

SECTION A READING SKILLS

1. Read the following passage carefully:

(1) In a room filled with people, each face illuminated by the soft glow of their smartphones, moments drift away like autumn leaves in the wind. The constant hum of notifications fills the air, punctuating conversations like an incessant drumbeat. Every vibration or ping sends fingers flying to screens, a response ingrained by years of digital conditioning. The once-reliable tick-tock of analog timepieces has been overshadowed by the constant flicker of notifications on the wrist watch, blurring the boundaries between the virtual and the real.

(2) Anxiety gnaws at the edges of consciousness when the phone is out of reach, a phantom limb syndrome that leaves us feeling incomplete without our digital appendage. The fear of missing out permeates every moment spent away from the screen, driving us to constantly check for updates and notifications.

(3) Thumbs move with the speed and precision of skillful pianists, tapping out messages and scrolling through feeds with practiced ease. Yet amidst the flurry of activity, the true rhythm of life remains unheard, drowned out by the dissonance of digital noise. The weight of constant connectivity forms a hunch upon our shoulders, a physical manifestation of the burden we carry in an age of information overload. Our minds are perpetually on high alert, scanning for the next wave of excitement that comes with each like, share, or comment.

(4) And yet, for all our efforts to stay connected, we find ourselves increasingly isolated in a sea of digital faces. Genuine connections are fleeting, drowned out by the constant clamour for attention. In the pursuit of digital validation, we sacrifice the wealth of lived experience, trading meaningful moments for fleeting glimpses of connection. The true essence of life lies not in the pixels on a screen, but in the depth of human connection and the richness of shared experiences.

(5) As we navigate this brave new world of constant connectivity, let us not forget the value of presence and the beauty of being fully engaged in the moments that matter most. For in the end, it is not the number of likes or followers that defines us, but the depth of our connections and the richness of our experiences that truly matter.

Created for Academic Usage/421 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I. According to paragraph 1, what effect do smartphone notifications have on the people in the room? 1

II. How does the author use the metaphor of 'autumn leaves in the wind' to interpret the passing of time in the setting described? 1

III Read and complete the following sentence suitably. 1

The phrase 'a phantom limb syndrome that leaves us feeling incomplete without our digital appendage' suggests that just as an amputee might feel pain in a limb they no longer have, individuals can feel a sense of loss or incompleteness when they are separated from their digital devices.

Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence. The concern this analogy points towards is about

A. a deep (psychological) dependence on technology for a sense of wholeness or connection

B. excessive physical damage that can be caused due to constant use of digital devices

IV Complete the following suitably with ONE advantage, with reference to paragraph 2. Designating specific hours each day to intentionally avoid checking digital devices can help

V Why does the writer refer to digital noise as 'dissonance' in paragraph 3? Because-

- A. It creates a jarring and chaotic environment that disrupts focus.
- B. It contributes to a sense of overload, overwhelming the senses.
- C. It interferes with our ability to engage with meaningful aspects of our life.
- D. It induces stress by interrupting with regular updates about the device.

VI. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 3, to prove the following: The need to be perpetually engaged with digital notifications manifests in the body.

VII. In the line, 'Yet amidst the flurry of activity, the true rhythm of life remains unheard...', what does the phrase 'true rhythm of life' refer to? (Paragraphs 3-4) 2

VIII Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 4. 1

whisper: quietly: ____ : loudly

- A. validation
- B. fleeting
- C. essence
- D. clamour

IX Why is it fair to say that the statement 'And yet, for all our efforts to stay connected, we find ourselves increasingly isolated in a sea of digital faces' from paragraph 4, employs irony? 1

- A. Despite the intent to connect more effectively, the result is the opposite.
- B. The writer mocks the seriousness with which people approach digital connectivity.
- C. The writer exaggerates the effects of digital connectivity to highlight its impact.
- D. Use of 'a sea of digital faces' to symbolically represent digital platforms.

X Assess the potential challenges OR benefits of relying on survey outcomes for designing health interventions, as outlined in paragraph 5. 2

2A. Financial literacy is increasingly recognised as a crucial 21st-century skill for young individuals. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily discussing the benefits of providing financial literacy education to children. Also, suggest effective ways to raise awareness about the importance of this education among parents and guardians. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas to draft the letter. You are a counsellor, Chitra Mahapatra from Puri, Odisha.

What are the long-term benefits of learning financial independence from a young age?

Why is understanding the power of finances beneficial for young learners?

Why skills learned during childhood tend to have a lasting impact.

OR

2B. You are Maya Syiem from Shillong. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write this job application along with your bio-data.

Join our Creative Team!

A renowned publishing house in Shillong -A NEW WORLD-

is seeking a talented illustrator for children's books.

Creative individuals with a passion for storytelling through art, welcome. Experience, not mandatory.

Team players with degree/ diploma in Fine Arts/Graphic Design may apply with 5 samples from portfolio illustrating a variety of work.

Write to the Project Lead, 23-C Rosewood Lane, Shillong-793005

Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120 150 words

3A. In an era of rapid globalisation and technological advancement, the preservation of cultural heritage remains a vital challenge, particularly for the youth. India continues to navigate the complexities of maintaining tradition alongside modernity. Write an article exploring the role of cultural heritage in shaping the identities of today's Indian youth. Provide examples to illustrate your points wherever necessary. You may use some of the given cues along with your own ideas. You are Arti Nirula of Class XII-A.

How have global interactions and technologies influenced or changed these traditional practices among today's youth?

- What are the benefits of preserving cultural heritage for young people? How does it contribute to their sense of identity and community?

Suggest ways in which young people and institutions can work together to ensure the preservation of cultural heritage.

OR

3B. You are Hina Aziz, student of Class XII-D and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of the celebrations on Yoga Day. Include descriptions of the events, participation details, and the overall impact of these activities on the school community. You may organise your report by following - Who - What - When - Where - Why – How.