

- Read the passage given below:

## The Perfect Dog

1. In the summer of 1967, when I was 10 years old, my father caved into my persistent pleas and took me to get my own dog. Together we drove in the family station wagon far into the Michigan countryside to a farm run by a rough-hewn woman and her ancient mother. The farm produced just one commodity—dogs. Dogs of every imaginable size and shape and age and temperament. They had only two things in common: each was a mongrel of unknown and distinct ancestry, and each was free to a good home.

2. I quickly decided the older dogs were somebody else's charity case. I immediately raced to the puppy cage. "You want to pick one that's not timid," my father coached. "Try rattling the cage and see which ones aren't afraid."

3. I grabbed the chain-link gate and yanked on it with a loud clang. The dozen or so puppies reeled backward, collapsing on top of one another in a squiggling heap of fur. Just one remained. He was gold with a white blaze on his chest, and he charged at the gate, yapping fearlessly. He jumped up and excitedly licked my fingers through the fencing. It was love at first sight.

4. I brought him home in a cardboard box and named him Shaun. He was one of those dogs that gives dogs a good name. He effortlessly mastered every command I taught him and was naturally well behaved. I could drop a crust on the floor and he would not touch it until I gave the okay.

5. Relatives would visit for the weekend and returned home determined to buy a dog of their own, so impressed were they with Shaun—or "Saint Shaun," as I came to call him. Born with the curse of an uncertain lineage, he was one of the tens of thousands of unwanted dogs in America. Yet by some stroke of almost providential good fortune, he became wanted. He came into my life and I into his—and in the process, he gave me the childhood every kid deserves.

6. The love affair lasted fourteen years, and by the time he died I was no longer the little boy who had brought him along on that summer day. I was a man, out of college and working across the state in my first real job. Saint Shaun had stayed behind when I moved on. It was where he belonged. My parents, by then retired, called to break the news to me. My mother would later tell me, "In fifty years of marriage, I've only seen your father cry twice. "The first time was when we lost Mary Ann"—my sister, who was stillborn. "The second time was the day Shaun died."

7. Saint Shaun of my childhood. He was perfect dog. At least that's how I will always remember him. It was Shaun who set the standard by which I would judge all other dogs to come.

(Marley and Me by John Grogan)

1.1 Complete the following statements:

- (a) The dog farm was run by .....
- (b) The author did not want an old dog because .....

- (c) He fell in love with the dog the moment the latter .....
- (d) Shaun became so obedient that he ..... until the author allowed him.
- (e) After visiting them their relatives wanted .....
- (f) When Shaun died even .....

1.2 Find words from the passage which mean the same as the following:

- (a) urgent request (para 1)
- (b) falling (para 3)

Solution.

1.1

- (a) a rough-hewn woman and her ancient mother
- (b) older dogs were somebody else's charity case
- (c) jumped up and excitedly licked the author's fingers through the fencing
- (d) would not touch the crust dropped on the floor
- (e) to buy a dog of their own
- (f) the author's father cried

1.2

- (a) pleas
- (b) collapsing

• Q2

Read the following passage:

It's Beginning to Bite

In these trying times, when buying ordinary food stuff can burn a hole in your pockets, comes the news that can actually help us save some hard cash when we go out to shop the next time. According to a Stanford University study, the first of its kind in the world, there is no evidence to suggest that there are more nutritional benefits from expensive organic food than those grown by conventional methods. The researchers add that there is no difference in protein and fat content between organic and conventional milk and the vitamin count is similar in both types. The only benefit is that organic foods are not contaminated with pesticides but then before you chew on the plate of organic okra with roti made from organic wheat, they are not 100% pesticide free either. In India, organic food has been growing at 20–22%

and the export market is valued at Rs. 1,000 crore. Obviously, the study is not good news for that sector and for people who are big on organic food.

In India, eating organic food is more of a style statement than due to health worries because the stuff is expensive. But people who can, do indulge in not only organic vegetables but even organic eggs laid by 'happy hens', who are allowed to roam around freely whereas 'unhappy hens' are kept in coops. Then there are companies that have installed music channels in their cowsheds and the milk from those sheds are sold at a marked up price since it has more nutritional value because the animals are happy thanks to lilting 24x7 music. We don't know yet any farmer using music to improve his crop quality, but then you never know : plants are known to respond to music.

Why such pickiness about food ? These days, the huge number of TV shows and articles that we see and read on food provide bread and butter for the specialist. But instead of decoding food, its sources and what has gone into growing it, isn't it much better to enjoy what's on the plate ?

(Adapted from The Hindustan Times)

2.1 Complete the statements given below by choosing the correct options from those that follow:

(a) According to a Stanford University study, organic food in relation to conventional food is \_\_\_\_\_.

- (i) less nutritious
- (ii) more nutritious
- (iii) very conventional
- (iv) as nutritious

(b) The study will not be welcomed by \_\_\_\_\_.

- (i) farmers of conventional food
- (ii) makers of pesticides
- (iii) all sectors
- (iv) exporters of organic food

(c) We can save some hard cash by \_\_\_\_\_.

- (i) buying organic food
- (ii) not buying organic food
- (iii) going to the shop
- (iv) not buying food with pesticides

(d) Music channels are installed in the cowshed because the \_\_\_\_\_.

- (i) cows then give more milk
- (ii) milk is sold at a higher price
- (iii) milk becomes more pure
- (iv) workers becomes happy

(e) In the second paragraph, the author's attitude to the people who eat food sourced from 'happy' animals

is that he \_\_\_\_\_.

- (i) is happy with them
- (ii) is unhappy with them
- (iii) is laughing at them
- (iv) wants crops to be grown similarly

(f) One benefit of organic food is that \_\_\_\_\_.

- (i) it is fashionable to eat
- (ii) only rich people can afford it
- (iii) it is less contaminated with pesticides
- (iv) even poor people can afford it

(g) The word 'contaminated' means \_\_\_\_\_.

- (i) adulterated
- (ii) for adults
- (iii) containing
- (iv) not healthy

Solution:

2.1

(a) (iv) as nutritious

(b) (iv) exporters of organic food

(c) (ii) not buying organic food

(d) (ii) milk is sold at a higher price

(e) (iii) is laughing at them

(f) (iii) it is less contaminated with pesticides

(g) (i) adulterated

• Q3

Imagine you are Gitika. Read the following conversation and write a suitable message for your mother in 50-60 words.

Ankita : Hi, didi ! I'm Ankita on the line. Is aunty at home?

Gitika : No, she has gone to visit my grandparents. Is there any problem?

Ankita : No, I just wanted to inform her that we have a special havan tomorrow at 9 a.m. at our place. My

mother has specially invited all of you.

Gitika : Okay, Thanks ! I'll inform her and we will definitely come. \_

Solution:

MESSAGE  
March 7, 2014  
1 p.m.

Dear mom,

Ankita called when you were at grandma's house. On behalf of her mother, she invited all of us to a special havan at their place at 9 a.m. tomorrow. I promised her that we would definitely attend the function.

Gitika

• Q4

Your maid has 4 children – 3 daughters and 1 son. All her daughters work as maids to earn money, while the son goes to a school and gets everything he desires. You feel pity for the girls and sad at the way our society treats girls. Write a diary entry in 50–60 words. \_

Solution:

Friday, 7 March 2014  
10 a.m.

Dear diary,

I just came to know that our maid has three daughters, all of whom are deprived of education. Such is the plight of women in our country! I feel so sorry for them. It pains me to live in a country where women's education is considered unnecessary. I wonder whether this mindset will ever change. I can only hope for the best!

XYZ

• Q5

Last year your school appointed a new T.G.T. who came to teach you English in class 9. You are very impressed with her. Write a description of your T.G.T. (English) in about 100 words. You may use the clues given below:

- qualification, college/university
- personality
- attitude towards students
- manner of teaching
- problem solving

- course punctuality
- weak students\_

Solution:

My Favourite Teacher

Our English teacher, Mrs. Rita Raman is one of the best teachers that I have ever come across. She graduated from Hindu College and then secured her B.Ed. degree from the University of Delhi. She is very friendly and charming. Her classes are extremely interesting. Instead of giving a monotonous lecture, she allows the students to speak and share their views. The students are never afraid to approach her. The best thing about Mrs. Raman is her punctuality. She never fails to complete the syllabus on time. Mrs. Raman gives special attention to the weaker students and motivates them to work hard. She is indeed a wonderful person.

- Q6

Your city was inundated by the recent rains causing extensive water logging, traffic snarls and ugly jams. The life of the common man was completely disrupted. You have decided to write an email to the editor of a local daily describing the condition of the city. Make suggestions for improvement. As Renu/Rohit, write this email in 120-150 words.\_

Solution:

From: renu@kmail.com

To: editor@toi.com

Date: 7 March 2014

Subject: Water logging in the city due to rains

Sir,

I am a regular reader of your national daily and wish to utilise its columns to highlight the problem of water logging and traffic jams in the city caused due to the recent rains.

The life of the common man was completely disrupted as local transport services were disrupted. Many vehicles were submerged as the drainage system in the city is poor. Plastic and other waste clog the drains, the slope of the roads is incorrect and there are not enough flyovers to bypass the submerged roads. The authorities need to improve the drainage system, resurface the roads and make more flyovers to improve the conditions. An alternate transport system, like Delhi's underground Metro railway, needs to be started.

I hope that the concerned authorities will take appropriate action promptly.

Yours sincerely,

Renu

- Q7

You are Amit/Anita, Head Boy/Head Girl of your school. You have been asked by your principal to deliver a speech in the morning assembly on 'Importance of Punctuality in a student's life'. Write your speech in about 120 words.

Solution:

### Importance of Punctuality in a Student's Life

Good morning, dear friends and teachers! Today, I shall throw some light on the importance of punctuality in a student's life.

A student has to gain knowledge, learn new skills, and finally prove what he has learnt in the various assessments. Time is of importance as assignments are to be submitted and projects are to be done in a particular time frame. Only if the child is punctual in getting to school and attending his classes, will he learn all that the school curriculum has to offer.

Regular study and revision will keep him up-to-date with his work and preparation for exams. As a good time-manager, he will also be able to attend extra classes as well as hobby classes. Moreover, he will certainly be able to take out time for play and recreation.

We all know that time and tide wait for none. So, we need to be punctual and extract the maximum from each moment of our student life!

Thank you

#### • Q8

Complete the paragraph given below by filling in each of the blanks with the help of the options that follow:

The butter (a) \_\_\_\_\_ melted. Onions and vegetables are (b) \_\_\_\_\_ in it for 3 minutes. Flour and stock are added. It is brought to a boil while (c) \_\_\_\_\_ continuously.

- (a) (i) be    (ii) is    (iii) are    (iv) being  
(b) (i) fried    (ii) fry    (iii) fries    (iv) frying  
(c) (i) stir    (ii) stirring    (iii) stirs    (iv) stirred

Solution:

(a) (ii) is

(b) (i) fried

(c) (ii) stirring

#### • Q9

Complete the news items given below by choosing the correct options from those that follow.

(a) 15-year-old Ram \_\_\_\_\_ against robbers last night.

- (i) fights single-handedly
- (ii) fought single-handed
- (iii) will fight single-handed
- (iv) has fought single-handed

(b) Delhi High Court \_\_\_\_\_ kite flying in urban areas is illegal.

- (i) declaring that
- (ii) has declared that
- (iii) declares that
- (iv) will declare that

(c) A killer whale thrashed a trainer killing him \_\_\_\_\_ a shocked crowd.

- (i) at front of
- (ii) in view off
- (iii) at the back of
- (iv) in front of

Solution:

(a) (ii) fought single-handed

(b) (iii) declares that

(c) (iv) in front of

• Q10

Rearrange the following words and phrases to form meaningful sentences.

(a) one of / that of reading / known to / is / greatest / the / pleasures / man /

(b) a rich variety / adventure and wisdom / the / world of books / has / of /

(c) own / you / book / convenience / can enjoy / a / at your / \_

Solution:

(a) One of the greatest pleasures known to man is that of reading.

(b) The world of books has a rich variety of adventure and wisdom.

(c) You can enjoy a book at your own convenience.

• Q11

In the passage given below, one word has been omitted in each marked line. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and the word that comes after it. Ensure that the word that forms your

answer is underlined. The first one is done as an example.

Kite flying was a popular sport at that time      e.g. sport      at      that  
and while the girls knitted and sewed  
we boys climbed over the roofs enter      (a) \_\_\_\_\_  
the competition. We limited pocket-money      (b) \_\_\_\_\_  
and was not enough to buy all the      (c) \_\_\_\_\_  
material needed to make our kites.

Solution.

Kite flying was a popular sport at that time      e.g. sport      at      that  
and while the girls knitted and sewed  
we boys climbed over the roofs enter      (a) roofs to enter  
the competition. We limited pocket-money      (b) we had limited  
and was not enough to buy all the      (c) and that was  
material needed to make our kites.

• Q12

Read the conversation given below and complete the paragraph that follows.

Jatin : Will you come with me to watch a movie tonight?

David : I would have but I need to finish my English homework.

Jatin : Then I shall ask Ravi.

Jatin asked David if he would (a) \_\_\_\_\_. David replied that he would have but (b) \_\_\_\_\_ . Jatin then said (c) \_\_\_\_\_ .

Solution.

(a) go with him to watch a movie that night

(b) he needed to finish his English homework

(c) that he should ask Ravi

• Q13

(a) Read the extract given below and answer briefly the questions that follow:

He holds him with his skinny hand,  
"There was a ship," quoth he.

(i) Who does 'He' refer to in the above extract?

- (ii) What do we know about the speaker's feelings?
- (iii) Why is his hand called 'skinny'?

(b) Read the extract given below and answer briefly the questions that follow:

It all started a month ago. Dad and I had spent the entire Saturday afternoon at the Computer Fair.

- (i) Who does 'I' in the extract refer to?
- (ii) What started a month ago?
- (iii) What does the speaker have a keen interest in?

(c) Read the extract given below and answer briefly the questions that follow:

Good countrymen, let me depart alone,  
And, for my sake, stay here with Antony.

- (i) Identify the speaker of the above lines.
- (ii) When and where were the above lines spoken?
- (iii) Bring out the irony in the above extract.

Solution:

**(a)**

(i) 'He' refers to the mariner in 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner.'

(ii) The speaker is eager to tell his story to the wedding guest.

(ii) His hand is called skinny because the mariner is an old man.

**(b)**

(i) 'I' refers to Michael.

(ii) The whole story of Michael meeting Sebastian started a month ago.

(iii) The speaker has a keen interest in computers and computer games.

**(c)**

(i) The speaker of the above lines is Brutus.

(ii) The above lines were spoken when Brutus was speaking at Caesar's funeral. As Brutus was about to step out of the pulpit, he spoke these words.

(iii) It is ironical that Brutus tells the citizens to listen to Antony for Brutus' sake because it was Brutus who had a hand in Caesar's murder and Antony took Caesar's revenge by unearthing Brutus's conspiracy.

- **Q14**

Answer any **two** of the following questions in 30–40 words each.

(a) Why did John's wife get angry with him? What did she decide to do?

(b) Why did the poet throw the log at the snake?

(c) How did nature foretell Caesar's death?\_

Solution:

(a) John's wife got angry with him because she thought that he was having an affair with someone named Helen and was hiding it from her. She felt betrayed after what happened in the Ouija Board party. She decided to leave John and go back to her grandmother. She told John that she was going away and her lawyer would communicate with him later.

(b) On realising that the snake was about to recede as he turned his back, the poet hit him with a log in protest. The snake had mesmerised the poet with his beauty and so the poet did not want him to return to "that horrid black hole."

(c) Nature foretold Caesar's death by showing some bad omens. There was thunder and lightning at the backdrop while Caesar's wife cried out in her sleep thrice saying "Help ho! They murder Caesar!" Caesar's wife saw a lioness running in the street, dead rising out of the graves, warriors fighting upon the clouds and the Capitol covered with blood. Another bad omen was that when the priests searched the entrails of an animal for sacrifice as asked by Caesar, they found the heart missing.

- **Q15**

Now let it work. Mischief thou art afoot.

Take thou what course thou wilt!

Antony seeks justice by getting the mob to kill the conspirators. But to correct a wrong, one cannot commit another wrong. Write a speech for the school assembly on – the ends do not justify the means. (120–150 words)\_

Solution:

The Ends do not Justify the Means

A very good morning to all of you. Today, I am going to say a few words on the topic 'Ends do not justify the means.'

We all are so engrossed in achieving our goals that we hardly stop to think about the means that we use for achieving them. Until and unless the road to success is fair and proper, the end is not proper either.

Students often resort to unfair means during exams in order to score good marks. But don't you think an honest zero is better than a dishonest hundred? It may also happen that if we resort to one wrong, we might end up committing many others just to rectify the first.

I would like to end my speech by reminding all my friends that we must be careful of the means that we take to our goals.

Thank you.

- Q16

**Attempt either Part (A) or Part (B)**

Answer the following questions in 120–150 words.

**Part (A)**

How did the air raids disrupt the Dutch public life?

**Part (B)**

Describe the progress made by Helen Keller during the two years she spent at Wright–Humason School for the Deaf in New York city.

Solution.

**Part A**

In Anne's account, we get a picture of the unforeseen misery unleashed upon the Dutch people due to the air raids. The common occurrences during that time were that of frightened women, trembling houses, raging epidemics and people relentlessly stalked by hunger. People would have to stand in line to buy vegetables and all kinds of goods, doctors could not visit their patients and automobiles were stolen. Burglaries and thefts had become quite common. Little children smashed windows of people's homes and stole whatever they could get their hands on. People did not dare to leave the house even for five minutes since they were liable to come back and find all their belongings gone. Newspapers were filled with reward notices for the return of stolen typewriters, Persian rugs, electric clocks, fabrics and so on. The electric clocks on street corners were dismantled, public phones stripped down to the last wire. Morale among the Dutch was low and everyone was going hungry. A week's food ration did not last for more than two days unless it was ersatz coffee. Men were shipped off to Germany, children were sick or undernourished and everyone wore their worn-out clothes and run-down shoes. Commodities were expensive even on the black market.

**Part B**

At the Wright–Humason School for the Deaf in New York City, Helen's progress in lip-reading and speech were far below her own expectations and that of her teachers. Helen aimed to speak like other people and her teachers also believed that she could accomplish the task but she did not quite reach her goal. She worked hard with sincerity but Helen conjectured that she probably aimed too high and therefore,

disappointment was inevitable. She still regarded arithmetic as a system of pitfalls and indulged in guesswork. When she was not guessing answers, she would jump to conclusions and this process aggravated her difficulties more than their fair share. Though these disappointments plagued her, she pursued her other studies with unflagging interest and began to enjoy studying physical geography. It brought her so much delight that it led her to consider those two years spent in New York to be one of genuine pleasures.

- Q17

**Attempt either Part (A) or Part (B)**

Answer the following questions in 120–150 words.

**Part (A)**

Attempt a character sketch of Anne Frank.

**Or**

Attempt a character sketch of Otto Frank, Anne's father.

**Part (B)**

Attempt a character sketch of Mr. Gilman as a teacher.

**Or**

It was her determination that helped Helen Keller get admission to Radcliffe College. Comment. \_

Solution:

**Part A**

Anne Frank is the young writer of *The Diary of a Young Girl*. She emerges as a playful yet introspective teen forced to live under extraordinary and trying conditions. Over the course of *The Diary*, Anne seems to grow from an impudent and stubborn girl into an emotionally independent young woman.

Despite having a loving family and several friends, Anne is unable to share her thoughts with any of them. Instead, she turns to her diary for this purpose. She has a troubled relationship with her mother who she believes falls short of her ideal mother. She is close to her father. But, in her mind, even he fails to provide her the emotional comfort she seeks. She has a rebellious spirit, desires to be treated as an adult and hopes to make a name for herself in the world.

Accounts of Jewish suffering anguish Anne to the point of remorse at her own good fortune. Nevertheless, she holds on to her ideals of honesty, hard work and self-improvement, and her trust that humans are essentially good.

**Or**

Otto Frank was Anne's father. He had a remarkable presence of mind and fiercely protective instinct about his family; he was a reassuring and thoughtful figure in their lives. Anne portrayed her father

affectionately in The Diary, referring to him as the 'most adorable father'. She considered him to be the driving presence in her life but somehow he fell short of the ideal that she had envisaged for him. However, he took a genuine interest in his daughters' lives and education, being an anchor of support for them and setting an example of being normal and optimistic even under the most extraordinary circumstances.

Otto Frank was a man of frugal means, always putting the needs of others before him. A levelheaded man, he exhibited considerable tact and patience in the secret annex taking tough decisions and being respectful towards everyone around him, irrespective of their age.

## **Part B**

Mr. Gilman was the principal of the Cambridge School for Young Ladies. Apart from Frau Grote, he was the only teacher who had learned the finger alphabet to instruct Helen in her studies. Mr. Gilman instructed her for a part of the year in English literature. Mr. Gilman's broad views on history and literature and his clever explanations made Helen's work easier and more pleasant. Mr. Gilman read all the papers to her by means of the manual alphabet. He sat beside her and read the examination papers sentence by sentence. He spelled out to her what she had written so that she could make the necessary changes. Mr. Gilman was the person who sent her written work to the examiners with the certificate that Helen, candidate No.233 had written the papers. However, he thought that Helen was overworked even though Miss Sullivan believed otherwise. In the end, Helen's mother withdrew her from the school due to a difference of opinion between the two teachers. Mr. Gilman had helped Helen but he underestimated her potential for hard work.

## **Or**

The road to gain admission to Radcliffe College was fraught with insurmountable difficulties, but it was Helen's hope and determination to succeed at all costs that helped smoothen the road. She was confronted with unforeseen difficulties from not having many books embossed in time to begin the classes and lacking important apparatus for some of her studies to the problems regarding special instruction in the classroom. Even Miss Sullivan seemed to fall short in helping her with all the resources required for her preparation. As she says, every study had its obstacles and sometimes she would lose all courage and betray her feelings. But the difficulties began to disappear and she launched forth with renewed confidence. Although her work was painfully slow and she had to read the examples over and over again, she does not blame anyone for the obstacles that the examinations posed in her path. She had the consolation of knowing that she overcame all her difficulties with aplomb.