

Class 10 - English Language and Literature

Discursive Passage Test 04

1. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

The choices we make on a daily basis-wearing a seat belt, lifting heavy objects correctly or purposely staying out of any dangerous situation-can either ensure our safety or bring about potentially harmful circumstances. You and I need to make a decision that we are going to get our lives in order. Exercising self-control, self-discipline and establishing boundaries and borders in our lives are some of the most important things we can do. A life without discipline is one that's filled with carelessness.

We can think it's kind of exciting to live life on the edge. We like the image of "Yeah! That's me! Living on the edge! Woo-hoo!" It's become a popular way to look at life. But if you see, even highways have lines, which provide margins for our safety while we're driving. If we go over one side, we'll go into the ditch. If we cross over the line in the middle, we could get killed. And we like those lines because they help to keep us safe. Sometimes we don't even realize how lines help to keep us safe.

I'm not proud of this, but for the first 20 years of my life at work, I ignored my limits. I felt horrible, physically, most of the time. I used to tell myself "I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it." I ran to doctors, trying to make myself feel better through pills, vitamins, natural stuff and anything I could get my hands on. Some of the doctors would tell me, "It's just stress." That just made me mad. I thought stress meant you don't like what you do or can't handle life, and I love what I do. But I kept pushing myself, travelling, doing speaking engagements and so on-simply exhausting myself. Finally, I understood I was living an unsustainable life and needed to make some changes in my outlook and lifestyle.

You and I don't have to be like everyone else or keep up with anyone else. Each of us needs to be exactly the way we are, and we don't have to apologize for it. We're not all alike and we need to find a comfort zone in which we can enjoy our lives instead of making ourselves sick with an overload of stress and pressure.

- i. The reason why living on the edge has become popular, is because of the
 - a. constant need for something different
 - b. population being much younger
 - c. exhausting effort to make changes
 - d. strong tendency to stay within our limits
- ii. Choose the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the given quotes.
 - a. It's all about quality of life and finding a happy balance between work and friends. **-Philip Green**
 - b. To go beyond is as wrong as to fall short. **-Confucius**
 - c. Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving. **-Albert Einstein**
 - d. Balance is not something you find, it's something you create. **-Jana Kingsford**

- iii. Which of the characteristics are apt about the writer in the following context:
I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it?
(1) negligent (2) indecisive (3) spontaneous (4) reckless (5) purposeless (6) patient
- 2 and 5
 - 3 and 6
 - 1 and 4
 - 2 and 3
- iv. Complete the following from the passage:

Option	Related Example in Passage
The importance of discipline and boundaries in our lives	

- v. The writer has used the phrase **potentially harmful circumstances** in this passage. What does it refer to?
- vi. Give two examples that show the correct use of **unsustainable**, as used in the passage
- _____
 - _____
- vii. The author attempts to _____ the readers through this write-up.
- rebuke
 - question
 - offer aid to
 - offer advise to
- viii. The author uses colloquial words such as **yeah** and **Woo-hoo!**. Which of the following is NOT a colloquial word?
- hooked
 - guy
 - stuff
 - stress
- ix. What does the author mean when he says, **to get our lives in order**
- x. Choose the option that correctly states the two meanings of **outlook**, as used in the passage.
- (1) A person's evaluation of life (2) A person's experiences in life (3) A person's point of view towards life (4) A person's regrets in life (5) A person's general attitude to life
- (1) and (4)
 - (2) and (3)
 - (3) and (5)
 - (4) and (5)

2. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

- The choices we make on a daily basis wearing a seatbelt, lifting heavy objects correctly or purposely staying out of any dangerous situation-can either ensure our safety or bring about potentially harmful circumstances.
- You and I need to make a decision that we are going to get our lives in order. Exercising self-control self-discipline and establishing boundaries and borders in our lives are some of the most important things we can do. A life without discipline is one that's filled with carelessness.
- We can think it's kind of exciting to live life on the edge. We like the image of "Yeah! That's me! Living on the edge! Woo-hoo!" It's become a popular way to

look at life. But if you see, even highways have lines, which provide margins for our safety while we're driving. If we go over one side we'll go into the ditch. If we cross over the line in the middle, we could get killed. And we like those lines because they help to keep us safe, Sometimes we don't even realise how lines help to keep us safe.

- iv. I'm not proud of this, but for the first 20 years of my life at work, I ignored my limits. I felt horrible physically, most of the time. I used to tell myself. "I know I have limits and that I've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it. "I ran to doctors, trying to make myself feel better through pills, vitamins, natural stuff and anything I could get my hands on. Some of the doctors would tell me, "It's just stress." That just made me mad. I thought stress meant you don't like what you do or can't handle life, and I love what I do. But I kept pushing myself, traveling. speaking engagements and so on—simply exhausting myself.
- v. Finally. I understood I was living an unsustainable life and needed to make some changes in my outlook and lifestyle
- vi. You and I don't have to be like everyone else or keep up with anyone else Each of us needs to be exactly the way we are, and we don't have to apologize for it. We're not all alike and we need to find a comfort zone in which we can enjoy our lives instead of making ourselves sick with an overload of stress and pressure.
- vii. According to the author, list 1 reason that 'living on the edge' has become popular.
(1) _____
- viii. What qualities can be identified from the context: "I know I have limits and that 've reached them, but I'm going to ignore them and see if or how long I can get by with it."
 - 1. negligent
 - 2. indecisive
 - 3. spontaneous
 - 4. reckless
 - 5. patient
 - a. 2 and 5
 - b. 3 and 5
 - c. 1 and 4
 - d. 2 and 3
- ix. The phrase "potentially harmful circumstances" refers to circumstances that can be _____.
- x. The author attempts to _____ the readers through this passage.
 - a. advice
 - b. warn
 - c. stop
 - d. prove
- xi. The author uses colloquial words such as "yeah" and "Woo-hoo!". Which of the following is NOT a colloquial word?
 - a. hooked
 - b. guy
 - c. stuff
 - d. stress

- xii. Select the option that makes the correct use of "unsustainable", as used in the passage, to fill in the blank space.
- In the long run, the _____ government will do nothing for the people.
 - The cabinet is filled with _____ officials.
 - The conservationists reported an _____ set of event.
 - Plastic will turn the world _____ in future.
- xiii. The author said, "to get our lives in order". What does this mean?
This means to _____
- xiv. State the most appropriate title for the passage.
- xv. The author was living a disciplined life. True/false.
- xvi. Complete the given analogy correctly with a word from the passage.
Overburden : overload :: tiring : _____

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Solution

- (a) constant need for something different
 - (d) Balance is not something you find, it's something you create. -**Jana Kingsford**
 - (C) 1 and 4
 - Lines on the highway
 - It refers to circumstances that can be possibly dangerous.
 - (1) Officials admit that the emergency system is **unsustainable** in the longer run.
(2) But a low rate leads to **unsustainable** booms and inflations in countries already expanding.
 - (d) offer advise to
 - (d) stress
 - To rebuild our lives
 - (3) and (5)
- According to the author, the person "thinks it's kind of exciting to live life on the edge", so he constantly wants to find excitement in life.
 - (c) 1 and 4
Explanation: The context shows negligence as the person will 'ignore' the limits and (4) recklessness as the person knows that 'he has reached his limit but still chooses to see how long can he get by with it". It doesn't show any of (2), (3) or (5) options, Hence, option (c) is the right answer.
 - possibly dangerous
 - (a) advice
 - (d) stress
Explanation: The term 'stress' is not a colloquial word or any slang. It is a proper English term. Options (a), (b) and (c) are all slangs that are informal. Hence, (d) is the right answer.
 - (d) Plastic will turn the world _____ in future.
Explanation: The term 'unsustainable' means a thing that cannot be

sustained or lived. Here, (a), (b) and (c) are not the correct statement for the term to fit in while (d) is the correct choice. Hence, (d) is the right answer.

vii. organise our lives

Explanation: To get something 'in order' means to 'organise' it.

viii. The most appropriate title for the passage can be 'The need to limit ourselves'.

ix. False

Explanation: According to the author, he needed to organise his life in a proper way as he was living an unsustainable life.

x. Exhausting