

INSTRUCTIONS

- 15 minutes is given as cool off time. Use this time for reading the question paper.
  - You are not supposed to write anything during the cool off time.
  - Attempt the questions according to the instructions.
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SECTION A: Reading Comprehension and Interpretation

**Questions 1-3:** Read the excerpt from **The Day My World Changed** and answer the questions that follow. (3X1=3)

I slept in the long room at the front of our house. The only furniture was a bed and a cabinet which I had bought. I had won some money as an award for campaigning for peace in our valley and the right for girls to go to school. On some shelves were all the gold-coloured plastic cups and trophies I had won for coming first in my class. The school was not far from my home and I used to walk. But, since the start of last year, I had been going with other girls in a rickshaw and coming home by bus. I had started taking the bus because my mother was scared by the thought of me walking on my own. We had been getting threats all year.

1. What valuable things did Malala keep on the shelves in her room?
2. Why did Malala start taking the bus to school?

- A. Because her school was very far away.  
B. To travel with her friends in a rickshaw.  
C. Because her mother was worried about the threats they had received.  
D. Because she had won money to pay for the bus fare.

3. Pick out the phrase from the passage which means '**a prize or sum of money given to recognize an achievement**'.

**Questions 4-6:** Read the excerpt from **Talking of Science** (Interview with Dr. Ajith Parameswaran) and answer the questions that follow. (3X1=3)

When I was a child, a fascinating book in Malayalam, എന്തുകൊണ്ട്? എന്തുകൊണ്ട്? എന്തുകൊണ്ട്? (which may be loosely translated as Why is it so?) was published by the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad. Our local library had a copy. The book explained many interesting phenomena of the natural world to the curious reader. Even now, books remain a source of reliable information, unlike most of the information we get

online. But, Ajith, even now, despite all the information available, are there important questions that remain unanswered? Ajith: Undoubtedly! We still don't have very good answers to many important questions that concern us. For example, what are the real reasons for the increasing human-animal conflicts in Kerala? Why do we now have so many more extreme weather events such as flash floods and landslides?

4. What helped Dr. Ajith Parameswaran understand the natural world when he was a child?
5. What, according to Ajith, is a major difference between information from books and information from the internet?
6. Which of the following does Dr. Ajith mention as an unsolved question concerning Kerala?

- A. Why children don't ask questions.
- B. Why there are frequent outbreaks of viral diseases.
- C. Why school bags are heavy.
- D. Why scientists laugh off questions.

**Question 7:** Read the lines from **The Astronomer** and write a brief paragraph summarizing the ideas contained in the lines using the hints given below. (1X4=4)

I only said, "When in the evening the  
round full moon gets entangled  
among the branches of that dadam  
tree, couldn't somebody catch it?"  
But Dada laughed at me and said,  
"Baby, you are the silliest child I  
have ever known. The moon is ever so  
far from us, how could anybody  
catch it?"

(Hints: **child's perspective** - moon is within reach, a **toy** - **Dada's perspective** - moon is **far away**, vast size, based on **scientific fact** - contrast between **innocence** and **knowledge** - **magic vs. logic**).

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## SECTION B:

**Questions 8-10:** Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow. (3X1=3)

The term **Astrophysicist** refers to a scientist who applies the laws of physics to understand the universe. Unlike a general astronomer who observes and catalogs

celestial bodies, an astrophysicist delves deeper, studying the **physical properties** of celestial objects like the Sun, stars, planets, and the cosmos, including their composition, density, temperature, and motion. This field requires a strong foundation in both astronomy and theoretical physics. Dr. Ajith Parameswaran, an Indian astrophysicist, is one such scientist dedicated to creating this specialized knowledge.

8. What is the primary difference between an astronomer and an astrophysicist?

9. Complete the statement given below.

An astrophysicist is concerned with the...

A) observation and cataloging of stars.

B) composition, temperature, and density of celestial objects.

C) development of new telescopes.

D) history of astronomy.

10. Frame an appropriate question tag for the sentence given below.

Dr. Ajith Parameswaran is an astrophysicist, \_\_\_\_\_?

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### SECTION C:

**Questions 11-13:** Answer either A or B. (3X4=12)

11. [A] As a newspaper reporter, you were present to witness the chaos when the narrator of 'Engine Trouble' attempted to move the road engine. The incident involved an elephant, coolies, a drunken driver, and ended with the destruction of a compound wall and police arrest.

Draft a **News Article** reporting the chaotic events. (Include a catchy headline and a brief lead paragraph.)

**OR**

11. [B] Malala believes, "**One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world**". Write a **paragraph** arguing why education is a universal right and how it can lead to global peace and progress. (Refer to the views in the text.)

12. [A] Malala's conversation with Moniba in the bus abruptly ended when the gunman stepped in.

Prepare the likely **conversation** between Malala and Moniba **inside the bus** just before the shooting, focusing on their school life, friends, and their future dreams.

**OR**

12. [B] Describe the following picture from the story '**Engine Trouble**' using suitable descriptive adjectives.



13. [A] Imagine the narrator of 'Engine Trouble' had a social media page. After the earthquake solved his problem, he decides to post about his unexpected 'stroke of luck' and how **Nature** came to his rescue.

Draft the likely **social media post** describing the strange episode and his relief.

OR

13. [B] The lesson "The Day My World Changed" focuses on Malala Yousafzai, an activist for girls' education. You are asked to speak at a school assembly on the topic '**Family Support: The Key to a Girl's Education**'.

Prepare a short, formal **speech** addressing the importance of family support in fostering the ambitions of children, specifically girls.

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## SECTION D

**Questions 14-16:** Read the sentences below and answer the questions that follow (3X1=3)

14. The driver of our bus thought this was a stupid question as the name was painted on the side.

What voice is the highlighted verb in, and rewrite the sentence in the opposite voice.

15. What are the uses of the **Colon (:)** punctuation mark? (Give one use.)
16. The narrator tried to turn over the pages of the medical journal.

Choose the most appropriate meaning of the phrasal verb 'turn over' from the options below.

A. to realise

B. to flip over

C. to continue

D. to appear or arrive unexpectedly

**Questions 17-19:** Fill in the blanks using appropriate words/phrases given in brackets.  
(3X1=3)

Scientists must retain a child-like curiosity and admit their (a) \_\_\_\_\_. This alone can (b) \_\_\_\_\_ them to discover the truth. In fact, the quest for knowledge is what (c) \_\_\_\_\_ the journey of science.

(drives, ignorance, inspire, motivate)

**Question 20:** Edit the following passage. Errors are given in **bold**. (4X1/2=2)

Dr. Ajith Parameswaran **were** (a) a scientist from Kerala. His love **of** (b) learning was nurtured by the books in his local library. He spoke about how scientists **create** (c) knowledge. He now works at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences **at** (d) Bengaluru.