

Q1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:-

[20]

Although Louis Braille died when he was forty three years old, he succeeded in devising a system of reading and writing for the blind which is taught all over the world. Braille lost his eyesight accidentally as a child. Nevertheless, he was able to complete his education at a school for the blind in Paris and became a teacher. In his day, the few books that were available for blind people were printed in big, raised type: the letters used were those of the ordinary alphabet. The reading of such books required immense effort. Not only that, writing was almost impossible, for a blind person was still restricted to an alphabet which was extraordinarily difficult to reproduce on paper. Braille's idea was to use raised dots instead of raised letters. He evolved a system which made use of only six dots in all. By various combinations of these dots, it not only proved possible to reproduce each letter in the alphabet, but punctuation marks, numbers and musical notation as well. Reading and writing have thus been enormously simplified. The sensitive fingers of a blind person can travel rapidly over the dots; and there is a small machine, something like a typewriter, which enables the blind to write quickly and clearly. Improvements are continually being made on the system, though basically it is the same as that contrived by Braille. Large raised dots printed on one side of the page only, make many books for the blind cumbersome. A single book in ordinary print runs into several volumes when it is transcribed into the dot system. Furthermore, the books that are used in lending libraries for the blind eventually become unreadable. The dots are subjected to a great deal of wear and tear, and finally disappear, so that a book becomes useless.

A machine has now been invented that dries plastic dots onto paper instead of impressions on the pages. These dots do not wear out at all, and there is no danger of them coming unstuck. Since it is possible, by this means, to make use of both sides of the page, books for the blind are now less bulky. This new way of dotting pages can also be used for such things as the production of Atlas with the outlines of countries clearly imprinted. Though many modern inventions like the radio have brought great benefits to the blind, Braille's system remains the greatest landmark of all. It has provided a simple means for producing books and even newspapers, and ensured that no blind person need to spend his life in ignorance as well as darkness.

A. Give the synonyms (meanings) of the following words:

i) devising

ii) immense

iii) restricted

iv) simplified

v) ignorance

B. Answer the following questions:

- Q1. Why were reading and writing difficult for the blind before Braille's invention?
- Q2. How did Louis Braille manage to simplify reading for the blind?
- Q3. What would happen to the books for the blind in the libraries?
- Q4. Why is Braille's system considered to be one of the greatest inventions?
- Q5. How have the books for the blind become less bulky?

C. In not more than 60 words summarise the passage.

[5]

Q2. Select any one of the following topics:

[15]

- a) An inter-school debate competition is coming up and you have been selected to represent your school. Write a letter to your friend telling him/her about it and also how excited/nervous you are about the upcoming event.

OR

- b) Your cousin is away at a boarding school and is giving his/her parents a lot of problems asking for huge amounts of pocket money. Write a letter advising him/her against making such demands.

Q3. You are Abhishek/Avantika of St. Joseph's Academy, Dehradun. Being an Cultural Prefect, draft a notice to all the other Activity Council Members to discuss and plan the activities for Republic Day celebration. (50 Words)

[5]

Q4. Design a poster on the theme play Holi with flowers or with natural colours. Use your own ideas to design this poster. The poster is issued by the Police Department of your state.

[5]

Q5. Do as directed :-

[7]

- i) The girls danced gracefully. (Underline the adverb and state its kind) *manner*
- ii) The storm prevented us from going out to play. (Fill in suitable preposition)
- iii) A pair of spectacles is found in the play ground. (is/are)
- iv) He is rich, but he is a miser. (Fill in suitable conjunction)
- v) She will be celebrating her birthday tomorrow at this time. (Fill in correct tense form of the word 'celebrate')
- vi) These are the boys who won the cricket tournament. (Fill in the correct pronoun)
- vii) Your hand writing is worse than mine. (Fill in the correct degree of the word 'bad')

Q6. Change the following sentences according to the instructions given in the brackets:-

[8]

- i) We had a very happy time last night. (Change to Exclamatory) *What a happy time*
- ii) What a beautiful scene this is! (Change to Assertive) *This is a beautiful scene*
- iii) Every one wishes to live long. (Change to Interrogative) *Who does not wish to*
- iv) Gyatri got up in the morning and said, "I will do yoga today." (Change into Indirect Speech)
- v) He finished everything. (Change to Negative) *He did not leave anything unfinished*
- vi) The policeman said to the beggar, "Do you know the shortest way to the Inn?" (Change into Indirect speech) *He asked if he knew*
- vii) He said, "I met this man two days ago." (Change into Indirect speech) *I had met that man two days before.*
- viii) He left no plan untried. (Change to Affirmative) *He tried every plan. He tried all the plans.*

*He left nothing undone*