

APEEJAY COMMON PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE -184
CLASS X (2023-2024)

Time Allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions

- 1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections- READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.**
- 2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.**
- 3. 15-minute prior reading time has been allotted for Q-paper reading.**

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 marks)

- 1. Read the passage given below.**

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1. Sir Tim Berners-Lee, a physicist working in Switzerland, transformed the Internet from an isolated collection of academic and military computer systems to an international network - the Web. A ground-breaking innovation, it changed the world forever. More than 30 years later, Berners-Lee is unhappy with how his creation is being used by tech giants, and he plans to make a comeback by rebuilding the Internet and making it more secure.

2. His parents worked on the world's first commercially built computer, Ferranti Mark-I. After graduating from school, Berners-Lee opted to study Science at Oxford University. He thought it might be more practical to study Science as it combined his interests in Electronics and Maths. In fact, it turned out to be more than just a pragmatic choice as it opened up a world of knowledge for him.

3. When he was 11, Berners-Lee went to a school located between two railway tracks. He used to encounter a lot of trains on his way, and he started trainspotting, an activity of watching trains and writing down the numbers each engine has. When he was in college, he even made a computer out of an old television set. He bought the set from a repair shop. And assembling the computer cost him only five pounds (approximately Rs 500.)

4. While working at the European Laboratory for Particle-Physics (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland, a 25-year-old Berners-Lee began tinkering with a software programme to connect the world. He worked with Belgian systems engineer Robert Caillan to refine the proposal for a hypertext system, which eventually led to the creation of the World Wide Web. He also created the first web browser and editor. The world's first website, <http://info.cern.ch>, was launched on August 6, 1991. It explained the World Wide Web concept and gave users an introduction to getting started with their own websites. Right from the start, Berners-Lee recognized that the Web could either be a boon or bane. According to his website, Berners-Lee hopes that the web can be used as a communication tool and can help people understand each other.

5. Over the last few years however, there have been many instances of big tech companies using the Internet to infringe upon the privacy of their users. Disappointed by this, in November 2020, Berners-Lee announced his comeback with a project to decentralise the Internet and secure the users' privacy. His new project, Solid, aims to restore the control of the Internet to its users and "redirect" the Web to his original vision of a democratic and equal network of information. He stated on his website that the current web had become "a driver of inequality and division". He doesn't like the fact that his invention is now being ruled by a handful of tech giants who demand personal information from users in exchange for their services.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the correct option.

1. The initial use of computers was made in which of the following fields?

1. Business activities
2. Defence forces
3. Education and research
4. International networking

- (a) Options 1 and 2
- (b) Options 2 and 3
- (c) Options 3 and 4
- (d) Options 1 and 4

2. On the basis of paragraph 2, which of the following can be considered to be most probably true?

- (a) Berners-Lee was not initially interested in studying science.
- (b) Berners-Lee had little interest in Electronics and Maths.
- (c) Berners-Lee's decision to study Science proved to be a disaster for him.
- (d) Berners-Lee inherited his interest in computers from his parents.

3. Which of the following statements do you think Berners-Lee in all likelihood could have made as a school boy?

- (a) "When will I ever get to see a train?"
- (b) "Watching trains is such a boring activity!"
- (c) "There goes my favourite engine!"
- (d) "One day I will make a computer that will run trains!"

4. Which qualities of Berners-Lee's personality does paragraph 3 reveal?

1. A keen sense of observation
2. Kind-heartedness
3. Inventiveness and creativity
4. A tendency to destroy things

- (a) 1 and 3
- (b) 2 and 3
- (c) 1 and 4
- (d) 3 and 4

5. According to Berners-Lee's website, the Web was intended to

- (a) tinker with software programmes of those days
- (b) test a hypertext system
- (c) launch the world's first web browser and editor
- (d) improve communication and greater understanding among people

6. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE in the context of paragraph 4?

- (a) Berners-Lee worked at the CERN in Geneva, Switzerland.
- (b) Berners-Lee single-handedly improved the proposal for a hypertext system.
- (c) Berners-Lee created the world's first web browser and editor.
- (d) Berners-Lee believed that the Web could be both a boon and a bane.

7. Choose the option that correctly identifies the following statements as TRUE and FALSE.

1. Before Berners-Lee the internet used to be just a collection of academic and military computer system.
2. The internet came into being 30 years after Berners-Lee had first thought of it.
3. Berners-Lee's decision to study Science opened up a world of knowledge for him.
4. Berners-Lee was already a teenager when he took to trainspotting.
5. Berners-Lee transformed an old computer into a television set.
6. The world's first website was launched on 6th August 1991.
7. Berners-Lee completed his project to decentralise the Internet in 2020.

- (a) True: 1, 2 and 6; False: 3, 4, 5 and 7
- (b) True: 1, 5 and 6; False: 2, 3, 4, and 7
- (c) True: 1, 3 and 6; False: 2, 4, 5 and 7
- (d) True: 1, 3 and 7; False: 2, 4, 5 and 6

8. Which of the following sentences illustrates the incorrect use of the word 'pragmatic' as used in paragraph 2?

- (a) In business, the pragmatic approach to problems is often more successful than an idealistic one.
- (b) Coach, do you have a more pragmatic plan to beat the opposition?
- (c) The prime-minister's decision to not resign was very pragmatic.
- (d) She was a dreamer - not a pragmatic.

9. "To infringe upon" (paragraph 5) means the same as which of the following?

- (a) follow
- (b) protect
- (c) violate
- (d) destroy

10. The objective of Berners-Lee's new project 'Solid' is to

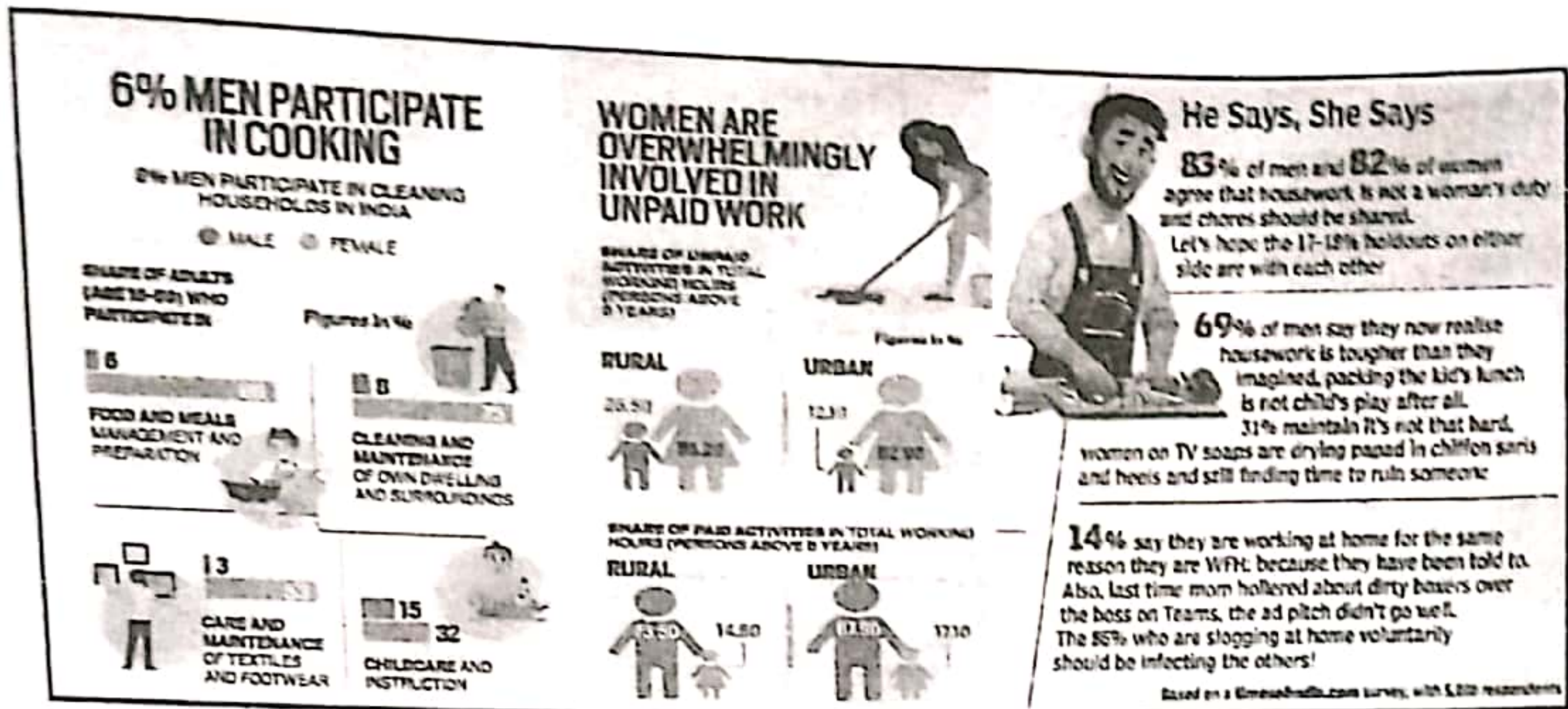
- (a) stage a comeback in his career
- (b) make internet users its real controllers
- (c) introduce and popularise his invention
- (d) sell internet user's personal information for money

Q2. Read the passage given below:

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1. That there's a gendered division of labour in India is something well known – and evident from looking around virtually every household, and to some extent, workplaces. But just how unequal it is was hard to quantify, until now.

2. Data shows women are overwhelmingly involved in work they do not get paid for. Some 84 per cent of women's working hours are spent on activities they do not get paid for, while for men, the reverse is true—80 per cent of their work time is spent on activities they get paid for. Spending the majority of their time in employment does reduce the hours available for men to spend on unpaid domestic chores, but the problem goes beyond mere time availability.



3. Just 6.1 per cent men participate in cooking, even if only for a few minutes in a day, but 87 per cent men participate in leisure activities. In places where patriarchal norms around division of labour are rigid, they create gendered spaces within the household. In many such households, if a man walks into the kitchen, it is considered odd or wrong. It isn't paid work that is preventing them from sharing household work.
4. Women, aged 15-59, however, the vast majority participate in some cooking every day. Just 8 per cent men participate in house cleaning and just 3 per cent in washing clothes. This leaves women with little time to socialise – or even sleep. The average woman, aged 15-59, gets 13 minutes fewer sleep at night each day, but catches up by grabbing a nap at odd hours. Women in their working ages also get less time to socialise, eat and drink, and even bathe and get dressed.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions. 1*10=10

- (a) Which of these statements can you not infer from the extract?
- Men show an inclination for unpaid work.
 - A large number of men are involved in their children's upbringing.
 - Men like to be least involved in cleaning and maintenance work around the house.
 - In urban households, the work women do is in addition to the equal time they give to paid work as men.
- (b) Men's notion of household work as child's play is
- reinforced by observing their mothers working without complaining all their lives
 - influenced by the image of housewives on daily soaps
 - because women can multitask so easily
 - something man would like to sustain to ward off guilt
- (c) Fill in the blank in the following sentence.
..... means the same as 'child's play'.
- (d) Which of these is not a reason for men's reluctance to share household work?
- They find it difficult.
 - They are groomed to think it as odd.
 - They would rather not do something that is unpaid.
 - They spend more hours at their jobs than women.

- (e) The result of the unequal division of labour is that
- (i) it affects women's health and sleep adversely
 - (ii) It reinforces gender stereotypes
 - (iii) Children at home watch parents and imbibe the same gender values
 - (iv) Women are more likely to suffer from depression and mental health issues

f) State whether 'True (T)', 'False (F)' or 'Can't Say (CS)'.

W: Women do not see household work as unpaid work.

X: Men realise housework is tough

Y: Organizing wardrobes and footwear is the work men prefer the least.

Z: Men in rural areas contribute more in household work than those in urban areas.

- (i) T, F, CS, T
- (ii) CS, T, T, T
- (iii) F, T, T, CS
- (iv) T, F, F, CS

(g) Choose the correct option for the following statement.

Statement: Gendered spaces exist everywhere in India, across rural and urban areas, class, and social groups.

- (i) Definitely true
- (ii) Most likely false
- (iii) Probably true
- (iv) Can't say

h) Which of these would not be considered a patriarchal norm/behaviour?

- (i) Gendered language
- (ii) Complete control over women's actions
- (iii) Reservation for women in Parliament
- (iv) Female foeticide

(i) Which of the following words is similar in meaning to 'stiff' in para 3?

- (i) leisure
- (ii) rigid
- (iii) preventing
- (iv) socialise

(j) Which of the following words is OPPOSITE in meaning to 'absence' in para 2?

- (i) over whelming
- (ii) reverse
- (iii) majority
- (iv) availability

SECTION B: GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

(20 marks)

3. Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions:

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- i. Find the error in the following statement and use the following format to supply the correction.

The soccer team felt exhilarated. The warm welcome it receive made the team members emotional.

Error	Correction

ii. Read the conversation between a customer and a shopkeeper and complete the passage that follows (2)

An angry customer: "I pay good money for premium channels so, is it too much to ask for uninterrupted service."

Customer Care Officer: "Sir, I can understand how frustrating such a situation can be. Let me see what I can do about it."

An angry customer called up a call center and asked if it was too much to get uninterrupted service in spite of paying good money for premium channels. The Customer Care Officer answered politely his frustration and assured him to look into it.

iii. My father always keeps _____ handy money with him for emergencies.

- (a) any
- (b) every
- (c) some
- (d) all

iv. Roshni _____ a chocolate cake when someone knocked at the door.

- (a) baked
- (b) had been baking
- (c) had baked
- (d) was baking

v. The teacher told the students that they _____ do the assignment as the topic is not included in the term.

- (a) must not
- (b) need not

- (c) ought not
- (d) dare not

vi. The commander said, "Alas! Our foes have better ammunition."

- (a) The commander told him that our foes are better ammunition.
- (b) The commander told that Alas! our foes do have better ammunition.
- (c) The commander exclaimed with sorrow that their foes had better ammunition.
- (d) The commander said sorrowfully that their foes were having better ammunition. (

vii. Tina's grandparents expect that she _____ call them at least once a week.

- (a) shall
- (b) should
- (c) would
- (d) might

viii. Replace the underlined word with the correct option given below :

The performance was so flawless that the hall echoes with loud applause.

- (a) echoed
- (b) was echoing
- (c) had echoed
- (d) is echoing

ix. Although I am an avid reader since childhood yet I get _____ time to read now.

- (a) much
- (b) few
- (c) little
- (d) enough

x. This is value for money. I _____ buy it.

- (a) will
- (b) can
- (c) may
- (d) might

xi. Read the conversation between two friends. Complete the sentence by reporting the reply correctly.

Nasrin: I want to improve my command over the English language.

Shila: For that you need to do a lot of reading in English.
Nasrin said she wanted to improve her command over the English language. Shila said that for that she _____

xii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank.
There are _____ cars in the parking lot.

1

- a. Few
- b. Little
- c. The
- d. Any

4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below:

5

A. The Sports Day of ABC Public School is round the corner. Preparations are going on well! As the Sports Secretary of the school, you had a conversation with the Principal regarding the requirements for sports equipment.

Read the conversation and write a letter to place an order for the sports equipment as needed by the school.

Principal

Mr Sahni (Sports Secretary) : Sir, we need to place an order for sports equipment.

: Please place the order with Fitness Zone as they are the suppliers for sports equipment as soon as possible.

Mr Sahni (Sports Secretary) : Yes sir, I will contact them today itself.

Principal

: I want the equipment to be delivered soon so that students can have a couple of practice sessions with the new equipment.

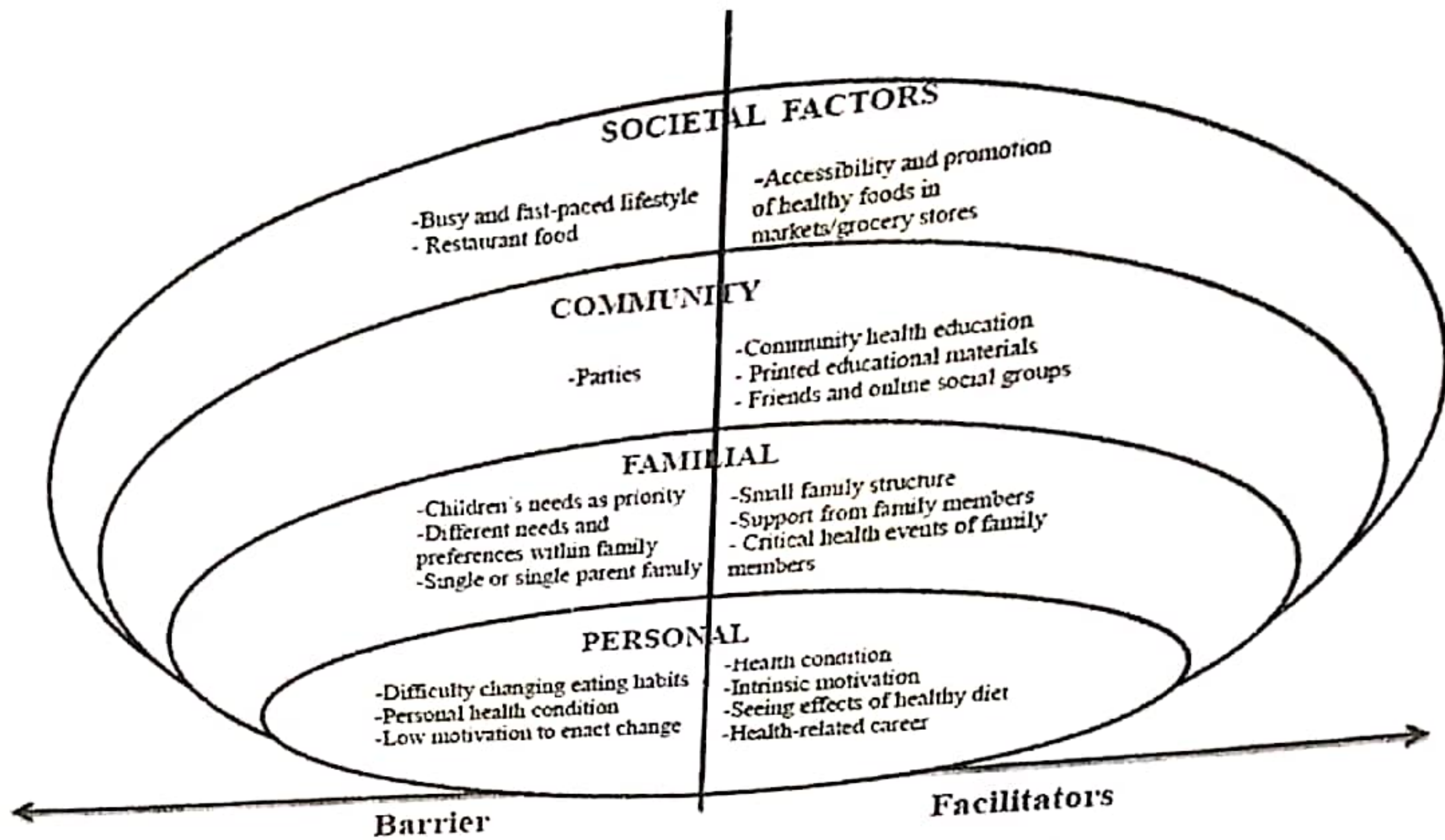
Mr Sahni (Sports Secretary) : Thank you sir!

OR

B. You are Aditya/Milli, a resident of Behala, Kolkata You are very much inspired to watch reality shows on 'dance', at various channels on T.V and wish to join dance classes learn classical dance. Write a letter to Pt. Lokenath Maharaj, Director, Nritya kala Academy Group, Behala, Kolkata, enquiring about the dance classes, timings, fees, duration, condition for admission etc.

5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

A. The visual representation below offers a comparative analysis, shedding light on the factors facilitating and acting as barriers to healthy eating across different occasions affected by personal, familial, community and societal factors. Write an analytical paragraph based on the given information in about 120 words. Make comparisons wherever appropriate and draw conclusions.



5. B. Over the last 2-3 years, Online courses have gained immense popularity, resulting a surge in sales. However, many students are enrolling in these courses without a clear understanding of the important factors. The visual representation highlights the essential factors to be considered before joining such online courses. Examine the visual representation closely and write an analytical paragraph based upon the information provided in about 120 words.

6 THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE TAKING AN ONLINE COURSE



1. DISTRACTIONS CAN BE A STRUGGLE

2. ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT



3. YOUR TEACHER'S ROUTINES CAN DIFFER

4. YOU CAN STILL HAVE FUN



5. YOU SPEND PLENTY OF HOURS ONLINE

6. CREDIT TRANSFERS CAN BE TRICKY



SECTION C- LITERATURE

(40 marks)

6. Reference to the Context

10
5

1. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given:

A. "Not from weeping nor from grieving will anyone obtain peace of mind; on the contrary, his pain will be the greater and his body will suffer. He will make himself sick and pale, yet the dead are not saved by his lamentation. He who seeks peace should draw out the arrow of lamentation, and complaint, and grief. He who has drawn out the arrow and has become composed will obtain peace of mind; he who has overcome all sorrow will become free from sorrow, and be blessed." (The Sermon at Benares)

(i) What does Buddha emphasize in the following words?

"Not from weeping nor from grieving will anyone obtain peace of mind; his pain will be the greater and his body will suffer."

- (a) Weeping will cause pain.
- (b) Grieving will keep away one's serenity.
- (c) The body will suffer.
- (d) All the above.

(ii) According to Buddha, what should a person do to obtain peace?

(iii) Fill in the blank with ONE WORD only.

----- in the extract means 'express sadness over something'?

(iv) Select the option which displays an example of 'physical weakness'.

- (a) Ram had dengue and was looking sick and pale.

- (b) James slipped into the pool. He did not know how to swim.
 (c) Little Rita could not keep the kettle down since it was at a height and filled with hot water.
 (d) Jane wanted to take her dog for a walk but couldn't since it was raining heavily.

(v) From the options given below, identify the conclusion of the Buddha's saying.

- (a) By grieving for our loved ones we can stay happy and blessed.
 (b) We are responsible for our death.
 (c) Death can be avoided.
 (d) One must not grieve at something that is bound to happen.

OR

W "He was not falling headlong now. He was soaring gradually downwards and outwards. He was no longer afraid. He just felt a bit dizzy. Then he flapped his wings once and he soared upwards. "Ga, ga, ga, Ga, ga, ga, Gaw-col-ah," his mother swooped past him, her wings making a loud noise. He answered her with another scream. Then his father flew over him screaming."

(III: First Flight)

i. Select the option that correctly captures the usage of the word 'falling' from line 1 of the extract.

- A. The young seagull was falling for the tempting food.
 B. The young seagull's thoughts were falling under the control of fear.
 C. The young seagull was afraid of falling from the ledge.
 D. The seagull's father was falling out of love for the young seagull.

ii. Why did the seagull feel dizzy?

- A. He had eaten a lot all of a sudden.
 B. He had not eaten anything since the previous nightfall.
 C. He flew for the first time and it was a new experience for him.
 D. He was unwell.

iii. According to the extract, how did his parents appreciate his venture?

- A. Scolded him
 B. Welcomed it with screaming sounds
 C. Sang with him
 D. Gave him more fish to eat

iv. How was the young seagull feeling at this point?

v. Complete the analogy by selecting the suitable word from the text.
 noise: silence:: whisper: _____

7. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

- A. *All nights the roots work
 to disengage themselves from the cracks
 in the veranda floor.
 The leaves strain toward the glass
 small twigs stiff with exertion
 long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof
 like newly discharged patients
 half-dazed, moving
 to the clinic doors.*

(The Trees)

i. According to the extract, the tree is located in a:

- A. bungalow
 B. forest

- C. veranda
- D. nursery

ii. The word ----- as used in the extract means 'struggle'.

iii. The stiffness of the twigs is caused by:

- A. lack of water
- B. hard struggle
- C. empty space
- D. the greenhouse effect

iv. The poet has used a poetic device in the line: "long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof like newly discharged patients." State the poetic device used.

- A. Repetition
- B. Simile
- C. Metaphor
- D. Alliteration

v. State whether the following statement is True or False:

Long-cramped boughs is the same as long, constricted branches of trees.

OR

B. "Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,
And little mouse Blink strategically mouse holed.
But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine,
Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,
With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm,
He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm (THE TALE OF CUSTARD THE DRAGON)

(i) Pick the option that does not display a simile from the extract.

- (A) Clashed his tail like irons...
- (B) ...at the pirate like a robin at a worm.
- (C) ...Custard, snorting like an engine...
- (D) ...trickled down to the bottom...

(ii) 'He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm' Why has this comparison been used here?
Just like the robin catches the worm,-----

- (A) Custard attacked the pirate after careful observation.
- (B) Custard attacked the pirate without delay.
- (C) Custard attacked the pirate carelessly.
- (D) Custard attacked the pirate stealthily.

(iii) State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE

The poet's purpose of using the onomatopoeic words given in the extract is to emphasize on the might and boldness of Custard.

(iv) Select the option that fits with the reaction of the characters in the context of the extract.

Pirate: Shocked:: Custard: -----

- (A) undaunted
- (B) petrified
- (C) dazed
- (D) thrilled

(v) Which option lists the quotes that support the ideas in the extract?

1. Fear makes strangers of people who would be friends.
2. If you're brave enough to start, you're strong enough to finish.
3. Courage doesn't mean you don't get afraid. Courage means you don't let fear stop you.
4. You get in life what you have the courage to ask for.
5. Fear has a large shadow, but he himself is strong.

(A) 1 and 5 (B) 2, 3 and 4

(C) 2 and 3 (D) 1, 3 and 5

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following in about 40-50 words each. **4*3=12**

i. 'Nothing lasts forever in this world'. Briefly describe the statement with reference to the poem 'Fire and Ice'.

ii. How has the poet used metaphor in his poem 'Fog'.

iii. "Mijbil was an intelligent, friendly and fun-loving animal who needed love"-Elaborate

iv. 'What careful, painstaking, elaborate plans Valli had to make for the bus journey'. Why were these plans required and what did she do? (Madam rides the bus)

v. The story 'A Letter to God' highlights the conflict between humans themselves. Explain.

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each. **2*3=6**

i. 'Don't judge the book by its cover'. How did this come true for Ausable? (The Midnight Visitor)

ii. Matilda suffered incessantly. Why did she suffer? (The Necklace)

iii. What guesses were made by Think-Tank about the books found on Earth? (The Book that Saved the Earth)

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 100-120 words: **1*6=6**

i. You recently read an article on 'Freedom -My perception' and shared it with your best friend. You feel that your perception of freedom has seen a transformation after having read Nelson Mandela-Long Walk to Freedom

Complete the dialogue in 120 words, with your friend, explaining your new understanding of freedom. You may begin like this:

Friend: I think the freedom to watch TV for extended hours or choose the kind of programmes I'd like to view is important.

OR

ii. The tiger in the poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo' presents a contrasting image with the tiger in the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals'. Compare and contrast the two tigers with reference to the manner in which they have been presented in both poems.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 100-120 words: **1*6=6**

i. "Love, kindness and compassion can transform a person and bring about positivity in one's life." Elucidate the statement by comparing the change brought out in Hari's life from the prose 'The Thief's Story' and in Bholi's life from the prose 'Bholi'.

OR

ii. "Mother is the first teacher of a child."

Justify the quote given above in the light of contribution of Richard Ebright's mother in 'making' him 'a scientist'.