

**SECTION-A****(READING)**

1. Read the passage given below :

[5]

**RABINDRANATH TAGORE**

RABINDRANATH Tagore, fondly called “Gurudev”, is one of the great sons of India. He was a genius in many ways. A lover of nature, Tagore wrote not only poetry, but plays, dance-dramas, stories, novels and numerous songs as well. Besides, he was a great educationist. It is difficult to find another equally versatile and gifted genius in history.

Rabindranath was born on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1861 in the rambling old mansion of the Tagore family at Jorasanko, Kolkata. Being the 14<sup>th</sup> child of his parents, young Rabindra grew up under the care of the family’s servants.

From the very beginning, young Rabindra would not conform to the teaching of a conventional school or to learning at home under the care of tutors. Schools were like a prison to him where, as he said, “We had to sit inert, like dead specimens of some museum, while lessons were pelted at us like hailstones on flowers.”

The first nursery rhyme, a common jingle in Bengali which he had learnt, revealed to him the magic of poetry. He wrote his first verse when he was only seven. What he wrote was so beautiful that well-known writers of the day were full of admiration for him. One of them, the doyen of Bengali literature, Bankim Chandra Chatterji, once took off a garland from his neck and put it on young Rabindra, saying that it was more fitting to garland the “rising sun”.

Having suffered from bad teaching in his childhood, Tagore thought of starting a small experimental school, modelled on the ancient ideals of the *Gurukula*. He had liked *Santiniketan* (Abode of Peace), a place 150 km from Kolkatta, when he had visited it earlier with his father. He opened a small school called Brahmacharya Ashram in Shantiniketan, based on the Gurukuls of ancient India.

1.1 Answer the following questions by selecting the most appropriate options from the ones given below:

(a) Rabindranath Tagore is fondly called \_\_\_\_\_

(i) Guru maharaj

(ii) Guru Kripa

(iii) Guru Swami

(iv) Gurudev

(b) Rabindranath disliked the \_\_\_\_\_

(i) modern teaching method

(ii) conventional teaching method

(iii) being educated

(iv) being treated with royalty.

(c) A lover of nature, Tagore wrote not only poetry, but plays, dance – dramas, stories, novels and numerous songs as well. Besides he was also a \_\_\_\_\_

(i) great scientist

(ii) magician

(iii) great educationist

(iv) great dancer

(d) Tagore decided to start a small experimental school, modelled on the \_\_\_\_\_

(i) modern scientific methods

(ii) fairy tale and imagination.

(iii) ancient ideals of Gurukula

(iv) ancient civilisation of Harappa.

- (e) The meaning of the word 'pelted' would be \_\_\_\_\_
- (i) strike repeatedly with
  - (ii) shower with
  - (iii) soak with
  - (iv) cover with

**2. Read the passage given below :**

**[5]**

Life never comes to a halt. It is dynamic and ever changing. The pace of time never stops. It is said "Death is the end of life". It is also said "Death brings the dawn of new life". Death is viewed in two different ways. The former is a sign of pessimism and the latter is a sign of optimism. The system of seasonal change inspires us to become optimistic and motivates us to see the bright side of life.

Ups and downs are part and parcel of human existence. Man should never give up the hope of a bright future. Man's feelings would fluctuate between misfortune and happiness. But one should always remember that to hope against hope is happiness. Pessimists never attain considerable success. They become losers and are defeated by circumstances. Such people forget the law of nature. They don't remember that a kite flies against the wind and not with the wind. Odd situations are challenges to be faced bravely and with optimism. It is universally accepted "Hope sustains life".

**2.1 On the basis of your reading answer the following questions:**

- (a) How does the system of seasonal change inspire us?

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- (b) According to an optimist what does death bring?

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- (c) What is the definition of happiness in the above passage?

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- (d) Why are pessimists never successful?

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- (e) Find the word which means the same as 'hopeful of good picture'. \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION- B**      **GRAMMAR**

**B.1. Rearrange the given words and phrases to form meaningful sentences:**

**[3]**

- a) a disease / in one / in 1925 / village / the crops / destroyed

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- b) people / to / began / the / starve

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- c) death / was / and / there / everywhere / hunger

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**B.2. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each of the lines. Write the incorrect word against the blank number. Also write the correct word that you have supplied:**

One example has been done for you.

**[8]**

	<b>Error as</b>	<b>Correction to</b>
Mahatma Gandhi did not set out as		
evolve a philosophy for life or	(a) _____	_____
formulate an system of beliefs or	(b) _____	_____
ideals. He had either the inclination	(c) _____	_____
nor the time for do so. He had however, firm faith	(d) _____	_____
about truth and ahimsa and	(e) _____	_____
its practical application to life	(f) _____	_____
These are said to been the constituents	(g) _____	_____
of her teachings and philosophies.	(h) _____	_____

**B.3. Read the conversation given below and complete the passage in Reported Speech that follows: [4]**

Customer : Waiter, come here.  
 Waiter : Yes sir,  
 Customer : Look, there are flies in my soup.  
 Waiter : But sir, they are fresh flies.  
 Customer : What do you mean?  
 Waiter : They only arrived this morning, Sir.

A customer in a restaurant complained that there (a)\_\_\_\_\_. The waiter told the customer (b) \_\_\_\_\_. When the customer asked (c) \_\_\_\_\_, the waiter replied that the (d) \_\_\_\_\_

- (a) \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) \_\_\_\_\_