Q1. Read the following passage carefully:
The announcement that Donna had reached middle age came stealthily and without warning.

Donna, at 42 years old, was in perfect health. She was fit, trim and ate only the healthiest of foods, eschewing soda and candy. She was still asked for her identification when buying wine at the grocery store. She ran several miles every day, and in local road races, she was known for beating people half her age.

"Forty is the new twenty!" her friends would say of Donna’s seeming agelessness.

Donna heard the quip so often that a part of her believed that this ageing thing was surely for other people.

That all changed during what should have been a fairly innocuous event: a trip to the Department of Motor Vehicles to renew her driver’s licence.

"Name?" the clerk asked without looking up. Donna replied.

"Address?" Donna gave it.

"Look through there, please," the clerk gestured toward an eye testing machine perched at the edge of the desk. "Read the first four lines," she sighed.

Donna pushed her head against the contraption. "Go ahead." Donna was perplexed. Everything was fuzzy. "I think the glass is dirty," Donna said, searching the desk for a tissue to wipe off the lens.

"It’s not dirty," the clerk said, her voice dripping with sympathy.

"There must be some problem," Donna said, pressing her head against the
machine once more.

"Ma'am, do you wear glasses?"

"No, no, I don't," Donna responded, a little embarrassed now, as other people in the room began turning to see what was going on.

The clerk glanced down at Donna's old licence and back up at her. "Welcome to middle age, sweetheart. Come back when you've had an eye exam and gotten glasses."

Complete the statements given below by choosing the answers from the given options.

(a) The proverb that best fits this story is _________.
   (i) time marches on.
   (ii) time heals all wounds.
   (iii) a stitch in time saves nine.
   (iv) there is no time like the present.

(b) The best antonym for stealthily is _________.
   (i) luckily
   (ii) obviously
   (iii) slowly
   (iv) sneakily

(c) If Donna is eschewing candy and soda, it means that she is _________.
   (i) overindulging
   (ii) avoiding them
   (iii) eating them in moderation
   (iv) eating only the all-natural versions

(d) Using the passage as a guide, the meaning of "Forty is the new twenty" is _________.
   (i) if you are in good health and shape, being 40 can feel like 20
   (ii) when people turn 40, they are likely to say they are in their 20s
   (iii) if you are 20, and not in great shape, you can feel like you are 40
   (iv) if you stay away from junk food, you can look 40 even when you are 20.
(e) The best antonym for innocuous is _________.

(i) dangerous / harmful

(ii) difficult

(iii) juvenile

(iv) mature

Q2. Read the following passage carefully:

Education particularly higher education is the obvious but crucially important instrument for nation building. As Confucius has said, "If you're thinking of one year, plant rice if you're thinking of a decade, plant trees, if you're thinking of a century, educate the people." When we set about the task of education, we should be absolutely clear in our understanding of the goals of education in the specific context of our nation's development. No doubt, one of the important aims of education would be to create the required range and nature of trained manpower assessed to be needed by different sectors of natural growth.

The entire educational apparatus must be geared progressively to fulfill the requirements of different phases of our growth in every sector-primary, secondary and tertiary. The aim must be to ensure enough of trained manpower in any specific segment of our economy. The requirements of our country, as a free democratic, secular, socialist nation, aspiring for rapid development, demand a specific recipe for our educational institutions. Today's educational institutions must therefore be developed accordingly and must regulate themselves to give the country the precise number of trained manpower as projected by the requirements of our planned economy.

Complete the statements given below by choosing the options you consider the most appropriate in your answer sheet.

(1) The author has quoted thoughts of Confucius to stress _________.

(a) importance of planting trees for human beings

(b) worthless efforts in planting rice

(c) the benefits of investing in education

(d) the need of assessing manpower requirements.

(2) The statement which can't be made on the basis of the passage is _________.

(a) Higher education should keep in view the requirements of national economy.

(b) Higher education hasn't been employed for nation building

(c) All levels of education have a role to play in nation's growth.
(d) The educational system should be modified to suit our country's needs

(3) The author's expectations from higher education are essentially
(a) unrealistic (b) confusing
(c) critical (d) reasonable

(4) Author has used the word 'apparatus' to indicate the___________
(a) scientific nature of education
(b) complicated organisation demanded by education
(c) readily visible benefits of education
(d) entire equipment of education to perform particular functions

(5) The title below which expresses the ideas of this passage best is:
(a) Manpower planning in India
(b) Importance of Higher Education
(c) Demands of Higher Education
(d) Role of Higher Education in India

Q3. Read the following poem carefully:
LITTLE EYES UPON YOU, MY MASTER

There are little eyes upon you
And they are waiting night and day;
There are little ears that quickly
Take in every word you say;
There are little hands all eager
To do anything you do;
And a little boy who's dreaming
Of the day he'll be like you.
You're the little fellow's ideal,
You're the wisest of the wise.
In his little mind about you
No suspicions ever rise.
He believes in you devoutly,
Holds all that you say and do;
He will say and do in your way,
When he’s grown up like you.
There’s a wide eyed little fellow
Who believes you are always right;
And his eyes are always opened,
And he watches day and night.
You are setting an example
Every day in all you do,
For the little boy who’s waiting
To grow up to be like you.

Anonymous

(a) This poem is dedicated to a __________
(b) ‘You’re the little fellow’s ideal’ means you are his _________
(c) ‘He believes in you devoutly,’ here ‘devoutly’ means the same as _________
(d) Suspicion never rises in the child’s mind because __________
(e) The little boy is waiting to grow up to be just like you because _________

Q4. Read the following passage carefully:
Immaculately dressed as always, she arrives at our Noida flat at 5.45 p.m.,
seven days a week. If we aren’t in – we trust her completely – she has a
spare key. Her gentle manners and stylish dress don’t reveal the fact that
she gets very little sleep and has been working at other houses and her own,
since 5.30 a.m.

Walking in, Archana Chakravarthy, 40, homemaker and mother of two,
surveys the fridge before deciding what to prepare. Although she offers
suggestions, but mostly makes what my wife, Geeta, asks for. Archana is a
Bengali, but we’re South Indians and yet she makes excellent sambar after
Geeta showed her how. “I like learning new recipes,” says Archana with
professional pride. “Different families have different tastes. Some like
deep-fried things, others dislike oil. Some want spicy food, others bland.
One person wants DAL mashed, others like to see its grains on their plate.
No problem”.

Most people take cooks for granted—as long as they are good. “But it is nice
when someone compliments my cooking.” She even dresses well so that
“families feel comfortable having me in their kitchen.”

While she makes every effort to please her employers, her own life has been hard. Archana's father, a poor farmer, couldn't send her to school. Being the eldest of six sisters, she was married off at 13, and with her earnings now about Rs. 5,000 monthly, she managed to get her five sisters married. Her husband is a casual factory worker, in and out of jobs. She takes all her troubles in her stride, slogging 17 hours a day to support her two school-going sons. Too busy to realize the difference she is making, Archana is one of the countless Indian women who labour hard to keep their families together.

(a) Archana is dependable because she ________.
(b) Archana is one who takes pride in ________.
(c) She pleases her employers by ________.
(d) Archana is a pillar of strength for ________.
(e) "No problem" as said by Archana means ________.

SECTION B
(Writing – 20 Marks)

Q5. Your school has recently celebrated its 'Sports Day'. Give a brief account of celebrations in about 80 words. You may make use of the hints given below

- when, where
- chief guest
- inauguration
- events
- prize winners

Q6. You are Manav/Mahima. Recently you were driving past a construction site in a busy city. You were shocked to see that a large number of workers were children below the age of 14 years. The danger and the risk involved in the work upset you. Write a letter to the editor of a regional newspaper expressing your concern regarding the social evil of child labour and suggest ways to control it. (120 words)

Q7. “Politicians serve for the real upliftment of the country” — Register your opinions in favour of this topic or against it in about 150 words. You are Ted/Tina. You may use the following hints.
• service to the society
• make policies for the betterment of the society
• selfless attitude
• a few examples from the past
• selfish and money minded
• caste based or communal politics
• no care for democratic values
• scandals and scams
• a few examples from the present

SECTION C
(Grammar – 20 Marks)

Q8. Read the following passage and fill in the blanks choosing the appropriate options and write the correct answers in your answer sheet.

On the banks of a flowing river was a peepal tree. (a)________ the tree was the nest of a happy (b)________ friendly dove. It was afternoon and the dove (c)________ from one branch to the other, flapping its wings and chirping (d)________ merrily.

(a) (i) into (ii) at
     (iii) on (iv) over
(b) (i) but (ii) or
     (iii) also (iv) and
(c) (i) jumped (ii) jumping
     (iii) jump (iv) is jumping
(d) (i) on (ii) away
     (iii) over (iv) in

Q9. Choose the most appropriate options to complete the dialogue given below. Write the correct answers in the answer sheet against the correct blank numbers.

• Customer : I want to return this clock. It has stopped working after (a)________
• Saleswoman : Do not worry, Sir, I (b)________.
• Customer : I do not wish to replace it. I don’t want (c)________.
• Saleswoman : That won’t be possible, Sir, You can have another clock of the same price.
• Customer: In that case, I wish to (d) ________ Where do I find him?
• Saleswoman: I’m afraid, he is out of town. You can see him tomorrow.
• (a) (i) two days after (ii) the day next
   (iii) two days of purchase (iv) so soon
• (b) (i) will replace it (ii) will be replaced
   (iii) will buy you a new one (iv) will take it from you
• (c) (i) to continue with you (ii) to stay here
   (iii) to take it
• (d) (i) fire your manager (ii) see your manager
   (iii) report to the police (iv) come again

Q10. Here are a few tips to sustain nutrition during exams. Look at the words and phrases given below. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences. Write the correct answers given in your answer sheet.

Eg. Come/handy/small,/meals/frequent

Small, frequent meals come handy.

(1) energy/this/keep up/the/would/levels
(2) at/keeps/you/rejuvenated/appropriate time/a good meal
(3) carbohydrates/foods/prefer/proteins/that offer/over
(4) snacks/protein-rich/alert/you/meals/and/keep

Q11. The following passage has not been edited. One word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and the word that comes after it in your answer sheet.

Good foods a holistic
effect on well-being of
the mind, body soul.
Food as a cure helps achieving
good health. Dr. Shukla adds,
‘Nourish your organs and give vitality.’
We should have attitude

(a) ________

(b) ________

(c) ________

(d) ________

(e) ________

(f) ________
of abundance making food  
choices. "Eat food high dietary  
fibre, especially found in wheat bran."

Q12. Read the conversation given below and complete the following passage by filling in the blank spaces appropriately. Do not add any new information. Write the answers in your answer sheet against the correct blank numbers.

GAJAPATHY : Are you free tomorrow ?
MALINI : I don’t have anything scheduled for the evening.
GAJAPATHY : I would like to invite you to a party at Hotel Taj Mahal Palace.
MALINI : Wow! I would like to come. What’s the occasion ?
GAJAPATHY : I’m celebrating my promotion at work.

Gajapathy asked Malini (a)________________, Malini replied (b)________________.
Gajapathy told her (c)________________, Malini exclaimed in joy and said (d)________________. She, then wanted to know what the occasion was.
Gajapathy informed that he was celebrating his promotion at work.

SECTION D
(Literature – 20 Marks)

Q13. (A) Read the extract and answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options.

You must make your public happier:

Give them something sharper snappier

We must aim for better billings

You still owe me sixty shillings"

(a) Who says these words?
   (i) the frog
   (ii) the titled crowd
   (iii) the ladies with tiaras
   (iv) the nightingale

(3x2=6 marks)
(b) The speaker asks for sixty shillings

(i) for training the nightingale

(ii) for singing to the creatures of the bog

(iii) for making the public happy

(iv) for killing the nightingale

(c) The rhyme scheme of these lines is

(i) abab (ii) abcd (iii) abba (iv) aabb

OR

The old man, shivering at times but fixed of purpose, plodded on till he came out of the town-gate on to a straight road. Along this he now went at a somewhat slower pace, supporting himself on his old staff.

(1) Who is the old man referred to here?

(a) The Coachman Ali.

(b) The Clerk Lakshmi Das.

(c) Miriam’s husband.

(d) The postmaster.

(2) What was his fixed purpose?

(a) To go to the post office and ask for a letter.

(b) To go to the hospital and ask about Miriam’s health.

(c) To go to the post office and ask for Miriam’s letter.

(d) None of the above.

(3) Why do you think he slowed his pace?

(a) Because now he was badly tired

(b) Because now he knew that the post office was not too far.

(c) Because he knew that the post office was too far to reach there soon.

(d) Because he didn’t want to go to the post office.

(4) ‘Yes, he’s gone. He was seventy-two a fortnight last Sunday. She sniffed back a tear.’

(a) Who makes this statement?

(b) Where has ‘he’ gone?
Q14. Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each.
   (a) What provoked the author's interest in the two boys of Verona?
   (b) What is the role of 'the letter' in the story by Dhunaketu?
   (c) How does the nightingale prove to be brainless in the poem, "The Frog and the Nightingale"?
   (d) How has the poet eternalized the subject of his attention in the poem 'Not Marble nor the Gilded Monuments'?
   (e) Point out the element of irony in the title of the play, 'The Dear Departed'.

Q15. Answer any one of the following in about 150 words.
You are Abel Merryweather. Express your ideas / feelings after you wake up and come to know about your daughter's feelings / greed and intentions.

OR
Narrate in about 150 words how the writer creates humour in the story, Mrs. Packletide's Tiger.