

1. Write a composition (300 – 350 words) on any one of the following: (15)
 - a. Narrate an incident from your experience which brings out the following message, 'Never leave till tomorrow what you can do today.'
 - b. Describe an occasion where you were punished for something you were not guilty of. State your feelings, why you believe the punishment was unfair and what you did to put things right.
 - c. Online shopping is better than traditional shopping. Express your views for or against the statement.
 - d. Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you.



2. Select any one of the following: (10)
 - a. Your friend is the captain of the chess team of your school. He felt miserable as he lost the first match in an inter-school competition. Write a letter to him encouraging him not to lose heart and to try again with renewed vigour.
 - b. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper stating your concern for the misuse of technology by the youth of today. Also state how it can be checked.
3.
 - a. Your school is organizing a charity drive for the underprivileged children in a slum colony. Write a notice to be put in your school, asking the students to donate their old books, notebooks, pens and pencils, clothes, toys, etc. (5)
 - b. Write an email to the Principal of a neighbouring school, requesting him/her to ask their students to participate in this charity drive, thereby donating their old stationery. (5)

4. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Amongst the current fraternity of writers, I must be that very rare person - the author who actually writes by hand!

Soon after the invention of the typewriter most editors and publishers understandably refused to look at any manuscript that was handwritten. A decade or two earlier, when Dickens and Balzac had submitted their hefty manuscripts in long hand, no one had raised any objection. Had their handwriting been awful their manuscripts would still have been read. Fortunately for all concerned, most writers, famous or obscure, took pains over their handwriting. For some, it was an art itself, and many of those earlier manuscripts are a pleasure to look at and read.

It was not only authors who wrote with an elegant hand, parents, and grandparents of most of us had distinctive styles of their own. I have my father's last letter written to me, when I was in boarding school in Shimla some fifty years ago. He used large, beautifully formed letters and his thoughts seem to have the same flow and clarity as his handwriting.

In his letter, he advises me, (then a nine-year-old) about my own handwriting: "I wanted to tell you earlier, about your writing, Ruskin... Sometimes I get letters from you in very small writing, as if you wanted to squeeze everything into one sheet of paper. It is not good for you, or for your eyes, to get into the habit of writing too small. Try to form a larger style of handwriting – use more paper if necessary!" I did my best to follow his advice and I am glad to report that after nearly forty years of the writing life, most people can still read my handwriting!

Word processors are all the rage now and I have no objection to these mechanical aids anymore than I have to my old Olympia typewriter, made in 1956 and still going strong. Although, I do all my writing in long hand, I followed the conventions by typing a second draft, but I would not enjoy my writing if I had to do it straight on the machine.

It is not just the pleasure of writing long hands. I like taking my notebooks and writing pads to odd places. This particular essay is being written on the steps of my small cottage facing Pari Tibba (fairy hill). Part of the reason for sitting here is that there is a new postman on this route, and I do not want him to miss me.

For a freelance writer, the postman is almost as important as a publisher. I could of course, sit here doing nothing but as I have pencil and paper with me, and I feel like using them I shall right until the post man comes and maybe after he has gone too! There is no way in which I could set up a word processor on the steps.

There are a number of favourite places where I do my writing. One is under the chestnut tree on the slope above the cottage. Word processors were not designed keeping mountain slopes in mind. But armed with a pen or pencil and paper, I can live on the grass and write for hours. On one occasion I did take my typewriter into the garden and I am still trying to extricate an acorn from under the keys, while the roller seems permanently stained yellow with some fine pollen dust from the Deodar trees.

My friends keep telling me about the wonderful things I can do with a word processor, but they have not got around to finding the one that I can take to bed, for that is another place where I can do much of my writing – especially on cold winter night, when it is impossible to keep the cottage warm. While the wind howls outside and snow piles up on the windowsill, I am warm under my quilt, writing pad on my knees, a pen at the ready and if the next day the weather is warm and sunny, these simple aides will accompany me on a long walk, ready for instant use, should I wish to record an incident, a conversation or simply a train of thought. I think my father was right when he said handwriting opens the key to a man's character and that, large well-formed letters went with an uncluttered mind.

a. Give the meaning of each of the following words as used in the passage: (3)

- i) awful
- ii) extricate
- iii) accompany

b. Answer the following questions briefly:

- i) What makes the writer feel that he is rare among the fraternity of writers? (2)
- ii) What advice was given by the father to his son in his letter? (2)
- iii) Give two apparent reasons for the author to sit on the steps of his cottage? (2)
- iv) According to the father, how does handwriting define a man? (1)

5.

a. In the following passage, fill in the numbered blanks with the correct form of the words given in brackets: [5]

In a recent poll, a large segment of Americans _____ (1) (ask) the simple question, "How _____ (2) (you do)?" The number one answer _____ (3) (give) by the thousands _____ (4) (is) simply, "Tired!"

Yes, years ago, technology had promised to make us more efficient so that we _____ (5) (can have) more leisure time and time with our families.

b. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate words. Do not copy the sentences. [5]

- i) He departed _____ a lot of fanfare.
- ii) I was loath to part _____ my books.
- iii) I assured my friend that he was free to drop _____ on any day.
- iv) He was _____ himself with anger when his friend teased him.
- v) The speaker was displeased when one of them cut _____.

c. Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each: [5]

- i) As soon as the teacher enters, she is greeted by her students. (Begin: No sooner...)
- ii) If you do not make the payment in time, your car will be taken away. (Begin: Unless ...)
- iii) Shakespeare was as great a dramatist as Kalidasa. (Rewrite using 'better')
- iv) Alas! I have lost the way. (Change into Assertive sentence)
- v) I am surprised at how you tolerate the rude behaviour of your friend. (Rewrite using the word 'put')