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Roll No: 15.

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Pre-Board: 2023-24

Class X

Subject – English Language and Literature (Code – 184)

Date: 06/12/2023

MM: 80

Time: 3 hours

General Instructions:

- This paper consists of three sections -
Section A (Reading): 20 marks
Section B (Writing Skills and Grammar): (10+10) 20 marks
Section C (Literature): 40 marks
- All questions are compulsory. Attempt all questions of a section together.
- Internal choices have been provided in some questions.
- This paper consists of **10** pages and **11** questions.
- Write neatly.

SECTION A – READING SKILLS

Q1. Read the given passage carefully.

(10 marks)

1. It was a winter evening. A worried mother stood shivering by the road, wearing an over-sized, old coat. With her was a little girl, thin, sick-looking with a shaven head. The child had a cardboard placard in her hand which said, 'I am suffering from cancer. Please help me.' The mother was carrying a begging bowl. Whenever the traffic lights turned red, they would approach people, stopping them on the road and asking for help.

2. One day, a policeman saw them. He took pity and wanted to help, so he opened his purse. He saw a bundle of notes which he had just drawn from the bank. He had received a good bonus for the excellent work he had done. He thought, 'I have a warm home, a caring wife and a loving son. God has been very kind to me. But these unfortunate people don't have any one of these things.' He remembered the many things he had promised his wife and son he would buy when he got his bonus. For a while he was in two minds. Then he made up his mind and gave all the cash to the distressed woman.

3. When he reached home, he narrated the whole incident to his family. His wife was very proud, but the son was angry as he thought his father must have been duped by the beggar woman.

4. Days passed and everybody forgot about it. One day a news item in the paper caught the son's attention: 'Mother and child arrested for cheating people', it read. Going by the description, the son realized who these people were and was very upset. When the father came back home that evening, he told him what he had read. In a calm voice the father said, "Son, I am very happy. The child is healthy." By that time his wife came with a mug of coffee in her hand. She had heard the entire conversation. With happiness in her voice, she told her son. Son, you are very fortunate. You have an extraordinary father, who is not angry even though he has lost a lot of money. You should be proud that your father is happy thinking somebody's child is healthy, rather than worrying about his own big bonus. Learn from him. Help people without expecting anything in return. (Short story by Sudha Murthy)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

- (i) What did NOT point at the poverty of the mother and child?
- a. begging bowl
 - b. their desperate request for help
 - c. over-sized, old shirt worn by the mother
 - d. shiver of the mother
- (ii) Choose an appropriate inference about the policeman based on Para 2.
- a. He took pity at the condition of the mother and daughter.
 - b. He had received a bonus for his excellent service.
 - c. He was sensible and straightforward.
 - d. He was innocent and acted on his instincts.

- (iii) Which of the following words are NOT correct about the policeman?
 i. good at work ii. good at judging people iii. kind and generous iv. very rich
 v. grateful vi. forgiving
- i, ii, iv
 - ii & iv
 - ii, iv, v, vi
 - iv, v & vi

- (iv) What best suits as the underlying message of the above story?
- One should never help strangers.
 - Do not be judgmental about people.
 - People may be of various kinds, be good anyway.
 - If you do good, only good will come to you.

- (v) Match the description given with the relevant paragraph:
- | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| i. Policeman's dilemma | ii. Family's reaction | iii. An act of trickery | iv. Defeat of evil |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
- i-1 ii-3 iii-2 iv-4
 - i-2 ii-3 iii-1 iv-4
 - i-3 ii-1 iii-4 iv-2
 - i-4 ii-3 iii-1 iv-2

- (vi) Assertion (A): The policeman's wife called her husband extraordinary.
 Reasoning-1(R-1): Her husband had been rewarded at work for his excellent services.
 Reasoning-2(R-2): Her husband could look for good even when he went through a bad experience.
- A is correct, but R-1 and R-2 are false.
 - A, R-1 and R-2 are factually right, but R-1 and R-2 are not the reasons for A.
 - A and R-2 are correct, R-1 is a false statement.
 - A, R-1 and R-2 are correct, R-2 is the right explanation of A.

- (vii) Complete the following table with a suitable point from paragraph 4.

| Opinion | Reason |
|--|--------|
| The policeman was fortunate to have an understanding wife. | |

- (viii) State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE. Give a reason for your answer.
 'The protagonist in the story comes across as an endearing character with many traits to emulate.' **F**

- (ix) Match the people in column A with the description in column B and choose the correct option:

| A | | | | B | | | |
|------|--------------|-------|------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| i. | beggar woman | v. | victim of influence | | | | |
| ii. | child* | vi. | socially responsible | | | | |
| iii. | policeman | vii. | practical, incredulous | | | | |
| iv. | son | viii. | lacking in morals | | | | |

- i-viii ii-v, iii-vi iv-vii
- i-vii ii-viii iii-v iv-vi
- i-v ii-vi iii-viii iv-vii
- i-vi ii-vii iii-viii iv-v

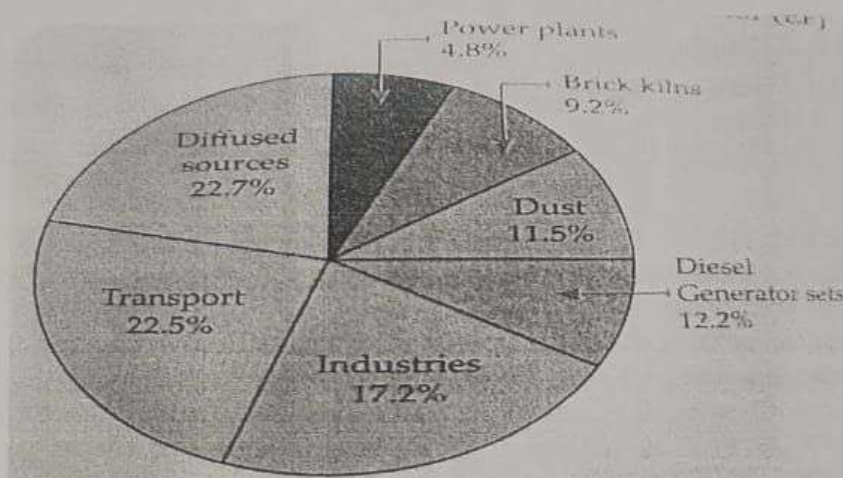
- (x) Choose the correct option to fill in the blanks:
 The beggar woman's behaviour.....that of the policeman.
- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. complements with | c. in agreement with |
| b. is in contrast with | d. is in reciprocation to |

Q2. Read the following passage carefully:

(10 marks)

1. Air pollution is a major threat to human health. WHO has estimated that urban air pollution is responsible for approx. 8,00,000 deaths and 4.6 million people lose their lives every year around the globe. It is the most serious kind of pollution.
2. Traffic and transportation problem, inadequate drainage facilities, lack of open spaces, carbon emission and the accumulation of waste aggravate the problem. Air pollution is associated with increased risk of acute respiratory infections (ARI), the principal cause of infant and child mortality in developing countries.
3. Urban air quality in most mega cities has been found to be critical and Kolkata is no exception to this. Out of 17 ambient air quality monitoring stations operating in Kolkata, 5 fall under the critical category. The remaining 12 fall under the high category of NO₂ concentration, while for RPM, four record critical, and 13 come under the high pollution category.

REASONS FOR POLLUTION



4. A health assessment was undertaken with a structural questionnaire at some nearby dispensaries which fall under areas with different ambient air pollution levels. Three dispensaries have been surveyed with 100 participants. It shows that respondents with respiratory diseases (85.1%) have outnumbered waterborne diseases (14.9%) and include acute respiratory infections (ARI) (60%) chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases (COPD) 7.8%, upper track respiratory infection (UTRI) 1.2%, influenza (12.7%) and the acid-fast bacillus (AFB) 3.4%.
5. The pollution averting practices can only be possible when awareness among the masses is generated that the air they breathe outdoors is not safe. This will lead to more conscious decisions at every step.

Based on your reading, answer the following questions.

(a) Select the option that displays the correct cause-effect relationship.

| | |
|--|---|
| i) Cause: Traffic and transportation problem | Effect: 4.6 million deaths iii |
| ii) Cause: Lack of open spaces | Effect: Mega cities iv |
| iii) Cause: Air pollution | Effect: Respiratory diseases i |
| iv) Cause: Air quality monitoring stations | Effect: Emission of NO ₂ ii |

(b) Which of the following represents a true statement with reference to the figure?

- i) Pollution caused by transport is much more than the pollution caused by industries.
- ii) Dust and power plants are the cause for maximum pollution.

- iii) The use of diesel generators is responsible for more than 50% of air pollution.
- iv) Dust stands fourth in the list that causes air pollution.

(c) Read the two statements given below and select the option that suitably explains them.

- A. Air pollution kills 4.6 million every year in India.
- B. Air pollution is causing health hazards to more people than water pollution.

- i) B is true and A is false.
- ii) A is true and B correctly explains A.
- iii) A summarizes B.
- iv) A is true and B is the possible reason for A.

(d) Read the three statements given below and select the correct option.

- A. Air quality in Kolkata is less than critical.
- B. 12 locations were selected for measuring ambient air quality.
- C. Most of the mega cities are suffering from the problem of poor air quality.

- i) A and B are true and C is the problem.
- ii) A and B are false but C is true.
- iii) A and C are true but B is false.
- iv) C is false but B correctly explains A.

(e) What is the main idea conveyed by the passage?

(f) Comment on the writer's opinion on urbanization with reference to air pollution.

(g) "Accumulation of waste aggravates the problem."

Describe the 'problem' referred to in the given statement.

(h) List the writer's recommendation to the people about air pollution.

(i) 'Urban air quality in most mega cities has been found to be critical and Kolkata is no exception to this'.

The above statement is a _____ (fact/opinion) because it is based on _____ (objective reality/subjective perception).

(j) Justify the statement with reference to the **figure**.

'Till all stakeholders participate fully, the problem of air pollution cannot be solved.'

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR

Q3. Answer any ten of the following twelve questions as directed. (1x10=10 marks)

i. Vivek and Nandita had a conversation about the delicious strawberry cake her mother made. Report Vivek's question.
Vivek : How did your mother make this cake?

ii. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following statement.
'Your project explores the connection among optimism in life and success.'

| Option No. | error | correction |
|------------|----------|------------|
| A | explores | explore |
| B | and | or |
| C | among | between |
| D | In | for |

iii. Complete the line from a self-awareness song, by filling the blank with the correct option.
The river runs through your veins
The trees and mountains call your name
The moon and stars _____ over you. *watches*
You're guiding your way back home
To dream the night away.

- A. will watch
- B. watch
- C. watches
- D. was watching

iv. Complete the following quote by Nelson Mandela by filling in the blank with the correct option.

"The greatest glory in living _____ not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."

- A. lie
- B. lies
- C. lays
- D. laying

v. Report Sana's instructions to Manisha.

Sana said, "First, you heat the sugar and water in a saucepan."

Manisha: Sana instructed _____ and water in a saucepan.

- A. we first heat the sugar
- B. to heat the sugar
- C. first, you heat the sugar
- D. I should first heat the sugar

vi. Read the given dialogue carefully. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.

Sanya exclaims, "Look! My keys are in the refrigerator. I ~~will~~ have absent-mindedly put them here while putting away the groceries."

| ERROR | CORRECTION |
|-------|------------|
| | |

vii. George and Tamara _____ want to see that movie.

- A. doesn't
- B. don't
- C. can't
- D. had

viii. You _____ listen to your father.

- A. could
- B. can
- C. ought to
- D. may

ix. Fill the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the live feed on a school news channel.

Attention players!

The football district competition prizes _____. Please collect the same from the school office.

- A. has come
- B. have come
- C. will come
- D. will be coming

x. Choose the correct form of the verb :

Mr. Brown, the banker, _____ a lot of money.

- A. count
- B. counts
- C. are counting
- D. were counting

xi. Fill the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the following announcement.

'A copy of the consent form is enclosed and _____ (it/then/this) must be signed by your parents.'

xii. Either my shoes or your coat _____ always on the floor.

- A. is
- B. are
- C. were
- D. lay

(5 marks)

Q4. Write a letter of complaint on any one of the following topics.

A. You are Anjum/Anjali of Bluebells Public School, New Delhi. As the Cultural Secretary of your school, you had arranged for a trip for fifty students to Nainital in the summer vacation for ten days with 'Mount Travels and Tourism'. The arrangements done by the travel agency were far below standard. The accommodation and food facilities were lacking in quality. Write a letter of complaint to the director of the agency to stop duping tourists with false promises as it tarnishes the image of locals. (word limit: 100-120 words)

OR

B. You are Manav/Manvi, a resident of Malviya Nagar, New Delhi. You are concerned about the lack of awareness about animal rights in your locality. The insensitive way loud crackers were burst on Diwali near street animals distressed you. You also happened to read about PETA (People For Ethical Treatment of Animals - the largest animal rights body in the world) when you read the chapter 'Mijbil the Otter' in school. Write a letter to the editor of Hindustan Times expressing your concern and raising awareness about animal rights. (word limit: 100-120 words)

(5 marks)

Q5. Read and analyse the following data.

Students at Rainbow School are divided into two houses - Blue or Red. The data in the table below shows the performance of these houses in different categories (out of a total score of 100).

| | Blue House | Red House |
|-----------|---|--|
| Academics | 91 | 79 |
| Sports | 75 | 90 |
| Arts | 82 | 85 |
| Others | - organised a successful inter-school sports tournament - organised a donation campaign to encourage school students to donate toys to the local orphanage | - organised a successful school-wide recycling campaign - organised a successful inter-school cultural festival |

The school's Principal has decided that Blue House should win the Best House Trophy at the end of the year. As school captain, the Principal has asked for your input on this decision. Analyse this data to either support or oppose the Principal's decision. Write this **analytical paragraph** in about 120 words with supporting details to justify your opinion.

You may begin like this:

A thorough analysis of the data provided indicates that Blue House should win the Best House Trophy/Red House should win the Best House Trophy.

You may end like this:

Therefore, the Best House Trophy must go to Blue House/Red House.

SECTION C: LITERATURE

Q6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANT ONE of the two, given. (5 marks)

A. Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read. Following him down the musty corridor of the gloomy French hotel where Ausable had a room, Fowler felt let down. It was a small room, on the sixth and top floor, and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure. Ausable was, for one thing, fat. Very fat. And then there was his accent. Though he spoke French and German passably, he had never altogether lost the American accent he had brought to Paris from Boston twenty years ago. "You are disappointed," Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder. "You were told that I was a secret agent, a spy, dealing in espionage and danger. You wished to meet me

because you are a writer, young and romantic. You envisioned mysterious figures in the night, the crack of pistols, drugs in the wine." (The Midnight Visitor)

- (i) Which of these describes how Fowler felt at the beginning of the extract? 1
A. He was gleeful.
B. He was shaken up.
C. His stomach was in knots.
D. He was disappointed.
- (ii) State one observation about Ausable based on the way he handled Fowler's disappointment with him. 1
- (iii) How did the atmosphere of the French hotel influence Fowler's mood? Answer in 40 words. 2
- (iv) Which of these means the same as 'romantic' in the line below? 1
It was a small room, on the sixth and top floor, and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure.
A. great
B. exciting
C. idealistic
D. dull

OR

B. Day after day she watched the bus, and gradually a tiny wish crept into her head and grew there: she wanted to ride on that bus even if just once. This wish became stronger and stronger, until it was an overwhelming desire. Valli would stare wistfully at the people who got on or off the bus when it stopped at the street corner. Their faces would kindle in her longings, dreams and hopes. If one of her friends happened to ride the bus and tried to describe the sights of the town to her, Valli would be too jealous to listen and would shout, in English: "Proud! Proud!" (Madam Rides The Bus)

- (i) Valli would stare wistfully at the people as she _____. 1
A. had been watching the bus for a long time
B. was inspired by the people travelling on the bus
C. had a strong desire to take a ride on the bus
D. envied the people who could travel on the bus
- (ii) Pick the option that shows the list of words that collocate (frequently used) with 'overwhelming' (example overwhelming desire). 1
1. response 2. lies 3. support 4. majority 5. pets 6. places
A. 1, 5 and 6
B. 1, 3 and 4
C. 2 and 5
D. 3, 5 and 6
- (iii) 'Valli would be too jealous to listen...' This indicates Valli's _____. 1
A. longing to go out into the street
B. nature as a generous person
C. denial to accept her situation due to envy
D. inclination to trouble travellers
- (iv) A part of the extract has been paraphrased. Choose the option that includes the most appropriate solution to the blanks. 1
'The desire became so (1) _____ that it transformed into an (2) _____ one. Valli would look (3) _____ at people who boarded the bus and got off.'
A. (1) active (2) overt (3) longingly
B. (1) vigorous (2) overpowering (3) cheerfully
C. (1) staunch (2) overt (3) joyfully
D. (1) ardent (2) overpowering (3) longingly
- (v) What does the line "gradually a tiny wish crept into her head and grew there." mean?

- A. The wish developed in her head over a period of time.
- B. The wish was a feeling of wanting to prove her strength.
- C. The wish was planted in her head by someone's suggestion.
- D. The wish was small and was overpowered by a sense of doubt.

Q7. Read the given extracts and answer questions based on any one.

(5 marks)

(A) He stalks in his vivid stripes a
 The few steps of his cage, b
 On pads of velvet quiet, c
 In his quiet rage. b
 He should be lurking in shadow, d
 Sliding through long grass e
 Near the water hole f
 Where plump deer pass. e (A Tiger in the Zoo)

(i) Which of these activities is mentioned in the extract as something the tiger should do in the jungle?

- A. roar at visitors
- B. stare at people
- C. wait for his prey
- D. drink clean water

(ii) Why does the poet describe the cage as having 'few steps'?

- A. to draw attention to the stairs in the cage
- B. to show admiration for the size of the cage
- C. to convey the importance of protecting tigers
- D. to highlight the restriction on the tiger's freedom

(iii) The contrast indicated in the given extract is between _____.

- A. the tiger's reality and the tiger's ideal situation.
- B. the luxury of a zoo and the simplicity of a jungle.
- C. the tiger's actual feeling and how the tiger should feel.
- D. the silence of the tiger in a zoo and his roar in the jungle.

(iv) Select the option that describes the tiger in the lines below.

Lurking in shadow,
 Sliding through long grass
 (1) sly
 (2) scared
 (3) dominant
 (4) light-footed
 (5) eye-catching

- A. (1) and (4)
- B. (3) and (5)
- C. (1), (2) and (4)
- D. (2), (4) and (5)

(v) Which of these has the same rhyme scheme as the stanza in the extract?

A. *Tell me not, in mournful numbers,
 Life is but an empty dream!—
 For the soul is dead that slumbers,
 And things are not what they seem.*
 (A Psalm of Life by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)

B. *Hold fast to dreams
 For if dreams die*

Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.
(Dreams by Langston Hughes)

C. "I cannot go to school today,"
Said little Peggy Ann McKay.
"I have the measles and the mumps,
A gash, a rash and purple bumps."
(Sick by Shel Silverstein)

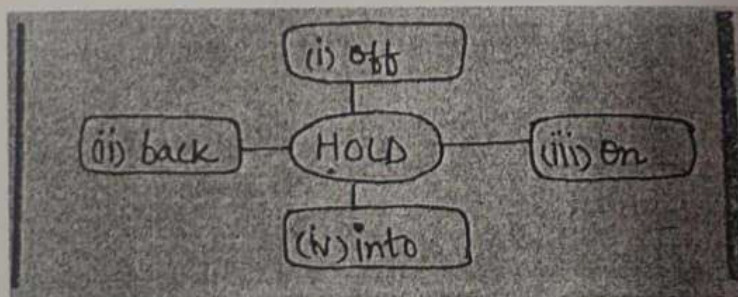
D. We listened and looked sideways up!
Fear at my heart, as at a cup,
My life-blood seemed to sip!
The stars were dim, and thick the night,
(The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by Samuel Taylor Coleridge)

OR

(B) Some say the world will end in fire
Some say in ice
From what I have tasted of desire
I hold with those who favour fire

But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction Ice
Is also great
And would suffice. (Fire and Ice)

- (i) Choose the correct statement about the given poem :
- It helps the readers visualize the power of nature over men.
 - It talks of how humanity creates problems/disasters for itself through its vices.
 - The poet talks of how ice kills fire.
 - It changes the thinking of the reader from negative to positive and brings harmony
- (ii) Select the option that correctly classifies the connotations for fire and ice, as suggested by the poem.
- | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------|----------|
| (1) Rage | (2) Violence | (3) Indifference | (4) Hate |
| (a) Fire - 3,4 ; Ice - 1,2 | (c) Fire - 1,3 ; Ice - 2,4 | | |
| (b) Fire - 2 ; Ice - 1,3,4 | (d) Fire - 1,2,4 ; Ice - 3 | | |
- (iii) The poem is a _____, put across by the poet.
- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| (a) powerful warning | (c) earnest appeal |
| (b) heart-felt apology | (d) vengeful threat |
- (iv) The poet uses the phrasal verb '---hold with'.
Choose the option that does **not** indicate a valid phrasal verb.



- (a) Option (i) (b) Option (ii) (c) Option (iii) (d) Option (iv)

- (v) Pick the option that is not true about the poet according to the extract. The poet _____.
- (a) is inclined to believe that the world would most likely end with fire
 - (b) has heard divided opinions about the way the world would end in all likelihood.
 - (c) preaches love and kindness to combat the spread of hate among all.
 - (d) declares the power of ice to be as destructive as that of fire.

Q8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions in 40-50 words each. (4x3=12 marks)

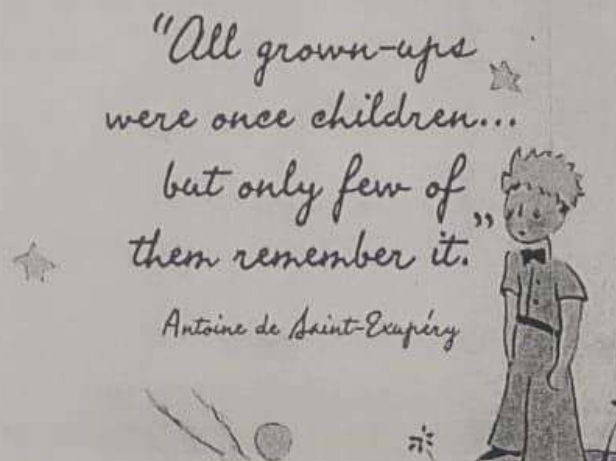
- (a) In the poem 'The Trees', the poet compares trees to "newly discharged patients". Highlight any two reasons for the same.
- (b) Describe the young seagull's emotions when he flew over the sea for the first time.
- (c) Nelson Mandela says that his country's greatest wealth is its people and not the purest diamonds. Justify his statement.
- (d) Was Custard, the dragon really a coward? Justify your answer.
- (e) How can death be an equaliser? Explain with reference to 'A Sermon at Benaras'.

Q9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in 40-50 words each. (2x3=6 marks)

- (a) To participate in the competition is more important than to win a prize. Explain this statement in the light of Ebright's participation at the country Science fair in the 'Making of a Scientist'.
- (b) In 'The Thief's Story', we realise that Anil knew about the incident of the previous night, yet chose to overlook such a breach of trust. Why do you think he did that?
- (c) 'The most successful people work smart, not hard.' Justify the quote with reference to 'A Question of Trust'.

Q10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 100-120 words. (6 marks)

- (a) 'Faith can move mountains'. Discuss the statement with reference to Lencho in 'A Letter To God'
- (b) Read the quote given below carefully Based on your understanding of the poem, explain how and why this quote can be applied to the poem, 'Amanda!'
"All grown-ups were once children, but only a few of them can remember it." – Antoine de Saint-Exupéry



Q11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 100-120 words. (6 marks)

- (a) Pets are entirely dependent on their masters for their upkeep. Do you think Mrs. Pumphrey had failed in her responsibilities towards Tricki in 'A Triumph of Surgery'?
- (b) Griffin thought he had become powerful and invincible with his invention. Do you think he was able to fulfil his ambition? Justify with reference to the story 'Footprints Without Feet'.
