

PRE- BOARD II (2023-2024)
CLASS X- ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (184)

Time: 3 Hrs

Max. Marks: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections- READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING, and LITERATURE
2. All questions are compulsory.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.
4. Adhere to the word limit.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS

20 Marks

Q1 Read the passage given below.

10

- 1 Many of us believe that "small" means "insignificant". We believe that small actions and choices do not have much impact on our lives. We think that it is only the big things, the big actions and the big decisions that really count. But when you look at the lives of all great people, you will see that they built their character through small decisions, small choices and small actions that they performed every day. They transformed their lives through a step-by-step or day by-day approach. They nurtured and nourished their good habits and chipped away at their bad habits, one step at a time. It was their small day-to-day decisions that added up to make tremendous difference in the long run. Indeed, in matters of personal growth and character building, there is no such thing as an overnight success.
- 2 Growth always occurs through a sequential series of stages. There is an organic process to growth. When we look at children growing up, we can see this process at work: the child first learns to crawl, then to stand and walk, and finally to run. The same is true in the natural world. The soil must first be tilled, and then the seed must be sowed. Next, it must be nurtured with enough water and sunlight, and only then will it grow, bear fruit and finally ripen and be ready to eat.
- 3 Gandhi understood this organic process and used this universal law of nature to his benefit. Gandhi grew in small ways, in his day-to-day affairs. He did not wake up one day and find himself to be the "Mahatma". In fact, there was nothing much in his early life that showed signs of greatness. But from his mid twenties onwards, he deliberately and consistently attempted to change himself, reform himself and grow in some small way every day. Day by day, hour by hour, he risked failure, experimented and learnt from mistakes. In small and large situations alike, he took up rather than avoid responsibility.
- 4 People have always marvelled at the effortless way in which Gandhi could accomplish the most difficult tasks. He displayed great deal of self-mastery and discipline that was amazing. These things did not come easily to him. Years of practice and disciplined training went into making his successes possible. Very few saw his struggles, fears, doubts and anxieties, or his inner efforts to overcome them. They saw the victory, but not the struggle.
- 5 This is a common factor in the lives of all great people: they exercised their freedom and choices in small ways that made great impact on their lives and their environment. Each of their small decisions and actions, added up to have a profound impact in the long run. By understanding this principle, we can move forward, with confidence, in the direction of our dreams. Often, when our "ideal goal" looks too far from us, we become easily discouraged, disheartened and pessimistic. However, when we choose to grow in small ways, taking small steps one at a time, performing it becomes easy.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

- i) The main idea in the first paragraph is 1
- (a) Big things, big actions and big decisions make a person great.
 - (b) Small actions and decisions are important in one's life.
 - (c) Overnight success is possible for all of us.
 - (d) Personal changes are not important.
- ii) What does the writer mean by saying 'chipped away at their bad habits'? 1
- (a) Steadily gave up bad habits.
 - (b) Slowly produced bad habits.
 - (c) Gradually criticized bad habits.
 - (d) Did not like bad habits.

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- iii) Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words to support the view that Gandhi accomplished the most difficult tasks effortlessly. 2
- iv) What is done by great people to transform their lives? 1
 (a) They approach life on a weekly basis. (c) They believe in performing every day.
 (b) They build character in small ways. (d) All of these
- v) Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
 According to the author we can _____ instead of feeling negative when our goals seem tough to attain.
- vi) In paragraph number five, which particular principle is the author talking about that helps to attain our dreams with confidence? 1
 (a) Small choices can have far-reaching impact on our lives.
 (b) We need to learn to stay away from pessimism.
 (c) There are common factors in the lives of great people.
 (d) It is easier to perform when one stays away from discouragement.
- vii) Describe the organic process of growth through an example from the text in about 40 words. 2
- viii) Which sentence uses the word 'profound' the way it has been used in para 5? 1
 (a) She may not be expressive but has profound knowledge of her subject.
 (b) The effects of your decisions can be more profound than you can imagine.
 (c) Her new research offers profound insight into function of human brain.
 (d) The profound mystery of poetry can be grasped only by some.

Q2 Read the passage given below.

10

- 1 The North East of India is really marvellous when it comes to grandeur and beauty. This place offers us a glimpse into a variety of things, ranging from captivating high mountain passes to the exotic tribal culture. It is the chief tribal area of India with many tribes who speak different languages and dialects.
- 2 The North-East of India is a melting pot of variegated cultural mosaic of people and races, an ethnic tapestry of many hues and shades. Yet, these states are lesser explored as compared to the rest of the country. With the improved means of communication, the entire region is now well connected to the rest of India, leaving behind isolation. The new generations of travellers who are 'money rich and time poor' are increasingly looking for unique experiences, a phenomenon being called the emergence of the 'experience economy'. For this new and growing breed of tourists, the Northeast with its variety and uniqueness, holds immense attraction.
- 3 A study conducted in 2020 by Dr. Sherap Bhutia, revealed that the foreign tourist arrival in the North-East increased from 37,380 persons in 2005 to 118,552 in 2014. The overall growth rate of tourists (both domestic and foreign) in the Northeast was as high as 26.44% during 2005-06. A high and positive growth of 12.53% was registered in foreign tourist visits to the North-East States of India during 2012 from 2011, which further rose to register a growth of 27.93% during 2013 from 2012. Foreign tourist arrivals in the Northeast witnessed a growth of 39.77% in 2014 from 2013, according to data provided by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
- 4 The study recommendations for tourism planners included the need to concentrate on some key areas like enhancement of tourist facilities, tourism financing, focus on community involvement, and others for the formulation of a sustainable tourism strategy in the North-East States of India.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

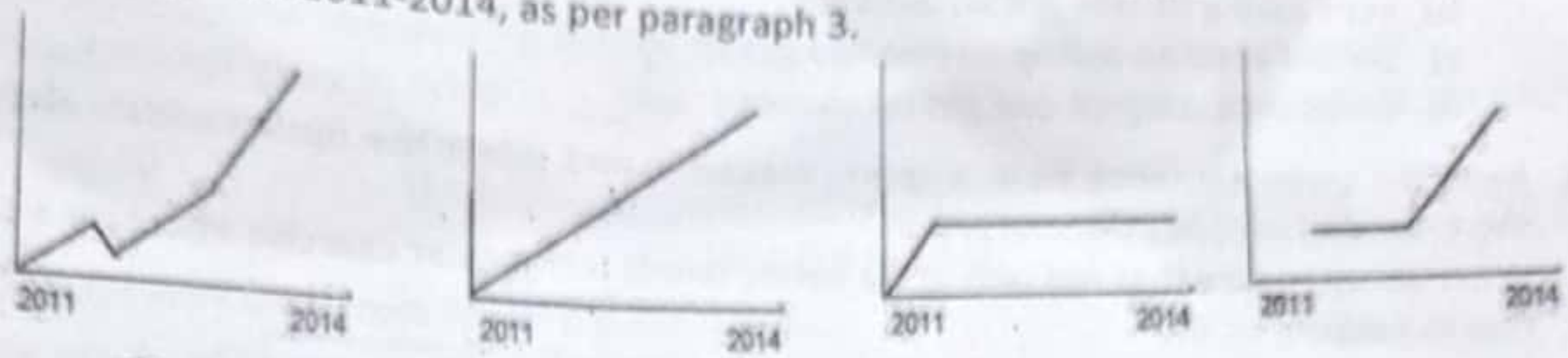
- i) Select the appropriate option to fill in the blanks. 1
 From paragraph 2, we can infer that the _____ and _____ of the North-Eastern states aid in attracting the 'money rich and time poor' tourists.
 1. distinctiveness 2. conventionality 3. diversity 4. uniformity 5. modernity
 (a) 1 & 3 (b) 2 & 4 (c) 2 & 5 (d) 1 & 4

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ii) Select the correct option to complete the following sentence:
 Travellers advocating the 'experience economy' seek a holiday package with

- (a) grand facilities, expensive hotels, and excellent services to pamper them.
- (b) a wholesome experience within the budget they have planned for.
- (c) places and cities to buy things from and opportunities to spend money.
- (d) cost-effective services, affordable accommodation, and many days of touring.

iii) Select the chart that appropriately represents the trend of foreign tourist travels in the North-East, from 2011-2014, as per paragraph 3.



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

iv) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option.
 The study of tourist travel statistics in the North-East, from 2005 to 2014 showed _____ results.

- (a) expected
- (b) encouraging
- (c) inconsistent
- (d) questionable

v) Explain briefly, in 40 words, why the Northeast can prove to be attractive for new generations travellers.

vi) Select the option that titles paragraphs 2-4 appropriately, with reference to information in the text.

- | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Full Speed Ahead! | 2 Winds of Change | 2 Inspecting Trends | 2 Cause and Effect |
| 3 Ups and Downs | 3 Numbers Don't Lie | 3 Statistically Speaking | 3 Dynamic Data |
| 4 Cause of concern | 4 Time for Action | 4 Let's Investigate | 4 Reliable Facts |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) |

vii) Substitute the word 'witnessed' with ONE WORD similar in meaning, in the following sentence from paragraph 3:

Foreign tourist arrivals in the North-East witnessed a growth of.....

viii) List any 2 examples of 'tourist facilities' as referred to, in Paragraph 4. Answer in about 40 words.

SECTION B-GRAMMAR and WRITING

1x10=10

Q3 Attempt any ten of the following questions:

i) Complete the given sentence, by filling in the blank with the correct option:
 Had the police not reached there in time, the bandits _____ him.

- (a) did have killed
- (b) will have killed
- (c) would kill
- (d) would have killed

ii) Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.
 A teacher can tell you that learning English is not an easy job.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

iii) Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Anjali and her father.

Father: Why ask so many questions, Anjali?

Anjali: I believe that if you don't know the answer, keep asking till you do!

Father asked Anjali the reason for the many questions she was asking. Anjali exclaimed good-humouredly that in event of not knowing the answer one _____.

- a) should keep on asking till one gets an answer
- b) kept asking till one got an answer
- c) should keep on asking till one had got an answer
- d) keeps on asking till one got an answer

iv) Read the given sentence from a sports magazine and select the option which identifies the error and supplies the correction.

We must all realize that not only good eating habits but regular exercise also play a crucial role in keeping us fit.

Option	Error	Correction
(a)	play	plays
(b)	a	the
(c)	must	should
(d)	We	They

v) Report the dialogue between a customer and a shopkeeper.

Customer : Can I get wooden chairs at your shop?

Shopkeeper : I am sorry I have only plastic chairs. But they are all new, I have just received some new ones this morning.

The customer enquired if she could get wooden chairs at his shop. The shopkeeper replied that he had only plastic chair. He further added that _____.

vi) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter.

Subject: Request for Approval

Dear Sir

This is to respectfully submit that I _____ (seek) approval for organizing a tree plantation drive to be undertaken by the club.

vii) Read the following dialogue between Kashika and Sam. The underlined parts of this dialogue may or may not have an error. Choose the option that best replaces the underlined part(s). You may choose 'no error' if no change is required.

Kashika: Sam, will we take a look at the rules of the poetry competition conveyed by Ms Natasha last Tuesday? We have very little time to prepare.

Sam: You're right! I completely forgot about it. We should not delay it any longer.

- (a) no error; shall not
- (b) shall we; no error
- (c) may we; may not
- (d) can we; could not

viii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence below. Shazia stared at the mountain range before her. From a distance _____ (this / that / these / those) towering peaks seemed to touch the sky, creating a breath-taking sight.

ix) Identify the error and supply the correction for the following statement. The national team could adhere to a strict code of conduct, refraining from cheating and unethical behaviour, or else they will be disqualified. Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

x) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket.
Radha, in addition to her brother Shyam, _____ (play) hockey on Saturdays.

xi) Fill in the blanks with the correct option.
The coach shouted, "_____ the ball!" Later, he _____ onto the ball in order to dictate the game's pace.

- (a) pass; commanded them to hold
(b) passed; command them to held
(c) passes; commands them to hold
(d) passing; commanded them to held

xii) Complete Nelson Mandela's quote 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." - Nelson Mandela

- (a) lie (b) lies (c) lays (d) laying

WRITING (10 Marks)

Q4 Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

A. You are Sujal Pragyan, of Starlight Apartments, Mall Road, Chennai. You recently read an article that stated that an average Indian wastes approximately fifty kilograms of food per year. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, expressing your concerns about the alarming amount of food waste in the country. Share practical ideas and suggestions for reducing food waste at home and encourage readers to distribute surplus food to those in need.

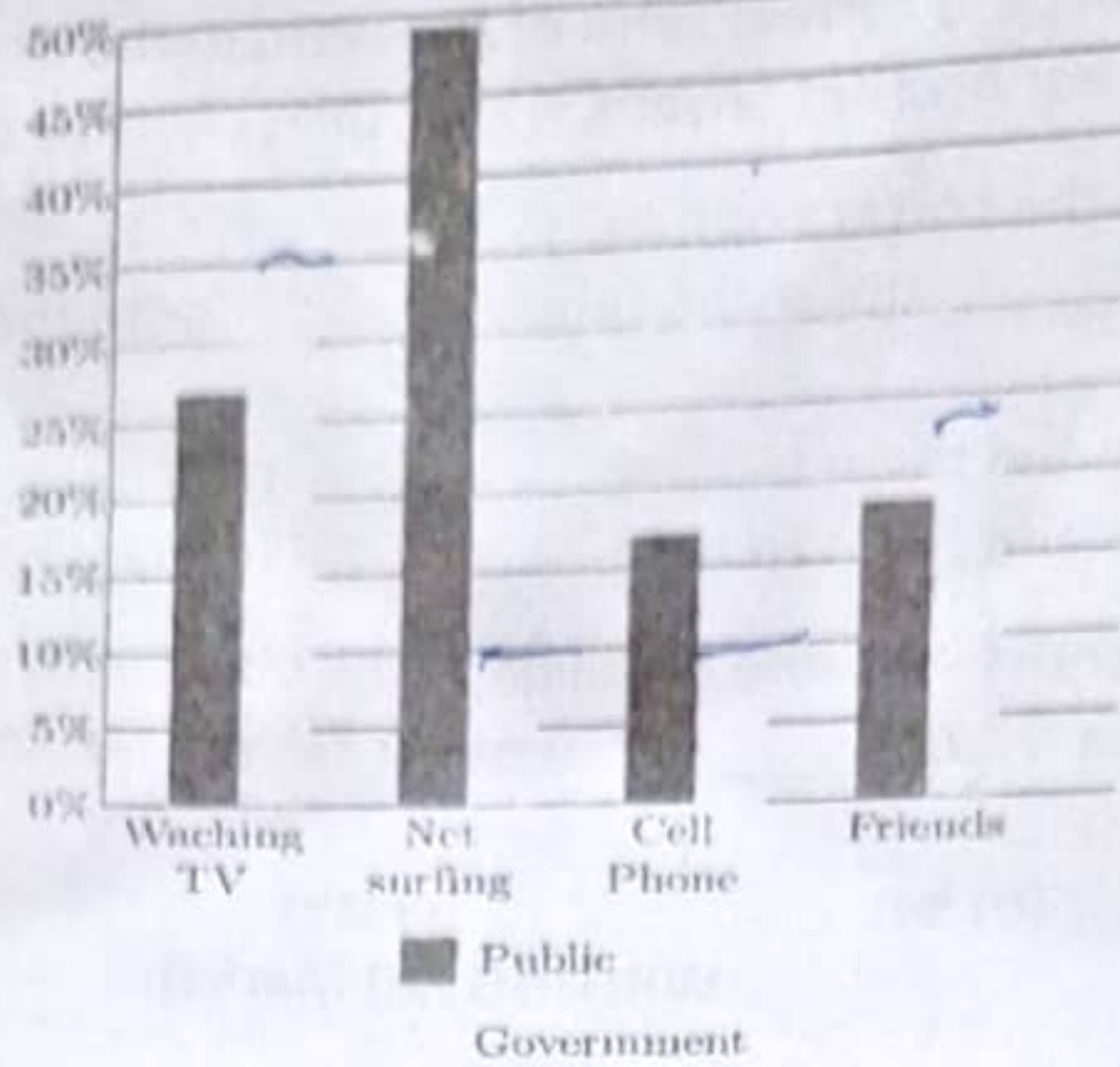
B. You are Ashutosh/Asha of Christ School, Bengaluru, Karnataka who had arranged a trip for sixty students to Ooty in summer vacations for ten days with 'Sunshine Travels and Tourism'. The arrangements done by the travel agency were far below standard. The accommodation and food facilities were inferior in quality. Feeling totally cheated, you couldn't face your conscience and decided to apologise to your clients. Being answerable to them, you became adamant to give your piece of mind through a letter of complaint in about 100-120 words to the Director of the agency to stop duping tourists with false promises as it tarnishes the image of locals

Q5 Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

A. Read the following excerpt from a newspaper report on the state of lung cancer prevailing in India that appeared in a local daily:
"In India, cities are more lung cancer-prone than rural areas. In the early 1990's, we expected one out of 10-15 urban Indians to get cancer in their life - time, that is, every second or third family would have to face this disease. This is partly due to high levels of benzene and various pollutants in the air leading to respiratory ailments. In order to check the steady growth of lung cancer in the country, the government shall have to give priority to preventive action. At the same time, measures to undertake improvement in facilities for the treatment of lung cancer shall have to be adopted."

Write a paragraph to analyse the given argument in about 100-120 words.
You could think about what alternative explanations might weaken the given conclusion and include rationale/evidence that would strengthen/counter the given argument.

B. Study the chart given below which is the result of the survey conducted in the public schools and government schools of Agra. This depicts the types of activities the teenagers (aged 13-19 years) are involved in during their leisure time. Compose an analytical paragraph in 100-120 words, summarising the same.



SECTION C - LITERATURE (40 Marks)

Q6 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given. 5

A. As she and her husband turned away in terror, the extraordinary chair pushed them both out of the room and then appeared to slam and lock the door after them. Mrs Hall almost fell down the stairs in hysterics. She was convinced that the room was haunted by spirits, and that the stranger had somehow caused these to enter into her furniture.

"My poor mother used to sit in that chair," she moaned! To think it should rise up against me now! The feeling among the neighbours was that the trouble was caused by witchcraft.

(Footprints without Feet)

i) State any one inference about Mrs. Hall 'moaning' about 'the extraordinary chair' from the given context. 1

'the extraordinary chair pushed them both out of the room and then appeared to slam and lock the door after them.'

ii) State TRUE or FALSE. 1

The spirits haunted the house and the furniture in Griffin's room was surely possessed according to the Halls.

iii) Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract. 2

Mrs. Hall 'was convinced that the room was haunted by spirits' and other people thought so too.

iv) Why did Mrs. Hall suspect the stranger for the extraordinary activities in her room? 1

B. NATALYA : No you're simply joking, or making fun of me. What a surprise! We've had the land for nearly three hundred years, and then we're suddenly told that it isn't ours! Ivan Vassilevitch, I can hardly believe my own ears. These Meadows aren't worth much to me. They only come to five dessiatins, and are worth perhaps 300 roubles, but I can't stand unfairness. Say what you will, I can't stand unfairness.

LOMOV : Hear me out, I implore you! The peasants of your father's grandfather, as I have already had the honour of explaining to you, used to make bricks for my aunt's grandmother, wishing to make them a pleasant ...

(The Proposal)

i) Which of the facts given below is the most accurate explanation to complete the statement: 1

Natalya told Lomov that he was simply joking or making fun of her because _____.

(a) Chabukovs' land extended to Burnt Marsh which included Oxen Meadows.

(b) he claimed that Oxen Meadows was his ancestral property.

(c) he declared that his land extended to Burnt Marsh.

(d) Oxen Meadows had belonged to Natalya's mother for generations.

- ii) Why were the Meadows not worth fighting or arguing over between the neighbours? 2
Answer in about 40 words.
- iii) Read the following descriptions (a)-(c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract given to you for analysis. 1
 - (a) The extract is a debate usually with two or more people presenting different viewpoints and arguments.
 - (b) The extract is a soliloquy or a speech given by a character alone on stage, which reveals their innermost thoughts and feelings to the audience.
 - (c) The extract is an argument or an exchange of diverging or opposite views, typically a heated or angry one.
- iv) On the basis of your understanding of the extract, which common character traits are exhibited by both Natalya and Lomov? 1

Q7 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given. 5

A. "Where no bird could sit
no insect hide
no sun bury its feet in shadow
the forest that was empty all these nights
will be full of trees by morning."

(The Trees)

- i) Fill the blank with one word. 1
When the speaker rattles off her thoughts in a run-on manner, she is using this figure of speech _____.
- ii) What is the symbolism in the 'forest' and why is the forest empty? 2
- iii) Complete the statement with reference to the extract. 1
The poet uses the trees as a symbol of _____.
 - (a) the emancipation of women from their confinement.
 - (b) the fight of people for their civil rights.
 - (c) the emancipation of trees from the room.
 - (d) the fight of people for their political rights

iv) Comment on the poet's use of poetic devices in these lines. 1

B. 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) What is the poet's purpose of using the onomatopoeic words given in the extract? 1
 - (a) It is to emphasise on the might and boldness of Custard.
 - (b) It is to introduce the character Custard to the readers.
 - (c) It is to impress upon the readers that Custard was ready.
 - (d) It is to make Custard bold enough to face the situation.
- ii) Mention what the poet wants to convey through these lines. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- iii) What does Custard do to the pirate? 1
- iv) Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
Custard's comparison to an engine shows a literary device of _____.

Q8 Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions in about 40-50 words. 4x3=12

1) "You seem to have done your homework before coming,". Who has done the homework and why is it so impressive? (Glimpses of India)

ii) Valli's dream was to enjoy a ride on the bus to the nearest town. What preparations did she make to realise her dream? (Madam Rides the Bus)

iii) The "yellow hair" is a symbol in the poem. Briefly support the statement with reference to the poem "For Anne Gregory".

iv) Explain the given statement with reference to Nelson Mandela's dreams. "A winner is a dreamer who never gives up." (Nelson Mandela - Long Walk to Freedom)

v) Give two reasons to support the opinion that Anne's diary is interesting to readers. (From the Diary of Anne Frank)

Q9 Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in about 40-50 words. 2x3=6

i) "Society must be protected from men like you." On the basis of your understanding of the story comment on the irony of the given quote. (A Question of Trust)

ii) Based on 'The Book That Saved the Earth', state how jumping to conclusions had an unintended consequence for the Martians.

iii) 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)

Q10 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 100-120 words. 1x6=6

A. Imagine Anne Gregory grows up to be a motivational speaker. As Anne Gregory, write a short speech on the importance of loving oneself.

You may begin this way:

Dear friends

The importance of believing in oneself can never be overstated. It becomes most important, therefore, to love oneself. I learnt this, as a young teen, the day a poet pointed out that (continue) (For Anne Gregory)

B. "Every creature on this Earth is identified with their distinct trait and if they are kept away from it they tend to decline and grow weak...".

If you had to use the message of the given quote based on 'A Tiger in the Zoo' to understand the state of the Otter, as it enjoys being close to water (Mijbil, the Otter), how would you elaborate it? Also, how it is agonizing for the Tiger in the cage to accept its condition.

Q11 Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 100-120 words. 1x6=6

A. Imagine that Mrs Pumphrey from 'A Triumph of Surgery', reflects upon her behaviour, learns from her mistakes, and writes a diary entry about the consequences of overindulgence. Write this diary entry as Mrs Pumphrey in about 120 words.

B. Bholi and Matilda, both are distinct characters, wherein one gave importance to self-instinct and the other gave importance to her beauty. Assume they both meet each other at Bholi's wedding and have a conversation over the greed of Bishamber. Write this conversation as per your understanding of 'Bholi' and 'The Necklace'.