

Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable. The figure in the margin indicates full marks.

1. Read the text given below and do the tasks as instructed.

[15]

A Trek to Annapurna Base Camp

The trail to Annapurna Base Camp is a pilgrimage through Nepal's heart, where rugged paths wind past terraced fields, gurgling rivers, and snow-draped peaks. In the spring of 2024, I set out from Pokhara, my backpack heavy with anticipation. The Annapurna region, cradled by the Himalayas, is a tapestry of nature and culture, where every step reveals the resilience of the Nepalese people and the majesty of their land.

The journey began in Nayapul, a bustling village where jeeps unload trekkers and locals barter for supplies. From there, the trail climbed through terraced rice paddies and bamboo groves, the air alive with the scent of wildflowers and the chime of mule bells. Gurung and Magar villages dotted the path, their stone houses adorned with prayer flags fluttering in the breeze. In Ghandruk, I paused to sip masala tea at a teahouse, watching children play under the watchful gaze of Machhapuchhre, the sacred "Fish Tail" peak.

A memorable encounter came on day three, in Chhomrong. A Gurung woman named Laxmi, her hands calloused from years of farming, invited me to her home. Over plates of dal bhat, she shared stories of her village's traditions, festivals like Dashain, the weaving of dhaka fabric, and the challenges of living in a remote area. "Tourism helps," she said, "but climate change is making our rivers unpredictable." Her warmth and candor left a lasting impression, a reminder of the human pulse behind the scenery.

The trek grew tougher as we ascended to Deurali, where the air thinned and the landscape turned stark. Rhododendron forests gave way to alpine meadows, and the peaks of Annapurna South and Hiunchuli loomed closer. At Machhapuchhre Base Camp, I felt a thrill—the final push to Annapurna Base Camp was near. But the altitude was unforgiving. My head throbbed, and each step felt like wading through molasses. I rested at a lodge, sipping garlic soup, a local remedy for altitude sickness, and marveled at the porters carrying loads twice my weight with ease.

Reaching Annapurna Base Camp at 4,130 meters was euphoric. Surrounded by a 360-degree panorama of peaks, I stood in awe as the morning sun painted

Annapurna I in gold. Yet, the moment was bittersweet. Fellow trekkers spoke of melting glaciers and shrinking snowlines, echoing Laxmi's concerns about climate change. The mountains, timeless as they seem, are vulnerable.

The descent was a blur of aching knees and quiet reflection. Back in Pokhara, I visited a small shop selling thangka paintings and pashmina shawls, buying a prayer flag to hang at home. The trek had been grueling but transformative, revealing Nepal's beauty and its challenges. Laxmi's words lingered: the land and its people are intertwined, their survival tied to the fragile balance of nature and tradition. I left with a vow to return, hoping the Himalayas would endure for generations to come.

A. Choose and copy the correct answer.

[5x1=5]

- a) What is the main purpose of the passage?
- a) To promote tourism in Nepal
 - b) To narrate the author's trekking experience in the Annapurna region
 - c) To analyze the impact of climate change on the Himalayas
 - d) To describe the history of Gurung culture
- b) How does the author feel upon reaching Annapurna Base Camp?
- a) Exhausted and regretful
 - b) Overwhelmed with joy and awe
 - c) Anxious about the descent
 - d) Disappointed by the scenery
- c) What does the passage suggest about the impact of climate change?
- a) It has no effect on the Annapurna region.
 - b) It is causing environmental changes like melting glaciers.
 - c) It has stopped tourism in the area.
 - d) It only affects urban areas in Nepal.
- d) Where did the author begin the trek?
- a) Pokhara
 - b) Ghandruk
 - c) Nayapul
 - d) Chhomrong
- e) The author's interaction with Laxmi highlights:
- a) The decline of traditional festivals
 - b) The importance of tourism to local communities
 - c) The lack of hospitality in Gurung villages
 - d) The absence of environmental concerns

B. Read the text again and write:

[5x1=5]

TRUE: *if the statement agrees with the information given in the text.*

FALSE: *if the statement contradicts the information given in the text.*

NOT GIVEN: *if there is no information in the text.*

- a) The trek to Annapurna Base Camp starts in Ghandruk.
- b) Laxmi expressed concerns about unpredictable rivers due to climate change.
- c) The author bought a thangka painting and a pashmina shawl in Pokhara.
- d) The passage mentions that Machhapuchhre is a religious peak.

TO: @upan

FROM: @sam

sub: -
Dear,

#Bestregal

e) The author completed the trek without experiencing any physical difficulties.

C. Answer the following questions.

[5×1=5]

a) What does the word "tapestry" in the first paragraph suggest about the Annapurna region?

b) Why did the author feel a "bittersweet" moment at Annapurna Base Camp?

c) What does Laxmi mean when she says tourism "helps" her community?

d) Name two specific items or foods mentioned in the passage that the author encountered during the trek.

e) Why does the author describe the trek as "transformative"?

2. Write short answers to the following questions.

[5×2=10]

a. Why is the speaker saying that 'the children are the most beautiful flowers of all'? (*The Selfish Giant*)

b. How is the relationship between the portrait painter and the subject portrayed in 'The Oval Portrait'? (*The Oval Portrait*)

c. Discuss how the essay "Sharing Tradition" highlights the importance of oral storytelling and cultural preservation. (*Sharing Tradition*)

d. What does the speaker mean in the given line? (*All the World's a Stage*)

They have their exits and their entrances;

And one man in his time plays many parts,

e. Sketch the character of Wasserkopf. (*Refund*)

3. Write Long answer to the following questions.

[2×5=10]

a. Steve Jobs concludes his speech with the statement, 'Stay hungry; stay foolish.' Critically analyze the significance of this statement in the context of his overall message in *How to Live Before You Die*, providing textual evidence to support your answer. (*How to Live Before You Die*)

OR

Summarize Robert Burns' poem "A Red, Red Rose".

b. The Gift in Wartime' reflects the pain and personal loss caused by war. In light of ongoing conflicts in different parts of the world today, how does the poem remain relevant? Discuss how the poet's message about war and human suffering connects with the contemporary global situation.

(*The Gift in Wartime*)

3. Your school recently organized a District-Level Sports Meet that included various athletic competitions, team games, and an award ceremony. As a student journalist for the school magazine, write a news story highlighting the major events, chief guests, and student participation. [7]

4. Suppose, you are the coordinator of your school's English Club. You want to organize an inter-class speech competition on the theme "The Impact of Social Media on Students." Write a formal email to the Principal of your school requesting permission to conduct the event. Mention the

reason for choosing this topic, the expected date, and how it will help students. [8]

5. The National Examination Board (NEB) has announced an inter-school essay competition on the theme "The Role of Youth in Nation Building in the 21st Century." As a senior secondary student, write an essay discussing how today's youth can contribute to the development of the nation through education, innovation, social service, and responsible use of technology. Support your ideas with examples and conclude with your personal commitment as a youth towards building a better Nepal. [10]

6. Do as Instructed. [10×1 = 10]

- She speaks English.....(fluent / fluently).
- Neither the teacher nor the students.....interested in the topic. (is / are/am)
- They went the hills this morning. (into/ up to/ onto)
- You..... finish your homework before watching TV. (Must / can / might)
- By the time we arrived, the movie (had started / started / starts)
- I could not bear reality shows. Everything is so fake and dramatic. (to watch/ watching)
- I will call you I arrive at the station. (until / after / unless)
- The girl won the prize is my sister. (who / whom / which)
- She likes people waving at her. (Change into passive voice)
- He said, "I am learning French." (Change into indirect speech)

7. Vocabulary [5×1 = 5]

- Write the antonym of "Pros":
- Add a suitable prefix to form the opposite of the word "possible":
- Identify the word class of the underlined word in the sentence given below:
She quickly finished her homework.
- What does the idiom "hit the books" mean?
 - To get angry
 - To start studying
 - To throw books
- From which word is "development" derived?
 - Develop
 - Develops
 - Developer

Good Luck!