



**CLASS XII: ENGLISH(301)**  
**PRE BOARD II EXAMINATION**  
**SESSION :2023-24**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Roll No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Weightage: 80 Marks  
Time Allowed: 3 hrs.

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number in your answer sheet to indicate the option/s being attempted.
3. This paper consists of 10 pages.

**SECTION A-READING - (22 Marks )**

12

**1 Read the passage given below carefully:**

1. This is the largest Malay house on the peninsula. It is built of wood painted green and white, with bold floral designs on a white background around some of the circular windows and a very large porch for followers to wait in, up a ladder of course.

2. Really the upper class of Malay houses show some very good work. The thatch of the steep roof is beautifully put on and between the sides of finely woven checked matting interspersed with lattice work and bamboo work, the shady inner rooms with their carved doorways and portieres of red silk, the pillows and cushions of gold embroidery laid over the exquisitely fine matting on the floors, the light from the half-shaded windows glancing here and there as the breeze sways the screens, there is an indescribable appropriateness to the region.

3. I waited for the elephant in a rambling empty house and Malays brought pierced coconuts, buffalo milk and a great bouquet of lotus blossoms and seed-vessels, out of which they took the seeds and presented them on the grand lotus leaf itself. Each seed is in appearance and tastes like a hazell-nut, but in the center, in an oval slit, the future lotus plant is folded up, the one vivid green seed leaf being folded over a shoot and this is intensely bitter.

4. The elephant at last came up and was brought below the porch of the house. They are truly ugly beasts, with their gray wrinkled, hairless hides, the huge ragged 'flappers' which cover their ears and with which they fan themselves ceaselessly, the small mean eyes, the hideous trunk which coils itself snakishly round everything, the formless legs, the piggish back, with the steep slope down to the mean, bare tail, features so unlike any other familiar and friendly beast.

5. Before I came out from England, I dreamt of howdahs and cloth-of-gold trappings, but my elephant had neither. In fact there was nothing grand about him but his ugliness. I dropped into one of two baskets on either side of his back from the porch, a young Malay lad dropped into the other and my bag was tied on behind with more ropes.

6. My ride was not comfortable. One sits facing forwards with the feet dangling over the edge of the basket. This edge soon produces a sharp ache or cramp and, when one tries to get relief by leaning

back on anything, the awkward rolling position is so painful that one reverts to the former position till it again becomes intolerable.

7. After we had traveled two hours, the baskets slipped down very dangerously and needed adjustment. We were forced to dismount while the pack was adjusted. Then, while the elephant was still sitting, the driver jumped on the elephant's back and gave me his hands and hauled me up over the head, after which the creature rose gently from the ground and we went on our journey.

8. Soon the driver abandoned the elephant for gossip and smoke, leaving the animal to go its own way for a mile or more. The elephant turned into the jungle, where he began to rend and tear the trees and going to a mud-hole, he drew what water there was out of it and squirted it with a loud noise over himself and his riders, soaking my clothes with it. When he turned back to the road again, he several times stopped and seemed to stand on his head by stiffening his trunk and leaning upon it and when I hit him with my umbrella he uttered the loudest roar I ever heard. My Malay fellow-rider jumped off and ran back for the driver, at which the baskets both came down on my side of the elephant.

9. On the driver's return I had to dismount again and this time the elephant was allowed to go and take a proper bath in a river. He threw large quantities of clear water over himself and took up plenty more with which to cool his sides as went along. Thick as the wrinkled hide of an elephant is, a very small insect can still draw blood from it and so, like the water buffalo, he wisely plastered himself with mud from the river's edge for protection.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the correct options: (1x12=12)

i. Select the option that explains the reason why the light in the inner room kept changing? 1

- (a) Because of the movement inside the room
- (b) Because of the changing direction of the sun
- (c) Because of the winds that were swaying the screen
- (d) Because the screens were being repaired

ii. The writer would agree with the given statements based on paragraph eight, except. 1

- (a) The elephant did not like being hit.
- (b) The driver of the elephant did not want the elephant to run away.
- (c) The speaker was not amused by the water thrown by the elephant.
- (d) The driver of the elephant needed to rest.

iii. Share evidence from the text in about 40 words that the author had previously regarded riding on an elephant as a luxurious means of travel. 2

iv. Complete the sentence appropriately with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following. 1  
The writer has described the features of the elephant in paragraph 4 in order to highlight the \_\_\_\_\_.

v. Select the option that means the same as 'moves', from the words used in n Paragraph 2. 1

- a) Glancing
- (b) Matting
- (c) Interspersed
- (d) Sways

...the writer did not enjoy the elephant ride. Based on your reading of the passage, list the reasons, in not more than 40 words, for such an attitude. 2

...i. In the line "...so, like the water buffalo, he wisely plastered himself with mud from the river's edge for protection" the author calls him wise. Explain. 1

viii. List two ways in which the Malay houses are appropriated for the region. Answer in about 40 words. 2

ix. What were the author's expectations regarding the elephant ride? 1

- (1) Exciting
- (2) Doubtful
- (3) Scornful
- (4) Prejudiced
- (5) tentative

Codes:

- (a) Only 1
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) Only 4
- (d) 3 and 5

2) Read the passage given below: 10

1. Politics and now Pollution keep Delhi forever in the news, but a third P (Population Growth) has gone missing from the discourse on the capital: population growth, which has soared during the last two decades and its disastrous fallout.

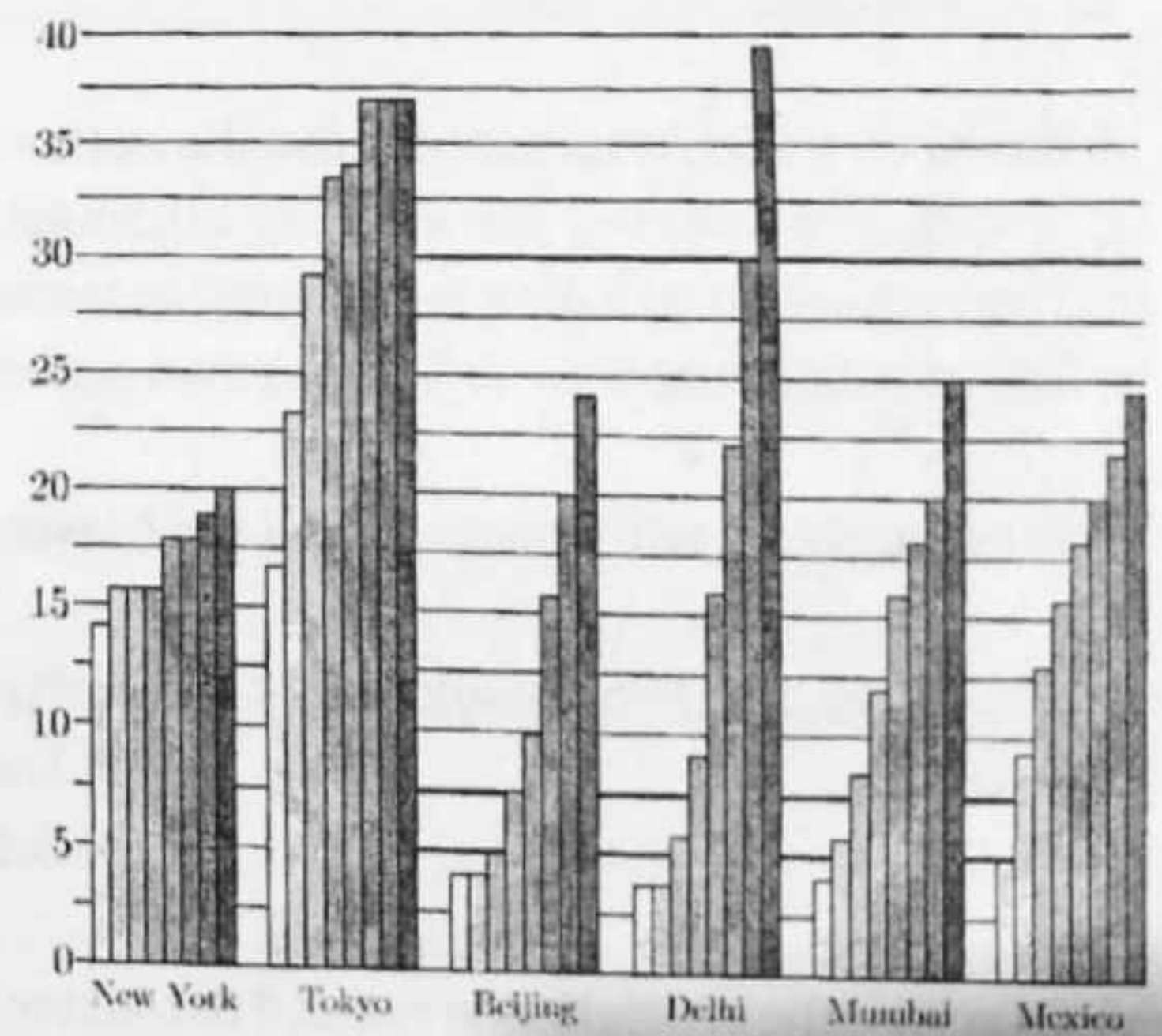
2. Already, India's capital city is the world's second most populous urban agglomeration. The future is even more frightening: a United Nations report released in mid-2018 says Delhi could be the world's most populous city by 2028 with 37.2 million people. That is eight million more in just 10 years.

3. According to the report called *World Urbanisation Prospects 2018* by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the population of Delhi and its immediate neighborhood is now estimated to be 29 million, second only to Tokyo with 37 million people. But Delhi will zoom past Tokyo, whose population is projected to decline to 36.8 million by 2028.

4. Will Delhi be worth living in? Can the city state of Delhi escape the pressures put on it by an ever expanding National Capital Region (NCR), which touches as far as Alwar now? Are we prepared at all for this population explosion?

5. In a small office in Delhi's India Habitat Centre, a group of urban planners - all belonging to the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) - have just started collecting baseline data on land, housing, transport, environment, heritage, water, among others, for Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2041. "Our deadline for preparing the Master Plan is 2021. But unlike its earlier editions, it won't be a flat 20 year plan. This one will be divided into various achievable, say, for every five years," says Nilesh Rajadhyaksha, lead coordinator of MPD and urban specialist in NIUA.

Figure : Population Growth in Major Global Cities



The NIUA – an autonomous research and advisory body that comes under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs – has been roped in by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) to undertake a colossal strategy plan for Delhi 2041. The current master plan, MPD-2021, which was notified in 2007 and was prepared by an in-house team of the DDA, would expire in 2021.

6. The concern is that a sense of urgency to fix Delhi is missing. Many crucial elements of MPD-2021 still remain on paper, with just two years left for the plan to expire. AK Jain, former commissioner-planning in DDA and key architect of MPD-2021, gives a long list of what has not been implemented. The master plan talks about brownfield redevelopment of rehabilitation colonies such as Lajpat Nagar, Old Rajendra Nagar and Mukherjee Nagar, which were originally meant for Partition refugees.

7. Nothing has been done on that front so far. Nor for the redevelopment of 45 resettlement colonies such as Ambedkar Nagar and Trilokpuri, which were developed during Emergency to rehabilitate slum dwellers. The rejuvenation of the Yamuna is also on the plan, but the river remains severely polluted in the Delhi stretch.

8. Will Delhi be liveable? Jain is not very hopeful. He says Delhi won't be a highly liveable city even if the master plan is implemented in its entirety. "Delhi is part of the National Capital Region (NCR). So, Delhi's development can't happen in isolation," he explains.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions by choosing the correct option:

- i. Based on reading of the text, state a point to challenge the statement. Answer in about 40 words. Many important respects of MPD-2021 have been implemented. 2
- ii. The urban planners are collecting data based on \_\_\_\_\_. 1
  - (a) transport
  - (b) land
  - (c) heritage
  - (d) All of these
- iii. Based on the given graph, choose the option that lists the statements that are true. 1
  - (a) Beijing and Delhi will see a decline in population growth.
  - (b) The population of Tokyo is 'expected to remain the same over 10 years.
  - (c) The population of New York has grown exponentially.
- iv. What problem will prevail even if the Master Plan is implemented in its entirety? 1
- v. Whom had the Delhi development Authority hired to look into the development of Delhi? 1
  - (a) NIUA
  - (b) The Urban Planner
  - (c) MHUA
  - (d) All of these
- vi. Describe the crucial issue related to Master plans created for Delhi. Answer in about 40 words. 2
- vii. Complete the following sentence based on the information given in the passage. 1

The given passage wants to drive attention to \_\_\_\_\_.
- viii. State TRUE or FALSE. 1

Currently, Delhi is the third most polluted city in the world.

**SECTION B - CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)**

(4)

Attempt ANY ONE given below.

The Librarian of Crescent International School, Gwalior, draft a notice in not more than 50 words asking all students and teachers to return the library books they have borrowed, two days before the commencement of the examination

OR

Your school is organizing a SPICMACAY programme on the occasion of the World Dance Day wherein the renowned Bharatanatyam dancer, Geeta Chandran would be giving a lecture demonstration. As the President, Cultural Society of your school, draft a notice in about 50 words, informing the students about the same. You are Rakshita/Rohit of MVN Public School.

(4)

4) Attempt ANY ONE given below.

The literary club of your society is putting up the play 'Macbeth'. As secretary of the club, draft an invitation inviting the famous writer Rohit Sharma to be the guest of honor at the function. Write the invitation in about 50 words. You are Gaurav/Garima.

OR

You have been invited as a judge for a debate competition by New Hope public School. Draft a formal refusal in about 50 words.

5) Attempt ANY ONE given below.

(5)

Two main parks in your locality have suffered from neglect on the part of local authorities. They have virtually been taken over by undesirable elements. As a result the residents have stopped going to the parks. Write a letter in 150 words to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your concern about the problems the neglect has created and suggest measures to reclaim the parks for children. You are Gautam/ Gauri of 2, Gobind Enclave, Meerut.

OR

You are Anand/Arti of 14, Model Town, Delhi. You have seen an advertisement in The Hindu for the post of Chief Chef in a 5-Star Hotel. Apply for the job with complete bio-data. Write in 150 words

6) Attempt ANY ONE given below.

(5)

You are Jay/Jaya, studying in Shyamala Memorial Hall, Trichy. Some students of our school attended a first aid training camp for a week at Red Cross Headquarter of our state. Write a report for your school magazine in 150 words on the events of the camp and your participation and performance.

OR

Visiting new places and meeting new people enhance our understanding and knowledge besides being a source of great pleasure. Write an article in 150 words on 'Travel, a Source of Knowledge and Pleasure. You are Gopal/Govindi.

**SECTION C - LITERATURE (40 Marks)**

7) Read the given extracts to attempt the questions with reference to context.

Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

(1x6=6)

Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victory with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes  
and walk about with their brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing.

i. What does the phrase "victory with no survivors" mean?

- (a) The bloodshed caused by the result of wars.  
(b) Nobody would be able to celebrate the victory of wars.  
(c) Degradation of human life.  
(d) Both (a) and (b)

ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract.  
Pablo Neruda mentions that fisherman fish for whales resulting in violence against the environment.

iii. Which of the following, poetic devices has been used in 'clean clothes'?

- (a) Oxymoron  
(b) Alliteration  
(c) Metaphor  
(d) Assonance

iv. Complete the sentence with an appropriate word(s), with reference to the extract.  
The world presented in the given lines can be said to be \_\_\_\_.

v. What do 'green wars' refer to?

vi. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following.  
The poet does not promote inactivity or death but wants fraternity

OR

Yes, in spite of all,  
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall  
From our dark spirits. Such the Sun, the Moon,  
Trees old and young, sprouting a shady boon  
For simple sheep; and such are daffodils.  
With the green world they live in; and clear rills  
That for themselves a cooling covert make  
Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,

i. Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in 'Some shape of beauty'.

- (a) Does it dry up like a raisin in the Sun?  
(b) They can only shriek, shriek.  
(c) What tale of terror, now, their turbulence tells!  
(d) Mine is a long and a sad tale!

ii. What does 'all' in line one refer to?

Why are our spirits dark?  
(a) Because of night  
(c) Because of disappointments

(b) Because of suffering  
(d) Both (b) and (c) 1

iv. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE.  
Beauty can be found in all aspects of nature. 1

v. Give an apt title for the above extract. 1

vi. Complete the sentence with ONE word.  
When the poet says that "Some shape of beauty moves the pall away from our dark spirits", he refers to \_\_\_\_ power of nature. 1

8) Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given. (1x4=4)

Yes, I've taken the obvious step: I talked to a psychiatrist friend of mine, among others. I told him about the third level at Grand Central Station and he said it was a waking dream wish fulfillment. He said I was unhappy. That made my wife kind of mad, but he explained that he meant the modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and all the rest of it and that I just want to escape. Well, who doesn't? Everybody I know wants to escape, but they don't wander down into any third level at Grand Central Station.

i. Why did the narrator go to a psychiatrist? 1

ii. What is 'waking dream wish fulfillment' according to the psychiatrist in the lesson? 1

- (a) Charley's finding of a Third Level at Grand Central Station.
- (b) Charley's realization of his wish to visit Galesburg, Illinois.
- (c) Charley's escaping into his daydreaming everyday.
- (d) Charley's post stamp collecting habit.

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.  
The third level, according to Charley, was \_\_\_\_\_. 1

iv. What does the psychiatrist explain to Charley? 1

OR

It seemed a long way down. Those nine feet were more like ninety, and before I touched bottom my lungs were ready to burst. But when my feet hit bottom I summoned all my strength and made what I thought was a great spring upwards. I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork. Instead, I came up slowly. I opened my eyes and saw nothing but water - water that had a dirty yellow tinge to it.

i. Why did the nine feet deep pool seem ninety to Douglas? 1

ii. The expression "I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork" implies that 1

- (a) Frightened, Douglas was not able to shout for help.
- (b) Douglas accepted his failure and ultimate death.
- (c) Though Douglas was frightened he was not out of his wits.
- (d) Douglas was afraid to die.

- iii. Pick the word from the given extract which means to 'make a quick, short movement up and down'.
- iv. What does the speaker mean by I summoned all my strength?
  - (a) That he called up his strength.
  - (b) That he accumulated his strength.
  - (c) That he gathered his strength.
  - (d) All of these

9) Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

(1x6=6)

Poor man! It was in the honor of this last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday clothes, and now I understood why the old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room. It was because they were sorry, too, that they had not gone to school more. It was their way of thanking our master for his forty years of faithful service and of showering their respect for the country that was theirs no more. While I was thinking of all this, I heard my name called. It was my turn to recite. What would I not have given to be able to say that dreadful rule for the participle all through, very loud and clear, and without one mistake? But I got mixed up on the first words and stood there, holding on to my desk, my heart beating, and not daring to look up.

- i. List any two details M. Hamel discussed in the given extract. 1
- ii. How did M. Hamel react to this show of 'non-performance'? 1
  - (a) He let the iron ruler talk. (b) He ignored his pupil's lack of commitment.
  - (c) He didn't utter a harsh word in response. (d) He let Franz be free and sent him out.
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1  
 The old men of the village on the back benches were \_\_\_\_.
- iv. Pick out evidence from the extract given that helps one infer his way of showing patriotism love for his land and language. 1
- v. Who is the 'Poor man'? 1
- vi. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the given extract? 1
  - (a) Honor to the village people (b) Respect for human being
  - (c) Faithful services of M. Hamel (d) Too late for school

OR

Unaware of what his name represents, he roams the streets with his friends, an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon. Over the months, I have come to recognise each of them. "Why aren't you wearing chappals?" I ask one. "My mother did not bring them down from the shelf," he answers simply. "Even if she did, he will throw them off," adds another who is wearing shoes that do not match. When I comment on it, he shuffles his feet and says nothing. "I want shoes," says a third boy who has never owned a pair all his life. Traveling across the country I



...walking barefoot, in cities, on village roads. It is not lack of money but a tradition  
... is one explanation.

...the writer's purpose in allowing the boys to speak for themselves via dialogue, as  
...to only a writer's commentary? 1

...line, "It is not lack of money but a tradition to stay barefoot" can be best classified as: 1  
(b) An opinion  
(d) A plot point

... Explain any one possible inference that can be drawn from the line, "an army of barefoot boys  
who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon". 1

iv. Identify the line from the text that bears evidence to the fact that the writer's association with  
the boys is not a recent one. 1

v. Based on the context provided in the extract, select the most likely comment that the writer  
would have made, based on the boy's reaction to the mismatched shoes. 1

- (a) "I like your shoes. What matters is that they protect your feet?"
- (b) "Don't worry about your shoes, you can wear a matching pair later."
- (c) "Why are your shoes mismatched? That's not a good look"
- (d) "Have you chosen to mismatch your shoes?"

vi. Complete the sentence with ONE word. 1  
The phrase "he answers simply", suggests that the boy's response to the writer's question about  
why he wasn't wearing chappals was \_\_\_\_\_

10) Answer ANY <sup>FIVE</sup> of the following in about 40-50 words each. (2x5=10)

- i. Mention any two long term consequences of the drowning incident on Douglas.
- ii. What did the gift of the rattrap signify?
- iii. The poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' is replete with symbols. Interpret any two symbols used in the poem.
- iv. What different images does the poet use to convey the idea of her mother's old age?
- v. What tempted Franz to stay away from school?
- vi. Why did Gandhi feel that taking the Champaran case to the court was useless?

11) Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each. (2x2=4)

- i. If you were to give a different ending to the story, "On the Face of It" how would you end it?
- ii. Which actions of the people would Bama watch keenly in the bazaar?
- iii. Would it be proper to call the Maharaja 'penny-wise, pound foolish'? Give reasons for your answer

(1x5=5)

12) Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 150 words.

Why should child labour be eliminated and how? Explain on the basis of Lost Spring

OR

Why did Gandhiji consider freedom from fear more important than legal justice for the poor peasants of Champaran?

13) Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 150 words.

(1x5=5)

Discuss the qualities of Mr. Lamb which made him overlook the deformity of Derry.

OR

'We too are Human Beings' highlights high caste - low caste discrimination in society. How do low caste people suffer on account of this? What advice is given to Bama to overcome this problem?

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