

**CBSE Class 10**  
**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (Code No. 184)**

**SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER (2023-24) with answers**

**Time allowed: 3 Hrs. Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

**SECTION A : READING SKILLS (20 marks)**  
**Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages**

**1. Read the following text.**

(1) As a high school student, studying poetry can be a rollercoaster ride. This journey is punctuated by moments of profound appreciation for simpler pieces and intermittent frustration with more complex works. Let's be real here -some poems are just plain confusing and no amount of re-reading seems to help decipher the intended meaning. The puzzlement that results from such instances can be both vexing and demotivating. If solving a riddle is what was intended, then playing Sudoku is a better option. One is led to ponder if obscurity was the goal.

(2) Conversely, some pieces resonate with the reader's soul. stirring feelings of warmth, happiness, and connection to the world. Often, these compositions centre on themes that are universally understood, such as love, nature, or faith. Being able to actually understand what the poet is trying to say can feel like a little victory and is a welcome relief after grappling with more perplexing poetry.

(3) Then there are poems that are emotionally charged; the ones that make the reader curl up in a ball and cry or jump up and down with joy. One is left in awe of the poet's ability to convey emotion through words. Let's not forget the downright weird poems. These are the ones that defy categorization and leave the reader to their own devices in attempting to interpret meaning. The author's use of figurative language and unconventional imagery can create a sense of bewilderment that is either intriguing or off-putting. Regardless, the reader can appreciate the uniqueness of the work.

(4) Despite the wide range of emotions and reactions that come with studying poetry, it can be a rewarding pursuit. Not only does reading poetry allow one to appreciate the artistic beauty of the written word but also enables one to develop crucial critical thinking and analytical skills. The process of unlocking a poem's meaning can feel like cracking a code or solving a puzzle but the sense of accomplishment derived from mastering a challenging piece can be deeply gratifying. Finally, impressing an English teacher with a well-analysed poem can be a source of pride and validation.

(5) Overall, studying poetry is like a box of mixed chocolates, you never know what you're going to get. But whether it's complex, emotional, simple, or just downright weird, there's always something to be gained from the experience. So, let's applaud all the poets out there, for making us laugh, cry, scratch our heads, and occasionally feel like a genius.

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

i. Which of the following statements best describes the author's attitude towards studying poetry?

- A. Finds poetry to be a frustrating and meaningless endeavor.
- B. Believes that the emotional rollercoaster of studying poetry is not worth the effort.
- C. Recognizes the challenges of studying poetry but also acknowledges the rewards it offers.
- D. Feels that poetry is too obscure and abstract for the average person to appreciate.

ii. What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph (1)? Rationalise your response in about 40 words.

*If solving a riddle is what was intended, then playing Sudoku is a better option. One is led to ponder if obscurity was the goal.*

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The author's use of vivid imagery in the paragraph (3), such as "curl up in a ball and cry" and "jump up and down with joy", greatly affects the reader because \_\_\_\_\_.

iv. The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (a)-(e) below, identify two sets of antonyms:

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (a) intriguing and off-putting | (b) deciphering and interpreting |
| (c) appreciate and applaud     | (d) simple and challenging       |
| (e) emotions and feelings      |                                  |

v. Complete the sentence appropriately.

We can say that the author's tone becomes more neutral and objective when discussing weird poems, compared to other types of poetry because \_\_\_\_\_.

vi. Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, how studying poetry can be like exploring a new city.

vii. What is the message conveyed by Hina's experience, in the following case?

Hina spends hours trying to analyze a poem for her assignment and finally feels a sense of accomplishment and pride, once she understands.

- A. Only those with natural talent for poetry should engage with it.
- B. Persistence makes studying poetry a rewarding pursuit.
- C. Study of poetry is guaranteed to impress others.
- D. The efforts of studying poetry is inversely proportional to the rewards gained.

viii. State whether the following lines display an example of a simple / complex / emotionally charged / downright weird, poem.

*The sun rises in the east,  
A new day begins, a fresh start.  
Birds chirp, nature wakes up,  
A peaceful feeling in my heart*

**Answers -**

i. C

ii. *The tone is critical because the writer seems to be expressing their scepticism and dissatisfaction with poems that are difficult to understand. So, he compares them to riddles.*

OR

*The tone is sarcastic because the statement where he says that sudoku is a better option if they were to solve riddles, suggests that he is not impressed with the high complexity of poetry.*

iii. *it creates a powerful emotional impact and enhances the reader's understanding of the intensity of emotion that can be conveyed through poetry.*

iv. *(a) intriguing and off-putting (d) simple and challenging*

v. *the author acknowledges that weird poems can be off-putting, but also appreciates their uniqueness and the challenge they present to readers*

vi. *Just as exploring a new city requires an open mind and a willingness to embrace the unexpected, studying poetry requires an openness to different styles and approaches, and a willingness to be challenged and surprised by what you find.*

vii. *B. Persistence makes studying poetry a rewarding pursuit.*

viii. *Simple*

**2. Read the following text.**

(1) Reduction in green areas has caused various environmental problems. People squeezed between concrete structures are looking for various ways to meet their longing for green. One of the ways to do so, is vertical gardens and green walls. Vertical gardening is a unique method of

gardening where plants are grown in a vertical position or upward, rather than in the traditional method of planting them on the ground.

(2) The purpose of vertical gardens and green walls, which arises from the studies of different disciplines (landscape architects, architects, engineers, etc.), is to close the cold image of concrete and increase the visual value. In these systems, nature and structures are integrated, and thus, urban areas and the desired environment have become intertwined.

(3) Vertical garden case studies often show that , though functionality should be in the foreground, when vertical gardens are planned, they are generally made as aesthetic elements in the city's underpasses and city squares, and decorative elements in residences, without seeking functionality.

(4) Experts support that the visual quality and evaluation of landscape architecture is determined based on the satisfaction of the users. Hence, a survey questionnaire was prepared for residents of varied age groups from of a metropolitan city. The given Table 1, displays these responses:

<b>Table 1 - Total number of participants : 400</b>						
<b>No.</b>	<b>Survey statements</b>	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
<b>Vertical gardens-</b>						
1	improve quality of life of people in urban areas	191	138	43	9	19
2	reduce noise pollution	128	164	77	25	6
3	increase air quality -indoors and outdoors	172	147	51	28	2
4	reduce energy and water consumption	58	47	125	68	2
5	positively impact global warming	114	144	106	30	6
6	have a relaxing and calming effect	161	177	44	7	11
7	cost too much	86	107	152	42	13
8	make plants look beautiful	195	139	44	6	16
9	add naturalness to the environs	135	173	55	25	12
10	are among the determining factor to visiting a place	59	133	141	54	13
11	are inconvenient indoors	9	84	123	126	48
12	can be applied in every place	71	132	97	77	23

13	have a functional feature	81	207	100	10	2
14	distract drivers	34	101	106	131	28
15	funds are best used for social issues	57	72	100	130	41

(5) The study acknowledged that vertical gardening has the potential to transform urban spaces into green, sustainable areas, and further research should explore the impact of vertical gardening on the environment and human well-being.

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

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

We can say that the situation of people living in concrete structures is comparable with a fish living in a fishbowl, and the need for vertical gardens to the need for decorations in the fishbowl because \_\_\_\_\_.

ii. Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2.

The statement that , urban spaces have become more closely connected with the desired natural surroundings through the incorporation of nature and structures in vertical gardens and green walls, is a \_\_\_\_\_ (fact/ opinion) because it is a \_\_\_\_\_ (subjective judgement/ objective detail).

iii. Justify the following, in about 40 words.

While the survey results suggest that vertical gardens may be effective in improving the quality of life in urban areas, further research and evaluation may be necessary to fully understand their effectiveness and potential drawbacks.

iv. Based on the survey results, which two concerns should a city government, looking to install vertical gardens, address?

v. In Table 1, the statement 3, "Vertical gardens increase air quality - indoors and outdoors," received the most neutral responses from participants, with 51 respondents indicating a neutral stance. State any one inference that can be drawn from this.

vi. Select the option that correctly displays what 'intertwined' signifies. (Reference-Paragraph 2)



- A. (i) , (iv) and (v)
- B. Only (ii)
- C. Only (iii)
- D. (ii) and (v)

### FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

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

Vertical gardening is a unique method of gardening.

- A. an indefinite
- B. an exclusive
- C. a combined
- D. a standard

vii. Infer one benefit and one drawback of vertical gardening, in comparison to other solutions, such as community gardens or parks. (Answer in about 40 words)

viii. Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage?

- A. Vertical gardening has minimal impact on the environment or human well-being.
- B. Vertical gardening is a sustainable practice that can transform urban spaces into green areas.
- C. The impact of vertical gardening on the environment and human well-being has already been thoroughly explored.
- D. The study needs to include experts from horticultural firms to offer any recommendations for further research.

### Answers -

*i. a fish needs decorations such as plants or rocks, to simulate a natural environment and improve its quality of life, people living in urban areas need green spaces such as vertical gardens to improve their physical and mental wellbeing.*

*ii. opinion; subjective judgement*

*iii. True, because the majority of participants strongly agreed or agreed that vertical gardens can improve the quality of life, increase air quality, and have a relaxing and calming effect. However, the survey does not provide information on the long-term effectiveness of vertical gardens or their potential impact on other aspects of urban life, such as traffic or community engagement.*

iv. A city government looking to install vertical gardens should consider addressing these concerns:

- cost of installation and maintenance [should be reasonable]
- areas of installation should be where driver distraction is less of an issue.

v. Possible inferences: (any one)

- Participants may not be fully informed or aware of the effects of vertical gardens on air quality, which could contribute to the neutral response.
- The perceived effect of vertical gardens on air quality may vary based on the specific location or environment in which they are installed.
- It is possible that participants did not have a strong opinion or preference regarding the effect of vertical gardens on air quality, which resulted in a neutral response.

vi. B. Only (ii)

FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

D. standard

vii. Advantages of vertical gardens over other green spaces-

- They can be installed in small spaces, making them ideal for urban areas with limited space.
- They also offer aesthetic and design benefits, as they can be customized to fit specific architectural styles or preferences.

Disadvantages of vertical gardens over other green spaces-

- May not provide as much space for outdoor recreation as community gardens or parks do.
- The cost of installation and maintenance may be higher than for other types of green spaces.

viii. B. Vertical gardening is a sustainable practice that can transform urban spaces into green areas.

## SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

### GRAMMAR

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.

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

Dear Sir

This is with reference to committee's letter of recommendation that \_\_\_\_\_ (highlight) the nominations for 'Safe Residential Area' award for this current year.

ii. Read the given sentence from a recipe review article. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.

*This delightful recipe must keep your hunger pangs at bay with its balanced spices and oriental flavour.*

Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

iii. Abhilash and Neha had a conversation about the inauguration of Neha's Dance Academy. Report Abhilash's question.

*Is your best friend helping you in this venture?*

iv. Read the dialogue between Shabnam and her mentor, Sara, regarding her summer internship programme.

Sara: Why did you choose to participate in this internship programme?

Shabnam: Ah! I am convinced this programme has the potential to enhance my abilities.

Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the above dialogue.

Sara asked Shabnam \_\_\_\_\_ in that internship programme. Shabnam sighed and exclaimed that she was convinced that programme had the potential to enhance her abilities.

- A. why to choose to participate
- B. to choose participation
- C. why he had chosen to participate
- D. with her choice in participating

v. Fill the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the concluding line of an issued circular by an Organisation, to its Managers.

A copy of the plan is enclosed and \_\_\_\_\_ (that/ then/ this) may be communicated to all Team Leaders for compliance.

vi. Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence from a commercial company's current marketing strategy.

*The company aimed at increasing authority in areas frequently visited by the clients.*

Use the given format for your response

error	correction



vii. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the closing line, from an analytical report.

*In conclusion, this study explores the association among short-sleep pattern and overweight youngsters.*

Option No.	error	correction
A	explores	explore
B	and	or
C	among	between
D	In	for

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

The experience of nursing an injured bird left me \_\_\_\_\_ grateful for knowing the importance of being kind and compassionate to all creatures.

- A. feeling
- B. having felt
- C. felt
- D. feels

ix. Report the dialogue between a vendor and his customer, by completing the sentence:

Vendor: It is nice to see you, Sir!

Customer: Yes, indeed! Unlike last month, I have been away for quite some time this month.

The vendor greeted his customer respectfully and mentioned that he was pleased to see him. The customer answered in the affirmative and explained that \_\_\_\_\_

x. Fill the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the live feed on a school news channel.

Congratulations Change Makers!

The regional competition awards have been announced and our school music club \_\_\_\_\_ the first prize.

- A. had been won
- B. will win
- C. was winning
- D. has won

xi. Complete the line from a self-awareness song, by filling the blank with the correct option.

The river runs through your veins  
The trees and mountains \_\_\_\_\_ your name  
The moon and stars watch over  
You're guiding your way back home  
To dream the night away.

- A. will call
- B. call
- C. had called
- D. calls

xii. Identify the error and supply correction for the following note in a passengers' flight instruction manual:

Note- Passengers will not reach the airport late in order to avoid a fine equivalent to 5% of the basic fare.

Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

**Answers-**

- i. highlights
- ii. must - will
- iii. Abhilash asked Neha whether / if her best friend was helping her in that venture.
- iv. C. why he had chosen to participate
- v. this
- vi. aimed-aims
- vii. C. among-between
- viii. A. feeling
- ix. unlike the previous month, he had been away for quite some time that month
- x. D. has won
- xi. B. call
- xii. will-should

**WRITING**

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

4.A As Vaishali Nathani of 214, Indrayani Apartments, Vaishali Street, Daipur, you believe that forming Ecology clubs and appointing Eco-minders in your city can aid in the preservation and conservation of nature.

Write a letter to the MLA of your city area, in about 120 words, suggesting the need to form such clubs. Share their importance and implications. Recommend the involvement of resident volunteers for implementation of eco-club activities that nurture and protect the local ecosystem.

**OR**

4.B As Armaan Khan, the School Literary Captain of Ujjwal Academy, Old City, Kildarabad, you believe that languages can help bridge regional divides and promote unity.

Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, suggesting the introduction of an online regional language learning programme managed and run by student councils and language clubs in the city. The programme aims to help residents who have recently relocated to a new region in picking up the local language organically. Share the importance and credibility of such a programme and suggest a feasible way to execute it along with possible activities.

**Answer (suggested)**

4A.

124, Indrayani Apartments  
Vaishali Street, Daipur

21 August 2023  
The MLA Janta House  
Rajajipura, Daipur

*Subject: Suggestion Regarding the Need to Form Ecology Clubs*

*Madam*

*This letter is written to express my concern about the environmental degradation in our city and suggest a solution that I believe could help in preserving and conserving nature. I believe that forming Ecology clubs and appointing Eco-minders in our city can aid in this endeavour.*

*Ecology clubs can be run by resident volunteers who may undertake activities such as making bird-houses, planting native trees, water harvesting and creating compost piles to nurture and protect the local ecosystem. By involving the residents in these activities, we can raise awareness about the importance of preserving nature and instil a sense of responsibility towards it.*

*Some of the implications of forming Ecology clubs are reduction of pollution levels, increase in biodiversity and promotion of sustainable practices. This initiative will enhance the quality of life of the residents by providing them with a green and healthy environment.*

*Madam, you are requested to kindly consider this suggestion to ensure better preservation and conservation of nature.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Vaishali Nathani  
(A concerned resident)*

*4B.  
Ujjwal Academy  
Old City, Kilandarabad*

*30 August 2023  
The Editor  
India Samachar  
Jamnagar, Kilandarabad*

*Subject: Introduction of Online Regional Language Learning Programmes*

*Dear Sir*

*As someone who believes that languages can help bridge regional divides and promote unity, I am writing to suggest the introduction of an online regional language learning programme in our city to help the recently relocated residents (of all ages) establish a healthy rapport with the local residents and promote mutual understanding.*

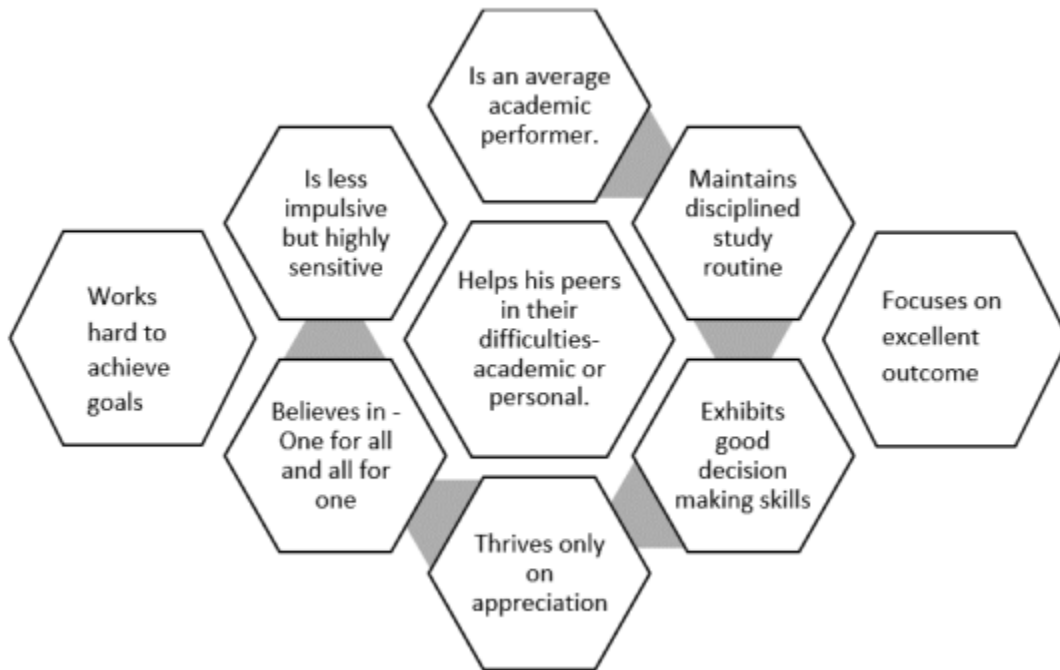
*This online programme, organised and run by student councils and language clubs, can help these residents pick up the local language organically. This initiative may be conducted only on weekends for three months, making it feasible for participants to attend without hindering their work or studies. Activities such as language exchange programmes, cultural events, and group discussions on the virtual platform can be undertaken to make this programme more engaging.*

*I hope that publishing of this letter in the columns of your Daily shall urge the community to support this programme for its potential, to bring people together, promote language proficiency, and foster a sense of brotherhood.*

*Yours truly*

*Armaan Khan  
(Captain, Literary Club)*

5.A Tsering, of class X, is contesting for the post of the Junior School Captain, in the upcoming student council elections. Given below is her character traits' graphic, shared in the public domain, by the school counsellor, for the awareness of student voters, at school.



All Tsering's peers have been asked to write a paragraph in about 120 words, analysing these traits, to either support or oppose her candidature. As one of her peers, write this analytical paragraph, by selecting some of the traits that support your analysis.

You may begin like this :

As a responsible student voter, I believe Tsering possesses / does not possess the necessary traits to be a School Captain.

You may end like this:

For these reasons, I believe she has / does not have the potential to be a good School Captain and I support / oppose her candidature.

**OR**

5.B As the Captain of the school's Cultural Club, you have been asked to study the given itinerary provided by a tour-organizing vendor.

**A 3N/2D Educational Tour for the Senior School Students:  
Jabalpur and Ranha National Park (Vandhya Pradesh)**

- Tour Travel & sightseeing by bus.
- Accommodation on quad sharing basis.
- One staff complimentary for every 20 students.
- Bottled mineral water throughout the tour.
- Dance Party on 22 November.
- Insurance policy of ₹ 20,000/- per head.
- Provision of Tour Manager's assistance to all places.

<b>Day</b>	<b>Estimated time of departure from</b>	<b>Estimated time of arrival</b>	<b>Sight-seeing Destination/ Activity</b>	<b>Time spent at the destination</b>
22 Nov. 2023	8:49 am (Nagpur Junction)-8 hrs. 30 min	5:23 pm	Reporting at the hotel	
23 Nov. 2023	9:00 am (hotel)	10:00 am	Bhawartal Garden	1 hr.
	11:00 am (garden)	11:40 am	Bhedaghat Dhuandhar Falls	1 hr.
	12:40 pm (falls)	1:00 pm	Lunch (nearby restaurant)	1 hr.
	2:00 pm (restaurant)	2:15 pm	Marble Rocks Cable car tour	1 hr. 30 mins
	3:45 pm (Marble Rocks)	4:45 pm	Rani Durgavati Museum	1 hr. 30 mins
	6:15 pm (museum)	7:00 pm	Back to the hotel	
24 Nov. 2023	5:30 am (hotel)-170 kms- 4 hrs. drive	9:30 am	Ranha Tiger Reserve	7 hrs.
	4:30 pm (Tiger Reserve)	9:00 pm	Back to the hotel	
25 Nov. 2023	7:54 am (Jabalpur Railway station)-8 hrs. 45 min	4:21 pm	Nagpur Railway Junction	

Analyse this 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.

You may begin like this :

A thorough analysis of the itinerary provided by the tour organizing vendor reveals that the tour proposal should be accepted / rejected.

You may end like this:

Therefore, the tour proposal for the educational trip should be approved / rejected.

**Answer -**

**5A. Suggested response-**

Supporting Tsering's candidature

*As a responsible student voter, I believe Tsering possesses the necessary traits to be an excellent School Captain. Her disciplined study routine and hard work ethic indicate her ability to prioritize and manage her time effectively. Tsering is less impulsive but sensitive and focuses on the excellent outcome of tasks assigned to her demonstrating good decision-making skills. Additionally, her willingness to help peers in academic and personal difficulties highlights her empathetic and caring nature. Furthermore, Tsering believes in the "One for all and all for one" policy, which is pivotal in fostering a sense of community and promoting inclusivity in the school. While she may be an average academic performer, her positive attitude and desire for appreciation will motivate her in her pursuit of excellence. For these reasons, I believe she has the potential to be a good School Captain and I support her candidature.*

Opposing Tsering's candidature

*As a responsible student voter, I have reservations about Tsering's candidature for the School Captain's position. While she maintains a disciplined study routine, her average academic performance suggests a lack of academic discipline. Additionally, her quest for appreciation may cause her to prioritize recognition over the well-being of the school community. Moreover, Tsering's sensitivity, while admirable, may hinder her ability to make tough decisions and exercise effective leadership skills. While her willingness to help peers is commendable, it may also distract her from her responsibilities as the School Captain. Finally, Tsering's focus on the excellent outcome of tasks assigned to her may cause her to overlook the process and teamwork required to achieve those outcomes which are crucial for the school's smooth functioning. For these reasons, I believe she does not have the potential to be a good School Captain and I oppose her candidature.*

*[Both responses, apart from prompts indicated in the Q, are around 110 words]*

**5B. Suggested response :**

### Accepting the proposal

*A thorough analysis of the itinerary provided by the tour organizing vendor reveals that the tour proposal should be accepted. It is well-planned and includes an array of educational activities for the students. The inclusion of visit to Bhawartal Garden, Bhedaghat Dhuandhar Falls, Marble Rocks Cable car tour, and Rani Durgavati Museum offers an opportunity for the students to learn about nature, history, and art. The tour to Kanha Tiger Reserve adds an element of adventure and allows students to connect with wildlife. The provision of bottled mineral water, insurance policy, and tour manager's assistance ensures the safety and well-being of the students. Inclusion of a DJ party adds to the entertainment, enjoyment and enthusiasm quotient of the tour. The complimentary staff provided for every twenty students further adds to the security of the students. Therefore, the tour proposal for the educational trip should be approved.*

### Rejecting analytical paragraph

*A thorough analysis of the itinerary provided by the tour organizing vendor reveals that the tour proposal should be rejected. While the tour includes 7 of 14 various educational activities, we have concerns about the safety and wellbeing of the students. The tour includes a long journey of nearly nine hours from Nagpur Junction to Jabalpur and vice versa. Also, it mentions an early morning departure at 5:30 am to the Kanha Tiger reserve and late evening arrival back to the hotel, on the last day. Long hours of travel and the hectic schedule may lead to physical exhaustion and hamper the learning experience of the students. Additionally, the inclusion of a DJ party may not be suitable for an educational tour. The tour organizing vendor has not provided details on the quality of the hotel and the quad-sharing basis may not be comfortable for all students. Hence, considering the well-being of the students, the tour proposal for the educational trip, should be rejected.*

*[Both responses, apart from prompts indicated in the Q, are around 120 words]*

## **SECTION D : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)**

**6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.**

A. The question he tried to answer was simple: What is the purpose of the twelve tiny gold spots on a monarch pupa?

“Everyone assumed the spots were just ornamental,” Ebright said.

“But Dr Urquhart didn’t believe it.”

To find the answer, Ebright and another excellent science student first had to build a device that showed that the spots were producing a hormone necessary for the butterfly’s full development. This project won Ebright first place in the county fair and entry into the International Science and



Engineering Fair. There he won third place for zoology. He also got a chance to work during the summer at the entomology laboratory of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.

(The Making of a Scientist)

i. State any one inference about Dr Urquhart from the given context:

Everyone assumed the spots were just ornamental," Ebright said.

*"But Dr Urquhart didn't believe it."*

ii. State TRUE or FALSE.

None of the terms (a) -(d) below, can be applied to the question - What is the purpose of the twelve tiny gold spots on a monarch pupa?

(a) A hypothesis - a proposed explanation for a phenomenon

(b) An assumption - something that is taken for granted or assumed to be true without proof

(c) A premise - a proposition that forms the basis of an argument

(d) A theory - a well-substantiated explanation for a natural phenomenon

iii. Ebright's approach towards finding the purpose of the gold spots on a monarch pupa was highly effective. Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract.

iv. Which phrase would correctly substitute 'a chance' , in the given sentence from the extract.

*He also got a chance to work during the summer at the entomology laboratory of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research.*

**OR**

B. LOMOV : It's cold... I'm trembling all over, just as if I'd got an examination before me. The great thing is , I must have my mind made up. If I give myself time to think, to hesitate, to talk a lot, to look for an ideal, or for real love, then I'll never get married. Brr...It's cold! Natalya Stepanovna is an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well-educated. What more do I want? But I'm getting a noise in my ears from excitement. (Drinks) And it's impossible for me not to marry. In the first place, I'm already 35— a critical age, so to speak. In the second place, I ought to lead a quiet and regular life. I suffer from palpitations, I'm excitable and always getting awfully upset; at this very moment my lips are trembling, and there's a twitch in my right eyebrow.  
(The Proposal)

i. Which of the following is NOT a reason why Lomov thinks he must marry?

A. He is already 35 years old.

B. He suffers from palpitations.

C. He is excitable and easily upset.

D. He is in love with Natalya.

ii. Why is it fair to say that Lomov's tone, when he says "What more do I want?", is uncertain and questioning? Answer in about 40 words.

iii. Read the following descriptions (a)-(c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract.

(a) A debate is a formal discussion on a particular topic, usually with two or more people presenting different viewpoints and arguments.

(b) A soliloquy is a speech given by a character alone on stage, which reveals their innermost thoughts and feelings to the audience.

(c) An aside is a brief comment or remark made by a character directly to the audience, which is not intended to be heard by other characters on stage.

iv. If an actor were to enact this extract, what would he be required to focus on, while modulating his voice?

### **Answers -**

6A

i. (Any one)

We can infer that -

- Dr Urquhart was a scientist who questioned assumptions
- He was willing to investigate alternative explanations for phenomena
- Dr Urquhart was a curious / open-minded scientist
- He was not content to simply accept conventional wisdom

ii. True

iii. Ebright's approach was highly effective in finding the purpose of the gold spots on a monarch pupa. By building a device that showed that the spots were producing a hormone necessary for the butterfly's full development, he was able to provide evidence that contradicted the prevailing assumption that the spots were purely ornamental. This earned him recognition in science fairs and provided him with opportunities to work at research laboratories.

iv. An opportunity

6B.

i. D. He is in love with Natalya.

ii. Lomov's tone when he says "What more do I want?" is uncertain and questioning because he is trying to convince himself that Natalya Stepanovna is a suitable match for him, but at the same time, he seems to be struggling with doubts and fears. His tone suggests that he is trying to reassure himself that he has made the right decision, but he is not entirely convinced.

iii. (b) A soliloquy is a speech given by a character alone on stage, which reveals their innermost thoughts and feelings to the audience.

iv. The actor would be required to convey Lomov's nervousness and excitement through his voice modulation

**7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.**

A. But if it had to perish twice,  
I think I know enough of hate  
To say that for destruction ice  
Is also great  
And would suffice.  
(Fire and Ice)

i. Fill the blank with one word.

When the speaker says that ice could also bring about the end of the world , he refers to \_\_\_\_\_ , as the means for destruction.

ii. What does the speaker's alignment with those who favour ice, suggest?

iii. Which of the following best describes the speaker's attitude towards destruction caused by ice?

- A. Indifferent
- B. Fearful
- C. Dismissive
- D. Respectful

iv. Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines.

**OR**

B. The fog comes  
on little cat feet.  
It sits looking  
over harbour and city  
on silent haunches  
and then moves on.  
(Fog)

i. In what way does the language used in this poem challenge traditional ideas of what poetry should be?

ii. What is the significance of the use of the word "little" to describe the fog in the poem and how does this word choice contribute to the overall mood and tone of the poem? Answer in about 40 words.

iii. Complete the sentence with the appropriate option.  
The lines from the poem tell us that the city is \_\_\_\_\_.

A. hilly

- B. coastal
- C. industrial
- D. under-developed

iv. Identify the type of imagery used in the lines of the poem.

**Answers -**

7A.

*i. hatred/ indifference / bitterness / apathy / detachment / rigidity*

*ii. The speaker's alignment with those who favour ice suggests that they have seen the destructive consequences of a lack of empathy and emotional connection.*

*iii. D. Respectful*

*iv. The language used in these lines is simple and straightforward. The words and phrases are easy to understand and the poem is written in a conversational tone. Despite its simplicity, however, the poem carries a profound message about the destructive power of both fire and ice, and the inevitability of destruction. The use of simple language in this context makes the message more accessible to a wider audience and adds to the poem's overall impact.*

7B.

*i. Unlike traditional poetry that often relies on complex rhyme schemes and metaphors, this poem uses simple, everyday language to create a vivid picture in the reader's mind to create a powerful and evocative mood.*

*ii. The word "little" used to describe the fog in the poem suggests the subtle and quiet nature of the fog. The word "little" also evokes a sense of innocence and vulnerability, as if the fog is a harmless creature moving through the city. This contributes to the overall mood and tone of the poem, which is calm and peaceful, with a touch of mystery*

*iii. B. Coastal*

*iv. visual /animal imagery*

**8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words.**

i. Justify the opinion that the traditional baker and his bread play a significant role in the cultural and social fabric of Goan society. (Glimpses of India-I)

ii. How does Leslie Norris use vivid imagery and metaphorical language in A Tiger in the Zoo, to effectively depict the confinement and oppression, experienced by the captive tiger.

iii. Explain how the description of the devastation caused by the hailstorm reflects the sadness within Lencho, in A Letter to God?

Refer to the given lines, from the text -

Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness.

iv. Kitty was a trusted friend to Anne. Elaborate.

(From the Diary of Anne Frank)

v. How does Ogden Nash's *The Tale of Custard the Dragon*, challenge the notion that individuals should conform to societal expectations?

**Answers -**

*i. The traditional baker and his bread play a significant role in the cultural and social fabric of Goan society.*

- *the Portuguese introduced their famous loaves of bread to Goa - they left but the bread-makers remained, and their age-old, time-tested furnaces still exist*
- *The baker's bread was not just a food item, but it was an essential part of Goan cuisine and culture - not just a staple food item but also served as a symbol of social and economic status*
- *the traditional baker and his bread -- played a vital role in local commerce -- baker would sell his bread by going from house to house -- a critical role in local distribution and trade*
- *bread-making tradition -- passed down from one generation to the next -- many bakers continuing the family profession to this day*
- *continued existence of these bakers and their furnaces represents a living connection to Goa's cultural and culinary heritage -- continues to be cherished and celebrated by the local community*

*ii. Leslie Norris uses vivid imagery and metaphorical language in "Tiger in the Zoo" to effectively depict the confinement and oppression experienced by the captive tiger.*

- *The use of the words "vivid stripes" and "pads of velvet quiet" creates a powerful image of the tiger's physical beauty and grace that is restricted within the confines of the cage.*
- *The contrast between the tiger's natural habitat and its captivity is highlighted through the description of its expected behaviour in the wild such as "sliding through long grass" and "snarling around houses" and its actual behaviour within the cage.*
- *The metaphorical language used in "quiet rage" and "ignoring visitors" conveys the tiger's frustration and anger at being confined.*
- *The last two lines, "He hears the last voice at night, the patrolling cars, and stares with his brilliant eyes at the brilliant stars," depicts the tiger's longing for freedom and its natural habitat.*
- *Finally, the poem explores the psychological impact of captivity on the tiger through the use of vivid imagery and metaphorical language.*

*iii. The description of the devastation caused by the hailstorm reflects the sadness within Lencho.*

- *The fact that "not a leaf remained on the trees" and "the flowers were gone from the plants" suggests a sense of emptiness and loss, which mirrors Lencho's feelings of despair and disappointment.*
- *The destruction of the corn, which was the source of his livelihood, is particularly devastating for him.*

- *The emptiness and desolation of the landscape thus serve as a powerful metaphor for Lencho's inner state of mind, emphasizing the magnitude of his disappointment and hopelessness.*

iv. *Kitty was a trusted friend to Anne.*

- *allowed her to express her thoughts and feelings freely without fear of rejection*
- *provided her with a space to confide in and unburden herself to, serving as a form of therapy for her loneliness and isolation*
- *it couldn't talk back but the act of writing and personifying the diary as a friend gave Anne a sense of comfort and companionship, providing her with an outlet to process her emotions and cope with her challenges*
- *gave her a sense of privacy and security --she felt that she could write down her innermost thoughts and feelings without fear of judgement or ridicule, as she might have experienced if she shared them with others*

v. *Ogden Nash's "Tale of Custard the Dragon" can be interpreted as a subversion of societal expectations.*

- *presents Belinda as a brave and independent female character ( described as brave as a barrel full of bears, a trait that is stereotypically associated with masculinity), while the male characters (Ink, Blink, Mustard) are portrayed as weaker and less courageous*
- *actions of Ink, Blink, Mustard seem motivated by fear of social judgment and ridicule - of being perceived as weak- while Custard is unafraid of crying for a nice safe cage*
- *when faced with danger, Custard, the dragon, labelled a coward, is the one who steps up to defend Belinda and her household, while Ink, Blink, and Mustard flee or hide - finds the courage to protect those he cares about*

*The poem promotes the idea that everyone has unique talents and abilities, and should be encouraged to pursue their passions and strengths, at their pace, rather than conforming to societal expectations or stereotypes*

### **9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.**

i. The story, A Triumph of Surgery is a powerful example of the importance of saying "no". Explain.

ii. How does education play a transformative role in Bholi's life? (Bholi)

iii. The various elements of Robert Arthur's writing style work together to create a sense of tension, uncertainty, and suspense, well-suited to the mystery and suspense genre of the story, The Midnight Visitor. Comment, with reference to any one element.

#### **Answers -**

*i. The story - a powerful example of the importance of saying no when it comes to making decisions that affect the health and well-being of others, whether it be for pets or for people*

- *Mrs. Pumphrey's love and indulgence for her dog, Tricki, leads to the dog becoming severely overweight and unhealthy*

- *Despite Herriot's advice to put Tricki on a diet and exercise regimen, Mrs. Pumphrey is unable to say 'no' and abstain from overfeeding the dog -- Tricki becomes seriously ill due to his weight and unhealthy habits*
- *The story, thus, highlights the fact that sometimes, the best way to help someone is to say no and steer them towards a better path, even if it may be uncomfortable or unpopular in the moment*

*ii. Education plays a transformative role in Bholi's life.*

- *It helps her gain confidence and self-esteem, enabling her to stand up for herself and challenge societal norms.*
- *Empowers her to break free from the chains of patriarchy and choose her own path. It also enables her to recognize and resist oppression and inequality, making her an agent of change in her community.*
- *Through education, Bholi becomes an embodiment of the transformative power of knowledge and its ability to challenge and change societal norms.*

*iii. (Any one )*

*The author employs various elements of writing style to create a sense of tension, uncertainty, and suspense, well-suited to the story's mystery and suspense genre.*

- *Skilful use of language to create tension-- Throughout the story, he employs short, punchy sentences that create a sense of urgency and a feeling that events are unfolding quickly and unpredictably. This helps to build momentum and keep the reader engaged, while also conveying a sense of unease and urgency.*
- *Use of dialogue - The conversation between Ausable and Max is filled with half-truths and mystification, which creates a sense of ambiguity and heightens the story's sense of mystery. The reader is left wondering about Max's true motives and intentions, which adds to the sense of uncertainty and tension in the story.*
- *Pacing and plot development - contribute to the story's sense of suspense , as the author carefully builds the tension throughout the story, gradually revealing new information and plot twists that keep the reader guessing and on edge.*

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

(A) You have been asked to present an evaluation of the approaches of the mothers of both, the baby seagull and Amanda, towards helping their children. Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing the approaches of both parents.

You may begin this way:

One acknowledges that both parents, Amanda's mother and the baby seagull's mother both....however, ...

*(Reference -Amanda! & His First Flight)*

**OR**

(B) You have been chosen to address a student gathering from the neighbourhood schools, to speak on the resilience of human spirit required to transcend discrimination. Prepare the speech draft in not more than 120 words, with reference to the commonality of themes in Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom and The Trees by Adrienne Rich.

You may begin this way:

Good morning, everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss two pieces of literature that offer a powerful insight into the resilience of the human spirit required to transcend discrimination.

You may end this way.

To conclude, I'd like to say that ...

Thank you

### **Answers -**

*A. [A detailed discussion has been presented to allow for usage of content points as per individual choice. However, the final answer has to be a cohesive whole, structured in paragraphs, in about 120 words.]*

*The baby seagull's mother: The baby seagull's mother, was a parent who wanted to better her child's life by pushing him out of his comfort zone and encouraging him to learn new skills. She believed that her son is capable of flying, even though he was afraid, and tried to motivate him by showing him how much fun it could be. She also offered him scraps of fish to reward him for his efforts, which is truly a kind of positive reinforcement strategy. However, the mother's approach also had some drawbacks. By constantly pushing the baby seagull to fly, she was putting him in danger and risking his physical well-being. She also didn't seem to acknowledge his fear and anxiety, which could be a source of stress for the baby seagull.*

*Amanda's mother: Amanda's mother is depicted as a strict and critical figure who is presented as always correcting Amanda's behaviour, from her posture and habits to her academic performance and personal hygiene. While her intentions may be good, her methods are shown to be ineffective, and in some cases, harmful. By constantly nit-picking Amanda's behaviour, her mother creates an atmosphere of tension and anxiety, which only serves to make Amanda feel worse about herself. This also causes Amanda to feel like she can never measure up, leading her to seek solace in imaginary worlds and fantasies. The methods of Amanda's mother do not come across as conducive to achieving this goal. Rather than focusing on Amanda's strengths and encouraging her to develop them, she highlights her weaknesses and shortcomings. Amanda is thus, left feeling undervalued, which could have a negative impact on her self-esteem and mental health.*

*Comparison: In comparison to Amanda's mother, the seagull's mother seems to be more attuned to her child's needs and abilities. She recognizes that the baby seagull is capable of flying and wants to help him achieve his full potential. However, she may not be taking into account his fears and anxieties, which can be just as important to his well-being as his ability to fly. In contrast, Amanda's mother seems to be too focused on correcting her daughter's flaws and may not be paying enough attention to her strengths and abilities. Even though both*



mothers have good intentions and want to better their children's lives, their methods, in part, may be misguided or ineffective. The seagull's mother could benefit from being more sensitive to her child's emotions, while Amanda's mother could benefit from focusing on her daughter's strengths and building her self-esteem.

Ultimately, the best approach of both parents would be the one that would balance positive reinforcement with sensitivity to the child's needs and limitations.

B. [A detailed insight has been presented below to allow for usage of content points as per individual choice. However, the final answer crafted by the learner, is to be written in first person , as indicated from the question cues. It has to be a cohesive whole, structured in paragraphs and devoid of headings , in about 120 words.]

Good morning, everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss two pieces of literature that offer a powerful insight into the resilience of the human spirit required to transcend discrimination. Both works share some of the common themes.

*(Theme 1: Transcending Discrimination)*

Both Mandela's excerpt and Rich's poem address the issue of discrimination. Mandela speaks of how his own experiences of discrimination made him more determined to fight against it. He emphasizes the need to move beyond the divides created by race, gender, and class. Similarly, Rich's poem acknowledges the discrimination faced by trees, which are often overlooked and undervalued. She argues that these trees deserve to be recognized and appreciated, just as all living beings should be. [The metaphorical perspective for *The Trees* - the emergence of women against discrimination. Rich compares the growth of trees to the growth of women who were once suppressed and marginalized by society. Just as trees grow from the earth and reach for the sky, women too are rooted in their past but strive towards a better future, breaking free from the chains of oppression and discrimination.]

*(Theme 2: The Efforts Involved in Achieving Equality)*

Both pieces of literature also highlight the hard work and sacrifices required to achieve equality. Mandela describes his long and difficult journey towards freedom, including his time spent in prison. He emphasizes that true freedom is not just about breaking physical chains but also breaking mental ones. Rich's poem speaks of the efforts required to protect trees and nature, highlighting the importance of activism and advocacy. [The metaphorical perspective for *The Trees* - Despite being cut down and uprooted by the patriarchy, women continue to grow and flourish, resisting oppression and striving towards equality. The trees symbolize the tenacity and determination of women to rise above their circumstances and claim their rightful place in society.]

*(Theme 3: Resilience of the Human Spirit)*

Despite the challenges faced, both Mandela's excerpt and Rich's poem showcase the resilience of the human spirit. Mandela's perseverance and unwavering determination to fight against discrimination, even in the face of great adversity, inspire us to do the same. Rich's poem also speaks to the resilience of nature, which continues to thrive even in the face of human neglect and disregard. [The metaphorical perspective for *The Trees* - The poem celebrates the strength and tenacity of women and highlights the importance of perseverance in the face of adversity.]

*Through the symbol of the trees, Rich suggests that just as nature can regenerate and thrive, so too can women emerge stronger and more resilient from discrimination and oppression.]*

*Conclusion: To conclude, I'd like to say that the common themes of transcending discrimination and the efforts involved in achieving equality are prevalent in both these pieces of literature and remind us of the strength of the human spirit and the importance of standing up for what we believe in, even when faced with obstacles. By acknowledging and valuing all forms of life and working towards a more just and equal world, we can continue to build a better future for ourselves and for future generations.*

*Thank you.*

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

(A) Imagine that M. Loisel, from *The Necklace* by Guy de Maupassant, writes a diary entry, exploring the theme of class and social status, and the nature of social mobility, in the context of his own experience.

Write this diary entry, as M. Loisel, in about 120 words.

**OR**

(B) 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 the thief in Ruskin Bond's *The Thief's Story*, in about 120 words.

**Answers -**

*A. It's been a tough the past few years, for my wife, Matilda, and me. As I reflect on our experience, I can't help but think about the broader societal issues that have contributed to our predicament. It's clear to me now that our society is structured in a way that makes upward mobility difficult, if not impossible. The rich get richer, while the rest of us struggle to make ends meet. We live in a world where social status is determined by the amount of wealth one possesses, rather than by one's character or virtues. This narrow view of success has led many people, including Matilda, to pursue material possessions at the expense of their own happiness. The loss of the borrowed necklace was a painful lesson for both of us. It reminded us that the pursuit of social status and upward mobility can be a trap, leading people to sacrifice their happiness and well-being in the pursuit of an unattainable dream.*

*B. The thief's character arc in the story shows a transformation from a career criminal to a person who learns to trust and work hard for a living.*

- *At the beginning of the story, the thief is portrayed as an experienced criminal who is focussed on staying ahead of the law.*
- *He is initially attracted to Anil because he believes he can exploit the young man's trusting nature.*
- *As the story progresses, the thief begins to develop a friendship with Anil, who teaches him how to cook, write and read.*

- *This transformation of the thief's character reaches a climax when he is presented with an opportunity to steal money from Anil, but instead chooses to resist the temptation and considers the consequences of his actions.*
- *This is a significant change from the beginning of the story when the thief was only interested in self-gain.*
- *Although the thief has not completely abandoned his criminal ways, the fact that he hesitated to jump on the train to escape with the stolen money shows that he has developed a moral conscience.*

*The story implies that the thief has realized that a life of crime is not fulfilling and that he is now open to exploring new opportunities for a better life.*