Where are the oranges?’ he asked. ‘They’ve gone. Where are they?’

‘I can smell them,’ said the other policeman.

I said nothing.

Pongo looked everywhere for the oranges. He looked in my pockets. He looked in my apron. But he didn’t find one orange.

Finally Pongo understood what had happened. But it was very difficult to believe. ‘Seventeen oranges!’ he said. ‘Seventeen big oranges! How did you eat them all?’

I said nothing. Pongo was not able to send me to prison. There was no evidence.

Pongo became angry and shouted at me, but I didn’t say a word. In the end, he had to let me go. I told Clem Jones about the seventeen oranges.

‘Pongo locked you in that hut for half an hour,’ said Clem. ‘He had no right to do that.’

Perhaps Clem was right. I don’t know. I didn’t have time to think about it. I had eaten seventeen large oranges and I felt very sick. For a week, I was running to the toilet all the time.

QUESTIONS:

1: The narrator says- 'I was not really a thief.'

Why does he say so, even though he used to steal bananas and oranges?

FRAMEWORK	Characteristics
Scenario	Personal
Text format	Continuous
Text type	Narrative
Process	Evaluate and reflect
Item format	Open constructed response
Proficiency level	2

2: Clem Jones was a careful planner. Cite evidence from the text to substantiate this statement.

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TEXT TYPE	NARRATIVE
PROCESS	LOCATE INFORMATION
ITEM FORMAT	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1A

3: The narrator says- 'That was Clem's story. But I was not so lucky.'

Why did he call himself 'unlucky'? How did he compensate this bad luck with his smartness?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TEXT TYPE	NARRATIVE
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM FORMAT	CLOSED CONSTRUCT RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1A

4: 'You have to swallow the pips too,' said the voice in my head. You have to swallow all the evidence.'

Whose voice is mentioned here? Does everyone hear this voice? When do people usually hear this voice?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TEXT TYPE	NARRATIVE
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM FORMAT	OPEN CONSTRUCT RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

5: Mentioned below are a few skills that the narrator possessed. Put a cross against the statement that shows a skill of the narrator:

- a) I am a very tactful person.
- b) I am an enterprising person.
- c) I can survive on fruits the whole day.
- d) I am a careful planner.
- e) I am fast in my dealings.
- f) I panic easily.
- g) I am a problem solver.

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TEXT TYPE	NARRATIVE
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
ITEM FORMAT	COMPLEX MCQ
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

READING UNIT 25

THE CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE

I

Half a league, half a league,
Half a league onward,
All in the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.
"Forward, the Light Brigade!
Charge for the guns!" he said.
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.



II

"Forward, the Light Brigade!"
Was there a man dismayed?
Not though the soldier knew
Someone had blundered.
Theirs not to make reply,
Theirs not to reason why,
Theirs but to do and die.
Into the valley of Death
Rode the six hundred.

III

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon in front of them
Volleyed and thundered;
Stormed at with shot and shell,
Boldly they rode and well,
Into the jaws of Death,
Into the mouth of hell
Rode the six hundred.



IV

Flashed all their sabres bare,
Flashed as they turned in air
Sabring the gunners there,
Charging an army, while
All the world wondered.
Plunged in the battery-smoke
Right through the line they broke;
Cossack and Russian
Reeled from the sabre stroke
Shattered and sundered.
Then they rode back, but not
Not the six hundred.



V

Cannon to right of them,
Cannon to left of them,
Cannon behind them
Volleyed and thundered;
Stormed at with shot and shell,
While horse and hero fell.
They that had fought so well
Came through the jaws of Death,
Back from the mouth of hell,
All that was left of them,
Left of six hundred.



VI

When can their glory fade?
O the wild charge they made!
All the world wondered.
Honour the charge they made!
Honour the Light Brigade,
Noble six hundred!

(By ALFRED, LORD TENNYSON)

1. The poem is a poem about a battle. The poet deals with the theme of

- (a) the futility of war
- (b) the bravery of a group of soldiers
- (c) the death of common people
- (d) a battle that was lost

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	LOCATE ACCESS AND RETRIEVE TARGET INFORMATION
ITEM	SIMPLE MULTIPLE CHOICE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1 B

2. 'Forward, the Light Brigade!' What does the Light Brigade refer to?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	LOCATE ACCESS AND RETRIEVE INFORMATION
ITEM	SHORT CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	2

3. The last sentence of stanza IV says- 'Then they rode back, but not, Not the six hundred.'
What inference do you draw from this line?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	LOCATE ACCESS AND RETRIEVE TARGET INFORMATION
ITEM	SHORT QUESTION
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

4. What are the poet's feelings towards those he has referred to in the poem?

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	LOCATE ACCESS AND RETRIEVE TARGET INFORMATION
ITEM	SHORT QUESTION
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

5. In the second stanza, it says- 'Someone had blundered'.
The soldiers knew that their commander had made a mistake. Yet, why did they continue to move forward.

FRAMEWORK	CHARACTERISTICS
SCENARIO	PUBLIC
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	LOCATE ACCESS AND RETRIEVE TARGET INFORMATION
ITEM	SHORT QUESTION
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	3

READING UNIT 26
ORPHANED LEOPARD CUB

Manisha Barde of Dhamangaon village, in Nashik, Maharashtra, had stepped out of her hut to relieve herself one early August Morning, leaving the door ajar. Her children, who slept in the same bed with her, were inside. A bit drowsy, she returned home soon to the warmth of her bed. She noticed her pet cat curled up between her two kids, inside the mosquito net. As Manisha crawled back inside, she felt the cat cuddle up to her. That's when she realised she wasn't snuggling with a cat at all, but a leopard cub. It had been orphaned a month ago when its mother was accidentally killed in a road accident and had snuck into the hut, going straight to the bed for a nap.

Forest officials, who were soon alerted, trapped the three-month cub. Last heard, the cub was doing fine and under the care of the local forest department. It will be released into the wild once it is old enough to hunt.

Source: Reader's Digest

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Manisha notice inside the bedroom when she returned home?
 - a) Leopard cub
 - b) Cat
 - c) Mosquito
 - d) Leopard

FRAME WORK	CHARATERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	LOCATE
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	L 1 B
ITEM RESPONSE	CLOSED CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE

2. Activists are alarmed at the loss of habitats of wild animals. Which of these factors do you think is responsible for such a grim situation?
 - A) Deforestation
 - B) Afforestation
 - C) Cultivation
 - D) Poaching

a) AB b) BC c) CD d) AD

FRAME WORK	CHARATERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	INTEGRATE & GENERATE INFERENCES
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	1A
ITEM RESPONSE	COMPLEX MCQ

3. Had the cub not been handed over to the forest officials, could it have survived? Give reasons

FRAME WORK	CHARATERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	L 3
ITEM	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE

4. Man and animals are interdependent. Even then most human wildlife conflict incidents are caused by human behaviour. How can the conflict between human and animals be resolved?

FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TEXT TYPE	DESCRIPTIVE
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
PROCESS	EVALUATE & REFLECT
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	LEVEL 3
ITEM RESPONSE	OPEN CONSTRUCTED

5. Why do you think cub was not handed over to the family?

FRAME WORK	CHARATERISTICS
SCENARIO	PERSONAL
TEXT FORMAT	CONTINUOUS
TYPE	DESCRIPTION
PROCESS	EVALUATE AND REFLECT
PROFICIENCY LEVEL	L 3
ITEM RESPONSE	OPEN CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE