

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

There was only one runway on the little Nairobi aerodrome, and this gave everyone plenty of practice at crosswind landings and take-offs.

When flying a military aeroplane, you sit on your parachute, which adds another six inches to your height. When I got into the open cockpit of a Tiger Moth for the first time and sat down on my parachute, my entire head stuck up in the open air. The engine was running, and I was getting a rush of wind full in the face from the slipstream.

"You are too tall," the instructor said. "Are you sure you want to do this?"

"Yes please," I said.

"Wait till we rev her up for take-off," the instructor said. "You'll have a job to

10 breathe. And keep those goggles down, or you'll be **blinded by** watering eyes."

The instructor was right. On the first flight, I was almost asphyxiated by the slipstream and survived only by ducking down into the cockpit for deep breaths every few seconds. After that, I tied a thin cotton scarf around my nose and mouth, and this made breathing possible.

15 I see from my Log Book, which I still have, that I went solo in 7 hours 40 minutes, which was about average. You never lost your Log Book. It contained a record of every flight you had ever made as well as the plane you were flying, the purpose and destination of the trip and the time you had spent in the air.

20 After I had gone solo, I was allowed to go up alone for much of the time, and it was wonderful. How many young men, I kept asking myself, were lucky enough to be allowed to go **soaring** through the sky above a country as beautiful as Kenya? Oh, the animals I saw every day from that cockpit! I saw plenty of giraffe and rhino and elephant and lion, and once I spotted a leopard, **sleek as silk**, lying along the trunk of a large tree. I flew over the pink flamingoes and all the way around the snow summit

25 of Mount Kenya in my Tiger Moth.

The initial training took eight weeks, and at the end of it, we were all fairly competent fliers of light single-engined aircraft. We could loop the loop and fly upside down. We could get ourselves out of a spin. We could do forced landings with the engine cut.

30 We could side-slip and land decently in a strong cross-wind, and we were full of confidence.

(a) Give the meaning of the following words as used in the passage:

One word answers or short phrases will be accepted.

(i) **blinded by** (line-10)

(ii) **soaring** (line-21)

(iii) **sleek as silk** (line-23)

[3]

(b) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.

(i) What was the advantage of having a single runway at the aerodrome?

[2]

(ii) What difficulty did the author face when he sat in the cockpit of a Tiger Moth for the first time?

[1]

(iii) What advice did the instructor give to the writer?

[2]

(iv) Why was the Log Book to be kept very carefully?

[2]

(v) Why did the author consider himself lucky to have an opportunity to fly a plane in Kenya?

- (c) In not more than 50 words, state why the author at first felt uncomfortable in the cockpit of a Tiger Moth, and how he subsequently adjusted to it. [8]

Question 5

- (a) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage, but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space: [4]

Example: (0) had been

There (0) _____ (be) chaos, screams and everybody (1) _____ (push) each other out. I (2) _____ (feel) myself sailing through the shute and (3) _____ (land) on the hard ground. My father (4) _____ (pull) me up and we (5) _____ (run) away from the plane. People (6) _____ (run) everywhere, some limping, some sobbing but running. We (7) _____ (see) the plane go up in flames. I (8) _____ (forget) the scene for years.

- (b) Fill in each blank with an appropriate word: [4]

- (i) We must abstain _____ smoking in buses.
- (ii) He decided _____ board the train from Kanpur.
- (iii) Radhika is dependent _____ her brother and cannot go against his wishes.
- (iv) I have no interest _____ classical music.
- (v) This state is committed _____ the policy of total prohibition.
- (vi) Hard work is the key _____ success.
- (vii) Do not confide your secrets _____ everyone.
- (viii) The Indian Ocean separates India _____ Sri Lanka.

- (c) Join the sentences to make one complete sentence without using **and**, **but** or **so**: [4]

- (i) His breakfast was not ready. His clothes were not pressed.
- (ii) Do not scream or show anger. You cannot get what you want every time.
- (iii) He worked very hard at school. He was a good obedient boy.
- (iv) Swati asked me a question. I was unable to answer it.

- (d) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence: [8]

- (i) Study hard now, or you will regret it.
(Begin: unless ...)
- (ii) We were all very happy when we heard the news.
(Begin: rejoiced)
- (iii) He is the only one who has not done the homework.
(Use: did)
- (iv) The goods placed on the shelf are to be sold.
(End: sale)
- (v) You shouldn't reply in that manner.
(Begin: You ought ...)
- (vi) What a beautiful scene this is!
(Begin: This scene)
- (vii) As soon as he heard the gunshot, he ran towards the hill.
(Begin: No sooner)
- (viii) The old man confessed with regret that he had been very foolish in his youth.
(The old man said,)