1. Write a précis of the following passage not exceeding one-third of the length. Give an appropriate title. (15)

During the freedom struggle, secularism emerged as the most dominant principle. The leaders of the Indian National Congress; Gandhi, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, Nehru and others were deeply committed to the ideal of secularism, and secularism became the mantra of the Indian nation, a nation exhausted by partition and sectarian riots. The founding fathers represented the aspirations of the different sections of society and it is due to the struggles of these different people that secular principles got enshrined into the Indian Constitution.

Today, the biggest challenge to the Indian nation is coming from the forces under the name of Hindutva claiming to represent the mainstream majority. There is an emergence of extremist voices that claim to speak for Hindus and they are laying down demands that threaten the very idea of a secular India. So, in spite of the advent of globalisation that has been welcomed in India, there is also found to be in certain sections of Indian society, people who fear that their own cultures will be destroyed. Hence they show an inclination towards the conservative Hindu identity. There is a blatant attempt to subvert history, change school curricula and create a new set up in line with a Hindu Rashtra. Indian secularism, once thought to be non-negotiable, is beginning to look shaky now. In a country with over 140 million Muslims and million of Christians, to say nothing of hundreds of other castes and communities, this can have very dangerous consequences. It is thus every Indian’s duty to stand by and believe in this declaration, and the best way to preserve the secular status of India is to have for a common communication a language that is conductive to the best interest of the nation.

Over the years, the English language has become one of our principal assets in getting a global leadership for books written by Indian authors or for films made by Indians in the English language. Many Indians have become so skilled in the English language that they have won many international awards for creative and comparative literatures during the last few years. Indian proficiency in English has brought laurels to many Indian business managers. It does not require any further argument to establish the advantage that the English language has brought to us at the international level, and many of the leaders, who denounce English, send their own children to English medium schools.

2. As Inspector General of Police, draft an Office Memorandum to all Police Stations/Outposts, stating clearly the need for maintaining a respectable public image by not frequenting the wine shops that have been recently opened all over the state. (15)

3. Write an essay on any one of the following in not less that 500 words (20)
   (a) The Mizoram Peace Accord (b) Tourist Attractions in Mizoram
   (c) Wine Shops in Mizoram (d) Smuggling
4. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions briefly:

Rih Dil or Rih Lake, is a naturally formed heart-shaped lake in the Chin state of Myanmar. It is said to be the largest lake in Mizoram, situated in Burma, which is an awkward claim to make, but which nonetheless remains a fact due to arbitrary political boundaries. It used to be populated by the Mizo prior to 24th July 1937 (Burma’s independence from India), and so used to be the biggest lake of Mizoram. Situated in the middle of beautiful green hills and paddy fields, and refusing to shake off its associations with Mizo folklore, it remains a lake held high in Mizo legends.

Rihi (pronounced Rih-ee), according to Mizo legend, was the name of a girl who had a cruel stepmother. The legend runs thus: “One day, the father took Rihi’s younger sister deep in the forest and killed her. Rihi eventually found her dead sister and was inconsolable. But a fairy known as “Lasi” to the Mizos found Rihi weeping and revealed to her the healing powers of a particular magical tree with whose leaf she was able to revive her sister back to life. And in order to quench the thirst of her younger sister, Rihi turned herself into a small pool of water with the help of a leaf of the same magical tree. And still later on she was compelled to change herself into a white mithun, in which shape she wandered around in search of a permanent place of safety. While she was roaming around looking for a safe haven, her urine formed “rih note” (baby rihs) or small lakes wherever she went. It is believed that such lakes can still be found in the Vawmlu range, Zur forest, near the village Natchhawng; a place above Bochung village; the area of Khawthlir village, all of which are in Myanmar. She eventually surveyed Sanzawl village for her permanent settlement, not far from which flowed the river “Run” (pronounced Roon). But the demon spirit of the river threatened to suck her dry if she settled there permanently. It is believed that Rihi then surveyed the village of Champhai but found that unsuitable too. So, she finally settled in the present location in the form that she cherished most – that of a lake. The name Rih retains the name of “Rihi”. Thus, “Rih” stands for that poor girl in the Mizo legend, and “Dil” in the Mizo language means a lake – and taken together, simply means “Rih Lake” or “The girl that had been permanently transformed into a lake”. The name Rih honours and stands testimony to Rihi.

Just how the lake came to be regarded as the passage of the dead is recounted as follows: A Mizo hunter once slept on its banks and dreamt that his wife had died and her spirit came to him, woefully telling him that her children wouldn’t know where she had kept their dried meat. She informed him that it was in a pot in the eaves of their thatched roof, and then departed. The hunter on waking, felt so uncomfortable about his dream that he went home immediately and found that his wife had really died during his absence. (In those days there was no means of transport, and so it took days for anyone to go anywhere). On instinct, he immediately searched for the meat that his wife had told him about, and found it exactly where she had said it would be. So, henceforth, it came to be believed that the lake was the passage for spirits.

(a) Rih Dil is said to be the largest lake in Mizoram, situated in Burma. Why is this claim awkward? (2)

(b) Why did Rihi in the shape of a white mithun, had to wander around in search of a permanent place of safety? Who were now her enemies? (3)

(c) Why did Rihi cherish the form of a lake the most? How many forms did she take altogether? (3)

(d) Who were the hunter’s main concern? (1)

(e) What is the shape of Rih Dil? (1)

5. Correct the following sentences: (5×2=10)

(a) Which is the tallest of the two sisters?

(b) Milk is a superior drink than tea.
(c) Mawia is my oldest brother.
(d) You are senior than me in service.
(e) Twenty rupees are a small amount.

6. Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles (a/an/the):
(a) Take _______ umbrella with you in case it rains.
(b) He is _______ European.
(c) I read _______ Bible everyday.
(d) I saw _______ Unicorn in my dream last night.
(e) The policeman caught _______ one-eyed man.

7. Match the following words with the killers given below
Homicide, Regicide, Sororicide, Fratricide, Patricide, Suicide, Matricide.
(a) One who kills one’s mother.
(b) One who kills a king.
(c) One who kills one’s sister.
(d) One who kills another human being.
(e) One who kills one’s brother.
(f) One who kills one’s father.
(g) One who kills oneself.

8. Fill up the blanks with need, dare or used to:
(a) How _______ you be so rude?
(b) I _______ wrestle in my youth.
(c) She _______ not worry at all.

9. Choose the correct preposition from within the brackets:
(a) I caught him (by/from) the neck.
(b) They have invited us (for/to) tea.
(c) We shall go to school (on/by) foot.
(d) You have no taste (in/for) music.
(e) The rat ran (in/into) its hole.

10. Punctuate (capital letters, inverted commas, commas, full-stops, apostrophes etc.) the following in 20 places:
the tiny mouse implored spare my life o king I am only a humble mouse and have been silly to disturb you in your sleep you wont get much by killing me forgive me my fault sir and let me go