

CLASS XI ASSIGNMENT

	SECTION-A (READING (Marks:30)	
1.	<p>Read the passage given below :</p> <p>1. A fisherman, enfeebled with age, could no longer go out to sea so he began fishing in the river. Every morning he would go down to the river and sit there fishing the whole day long. In the evening he would sell whatever he had caught, buy food for himself and go home. It was a hard life for an old man. One hot afternoon while he was trying to keep awake and bemoaning his fate, a large bird with silvery feathers alighted on a rock near him. It was Kaha, the heavenly bird. "Have you no one to care for you, grandpa ?" asked the bird. "Not a soul." "You should not be doing such work at your age, " said the bird. "From now on I will bring you a big fish every evening. You can sell it and live in comfort." True to her word, the bird began to drop a large fish at his doorstep every evening. All that the fisherman had to do was take it to the market and sell it. As big fish were in great demand, he was soon rolling in money. He bought a cottage near the sea, with a garden around it and engaged a servant to cook for him. His wife had died some years earlier. He had decided to marry again and began to look for a suitable woman.</p> <p>2. One day he heard the royal courtier make an announcement. Our king has news of a great bird called Kaha," said the courtier. "Whoever can give information about this bird and help catch it, will be rewarded with half the gold in the royal treasury and half the kingdom !" The fisherman was sorely tempted by the reward. Half the kingdom would make him a prince !</p> <p>3. "Why does the king want the bird ?" he asked. "He has lost his sight," explained the courtier. "A wise man has advised him to bathe his eyes with the blood of Kaha. Do you know where she can be found ?" "No...I mean ...no, no..." Torn between greed and his</p>	

sense of gratitude to the bird, the fisherman could not give a coherent reply. The courtier, sensing that he knew something about the bird, informed the king. The king had him brought to the palace.

4. "If you have information about the bird, tell me," urged the king. "I will reward you handsomely and if you help catch her, I will personally crown you king of half my domain." "I will get the bird for you," cried the fisherman, suddenly making up his mind. "But Kaha is strong. I will need help." The king sent a dozen soldiers with him. That evening when the bird came with the fish, the fisherman called out to her to wait. "You drop the fish and go and I never get a chance to thank you for all that you've done for me," he said. "Today I have laid out a feast for you inside. Please alight and come in." Kaha was reluctant to accept the invitation but the fisherman pleaded so earnestly that she finally gave in, and alighted. The moment she was on the ground, the fisherman grabbed one of her legs and shouted to the soldiers hiding in his house to come out. They rushed to his aid but their combined effort could not keep Kaha down.

5. She rose into the air with the fisherman still clinging onto her leg. By the time he realised he was being carried away, the fisherman was too high in the air to let go. He hung on grimly, and neither he nor Kaha were ever seen again.

1.1 On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer each of the questions given below by choosing the most appropriate option:

1x4=4

(a) Why was the king desperately looking for Kaha the bird ?

- The king wanted a pet bird.
- A wise man advised the king to capture the bird for good luck.
- Kaha was the only heavenly bird with silvery feathers.
- The king was blind and required Kaha's blood for his eyes.

(b) Why did the bird volunteer to bring fish for the old man ?

- The old man was inexperienced at fishing.
- The bird took pity on the old man and wanted to help him.
- The bird had caught more fish than required.
- The bird wanted to make the old man rich.

(c) What led the courtier to sense that the fisherman might know something about Kaha ?

- The courtier had observed Kaha alight at the fisherman's house every evening.
- The courtier had seen the fisherman talk to Kaha.
- The fisherman fumbled when asked about Kaha.
- Word went around that the fisherman was in contact with Kaha.

(d) Which of the following is not true about Kaha ?

- Kaha was a very considerate bird.

	<p>ii. The blood of Kaha was precious. iii. Kaha was a strong bird. iv. Kaha saved the fisherman from the King's wrath.</p> <p>1.2 Answer the following questions briefly: a. Why did the fisherman stammer when asked if he knew about the bird ? b. How did the fisherman get Kaha to come down ? c. What does the phrase 'rolling in money' in the passage refer to ? d. Why was the fisherman doubtful about revealing information about Kaha to the courtier ? e. Mention two traits of farmer's character revealed through the story. f. How did the bird manage to escape?</p> <p>1.3 Pick out the words/phrases from the passage which are opposite in meaning to the following: i. Take off (Para 1) ii. Released (Para 4)</p>	<p>1x6=6</p> <p>1x2 =2</p>
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3	<p>Read the passage given below:</p> <p>This isn't a mountain region of mere subjective beauty. Nor one, which claims its greatness, based on just an overwhelming opinion of a large majority. For Sikkim is a treasure that few know about. However, the facts of its remarkable geography bear enough testimony to pitch Sikkim in a slot that no other mountain region, anywhere in the world, could duplicate or rival. What Everest is to peaks, Sikkim is to the mountains. Tragically, a region so wild and exotic and with such geographic and climatic extremes, that its amazing wilds and not its unremarkable hill stations, ensure its accessibility to the adventurous only.</p> <p>Just delve on these facts a bit. From the plains, in a mere 80 kms as the crow flies, the altitude reaches 28,168 feet at the very top of Kangchenjunga, the third highest peak in the world. Such a sharp elevation is unrivalled anywhere else and is the first geographical claim of Sikkim.</p> <p>The second is an offshoot of the first. Nowhere else do so many 7,000 metre plus peaks crowd up such a confined space. And the third is really a consequence of the first and the second with the sharp gradation creating the most variegated flora and fauna possible anywhere in the mountains. The fourth uniqueness is also a consequence of the first and the second and lies in the extremes of the climate which ranges from the tropical to the typical arctic type. And the fifth claim is its thin permanent population and relatively fewer travellers by virtue of its remote far-eastern Himalayan location.</p> <p>The startling facts about Sikkim never seem to end. For starters, all of Sikkim lies in a mere 110 kms by 65 kms of mountains, peaks, glaciers, rivers and forests. A little dot on the map at a latitude 27 degrees North and longitude 88 degrees East. Its 7,000-sq kms make it about as large as the National Capital Region of India! To the North and extending to the East of Sikkim, is Tibet / China and to the West is Nepal. To the South are the Himalayan and sub Himalayan regions of West Bengal.</p> <p>It is, in fact these geographical extremes and the resulting ambience, that makes</p>	
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mountaineers trek here, when they are not climbing, besides fuelling mountaineering dreams in the minds of trekkers, what with the closest possible proximity to magnificent peaks while trekking.

On the subject of trekking here, it is strange but true that acclimatisation is much tougher in Sikkim than elsewhere. It may have something to do with being closer in latitude to the Tropic of Cancer, besides the rather sharp stages involved in each day of trekking. The closeness to the Tropic of Cancer has meant that the snowline will always be much higher and therefore human settlements are seen even at altitudes of 16,000 feet! (473 words)

Adapted from a travelogue by Ashish Kaul, Travel Writer

(a) On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary—minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it.

(b) Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words.

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Q. As student Editor, draft a notice in about 50 words for your school notice board inviting articles from the students for the school magazine. You are Rohan/Rupini of Vasant Vihar school, Pune.

Q. You are Ravi/Reena, the newly elected Head Boy of JKPS School. Write a report in 150-200 words for the school magazine on the Investiture Ceremony of school leaders held recently in your school.