

**SECTION A: READING**

**1) Read the following passage:**

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1. Cricket in South Asia is a Carnavalesque, festive game. It carries not merely the baggage of competition and achievement, but is also a participatory cultural event that evokes images of religious festivals, convivial social gatherings, picnics, and theatre. It is now gradually becoming a substitute for war, a means of redeeming self-esteem, and expressing xenophobia, and a breeding ground for bizarre conspiracy theories. No country now loses a game because the other side is better; a country loses only because its cricketers and cricket administrators are under-patriotic, corrupt, greedy, or self-centered.

2. Unfortunately for ultra-nationalists and fortunately for the rest, cricket is one game in which the best training, organization, and preparation do not yield corresponding results. It is a subversive game that rebels against the productivity principle on which the world of globalized capitalism is built.

Luck plays a major role in the final outcome of a match or series. In this respect, cricket is unlike football, tennis, or chess. The grandeur of cricket and the clichéd reference to its glorious uncertainties come from a cultivated ignorance of this inner contradiction in the game.

Cricketers and their fans, not to mention the experts, have to learn to live with the unpredictability without getting overly judgmental or paranoid. All games have some built-in uncertainties, but only cricket has turned the gracious acceptance of this into a measure of character.

3. Let us not forget that in cricket the 22 players involved are never on the field at the same time. Consequently, one team may play in full sunshine, while the other may have to play under an overcast sky when the ball begins to swing. One team may bat on a fresh, green pitch, while the other faces a more worn pitch.

You can never truly equalize the outer conditions for the two teams. So, a cricketer not merely plays against the opposition, but also against his own fate. That is one reason why it is typically an Indian, or if you prefer, South Asian game.

4. This is a cultural region that recognizes the role of destiny in human affairs. All cricketers are superstitious because of the nature of their job. Only South Asians are not embarrassed about it and have unashamedly built ritualized ways of dealing with destiny as a normal part of a cricketer's life.

If you want a game where the investment of money, hard training, and ruthless professionalism will predictably yield results, and the results purely reflect skill and talent, you should choose another game.

**i) What does the passage suggest about the role of luck in cricket compared to other sports like football and chess?**

- A. Luck is less important in cricket than in other sports.
- B. Luck plays a major role in all sports, including cricket.
- C. The role of luck in cricket is exaggerated by players and fans.
- D. Luck is more significant in cricket than in other sports.

**ii) According to the passage, what could be a reason for cricket's popularity in South Asia in terms of cultural alignment?**

- A. The game's alignment with the region's competitive spirit.
- B. Its emphasis on professional training and organization.
- C. The cultural acceptance of destiny and superstition.
- D. The festive and social nature of the game.

**iii) What message is conveyed about the nature of cricket as a sport in contrast to globalized capitalism?**

- A. Cricket promotes a capitalist mindset through its global popularity.
- B. Cricket resists the productivity principle of globalized capitalism.
- C. Cricket and capitalism both emphasize the importance of luck.
- D. There is no significant relationship between cricket and capitalism.

**iv) What does the author imply about the attitude of South Asian cricketers towards superstitions?**

- A. They are indifferent to superstitions and focus only on skill.
- B. They are embarrassed by their superstitious beliefs.
- C. They openly embrace and ritualize their superstitious beliefs.
- D. They consider superstitions irrelevant to the game.

**v) True or False: The passage implies that the outcome of a cricket match is solely determined by the skill and talent of the players.**

**vi) Based on the passage about cricket in South Asia, identify the two pairs of words that are antonyms:**

- 1. Carnavalesque and Formal
- 2. Festive and Celebratory
- 3. Subversive and Innovative
- 4. Unpredictable and Predictable
- 5. Convivial and Sociable

From the options below, select the one that correctly identifies the two sets of antonyms:

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

**vii) Which of the following titles would be the most appropriate for the passage?**

- A. "The Global Influence of Cricket"
- B. "Cricket: A Game of Skill and Strategy"
- C. "Cricket in South Asia: A Cultural Phenomenon"

**Q. 2. Read the given passage carefully and answer the questions.**

**7**

(1) Parents of teenagers or preteens should realize that the normal struggles with fads, music and other efforts of independence occur in every family. Once they know that, they can relax more and worry less about how their children are 'turning out'. Chances are they will be just fine and the challenging teen will grow up to be responsible adult.

(2) In the early years of children's lives, parents are the most important figures in their world. Their approval, love and support are critical to children. Consequently, much of what children do and say is aimed at maintaining that love and approval. As children get older and have more contact with people other than their parents, their behavior and attitude will be influenced by other people.

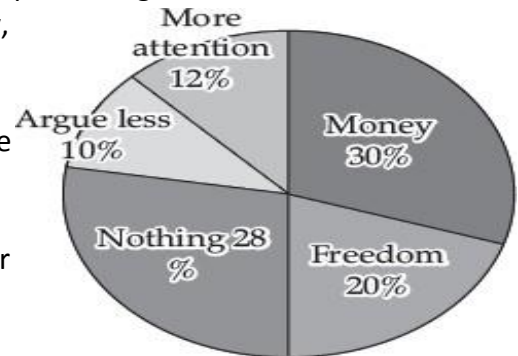
(3) When children are young, many parents maintain control over most aspects of their child's life. These parents choose their child's clothes, friends, hobbies and so on. As children grow older, they realize they can never grow into adults without having control of their lives. Consequently, teens begin to fight for control.

(4) For teens, this struggle for adulthood is terribly risky because they risk losing the most important thing in their lives - the love of parents. At the same time, parents may feel rejected, hurt and anxious about teens' abilities to care for themselves. Their struggle is stressful because everyone cares so greatly about each other.

(5) A common complaint from teens is that "Parents want me to be the way they want me to be". In other words, many parents want a certain career, appearance or college for their teen. These parents experience varying amounts of disappointment and sometimes anger because their children fail to live up to the parents' expectations.

(6) Accepting teenagers as individuals who will have to make their own decisions about how to be an adult in the world can be extremely hard to do. But the healthy teen will grow up and do just that. Parents who reject their teen for failing to follow their plans or who reject some aspect of their teens may find themselves painfully alienated.

(7) A survey was conducted where 500 teenagers were asked a question "What is the one thing your parents can do to make you happier?". The responses of the teenagers were presented in the form of a pie chart.



**i) What are the normal struggles between parents and teenagers?**

- (a) Efforts of independence    (c) Efforts of dependence  
(b) Efforts of pre-dependence    (d) Efforts of affection

**ii) What can the parents do when they know how their children are turning out?**

- (a) Sing    (b) Dance    (c) Clap    (d) Relax

**iii) What is the challenging teen likely to grow up into?**

- (a) A responsible citizen    (c) A responsible adult  
(b) A responsible lawyer    (d) A responsible social worker

**iv) Who is the most important figure in the world in the early years of children's lives?**

- (a) Parents    (b) Siblings    (c) Friends    (d) Teachers

**v) What percentage of the teenagers do not expect anything from their parents to keep them happier?**

(a)15% (b) 28% (c)10% (d) 20%

vi) Which of these statements is correct?

- (a) Teens begin to fight for respect. (b)Teens begin to fight for trust.  
(c) Teens begin to fight for money. (d)Teens begin to fight for control.

vii) Find out synonym of 'despondency' from the passage.

## SECTION B: WRITING & GRAMMAR

**Q.3. Being healthy is something everyone is talking about. As Rahul/Ruchi of class X, Write an article in not more than 150 words for your school magazine highlighting 'What One Should Do Stay Healthy'.**

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- Why staying healthy is important?
- What can one do to stay healthy?
- The holistic approach one needs to take.
- Avoiding junk food.

**Q.4. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper expressing your views on the importance of saving water as you have seen people wasting water carelessly on one hand and on the other hand people fight for a single drop of water and farmers die because of drought.**

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**Q.5. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each of the lines. Write the incorrect word and the correction in the space provided.**

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	Incorrect	Correct
The cat, who were sitting on the window sill,	a) _____	_____
was staring out of the garden with it's	b) _____	_____
sharp eyes. She noticed a birds chirping	c) _____	_____
loud and the flowers were in full bloom.	d) _____	_____

**Q.6. Rearrange the following in a meaningful order.**

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- a) completed / homework / the / students / before / had / they / their / dinner  
b) enjoyed / the / trip / we / very / much / to / the / mountains

**Q.7. Fill in the blank a suitable form of the verb.**

2

Every summer, my family and I (a)\_\_\_\_\_ (go) on a vacation to different places. Last year, we (b)\_\_\_\_\_ (decide) to visit the seaside. By the time we reach the beach, the sun already had set.

## SECTION C : LITERATURE

**Q.8. Read the extract and answer the following question.**

**4**

*He holds him with his glittering eye  
The Wedding-Guest stood still,  
And listens like a three years' child:  
The Mariner hath his will.*

**i) What is the mood created by the Mariner's "glittering eye"?**

- A. Joyful      B. Mysterious and hypnotic      C. Angry      D. Casual

**ii) What simile is used to describe the Wedding-Guest's listening?**

- A) Like a bird in a cage      B) Like a three years' child  
C) Like a statue      D) Like a patient listener

**iii) What does the phrase "The Mariner hath his will" imply about the Mariner's control over the Wedding-Guest?**

- A) The Mariner has no control  
B) The Mariner is determined to leave  
C) The Mariner has achieved his goal  
D) The Mariner is begging for attention

**iv) Which line in the extract indicates the Wedding-Guest's passive state?**

- A) "He holds him with his glittering eye"  
B) "The Wedding-Guest stood still"  
C) "And listens like a three years' child"  
D) "The Mariner hath his will"

**Q.9. Read the extract and answer the following questions.**

**4**

*The tiger was an elderly and ailing beast, and Mrs. Packletide was assured that her chances of success were high. The tiger was shot, and everyone was very impressed with Mrs. Packletide's bravery. However, Mrs. Packletide had not counted on the tiger's final trick..."*

**i) What motivated Mrs. Packletide to arrange a tiger hunt?**

- A) Her desire to learn hunting skills  
B) Her wish to impress others and gain admiration  
C) Her interest in wildlife conservation  
D) Her plan to donate to animal charities

**ii) How did Mrs. Packletide feel about Miss Louisa Stalworthy's story?**

- A) Indifferent      B) Envious      C) Amused      D) Unconcerned

**iii) What was the condition of the tiger that Mrs. Packletide intended to hunt?**

- A) It was a young and healthy tiger

- B) It was an elderly and ailing tiger
- C) It was a tiger in its prime
- D) It was a recently captured tiger

**iv) What was Mrs. Packletide's primary concern when arranging the tiger hunt?**

- A) Ensuring the tiger's health was properly evaluated
- B) Finding a suitable location for the hunt
- C) Securing a successful outcome to gain admiration
- D) Making sure the tiger was released after the hunt

**Q.10. Answer any 3 of the following in about 50-60 words each.**

**(3X3=9)**

- a) Ali in the story 'The Letter' is a lonely man. How does the writer bring out Ali's loneliness?
- b) How can we say that sculptor was a master artist? (Ozymandias)
- c) What message does the poet wish to convey through his poem "Not Marble nor The Gilded Monuments"?
- d) Why were the narrator and his companion impressed by the two boys?

**Q.11. Answer any one of the following questions in about 100-120 words.**

**(1x 7=7)**

A) Do you think Ali's suffering was a result of his habit of ruthless hunting? Does he deserve the punishment he got? Support your answer with argument.

OR

B) Bring out the irony in the title of the play 'The Dear Departed'.