

Roll No:

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Total printed pages : Total printed questions :
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General Instructions:

- i) The Question paper is divided into three sections:

Section A	Reading	20 Marks
Section B	Writing & Grammar	25 Marks
Section C	Literature	25 Marks
- ii) All questions are compulsory.
- iii) You may attempt any section at a time.
- iv) All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

Section - A (Reading)

(20 marks)

1.1 Read the given passage and answer the questions that follow in brief:

Every panther differs from any other panther. Some panthers are very bold; others are very timid. Some are cunning to the degree of being uncanny; others appear quite foolish. Some panthers seem almost to possess a sixth sense, and act and behave as if they could read and anticipate one's very thought. Lastly, but quite rarely, comes the panther that attacks people, and more rarely still, the one that eats them.

A man-eating beast is generally the outcome of some extraordinary circumstance. Maybe someone has wounded it, and it is unable henceforth to hunt its natural prey—other animals—easily. Therefore, through necessity it begins to eat humans, because they offer an easy prey. Or perhaps a panther has eaten a dead human body which was originally buried in a too-shallow grave and later dug up by jackals or a bear. Once having tasted human flesh, the panther often takes a liking to it. Lastly, but very rarely indeed, it may have been the cub of a man-eating mother, who taught it the habit.

Generally a panther is an inoffensive and quite harmless animal that is fearful of human beings and vanishes silently into the undergrowth at the sight or sound of them. When wounded, some show an extraordinary degree of ferocity and bravery. Others again are most cowardly and allow themselves to be followed up, or even chased like curs.

If from a hill-top you could watch a panther stalking his prey, he would offer a most entertaining spectacle. You would see him taking advantage of every bush, of every tree-trunk, and of every stone behind which to take cover. He can flatten himself to the ground in an amazing fashion.

Answer the following questions in brief:

(1x5=5)

- a) In what way do two panthers differ from each other?
- b) Give two reasons why a panther would become a man-eating beast.
- c) What does a panther generally do at the sight of a human being?
- d) How does a panther stalk his prey?
- e) Find a word in the passage which means, "not causing anger".

- 1.2. Read the given passage about Gandhiji's childhood incident in his own words and then answer the questions that follow:

A relative and I became fond of smoking. Not that we saw any good in smoking, or were fond of the smell of a cigarette. We simply imagined a sort of pleasure in emitting clouds of smoke from our mouths. My uncle had the habit, and when we saw him smoking, we thought we should copy, his example. But we had no money. So we began to collect stumps of cigarettes thrown away by my uncle.

The stumps, however, were not always available and could not emit much smoke either. So we began to steal coins from the servant's pocket money in order to purchase Indian cigarettes. In the meantime we heard that the stalks of a certain plant were porous and could be smoked like cigarettes. We got them and began this kind of smoking.

But we were far from being satisfied with such things as these. Our want of independence began to upset us. It was unbearable that we should be unable to do anything without the elders' permission. At last, in sheer disgust, we decided to commit suicide!

How were we to do it? From where were we to get the poison? We heard that Dhatura seeds were an effective poison. Off we went to the jungle in search of these seeds, and got them, Evening was thought to be an auspicious hour. We went to Kedarjee Mandir, put ghee in the temple-lamp, had the darshan and then looked for a lonely corner. But our courage failed us. Supposing we were not instantly killed? And what was the good of killing ourselves? Why not rather put up with the lack of independence? But we swallowed two or three seeds nevertheless.

We dared not take more. Both of us fought shy of death and decided to go to Ramji Mandir to compose ourselves, and to dismiss the thought of suicide.

I realized that it was not as easy to commit suicide as to think about.

The thought of suicide ultimately resulted in both of us bidding good-bye to the habit of smoking stumps of cigarettes and of stealing the servant's coppers for the purpose of smoking.

Ever since I have been grown up, I have never desired to smoke and have always regarded the habit of smoking as barbarous, dirty and harmful. I have never understood why there is such a rage for smoking throughout the world. I cannot bear to travel in a compartment full of people smoking. I become choked.

Answer the following questions in brief:

(1x5=5)

- a) Why did Gandhiji and his relative steal money?
- b) Why did they decide to commit suicide?
- c) What fear came to their mind when they decided to commit suicide?
- d) How did Gandhiji regard the habit of smoking as he grew up?
- e) Find a word in the passage which means, "favorable".

2. Read the passage carefully and on the basis of your study of the passage, answer the questions given below: (OTBA)