

**Instructions:**

1. 15 minutes is given as cool off time.
2. This time is to be used for reading the question paper.
3. You are not supposed to write anything during the cool-off time.
4. Attempt all the questions according to the instructions.

1-5. Read the excerpt from *The Best Investment I Ever Made* and answer the questions that follow. (1x5=5)

A long bar of silence throbbed in the little attic when he concluded this halting confession. Then, gruffly, the sergeant masked how much he had stolen. Seven pounds ten shillings - the answer to the question of how much he had almost thrown away his life. There was a pause between us, the sergeant, the landlady and me, as the sole witnesses of the near tragedy. We decided to give the young man a fresh start. The sergeant, at considerable risk to his job, resolved to make no report upon the case, so that no court proceedings would result. The landlady offered a month's free board until he should get upon his feet again. While I, making perhaps the least contribution, came forward with seven pounds ten shillings for him to put back in the office safe.

1. Who were the witnesses of the tragedy?
2. "The sergeant, at considerable risk to his job, resolved to make no report upon the case...." What was the 'risk' involved?
3. Why did they decide to give the young man a fresh start?
4. Pick out the word from the passage which means 'very small and of little or no value'.
5. Read the sentence given below and identify the **noun phrase** in the subject position.

A long bar of silence throbbed in the little attic when he concluded this halting confession.

- 6-9. Read the lines from the poem *The Ballad of Father Gilligan* and answer the questions that follow.

(1x4=4)

He rode now as he never rode,  
By rocky lane and fen;  
The sick man's wife opened the door,  
'Father! you come again!'  
'And is the poor man dead?' he cried  
'He died an hour ago.'  
The old priest Peter Gilligan  
In grief swayed to and fro.

6. Why did Peter Gilligan ride as he never rode?
  7. What feeling did the sick man's wife have when she saw the priest at her door?
  8. Identify the poetic device employed in the line 'The old priest Peter Gilligan'.
  9. Why did Peter Gilligan feel sad?
10. Read the following lines from the poem *Poetry* and prepare a note of **appreciation** focusing on its theme, images and other poetic devices.

(5x1 =5)

And it was at that age ... Poetry arrived  
in search of me. I don't know, I don't know where  
it came from, from winter or a river.  
I don't know how or when,  
no they were not voices, they were not  
words, nor silence,  
but from a street I was summoned,  
from the branches of night,  
abruptly from the others,  
among violent fires  
or returning alone,  
there I was without a face  
and it touched me

- 11-15. Read the story and answer the questions that follow.

(1x5=5)

Once upon a time a daughter complained to her father that her life was miserable and she didn't know how she was going to make it. She was tired of fighting and struggling all the time. Her father, a chef, took her to the kitchen. He filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Once the three pots began to boil he placed potatoes in one pot, eggs in the second pot and ground coffee beans in the third pot. He then let them sit and boil without saying a word to his daughter. After twenty minutes, he turned off the burners. He took the potatoes and eggs out and placed them in a bowl. He then ladled the coffee out and placed it in a cup.

He asked her to touch the potatoes. She did and noted that they were soft. He then asked her to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg. Finally, he asked her to sip the coffee. Its rich aroma brought a smile to her face. He then explained that the potatoes, the eggs and coffee beans had each faced the same adversity - the boiling water. However, each one reacted differently. The potato was strong and hard, but in boiling water it became soft and weak. The egg was fragile with thin outer shell, but in boiling water inside of the egg became hard. But the coffee bean had changed the water and created something new.

"Which one are you?" - he asked his daughter, "In life, things happen around us, but the only thing that truly matters is how you choose to react to it and what you make out of it."

11. What message do you get from the story?
12. Why did the daughter complain to her father?
13. How did the potatoes and eggs react when they came into contact with the boiling water?
14. How was the reaction of coffee beans different?
15. Identify the sentence which tells us that the smell of coffee brought cheers to the girl.

16. Answer any ONE of the following in about 120 words. (7x1=7)

A. In *Adventures in a Banyan Tree*, Ruskin Bond transports us to nature where various creatures indulge in unending activities and the boy, the protagonist, gets immersed in them. Prepare a **review** of the story.

(Hints: talk about nature's beauty and diversity - describes bonding between man and animals - mentions the struggle for survival - relation between various species)

OR

B. The *Scholarship Jacket* delineates how hard work and determination can bring success to a person's life. In the light of the reading of the story, prepare a **write-up** on the topic 'Strong Determination and Hard Work is the Key to Success'.

(Hints: Martha desires to win - works hard - management changes decision - grandfather refuses to pay the money - voices her opinion strongly - gets the scholarship jacket - becomes happy)

17-19. Answer any TWO of the following. (5x2=10)

17. Ali lost the shoes and he started searching for it everywhere. Zahra became very sad when she heard about it. Prepare the likely **conversation** between Zahra and Ali.
18. The English Club of your school has decided to lead a campaign against drug abuse. Prepare a **notice** inviting students, teachers and parents to participate in the campaign.
19. Adichie went to Fide's house and was quite surprised to see the beautifully patterned basket made by his brother. She never thought that anybody in his family could actually make something. She jotted down her thoughts and feelings in her diary that night. Prepare the likely **diary entry**.

20-23. Answer any TWO of the following.

(6x2=12)

20. Martha's grandfather refused to pay the fifteen dollars demanded by the management. His quiet determination sets him apart from the other characters in the story. Prepare a brief **character sketch** of Martha's grandfather.
21. Prepare a **narrative** of the incidents that led to the transformation of Mr. John from a delinquent youth to a philanthropist (a person who helps the poor and the needy).
22. Novelist and feminist campaigner Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie tells us that she enjoyed a very happy childhood, full of laughter and love, in a very close-knit family. After reading the speech, you decide to interview her. Prepare **six questions** you might ask her.
23. A journalist made a report of the life and welfare activities of Mr. John. Prepare the likely **news report**.

24-28. Read the headlines given below and answer the questions that follow. (1x5=5)

40 kg plastic found in dead whale's belly

Car makers announce price hike

Government provides home-based dialysis service to patients

Rain brings down voter turn out in by-election

Online portal introduced for school kalolsavam

India's first private train 'Tejas Express' - passenger compensation

24. Which headline is related to election?
25. What will cheer the regular train commuters?
26. How does the government help the kidney patients?
27. Which headline rings an alarm bell for environmentalists?
28. The headline that is related to automobile industry is \_\_\_\_\_.
29. Prepare a short **profile** of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie using the details given below.

(6x1=6)

Birth : September 15, 1977, Enugu, Nigeria

Education : Communication and Political Science at Eastern Connecticut State University

Notable Works : Half of a Yellow Sun, Purple Hibiscus, For Love of Biafra, Americanah

Qualification : Master's degree in creative writing, Johns Hopkins University

Famous as : The 'most prominent' young anglophone author in Africa.

Awards : Commonwealth Writers' Prize, 2005, Orange Broadband Prize for Fiction, 2007

30. Read the conversation given below and answer the questions that follow. (1x2=2)

Maria : Could I listen to your tribal music?

Chimamanda : No. I normally listen to English pop songs.

- a) What did Maria ask?  
b) What was Chimamanda's reply?

31. Read the passage given below and fill in with suitable form of the phrasal verbs given in brackets. (1x5=5)

(give in, call on, make up one's mind, taken aback, put forward, call off)

Martha was \_\_\_\_\_ (a) \_\_\_\_\_ when she heard the heated exchange between Mr. Boone and Mr. Schmidt. Quite upset, she decided to \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ the principal and \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_ her concerns to him. \_\_\_\_\_ she understood that he had already \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_ to give the scholarship to \_\_\_\_\_ (e) \_\_\_\_\_ . But the gritty girl decided not to \_\_\_\_\_ (e) \_\_\_\_\_ .

32. There are a few errors in the passage given below. Edit them. (1x4=4)

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is a story teller **which** (a) has carved a niche for herself in the literary world. In her speech, she **clear** (b) dwells upon the dangers of a single story. Citing her own personal experiences, she states that single stories **were** (c) not untrue, but incomplete. Single stories **makes** (d) one story become the only story.

33. Supply the missing words in the passage given below. (1x5=5)

( the, at, who, in, to, on)

The boy went up \_\_\_\_\_ (a) \_\_\_\_\_ investigate grandmother's knitting and discovered it \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ the nest built by the squirrel. He also found amongst \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_ wool three white squirrels. Grandfather \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_ had never seen white squirrels before hinted \_\_\_\_\_ (e) \_\_\_\_\_ the possibility of the white rat being the father, as the rats and squirrels were related to each other.

34. Complete the conversation between Mr. John and Dr. A.J. Cronin suitably. (1x5=5)

John : Would you mind \_\_\_\_\_ (a) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Cronin : No problem. I will spare a few minutes for you.

John : Sir, do you recognize me?

Cronin : I am afraid \_\_\_\_\_ (b) \_\_\_\_\_ .

John : I am John and I work in the field of Youth Welfare.

Cronin : It's great. \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

John : I am going to New York to inspect summer recreational camps.

Cronin : What directed you to this field?

John : You still don't remember me, \_\_\_\_\_ (d) \_\_\_\_\_ ?

Cronin : I haven't seen you in my life.

John : Sir, you saved my life twenty five years ago. If you hadn't done that,  
\_\_\_\_\_ (e) \_\_\_\_\_.

Cronin : That's a great compliment. I believe that my investment has yielded fruits.

John : Really \_\_\_\_\_ you.