SECTION - A
(Reading - 20 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

In the Home of the Nizam

A summer sunset stains the sky scarlet as I enter the fret-worked gates of the Chowmahalla Palace. And, to first see this reminder of lost glories through a bower of bougainvillea is to fall in love with a world that has long passed into the pages of a history book.

Situated a few kilometers from the Charminar and the Mecca Masjid - with their overlapping layers of obliteration and opulence - the palace is a source of legend on the royalty of Hyderabad. As I vault over a grassy knoll with an ageing brass cannon, the calm of the beautiful gardens contrasts with the cacophony and colours of Lad Bazar that lies just a turn away from the gates. Official residence of the Nizam and seat of the Asaf Jahi dynasty, the four - palace complex used to be the setting for all ceremonies and accession and entertainment of all royal guests.

Built in 1750 by Nizam Salabat Jung, Chowmahalla, modelled after the Shah's Palace in Tehran, was recently restored to its former glory by Princess Esra, first wife of the titular Nizam, Mukkaram Jah. The first monument in Andhra Pradesh to be conferred the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award for Conservation 2010, the complex is a labyrinth of museums, stables and garages overflowing with myriad treasures.

I have an hour to go before the complex closes and I wonder where to begin when I meet Rashid Baig, a wizened old tourist. Baig, who last visited the palace more than half-century ago recalls seeing soldiers in resplendent uniforms near the bandstand. He tells me what not to miss and I have off to pack in as much as I can of Silisila-e- Asafia (legacy of the house of Asafia).

In the Northern Courtyard is the Bara Imam, a corridor or rooms with doors within doors that housed the administrative offices. Across the central fountain, which gurgles gently is the Shish-e-Alat, a mirror image of the Bara Imam which accommodated visitors. A seemingly innocuous board announces the royal photo studio where visitors dress up as Muslim gentry to be captured in sepia. Mynas hop past the vast lawns in front of the Khilwat
Mahal, a white and yellow stucco building, with the gilded, rococo Durbar Hall. The 19 Belgian crystal chandeliers cast their golden glow on the soul of the hall, the Takht - e - Nishan – the marble throne. In his heyday the palace employed 38 people only to dust its chandeliers! The image gallery adjoining this has a nostalgic array of photographs of palaces and gateways - Osmania University, the Azizganj bridge built by the fifth Nizam, the walls of old Hyderabad city, and the Panchmahalla Palace, which has since disappeared.

Halls upon halls follows with oil portraits of the Nizams on horseback. Porcelain dinner services choke glass cupboards and gilded cutlery sets follow suit. Shields, spears, swords and scabbards are lined up right to the ceiling.

Metro Plus (The Hindu) - 15.8.11

1. Fill in the summary using one word in each blank.
The author reaches Chowmahalla Palace in the (a) _______ which is situated a few kilometers from the Charminar and Mecca Masjid. She observes the contrast between the gardens and the Lad Bazar as she (b) _______ over a mound of grass. All ceremonies of accession and entertainment of royal guests were (c) _______ at the four - palace complex. Princess Ebra, first wife of the titular Nizam, Makkaram Jah (d) _______ the palace to its former glory.

2. Complete the following sentences:
(a) Bara Imam is _______.
(b) The palace has not only the oil portrait of the Nizams on horseback but also _______.

3. Give words that mean the same as:
(a) Loud unpleasant mixture of discordant sounds. (Para 2)
(b) Extremely large number (Para 3)
(c) Brilliant with colour or decorations. (Para 4)
(d) Plaster or cement used for covering or decorating walls or ceilings. (Para 5)

2. Read the following passage carefully:
On his first day in office, as President Abraham Lincoln entered to give his inaugural address, one man stood up. He was a rich aristocrat. He said, “Mr. Lincoln, you should not forget that your father used to make shoes for my family.” And the whole Senate laughed; they thought they had made a fool of Lincoln.

But certain people are made of a totally different mettle. Lincoln looked at the man directly in the eye and said, “Sir, I know that my father used to make shoes for your family, and there will be many others here, because he made shoes the way nobody else can.

He was a creator. His shoes were not just shoes; he poured his whole soul into them. I want to ask you, have you any complaint? Because I know how to make shoes myself. If you have any complaint I can make you another pair of shoes. But as far as I know, nobody has ever complained about my father’s shoes. He was a genius, a great creator and I am proud of my father.”

The whole Senate was struck dumb. They could not understand what kind of man Abraham Lincoln was. He was proud because his father did his job so well that not even a single complaint had ever been heard.
Answer the following questions by selecting the most appropriate options from the ones given below:

(a). Why did the whole senate laugh?
   (i) Because it was President Abraham Lincoln's first day in his office.
   (ii) Because Lincoln made a mistake in his inaugural speech.
   (iii) Because a rich aristocrat reminded Lincoln that his father used to make shoes for his family.
   (iv) Because the whole Senate thought they had made a fool of Lincoln.

(b). How was Lincoln different from other people?
   (i) He had the courage to look into the eyes of the man.
   (ii) His father used to make shoes for others.
   (iii) He gave a befitting reply to the aristocrat.
   (iv) He made shoes the way nobody else could.

(c). Why did he say 'nobody has ever complained about my father's shoes'?
   (i) Because his father was a genius and great creator.
   (ii) Because Lincoln used to replace such shoes.
   (iii) Because Lincoln himself used to make shoes.
   (iv) Because Lincoln was proud of his father.

(d). The whole Senate was struck dumb because ...
   (i) Lincoln was very proud of his father.
   (ii) they could not understand the reply given by Lincoln.
   (iii) they were awestruck by the intelligence of Lincoln.
   (iv) Lincoln's father was a genius and great creator.

(e). The word 'mettle' in the second paragraph means ...
   (i) ready to face and endure danger.
   (ii) quality of endurance.
   (iii) quality of not being firmly committed to doing something.
   (iv) way of treating others.

3. Read the following poem carefully:
   When things go wrong as they sometimes will
   When the road you're trudging seems all uphill
   When the funds are low, and the debts are high
   And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
   When care is pressing you down a bit
   Rest if you must, but don't quit.

   Success is failure turned inside out,
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt
And you never can tell how close you are
It may be near when it seems afar,  
So stick to the fight when you’re hardest hit  
It’s when things go wrong you mustn’t quit

(1) Debts’ means to __________ money  
    (a) owe  (b) own  (c) loan  (d) borrow

(2) ‘Silver tint’ refers to  
    (a) the silver colour of the clouds  
    (b) a person’s doubts  
    (c) a ray of hope  
    (d) raindrops

(3) ‘Success is failure turned inside out’ would be said by a / an  
    (a) pessimist  (b) optimist  (c) critic  (d) expert.

(4) The message the poet is trying to convey is ________  
    (a) never give up  
    (b) life is a struggle  
    (c) there will always be ups and downs in life  
    (d) success is failure turned inside out

(5) The tone of the poem is one of ________  
    (a) regret  (b) nostalgia  
    (c) happiness  (d) encouragement

SECTION - B
(Writing - 25 Marks)

4. Read the following telephonic conversation between Lina and Amrita. Amrita is about to  
   leave home for her tuitions and won’t be able to meet Sanjana, and so leaves a massage for  
   her. Write the message using not more than 50 words.

Lina : Hello, is that Amrita speaking?
Amrita : Hello, how are you?
Lina : I’m fine. I rang up to tell you that the Book Fair is on at Ram Lila  
    Grounds. Suman, Lara and I are planning a visit. How about  
    joining us?
Amrita : Sounds like a good idea. When do we go and where do we meet?
Lina : Let’s meet tomorrow at 11 a.m. at Gate no.3. We could have  
    lunch there as I believe there are some good food counters too. Why don’t you  
    ask your sister Varsha to join us?
Amrita : I shall do that. She’s not at home right now, so I’ll leave a  
    message for her.
Lina : Ask her to give me a call to confirm.
Amrita : Okay. Bye. See you tomorrow if it’s fine with Varsha.

5. Given below is a profile of Sushil Kumar the wrestler. Write a short bio-sketch of Sushil  
   Kumar in about 100 words. You may take the help of the clues given below:

   Born - May 26-1983, village Baprola in Delhi  
   Height/Weight - 168 cm, 66kg  
   Father - Deswan Singh Solanki, an MTNL Bus Driver  
   Mother - Kamala Devi, house wife  
   Training - Training conditions included sharing a mattress with  
   a fellow wrestler and sharing a dormitory with  
   twenty others.
Debut - Became a state champ at the age of 18
Ranked seventh in 2007 World Wrestling
Championship.
Achievements -
Gold medal in 2010 World Wrestling Championship-
Moscow Gold medal in 2010 Commonwealth Games -
Delhi
Trivia - A Vegetarian

6. Your friend’s team stood first and won a prize in a debate. Write an e-mail congratulating him on his success in about 120 words.

Format of an e-mail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subject:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regards
Name

7. Using your creativity, imagination and ideas, build a story of mystery, suspense and adventure from the prompter provided. Don’t forget to give an interesting title to your story.
(word limit : 150)

Today, as I was returning home from school, a spaceship landed right in front of me! An alien with eyes like a cat and long spidery legs came out. I’m hungry, ‘he said. ‘I’ve come to your planet in search of books to eat.’ ‘Books aren’t food’. I said.

That’s the craziest thing I ever heard, ‘said the alien ‘I love a good book! Right now I’m craving for a big fat book.’
He started to walk towards me and ...
8. Choose the most appropriate option from the ones given below to complete the following passage. Write the answers in your answer sheet against the correct blank number. Do not copy the whole passage.

Swami Vivekananda once speaking in America told (a) ________ (off, on, about, in) a young man who came to a religious conference and said that he wanted to find God. The sage smiled and said (b) ________ (nothing, anything, more, much). The young man, turned time after time, ever repeating (c) ________ (his, her, their, our) desire, his longing to find God. After (d) ________ (many, each, some, all) days, the sage told him to accompany him as he went to the river (e) ________ (off, in, on, to)take his morning bath and when (f) ________ (two, both, many, much) were in the river, the sage took hold of the young man, plunged him under the surface of water and held him there. The young man struggled to shake off his hold. Finally, he raised him out of water and asked him “My son (g) ________ (what, when, where, why) did you long for (h) ________ (more, most, much, many)when under water? “A breath of air”, gasped the youth. “Thus a disciple should long for God and he would find Him. If you have this longing for God. He should be found by you.” said the sage.

9. Complete the given dialogue by choosing the most appropriate option.

Puneet : (a) ________ do after doing Senior Secondary?
Ramesh : I don’t know (b) ________ do after that. If nothing happens, I shall take admission in B.A.

Puneet : This is not good. You (c) ________ some planning in life.

Ramesh : Man proposes, God disposes. No one can say with certainty (d) ________ the very next moment.

(a) (i) How will you do (ii) What will you do
     (iii) What will you do (iv) How will you do
(b) (i) what to  (ii) how to
     (iii) when to (iv) why to
(c) (i) shall have (ii) should have
     (iii) could have (iv) may have
(d) (i) when will happen (ii) what will happen
     (iii) how it will happen (iv) why will it happen

10. Look at the words and phrases below. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences.

Write the correct sentences in your answer sheet.

(a) books on / there are / different / plenty of / subjects
(b) cater to / the books / the taste / of students / and need
(c) plays / in improving / the librarian / an important / part / habit / reading / the
(d) the proper / to maintaining / library / functioning of / contribute / students can / also / the

11. Read the conversation given below and complete the following paragraph that follows:

Major : Tuck your shirt in! What’s your name?
Soldier : My name is John
Major : I will be addressed as Major. And I don’t address lower ranks by their first names. What is your last name?
Soldier : My name is John Darling, Major.
Major : All right, John. Let’s talk about that shirt.
12. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each of the lines. Write the incorrect word and the correction in your answer sheet as given below against the correct blank number. Remember to underline the word you have supplied.

Correcting Passage

Pomegranate is the native of Iran. Its delicious fruit is held in high esteem as time immemorial both as fruit and medicine. The juice of the fruit is an excellent cool beverage. It also acts as a good medicine for diarrhoea. It had anti bacterial affects against plague. It is report to be effective also in TB. The seeds or juice are considered a tonic for heart and throat. The rind to contains tannic acid and is sometimes used in tanning leather.

SECTION - D

(Literature - 25 Marks)

13. A. Read the extract and answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate options.

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow by choosing the correct alternative.

I wish I'd been that much more who I'd been.
When I had more to do than fillin'
To pass up gobstoppers.
From respect to me choppers.
And to buy something else with me shillin'

1. "choppers" in the context of the poem means
   (a) axe (b) blade (c) teeth (d) knife

2. "to buy something else with me shillin shows:
   (a) regret for buying sweets
   (b) regret for not going to the dentist
   (c) regret for not spending time on brushing
   (d) regret for having fillings.

3. The rhyme scheme is:
   (a) ab bb a (b) ab a
   (c) aa bb a (d) a a ba a

B. Read the extract given below from the story 'The Man Who Knew Too Much' and answer the questions that follow:

"... for permanent cookhouse duties. I've decided that Private Quelch is just the man for the job."

Of course, it was a joke for days afterwards; a joke and a joy to all of us.

(a) Who is the speaker of the above lines?
C. Read the extract given below from the play 'The Bishop's Candlesticks' and answer the question that follow:

Why, what is the matter? You have been crying.
No, it wasn't Marie-but-but-
"Well well, you shall tell me presently! Marie, my child, run home now; your mother is better. I have prayed with her, and the doctor has been. Run home."

(a) Who is 'you'? And who is the speaker?
(b) Why was 'you' crying?
(c) Why had the speaker gone to Marie's house?

14. Answer any four of the following questions:
(a) Why has the poet called the rain "messenger of mercy"?
(b) How can you compare human life to drama?
(c) Do you think Fescud's view about best-setters is correct? Why/Why not?
(d) Harold has been portrayed as a genius unlike normal kids. Do you agree with this portrayal of Harold? Why/Why not?
(e) Why did the Bishop lie and say that he had gifted his candlesticks to the convict?

15. Answer the following in about 150 words:

Convict..."somehow you have made me feel that-that it is just as if something had come into me-as if I were a man again and not a wild beast". Comment on the statement 'Criminals need to be given the strictest punishment so that crime is wiped out,' in the context of the play 'The Bishop's Candlesticks'.

OR

Bring out the irony in the statement "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing". With regard to Private Quelch's career.