Date: 02/08/09

Time: 9.30 to 11.00 am

Q: 1 Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

An un-predictable visit to the mall

The evening was turning gloomy and so was my mood, I couldn't call it a day yet. As if being almost on my toes since morning wasn't enough; it was hard for me to find a parking place. My eyes were hunting for one single place where I could fit my vehicle and here went a bike obliging me. I took a sigh of relief. I started walking towards the shopping mall. My legs were finding it hard to walk, somehow they managed and I could actually hear them talking to each other "let's not take any more steps". The irritating thoughts were replaced by my favourite song being played in the background. It started working magically on my mind. And the dancing lights were adding some extra effects. This cool and fresh ambience was casting a spell on me. I could see around me, lots of people, giggles, laughter, screams, noise including mannequins displaying the seasonal colours and everything full of life. Someone tapped me on my back and brought me out of my trance... "Can you please click a snap for me?" I saw a newly wedded couple must be on one of their post-wedding date. I flashed out a smile at the husband and replied “Oh! Sure”. I caught that moment for them to cherish. Their blushing pink cheeks caste away my blues. It seemed like a carnival. I loved watching them all. But suddenly my senses reminded me that I wasn’t on a sightseeing tour. I started looking for my shopping list. I thanked God as there were fewer things on the list.

Somehow I managed to tear the crowd and entered in. Fortunately I got a trolley otherwise most of them are occupied by parents who place their kids in and take them on a ride of the mall. I started picking up the listed items. The salesmen packed in sophisticated uniforms, wearing their plastic smiles were at the customers' service. I saw these two beautifully dressed girls pass by. They caught the attention of a man holding his wife’s hand and it was fun watching his wife’s changing expressions. There was a father accompanied by his mischievous son... or perhaps was forced to buy the grocery this time. His son took it for granted that everything kept there was for him. There was an amazing game going on between both of them. The son was putting things in the trolley and his dad was taking them out.

My keen observation was again distracted by the tempting smell of delicious dishes served at the café. My legs followed the signal of my taste buds obediently and stopped at the café table. I started surfing the menu. I picked up a burger and a coke for me from the counter. So many dialogues were being shared around me and these conversations couldn’t go unheard by my ears. I could see a girl trying it harder to eat with knife and folk. “Leave it baby why to waste time?” said her boyfriend placing his hand into hers by putting the folk aside. A table next to me had this bunch of friends at the best of their humour. “It’s a fun to bunk the class” said one. “But it’s an art I must say’ added another. Everything you get to see here which perhaps one single movie can’t offer; emotions, drama, tragedy, action, romance and sometimes suspense too.

I accommodated myself in the long queue at the cash counter. My observation went on till my eyes fell on a lady who got tucked up. She was taking too long to pay the bill. She was counting some coins. Her gestures expressed that she didn’t have enough cash. Her basket had only a few essential things. There was this old man standing after her, he put his hand in his pocket and gave her something. She stood in awe of him. And found it hard to gather enough words like those coins to thank him. But her eyes said it all. Before she could utter a word he already left. This small, hasty, visit to the mall made me experience so many things at a time. It seemed like it was a process that I underwent which not only change my bored mood to a happier one but changed something inside me too. Eventually, it taught me that sometimes we need to tilt things towards the more attractive end of the spectrum.
Appendix: 2A

Choose the correct answer.

A] What drastic change can be noticed in the author as the story begins?

1) Nothing as such happened, which can show any kind of sudden change in the author.
2) The over occupied mind of the author was calmed down by the music.
3) The tired and a little irritated author experienced a sudden joy as soon as she entered the Mall.
4) The freshness and business of the ambience worked effectively on the gloomy mood of the author.
5) The author was experiencing some magical effect but couldn’t feel it properly.

B] What helped in bringing the author back to her senses?

1) The author realised that how lonely she is, and how others are enjoying.
2) The author was there with a motto and had to think quickly and practically, she cannot afford to lose herself in any kind of trance.
3) The couple she met reminded her that for running a family household things are needed and she is here for it.
4) Perhaps the small incident reminded the author of someone she does not want to remember anymore.
5) The author got nostalgic, but her mind brought her back to her senses.

C] After the author got into the mall, what did she experience with the things going around her?

1) The newly introduced mall culture that people find hard to adapt.
2) The indecent way in which people behave at such shopping malls.
3) Many hindrances in her way while shopping, as she was running short of time.
4) A lot of entertainment, free of charge.
5) The experiences of people which gave her a glimpse of variety of cultural behaviour.

D] What distracted the author more intensely besides the smell of the food?

1) Her love for gossips and knowing about people and their conversations.
2) The most distracting conversation was of the couple.
3) The dialogues being shared by the college students distracted her first.
4) The sight of overcrowded tables, she wondered where she will find a place.
5) The severe pain that she had in her legs.

E] What does the whole passage tells about the character of the author?

How did the little story that happened between the old man and the lady affected the author?

1) The author has a very complicated character and her reactions to things around her do not tell of any peculiar thing about her. The story did not affect her by any means.
2) The author seems to be very sensitive towards the world around her and has a detailed eye for the incidents that took place in the passage. The ending story touched her emotionally and moved her too.
3) The author is an optimist and took the whole experience very positively and the story added some more positivity to it.
4) The author is a learner and learned many things from her experience and the story helped her learned to be helpful to others.
5) The author seems to be a critic and has criticised almost everything that she experienced at the mall. The ending story was to satirise the typical emotional nature of old people.
Appendix: 2A

Q: 2 Form sentences from the following words that sound similar but mean different. Marks: 10

1. weak : weak
2. prey : pray
3. beg : bag
4. witch : which
5. steal : steel
6. check : cheque
7. bud : bird
8. fair : fare

Q: 3 Correct the following sentences. Marks: 10

1. The house is built by bricks.
2. He has a great thirst of knowledge.
3. I saw her in last week.
4. Mathew fails in the test in spite of the fact that he was working hard.
5. John is telling me about it last Monday.
6. Wait till he arrived.
7. When I saw him, he will be playing chess.
8. We have five fingers in each hand.
9. He was killed through a robber by a hatchet.
10. Five friends shared lunch between them.

Q: 4 Read the following two short passages and choose the proverb that best sums it up. Marks: 10

A] Every calamity, every disaster, all misfortunes can become challenges. They force us to venture on new paths, to stretch our minds for new solutions, to take risks, to overcome sloth and to win.

Years ago, in America, cotton was the big money crop in the South. Then the pest, the boll weevil came along. It began eating up all the cotton crops.

Everyone despaired; ruin was imminent. However, that little pest turned out to be a lucky thing. It forced farmers to plant peanuts instead of cotton. Eventually, peanuts became a more profitable crop than cotton ever was.

In appreciation, farmers erected a statue of the hated boll weevil in Alabama.

Which of the following saying best suits the passage?

1] Great discoveries were made out of very unlikely sources.
2] Prevention is better than cure.
3] Do not trust the cloud, trust the sunshine.
4] Every problem can be a possibility in disguise.
5] Hope is its own immediate reward.

B] Aesop, a great story-teller, who lived in Greece in the 6th century B.C, has written over 300 fables. One of them is the story of the proud candles.

On a table in a dark room, a candle was burning. Its light illuminated the whole room. The candle said, “How great is my light! The entire room is filled with it”.

The very next moment, a breeze blew out the flame and the room was plunged in darkness. The candle learnt its lesson, never to be proud.
Appendix: 2A

Which of the following saying best suits the passage?

1] It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.
2] Pride pays its price.
3] Self-confidence, Get it! Use it! Keep it!
4] Self-confidence is making a decision with no guarantee of success.
5] Look at your imperfections and respect yourself anyways.

Q: 5 Write the essence of the following poems in not more than three to four sentences in the space given below.

Marks: 10

1] PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE...

I have been left to think of things past, present and future.

Although I cannot change the past, I can work in the present so that it is not repeated in the future.

I can be humble enough in the present to admit that I have seriously injured people in the past, so that hopefully they can forgive me in the future.

I can forget the past mistakes of others against me and love them both in the present and future.

I can look to the future and pray that the present I am in today is not the past of tomorrow I will regret.

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2] VALUE OF TIME!

To realise the value of one year ask a student who has failed an exam

To realise the value of one month ask a mother who has given birth to a premature baby
Appendix: 2A

To realise the value of one week
ask the editor of weekly magazine

To realise the value of a day
ask the lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realise the value of one minute
ask a person who has survived an accident.

To realise the value of one millisecond
ask the person who has won a silver medal in the Olympics.

Value every moment of the time you have!!