

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

1 Literacy means “ability to read and write”, the act of being educated. Literacy is an essential need for development. The countries with low literacy rate have economically failed and their progress rate is too slow. The personality of an individual is polished if he or she is educated; but an illiterate person can be disrespected in society. The value of literacy can be imagined by taking the example of some African areas where literacy rate is much below the average; therefore, they are still working as slaves of other countries

2 To promote sense and awareness about the value of literacy and education, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) announced to celebrate International Literacy Day on 8th September every year. This was decided in 1965 and from 1966 onwards, this day is celebrated each year on 8th September. Every year UNESCO organises conferences and seminars to highlight the importance of literacy. Governments of all countries also organise programmes and expeditions to create awareness about literacy. Governments encourage people to get necessary education and send their children to school. Literacy programmes are also organised at school and college level, where the students present speeches and models to demonstrate the value of literacy.

3 Parents have an important role in the development of children. But if parents are illiterate, they may not be able to cope with the need of the new century and their children may suffer. So, programmes must be organised to teach the parents to read and write. Such steps must be taken so that no child is deprived of going to school. It is their right to get education. We should promise ourselves that, on the coming International Literacy Day, we will be a part of the literacy campaigns.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer any four of the following questions in about 30-40 words each:

- What does literacy mean? What is its effect on one’s personality?
- When is the International Literacy Day celebrated and why?
- How does the government promote literacy?
- Why is literacy important for the parents too?
- What is done at school and college level to promote literacy?

1.2 On the basis of your reading of the passage, fill in any two of the following blanks with appropriate words/phrases.

- Every year UNESCO organises _____ and _____ to highlight the importance of literacy.
- UNESCO announced to celebrate International Literacy Day to _____.

c) It is the right of every child to _____.

1.3 Attempt any two of the following. Write the words that are nearest in meaning to the following phrases:

a) A person who is a legal property of another and is bound to obey him. (para1)

b) A journey undertaken for a particular purpose. (para2)

c) Organised course of action to achieve a specific goal.(para3)