

**I. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow-**

Even as a child, Dr William Tan refused to be the victim. He was struck by polio when he was two and could not walk or run. In kindergarten, the bullies started hitting him. "They were very nasty to me. They would hit me on the head and run away. And I couldn't go after them," he recalled.

William studied hard and later attended some of the best universities in the world, including Harvard and Oxford. Dr Tan's make-the-most-of-what-you-have attitude explains why he is what he is today: a doctor, a neuroscientist, a Fulbright scholar, a Raffles scholar and the fastest paraplegic to complete seven marathons across seven continents in twenty-six days.

His latest ambition is to attempt the same **feat**, but in seven days- which he is submitting to the Guinness World Records for consideration. During all these adventures he has travelled alone, often staying in small travel lodges without facilities for the disabled. There were obstacles aplenty. In Antarctica, he got stuck in mud; in Arizona, he nearly broke his hand when it got caught in the wheel; in Amsterdam, he injured his right chest going over cobblestone.

In an interview Mr Tan said **candidly**, "There were times when I thought of giving up because it was too tough. And then other things came to my mind. I had trained very hard for each race- 450 push ups a day, going to the gymnasium - there was too much to lose." Another thought kept him going, "I recalled that I started this challenge to raise money for cancer." In 1980, he became the first Singaporean to complete a Marathon in a wheelchair. Since then, he has been in many marathons, won numerous medals and raised \$14 million for charity.

He became a wheelchair athlete only in the late 1970s after meeting with Mr Wahid Baba, an ex-police officer who pioneered wheelchair sports in Singapore. "That opened a whole new horizon in my life. I loved it. I loved having to push and push and push," Dr Tan said.

William Tan's life shows that with determination, courage, and kindness, one can **overcome** even the greatest challenges.

**A. Answer the questions by selecting the correct options from those given.****[1x3-3]**

1. What can be the appropriate **word meaning** of-

**i. candidly**

- in an honest and straightforward way.
- dishonestly
- in a scared way

**ii. feat**

- challenging others
- positive thinking
- an achievement that requires great courage

2. Write the antonym of the word '**overcome**'.

- conquer
- surrender
- beautiful

**B. Answer these questions with reference to the given passage-**

1. What did the bullies do to Dr William Tan when he was in kindergarten? [1]
2. What disease did William Tan suffer from as a child? What kind of athlete is William Tan? [1]
3. What were the obstacles Dr Tan had to endure during his travels? (any two) [2]
4. Who is Mr Wahid Baba? [1]
5. Name the universities which were attended by William Tan. [1]
6. What lesson can we learn from the life of Dr William Tan? [1]

II. Your school is organizing a Story Writing Competition. Write a notice for your school informing the students from classes VI to IX about the competition and requesting them to submit their names for the same. [5]

III. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions- [ $\frac{1}{2}$ X10=5]

1. The sun rose \_\_\_\_\_ the horizon, casting a warm glow.
2. He dived \_\_\_\_\_ the pool to find the lost toy.
3. The restaurant is located \_\_\_\_\_ the corner \_\_\_\_\_ the street.
4. She is allergic \_\_\_\_\_ cats.
5. The book was written \_\_\_\_\_ an expert in ancient history.
6. He walked \_\_\_\_\_ the bridge to reach the other side.
7. She wore a beautiful necklace made \_\_\_\_\_ pearls.
8. We need to finish this project \_\_\_\_\_ the deadline.
9. Could I borrow your pen \_\_\_\_\_ a short while?

\*\*\*\*\*ALL THE BEST\*\*\*\*\*