1. Write a composition (in approximately 450–500 words) on any one of the following subjects:
   (You are reminded that you will be rewarded for orderly and coherent presentation of material, use of appropriate style and general accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar).
   
   (a) Imagine that you visited a remote village untouched by the influence of technology. Describe the village, the people, their routine and at least one person you met there. How did you feel at first? What were your feelings when you had to return?
   
   (b) You were waiting at the ATM booth of Focus Bank, when a white car drew up and four men with masks rushed into the bank. Narrate how an attempted bank robbery was foiled by an alert security guard.
   
   (c) “Today’s youth is more practical and less swayed by emotions”. Argue for or against the given statement.
   
   (d) Sacrifice.
(e) “It is easier to preach than to practise”. Express your views on the given statement.

(f) Write an original short story beginning with the following words: “Everything went horribly wrong that evening ......”.

2. As a reporter you have visited a number of hospitals in your city. Write a newspaper report entitled ‘City Hospitals’, based on the following points:

- Buildings and infrastructure
- Maintenance of the hospitals
- Quality of services
- Doctors
- Nursing staff
- Waiting period for treatment
- Emergency facilities
- Other facilities available
- Medical equipment
- Overall opinion.

3. (a) In each of the following items, sentence **A** is complete, while sentence **B** is not. Complete sentence **B**, making it as similar as possible to sentence **A**. Write sentence **B** in each case.

**Example**

(A) He always obeys his teachers.
(B) His teachers ......................

**Ans.**

His teachers are always obeyed by him.

1. (A) Not only did he buy a desktop but also a laptop.
   (B) Besides ......................

2. (A) The heavy showers of rain revived the plants.
   (B) The plants ......................

3. (A) The men were forced to work although the light was poor.
   (B) In spite of ......................

4. (A) No sooner did we see a flash of light in the sky than we heard a loud explosion near us.
   (B) As soon as ......................

5. (A) As she has not brought a pen, she is writing with a pencil.
   (B) Not ......................

6. (A) Mumbai is the most vibrant city in India.
   (B) No ......................

7. (A) Their dog is too friendly to be an effective guard dog.
   (B) Their dog is so ......................

8. (A) Sameer said, “Ramesh, can you help me with my homework?”
   (B) Sameer .................................

9. (A) All nook and corners were checked.
   (B) No nook or corner .................................

10. (A) How long I shall stay is doubtful.
    (B) The .................................
(b) Fill in each blank with a suitable word. (Do not write the sentence.) [5]
(1) If we set ............. early, we can return before sunset.
(2) He left the company for good and set ............. his own business.
(3) The teacher jumped ............. a conclusion and punished the child.
(4) Ramesh jumped ............. my offer of a job.
(5) I am a simple man and have no use ............. much money.
(6) My father lost the use ............. his right arm in an accident.
(7) Rahul decided to carry ............. with tennis and give up volleyball.
(8) Dinanath is a good worker and is always ready to carry ............. his master’s order.
(9) Reena agreed ............. me when I proposed a meeting.
(10) The four sisters could not agree ............. themselves.

c) Fill in the blanks in the passage give below with the appropriate form of the verb given in brackets. Do not write the passage, but write the verbs in the correct order. [5]
The other day we ............. (1) (discuss) the setting up of a Debating Club in our school. We ............. (2) (talk) about the club and how many students ............. (3) (be) interested in it. Then we ............. (4) (begin) to talk about the rules and regulations ............. (5) (govern) the club. None of us could ............. (6) (agree) and we began ............. (7) (argue). Finally, our English teacher ............. (8) (have) to be informed and she ............. (9) (come) and ............. (10) (break) up the meeting.

4. Read the passage given below and answer the questions (a), (b) and (c) that follow.
(1) My father and I left the hall and made our way out to walk across to headquarters. There were street lights round the square, but underfoot the cobblestoned ground was dark and lumpy. My father tripped on the uneven surface and went down on one knee, trying not to fall entirely.
(2) At exactly the same moment there was a loud bang and sharp zinging sound a scrunch of glass breaking.
(3) I bent over my father and saw that his eyes were stretched wide and his mouth grim with pain.
(4) “Run,” he said, “Run for cover. For God’s sake, Ben! That was a gunshot!”
(5) We were halfway across the square, easy immobile targets. He struggled to get to his feet and told me again to run: and for once I disobeyed him.
(6) “Stay down,” I told him.
(7) “You don’t understand …” His voice was anguished.
(8) “Are you bleeding?”
(9) “What? I don’t think so. I twisted my ankle.”
(10) People are out of the hotel, drawn by the bang that re-echoed around the square. There was confusion and people saying, “What happened, what happened?” and hands stretching down to my father to help him up. When he was well surrounded he finally took my arm. Putting his left foot down caused him much discomfort.

(11) “That noise....” a woman said.

(12) Heads nodded. “It sounded like.... Was it... a gun?”

(13) “But where? There’s no one here with a gun.”

(14) Everyone looked round, but it was far too late to see the rifle, let alone the person shooting. My father put his arm round my shoulders for support, and indicated that we should set off.

(15) We walked in a procession to the headquarters and my father called the police.

(16) I went to the open door, looking across the square to the hotel.

(17) I remembered the zing of the bullet. If the bullet had been aimed at my father and if he’d stumbled at the exact second that the trigger was squeezed, and if the bullet had smashed some glass so that I heard the tinkle, then why was every pane of the window in the headquarters intact?

(18) I told myself that the whole thing had been a coincidence and turned to go back inside, and saw for an instant a flash of light on broken glass down on the ground.

(19) It was a window of the shop next door that had been hit.

(20) Zing. Ricochet. Smash. The straight line could have been deflected by the curve of a cobblestone.

(21) The police arrived at headquarters, and it was nearly two o’clock when I finally closed and bolted the doors and switched off the lights.

(22) My father moved himself into one of the single beds in the bedroom. I lay on the second, not at all sleepy.

(23) My father said, “Ben, why didn’t you run?”

(24) I answered. “I didn’t want you to get shot.”

(25) “So you stood in the way ...”

(26) After a while, I said, “I’d say it was a .22 rifle with a high-velocity bullet. Hitting you in the body, it quite likely won’t kill you. You need to hit the head or the neck to be lethal. All I did was shield your head.”

(27) There was a silence. Then he said, “I’d forgotten you could shoot.”

(28) “I was in the school team. We were taught by one of the country’s best marksmen.” I smiled in the dark. “You paid for it, you know.”

Adapted from Penalty by Dick Francis
(a) (i) Given below are four words and phrases. Find the words which have a similar meaning in the passage:

(1) unmoving  
(2) full of severe pain and agony  
(3) complete, not damaged  
(4) protect

(ii) For each of the words given below, write a sentence of at least ten words using the same word unchanged in form, but with a different meaning from that which it carries in the passage:

(1) feet (line 11)  
(2) square (line 17)  
(3) second (line 31)  
(4) head (line 49)

(b) Answer the following questions in your own words as briefly as possible.

(i) What two things happened simultaneously when Ben and his father were walking to the headquarters?

(ii) What did Ben see when he looked at his father on the ground?

(iii) Why did Ben’s father tell him to run and why did Ben disobey him?

(iv) What was Ben’s logical answer to his father explaining why he did not obey him?

(c) Describe the incident of the shooting in not more than 100 words (Paragraphs 1 to 10). Failure to keep within the word limit will be penalised. You will be required to:

(i) List your ideas clearly in point form.

(ii) In about 100 words, write your points in the form of a connected passage.

Answers

1. (a) A year back, I happened to visit a remote village in the upper Garhwal region of Uttarakhand situated at an altitude of 9710 ft stretching over an area of 14 kms. The village is full of clean old time atmosphere and devoid of any changes, technology might, bring about. The quaint village is disconnected from the rest of the world but people here are fantastic or I may call them ‘embodiment of love’. The mercury dips here more than it rises, the hearts, though burn with warmth. The mountain life is not easy for those who live here throughout the year. But it keeps them attuned to who they are. The people here are busy in rearing sheep and women are busy at weaving looms. It is the true home to traditional Garhwali architecture and its surroundings offer stunning natural beauty including views of the snow-capped mountains.

Kalap is a small Gram Panchayat with a population of around 500 people, located 200 kms from Dehradun. The nearest road is a 11 m trek away in Netwar. It takes around five hours of trekking in winters and about eight hours in summers to reach Kalap from Netwar. Lack of connectivity meant that the village lacked electricity, education and basic medical facilities until 2013 when a tourist Anand Sonkar decided to adopt the village and change the lives of the people for the better. Visiting Kalap is like stepping back in time—with traditional wooden houses, cattle and sheep in every household and smoke curling up above the roof tops.
I met Anand Sonkar, a former photo journalist from Bengaluru. He told me that he had first visited this beautiful village in 2008. The untouched beauty of the place and the simple people struck a chord with him. He came to know that no doctor had visited this village so far. Anand told me that he found out many people suffering from tuberculosis but in absence of medical facilities, nothing could be done to save their lives. It is then that Anand decided to set up a "KALAP TRUST" in this village in September 2014 and a lot has changed for the better since then. A doctor has been appointed full time on a salary by the trust.

The trust has done commendable job in the area of education also. The education imparted by the trust teacher lay emphasis on experiential education i.e. how to conserve nature and remain connected with it.

Anand told me that earlier electricity escaped this village but due to trust's effort, a solar project has been initiated which has started providing electricity to some of the houses.

People here are very simple, full of warmth and very thankful to Anand for bringing changes in their lives for the better. Visiting this village was a memorable experience and a lesson that if we really wish to do something for others, there are lots of opportunities.

(b) Last Monday, on 10th April, I was waiting at the ATM booth of Focus Bank at South Extension, New Delhi to withdraw money. Some four people were standing before me in the queue. Suddenly I heard a car stopping with a noise and four youths with masks got down from the car. They immediately rushed into the bank and asked the staff of the bank to hand over key of cash box and locker to them immediately. As their entry was sudden the bank staff was taken aback. But the security guard, Amarjeet could sense the trouble fast. He first of all informed the police at 100 number about entry of these masked people into the bank.

As it was early morning, there were not many customers inside the bank premises. He called one of his friend security guard also who lived near by with guns in their hands. One of them entered the bank quietly and the other one stood at the entry gate. A scuffle ensued between the robbers and the guards. Keeping his calm, the guard shot at two of the robbers so precisely that they were gunned down in one attempt. The other two robbers got panicky and tried to run away from the spot. But the brave security guard at the entrance gate did not allow them to escape. He overpowered the youths but in the clash, one of the robbers attacked the bank guard with a knife. The guard, though injured and bleeding, shot at the third robber in his leg and the other guard punched this fourth robber so hard that he fell down and was captured and beaten by the bank staff who were encouraged seeing the brave act of the security guard.

Meanwhile the police arrived at the spot and caught these two robbers. It also took away the bleeding bodies of other two robbers who were unable to move due to their injuries.

The guard who had sustained injuries on his hands and stomach was rushed to the nearby AIMS hospital for treatment. The policeman also sealed off the bank and all the staff members were being questioned by the police.

The brave attempt and intelligent initiation of the security guard were applauded by everyone present there. We really need such sincere security guards to keep away the robbers from public place as well as homes. I really appreciate the brave attempt of the bank security guard to fail the attempt to rob the bank.
For the Motion

I totally agree that today’s youths are more practical and wise and do not get swayed by emotions. Today’s young generation is very optimistic about their future and ambitious also as they want to achieve and fulfil their dreams. They don’t mind leaving their parent or friends behind in order to achieve their goals and fulfil their dreams. Earlier mostly the sons would try to stay with their parents so that they could be taken care of. But today in an urge to earn more money, they do not mind going far away from their parents. Moreover they do not get carried away by emotions and have a more practical outlook. Today’s youth has been able to balance his/her emotions.

Even though today’s younger lot is considered to be impatient, their impatient is because they don’t want to waste time. They wish to explore all possible horizons and for that they do not mind going away and leaving their family behind. As younger generation is connected with lots of social networking sites, their ideas are more enterprising and they are willing to take risk. Their ideas are practical also and their practical perspective leaves them with no time for ethical issues like ego, arrogance, emotions etc.

Against the Motion

I don’t agree that today’s youth is more practical or non-emotional. Though today’s youth may have more technological knowledge but they can not beat elders in their worldly wisdom and experience that grows with age. Older generation can judge people in a better and balanced manner as they have seen many in their life. Due to their over practical nature, it puts them in more depression and hence suicide rates are more common. Today’s youth is not balanced at all. In a hurry to get hold of easy money, they commit crime also and get influenced from TV and cinema. They do and act in such a manner in which they are not supposed to act. Being emotional as well as impatient, they are unable to differentiate between right and wrong. Oversmartness, shown by youngsters, very often puts them in trouble. Today’s youth do not want to take advice from their elders as they want to prove themselves. But most of the time they are proved wrong and ultimately turn to their elders for their kind advice.

Technology has driven youth to many acts done rashly and as a result they have suffered. The information explosion in the print and electronic media may give more information to teenagers but it cannot make them worldly wise.

Besides being optimistic and rash, the teenagers have a tendency to follow the dictates of the heart and are easily moved by the superficial considerations like colour, looks or aesthetic appeal. On the other hand, parents take decisions on merit, with sound time tested logic using their mind. They are therefore less prone to error.

Teenagers must seek their parent’s advice and use logic before taking any decision to save themselves from ruining their lives.

The literal meaning of the word ‘sacrifice’ may mean being willing to give up something good for something better.

Life is full of boundless possibilities, but in order to transform a possibility into a reality we have to choose—sacrificing the many in order to attain the one. Nothing is gained without relinquishing something. Sacrifice has meaning in the context of a goal, dream or mission.
In pursuing these we often face obstacles which require us to forfeit physical or emotional comfort in the service of something that matters more. Often, the greater the dream or vision, the greater the shared sacrifice of something required to attain it.

All religion are full of tales of sacrifices made by people for the good of others. In the Grecian tale, Iphigenia is forced by her father and the multitudes of Grecian soldiers to sacrifice her life in order to appease the God that controls the winds. Her inner struggle consists of the desire to live versus the knowledge of the fact that if she doesn’t sacrifice her life, her family will be executed along with her. Her decision to die is only made because she realises that she is the sacrifice for the ones she holds dearest to her heart, her own family.

When searching today’s society for those that show courage and nobility like that of Iphigenia, one acknowledges the work of the firefighters and police departments. Every time a person of this profession leaves their station in lieu of a call, they are potentially sacrificing their lives in order to save the lives of other persons. The many possible things that could happen to one of these workers while on the field could put them in a situation where safety is questionable. It is understood that this worker must sacrifice his or her life for whatever person is in need of help. The defence personnel do not think twice before sacrificing their lives for their country’s safety. They are trained and disciplined and the word ‘sacrifice’ is imbibed in their mind from training period only.

Parents sacrifice their whole life in bringing up their children, looking after their needs and make their career better. They are willing to undergo hardships and lack of facilities so that their children could have a better future. This type of sacrifice is very true in the context of Indian families, though sacrifice is a universal phenomena and there are ample instances of sacrifices in different situations and in different contexts.

(e) It is a well-known fact that people find it easy to preach things to others but they rarely practise it themselves. Many people love to advise others how to live their lives, but they lack the concept themselves.

In a nation considered free, trials of people still reigns on a day to day basis. The right and high continue to rise while the low still fall. Equality is preached yet its practice slips through the cracks of country’s foundation day after day. Not following any particular school of thought or being from a different caste does not warranty any one to treat them differently. Style is just an emotional reflection and being handicapped does not limit a person’s life values.

Though many times we find it difficult to practice what we preach. It is very important to recognise what is true and then pass a verdict on others. We must advise others only when we ourselves practise it. If we are very fond of morning walk and exercise, we must practise it ourselves than only advise others to follow this routine. When we teach our children to speak truth, we must practise it ourselves first. Many times it has been seen that parents lie about so many things while they preach their children to speak truth only.

The most spiritual of people are often the ones that don’t seem so spiritual. Those who practice basics like faithfulness, loyalty, honesty are very few and they do not preach these things to others. In reality a true human being will not be a hypocrite who says something else but practices something different. But in today’s world people believe in deceiving others.
They may portray themselves to be very righteous and honest but in reality they are not. In India our politicians come under this category. They promise and portray themselves as people who will remove corruption from the country but they themselves are found involved in many corrupt dealings. So we can very well say that it is easier to preach other than to practise it.

(f) Horrible Evening

Everything went horribly wrong that evening when I had planned to throw a surprise party for my cousins on 24th March 2017. First my mother had a bad fall and she had to be taken to the hospital to set up her fracture. My mother returned home after 2 hours and I thought that I could easily slip out for evening to enjoy the party. Suddenly the door bell rang and there were some unexpected relatives standing at the door. Their car had broken down so they had to wait till the car got repaired and as our house was nearby, they came to spend their time till their car was fixed. As my mother had fractured her right arm, I have to make tea and some snacks to offer to these guests as my mother had fractured her right hand. Somehow within an hour, their car was repaired and they left our house. It was already 8:30 and I was supposed to meet my cousins at 9 P M at Connaught Place which was almost 10 kms away from my house. I started getting ready as I had discussed my plan with my mom. As I was about to leave I could hear an awful noise and lots of commotion, women screaming behind our house. I tried to ignore and was about to leave when our neighbour rang the bell. I opened my window and to my shock I found that thick black clouds of smoke were emanating in the sky. I was sure that something terrible had happened and I couldn’t leave my mother above in such a situation. I rushed down stairs and joined the crowd which was alone shrieking and crying. Some people were running for shelter and water and as our house was very close to the firespot, I offered them shelter and water. I informed the fire brigade which somehow took half an hour to reach at the spot. I was feeling miserable as my cousins must be waiting for me. Fire brigade arrived but the multistory building was destroyed totally with great loss. The trapped people were rescued from the building and all the youngsters including me were helping in whatever way we could. I looked at my watch. It was already 11.30 in the night. I rang up my cousins who were already there at Connaught Place and were enjoying themselves. I shared with them my plan and they laughed loudly as they had come to know what has happened to me and my plans, courtesy my mother. As I was feeling very hungry, I went to the kitchen but there was nothing to eat. I cooked Maggie for myself and felt horrible as my plans for an exciting evening with my cousins were totally spoiled and I had to stay at home only.
2. City Hospitals

(A Report by Staff Reporter, Times of India, New Delhi)

Yesterday various hospitals of the city were visited to find out how they are working. There was a lot of difference in private hospitals and government hospitals. Delhi private hospitals are well equipped with ample beds, nursing staff and specialist doctors. Government hospitals are based in dilapidated buildings and need repairs immediately. Most of the government hospitals lack in basic facilities, staff is also less and there is always lack of specialist doctors. Patients have to wait for long hours even at OPD’s. Some of them had to spend nights outside the corridors to see the doctor, the next day.

Private hospitals though are well equipped and their ICU units can cater to all emergencies but one has to shell out a great amount of money for those services. The poor are the most sufferers as they had to wait at government hospitals where lack of doctors, nursing staff and shortage of life saving equipments make the matters worse. Many patients had to share the same room or bed in case they are admitted. The government need to improve the quality of these city hospitals. Government must check the private hospitals also so that in case of emergency even the poor patients are taken care of and not thrown out due to lack of money.

3. (a) (1) Besides buying a desktop, he also bought a laptop.
(2) The plants were revived due to heavy shower.
(3) In spite of poor light the men were forced to work.
(4) As soon as we saw a flash of light in the sky we heard loud explosion also near us.
(5) Not only did she not buy a pen but also is writing with a pencil.
(6) No other city is as vibrant as Mumbai.
(7) Their dog is so friendly that it can not be an effective guard dog.
(8) Sameer requested Ramesh to help him with his home work.
(9) No nook or corner were left unchecked.
(10) The doubt is how long I shall stay.

(b) 1. out 2. up 3. to 4. at
5. for 6. of 7. on 8. out
9. with 10. among

(c) 1. were discussing 2. talked 3. were
4. began 5. to govern 6. agree 7. arguing
8. had 9. came 10. broke

4. (a) (i) (1) immobile  (2) anguished
(3) intact  (4) shield

(ii) (1) Alex was looking at a girl who stood about six feet from him.
(2) The square patch of light inside her room woke her up.
(3) Tom entered the flat and paused for a second before he tried to open the lock of his house.
(4) He was head of the house who took all final and major decisions.
(b)  (i) Ben’s father lost his balance on the uneven ground and fell down. Exactly at the same time a bullet was fired resulting in loud bang and breaking of glass.
(ii) Ben saw that his father’s eyes were wide open due to excessive pain.
(iii) Ben’s father asked him to run away as he had heard a gun shot. Ben disobeyed his father as he wanted to protect him from being gunned shot down in head.
(iv) Ben, when asked by his father the reason of not running away explained to his father that if the bullet had hit him in the body, it would not have killed him. The gunshot had to be made towards head or neck so that it could prove fatal, so he did not leave his father so that his head could be protected.

(c) (i) Ben and his father left the hall to go towards the headquarters.
   - As the ground was uneven and dark, the father lost his balance and went down on one knee but feeling great pain.
   - At the same moment they heard a loud bang of bullet shot with a sharp sound and crashing of glass.
   - Father asked his son to run away as he could sense the danger.
   - Ben disobeyed as he stood near his father and asked his father to remain in sitting position only.
   - People from hotel came running and tried to help Ben’s father to get up. Well surrounded, the father got up but could not put his left foot down as it had been twisted.

(ii) Ben and his father left the hall to go across towards the headquarters. As the ground were uneven, Ben’s father tripped and went down on one knee. He was in severe pain. At the same time, they heard a loud bang and sound of bullet screeching past and glass being smashed. Father could sense danger and asked his son to run away. But son disobeyed his father and stood near him to shield him from any gun shot. People, hearing the bullet shot, came running out, saw Ben’s father and tried to help him to get up. Well surrounded, the father got up but could not put his left foot down as if had been twisted.