
SECTION A -READING (20 MARKS)

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.

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|--------------|-----------------|
| (i) necklace | (ii) dead snake |
| (iii) woman | (iv) snake |

(b) Gandhiji went to Orissa for

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| (i) a meeting | (ii) collecting funds |
| (iii) the old woman | (iv) volunteer. |

(c) was in charge of the Charkha Sangh funds.

- (i) Jamnalal Bajaj
(iii) Vallabhbhai Patel
- (ii) Gandhiji
(iv) Volunteers

(d) The kite dropped:

- (i) a snake
(iii) a pearl necklace
- (ii) a pot
(iv) a copper coin

(e) The bania could not kill the snake because:

- (i) he was kind to living creature
(ii) he could not find anyone
(iii) he had no courage to kill it himself
(iv) all of these

(f) The thieves thought the bania had hidden something valuable:

- (i) under a stone
(iii) under a pot
- (ii) in a box
(iv) in a hole

(g) The volunteers tried to stop the poor woman from going to _____

(h) When the poor woman came to Gandhiji, Gandhiji touched her feet. (True/False)

Q2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow: (12 Marks)

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