

**Question Bank**  
**Class XI**  
**Functional English – Reading Section**

**Comprehension**

I. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

**THE CUP THAT CHEERS**

- (1) If you're addicted to coffee, and doctors warn you to quit the habit, don't worry and keep relishing the beverage, because it's not that bad after all! In fact, according to a new study, the steaming cup of java even beat fruits and vegetables as the primary source of antioxidants. The study by the University of Scranton states that coffee is the number one source of antioxidants in American diet, and both caffeinated and decaf versions appear to provide similar antioxidant levels.
- (2) "Americans get more of their antioxidants from coffee than any other dietary source. Nothing else comes close to it" said the study's lead researcher, Doctor Joe Vinson, adding that high antioxidant level in food and beverages don't necessarily translate into levels found in the body. Antioxidants in general have been linked to a number of potential health benefits, including protection against heart disease and cancer, but Vinson said that the benefits ultimately depend on how they are absorbed and utilised in the body.
- (3) The researchers analysed the antioxidant content of more than 100 different food items, including vegetables, fruits, nuts, spices, oils and common beverages. The data was compared to an existing US Department of Agriculture database on the contribution of each type of food item to the average estimated US per capita consumption.
- (4) The results were surprising. Coffee came out on the top, on the combined basis of both antioxidants per serving size and frequency of consumption. It outranked popular antioxidant sources like tea, milk, chocolate and cranberries.
- (5) Of all the foods and beverages studies, dates actually have the most antioxidants of all based solely on serving size, but since dates are not consumed at anywhere the level of coffee, the drink comes as the top source of antioxidants, Vinson said.
- (6) Besides keeping you alert and awake, coffee has been linked to an increasing number of potential health benefits, including protection against liver and colon cancer, type II diabetes, and Parkinson's disease, according to some recently published studies.
- (7) The researchers, however, advised that one should consume coffee in moderation, because it can make you jittery and cause stomach pains.

Source: ANI

On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions in your own words as far as possible. Use one or two sentences only for each answer. (12)

- i. What is the good news about coffee? (1)
- ii. "Nothing else comes close to it" (Para 2) 'It' in this line refers to? (1)
- iii. List the benefits of antioxidants. What factors determine the strength of these benefits? (2)
- iv. On what basis does coffee rank as the top source of antioxidants? (2)
- v. How are dates better than coffee? Why have they not made to the top of antioxidant rich foods? (2)

- vi. Find words from the above passage which almost mean the opposite of: (2)  
a. hazards (Para 1-2) b. excess (Para 6-7)
- vii. Find words in the passage that mean the same as: (2)  
a. to enjoy (Para 1) b. a drink (Para 1)
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II. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

- (1) Spirituality seldom dribbled with soccer, until the 'Hand of God' came into play during the quarter final match of the 1986 World Cup football between Argentina and England. Diego Maradona claimed that divine intervention had helped him score the controversial goal.
- (2) A short film made in 2003 by Mike Walker – Does God play football? – explored the relationship between God and Tommy, a seven year old football fan. Tommy's only desire is to have a father of his own to play football with. In the absence of a real Dad, he adopts God as his father with the help of a local priest – very like how the human soul longs for communion with the Universal spirit.
- (3) An individual remains unfit for spiritual journey without the requisite physical and mental strength. Vivekananda said: "You will be nearer to Heaven through football than through the study of Bhagavad Giita". A player's patience and perseverance is tested on the football field at every moment; the ability to wriggle out of tough situations and hold on to one's nerves in tight situations. A seeker, too, has to undergo such trials during the inward game of realization.
- (4) Look at football as a metaphor for life. The ball is the individual's ego. Team members are family and friends; trust in teammates is the foundation of a good relationship and helps the player win the match of happiness. The opposition players are obstacles like anger, pride, hatred, that must be overcome to reach the goalpost. The goalpost is the universal consciousness to which a person must ultimately submit the ego, to achieve true bliss. The coach is the guru who teaches the way and the player learns from his mistakes on the field. The referee is the law of karma that reinforces the correct rules for playing. The audience is society that reacts to performance on the field. As in life, a game that has started must end. As long as a person is in the game, one gets the illusion of limited time and space. Only when the game gets over, does one realize the limitlessness of time and space.
- (5) Every player is assigned a particular role on the field according to his skills – forward, midfielder, defender, or goalkeeper. Similarly, in life we have designated roles. Our capabilities and choices determine the contribution we make to the world through our work. Like a player who can manoeuvre the ball on the field, a person has the free will to choose his thoughts, words and actions. Football is meditation 'on the run'. A player is always 'in the moment' for the entire duration of the play. The player has no thought of past and no use for future, as all the scoring opportunities are created in the 'now'.
- (6) Football teaches one to be a good spectator, one who watches the game with passionate detachment. For him, an exciting football match is only that – a game. Wins or losses, even for his favourite team, do not bother him. A good spectator is like a joyful observer of life; he witnesses events around him as they come and go, and remains detached as he is always centered in truth.

- (7) Today, football is a faith binding a legion of followers across the world. People, irrespective of their religions, nationalities and cultures, are tuning in simultaneously to watch live football. If this is not universal brotherhood, what else is?

(P. Venkatesh)

(Source: <http://spirituality.indiatimes.com>)

(A) On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions in your own words as far as possible. Use one or two sentences only for each answer:

- i. What claim was made by Diego Maradona when he played for 1986 quarter-final match of the World Cup? (1 marks)
- ii. What is the theme of the short movie 'Does God play football'? (2 marks)
- iii. How can we get near to the Almighty by playing football? What are Vivekanand's views regarding this? (2 marks)
- iv. How does football symbolize life? (2 marks)
- v. How is football meditation 'on the run'? (1 mark)
- vi. What are the similarities between playing the football game and playing the designated role in life? (2 marks)

(B) Find words in the passage which mean the same as the following: (2 marks)

- i. a figment of imagination (Para 4)
- ii. a planned and controlled movement or series of moves (Para 5)

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III. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

#### **OVERPOPULATION – MAIN THREAT TO PLANET**

- (1) Climate change and global pollution cannot be adequately tackled without addressing the neglected issue of the world's booming population according to two leading scientists Professor Chris Rapley, Director of the British Antarctic Survey and Professor John Guillebaud.
- (2) They believe that dealing with the burgeoning human population of the planet was vital if real progress was to be made on the other enormous problems facing the world. By the middle of the century, the United Nations estimates that the world population is likely to increase to more than nine billion, which is equivalent to an extra 200,000 people each day. Professor Rapley said the extra resources needed to sustain this growth in population would put immense strains on the planet's life support system even if pollution emissions per head could be dramatically reduced.
- (3) "Although reducing human emissions to the atmosphere is undoubtedly of critical importance, as are any and all measures to reduce the human environmental 'footprint', the truth is that the contribution of each individual cannot be reduced to zero. Only the lack of the individual can bring it down to nothing," Professor Rapley says in an article for the BBC website.
- (4) Professor Rapley says the explosive growth in the human population and the concomitant effects on the environment have been largely ignored by many of those concerned with climate change. "It is a bomb shell of a topic, with profound and emotive issues of ethics, morality, equity and practicability," he says. Professor Guillebaud, who co- chairs the

Optimum Population Trust, said it became politically incorrect about 25 years ago to bring up family planning in discussing the environmental problems of the developing world. The world population needed to be reduced by nearly two-thirds if climate change was to be prevented and everyone on the planet was to enjoy a lifestyle similar to that of Europeans, Professor Guillebaud said.

- (5) An environmental assessment by the conservation charity WWF and the World Watch institute in Washington found that humans were now exploiting about 20 percent more renewable resources than can be replaced each year.
- (6) Professor Guillebaud said this meant it would require the natural resources equivalent to four more Planet Earths to sustain the projected 2050 population of nine billion people.
- (7) "The figures demonstrate the folly of concentrating exclusively on lifestyles and technology and ignoring human numbers in our attempts to combat global warming," he said. "We need to think about climate changers – human beings and their numbers as well as climate change." Some environmentalists have argued that it is not human numbers that are important, but the relative use of natural resources and production of waste such as carbon dioxide emissions. They have suggested that the planet can sustain a population of nine billion people or even more provided that everyone adopts a less energy-lifestyle based on renewable sources of energy rather than fossil fuels.
- (8) But Professor Guillebaud said: "We urgently need to stabilize and reduce human numbers. There is no way that a population of nine billion – the UN's medium forecast for 2050 – can meet its energy needs without unacceptable damage to the planet and a great deal of human misery." (Steve Connor)

(A) On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions in your own words as far as possible. Use one or two sentences only for each answer: (10 marks)

- (i) What is the pre-condition for tackling climate change and pollution according to Prof. Rapley and Prof. Guillebaud? (1 mark)
- (ii) Why is the United Nation's estimate of the world population increasing to 9 billion by the middle of twenty first century alarming? (2 marks)
- (iii) Why does Prof. Rapley call over population a "bombshell of a topic"? (1 mark)
- (iv) What solution does Prof. Rapley and Prof. Guillebaud suggest to save the planet earth from total catastrophe? (2 marks)
- (v) How can the earth sustain a population of 9 billion, according to some environmentalists? (2 marks)
- (vi) "The figures demonstrate the folly," Which figures demonstrate which folly? (2 marks)

(B) Find words in the passage which mean the same as the following: (2marks)

- (i) increasing rapidly (Para2)
- (ii) very deep or far reaching (Para 4)

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IV. Read the news carefully and answer the questions that follow: (12 marks)

**Sea Rises, Japan Quakes**

- (1) Tokyo: A ferocious tsunami spawned by the biggest earthquake ever recorded in Japan (and the fifth worst in the world since 1900) slammed the country's eastern coast on Friday, killing hundreds – Kyodo says toll could cross 1000, sweeping away houses, boats and cars across cities and farms. Hours later, the tsunami hit Hawaii and set off warnings as far away as the west coast of the US and South America.
- (2) Japanese police officials said the toll was at least 1,000 with 300 hundred bodies found in Sendai, a port city in north-eastern Japan and the closest large population to the epicentre. The full extent of injuries weren't known and the toll is feared to rise substantially.
- (3) Walls of water whisked away houses and cars in central Japan, where terrified residents fled the coast. Train services were shut down across central and northern Japan, including Tokyo, and air travel was severely disrupted. A ship carrying over 100 people was swept away by the tsunami, Kyodo News reported.
- (4) Even for a country used to earthquakes, this one was horrific because of the tsunami that swallowed everything in its path as it surged several kilometres inland before retreating. The government evacuated thousands of residents near a nuclear plant about 250km northeast of Tokyo after a backup generator failed.

Source: *The Times of India*

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| i. How did the tsunami come in Japan?  | (2 marks) |
| ii. Where is Sendai situated?  | (1mark)   |
| iii. Why were the residents living near the nuclear plant asked to evacuate? | (1mark)   |
| iv. What is the catastrophe that the country has in store?                   | (2marks)  |
| v. What were the repercussions of the tsunami?                               | (2marks)  |
| vi. Find words in the passage that mean the same as:                         | (4 marks) |
| a. produced (Para 1)   |           |
| b. fierce (Para 1)   |           |
| c. brush with a sweeping movement (3 Para)                                   |           |
| d. bring disorder to (Para 3)  |           |

V. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

**SAVING MOTHER NATURE**

- (1) It is an age old maxim that nature is our mother and if it is to be commanded, it must be obeyed. Nature binds truth, virtue and happiness together as by insoluble chain but man's ignorance of this immortal nature is the only source of his unhappiness. Ever since his appearance, man has been using the priceless gifts of nature without restraint. He has rather taken them for granted. Seldom did he think that the supplies of air, water and food and the industrial raw materials that he extracted from the bowels of the earth might disappear one day. Nature has been suffering because of thoughtless human intervention and its recycling process for hundreds of years. The relationship between man and nature reflects profound changes in the wake of modern scientific and technological advancement. And here lies the concern for the entire human race.
- (2) They say it truly that we have not inherited this earth from our ancestors but have borrowed it from our children. We are obliged to preserve nature for the benefits of future generation,

which according to Charles Darwin 'endless forms of the most beautiful and most wonderful'. But introspect, what is man doing to this Mother Nature today? The forests are being slaughtered mercilessly to satisfy the needs of the teeming millions. With deforestation, the surroundings are also becoming concrete jungles. Moreover the protective ozone layer is being depleted which is going to affect more than half of the world population. So desperate are we to enjoy our today that tomorrow does not seem all that important. What is worse is that we have criminalised society. The violence we unleashed on nature has left its brutal scars on us as well. No doubt we are polluting our nature on an unprecedented scale and wrecking it in a way that makes regeneration impossible. As a result, the marvellous creatures and plants dependant on the rich nature are limping towards extinction amidst man's cruelty.

- (3) The progress of civilization is to be measured in proportion to man's success in meeting the challenges of nature. But the developments in the fields of industry and technology – the hallmarks of his material progress and prosperity are certainly a mixed blessing. Their side effects are gradually affecting the environment which in turn endangers the very existence. So we are at a stage not of mutual existence but of mutual annihilation.
- (4) It is now that man has realised that he has to work with nature and that he will never tolerate the rape of mother earth. He is bringing about industrial progress with the aim of making the world a better, beautiful and more comfortable place to live in. Man has understood that nature and its resources are vast but finite. If the present trends continue going on unchecked, the future of life on earth will be endangered. Nature's gifts are to be conserved. Let us all make a joint venture to make the nature as pure as before and try to maintain the immortal relationship of mother and son between nature and man. Let the rivers not burn. Let the fish not rot on the shores. Let the trees not be our ghosts! Let the cities not be choked with polluted and foul smelling air! Let us all join hands and let all take a pledge to arise, awake and stop not till the goal of saving Mother Nature is achieved.

- i. Why has nature been suffering all these years? (1 mark)
  - ii. What is man doing to Mother Nature at present? What is its ultimate effect going to be? (2 marks)
  - iii. How are the developments in the field of industry and technology a mixed blessing? (2 marks)
  - iv. How is the future of life on the earth endangered? (1 mark)
  - v. If the immortal relationship of nature and man is not maintained and strengthened, what can be its possible consequences? (2 marks)
  - vi. Explain how man and nature are at a stage of mutual annihilation? (2 marks)
  - vii. Words in the passage that mean the same as:
    - a) To examine one's own thought's or feelings (Para 2)
    - b) Destruction (Para 3)
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## Note Making

- i. On the basis of your reading of the passage make notes on it, in points only using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary – minimum 5) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. After making notes, do write the summary in brief. (8 marks)

- (1) Most parents at some stage are driven to distraction by one or more of their children's annoying habits or behaviours, whether it's a toddler who continually whines, a school – aged child who leaves clothes lying around or a teenager who uses a less than perfect vocabulary.
- (2) How to affect change is a challenge for many parents. Do you ignore a child's annoying behaviour or do you pick up on it? A useful rule of thumb is to pick up on behaviours that are dangerous to the child himself or significantly infringe on the rights and comforts of others. Also ask yourself: Is this behaviour reasonable for the child's age? For instance, it is reasonable to expect an eight year old not to disturb you while you are on the phone for twenty minutes but it is not reasonable to expect the same of a two year old. It is also useful to take into account the child's current state of mind and what is going in their lives that may be related to some unusual behaviour to occur at home.
- (3) The following four principles for changing your child's behaviour will be effective if you are both patient and persistent. Change your initial response first. This is important because children's behaviour generally requires a pay-off, which may be your attention or an attempt to defeat you. The most important principle about changing children's behaviour is to change your own behaviour first. So, if your child whines to get his own way refrain from answering back or giving in.
- (4) Practice with your child the behaviour that you want. The notion of behaviour rehearsal is fundamental to learning a new behaviour. Don't just tell kids what to expect, get them to practice the behaviour you want. In the example of a young whiner – get him to practice asking for help or a treat in a normal voice.
- (5) Minimize the behaviour you don't want. That means when children continue their old behaviour despite your brilliant suggestions ignore it, sidestep it or implement a consequence but don't nag or harp on it. Remember it takes time often to change behaviour, particularly if it has been happening for a long time. Spotlight the appropriate behaviour. When your children behave in a desired way show your sincere appreciation. We often take children for granted or rather we are trained to give children no attention when they are good, but plenty when they are less than perfect. The behaviours we focus on expand so we need to focus our attention on desirable behaviors more than on the negative behaviours.
- (6) Like any process it will only work if you stick to it and follow it through. And don't be afraid to adapt it to suit your circumstances. Remember, it is the fact that you have a plan rather than the nature of the plan that is most powerful in achieving a change in your children's behaviour.

(Source: The Times of India)

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- II. On the basis of your reading of the passage given below make notes on it, in points only using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary – minimum 5) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. After making notes, do write the summary in brief. (8 marks)

- (1) "Cancer is one offshoot of smoking. There is much more," says Dr. Vikram Jaggi, a chest specialist who runs a Quit Smoking Clinic at his Asthma, Chest and Allergy Centre in Delhi. He sounds ominous when he says, "A person who has smoked 20-30 cigarettes regularly for more than 10 to 15 years has reduced his life expectancy by about 10 years. 50 percent of the heavy smokers will die due to a cause related to smoking."
- (2) When you take a puff, the nicotine in the cigarette reaches the oral cavity, goes into the blood stream, liver and reaches the brain in eight seconds flat. With every cigarette you smoke, 2.5 mg of nicotine enters your body. Gradually, this affects the brain – like a drug addiction. In fact, nicotine addiction is much stronger than cocaine or morphine, says Dr. Jaggi. It affects the blood stream, has an adverse effect on cholesterol, causes thickening of arteries, affects the heart, increases the heart rate and heart attack propensity, causes stroke, various kinds of cancer, and problems in the lungs, particularly in the air tubes (like bronchitis and emphysema). There are approximately 4,000 identified chemicals in cigarette smoke, of which about 600 are known to be carcinogenic.
- (3) It is clearly documented that a pregnant woman who smokes has more still births, more abortions, and her children will weigh 20-25 percent less than children of non-smoking mothers. Even after child birth, if a woman continues to smoke and the child is around, there is possibility of crib death. Children of women who smoke have two times more infection of the throat and ear than non smoking mothers' kids.
- (4) A smoker has wrinkled skin, yellow teeth, sagging cheeks, greying hair and is prone to baldness. Teeth become yellow and prone to dental problems and fall spontaneously. Smokers have a coated tongue and lose their taste buds. Those who quit smoking suddenly realize the taste of food.
- (5) Everybody knows smoking causes lung cancer but it also causes emphysema and bronchitis. These are very, very serious long-term conditions which are debilitating. It increases the bad cholesterol and decreases good cholesterol. It narrows the arteries which take blood to the heart. The heart rate in turn increases, so does the pulse rate, and more adrenaline is pumped into the body, which causes the heart to pump faster. All this in turn, can cause heart attack. Gangrene in the lower limb is mostly 100 percent related to smoking. The arteries that supply blood to the lower limbs, toe etc., get thin and blocked. In this case, there is no choice but to amputate the limb. Smoking also causes impotence.
- (6) Nicotine causes addiction to cigarettes. But nicotine is not solely responsible for all the harmful effects of smoking. Other constituents like carbon monoxide, tar, etc. cause the other damage associated with smoking.
- (7) Roughly one fourth of whatever smoking does to smokers is what it does to passive smokers. "Quitting is ideal but more ideal would be not to start smoking in the first place. After all, smokers start young and they begin because of the advertisements. Ten percent of the government's excise revenue comes from cigarettes; two percent of the total government revenue again comes from cigarettes. The government is not going to let go of it," says Dr. Jaggi. He further adds, "Some sports brands have them on sports gear due to which children actually think sportsmen smoke".
- (8) "Remember the Marlboro man, who was considered the macho man in the US? He died of smoking. The next model they took also died of smoking. Need we say more?"



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III. On the basis of your reading of the passage given below make notes on it, in points only using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary – minimum 5) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. After making notes, do write the summary in brief. (8 marks)

- (1) Nobody has the faintest idea when the first marbles rolled across the earth's surface, but small stones, deliberately chipped and rounded, have been unearthed at Stone Age excavations on three continents. Today, marbles from ancient Rome and Greece occupy places of honour in places like the British Museum and New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. Shakespeare mentions "Cherry Pit," a game of marbles; marbles appear in a Pieter Bruegel painting and are referred to by the Roman poet, Ovid.
- (2) Marbles are small, hard balls that are used in a variety of children's games and are so named after the 18<sup>th</sup> century practice of making them from marble chips. Marble games date back to antiquity and ancient games were played with sea- rounded pebbles, nuts and seeds of some fruits. The young Octavian (later the emperor Augustus), like other Roman children, played games with nut marbles, and engraved marbles have been dug up from the earthen mounds built by some early North American Red Indian tribes. Early settlers in the USA found the Red Indians playing marble games with what archaeologists now refer to as "game stones".
- (3) The object of marble games is to roll; throw, drop, or knuckle marbles against an opponent's marbles, often to knock them out of a prescribed area and so win them.
- (4) Year after year, nearly 200 million marbles are turned out by the mixing, shaping and rolling machines of marble making factories. The demand for marbles is constantly increasing. In addition to children's games, like knuckling, marbles are also used in numerous other games. Chinese Checkers, a perennially popular game, requires 60 marbles for each game, 10 each for six other different colours.
- (5) In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, marbles have been made of a variety of materials: baked clay, glass, steel, plastic, onyx, agate. During World War II, engineers perfected the little glass balls to such a degree that they could be substituted for steel bearings. Tons of these glass balls go to the lithographers and engravers, to be used in smoothing the surface of copper printing plates. Special marbles are made for this purpose, to withstand the punishment of being rolled back and forth over the metal surfaces.
- (6) Many highway signs are made of marbles. Each glass ball has an individual reflector behind it, so that headlights at night will spell out safety warnings. In the oil fields, refineries use acid proof marbles as filters and condensers. The glass balls are injected into old oil wells to prepare them for possible further use. Consequently, millions of dollars worth of oil can now be recovered.
- (7) Some fish hatcheries place marbles on the bottom of pools, claiming better results during the spawning season. Paper mills now use glass balls in their manufacturing units. Only recently has it been found out that marbles are highly useful in the spinning of glass thread. And last, but not the least, when life comes to an end and the mortal remains are

placed in a modern mausoleum, a dozen or so marbles are thrown by the mourners onto the tomb, so that the coffin will roll easily into place.

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- IV. On the basis of your reading of the passage given below make notes on it, in points only using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary – minimum 5) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. After making notes, do write the summary in brief. (8 marks)
- (1) Spruce is a tall, handsome, evergreen pine tree of temperate and arctic regions. Its scientific name is *Picea smithiana*. The family is Coniferae. Spruce being the English name of the specie, its regional name is rai, kachal, raiang, etc. Its natural habitat falls more in the middle and inner ranges of the Himalayas and less in the higher reaches of outer ones. The species grow naturally in the Himalayan tract starting from Sikkim from the east and rolling over westwards up to Afghanistan. The usual altitude of its occurrence ranges from 2,300 m to 3,300 m. It does well on clayey loam soil with fairly good moisture content.
  - (2) Spruce tree can be easily identified in the field from its drooping branches whorled on all sides of the main stem and the tips of the branch – let's drooping downwards. The bole is straight and erect. The canopy starts at nearly middle of the total height of the bole and tapers to a narrow end towards the top. The full crown tree thus emerges out as a typical pyramid shape canopy.
  - (3) The bark of Spruce is smooth, off white to greyish brown, one to two centimetres thick, exfoliating in small circular flakes measuring about 2-3 cm in diameter. The leaves of Spruce, dull green in colour, needle like in shape, are 3-5 cm long and spirally arranged in all directions of the twig. New sprouts keep appearing and old leaves getting detached and shed almost simultaneously throughout the year. The phenomenon puts the species in a class of evergreen trees. The flowers of Spruce are small in size and hardly visible. These appear during March-April. The pollen grains disperse during April-May. The fruit, drooping cones, appear during July-August and ripen by the following August-September to yield good viable seed. The seed is about 2 mm long and 1 mm thick, has a wing which helps in its dispersal over long distances in the fields.
  - (4) Spruce is a slow growing pine. Like other sibling pines, it has annual rings of growth, which help in assessing the exact age of a particular tree. It attains maturity in about 120-150 years when its height is about 30-40 m and girth about 2-3 m. The wood is off white in colour with a brownish tinge. It is comparatively light (14-15 kg per cubic foot) in weight and quite elastic in texture, the wood being straight grained, it is easy to saw plane, polish and use for joinery. It is good for all kinds of woodwork. However, it has hardly any life when exposed to the vagaries of the weather, especially under water. Its not-free logs are highly priced for the timber required for building aircrafts. The rest of the wood, whether knotted or free of the lacunae, is highly priced for packing cases, making cheap furniture, bedsteads, drawing boards, plain tables, roof ceiling, wall planking, shingles, paper pulp, matches, etc.
  - (5) So far as regeneration of Spruce is concerned, it needs an absolutely undisturbed environment for the new crop to come up naturally. As per the existing practice all Spruce forest areas requiring regeneration are close to exercise of all kinds of rights and even departmental exploitation. And with a view to making the regeneration foolproof, the foresters generally raise seedlings of the species in departmental nurseries and transplant these in the field when these are nearly two years old.

- V. On the basis of your reading of the passage given below make notes on it, in points only using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary – minimum 5) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it. After making notes, do write the summary in brief. (8 marks)
- (1) Of the various thread ceremonies Rakhi or Raksha Bandhan is the most popular. It falls on the full moon day of the month of *Shravan* (July-August) and is observed almost throughout the country. Though commonly known as a festival which strengthens the bond of love between brothers and sisters, Rakhi has many other aspects to it. There are historical instances to show that the practice was not confined to brother sister relationships but took on wider dimensions as and when required by the exigencies of time. For example, Kunti, mother of the five Pandavas, tied a Rakhi to her grandson, Abhimanyu, and Draupadi tied it to Lord Krishna, who was not even distantly related to her.
  - (2) There has been considerable speculation about the origin of this festival. Some believe that it was instituted to remind the Kshatriyas about their *dharma* towards the priestly class. According to the *Bhavishya Purana*, the practice of tying Rakhi began when Maharani Shachi, Lord Indra's wife, who possessed occult powers, tied a protective knot containing rice and *sarson* on the right wrist of her husband to help him in the crusade against the demons. Lord Indra succeeded in crushing his foes. Still another account says that Rakhi is celebrated to commemorate the event of Bali's great sacrifice in surrendering his celestial kingdom to Vamana.
  - (3) The word *rakhi* is derived from the Sanskrit word *Rakshika* (an amulet or charm worn as a preserver). Literally *Rakha Bandhan* means the bond of protection. In ancient times, *rakhi* was more or less a talisman which symbolised the good wishes of a person for the well being of the object of his or her affection. However, in medieval times, its manner and style changed as it got confined to sister brother relationship. With the onslaught of foreign invaders, the practice of tying a *rakhi* extended beyond the bounds of family and sometimes became an intra-family or even an inter-racial affair. For example, Rani Karmavati of Chittor sent a *rakhi* to Humayun, soliciting his help against Bahadurshah, the ruler of Gujarat.
  - (4) Rakhi was a national festival during the reign of Akbar. On the day of the festival, the courtiers and others adorned the Emperor's wrist with beautiful strings of silk, bejewelled with rubies, pearls and gems of great value. Jahangir described the festival as "Nighadasht" and celebrated it like his father. Even Aurangzeb addressed the queen mother of Udaipur as "dear and virtuous sister" in one of his letters. The "*rakhi*" system of misldars is said to have laid the foundations of Sikh political authority in Punjab and it paved the way for the establishment of a national monarchy under Maharaja Ranjit Singh.
  - (5) The Bengali nationalists regarded *rakhi* as a symbol of harmony and strength. They revived the festival along with the Ganpati festival, imparting to it a religio-mystical outlook. Prominent nationalists like B. G. Tilak, S. N. Bannerji, Aurobindo Ghosh, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru and others received innumerable *rakhi* from the people as a token of their love. To this they reciprocated by way of sweet words, gestures or promises. The tradition of tying *rakhi* continues. But the ideals of love and unity which it has symbolised through the ages seem to have been consumed if not fully obscured by the smoke of greed and conceit.

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## Editing

- I. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Find the error in the line. Write the error and the correct word in the space provided. (5 marks)

The exhaust earth groaned	(a)	.....	.....
and quivered under a glare	(b)	.....	.....
of the sun. Spirals in heat	(c)	.....	.....
rose from the ground on if	(d)	.....	.....
from molten lava. The panting	(e)	.....	.....
Lizard crawl painfully over	(f)	.....	.....
the hot rocks on search	(g)	.....	.....
of the shady crevice. Cattle	(h)	.....	.....
or dogs cringed under the shade.	(i)	.....	.....
Every is still and quiet.	(j)	.....	.....

- II. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Find the error in the line. Write the error and the correct word in the space provided. (5 marks)

Tens of thousands of bats emerge	eg.	emerge	emerged
from under the bridge. It were	a)	.....	.....
a amazing sight. I learnt a	b)	.....	.....
few about these creatures. The baby	c)	.....	.....
bats is known as pups. Each	d)	.....	.....
mother bat delivers only one pups.	e)	.....	.....
They are usually born on June/July.	f)	.....	.....
On an average a pup weigh	g)	.....	.....
about a third off mother's weight.	h)	.....	.....
The mother bird nurses his	i)	.....	.....
baby in five weeks.	j)	.....	.....

- III. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Find the error in the line. Write the error and the correct word in the space provided. (5 marks)

A poet once writes such	a).....	.....
a ambiguous poem that no one	b).....	.....
can understand it. The editor asked	c).....	.....
a young critic to write it's review.	d).....	.....
The critic read it several times and	e).....	.....
he could not make some	f).....	.....

head or tail out of it. When he takes	g).....	.....
the poem to its author to explanation	h) .....	.....
he looked after the poem and said,	i) .....	.....
“How absurd, who has written that silly poem.”	J) .....	.....

IV. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Find the error in the line. Write the error and the correct word in the space provided. (5 marks)

The lost child seems to be totally lost.	seems	seemed
His constant crying was getting after my nerves.	a).....	.....
To each question that I put him his	b).....	.....
simple answer is a long horrendous wail	c).....	.....
and a over-stretched ‘mummy’. I didn’t	d) .....	.....
know what to do with himself and myself.	e) .....	.....
I cursed me on having brought him	f) .....	.....
home. Just then Avnish dropped over. He is	g) .....	.....
a smart young officer off the Indian Police.	h) .....	.....
When he heard the entire story he offered		X
to take the child about with	i) .....	.....
him. I heaped a sign of relief.	J) .....	.....

V. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Find the error in the line. Write the error and the correct word in the space provided. (5 marks)

“So you want other day	(a).....	.....
of”, shouted the office manager	(b).....	.....
on his clerk. “I am anxious	(c).....	.....
to hear what excuse I have	(d).....	.....
now. You had gone for	(e).....	.....
your grandfather’s funeral twice	(f).....	.....
already”. The clerk smile sheepishly	(g).....	.....
and says, “Today my grandmother	(h).....	.....
was getting married again”. Hearing	(i).....	.....
this, the manager is taken aback.	(j).....	.....