



An Eye on Talent

Olympiad Aptitude Test

English

Class XII

Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow :

(1) We sit in the last row, bumped about but free of stares. The bus rolls out of the dull crossroads of the city, and we are soon in open countryside, with fields of sunflowers as far as the eye can see, their heads all facing us. Where there is no water, the land reverts to desert. While still on level ground, we see in the distance the tall range of the Mount Bogda, abrupt like a shining prism laid horizontally on the desert surface. It is over 5,000 metres high, and the peaks are under permanent snow, in powerful contrast to the flat desert all around. Heaven Lake lies part of the way up this range, about 2,000 metres above sea-level, at the foot of one of the higher snow-peaks.

(2) As the bus climbs, the sky, brilliant before, grows overcast. I have brought nothing warm to wear: it is all down at the hotel in Urumqi. Rain begins to fall. The man behind me is eating overpoweringly smelly goats' cheese. The bus window leaks inhospitably but reveals a beautiful view. We have passed quickly from desert through the arable land to pasture, and the ground is now green with grass, the slopes dark with pine. A few cattle drink at a clear stream flowing past moss-covered stones; it is a Constable landscape. The stream changes into a white torrent, and as we climb higher I wish more and more that I had brought with me something warmer than the pair of shorts that have served me so well in the desert. The steam (which, we are told, rises in Heaven Lake) disappears, and we continue our slow ascent. About noon, we arrive at Heaven Lake and look for a place to stay at the foot, which is the resort area. We get a room in a small cottage, and I am happy to note that there are thick quilts on the beds.

(3) Standing outside the cottage we survey our surroundings. Heaven Lake is long, sardine-shaped and fed by snowmelt from a stream at its head. The lake is an intense blue, surrounded on all sides by green mountain walls, dotted with distant sheep. At the head of the lake, beyond the delta of the inflowing stream, is a massive snow-capped peak which dominates the vista; it is part of a series of peaks that culminate, a little out of view, in Mount Bogda itself.

(4) For those who live in the resort, there is a small mess-hall by the shore. We eat here sometimes and sometimes buy food from the vendors outside, who sell kabab and naan until the last buses leave. The kababs, cooked on skewers over charcoal braziers, is particularly good; highly spiced and well-done. Horse's milk is available too from the local Kazakh herdsmen, but I decline this. I am so affected by the cold that Mr Cao, the relaxed young man who runs the mess, lends me a spare pair of trousers, several sizes too large but more than comfortable. Once I am

warm again, I feel a pre-dinner spurt of energy — dinner will be long in coming — and I ask him whether the lake is good for swimming in.

(5) "Swimming?" Mr Cao says. " aren't thinking of swimming, are you?"

(6) "I thought I might," I confess. "What's the water like?"

(7) He doesn't answer me immediately, turning instead to examine some receipts with exaggerated interest. Mr Cao, with great off-handedness, addresses the air. "People are often drowned here," he says. After a pause, he continues. "When was the last one?" This question is directed at the cook, who is preparing a tray of mantou (squat, white steamed bread rolls), and who now appears, wiping his doughy hand across his forehead. "Was it the Beijing athlete?" asks Mr Cao.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage complete the statements are given below with the help of the options that follow :

1. One benefit of sitting in the last row of the bus was that

- a) the narrator enjoyed the bumps.
- b) no one stared at him.
- c) he could see the sunflowers.
- d) he voided the dullness of the city.

2. The narrator was travelling to

- a. Mount Bogda.
- b. Heaven Lake
- c. A 2,000-metre high snow-peak.
- d. Urumqi.

3. On reaching the destination the narrator felt relieved because

- a) he had got away from the desert.
- b) a difficult journey had come to an end.
- c) he could watch the snow-peak.
- d) there were thick quilts on the beds.

4. Mount Bogda is compared to

- a) a horizontal desert surface.
- b) a Constable landscape.
- c) a shining prism.
- d) the overcast sky

Passage

The League of Nations was (1) in 1919. It became ineffective and the UNO began to (2) from October 24, 1945. The Second World War (3) in 1939. It caused great (4) to human lives and properly.

5. (A) created (B) formed (C) made (D) opened
6. (A) start (B) operate (C) function (D) commence
7. (A) broke in (B) broke out (C) broke into (D) broke up
8. (A) wastage (B) calamity (C) loss (D) disturbance

Fill up the blanks with appropriate word(s) in the sentences. Four options are given, choose the correct one.

9. It is hoped that a _____ will be reached in the meeting.
 - (a) statement
 - (b) comparison
 - (c) compromise
 - (d) compression
10. We are fortunate to have extremely _____ and visionary leaders.
 - a) competitive
 - b) complex
 - c) complaisant
 - d) competent

Directions: Q(11-12) In these questions, a sentence/part of the sentence is underlined. Below are given alternatives to the underlined part as (A), (B), (C) which may improve the sentence. Choose yja correct alternative. In case no improvement is needed, choose option (D).

11. Shakespeare is greater than any other poet.
 - (a) greater than many poets.
 - (b) greater as any other poet.
 - (c) greater than all poets.
 - (d) No improvement.
12. I saw the woman whom you said lived next door.
 - (a) that you said live next door.
 - (b) who you said lived next door.
 - (c) which you said lived next door.
 - (d) No improvement

13. The opposite of hypocrisy is

- (a) sincerity
- (b) selfishness
- (c) loyalty
- (d) honesty

14. Teacher asked students to use color pencils during art period. (Which word is a compound noun?)

- (a) colour pencil
- (b) students
- (c) period
- (d) teacher

15. Complete shutdown _____ observed today against new law.

- (a) is being
- (b) can be
- (c) is been
- (d) was been