Q1) Read the given passage and answer the following questions:

Today's woman is a highly self-directed person, alive to the sense of her dignity and the importance of her functions in the private domestic domain and the public domain of the world of work. Women are rational in approach, careful in handling situations and want to do things as best as possible. The Fourth World Conference of Women held in Beijing in September 1995 had emphasized that no enduring solution of society's most threatening social, economic and political problems could be found without the participation and empowerment of the women. The 1995 World Summit for Social Development had also emphasised the pivotal role of women in eradicating poverty and mending the social fabric.

The Constitution of India had conferred on women equal rights and opportunities political, social, educational and of employment with men. Because of oppressive traditions, superstitions, exploitation and corruption, a majority of women are not allowed to enjoy the rights and opportunities, bestowed on them. One of the major reasons for this state of affairs is the lack of literacy and awareness among women. Education is the main instrument through which we can narrow down the prevailing inequality and accelerate the process of economic and political change in the status of women.

The role of women in a society is very important. Women's education is the key to a better life in the future. A recent World Bank study says that educating girls is not a charity, it is good economics and if developing nations are to eradicate poverty, they must educate the girls. The report says that the economic and social returns on investment in education of the girls considerably affect the human development index of the nation. Society would progress only if the status of women is respected and the presence of an educated woman in the family would ensure education of the family itself. Education and empowerment of women are closely related.

Women's education has not received due care and attention from the planners and policymakers. The National Commission for Women has rightly pointed out that even after 50 years of independence, women continue to be treated as the single largest group of backward citizens of India. The role of women in overall development has not been fully understood nor has it been given its full weight in the struggle to eliminate poverty, hunger, injustice and inequality at the national level. Even when we are at the threshold of the 21st century, our society still discriminates against women in matters of their rights and privileges and prevents them from participating in the process of national and societal progress.

Various Committees and Commissions have been constituted before and after the independence to evaluate the progress in women's education and to suggest ways and means to enhance the status of women. The female literacy rate has gone up in the 20th century from 0.6 per cent in 1901 to 39.29 per cent in 1991 but India still possesses the largest number of illiterate women in the world. The female literacy index for the year 1991 shows that there are eight States which fall below the national average. The most populous
States of the country, UP, MP, Bihar and Rajasthan fall in the category of most backward States as far as female literacy is concerned.

The prevailing cultural norms of gender behaviour and the perceived domestic and reproductive roles of women tend to affect the education of girls. Negative attitude towards sending girls to schools, restrictions on their mobility, early marriage, poverty and illiteracy of parents affect the girl’s participation in education.

Women’s political empowerment got a big boost with the Panchayati Raj Act of 1993 which gave them 30 per cent reservation in Village Panchayats, Block Samities and Zila Parishads throughout the country. The National Commission for Women was also set up in 1992 to act as a lobby for women’s issues.

The educational system is the only institution which can counteract the deep foundations of inequality of sexes that are built in the minds of people through the socialization process. Education is the most important instrument of human resource development. Educational system should be used to revolutionize the traditional attitudes and inculcate new values of equality.

(a) Answer the following: (2x5=10)
(i) Mention any two attributes of a modern woman.
(ii) Why are women’s participation and empowerment considered necessary?
(iii) Which factors adversely affect the education of girls?
(iv) What benefits did the women get with the enactment of the Panchayati Raj Act of 1993?
(v) By what process can we remove the sense of inequality of sexes from the minds of the people?

(b) Pick out words from the passage which mean the same as each of the following: (1x3=3)
(i) cruel and unfair (para 2)
(ii) remove (para 3)
(iii) full of people (para 4)

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS.

Q2) You are Sumit/Sugandha staying in 16 Kashi Bose Lane, Kolkata-03. You want to apply for the post of Junior Pharmacist in Ranbaxy, Mumbai. Draft a letter to the HR of the organization and apply for the same. Mention all the details. (7)

Q3) Prepare a resume of your own. (15)

Q4) Draft a report on the blood donation camp that took place in your college last week. (10)

SECTION C: GRAMMAR

Q5) Go through the sentences provided below and identify the type of tenses: (0.5X10=5)

1. Damon drinks coffee every morning.
2. The boy got up late and missed the bus.
3. My mother goes to pray in the temple.
4. The team is playing very well.
5. The school will be closing for winter break.
6. Leonard graduated from college last year.
7. The baby has eaten all the chips.

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8. Have you read Pride and Prejudice?
9. The train has just left the station.
10. The sick child has been sleeping for three hours.

Q6) Go through the sentences and change their tenses as directed: (1x5=5)

1. The boy speaks the truth. (Present Continuous Tense)
2. Mr Cooper has spoken about Dinosaurs. (Present Perfect Continuous Tense)
3. The boat sailed yesterday. (Simple Present Tense)
4. Amy went to school yesterday. (Future Continuous Tense)
5. The baby cried for hours. (Present Perfect Continuous Tense)

Q7) Fill in the Blanks with appropriate prepositions: (0.5x10=5)

1. The school board agreed _____ look into the student's complaints.
2. The school board then agreed _____ the course of action.
3. The benefits _____ providing students with lunch at school, far outweigh the logistical challenges.
4. Most students benefit _____ interactions with fellow students outside school hours.
5. The latest set of losses resulted _____ the captain losing her job.
6. Celine clashed _____ her boss in the last meeting.
7. They clashed _____ the tone of the presentation.
8. I forgot _____ buy the medicine in time.
9. I completely forgot _____ the strike the next day.
10. Janice asked _____ a cup of tea.

Q8) Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles: (0.5 X10= 5)

1. If you see him, give him _____ message.
2. English is _____ Language of _____ people of England.
3. The guide knows _____ way.
4. Sri Lanka is _____ Island.
5. Let us discuss _____ matter seriously.
7. Man, thou art _____ wonderful animal.
8. India is one of _____ most industrial countries in Asia.
9. He looks as stupid as _____ owl.
10. He is _____ honour to this profession.

Q9) Solve the Jumbled Paragraph: (5)

The five sentences labelled (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) given in this question, when properly sequenced, form a coherent paragraph. Each sentence is labelled with a number. Decide on the proper order for the sentences and key in this sequence of five numbers as your answer:

1. Scientists have for the first time managed to edit genes in a human embryo to repair a genetic mutation, fuelling hopes that such procedures may one day be available outside laboratory conditions.
2. The cardiac disease causes sudden death in otherwise healthy young athletes and affects about one in 500 people overall.
3. Correcting the mutation in the gene would not only ensure that the child is healthy but also prevents transmission of the mutation to future generations.

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Q10) Write the meanings of the following foreign words: (1x10=10)

a) Hoodlum-
b) Glisten-
c) Kimono-
d) Okra-
e) Fiesta-
f) Ombre-
g) Pueblo-
h) Tirade-
i) Klutz-
j) Manifesto-

Q11) Mention the synonyms of the following words: (1x10=10)

a) Low-key-
b) Stipulation-
c) Lot-
d) Entrenched-
e) Lot-
f) Apprehension-
g) Amenable-
h) Affluent-
i) Counterpart-
j) Superficial-

Q12) Mention the antonyms of the following words: (1x10=10)

a) Amusing-
b) Egoism-
c) Separate-
d) Professional-
e) Ambiguity-
f) Ancestor-
g) Omega-
h) Amplification-
i) Hurry-
j) Hostile-