1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

The New year is the time for resolution. Mentally, at least most of us could compile formidable lists of ‘do’s and ‘don’ts’. The same old favorites recur year in and year out with the children, do a thousand and one job about the house, be nice to people we don’t like, drive carefully, and take the dog for a walk every day. Past experience has taught us that certain accomplishments are beyond attainment. If we remain deep rooted liars, it is only because we have so often experienced the frustration that results from failure.

Most of us fail in our efforts at self-improvement because our schemes are too ambitious and we never have time to carry them out. We also make the fundamental error of announcing our resolution to everybody so that we look even more foolish when we slip back into our bad old ways. Aware of these pitfalls, this year I attempted to keep my resolution to myself. I limited myself to two modest ambitions, to do physical exercises every morning and to read more in the evening. An overnight party on New Year’s Eve provided me with a good excuse for not carrying out either of these new resolutions on the first day of the year, but on the second, I applied myself assiduously to the task.

The daily exercise lasted only eleven minutes and I proposed to do them early in the morning before anyone had got up. The self discipline required to drag myself out of bed eleven minutes earlier than usual was considerable. Nevertheless, I managed to creep down into the living room for two days before anyone found me out. After jumping about in the carpet and twisted the human frame into uncomfortable positions. I sat down at the breakfast table in an exhausted condition. It was this that betrayed me. The next morning the whole family trooped into watch the performance. That was really unsettling but I fended off the taunts and jibes of the family good humouredly and soon everybody got used to the idea. However, my enthusiasm waned, the time I spent at exercises gradually diminished. Little by little the eleven minutes fell to zero. By January 10th I was back to where I had started from. I argued that if I spent less time exhausting myself at exercises in the morning. I would keep my mind fresh for reading when I got home from work. Resisting the hypnotizing effect of television, I sat in my room for a few evenings with my eyes glued to a book. One night, however, feeling cold and lonely, I went downstairs and sat in front of the television pretending to read. That proved to be my undoing, for I soon got back to the old bad habit of dozing off in front of the screen. I still haven’t given up my resolution to do more reading. In fact, I have just bought a book entitled ‘How to Read a Thousand Words a Minute’. Perhaps it will solve my problem, but I just have not had time to read it.

(a) Why most of us fail in our efforts for self-improvement? (2)
(b) Why is it a basic mistake to announce our resolution to everybody? (2)
(c) Why did the writer not carry out his resolution on New Year’s Day? (3)
2. Write a précis of the following passage to one-third of its length and also give a suitable title—

The doctors clamoring against reservations for OBCs have demanded that merit be the sole criteria for admission to medical and engineering colleges. Then, how is it that they haven’t objected either to the NRI quota or candidates who procure admission on the basis of capitation fee? Does this not affect quality? Reservation was introduced in the Kolhapur State as early as in 1902 and in the State of Mysore in 1921. In Tamil Nadu, where the human health index is much better than in other states, there is as much as 69 per cent reservation. Let us take for a moment that upper caste doctors are meritorious. But is this of any help to the nation when many of them use elite institutes as springboard to go abroad for higher wages. Nearly 70 percent of doctors from AIIMS doctors go abroad. How are these elite institutes, under such circumstances, serving the interests of the common people? On the other hand, it has been in Tamil Nadu that a good number of SC/ST/OBC doctors, who procured admission into colleges due to the reservation policy, stick to their state or hometown, resulting in better healthcare services.

Reservation is not a phenomenon exclusive to our country. The American MNC, IBM, voluntarily introduced reservations for Blacks in 1930. In Malaysia there are reservations not just in jobs but also in contracts, licenses and company shares for Malays. Reservation for the depressed and weaker sections exists in many countries like Brazil, South Africa, Japan, Netherland and Ireland. There is 50 per cent reservation for Blacks and women in the medical faculty of Harvard University. And the Whites have never made an issue of being eligible only for 50 per cent of the seats. In fact, it is the handful of anti-reservationist doctors, who talk of disintegration of society on account of reservation, who are really responsible for creating dissension and obstacles in the ways of social justice of the OBCs. The media have, of course, played a negative role. But it is a reality that Indian society is constituted on caste lines. If the anti-reservations are so concerned about the disintegration of society on caste lines, they should first lead the struggle against social discrimination.

Reservation gets a job or admission even if they get less percentage of marks, in one of the cases a person was in Indian Revenue Service. He saw that candidates getting high marks in a competition were not necessarily successful in the field. Merit, as it is being presently understood, does not include honesty, hard work and patriotism. In the American school system, besides the syllabus, students have to undergo practical training in social services, etc. and marks are added in the certificate based on performance in thus area. The only people tailing of merit today are those who have studied in public schools or whose children study in such schools.

The expenditure incurred on education in public schools in 50 to 100 times more than those of corporation/government schools. There is a vast difference in quality between the teachers of public and government schools. Parents who can afford to send their children to public schools are mostly educated. They not only teach the children themselves at home but also provide coaching for them. On the other hand, parents who send their children to corporation/government schools are mostly uneducated. These children have to lend a helping hand to their parents after schools hours.

3. Write an essay on any one of the following topics:

- Essay on Status of Women in Mizoram
- Your views on Animal Rights in Mizoram
4. Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition. (2×1=2)
   (a) Leila is named …………… her aunt.
   (b) There is a good movie …………… TV tonight.

5. Fill in the blanks with the correct conjunction. (2×1=2)
   (a) I need to work hard …………… I can pass the exam.
   (b) I don’t know ……………? I can buy a pair of jeans.

6. Find the adjective in the first sentence and fill in the blanks with the corresponding adverb. (3×1=3)
   (a) James is careful. He drives ……………………………... 
   (b) The girl is slow. She walks ……………………………... 
   (c) Her English is perfect. She speaks English ……………………………... 

7. What is the correct plural of the word? (3×1=3)
   (a) These (person)…………….. are protesting against the president.
   (b) The (woman) ……………………. over there want to meet the manager.
   (c) Most (housewife)……………… work more than ten hours a day at home.

8. Decide which parts of speech are the underlined words (5×1=5)
   (a) You have to believe in yourself if you ever expect to be successful at something.
   (b) We left for the mountain just before six in the morning.
   (c) We first went to the store to buy a few things.
   (d) We had a breakfast at a café near the rail station.
   (e) My friend wasn’t strong enough to lift his heavy rucksack.