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TAGORE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
VASANT VIHAR, NEW DELHI
PRE-BOARD EXAMINATION (2023-2024)
ENGLISH
Class: X
SET I

Date: 20.12.2023
No. of pages: 12

Time: 3 hours
Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. The question paper is divided into three sections.

Section A: Reading

20 marks

Section B: Writing & Grammar

20 marks

Section C: Literature

40 marks

2. Write within the word limit.

Section A: Reading Skills (20 Marks)

Q1. Read the following text:

(10 M)

I. Social media sites serve as a platform to connect with our friends and relatives. We share our happiness as well as sad moments on social media platforms to let those on our friend list know how we are feeling and what we are doing in life. People 'like' our status, updates, and photographs and 'comment' on them to tell us how they feel about it all. This is a great way to socialize in this busy world. It makes us feel that everyone we love and want and to be in touch with, is just a click away. However, social media becomes a problem when we get addicted to it.

II. Many people living in different parts of the world are suffering from social media addiction and are bearing the consequences too. Social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter may help us connect with our distant relatives and long-lost friends but social media addiction is distancing us from our immediate family and close friends. People addicted to social media are hooked to these platforms for hours. All they care about is who updated what on social media and how many people liked or commented on their posts.

III. Social media addicts frequently check updates and notifications on social media platforms. This can be as frequent as twenty-thirty times in an hour. Viewing a new notification, especially one involving their posts gives them a high. Lack of it, on the other hand, can make them feel sad and depressed.

IV. All that the social media addicts care about is to maintain an attractive social media profile. They are mostly seen clicking pictures during social events, family gatherings, and during getaways with friends. They hardly enjoy the moment or talk to the people around them. They are only focused on collecting pictures that can be uploaded on their social media accounts or busy checking and commenting on the status updates of those on their friends list.

V. They post updates stating they are enjoying with their family or having fun with their friends while in reality, they do not even interact properly with anyone around. This is the grave reality of social media.

addicts. Social media addiction is becoming a big problem. It is ironic how a platform created to help people socialize is cutting them off from society.

(Source: www.indiacelebrating.com)

390 Words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

I. The writer says, "We share our happy as well as sad moments on social media platforms". Select the reason why a social media user does so

- a. It makes them popular in their friend zone.
- b. To let those on their friend list know how they are feeling and what they are doing in life.
- c. It makes them happy
- d. It improves their mental health.

ii. What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph 5? Rationalize your response in about 40 words.

All they care about is who updated what on social media and how many people liked or commented on their posts.

iii. Complete the following sentence appropriately:

The social media addicts hardly enjoy moments or talk to people around them during social events, family gatherings, and even during getaways with friends because _____.

iv. Irony is the expression of one's meaning by using language that normally signifies the opposite. Identify two examples of irony from Para IV & V.

v. Complete the sentence with relevant facts from the passage.

We can say that although social media addicts are quite active and concerned to know who updated what on social media and how many people liked or commented on their posts but _____.

vi. The writer uses two contrasting words in the line:

Social media addiction is distancing us from our immediate family and close friends. (Para 2)

State one point of difference between addiction and distancing.

vii. Which one is the most irrelevant message conveyed in the following case?

Sneha spends hours working online from home and yet her loved ones do not give her adequate attention when she wants to talk to them.

- a. She has to cook food for her only child while others order their food online.
- b. Her loved ones are busy on social media to see who likes their posts.
- c. Social media addiction has distanced all her loved ones from each other.
- d. Her husband is busy in his Zoom Meetings with his colleagues.

viii. The writer of the above extract has written a short poem given below. Taking references from the text, identify the tone of the poet.

1

*My son has grown up, he lives far away all alone
We message each other on WhatsApp, we talk on the phone,
He complains he finds it difficult to call someone his own,
I'll talk to my son, where is my phone?
My daughter says, 'Wait, how can you call this phone 'your own'
When I am using your phone?!!*

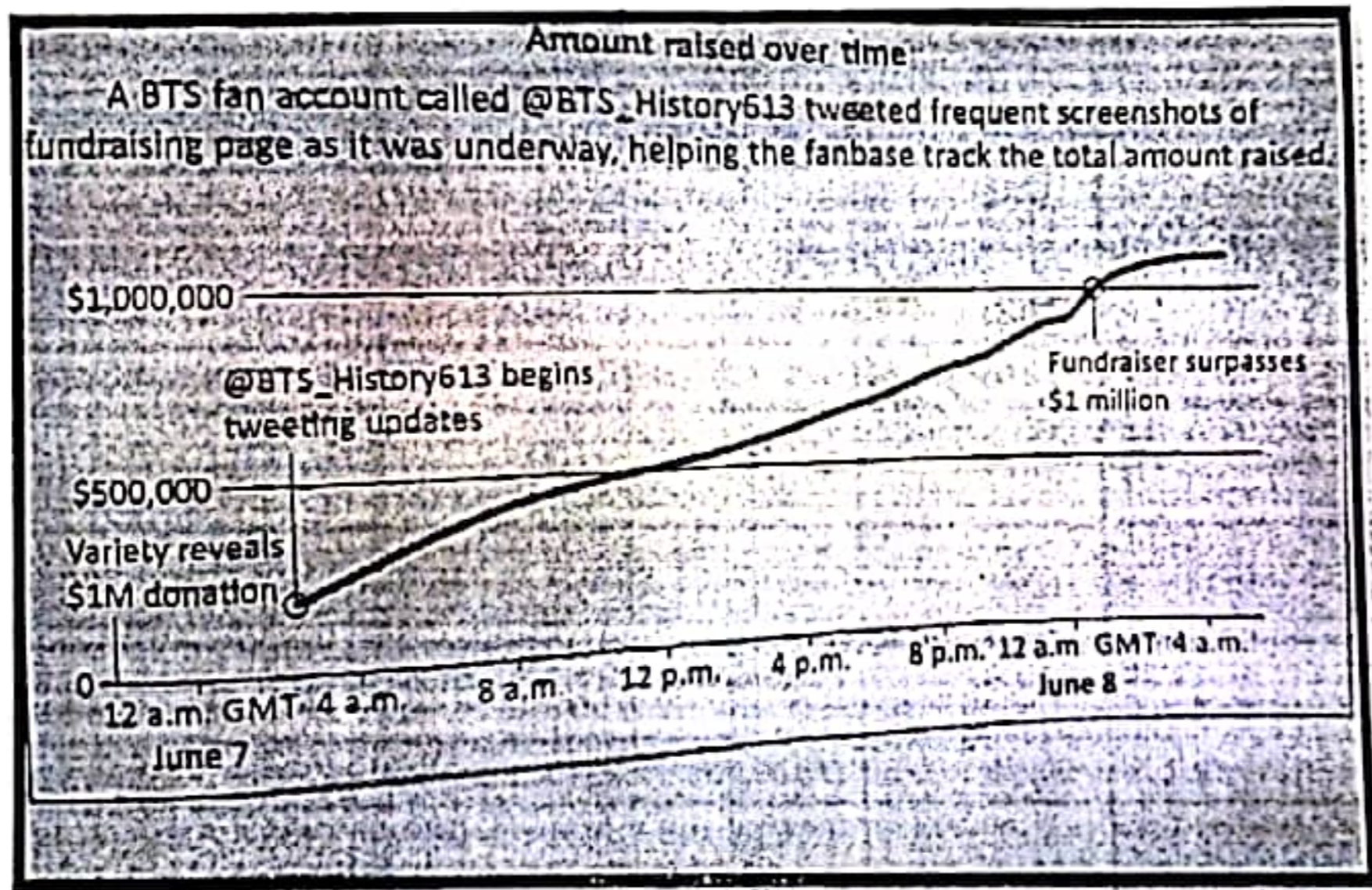
Q2. Read the following text:

10M

1. The protests against police brutality and systemic racism have seen several American and international celebrities donate to U.S. non-profit organizations dedicated to racial justice. On June 5, the racial justice organization, Black Lives Matter, confirmed that it had received a \$1 million donation from South Korean pop group BTS and its record label, Big Hit Entertainment.

2. Shortly after the news became public, BTS fans organized an online campaign to match the donation under the hashtag #MatchAMillion and reached their goal in just 25 hours.

3. K-pop fans are known for their prolific social media activity and have used their influence to support social justice issues. On Instagram and Twitter, they have taken over white supremacist hashtags with fan cams- short videos of their favorite pop idols performing. When the Dallas Police Department asked the public to submit videos of 'illegal activity' during protests to its iWatch Dallas app, fans encouraged each other to submit fan cams instead, and the app went temporarily offline.



4. These fan bases are sometimes generalized as young and obsessive individuals who occasionally, take collective action. But they have a history of raising money for charity and breaking social media records, and BTS fans in particular are enabled by the semi-structured organization of the fan base and the diversity within their ranks.

5. BTS is a seven-member K-pop group whose music draws from several genres, including hip-hop, pop, and R7B. Since their 2013 debut, they've become known for their meticulous choreography, elaborate

music videos with connected storylines, and youth-focused lyrics that touch on themes such as self-confidence, mental health and societal norms.

(Source: Reuters.com)

263 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above

(10m)

i. Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraphs 1 & 2. 2

When social issues like 'police brutality and systematic racism' get credence through donations from international celebrities, a positive reaction follows from fans to emulate the altruistic act because _____.

ii. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 3. 1

The statement 'K-pop fans are known for their prolific social media activity and used their influence to support social justice issues', is a _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a _____ (well-surveyed inference/ pragmatic assumption).

iii. Justify the following, in about 40 words. 2

The passage reveals that BTS fanbases are known for their prolific social media activity and how they use their influence to support social justice issues. Numerous factors have drawn these youngsters to get themselves attached to South Korean pop group BTS.

iv. State one reason why K-pop fans are known for their prolific social media activity. 1

v. In the Table given along with the passage, there is a statement, "A BTS fan account called @BTS_History613 tweeted frequent screenshots of fundraising page as it was underway, helping the fanbase track the total amount raised." State one inference from this. 1

(For Visually Impaired Students in lieu of question v)

Genre is characterized by a particular style, form, or content. Which of these does not fall under the category of genre?

a. Music b. Movie c. Cuisine d. Art

vi. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word from Paragraph 3: 1

savoury: delicious:: _____ : productive

vii. Infer one reason for the following, based on information in Paragraph 1. 1

'Several American and international celebrities donate to U.S. non-profit organizations dedicated to racial justice'.

- viii. Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage? 1
- Celebrities and their fan base created a solid impact to the cause of racial justice.
 - Apps developed by authorities have the capability to circumvent the uprisings.
 - The tremendous success of the BTS group has been due to their choreography.
 - The youth-focused lyrics based on the themes like self-confidence, mental health, and societal norms helped them amass a huge fortune.

Section B: Writing Skills & Grammar

Grammar

10m

Q3. Attempt any ten of the following questions.

- i. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct form of the word in the bracket. 1

I knew that Ramesh _____ (visit) Jaipur before, so I asked him to recommend a good hotel.

- ii. Complete the exclamation of a storekeeper by filling in the blank with the correct form of the word in brackets. 1

One of the bundles of paper _____ (be) missing from the stock again, today!

- iii. Read the given conversation between two friends. 1

Sumit: What do you plan to do after your graduation?

Amit: I have processed my admission to Harvard Business School. Very soon, I shall be leaving for London.

Report what Amit told his friend, by completing the following sentence.

Amit replied that _____.

- iv. Fill the blank to complete the cautionary declaration, given below. 1

The traffic police _____ penalize the law breakers strictly.

- v. Fill the blank with the correct option 1

Is there _____ milk left in the fridge?

- a. few b. some c. much d. a lot

- vi. Identify the error in the given statement below and supply the correction 1

The State police has launched a special drive against tractors and trolleys which created chaos in residential areas these days.

- Against- for
- Has-have
- Tractors-tractor
- These-this

vii. Select the correct option to fill the blank about Dipti's nature.

She always _____ every person.

- a. trust b. trusts c. trusting d. have trusted

viii Identify the error in the given opinion below and supply the correction

The rise in artificial intelligence (AI) adoption in Indian is impacting the society.

Error Correction

ix. Fill the blank with the correct option, about Varun's habit.

Varun, along with his father, _____ every official meeting.

- a. attend b. are attending c. have attended d. attends

x. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the opening line of a report.

Facebook, with more than 1 billion users is celebrated its 10th birthday this year.

Error Correction

- a. with for b. is are c. than then d. celebrated celebrating

xi Fill the blank to complete a line from a Professor's introductory address to her class.

(Use the correct tense of the word given in the bracket)

We _____ (complete) the course by next year.

xii Complete the sentence by correctly reporting Jai's advice to Gopi.

If I were you, I would go now and apologize to Mrs. Kumar and offer to pay for the shattered glass.

Jai said that if he were in Gopi's position _____

Writing

10

(Note: All details presented in the questions are Imaginary and created for assessment purpose)

Q4. Attempt any one from A and B given below:

5

A. You are Vani/ Vansh Kapoor of 214, Indrayani Apartments, Park Street, Kanpur. You came across an article in a newspaper and became very upset to see the thick smoke full of poisonous gases emitted by chimneys of a factory, causing pollution. You feel strongly about it and decide to raise awareness.

Write a letter to the Editor of Hindustan Times, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Lucknow, advocating the need for a law for the punishment to the owners of the factories which emit poisonous gases.

Or

B. You are Shivam/ Shivani of C12 Rajouri Garden Delhi. You wish to make a pilgrimage to Badrinath Kedarnath and Haridwar with your family of five. Write a letter in about 120 words to Sewa Travel, Station Road Delhi enquiring about the schedule of their conducted tour by deluxe buses to these places. Ask about the charges for boarding and lodging arrangements and the total time needed for the tour.

Q5. Attempt any one from A and B given below:

(5M)

A. Your school's teacher coordinator for co-curricular activities has tasked you, as the Head girl, with reviewing the quotes and description letters of two flower vendors for the decoration of the Annual Day celebrations. She has requested you to share your recommendation, based on analytical inputs. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, recommending Vendor B, as opposed to Vendor A, for the event.

<p>Dear Madam/Sir Co-ordinator</p> <p>Our team at Blossom Delight is dedicated to delivering beautiful and vibrant floral arrangements that will enhance the aesthetic appeal of your event.</p> <p>We offer a variety of packages to suit your needs, including elegant bouquets, table centre-pieces, and decorative installations. Our experienced team will work closely with you to understand the theme and colour scheme of the event, ensuring that our floral designs complement the overall atmosphere.</p> <p>Price Estimate for Basic Package:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Standard two-flower bouquets: ₹ 290 per piece. (Customised -Extra charges)• Table Centre-pieces: ₹ 150 each• Decorative Installations: ₹550 per area <p>We look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the success of your annual day celebrations.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p> <p>[Vendor A]</p>	<p>Dear Madam/Sir Co-ordinator</p> <p>At Petal Perfect, we take pride in creating unique and personalized floral arrangements that reflect the essence of your school.</p> <p>Our packages include a diverse range of floral designs from classic bouquets to intricate installations. We understand the importance of customization and will tailor our creations to align seamlessly with the theme and spirit of your event.</p> <p>Price Estimate for Basic Package:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▣ Bouquets: ₹ 310 per piece for two-flower setting (standard or customized)▣ Table Centre-pieces: ₹150 each▣ Decorative Installations: ₹ 575 per area (One ceremonial flower rangoli FREE.) <p>As part of our commitment to sustainability, we use locally sourced and eco-friendly materials in our arrangements.</p> <p>We look forward to the prospect of contributing to the annual day celebrations.</p> <p>Warm regards</p> <p>[Vendor B]</p>
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Or

B. As the President of the Movie Club of your school, you have been tasked with selecting a movie for the upcoming screening event for classes IX-XII.

Given below are brief descriptions and snippets of newspaper and critic reviews for TWO potential film choices. Analyse the information and decide which movie would be most suitable for the school screening. Consider aspects such as content appropriateness, audience engagement, and critical acclaim.

You may begin like this:

The choice of film (i) "MEMORIES: 1970-2000", for the school screening, is a decision based on the film's.....

The choice of film (ii) "Mrs. SUNNY SINGH & FAMILY", for the school screening, is a decision based on the film's.....

(i) MEMORIES: 1970-2000

Description: A heart-warming family drama set against the backdrop of a small town in Eastern India. It explores themes of friendship, courage, and the pursuit of dreams.

Critic Reviews:

"Memories:1970-2000" captures the essence of human connection with its touching narrative. A must-watch for all ages. – Daily Today

A feel-good movie that leaves a lasting impression. Its universal themes make it an ideal choice for a diverse audience. – Cinema Blend

(ii) Mrs. SUNNY SINGH & FAMILY

Description: A comedy extravaganza that promises non-stop laughter. It features a star-studded cast in a hilarious plot filled with witty humour.

Critic Reviews:

"Laugh Riot" delivers on its promise, providing a hilarious escape from reality. Perfect for a light-hearted movie plan. – Comedy Critic Weekly

A comedy for the ages, with impeccable timing and a script that keeps the audience in stitches. A fantastic choice for a fun-filled screening event. – The Humour Hub

Section D: Literature

40 marks

Q6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given: (5M)

A. *I am an orphan, roaming the street.
I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.
The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.
(Amanda)*

- i. Explain in what way does the language used in this poem convey the idea of internal dialogue? 1
- ii. What is the significance of the use of the word "freedom" to describe the desire of Amanda in the poem and how does this word choice contribute to the overall mood and tone of the poem? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iii. Complete the sentence with the appropriate option. 1

The lines from the poem tell us that Amanda is _____.

- a. despondent b. stress-free c. ecstatic d. Immature

iv. Read statements A and B given below, and choose the option that correctly evaluates these statements. 1

Statement A – The figure 'I' imagines a less-than-realistic view of being an orphan.

Statement B – The figure 'I' does not like the speaker.

- a) A is true, B is false, according to the extract
b) A is true, and B cannot be clearly inferred from the extract.
c) A cannot be clearly inferred from the extract, and B is false.
d) A is true and can be inferred from the poem, and B is true too.

Or

B. *But yester night declare*

That he had found a text to prove it

That only God, my dear,

Could love you for yourself alone

And not your yellow hair."

(For Anne Gregory)

- i. In what ways does the language used in this poem challenges traditional ideas of what poetry should be. 1
- ii. What is the significance of the use of the word 'God' in the poem and how does this word choice contribute to the overall mood and tone of the poem? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iii. Complete the sentence with the appropriate option. The lines from the poem tell us that God's love is
- a. Eternal b. Unbiased c. Unconditional d. All of these 1
- iv. The "yellow hair" is a symbol in the poem. Briefly support the statement with reference to the poem "For Anne Gregory". 1

Q7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given: (5m)

A. White-faced, Fowler stared after him. "But ..." he stammered, "the police..."

"There were no police." Ausable sighed. "Only Henry, whom I was expecting."

"But won't that man out on the balcony ...?" Fowler began.

"No," said Ausable, "he won't return. You see, my young friend, there is no balcony."

(The Midnight Visitor)

- i. State any one inference from the given content "But won't that man out on the balcony?" 1
- ii. Which of the following can be applied to the question- "But won't that man out on the balcony?" 1
- A hypothesis – a proposed explanation for a phenomenon
 - An assumption- something that is taken for granted or assumed to be true without proof
 - A premise- a proposition that forms the basis of an argument
 - A theory- a well substantiated explanation for a natural phenomenon
- iii. Elaborate in about 40 words with reference to the context of Fowler's dumbfounded expression. 2
- iv. Which phrase would correctly substitute the expression 'pale with fear' from the extract? 1

Or

B. "It was only when I began to learn that my boyhood freedom was an illusion when I discovered as a young man that my freedom had already been taken from me, that I began to hunger for it. At first as a student I wanted freedom only for myself, the transitory freedoms of being able to stay out at night, read what I pleased, and go where I chose. Later, as a young man in Johannesburg, I yearned for the basic and honorable freedoms..."

(A Long Walk to Freedom)

- i. Why do you think the speaker mentions some freedoms as 'transitory'? 1
- The freedoms are momentary and keep changing with time.
 - The definition of freedom is constant but perspectives differ.
 - Freedom means different things to different people.
 - Freedom is not that important after a certain age.
- ii. Choose the option that best fits the usage of the word 'illusion' as used in the extract. 1
- He was never able to get past the illusion.
 - The illusion I experienced was quite intriguing.
 - A large mirror in the room creates an illusion.
 - I was living under the illusion that this is possible.
- iii. A part of the extract has been paraphrased. Choose the option that includes the most appropriate solution to the blanks in the given paraphrase of the extract. 1
- The speaker's belief about freedom, since childhood proved false. It was not until the speaker grew up to be a young man when it i) _____ on him that he was ii) _____ of freedom. Then he began desiring it.
- i) desired ii) dawned iii) depriving
 - i) dawned ii) deprived iii) desiring
 - i) dawned ii) arrived
 - i) arrived ii) deprived
- iv. The speaker says, 'at first as a student I wanted freedom only for myself.' Why do you think he only thought about himself? 2

Q8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. (4X3=12)

i. Even the most laid-back individuals would get converted to a life of high-energy adventure in Coorg. Do you agree? Why? Why not?

ii. How does Ogden Nash challenge the notion in his poem 'Tale of Custard the Dragon' that individuals should conform to societal expectations?

iii. Valli's first bus ride experience could be possible because she belonged to a small village. Do you agree? Why? Why not?

iv. How can we say that Natalya was continuously successful in maintaining an upper hand during her arguments with Lomov?

v. "Fire and Ice" project a pessimistic outlook. Comment.

Q9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2X3=6)

i. In the context of the protagonist of the story Bholi, validate the importance of education, when it comes to self-worth and social standing.

ii. Henry unintentionally saved Ausable's life. Briefly comment.

(*The Midnight Visitor*)

iii. The various elements of H.G Wells writing style work together to create both a sense of comedy as well as an emotional appeal for science fiction lovers in the story, Footprint without Feet. Comment with reference to any one of the elements.

(*Footprints without Feet*)

Q10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 100-120 words. (1X6=6)

A. Lencho, and the boy who lost his ball, both expressed disappointment in their lives. Assume they both have a conversation regarding their faith and loss and how they cope with it.

Write this conversation as per your understanding of 'A Letter to God' and 'The Ball Poem'.

You may begin like this-

Lencho: I lost all of my crops to the hailstorm. I don't know why God would do this to His believer.

Boy: I lost my prized possession, my favorite ball, and now I can never have it!

OR

B. "Difficulties do come in our lives, but they are not there to stay forever."

Comment on this statement with reference to the poem 'Dust of Snow' by Robert Frost.

Q11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 100-120 words. (1X6=6)

A. A character arc is the transformation or development of a character throughout a story and refers to the changes a character undergoes as a result of their experiences, challenges, and interactions with other characters. In the light of the above information, trace the character arc of Madam Loisel in the story 'The Necklace' by Guy de Maupassant in about 120 words.

OR

B. Imagine Mrs Pumphrey from 'A Triumph of Surgery' by James Harriot writes a Diary Entry in the context of her own experience, exploring the range of emotions owners of pet dogs go through once their pets fall sick. Write this diary entry as Mrs Pumphrey in about 120 words.