SECTION - A (READING)

1. Too many parents these days can't say no. As a result, they find themselves raising ‘children' who respond greedily to the advertisements aimed right at them. Even getting what they want doesn't satisfy some kids; they only want more. Now, a growing number of psychologists, educators and parents think it's time to stop the madness and start teaching kids about what's really important : values like hard work, contentment, honesty and compassion. The struggle to set limits has never been tougher - and the stakes have never been higher. One recent study of adults who were overindulged as children, paints a discouraging picture of their future : when given too much too soon, they grow up to be adults who have difficulty coping with life's disappointments. They also have distorted sense of entitlement that gets in the way of success in the workplace and in relationships.

2. Psychologists say that parents who overindulge their kids, set them up to be more vulnerable to future anxiety and depression. Today's parents themselves raised on values of thrift and self-sacrifice, grew up in a culture where no was a household word. Today's kids want much more, partly because there is so much more to want. The oldest members of this generation were born in the late 1980s, just as PCs and video games were making their assault on the family room. They think of MP3 players and flat screen TV as essential utilities, and they have developed strategies to get them. One survey of teenagers found that when they crave for something new, most expect to ask nine times before their parents give in. By every measure, parents are shelling out record amounts. In the heat of this buying blitz, even parents who desperately need to say no find themselves reaching for their credit cards.

3. Today's parents aren't equipped to deal with the problem. Many of them, raised in the 1960s and '70s, swore they'd act differently from their parents and have closer relationships with their own children. Many even wear the same designer clothes as their kids and listen to the same music. And they work more hours; at the end of a long week, it's tempting to buy peace with 'yes' and not mar precious family time with conflict. Anxiety about future is another factor. How do well intentioned parents say no to all the sports gear and arts and language lessons they believe will help their kids thrive in an increasingly competitive world ? Experts agree : too much love won't spoil a child. Too few limits will.

4. What parents need to find, is a balance between the advantages of an affluent society and the critical life lessons that come from waiting, saving and working hard to achieve goals. That search for balance has to start early. Children need limits on their behaviour because they feel better and more secure when they live within a secured structure. Older children learn self-control by watching how others, especially parents act. Learning how to overcome challenges is essential to becoming a successful adult. Few parents ask kids to do chores. They think their kids are already overburdened by social and academic pressures. Every individual can be of service to others, and life has meaning beyond one's own immediate happiness. That means parents eager to teach values have to take a long, hard look at their own.

Answer the following :

1. What values do parents and teachers want children to learn ?
   Ans: Parents and teachers want children to learn the values like hard work, contentment, honesty and compassion which are more important to be successful in life.

2. What are the results of giving the children too much too soon ?
   Ans: Children when given too much face difficulty in coping with life's disappointments as adults. They also develop a distorted sense of entitlement that hampers their success in the workplace as well as relationships.

3. Why do today's children want more ?
   Ans: Today's children want more as there are a lot of new inventions & brands being launched in the markets. Purchasing power of parents has also increased and they are easily giving in to the demands of their children.

4. What is the balance which the parents need to have in today's world ?
   Ans: In today's world, parents need to develop a balance between the advantages of an affluent society & the critical life lessons that come from waiting, saving & working hard to achieve goals. There should also be a balance between holding their ground and saying yes to the demands of their children as well as imposing limits on their children's behavior.
(5) What is the necessity to set limits for children?

**Ans.5:** Children feel better & more secure when they live within a secured structure. Moreover it is also essential to learn how to overcome challenges to be a successful adult and to learn the value of self control.

(b) Pick out words from the passage that mean the same as the following:

b(1) a feeling of satisfaction (para 1)  
Ans(1): Contentment

b(2) valuable (para 3)  
Ans(2): Precious

b(3) important (para 4)  
Ans(3): essential

**Q2. Read the passage carefully.**

1) I remember my childhood as being generally happy and can recall experiencing some of the most carefree times of my life. But I can also remember, even more vividly, moments of being deeply frightened. As a child, I was truly terrified of the dark and getting lost. These fears were very real and caused me some extremely uncomfortable moments.

2) Maybe it was the strange way things looked and sounded in my familiar room at night that scared me so much. There was never total darkness, but a street light or passing car lights made clothes hinging over a chair take on the shape of an unknown beast. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw curtains move when there was no breeze. A tiny creak in the floor would sound a hundred times louder than in the daylight and my imagination would take over, creating burglars and monsters. Darkness always made me feel helpless. My heart would pound and I would lie very still so that 'the enemy' wouldn't discover me.

3) Another childhood fear of mine was that I would get lost, especially on the way home from school. Every morning, I got on the school bus right near my home - that was no problem. After school, though, when all the buses were lined up along the curve, I was terrified that I would get on the wrong one and be taken to some unfamiliar neighbourhood. I would scan the bus for the faces of my friends, make sure that the bus driver was the same one that had been there in the morning, and even then ask the others over and over again to be sure I was in the right bus. On school or family trips to an amusement park or a museum, I wouldn't let the leaders out of my sight. And of course, I was never very adventurous when it came to taking walks or hikes because I would go only where I was sure I would never get lost.

4) Perhaps, one of the worst fears I had as a child was that of not being liked or accepted by others. First of all, I was quite shy. Secondly, I worried constantly about my looks, thinking people wouldn't like me because I was too fat or wore braces. I tried to wear 'the right clothes' and had intense arguments with my mother over the importance of wearing flats instead of saddled shoes to school. Being popular was very important to me then and the fear of not being liked was a powerful one.

5) One of the processes of evolving from a child to an adult is being able to recognize and overcome our fears. I have learnt that darkness does not have to take on a life of its own, that others can help me when I am lost and that friendship and sincerity will encourage people to like me. Understanding the things that scared us as children helps to cope with our lives as adults.

a). On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary.

**SOLUTION:**

(a) 1). Childhood memories
   1.1. happy & carefree
   1.2. terrified of darkness & getting lost

b). Make a summary of the passage in not more than 80 words using the notes made and also suggest a suitable title.

**SOLUTION:**

2). Childhood fears
2.1. Feeling helpless in dark
   2.1.1 Strange shadows an- unknown beasts
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.1.2. Moving curtains</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1.3. Creaking sounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.4. Imagining burglars &amp; monsters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1.5. Lying still, with pounding heart</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.2. Fear of getting lost (on way home)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.2.1. Scanning school buses familiar faces, same driver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.2. re-confirming the bus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.3. Not letting leaders out of sight</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.4. Avoiding adventurous act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2.5. Going with surety of not being lost</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2.3. Fear of not being liked</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.3.1. Quite shy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.2. Worried about looks fat, wore braces, clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.3. Wearing right clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.4. Flat vs. saddled shoes for school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3.5. Imp. of popularity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Coping with childhood fears as an adult
   3.1. Undg. evolution process child to adult
   3.2. Recognising & overcoming fears
   3.3. Accepting help from others
   3.4. Role of friendliness & sincerity
   3.5. Undg. things that scared

List of abbreviations used
1. & - and
2. act.- activities
3. vs.- versus
4. imp.- importance
5. undg.- understanding

My childhood was generally happy and had carefree moments. However, darkness scared me with its shadows, curtains and creaking sounds. It made me feel helpless and I used to lie still, with a pounding heart. When I was in my school bus, I scanned it for familiar faces. I was shy and afraid of not being liked by others. As I evolved as an adult, understanding things that scared us as a child help in coping with life.

Q.3 An interschool Kabaddi Competition is organized by your school. Write a notice, in not more than 50 words, requesting the students to be present at the venue to encourage the players. Invent all the necessary details. You are Arjun, the sports captain of your school.

**SOLUTION:**
XYZ SCHOOL, Delhi

NOTICE

INTERSCHOOL KABADDI COMPETITION

February 11, 2015

An interschool kabaddi competition will be held on Saturday February 20, 2015 from 9 a.m. in the school playground. All the students are requested to be present at the venue to cheer and encourage the participants.

Please note that water bottles and eatables will not be allowed.

For any query, contact the undersigned.

Arjun
Sports captain
XYZ School, Delhi

OR

You possess an acre of land in the heart of the city. You want to dispose of this property since you have decided to buy a flat. Write an advertisement to be published in a national daily, giving all the necessary details. You are Krishan of Moti Nagar, Delhi.

Solution:

LAND FOR SALE

Available for sale an acre plot, in the heart of the city, 30 ft road, plush green surroundings and posh colony, Most suitable for building residential flats. 1.5 km from metro station. Government approved. Price negotiable.

Contact: Krishan, D1 Moti Nagar, Delhi

Mobile: 9999999999
Q4. Incessant rain has caused irrecoverable damage in your area. As an active participant in the flood relief programme, write a report in 125-150 words on the different flood relief measures carried out. You are Krishan/Krishna.

4) Solution:

FLOOD RELIEF PROGRAMME

Krishna
Class XII, ABC School
March 1, 2014

The incessant rain for the last four days has caused a vast damage in XYZ area. Irrecoverable damage has been caused to the properties in low lying areas. The seriousness of the situation can be imagined by the blocked roads, fallen trees, flooding of low level houses, and power failure since last 4 days. A flood relief programme was organised by an NGO on 28 February to aid the victims. Everyone came forward to make generous contributions. The donations were made in the form of requirements. We distributed the donations among the victims. The Chief Minister too has announced a Relief Fund for the victims. Local people and volunteers also helped in moving the victims to the relief camps, set up on the outskirts of the city.

OR

You have visited a book exhibition in your neighbourhood. Write a report in 125 – 150 words on the exhibition. You are Rohan/Rohini.

Solution:

BOOK EXHIBITION

Rohan
14, Nehru Nagar, Delhi
February 27, 2014

The Residents Welfare Association of Nehru Nagar organized the Fifth Book Exhibition in the common ground. The exhibition started on February 25, 2014 and attracted over five thousand book lovers from all over Delhi in the fair. Books written by well-known writers were on display. The book stalls were systematically arranged & there were discounts on some children's books. People were excited to get access to some of the rare books as well as the presence of the renowned writer and novelist Chetan Bhagat.

Q5. You are the librarian of Amla Public School. You had placed an order for text books with Dhanpati & Sons. Since the books did not arrive on time, you have decided to cancel the order. Write a letter to the Manager, Dhanpati & Sons, Chennai, cancelling the order.(125-150 words)

5) SOLUTION:

Amla Public School
New Delhi-110018

March 3, 2014

The Manager
Dhanpati & Sons
Chennai

Subject: Cancellation of order number 23XC543

Sir,

This letter has reference to order number 23XC543 placed with your publishing house on January 31, 2014. Dispatch of the books ordered by our school was promised by your
Your company has not kept up its end of the deal. Therefore, we are cancelling the order. Kindly reimburse the money in the school account at the earliest.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely,
PQR
Librarian

OR

You are interested in doing a short-term course in computer graphics during your holidays. Write a letter to the Director, Easy Computers, enquiring about their short-term courses and asking for all the necessary details. You are Naresh/Nandini.

SOLUTION:

Easy Computers
New Delhi-110032

Subject: Request for providing the details of the short-term courses

Sir,

I came across an advertisement about your institute in today's newspaper. I would like to know about the short-term courses running in your institute.

I am a class XII student and wish to pursue a course in Computer Programming/Computer Graphics. Kindly mail me the details of all short-term courses, along with their duration & fee structure at the earliest.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours faithfully,
Nandini

Q. 6. You are Rajendra Kumar, a social worker. You read an article in The Hindu on 'Health Care for Indian Workers'. Write a speech in 125-150 words on the importance of health care to be delivered at a public function to create awareness among the workers.

6) SOLUTION:

HEALTH CARE FOR INDIAN WORKERS

Good morning to all. Recently, I read an article in The Hindu on 'Health Care for Indian Workers'. Write a speech in 125-150 words on the importance of health care to be delivered at a public function to create awareness among the workers.

Often, the workers work in inhuman conditions, neglecting their health. The authorities must ensure proper medical facilities to these people. It is the responsibility of the government to provide affordable healthcare services to them. The workers should be taught the importance of cleanliness and hygiene. Many non-governmental organizations have started raising awareness about health and hygiene.

These workers play a major role in our life. We must understand and appreciate their contribution to the society and look after their health conditions, which is their right.

Together, as responsible citizens, we should try to make their lives as healthy as ours.
OR

Media has a strong hold on society. Write a speech in 125-150 words on how media influences public opinion to be delivered in school assembly.

IMPACT OF MEDIA

Good morning to all. Today, I stand here to voice my concerns on how media influences public opinion. Media is a powerful weapon in any democracy. It keeps people abreast with the recent changes and also helps them understand these developments and build their opinion about the same. With the development of mass communication, the influence of media has increased. Consequently, its responsibility of delivering the information to the people has also increased as people blindly believe on whatever either print or electronic media tells them. Our media showcase both the facets of a piece of information; therefore, it should work towards helping the common man in their development.

Thus, one can clearly say that it is the responsibility of media and the media personnel to ensure the build-up of a constructive and balanced society and nation.

Q.7. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

All lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink.
Pouring unto us from the heaven’s brink.

a). Name the poem and the poet
Ans (a): The given lines are from the poem 'A Thing of Beauty' by John Keats.
b). What is the thing of beauty mentioned in these lines?
Ans (b): The things of beauty mentioned in the given lines are the lovely tales of Mighty Men.
c). What image does the poet use in these lines?
Ans (c): The poet uses the image of ‘an endless fountain of immortal drink’ to describe the fountain. It gives us numerous beautiful sights like the sun, the moon, flowers, rivers and greenery.

OR

With ships and sun and love tempting them to steal...
For lives that slyly turn in their cramped holes
From fog to endless night?

a). Who are 'them' referred to in the first line?
Ans (a): The word 'them' refers to the children of elementary school classroom in a slum.
b). What tempts them?
Ans (b): The ships, sun, love and the beautiful world outside the slum tempts them.
c). What does the poet say about 'their' lives?
Ans (c): According to the poet, these children spend their whole life in miserable conditions. They live in cramped holes, where there is no hope for the future. They look like skeletons, comprising only bones.

Q.8. Answer any two of the following questions in about 30-40 words:

a).How does Kamla Das try to put away the thoughts of her ageing mother?
Ans (a): Troubled with the thoughts of her ageing mother, Kamala Das tries to console herself by looking out of the car window at young trees sprinting and the merry children, full of life, running out of their homes.
b). Which is the exotic moment that the poet refers to in “Keeping Quiet”?
Ans (b): The poet talks about the exotic moment when everyone keeps quiet and still; there is a moment of introspection taking a break from all types of violence and war mongering. Although it may seem a little strange in the beginning, but it will eventually foster understanding with each other.

c). What are the difficulties that Aunt Jennifer faced in her life?
Ans (c): Aunt Jennifer lived her life in accordance with the rules laid down by her husband. Her marriage was not successful. There were a lot of constraints on her as her husband was dominating and authoritarian. Although old and weak, she had to face much oppression in her life.

Q.9 Answer any six of the following questions in 30-40 words:
a). Why did Gandhiji feel that taking the Champaran case to the court was useless?
Ans (a): According to Gandhiji, peasants were crushed and fear-stricken. The law courts were useless and the lawyers were charging huge fees from poor peasants and there was a little hope of getting justice as the case was against the British landlords.

b). Why did the peddler derive pleasure from his idea of the world as a rattrap?
Ans (b): The peddler was amused by the idea of the world being a giant rattrap because the world had never been very kind to him. The world existed for only one purpose - to set baits for people. It offered riches and joys, shelter and food, heat and clothing, exactly as the rat-trap offered cheese and pork and as soon as anyone felt tempted to touch the bait, it closed in on him, bringing everything to an end.

c). How is Mukesh different from the other bangle makers of Firozabad?
Ans (c): Unlike other bangle-makers of Firozabad, Mukesh dares to dream of becoming a motor mechanic and drive cars. He insists on being his own master and refuses to carry on the family tradition of bangle-making. He was determined and focused to achieve his dreams.

d). What tempted Franz to stay away from school?
Ans (d): Franz was late for school and had not prepared for the test on participles. He was afraid of scolding from the teacher. Moreover, it was a warm and bright day and the birds were chirping at the edge of the woods. Prussian soldiers were drilling in the open field at the back of the saw mill. So the outdoors seemed more tempting than going to school.

e). Why did the maharaja ban tiger hunting in the state?
Ans (e): Maharaja didn’t want anyone to hunt the tigers. He had only a limited population of tigers in his kingdom and he wanted to prove wrong the State astrologer's prediction by hunting 100 tigers to fulfill his vow.

f). How was the skunk's story different from the other stories narrated by Jack?
Ans (f): Usually, the stories told by Jack were taken well by Jo. She had not much interrupted the narration earlier. But she was not satisfied with this ending. Jack wanted to prove through this story that parents always know what is right. It is the only story in which the animal visited the wizard twice and the ending of the story remained unresolved.

g). Which words of her brother made a deep impression on Bama?
Ans (g): Bama's elder brother told her that they were born into a community of untouchables. So they were never given honour or dignity and if they studied and made progress, they could throw away those indignities. He asked Bama to study with care and learn all she could. If she was always ahead in her lessons then others would come to her of their own accord.
Q. 10. Answer the following in about 100-125 words:
Has Sophie meet Danny Casey? What details of her meeting with Danny Casey did she narrate to her brother?

Ans 10: No, Sophie has not met Danny Casey in reality. But she has seen him play football matches in the stadium with her father and brothers. One day, in an attempt to gain Geoff's attention, Sophie narrates a cooked-up story. She narrated that she had met Danny Casey in the arcade. She was looking at the clothes in Royce’s window, when she spotted him standing beside her. She said that he had green, gentle eyes and was not very tall. He was going to buy a shop and didn’t have any girlfriend. He was quiet by nature and spoke in an Irish accent. She wanted his autograph for Little Derek but neither of them had a paper or a pen. They also chatted a little about the clothes in Royce’s window. He asked her to meet him the following week and promised to give her an autograph.

OR

Describe the precautions taken by the prison officers to prevent Evans from escaping.

Ans. 10: To prevent Evan’s escape during Evans’ O-level German test, the senior prison officer on D wing, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Stephens, a newly recruited officer, thoroughly checked the Evan’s cell. Two square tables were set opposite each other and two hard chairs were placed in the cell. His razor, nail file and scissors were removed from the cell. A bugging device was also installed in the cell so that the governor could listen to any talk going on there. A parson from St. Mary Mags was called to invigilate and Evans was placed in the heavily guarded Recreational Block, where there were two locked doors between the wall. All messages and phone calls were transferred via the governor. Moreover, all the prison officers were also on high alert.

Q. 11. Read the following and answer the question that follows:

The story "Deep Waters" has made you realize that with determination and perseverance one can accomplish the impossible. Write a paragraph in about 100 words on how a positive attitude and courage will aid you to achieve success in life.

SOLUTION:
In the story "Deep Waters", Douglas overcomes his childhood fear of water by positive attitude and courage. He was initially afraid of water which deprived him of the joys of water sports. But his will and positive attitude made him get an instructor and overcome the fear. Fear, conquered through courage, becomes victory. Once a person starts to live the idea of making his attitude his ally, he will start to see the changes. Adopting a positive attitude and making it the path you travel through will impact your life in many ways. Making your attitude your ally has the potential to transform your life. No matter what your opinion is on how a positive attitude works in your life, the bottom line is that making your attitude positive is a winning idea. You cannot deny the power of making your attitude your ally, once you start implementing it in your life.

Q. 12. Write a character sketch of Mr. Barrymore in about 125 words.

SOLUTION:
Mr. Barrymore was a long time servant at the Baskerville Hall. Along with his wife, he faithfully performs his duty. He was tall, handsome, distinguished looking with a square black-beard. He was rather deaf. He wished to leave Baskerville Hall due to the painful memories of Sir Charles and the new needs of Sir Henry as he would have more company.

The bearded Barrymore is suspected of being a spy, dogging Henry in London. He had a long black beard same as the person following them in London and had also inherited 500 pounds. He was the first to see Sir Charles’ body and lied about the sobbing heard at night.

He gave information to Sir Henry and Dr. Watson about the letter to Sir Charles by LL from Coombe Tracey asking him to meet her on the night of his murder at the gate. It is his sense of honour that keeps him silent about his discovery of Charle’s planned murder.
Q.13. Describe Miss Stapleton's first encounter with Sir Henry in about 125 words.

SOLUTION:

Sir Henry made his acquaintance of Miss Stapleton at a lunch event organised at the Merripit House. Sir Henry was strongly attracted to her and the feeling seemed to be mutual. He referred to her again and not even a single day had passed when Sir Henry did not meet her. They were always inviting each other to their house.

Dr. Watson reported that in the meeting couple was engaged in their conversation, where Miss Stapleton was trying to warn Sir Henry of the dangers he was in at the moor. When Sir Henry tried to kiss Miss Stapleton, she resisted and at that point Stapleton arrived and was very furious. After the two men exchanged a few angry words, Stapleton departed, taking his sister with him.