Read the following passage carefully:

(1) Some of the most ingenious methods of defence in the animal world are displayed by insects. They are masters of the art of disguise, of setting traps, and other methods of defence and attack. But, certainly, one of the most extraordinary is the bombardier beetle.

(2) I was once the proud owner of a genuine wild black rat which I had caught when he was a half-grown youngster. He was an extremely handsome beast with his shining ebony fur and gleaming black eyes. His great passion was for insects of any shape or size: butterflies, praying mantis, stick-insects, cockroaches, they all went the same way as soon as they were put into his cage. Not even the largest praying mantis stood a chance against him.

(3) But one day I found an insect which got the better of him. It was a large, blackish beetle. I put it in a matchbox in my pocket. When I arrived home I pulled the rat out of his sleeping-box, opened the matchbox and shook the large succulent beetle on to the floor of his cage.

(4) Seeing this great fat delicacy he trotted forward, rapidly seized it with his little pink paws. His whiskers twitched in anticipation as he lifted the beetle to his mouth, and then a curious thing happened. He uttered the most prodigious sniff, dropped the beetle and leaped backwards as though he had been stung, and sat rubbing his paws hastily over his nose and face.

(5) Having wiped his face, he again approached it, slightly more cautiously this time, picked it up and lifted it to his mouth. Then he uttered a strangled snort, dropped it as though it were red-hot and sat wiping his face indignantly.

(6) The second experience had obviously been enough for him, for he refused to go near the beetle after that. Every time it ambled round to the corner of the cage where he was sitting, he would back away hurriedly.
(7) Apparently the beetle, when attacked, squirts out a liquid which, on reaching the air, explodes with a faint crack and forms a sort of pungent and unpleasant gas, sufficiently horrible to make any creature who has experienced it leave the bombardier beetle severely alone in future.

(8) I felt rather sorry for my black rat. It was, I felt, an unfortunate experience to pick up what amounted to a particularly delicious dinner, only to have it suddenly turn into a gas attack in your paws. It gave him a complex about beetles, too, because for days afterwards he would dash into his sleeping box at the sight of one, even a fat and harmless dung-beetle.

However, he was a young rat, and I suppose he had to learn at some time or another that one cannot judge by appearances in this life.

(584 words)

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the above passage, complete the following statements briefly:

(a) Insects are very resourceful as far as _______ are concerned.

(b) Unblemished black fur and shiny eyes characterized the _______.

(c) The pet rat’s favourite food was _____________.

(d) Every time the beetle approached the rat, he would ________.

(e) The experience was so bad for the rat that _____________.

1x3=3

1.2 Find words from the passage which mean the same as:

(a) Juicy and tasty (para 3)

(b) Clever / smart (para 1)

(c) Sharp smelling (para 7)

2. Read the following poem carefully.

SNOWFLAKES.

And did you know
That every flake of snow
That forms so high
In the grey winter sky

And falls so far
Is a bright six-pointed star
Each crystal grows
A flower as perfect as a rose.
Lace could never make

The patterns of a flake
No brooch
Of figured silver could approach
Its delicate craftsmanship. And think:
Each pattern is distinct.

Of all the snowflakes floating there-
The million million in the air-
None is the same. Each star
Is newly forged, as faces are,
Shaped to its own design
Like yours and mine,
And yet … … each one 
Melts when its flight is done; 
Holds frozen loveliness 
A moment, even less; 

Suspends itself in time – 
And passes like a rhyme.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the above poem, choose the correct options to complete the statements that follow:

(a) According to the poet, in winter the sky looks 
   (i) bright (ii) grey (iii) white (iv) blue

(b) Of all the snowflakes that fell 
   (i) each has a different pattern 
   (ii) all are exactly the same 
   (iii) all look like roses 
   (iv) none ever melts

(c) The word ‘forged’ (line 18) means the same as 
   (i) flake (ii) imitation (iii) created (iv) genuine

(d) The expression ‘its flight is done means’ that the snowflake 
   (i) floats in the air (ii) falls on the earth (iii) melts away (iv) is suspended in the air

(e) The expression that best describes the meaning of “a snowflake has a short lived life” is 
   (i) suspends itself in time (ii) holds frozen loveliness (iii) melts when its flight is done (iv) a moment, even less

(f) The poet compares snowflakes with 
   (i) flowers (ii) laces (iii) brooch and human faces (iv) all of the above

(g) A snowflake is a 
   (i) eight-pointed star (ii) four-pointed star (iii) two-pointed star (iv) six-pointed star

SECTION – B
(Writing = 20 Marks)

3. Your ‘Adventure Club’ is planning to go on a trekking expedition to Manali. As Secretary of the club, prepare a notice in about 50 words for the school notice board giving necessary information and inviting names of those interested in participating. You are Ram/Rama.
4. You like eating different types of cuisines and often visit your friend Rahul's restaurant. You also know him personally. Write his bio-sketch in about 100 words using the input given below:

Input:
(i) Runs a restaurant
(ii) Quality food, different cuisines, reasonable rates
(iii) Caters to different tastes, specialises in Punjabi food
(iv) Customer satisfaction - main interest
(v) Diverse interests - singing, watching movies, discussing current topics.

5. You have just seen a bus hitting a tree. Last week you were also caught in similar situation. The bus you were travelling in suddenly hit a tree and caught fire. Write an email to your friend describing the experience in 120-150 words. Take help of the following points.
- unexpected arrival of truck
- brakes failed
- hit tree
- caught fire
- how you felt
- other passengers
- pathetic scene
- relief and rescue work

6. Jamaila's diary has the following notes. Based on these notes together with your own ideas, write an article in about 120 - 150 words on 'Child Labour' - an insult to humanity.

NOTES
weak, semi-clad children working in roadside dhabas - nicker - plating factories - small girls working in brick kilns - fields - a sore scene to eyes - they should have been in schools - poverty - large families - childhood snatched away - legal side ignored by mafia - bonded labour - children need to be liberated from this inhuman labour.

SECTION - C
(Grammar - 15 Marks)

7. Complete the paragraph given below by filling in the blanks with the help of correct options:
You may say that people should (a) (be/am/is/are) allowed to do what they want. If they want (b) (to/in/into/for) ruin their health (c) (of/from/in/by) smoking, that is their affair. Anyway, it has really (d) (be/being/been/is) proved that there is (e) (is/the/an/a) definite link between smoking and cancer. Even for normal and healthy people, smoking (f) (was/were/is/are) a harmful pleasure.
8. Complete the following conversation by filling in the gaps with most suitable options.

Tina: Hello Kajal! Who were you with yesterday?
Kajal: Oh yesterday? That was my mother.
Tina: (a) ____________________________
Kajal: Yes, I know. She looks too young to be my mother (b) ________________
Tina: I must tell my mother also to follow her example and keep fit.
Kajal: Your mother looks young too.
Tina: Yes, she does but she doesn’t bother about exercise. She must follow an exercise routine.
Kajal: Yes, that way she (c) ________________ and long life also.

(i) but she is looking very young
(ii) she does not look so young
(iii) but she looks so young
(iv) but she is looking younger

(b) (i) she is keeping her fit with exercise
(ii) she keeps herself fit with exercise
(iii) she kept herself fit with exercise
(iv) she was keeping herself fit with exercise

(c) (i) is having a healthy
(ii) must have a healthy
(iii) had a healthy
(iv) will have a healthy

9. Rearrange the following words and phrases to form meaningful sentences.

The first one has been done for you as an example:
E.g. - have / obesity / changing lifestyles / among / contributed to / children
Changing lifestyles have contributed to obesity among children.
(a) fast foods / their / making / children / are / staple diet
(b) causing / is / among / a great alarm / health experts / it
(c) need / that / get / healthy food / we / to ensure / our children

10. The following paragraph has not been edited. There is an error in each numbered line. Identify the error and write down its correction as shown in the example.

Later, I promise myself and kept walking towards the mall. Inside, that took me a moment to understand a situation around me. I was hit with a huge display of products. Shelves was heavily laden with so much packets of flour, spices, dresses, books or cosmetics.

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<th>Error</th>
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<tr>
<td>promise</td>
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11. Read the conversation given below and complete the paragraph that follows:

Ram: I want to meet the Principal.
Peon: Sir, he is not in his office.
Ram: When will he come back to the office?
Peon: I think in another ten minutes.

Ram went to K.V. Jaipur for the admission of his daughter to that school. He went to the Principal's office and told the peon (a) _______. Respectfully the peon told him that (b) ____________. So Ram asked him (c) ____________. The peon replied that in his opinion the Principal would be back in another ten minutes.

SECTION - D

(Literature - 30 Marks)

12. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

A. I come from haunts of coot and heron;
   I make a sudden sally
   And sparkle out among the ferns,
   To poise down a valley
   (a) From where does the brook emerge?
   (b) Explain, "I make a sudden sally".
   (c) What makes the brook 'sparkle'?

B. At that time Triveni was a very popular writer in the Kannada language. She was a wonderful writer. Her style was easy to read and very convincing. Her stories usually dealt with complex psychological problems in the lives of ordinary people and were always very interesting. Unfortunately for Kannada literature, she died very young. Even now, after 40 years, people continue to appreciate her novels.
   (a) What had made Triveni a popular writer?
   (b) What made Triveni's stories very interesting?
   (c) How does Sudha Murthy react to Triveni's death at an early age?

C. I am not in the least surprised. It is a most delightful place. Its appearance is modest, but it has a charm of its own. I can tell by just looking at you that it would suit you admirably, as you suit it. If you will permit me to say so. Coming from me, it may surprise you to hear that you already appear to be at home. The choice of a frame is not so easy when you have such a delightful pastel to place in it.
   (a) Who is the speaker of these lines?
   (b) "Its appearance is modest". What does 'it' stand for?
   (c) "I can tell by just looking at you that it would suit you admirably", as you suit it. What does this remark reveal about the speaker?

13. Answer any two of the following questions in about 30-40 words each:

(a) "On the principle of people who like children and haven't any can always go and live near a school". Explain this comment contextually.
(b) How did Marcy react when Duke was run over by a car?
(c) Explain: "too strong for human hands", (Lord Ullin's Daughter)

OR

Making choices seems to be a part of everyone's life. Yet, they need to be made. Elaborate in about 150 words in relation to the poem, "The Road Not Taken".

Attempt either Part (a) or Part (b)

Part (a)

15. On the basis of your reading of "Gulliver's Travels" part 1 and part 2, write a character sketch of Gulliver in about 100 words.

16. In Jonathan Swift's 'Gulliver's travels', how does Swift laugh at the weaknesses of people in contemporary society. (100 words)

OR

Part (b)

15. What is the main plot of "Three Men in a Boat"? (100 words)

6. Jerome went to the British Library to read up on a medical condition. After consulting a medical encyclopedia, which was the only illness that he was sure that he definitely did not have and why? (100 words).