

**GRADE : 12 READING COMPREHENSION DATE:**

**1. Read the passage given below.**

(1) Subhas Chandra Bose fulfilled a promise to his father that he would sit for the Indian Civil Service examination in London. He secured the fourth position in 1920 but then went on to fulfill his own wish. He resigned from the coveted service the following year, saying “only on the soil of sacrifice and suffering can we raise our national edifice”. Returning to India, he plunged into the national struggle and by 1923, was secretary of the Bengal State Congress and President of All India Youth Congress.

(2) By 1927, he emerged, along with Jawaharlal Nehru, as leader of the new youth movement, which came into its own by playing a major role in the anti-Simon Commission agitation which swept India that year. He was also the chief organizer of the Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress (INC) in December 1928, which demanded that the goal of the congress be changed to ‘Purna Swaraj’ or ‘Complete Independence’.

(3) Imprisonment in the Civil Disobedience movement followed by bad health in 1932 took him to Europe where he observed European politics, particularly Fascism under Mussolini and Communism in the Soviet Union. He was impressed by both and believed that authoritarian rule was essential for achieving radical social goals.

(4) In fact, it is in this period that political views of Nehru and Bose began to diverge sharply, especially on the issue of Fascism and Nazism. Nehru was so vehemently opposed to Fascism that he refused to meet Mussolini even when the latter sought him out, whereas Bose not only met Mussolini but was impressed by him. Nehru was sharply critical of the growing danger to the world from the rise of Hitler. Bose, on the other hand, never expressed that kind of aversion to Fascism, and was quite willing to seek the support of Germany and later Japan against Britain. However, he was not happy with the German attack on Soviet Union in 1941, and that was one reason why he left Germany for Japan in 1943. For Bose, Socialism and Fascism were not polar opposites, as they were for Nehru.

(5) In 1938, Bose was unanimously elected, with the full support of Gandhiji, as Congress president for the Haripura session. But the next year, he decided to stand again, this time as a representative of militant and radical groups. An election ensued which Bose won by 1,580 to 1,377 votes, but the battle lines were drawn. The challenge he threw by calling Gandhian leaders rightists who were working for a compromise with the British government was answered by 12 members of the working committee resigning and asking Bose to choose his own committee. Nehru did not resign with other members but he was unhappy with Bose’s casting of aspersions on senior leaders. He tried his best to mediate and persuade Bose not to resign.

(6) The crisis came to a head at Tripuri in March 1939, with Bose refusing to nominate a new working Committee and ultimately resigning. The clash was of policy and tactics.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any eight questions. (1 × 8 = 8)**

**(i) What was the promise that Subhas Chandra Bose fulfilled for his father?**

**(ii) Why, despite the promise he had made to his father, did Bose decide to go against that?**

**(iii) Under Bose’s leadership, what was the goal of the Calcutta, 1928 session of the Indian National Congress?**

**(iv) When in Europe, Bose changed his ‘standing’ with other leaders like Nehru. What brought about this change in him?**

**(v) What ultimately led to the divide in the working committee of the Congress in 1939?**

**(vi) What does the term “aversion” mean?**

**(vii) Why was Bose greatly impressed by Mussolini?**

**(viii)Why was Bose supportive of Japan over Germany?**

**(ix) What did Bose accuse the Gandhian leaders of?**

**2. Read the passage given below.**

(1) All of Earth’s oceans share one thing in common: plastic pollution. Discarded plastic bags, cups, and bottles make their way into the sea. Today, it seems that no part of the ocean is safe from plastic trash. In recent years, oceanographers have searched in vain for a pristine marine environment. They have found plastic everywhere they have looked. “It is a common global problem, we can’t point to a single habitat or location with no plastic.”

(2) Plastic harms wildlife and introduces dangerous chemicals into marine ecosystems — communities of organisms interacting with their surroundings. Once plastic enters the environment, it lasts a long time. Scientists are working to prevent plastic pollution from entering the sea.

(3) When people litter, or when trash is not properly disposed of, things like plastic bags, bottles, straws, foam beverage cups get carried to the sea by winds and waterways. About 80 percent of ocean plastic originates on land. The rest comes from marine industries, such as shipping and fishing.

(4) In 2015, engineer Jenna Jamback at the University of Georgia and other researchers calculated that at least 8 million tons of plastic trash is swept into the ocean from coasts every year. That’s the equivalent of a full garbage truck of plastic being dumped into the sea every minute. If current trends in plastic production and disposal continue, that figure will double by 2025. A report published by the World Economic Forum last year predicts that by 2050, ocean plastic will outweigh all the fish in the sea.

(5) In today’s world, plastic is everywhere. It’s found in shoes, clothing, household items electronics, and more. There are different types of plastics, but one thing they all have in common is that they are made of polymers – large molecules made up of repeating units. Their chemical structure gives them a lot of advantages: they are cheap and easy to manufacture, lightweight, water-resistant, durable, and can be molded into nearly any shape.

(6) Unfortunately, some of the properties that make plastics great for consumer goods also make them a problem pollutant. Plastic’s durability comes in part from the fact that unlike paper or wood, it doesn’t biodegrade, or break down naturally. Instead it just fragments, or breaks into tiny pieces over time. These tiny pieces, known as micro plastic, can potentially stick around for hundreds or perhaps even thousands of years.

(7) Another problem with plastics is the other chemicals they contain, like dyes and flame retardants. When plastic isn’t disposed of properly, these additives end up in the environment. Plastic also tends to absorb harmful chemicals from its surroundings. “It’s like a sponge for persistent organic pollutants.” These long lasting, toxic substances include pesticides and industrial chemicals. If plastic absorbs the chemicals, and marine organisms eat the plastic, they may be exposed to higher concentrations of these contaminants.

(8) One of the biggest impacts of plastic pollution is its effect on sea life. Seals, sea turtles, and even whales can become entangled in plastic netting. They can starve to death if the plastic restricts their ability to move or eat. Or the plastic can cut into the animals’ skin, causing wound that develop severe infections.

(9) Sea turtles eat plastic bags and soda-can rings, which resemble jellyfish, their favourite food. Seabirds eat bottle caps or chunks of foam cups. Plastic pieces may make an animal feel full, so it does not eat enough real food to get the nutrients it needs. Plastic can also block an animal’s digestive system making it unable to eat.

(10) Plastic and its associated pollutants can even make it into our own food supply. Scientists recently examined fish and shell-fish bought at markets in California and Indonesia. They found plastic in the guts of more than a quarter of samples purchased at both locations. In organisms that people eat whole, such as sardines and oysters, that means we are eating plastic too. In larger fish, chemicals from plastic may seep into their muscles and other tissues that people consume.

(11) One way to keep the ocean cleaner and healthier is through cleanup efforts. A lot of plastic waste caught in ocean currents eventually washes up on beaches. Removing it can prevent it from blowing out to sea again. Beach clean-up is ocean clean-up.

(12) Cleanup efforts can’t reach every corner of the ocean or track every bit of microplastic. That means it’s critical to cut down on the amount of plastic that reaches the sea in the first place. Scientists are working toward new materials that are safer for the environment. For example, Jambeck and her colleagues are currently testing a new polymer that breaks down more easily in seawater.

(13) “Individual actions make a big difference,” says Jambeck. Disposing of plastic properly for recycling or trash collection is a key step. “And simple things like reusable water bottles, mugs, and bags really cut down on waste”, she says. Skipping straws or using paper ones helps too. Ocean pollution can seem overwhelming, but it’s something everyone can help address. This is a problem we can really do something about.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer any six questions. (1 × 6 = 6)**

**(i) How does plastic waste enter the oceans?**

**(ii) How is it true to say that plastic is everywhere in today’s world?**

**(iii) Which property of plastic makes it a problem pollutant?**

**(iv) What has scientist Jambeck suggested for having cleaner and healthier oceans?**

**(v) Why is plastic compared to a sponge?**

**(vi) What is the biggest impact of plastic pollution on sea life?**

**(vii) How are scientists trying to reduce the plastic pollutants?**

**1. (i) Subhas Chandra Bose promised his father that he would give the Indian Civil Services examination in London which he did and got through.**

**(ii) Bose decided to resign from the Services because he felt he had to participate in the struggle for independence amongst his own people in India.**

**(iii) The 1928 Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress demanded “Complete Independence” or “Purna Swaraj” as its goal.**

**(iv) The change in Bose while in Europe was a result of his ‘exposure’ and observation of Fascism and Communism, which he believed would play an important part in his fight against the British rule.**

**(v) The divide in the working committee of the Congress was a result of a clash of polity and tactics between the leaders.**

**(vi) “Aversion” means to have a strong repulsion or dislike for, to be against a particular thing.**

**(vii) Bose was greatly impressed with Benito Mussolini because he felt that authoritarian rule was the only possibility to achieve any social goal.**

**(viii)Despite his support of Germany, Bose disagreed with Germany’s 1941 Soviet Union attack, which led to his change in support from Germany to Japan.**

**(ix) Bose accused the Gandhian leaders of compromising with the British government, calling them rightist leaders who work for a compromise and not for full independence.**

**2. (i) When trash, such as plastic bags, bottles, straws, foam beverage cups, etc. are not properly disposed off, they get carried to sea either by wind or water. A lot of plastic waste enter the oceans through marine industries. (ii) It is true that in today’s world plastic is everywhere. It is found in shoes, clothing, household items, electronics, etc. Plastic and its pollutants have even entered into our food. Chemicals from plastic may enter into the muscles and tissues of the animals consumed by people.**

**(iii) The fact that plastic is non-biodegradable makes it a problem pollutant. Instead of breaking down naturally, plastic takes a long time to break into tiny pieces called micorplastic. This microplastic remains intact for hundreds of thousands of years.**

**(iv) For having cleaner and healthier oceans, scientist Jamback has suggested cleanup efforts. All the plastic waste, which are carried by the ocean currents washes up on beaches. Removing it from the beach prevents the waste from entering the ocean again. In addition to that, proper disposal of plastic waste for recycle or trash collection, using reusable water bottles, mugs, and bags certainly cut down on waste.**

**(v) Since plastic is able to absorb harmful chemicals from its surroundings it has been compared to sponge.**

**(vi) The biggest impact of plastic pollution on sea life is the effect it has on marine animals. It can injure them, suffocate them, block their digestive system, starve them to death, etc.**

**(vii) In order to reduce the plastic pollutants, scientists are working towards new materials that are much safer for the environment.**