Q1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (8 Marks)

1. One day Gandhiji and Vallabhbhai Patel were talking in the Yeravda jail when Gandhiji remarked, “At times even a dead snake can be of use.” And he related the following story to illustrate his point: Once a snake entered the house of an old woman. The old woman was frightened and cried out for help. Hearing her, the neighbours rushed up and killed the snake. Then they returned to their homes. Instead of throwing the dead snake far away, the old woman flung it onto her roof.

2. Sometime later a kite flying overhead spotted the dead snake. In its beak, the kite had a pearl necklace which it had picked up from somewhere. It dropped the necklace and flew away with the dead snake. When the old woman saw a bright, shining object on her roof she pulled it down with a pole. Finding that it was a pearl necklace she danced with joy!

3. One day a bania found a snake in his house. He could not find anyone to kill it for him and had not the courage to kill it himself. Besides, he hated killing any living creature. So, he covered the snake with a pot and let it there.

4. As luck would have it, that night some thieves broke into the bania’s house. They entered the kitchen and saw the overturned pot. “Ah”, they thought, “the bania has hidden something valuable here.” As they lifted the pot, the snake struck. Having come with the object of stealing, they barely left with their lives.

5. Once he came out of jail, Gandhiji went from city to city, village to village collecting funds for the Charkha Sangh. During one of his tours, he addressed a meeting in Orissa.

6. After his speech a poor old woman got up. She was bent with age, her hair was grey and her clothes were in tatters. The volunteers tried to stop her, but she fought her way to the place where Gandhiji was sitting. “I must see him,” she insisted and going up to Gandhiji touched his feet.

7. Then from the folds of her sari, she brought out a copper coin and placed it at his feet. Gandhiji picked up the copper coin and put it away carefully.

8. The Charkha Sangh funds were under the charge of Jamnalal Bajaj. He asked Gandhi for the coin but Gandhi refused.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage given above, answer the following questions.(1 × 8 = 8)

(a) On seeing the _____ the thieves ran for their life from the bania’s house.
   (i) necklace  (ii) dead snake
   (iii) woman  (iv) snake

(b) Gandhiji went to Orissa for
   (i) a meeting  (ii) collecting funds
   (iii) the old woman  (iv) volunteer.

(c) was incharge of the Charkha Sangh funds.
Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (12 Marks)

1. The other day I received an unusual and very gratifying gift: I was given a tree or rather, I was given half-a-dozen trees which would be planted on my behalf. I had been invited to give a talk to an organization. After such events the speaker is usually given a token gift. Sometimes the gift is that of a pen, or something useful. Often, the gift is in the form of a plaque or a similar token. However well-meant, such gifts are destined to gather dust in forgotten corners. Which is why I was agreeably surprised to be given a scroll which attested that, on a designated plantation established for the purpose, trees would be added in my name as part of the ‘green’ movement sponsored by the organization.

2. In an increasingly environment conscious world, the gift of a living tree or plant makes for a perfect present. The tradition of giving and receiving gifts has increasingly become a highly evolved marketing exercise. Apart from festivals like Diwali, Holi, Christmas, Eid and others, a whole new calendar of celebration events has been created to promote the giving of gifts: Mother’s Day, Father’s day, Teacher’s day, Valentine’s Day and so on.

3. What do you give to people—friends, relatives, spouses, children, parents, employees, clients, well wishers who more or less have everything or at least everything that you could afford to give them as a gift?

4. Another box of chocolates? Another bottle of scent or after-shave? Another shirt or a kurta? Another another?

5. Thinking of unusual and pleasing presents which are also affordable is a full-time job. Like wedding planners and planners of theme parties, present planners—professionals who select and make up gift packages for you to give on occasions like marriages and corporate events—and doing increasingly good business.

6. However the best planned gifts of mine and thine go often awry. How often particularly during the so called ‘festive seasons’ when gift giving and gift receiving reach epidemic proportions—have you had the embarrassing experience of getting back as a present a gift you yourself had given to someone who, having no use for it and not realizing that it was you who had gifted it to begin with had unwittingly returned your gift to you? Like musical chairs, musical gifts only too often go round and round.

7. This is true not only at the individual but also at the level of the state. Diplomatic protocol also demands exchange of gifts according to culture and tradition. Such tokens like the numbers of crudely made miniature Taj Mahals that sarkari India has presented into the reluctant hands of foreign guests must fill entire godowns across the globe.

8. How much more preferable a living tree than a crude model of the Taj possibly made of marble
from an unauthorized quarry? If the giving of tree sapling were to be institutionalized, it could lead to another green revolution in the lucrative and growing field of gift giving, with a new, eco-friendly industry taking root in plantations and nurseries specially created for the purpose. People could feel good looking at the certificate that trees had been planted in their names. Next birthday, give someone you love a tree one day the two of you might sit under the shade of the same tree.

2.1. On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions in about 30-40 words each. (2 × 4 = 8)

(a) What was the gift? Why was it unusual and gratifying?
(b) Why is selecting a gift described as a ‘full-time job’?
(c) What does the writer mean by “However the best planned gifts of mine and thine go often awry”?
(d) What is the demand made by diplomatic protocol?

2.2. On the basis of your reading of the above passage, answer the following. (1 × 4 = 4)

(a) The synonym of ‘satisfying’ as given in para 1 is ______
   (i) gratifying  (ii) contenting  (iii) relieving  (iv) modification

(b) The synonym of ‘uncomfortable’ as given in para 6 is ______

(c) The antonym of ‘consciously’ as given in para 6 is ______
   (i) aury  (ii) particularly  (iii) embarrassing  (iv) unwittingly

(d) The antonym of ‘willing’ as given in para 7 is ______

SECTION B - WRITING & GRAMMAR (30 MARKS)

Q3. Write a letter to the Editor of a local newspaper complaining about employing minor children both boys and girls as full domestic help is a common feature, also advocating the need to stop such practice which deprives the children of their basic rights. You are Mahesh Kumar/Rajshree, A-30, Defence Colony New Delhi. (8 Marks)

OR

You are Mahesh Kumar/Rajshree a customer of Airtel Broadband. Write a letter to the Customer Care Department, Airtel regarding the poor service of Internet connection. You are a resident of A-30, Defence Colony New Delhi.

Q4. Write a complete story in about 150-200 words on the basis of the start up lines.
Rajan was never ordinary, except his circumstances. A student of class IX.... (10 Marks)

OR

Develop a story with the help of the following opening line–
Once a man named Mohanlal lived in a city. He had four sons .......

Q5. Fill in the gaps by choosing the most appropriate words from the options given below. (1 × 4 = 4)
Today we (a) ______ all familiar with the use of fingerprinting. It is a very important and is fighting crime. (b) ______ many people do not know that it was in India (c) ______ fingerprints (d) ______ first used for catching criminals. Fingerprints can be found on practically any solid surface including the human body.

(a) (i) are (ii) is (iii) were (iv) was

(b) (i) Since (ii) But (iii) And (iv) Though

(c) (i) which (ii) who (iii) that (iv) where
Q6. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction against each line of the passage.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incorrect</th>
<th>Correction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essex Farms is the famous resort.</td>
<td>e.g. the a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is located in Aurobindo Marg.</td>
<td>(a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It has the bowling alley and lots</td>
<td>(b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with games for children to play.</td>
<td>(c)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The multi cuisine restaurant add for the charm.</td>
<td>(d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This resort gives you a choice of air conditioned rooms.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q7. Rearrange the following groups of words and phrases to form meaningful sentences:  

(a) love/Indians/celebrate/to/festivals  
(b) enjoy/time/they/with/spending/families/their  
(c) exchanged/are/and/sweets/are/gifts/distributed  
(d) even/away/some/stay/people/work/from

Q8. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

Did you finish your homework. Amanda?  
Did you tidy your room. Amanda?  
I thought I told you to clean your shoes Amanda?  

(a) These lines are spoken by:  
(i) Amanda’s teacher  
(ii) Amanda’s mother  
(iii) Amanda’s grandmother  
(iv) Amanda’s father  

(b) Amanda is nagged for not:  
(i) cleaning her room  
(ii) finishing her homework  
(iii) cleaning her shoes  
(iv) All of these  

(c) The poem ‘Amanda’ is written by _____  
(d) Amanda is fed up of being scolded by her_____  

OR

Never, never and never again shall it be that this beautiful Land will again experience the oppression of one another.  
The Sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement.  
Let freedom reign. God bless Africa!  

(a) These lines are spoken by:  
(i) Nelson Mandela  
(ii) Mahatma Gandhi  
(iii) Mr. de Klerk  
(iv) Thabo Mbeki  

(b) The speaker refers to the oppression of the:  
(i) whites by the blacks  
(ii) blacks by the whites
(iii) poor by the rich
(iv) employees by the employers
(c) “The sun shall never set’ here means _____.
(d) The speaker prayed to god for _____.

Q9. Answer any five of the following questions in 30-40 words each: (2 ×5 = 10)
(a) Who received Lencho’s letter? Why did he answer it?
(b) Why was it difficult for Hari to rob Anil?
(c) ‘Horace was no ordinary thief.’ Explain.
(d) How did the young seagull’s mother teach him flying?
(e) What is the story about the origin of the people of Coorg?
(f) How did Richard Ebright excite the scientific world at the age of twenty two?

Q10. Answer any one of the following questions in about 100-150 words. (8 Marks)
How did otter behave in the beginning? How did he become familiar with the author?

OR

Mention two contrasting views regarding the end of the world as forecasted in the poem “Fire and Ice”.

Q11. Answer any one of the following questions in about 100-150 words. (8 Marks)
The course of the Loisel’s life changed due to the necklace. Comment.

OR

Anil’s large-heartedness transforms Hari singh completely. Comment.