

Section A**1. Read the passage given below.**

They were once everywhere, chirping and flapping their wings at the window sills, on top of cupboards and on the branches of trees. Where have all the little sparrows gone? This is the most frequently asked question about sparrows these days.

The association between humans and the house sparrows dates back to several centuries and no other bird has been associated with humans on a daily basis like the house sparrow. It is a bird that evokes fond memories of childhood and adds freshness to households through its presence.

Many bird watchers and ornithologists recall with fondness how the house sparrow gave flight to their passion for observing birds. The nests of sparrows dotted almost every house in the neighbourhood as well as public places like bus stands and railway stations, where they lived in colonies and survived on food grains and tiny worms.

Unfortunately, the house sparrow has now become a disappearing species. Like all other plants and animals which were once abundant and are now facing an uncertain future, their numbers are also declining across their natural range. A study conducted by the Andhra University, Vishakhapatnam highlighted that population of house sparrows fell by over 60 per cent even in rural areas of coastal Andhra Pradesh. A survey conducted by the British Trust for Ornithology showed that house sparrow population in Britain has declined by about 58 per cent since 1970. Certainly, there is no single reason for the decline in the numbers of the house sparrows. Scientists and experts say that severe changes in the urban ecosystem in recent times have had tremendous impact on the population of house sparrows whose numbers are declining constantly. Mobile tower radiation and excessive use of chemical fertilisers are aggravating the problem and have been identified as potent sparrow killers.

There have been many theories put forward for the almost worldwide decline of the house sparrow. It is said that sparrow chicks, which require insect food for their survival in their early days, have not been getting adequate supply from their parents. This has triggered large scale deaths of chicks leading to gradual decline of their population.

The urban landscape too, has been dramatically altered over the years. Old houses, with courtyards in front and backyards, have made way for concrete multi-storeys, with little greenery. No longer are sparrows able to find the tiny nooks, crannies and holes where they used to build their nests.

Typically, sparrows were never an issue of concern for us with their diminutive presence in our households. Perhaps, it is this diminutive presence because of which even their gradual disappearance has gone unnoticed. Mohammed Dilavar is rightly called the 'Sparrow Man of India' as he has been successful in drawing the attention of the world towards the declining number of house sparrows.

House sparrows are important bio-indicators and their decline is a grim reminder of the degradation of urban environment and the danger from it to the humans in the long run.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the twelve that follow. [1×10Q=10]

- i. What do bird watchers and ornithologists recall about the house sparrows?
 - a) The house sparrows and the bird watchers share a special bond.
 - b) The house sparrows evoke fond memories of childhood.
 - c) The house sparrows make a desirable house pet.
 - d) The house sparrow gave flight to their passion for observing birds.
- ii. According to the passage what do sparrows survive on?
 - a) fruits and nuts
 - b) food grains and flowers
 - c) nectar and fruits
 - d) food grains and tiny worms
- iii. What is the decline in the house sparrow population in Britain since 1970?
 - a) 58 per cent
 - b) 60 per cent
 - c) 46 per cent
 - d) 68 per cent
- iv. What is the main reason for the decline of the population of the house sparrow?
 - a) increased hunting
 - b) changes in the urban eco-system
 - c) increase in temperature
 - d) increase in the number of predatory birds

- v. Which of the following has been identified as potent sparrow killers?
- a) internet cables
 - b) mobile tower radiation
 - c) polluted water sources
 - d) low quality food grains
- vi. What is the reason for the large scale deaths of chicks?
- a) inadequate supply of insect food
 - b) inadequate supply of fresh water
 - c) decreased forest cover
 - d) increased number of skyscrapers
- vii. Why is Mohammed Dilavar rightly called the 'Sparrow Man of India'?
- a) He has successfully freed all the house sparrows caged by hunters.
 - b) He has successfully drawn the world's attention towards the declining number of house sparrows.
 - c) He has played a vital role in bringing about the ban of chemical fertilizers in the country.
 - d) He has successfully build nests for rehabilitating the house sparrows.
- viii. What is the decline in the number of sparrows a grim reminder of?
- a) the dependency on technology
 - b) the excessive use of fertilizers
 - c) the degradation of urban environment
 - d) the gradual disappearance is unnoticed
- ix. Which of the following word from the extract is the synonym of the phrase 'extremely small'?
- a) potent
 - b) triggered
 - c) diminutive
 - d) grim
- x. Which of the following is the antonym of the word 'gradual'?
- a) moderate
 - b) cautious
 - c) abrupt
 - d) uniform

xii. Choose the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the given quotes.

- (1) A bird doesn't sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song.
 - (2) If you want to see an endangered species, get up and look in the mirror.
 - (3) Birds of a feather flock together.
 - (4) Birds are sensitive indicators of environment, a sort of ecological litmus paper.
- a) Option (1)
 - b) Option (2)
 - c) Option (3)
 - d) Option (4)
- xiii.** The author attempts to _____ the readers through this write-up.
- a) alert
 - b) question
 - c) advise
 - d) inform

Section B

2. The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction provided in the space provided against the correct number. [1×3Q=3]

	Error	Correction
a. Malaria has been caused by the bite of the female		
b. Anopheles Mosquito. It became dangerous if proper care is	became	become
c. not taken. The bite is transferring the parasite into the human system.		

3. Fill in the blanks using the correct word in each blank. [1×2Q=2]

Devika: Papa, we have a long autumn vacation. We (a) may visit grandmother who has invited us many times.

Papa: My work schedule is not certain so far. It (b) can be finalised by the weekend.

Devika: Can we take our puppy along with us?

Papa: You may.

Devika: Thank you so much.

4. Write a brief description of a salesman/shop assistant in your neighbourhood. [5×1Q=5]

Section C

5. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE by answering the questions that follow. [5×1Q=5]

*Then took the other, just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same.*

- i. *Then took the other just as fair,*

This line tells us that the person made

- a) an uncommon choice
- b) a safe choice
- c) a common choice
- d) a cautious choice

- ii. *Because it was grassy and wanted wear;*

The statement that best describes the above line is

- a) not many people doubted that path
- b) not many people had walked that path
- c) many people trusted that path
- d) many people had walked that path

- iii. The poetic device used in *Because it was grassy and wanted wear* is _____.

- a) Onomatopoeia
- b) Imagery
- c) Alliteration
- d) Assonance

- iv. Which word in the stanza rhymes with the word *claim*?

- a) fair
- b) wear
- c) there
- d) same

- v. *And having perhaps the better claim* means that the path had _____.

- a) guaranteed success
- b) great promise
- c) complete assurance
- d) immense luck

OR

She never looked back from that point onwards. She toured the United Kingdom with a youth orchestra and by the time she was sixteen, she had decided to make music her life.

- i. Which was the turning point from which *she never looked back*?
 - a) When most of her teachers discouraged her from playing the xylophone but she became determined to do so.
 - b) When the specialist advised her to wear hearing aids and join a school for the deaf but she refused to do so.
 - c) When a percussionist encouraged her not to give up and instead find other ways to study music.
 - d) After she learned that music could also be sensed after training her body to open out to sounds and vibrations.
- ii. What happened when Evelyn auditioned at the Royal Academy of Music in London?
 - a) She scored the highest marks amongst all the music academies in London.
 - b) She scored one of the highest marks in the history of the academy.
 - c) She scored the highest marks amongst all the competitors.
 - d) She scored the highest marks amongst the female musicians.
- iii. What professional change did Evelyn make at the Academy which shows that she was extremely talented?
 - a) She gradually moved from orchestral work to solo performances.
 - b) She learned to play the drums besides the piano.
 - c) She wrote music scores for theatre and films.
 - d) She became a writer when she wrote her autobiography
- iv. At the end of her three-year course at the prestigious music academy, Evelyn

 - a) had bagged offers to play at concerts
 - b) wanted to tour Europe
 - c) had visited many countries
 - d) had won most of the top awards
- v. Which of the following qualities was not part of Evelyn's rise to the top?

- a) Hard work
 - b) Idleness
 - c) Determination
 - d) Focus

6. Answer ANY ONE out of the TWO questions in 40-50 words. [3×1Q=3]

- i. How does the poet resolve the dilemma? Which road does he choose and why?
ii. How did Bismillah Khan develop his talent for music?

7. Answer ANY ONE out of the TWO questions in 100-120 words. [6×1Q=6]

- i. Human life is full of hardships. How does the poet reveal it in the poem 'Wind'?
 - ii. Describe the old school as described in the book. How did it influence Margie?

8. Answer ANY ONE out of the TWO questions in 100-120 words. [6×1Q=6]

- i. How does the child in the story lose himself? How far is he responsible for his predicament?
 - ii. Why does the author say that *Toto was not the sort of pet one could keep for long*?