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BEGLA-138

**B. A. (GENERAL) (CBCS)
(BAG)**

Term-End Examination

December, 2024

**BEGLA-138 : READING AND
SPEAKING SKILLS**

Time : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 100

Note : *Answer all questions.*

Section—A

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

Primary Education System in India

Primary school enrollment in India has been a success story, largely due to various

programmes and drives to increase enrollment even in remote areas. With enrollment reaching at least 96 percent since 2009, and girls making up 56 percent of new students between 2007 and 2013, it is clear that many problems of access to schooling have been addressed. Improvements to infrastructure have been a priority to achieve this and India now has 1.4 million schools and 7.7 million teachers so that 98 percent of habitations have a primary school (class I-V) within one kilometre and 92 percent have an upper primary school (class VI-VIII) within a three kilometre walking distance.

Despite these improvements, keeping children in school through graduation is still an issue and dropout rates continue to be high.

Nationally 29 percent of children drop out before completing five years of primary school, and 43 percent before finishing upper primary school. High school completion is only 42 percent. This lands India among the top five nations for out-of-school children of primary school age, with 1.4 million 6 to 11 year olds not attending school. In many ways schools are not equipped to handle the full population—there is a teacher shortage of 689,000 teachers in primary schools, only 53 percent of schools have functional girls’ toilets and 74 percent have access to drinking water.

Additionally, the quality of learning is a major issue and reports show that children are not achieving class-appropriate learning levels. According to Pratham’s Annual Status of

Education, 2013 report, close to 78 percent of children in Standard III and about 50 percent of children in Standard V cannot yet read Standard II texts. Arithmetic is also a cause for concern as only 26 percent students in Standard V can do a division problem. Without immediate and urgent help, these children cannot effectively progress in the education system, and so improving the quality of learning in schools is the next big challenge for both the state and central governments.

Improving learning will require attention to many things, including increasing teacher accountability. According to school visits teacher attendance is just 85 percent in primary and middle schools and raising the amount of time teachers spend on-task and

increasing their responsibility for student learning also needs improvement. Part of this process requires better assessments at each grade level and more efficient monitoring and support systems. Overall, the public school system also needs a better general management system.

Questions :

- (i) How would you categorise the above-mentioned passage based on what you have learned about the different types of text ? Provide sound reasons to justify your response. 4
- (ii) What, according to you, is the problem that India could tackle if the education sector is looked after ? 3

- (iii) What is the structure of the above-mentioned passage ? 3
- (iv) What are the improvements that have been made in the Indian primary education system ? 3
- (v) What can be done by educators at classroom level to resolve issues of lack of quality primary education ? 3
- (vi) What is the major issue related to learning in the Indian education system ? 4
2. Mark the stressed syllables in the following sentences : 10
- (a) Why are you late ?
- (b) Is Mike your friend ?
- (c) My children are sleeping.
- (d) Close your books.
- (e) They went to a restaurant.

Section—B

1. Discuss any *three* graded steps that should be meticulously followed to improve the efficacy of reading a literary text. 10
2. Briefly discuss the various linguistic levels of comprehension. 10
3. Differentiate between attention span and memory span in reading comprehension. 10
4. How is intensive reading different from extensive reading ? What is the difference between skimming and scanning ? 10
5. Discuss the *three* main stages of reading. 10

Or

What does silent reading play a vital part in ?

Section—C

1. Write the dialogues of a conversation between a Bank clerk and a customer, who would like to open a bank account. 10

Or

You are Abhinav and your mother has given you the responsibility to go to the grocery store. You are busy with an incomplete assignment. Engage in an informal conversation in English with your friend, Vishnu, telling him to do the necessary on your behalf.

2. You are Suhail and you need to get your television repaired. Write formal telephonic conversation between Suhail and Ravi, a Service Department employee in Samsung. 10

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