

**AMBIENCE PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Test Series : 2023-24

Class X

Subject - English

Date: 12 January 2024

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10B  
ROLL NO: 15

MM: 80

Time: 3 Hours

General Instructions :

- The paper consists of three sections-  
Section A (Reading Skills) : 20 marks  
Section B (Writing 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 has **10** pages and **11** questions.

**SECTION A: READING SKILLS (20 marks)**

**(10)**

**Q1) Read the following text.**

**HUMANITY'S FINAL FRONTIER**

Why are billionaires' space plans dangerous?

1. India has recently joined NASA's Artemis Accords for lunar exploration. But, what exactly, are the US government and American billionaires planning to do in outer space? *Astrotopia - The Dangerous Religion of the Corporate Space Race* by Mary-Jane Rubenstein takes apart the mindset that wants to establish outposts on the moon, mine water and minerals, and colonise Mars.
2. Rather than curiosity about the mysteries of interstellar blackness and our place in it, this pursuit has been driven by a 'conquer and extract' mentality that had created imperialism and ecological ruin, the book argues.
3. Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos are the biggest billionaire astrophreneurs duking it out for space supremacy. SpaceX and Blue Origin have different visions- Musk is the hare to Bezo's tortoise - but both promise deliverance and see earth as a ticking time bomb. Musk aims to make humanity into a 'multiplanetary species' and colonise Mars. His plan is to 'terraform' the inhospitable planet by warming it up with nukes. He wants a society of homesteaders, starting with a million people by 2050. Bezos, meanwhile, is attached to the earth, but it has finite resources, and infinite growth demands more. He wants to ship out the mines and factories and give earth a break. He envisions bases on the moon with solar panels, water to be split and recombined into rocket fuel and mini missions to mine asteroids for heavy and rare earth metals.
4. While neither of these dizzying plans has made visible progress and the last time someone went to the moon was still half a century ago, these companies send up thousands of satellites, as do others offering low-orbital joyrides. One person paid for his ashes to be blasted into space.
5. Today, earth is ringed by a halo of space trash, with dead satellites, shrapnel, paint chips, tools, the junk of the International Space Station, and so on. We keep producing this litter, travelling at furious speeds. There is no way to clean it yet - a harpooning method has been proposed, but it's unclear who pays for this cosmic janitorial service, without return on investment.
6. Is anyone in charge? Well, not quite. Space has seen massive deregulation and privatization, with NASA now relying on private contractors to send up cargo and astronauts. An Obama-initiated bipartisan bill in 2015 launched this commercial space age, stating that extra-terrestrial minerals belong to the entities that extract it. Companies are going full speed into a gold and platinum rush.
7. The book critiques the assumption of humanity's 'dominion' over everything else, and the religious rhetoric that has long provided cover for colonialism and violent extraction. Republicans like Mike Pence invoke American ingenuity and divine sanction for boots on the moon. No wonder these ventures are called 'missions', says the book. The jockeying for military supremacy during the Cold War was dressed up in language about the 'final frontier', man's ceaseless need to explore, and the 'conquest of space'.

8. Should we study and explore space? Yes, but not if science means heedless exploration, argues the book. Ethical exploration would avoid damage and violence and prioritise knowledge over profit. It would keep earth's own needs first, like using technology to better track weather and disaster, or deploying billionaire surpluses on this planet before remaking others. Otherwise, what we do to the earth, we will do outside earth.

**Answer the following questions based on the passage above :**

- (i) Which of the following statements best describes the author's attitude towards the fact that an Obama-initiated bipartisan bill in 2015 launched this commercial space age, stating that extra-terrestrial minerals belong to the entities that extract it? (*para 6*) (1)
- (A) The author commends the project for accelerating space research.  
(B) The author praises the philanthropic corporate giants for finding space projects.  
(C) The author clearly condemns the decision and holds it responsible for the exploitation of space by man.  
(D) The author is convinced that decision was based on rational thinking
- (ii) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines, from paragraph 5? Rationalise your response in about 40 words. (2)
- 'There is no way to clean it yet- a harpooning method has been proposed, but it's unclear who pays for this cosmic janitorial service, without return on investment.'
- (iii) Complete the given sentence appropriately. (1)
- 'The author's use of vivid imagery in paragraph 3, such as "SpaceX and Blue Origin have different visions- Musk is the hare to Bezo's tortoise- but both promise deliverance and see earth as a ticking time bomb", greatly affects the reader because \_\_\_\_\_.'
- (iv) The passage includes some words and phrases that convey the same meaning. From the sets (a)-(e) below, identify two sets of synonyms. (1)
- 1 deregulation and privatisation  
2 supremacy and dominion  
3 colonialism and imperialism  
4 ventures and missions  
5 conquer and extract
- A. 1 and 5.                      B. 2 and 4  
C. 3 and 4.                      D. 2 and 3
- (v) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)
- 'We can say that the author's tone becomes of concern and strong belief when she says that it would keep earth's own needs first, like using technology to better track weather and disaster, or deploying billionaire surpluses on this planet before remaking others, because \_\_\_\_\_.'
- (vi) Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, how space has seen massive deregulation and privatization. (2)
- (vii) What is the message conveyed by the author in the above passage? (1)
- A. The billionaires are exploiting the earth.  
B. Americans are exploiting the earth.  
C. Heedless exploration and research in science is unacceptable.  
D. It is unethical to study and explore space.
- (viii) Is anyone in charge? Well, not quite. (1)
- On the basis of the reading of paragraph 6, give any one argument in favour of the above.

2) Read the following text.

(10)

(Taken from TOI, page 18, June 29, 2023 edition)

### TOMATONOMICS

Steep rise in tomato prices tells a bigger story- of climate shocks and poor cold chain infrastructure.

1. The southwest monsoon on June 28 was 16% below normal, following both a rapid advance and heavy precipitation in the second fortnight of the month. This development, however, is tempered by three other aspects that cloud the outlook for agricultural output and food inflation. As the monsoon began to pick up pace, the market for some vegetables witnessed a surge in prices-tomato prices are hitting headlines now. While the surge is on account of events prior to the monsoon, it does highlight the inadequacy of using the average seasonal rainfall to gauge the impact of farm output and inflation. GOI's weighted average price for tomato arrivals across markets on June 26 showed that at Rs 4,011/quintal, it was 66% higher than a year ago. Among the factors that led to this surge are unusually high temperatures and pest attacks three months ago. It's an example of the higher level of risk farmers now bear on account of extreme climate events.

2. The other two intertwined aspects that lead to uncertainty are El Nino phenomenon and the prospect for paddy. El Nino is a climate pattern that comes from unusual warming of surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean. It can lead to both a reduction in rainfall here as well as disturb its distribution. This is an El Nino year. RBI study last week concluded El Nino years are generally ones where agricultural output is adversely affected. The biggest risk it poses is to paddy, the most important crop of the kharif season. On July 23, paddy acreage was 35% lower than last year following the delay in the monsoon's onset. Add to this a relatively low rice stock with GOL. In June, the central pool stock of rice was 26.2 million tonnes, the lowest level in five years. The size of GOI's stock influences price expectations. In this context, it's pertinent that on June 26, the weighted average market price of paddy arrivals had risen 9% year-on-year.

3. The other point, especially for vegetables, is that India's cold chain infrastructure is not expanding fast enough. Cold chains can offset higher climatic risks by reducing wastage and price volatility in perishables. Monsoons remain a potential source of supply shocks and the best way to insulate the economy is to upgrade infrastructure. (acreage - an area of land, typically when used for agricultural purposes, but not necessarily measured in acres)

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :**

- (i) Complete the following statement appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraph 1. (1)  
\_\_\_\_\_ is an example of the higher level of risk farmers now bear on account of extreme climate events.
- (ii) Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 3. (1)  
The southwest monsoon on June 28 was 16% below normal, following both a rapid advance and heavy precipitation in the second fortnight of the month.  
It is \_\_\_\_\_ (a fact/ an opinion) because it is \_\_\_\_\_ (an objective detail/ a subjective judgement)
- (iii) Justify the following, in about 40 words. (2)  
This is an El Nino year.
- (iv) Based on the information given in paragraph 1, mention any one aspect that clouds the outlook for agricultural output and food inflation. (1)
- (v) According to the passage, the best way to control the prices especially of vegetables is by (1)  
A. reducing wastage.  
B. reducing price volatility in perishables.  
C. strengthening the cold chain infrastructure.  
D. All the above.

- (vi) In the given sentence, taken from paragraph 1, select the option that correctly replaces the underlined word, with its most likely antonym. (1)

In this context, it's pertinent that on June 26, the weighted average market price of paddy arrivals had risen 9% year-on-year.

- A. relevant  
B. appropriate.  
C. irrelevant  
D. fitting

- (vii) Infer any two main reasons that the author gives in the passage for the surge in prices of tomatoes. (2)  
(Answer in about 40 words)

- (viii) In describing the fact that the size of GOI's stock influences price expectations, what type of evidence does the author rely on primarily? (1)

### SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (20 Marks)

#### GRAMMAR :

Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

Q3) Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed : (1x10=10)

- (i) Fill the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a newspaper article:

Dutch King Willam-Alexander on Saturday apologised for the Netherlands' historic involvement in slavery and the effects that it still has today. The king \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) at a ceremony marking the 160th anniversary of the legal abolition of slavery in the Netherlands, including its former colonies.

- (ii) Read the given sentence from a blog reviewing a recently opened party place. Identify the error and supply the correction in the given sentence.

Nestled within the opulent confine of South Delhi, the Delhi Party Club offers a sophisticated experience to its patrons.

Use the given format for your response

ERROR	CORRECTION

- (iii) Suhani and Ramya had a conversation about their group of friends going for a concert. Report Suhani's question.

Are you coming with us tonight?

- (iv) Read the dialogue between Bushra and her friend, Akira, regarding the stream she was going to opt for in Class XI.

Bushra: Which stream will you opt for in Class XI?

Akira: Ah! I am not sure yet.

Fill in the blanks to complete the reporting of the above dialogue. Akira  
Bushra asked Akira which stream she would join in Class XI. ~~Bushra~~ sighed and exclaimed \_\_\_\_\_.

- (v) Fill the blank by giving your response to complete the concluding line of a tender notice issued by the Home Department of Government of Maharashtra to the general public.

The details can be viewed online and downloaded directly from the Government of Maharashtra E-tendering portal from 03.07.2023 at 10:01 hours (IST) onwards. The right to reject any or all tenders without assigning \_\_\_\_\_ (some/any/no) reason is reserved.

Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence from an advertisement printed by an online shopping company.

The most awaiting 'Super Sale' on all kitchen items has begun. Do not miss the 'Special Offer of the Day'.

Use the given format for your response.

ERROR	CORRECTION

(vii) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the opening line, from a blog on influencers.

Most known influencers and stylists would never admit and they all do 'wardrobing'.

	ERROR	CORRECTION
A	most	more
B	would	will
<u>C</u>	and	but
D	it	that

(viii) Complete the given narrative, by filling the blank with the correct option.

Had I listened to my parents' repeated instructions about cyber crimes, I \_\_\_\_\_duped of a large sum of money.

- A. Will not have been
- B. would not have been
- C. will not being
- D. would not being

(ix) Report the dialogue between a doctor and her patient, by completing the sentence:

DOCTOR: Sir, are you still feeling uncomfortable?

PATIENT: Yes, I am not comfortable at all. Each step that I take is very painful.

The doctor greeted her patient respectfully and asked \_\_\_\_\_.

The patient answered in the affirmative that he was not comfortable at all and explained that each step he took was very painful.

(x) Fill the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the announcement of the postponement of declaration of result.

With great regret, I \_\_\_\_\_(inform) all that the results of the competition shall be declared on Monday in the coming week.

- A. inform
- B. have informed
- C. shall inform
- D. should inform

(xi) Complete the line from the poem Daffodils by William Wordsworth, by filling the blank with the correct option.

I \_\_\_\_\_lonely as a cloud  
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd.

A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

- A. was wandering
- B. wandered
- C. had been wandering
- D. will be wandering

xii. Identify the error and supply correction for the following note for the visitors of a zoo:

NOTE: One of the cages has the world's most brutal destroyer of nature. Please write your comments about this creature inside the notebook kept outside its cage if you are able to see it there.

Use the given format for your response

ERROR	CORRECTION

**WRITING SKILLS :**

Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

**Q4) Write a letter on any one of the following topics in 100-120 words: (5)**

A. You are Sarvesh / Sarvesha, a student of Class X, PYP International School, New Delhi. You aspire to pursue the course in Graphics and become a Graphic Designer. You came across an advertisement in the newspaper about a Graphic Designing Course. Write a **letter of inquiry** in 100-120 words to the Head of the Institute of Graphic Design, University of Delhi, seeking information about the course, admission procedure, eligibility criteria, fee structure, facilities, placement opportunities, etc.

**OR**

B. You happen to meet a few underprivileged children, struggling to procure books for their studies, as they live in slums. You wish to extend a helping hand to them; therefore, you decide to write a **letter to the Editor** of 'The Herald', New Delhi on this issue, advocating the establishment of a free Library in your locality and support such students in their studies. Sign yourself as Gunjan/Gunj, a student from Pancham Nagar, 46 Kings Road, New Delhi. Write the letter in about 100-120 words.

**Q5) Write an analytical paragraph on any one of the following topics in 100-120 words: (5)**

A. The following table shows that textbooks are cheaper than technological means, to promote education in a country like India. Read the table and write an analytical paragraph in about 100-120 words.

	Text Books	Digital Modules
Content	₹ 100.25	₹ 150.23
Management	₹ 200	₹ 50
Device	₹ 00	₹ 30,000
Network	₹ 00	₹ 10,000
Teacher training	₹ 100	₹ 1000
Total	₹ 400.25	₹ 41,200.23

**OR**

B. Analyse this tour proposal from Joy Tours and Travels (JTT) and the itinerary to either approve or reject the tour proposal, while focusing on the students' safety, interest, and physical wellness. Write this analytical paragraph in about 120 words, by selecting features that support your analysis.

### JOY TOURS AND TRAVELS

**TOUR TYPE:** 4D/3N Educational Tour for senior school students (IX-XII).

**DESTINATION:** Goa

**CHARGES PER PAX:** 8000 INR

- Tour Travel & sightseeing by AC bus.
- Accommodation on quad sharing basis in 3-star hotel.
- One staff complimentary for every 20 students.
- Charges all inclusive.
- Dance Party on last day.
- Insurance policy of ₹ 20,000/- per head.
- Provision of Tour Manager's assistance to all places.

Day	Estimated time of departure	Estimated time of arrival	Sight-seeing Destination/Activity	Time spent at the destination
28 Oct Day 1	8 pm Goa Express, New Delhi Railway Station			
29 Oct Day 2		7 am Vasco da Gama Station, Goa	8.30 am Check in at Heritage hotel and breakfast	
	9.30 am (hotel)	10.15 am (beach)	Anjuna Beach	30 min.
	10.00 am	2.00 pm	Anjuna Beach (parasailing, scuba diving, kayaking, water scooter)	4 hours
	2 pm (Restaurant)	3 pm (Restaurant)	Lunch at a local restaurant	1 hour
	3 pm (Banjara Market)	5 pm (Banjara Market)	Shopping at a local flea market	2 hours
	5 pm - local eatery	5.30 pm - for church	Tea and snacks, leave for the church	
	6.00 pm (church)	7.30 (church)	Church Basilica of Bom Jesus and leave for hotel	1 hr 30 min
	8.30 (hotel)	9.30 pm (hotel)	Dinner	1 hr
Day 3	8 am (hotel)	9 am (hotel)	Breakfast	1 hr
	9.30 am (hotel)	10.30 am (beach)	Agonda Beach Water sports, boating	4 hrs
	2.30 pm (restaurant)	3.30 pm (restaurant)	Lunch	1 hr
	3.45 pm	4.45 pm	Dudhsagar Falls	1 hr
	7.00 pm (The Falls)	8.00 pm (hotel)		
	8.30 pm dinner and party			
Day 4	8.00 am	9.30 am	Breakfast and check out	

### SECTION C - LITERATURE (40 MARKS)

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

A. 'LOMOV: Never mind about my people! The Lomovs have all been honourable people, and not one has ever been tried for embezzlement, like your grandfather!

CHUBUKOV: You Lomovs have had lunacy in your family, all of you!

NATALYA: All, all, all!

CHUBUKOV: Your grandfather was a drunkard, and your younger aunt, Nastasya Mihailovna, ran away with an architect, and so on...

LOMOV: And your mother was hump-backed. [Clutches at his heart] Something pulling in my side... My head.... Help! Water!

CHUBUKOV: Your father was a guzzling gambler!' (The Proposal)

) Choose the option that correctly identifies the tone of the characters in the given extract. (1)

- 1) antagonism                      2) humour  
3) contempt.                        4) irony

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

ii) The playwright's intention in the given extract is to \_\_\_\_\_. (1)

- A. throw light upon the weaknesses of the rich in any society.  
B. emphasize that family history is important in a marriage proposal.  
C. satirise the superficiality of the upper class in Russian society.  
D. send a message that ego is not healthy in any relationship.

iii) If according to Chubukov and Natalya, Lomovs are not "honourable people", why do they still consider Lomov's proposal? (2)

iv) Imagine you found the playwright's notes for each scene in the play and noticed that some of the words were missing. Choose the option that fills the missing words most appropriately. (1)

A conversation that starts pleasantly quickly turns into a (i) \_\_\_\_\_ argument. With (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ of Oxen Meadows at the heart of the matter, Lomov and Natalya quarrel and are later joined by Chubukov. Thus, begins a (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ of insults, accusations and name-calling. All (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ disappears. Eventually, Lomov leaves clutching at his heart, his foot numb.

- A.(i) petty;            (ii) history;            (iii) series;            (iv) politeness  
B.(i) vicious;        (ii) ownership;        (iii) circus;            (iv) civility  
C.(i) curious;        (ii) land;                (iii) outpouring;      (iv) laughter  
D.(i) ugly;            (ii) neighbourhood;    (iii) barrage,            (iv) goodness

**OR**

B. 'Has given my heart  
A change of mood  
And saved some part  
Of a day I had rued.' (Dust of Snow)

(i) Given below are two statements marked as Assertion and Reason. Read both the statements carefully and choose the correct alternative from the following: (1)

Assertion: The poet's mood changed.

Reason: The crow was sitting on the Hemlock tree.

- A. Both assertion and reason are correct and reason is the correct explanation of assertion.  
B. Both assertion and reason are correct but reason is not the correct explanation of assertion.  
C. Assertion is true and reason is false.  
D. Assertion is false and reason is true.

(ii) What did the poet think of the day before the fall of the dust of snow on him? (2)

(iii) The 'crow' and 'hemlock' represent the side of nature. (1)

(iv) Explain the use of any one poetic device in the lines given above. (1)



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

A. 'Instead, you have spent a dull evening in a French music hall with a sloppy fat man who, instead of having messages slipped into his hand by dark-eyed beauties, gets only a prosaic telephone call making an appointment in his room. You have been bored!' The fat man chuckled to himself as he unlocked the door of his room and stood aside to let his frustrated guest enter.' (The Midnight Visitor)

- (i) State any one inference about Fowler from the given context. "You have been bored!". (1)  
(ii) State which of the options from A. to D. can be applied to the given extract. (1)

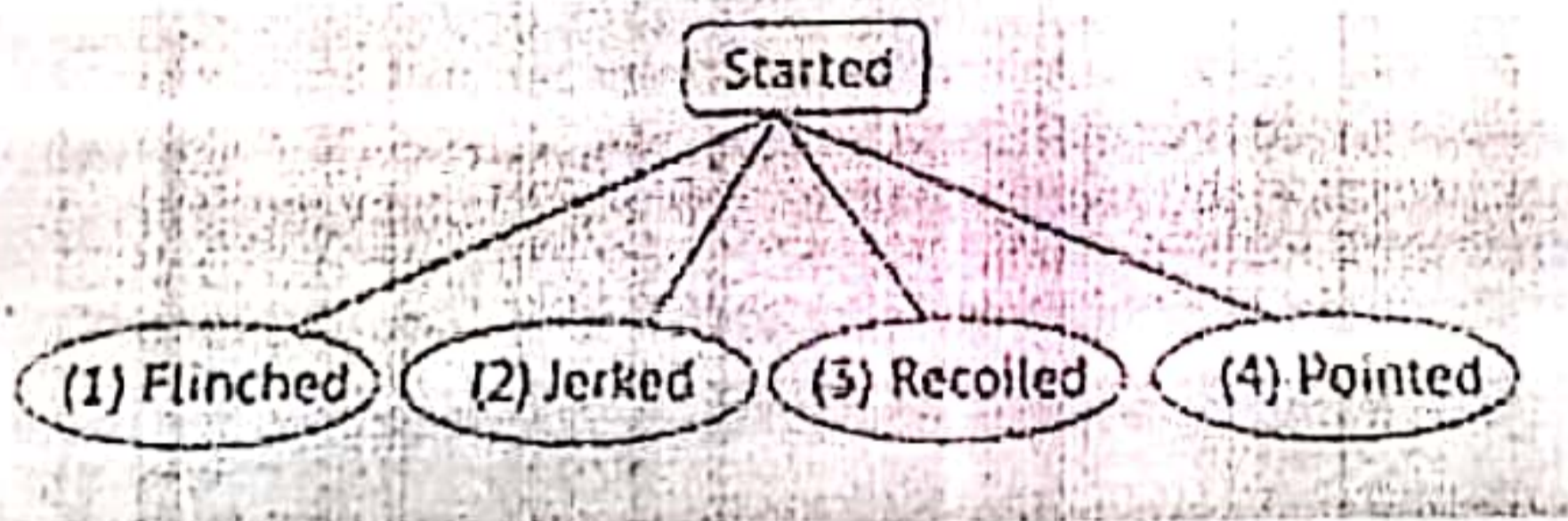
- A. Aside- a direct address to the audience that other characters aren't privy to.  
B. Monologue- a long speech delivered by a character during a conversation.  
C. Point of View-narration of a story can be from a first, second, or third person's point of view.  
D. Soliloquy- a long speech with no audience in the story.

- (iii) The speaker talks about many disappointments for the listener. Which was the primary cause of disappointment? (2)  
(iv) Which phrase would correctly substitute 'chuckled' in the given sentence from the extract. (1)  
The fat man chuckled to himself as he unlocked the door of his room and stood aside to let his frustrated guest enter.

OR

B. 'The two boys started in surprise at the fresh muddy imprints of a pair of bare feet. What was a barefooted man doing on the steps of a house in the middle of London? And where was the man? As they gazed, a remarkable sight met their eyes. A fresh footmark appeared from nowhere! Further footprints followed, one after another, descending the steps and progressing down the street. The boys followed, fascinated, until the muddy impressions became fainter and fainter, and at last disappeared altogether.' (Footprints without Feet)

- (i) Why were the boys surprised to see a barefooted man in London? (2)  
(ii) Pick out the option that is not related to 'started' as used in the extract: (1)



- A. Option (1)  
B. Option (2)  
C. Option (3)  
D. Option (4)
- (iii) Pick the option that best describes how the boys are feeling based on the extract. (1)  
A. Infuriated, curious, puzzled  
B. Captivated, curious, puzzled  
C. Repulsed, curious, captivated  
D. Enchanted, repulsed, curious
- (iv) Pick the option that best matches synonyms of the word 'gazed'. (1)  
A. (1) gaped (2) gawked  
B. (1) admired (2) disbelieved  
C. (1) overlooked (2) stared  
D. (1) surveyed (2) overlooked

**Q8) Answer ANY FOUR of the following in about 40-50 words each.**

**(4×3=12)**

- (i) How is "The Tale of Custard the Dragon" a ballad?
- (ii) "Money is external". What does the poet mean by this expression taken from "The Ball Poem"?
- (iii) During her journey, Valli absorbed the natural beauty and clapped her hands in happiness on seeing a young cow running very fast. What does this reveal about Valli? (Madam Rides the Bus)
- (iv) When did the seagull get over his fear of the water? (Two Stories about Flying)
- (v) "If there is nothing on the tree, 'Tis the chameleon you see." Briefly explain the paradox of the quote from the poem "How to Tell Wild Animals".

**Q9) Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each.**

**(2×3=6)**

- (i) What role does the 'Mother Goose' book play in the story? (The Book that Saved the Earth)
- (ii) What aspirations does Bholi have for her future at the end of the story?
- (iii) What do you think is the meaning of the phrase "honour among thieves" as used in the story 'A Question of Trust'?

**Q10) Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.**

**(1×6=6)**

(A) "Difficulties do come in our lives, but they are not there to stay forever." Comment on this statement with reference to the poem 'Fog' by Carl Sandburg.

**OR**

(B) Just as a love for outer appearances is not true love, love for the sake of money is not true love either. Pen down a dialogue exchange between Anne Gregory and Natalya from "The Proposal" where Anne tries to explain how loving others simply for who they are is the most important virtue that everyone must possess.

**Q11) Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.**

**(1×6=6)**

(A) Albert Einstein said, "The important thing is to never stop questioning." Richard was a genius who proved this quote true. Justify. (The Making of a Scientist)

**OR**

(B) Give a brief character sketch of Mrs. Pumphrey. What values are reflected through her character? (A Triumph of Surgery)

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