

NAME : _____

CLASS : _____

SECTION A - COMPREHENSION

PSR 2014

Read the passage carefully.

THE APPLE TREE



Once there was an old apple tree in a farmer's garden. It was so old that it had stopped bearing fruit for a long time. The only purpose ¹it served was to provide shelter to the sparrows, grasshoppers and squirrels in the neighborhood.

One day, the farmer decided to cut down the tree down. ²He felt it had become completely useless. Besides, he wanted to get some furniture made and what better way to use the wood supply from the tree. The wood was still strong. So taking a sharp axe in his hand, the farmer chopped at the roots of the tree. At once there was great shock among the many creatures who *inhabited* the tree. The grasshoppers, the sparrows and the squirrels came out of their dwelling places and hung around the farmer. "Please...sir", ³they begged him. "Spare this tree's life. It is our only home." But the farmer only chopped harder at the roots. "We promise to sing to you in the afternoon when you work hard. It would lighten your work." *pleaded* the birds. But their cries were in vain. The farmer continued his task with single-minded concentration. He was in a hurry to finish off the chopping by that afternoon. As he raised his axe one more time, something in the *hollow* of the tree caught his eyes. It was a beehive. Upon looking closer, the farmer found that ⁴it was full of honey. He tasted the honey. It was so *heavenly*.

Suddenly, the farmer realized that the tree was not so useless after all. Its hollow was the ideal place for a beehive to rest. And if he took away the honey now, the bees would make more. ⁵They would certainly not *abandon* such an attractive home.

"Hey...! You up there!" he yelled out as he threw away the axe. "I'm sparing the life of this tree. You can live in peace now."

The sparrows, the grasshoppers and the squirrels breathed deep sighs of relief. What a blessing that the farmer had found something of use to him in the tree! After all, it was the only reason the tree was still standing.

Questions 1-5

Look at the words that are numbered in the passage. What does each word refer to? Write the answers in the spaces provided.

Eg : Once there was an old apple tree in a farmer's Garden. **It** was so old...

It - The old apple tree _____

1. ¹**it** - _____
2. ²**He** - _____
3. ³**they** - _____
4. ⁴**it** - _____
5. ⁵**They** - _____

(5 marks)

Questions 6 -10

Underline the correct meaning of the word as it is used in the passage.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|---|
| 6. <i>'inhabited'</i> | means | a. lived in
b. ruined
c. sat in
d. visited |
| 7. <i>'pleaded'</i> | means | a. begged
b. cried
c. giggled
d. laughed |
| 8. <i>'hollow'</i> | means | a. bark
b. hole
c. leaves
d. trunk |
| 9. <i>'heavenly'</i> | means | a. bitter
b. sour
c. sweet and tasty
d. unpleasant |
| 10. <i>'abandon'</i> | means | a. destroy
b. leave
c. ruin
d. stay |

(5 marks)

Questions 11-15

Answer the questions in complete sentences.

11. What was the only purpose left for the tree?

12. What did the farmer want to make from the tree?

13. Which creatures said they would sing to the farmer?

14. Where did the farmer find a beehive full of honey?

15. Why do you think the farmer decided not to chop down the tree?

(5 marks)

TOTAL MARKS	
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