SECTION A—READING COMPREHENSION (20 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (12)

Today's woman is a highly self-directed person, alive to the sense of her dignity and the importance of her functions in the private domestic domain and the public domain of the world of work. Women are rational in their approach, careful in handling and want to do things as best as possible. The Fourth World Conference meeting held in Beijing in September 1995 had emphasised that no enduring solution of society's most threatening social, economic and political problems could be found without the participation and empowerment of the women. The 1995 World Summit for Social Development had also emphasized the pivotal role of women in eradicating poverty and mending the social fabric. The Constitution of India had conferred on women equal rights and opportunities—political, social, educational and of employment with men. Because of oppressive traditions, superstitions, exploitation and corruption a majority of women are not allowed to enjoy the rights and opportunities bestowed on them. One of the major reasons for this state of affairs is the lack of literacy and awareness among women. Education is the main instrument through which we can narrow down the prevailing inequality and accelerate the process of economic and political change in the status of women.

The role of women in a society is very important. Women's education is the key to a better life in the future. A recent World Bank study says that educating girls is not a charity; it is good economics, and if development is aimed to eradicate poverty, they must educate the girls. The report says that the economic and social returns on investments in education for the girls are substantial and probably greater than those for boys. As the female population forms half of the national population, the poor performance on the front of female literacy considerably affects the human development index of the nation. Society would progress only, if the status of women is improved as the presence of an educated woman in the family would ensure education of the family itself.
Education and empowerment of women are closely related. It is a paradox that although women constitute half of the Indian population and supposedly enjoy a high position in the family as also in society, not much attention has been paid to give them the benefit of education. Women’s education has not received due care and attention from planners and policy makers. The National Commission for Women had rightly pointed out that even after 50 years of Independence, women continue to be treated as the single largest group of backward citizens of India. The role of women in development has not been fully understood nor has it been given its full weight in the struggle to eliminate poverty, hunger, injustice and inequality at the national level. Even when we are at the threshold of the 21st century, our society still discriminates against women in matters of their rights and privileges and prevents participating in the process of national and societal progress; Committees and commissions have been constituted before and after the independence to evaluate progress in women’s education and to suggest ways and means to enhance the status of women. The literacy rate has gone up in the 20th century from 0.6 per cent in 1901 to 39.29 per cent in 1991, but we still possess the largest number of illiterate women in the world.

The prevailing cultural norms of gender behaviour and the perceived domestic and reproductive roles of woman tend to affect the education of the girls. Negative attitude towards sending girls to schools, restrictions on mobility especially after puberty, early marriage, poverty and illiteracy of parents affects the girls participation in education. Today nobody can deny the need for women’s education, but still some people feel that providing education for girls is a luxury which only the rich can afford. The gender bias existing in society has a direct bearing on many aspects of the education system.

To overcome discriminatory attitude towards women and to improve their status in society, grassroot awakening is needed. Women’s political empowerment got a big boost with the Panchayati Raj Act of 1993, which gave them 30 per cent reservation in village panchayats, block samitis and Zila Parishads throughout the country. A National Commission for Women was also set up in 1992 to act as a lobby for women’s issues. At the recently held Global Interparliamentary Conference in New Delhi, the then Prime Minister, Mr. H.D. Dave Gowda, declared that the government was formulating a national policy on empowerment of women to make gender equality a reality. He termed the bill to reserve 33 per cent seats in legislatures for women as a revolutionary step. But he also said laws alone could not lead to social transformation. Several delegates demanded that the women should be associated with all decision-making bodies starting from the grassroots to the national levels. Educational system is the only institution which can counteract the deep foundations of inequality of ideas that are built in the minds of people through the socialisation process. Education is the most important instrument of human
resource development. Educational system should be used to revolutionise the traditional attitudes and inculcate new values of equality. Deep foundations of equality should be built in the minds of people.

1.1 Answer the following questions briefly:
(a) What are the two attributes of a modern woman? (2)
(b) Why is women's participation and empowerment considered necessary? (2)
(c) What are the two benefits ensuing from education of girls? (2)
(d) What factors have affected the education of girls? (2)
(e) How can women empowerment help the community? (1)

1.2 Find words in the above passage which convey a similar meaning as the following:
(a) field of activity. (para 1)
(b) thing that is expensive and enjoyable, but not essential (para 5)
(c) innovative (para 6)

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (8)
You may never want to fly kites to keep away evil spirits, as the Chinese have done for centuries or to make rain, as the Tibetans did, but some more modern and western uses may tempt you to try experimenting yourself along similar lines. The most widespread use of kites in modern times has been for meteorological investigations. Everybody knows about how Benjamin Franklin, the great American scholar and statesman sent a kite up in 1752 during a thunderstorm to prove that lightning was caused by electricity. He produced sparks at ground level from a key hung on the wet line as the current flowed down it. A second investigator repeated Franklin's experiment shortly afterwards and was killed.

By sending up instruments on kites it has been possible to make readings of air pressure, temperature, speed, direction and humidity. Although thermometers had been sent up long before, it was not until 1894, that a self-reading thermometer—a thermograph—was sent up by kite. The army, navy and air force have used kites in various ways for decades.

Another Korean version of the invention of the kite tells how a general used one to carry a line across a stream. This line then formed the basis of a bridge. Lines are still occasionally flown from point to point in this way, using kites. At sea, kites have often been used to carry a line to distressed ships in rough weather.

Kites—especially box and bow kites—have been used as gunnery targets. They are easy to make and cheap to use and will stand quite a lot of punishment before they cease to fly. Apart from their use as targets, kites have been used by the army to fly flags, for aerial photography over enemy trenches, for suspending
flares over targets, during night-fighting, for carrying man over enemy lines, for dragging torpedos, etc., to a target area.

They have been used by both military and civil authorities for raising, transmitting and receiving aerials to obtain improved wireless reception. As a matter of fact, the first long distance short wave transmission of all, made use of an aerial flown on a kite. When Marconi made the famous transatlantic transmission he raised his receiving aerial some 400 feet on a kite. Never fly an aerial in stormy weather or where there are cumulus clouds about.

During the last war the R.A.F. developed 'a kite flare' as part of survival equipment for airmen forced down at sea. When airborne the kite was attached to a special shock absorber which was fixed to the dinghy. It was stated that provided there was a 6 m.p.h. wind, the kites would stay aloft indefinitely.

Some of these kites were brought to Australia and sent to the 6th Australian Division in 1944 for trials to determine whether they were of use in jungle warfare, especially in defining locations. After experiments, the authorities decided that they were of no value for this purpose.

2.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it, in points only, using recognisable abbreviations (Minimum four), wherever necessary. (5)

2.2 Make a summary of the above passage in about 80 words. (3)

SECTION B—ADVANCED WRITING SKILL (35 Marks)

3. You want to sell your newly built flat. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be inserted in the classified columns of "The Hindu" giving all necessary details. You are Niranjan, 247, J. P. Nagar, Bangalore.

OR

As Sec. of the Literary Club of St. Annes School, Ahmedabad, draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words for the inauguration of the club in your school. (5 Marks)

4. Recently you attended a seminar on Adult Education Programme organized by the CBSE. Write a report about the same in 125-150 words to be published in "The Indian Express". The programme was held at B.V. Public School, Delhi.

OR

A huge vacant space was lying unattended and uncared for in your colony. You and your friends decided to develop this area into a park for the benefit of all residents. With very little funds, but lots of enthusiasm of your group of friends, your project became a roaring success. It caught the attention of the media and a local newspaper approached you to share your success story. Write a brief report not exceeding 125-150 words. You are Mohit/Mohita, a resident of Jaipur. (10 Marks)

5. Disasters find us Indians unprepared and slow to respond. Even after disaster strikes, be it flood or cyclone or earthquake or tsunami, we are confused and
disorganized. Write an article for a newspaper giving suggestions about disaster management. You may suggest having special equipment, trained personnel, better communication and transport, and above all freedom to take quick decisions. Your article should be of about 200 words.

OR

You have to give a speech in the special assembly on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. Lately many doubts have been expressed about the validity of Mahatma Gandhi's principle of non-violence in modern times. In your speech, impress upon your audience that non-violence is the only way to bring peace to the troubled world of today. Your speech should be of 200 words.

(10 Marks)

6. You are Naman/Namani, of 13 New Friends Colony, New Delhi. You have decided to shift your residence to Saket and hence wish to discontinue your membership of Paradise Fitness Centre. Write a letter to the manager, requesting him to cancel your membership and refund your security deposit of ten thousand rupees explaining your inability to continue your membership. (150 words)

OR

You are Uday/Urvashi, incharge of Excursion Club of A.V.B. School, Ghaziabad. Write a letter to the General Manager, Northern Railways, requesting for reservation of a bogie for 80 students from New Delhi to Chennai and back by G.T. Express. (150 words)

(SECTION C—LITERATURE) (45 Marks)

7. Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:

Therefore on every morrow are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er darkened ways
Made for our searching : yes, inspite of all,
Some shape of beauty move away the pall
From our dark spirits

(i) What is implied by flowery band?

(ii) How does nature help us?

(iii) Name objects of nature that give us pleasure.

Surely, Shakespeare is wicked, the map a bad example,
With ships and sun and love tempting them to steal-
For lives that slyly turn in their cramped holes
From fog to endless night? On their slag heap, these children

(5 marks)
Wear skins peeped through by bones and spectacles of steel
With mended glass, like bottle bits on stones.

(i) Why is Shakespeare described as wicked? (1 mark)
(ii) Explain: from fog to endless night. (1 mark)
(iii) What does slag heap refer to? (1 mark)

8. Answer any three of the following in about 30-40 words each: (2 x 3 = 6 marks)
   (1) Bring out the paradoxical situation in the system of education of the slum children.
   (2) What is the sadness that the poet refers to in "Keeping Quiet".
   (3) Why are the young trees described as sprinting?
   (4) How is a thing of beauty a 'joy forever?"

9. Answer any three of the following in 30-40 words only. (2 x 3 = 6 marks)
   (1) What forces conspire to keep the workers in the bangle industry in Firozabad in poverty?
   (2) Why was Subbu considered number 2 in Gemini studio?
   (3) How were Shukla and Gandhiji received in Rajendra Prasad’s house?
   (4) Why did Edla entertain the peddler even after she knew the truth about him?

10. Answer any one of the following in 125-150 words: (10 marks)
    Ordinary people too contributed to the Indigo Movement. Comment.
    **OR**
    Why was the address by the English poet a mystery to the audience at Gemini Studio?

11. There is terror only in the fear of death, as Roosevelt knew when he said, "All we have to fear is fear itself."
    In view of the above statement which motivated Douglas to overcome his fear and the scientific study on anxiety which stated that anxiety causes loss of appetite, stress and reduces the work efficiency, comment on the following quote by Winston Churchill—"Success is never found. Failure is never fatal. Courage is the only thing" (5 marks)

12. Answer any one of the following in 125-150 words: (7 marks)
    The story within a story by John Updike is dealt with very convincingly. Justify.
    **OR**
    The actual pain or inconvenience caused by physical impairment is much less than the sense of alienation felt by a disabled person. Validate with reference to "On the face of it".

   (6)