

## Section - A

1.1.

- a) When Golconda was the capital of the Quth Shahi Kingdom, a shepherd boy came across an idol on the hill. This led to the construction of the Golconda Fort by the Kakatiya dynasty's ruler.
- b) The capture of the Golconda Fort by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb led to its destruction.
- c) Interest in the fort is kept alive by sound and light shows and beautiful <sup>and simplistic</sup> narrations of its history organized by the fort.
- d) Breathtaking means incredible / amazing.
- f) ~~e~~ Upon reaching the top of the Charminar, one may feel frightened but the view of the moving crowds is very uplifting.
- g) The Salar Jung Museum owns the biggest one-man collection of antiques in the world making it unique.

b) Apart from the antiques, one can find the Nizam's collection of textiles, arms, metalware, ivory carvings, Indian bronzes and carpets in the museum.

(i) The two main attractions of the Salar Jung Museum are the musical clock made by Cook and Kelcy of England and the Veiled Rebecca, an amazing sculpture made by the Italian sculptor, Giovanni Maria Benvenuti.

2. 2.1

a) A hobby, according to the passage is something creative one really likes to do or something one is passionate about or deeply involved with.

c) ~~b)~~ Writing was not his livelihood. Mr. X sought to use writing as a means to fulfill himself rather than use it as financial support. He relies on writing to take care of his mental and physical well being and is content with living solely on his savings.

d) His pursuit of his passion gave him fulfillment and helped him to survive many upheavals in life. It gave him a new lease of life, an opportunity to do that which he missed out on or had no time for earlier. And so, retirement became a happy phase of his life.

e) Mr. X believed that publicity would take him away from his writing and pull him into the world of the internet. He did not wish for this to happen and preferred to follow his passion instead. Thus, he was not interested in seeking publicity.

2.2

- (a) (i) savings
- (b) (iv) upheavals
- (c) (iii) passionate
- (d) (i) robust

Section - B

Please Turn over →

## Rising Prices

— Renu

There's never a busier day in the market than the day when the shops decide to have a sale. crowds of people jostle and fight for a simple item which costs not more than £10 than its original price on sale. Unbeknownst to the shopper is the cruel plan of the businessman, the crime of overpricing. Hidden under layers and layers of advertising, assurances and entrancing exhibits, the prices of simple, essential goods rises steadily. It is high time for us, the commoners, the consumers, to question the puppeteer and close down this play.

The rise in the prices of goods is apparent to all of us since the past few years. With MNCs (multi-national corporations) receiving unhinged support of the government in the name of "development" and the spread of internet and home shopping, the steady increase in prices is going unchecked. Several reports on the media and individual enquiries show popular companies making profits of shocking magnitude, an unjustifiable 200% of profit or more. Fake prices are displayed and the so-called

Sales are also a farce. The profit margin of the company remains at all time highs. This act of deceit continues to go unchecked.

The impacts of rising prices are extensive. It is not just a loss of a few small notes from your pocket, it is robbery in broad daylight of the nation. The rich businessman and those influential profit from this senseless exploitation while the middle classes and the poor continue to grow poorer. This breaks the society and give power and influence to money-minded, corrupt people and slowly starts to push the rest of us down. This is no ordinary middle class problem. It has grown to become a threat to the very democracy that keeps the nation alive.

Such unethical practices must at once, come to a stop. It is time the real beneficiaries of the nation became the ones who worked for it. The only way to control the skyrocketing prices is to question, understand and become aware as consumer and it has to be done today.

4.

A home for the kind hearted.

P. T. O

It had been a very long time since I visited the park. After an entire week of being cooped up in my room in preparation for my upcoming exams, my tired body, sick of the books and the suffocating walls, on the last day of the preparation holidays, flung itself outside the room with a sudden burst of energy. I didn't need to have much conversation to get out of the house. My father was never home and my mother who had overworked herself at the office once again, was in no mood for disagreements. And so, with a nervous churning in my stomach begging me to return to algebra, I silently walked my way to the park.

I am known to be quite the cynic. I barely find anything amusing and heart-warming. I despise the fact that my cynicism is something people want "fixed." I know for a fact that my love for history and literature will take me nowhere. Added to this is the sudden information that came glaring at me in the face as soon as the "career talk" at my school was over. I, the daydreaming, dog-loving idiotic child had not one "outside school" talents to boast. I spent all my childhood indoors, reading books, listening to

music while the rest of the Indian population spent time in competitions, and summer camps, certificates and all. Now why would any reputed institution want to take me in? Because I'm a good person? Because I'm kind hearted? Certainly not. So my question to my grandmother who wants me to expel my pessimism, "Why shouldn't I be sad when there is literally nothing to be happy about?" With all these thoughts running through my head, I almost tripped over a little something on the foot path. At first sight I couldn't make out what it was, it looked like a small, dirty clump of fur. Then I realised it was a little puppy, weak and shivering. It was thin and pale but there was something in its eyes that outshone the sun above my head, a glittering hope. I slowly picked it up and held it in my arms, it shivered violently and slowly lifted its head, too scared to raise it any higher, I wondered what this poor puppy had done to deserve such a predicament. Abandoned, scared and sick. As I slowly ran my fingers through its fur I felt its warmth. I couldn't leave it to die. Even if the world wouldn't allow it to live, even if it had nothing to give, there was perhaps some meaning for it to stay alive and healthy. And I realised the same stood true for me. When I got home with little Tabby (I'm good in

naming things quick) in my arms, I was welcomed with a weary glare from my mother. "I don't hate the puppy" my mother said defensively. "Kind creatures like that have no place in the world. Only the stealthy and strong will survive" she said with a pale face. My mother who always made sure to help poor clients at the bank she worked in never managed to move up because she never had any time to attend important gatherings or meetings where good employees would get the attention of the higher-ups. But never for a second did I feel it was a foolish thing to do. I narrated to her the story of how I found this puppy without a home, supposedly "useless" to the other passerbys. But it managed to change my mind and give me hope. "Even if the whole world gives us no place to live and flourish in" I said confidently. "This house can and always will be a home to the kind hearted" I said. My mother was pleased. I gave her the confidence, the surprising optimism to continue and with us, Tabby who was now happily lapping up the milk from a dish, found a home in everybody's hearts.

5.

- (a) ~~(i) a~~ (iii) a ✓  
 (b) (i) about ✓  
 (c) (iii) who ✓  
 (d) (ii) into

6.

Word before

Missing word

Word after

- (a) dictionary  
 (c) not  
 (d) used  
 (e) we

when

be

but

are

we

necessary

not

likely

7.

- (a) Sculptures and paintings form an essential part of the temple architecture.  
 (b) In some temples the architecture is an artistic masterpiece.  
 (c) The Konark temple is situated in the north-eastern corner of Puri.  
 (d) Every year, lakhs of people visit the Konark temple.  
 (e) This beautiful temple is dedicated to the Sun God.

## Section - C

8

- (a) The whispers would be silent tomorrow because the trees would have reached the empty forest and be out of the noise
- (b) The trees are stumbling forward to rush to the empty forest in the night with the wind
- (c) silent
- (d) The poetic device used is simile

9

- (a) The Coorgi tradition of courage and bravery is recognized in modern India as the Coorgis are the only citizens permitted to carry guns without a license. The Coorgi Regiment is one of the most decorated ones in the army. This shows that the valour of the Coorgis remains apparent in modern India.
- (b) The seagull's parents cajoled him and mocked him for not being brave enough to fly when all his siblings had managed to do the same. When the young seagull stuck to his fears and refused to fly, they threatened to starve.

him on the cliff.

- (c) Griffin who had successfully escaped from his landlord after setting his house on fire had run into a departmental store where he clothed himself and decided to take a nap. Unfortunately, Griffin was discovered by the store clerks early morning the next day, prompting him to once again leave behind all his clothes and escape naked in the chill January air.

- (e) Tricki was not suffering from any ailment in reality. In fact, the cause of his suffering was his obesity caused by Madame Pumphrey's overly luxuriant treatment. Madame Pumphrey only fed Tricki lots of sweets and other foods instead of maintaining a healthy diet for him. This caused him to grow fatter and fatter until he was so obese that he became inactive and lethargic.

10. Yes, I agree with the statement that the lady in red was cleverer than Horace Danby.

There's no denying of the fact that Horace was quite clever himself. He was quite the successful robber and very observant.

Horace only robbed the rich to buy himself expensive books and had his eyes on the Shotover bungalow for a very long time. He carefully planned his breaking in after finding out the family was out holidaying and the servants had left the keys to the house hanging after going to a movie themselves. Even the pet dog wasn't a bother for Horace who knew how to calm her down by calling her name. Even so, the lady in red smoothly outsmarted him and managed to make him the culprit in the end with a very well executed intricate plan. Upon hearing Horace sneeze because of his hay fever, she made her way ~~to~~ upstairs to the vault where he was. Dressed attractively and with the dog by her side, she was easily able to convince Horace that she was the lady of the house. She threatened to call the police and have him arrested, forcing Horace to beg and perform her a favour. Before she made him to do her favour, she quietly made him remove his gloves by asking him to light a cigar. After this sly action, she promised to let him go unscathed and uncaught if he broke open the vault for her. Her reasoning was that she had to go to a party for which she needed some jewels and had

unfortunately, forgotten the password to the safe. Horace who was very much afraid to go to prison unquestioningly broke open the safe with an assurance from the lady that she'd have it fixed later. And thus, she escaped with the jewels while making sure Horace left his imprint as the culprit. Caught in the end, Horace proved to be clever; but just not as much as the lady in red.

11. Helen Keller is a bright, courageous and intelligent woman of very high character. Her bravery and her perseverance and more importantly her honest account of her life made her one of the greatest American autobiographers and achievers of her time. All of this is made crystal clear to us in her autobiography "The Story of My Life" where she recounts various incidents of her life episodically in beautiful language. She shows the world through her achievements that people who are specially abled are just as capable, if not more, of managing to reach the greatest heights of character.

Helen as a child was a confident child with a self asserting disposition. Long before her illness took away her sight

and hearing, Helen was able to establish herself as a very strong presence in the house as noted by many of her relatives. Helen could easily say "How d'ye" by the age of six months and surprised her guests by quite plainly saying "tea, tea, tea". Helen, even after losing her sight and hearing caused by "an acute congestion of the stomach and the brain" in February after spending 19 months as a happy infant, continued with the same dominant attitude. This we come across in her recollections of Martha Washington and Belle, her earliest friends. She made it a point that they submit to her will. However this playful dominance never grew to become toxic arrogance. Helen grew to learn the language of love with the help of her teacher, Anne Sullivan.

An important feature of Helen's character is her constant need to communicate. She felt like she was surrounded by silent darkness, her legs locked in heavy chains of despair. The inability to communicate resulted in passionate outbursts of temper and frustration. This began to frequent, sometimes on an hourly basis. To overcome these frustrations Helen's parents search far and wide for a teacher, finally

finding the willing assistance of Miss Anne Sullivan. Anne Sullivan was to bring Helen into a world of knowledge, filled with light and love. Anne Sullivan's patient companionship and her intelligent method of teaching Helen all her first lessons with nature made Helen develop a keen interest to learn. The knowledge of words was so liberating for Helen and the ability to speak gave her unimaginable freedom. She describes it as being given light and direction when one is stuck like a ship in a wall of white mist.

Helen's love for nature are exemplified in her descriptions of the natural world. Even before the arrival of her teacher Anne Sullivan, Helen had an untinged love for nature. She loved to get lost in the gardens of her southern home whenever she felt angry and helpless. She'd move from hedge to hedge until she'd come upon a familiar vine. She loved the sweet fragrance of the roses that seemed to her pure and devoid of an earthy smell. With Anne Sullivan she not only finds the beauty in nature but knowledge as well. Helen's lessons as a child all breathe an earthy wood smell of the woods and carry with them the song of the birds and insects. Helen loves being outdoors.

Exploring the woods of the Fern Quarry with Hildred and her cousin, visiting Plymouth by water with her teacher, being at peace at the New York Central Park and spending a lonely time in Wrentham are all witness to this.

Helen's most admirable characters are her perseverance, her kindness and her loving, charming nature. Even with her disability and the huge upheavals that came her way, Helen bravely overcame all her obstacles and never lost hope. Her first obstacles were understanding words when they were spelled out to her. Even though she was frustrated and it took her several weeks, she never stopped trying. The devastating incident of plagiarism of a story "The Frost King" broke her heart but even so, she continued in her quest for knowledge. Passing her examinations with very few sources for studying was nerve wracking but she moved forward and passed everything fearlessly. She always tried to compete with her peers who were all much more able and privileged and she succeeded in doing so.

Helen was kind and loving as she never held any hate or contempt for anybody in her heart. She modestly

acknowledges the efforts of everybody around her in her success while never admitting on her own that her dedication and determination brought her fame. Though as a child she was jealous, Helen quickly grew to love her sister Mildred and regarded her deeply.

At last, a very important character of Helen is her amazing determination and diligence. Helen as a student studied various subjects including English literature, history, physical geography, German, Latin, French, and even advanced mathematics. There were few textbooks to go on about and very little assistance that could be given. Yet she pursued her interests tirelessly. Helen is well read in the works of many important writers and is able to comment on their work critically as well. Even without any hearing or sight, Helen was able to reach the proficiency of a scholar. This is the result of her immense hard work and dedication. Helen also shows

Helen herself to be a politically aware individual who stands against unjust acts against the poor.

All of these show us that Helen as an individual is a bright, intelligent, hardworking woman who pursued her dream

and showed the world that no matter how big an obstacle,  
anyone can conquer it, if only they have the determination  
to do so.

