



तत् त्वं पूषन् अपावृणु  
केन्द्रीय विद्यालय संगठन

केन्द्रीय विद्यालय संगठन, पटना संभाग

---

**KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA  
SANGATHAN, PATNA REGION**

---

**COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH (101)**

**CLASS-X**

**STUDENT SUPPORT MATERIAL  
CBSE CURRICULAM**

**SESSION-2024-25**



## **PATRON**

**SH. ANURAG BHATNAGAR**  
**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, KVS RO PATNA**

## **OUR MOTIVATORS**



**SH. MANISH K**  
**PRABHAT AC, KVS RO**  
**PATNA**

**SH. PURNENDU MANDAL**  
**AC, KVS RO PATNA**

## **CO-ORDINATION**

**Ms. ROOPALI PARIHAR**

**PRINCIPAL, P M SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA**  
**MUZAFFARPUR**

## Compilation & Editing by:

N N TRIVEDI TGT(ENGLISH),PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA MUZAFFARPUR

JAYNATH MANJHI TGT(ENGLISH),PM SHRI KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA MUZAFFARPUR

### THE TEAM OF SUBJECT EXPERTS

S.NO	Name of the teacher	Name of K V
1	ANEETA SINHA	KV KANKARBAGH(FS)
2	SANJAY KUMAR	KV KANKARBAGH(FS)
3	PREMSAGAR PANDIT	KV KANKARBAGH(SS)
4	ANUPRIYA KISKU	KV HAZIPUR
5	SANGUM KUMARI	KV MOTIHARI
6	PRAMOD SHARMA	KV KHAGAUL
7	DEEPIKA SUMAN	KV NALANDA OF RAJGIR
8	MD.RIYAZ AHMED	KV KISHANGANJ BSF
9	T.SULTANA	KV GAYA NO.2 ASC
10	SUMANTA GANGOPDHYAY	PM SHRI KV CRPF MOKAMAGHAT
11	NIKETAN CHAUDHARI	KV GARHARA
12	RESHMI DE	KV LAKHISARAI
13	IRA	KV SIWAN
14	ANAND GAURAV	KV KAHALGAON NTPC
15	KANCHAN KUMARI	KV IIT BIHTA
16	MADGATAPRANA	KV BUXAR
17	SUGANDHA SAGAR	KV JHAJHA
18	PRIYANKA PATRA	KV NO.1 BARAUNI
19	KISHOR KAUSHAL	PM SHRI KV JAMALPUR
20	SUMAN KUMAR	KV SAHARSA
21	MD.MOZAMMIL ALAM	KV IOC BARAUNI
22	ANIL MANDAL	KV BANKA

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>S. NO.</b>	<b>CHAPTER/TOPIC</b>	<b>PAGE NO.</b>
1.	BLUEPRINT COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH CLASS X 2024 -25	
2.	SECTION A READING PASSAGE	
3.	SECTION B WRITING	
4.	SECTION C GRAMMAR	
5.	SECTION D LITERATURE	
6.	SAMPLE PAPERS (CLASS X – COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH)	
7.	CBSE CURRICULUM (CLASS X – COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH)	

**Note:**

For CBSE ASL Corner, visit the

following link:

<https://cbseacademic.nic.in/aslcorner.html>

**BLUEPRINT****CLASS X**

Subject: English Communicative (101) Max. marks: 80 Max. Time: 3 hours

Section	Testing Competencies	Description	VSA/MCQ	SAQ	LAQ	Total Marks	Grand Total
Section A Reading Skills	To judge the ability of comprehending the passage and understanding the vocabulary.	1.Discursive passage	8(8)	2(4)	----	10(12)	<b>18(22)</b>
		2.Case based passage	6(6)	2(4)	----	8(10)	
Section B Writing Skills	Appropriacy of style and tone, using appropriate format, expressing an opinion to plan, organize and present idea coherently.	1.Email Writing	----	----	1(3)	1(3)	<b>4(22)</b>
		2.Factual Description	----	----	1(4)	1(4)	
		3.Formal Letter	----	----	1(7)	1(7)	
		4. Article Writing	----	----	1(8)	1(8)	
Section C Grammar	Grammar: Integrated structures with accuracy and fluency.	1.Gap Filling	3(3)	----	----	3(3)	<b>10(10)</b>
		2. Editing or Omission	4(4)	----	----	4(4)	
		3.Sentences Reordering or Sentence Transformation	3(3)	----	----	3(3)	
Section D Literature	*To identify the correct answer on the basis of inference, interpretation and comprehension.	1.Two extract out of three from the English Communicative Prose/Poetry.	8(8)	----	----	8(8)	<b>14(26)</b>
	*To test the ability to infer and evaluate, identifying the central theme and sub themes.	2.Short answer type questions from English Communicative Prose/Poetry/ Drama.	----	5(10)	----	5(10)	
	*Understanding the writer's message and writing fluently.	3.Value based questions from English Communicative Prose/Poetry/ Drama	----	----	1(8)	1(8)	
<b>Total</b>			<b>32(32)</b>	<b>9(18)</b>	<b>5(30)</b>	<b>46(80)</b>	<b>46(80)</b>

**Note:** Coverage of syllabus up to 100% (as per latest CBSE syllabus/norms for 2024-25). Number of questions are indicated outside the brackets and marks are indicated within the brackets.

## DISCURSIVE PASSAGES

### PASSAGE 1(Solved)

#### PASSAGE 1

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

High- altitude climbing is still a very dangerous task in spite of availability of oxygen masks and other protective equipment, which modern climbers take with them. These, of course, are indispensable accessories of climbing, but more important than these is the stamina of the climber, which ultimately determines the success of his attempt. Throughout his journey, death is his constant companion, which he keeps at a distance only with his superb presence of mind. He has to tread every inch of the ground with utmost care, for a false step may not only strike him a fatal blow, but also bring disaster to the whole expedition. That is why all expeditions invariably take with them local guides who are experienced climbers and who have a thorough knowledge of the nature of the terrain.

The primary objective of a mountaineering expedition is to get to the top of a high mountain, which, in the past has withstood all attempts to conquer it. But it should not be presumed that the expedition is a complete failure if it does not reach its destination. Sometimes operations are temporarily suspended because of bad weather, loss of some valuable equipment or the sudden death of a very important member of the party. Every big expedition takes with it men who are interested in various branches of science, and these men carry with them equipment for recording their observations concerning the weather, the terrain, and different forms of life in higher altitudes. Other scientists, explorers and expeditionists utilize the fruits of their observations. The British Expedition led by Colonel Hunt would have found their way to Everest much more difficult had not earlier expeditions armed them with useful knowledge about the death- dealing weather which they had encountered in the vicinity of the summit.

To ordinary people, mountaineering need not to be a fearful journey in the land of snowstorms, where the brave adventurer is always face to face with death. They can scale less ambitious heights, rest their weary limbs under a quiet shelter and feast their eyes in the distant landscape.

**A. Answer the following questions briefly:**

- a) How can the climber keep death at a distance?
- b) Describe the primary object of mountaineering.
- c) When the mountaineering expeditions suspended temporarily?
- d) What do men who accompany a big expedition carry with them and why?

**B. Choose the most appropriate option in each of the following:**

- a) What is meant by the word 'constant'? (Para 1)
  - i. Skillful
  - ii. Valuable
  - iii. Permanent
  - iv. Important
- b) What is meant by the word 'fatal'? (Para 1)
  - i. Deadly
  - ii. Dangerous
  - iii. Cruel
  - iv. Serious
- c) What is meant by the word 'destination'? (Para 2)
  - i. Station
  - ii. Goal

- iii. Shelter
- iv. Attention
- d) What is meant by the word 'expedition'? (Para 2)
  - i. Journey
  - ii. Movement
  - iii. Picnic
  - iv. Action

### ANSWERS

- A.
  - a) The climber can keep their death at a distance with his superb presence of mind.
  - b) The primary objective of the mountaineering expedition is to get to the top of a high mountain, which in the past has withstood all attempts to conquer it.
  - c) Mountaineering expeditions are suspended temporarily due to bad weather, loss of some valuable equipment or the sudden death of an important member of the party.
  - d) They carry with them equipment for recording their observations concerning the weather, the terrain and different forms of life in higher altitudes.
- B.
  - a) Permanent
  - b) Deadly
  - c) Goal
  - d) Journey

### PASSAGE 2

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

On Sunday, October 10, 2004, actor Christopher Reeve died. He was 52 years old. But this superhero will live on in the memory of children all over the world, Christopher Reeve, despite his handsome looks and great physique, was not the first choice for the role of Superman. Many famous actors passed over the role as they felt it would be 'typecast'. Reeve took on the role and the movie hit the theatres in the late 1970s. The movie banner proclaimed, 'See it and you will believe a man can fly!' The audience agreed.

As Superman's popularity grew, toy merchants began selling Superman underpants and vests in department stores all across North America. Kids wore these, donned blue capes, ran around their houses and imagined they were flying! The influence was so strong that people living on the upper floors of apartment buildings, kept their doors and windows closed fearing that children might "try to fly". Children needed no urging to believe that he was the last son of Krypton.

The Superman movie and its three sequels were so popular that children demanded Superman figures, lunch boxes, thermoses, costumes and caps. Never before had the movie industry witnessed such a phenomenon. If Christopher Reeve was a hero on the silver screen, he proved to be a bigger hero off screen. He miraculously survived a riding accident in 1995. But he was paralyzed from below the neck and was confined to the wheelchair.

But Christopher Reeve refused to be defeated. He vowed to walk again and, more importantly, set up the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation, which has raised millions of dollars to help all those confined to wheel chairs. Christopher Reeve will always be celebrated for the life he lived. It is important that we keep his memory alive by supporting the causes he believed in.

**A. Answer the following questions briefly:**

- a) Why did many famous actors not accept the role of superman?
- b) What physical qualities did Christopher Reeve possess?
- c) When Superman became popular, what did the merchants do?
- d) What was the fear of the people living on the upper floors?

**B. Choose the most appropriate option in each of the following:**

- a) What is meant by the word 'sequel'? (Para 3)
  - i. A movie
  - ii. A serial
  - iii. A continuation of the same
  - iv. An episode
- b) The word in the passage that means 'restricted' is \_\_\_\_\_. (Para 3)
  - i. defeated
  - ii. disappointment
  - iii. confined
  - iv. criticized
- c) Find the word in the passage opposite in meaning to 'died'? (Para 3)
  - i. survived
  - ii. witnessed
  - iii. proved
  - iv. paralyzed
- d) Find the word in the passage opposite in meaning to 'accepted'? (Para 4)
  - i. defeated
  - ii. celebrated
  - iii. refused
  - iv. vowed

**ANSWERS**

- A. a) Many famous actors did not accept the role of Superman as they feared to be 'typecast'.  
b) Christopher Reeve had handsome looks and great physique.  
c) When Superman became popular, toy merchants began selling Superman underpants and vests in department stores all across North America.  
d) The people living on the upper floors feared that children might try to fly.
- B. a) A continuation of the same    b) confined    c) survived    d) refused

**PASSAGE 3**

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

1. Choice of profession and career is of great importance. Success depends on the right and timely choice of a career. There are a great variety of careers and professions. The lack of proper counselling worsens the situation. It also results in unemployment and frustration which means a lot of waste of money, time and energy. The students should take the help of elders, teachers and professionals in deciding their careers. They should choose their career according to their aptitude and resources.
2. Young people are ambitious, impatient and eager to achieve good positions. They want to become high officials, executives and have top positions without considering their qualifications, skills, etc. This is a wrong



attitude. One should be realistic. One may dream of becoming a super film star and end up as a mere casual artist. Such high ambitions lead to disillusionment and unhappiness.

3. It is better to choose a career at the high school level than go for higher studies aimlessly. One should go for a vocational course at this stage. There are many careers, professions and vocations to choose from. These are teaching, engineering, medicine, law, technology, business, trade, computer application career, government employment, positions in the police and army etc. But each of these requires special aptitude, training, and resources. One may have proper qualifications and aptitude for a career of a doctor or engineer. But if there are no financial resources to train for it, one cannot choose it as one's career.

4. Choice of a career is not simply a matter of likes and dislikes. Financial resources play a very important role in deciding to choose a profession for lack of funds. One will have to choose a far humbler career. One can take to politics if one has an aptitude for public life. It is a profession of hard labour and perseverance. If you have strong optimism, ambition for fame and are prepared to face the worst, you are best suited for politics. If you have enough money and resources and want to grow very rich, you can choose business as your career. Therefore, be practical, logical and reasonable in choosing your profession. This is a crucial choice.

Answer the following questions based on the passage given above.

1. What leads to disillusionment and unhappiness among young people?

- (a) Lack of success
- (b) Unrealistic ambitions
- (c) Monotonous lifestyle
- (d) Gap between qualifications and achievements

2. State the factors that can help young people decide their career.

3. What are the qualities needed to become a politician?

- (a) Oratory skills
- (b) Fame
- (c) Aptitude for public life
- (d) Funds

4. What is the right time to make a career choice? Why?

5. Why are financial resources important while choosing a career?

6. Substitute the underlined word in the sentence with the word from the passage which means the same.

We need the guidance of the elders to solve this riddle.

7. What are the qualities associated with young people?

- (a) Educated
- (b) Ambitious
- (c) Impatient
- (d) All of these

8. Complete the sentence appropriately.

One's success in life depends on \_\_\_\_\_ .

9. Complete the sentence appropriately.

Lack of proper counselling leads to \_\_\_\_\_ .

10. State whether the given statement is True or False.

The author states the importance of the role of counsellors.

ANSWERS:

1. (b) Unrealistic ambitions

2. Help from counsellors, elders, teachers and professionals helps an individual to decide the right career on the basis of their aptitudes and the resources available to them.

3. (c) Aptitude for public life

4. The right time to make a career choice is when an individual is in high school. This is so because this will allow them to develop the special aptitude required for a career.

5. Financial resources are important to consider when choosing a career because lack of funds does not allow an individual to choose a career option that requires great education funding. Hence, with lack of funds, one will have to choose a humble career.

6. help 7. (d) All of these 8. right and timely choice of career 9. worsening of the situation of unemployment and frustration among many young people.

10. True

#### PASSAGE 4

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

1. One would imagine that at the very sight of the panther, deer, antelopes and its other preys would just run for their lives. Nothing of the sort. They all stand their ground and make such a loud noise that the panther is left with no other choice except to leave quietly. I have seen a tiny chital baby standing in the middle of an opening in the forest, stamping its feet on the ground and shooing away a tiger. With the white of its erect tail showing, it kept up its shrill call until the tiger made itself scarce. No tiger in its senses would attempt to catch such an impertinent brat, just as you would not dream of catching an offending crow cawing away in your verandah.

2. While the panther sticks to cover and hugs the edge of the forest, the game animals, on the other hand, like to assemble right out in open vast grazing grounds. Open spaces, which the panther carefully avoids, are what the game animals deliberately seek.

3. It is difficult to describe the pandemonium kicked up by various animals when they spot or suspect a panther around. The chital strikes a shrill note, the kakar emits a deafening bark and the sambar rings a bell. The peacock on its perch, the jungle fowl on the ground, and the monkey on treetops, all join in the chorus of condemnation of the panther. They curse the panther in their own inimitable language. The resulting confusion of sounds is so irritating to the sharp ears of the panther that it is left with no other option except to go away.

4. The panther has thus to deal with its ever alert and watchful associates who show no mercy and expect none. It is a fight between finesse and flight, between clever attack and skilful defence.

5. Contrary to the common belief, the panther never springs upon its prey. It stalks as close to its victim as it can manage, and then makes the final dash by rushing at it at lightning speed.

Answer the following questions based on the passage given above.

1. What strategy do animals like deer, antelope etc. adopt to drive away the panther?

- (a) To make loud noise
- (b) To hide way up in the tree
- (c) To run away quickly
- (d) All of the above

2. How do the panther and the game animals (deer, antelopes etc.) react to open spaces?

3. What effect does the loud noises made by the birds and animals have on the panther?

- (a) It gets angry
- (b) It goes away
- (c) It pounces to look for the sound
- (d) It does nothing

4. What sounds are made by the chital, the kakar and the sambar when a panther is around?

5. How does the panther kill its prey?

6. Substitute the underlined word in the sentence with the word from the passage which means the same.

They were filled with doubt when they heard her side of the story.

7. What is the tone used by the author for the Chital baby?

- (a) Pride
- (b) Amazement
- (c) Joyful
- (d) Angry

8. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The skills displayed by the panther while hunting its prey are...

9. Complete the sentence appropriately, According to the author, when the animals make

the noise they are \_\_\_\_\_ .

10. State whether the given assumption is True or False.

Panthers are animals that prefer solitude.

ANSWERS:

1. (a) To make a loud noise.

2. Panther avoids the open spaces. It prefers to stay in cover at the edge of the forest. In contrast, game animals like deer and antelopes like to assemble in the vast open grazing grounds.

3. (a) It goes away

4. The chital makes a shrill note, the kakar makes a deafening bark and the sambar rings a bell when a panther is around.

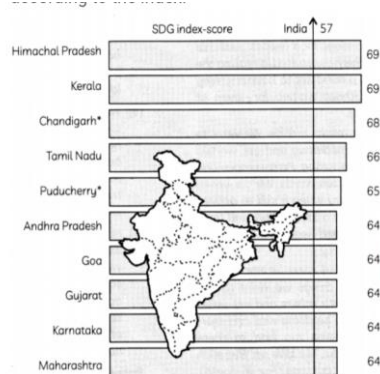
5. The panther kills its prey by stalking close to its victim and then making a dash towards it at lightning speed.
6. Suspect
7. (b.) Amazement
8. alertness and observant
9. cursing at the panther
10. True

## CASE-BASED PASSAGES

### PASSAGE 1 (Solved)

#### 1. India's SDG Scores

India has crossed the halfway mark in achieving the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 and to be achieved by 2030, according to the SDG India Index released on Friday by think tank NITI Aayog and the UN. Here are the 10 best-performing states and Union territories according to the index.



(1) Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have emerged as the front runners in the race to achieve key sustainable development goals (SDG) like removal of poverty inequality, while Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the laggards in ranking of states.

(2) According to the SDG India Index, the nation as a whole has a score of 57, showing the country has reached a little beyond the halfway mark in meeting the sustainable development goals adopted by India and 192 other nations in 2015. The index covers 13 of the 17 sustainable development goals, including healthcare, gender equality, clean energy, infrastructure, education, peace and building strong, accountable institution.

(3) For goals, including climate action and sustainable use of marine resources, were left out because of lack of data at the state level. Kerala's overall top rank (69) is attributed to its strong performance in providing good health, reducing hunger, achieving gender equality and providing quality education. The rank shows the distance each state has to cover to reach 100 – the point at which it fully meets the sustainable development goal.

(4) Himachal Pradesh ranks high with a similar overall score in providing clean water and sanitation, reducing inequalities and preserving the mountain ecosystem. Tamil Nadu has a score of 66. Among Union territories, Chandigarh takes the lead with a score of 68 on account of its track record in providing clean water and sanitation. Performance in providing quality education has also helped Chandigarh achieve high score.

(5) Tamil Nadu topped the states in poverty reduction, while Kerala topped in providing quality education, closely followed by Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh.

(6) Kerala and Tamil Nadu also topped in facilitating good health and well-being. Gender equality, however, is an area all states and the nation as a whole need to improve upon. The toppers in gender equality, Sikkim and Union territories. Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Chandigarh, have crossed the halfway mark in reaching the goals.

(7) The scores represent the current status of achievement in meeting the goals.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the given questions:**

A) The other remaining goals left out from SDG India Index because:

- (a) of lack of data of the state level      (b) they have already crossed halfway mark in reaching the goals.  
(c) countries have not taken care of the remaining goals  
(d) those goals have not yet officially accepted by the companies [1]

Answer:(a) of lack of data of the state level

- (B) Among Union Territories ..... takes the lead with a score of 68 on account of its track record in providing clean water and sanitation. [1]

Answer: Chandigarh

- (C) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option.

According to the survey ..... tapped in providing quality education.

- (a) Kerala    (b) Tamil Nadu    (c) Chandigarh    (d) Andhra Pradesh [1]

Answer:(a) Kerala

- (D) How many sustainable goals does index cover? [1]

Answer: 13

- (E) What do 100 points mean as per SDG Index?

(a) It means the index has covered 13 goals including healthcare, gender equality clean energy, infrastructure, education, peace and building strong, accountable institutions.

(b) It means the point at which it fully meets the sustainable development goal.

(c) It means the removal of poverty and equality.

(d) It means India has reached a little beyond the halfway mark to meet sustainable development goals. [1]

Answer:

(b) It means the point at which it fully meets the sustainable development goal.

- (F) Which state has the least SDG score according to the graph? [1]

Answer: Maharashtra

- (G) The SDG score represents the current status of achievements by the states in meeting the goals.

True/false. [1]

Answer: True

- (H) Which state ranks the best in total SDG scores? [1]

Answer:

Himachal Pradesh

- (I) Select the option that is true for the two statements given below.

(1) Tamil Nadu topped the states in poverty reduction.

(2) Kerala topped the states in providing amenities.

(a) (1) is the result of (2).                      (b) (1) is true and (2) is false.

(c) (1) is independent of (2).                (d) (1) contradicts (2). [1]

Answer:(b) (1) is true and (2) is false.

Explanation: It is clearly given in paragraph 5 of the passage that Tamil Nadu topped the states in poverty reduction while Kerala topped the states in providing quality education. Hence, (b) is the right answer.

- (J) The index covers .....

sustainable development goals out of ..... [1]

Answer: 13,17.

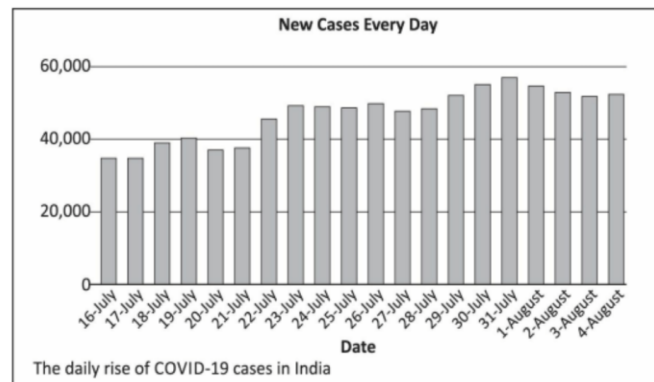
## PASSAGE 2

### India Covid-19 numbers explained

1. With novel Coronavirus spreading rapidly all over the country, there are only three states right now, Meghalaya, Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, that have less than 1,000 people infected with the disease.
2. Lakshadweep, of course, still hasn't reported even a single case till now, the only region in India entirely free of the epidemic.
3. Otherwise, even the relatively smaller states now have significantly large spread of the disease. Goa, for example, has seen more than 7,000 of its people infected by the virus till now. Tripura has over 5,500 cases, while Manipur has more than 3,000, and Nagaland a little less than 2,500. Puducherry has more than 4,000 cases, while even Daman and Diu has over 1,300 people infected.
4. And in each of these states, the numbers are rising at a fast pace, at a rate higher than the national level. The infections had initially reached these states in the first and second week of May, when the lockdown was relaxed for the first time to enable people stuck in different parts of the country to return to their native places.
5. After a period of very slow growth, the number of cases have begun to rise rapidly in the last one month. In Goa, for example, the total number of infected people has nearly doubled in the last 15 days. Same has

happened in Puducherry, as well.

6. Tuesday was one of those rare occasions when the number of active cases in the country, those who are yet to recover from the disease, went down compared to the previous day. That is because the number of recoveries, combined with the number of deaths, exceeded the new cases that were detected on Tuesday.



7. With over 52,500 new cases detected in the country, the total number of infections crossed 19 lakh, out of which 12.82 lakh people have recovered from the disease. The number of dead is now close to 40,000.

8. The number of recoveries on Tuesday was the highest-ever for a single day. More than 51,700 people were declared to have been recovered. Three days earlier, the number of recoveries had crossed 50,000 for the first time, but in the next two days the number had fallen to much lower levels.

2. Choose the correct option to answer the questions based on the above passage and graphics.

(a) How are these three states – Meghalaya, Sikkim and Andaman and Nicobar Islands – different from the rest of India?

(i) they are the only states to have less than 1,000 people infected with novel coronavirus

(ii) they are three of the five states to have less than 1,000 people infected with novel coronavirus

(iii) they are the only states to have less than 2,000 people infected with novel coronavirus

(iv) none of these

(b) \_\_\_\_\_ is the only region in India which is entirely free of the epidemic.

(i) Andaman and Nicobar Islands

(ii) Maharashtra

(iii) Lakshadweep

(iv) Tripura

(c) What is common among Goa, Tripura, Manipur, Nagaland, Puducherry and Daman and Diu?

(i) the numbers are rising at a fast pace at rates lower than the national level

(ii) the numbers are falling at a fast pace at rates equal than the national level

(iii) the numbers are rising at a fast pace at rates higher than the national level

(iv) none of these

(d) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the inherent qualities of climate in the present times.

(i) 1 and 4

(ii) 2 and 6

(iii) 1 and 3

(iv) 3 and 5

(e) Which date in the graph shows the highest jump of detected cases in a day?

(i) July 30

(ii) July 31

(iii) August 1

(iv) August 2

(f) Of the 19 lakh infected cases, how many have recovered?

(i) 11.82 lakh

(ii) 13.82 lakh

(iii) 12.81 lakh

(iv) 12.82 lakh

(g) More than 51,700 people were declared to have been recovered on \_\_\_\_\_.

(i) Wednesday

(ii) Sunday

(iii) Tuesday

(iv) Monday

(h) When had the number of recoveries crossed 50,000 for the first time?

(i) two days earlier

(ii) Tuesday

(iii) three days earlier than Tuesday

(iv) none of these

(i) Which word in the passage means the same as “quickly”?

(i) rapidly

(ii) significantly

(iii) native

(iv) rare

(j) Which word in the passage is opposite in meaning to “indigenous”?

(i) rapidly

(ii) significantly

(iii) native

(iv) rare

### PASSAGE 3

(1) Yoga is not a particular denomination or religion, but an age-old practice based on a harmonizing

system for the body, mind, and spirit to attain inner peace and liberation.

(2) Within the past decade, yoga has infiltrated not only Western culture, but also Western medicine. The more we learn about this ancient practice, the more we realize that its benefits go far beyond increased flexibility and muscle tone.

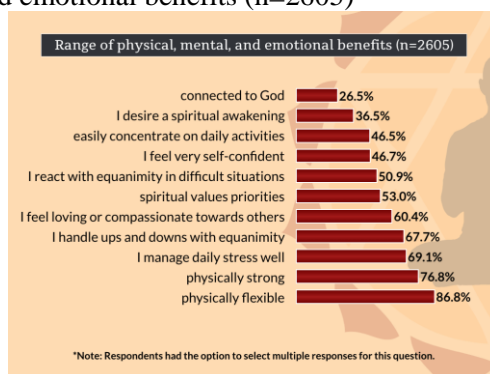
A common misunderstanding is that yoga predominantly focuses on increasing flexibility; however, the physical practice of yoga, does emphasize appropriate postural alignment, musculoskeletal strength and endurance as well as balance. The study and practice of yoga incorporates mindfulness-based practices such as mindful breathing techniques, focused concentration meditation and self-reflection.

(3) We give undue importance to our health and the treatment of diseases. A large number of medicines treat only the symptoms of the disease, and not the root cause. In fact, the cause of many chronic ailments is still being researched. It is here that yoga therapy comes to our assistance.

Yoga emphasizes treatment of the root cause of an ailment works in a slow, subtle and miraculous manner. Modern medicine can claim to save a life at a critical stage, but for complete recovery and regaining of normal health, one must believe in the efficiency of Yoga therapy.

(4) The yogic way of life includes a code of ethics, regulations, discipline, combined with prayer and meditation. Even a discussion of these subjects helps one relieve tensions and change attitudes. Simple asanas help to stretch and relax the whole body and release tensions. The sincere practice of yoga postures is beneficial for the mind and body.

Range of physical mental, and emotional benefits (n=2605)



(5) The continued practice of yoga has profound effect on the inner chemenstones of life. Yoga aims at developing the mental, physical, spiritual and emotional lacticities. Other forms of physical exercise, like aerobics, assumer only physical well being. They have little to do with the development of the soul and mind.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the given questions:

(A) Select the option that is true for the two statements given below.

(1) Yoga can treat the root cause of an ailment.

(2) Modern medicines can save a life at a critical stage.

(a) (1) is the result of (2).

(b) (1) is true and (2) is false

(c) (1) is independent of (2).

(d) (1) contradicts (2). [1]

Answer:

(c) (1) is independent of (2).

Explanation: It is clearly given in paragraph 5 of the passage that yoga emphasizes on the treatment of the root cause of ailment while the modern medicines may save a life at a critical stage. Both the statements are true and independent. Hence, (c) is the right answer.

(B) Select the correct option to complete the given sentence.

One must believe in ..... for complete recovery and regaining of health. [1]

(a) God (b) Yoga Therapy (c) gym (d) medicines

Answer: (b) Yoga Therapy

(C) Yoga aims at developing the ..... faculties whereas physical exercise only develop the ..... [1]

Answer: Physical, mental, emotional and spiritual body; physical body

(D) Most of the medicines treat

(a) only the symptoms and not the root cause (b) only the critical stage of saving life.

(c) only the root cause

(d) both the symptoms and the root cause [1]

Answer: (a) only the symptoms and not the root cause

(E) The phrase 'age-old practice' means ..... [1]

Answer: an ancient practice

(F) Aerobics has a major impact on both mind and body. (True/false). [1]

Answer: False

Explanation: It is given in the passage that physical exercises other than yoga like aerobics, has only little impact on mind and body, not major.

(G) Which factor in a human body gets influenced the most with yoga? [1]

Answer: Physical flexibility

(H) Yoga also helps to become ..... and ..... towards people, according to the given chart. [1]

Answer: loving; compassionate

(I) Select the option that shows what has yoga infiltrated within the past decade. [1]

(I) Western philosophy (II) Western culture (III) Western manner (IV) Western medicine

(a) (II) and (IV)

(b) (III) and (IV)

(c) (I) and (IV)

(d) (II) and (IV)

Answer: (a) (II) and (IV)

(J) List one issue that people who practice yoga can handle easily. [1]

Answer: Stress

## SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS

### E MAIL

Email writing deals with finding an objective for communication, writing down the message, and sending it to the concerned person through email. Emails must be short, concise, and to the point. It should consist of all the important and relevant information.

#### Types of Emails

Emails are basically classified into two types: formal and informal. Language, tone, words, expressions, etc. differentiate a formal email from an informal one.

**Formal Email:** A Formal email is written to send or receive any information pertaining to official work. Emails that you receive from your college or school authorities, banks, offices, etc are formal emails. They must be well-composed and sound formal in nature. Words used in formal emails should be more professional than personal. For example, phrases like :To whom it may concern, Thanks and Regards, Early action is intimidated, etc. are used in formal emails.

**Informal Email:** An informal email is mostly used as a medium of regular conversation with friends, relatives, or any personal individual. It is written to inform your loved ones about your day, about your life, and hear the same from them. Such emails do not have to follow any pattern but must stick to the format. They are informal in their language and tone. Phrases such as, I'm glad, nice to hear from you, yours, by the way, etc are used in an informal email.

### FORMAT

<b>From:</b> Sender's email address
<b>To:</b> Recipient's email address
<b>Cc:</b> In email, "CC" stands for "carbon copy." It's used to send a copy of the email to someone other than the primary recipient(s), typically for informational purposes.
<b>Bcc:</b> BCC stands for "Blind Carbon Copy." When you add someone to the BCC field of an email, the recipients in the "To" and "CC" fields won't see that person's email address. It's often used when you want to include someone in the conversation without letting others know.
<b>Subject:</b> Concise and informative subject line
<b>Salutation:</b> Use appropriate titles (Mr., Ms., Dr., etc.) and the recipient's name if known.
<b>Body:</b> Clear and concise message with proper grammar and punctuation.
<b>Closing Salutation:</b> Polite closing (e.g., Regards, Sincerely) followed by your name.
<b>Signature:</b> Include sender's full name



### SAMPLE E- MAIL

Write an email to the principal of your school requesting him to change your section and also give reason for your demand.

From: abhi.bhasi@gmail.com
To: principalkvs@gmail.com
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Request to Change Section
pected Sir,  I am writing to request a section change for the upcoming year. Currently, I am enrolled in X B, but I would like to request a transfer to X A.  The reason for my request is that I have specific academic preferences and believe that switching to [desired section] will enhance my compatibility with my study group, resolve scheduling conflicts, and ultimately contribute positively to my academic performance and overall experience at school.  This is affecting my studies. Kindly do the needful at the earliest.  Thank you  Yours sincerely  Abhijit Class X B

### **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS**

1. You are Arsh/Arsha of XYZ International School and you want a five days leave from school as you want to attend your sister's wedding. Write an email to the principal of your school requesting him to grant leave.

2. You are Satvika/Satvik, class leader of Class X section B. The projector in your classroom is malfunctioning. Report this to the Principal in an email.

## FACTUAL DESCRIPTION

Factual description refers to the detailed and precise depiction of a person, place, thing, or event in a methodical manner. The description should be based on factual information rather than theories or personal opinions. The primary objective of writing a factual description is to provide a detailed account of the topic's characteristics without including personal opinions. The goal is to create an engaging experience for the reader by using descriptive language that appeals to the five senses: touch, sight, smell, sound, and taste. This will be achieved primarily through the use of adjectives.

### How to write a factual description?

To write a factual description, it is important to provide precise and comprehensive information about a person, place, object, event, or any other subject matter. Here is a step-by-step guide that will help you write a factual description:

**Choose Your Subject:** Select a specific subject that you want to describe. It could be a person, a place, an object, an event, or anything else that you find interesting or significant.

**Gather Information:** Before you start writing, gather all the relevant information about the subject. This could involve observation, research, or personal experience. Make sure the information you gather is accurate and reliable.

**Create an Outline:** Organize your thoughts and information by creating an outline. Decide on the main points you want to cover in your description. This will help you maintain a logical flow and ensure you don't miss any important details.

**Introduction:** Begin with an introductory sentence or two that provides a brief overview of the subject you are describing. This should give the reader a general idea of what to expect in the description.

**Physical Characteristics:** Describe the physical attributes of the subject. This could include its appearance, size, shape, color, texture, and any unique features it possesses.

**Functional Details:** If applicable, provide information about how the subject functions or its purpose. For example, if you're describing a gadget, explain how it works and what it's used for.

**Sensory Details:** Engage the reader's senses by including sensory details. Describe how the subject looks, sounds, smells, tastes, and feels. This helps create a vivid and immersive description.

**Spatial or Contextual Details:** Describe the setting or context in which the subject is found. If you're describing a place, provide details about its surroundings, location, and any relevant historical or cultural context.

**Chronological Details (if applicable):** If you're describing an event or a process, present the information in a chronological order. This helps the reader follow the sequence of events or steps.

**Conclusion:** Summarize the key points of your description. You can also add your personal observations or reflections if appropriate.

**Edit and Revise:** After writing the initial draft, take the time to edit and revise your description. Check for clarity, accuracy, and coherence. Make sure your description flows smoothly and effectively communicates the intended information.

**Proofread:** Before finalizing your description, proofread it carefully to catch any grammatical errors, typos, or inconsistencies.

Remember that a factual description should aim to provide an accurate representation of the subject, enabling the reader to visualize and understand it clearly. Use precise language, avoid overly subjective language, and focus on conveying information in a

coherent and organized manner.

### SAMPLE FACTUAL DESCRIPTION

1. Provide a factual description of the following visual image in not more than 100 words. (4 marks)



The Great Wall of China is a series of fortifications made of various materials, including stone, brick, tamped earth, wood, and other materials. Built primarily between the 7th century BC and the 16th century, it was intended to protect the northern borders of the Chinese Empire from invasions by various nomadic groups. The wall stretches over 13,000 miles, making it the longest wall in the world. It was constructed under various dynasties, with significant work done during the Ming Dynasty. Today, it is a UNESCO World Heritage site and a symbol of China's historical strength and resilience.

2. Describe the process of digestion in the human body in about 100 words. (4 marks)

The process of digestion in the human body involves breaking down food into simpler substances that can be absorbed and used by the body. It begins in the mouth, where food is chewed and mixed with saliva. The food then travels down the esophagus to the stomach, where it is mixed with gastric juices, breaking down proteins. Next, the partially digested food moves into the small intestine, where enzymes from the pancreas and bile from the liver further digest fats, carbohydrates, and proteins. The nutrients are then absorbed through the walls of the small intestine into the bloodstream. The remaining undigested food passes into the large intestine, where water is absorbed, and the waste is eventually excreted through the rectum and anus.

### PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTIONS

1. Write a factual description, in not more than 100 words of a potted plant that you and your sibling recently chose, to gift your parents. (SAMPLE PAPER 2023-24)
2. Write a factual description on an English notebook that you have to submit to your teacher. (CBSE 2024)

### PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Write a factual description in about 100 words about your recent visit to a historical monument.
2. Write a factual description of a teacher in your school life who is an inspiration to you.
3. Write a factual description about your favorite spot in school in not more than 100 words.

### FORMAL LETTER

#### Introduction -

A formal letter is a written communication between two parties, often in a professional or business context. It follows a specific format and tone, adhering to conventions of politeness and formality. Typically used for official matters, such as job applications, business proposals, or formal requests, a formal letter includes key elements such as a salutation, an introduction, a body with clear and concise information, and a closing with a signature. Proper structure and language are essential to convey the message effectively and maintain professionalism.

#### Editorial Letter Characteristics -

An editorial letter is a concise and focused piece of writing submitted by a reader to a newspaper, magazine, or other publication. Its primary purpose is to present the author's opinion, perspective, or argument on a specific topic, often related to current events, societal issues, or previously published content. Key characteristics of an editorial letter include:

**Persuasive Tone:** The letter aims to convince or influence readers, including editors, policymakers, and the public, regarding the author's viewpoint.

**Clear Argumentation:** It presents a well-defined argument or perspective, supported by facts, evidence, or personal experiences.

**Brevity:** Typically, editorial letters are brief, often constrained by word or character limits set by the publication.

**Structure:** The letter usually includes an introduction, a body where the main argument is developed, and a conclusion that reinforces the main point or calls for action.

**Adherence to Guidelines:** Submissions must follow specific guidelines provided by the publication, including format, tone, and length requirements.

Editorial letters serve as a platform for public discourse, allowing individuals to engage with broader audiences and contribute to societal conversations.

### **Format of editorial letter -**

The letters written to the editors of magazines or newspapers are highly formal, so it is important to follow a particular format.

The letter to the editor format is as follows –

- **The sender's address** – The exact address of the sender is to be mentioned here, including the name of the state and the Pin code.
- **The date** – The correct date, month, and year should be mentioned.
- **The receiver's address** – Always mention 'The Editor' before beginning with the address. The name of the newspaper should also be included here.
- **The subject of the letter**
- **The salutation**
- **The body of the letter** – It should be divided into three paragraphs – Introduction, details, and conclusion.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Purpose of the letter

- To express one's opinion on a wide range of issues.
- To express and share one's observation and views in a public forum, for example a magazine or a newspaper
- Language of the letter
- Formal language must be used
- Repetition of ideas must be avoided
- Sub paragraph should be used in an organized way
- Personal outlook must be included but bias language should be avoided

Word limit must be kept in mind

Sender's address

Date of writing the letter

Receiver's Designation and address Sir/Madam

Subject:

Body of the letter (in 3 - 4 paragraphs)

**Introduction**

**The issue, facts, causes and consequences**

**Minimum two suggestions**

**5. Conclusion**

Yours faithfully/Yours sincerely/Yours truly Sender's name

### SAMPLE OF LETTER TO THE EDITOR

**Question:** You are Sourabh Srivastava, a resident of Defense Colony Bagdogra, Siliguri. Your Colony is facing the severe problem of inadequate and contaminated water supply. You decide to express your views and make the authorities aware of the situation by writing a letter to the Editor of The Siliguri Times, Siliguri. Write your letter in about 100- 120 words.

Defence Colony Bagdogra

15th April 2024 The Editor

The Siliguri Times Siliguri

Sir

Subject: Inadequate and contaminated water supply.

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I would like to draw the attention of the civic authorities to the contaminated and inadequate supply of water in our locality. It is unfortunate that the local civic authorities do not take care to provide the citizens with even the basic amenities such as proper and adequate water supply. In our locality, water is supplied only for three hours in the morning. For the rest of the day the taps remains dry. Also, the supplied water is impure. It is unhygienic and inadequate. There have been cases of water borne diseases. The water borne diseases may break out in form of epidemic, if the problem is not properly addressed to.

It is expected that instead of ignoring the issue, the authorities concerned will take immediate steps to ensure supply of adequate and potable water in our locality so that we residence are able to leave a disease free and healthy life.

Yours truly

Sourabh Srivastava

### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper expressing your views on the importance of saving water as you have seen people wasting water carelessly on one hand and on the other hand people fight for a single drop of water and farmers die because of drought. Using your own ideas and write the letter.

2. Recently you read a report on increasing stress level among the younger generation and you are very disturbed with the scenario. You decide to write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper expressing your concern and also about some measures which can be adopted by the youth to overcome stress. On the basis of the ideas reflected in the daily life and your own understanding write the letter to the editor.

### LETTERS OF COMPLAINT

Sender's address

Date of writing the letter Receiver's address

Sir/Madam  
Subject:  
Body of the letter (in 3 - 4 paragraphs)  
Purpose with reference to the order. (Introductory)  
Mention the reason for regret  
Suggestions to repair/replace  
5. Conclusion  
Yours faithfully/Yours sincerely  
Sender's name

### SAMPLE OF LETTER OF COMPLAINT

Write a letter to V.P. Appliances, C-24 Devpuri, Mumbai, complaining that the Air Cooler supplied by them has stopped working in less than a week. Sign yourself as Gourav/Gauri of 52, Tilak Marg, Mumbai.

52, Tilak Marg, Mumbai.  
15th April, 2024  
The Manager  
V.P. Appliances  
C-24 Devpuri Mumbai  
Sir/Madam

Subject: Complaint about Air Cooler

I purchased a Lloyd air cooler from your company vide cash memo no. 571/24 dated 23rd March 2024 with a warranty of one year.

I regret to inform you that it's stopped working after 4 days it does not cool the air. Through the air cooler gets on but it does not give cool air.

Please send your mechanic to rectify the fault or replace the air cooler with a new one.

Yours sincerely  
Gourav/Gauri

### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ON LETTERS OF COMPLAINTS

1.You are Sreeram living at 234/C-3 M.G Road Bangalore. You purchased an LED TV from Mode electronics MG Road Bangalore. Write a letter to the Manager complaining about the TV that is not functioning properly.

2.Write a letter to Ashwin Books Depot, Nai Sarak, New Delhi telling them that are the books you had ordered have arrived, but some books were with torn pages and a few of them were old editions. Ask for replacement of the books. You are Ankita or Akash , C-10 Vidyanagar, New Delhi.

### LETTERS OF ENQUIRY

#### FORMATE

Sender's address  
Date of writing the letter  
Receiver's address  
Sir/Madam  
Subject:  
Body of the letter  
1. Introduction to the subject  
2. Elaborate on the subject/ request/ enquiry  
3. Suggestions to repair/replace  
Conclusion  
Yours faithfully/Yours sincerely  
Sender's name

### SAMPLE OF LETTERS OF ENQUIRY

You are Apurva/Ashin and librarian of Wisdom Public School Bangalore. Write a letter to the Sales Manager of Navneeth Publishers Ltd. Bangalore enquiring about undue delay concerning the delivery of books for your school library for which you placed an order two months ago. Also specify that you may have to cancel the order in case of further delay as the first term of the academic year has almost come to an end.

Wisdom Public School,  
Bangalore

20th September, 2024

The Sales Manager

Navneeth Publishers Ltd Bangalore

Subject: Undue delay in delivery of books Sir/Madam

We are sorry to show our displeasure at the undue delay in the delivery of books for our school library. We placed a bulk order for the purchase of books for the library 2 months ago. But it is unfortunate to know that even after small reminders, the books have not been supplied. Before we decide to take the next step, we would like to enquire from you about the reason for this delay.

You know that the first term of the academic year has almost come to an end. If you fail to deliver the books up to 30th September, 2024 we will be compelled to cancel the order. We hope you will not compel us to look for another supplier for the books.

Yours faithfully

Apurva/Aashin Librarian

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ON LETTERS OF ENQUIRY.

1. You are Rema/Rohit the school pupil of Valley Public School, Chennai. During the summer vacation, your school is planning an educational tour, covering visits to a thermal power plant and a few factories. Write a letter to the National Travel Agency, at Pantheon Road, Chennai enquiring about the places, the charges, facilities and other relevant details.

2. Write a letter to the Manager, Taj International, and Lucknow to find out the rates for conducting the wedding reception of your sister, and enquiring specifically about the catering cost for head, service and decoration charges and advanced to be paid

#### LETTERS OF PLACING ORDER

##### FORMATE

Sender's address
Date of writing the letter
Receiver's address
Sir/Madam
Subject:
Body of the letter
1. Introduction to the subject

2. Elaborate on the subject/ request/ enquiry
3. Details of the item

Conclusion

Yours faithfully/Yours sincerely Sender's name

#### SAMPLE OF LETTERS OF PLACING ORDERS

You are Satish/Sonali, the Literary Captain in charge of the school library. You have been asked to place an order for Children's story books. Write a letter to MS Book Depot, Ram Nagar, Bikaner placing an order for the books. Invent the necessary details.

Ram Nagar Bikaner

14th June, 2024. MS Book Depot Ram Nagar,

Bikaner

Subject: Order for Children's story books. Sir/Madam

We need no introduction as we are your regular customers. We would like to place an order for children's story book for our school library we are providing a list of books which we are in need of.

Kindly deliver these books in the latest edition and in proper conditions. We would be pleased, if you could provide us suitable discounts on these books. The list of books with their particulars is attached here with.

S.No.	Name	Author/Publisher	Copies required
1.	Arabian Nights	Rupa & Co	30
2.	Panchatantra	Children's Book	30
3.	Stories for Children	Society National Book	45
4.	Fables	Jaina & Co	50

We hope timely delivery and maximum discounts. Yours faithfully  
Satish/Sonali

Literary Captain

#### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS ON LETTERS OF ENQUIRY.

1. You are the Sports Captain of your school APS Ahmedabad. Write a letter to Pioneer Sports Co., placing an order for a minimum of four sports items with details. Ask for a discount also. Sign as Raman or Rama.
2. You are Sandhya/ Sharath Hostel Warden, Bapuji Public School, Chennai. Write a letter to the Sales Manager of Bharat Electronic and Domestic Appliances Ltd., Chennai placing an order for a few fans, microwave ovens and coolers that you wish to purchase for the hostel specifying the details. Also ask for the discount.

#### ARTICLE WRITING

An article is a piece of writing which explicates ideas, thoughts, facts, suggestions and/or recommendations based on a particular topic. There are different kinds of articles, namely:

- Expository article – The most common type of article which allows the writer to put out information on any particular topic without the influence of their opinions.
- Argumentative article – An article in which an author poses a problem or an issue, renders a solution to the proposed problem and provides arguments to justify why their suggestions/solutions are good.



- Narrative article – An article in which the author has to narrate mostly in the form of a story.
- Descriptive article – An article written with the aim of providing a vivid description that would allow the readers to visualize whatever is being described. Using the right adjectives/adjective phrases is what will help you write a descriptive article.
- Persuasive article – An article aimed at persuading or convincing the readers to accept an idea or a point of view.

#### SAMPLE OF ARTICLE WRITING

**Question:** Yoga has now come to be accepted globally as a way to keep healthy. Recognizing its universal appeal, the United Nations declared 21 June as the International Day of Yoga. With the help of given clues write an interesting article on Yoga for health.

- Yoga-India's contribution to the world
- 5000-year old practice
- Doctors to admit - immense health benefits
- Has become more important
- With change in our life-style
- Physical, mental and psychological benefits

#### **The Timeless Wisdom of Yoga: A Pathway to Holistic Health**

Yoga, an ancient practice with origins stretching back over 5,000 years in India, has transcended its birthplace to become a global emblem of health and well-being. Recognizing its universal appeal and timeless benefits, the United Nations has designated June 21 as the International Day of Yoga, affirming its significance in today's rapidly changing world.

The evolution of our lifestyles, marked by increased stress levels and sedentary habits, has made the role of yoga more critical than ever. Doctors and health professionals around the world are now acknowledging the immense health benefits that yoga offers. Its holistic approach not only encompasses physical health but extends to mental and psychological well-being, making it a comprehensive fitness solution in our modern lives.

Yoga's appeal lies in its versatility and accessibility. Whether it's through breathing exercises (pranayama), physical postures (asanas), or meditation (dhyana), yoga offers tools for managing everyday stress and enhancing overall vitality. These practices help in improving flexibility, strengthening muscles, and boosting cardiovascular health. On a psychological level, yoga assists in alleviating anxiety and depression, enhancing mood, and improving concentration and mental clarity.

As we embrace this age-old wisdom, we find that yoga offers more than just physical health benefits—it cultivates a sense of harmony between the mind, body, and environment. In a world where mental health issues are becoming increasingly prevalent, yoga provides a refuge for peace and recalibration of our mental state.

In embracing yoga, we are not just adopting a series of exercises; we are inheriting a philosophy that advocates balance, discipline, and a holistic approach to health that is more relevant today than ever before. This International Day of Yoga, let us commit to integrating this profound practice into our daily lives, unlocking a healthier, more balanced future.

1. Write an article discussing the impact of modern diet trends on long-term health. Include sections on popular diets (like keto or vegan), their health benefits, potential risks, and advice from nutrition experts.

- Modern diet trends like keto and veganism offer distinct health benefits such as rapid weight loss and reduced risk of chronic diseases.
- However, these diets also carry potential risks including nutrient deficiencies and challenges in sustainability.
- The ketogenic diet focuses on high fat and low carbohydrates to induce ketosis, while the vegan diet excludes all animal products.

- Nutrition experts advise consulting registered dietitians for personalized guidance and monitoring health parameters regularly.
- Striking a balance and incorporating a variety of foods is essential to optimize long-term health amidst evolving nutrition trends.

2. Write an article about the role of technology in transforming modern classrooms. Focus on elements such as digital tools, online learning platforms, the impact on student engagement, and challenges educators face integrating technology.

- Technology has revolutionized teaching with interactive tools like whiteboards and educational apps.
- Online platforms offer accessible education and global collaboration opportunities.
- Students benefit from engaging content, instant feedback, and personalized learning paths.
- Educators face challenges integrating technology, including disparities in access and privacy concerns.
- Overall, technology empowers educators to create dynamic learning environments for a tech-savvy generation.

## GRAMMAR

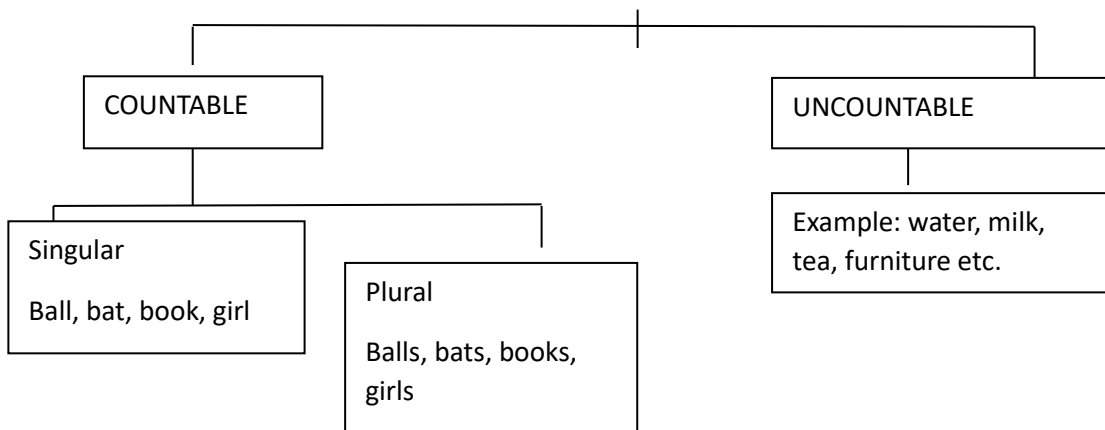
### DETERMINERS

Determiners are the words which are used before nouns to determine or fix their meaning.

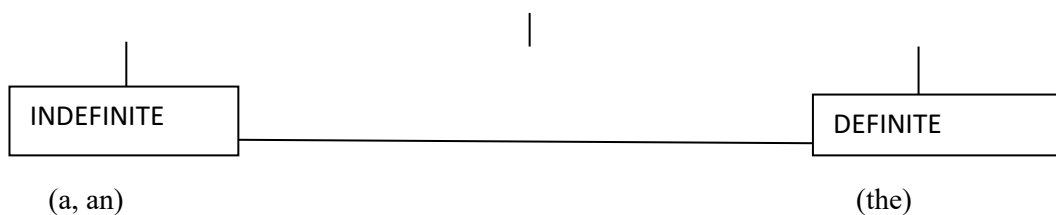
#### TYPES

1. Articles: a/an, the
2. Demonstrative Adjectives: This, that, these, those.
3. Possessives: my, our, your, his, her, its, their.
4. Adjectives (Quantity & number): some, any, much, many, all, both, little, few, several, less, one, two, etc
5. Others- first, second, third etc

#### NOUNS



#### ARTICLES



## **Indefinite Article (a, an)**

1. Used before singular countable noun.

2. Represent a class or kind in general.

Example – A cow gives us milk. ( 'A' every cow)

**A-** used before singular countable nouns beginning with consonant sound

Example- a book, a pen, a one- eyed man, a useful book, a unique place, a European, a university etc.

**An** – used before singular countable nouns beginning with vowel sound.

Example – an umbrella, an elephant, an M.P. , an M.L.A., an S.D.O, an honest man, an hour (Mute 'h')

## **Definite article (the)**

Used before countable nouns.

Uses:

1. when we talk about something for the second time in the same context or anything qualified by a phrase.

Examples:

i) A man comes up to a policeman and asked a question.

↓ first time reference      ↓ first time reference  
↓ first time reference      ↓ first time reference

The policeman didn't understand the question, so he asked the man to repeat it.

↓ second time reference      ↓ second time reference      ↓ second time reference

ii) The book which is on the table is mine

↓  
Phrase

2. used before superlative degree.

Vinita is the tallest girl in the class.

Mr. Jha is the oldest man in the village.

3. used before the name of seas, oceans, gulfs, rivers, group of island, bays and canals; as

Example: The Arabian Sea, The Indian Ocean, The Pacific Ocean, The Ganges, The West Indies, The Panama Canal.

Note: Not used before the names of lakes

Example: The  Dal lake

4. Used before the names of mountain ranges.

Example:

The Himalayas, The Alps, The Vindhyas.

Note. "The" is not used before certain individual mountains; as

The  Mount Everest

The  Parasnath

5. Used before the names of satellites, planets, stars.

Examples: The earth, The moon, The sun.

6. used before names of monuments and memorials.

The Red Fort, The Taj Mahal

7. Used before the names of states/ countries that have a common noun in their names.

Examples: The Punjab, The Congo, The USA, The UAE, The UNO, The UK.

8. Used before the names of scriptures.( Religious Books)

The Ramayana, The Mahabharata, The Gita, The Bible, The Quran, The Guru Granth Sahib.

9. Used before the names of news paper, magazines.

The Hindustan Times, The Times of India , The Hindu, The New York Times , The Competition Success Review, The Reader's Digest.

10. Used before political parties.

The Bhartiya Janta Party, The Congress Party, The Rastriya Janta Dal, The Janta Dal United.

11. When the+ adjectives used as plural nouns.

Example: The poor means “ the poor men”

The rich “ the rich men”

The rich always exploit the poor

12. When proper noun used as common noun.

Kalidas is the Shakespeare of India.

↓  
A great dramatist

## 2. DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVES

This, That, These, Those are called Demonstrative Adjectives

**This:** To demonstrate nearby things

Example: This is my book.

**That:** To demonstrate far off things

**These:** plural of this

**Those:** plural of that

## 3. POSSESSIVES

These are used to show belongingness/ ownership.

Examples: My, Our, Your, His , Her, Its, Their

**ADJECTIVES (Quantity and Number) Others.**

ADJECTIVES	Before Countable nouns (number)	Before Uncountable nouns (quantity)	Remark
Some	✓	✓	Used in negative and interrogative sentences
Any	✓	✓	

Much	×	✓	
Many	✓	×	
All	✓	✓	
both	✓	✓	
Few	✓	×	Few: hardly any It is negative
A few	✓	×	A few: not many but some
The few	✓	×	The few: not many but all of them
Little		✓	Little: not much hardly any, less than requirement. It is negative.
A little	×	✓	Not much but sufficient.
The little	×	✓	Not much but all that is.
several	✓	×	
Less	×	✓	
One, two etc.	✓	×	Cardinal
Each, every	✓	×	
Next	✓	×	
Another	✓	×	
Either, neither	✓	×	
First, second etc.	✓	×	Ordinals

## CLAUSES

According to the Oxford Learner's Dictionary, a Clause is defined as "a group of words that includes a subject and a verb, and forms a sentence or part of a sentence."

They are broadly classified as –

- **Main clause or Independent clause** (that is complete and makes sense on its own).

**Subordinate clause or Dependent clause** (that is incomplete and depends on another part of the sentence to make sense).

**Example:** I stood on the deck of the ship, even as I waited for my father to return.

**Main Clause** - I stood on the deck of the ship

**Subordinate Clause** - even as I waited for my father to return.

Some of the **Subordinate Clauses** are further classified as **Noun Clauses, Relative Clauses** and **Adjective Clauses**.

## NOUN CLAUSE

A **noun clause** functions as a noun in a sentence. It can act as the subject, object, or complement of the main clause. Noun clauses begin with words like "that," "if," "whether," or question words like "who," "what," "where," "when," "why," and "how."

Examples:

**What I want for dinner** is a hamburger. A vacation is **what I need most**.

Give it to **whoever arrives first**.

Practice

Rewrite the given sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with a suitable noun clause.

Example: He is afraid of [the dark].

Answer: He is afraid of [what he cannot see].

ADVERB CLAUSES:

Many subordinate clauses begin with subordinating conjunctions. Examples of these conjunctions are *because, unless, if, when, and although*. The clauses act as adverbs, answering questions like *how, when, where, why, to what extent, and under what conditions*.

Adverb clauses modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs by providing information about time, place, condition, reason, purpose, contrast, concession, or manner.

They often begin with subordinating conjunctions such as "after," "although," "because," "if," "since," "while," etc.

*Example - When Mauna Loa began erupting and spewing lava into the air, we drove away as quickly as we could.*

The adverbial clause answers the question "When did we drive?"

Practice

Complete the sentences by adding an appropriate adverb clause:

Example: He won't go out (because)

Answer: He won't go out because it's raining.

RELATIVE CLAUSES:

A relative clause begins with a relative pronoun and functions as an adjective. Relative clauses provide additional information about a noun or pronoun in the main clause. They begin with relative pronouns such as "who," "whom," "whose," "which," or "that."

In the following example, the relative pronoun *that* is the subject of its clause and *won the Pulitzer Prize* is the predicate. This clause couldn't stand by itself. Its role in the complete sentence is to modify *novel*, the subject of the independent clause.

Example 1 - The novel *that won the Pulitzer Prize* didn't sell well when it was first published.

In the next example, *which* is the relative pronoun that begins the subordinate clause. *Celebrities* is the subject of the clause and *attended* is the verb. In the complete sentence, this clause functions as an adjective describing *ceremony*.

Example 2 - The ceremony, *which several celebrities attended*, received widespread media coverage.

Practice

1. Combine the following pairs of sentences into one sentence using a relative pronoun:

Example: She lives in Paris. She met us yesterday.

Answer: She, who lives in Paris, met us yesterday.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS (Sentence Completion)

Fill in the gaps using suitable words:

1. The teacher explained how --.

2. What you said.

3. That you have failed the exam --.

4. I do not know .

ANSWERS –

1. to solve the problem.

2. really shocked me.

3. is known to everyone now.

4. when he is going to arrive.

## MODALS

Modals are the auxiliaries that are used to convey special idea. Modal auxiliary is not used alone but is always used with the main verb. Only the first form of the verb can be used after a modal auxiliary.

Modal verb	Function / Idea conveyed
<b>Can</b>	Ability, permission (informal)
<b>Could</b>	Past of 'can'
<b>May</b>	Possibility, permission (formal)
<b>Might</b>	Past of 'may'
<b>Will and Shall</b>	To express future time, to express determination, promise and threatening, to make requests
<b>Should, ought to</b>	Moral obligation, to express advice.
<b>Must, have to</b>	Social obligation (compulsion), duty necessity
<b>Used</b>	Past habit

## TENSE

Tense is a verb form which shows the of an action or event.

There are three Tenses:

A) Present Tense

B) Past Tense

C) Future Tense

## 1. Present Indefinite Or Simple Present

### Uses

- **Habitual actions**  
Ex- I get up early in the morning.  
He goes out for a walk daily.
- **Universal/ General Truth.**  
Ex- the east moves round the sun.
- **Scientific Truth**  
Ex- Water boils at 100 centigrade.
- **Rules for Affirmative Sentences.**  
He/she/It/Singular Nouns + first form of verb + s/est.  
I/We/ you/ they/ Plural Nouns + first form of verb

### Rules for Negative sentences.

- He/she/It/singular Noun + does not + first form of verb
- (2) Present continuous, Progressive, Imperfect Tense.
- Usage
- Action taking place at the time of speaking.  
Ex- She is singing a beautiful song.
- Birds are flying in the sky.
- Action continued over a period of time in the present.  
Ex- We are working on a science project these days.
- Key – Words- these days, nowadays, at present.
- Structure

### Subject + is/am/are + 1<sup>st</sup> form of verb + Ing

## (3) Present Perfect tense

### Usage

- Just completed action.  
Ex- I have just received your letter.  
Key-Word- Just, Just now, Yet, Still, recently.
- Structure

Sub + Has/Have + third form of verb ( Past Participle)

## (4) Present Perfect Continuous Tense

### Usage

- Action started in the Past and is still continuing.  
Ex- It has been raining for two hours.
- The gardener has been watering the plants since morning  
Key words- for, since.

### Structure

S+ has/have+ been+ 1<sup>st</sup> form of verb +Ing



## PAST TENSE

### 1. Simple past or past Indefinite

**Usage-** An action completed in the past with reference to the time of speaking

Ex- We close the gate at 6Pm.

**Habitual action in past.**

Ex- I used to play football everyday.

**Structure**

S+ 2<sup>nd</sup> form of the verb....

Negative- S+ did not + 1<sup>st</sup> form of verb.

### 2. Past Continuous Tense or Past Imperfect Tense

**Usage** – An action going on in the past.

Ex- We were watching TV the whole evening yesterday.

**Structure**

S+ was /were + first form of verb + ing....

### 3. Past Perfect Tense

**Usage** - An action completed before a said time or another action took place.

Ex- The train had left before I reached the station.

(Earlier Past)

(Past)

**Structure**

Sub + had + III<sup>rd</sup> form of verb

**Key words** – before , after, when, as soon as ,etc.

### 4. Past Perfect Continuous

An action going on for the said period in the past.

Ex - Children had been playing cricket since morning.

**Key Words** – for, since.

**Structure** S+ had + been + present participle....

## FUTURE TENSE

### 1. Future Indefinite (simple)

**Usage** – Expresses the action or event which is likely to happen in future.

Ex – I shall go to Delhi tomorrow.

**Key Words** – tomorrow, next, coming, etc.

**Structure**

S+ Shall/ will + 1<sup>st</sup> form of verb.

### 2. Future Continuous Tense

Usage – A progressive future action.

Ex- Sonu will be revising his lesson tomorrow at this time.

**Key Words** - tomorrow at this time.

Structure

S+ shall/ will +be +1<sup>st</sup> form +ing (Present Participle).

3. Future Perfect Tense

Usage - Expresses an action which is expected to be completed by a certain time in future.

Ex- I shall have prepared study material by Thursday.

**Key Words** – after, by, etc.

Structure

S+ shall/ will/ have + 3<sup>rd</sup> form of verb.

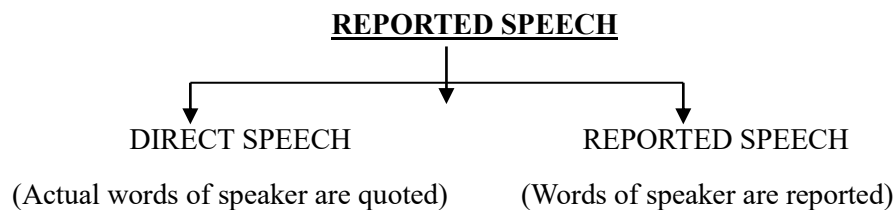
4. Future Perfect Continuous

Usage – Expresses an action that will have been going on at or before some point of time in the future.

Ex- We shall have been writing for you for a long time.

**Key words** – for, since, etc.

Structure S+ Shall/ will +have been +1<sup>st</sup> form of verb + ing



Example-

She said to me “ how are you ?”- Direct speech

Reporting verb      Reported speech

She asked me how I was – indirect speech/ reported speech

**Steps to change direct speech into Reported speech.**

1. Change the reporting verb- according to type of sentence of reported speech.
2. Remove commas and inverted commas and use conjunction according to type of sentence of reported speech.
3. Change the verb of reported speech according to tense of reporting verb.
4. Change the personal pronouns in reported speech.
5. Always use full stop (.) at the end.

Ex-

Direct- Tom said to me, ” I shall meet you at the station.”

Indirect- Tom told me that he would meet me at the station.

Direct- Harish said to Deepti, "Where have you kept the fevicol?"

Indirect- Harish asked Deepti where she had kept fevicol.

### Change of Reporting verb

Reporting verb (said to ) changed into	Types of sentences
Told/ Asked/inquired of asked/ Advised/ requested/ ordered	Assertive or Declarative Interrogative. imperative

### Removal of commas (conjunction used)

Types of sentences (reported speech)	Conjunction used
Assertive/ Declarative <u>INTERROGATIVE</u> 1. Yes/ No type 2. wh- words type <u>IMPERATIVE</u> 1. Affirmative (begins with 1 <sup>st</sup> form of verb) 2. Negative (begin with "do not")	That  If/ weather Wh- word  To Not to

### Changing the verb of reported speech

Verb (direct speech)	Verb (reported Indirect speech)
----------------------	---------------------------------

### Reporting verb (present/ future tense)

Verb (direct speech)	No change
----------------------	-----------

### Reporting verb (past tense)

1 <sup>st</sup> form and 5 <sup>th</sup> form of verb	2 <sup>nd</sup> form of verb
Is/ am/ are	Was/were
Has/ have	Had
2 <sup>nd</sup> form of verb	Had+ 3 <sup>rd</sup> form of verb
Was/ were	Had been+ 1 <sup>st</sup> form of verb+ ing
Will/ shall	Would
Can	Could
May	Might
Must	Must/had to
Would	No change
Could	No change
Might	No change
Universal fact	No change

### Changing of the personal pronouns

1 <sup>st</sup> person changed	with the speaker
2 <sup>nd</sup> person changed	With the listener
3 <sup>rd</sup> person changed	No change

### Words denoting time and position

When the reporting verb is in the past tense, certain words denoting nearness of time and place are changed into words denoting distance.

<b>Direct speech</b>	<b>Indirect speech</b>
----------------------	------------------------

This	That
These	Those
Now	Then
Ago	Before
Last night	The previous night, the night before
Next day	The following day, the day after
Today	That day
Tonight	That night
Yesterday	The previous day , the day before
Tomorrow	The next day, the following day, the day after
Here	there

Ex-

**Direct Speech**

1. The teacher said to Kunal, “Why did you not come to school yesterday?”

**Indirect Speech.**

The teacher asked Kunal why he had not come to school the previous day.

**Direct Speech**

2. Kunal said to the teacher, “I was suffering from fever.”

**Indirect Speech.**

Kunal told the teacher that he had been suffering from fever.

**Subject-verb concord**

1. Two or more singular subjects joined by ‘and’ take a plural verb ; as-

Fire and water do not agree.

2. When two or more singular subjects are connected by ‘or’, ‘nor’, ‘either-or’, ‘neither- nor’, they take a verb which agrees with the latter or the nearer subject.

Ex- i. Either he or I am mistaken.

ii. Neither she nor her friends are guilty.

3.. **Either, neither, none, each, every and everyone** are followed by a **singular verb**; as-

i. Either of the two brothers is at fault.

ii. neither of these two roads leads to the hospital.

iii. Each of them is honest.

4. When **two singular nouns** refer to the same person or thing, the verb must be singular. The **Article** is then not repeated; as

i. the treasurer and secretary has left from the bank.

ii. My friend and colleague has come.

5. When two or more singular subjects are connected by with, together with, and not, besides, no less than, the verb is in singular as –

i. The suitcase with all its contents was stolen.

ii. Kamal together with his sisters is present.

iii. No one besides the nurse knows this secret.

6. Some noun which are plural in form but singular in meaning take a singular verb; as-

i. Mathematics is my favorite subject.

ii. This news is true.

iii. Economics has no charm for him.

iv. The wages of sin is death.

7. A collective noun takes a singular verb when the subject stands for the collection as a whole. It takes a plural verb when the stress is on the individuals.

Ex- I . The committee has issued its report

II. The committee are divided on one minor points.

III. The Jury has five members. The Jury have different opinions.

### GAP FILLING

**GUIDELINES:** A passage with blanks is provided. The students have to choose the most appropriate word from the given options. The words given in the option may be verbs, connectors, determiners, prepositions, pronouns, modals etc.

Fill in the blanks in the paragraph given below with the help of options that follow:

1. Practising active listening is the most useful tip (a).....working people. This means fully concentrating (b) \_.....It involves paying attention (c).....what is being said rather than passively hearing the message. the speaker, making eye contact, and showing genuine interest (d).....the conversation.

(a) (i) for (ii) in (iii) to (iv) with

(b) (i) of (ii) to (iii) in (iv) on

(c) (i) with (ii) in (iii) to (iv) for

(d) (i) to (ii) in (iii) for (iv) of

2. Communication (a).....become very effective (b).....instant due to smart phones. People are able (c)..... convey their messages all around the globe to (d) .... loved ones.

(a) (i) is (ii) has (iii) have (iv) had

(b) (i) but (ii) as (iii) or (iv) and

(c) (i) for (ii) in (iii) to (iv) of

(d) (i) his (ii) her (iii) your (iv) their

### EDITING/OMISSION

**GUIDELINES:** A passage with an error in each line will be provided to the students. They have to detect the error and write its correction. The incorrect word and its correction will be written in the answer book in case of editing the errors while the word before and the word after along with the missing word will be written in the answer book for omission.

In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. In your answer sheets, remember to write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it, as shown below. The first one has been done as an example.

Q.No	Text	Word before	Omission	Word after
Eg	India the abode of culture and heritage. And	India	Is	the
(i)	the true reflections of these traits can be seen			

	in historic sites, edifices, landscapes, and			
(ii)	monuments of India. <b>One</b> such structural			
(iii)	wonder <b>that</b> reflect the true glories of the past			
	are the caves in India.			

Q.No	Text	Word before	Omission	Word after
<b>Eg.</b>	As humans, we mechanically inclined to	We	are	mechanically
(i)	search for perfection. Everybody to			
(ii)	bep perfect, they want to better. People			
	strive for perfection in multiple ways.			
(iii)	Perfection an abstract idea, something			
	we			
(iv)	humans made the concept of in an			
	attempt to make us all better.			

### SENTENCE REORDERING

**GUIDELINES** - The material provided to the students will be words and phrases in jumbled manner/order. The students will be asked to rearrange /reorder the jumbled words and phrases into meaningful sentences.

Rearrange the following to form meaningful sentences. The first one is done as an example.

Example :

- many ways / recycle waste /there are / you can**  
**There are many ways you can recycle plastic**
- Chennai alone /? / every day / produces a staggering 9.7 tons of waste / did you know
- the entire country/could be much more/ generated by /the amount of waste
- is sent for recycling /**only** 82%of the plastic waste produced / , / Shockingly
- is dumped / in landfills / the remaining 12%

### SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION

**GUIDELINES:** Transformation of sentences involves changes in the form and type of sentences from one form to another.

Read the conversation given below and complete the paragraphs by choosing the correct option.

Mother : Rahul where did  
you go around noon?Rahul :  
Mom, I was with Sanjay at his  
house.

Mother : You should have told of it. I was greatly worried.

Rahul: I am sorry mom; I shall do so in future.

Mother asked her son Rahul (a)..... Rahul replied that (b)..... Mother instructed him that (c).....as she was greatly worried. Rahul regretted itans said that he would do so in future.

- (a) i. where he had gone around noon                      ii. Where had he gone around noon

iii. where did he go around noon

iv. Where he had been gone around noon

(b) i. he was with Sanjay at his house ii. he had been with Sanjay at his house

iii. he have been with Sanjay at his house iv. he had been with Sanjay at his house

(c) i. you should have told us of that ii. He should not have told of it

iii. he should have told that iv. he should not have told of

### **SECTION C (LITERATURE)**

#### **ENGLISH COURSE COMMUNICATIVE (101)**

##### **FICTION 1. TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA (By A.J. Cronin)**

###### **GIST**

Two Gentlemen Of Verona is the inspirational story of two brothers aged 12 and 13 – the younger one Jacopo’s nature is childish and lively while the elder one, Nicola’s nature is serious and mature. The author met them in the town of Verona. A.J.Cronin used the title “The Two Gentlemen of Verona” in an ironic manner, as at a very young age they faced the hardships of life, their mother died early in their life, their father was a well-known singer but became a victim of the early war. Their village suffered due to German occupation. They got homeless as their home got destroyed, and suffered starvation and the cold winter. The family struggled for life, they lived in the shelter made of broken building walls and bricks. After the war, they got back to their sister, and found her suffering from tuberculosis of spine, which was another shock to these poor kids. As they were the only family of their sister, they had to work and arrange money for her medical treatment. Despite facing so many problems in their early life, the boys did not lose hope, the brothers’ positive approach and determination to get their sister cured had helped the staff treat her well. Despite having a scarcity of jobs in town, they managed to give their sister the best they could. On the contrary they lived a very poor life, their clothing and eating habits portrayed it. To earn their living they shined shoes, sold fruit, hawked newspapers, and even worked as tourist guides. Going through so much in life, they never tried to take anyone’s sympathy, instead they worked hard. These two young boys have every quality of being called gentlemen, their positivity and selflessness inspired the narrator. The narrator felt that such a humble youth gives our society hope for a better tomorrow. In such times of war, weapons and hatred, still, there is hope for humanity.

###### **EXTRACT BASED COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:-**

**1. They were selling wild strawberries. “Don’t buy,” warned Luigi, our cautious driver. “You will get fruit much better in Verona. Besides, these boys ” He shrugged his shoulders to convey his disapproval of their shabby appearance. (Page 4)**

###### **Questions**

**(a) Who were selling wild strawberries?**

**(b) Why does the narrator call Luigi a cautious driver?**

**(c) What is the antonym of the word ‘approval’ in the passage?**

###### **Answers**

**(a) Two brothers Nicola and Jacopo were selling wild strawberries.**

**(b) Luigi was quite cautious about what to buy and whom to buy fruit from.**

**(c) disapproval**

**2. “We do many things, sir,” Nicola answered seriously. He glanced at us hopefully. “Often we show visitors through the town ... to Juliet’s tomb ... and other places of interest.” (Page 4)**

### Questions

- (a) Who are 'We' mentioned in the first line?
- (b) Why did Nicola glance at them hopefully?
- (c) What is the synonym of 'looked quickly' in the passage?

### Answers

- (a) 'We' mentioned in the first line stands for the two young brothers Nicola and Jacopo.
- (b) Nicola glanced at them hopefully to be engaged for a job or service by them. He was ready to do all odd jobs for them.
- (c) glanced

3. "Why are you out so late, Nicola?" "Waiting for the last bus from Padua. We shall sell all our paper when it comes in." "Must you work so hard? You both look rather tired." "We are not complaining, sir."

### Questions

- (a) Where were the two boys out so late and why?
- (b) What did the narrator guess about them and how?
- (c) Find the opposite of the word 'first' in the passage.

### Answers

- (a) At midnight the two boys rested on the stone pavement in the public square to sell their unsold newspapers. They were waiting for the last bus from Padua to sell those newspapers to its passengers.
- (b) The narrator guessed that they were quite tired because of working very hard.
- (c) last

4. 'Nicola, the way you and Jacopo work, you must earn quite a bit. You spend nothing on clothes. You eat little enough....'

### Questions:-

- (a) Who said the above lines?
- (b) Why did the speaker get the feeling that the boys were not spending any money?
- (c) What do the above lines reflect about the two boys?

### Ans. :

- (a) These lines are spoken by the narrator.
- (b) The boys were always seen wearing torn clothes and they seemed to hardly eat anything except black bread and fig.
- (c) The selfless nature of the boys and how much they cared for their sister. Her well-being was their sole concern

5. 'When the resistance movement began secretly to form they were among the first to join. When the war was over and we had peace at last, they came back to their beloved sister.'

### Questions:-

- (a) Who are 'they' referred to here?
- (b) Why did they join the resistance movement?
- (c) What had happened to their sister?

Ans. : (a) Here 'they' refer to the two brothers. Nicola and Jacopo

(b) They joined the resistance movement because the war waged by Germany had killed their father, destroyed their house and had separated them from their sister.

(c) Their sister, Lucia, who wanted to be a singer, had contracted tuberculosis of the spine due to cold and starvation

6. "I thought you picked fruit for a living", I said. "We do many things, Sir". Nicola answered seriously.

### Questions:-



- (a) What were the boys doing when the author saw them ?  
(b) Name the other boy.  
(c) What were the other things that the boys did? Mention any two.

Ans. :

- (a) They were polishing shoes.  
(b) Jacopo was the other boy.  
(c) They guided the visitors, showing the places of interest and selling fruits.

### Short Answer Questions (30-40 words)

**1. "We do many things, sir," Nicola answered seriously. He glanced at us hopefully.**

**Ans.** When the narrator stated that Nicola and Jacopo's only source of money was from gathering and selling fruit, Nicola attempted to contradict him. He revealed that they carried out a variety of tasks, such as escorting tourists to Verona landmarks like Juliet's Tomb. He felt a glimmer of hope for more business from the writer, and his eyes shone with it. The narrator was completely aware of this reality.

**2. He smiled uncomfortably. "Just plans, sir," he answered in a low voice.**

**Ans.** The narrator questioned Nicola about their plans to immigrate to America in order to live a better life. Nicola informed him that they had other plans after hearing this. To avoid having to reveal to the narrator that they were saving money to have their sister treated for spinal tuberculosis at the hospital in Poleta, Nicola merely replied, "Just plans," when the narrator pressed him for further information.

**3. Yet in both these boyish faces there was a seriousness which was far beyond their years.**

**Ans.** The narrator was greatly moved by the naive and unartistic expression on Nicola and Jacopo's faces. They seemed quite innocent and straightforward to him. However, he also observed a gravity on their expressions that was uncharacteristic of children their age. The narrator is saying that although they appeared to be little children based on their appearance and age, they actually appeared to be fairly mature. These two young boys, who were thirteen and twelve, displayed the seriousness that age lends to the faces of mature, responsible adults.

**Q4. Answer the following questions briefly.**

**1. Why was the author surprised to see Nicola and Jacopo working as shoeshine boys?**

**Ans.** The author had assumed that Nicola and Jacopo were fruit pickers, therefore he was shocked to see them working as shoeshine boys.

**2. The story is full of surprises. Briefly mention any two such instances.**

**Ans.** The two instances of surprise are:

1. The narrator was astonished to see Nicola and Jacopo working as shoeshine boys because he had imagined them to be fruit pickers. They were fruit pickers, as the narrator knew from the day before when they sold him strawberries. He was therefore shocked the next day to see the boys shining the shoes.
2. The second time the narrator was taken aback was when he travelled with the boys he had been teaching while they were just having fun in the car and met their sister Lucia, for whom the boys had been working so hard.

**3. Why were the boys in the deserted square at night? What character traits do they exhibit?**

**Ans.** The boys were at the deserted square at night because they needed to sell all of their newspapers before the final bus from Padua arrived. They demonstrate virtues like tenacity, diligence, and simplicity. At a young age, they are prepared to work industrious occupations to make money.

**4. The narrator asks the boys, "Must you work so hard? You both look rather tired." The boys replied, "We are not complaining, sir." What do you learn about the boys from their reply?**

**Ans.** The boys' response demonstrates their spirit of surrender and readiness to put in a lot of effort. It demonstrates that they were exercising their sweet will rather than being forced to work. It appears as though they had a certain objective in mind and it was the only thing on their minds.

**5. Support the opinion that the narrator was kind and sensitive.**

**Ans.** The narrator was a warm and supportive individual. He was entranced by the boys. He purchased bananas to aid them. Their sister is a patient at the hospital where he dropped them off. He did not want to disrupt their family gathering because he was a gentleman. He had been tremendously moved by their commitment.

**6. Do you think the boys looked after Lucia willingly? Give reasons for your answer.**

**Ans.** The boys loved their sister. After the battle, her family was the only one still alive. They had their sister admitted to a hospital after realising she had TB of the spine. To pay for her medical care, they toiled assiduously day and night.

**Q5. Answer the following questions in detail.**

**1. Appearances are deceptive. Discuss with reference to the two boys.**

**Ans.** The statement 'Appearances are deceptive' is very true when it comes to the two boys – Nicola and Jacopo. The author had bought wild strawberries from them, even when his driver Luigi advised him against it, after taking

into account the shabby appearance of the two boys. After that, he was surprised to see the boys working different types of jobs like polishing and shining shoes. He also noticed that the boys did not spend money on clothes or food as they had a simple diet of black bread of a few figs. He thought that the boys were saving money to immigrate to the United States of America. But later he saw them visiting their sister in the hospital. They had been earning money to pay for the treatment of their sister. It can thus be said that 'appearances are deceptive'. The boys were not saving money for themselves, but they were selflessly earning to afford their sister's treatment.

**2. How does the story 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' promise hope for society?**

**Ans.** The story – 'Two Gentlemen of Verona' by 'A. J. Cronin' is a heart touching story about two small boys who work hard and honestly to earn money to pay for their sister's treatment. Through the hardships that the two boys face, the message of the story can be derived which is that one can be successful, if one does not lose hope. From the way in which Nicola and Jacopo work and earn selflessly to pay for their sister's treatment, it can be seen that humanity still exists. If a thirteen year old and a twelve year old boy can be so selfless and exhibit humanity, they set an example for the world to follow and spread humanity, for the greater good of the world.

**3. The story of the two boys, as revealed by the nurse, deeply impacts the narrator. He decides to write a diary entry, recording how he feels inspired by the grit, determination and selfless actions of the two gentlemen of Verona. As the narrator, write the entry.**

**Ans.**

Dear Diary

Today I met two boys who work incredibly hard. I observed them performing several tasks. They were thrifty people, and it showed in both the way they looked and the way they ate. I assumed they were setting aside money to immigrate. I once went with them to Poleta and followed them to a villa, where I discovered how difficult their existence was. I learned of their father's passing and the devastation of their home. When I learned how incredibly hard they were working to pay for their sister's medical bills, I was quite moved by their sense of responsibility. The two boys' dignity in standing up for themselves and not allowing themselves to be pitied by others impressed me.

**4. When Lucia gets well she writes a letter to Nicola and Jacopo to express her feelings of gratitude and admiration for them. As Lucia, write the letter**

**Ans.**

House number 156  
15th street  
Poleta

16th January 2006

Dear Nicola and Jacopo

I was told by the nurse who was caring for me in the hospital that I have fully recovered from my illness and can now go home, and this has made me extremely pleased and excited today. I've been in the hospital for several months and have been anticipating this day. But my younger brothers, you deserve all the praise. To pay for my medical expenses, you had to endure many hardships. Despite the fact that you two are considerably younger than I am, I greatly admire your sense of duty and your affection for me.

I now realise how valuable having kind siblings can be. It's astonishing how well you both took care of me. I had not anticipated receiving such compassionate attention in the wake of my parents' passing. I am so grateful to God for my loving brothers. I've made the decision to pursue a career in singing once I'm out there, and I'll use the money I make to provide for you both. You've endured a lot of pain. But now I can make out a glimmer of hope. My brothers, God bless you.

Yours truly  
Lucia

## FICTION 2. Mrs. PACKLETIDE'S TIGER (By Saki)

### GIST/SUMMARY

Mrs Packletide came to know that Loona Bimberton flew for eleven miles to hunt a tiger in an aeroplane flown by an Algerian pilot. This adventurous experience was the talk of the town and she was jealous. She decided to perform an act to gain publicity. She decided to hunt a tiger, get its skin and click pictures of the hunt and boast about the same. Mrs Packletide made plans to hunt the tiger. She offered one thousand rupees to the villagers to help her hunt the tiger and get the tiger skin. She hired Miss Mebbin, a paid companion to assist her in the task. The villagers who were in dire need of money, arranged for an old and feeble tiger that was easy to shoot. The children guarded the boundaries to not allow the tiger to escape. A platform was built at a height from where Mrs Packletide could easily shoot the tiger. The villagers placed a goat as bait at the perfect spot. On the decided night, Mrs Packletide and Miss Mebbin sat hidden on the platform built on the tree. The goat was bleating in a loud voice. Soon, the tiger came and walked towards the goat. Mrs Packletide fired a shot from her rifle and the tiger died. She was happy and the villagers were celebrating. Miss Mebbin noted that the bullet had not hit the tiger, but the goat. The tiger died due to a heart attack and no wound was found on its body. This made Mrs Packletide unhappy but she did not bother as she got the tiger skin. The villagers also agreed to keep this a secret. Her photographs were published and she became famous. Loona did not go to the lunch party in her honour but had to accept the tiger-claw brooch. Looking at the publicity of Mrs Packletide, Miss Mebbin blackmailed her asking her for money to buy a weekend house. Mrs Packletide had to fulfil her demand. Miss Mebbin named the house as 'The Wild Beasts'. Mrs Packletide regretted her act of hunting and admitted that she had to pay a heavy price for it.

### CHARACTER SKETCH

#### Mrs. Packletide

Mrs. Packletide is portrayed in the story as a competitive, jealous and materialistic woman. She makes the decision to go hunting to undermine Loona Bimberton's success. She was cunning and deceptive. To control the issue, Mrs. Packletide arranges a hunt and gives the locals a thousand rupees. She goes after an old tiger because there was no danger involved. She lacked conscience and was vain. She is happy to pose for pictures while concealing the truth about the quest. She pays Mebbin to keep quiet. She goes to any length to stand out. She hosts a party that she claims is to honour Bimberton which in fact was just a display of her success and vanity.

#### Louisa Mebbin

She is extremely frugal and is always fascinated by the thought of conserving money. She believed that the old tiger was not worth a thousand rupees to be spent on. She makes a cunning comment about not paying for the goat if the tiger does not touch it. She threatens Mrs. Packletide with revealing information about the hunt. She is a cunning opportunist who can take advantage of the circumstance to realise her ambition of owning a weekend cabin.

She is shrewd and practical. Just like Mrs. Packletide, she is also manipulative and as soon as she gets an opportunity of making money by exploiting a situation, she moves on with purpose. She is cunning.

#### Loona Bimberton

She is extremely envious and vindictive and was unable to accept Mrs. Packletide's achievement. Due to her fierce nature, she declines to go to Mrs. Packletide's celebration. She is egoistic and a frivolous member of high society whose only goal in life was to outdo her adversary. Her adventurous nature is

obvious when she flies eleven miles in an aeroplane only to receive media attention for her achievement. She is conceited and self-centred.

#### EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

i. The luncheon party she declined, there are limits beyond which repressed emotions become dangerous.

a) Who is 'she'?

b) Which luncheon party is mentioned here?

c) Why did she decline to attend the party?

ii. 'Evidently, the wrong animal had been hit and the beast of prey had succumbed to heart-failure....'

a) What did Mrs. Packletide want to kill and why?

b) How did the two animals die?

c) How did Miss Louisa Mebbin take advantage of this situation?

#### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

i. Why did Mrs. Packletide give up big-game shooting?

ii. Mrs. Packletide was a good shot. Discuss.

iii. Why did Mrs. Packletide decide to give a party in honour of Loona Bimberton? What did she plan to present Loona on her birthday?

#### 4. Long Answer Questions:

i. Depict the instances of humour and sarcasm in 'Mrs. Packletide's Tiger'.

ii. Mrs. Packletide was jealous. Do you agree with this statement. Give reasons.

#### 5. Value Based Question:

i. How does the writer of the story expose human greed and vanity in the story Mrs. Packletide's tiger?

ii. "Materialistic morals of high sophisticated society lead to hollowness and shallowness." What Values do you learn from Mrs. Packletide's materialistic morals and vaingloriousness?

#### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

i. Mrs. Packletide gave up big-game shooting as she found it to be an affair where 'incidental expenses' were heavy. She had to pay a lot in the tiger-killing as Miss Mebbin blackmailed her into paying for a weekend cottage. Apart from this, she had to pay the villagers also for helping her in the killing of animal.

ii. Mrs. Packletide was not a professional hunter. When she took her shot, it wounded and killed the goat. The tiger suffered a heart-failure and died. She missed her shot but was able to annoy Loona Bimberton.

iii. Mrs. Packletide's only aim in life was to supersede Loona Bimberton, who was very popular for her adventurous and exciting actions. By giving a party in her honour, Mrs. Packletide wanted to show off to all her adventurous expedition by shooting a tiger. She planned to gift a tiger-claw brooch to Loona on her birthday just to outshine her.

#### Value Based Questions answers

i. Through various instances and characters, the writer Saki exposes the negativity and vanity of human behaviour. He exposes the human exploitation of big game through animals as a brutal act of violence. Loona Bimberton and Mrs. Packletide are examples of human lust, folly and opportunism for personal

sake. He also exposes the jealous behaviour on humans. To satisfy his ego man can stoop to any extent and this is evident in Mrs. Packletide's approach towards hunting the tiger. The story also exposes the fact that by nature man is manipulated and he plays with situations for personal gains at the cost of morality

ii) The story 'Mrs Packletide's Tiger' lays the shallowness and hollowness of the so-called sophisticated elite of the society who go about pursuing hazardous activities not to taste personal thrill and excitement but to impress people around. They pose to expose themselves to risk and danger but they use money and power to ensure their safety and comfort while getting their false brave images built.

The people like Mrs. Packletide who consider themselves smart enough to outshine others often get outsmarted themselves. The actions of these manipulative people can backfire and recoil on them. Like Mrs. Packletide tried to outshine Loona Bimberton but she herself became a prey of Louisa Mebbin who blackmailed Mrs. Packletide to earn money. Her weakness for publicity and vaingloriousness made her a matter of laughter and humour. Mrs. Packletide wanted to hunt a tiger but she killed a goat. Mrs. Packletide's showy nature brought only hollowness and shallowness for her. A person can be great by great thinking and good actions not by money and vaingloriousness. Thus the writer has been successfully able to expose human greed and vanity in the story.

### **FICTION 3. THE LETTER (by Dhumketu)**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Letter' has been translated from the original by well-known Gujarati short story writer Dhumketu whose real name was Gowrishankar Govardhan ram. This story is a cyclic tale of the pain of separation suffered by all parents or fathers for their children. Coachman Ali goes through this anxiety when his only child Miriam leaves him to settle down with a soldier. Only then does he realize the possible pain the harmless denizens of the wild went through when they were also separated from their children after Ali hunted them down. This cycle continues with the plain-looking Postmaster, who then worries for his daughter's life, who ails in another town. The short story is one of Dhumketu's best and most popular literary works, often appearing in many anthologies. It is a tale of the plight of the elderly, the power of hope based on faith, the bureaucracy of India in the 1920's and the healing effect of remorse. 'The

Letter' was published in 1923 and is also titled 'The Post Office' or 'Miriam's Letter' in other anthologies or literature textbooks.

#### **SUMMARY**

The Letter is about human emotions and their importance in human life. The central character of the story is Ali the Coachman who had been a skilled hunter in his younger days. He had a daughter named Miriam whom he loved profoundly. When she grew up, she was married to a soldier who served in the Punjab regiment. Miriam left Ali with her husband and there was no communication between the father and the daughter for many years. Ali waited for Miriam's letter and went to the post office every morning to inquire whether the letter from his daughter had arrived. For him, the post office became a place of pilgrimage and every morning, he sat in a corner of the post office verandah.

The postal staff made fun of him treating him like a madman. The postal clerk called out his name jokingly even though there was no letter for him. For several days Ali did not come to the post office. Naturally, all employees of the post office were curious to know the reason. At last, he came but he looked older and weaker. He could breathe with great difficulty. It seemed as if he were nearing the end of his life. When he asked the post master about Miriam's letter the post master behaved rudely with him. Ali met the clerk and gave him five gold coins telling him to deliver his letter to his grave if he was no more. He left and no one saw him after that.

One day, the post master's daughter fell ill and he was anxious to hear the news about her health. He deeply worried. He searched for the letter from his daughter from the pile of letters. There was no letter from his daughter but he found a letter addressed to Coachman Ali. Now he realized his mistake. He felt remorse for his haughty behavior towards Ali. He called the postal clerk Lakshmi Das and asked him to find out Ali. He decided to hand over the letter personally to Ali.

Next morning when he opened the door of the post office, he saw Ali leaning on his stick with tears in his eyes. He saw unearthly light in his eyes. He was scared. And suddenly, Ali disappeared. When he asked Lakshmi Das, he told him that Ali had died three months back. The post master was bewildered and puzzled. He still had Miriam's letter in his hand. That evening, he went to the grave yard and placed Miriam's letter on Ali's grave. The post master's attitude changed completely. He realized for the first time that letters were not only pieces of papers but carriers of emotions of human hearts. He understood the essential human worth of letters and the importance of human relationships.

### **CHARACTER SKETCH**

**Ali** is an engaging character and the central character of the story, The Letter. Ali's character is full of feelings of love and separation. He is a simple, ordinary man but his heart is highly sensitive and soft. He is an epitome of patience and perseverance.

He had been a clever hunter in his youth and loved to hunt birds and animals. He had a good eye sight, the moment he sighted a partridge, the bird was in his bag. He had immense love for his daughter. He suffered pangs of loneliness and separation and gave up hunting after his daughter Miriam went to Punjab after her marriage. It was then that he realized the pain that the young ones of the birds and animals suffered whom he had hunted dead. He too feels lonely and desperately waits for a letter from his daughter. For 5 years he goes to the post office every morning, in the hope of getting a letter from her. It seemed that the only aim of his existence was to get a letter from his daughter which came only after his death. He just wanted to know about her well-being. He desperately waits for her letter, but in vain. In spite of being subjected to mockery and ridicule, he doesn't lose hope and visits the post office every morning until one day when he dies of old age and suffering. Through Ali's character, the writer has brought to light, the profound love a father has for her daughter.

**The postmaster** was a rude and arrogant person. He is initially stubborn and emotionless but undergoes a change of heart in the story. He only cared about himself. He was full of over confidence and treated others as inferior. He was an ill-tempered and haughty man who cared the least about any other person's life and plight. He was not at all compassionate towards anybody in need and paid no heed to anyone.

He called Ali "pest" and always made fun of him. He behaved insensitively and indifferently to Ali until he himself went through a similar pain and suffering. However, his character saw a drastic change when he too became anxious of not receiving any news from his ill daughter. He deeply felt the suffering of Ali and realised the affection a father could have for his daughter. After going through the pain of separation from his own daughter, his arrogance was completely transformed into sympathy for Ali. He empathized with him. He realizes his mistake and goes to Ali's grave to place the letter there.

#### **SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:**

1. For five years, Ali dragged on a cheerless existence. What was his life like?
2. Explain how Ali's life changed when Miriam left him?

#### **LONG ANSWER BASED QUESTIONS:**

1. Doubt, guilt and remorse are feelings that we see in both Ali and the postmaster. Both of them are fathers with aching hearts. Substantiate.

2.The postmaster is a changed man towards the end of the lesson. He decides to write a letter to Miriam telling her about her father- the hope with which he made every day visits to the post office for five years expecting a letter from her. Draft the letter imagining that you are the post master.

#### VALUE-BASED QUESTIONS:

1.The deeds that we do are the seeds that we sow. It may grow into a big tree and give shelter or grow into creepers and twist us to bind in tight and make us suffer in strain. How does this thought apply in Coachman Ali's and the Ancient Mariner's life?

2.How do we pay for our thoughtless and reckless acts? Ali was reckless in his youth and the post office officials were reckless in the way they treated Ali. In your opinion how can a person lead a guilt free life?

#### SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS:

1.Ali was an old man. He was very weak and fragile. After his daughter left him, he became very lonely. Every morning, he would Go to the post office braving severe weather conditions in the hope of receiving a letter. At the post office he would be ridiculed. And once he realized he did not have any letters, he would return only to repeat the routine the next day. His life was a very unhappy one.

2.When Miriam married and left Ali, he became very lonely. Here realized the pain of separation. He also realized the essence of Love. He could no longer enjoy the sportsman's pleasure and laughter he experienced while hunting. He understood that the whole universe was built up through love and that the grief of separation was inescapable.

#### LONG ANSWER BASED QUESTIONS:

1.Doubt, guilt and remorse are feelings that we see in both Ali and the postmaster. Both of them are fathers with aching hearts. Substantiate.

2.The postmaster is a changed man towards the end of the lesson. He decides to write a letter to Miriam telling her about her father- the hope with which he made every day visits to the post office for five years expecting a letter from her. Draft the letter imagining that you are the post master.

### **FICTION 4. A SHADY PLOT (By Elsie Brown)**

**INTRODUCTION** The story shows us how the supernatural, ghostly elements can backfire. Also, one should exercise caution in invoking powers over which they do not have any control. It is a story about the writer John Hallock who writes stories about the ghost. He was dependent on his creativity on the ghost,

#### **SUMMARY**

A Shady Plot' is an amusing story about a writer John Hallock. His supernatural stories about ghosts are quite popular with the public. When he is thinking hard for a plot of a new story, a ghost appears. She tells him that the ghosts were on strike because too many people use Ouija Boards. John's wife, Lavinia too, buys an Ouija board and arranges an Ouija board party with her friends. A misunderstanding is created when the ghost calls John a traitor through the Ouija board. In the end Lavinia sees Helen, the ghost. Her misunderstanding is cleared and she reconciles with her husband. Thus, the story is a unique blend of intelligent humour with horror to create entertainment for the readers. The supernatural elements in the story don't scare the readers; they rather augment the humour.

#### **CHARACTER SKETCH**

John Hallock is a ghost story writer. Whenever his publisher asks him for a new story, he is able to write one. Usually, he has no idea where the plot will come from; he suddenly gets inspiration and is able to

produce a new story. This made him cocky and overconfident. He has a wilful and whimsical wife who seems to enjoy spending money on every new fad or fashion. In order to meet her demands, Hallock has to work as a bookkeeper in a warehouse. His encounter with the ghost of Helen is a new and shocking thing as he is told that ghosts inspire him and give him all the ideas for his stories. He is witty, creative, caring and in moral dread of his wife Lavinia

Lavinia is John's wife and seems to be a domineering person. At the same time she is interested in fashions and fads. She has an alarming tendency to spend money. Her latest craze is Ouija board. She buys one and calls her friends for an Ouija party. John describes his wife as a very sensitive little lady. She also gets easily influenced by people. She is very unpredictable and gullible. She is very possessive of her husband and therefore tends to suspect him of having an extra-marital relationship. She may come across as a vacuous wife, but finally displays genuine love and affection for her husband.

Helen is a ghost who helps struggling writers in writing ghost stories. While she was alive, she was a writer too, but failed miserably. Now, along with her fellow ghosts, she founded 'Writers' Inspiration Bureau' which give extended help to those writers who have no ideas. She is angry because the ghosts have to be at the beck and call of the Ouija board fanatics to answer their questions. This does not leave them with any time for their amusement or haunting others. So, she orders John to stop these things in his house.

#### EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

A. John Hallock's new office was old, dusty, and filled with an eerie silence. As he sat down at the desk, he couldn't shake the feeling that he was being watched. The typewriter in the corner seemed to beckon to him, its keys gleaming in the dim light.

Suddenly, the typewriter started typing on its own, the keys clacking loudly in the stillness of the room. John's heart raced as he watched in disbelief, his rational mind struggling to comprehend the inexplicable phenomenon unfolding before him.

1. What happens suddenly in the extract?

- A) John hears a loud noise      B) The typewriter starts typing on its own  
C) The lights flicker              D) John sees a ghost

2. How does John react to the strange occurrence?

- A) He laughs    B) He screams    C) He watches in disbelief    D) He ignores it

3. What is John's struggle as he watches the typewriter?

- A) He struggles to comprehend the noise    B) He struggles to believe his eyes  
C) He struggles to find the typewriter's owner    D) He struggles to fix the typewriter

4. Describe the atmosphere in John Hallock's new office.

5. What catches John's attention in the room?

B But my ghosts aren't a bit like you....

1 Who says this to whom?

2 Why does he say this?

3 What does listener reply?

C "The very idea of scarecrow touching me!"



1 Who is the scarecrow?

2 Why does the scarecrow touch the speaker?

3 Why would the narrator's wife be shocked?

#### LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Explore various elements of the story Shady Plot.

2. In "Shady Plot," Lavania is a character who plays a significant role in John Hallock's journey as a writer. Discuss

3. Themes of rationality versus belief in the supernatural in A Shady Plot.

4. In "Shady Plot," Laura Hinkle is a character who plays a pivotal role in the development of the plot. Explain.

5. In "A Shady Plot," Gladiola is a minor character who appears briefly in the story, but her role is significant in highlighting the themes of superstition, fear, and the power of suggestion. Explain

#### **PATOL BABU, FILM STAR**

##### GIST

'Patol Babu, Film Star' is the story of a humble and modest man - a 52-year old Patol Babu. Once when Patol Babu was going for shopping, his neighbour Nishikanto Babu told that his youngest brother-in-law, Naresh Dutt who is in the film business, in the Production department looking for an actor for a scene in the film they're shooting. So he recommended Patol Babu's name. Naresh Dutt came at half past twelve to meet Patol Babu. He asked Patol Babu to come Faraday House next day at eight -thirty sharp for shooting.

Patol Babu saw a big crowd outside the shooting site. A bus which carried equipment on its roof. On the edge of pavement there was an instrument on three legs around which there was a group of busy people. After some time he was given a dialogue, and that is a single word - 'Oh!'. He was shocked to read it which was not a dialogue but an expression. Various questions entered his mind - Were these people pulling his leg? Was the whole thing a gigantic hoax? How could anyone be so cruel?. He remembers priceless words of his mentor, Mr. Pakrashi who had told him many years ago that he must not refuse any role, however small it might be. As an artist, his aim should always be to make the most of the opportunity and squeeze the last drop of meaning out of his lines.

Remembering his Guru's words, Patol Babu realized that even one monosyllabic exclamation when spoken in different ways, carried different shades of meaning. Once again his role was reminded to him by Director Baren Mullick that he as an absent-minded pedestrian has to collide with Hero, Chanchal Kumar, and just say "oh!"

Patol Babu was appreciated by all for his well-played role but was not given the attention that an artist deserves. He feels deeply stung and walks away without even getting the payment for his role.

##### Character Sketch

Patol Babu: Patol Babu is an unassuming, humble and modest man, naturally endowed with the art of acting. He never lost faith in reality and overtook all challenges in life and faced all difficulties. He was offered to play an insignificant role of a pedestrian in a film. He gets really very excited about his role. However, when he reaches the shooting scene to enact his role. He is disappointed to know the insignificance and shortness of his scene. He remembers his mentor, Guru Gogon Pakrashi's words that he must not refuse any role, however small it might be. As an artist, his aim should always be to make the most of the opportunity and squeeze the last drop of meaning out of his lines. Patol Babu resolves to give

his best to the small role offered to him. He rehearsed it many times, infusing different shades of emotions appreciates his acting. Finally, he leaves the shooting scene modestly, without accepting the payment.

Extract Based Questions:

Q.1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions:

Patol Babu hadn't expected such news at the start of the day. That an offer to act in a film could come to a 52-year-old nonentity like him was beyond his wildest dreams.

- Who had brought the news?
- What was the news?
- What day of the week was it that day?

Answer

- Nishikanto Babu had brought the news.
- It was that Patol Babu had an offer to act in a film.
- It was Saturday on that day.

Q.2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions:

That was when he used to live in Kanchrapara. He had a job in the railway factory there. In 1934, he was offered higher pay in a clerical post with Hudson and Kimberley, in Calcutta, and was also lucky to find a flat in 'Nepal Bhattacharaji Lane'. He gave up his factory job and came to Calcutta with his wife.

- Who is being referred to in these lines?
- Why did he leave Kanchrapara?
- Where did he start living and with whom?

Answer

- Patol Babu is being referred to in these lines.
- Because he had got a better job in Calcutta.
- He started living in Nepal Bhattacharaji Lane with his wife.

Q.3. Read the extract given below and answer the questions:

Were these people pulling his leg? Was the whole thing a gigantic hoax? A meek, harmless man likes him, and they had to drag him into the middle of the city to make a laughing stock out of him. How could anyone be so cruel?

- Who is the 'meek, harmless man' being referred to here?
- Why does the man think he was being made a 'laughing stock'?
- What does the word 'hoax' mean?

Answer

- He was Patol Babu.
- Because he has been offered a role in the film but has practically no dialogue to speak.

- Hoax- an act intended to make somebody believe something that is not true.

#### Short Answer Type Questions:

1) Who is Naresh Dutt? What did he tell Nishikanto Ghosh?

Ans: Naresh Dutt was Nishikanto Ghosh's brother-in-law. He was in the film business. He worked in the production department. He told Nishikanto Ghosh that they were making a film and needed an actor for a scene in that film. He also told him the kind of actor they wanted fiftyish, short, bald-headed.

2) What did Naresh Dutt tell Patol Babu about his role in the film? What was to be his costume?

Ans: Naresh Dutt said that he would have to do the role of an absent-minded, short-tempered pedestrian. He was also told that it would be a speaking part, not just a walk-on part. And for his role, he was to wear a jacket with buttons up to the neck.

3) Who was Mr. Gogon Pakrashi? What was his advice to Patol Babu?

Ans: Mr. Gogon Pakrashi was a wonderful actor. He had no trace of vanity in him. He was a saintly person. Patol Babu looked upon him as his guru. His advice to Patol Babu was that an actor should never consider his role, however short, below his dignity to act.

4) How can you say that Patol Babu had played his role successfully?

Ans: Patol Babu put his best in his role. In saying that single word 'Oh!', he mixed 50 parts of anguish, 25 parts of surprise and 25 parts of irritation. The director was quite impressed. He praised Patol Babu by saying that he was 'quite an actor'.

5) Why do you think Patol Babu went away without having the payment for his role?

Ans: Patol Babu felt hurt by the way he had been treated by the film people. By his acting, he had proved that he was no petty actor. He felt deep satisfaction in doing his small role with perfection and dedication. Compared to this satisfaction, the payment of twenty rupees was nothing to him. That was why he walked away without having his payment.

#### Long Answer Type Questions:

1) Who was Patol Babu? What different jobs had he done in his life?

Ans: Patol Babu was a middle-aged person. He was fifty-two, short and bald-headed. He lived in Nepal Bhattacharji Lane. He was a genial person. He had a real passion for the stage. He had given a number of successful performances on the stage. But that was when he lived in Kanchrapara. He worked there in the railway factory. In 1934, he left this job and moved Calcutta for a better job. But in 1943, there was sudden retrenchment due to the war and Patol Babu lost his job. Ever since then, he had been struggling to make a living. At first, he opened a variety store. He had to wind it up after five years. Then he had a job in a Bengali firm. His boss ill-treated him. Patol Babu left the job in disgust. Then, for ten long years, he worked as an insurance salesman. But he could make no success in it. Now a cousin of his had promised him a job with a firm dealing in scrap iron. Patol Babu was paying them regular visits.

2) How did Patol Babu come to know what his lines in the film were, and how did he react to it?

Ans. Patol Babu reached the place of shooting well in time. A crowd of people was already there. Patol Babu had not yet been told what his lines in the film were. Naresh Dutt saw him and asked him to wait in the shade of a paan shop. Not much time was left when the shooting was to begin. Patol Babu began to feel nervous about his lines. He had not rehearsed them even once. Just before the shot was to be taken, Naresh Dutt came to him with a cup of tea. Patol Babu could no longer contain his anxiety. He asked Naresh Dutt to tell him his lines. Naresh Dutt took Patol Babu to one Sosanko who wrote down Patol Babu's lines on a piece of paper. When Patol Babu looked at it, he was shocked. It had one single word 'Oh!' written on it. Patol Babu was crestfallen. He thought that a cruel joke had been played on him. He went slowly back to the paan shop. He glanced at the paper in his hand, and took a quick look around. Nobody was looking at him. Patol Babu crumpled the paper into a ball and threw it into the roadside drain.

3) How did Patol Babu convince himself to do the role that had just one word, 'Oh !', for him to say?

Ans. Just when Patol Babu had made up his mind to leave the place, he was reminded of some priceless words that his guru, Mr. Gogon Pakrashi, used to say. He used to say that an actor should never refuse to do a role, however small it may be. A true actor always tries to make the most of whatever role he is given to do. He should squeeze the last drop of meaning out of his lines. Mr. Pakrashi would say, "Each word spoken in a play is like a fruit in a tree. The actor must know how to pluck it, get at its essence, and serve it to the audience for their edification." The memory of these priceless words at once changed Patol Babu's mind. He started saying the word 'Oh!' to himself with many different inflections. He discovered that the same exclamation, when spoken in different ways, carried different shades of meanings. He found in one single word a gold mine of meanings. 'The true actor could make a mark with this one single syllable,' thought Patol Babu. And thus he became all prepared to do his little role in a big way.

Value Based Questions:

1) How did Patol Babu feel after he had performed his role for the scene and why did he go away without having his payment?

Ans. Patol Babu had been made to wear a woollen jacket for his scene. It was buttoned up to the neck. He was feeling very hot in it. After the scene, he took off the jacket and heaved a sigh of relief. Naresh Dutt asked him to go back to the paan shop and wait there for him to have his payment. It could be ten, fifteen or twenty rupees. Patol Babu had done his job really well. He was filled with deep satisfaction. He had lived up to the advice of his guru, Mr. Gogra Pakrashi. But he doubted if those film people really appreciated the pains he had taken. It was true that he needed money, but what was twenty rupees when measured against the deep satisfaction of doing a small job with such devotion and perfection? With these thoughts, he went away without waiting for Naresh Dutt to bring his payment.

2) Patience and hard work go a long way in achieving your goals. How does Patol Babu win the admiration of the director through a very small role? Write in 80-100 words.

Ans. Patol Babu remembered his guru Mr Gogon Pakrashi's words. His guru used to say that an actor should never refuse to do a role, however small it may be. He should squeeze the last drop of meaning out of his lines. And that is what Patol Babu does to gain perfection in the monosyllabic role that has been assigned to him. He is told of his lines' only half an hour before the actual filming of the scene. He goes to a quiet side street. There is no one about Patol Babu clears his throat. He starts enunciating the allotted syllable 'Oh!' in various ways. Along with that, he also works out how he would react physically when the collision took place. He works out how he would fling out his arms and how his body would crouch to express his pain and surprise. Thus, it was by his patient hard work that Patol Babu won the admiration of his director.

Unsolved Questions:

### Short Answer Type Questions:

- 1) How does Patol Babu show his joy for the role in the film to his wife?
- 2) How does Patol Babu react to what Nishikanto Ghosh says to him?
- 3) What lesson is derived from Patol Babu's experience?
- 4) What idea did Patol Babu have while rehearsing? Did the director approve of the idea?

### Value Based Questions:

- 1) 'In the modern materialistic world where everyone seems to be running after money, characters like Patol Babu reflect the true meaning of human life.' In the context of the short story comment upon the statement.
- 2) Do you agree with the statement that Patol Babu is a practical man who comes to terms with whatever life has to offer?

## **FICTION 6. VIRTUALLY TRUE (By- Paul Stewart)**

### Gist

A young boy named Michael comes across a news story about the miraculous recovery of a boy named Sebastian, who came out of a coma. The narrator is perplexed because he thinks he has met Sebastian before. He remembers encountering Sebastian in various 'psycho drive games' and knew him as a computer character. The narrator's tech-savvy dad had brought home several psycho-drive games, and in those games—like Wild West, Dragon Quest, Jailbreak, and War Zone—the narrator encountered a boy asking for help. Although the narrator couldn't save the boy in earlier games due to a lack of control, he eventually managed to rescue Sebastian while playing War Zone. This left the narrator puzzled about Sebastian's real-life recovery. Seeking answers, he explores the internet and discovers that Sebastian is a real person whose consciousness was transferred into the games following an accident. When the narrator bought these games, he encountered Sebastian in his computer. By successfully completing the War Zone game, the narrator unknowingly helped bring Sebastian out of his coma. The mystery resolves when the narrator receives a thank-you email from the real Sebastian, who expresses his gratitude and a desire to meet.

### CHARACTER SKETCH

#### Michael (Narrator)

Michael is a curious young boy with a keen interest in technology and computers, much like his father. Fascinated by his dad's gadgets, he enjoys playing computer games. He shows a friendly and helpful nature, especially when he succeeds in rescuing Sebastian from a coma. Michael remains hopeful and confident, even after failing to save Sebastian in the third game. He possesses great mental strength and perseverance and is astonished to learn that the character Sebastian he saved in the game is a real person.

### SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TITLE

The lesson is appropriately and logically named 'Virtually True'. It narrates Michael's efforts to save Sebastian Shultz, a computer-generated virtual character. Throughout the four interactive, psychologically-driven games, the central theme is 'Virtual Reality'. The computer-generated images appear almost real to those immersed in them. The narrator mentions that the events described in the lesson are true, but only in a virtual sense.

## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why was the narrator attracted to the newspaper headline?

The headline intrigued the narrator because he wanted to know if Sebastian Shultz mentioned in the article was the same person he had encountered earlier.

2. Why did the doctors feel that they needed a miracle?

Sebastian had been critically injured in a motorway accident and had fallen into a coma. His condition was critical but stable, and the doctors were uncertain about how to revive him, hence they felt a miracle was needed for his recovery.

3. Why does the narrator enjoy playing computer games?

The narrator enjoyed computer games because the large screen and loud volume made him feel as if he were inside the game, fully immersed in the experience.

4. Why was the narrator surprised while playing the game Wild West?

The narrator was surprised to see another Sheriff who was his age but did not appear to be a typical computer-generated image.

5. Why was the game Jailbreak important to the narrator?

Jailbreak was important because it was suggested by Shultz, and the narrator played it hoping to rescue Sebastian from the trap he had gotten into while playing the game.

6. Why did the narrator feel bad on seeing the empty printer tray after playing Jailbreak?

The narrator felt disappointed because Sebastian had no further message, making him feel like he had failed to rescue him.

Q7. How did Sebastian get into the helicopter?

Answer: The force of the tank hitting the jeep propelled Sebastian onto the helicopter's hatch, from where the narrator pulled him inside.

Q8. What questions troubled the narrator after saving Sebastian?

Answer: The narrator was puzzled about how the computer had stored Sebastian's memory and how he was guided to play the unusual versions of the games with Sebastian.

## EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Q1. "Never mind her," came a voice, and a second knight appeared from the wardrobe. "It's me who needs rescuing!"

(i) Who is the speaker?

(ii) Who is being spoken to?

(iii) Who is 'her' in the above line?

(iv) In what form and from where did the speaker appear?

Answer:

(i) Sebastian is the speaker.

(ii) Sebastian is speaking to the narrator.

(iii) 'Her' refers to Princess Aurora, who was captured by a wicked dragon.

(iv) The speaker appeared as a second knight from behind the wardrobe in the game Dragon Quest.

Q2. "The more futuristic they get, the better you can understand the past."

(i) Who is the speaker of the above line?

(ii) What are 'they'?

(iii) What does 'futuristic' mean?

(iv) How can one understand the past better?

Answer:

(i) Michael is the speaker.

(ii) 'They' refers to computers.

(iii) 'Futuristic' means strange and very modern, seeming to come from or referring to an imagined future time.

(iv) As computers become more advanced, they provide better tools and insights to understand historical events and contexts.

Q3. "But it was too late. The boy had slipped and was tumbling back through the air, down to the concrete below."

(i) Who is the 'boy'?

(ii) Which game is being played here?

(iii) What happened to Sebastian?

(iv) What was "too late"?

Answer:

(i) The 'boy' refers to Sebastian.

(ii) The game being played is 'Jailbreak'.

(iii) Sebastian stepped backward, slipped, and fell through the air, landing on the concrete floor.

(iv) The helicopter that was supposed to help Sebastian escape arrived too late.

LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q1. Comment on whether the statement 'Computer games are dangerous' is true or not.

Answer:

For: While computer games may seem like harmless fun, they can pose dangers by immersing players in a fictional world, causing them to neglect reality. This can negatively impact social skills and lead to behavioral problems. Advanced technology in these games makes them unpredictable, potentially causing unknown harm and long-term side effects.

Against: In today's digital world, games can help develop important skills. Virtual games prepare players for real-life situations and enhance problem-solving abilities. They offer a taste of adventure without real danger.

Q2. How did Michael save Sebastian?

Answer: After "Jailbreak," Michael didn't see Sebastian. The next day, he received an email from Sebastian asking for one last attempt to save him, suggesting they go into the "Warzone" and hinting that an accident would be necessary for the escape. Michael followed these instructions and entered a chaotic city with tall, windowless buildings riddled with holes, machine gun fire, collapsing walls, and constant explosions. Amidst this chaos, Michael had to rescue the trapped Sebastian. They found a helicopter but were pushed back by tank fire. Sebastian directed Michael to get into a jeep, and they drove off. Sebastian then slammed on the brakes, causing the jeep to tumble and escape the pursuing tank. In the collision, Michael was thrown into the helicopter, and Sebastian, still in the jeep, was also hurled into the air. He landed on the helicopter's hatch and was pulled inside by Michael. The game ended with Sebastian being rescued.

Q3. What are psycho-drive games? Describe the four games played by Michael. Which one do you find most interesting and why?

Answer: Psycho-drive games are controlled using mental power. Players interact continuously with the game characters through a computer, wearing a virtual reality visor and glove. The player's thoughts control all actions in the game, making it highly thrilling.

In the story, Michael plays four psycho-drive games in sequence. The games take us to imaginative worlds such as the dusty towns of the "Wild West," castles, dragons, and dungeons in "Dragon Quest," a fairyland of sorts. The common element in all the games is the trapped Sebastian, who needs to be rescued. He appears as the second sheriff in "Wild West," the second knight in "Dragon Quest," a prisoner in "Jailbreak," and a victim in "Warzone," with Michael tasked with rescuing him. The first three games fail, but the last game is the most significant. In "Warzone," Michael and Sebastian work in better coordination, dodging dangers and finally escaping in a jeep and then a helicopter. Michael's score reaches 40,000,000, and he wins the jackpot by saving Sebastian.

The last game is the most interesting because the mystery builds up, creating suspense about whether Sebastian will be saved. The final, most challenging game results in the successful rescue of the "virtually true" character, making it the most compelling.

Q4. "Everything that I've described is true virtually!" says the narrator. Justify this statement and the title of the story "Virtually True."

Answer: "Virtual" refers to something that doesn't exist in reality but appears to exist in cyberspace. Paul Stewart's story "Virtually True," tells about Michael Dawson, a schoolboy who plays psycho-drive and interactive games, discovering a character named Sebastian Shultz who needs saving. Throughout the game, Dawson believes he is merely trying to win, but it turns out that the real Sebastian suffered an accident and his memory was stored in the game. When Sebastian wins the jackpot in the game, he regains consciousness from a coma in real life. Sebastian is an imaginary character in the computer games, but his presence and actions are real. Michael saves the real Sebastian by playing a virtual game, blurring the line between virtual reality and actual reality, justifying both the narrator's statement and the story's title.

Q5. "Dear Michael, it said, Thank you! I am not sure how it happened, but thanks, you saved my life." Even though Michael did not know Shultz personally, he made every attempt to save him. What values did Michael display?

Answer: This quote is from an email Sebastian sent to Michael. Throughout the story, we've seen the events that led to the "virtually true" incident. Although Michael and Sebastian didn't know each other, Michael felt a strong sense of responsibility and empathy whenever he received a request to rescue Sebastian in the games. Sebastian seemed more human and different from other game characters, which deeply affected Michael, especially when he failed to save him. Michael's compassion, empathy, determination, and concern for Sebastian drove him to keep trying until he finally succeeded in the fourth



game. The story subtly highlights values like care, empathy, determination, mutual concern, gratitude, and responsibility towards others.

#### VALUE BASED QUESTION

Q1. Will power and determination bring success against all odds. Comment with reference to "Virtually True."

Answer: "Virtually True" teaches us the value of perseverance. It demonstrates how willpower and determination help individuals achieve their goals. Sebastian Shultz, a fan of virtual games, suffers an accident while playing and falls into a coma, but his memory gets saved in the game drive. Michael buys Sebastian's games and, through his interactions with them, is asked to help retrieve Sebastian's memory. Despite multiple failed attempts in the games "Wild-West Guns," "Dragon quest," and "Jailbreak," Michael's persistence pays off in "Warzone," where he finally succeeds in rescuing Sebastian. This story illustrates that perseverance and determination can lead to success even in challenging circumstances.

Q2. Computer-based games are becoming a rage with children. This addiction is becoming hazardous, leading to physical and mental stress among the young generation. Lack of physical activity is reducing children into couch potatoes. How can we establish a balance between the virtual and real world?

Answer: Virtual games create an immersive world that attracts children's curiosity, often leading them to spend excessive time in front of screens without breaks. This shift in entertainment has led to physical inactivity, resulting in health issues and social isolation. To combat this addiction, it's essential to use technology wisely. Parents should encourage outdoor activities, foster an appreciation for nature, and emphasize the importance of social interaction. By setting a good example and promoting a balanced lifestyle, we can help children grow into healthy, well-rounded individuals instead of becoming addicted to virtual realities.

Q3. Imagine you are Sebastian's parents. Write a diary entry describing your feelings when you come to know what has happened to him.

Diary Entry:

Date:                      Day:

Dear Diary,

I am feeling very sad today. I was very fond of video games, and so was my son, Sebastian. I didn't realize that these virtual games could cause so much harm. Sebastian was on his way to school, playing psycho-drive games in the car when it suddenly stopped, causing him to hit his head against the computer. His memory was transferred into the computer, and he fell into a deep coma. The doctors had little hope for his recovery, but he was eventually rescued from the game by a boy named Michael. This experience has opened my eyes to the dangers of cyber addiction and the potential for these games to desensitize and isolate us from the real world. I will now ensure that Sebastian avoids these games and engages more in real-world activities.

### **POETRY 1 - THE FROG AND THE NIGHTINGALE**

**-VIKRAM SETH**

#### **INTRODUCTION TO THE POEM**

The poem is a fable and like most fables it has a moral. The poem can be seen as exposing the role of critics towards any fresh talent; it can be read as a poem about a jealous person who does not let real talent flourish by discouraging and finally eliminating it. There is another subject the poet touched upon: lack of confidence that leads to disaster and the poet comments that one must recognise one's own

capabilities and should not try to emulate others. The use of animal characters in the poem is to appeal to younger audience. The main characters are the frog and the nightingale, where the frog represents the cunning capitalist mind and the nightingale a vulnerable artist. The arrogant frog has been ruling the bog and torturing its residents with his cacophonous singing. The arrival of the nightingale and her singing provides the creatures in the bog a pleasant break who admire her sweet voice. The frog approaches her and appreciates her like a critic making her feeling flattered. He manipulates her making her sing for him in a concert and earns money by selling tickets. The poor creature does not know how she is being manipulated by the frog and sings till she has lost her voice and health. The frog pushes her to the verge where her health and energy fail her and she dies. The poem leaves behind a lesson that while it is good to be talented one must also watch one's weaknesses and instead of feeling flattered must cautiously tread one's way towards one's target.

### **GIST OF THE POEM**

In a Bingle Bog, there lived a frog who always sang with his annoying voice. Other animals hated his voice. But the frog kept singing. One night a nightingale came and started singing. The whole bog admired the nightingale. This made the frog jealous. The frog said that the tree belongs to him. He is famous for his fine sound and his own songs. Nightingale asked him about her singing. The frog said that it was not too bad but she needs to adopt more powerful techniques. The Frog started training her. Due to excess practice of singing, she grew weak. At last, she died due to a vein burst. The frog said that she was a foolish bird and she should know that one's song must be one's own.

### **CHARACTER SKETCH OF THE FROG**

The frog was cunning, greedy, proud and insensitive. This nature is revealed when he sells the nightingale's songs for money and makes her sing in the cold weather. It has been portrayed as arrogant, haughty, opportunist and boastful. He is used to his position as the only singer of the Bingle Bog. He irritates all the animals of the forest by croaking in the night. He never listens to the requests of the animals. The entry of the melodious nightingale is an eye opener. Being practical and worldly wise, he uses his position to influence her. Feeling insecure, he plays a trick with the nightingale and makes it believe that he is the master of singing. He manipulates the situation to his advantage, starts making profit by charging admission fees to the nightingale's concert. Ultimately, he succeeds in regaining his lost position when the nightingale dies. As he was a smooth talker, he brushes away the blame of nightingale's death by philosophizing it that "your song must be your own".

### **CHARACTER SKETCH OF THE NIGHTINGALE**

She is portrayed as the innocent, naive, gullible, polite, unsure, timid, shy and nervous type. The taste of appreciation enhances her self-esteem making her gullible. With her extraordinary skills, she wins the hearts of the animals of the forest including the frog. However, the lack of confidence makes her a prey of the frog's trick. Trapped in the cruel circle of success, she pushes herself to a point of exhaustion. She gets addicted to her status and is unable to get out of the clutches of the frog. She tries to match the misguided criticism of the frog which results in her death.

### **POETIC DEVICES**

1. Assonance: awn and awn
2. Alliteration: crass cacophony, mallard and milady, "Bingle Bog", "Dusk to Dawn"
3. Oxymoron: morning night
4. Enjambment: "ducks had swum and herons waded to her as she serenaded" "every day the frog who'd sold her songs for silver tried to sold her"

5. Imagery: "shook her head and twitched her tail" "Moonlight cold and pale"(creates a vivid picture)

6. Irony: The weaker and less talented frog ends up being successful, while the nightingale, who had exceptional talent fails miserably

7. Onomatopoeia: koo-oh-ah! ko-ash! ko-ash!

8. Antithesis: 'dusk' 'dawn', now then, up and down, sweet and bitter, 'morning' 'night'

9. Repetition: "far too nervous, far too tense. Far too prone to influence."

10. Metaphor: -"This is a fairy tale and you're Mozart in disguise" (comparison between two things without using like or as)

11. Anaphora – repetition of 'far too' in the start of line 3 and 4

12. Transferred epithet – 'And the crass cacophony Blared out from the sumac tree'

the whole admiring bog Stared towards the sumac

READ THE EXTRACT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW:

1] Animals for miles around Flocked towards the magic sound, And the frog with great precision  
Counted heads and charged admission.

(a) Why did the animals rush towards the Bingle Bog?

(b) Why did the frog count the heads with great precision?

(c) How did the frog cash on the nightingale's success as a singer?

(d) How was the frog associated with the nightingale?

2] Now the nightingale inspired,

Flushed with confidence, and fired With both art and adoration, Sang – and was a huge sensation.

Animals for miles around Flocked towards the magic sound, And the frog with great precision  
Counted heads and charged admission.

a. What made the nightingale become a huge sensation?

b. What does the phrase, 'flushed with confidence' mean?

c. Which quality of the frog is evident in this extract?

d. Pick out a word which is the synonym of 'accuracy'.

3 ] Day-by-day the nightingale Grew more sorrowful and pale.

Night on night her tired song zipped and trilled and bounced along.

(a) Why did the nightingale grow sorrowful and pale ?

(b) What did she perform at night ?

(c) What is the poetic device used in the phrase 'tired song' ?

(d) What quality of the nightingale is brought out through the above line?

Long answer questions

1.The frog considers the nightingale stupid and brainless. Do you agree with the statement? Support your answer with reasons.

2.In this fast-paced world, simple beings like nightingale bear the brunt of the modern society. Keeping in mind the nightingale, attempt a character sketch of the nightingale that led to her doom.

3.The Frog and the Nightingale’ is a symbolic poem. What lesson do you learn from it?

4.The frog, who was not at all talented, ruled in the end and the nightingale, who possessed the fineness and versatility of voice, died. Explain the irony of the statement, highlighting the values the frog should have possessed.

5.The Nightingale placed her blind trust in the Frog but he exploited her. With reference to the poem elaborate on the statement ‘Betrayal always come from those whom you trust.’

#### VALUE BASED QUESTIONS

1.To some extent the nightingale was herself responsible for her downfall and death. With reference to the poem bring out the reality of life.

2.The poem, ‘The Frog and the Nightingale’ highlights the fact that lack of confidence can lead to disaster. Keeping this in mind, elaborate the statement: ‘If you accept yourself, the whole world accepts you’.

3.That’s why I sing with panache Koo-oh -ah! ko- ash !ko-ash!” And the foghorn of the frog Blared unrivalled through the bog.

Write the significance of the statement said by the frog in ‘The Frog and the Nightingale’.

#### **POETRY-2 NOT MARBLE, NOR THE GILDED MONUMENTS**

--- BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

#### THEME

The sonnet, Not Marble, nor the Gilded Monuments brings out the futility of statues and ornate monuments raised by the rich and the powerful to immortalize themselves. The ravages of time on these monuments defeat the very purpose of building them and rob their architects of the pleasure of being remembered by the generations to come.

#### SUMMARY

The sonnet begins with powerful lines and draws the reader’s attention to the significance and longevity of poems and the futility of marble and glittering monuments that fail the test of time. He further argues that while these monuments of the royal princes shall blacken, fall into disrepair and eventually perish, poetry will forever shine and spell the tale of the young.

The poet states that the proud statues that stand erect in the past glory will be desecrated through human wars, and the human battles will eventually destroy the mason’s art and effort. Yet, neither war nor the will of the god of war can touch his sonnets; he reiterates his sonnets’ importance and immortality; how poems are the ‘living record of you’. Poets constant reference to ‘you’ symbolises either his friend or the youth whose memory he wishes to preserve through his work.

Here, Shakespeare’s conviction and belief are strong and potent; he says neither death nor enmity will diminish the effect of his sonnets. He asserts that the poem will be praised through generations, till the very end of time – such is the power of his work.

The poet claims that his words will be an ode to his friend until the day of judgement. When the dead shall be resurrected, and God will judge all sinners on the final day, till then, people will read, cherish and honour the past through his sonnet.

#### POETIC DEVICES

- \*Allusion – reference to ‘Mars’ – the God of war and ‘Judgement’ – the day of judgement.
- \*Alliteration – ‘when wasteful wars’ – ‘w’ sound repeated, ‘shall shine’ – ‘sh’ sound repeated
- \*Personification – ‘Time’ has been called a ‘slut’ and thus, personified. This poetry has been personified when called ‘living record’.
- \*Repetition – ‘shall’ and ‘nor’ repeated to create musical effect
- \*Epithet – an adjective or adjectival phrase used to describe a distinctive quality of a person or thing.

‘Sluttish’ describes time, ‘besmeared’ describes statues, ‘wasteful’ describes wars.

\* Imagery – visual imagery is used in ‘unswept stone, besmear’d with sluttish time’ as the reader can imagine statues which become ruins with the passage of time and ‘When wasteful war shall statues overturn And broils root out the work of masonry’ as the reader can imagine the destruction caused by wars.

#### EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Not marble , nor the gilded monuments

Of princes , shall outlive this powerful rhyme; But you shall shine more bright in these contents

Than unswept stone , besmear’d with sluttish time

1.What will outshine the other ?

2 What will not outlive the powerful rhyme ?

3.find out the rhyme scheme of the stanza.

#### **SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1.Bring out the sum and substance of Shakespear’s sonnet ?

2.In what way is the poet stronger than powerful rulers ?

#### LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1.How has ‘poetry ’ been glorified by the poet , in the poem , “ Not Marble ,nor the Gilded monuments ’, Explain?

2.What message does the poet wish to convey through his poem “ Not Marble ,nor the Gilded monuments ’?

POETRY 3. OZYMANDIAS (By P.B. SHELLEY)

#### INTRODUCTION

Ozymandias is a sonnet written by the English Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792–1822). The poem explores the worldly fate of history and the ravages of time: even the greatest men and the empires they forge are impermanent, their legacies fated to decay into oblivion.

Shelley wrote "Ozymandias" as a competition with his friend, Horace Smith. Both men were likely inspired by a statue of Ramses II that was displayed at the British Museum.

#### SUMMARY

"Ozymandias" is a sonnet by Romantic writer Percy Bysshe Shelley. The poem is about a traveller who tells the speaker of the poem about a mostly destroyed statue that he found in the desert. The traveller begins by describing the statue's legs, which are the only part still standing. He goes on to describe the face of the statue, which seems almost sad, as though Ozymandias knows that his empire has fallen.

The poem is an exploration of the impermanence of empire: no matter how great Ozymandias once was, his works have largely been destroyed or forgotten. Shelley suggests that what really stands the test of time is art; his poem will still be read and copied long after his death, because it is not subject to the ravages of nature and is much more easily preserved.

#### CHARACTER SKETCH OF OZYMANDIAS

Ozymandias was arrogant, conceited, and egoist. He behaved condescendingly with others. He wanted everyone to bow, fawn, and obey his orders. He made everyone believe if they did not act according to his will or command, he could have them punished. He must have been high-handed and arrogant of his power, wealth, and valour. He must have thought nobody could defeat him. He won many wars against his adversaries also. He got his statues built throughout his kingdom so that people would look at his works and shudder. However, his glory lasted only a few years. He became old, weak, and finally died. Shelley makes usage of cacophonous alliteration to present the power Ozymandias once had, 'cold command' and 'King of Kings', these suggest Ozymandias was a stern and authoritative ruler. 'King of kings' also alludes to divine power as Ozymandias believed himself to be as or more omnipotent than God.

#### THEME

The theme of 'Ozymandias' is clear and vivid. The poem highlights the vanity of human glory and power. The sand has literally covered over Ozymandias' statue; the figurative "sands of time" have covered over Ozymandias' memory. It shows that everything comes from the earth and everything will return to it.

The poem comprises the emotions of a traveler who imagines the story of the ruins of a statue in a desert. The traveler expresses that the statue was broken; two legs were standing without a body, and the head was half sunk in the sand. He also explains the expressions of the statue, such as the "frown" and "sneer of cold command," which indicates that the sculptor has made the statue speak for itself. The lifeless statue has the name Ozymandias, the kings of kings, on its pedestal. The name indicates the readers to look at the massive statue of the mighty king, but the ruined state means that nothing remains after one's death, even if he is a king. It shows the keen observation of the traveler on the one hand and the artistic skills of a sculptor on the other.

#### FIGURES OF SPEECH

1. Alliteration: cold command, survive stamped, boundless bare, sands stretch.
2. Consonance: 's' and 't' sounds are repeated- Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand, Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
3. Synecdoche: The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed
4. Hyperbole: king of kings

#### EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

A.I met a traveller from an antique land

Who said: Two vast and trunkless legs of stone Stand in the desert. Near them, on the sand, Half sunk, a shattered visage lies.

(i)Whom did the poet meet?

(ii)Where was he coming from?

(iii)What did he see there?

(iv)Find a word from the given extract that means the same as “the manifestation, image, or aspect of something.”

B.Whose frown,

And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command Tell that its sculptor well those passions read

(i)Whose face lies on the sand?

(ii)What sort of expression did the face have?

(iii)Who understood the emotions well?

(iv)Find words in the given extract which convey that King Ozymandias was arrogant, conceited, and egoist.

C.Which yet survive stamped on these lifeless things. The hand that mocked them and the heart that fed;

(i)Find a word in the given extract which means the same as “impress a pattern or mark”

(ii)Whose hands mocked them?

(iii)Whose expressions are carved on these lifeless things?

(iv)What message is conveyed through these lines?

### **LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS**

1.Bring out the irony in the words, “My name is Ozymandias, king of kings, Look on my works, ye mighty, and despair!” as inscribed on the pedestal of the statue. What lesson does this irony teach us?

2.Describe how Shelley brings out the futility of power and riches in the poem, ‘Ozymandias’.

### **VALUE BASED QUESTIONS**

1.Time brings the greatest of the great to their knees. How is this true of King Ozymandias?

2.“The poem, ‘Ozymandias’ illustrates the vanity of human greatness.” Comment.

3.The lesson we can learn from ‘Ozymandias is that the ravages of time spare none and reduce all worldly power, pelf and glory to dust. Describe the main idea developed in the sonnet by P. B. Shelley and the message that he wants to convey through ‘Ozymandias’

### **EXTRAXCT BASED QUESTIONS**

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

A. (i) Ans- The poet met a traveller.

(ii) Ans- The traveller came back from an ancient land.

(iii) Ans- The traveller saw the ruins of a huge statue.

(iv) Ans- Visage

B. (i) Ans- King Ozymandias's face lies on the sand.

(ii) Ans- The face had the harsh expression of a strong leader who must have been quite brutal and appeared to be rather haughty.

(iii) Ans- The sculptor understood well the emotions or passions of the statue's subject.

(iv) Ans- Sneer of cold command

C. (i) Ans- Stamped

(ii) Ans- These were the hands of the sculptor who had so expertly chiselled and accentuated the contempt and brutality of a haughty ruler.

(iii) Ans- King Ozymandias's expressions are carved on these lifeless things.

(iv) Ans- The message conveyed here is: Ravages of time spares none. It highlights the variety of human grandeur and power that is reduced to dust.

#### LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Answer:

Ozymandias, a powerful king of Egypt, was proud of his glory and achievements. He got a statue built in his name and tried to get himself immortalised. But the statue couldn't withstand the powerful influence of time and with the passage of time it was destroyed. The statue lay broken in the lonely sands symbolising that time is all powerful, Everything in this life is ephemeral and transient. Nothing

stays forever. Everything in this world decays with time. The poem highlights the vanity of human glory and power.

2. Answer:

The icy hands of time leave none. Nothing is more powerful than time. Our glory, grandeur and power are only a nine days' wonder. Ozymandias was ruthless and he had hatred and cold command. He demonstrated pride and sneer. The great sculptor of his time also carved out the emotions of Ozymandias on the face of his statue. 'The wrinkled lip' and 'sneer of cold command' say that he was drunk with pelf, power and authority. In the course of time all the pelf and power dwindled to nothingness. The statue of Ozymandias was spilled all around the desert in a very bad state. The sands symbolising death and extinction had engulfed it. All the power and riches had become futile. Time had swallowed them fully. Whatsoever he got carved on the pedestal of his statue could not stand against perpetually powerful swords of time. Ozymandias displays his lamentation and regret.



## VALUE BASED QUESTIONS

1. Answer:

P.B. Shelley wrote the sonnet titled Ozymandias. It communicates the message that human greatness and glory are transient. The monuments and statues erected by the rulers to preserve their name and reputation are destroyed over time. The poem therefore illustrates the vainness and transience of human grandeur and greatness. A renowned Egyptian king, Ozymandias created the monument in order to preserve his renown and name. His power and majesty faded with the passing of time.

A traveller from Egypt discovers the king Ozymandias statue that is shattered. He discovers the statue's two enormous, trunkless legs on a platform in a desert. The broke statue's face is nearby, partially buried. He observes the statue's haughty attitude and sense of superiority. The king's emotions were captured on the statue's face by the artist's hand. The following words were written on the pedestal: My name is Ozymandias, king of kings' The lines show that even though Ozymandias was a king of kings, he was unaware that human hubris and pride do not endure for very long and that time eventually drags even the best of the great to their knees. Death is a sure leveler

Q.2. Answer:

The theme of 'Ozymandias' is clear and vivid. No human emotions, haughtiness, jeer, pride or arrogance, assure immortality and durability against the all powerful time and nature. The poem highlights the vanity of human glory and power. Everything in the world perishes with the passage of time and under the powerful influence of the elements of nature. Even the mightiest of the mighty become one with the dust.

No trace of them is left on the sands of time. Ozymandias, a powerful king of Egypt was proud of his glory and achievements. He desired to immortalize his name and got a statue built. But nothing could stand against the time and powerful elements of nature. The broken statue symbolises the destruction caused by time. The sands, lone, boundless and bare symbolise the power of the elements of nature.

Q.3 Answer:

'Ozymandias' is one of the most famous sonnets written by Shelley. The main idea is developed in the fourteen lines of the sonnet systematically. In the octave, the poet describes how he met a traveller who came from an ancient land. Then he describes what the traveller saw there. He saw two huge trunkless legs of stone standing in the sand. Near them lay a shattered face half-buried in the sand.

There were signs of contempt and 'cold command' on the face of the statue. The man was haughty, arrogant and authoritative. The workmanship of the sculptor was of quite a high quality. It seems he had well read the passions arising in the heart of the person before stamping them exactly as they were on the stone.

Shelley concludes the message in the sestet of the sonnet. The message is very clear. Time is all- powerful and spares none. All worldly power, pelf, glory and grandeur are just a nine-day wonder. Ozymandias used to call him 'the king of kings'. He was mighty, proud of his wonderful feats and achievements. He thought himself a demi-god. But the ravages of time reduced Ozymandia's attempt to outlive the posterity to dust. His broken statue and shattered face lie half buried in the sand. Nothing else has remained but only boundless and bare sand all around the shattered statue.

## 4. THE RIME OF THE ANCIENT MARINER

## By SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE

Written by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

- ☐ First poem in Lyrical Ballads
- ☐ Written in the form of a Ballad
- ☐ Divided in :7 Parts
- ☐ Inspired by:Captain James Cook's exploration Journeys
- ☐ Main idea of the poem:Honor and respect all living things A thoughtless bad act can have lasting repercussions
- ☐ Disaster mentioned in the poem: Ship is becalmed and sailors die of thirst

### GIST

Samuel Taylor Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" is about a man on a voyage by ship, who in one impulsive and heinous act, changes the course of his life – and death. The Mariner faces an inner struggle over the crime he has committed, and must understand his actions and perform his penance. He must also learn to abandon his negative views and openly accept all of Gods' creatures. The voyage now becomes a journey of learning important lessons in accountability, acceptance, forgiveness, and repentance.

After the Mariner kills the Albatross, it is hung around his neck so he can understand the seriousness of his act, but he is incapable of realizing the full implications at this time. The bird was of no danger to the Mariner or the men on the ship, and in fact, was a spiritual guide to safeguard the crew on their excursion. The murder was committed on a whim, with no forethought about the act or the repercussions.

### CHARACTER SKETCH

#### ☐THE ANCIENT MARINER

The Mariner was once a sailor, part of a crew of a sailing ship. During a sea voyage he, along with the ship, is stranded in the ice of the South Pole. It is only when an Albatross appears that the ice breaks and the ship is freed. The Mariner befriends the bird—it comes at his call. But then, for some unknown reason, he shoots and kills the Albatross. By killing the innocent creature, he sets in motion a string of horrors. His crew dies, but he lives on with his sin. It is only when he accepts that the bird was part of God's great creation that he is partially absolved of his sin. But his penance is not done even with that realization. He must tell his story far and wide before moving on again. His is compelled into an act of confession by a supernatural force that even decides who he should tell the tale to.

#### ☐WEDDING GUEST

The Wedding Guest is one of three people on their way to a wedding reception and is in a hurry to attend the festivities. He is next of kin to the bridegroom. He attempts to get away from the Mariner several times but Mariner's compels him to sit and listen to the entirety of his story. At several points during the Mariner's tale, he interjects to ask questions and to comment on the Mariner's expression. He is deeply affected by the Mariner and what he has to tell him, despite being unwilling to listen at first. When the Mariner offers his moral, the Wedding Guest doesn't even go to the festivities; instead, he returns home to think on what the Mariner told him. He awakes the next morning greatly changed by the experience.

#### ☐ POETRY DEVICES

## ALLITERATION

- By the long grey beard and glittering eye
- .furrow followed free
- down dropt the breeze, the sails dropt down

## METAPHORS

- Merry Minstrelsy      • Vespers Nine
- snowy clefts

## REPETITION

- glittering eye   • ice was here etc.
- bright-eyed Mariner   • water, water

## PERSONIFICATION

- \*Sun – is personified as a Man
- \*Storm – is also personified as a Man
- \*Blast – also as a Bird (“overtaking wing”)

## SIMILES

- \*Like a three year old child – wedding guest
- \*Red as a rose – the Bride
- \*As who pursued with yell and blow – the ship
- \*Like noises in a sound – Thundering and growling sounds
- \*As idle as a painted ship – ship as if it is painted

## THEME

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” explores several themes including the consequences of sin and guilt, the supernatural, the power of nature and the redemption and salvation of the soul. The poem also delves into the themes of isolation, penance, and the interconnections of all living beings. These themes are woven into the narrative of the mariner’s harrowing journey and his spiritual awakening.

## EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

1 The ice was here, the ice was there, The ice was all around.

It cracked and growled, and roared and howled like noises in a swound!

(i) The above stanza is known for its musical sounds. Mention the words that create the sound effect.

(a) swound      (b) cracked and growled

(c) around      (d) there

(ii) What do the first two lines convey?

(a) feelings of happiness (b) feelings of wonder and surprise

(c) helplessness of being trapped (d) feeling of coldness

(iii) Name the poetic device that helps to create the effect of sound words.

(a) Imagery (b) Transferred epithet

(c) Alliteration (d) Onomatopoeia

(iv) Describe the atmosphere created by being trapped by ice

a) strangeness (b) horror and loneliness

(c) isolation and hope (d) defeat and hopelessness

ANSWERS: (i) (b) (ii) (c) (iii) (d) (iv) (d)

#### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Why is the albatross greeted like a 'Christian soul'? What relationship is forged between the albatross and the crew of the ship?

Ans : The albatross is welcomed as a good omen, like the grace of Lord Jesus. The sailors are very happy to welcome and feed him for he is the only sign of life that they have seen. Its arrival also coincides with the blowing of the south-wind, which makes the ship sail. The bird is great company for all the sailors. It fills the crew with luck and hope. That is why the bird is called 'a Christian soul'.

2. What situation did the mariners face in the land of snow and ice?

Ans : The ship is cheered and the journey begins on an optimistic note. But soon the ship is caught in a violent storm and trapped. It is tossed on high waves and the sailors have great difficulty in controlling it under the effect of the stormy blast, the ship is driven to the south, which is the land of snow and mist and wondrously cold. There are no men, no sign of life. All they see is ice and ice around them.

#### LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. What is the dramatic significance of the role of the albatross in the poem 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'?

Ans: The albatross is the main pivot on which the whole poem hangs. The poem is an exploration of evil, both that of men and nature and of salvation. The whole poem is based on the christian concept of sin, its punishment and redemption. The albatross is seen as a friendly spirit, a symbol of God's favour, bringing good results. When the mariner kills the albatross, he taints himself with sin and loses connection with God. By destroying God's creature, the mariner is exposed to the darker aspects of God. The albatross also exposes the fickle-minded nature of the sailors. In the end, when the mariner prays, albatross, a symbol of sin falls from him. The mariner is full of God's grace. So the albatross is an instrument to expose the mariner's sin and its redemption.

2. Whom did the mariners hold responsible for their misery? Was it correct to do so?

Ans : When the ancient mariner kills the albatross, the sailors are frightened that great evil will befall them. Killing a bird who brought the south wind and was great company, hurts the sailors very badly. But when no punishment follows the sin, the weather improves and the ship makes great advancement, the sailors change their opinion. But soon punishment follows, nemesis strikes them. The ship gets stuck in the silent sea and cannot move at all for days altogether. Then they undergo spells of thirst and parched throats. They are plagued by the polar spirit for killing the albatross. So they blame the mariner because it is their nature. They are too fickle-minded and have 'herd-mentality'.

force of the wind and it was unable to escape the fury of the gale. The South Pole was full of mist, snow and icebergs as high as the mast of the ship were floating here and there on the sea.

#### VALUE BASED QUESTIONS

1. Bring out the theme of crime and punishment in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*?

Ans : The poem hinges on the nemesis of crime and punishment. Defying God leads to worse results and punishment. The poem is an exploration of evil and of salvation. The slaughtered albatross, emerging spirits from beneath the murky spirits, slimy creatures of the sea, all are images of sin and evil and its consequences. The whole poem is based on the Christian concept of sin, its punishment and redemption. The albatross can be seen as a symbol of God's favour, bringing good results. Killing of God's creature is a sin of the biggest order so the mariner and the crew undergo so many problems. When the mariner prays, the albatross falls off and God's grace shines on them and they are cleansed of their sins.

#### TOPIC:-SNAKE

##### OVERVIEW

The poem "Snake" is a notable poem by D. H. Lawrence that provides us a glimpse into the complexities of human nature that bring us towards rational thinking. This poem tells us the tale of a person going to a water-trough, who stumbles upon a snake. The person is fascinated and feels honoured that he was able to see this magnificent sight. Yet his upbringing and education tells that the snake ought to be killed.

##### THEME

- In the poem, 'Snake,,, D.H. Lawrence shows that instinct is superior to the reasoning of mind. He was strangely attracted by the dignified and quiet way of the snake and accepted it as an esteemed and respected guest. Lawrence was essentially a moralist who believed that the modern man was gradually becoming devoid of his natural feelings. It points out the poet's fascination towards the snake, since it was not blinded by prejudice like man, but instead was guided by instinct. The poem brings out several different layers of thinking.
- The poem arouses the feeling of love and sympathy for all creatures in the world. It was the accursed human education that urged the poet to kill the snake to satisfy his social needs. He has no right to deprive others from their right to live. Although the poet hits the snake, he feels sorry for his act. So we see that man's natural instinct prevail at the end. He equates his education with the forces of ignorance, cruelty and vulgarity. The poet seeks religious atonement for his pettiness in hurting the snake who had not harmed him in anyway, thus concluding that one must follow his instinct.

##### EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

I came down the steps with my pitcher

And must wait, must stand and wait, for

There he was at the trough before me.

(a) Who came down the steps and why?

Ans. The poet came down the steps because he wanted to quench his thirst.

(b) Which word in the extract means 'a large Container for storing water'?

Ans. The word 'pitcher' means 'a large container for storing water'.

(c) Who was there at the trough before him?

Ans. The snake was there at the trough before him.

(d) Why was he carrying the pitcher?

Ans. The poet was carrying the pitcher to fill it with water which could then be drunk.

He reached down from a fissure in the earth-wall in

the gloom

And trailed his yellow-brown slackness soft-bellied

Down, over the edge of the stone trough

(a) What is meant by 'trailed' here?

Ans. The word 'trailed' means 'carried behind it'.

(b) Where had 'He' come from?

Ans. 'He' had come from a hole in the wall.

(c)Where was 'He' at the moment?

Ans. 'He' was quenching its thirst at the water-trough.

(d)How has 'he' been described?

Ans. 'He' has been described as yellow-brown in colour and having a soft-bellied and slack body.

Someone was before me at my water-trough,

And I, like a second comer, waiting.

(a)Who was at the water-trough before the poet?

Ans. A snake came to the water-trough before the poet.

(b)Where had it come from?

Ans. It came from the burning bowels of the Earth.

(c)Why did the poet wait?

Ans. The poet was a civilised person and so, he waited for his turn because the snake had reached the water-trough before him.

(d) Which figure of speech has been employed in the second line?

Ans. The figure of speech used is simile.

### **DRAMA 1. THE DEAR DEPARTED (By STANLEY HOUGHTON)**

#### **INTRODUCTION OF THE LESSON**

'The Dear Departed', is a satire on mankind. Modern man is materialistic, devoid of any emotion and has turned into inhuman. The story is how the selfish and covetous daughters of a father, think of him to be 'dead' and argue over the division of property. Their only concern and consideration is capturing his property. The daughters vie with one another in snatching more. To our greatest shock and disbelief, they show little or no agony at his death. Degradation and death of humanity and the rule of avarice, is discussed in the play.

#### **GIST/SUMMARY**

The play, 'The Dear Departed' satirises the degradation of moral values in British middle class. Children have no genuine feelings for their parents. They shamelessly try to grab things.

In the beginning of the play, Mrs. Slater finds her father Abel Merryweather quite cold, not responding and, declares him 'dead'. Accordingly, her sister and her husband, the Jordans are informed. Now, they are busy making arrangements for the mourning. They are expecting the Jordans to join them. They start using and capturing their father's belongings. Victoria, the daughter, does not approve any of it.

It is heart breaking for Mrs. Slater to share her father's belongings with Mrs. Jordan, her sister. However, as the articles are being shifted, the Jordans arrive. All of them start a detailed conversation on the deeds of their deceased father, planning the details of the obituary announcement in the papers and the insurance premium payment.

Then, Victoria who has been sent to the grandfather's room, returns frightened and announces in shiver, that Grandfather is alive. To everybody's surprise, and fear, he is seen coming downstairs. Grandfather is surprised to find the Jordans too. No one dares to tell him that he has been declared 'dead'. While having tea, the truth is revealed and he painfully realises how his daughters have been in a hurry to divide his possessions between them.

Shattered, the grandfather decides not to live with any of his daughters. He decides to alter his will. He declares that he is going to give everything to Mrs. Shorrocks whom he will marry, who will, he is sure, will look after him whole-heartedly and sincerely.

#### **CHARACTER SKETCH VICTORIA**

Victoria Slater, or Vicky is a sweet natured , precocious ten year old daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Slater. It is true to state that she is the only person in the family who has any genuine affection or attachment for her grandfather .She is terribly upset that he is no more. Although the elders in the house are engaged in their own vain and materialistic preoccupations, she was the only one in the house who realized the loss and agony, her grandfather's death posed. She feels upset and unappreciative at the haste and cunningness with which her mother moves to get hold of the clock and the bureau that belong to grandpa. She was a sensible young girl whose thoughts and actions are governed by a maturity beyond her age. When her grandfather's 'death' proved to be untrue, she was the only one who experienced any real relief and joy. She is an image of the innocence of young age. She is grieved to see her parents pinching her grandfather's possessions. She terms the act of her parents not only insensitive but also unethical. She is childish,innocent, truthful and sensitive. However, her parents and other elders are selfish, unfeeling and of competitive nature, devoid of any compassion or concern.

#### MR ABEL MERRYWEATHER

Abel Merryweather is an old widower. Ever since he lost his wife, he has been living in turns, with his daughters Amelia Slater and Elizabeth Jordan. Basically, he is a fun-loving and jovial man, who loves to go to the pub and drink. He is quick-witted and intelligent. He cannot be fooled by any competition show of affection by his daughters. He knows them too too well. Hence he is able to defend himself and disarm them whenever they attempt any mischief or cunningness. But, he lives with them. He acknowledges them as his own children and he wants to leave something to them in his will. But when he discovers how disloyal and dishonest they truly are, believing him to be dead, he decides to change his will, and marry a widow, Mrs. John Shorrocks, the keeper of "Ring – O – Bells'. Any reader would like him as he is justified for what he does with regard to the will.

#### MRS AMELIA SLATER

Amelia Slater is a vigorous, plump,red faced , vulgur woman, prepared to do any amount of straight talking to get her way. Married to Henry Slater,she has a ten year old daughter, Victoria. She is vehement and active. She is very dominating by nature and makes sure that all things happen according to her own will and plan. She makes her husband do all she wants. She can talk her way through any argument. She is a cunning and sharp person and cares only for the material comfort. Greed and envy guide her . Being greedy, she is never contented or happy with what she already has. There is always a need for more in her. She wants a major part of her father's inheritance and tries to get it by unfair means. She outsmarts her sister and gets hold of the handsome, old-fashioned bureau and the mantle-piece clock before she reaches.She even asks her husband to put on her 'dead' father's slippers.She has no genuine sorrow at the loss of her father. She just pretends to be hurt and sad at his death. This shows the hypocrisy of her nature. Her greed makes her blind to all human sentiments. She never approves of anyone other than herself. She is mean and vulgur when it comes to taking care of her old father.In the end, to win over him, she even eats her own words, but without any real success.

#### MRS JORDAN

Mrs Jordan is a stout, complacent woman with an impassive face. She has an irritating air of always being right. In the play, she is seen wearing a complete and deadly outfit of new mourning crowned by a great black hat with plumes.She is very witty and sharp. When it comes to bargaining, she is second to no one. Like her sister, Mrs Slater, she too loves material possessions. She is capable of driving a hard bargain over things to gain possession. According to her she is always right. Hence she accuses others on and off. She is greedy too. She does not miss any opportunity or any platform to criticise her sister and brother in law . She surprises everyone, when she expresses her willingness to take her father to her home. But her eyes were fixed on his property only.

## MR HENRY SLATER

Mr Henry Slater is Amelia's husband and the son in law of Mr Abel. A stooping, heavy man, he grows a drooping moustache. He wears a black tailcoat, grey trousers, a black tie and a bowler hat. He is a 'no body' in the house, whose existence has no significance. He has no will of his own, and so he has no voice. He just follows decisions, as he is no decision maker. He is just there to act, as has been instructed by his wife. He just does whatever she asks. He has no choice, either. For a reader, he generates pity. He is not mean or greedy like his wife. He just obeys her and does little respectful things, like getting hold of Grandfather's possessions. He does this, because he is under her domination. He is not even reluctant to wear the slippers of his 'dead' father in law.

## MR BEN JORDAN

Mr Jordan, the husband of Elizabeth, is a man of practical thinking, but a hypocrite in the play 'The Dear Departed'. Usually he is rather a jolly little man, accustomed to be humorous. He has a bright chirpy little voice. The death of the grand father moves him little. He says bluntly that all must die one day. He is not sorrowful or emotional at his death, like the 'dead' man's daughters. At times Mr Jordan behaves like a weakling. He allows his wife to silence him. He has a sharp tongue. He sometimes speaks in the most disgraceful manner. He is blind to what impact his words would have on others. He calls the grand father "The drunken beggar", guessing the old man has not paid the insurance premium. He fears that none in the family would get the benefit of the insurance policy. He sounds logical here. But his language is far from cultured and refined. The reader would think, rightfully, that he does not believe in the importance and necessity of relationships.

## MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. What is the significance of the title "The Dear Departed"?
  - a) It refers to the deceased husband of Mrs. Slater
  - b) It highlights the emotional attachment to the departed
  - c) It symbolizes the inheritance left behind by the deceased
  - d) It denotes the departure of Mr. Abel Merryweather from his family's life
2. How does the theme of materialism manifest in the story?
  - a) Through the characters' obsession with money and possessions
  - b) Through the portrayal of familial love and unity
  - c) Through the conflict between generations
  - d) Through the theme of loss and grief
3. What does the story suggest about the nature of familial relationships?
  - a) They are built on trust and honesty
  - b) They are often strained by financial considerations
  - c) They are resilient and enduring
  - d) They are easily broken by greed and selfishness

## SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

- Q. 1. What are the three things that grandfather plans to do next Monday ?



Q. 2. Why did the two sisters fight with each other ?

Q. 3. Why was black the dress code for the day ?

#### EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Q. 1. "It didn't take you long to start dividing my things between you."

(a) Who speaks these words and to whom ?

(b) Mention any two things being referred to here ?

(c) Victoria too had an earlier comment in this regard. What was that ?

Q. 2. "He's done it on purpose, just to annoy us".

(a) Who has been accused here?

(b) What has he done to annoy the others ?

(c) Who makes this allegation?

Q.3. Ben: You should have gone for another. Eh. Eliza?

Mrs. Jordan: Oh, yes. It's a fatal mistake.

(i) What does 'another' refer to?

(ii) What light does this dialogue reflect on Ben and Elizabeth?

(iii) Why did Mrs. Jordan call it "a fatal mistake"?

#### LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. You are Abel Merryweather. Express your feelings after you wake up and come to know about your daughters' true nature and real intentions, in the form of a letter to your friend.

2. How is hypocrisy of the two sisters brought out in the play, 'The Dear Departed' ?

3. The play 'The Dear Departed' conveys a social message. Comment.

#### VALUE BASED QUESTIONS

1. You are pained to see the rising number of old age homes. In the light of the play, 'The Dear Departed' you decide to write a letter to the editor of a national daily voicing your concern, highlighting the values required in the younger generation to care for the elderly.

2. The grandfather had been living with his daughters turn by turn. What he needed was only love and care, but what he received was neglect and loneliness. Keeping this in view, write an article on 'Lust is grabbing, Love is giving'

#### ANSWER KEY

#### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. d) It denotes the departure of Mr. Abel Merryweather from his family's life

2. a) Through the characters' obsession with money and possessions

3. d) They are easily broken by greed and selfishness

#### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

Q. 1. Grandfather plans to consult a lawyer and alter his will in favour of Mrs. John Shorrocks. Secondly he decides to marry her. Thirdly he has to pay his insurance premium which he knows is due.

Q. 2. Grandfather declared that he would leave all his money and things to the person he would be living with when he died. This led to a noisy argument between the daughters. Both of them were equally keen to get his money and things. Hence each wanted him to stay with them.

Q. 3. Amelia was of the impression and conclusion that Abel Merryweather, her father had passed away. So, the family decided to mourn his death. Black is the colour of clothes people wear to show sadness at somebody's death.

#### EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

Q. 1.

(a) These words are spoken by Abel Merryweather to his family members, especially to his two daughters Amelia and Elizabeth.

(b) The bureau, clock, (slippers), etc.

(c) She had remarked, 'Are we pinching it before Aunt Elizabeth comes?'

Q. 2.(a) Grandfather – Abel Merryweather.

(b) He had not paid the insurance premium – instead had gone to a public house. No one would be benefited as it was over due. (c) Mrs Jordan.

Q.3.(i) The word 'Another' refers to another doctor who could have attended to Mr. Abel to certify his 'death'.

(ii) It is an opportunity for them to blame Amelia and her husband for negligence. It also reflects a hypocritical and exaggerated concern of Ben for the 'dead' father.

(iii) In her observation, if any other doctor was called in, perhaps the 'death' could have been avoided. It was therefore a fatal mistake due to sheer negligence.

#### LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

3 March, Thursday 10 p.m.

Dear John

It would greatly relieve me, if I tell you everything. One day I woke up to find my children fighting for my property. They thought I was dead and gone. My sons-in-law were discussing the division of my belongings. For them I had been a nuisance and burden, I realised. They were so mean and merciless, including my own daughters. I saw them what they were truly made of. I came to the greatest shock of my life. They had only just been tolerating me all these years. They all wore black mourning dress. But, who was pained at my 'death'? None! All of them were greedy, insensitive, rude and what not, except my Victoria, my granddaughter.

So, my friend, I have decided to leave my children, who have no affection for me. There is someone, who needs me and loves me. Mrs. Shorrocks. I am going to marry her.

Regards Abel

Q. 2. The two sisters Amelia and Elizabeth lived by double standards. Having lost self respect, they would stoop to any level. Each of them tried to outsmart the other, by taking hold of the belongings of their

father. All the time , their father was lying 'dead' and cold, they had no genuine feelings for him. They were busy fighting for his things. Amelia tried to steal his bureau before Elizabeth's arrival , whereas she was late in reaching because she wanted to out shine Amelia by wearing a full set of mourning dress. Amelia wanted to steal his clock whereas Elizabeth wanted grandfather's watch. Even before confirming his death, they discussed as to what should be the words in the news paper announcement. This is hypocrisy at its peak and ingratitude at its bottom line.

Q3. 'The Dear Departed' is a drama that discusses the relevance and necessity of human relationship. The message that is projected is, the need to respect the elderly. To be considerate towards their needs and wishes , without any meanness and malice. Human values are depleting in this swift changing society, and materialistic gains are destroying the very essence of gentility. The drama is a criticism on the selfish attitude of people , for whom personal gains alone are the only motto. Relationship is a dead and buried thing. As the story unfolds, we find Mrs. Slater, making a declaration that their father has died. Neither she nor her husband takes the service of a doctor in certifying his death. They soon are found making elaborate preparation for mourning. They wait for the arrival of their sister and her husband. But it becomes evident that it was only a pretentious mourning, as both the sisters want a speedier division of his things between them. We never see anywhere or anytime they feel sad that they have lost their father. The 'dear' father has departed. But for the children, he is barely dear. His assets are only dear to them. But the ray of hope presented in the story is Victoria, Mrs Slater's daughter and the grand daughter. She does not approve the dishonest ways and mean acts of her parents. The writer seems to think that there is hope for the humanity in young children like her.

Q4. It is of no doubt , that Henry and Ben, the husbands of Mrs Slater and Mrs Jordan are men with no individuality. They are just two puppets in the hands of their wives. Whether they agree or disagree, like or dislike, they follow suggestions, instructions and orders of them. They don't even pretend to object or protest. Mrs. Slater asks Henry to wear her 'dead' father's slippers. She cannot leave it go waste. The slippers are unfit and small for Henry. But he does not dare to protest. He wears them even though, they are of smaller size on his feet. He also carries out her order of shifting the bureau from her father's room. They both bring it down, before her sister reaches. He doesn't say even a word against her will. In the same way, Ben too is a man with no personality of his own. Both Henry and Ben are men with no charisma and charm . They live in constant fear of their wives and just repeat what they speak.

Q5. What the two sisters, Amelia and Elizabeth do, cannot be approved by any standard. Driven by jealousy and greed , they shock anybody with their unscrupulous ways and deeds. They have no principles in life. Wealth and luxury have always lured them. Hence they go the extra mile to achieve it, by hook or by crook. Even when their father is 'no more', they fight to grab the lion's share of his things. What is it, other than filial ingratitude ? No mercy, but malice only! Amelia is after the bureau and Elizabeth wants the gold watch. They shed no tears of pain for him. The father, who is not dead, but only heavily drunk, wakes up to the severest truth of his life: that his daughters do not love him and that they love only his assets. Through their spat, the bitter truth comes out. He realises, they need only his belongings. But the truth does not break him. He takes up bold decisions, which in fact break them. Now they persuade him, coax him, but unsuccessfully. The father rejects them out rightly. So does any reader.

VALUE BASED QUESTIONS

1.

The Editor

The Indian Express New Delhi 1100XX

Subject: Rising Number of Old Age Homes in Metropolitan Cities Dear Sir

Through the columns of your esteemed daily I would like to voice my grave concern over the increasing number of old age homes in metropolitan cities. It is reported by many that life in metropolitan cities has left the young with no time to look after the elderly souls of the family. They barely sit or chat or spend time with the elderly. The elderly live a deplorable life of non existence. Loneliness and desolation surround them. They spend their time eagerly waiting for someone to come by. At the same time, the young ones, the sons or daughters are more interested in what they will inherit. Shamelessly they argue and even fight to grab their share. All aim at the lion's share.

How agonising to see, the children hardly bothering to take care of old parents and elders. Money and possessions only matter to them. Money is more important than relationships. They are insensitive. Instead of protecting and caring the aged parents, they push them to old age homes.

Yours faithfully

XYX

2. Lust is grabbing, Love is giving

The world today is changing swiftly. People are becoming money minded and deeply materialistic. They want to grab the property of parents or the elderly members of their family. Winning the love of the aged, is only a wild dream, these days. Respecting the aged is a disgrace, they think. Values are eroding at lightning speed. 'Success' is redefined as being wealthy. Hence, this rat race for money making. The more moneyed, the more successful. Hence this cut throat competition. People go to any extent, to attain their goal. Relationships have no place here. Lust has replaced love. So, the elderly is a burden. But, the young speak in honey coated, extra decorated words to accomplish their targets. Avarice has eaten away their human content. A strong education system supplemented with value education and stringent implementation of laws against domestic violence, could bring about a positive change in the attitude of the new generation.

3.

Thursday

27 April, 2011 9:30 p.m.

I am terribly upset and disappointed today. I was heartbroken to know in the morning that my grandfather was dead. I was shocked and saddened as it was an unexpected news. But more shocking, saddening and humiliating was the behaviour and attitude of my parents, especially my mother. She turned out to be a jealous and greedy lady who was more concerned about the bureau and the clock in grandfather's room rather than him. I had never thought that my parents, uncle, and aunt are so greedy, unfeeling, and inhuman. Today I found each one of them trying to outsmart the other and take possession of more benefits than the other. It was total disbelief for me to spot no tears in their eyes for grandpa. I am shattered by their malicious and merciless attitude. How could they be so cold blooded and cruel? I get no answer. I love my grandfather always and all the time. Thank God, you gave him back to me. He is not

dead. I always look towards him whenever I'm worried or troubled. His wisdom and experience always guide me, like a beacon. My lighthouse. How I wish my parents too realised this.

## **DRAMA 1- JULIUS CAESAR (By WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE)**

### **INTRODUCTION**

'Julius Caesar' is the story of a man's personal dilemma over moral action, set against a backdrop of strained political drama. Julius Caesar, an able general and a conqueror returns to Rome amidst immense popularity after defeating the sons of Pompeii. The people celebrate Caesar's victorious return and Mark Antony offers him the crown which he refuses. Jealous of Caesar's growing power and afraid that he may one day become a dictator, Cassius instigates a conspiracy to murder Caesar. He realizes that to gain legitimacy in the eyes of the Romans, he must win over the noble Brutus to his side, for Brutus was the most trusted and respected in Rome. Brutus, the idealist, joins the conspiracy feeling that everyone is driven by motives as honourable as his own.

### **SUMMARY**

The first scene depicts the argument between Caesar and his wife Calpurnia. Calpurnia tries to stop Caesar from going to the senate as she is apprehensive of some mishap. She explains the bad omens which she saw in her dreams. In response, Caesar claims that a brave man should not be afraid of death because death is the ultimate truth. Calpurnia wants Mark Antony to convey the message that Caesar would not attend the meeting at senate and to give an excuse of Caesar's sickness. Finally, Brutus tries to convince Caesar by giving a different and positive interpretation of the dreams which Calpurnia had. Thus, Brutus is able to take Caesar along with him to the senate.

All the courtiers and members of the senate sing paeans for Caesar. Caesar asks his fellows not to indulge in flattery. The discussion then veers on the banishment of Publius Cimber. Finally, all the men who are with Cassius take out their daggers and stab Caesar to death. When Brutus stabs Caesar, the latter is astonished that even his best friend had turned against him. After the assassination, Cassius wants the message to be conveyed to the people of Rome. He wants them to know that they have successfully ended tyranny and ensured freedom for the people of Rome.

Mark Antony arrives on the scene. Cassius and his men try to convince him by saying that Caesar was murdered for the good of Rome. They also assure Antony his due share in power. Antony seeks permission for taking the body of Caesar so that he can organize a public mourning. It is also agreed that Brutus would speak to the public to convey the message of protection of Rome's liberty as a reason for the assassination of Caesar. After that Antony could take his time to speak whatever he wishes to speak about Caesar.

Brutus is the first one to speak to the people of Rome. He uses this opportunity to state his reasons for killing Caesar. After Brutus, Antony gives a speech to highlight that Caesar was kind to the public and was not ambitious as was claimed by Brutus. By giving many examples; Antony is able to motivate the gathered mass of people. He also reads out the will of Caesar which announces many freebies for the people. People then cremate the body of Caesar and begin the revolt against Cassius and Brutus.

### **CONCLUSION OF THE PLAY:**

The conspirators were alarmed by the tumult caused by Antony's speech. They were forced to flee from Rome and finally, from Italy. At this point, Antony, together with Caesar's adopted son, Octavius, and a wealthy banker, Lepidus, gathers an army to pursue and destroy Caesar's killers.

For months together, they looked for the conspirators and their armies into the far reaches of Asia Minor. When finally they decide to stop at the town of Sardis, Cassius and Brutus were found quarrelling bitterly over finances. However, their differences are resolved, and they plan to face the battle with the forces of Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus. Instead of holding to their well-prepared defensive positions, Brutus

orders an attack on Antony's camp on the plains of Philippi. Just before the battle, Brutus is visited by the ghost of Caesar. The spirit warns him, but Brutus' courage is unshaken and he goes on.

The battle raged. At first, the conspirators seemed to have an upper hand. But in some confusion, Cassius is mistakenly convinced that all is lost, and he kills himself. Now since the leader was lost, the forces were quickly defeated. Brutus finds himself fighting a hopeless battle. Unable to face the prospect of humiliation and shame as a captive, he too commits suicide.

As the play ends, Antony delivers a tribute over Brutus' body, calling him the noblest Roman of them all. So eventually, Caesar's murder had been avenged, order had been restored, and, most important, the Roman Empire had been preserved.

## THEME

The play 'Julius Caesar' deals with people's short memory of the service rendered by great heroes for their country. All that Julius Caesar did for his country was forgotten by the conspirators and he was punished for his 'over-ambition'. The play highlights human weaknesses like hunger for power, over-ambition, jealousy and ingratitude. The play also brings out the mob's fickle-mindedness and irrational approach. On the whole, the play conveys the message that in the field of politics, worldly wisdom, practical approach and psychological insight is a must. Nobody should be taken on the face value. Acting impulsively can be injurious. One needs to keep one's cool during crisis.

## CHARACTER SKETCH

### 1. JULIUS CAESAR

Julius Caesar is a warrior. He thinks that he is above everyone else and an extraordinary man. As a result, he is very arrogant and overconfident and takes very little notice of the people around him. Though he claims to be as constant as the northern star, he is indecisive and easily swayed by others (as in the case of his indecision in going to the Senate). As far as he is concerned, the senators are unimportant and to be spumed out of his way. Common people have a great deal of respect for Caesar and believe that he would be a good and powerful leader who has Rome's welfare at heart. Caesar is also ruthless and craves power. He believes that everybody likes him and that is why he is surprised when the conspirators attack him.

### 2. CALPURNIA

Calpurnia is superstitious. She takes her dream to be an evil omen, which signifies the murder of her husband. She is worried about Caesar's well-being and repeatedly dissuades him from meeting the Senate that day. She tells Caesar "When beggars die, there are no comets seen;

The heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes." She loves Caesar and is afraid for him.

### 3. DECIUS BRUTUS

He shows himself to be a clever manipulator who changes Caesar's mind about going to the Senate. He flatters Caesar by giving a favourable explanation of Calpurnia's dream- "Your statue spouting blood in many pipes, In which so many smiling Romans bathed, Signifies that from you great Rome shall suck Reviving blood, and that great men shall press For tinctures, stains, relics and cognisance. He plays to Caesar's ambition when he says- the senate have concluded to give this day a crown to mighty Caesar. If you shall send them word you will not come, their minds may change. He plays to Caesar's vanity when he says- 'most mighty Caesar,/from you great Rome shall suck Reviving blood.

### 4. CASSIUS

Cassius is very crafty and tactful. He sees through most people and understands what they are truly like. He is also very good at manipulating people. He can see that Mark Antony is not being sincere when talking to Brutus and he can see that Mark Antony does not indeed place his loyalty with the conspirators but is, in fact, determined for revenge. He can also see that Mark Antony does not plan on saying good things about the conspirators at Caesar's funeral. That is why he tries to bribe Antony-"Your voice shall be as strong as any man's/ In the disposing of new dignities." His tragedy lies in the fact that he is in awe of Brutus and allows himself to be overruled by him, despite possessing better judgment.

#### 5. MARK ANTONY

Mark Antony is a great friend of Caesar and thinks very highly of him. He is a very cunning man and he is able to manipulate people. He cares a lot for Caesar and he wants revenge. Although he can hide it, he has a lot of hatred for the conspirators who have killed Caesar. At first he seems so upset with Caesar's assassination that he wishes to die too. However, he decides that avenging his death would be a better way. He is a good judge of character and appeals to Brutus and not Cassius when he pretends friendship with the conspirators. A good orator, he plays upon the emotions of the crowd and ruthlessly sets them on the path of mischief against the conspirators.

#### 6. THE MOB

The mob is being referred to as a 'Hydra-headed multitude' who possess an incapacity to understand logic. Brutus talks to them of liberty and democracy but as he leaves they say "Caesar's better parts/ Shall be crown'd in Brutus. They are not democratic at heart and want a hero to worship-"Let him be Caesar." They are emotional in their approach as they say "Kind souls, what, weep you when you but behold Our Caesar's vesture wounded?" They are also fickle as their opinion of Caesar keeps on changing between suspicion and respect. Initially they say-"This Caesar was a tyrant." Later the same mob says-"If thou consider rightly of the matter, Caesar has had great wrong." They are brutal and barbaric when they say-"We'll bum the house of Brutus. We'll bum his body in the holy place, And with the brands fire the traitors' houses." They are the deciding element of this play as they turn the action around, swing the tide in Antony's favour.

#### 7. BRUTUS

He is simple and straight-forward. He says- "I will myself into the pulpit first, And show the reason of our Caesar's death: What Antony shall speak, I will protest He speaks by leave and by permission. He is honourable in his intentions when he murders Caesar as is reflected in this speech 'Not that I loved Caesar less, but that I loved Rome more.'" He is a poor judge of character and allows Antony to speak at Caesar's funeral without realising that the mob has no brains. He appeals to their logic and as a true democrat he declares that he loves liberty and dignity. Brutus justifies Caesar's murder, saying "As he was ambitious, I slew him."

#### I) MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Brutus was conspired to join the conspiracy because

- a) he was a close friend of Caesar
- b) he was an ideal republican, hence would object to the coronation of Caesar
- c) his inclusion in the conspiracy would justify the assassination of Caesar
- d) all of the above

2. Caesar's assassination at the statue of Pompey was ironic because-

- a) Caesar had defeated Pompey in the war
- b) Pompey was in great support of Caesar
- c) Pompey's sons had been defeated by Caesar in the war

d) None of the above.

#### SHORT ANSWERS QUESTIONS

1Why is Antony 'meek and gentle' with the 'butchers'?

2Why does Cassius caution Brutus against allowing Antony to speak in the funeral of Caesar?

### EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

"Cowards die many times before their deaths The valiant never taste of deaths but once".

1Who is the speaker of the above lines?

2Which characteristic feature of the speaker is revealed in the above line?

3Whom is he speaking to ? Why does he say these words?

4Explain the above lines.

### LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS.

1. What does Antony say in his speech? Why is it more effective than that of Brutus?

1. Caesar's end was tragic. He did a lot for the people of Rome but still he was murdered by his friends.How did they justify his murder?

### VALUE BASED QUESTIONS

1.Loyalty is inherent in friendship. A friend is expected to avenge the hurt caused to his friend. Describe how Antony proves his loyalty to Julius Caesar by bringing the conspirators to justice.

### Answer key

1. b) he was an ideal republican , hence would object to the coronation of Caesar

2. a) Caesar had defeated Pompey in the war

### SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

1.Antony knew he was alone, and the conspirators were so many. But he was clever, he is biding for time. Outwardly, he appears 'meek' and 'gentle' but inside he is outrageous, wants a revenge anyhow.

2.Cassius was very well aware of Antony's skills as an orator. He also knew Antony was very clever and was capable of turning the tables against them. He fears he might incite the people against them. His fears turn out to be true.

### EXTRACT BASED QUESTIONS

(i) Julius Caesar is the speaker of the above lines.

ii)Julius Caesar is brave and fearless.

iii)He is speaking to Calpurnia. He says it in response to Calpurnia's horrible dream and bad omens.

iv)Caesar says that cowards die many times by worrying about death. But the brave dies only once.

### LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1.After making peace with the conspirators and getting their permission, Antony speaks directly to the Roman mob. He pretends that he has not come to praise Caesar and speak against Brutus and the others. However, he does just the opposite. He starts narrating the conquests, glories and trophies that Caesar brought to Rome. He brought many captives, received ransoms and tributes. He wept for the poor and for their cause.In his will, he left his private garden and parks for their use. They were his heirs. Caesar was not at all ambitious as he turned down the crown offered to him thrice. He conclusively proved thatBrutus and the other conspirators were liars and murderers. He succeeded in arousing the mob's sympathy for Caesar and directing their anger against the conspirators.

2.A number of powerful and influential people were jealous of Caesar's growing power and popularity. They all decided to finish him off. They had their personal grudges and jealousies. Being the scheming kind, they were not respected by the people. They hatch a plot to kill Caesar.To give credence to their act and to justify themselves, they poisoned the mind of Brutus, the noble and most trusted and respected man in Rome. They made him believe, Caesar was ambitious and in the interest of Rome, he should be finished. Brutus, who loved Rome more than anything else, agreed and joined the conspirators. Caesar was murdered by his own friends.



## VALUE BASED QUESTIONS

1. Caesar was a victim of a conspiracy. Mark Antony a very close friend and confidant, a true patriot in his own right, was shocked and grieved when he got to know about the brutal crime. Delivering a very eloquent funeral speech, he proves to the Romans that the charges levied against Caesar by the conspirators were wrong. He incited, enraged and instigated the fellow Romans to revolt against the conspirators. Violence and civil war follows and the conspirators were killed. As for Brutus and Cassius, faced with bitter disillusionment, they commit suicide. Thus Caesar's death was avenged by Antony. He proves that loyalty is inherent in friendship, and that as a true friend it was his moral responsibility to bring the conspirators to justice.

## KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN PATNA REGION

### SAMPLE PAPER FOR SESSION 2024-25

**SUBJECT: ENGLISH**

**TIME**

**3:15 HRS**

### SECTION A : READING SKILLS (20 marks)

#### Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

#### 1. Read the following text. 10 m

(1) As a high school student, studying poetry can be a rollercoaster ride. This journey is punctuated by moments of profound appreciation for simpler pieces and intermittent frustration with more complex works. Let's be real here - some poems are just plain confusing and no amount of re-reading seems to help decipher the intended meaning. The puzzlement that results from such instances can be both vexing and demotivating. If solving a riddle is what was intended, then playing Sudoku is a better option. One is led to ponder if obscurity was the goal.

(2) Conversely, some pieces resonate with the reader's soul. stirring feelings of warmth, happiness, and connection to the world. Often, these compositions centre on themes that are universally understood, such as love, nature, or faith. Being able to actually understand what the poet is trying to say can feel like a little victory and is a welcome relief after grappling with more perplexing poetry. (3) Then there are poems that are emotionally charged; the ones that make the reader curl up in a ball and cry or jump up and down with joy. One is left in awe of the poet's ability to convey emotion through words. Let's not forget the downright weird poems. These are the ones that defy categorization and leave the reader to their own devices in attempting to interpret meaning. The author's use of figurative language and unconventional imagery can create a sense of bewilderment that is either intriguing or off-putting. Regardless, the reader can appreciate the uniqueness of the work.

(4) Despite the wide range of emotions and reactions that come with studying poetry, it can be a rewarding pursuit. Not only does reading poetry allow one to appreciate the artistic beauty of the written word but also enables one to develop crucial critical thinking and analytical skills. The process of unlocking a poem's meaning can feel like cracking a code or solving a puzzle but the sense of accomplishment derived from mastering a challenging piece can be deeply gratifying. Finally, impressing an English teacher with a well-analysed poem can be a source of pride and validation.

(5) Overall, studying poetry is like a box of mixed chocolates, you never know what you're going to get. But whether it's complex, emotional, simple, or just downright weird, there's always something to be

gained from the experience. So, let's applaud all the poets out there, for making us laugh, cry, scratch our heads, and occasionally feel like a genius

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

(i) .Which of the following statements best describes the author's attitude towards studying poetry?  
**1**

- a) Finds poetry to be a frustrating and meaningless endeavour.
- b) Believes that the emotional rollercoaster of studying poetry is not worth the effort.
- c) Recognizes the challenges of studying poetry but also acknowledges the rewards it offers.
- d) Feels that poetry is too obscure and abstract for the average person to appreciate.

(ii).What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph (1)? Rationalise your response in about 40 words. **2**

*If solving a riddle what was intended, then playing Sudoku is a better option. One is led to ponder if obscurity was the goal.*

(iii).Complete the sentence appropriately. The author's use of vivid imagery in the paragraph (3), such as "curl up in a ball and cry" and "jump up and down with joy", greatly affects the reader because \_\_\_\_\_ . **1**

(iv).The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (a)-(e) below, identify two sets of antonyms:  
**1**

- a) intriguing and off-putting
- b) deciphering and interpreting
- c) appreciate and applaud
- d) simple and challenging
- e) emotions and feelings

(v). Complete the sentence appropriately. We can say that the author's tone becomes more neutral and objective when discussing weird poems, compared to other types of poetry because \_\_\_\_\_ . **1**

(vi). Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, how studying poetry can be like exploring a new city.

(vii). What is the message conveyed by Hina's experience, in the following case? Hina spends hours trying to analyse a poem for her assignment and finally feels a sense of accomplishment and pride, once she understands.

**KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA SANGATHAN PATNA REGION**

**SAMPLE PAPER FOR SESSION 2024-25**

**Sample Question Paper**

**Communicative English (101)**

**2024-25**

**Class - X**

**Time allowed: 3 Hrs.**

**Max. Marks 80**

**Details and instructions**

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains FOUR sections-READING SKILLS, WRITING SKILLS, GRAMMAR and LITERATURE TEXTBOOK
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

## SECTION A : READING SKILLS (22 marks)

### I. Read the following Passage.

12 marks

Ananya was a student at a diverse university where students from all over the country came to study. She was fascinated by the different cultures, languages, and traditions she encountered daily. The university was hosting a week-long festival celebrating national integration, and Ananya decided to volunteer.

Throughout the week, Ananya participated in various events showcasing the rich cultural heritage of different states. She learned traditional dances, tried regional cuisines, and listened to folk tales that were passed down through generations. Each evening, there was a cultural performance that brought together elements from different parts of India, symbolizing unity in diversity.

One evening, Ananya was assigned to help with the preparations for a performance that included a mix of classical dances from Bharatanatyam to Kathakali. As she watched the rehearsals, she marveled at how each dance form, though unique, complemented the others beautifully. It was a testament to how diverse cultures could come together to create something harmonious and beautiful.

However, not everything went smoothly. On the day of the final performance, there was a misunderstanding between two groups about the sequence of events. The participants from the northern and southern states had different ideas about how the performance should proceed. Tensions were high, and it seemed like the performance might be cancelled.

Ananya stepped in to mediate. She listened to both sides and suggested a compromise that would honor both traditions. She proposed merging elements from both groups, creating a new sequence that highlighted the strengths of each. The participants were initially hesitant, but Ananya's passion for unity convinced them to give it a try.

The final performance was a resounding success. The audience was captivated by the seamless blend of cultural expressions. Ananya received praise for her efforts in bringing everyone together. She realized that national integration was not just about celebrating differences but also about finding common ground and working together to overcome challenges.

Ananya learned an important lesson that week. True national integration required empathy, understanding, and collaboration. It was about building bridges and creating connections that went beyond superficial differences. As the festival ended, she felt a deep sense of pride in her country and its people, knowing that they could achieve great things together.

### Answer the following questions based on the passage above.

- i. How does the setting contribute to the overall mood and atmosphere of the story? 1
  - A. It creates a sense of nostalgia.
  - B. It provides a sense of false security.
  - C. It adds to the suspense in the story.
  - D. It presents a sense of unity and diversity.
  
- ii. List two ways the misunderstanding between the groups is analogous to conflicts in the real world. Answer in 30-40 words. 2
  
- iii. What is the main flaw in the approach of the participants from the northern and southern states? 1
  - A. They were too focused on their own traditions.
  - B. They were too skeptical of each other's ideas.

- C. They relied too heavily on the sequence of events.
- D. They didn't take enough precautions to ensure their performance.

iv. After which paragraph of the story would the following paragraph most likely be placed? 1

They commenced rehearsing the new sequence, each group bringing their unique flair. Ananya watched with bated breath, hoping her compromise would work. As the music started, the dancers moved in perfect harmony, creating a mesmerizing display.

v. Briefly explain (in 30-40 words) any two elements that classify the story as one about national integration. 2

vi. Substitute the underlined word in the following sentence with a word/phrase from paragraphs 5-7 that means the same. 1

The misunderstanding between the groups caused significant tension and it almost resulted in the cancellation of the event.

vii. What is the most significant lesson that Ananya learns from her experience during the festival? 1

- A. The importance of avoiding risk-taking.
- B. The need to be more skeptical of different cultures.
- C. The value of evaluating your weaknesses.
- D. The power of empathy and collaboration in achieving unity.

viii. Complete the following appropriately. 1  
 - Based on the use of the word "diverse" to describe the university, in Paragraph 1, we can infer that its student population was \_\_\_\_\_.

ix. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 If the title, "The Cultural Performance" is given to this passage, it would be an inappropriate title, as compared to "The Festival of Unity" because \_\_\_\_\_.

x. State whether the given assertion is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
 The reason Ananya volunteered for the festival was to promote national integration.

**2. Read the following table displaying the details of five ground breaking scientific experiments. 10 marks**

This passage presents a comprehensive overview of five significant scientific experiments that have profoundly impacted various fields of science. Each experiment is detailed with the scientist(s) involved, the year conducted, field of study, major findings, the impact on science, and challenges faced.

Experiment Name	Scientist(s) Involved	Year Conducted	Field of Study	Major Findings	Impact on Science	Challenges Faced
Double-Slit Experiment	Thomas Young	1801	Physics	Demonstrated the wave nature of light	Led to the development of quantum mechanics	Initial skepticism and lack of technology
Miller-Urey Experiment	Stanley Miller, Harold Urey	1952	Chemistry, Biochemistry	Simulated early Earth conditions, created amino acids	Advanced understanding of the origin of life	Criticism from creationist groups
Mendel's Pea Plant Experiments	Gregor Mendel	1856-1863	Genetics	Established basic principles of heredity	Foundation of modern genetics	Lack of recognition during Mendel's lifetime

Pavlov's Dogs	Ivan Pavlov	1890s	Psychology, Physiology	Demonstrated classical conditioning	Major influence on behaviourist theories in psychology	Ethical concerns regarding animal experiments
CRISPR-Cas9	Jennifer Doudna, Emmanuelle Charpentier	2012	Molecular Biology	Developed a precise gene-editing tool	Revolutionized genetic engineering	Ethical debates on gene editing

**Answer the following questions, based on the table above.**

- i. Identify the experiment that provided key insights into the nature of light and support your choice with one reason. 1
- ii. Which experiment is most likely to have faced ethical concerns regarding the use of animals? 1  
 A. Double-Slit Experiment  
 B. Miller-Urey Experiment  
 C. Pavlov's Dogs  
 D. CRISPR-Cas9
- iii. Give two justifications for the CRISPR-Cas9 experiment being considered revolutionary in the field of genetic engineering. 2
- iv. Select the correct option to fill the blank and complete the analogy. 1  
 Pavlov : Psychology :: Miller-Urey : \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. Physics B. Chemistry C. Genetics D. Molecular Biology
- v. Based on the major findings of the experiments, why is Mendel's Pea Plant Experiments considered the foundation of modern genetics? 1
- vi. Complete the given sentence with the appropriate reason, with reference to the information in the table. 1  
 We can infer that the Double-Slit Experiment faced initial skepticism because \_\_\_\_\_.
- vii. Explain briefly why situation (c), from the three situations given below, showcases the impact of CRISPR-Cas9. 2  
 (a) A scientist uses CRISPR-Cas9 to create a genetically modified organism.  
 (b) A researcher explains the ethical concerns of gene editing at a conference.  
 (c) A doctor uses CRISPR-Cas9 to develop a treatment for a genetic disorder.
- viii. State whether the given assertion is TRUE or FALSE. 1  
 Assertion: Mendel's work was recognized and celebrated during his lifetime.

**SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS (22 marks)**

3. As the School Head Boy, write an email, in about 50 words, to the Principal, requesting the organization of a vocational education workshop on coding and robotics for interested students. Include a reason why this workshop is beneficial for students' future careers. You may copy the given template to write your email.

From:	
To:	

Cc:	
Date:	
Subject:	

4. Write a factual description, in not more than 100 words, of a travel kit that you and your sibling recently prepared for a family vacation. Include the essential items and their uses. 4

5. (a) Write a letter to the hospital administrator, City Hospital, in not more than 120 words, requesting the inclusion of a mental health support group for patients and their families. You are a concerned citizen from the same city. You may use ideas from your knowledge of mental health support and your own ideas to write this letter. 7

**OR**

(b) You are an environmental activist. Write a letter to the Mayor of your city, drawing attention to the need for increasing green spaces and following sustainable practices to combat urban pollution. Include specific recommendations. Write the letter in not more than 120 words using ideas from Unit 3: Environment, along with your own ideas.

6. (a) India represents a harmonious oneness in spite of distinctions. Taking ideas from the unit 'National Integration' and using the given cues along with your own ideas, write an article in 150 words for your school magazine on "The Importance of Diversified Culture". 8

\*\*India- a land embracing many cultures

\*\*India- festivals dedicated to seasons and harvests

\*\*India- multitude of castes, creed, colour convictions culture, cuisines, costumes and customs

\*\*India-national festivals-pride, sense of patriotism- promote national integration

**OR**

(b) You are Praveen/ Prerna, Secretary, Eco-club of Bharati School, Lucknow. Write an article on the hazards of environment pollution for the school magazine in 10 words. You may take the help of the following cues:

\*\* Why is Environment important?

\*\* Causes of Environmental Pollution.

\*\* Harms/Effects of Environmental Pollution.

\*\* How can it be controlled?

### SECTION C: GRAMMAR (10 marks)

**7. Complete the tasks A-C as directed.**

(A) Fill in the blanks (i)-(iii) with the appropriate option from those in the brackets. 3

Even though trespassing the woods (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (are/is/was/ were) illegal and poaching (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (carry/carried/carries/ will carry) the severest of penalties, more people (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (would/will/must/should) risk it if they had weapons.

(B) In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. In your answer sheets, remember to write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it, as shown below. The first one has been done as an example. 4

Text	Before	Missing	After
<b>Every year, many people visit temple</b>	<b>e.g. visit</b>	<b>the</b>	<b>temple</b>
town of Kanchipuram Tamil Nadu	(a) .....	.....	.....
Pilgrims have going there in	(b) .....	.....	.....
large numbers many centuries	(c) .....	.....	.....
because they want see the splendid	(d) .....	.....	.....
architecture of the temples.			

(C) Do as directed.

Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence.

1

**Dialogue:**

Did you hear about the new policy implemented by the government?

No, what is it about?

**Jumbled Words/Phrases:**

TO / IT / PUBLIC / BETTER / TRANSPORT / IMPROVE / AIMS / SYSTEMS /

(D) Complete the paragraph that follows by reporting the dialogues.

2

Dialogue:

Reporter: Can you tell us how the fire started?

Witness: I saw a man with a cigarette near the dry grass.

Reporter: Did you inform the authorities immediately?

Witness: Yes, I called the fire department right away.

Complete the paragraph:

The reporter asked the witness how the fire started. The witness replied that (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ . The reporter then asked (iii) \_\_\_\_\_. The witness confirmed and added that he had called the fire department right away.

**SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 marks)**

8. Read the given excerpts and answer the questions briefly , for **ANY TWO** excerpts, of the three given. (4+4=8)

(A) “How you shot the goat and frightened the tiger to death”, said Miss Mebbin, with her disagreeably pleasant laugh.

(a) In the above statement, Miss Mebbin is making fun of Mrs. Packletide. Why ?

(b) What characteristic of Miss Mebbin is highlighted in the above extract ?

(c) How did the tiger die ?

(d) How does Miss Mebbin’s reaction contribute to the overall tone of the passage?

(B) “Cowards die many times before their deaths,

The valiant never taste of death but once.”

(a) What does ‘Cowards die many times before their deaths’ mean?

(b) What does ‘The valiant never taste of death but once’ mean?

(c) Which trait of the speaker’s character is revealed in these lines ?

(d) Name the speaker,

(C) “ At length did cross an Albatross,

Through the fog it came;

As if it had been a Christian soul,

We hailed it in God’s name.”

(a) Explain : ‘At length did cross an Albatross’.

(b) What favourable change did it bring?

(c) Why was the albatross hailed as a Christian soul?

(d) Identify the rhyme scheme.

9. Answer **Any Five** of the following questions in 30-40 words each: (5x2=10)

(a) Will power and determination bring success against all odds. Comment with reference to ‘Virtually True’.

- (b) How can you say that Ali was an embodiment of love and patience?
- (c) What message is conveyed through the poem Ozymandias?
- (d) Bring out the irony in the title of the play, 'The Dear Departed'.
- (e) Why did Naresh Kumar call Patol Babu 'a strange fellow'?
- (f) What does the partially destroyed statue of Ozymandias symbolise?

10. Answer **Any One** of the following two questions in about 150 words.

8

Lack of trust shakes the very foundation of human relationships. How does Lavinia's suspicious nature threaten to wreck their marriage?

**OR**

Compare and contrast the characters of Brutus and Mark Antony.

---

**Marking Scheme**  
**Sample Question Paper**  
**Class X Communicative English (101)**

**SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 Marks)**

**1. Passage (12 marks)**

- i. Setting and Mood (1 mark)
  - D. It presents a sense of unity and diversity.
- ii. Real-world Conflicts Analogy (2 marks)
  - Conflicts arise from misunderstandings due to cultural differences.
  - Compromises and collaboration are necessary to resolve differences and achieve harmony.
- iii. Main Flaw in Participants' Approach (1 mark)
  - A. They were too focused on their own traditions.
- iv. Paragraph Placement (1 mark)
  - After Paragraph 5: Just before the final performance.
- v. Elements of National Integration (2 marks)
  - Celebration of cultural diversity.
  - Collaboration to overcome conflicts.
- vi. Synonym for Tension (1 mark)
  - Significant tension: Misunderstanding
- vii. Significant Lesson Learned (1 mark)
  - D. The power of empathy and collaboration in achieving unity.
- viii. Inference from "Diverse" (1 mark)
  - the student population was varied and multicultural.
- ix. Title Appropriateness (1 mark)
  - "The Festival of Unity" is more appropriate as it reflects the theme of national integration.
- x. Assertion True or False (1 mark)
  - TRUE

**Passage 2 (10 marks)**

- i. Nature of Light Experiment (1 mark)
  - Double-Slit Experiment: Demonstrated the wave nature of light.
- ii. Ethical Concerns Experiment (1 mark)
  - C. Pavlov's Dogs
- iii. CRISPR-Cas9 Justifications (2 marks)



- Precise gene-editing tool.
  - Revolutionized genetic engineering and medical treatments.
- iv. Analogy Completion (1 mark)
- B. Chemistry
- v. Mendel's Experiment Importance (1 marks)
- Established basic principles of heredity, forming the foundation of modern genetics.
- vi. Inference on Double-Slit Experiment (1 mark)
- Initial skepticism: due to the lack of advanced technology.
- vii. Impact of CRISPR-Cas9 (2 marks)
- Developing treatment for a genetic disorder showcases its revolutionary impact.
- viii. Assertion True or False (1 mark)
- FALSE

### **SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS (22 Marks)**

#### **3. Email Writing (3 marks)**

Content - 1 ,Organisation – 1, Accuracy -1(Total- 3)

##### **Suggested Response:**

From: headboy@school.com  
To: principal@school.com  
Cc:  
Date: 26th July 2024  
Subject: Request for Workshop on Coding and Robotics

Dear Sir

I am writing to request the organization of a vocational education workshop on coding and robotics. This workshop will be highly beneficial for students, equipping them with essential skills for future careers in technology.

Thank you,  
[Your Name]

#### **4. Factual Description (4 marks)**

Content - 2 ,Organisation – 1, Accuracy -1(Total – 4)

##### **Suggested Response:**

My sibling and I prepared a travel kit for our family vacation, including essential items such as toiletries, a first aid kit, and travel documents. We packed a toothbrush, toothpaste, and shampoo for hygiene, band-aids, antiseptic cream, and pain relievers for emergencies, and passports, tickets, and itineraries for smooth travel. Additionally, we included snacks and a reusable water bottle for refreshments on the go, and a power bank to keep our devices charged. This well-organized kit ensured we were prepared for any situation during our trip.

#### **5. Letter Writing (7 marks)**

Format -1,Content -3, Organisation -2, Accuracy -1 (Total – 7)

##### **Suggested Response:**

(a) Your Address]  
[City, State, ZIP Code]

[Date]

The Hospital Administrator  
City Hospital  
[Hospital Address]

Dear Sir/Madam,

Subject: Request for Inclusion of Mental Health Support Group

I am writing to request the inclusion of a mental health support group at City Hospital. Mental health is a critical aspect of overall well-being and deserves dedicated attention.

A support group would offer a safe space for patients and their families to share experiences, receive guidance, and provide mutual support. This can significantly enhance the recovery process and improve the quality of life for those affected by mental health issues.

I believe this initiative will benefit many in our community. Thank you for considering this important request.

Sincerely,  
[Your Name]

**OR**

(b) [Your Address]  
[City, State, ZIP Code]

[Date]

The Mayor  
[City]  
[City Hall Address]

Dear Mayor [Name],

Subject: Need for Increasing Green Spaces and Sustainable Practices

I am writing to highlight the urgent need to increase green spaces and adopt sustainable practices in our city. Urban pollution is a growing concern that requires immediate attention.

Increasing green spaces by developing more parks, planting trees along streets, and promoting rooftop gardens can significantly improve air quality and reduce urban heat islands. Additionally, encouraging the use of public transport, implementing waste recycling programs, and supporting renewable energy sources will help combat pollution.

I urge you to consider these recommendations to create a healthier environment for our city. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,  
[Your Name]

### **6. Article Writing (8 marks)**

Format -1, Content -3, Organisation -3, Accuracy -1 (Total – 8)

#### **Suggested Response:**

(a)

#### The Importance of Diversified Culture

By [Your Name]

India, known for its rich tapestry of diversified culture, represents harmonious oneness despite its distinctions. The country embraces numerous cultures, each contributing to the nation's vibrant identity. Festivals dedicated to seasons and harvests, such as Diwali, Holi, and Pongal, showcase India's cultural wealth. The multitude of castes, creeds, colours, convictions, cultures, cuisines, costumes, and customs

enriches the nation's social fabric. National festivals like Independence Day and Republic Day foster a sense of pride and patriotism, promoting national integration.

This cultural diversity strengthens India's unity, demonstrating that differences can coexist peacefully and enhance the collective spirit of the nation. Embracing diversity is crucial for fostering understanding, tolerance, and mutual respect among citizens.

**(b) The Hazards of Environmental Pollution**

By Praveen/Prerna, Secretary, Eco-club of Bharati School, Lucknow

Environmental pollution poses a severe threat to the planet, impacting both human health and ecosystems. The environment is crucial for providing clean air, water, and food, essential for survival.

Pollution, caused by industrial emissions, vehicle exhaust, deforestation, and waste disposal, contaminates air, water, and soil. This leads to respiratory diseases, waterborne illnesses, and loss of biodiversity. The harmful effects extend to climate change, resulting in extreme weather events and rising sea levels.

To combat pollution, it is vital to adopt sustainable practices such as reducing emissions, promoting public transportation, recycling waste, and planting trees. Governments, industries, and individuals must collaborate to protect and preserve the environment for future generations.

**SECTION C: GRAMMAR (10 Marks)**

7. (A) Fill in the blanks (3 marks)

- (a) is, (b) carries, (c) would

(B) Omission Task (4 marks)

(a) Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu

(b) Pilgrims have been going

(c) numbers for many centuries

(d) want to see

(C) Jumbled Words(1 mark)

IT AIMS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

(D) Reported Speech (2 marks)

The witness replied that he had seen a man with a cigarette near the dry grass.

The reporter then asked if he had informed the authorities immediately.

**SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 Marks)**

8. **Suggested Response:**

(A) (a) Miss Mebbin is making fun of Mrs. Packletide because she is aware that Mrs. Packletide did not actually kill the tiger, instead, the tiger died of a heart attack due to the loud sound of the gunshot intended for the goat.

(b) Miss Mebbin's characteristic of being sarcastic and unsympathetic is highlighted. She enjoys pointing out Mrs. Packletide's failure and takes pleasure in mocking her.

(c) The tiger died of a heart attack caused by the loud sound of the gunshot intended to kill a goat.

(d) Miss Mebbin's reaction adds a tone of irony and humor to the passage by emphasizing the absurdity of the situation and Mrs. Packletide's failure.

(B) (a) This means that cowards suffer the fear of death repeatedly throughout their lives, as they are constantly anxious about the possibility of dying.

(b) This means that brave people only face death once, as they do not let the fear of dying dominate their lives. They confront challenges head-on without fear.

(c) The trait of courage and bravery is revealed in the speaker's character. The speaker shows a fearless attitude towards death and challenges.

(d) The speaker is Julius Caesar.

(C) (a) This means that after a long time, an albatross appeared through the thick fog, bringing hope to the sailors.

(b) The arrival of the albatross brought good fortune, as it led the ship out of the fog and harsh weather, symbolizing hope and salvation.

(c) The albatross was hailed as a Christian soul because it was seen as a good omen, a messenger from God bringing relief and guidance to the sailors.

(d) The rhyme scheme of the stanza is ABAB.

**9. Suggested Response: (To be marked for content and organisation, upto 1 mark to be deducted for accuracy)**

- (a) In 'Virtually True,' Michael's will power and determination to save Sebastian Shultz from the virtual world demonstrate that perseverance and a strong will can help overcome challenges and achieve success, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.
- (b) Ali's consistent visits to the post office for five years, waiting for a letter from his daughter, despite being ridiculed, exemplify his deep love and patience. His unwavering hope and dedication highlight his loving nature.
- (c) The poem 'Ozymandias' conveys the message that human achievements, power, and pride are temporary. No matter how grand, all human endeavors eventually fade away, and nature and time will always prevail.
- (d) The irony in the title 'The Dear Departed' lies in the fact that the family members, instead of mourning the supposedly deceased grandfather, are more concerned about inheriting his possessions. It highlights their greed and lack of genuine affection.
- (e) Naresh Kumar called Patol Babu 'a strange fellow' because, unlike others, Patol Babu took his small role in the film very seriously and performed it with great dedication and professionalism, surprising Naresh Kumar.
- (f) The partially destroyed statue of Ozymandias symbolizes the inevitable decline of all human achievements and the transient nature of power and glory. It serves as a reminder of the impermanence of human endeavours.

**10. Suggested Response: (Content-4,organisation-3 & accuracy-1)**

(a) Lavinia's suspicious nature is depicted through her doubts about her husband, John. Her lack of trust creates tension and misunderstandings in their relationship. Lavinia's unfounded suspicions about John's fidelity and her belief that he is hiding something from her lead to conflicts and strain in their marriage. Her distrust is further exacerbated when she discovers the Ouija board and suspects John of using it to communicate with another woman. Lavinia's constant mistrust and accusations make John feel undervalued and frustrated, which threatens the stability and happiness of their marriage. Trust is fundamental in any relationship, and Lavinia's inability to trust John undermines the foundation of their marriage, showing how suspicion and lack of trust can erode the bond between partners and lead to potential breakdowns in relationships.

**OR**

(b) Brutus and Mark Antony are two pivotal characters in Shakespeare's play, 'Julius Caesar'. Brutus is portrayed as an honorable and patriotic Roman who values the Republic above all. His decision to join the conspirators in assassinating Caesar is driven by his fear that Caesar's ambition would endanger the freedom of Rome. Brutus is idealistic and naively believes that the assassination is for the greater good. In contrast, Mark Antony is a loyal friend of Caesar, depicted as shrewd and politically astute. After Caesar's death, Antony skillfully manipulates public sentiment through his famous speech, turning the crowd against the conspirators. While Brutus acts out of a sense of duty and honor, Antony acts out of loyalty and revenge, using rhetoric and emotional appeal to achieve his goals. While Brutus is portrayed as noble but politically naive, Antony is shown as a pragmatic and cunning leader. Their contrasting qualities highlight the complexity of political power and the diverse motivations that drive individuals in positions of influence.

## **TIPS TO SCORE BETTER MARKS IN ENGLISH**

With top-notch preparation, it is also essential how you pen down your knowledge. No matter how many hours you have studied or how brilliant your preparation is, if your writing skills are not up to the mark all your efforts will be in vain.

**To get good marks, writing excellent answers is also necessary.**

To help you attempt the questions in the best possible way we have prepared a list of points that you can follow to write your best in the exams:

### **Use the 15 minutes discreetly**

The students are provided with 15 minutes time to read their question paper, use this given time discreetly. You can draft a writing plan in your mind while going through the question. And hence the students are recommended to make efficient use of this time.

### **Set priorities**

While reading the question paper set priorities about which questions you want to answer first. Leave the questions that you don't know the answer to for last. This will give you enough time to give a thought to the questions which are a bit blur in your mind.

### **Choose the right questions**

In the board exam some questions come with internal choices and students end up choosing the wrong one. Think in mind how you would have written each answer and according to that choose the appropriate question. So, choose the questions wisely, without any haste.

### **Attempt all the questions**

If you don't know the answer to a particular question leave it for later but do attempt in the end. Even if you have only slight information about such questions do write them down. Go through that question again and try to understand what that question demands and considering that answer the questions. Adding good points to such answers can gain you at least some marks even if your answer is not fully correct.

### **Presentable answers**

While answering the questions make sure to write in points. Draw proper margins, use a black pen to write the heading and subheads, and for the rest of the answer use a blue pen. A well-managed answer sheet will not only make it easy for the examiner to check the answer sheet but they will also be impressed. A presentable answer sheet will make it easy for you to score well in the CBSE board exam. But do note that you do not get confused between presentable and decorative. Some students use colourful pens to beautify their mark sheets but this only makes them look flashy.

So, it is suggested to the students to not make use of any other coloured pens other than black and blue.

### **Create a mental picture of the answers**

While reading the question create a mental picture of how you will write it. While writing the answer try to keep the limit of words set. Your answers should neither be too long nor too short. Follow the instruction given on the question paper for the word limit.

### **Check your answers**

After you have completed your exams question paper, revise each and every question again and check that you have filled all the formalities correctly. Then look at the answer number, writing the wrong answer number can snatch away your marks even after writing an excellent answer.

-----THE END-----