SECTION - A READING 20 MARKS

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. [8]

Birds are natural wonders of beauty. Flying is the prerogative solely of birds. The entire universe is their home. Their mellifluous calls, queenly dance, gossamer quill and artistic sculpture make them special. India has quite a few forest reserves which are home to some rarely seen and endangered species of birds.

Located about 24km from the Chennai City Centre, Namnangalam is a massive forest sprawling across 2400 hectares, of which 320 is reserved. It is a bird watcher’s paradise and houses about 85 species of birds including the red-wattled lapwing, the white-breasted kingfisher, Indian eagle owl and several others. It is also said to be home to rare territorial orchids.

Amarambalam Reserve Forest is one of the largest reserve forests of Kerala. Situated in the Western Ghats, it covers a height ranging from 40m-2500m above sea level and sees heavy rainfall making for a thick forest cover. This forest reserve in India sees a variety of birds, some endemic to the region, and some endangered and near threatened species as well. It is also home to the Lion Tailed Macaque and the Nilgiri Tahr. The forest continues from the Silent Valley National Park and forms a part of the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

Kumarakom bird sanctuary also known as Vembanad bird sanctuary is situated in land of attraction, Kerala, near the famous Vembanad Lake. It offers a home to a large number of migratory birds like Flycatcher, Teal, Siberian Stork, Crane, Parrots and Wood Beetle. Other bird sanctuaries in Kerala are Mangalavanam and Thattekkad bird sanctuary, situated on the banks of the Periyar River and famous for some of the rarest species of birds and other unique fauna.

On the basis of your reading and understanding of the above passage, answer the following:

(i) How big is the Namnangalam forest reserve?

(ii) Where is Silent Valley National Park?

(iii) Which river flows by the Mangalavanam and the Thattekkad bird sanctuary?

(iv) The bird which is not found in the Namnangalam forest reserve is:

(a) Wood Beetle
(b) red-wattled lapwing
(c) the white-breasted kingfisher
(d) Indian eagle owl

(v) Which of the following is a migratory bird?
(a) Lion Tailed Macaque
(b) Indian eagle owl
(c) Siberian Stork
(d) The Nilgiri Tahr

(vi) The word in para 3 whose antonym is ‘Foreign’ is:
(a) home
(b) endemic
(c) national
(d) reserve

(vii) Which of the following is true about Kumarakom bird sanctuary?
(a) It is home to rare territorial orchids.
(b) It is in Chennai.
(c) Red-wattled lapwing is found here.
(d) It is famous for migratory birds.

(viii) The word ‘quill’ in para 1 can be replaced by:
(a) beaks
(b) tail
(c) feather
(d) eyes

Ans:

(i) 2400 hectares.
(ii) Kerala.
(iii) Periyar.
(iv) (a) Wood Beetle
(v) (e) Siberian Stork
(vi) (b) endemic
(vii) (d) It is famous for migratory birds.
(viii) (c) feather

2. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. [2 × 4 + 1 × 4 = 12]

The majority of children around the world have at least one sibling. The sibling relationship is likely to last longer than any other relationship in one’s lifetime and plays an integral part in the lives of families. Yet, in comparison to the wealth of studies on parent-child relationships, relatively little attention has been devoted to the role of siblings and their impact on one another’s development. In recent decades, research has focused on sibling relations in early childhood, and the shift from examining the role of structural variables (e.g., age, birth order) towards more process variables (e.g., understanding of their social worlds) has proved
to be a fruitful direction. Siblings are viewed as an integral component of family systems and as an important context for learning and development but there are a number of methodological and conceptual challenges to studying siblings from this perspective.

In early childhood, four major characteristics of sibling relations are prominent. First, sibling interactions are emotionally charged relationships defined by strong, uninhibited emotions of a positive, negative and sometimes ambivalent quality. Second, sibling relations are defined by intimacy: as youngsters spend large amounts of time playing together, they know each other very well. This long history and intimate knowledge translates into opportunities for providing emotional and instrumental support for one another, engaging in pretend play, for conflict, and for understanding others’ points of view. Third, sibling relations are characterized by large individual differences in the quality of children’s relations with one another. Fourth, the age difference between siblings often makes the issues of power and control as well as rivalry and jealousy, sources of contention for children, but also provide a context for more positive types of complementary exchanges, such as teaching, helping, and care giving interactions. Broadly speaking, the characteristics of sibling relations sometimes make them challenging for parents, because of the potentially emotional and highly charged nature of the relationship. One issue that arises due to age differences is differential parental treatment.

2.1 On the basis of your reading and understanding of the above passage, answer the following : [2×4=8]

(i) What has given a fruitful direction to the research on siblings in the recent decades?

Ans: The shift from examining the role of structural variables (e.g., age, birth order) towards more process variables (e.g., understanding of their social worlds) has given a fruitful direction to the research on siblings in the recent decades.

(ii) Which perspective of studying sibling is challenging? What kind of challenges are these?

Ans: The perspective of studying sibling as an important context for learning and development is challenging. These are methodological and conceptual challenges.

(iii) Why sibling relationship in the early childhood is important?

Ans: Sibling relationship in the early childhood translates into opportunities for providing emotional and instrumental support for one another.

(iv) Does age difference between siblings always result into rivalry? How do you know?

Ans: No, age difference between siblings doesn’t always result into rivalry because sometimes it also provides a context for more positive types of complementary exchanges, such as teaching, helping, and care giving interactions.

2.2 Answer the following questions : [1×4=4]

(v) A synonym for the word ‘context’ in para 1 is:

(a) theory  (b) viewpoint  (c) background  (d) premise

Ans: (d) premise

(vi) The word ‘ambivalent’ in para 2 means:

(a) uninhibited  (b) uncertain  (c) intimate  (d) complimentary

Ans: (b) uncertain

(vii) An antonym for the word ‘contention’ in para 2 is:

(a) harmony  (b) disagreement  (c) discord  (d) friction

Ans: (a) harmony

(viii) The expression ‘potentially emotional’ in para 2 means to

(a) be more intimate.
(b) be emotionally challenging.
(c) have a scope to be emotionally stronger.
(d) be emotionally disturbing.

Ans: (c) have a scope to be emotionally stronger.

SECTION B - WRITING & GRAMMAR
(30 MARKS)

3. Write an article on ‘How to get a healthy life?’ in 100-150 words. You are Megha/Mahesh. [8]

Ans:

How to Get A Healthy Life
By Megha/Mahesh

Health is wealth. This proverb, no matter how frequently and commonly used, will never become passe because it encapsulates the value of health. A healthy life is a blessing. We can make our life a blessing by following some simple and regular habits of having food, water and sleep.

One of the primary steps to getting a healthy life is having food on time. Skipping meals and staying hungry for a long time cause many diseases and tamper the metabolism of the body. Oily and spicy junk food caters to our taste buds but cause irreparable damage to the body. Poor digestive system, cholesterol and cardiovascular diseases are some common fallout of such consumption.

Our body is made of 75% of water. Drinking of clean water, 2 to 3 litre every day, is essential to live a healthy life. Water keeps our organs clean. It helps to get a radiant supple skin too. A sound sleep of about 7 to 8 hours a day is indispensable to get a fresh and energetic body and mind. A sound sleep fights stress. Lastly, exercise and good thoughts contribute most meaningfully towards a healthy life.
Describe a place of entertainment that you recently visited with your cousins in 100-150 words.

Ans:

An On-the-edge Experience

I had been to an amusement park recently with my cousins. This amusement park is in South Bangalore. It sprawls over a vast 30 km. It has around 60 exciting and interesting rides. What makes the park vibrant is the electrifying ambiance created by the thrill of the visitors on the rides. A volley of gastronomic options awaits at the restaurant in the park as visitors punch on snacks intermittently to refuel themselves for more rides.

One is sure to experience the on-the-edge moment during the water rides. The Drop Zone is another helluva of a ride that can squirm the bravest of hearts. As the car dropped, chorus of screams exploded into the space. Equally maverick are Y-stream, Hurricane, Insanity, Equinox, Flash Tower and Recoil. There are rides exclusively for kids. Lovers of sea can quest their thirst at the artificial sea with a lighthouse.

Wonderla is a coveted entertainment destination even for those who don’t take the rides. Spending time with friends over beverages and delicacies amidst a fair-like festive ambiance is rejuvenating for them.

Wonderla is not a weekend-gateway but a venue for small and big celebrations. The park provides basic facilities like first-aid, wheel chair, cloak room and dress changing room.

4. Write a short story based on the given outline or cue/s in about 150-200 words. [10]

Abhishek didn’t know that the day which had started with nothing unusual would soon turn out to be a turning point in his life. He was sweeping the dry leaves and freshly bloomed Gardenia that had fallen off. Suddenly, he felt as if...

Ans:

Life is a Great Leveller

Abhishek didn’t know that the day which had started with nothing unusual would soon turn out to be a turning point in his life. He was sweeping the dry leaves and freshly bloomed Gardenia that had fallen off. Suddenly, he felt as if the broom was brushing against something heavy. He thought it was just his imagination. He was a bit scared. Before going near, he called Nathu, the tea seller who made special lemon tea for the joggers. Nathu grumbled. Abhishek waited for him to come.

As they kept the broom aside, a copper-coloured box with exquisite design surfaced. After deliberating on whether to open it or not worringly, they opened the box. The first flash of the diamonds and gold inside blinded them. They were in a stupor.

Nathu told Abhishek, “I think you trust me. I will not tell anyone. Take this box. Your wife is ailing and you have huge debt on your head. You are not stealing.” Abhishek went to the police station. After a week, the hospital clerk told him that all his dues were paid. A deep voice said, “I have paid the bills.” It was Dr. Sharma. He said, “If you can give back the box full of diamonds and gold to me, can I not pay for your wife?” Abhishek was in tear as the doctor hugged him.

One Sunday afternoon, when not only your family but also the entire neighbourhood was enjoying a nap, you felt as if something was burning. Write a story on what happened that afternoon in 150-200 words with a title and a moral.

Ans:

Fire and the Sleeping Man

I was drowsy. A carefree nap after a heavy Sunday special lunch is a luxury for everyone. Everyone was already asleep not only in my house but also in the neighbourhood. A few reedy calls of some crows now and then broke the silence. I went to the porch to see if Missi was sleeping or catching butterflies in the garden. A strong burning smell dizzied me. I was sure that something was burning but I couldn’t see any fumes. I rushed to the kitchen to see everything was fine. Then I just rushed outside locking Missi inside to check everything.

I went straight to the thatch house at the back of our house where Shyam lived. The smell was strongest at the house. Shyam was sleeping as if he was unconscious and a heap of clothes at one corner was ablaze. I started calling out to my brother. Shyam reeked of alcohol. I jerked him up. I thought if I drag Shyam out and leave the hut to burn, the entire house might catch fire. My brother came and shouted, “Why haven’t you called the fire department till now?” I was stupefied at my stupidity. We dragged Shyam out before the fire fighters arrived.

Shyam had a habit of throwing the burning studs of cigar here and there in the drunken state and falling asleep.

5. Read the sentences given below and fill in the blanks by choosing the most appropriate options from the ones that follow. 1×4=4

(i) (a) nothing (b) something
(c) every (d) anything
(ii) (a) some (b) few
(c) every (d) all
(iii) (a) with (b) over
(c) since (d) for
(iv) (a) should (b) will
(c) may (d) must

Ans:

The whole human civilisation is (i) ........... but the fattest story book with unlimited pages. This book has the life story of (ii) ........... man who has walked the face of this earth. It starts from nowhere and ends at nowhere (iii) ......... as long as the human civilisation flourishes, pages after pages (iv) ........... be added to this book.

(i) (a) nothing (b) something
(c) every (d) anything
(ii) (a) some (b) few
(c) every (d) all
(iii) (a) with (b) over
(c) since (d) for
(iv) (a) should (b) will
(c) may (d) must

6. The following paragraph has not been edited. There is an error in each line. Write the error along with its correction in the space provided. 1×4=4

Fire and the Sleeping Man

I was drowsy. A carefree nap after a heavy Sunday special lunch is a luxury for everyone. Everyone was already asleep not only in my house but also in the neighbourhood. A few reedy calls of some crows now and then broke the silence. I went to the porch to see if Missi was sleeping or catching butterflies in the garden. A strong burning smell dizzied me. I was sure that something was burning but I couldn’t see any fumes. I rushed to the kitchen to see everything was fine. Then I just rushed outside locking Missi inside to check everything.

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Shyam had a habit of throwing the burning studs of cigar here and there in the drunken state and falling asleep.
Error Correction

(i) The tingling sensation and numbness in ____ ____. 
(ii) the hand are not something to be ignored ____ ____. 
(iii) for an aftermath of typing for long hours. ____ ____. 
(iv) You should be in the initial stage of Carpal Tunnel Syndrome. 

Ans:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Error</th>
<th>Correction</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(i)</td>
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<td>(ii)</td>
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<td>(iii)</td>
<td>for as</td>
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<td>(iv)</td>
<td>should may</td>
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7. Rewrite the sentences according to the given instructions. 

(i) Someone has arranged the books on the table. (Write the sentence in passive voice.)
(ii) Be careful with that flower vase. You might break it. (Join the sentences using ‘lest’)
(iii) Mohan said to me, “I have arrived today.” (Change the sentence into reported speech.)
(iv) I gifted myself some new story books yesterday. (Write the sentence in present perfect tense. Make necessary changes)

Ans:

(i) The books have been arranged on the table.
(ii) Be careful with that flower vase lest you should/might break it.
(iii) Mohan informed me that he had arrived that day.
(iv) I have gifted myself some new story books.

SECTION C - LITERATURE 

(30 MARKS)

8. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow. 

He glides through the water away from the stroke. O let him go over the water into the reeds to hide 

(i) Who does ‘He’ refer to in the given stanza ?
(ii) What is ‘He’ escaping from ?
(iii) What kind of body does ‘He’ have ?
(iv) Where is ‘He’ generally found ?

Ans:

(i) ‘He’ refers to the snake in the poem ‘The Snake Trying’.
(ii) ‘He is escaping from the stroke of the pursuing stick.
(iii) ‘He’ has a thin long body.

9. Answer any five of the following questions in 30-40 words. 

(i) Where and what did the Tibetan immigrants in Nepal sell ?
(ii) How did Santosh take to mountaineering ?
(iii) Why is the poet’s beloved at peace now ?
(iv) What did the Swallow see and hear while taking the ruby for the thirsty boys ?
(v) Everything felt surreal? Who spoke the given line? What did the speaker mean by this ?
(vi) Which program did the women in the shelter join? How did Prashant engage the children ?
(vii) What was Johnsy suffering from? Why wasn’t Johnsy recovering even after the doctor treated her every day ?

Ans:

(i) Tibetan immigrants sell felt bags, Tibetan prints and silver jewellery around the Baudhnath Stupa, the Buddhist shrine of Kathmandu.
(ii) When Santosh was in Kasturba Hostel of Maharani College in Delhi, she used to see some villagers going up the Aravalli hill and suddenly vanishing after a while. On asking them, she came to know that they were mountaineers. She asked them if she could join them. They readily agreed and motivated her to take to climbing.
(iii) The poet’s beloved is at peace now because she is a soul now. She is in deep slumber. No human fears, joy and sorrow affects her anymore. She has become a part of the earth.
(iv) While taking the ruby for the thirsty boys, he passed by the cathedral tower, where the white marble angels were sculptured. He passed by the palace and heard the sound of dancing. A beautiful girl came out on the balcony with her lover. He passed over the river, and saw the lanterns hanging on the masts of the ships.
(v) The author in the story ‘A house is not a home’ spoke the given line. The word surreal means something strange or bizarre. The author had to wear borrowed shoes. He had neither his
10. Answer any one of the questions in 100-150 words.  
Who do you think was happier – Kangaroo or Duck? Why?  
**Ans:**  
I think the Duck was happier because the Kangaroo was ready to give her a joy ride though on some small conditions which the duck had already thought about. But most importantly, the duck was happier because she was going to see the big world beyond the pond for the first time. She was excited because everything beyond the pond was new to her.  
All these days, her days started and ended in the dirty pond. She didn’t know what was there in the outside world. She was going to see the fields and the sea. Change is the tonic of life and this joy ride on the back of the Kangaroo going to be a big change for the duck. The other reason why I think the Duck was happier because it would again be a completely new experience to ride the Kangaroo’s back. As the Kangaroo would hop around the world, the duck would experience a different movement.

**or**  
How did Montmorency spoil their packing?  
**Ans:**  
Montmorency's highest ambition of life was to can squirm anywhere where he particularly is not wanted, and be a perfect nuisance, and make people mad, and have be sworn at. George, Harris and the authors that he read. Iswaran was a bit mischievous also. He scared Mahendra with his ghost stories. He always energetic and prompt at his duties. Iswaran accompanied Mahendra everywhere without any question or complain. He could turn any deserted inhhabitable place into a homely habitable place. Iswaran was an honest and resourceful man. He was always happy. He had never experienced sorrow and misery in his life. He didn’t know what tears were. But he became a beggar in his silent sacrifice to wipe the tears of the poor.

11. Answer any one of the questions in 100-150 words.  
"In fact, he is little better than a beggar!" The mayor says this on seeing The Happy Prince on a frosty morning. This statement expresses the irony of the story. Explain the irony.  
**Ans:**  
The mayor speaks the given statement when he finds the statue of the Happy Prince without its embellishment. The statue stood bare, ripped off its fineries, the pricey stones. This statement is ironical in two ways. Firstly, the value of a statue or a person is decided by its external appearance or beauty. As long as the statue of the Happy Prince was beautiful, decked up with precious stones, it was valuable. As soon as it lost its embellishment, the mayor scoffed at it. He didn’t see the Happy Prince’s innate beauty. The irony was that when he was alive, the Happy Prince had inherited his Princehood. But after his death, he became a real Prince, attained his Princehood from his sacrifice to make others life happy.

The other irony that strikes us hard is that it was the same wealthy Happy prince who was now a beggar. The Happy Prince had got his name because he was always happy. He had never experienced sorrow and misery in his life. He didn’t know what tears were. But he became a beggar in his silent sacrifice to wipe the tears of the poor.