

CBSE Board Examination – 2025
ENGLISH (Language and Literature)
Solved Paper
Class – 10th

Delhi Sets | Series: 4GHEF

Time allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- (i) This question paper comprises **11** questions. **All** questions are compulsory.
- (ii) This question paper contains **THREE** sections -

Section - A: Reading Skills

Section - B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

Section - C: Literature Text Book

- (iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Set-1

Q.P. Code: 2/4/1

SECTION – A

(Reading Skills)

(20 Marks)

1. Read the following text:

- (1) Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is now high on the international agenda and ESD is seen as a way to encourage greater sustainable consumption and production, to counter the effects of climate change, address threats to biodiversity and provide more effective disaster risk reduction. Education for Sustainable Development is seen by UN as a lifelong process from early childhood to higher and adult education and goes beyond formal education. As values, lifestyles and attitudes are established from an early age, the role of education is of particular importance for children! ESD has often been associated with curriculum projects linked with recycling; energy and water conservation; pollution reduction and sustainable consumption – all developed to contribute towards achieving a more sustainable future.
- (2) Research from developmental psychology, longitudinal studies, social-cultural analysis, and neuroscience have all shown that it is in the early years that children have the greatest capacity to learn, and it is in these years that many of our fundamental attitudes and values are first put into place. Children are already investigating issues related to recycling, energy conservation, waste disposal and changes in their local environment. ESD in Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) is of great significance. The development of ESD and ECCE requires more than just curriculum development. It provides the possibility of a transformational reconstruction.
- (3) UNICEF reports show that children under the age of eight represent the highest percentage of affected population in today's global emergencies. A UNESCO survey has shown that the ministries of education, environment and sustainable development in 97 UN member states identify poverty as the highest priority area to be addressed in achieving sustainable development. In fact, reductions in poverty and inequality are widely recognised as the priority in efforts to create a more sustainable world. At a

global level, millions of children start school carrying the handicap that comes with the experience of malnutrition, ill-health and poverty. Yet, equitable access to high-quality pre-school programmes remain a problem in both rich and poor countries. Sustainable development projects that enable rapid progress in maternal health, child nutrition and survival already exist, even in some of the world's poorest countries. Linking health and education agenda has been recognised as extremely important.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above: **10**

- (i) Complete the following with a suitable explanation with reference to paragraph (1). **1**
ESD is now high on the international agenda because _____.
- (ii) Based on the given passage, How does UN view ESD as a lifelong process? What are the critical areas of emphasis? (Paragraph 1) **2**
- (iii) List two curriculum projects that ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) has been linked with. (Paragraph 1) **1**
- (iv) Complete the following suitably: **2**
Many of our fundamental attitudes and values are put into plan in the early years as _____. (Paragraph 2)
- (v) Substitute the underlined word with the correct word from paragraph (2): **1**
ESD in Early Childhood Care and Education provides the possibility of transformational reconstruction.
(A) positive change (B) power to reform
(C) negative impact (D) creative
- (vi) What do UNICEF reports reveal about the vulnerability of children under the age of eight during global emergencies? (Paragraph 3) **1**
(A) UNICEF reports highlight the resilience of children under the age of eight during global emergencies.
(B) UNICEF reports indicate that children under the age of eight are rarely affected by global emergencies.

- (C) UNICEF reports show that children under the age of eight represent the highest percentage of affected population in global emergencies.
- (D) UNICEF reports suggest that children under the age of eight are primarily responsible for responding to global emergencies.
- (vii) What remains a problem in both rich and poor countries? What has been recognised as crucial?

(Paragraph 3) 1

- (viii) Complete the sentence with the correct response:

The writer's tone in the passage is _____. 1

2. **Read the following text:** 10

- (1) Electric vehicles (EV) market is growing rapidly all over the world. In India also the EV market has gained significant momentum. It has grown more after the implementation of FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacture of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles) scheme in 2015 by Ministry of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises.
- (2) Electric vehicles are solutions to be independent and free from imported energy resources. Electric cars can bring a major change to India in becoming self-sustainable. EV could also be the alternative to decrease carbon dioxide gas. Carbon dioxide from automobiles is one of the causes of air pollution.
- (3) An EV can be used for flexible load, for standardising the grid with substantial share of fluctuating renewable energy generation. EV emits 30-80% less greenhouse gas when compared with Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicle. EVs do not consume any energy when it is stationary as compared to ICE vehicles where fuel is consumed when it is idle. EV is recognised as promising alternatives to vehicles and will potentially replace ICE vehicles in the near future.
- (4) The electric vehicles have low emissions, high efficiency and smooth operation. The energy consumption and emissions for plug in hybrid electric vehicles found that compared to gasoline vehicles there is 37.5% less energy consumption and 35% less greenhouse gas emissions.

The government have started financial policies to encourage EV adoption; however, decision makers have to plan a long-term perspective to get them implemented efficiently.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

- (i) What does the phrase 'gained significant momentum' in paragraph (1) tell us about the impact of EV market? 1

- (A) It is momentarily important
(B) It has developed very quickly
(C) It has gained profit
(D) It has to develop a significant market

- (ii) Select the option that is true for the **Assertion** and **Reason** given below: 1

Assertion: Electric vehicles can bring a major change to India.

Reason: It can bring India to becoming self-sustainable.

- (A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.
(B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.

(C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.

(D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

- (iii) Give two benefits of using Electric vehicles over Internal Combustion Engine vehicles. 2

- (iv) With reference to the passage, the word 'idle' in paragraph (3) most nearly means _____. 1

- (v) How do electric vehicles contribute to diminishing a country's reliance on imported energy? 1

- (vi) Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank:

EV could be the alternative to _____. (enhance/reduce) the carbon dioxide gas emission. 1

- (vii) Give evidence from the passage to show that government is encouraging the use of Electric Vehicles. 1

- (viii) Complete the sentence suitably:

The result of the implementation of FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacture of Electric vehicles) is _____. 1

- (ix) Complete the following with a suitable reason:

The long-term perspective by decision makers is to ensure _____. 1

SECTION – B

(Grammar and Creative Writing Skills)

(Grammar)

(20 Marks)

3. Complete **ANY TEN** of **twelve** of the following tasks, as directed: 10 × 1 = 10

- (i) Complete the newspaper report by using the correct form of the verb given in the bracket: 1

He was a renowned business person. He _____ (purchase) a house in the city last year.

- (ii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the concluding part of an article on 'Exploitation of Children'. 1

It _____ (may/should/could) be our concerted effort not to employ children in industries and to save them from any kind of exploitation.

- (iii) Read the given line and identify the error. Also provide with the correct word. 1

Mobile phones has become an integral part of life.

Error	Correction

- (iv) Take a look at the conversation between two friends Riya and Simran discussing a book that one of them has recently read. 1

Riya: The book really caught my attention. It's called, *Eternal Echoes*.

Simran: Sounds interesting! I'll definitely add it to my reading list. Thanks for the recommendation!

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

Riya told Simran about the book called *Eternal Echoes* that had captured her interest. Simran, in response, expressed that it _____ and mentioned that she would consider reading it.

- (A) sound interesting
(B) sounded interesting
(C) will be interesting
(D) was found to be interesting

- (v) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the line given below: 1
He usually ate breakfast before he goes to school.

Options	Error	Correction
(A)	usually	always
(B)	ate	eats
(C)	before	after
(D)	goes	went

- (vi) Report the dialogue between a teacher and a student by completing the sentence: 1

Teacher: Good morning! Today, we're going to learn about the importance of trees. They play a vital role in our ecosystem. Can you think of any other reasons?

Student: I pledge to plant some trees this weekend.

The student understood the importance of trees and added that he _____.

- (vii) Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence talking about importance of a 'Sound Sleep'. 1

Sleep is important in maintain one's health and well being.

Use the given format for your response:

Error	Correction

- (viii) Complete the given narrative, by filling the blank with the correct option: 1

When they began to play it _____ to rain.

- (A) start (B) started
(C) starts (D) having started

- (ix) Fill in the blank choosing the most appropriate option: 1

The teacher distributed a piece of paper to _____ student.

- (A) few (B) all
(C) many (D) each

- (x) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the line given below: 1

Oral hygiene _____ be inculcated in children early in life. (should, would)

- (xi) Complete the given sentence by selecting the correct option: 1

The information given here _____ to all the products in this section.

- (A) apply (B) applied
(C) is applied (D) applies

- (xii) Identify the error and supply correction for the following sentence. 1

Be the changes you want to see in the world.

Use the given format for your response:

Error	Correction

(Creative Writing Skills)

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

4. Attempt ANY ONE from (A) and (B) given below:

- (A) You are Sonia / Sonu, residing at 67/98 Malkaganj, Sonapat. Compose a letter in about 120 words to

the Head Librarian of your child's school drawing attention to the poor library facilities. Give suggestions on how things can be improved to inculcate reading habits among children. 5

OR

- (B) As Sharmila Sahani, a conscientious resident of 25/22, Rajpur, Fahetabad, you have recently come across numerous newspaper articles featuring tragic incidents where lives have been lost due to reckless driving and not following the traffic rules. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, shedding light on this issue and give suggestions on what can be done. 5

5. Attempt ANY ONE from (A) and (B) given below:

- (A) Today, many projects in India are being initiated and implemented with the aim of transforming India into a digitally empowered society and economy.

Digital India Program

IT – Jobs

E – governance

E – Kranti Electronic Delivery of Services

Broadband for all – Urban and Rural

Information for all.

Write an analytical paragraph of 100-120 words based on the given information. 5

OR

- (B) Read the given details of the different activities that interest children in the age group of 14-17 years.

- dance, music, art
- outdoor sports like cricket, hockey, basketball, soccer, tennis
- computer games
- net surfing
- social media

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words about the suitability of the given activities. Focus on factors like interest, physical, mental and emotional development, personality development, and suitability. 5

SECTION – C

(Literature Text Book) (40 Marks)

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

- A. "Paper has more patience than people. I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out. I finally stayed where I was, brooding: Yes, paper does have more patience, and since I'm not planning to let anyone else read this stiff backed notebook grandly referred to as a 'diary', unless I should ever find a real friend, it probably won't make a bit of difference."

(From the Diary of Anne Frank)

- (i) In light of the excerpt, what can we infer about the speaker's emotional state? 1

- (ii) The narrator enhances the narrative technique of the extract by using: 2

- (A) descriptive language
(B) literary allusions
(C) humour
(D) reflective

- (iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket: **1**
The narrator doesn't plan to let anyone read her diary as she doesn't have any real _____. (friend/incidents)

- (iv) Why does the narrator say that 'paper has more patience than people'? **1**

OR

- B. "He was silent, stupefied, in dismay, at the sight of his wife weeping. He stammered, "What is the matter? What is the matter?" By a violent effort, she had controlled her vexation and responded in a calm voice, wiping her moist cheeks, "Nothing. Only I have no dress and consequently I cannot go to this affair. Give your card to some colleague whose wife is better fitted out than I." He was grieved, but answered, "Let us see, Matilda. How much would a suitable costume cost, something that would serve for their occasions, something very simple?" She reflected for some seconds thinking of a sum that could ask for without bringing with it an immediate refusal and a frightened exclamation from the economical clerk."

(The Necklace)

- (i) What can we infer about Matilda's emotions and financial situation based on her husband's reaction and her response to not having a dress for the affair? **2**

- (ii) Which of the following is NOT a reason for Matilda's distress in the extract? **1**

- (A) She has no suitable dress for the affair.
(B) She is upset about her husband's reaction.
(C) She is worried about the cost of a suitable costume.
(D) The card did not bear her name.

- (iii) What did Matilda suggest that her husband do with the card? **1**

- (iv) In the given extract what does the term 'economic clerk' imply? **1**

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

- A. Belinda giggled till she shook the house,
And Blink said Weeck! Which is giggling for a mouse,
Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,
When Custard cried for a nice safe cage.
Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,
And Mustard growled, and they all looked around.

(The Tale of Custard the Dragon)

- (i) What inference can be drawn from the repetition of 'suddenly, suddenly' in the above extract? **1**

- (A) The scene shook the house
(B) It highlights the swift assault
(C) It emphasises that an unexpected noise was heard
(D) It directs our notice to Mustard's growling

- (ii) Despite its symbolism of captivity, what leads Custard to have a preference for staying in a cage? **2**

- (iii) Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the lines of the first four lines of the given extract: **1**

- (A) Through the telescope she saw a star
which she thought was very far
She stretched her hand
and felt the crumble of the sand.

- (B) Through the telescope she saw a star
She stretched her hand
As it was very far
But felt the crumble of the sand.

- (C) Through the telescope she saw a star
Which she thought was very far
Her hand she stretched
But felt the crumble of the sand.

- (D) Through the telescope she saw a star
Which she thought was very far
Her hand she stretched afar
But felt the crumble of the sand.

- (iv) In the given extract,

The difference between the other animals and Custard is that Custard behaves like a _____. **1**
(coward/dragon).

OR

- B. I sit inside, doors open to the veranda writing long letters in which I scarcely mention the departure of the forest from the house. The night is fresh, the whole moon shines in a sky still open (The Trees)

- (i) What atmosphere or mood is created by the language and imagery used in the above lines? **2**

- (ii) Choose the option that correctly pairs the two different meanings implied by the use of 'open' twice in the extract: **1**

- (A) entry point - vastness
(B) sharing a common space - great view
(C) allowing access and vision expanse of space
(D) advantage obstacles ahead

- (iii) From the provided extract, what is conspicuously absent from the long letters the speaker is writing while they sit indoors with the doors open to the veranda? **1**

- (iv) How does the poet describe the night? **1**

1. dark 2. frightening 3. dense
4. fresh 5. bright

Select the correct option:

- (A) 1 and 5 (B) Only 3
(C) 4 and 5 (D) 2 and 4

8. Answer **ANY FOUR** of the following five questions, in about **30-40** words each: **4 × 3 = 12**

- (i) Every creature possesses a unique characteristic that defines it, and this trait is closely linked to its nature. This concept is beautifully illustrated in the poem "How to Tell Wild Animals." Elucidate.

- (ii) Pranjal seemed to have a different level of enthusiasm compared to Rajvir when they both saw the tree plantation. Justify. (Glimpses of India)

- (iii) In the poem "Dust of Snow", the 'hemlock tree' and the 'crow' hold specific meanings. Elaborate on how these symbols are utilised within the context of the poem.

- (iv) In what manner did Lencho's cornfield suffer damage? Did he hold any expectations of receiving assistance? (A Letter to God)

- (v) Engaging in discussions and disputes rarely leads to problem resolution. Support the statement with evidence from the text. (The Proposal)

9. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in about **40-50** words each: **2 × 3 = 6**

- (i) Bholi's heart was brimming with "fresh optimism and a renewed existence." What significance does the expression "a new hope and a new life" hold for Bholi?
- (ii) Lunch transformed into a significant ceremonial event for Mr. Herriot and his associates. Do you agree? Explain with reference to 'A Triumph of Surgery'.
- (iii) Describe Ausable's fabricated tale regarding the balcony. *(The Midnight Visitor)*
10. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words:
- (i) Explore the theme of loss as it is depicted in both the "Ball Poem" and "The Sermon at Benaras", highlighting the inevitable nature of this aspect in life? 6
- (ii) Analyse the similarities and differences between the young seagull from "Two stories about flying" and Lencho from "A Letter to God", and provide a rationale for the significant role faith plays in challenging and adverse situations in life. 6
11. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words:
- (i) Evaluate Griffin's character as a brilliant scientist and a lawless person. *(Footprints without Feet)* 6
- (ii) Half-baked knowledge is always dangerous. Rushing to conclusions without going deep into the details of things always leads to uninvited chaos and disasters. Explain the above mentioned statements in the light of Think-Tank's interpretation of the rhymes in the book 'Mother Goose'. 6
- (The Book that saved the Earth)*

Set-2

Q.P. Code: 2/4/2

In this set, all questions are identical to those in Set-1, except for the following.

SECTION – B

(Grammar and Creative Writing Skills)

(Creative Writing Skills) (20 Marks)

4. Attempt **ANY ONE** from (A) and (B) given below:
- (A) You are Raashi / Rahul of Simargarh, Himachal Pradesh. Write a letter in about 100-120 words to the Municipal Commissioner of the city drawing attention to the unattended condition of the public parks in your town. They are poorly maintained with garbage strewn and pools of stagnant water. Give suggestions on how the parks can be maintained. 5
- OR
- (B) You are Bela / Baloo of Palanpuri. You recently visited a 'craft mela'. You were delighted to see the diversity of handicrafts, handlooms and cultural fabric of India. However, you were dismayed that not many people were there to encourage the artisans. Write a letter to the editor in 100-120 words, expressing your views on the situation and the need to support indigenous art and craft. 5

SECTION – C

(Literature Text Book)

(40 Marks)

9. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words: $2 \times 3 = 6$
- (i) Books play a significant role in shaping the personality of a person. In what way did a book cause a significant shift in Richard Ebright's life? *(The Making of a Scientist)*
- (ii) Bholi is sent to school for an uncommon reason, leading to a distinctive twist in her story. Elucidate.
- (iii) Fowler's disappointment arose when he laid eyes on Ausable. Rationalise the statement. *(The Midnight Visitor)*
10. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words:
- (i) The inherent instinct for freedom is a fundamental trait in all living creatures. Justify this statement with reference to 'Mijbil the Otter' and 'A Tiger in the Zoo'. 6
- (ii) Both 'Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom' by Nelson Mandela and "The Trees" by Adrienne Rich explore themes of transformation, Liberation and the power to change. Examine the commonality of themes in both the works. 6

Set-3

Q.P. Code: 2/4/3

In this set, all questions are identical to those in Set-1, except for the following.

SECTION – C

(Literature Text Book)

(40 Marks)

9. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words each: $2 \times 3 = 6$
- (i) Why was Bholi frightened to go to school? (Bholi)
- (ii) Why did Mrs. Pumphrey think the dogs recovery is 'A Triumph of Surgery'? *(A Triumph of Surgery)*
- (iii) What story did Ausable cook up regarding the arrival of the police? How did it affect Max? *(The Midnight Visitor)*
10. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words:
- (i) Robert Frost's view of nature changes when he talks about it positively in 'Dust of Snow', but negatively in 'Fire and Ice'. Justify the statement. 6
- (ii) Compare and contrast the role of faith between the young Seagull from the 'Two Stories about Flying' and Lencho from 'A Letter to God'. 6
11. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions in about 100-120 words:
- (i) Discuss Griffin as a brilliant scientist who degenerates into a lawless and homeless wanderer? 6 *(Footprints without Feet)*
- (ii) How does Valli's journey to the city serve as her initiation into understanding the profound mysteries of life and death, and how does her inquisitive nature shape her perceptions as she encounters these aspects of human existence? 6 *(Madam Rides the Bus)*

ANSWER

English Language & Literature Class – 10th

Set-1

Q.P. Code: 2/4/1

SECTION – A

1. (i) ESD is now high on the international agenda because it encourages greater sustainable consumption and production, helps counter climate change, addresses threats to biodiversity and provides effective disaster risk reduction.

(ii) The UN views Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) as a lifelong process extending from early childhood to higher and adult education, going beyond formal education. Critical areas of emphasis include values, lifestyles and attitudes, which are established from an early age, and curriculum projects linked to recycling, energy and water conservation, pollution reduction and sustainable consumption.

- (iii) The curriculum projects that Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) has been linked with are:

1. Recycling
2. Energy and water conservation
3. Pollution reduction
4. Energy and water conservation (Any two)

(iv) Many of our fundamental attitudes and values are put into plan in the early years as children have the greatest capacity to learn during this time.

- (v) *Correct Option:* (B) power to reform

Explanation: The phrase “transformational reconstruction” in the context of ESD and ECCE refers to a profound and impactful change in the way education is structured to support sustainable development. “Power to reform” best captures this idea, as it signifies the ability to bring about significant and lasting change.

- (vi) *Correct Option:* (C) UNICEF reports show that children under the age of eight represent the highest percentage of affected population in global emergencies.

Explanation: Paragraph (3) clearly states: “UNICEF reports show that children under the age of eight represent the highest percentage of affected population in today’s global emergencies.” This directly matches option (C), making it the correct choice.

(vii) Equitable access to high-quality pre-school programmes remains a problem in both rich and poor countries. Linking health and education agendas has been recognised as crucial.

(viii) The writer’s tone in the passage is informative and analytical.

2. (i) *Correct Option:* (B) It has developed very quickly
Explanation: The phrase “gained significant momentum” implies that the EV market in India has

seen rapid growth and progress, especially after the implementation of the FAME scheme in 2015. The correct interpretation is that it has developed very quickly.

- (ii) *Correct Option:* (A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.

Explanation:

- The Assertion states that electric vehicles can bring a major change to India, which is true because they offer benefits such as reducing carbon emissions, decreasing dependency on fossil fuels, and promoting sustainable energy usage.

- The Reason states that EVs can make India self-sustainable, which is also true. Since EVs reduce reliance on imported fuel and encourage the use of renewable energy, they contribute directly to making India more self-sufficient in energy resources.

Since the Reason directly explains the Assertion, option (A) is correct.

- (iii) Two benefits of using Electric vehicles over Internal Combustion Engine vehicles are:

1. EVs emit 30–80% less greenhouse gas compared to Internal Combustion Engine (ICE) vehicles.
2. EVs do not consume energy when idle, unlike ICE vehicles.

(iv) inactive/not in use

(v) EVs help reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels by utilising renewable energy sources for charging, making the country more energy-independent.

(vi) EV could be the alternative to reduce carbon dioxide gas emission.

(vii) The government has started financial policies to encourage EV adoption and support long-term implementation plans.

(viii) The result of the implementation of FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacture of Electric vehicles) is the rapid growth of the EV market in India.

(ix) The long-term perspective by decision makers is to ensure the efficient implementation of EV policies for sustainable development.

SECTION – B

3. (i) He was a renowned business person. He purchased a house in the city last year.

(ii) It should be our concerted effort not to employ children in industries and to save them from any kind of exploitation.

Error	Correction
has	have

Explanation: The subject of the sentence is "Mobile phones", which is plural. The verb "has" is singular and should be changed to "have", which is the correct plural form.

- (iv) *Correct Option:* (B) sounded interesting

Explanation: The reported speech is in the past tense ("Riya told Simran"), so the verb should also be in the past tense. The direct speech phrase "Sounds interesting!" changes to "sounded interesting" in reported speech, making option (B) the correct choice.

- (v) *Correct Option:* (D) goes → went

Explanation:

- The sentence is in the past tense ("ate") but "goes" is in the present tense, which creates a tense inconsistency.

- To maintain proper past tense agreement, "goes" should be changed to "went".

Other options are incorrect:

- (A) "usually" → "always" is unnecessary; "usually" is correct.

- (B) "ate" → "eats" would make the sentence present tense, but "ate" is correct in past tense.

- (C) "before" → "after" changes the meaning entirely and is incorrect.

- (vi) The student understood the importance of trees and added that he pledged to plant some trees that weekend.

Explanation: In reported speech, the verb tense changes accordingly. "I pledge" (present tense) changes to "pledged" (past tense) to match the reporting verb "added" in the past tense. The phrase "this weekend" changes to "that weekend" to maintain the correct time reference in indirect speech.

Error	Correction
maintain	maintaining

Explanation: The verb "maintain" should be in its gerund form "maintaining" because it follows "in", which requires a gerund (verb + ing) for proper grammatical structure.

- (viii) *Correct Option:* (B) started

Explanation: The correct past tense verb to match "began" is "started," making "started" the right choice.

- (ix) *Correct Option:* (D) each

Explanation: "Each" refers to every individual student separately, making it the most appropriate choice.

- (x) *Correct option:* should

Explanation: "Should" is used to give advice, make recommendations, or express necessity and obligation in a softer manner. "Would" is used to talk about hypothetical situations or to make polite requests, so it doesn't fit in this context.

"Should" is the correct modal verb because it expresses necessity or recommendation.

- (xi) *Correct Option:* (D) applies

Explanation: "Information" is singular, so the correct verb form is "applies."

Error	Correction
changes	change

Explanation: The word "change" should be in singular form because "Be the change" is a common phrase meaning to embody the transformation you wish to see. The plural form "changes" is incorrect in this context.

WRITING

4. (A)

67/98 Malkaganj

Sonepat

15th February 2025

The Head Librarian

DPS

Gurugram

Subject: Concern Regarding Poor Library Facilities

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to bring to your attention the inadequate facilities in the school library, which hinder students' reading habits. The library lacks a sufficient variety of books, and many existing ones are outdated or in poor condition. Additionally, the seating arrangement is uncomfortable, and there are no engaging reading activities.

To improve the situation, I suggest updating the book collection with diverse genres, arranging interactive storytelling sessions, and ensuring a comfortable reading environment. Organising book fairs and reading competitions can also encourage students to develop a love for books.

I request you to kindly take necessary steps to enhance the library facilities for the benefit of students.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
Sonia / Sonu

(B)

25/22, Rajpur

Fahetabad

15th February 2025

The Editor

The Hindu

Subject: Rising Road Accidents Due to Reckless Driving

Dear Sir/Madam,

Through the column of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to highlight the alarming rise in road accidents caused by reckless driving and disregard for traffic rules. Reports of tragic incidents due to overspeeding, drunk driving, and jumping signals are becoming increasingly common, resulting in unnecessary loss of lives.

To address this issue, stricter traffic regulations must be enforced, with heavy fines and license suspension for repeat offenders. Additionally, awareness campaigns should be conducted in schools and public places to educate people about road safety. More CCTV surveillance and speed-monitoring devices on highways can also help curb violations.

I urge the authorities to take immediate action to ensure safer roads for all.

Yours sincerely,
Sharmila Sahani

5. **(A)** The Digital India Programme is a transformative initiative aimed at making India a digitally empowered society and economy. It focuses on IT-based job creation, ensuring employment opportunities in the technology sector. The programme enhances e-Governance, making administrative processes more efficient and transparent. Through e-Kranti, electronic delivery of services is improved, benefiting citizens across the country. The initiative promotes broadband accessibility in both urban and rural areas, bridging the digital divide. Additionally, it ensures information accessibility for all, empowering individuals with knowledge and resources. Overall, Digital India plays a crucial role in modernising the nation by integrating technology into governance and daily life.

OR

- (B)** Engaging in various activities is essential for the overall development of children aged 14–17. Creative pursuits like dance, music and art enhance self-expression and emotional well-being. Outdoor sports such as cricket, hockey and basketball promote physical fitness, teamwork and discipline. Computer games, while entertaining, should be played in moderation as they can improve cognitive skills but may lead to addiction. Net surfing and social media provide knowledge and connectivity but must be used responsibly to avoid distractions and negative impacts on mental health. A balanced approach, combining physical, artistic and digital activities, ensures holistic growth. Encouraging outdoor and creative activities while regulating screen time will help children develop a well-rounded personality.

SECTION – C

6. **A. (i)** Based on the excerpt from The Diary of Anne Frank, we can infer that the speaker, Anne Frank, is experiencing feelings of loneliness, sadness and emotional isolation. She mentions feeling “a little depressed”, “bored and listless”, and “brooding”, which suggests a sense of melancholy.

- (ii)** *Correct Option:* (D) reflective

Explanation: The excerpt is reflective because Anne Frank is introspecting and sharing her personal thoughts and feelings. She contemplates the nature of writing in her diary and expresses her emotional state, making the narrative deeply personal and contemplative. Anne Frank is introspective in this passage, expressing her emotions and thoughts about loneliness and the role of her diary in her life.

- (iii)** *Correct Option:* friend

Explanation: The narrator does not plan to let anyone read her diary as she doesn't have any real friend.

- (iv)** Anne Frank feels that paper (her diary) listens to her without judgment, interruption, or impatience, unlike people who may not always understand or be willing to listen to her feelings. Writing allows her to express herself freely and honestly without fear of being dismissed or misunderstood.

6. **B. (i)** Matilda feels distressed about not having a suitable dress, highlighting her dissatisfaction with her financial situation. She longs for a luxurious life and fears social inferiority. Her husband's concern shows they must manage expenses carefully. She hesitates before suggesting a cost, fearing refusal, reflecting both financial limits and social insecurity.

- (ii)** *Correct Option:* (D) The card did not bear her name.

Explanation: In The Necklace by Guy de Maupassant, Matilda's distress is caused by her lack of a suitable dress and jewellery for the ball, as well as concerns about her husband's reaction and the cost of appearing presentable. However, there is no mention of any issue regarding the invitation card not bearing her name, making option (D) the correct choice.

- (iii)** Matilda suggested that her husband should return the invitation to his superior, as she felt she had nothing appropriate to wear for the grand event and would be embarrassed to attend.

- (iv)** The term “economic clerk” implies that Matilda's husband was a low-paid government employee, working in a modest clerical position. This highlights their financial limitations, which played a crucial role in Matilda's distress over attending the ball.

7. **A. (i)** *Correct Option:* (C) It emphasises that an unexpected noise was heard.

Explanation: The repetition of the word “suddenly” in the extract creates a sense of urgency and surprise, indicating that an unexpected and alarming noise was heard, causing the characters to react immediately.

- (ii)** Custard prefers staying in a cage despite its symbolism of captivity because he is timid and cowardly by nature. Unlike the other pets, who pretend to be brave, Custard finds comfort and safety in the cage, as it protects him from potential dangers. His preference highlights his lack of confidence and his contrasting personality compared to the boastful characters in the poem.

- (iii)** *Correct Option:* (A) Through the telescope she saw a star / which she thought was very far / She stretched her hand / and felt the crumple of the sand.

Explanation: The first four lines of the extract follow an AABB rhyme scheme:

house (A) - mouse (A)

age (B) - cage (B)

Option (A) follows the same AABB pattern:

star (A) - far (A)

hand (B) - sand (B)

The other options follow different rhyme schemes, making option (A) the correct answer.

- (iv)** Coward

7. **B. (i)** The atmosphere created is calm, reflective and somewhat melancholic. The imagery of the “whole moon” shining in the fresh night sky suggests tranquillity, while the reference to “the departure of the forest” hints at a sense of loss and detachment.

- (ii)** *Correct Option:* (C) allowing access and vision – expanse of space.

Explanation: The first “open” refers to the doors being physically open, allowing access and visibility. The second “open” refers to the vast, limitless sky, emphasising the sense of space and freedom.

- (iii) The speaker does not mention the departure of the trees from the house in their letters. Despite witnessing the trees leaving, they scarcely write about it, implying a disconnect between their personal reflections and the significant change happening around them.

- (iv) *Correct Option:* (C) 4 and 5 (fresh and bright).

Explanation:

Option (A) 1 and 5 (dark and bright): Dark and bright are contradictory descriptions. The extract describes the night as “fresh” and mentions the moon shining, which implies brightness rather than darkness.

Option (B) Only 3 (dense): The word dense suggests a thick or heavy atmosphere, which doesn’t align with the description of the night being “fresh.” The night is portrayed as light and open, not dense.

Option (D) 2 and 4 (frightening and fresh): Frightening indicates fear or menace, which isn’t reflected in the passage. The passage describes a calm and introspective scene, without any hints of fear or danger.

Thus, the correct option is (C) 4 and 5, where the night is described as fresh and bright.

8. (i) The poem *How to Tell Wild Animals* humorously describes how each animal’s traits match its nature. Their behaviours, such as a lion’s roar or a bear’s hug, help define their identity, illustrating how characteristics are linked to nature.
- (ii) Pranjal, being a native of Assam, was accustomed to tea plantations, while Rajvir, visiting for the first time, was fascinated by their beauty and history. Rajvir’s excitement was evident, whereas Pranjal saw them as part of daily life.
- (iii) In *Dust of Snow*, the hemlock tree and crow, traditionally symbols of negativity, represent change and transformation. Their presence in the poem signifies an unexpected positive shift, showing how even unremarkable moments can bring a fresh perspective on life.
- (iv) Lencho’s cornfield was destroyed by a hailstorm, leaving his family in distress. Despite the loss, he firmly believed in divine help and wrote to God for financial assistance, displaying unwavering faith in receiving aid during his hardship.
- (v) In *The Proposal*, the characters argue excessively, delaying the actual marriage proposal. Their disputes highlight how arguments hinder problem-solving instead of resolving conflicts, emphasising that unnecessary quarrels often escalate situations rather than bringing meaningful solutions.
9. (i) For Bholi, “a new hope and a new life” symbolises her empowerment and self-realisation. Once a neglected and hesitant girl, she gains confidence

through education. Rejecting an unfair marriage, she chooses dignity and independence. Her decision marks a new beginning where she values herself, embraces knowledge, and stands against societal norms, shaping her future on her own terms.

- (ii) Yes, I agree that the lunch transformed into a significant ceremonial event. In *A Triumph of Surgery*, Mrs. Pumphrey’s overindulgence made Tricky sick, but Dr. Herriot’s strict care restored him to health. When Tricky returned home, Mrs Pumphrey was so overwhelmed with joy that she considered it a miraculous recovery. The way she expressed gratitude, sending gifts and organising a feast, turned the occasion into a grand celebration, highlighting her deep attachment to Tricky.
- (iii) Ausable, a clever secret agent, outwitted his enemy, Max, by fabricating a story about a balcony outside his window. He calmly claimed that the balcony was used by police and hotel staff, making Max anxious about getting caught. In reality, no such balcony existed. This deception led Max to hastily escape through the window, ultimately falling to his doom. Ausable’s quick thinking and ability to manipulate the situation made him victorious without any physical confrontation.
10. (i) Both *The Ball Poem* and *The Sermon at Benares* highlight the inevitability of loss. In *The Ball Poem*, a young boy loses his ball, symbolising the loss of childhood innocence. He learns that loss is an essential part of life, and material things cannot always be replaced. Similarly, *The Sermon at Benares* teaches that death is inevitable, and one must overcome grief through wisdom and detachment. Buddha’s sermon to Kisa Gotami emphasises that suffering is universal, and acceptance is the only way to inner peace. Both texts convey that loss, though painful, is a stepping stone to maturity and enlightenment.

OR

- (ii) The young seagull and Lencho both face challenges requiring faith, but they approach them differently. The seagull is afraid to fly, lacking confidence in his abilities. His survival depends on overcoming this fear, which he does when his mother tempts him with food. On the other hand, Lencho faces a natural calamity but has absolute faith in God’s help. He writes a letter requesting money, believing divine intervention will save him. While the seagull’s faith is in himself, Lencho’s faith is in God. Both stories emphasise that belief—whether in one’s abilities or a higher power—plays a crucial role in overcoming adversity.
11. (i) Griffin was undoubtedly a brilliant scientist, as he successfully discovered a formula that made him invisible. His experiment was a groundbreaking achievement, proving his intelligence and innovative mind. However, his genius was overshadowed by his immoral actions. Instead of using his discovery for good, he misused his invisibility to commit thefts and crimes. He set fire to his landlord’s house, stole from shops, and terrorised people. His lack of ethics

and lawlessness ultimately led to his downfall. Thus, while Griffin was a remarkable scientist, his actions proved that knowledge without morality can be dangerous.

OR

- (ii) Half-baked knowledge often leads to misunderstandings and disastrous decisions. In *The Book That Saved the Earth*, Think-Tank, the ruler of Mars, misinterprets the nursery rhymes from Mother Goose,

assuming that Earthlings are an advanced and dangerous species. He believes that the rhyme “Humpty Dumpty” refers to an Earthling leader who had a great fall, and he panics, fearing an Earth attack. Without verifying facts, he makes irrational decisions, ultimately retreating from Earth. This highlights the dangers of incomplete knowledge—jumping to conclusions without deeper understanding can cause unnecessary chaos, fear and misjudgements.

Set-2

Q.P. Code: 2/4/2

SECTION – B

4. (A)

Simargarh
Himachal Pradesh

15th February 2025

The Municipal Commissioner
Simargarh Municipality

Subject: Poor Maintenance of Public Parks

Dear Sir/Madam

I wish to draw your attention to the neglected state of public parks in our town. The parks are filled with garbage, and pools of stagnant water have become breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Lack of maintenance discourages people from visiting these recreational spaces.

I request the authorities to ensure regular cleaning, install dustbins and promote community participation in maintaining cleanliness. Proper drainage systems should be implemented to prevent water stagnation.

I hope that you will take necessary action at the earliest to restore the parks and make them safe and enjoyable for all. Your prompt response to this issue will be highly appreciated.

Yours sincerely
Raashi/Rahul

4. (B)

Palanpuri

15th February 2025

The Editor
Times of India

Subject: Need to Support Indigenous Art & Craft

Dear Sir/Madam

Recently, I visited a craft mela showcasing India's rich handloom and handicraft traditions. While the artistry was impressive, I was disheartened to see a lack of visitors supporting these talented artisans. Traditional crafts are a vital part of our heritage and must be preserved.

Through the column of your newspaper, I would like to urge the authorities to promote such events through advertisements, provide incentives to artisans and encourage public participation. Schools and institutions should organise educational trips to create awareness. Supporting local artisans will not only boost their

livelihoods but also help preserve India's cultural identity. I hope this letter encourages people to support local artisans and their work. Your efforts in spreading awareness will make a significant impact.

Yours sincerely
Bela/Baloo

SECTION – C

9. (i) A book, *The Travels of Monarch X*, played a crucial role in Richard E. Bright's life by introducing him to the world of science. It inspired his interest in butterflies and scientific research, leading him to become a dedicated scientist from an early age.
- (ii) Bholi was sent to school as her parents saw her as a burden. Education transformed her, giving her confidence and self-respect. In the end, she boldly rejected an unfair marriage, proving the power of education in changing lives.
- (iii) Fowler, a young writer, expected Ausable to be a smart, adventurous spy. However, his disappointment arose when he saw Ausable as a fat, ordinary man in a dull hotel room. Ausable's appearance and setting didn't match Fowler's idea of a thrilling spy story, leading to his initial dismay.
10. (i) The instinct for freedom is deeply ingrained in all living beings. In *Mijbil the Otter*, Mijbil thrives when given the liberty to explore water and land, displaying his playful and energetic nature. He enjoys his surroundings, adapting joyfully to new experiences. On the other hand, in *A Tiger in the Zoo*, the caged tiger symbolises the loss of freedom. He paces restlessly, his powerful presence reduced to mere captivity, longing for the wild where he once roamed freely. His confinement contrasts sharply with Mijbil's freedom, reinforcing the idea that all creatures, whether wild or domestic, yearn to live in their natural habitat.
- (ii) Both Nelson Mandela's *Long Walk to Freedom* and *The Trees* explore transformation, liberation, and change. Mandela's struggle led to freedom from oppression, symbolising resilience. Similarly, in *The Trees*, the trees breaking free symbolise women's fight against societal restrictions. Just as Mandela fought for justice, the trees represent women reclaiming their space and identity. Both works emphasise that true liberation comes through perseverance and courage. They highlight the power of change, whether in a nation's fight against discrimination or in women's struggle for freedom, ultimately leading to growth, empowerment and transformation.

Set-3

Q.P. Code: 2/4/3

SECTION – C

9. (i) Bholi was frightened to go to school because she had never stepped out of her home before. She feared being away from her parents and recalled how their cow, Lakshmi, was sold. Additionally, her lack of confidence and speech defect made her anxious.
- (ii) Mrs Pumphrey considered Tricki's recovery a triumph of surgery because she believed he was critically ill and needed medical intervention. However, the vet simply put him on a strict diet and exercise. Seeing Tricki active and healthy again, she exaggerated the recovery as a miraculous success.
- (iii) Ausable cleverly fabricated a story about the police arriving for extra security due to important papers in his possession. This panicked Max, who feared being caught. In desperation, Max tried to escape through the non-existent balcony and ultimately fell to his doom.
10. (i) Robert Frost presents contrasting views of nature in *Dust of Snow* and *Fire and Ice*. In *Dust of Snow*, nature is portrayed positively as a source of transformation and hope. A simple act—a crow shaking snow onto the poet—brightens his mood, symbolising nature's power to uplift and heal. However, in *Fire and Ice*, Frost uses natural elements metaphorically to represent destruction. Fire symbolises uncontrolled passion, while ice signifies hatred, both leading to the world's end. Unlike the optimism in *Dust of Snow*, *Fire and Ice* presents a grim perspective on human emotions and their consequences. This contrast highlights Frost's ability to depict nature both as a source of comfort and a force of destruction.
- (ii) Both the young seagull in *Two Stories About Flying* and Lencho in *A Letter to God* display deep faith, but in different ways. The seagull lacks faith in himself, fearing his first flight. However, when hunger forces him to leap, he discovers his ability to fly, proving that self-belief leads to success. In contrast, Lencho has unwavering faith in God. After a storm destroys his crops, he writes to God for help, convinced he will receive aid. While the seagull's faith is in his instincts, Lencho's is in divine intervention. Both characters show that faith—whether in oneself or in a higher power—can lead to remarkable outcomes, shaping their destinies.
11. (i) Griffin, the protagonist of *The Invisible Man*, is a brilliant scientist who invents a formula for invisibility. His intelligence and scientific achievements make him remarkable, but his lack of morality leads to his downfall. Instead of using his discovery for good, he misuses it for selfish and criminal purposes. He burns down his landlord's house, steals food and money, and terrorises people. His growing arrogance and inability to reintegrate into society turn him into a lawless fugitive. With no home or allies, he becomes isolated and desperate. Ultimately, Griffin's misuse of science and disregard for ethics transform him from a genius into a tragic, homeless wanderer, leading to his inevitable downfall.
- (ii) Valli's journey to the city in *Madam Rides the Bus* serves as her initiation into the realities of life and death. Her excitement and curiosity drive her to explore the outside world independently. She enjoys the ride, observing people and landscapes with childlike wonder. However, her perception shifts when she witnesses the death of a young cow on the road. This moment profoundly impacts her, making her realise the fragility of life. Her inquisitive nature, which earlier fuelled her adventurous spirit, now leads her to contemplate deeper aspects of human existence. Through this experience, Valli matures, understanding that life is not just about joy and excitement but also about inevitable sorrow and loss.

CBSE Board Examination – 2025
ENGLISH (Language and Literature)
Solved Paper
Class – 10th

Outside Delhi Sets | Series: EFG6H

Time allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: Same as in Delhi Paper.

Set-1

Q.P. Code: 2/6/1

SECTION – A

(Reading Skills)

(20 Marks)

1. Read the following text:

10

- (1) Creativity is our most precious resource and the most inexhaustible one. As anyone who has ever spent any time with children knows, every single human being is born creative; every human being is innately endowed with the ability to combine data and perceptions, materials and ideas and devise new ways of thinking and doing. What fosters creativity? More than anything else: the presence of other creative people, contrary to that creativity is the province of great individual geniuses. In fact creativity is a social process. Our biggest creative breakthrough comes when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people.
- (2) Cities are centres of creativity. With their diverse populations, dense social networks and public spaces, people can meet spontaneously and spark or catalyse new ideas. With their infrastructure for finance, organisation and trade, they allow the idea to swiftly reach its destination.
- (3) A study tracking the decline of unconventional thinking ability as children age, states that while 98 percent of 3 to 5 years old exhibited creative thinking, this dwindled to 10 percent among 13 to 15 years old and a mere 2 percent among 25 years old. Thus, adulthood witnesses the erosion of innate creativity. There is a variance in creative vitality across cities. Although all cities harbour creative individuals by default, some are saturated with leaders, institutions, and people that inhibit creativity.
- (4) Creativity (or the lack of it) follows the same general contours of the great socio-economic divide – our rising inequality – that plagues us. According to estimates, roughly one-third people are able to do work which engages our creative faculties to some extent, whether as artists, musicians, writers, techies, innovators, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, journalists or educators. That leaves a group termed “the other 66 percent”, in which their creativity is subjugated, ignored or wasted.
- (5) Creativity itself is not in danger. It is flourishing all around us – in science and technology, arts and culture, in our rapidly revitalising cities. But we still have a long way to go if we want to build a truly

creative society that supports and rewards creativity of each one of us. *(Created for academic usage / 410 words)*

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

- (i) The central idea of this passage is that: **1**
(A) social interaction is necessary to nurture creativity.
(B) creativity and ideas are gradually declining in all societies.
(C) the creativity divide is widening in societies in line with socio-economic trends.
(D) more people should work in jobs that engage their creative faculties.
- (ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below: **1**
Assertion: Creativity is the province of great individual genius is not true.
Reason: Creativity is a social process.
(A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
(B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
(C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
(D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.
- (iii) Identify the word in paragraph 1 which means something that cannot be used-up or depleted. **1**
- (iv) What important trends does a study tracking the decline in creative thinking ability in children reveal? Answer in about 40 words. **2**
- (v) Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank. **1**
Our biggest creative breakthrough comes when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people.
Creativity is thus a _____ (economic, industrial, social) process.
- (vi) According to the passage, where does creativity thrive apart from arts and culture? **1**
- (vii) Complete the following with a suitable reason: **1**
About thirty-three percent citizens engage their creative faculties in tasks that use _____.
- (viii) In the context of the last paragraph, explain how does the passage view the future of creativity in society. **2**

2. Read the following text: 10

- (1) In today's contemporary online shopping landscape, a perfect storm of choice engulfs consumers. Research consistently indicates that individuals presented with a limited selection tend to make more confident and efficient decisions compared to those confronted with overwhelming choices.
- (2) Consequently, assisting consumers in navigating the vast expanse of options available online has evolved into a thriving industry on a global scale. Many brands and retailers now employ marketing strategies revolving around the aspects given in the table below:

Aspect	Description
Industry	Helping consumers decide what to buy online.
Marketing tools	Selecting, differentiation and discovery.
Data utilisation	Digital advertising, cataloging people by gender, income level, personal interests and more.
Retail Assistance	Algorithms, influencers and ad tech.
Challenge	Choice fatigue due to the overwhelming volume of consumer choices.
Solution	Lifestyle influencers on Instagram providing aspirational content and product recommendations.

- (3) For a relatively new breed of consumer product startups, a different approach emerges entirely. Rather than attempting to navigate the existing sea of products, these companies claim to revolutionise conventional consumer choices. Some brands offer limited, functional, mid-priced products, instilling customer confidence and breaking the cycle of consumerism.
- (4) The global product abundance could be more equitable. Unfortunately, creators often prioritise wealthier consumers.
- (5) For startups promising accessible simplicity, their very structure may eventually lead them back to an overwhelming array of choices. Most of these companies rely on hundreds of millions of dollars in venture capital funding, and their inventors typically expect rapid growth. *(Adapted for academic usage)*

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:

- (i) What does the use of the phrase 'a perfect storm of choice', by the writer, in paragraph 1, tell us about their feelings? 1
 (A) The consumers are elated
 (B) The consumers are confused
 (C) The consumers are confident
 (D) The consumers are decisive
- (ii) Identify the word in paragraph 2, that indicates that the writer feels assisting consumers has become a profitable industry. 1

- (iii) Based on the aspects mentioned in the table, mention the marketing approach that is primarily concerned with understanding consumers based on various factors. 1
- (iv) Complete the following analogy approximately, based on your understanding of the table: 1
 Cataloging people by gender, income level, personal interests etc. is to Data utilisation as Algorithms, influencers, and ad tech are to _____.
- (v) Which aspect in the table pertains to presenting consumers with carefully selected choices to assist decision-making? 1
 (A) Challenge (B) Data utilisation
 (C) Marketing tools (D) Retail assistance
- (vi) Based on your understanding, fill the blank with the appropriate option from those given in brackets: 1
 The solution to combat choice fatigue to _____ (follow/employ/recommend) lifestyle influencers on Instagram who provide self-improving content and product references.
- (vii) Complete the sentence suitably: 1
 The different approach to revolutionise consumer choices is to _____.
- (viii) Complete the following with a suitable reason: 1
 The writer believes that the global product abundance cannot be equitable because _____.
- (ix) In the context of the last paragraph though the startups promise simplicity of access, what are the drawbacks of such a structure? 2

SECTION – B**(Grammar and Creative Writing Skills)****(Grammar) (20 Marks)**

3. Complete any **Ten** of twelve of the following tasks, as directed: 10 × 1 = 10
- (i) Read the given sentence from a story. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket: 1
 As I entered the room, the first thing that struck me as odd, was the candle still _____ (burn) on the table. The curtains had been drawn back and the room was bright.
- (ii) Identify and correct the error in the sentence taken from the article – "The Hidden Health Risks of Bread Consumption". 1
 Health experts worldwide are concerning about the surge in health problems.

Error	Correction

- (iii) Complete the given statement, by filling the blank with the correct option. 1
 A mask is used to hide the identity _____ a person.
 (A) of (B) for
 (C) being (D) at

- (iv) Read the following conversation: 1

Student : Hello. I've come to ask about the English courses you run for international students.

Administrator : Are you a student at the university?

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

The student greeted and mentioned that she _____ to inquire about the English courses for international students. The administrator enquired if she was a student at the university.

(A) has come (B) has came

(C) had came (D) had come

- (v) Identify the error and supply the correct word in the format given below: 1

"Embrace change as an opportunity for personal growth and allowed it to improve your life."

Error	Correction

- (vi) Report the dialogue between a shopkeeper and Ramesh: 1

Shopkeeper : What book do you want?

Ramesh : A reference book for Physics which I can use for my project work.

The shopkeeper asked Ramesh which book did he want. Ramesh replied that _____.

- (vii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete an article published in a science magazine. 1

There are many inventions of science _____ (those/which/such) have benefitted human beings in many ways.

- (viii) Complete the statement made by a career counsellor by filling the blank with the correct option: 1

In our country, _____ universities offer a range of courses. That's why foreign students prefer Indian universities.

(A) more (B) each

(C) many (D) few

- (ix) Report the dialogue between the residents' and the city planner, by completing the sentence: 1

City planner : "The new park is a result of several months of research and planning."

Residents : "We don't know who is more excited – we or our children!"

The city planner said that the new park _____ of several months of research and planning. The residents expressed their excitement, stating that they were unsure who was more excited – they or their children.

- (x) Choose the correct statement: 1

(A) He swore that he had not stolen the bag.

(B) He swore that he had not stolen the bag.

(C) He was swearing that he had not stolen the bag.

(D) He swears that he had not stolen the bag.

- (xi) The following is an excerpt from a travelogue: 1

There is an error in the statement. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction.

Kanyakumari is popular for its beautiful beaches, unique Vivekananda Rock Memorial and stunning sunrise and sunset view.

	Error	Correction
(A)	is	are
(B)	for	of
(C)	and	also
(D)	view	views

- (xii) Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct options to conclude the report. 1

The report concludes that _____ learners have _____ knowledge of astrophysics.

(A) very few / some (B) some / every

(C) every / no (D) no / a lot of

Creative Writing Skills 10 Marks

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

Attempt any **ONE** from (a) and (b) given below:

4. (a) You are Garima/Gopal, a resident of B/66, Mall Road, Guwahati and a volunteer of 'Greenpeace India'. Write a letter to the editor of 'National Times' expressing your concern about the grave and irreparable damage that environmental pollution is causing to the society. In megacities, rapid urbanisation and rampant industrialisation has played a key role in increasing the pressure on the limited resources.

Discuss how environmental degradation can be curbed with the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. 5

OR

- (b) Obesity has become a global issue. The lack of physical fitness programmes and extra-curriculars has created significant problems that could affect future health of youngsters. 39 percent of individuals around the world are overweight and 13 percent are obese. You are Shiksha/Sumit of Ramjas School, Ranchi. You believe that efforts by the government will help to turn the tide.

Write a letter to the Ministry of Health for implementing compulsory programmes at school level to emphasise need for proper nutrition and fitness from a young age.

5. (a) The Pros and Cons of using the internet in everyday life are numerous. The internet is like a double-edged sword. Based on the information provided in the table below, write an analytical paragraph on the topic 'Advantages and Disadvantages of the Internet' in not less than 120 words. 5

Pros and Cons of Internet

Pros	Cons
(1) Connectivity	(1) Data Security
(2) Communication speed and versatile working	(2) Social Isolation

(3) Learning Re-defined	(3) Addiction towards it
(4) Transfer of Data	(4) Plagiarism and copyright

OR

(b) Read the following details:

Students today are becoming victims of cyber-crime and cyber bullying in schools, which is affecting the mental health of students.

Write an analytical paragraph in **120** words on the problems and causes of cyber-crimes.

- ⇒ Misuse of Information Technology with the intention to trouble others.
- ⇒ It comes in various forms – hacking, negative comments – spreading rumours
- Impact – spoils image, self-doubt, results in insecurities and complexes.
- Causes – desire of power, seeking entertainment, escapism, inadequate regulations.

SECTION – C**(Literature Text Book) (40 Marks)****6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any ONE of the two given. 5**

- (a) It is from these comrades in the struggle that I learned the true meaning of courage. Time and again, I have seen men and women risk and give up their lives for an idea. I have seen men and women stand up to attacks and torture without breaking, showing a strength and resilience that defies the imagination. I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

(Nelson Mandela: A Long Walk to Freedom)

- (i) What effect does the experience as described in the lines below have on the speaker? **1**
Time and again, I have seen men and women risk their lives for an idea.
- (ii) Select one inference about the idea of courage from the given context: **1**
I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.
(A) being fearless
(B) absence of fear
(C) feeding your fears
(D) ability to overcome fear

- (iii) Answer in about **40** words, with reference to the extract: **2**

According to the author, what does true courage entail? How does this perspective differ from a common misconception about courage?

- (iv) Fill in the blank with the correct phrase from the bracket in the context of the given extract: **1**
Men stood up to torture showing strength and resilience that is _____ (impossible to understand/ seeped in reality).

OR

- (b) There was a fifty rupee note between his fingers. My heart sank. I thought I had been discovered. "I made some money yesterday," he explained. "Now you'll be paid regularly." My spirits rose. But when I took the note, I saw it was still wet from the night's rain. "Today we'll start writing sentences," he said.

He knew. But neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything. *(The Thief's Story)*

- (i) In the context of the given extract: **1**
What was the feelings UNLIKELY to have been on seeing 'a fifty rupee note between his fingers'?
(A) joyous (B) sad
(C) unhappy (D) worried
- (ii) How does the prospect of being paid regularly affect the narrator's motivation and hope for the future? **2**
Answer in about **40** words.

- (iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket: **1**

The person spoken about did not let the narrator realise that his act of stealing was caught. It reflects the _____ (nobility/dishonesty) of his character.

- (iv) Compare the meanings of the expressions: **1**
"My heart sank", and "My spirits rose".

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any ONE of the given two, given. 5

- (a) My head is full of whispers
which tomorrow will be silent.
Listen. The glass is breaking.
The trees are stumbling forward
into the night. Winds rush to meet them.
The moon is broken like a mirror,
its pieces flash now in the crown
of the tallest oak. *(The Trees)*

- (i) The metaphorical expression used by the poet to describe the movement of the trees is _____. **1**
- (ii) Based on the tone, discuss how Adrienne Rich presents the conflict between man and nature. **2**
- (iii) What is the mood or atmosphere conveyed by the imagery in the passage? **1**
(A) Calm and tranquil
(B) Eerie and foreboding
(C) Joyful and celebratory
(D) Melancholic and traumatic

- (iv) Why would the whispers be silent tomorrow? **1**

OR

- (b) (I am Rapunzel, I have not care;
life in a tower is tranquil and rare;
I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!)
Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!
You're always so moody, Amanda!
Anyone would think that I nagged at you,
Amanda! *(Amanda)*

- (i) Complete the following suitably:
Amanda sulked and became moody because _____. **1**
- (ii) What does the girl constantly yearn for? What do you pattern about Amanda from the poem? **2**

- (iii) What kind of picture is painted by the poet through the line, "life in a tower is tranquil and rare"? **1**
- (iv) The tone of the speaker in the exclamation "Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!" is **1**
1. uncertain
 2. aggressive
 3. dominating
 4. meek
 5. moody
- (A) 1, 2, 4 (B) 2 and 3
(C) 2, 4 and 5 (D) 4 and 5
8. Answer any **four** of the following five questions in about **40-50** words. **4 × 3 = 12**
- (i) "Not from weeping or from grieving will anyone obtain peace of mind; on the contrary his pain will be greater and his body will suffer." **3**
Validate this preaching of Buddha with reference to the story 'A Sermon at Benares'.
(A Sermon at Benares)
- (ii) 'The Ball Poem' deals with the undertones of loss and responsibility. How is the poem very relatable to our lives and what important message/s do we learn from it? **3**
(The Ball Poem)
- (iii) The story, 'Mijbil the Otter', has it all – emotions, humour, certain surprising incidents and the freshness of a new and unique type of story. Explain how Maxwell has highlighted these in his story. **3**
(Mijbil – The Otter)
- (iv) "He was not falling headlong now. He was soaring gradually downwards and outwards, he was no longer afraid." Describe the young seagull's feelings, emotions and experiences, just before this moment. **3**
(Two Stories about Flying)
- (v) The idea of beauty is a one-dimensional cultural conception or one that has been created by human beings themselves. Comment on the statement with reference to the conventional ideas of beauty in the poem 'For Anne Gregory'. **3**
(For Anne Gregory)
9. Answer any **two** out of the three questions, in about **40-50** words: **2 × 3 = 6**
- (i) Examine the witty strategy used by Ausable in emerging as a super spy. **3**
(The Midnight Visitor)
- (ii) 'The Necklace' is a lesson in discontentment and unreasonable materialism. In light of the preceding statement, discuss Matilda's greatest failing. **3**
(The Necklace)
- (iii) Think-tank excelled in misinterpreting and mispresenting things. Do you agree? Justify giving appropriate reasons. **3**
(The Book that Saved the Earth)
10. Answer any **one** of the following questions, in **100-120** words. **1 × 6 = 6**
- (a) Examine the role of Nature in the poems 'The Dust of Snow' and 'Fog'.
OR
- (b) The journeys of Anne Frank and Valli teach us the vital lesson that optimism and self-assurance empower women to rise above circumstances and overcome obstacles. Examine the similarities.
(The Diary of Anne Frank & Madam Rides the Bus)
11. Answer any **one** of the following two questions in about **100-120** words. **1 × 6 = 6**
- (a) Ebright's journey of becoming a leading scientist conveys a strong message to us. His inquisitiveness and competency drove him to become a great scientist. In what manner does Richard Ebright's perseverance, dedication and inquisitiveness inspire you to pursue your dreams?
(The Making of a Scientist)
- OR**
- (b) It is truly said that a good teacher is the light that helps one cross even the darkest of paths through honing their inherent qualities which enable them to shine bright and strong in life. In what ways, does Sulekha's teacher epitomise this saying? How did she become the pillar of support and strength for Sulekha?
(Bholi)

Set-2**Q.P. Code: 2/6/2**

In this set, all questions are identical to those in Set-1, except for the following.

SECTION – B**(Grammar and Creative Writing Skills)****(Creative Writing Skills) (20 Marks)**

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

Attempt any **ONE** from (a) and (b) given below:

4. (a) As a resident of B/66 Mall Road, Guwahati, and a parent of a Grade X student, you are deeply concerned about the declining writing habits among students in today's digital age. This trend significantly impacts their academic performance. **5**

Writing skills require consistent practice, but increased dependence on internet resources has adversely affected children's ability to express themselves effectively through writing.

Write a letter in **100-120** words to the editor of 'The Geo Youth Times' expressing your concern about this issue. Also, suggest measures to emphasise the

importance of reading and writing skills in schools. You are Vidhi/Vaibhav.

OR

- (b) You are Anuradha/Ashish, residing at 45, Westwood Street, Nainital. After being inspired by a billboard advertisement for a seaside resort promoting relaxation and rejuvenation, you are interested in planning a family getaway. **5**

Let the waves of the water drench you with the ultimate bliss of being alive! Book a stay with us and experience the best holiday ever!

Write a letter (**100-120** words) to the Resort manager requesting details about the costs, room options, nearby attractions and available activities. Please include any additional necessary information for planning the trip.

SECTION – C**(Literature Text Book) (40 Marks)**

8. Answer any **four** of the following five questions in about 40-50 words. $4 \times 3 = 12$
- (i) What did Buddha say about death and suffering? Explain this with reference to the story 'A Sermon at Benaras'. (A Sermon at Benaras) 3
- (ii) 'Dust of Snow' highlights the poet's positive attitude towards nature. Comment on how Robert Frost presents the power of nature in his poem. 3
(Dust of Snow)
- (iii) Faith is like a ray of hope in a distressful situation. Discuss 'A Letter to God' with reference to Lencho's unflinching faith in God. (A Letter to God) 3
- (iv) Why was the seagull afraid to fly? Why was the young seagull alone? (Two Stories about Flying) 3

- (v) The Tiger in the Zoo is denied its natural habitat. Describe its behaviour and routine as a captive in the concrete cell. (A Tiger in the Zoo) 3
9. Answer any **two** out of the three questions, in about 40-50 words: $2 \times 3 = 6$
- (i) "The only way was to get Tricky out of the house for a period." Evaluate why James Herriot had planned this in advance and how did he execute this plan at the surgery. (A Triumph of Surgery) 3
- (ii) Considering 'The Necklace' as a tale of dissatisfaction and excessive materialism, analyse Matilda's primary flaw. (The Necklace) 3
- (iii) According to a popular quote – "Kindness is stronger than iron bars." Anil did not hand the thief over to the police. In what way did Anil's act of wisdom and forgiveness transform Hari Singh? 3
(The Thief's Story)

Set-3**Q.P. Code: 2/6/3**

In this set, all questions are identical to those in Set-1, except for the following.

SECTION – B**(Grammar and Creative Writing Skills)****(Creative Writing Skills) (20 Marks)**

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

Attempt any **ONE** from (a) and (b) given below:

4. (a) You are Mahima/Manoj, a resident of B/20, Shastri Road, Mumbai and a volunteer with 'Clean India'. As a concerned citizen, you have noticed that Marine Lines has become heavily polluted with plastic and garbage.

Write a letter to the editor of a prominent newspaper to raise awareness about this issue. In your letter, explain how environmental damage can be reduced through the help of NGO's, individuals and government organisations. 5

OR

- (b) You are Sapna/Samar, a resident of A-411, Vivek Vihar, Delhi. Write a letter to the Commissioner of the Municipal Corporation to highlight your concern about the street lights in your area that have been out of order for a long time. Emphasise the safety issues and inconvenience caused by the lack of proper street lighting and request prompt repairs. 5

SECTION – C**(Literature Text Book) (40 Marks)**

8. Answer any **four** of the following five questions in about 40-50 words. $4 \times 3 = 12$

- (i) Motivation influences our willingness to overcome challenges and eventually succeed. How does the young Seagull in 'Two Stories About Flying' demonstrate this? Discuss. 3
(Two Stories about Flying)
- (ii) "The Fog comes on little feet." Highlight the significance of the metaphor employed in the poem 'Fog' by Carl Sandburg. (Fog) 3
- (iii) Mijbil the Otter is portrayed as an intelligent, friendly and playful animal who thrives on affection. Discuss how these traits are depicted in the story 'Mijbil the Otter' by Gavin Maxwell. (Mijbil – The Otter) 3
- (iv) Comment on the significance of the title 'The Proposal' in the play. Provide two examples from the play to support your explanation. (The Proposal) 3
- (v) How does the poet present the concept of beauty in the poem 'For Anne Gregory'? (For Anne Gregory) 3
9. Answer any **two** out of the three questions, in about 40-50 words: $2 \times 3 = 6$
- (i) Mrs. Hall's suspicion on Griffin for the theft grew stronger and she confronted him. Describe Griffin's reaction. (Footprints without Feet) 3
- (ii) Why is Matilda unhappy with her life? 3
(The Necklace)
- (iii) Explain why and how Horace Danby was mistakenly accused and caught for a theft he did not commit in the story 'A Question of Trust'. (A Question of Trust) 3

ANSWER

English Language & Literature Class – 10th

Set-1

Q.P. Code: 2/6/1

SECTION – A

1. (i) *Correct Option:* (C) the creativity divide is widening in societies in line with socio-economic trends.

Explanation: The passage discusses how creativity is unevenly distributed across societies, linking it to socio-economic factors.

It highlights the “other 66 percent” whose creativity is neglected and how some cities stifle creativity while others nurture it.

This supports the idea that the creativity divide is widening in line with socio-economic trends, making option (C) the most accurate choice.

- (ii) *Correct Option:* (A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

Explanation: The passage explicitly states that creativity is often mistaken as belonging only to individual geniuses, but in reality, it thrives in social interactions.

It argues that creativity flourishes when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with others.

This means both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the Reason correctly explains the Assertion, making option (A) the correct answer.

- (iii) Inexhaustible.

- (iv) The study reveals that creative thinking ability significantly declines with age. While 98% of 3- to 5-year-olds exhibit creative thinking, this number drops to 10% among 13- to 15-year-olds and a mere 2% among 25-year-olds, indicating the decline in innate creativity during adulthood.

- (v) *Correct Option:* social

Explanation: The passage states that creativity flourishes through interaction, collaboration, and competition among people.

This makes creativity a “social” process, as it is nurtured through relationships and collective efforts.

- (vi) According to the passage, creativity thrives in science and technology, as well as in our rapidly revitalising cities.

- (vii) About thirty-three per cent of citizens engage their creative faculties in tasks that use their abilities as artists, musicians, writers, techies, innovators, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, journalists, or educators.

- (viii) The passage expresses optimism about the future of creativity in society by highlighting that it is thriving across a number of industries. It does, however, recognise that much work remains in creating a really creative society that encourages and recognises each person’s unique originality.

2. (i) *Correct Option:* (B) The consumers are confused

Explanation: The phrase “a perfect storm of choice” suggests that the abundance of options is overwhelming and difficult to navigate rather than beneficial.

The passage states that people with fewer choices make more confident decisions, implying that too many choices lead to confusion and decision fatigue.

- (ii) thriving

- (iii) The marketing approach that is primarily concerned with understanding consumers based on various factors is “Data utilisation.”

- (iv) Cataloging people by gender, income level, personal interests, etc. is to Data utilisation as Algorithms, influencers and ad tech are to Retail Assistance.

- (v) *Correct Option:* (C) Marketing tools

Explanation: The table lists “Selecting, differentiation, and discovery” under Marketing tools, which directly relates to presenting consumers with carefully selected choices to assist in decision-making.

Other options do not focus on curating choices:

- Challenge refers to choice fatigue.
- Data utilisation involves digital advertising and cataloging.
- Retail assistance focuses on algorithms, influencers, and ad tech rather than carefully selecting choices.

- (vi) follow

- (vii) The different approach to revolutionise consumer choices is to offer limited, functional, mid-priced products, instilling customer confidence and breaking the cycle of consumerism.

- (viii) The writer believes that the global product abundance cannot be equitable because creators often prioritise wealthier consumers.

- (ix) The drawbacks of such a structure include reliance on hundreds of millions of dollars in venture capital funding and the expectation of rapid growth by inventors. This dependence on external funding and pressure for quick expansion may lead startups back to an overwhelming array of choices, contrary to their initial promise of simplicity.

SECTION – B

3. (i) burning

- (ii)

Error	Correction
Concerning	concerned

Explanation: "Concerned" is the correct past participle form of the verb "concern" to describe the experts' state of worry. "Concerning" would be used as a present participle to describe something that causes concern, but it's not appropriate here.

(iii) *Correct Option:* (A) of

Explanation: The correct preposition to indicate possession or association is "of".

- The phrase "the identity of a person" is the correct grammatical structure.
- Other options do not fit correctly in the sentence.
- "for" would imply purpose but not possession.
- "being" is incorrect in this context.
- "at" does not logically connect with "identity."

(iv) *Correct Option:* (D) had come

Explanation: In reported speech, the present perfect tense ("have come") in direct speech changes to past perfect ("had come").

- The student's original words "I've come" (present perfect) need to be converted into "had come" in reported speech.

The other options are incorrect:

- (A) "has come" is incorrect because the tense should shift to past perfect.
- (B) "has came" is grammatically incorrect (incorrect verb form).
- (C) "had came" is incorrect because "came" is the simple past form, while "had come" is the correct past perfect form.

Error	Correction
allowed	allow

Explanation: The verb "embrace" is in the present tense, so the second verb "allowed" should be in the same tense. "Allow" is the correct form to keep the sentence consistent.

(vi) Ramesh replied that he wanted a reference book for Physics which he could use for his project work.

Explanation:

- The question form ("did he want") should change to statement form ("he wanted") in reported speech.
- "Do you want" (present tense) changes to "he wanted" (past tense).
- "Can use" changes to "could use" as per the rule of tense shifting in reported speech.

(vii) There are many inventions of science which have benefited human beings in many ways.

Explanation:

- "Such" is used to refer to a category of things that share a common characteristic.
- "Those which" would be incorrect here because it would require additional restructuring of the sentence.

(viii) *Correct Option:* (C) many

Explanation:

- "Many" is the correct choice because it properly quantifies universities.
- "More" would be incorrect as it implies comparison without context.
- "Each" is singular and doesn't fit grammatically.
- "Few" would imply a limited number, contradicting the idea of foreign student preference.

(ix) The city planner said that the new park was a result of several months of research and planning. The residents expressed their excitement, stating that they were unsure who was more excited – they or their children.

(x) *Correct Option:* (B) He swore that he had not stolen the bag.

Explanation:

- The correct past tense of "swear" is "swore", not "sweared" (which is incorrect).

- Since the second part of the sentence ("he had not stolen the bag") is in past perfect, the reporting verb should be in the simple past ("swore").

Other options are incorrect:

- (A) "sweared" → incorrect verb form.
- (C) "was swearing" → incorrect tense; past continuous is not needed here.
- (D) "swears" → incorrect tense; it should be in past tense for reported speech.

(xi) *Correct Option:* (D) view → views

Explanation: Since both sunrise and sunset are mentioned, the noun "view" should be in plural form (views) to correctly refer to both.

(xii) *Correct Option:* (D) no / a lot of

Explanation:

- The phrase "no learners" suggests that none of the learners possess the knowledge.
- "A lot of knowledge" is the correct phrase to indicate an extensive amount of information.

Creative Writing Skills

4. (a)

B/66, Mall Road
Guwahati

15 February 20xx

The Editor
National Times
Delhi

Subject: Concern Over Environmental Pollution and Its Impact on Society

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express my deep concern about the grave and irreparable damage that environmental pollution is causing to our society. As a volunteer with Greenpeace India, I have witnessed the devastating effects of pollution on our environment, health and quality of life.

Rapid urbanisation and widespread industrialisation have contributed significantly to megacities' increased demand on our finite resources. Unchecked growth has resulted in deforestation, biodiversity loss and pollution of the air and water. In addition to endangering the environment, these problems seriously endanger public health, especially for vulnerable populations like the elderly and children. It is crucial to take swift action against pollution. Implementing strict emission regulations, promoting sustainable practices and raising public awareness are essential. Investing in green technologies and renewable energy can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels and lower pollution levels.

I urge authorities and the public to prioritise environmental conservation and take proactive measures to protect our planet.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Yours sincerely
Garima/Gopal

(b)

Ramjas School
Ranchi

15 February 2025

The Ministry of Health
Delhi

Subject: Request for Implementation of Compulsory Nutrition and Fitness Programs in Schools

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to express my concern about the rising issue of obesity among children and young adults. The lack of physical fitness programmes and extracurricular activities has led to significant health problems that could affect the future well-being of our youngsters. Currently, 39 per cent of individuals worldwide are overweight, and 13 per cent are obese.

Government efforts can effectively address the issue of obesity. Implementing compulsory school programmes that emphasise proper nutrition and regular physical activity is crucial. These programmes should include education on balanced diets and the risks of unhealthy eating, integrate regular physical exercise into the curriculum, and encourage participation in sports and other activities to promote overall fitness and well-being from a young age.

I urge the Ministry of Health to take proactive steps in this direction and prioritise the health of our children. Together, we can create a healthier and more active future for the next generation.

Thank you for considering my request.

Yours sincerely
Shiksha/Sumit

5. (a) The internet is a two-edged sword that has many benefits and drawbacks for our day-to-day existence. Positively, it facilitates flexible working conditions, improves connectivity, expedites communication and redefines learning through the provision of extensive educational resources. It also makes fast and effective data transfer possible and connects people from one corner of the world to the other. But technology also presents serious problems, such as addiction, cybercrimes, social isolation and data security threats. Because information is easily accessible, problems like plagiarism and copyright infringement are common. Even though the internet has many advantages, using it responsibly is crucial to minimising any potential drawbacks and maximising its potential.
- (b) The abuse of Information Technology has resulted in an increase in cyber-crimes and cyberbullying among students, which has adversely affected their mental

health. Cyber-crimes are of many types, such as hacking, propagating negative remarks and rumours. Such activities can ruin a student's reputation, create self-doubt and lead to insecurities and complexes. The main reasons for such cyber-crimes are the urge for power, seeking entertainment, escapism and lack of proper regulations. Offenders have used technology to distress others while they do not put into consideration the dire psychological outcomes of their behaviours on their victims. There need to be tight regulations, improved awareness and enabling settings for minimising the harmful effects on learners' psychosocial welfare.

SECTION – C

6. (a) (i) The experience that the lines depict profoundly inspires and shapes the speaker. Seeing men and women risk their lives for a cause and resist assault and torture without giving in educates the speaker on the meaning of strength, courage and endurance.

- (ii) *Correct Option:* (D) ability to overcome fear

Explanation:

- The line "Courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it" suggests that courage does not mean having no fear but rather overcoming it.
- (A) being fearless and (B) absence of fear are incorrect because Mandela clearly states that courage is not the absence of fear.
- (C) feeding your fears is the opposite of the intended meaning.

- (iii) As stated by the author, real courage does not imply the lack of fear but rather the power to overcome it. This is different from the widespread myth that being fearless is synonymous with bravery, focusing instead on the strength derived from overcoming fear.

- (iv) *Correct Option:* "impossible to understand"

Explanation:

- The phrase "defies the imagination" in the extract suggests that their strength and resilience were beyond comprehension.
- "Seeped in reality" would indicate something ordinary and understandable, which contradicts the intended meaning.

- (b) *Correct Option:* (A) joyous

Explanation:

- The narrator's heart sank, which indicates fear or worry, suggesting that he thought he had been caught.
- Worried, sad, or unhappy could be possible emotions, but joyous is the least likely since the initial reaction was fear of discovery.

- (ii) The possibility of earning a regular salary provides the narrator with a sense of stability and security. It lifts his morale and encourages him to work hard, as he visualises a steady source of income guaranteeing his financial prosperity.

(iii) *Correct Option:* "nobility"

Explanation:

- Despite knowing about the theft, he did not humiliate or expose the narrator, showing his kindness and dignity rather than dishonesty.

- "Dishonesty" would be incorrect, as he did not deceive but rather chose to handle the situation with grace.

(iv) "My heart sank" suggests a feeling of sudden disappointment, fear, or sadness. On the other hand, "My spirits rose" suggests a feeling of hope, happiness, or relief.

7. (a) (i) "The trees are stumbling forward into the night."

(ii) Adrienne Rich employs a grave and dramatic tone to emphasise the struggle between man and nature. The imagery of "glass breaking" and "trees stumbling" creates an image of destruction and turmoil, indicating that human intervention has disturbed the natural world. The poet presents nature as resisting and struggling against this disturbance, stressing the tension and conflict induced by human interference.

(iii) *Correct Option:* (B) Eerie and foreboding

Explanation:

- The imagery in the passage creates a sense of unease and tension.

- Phrases like "whispers," "glass is breaking," "trees stumbling forward," "winds rush," and "the moon is broken like a mirror" evoke chaos, destruction, and an ominous feeling.

- This makes the mood eerie (strange and unsettling) and foreboding (suggesting something bad is about to happen).

Other options are incorrect:

- (A) Calm and tranquil → The passage describes disruption, not peace.

- (C) Joyful and celebratory → There are no positive or happy elements.

- (D) Melancholic and traumatic → While there is a sense of loss, the dominant tone is eerie rather than sorrowful.

(iv) The whispers will be still tomorrow because the commotions and clashes mentioned in the poem will have come to a head or reached a resolution, hence the temporary silence. The stillness is indicative of the end of the upheaval – the calm after the struggle between nature and man.

(b) (i) Amanda sulked and became moody because of the constant nagging and restrictions of her mother.

(ii) The girl, Amanda, constantly yearns for freedom and escape from the constant nagging and restrictions. From the poem, we understand that Amanda has a vivid imagination and a longing for independence. She desires a peaceful, carefree life, free from constant supervision and criticism.

(iii) The phrase "life in a tower is tranquil and rare" gives an image of isolation and quietness. It brings an image of peaceful and undisturbed life, free from the chaos and needs of the world outside. This depicts

Amanda's desire for a peaceful and isolated life where she can be herself without any interruption.

(iv) *Correct Option:* (B) 2 and 3 (Aggressive and Dominating)

Explanation:

- The commanding tone of "Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!" suggests aggressiveness and authority.

- The speaker is scolding Amanda, indicating frustration and dominance.

Other options are incorrect:

- (1) Uncertain and (4) Meek do not fit, as the speaker is assertive.

- (5) Moody describes Amanda, not the speaker.

Thus, (2) aggressive and (3) dominating are the most suitable choices.

8. (i) In 'A Sermon at Benaras', Buddha preaches that weeping and mourning do not result in peace of mind but enhance one's misery. This is illustrated in the case of Kisa Gotami, who approaches Buddha to bring her dead son back to life. Buddha assists her in understanding the finality of death and the need to accept it, demonstrating that only acceptance, not mourning, can result in peace.

(ii) "The Ball Poem" is universal because it portrays the common experience of loss. It shows us how to embrace loss as part of life and own up to our mistakes. This realisation builds strength and maturity, making us value the worth of our belongings and experiences.

(iii) In 'Mijbil the Otter', Maxwell vividly recounts his adventures with Mijbil, depicting the otter's mischievous and inquisitive nature. The story includes funny moments, like Mijbil's antics and his interactions with people. There are also touching moments of bonding and affection. Surprising events, such as Mijbil adapting to human life and his adventures, make the story unique and engaging.

(iv) Before soaring, the young seagull feels a mix of fear and determination. At first, he is afraid to fly and dreads falling headlong. But as he musters courage and jumps, he feels exhilaration and happiness. Overcoming his fear, he discovers the thrill of flight and gains confidence, transforming his initial trepidation into triumph.

(v) In 'For Anne Gregory', the poem challenges conventional ideas of beauty, suggesting that physical appearance is superficial. Anne Gregory wants to be loved based on her interior rather than her exterior. The poem insists on the fact that beauty is inherent and that human beings tend to construct and establish narrow and superficial standards of beauty.

9. (i) In "The Midnight Visitor," the wit of Ausable is brought out when he creates a fictitious balcony to trick the intruder, Max. By pretending there's an escape route, he creates a sense of urgency, leading Max to a hasty and fatal decision, thereby showcasing his quick thinking and resourcefulness.

(ii) Matilda's largest mistake in "The Necklace" is her pride and love of material possessions. Her discontent with her simple life causes her to borrow an expensive necklace, and she suffers for years when it is lost. It illustrates the pitfalls of vanity and discontent.

(iii) Yes, Think-tank frequently misunderstood and misrepresented things in "The Book that Saved the Earth". He wrongly assumed that the book "Mother Goose" held Earth's military secrets, demonstrating his ignorance and overconfidence. His flawed interpretations caused comic moments and demonstrated the dangers of arrogance and failure to use critical thinking.

10. (a) In Robert Frost's "Dust of Snow", nature has a crucial role to play in altering the mood of the poet. A straightforward action of a crow shaking off snow dust from a hemlock tree leads to a moment of enlightenment, symbolising nature's power to uplift spirits and change perspectives. The short experience with nature makes the poet realise beauty and goodness, highlighting how small aspects of nature can make a huge difference to our moods.

In "Fog" by Carl Sandburg, nature is personified to reflect its silent, mysterious and ever-present nature. The fog is described as coming on little cat feet, highlighting its stealth and gentle arrival. This is a metaphor that identifies with the subtle and pervasive effect of nature, revealing how it can silently pervade and change the environment.

Together, the two poems highlight the different ways nature affects human feelings and attitudes, proving how important it is in our lives.

(b) Anne Frank and Valli, although from differing backgrounds and periods, have similar experiences of optimism and confidence. Anne Frank, through her diary, showcases immense courage and hope amidst the horrors of the Holocaust. She maintains

her optimism and faith in humanity despite the struggles of confinement and solitude.

Similarly, Valli, the young girl in "Madam Rides the Bus", exhibits self-assurance and determination to fulfil her desire to experience the bus ride. Despite her young age and societal constraints, Valli's confidence enables her to navigate the challenges she faces.

Both Anne and Valli illustrate that positive thinking and inner strength are the keys to overcoming challenges, imparting to us the value of resilience and empowerment during adversity.

11. (a) Richard Ebright's determination, passion and curiosity motivate me to chase my dreams by exhibiting the value of hard work and curiosity. His never-ending drive for scientific facts, from capturing butterflies as a kid to pursuing advanced research, shows how curiosity and dedication can drive one toward remarkable accomplishments. Ebright's life teaches me that accepting curiosity and having an obstinate mentality towards learning are key to accomplishment. His perseverance and determination to achieve his objectives inspire me to be resilient and driven in my endeavours, reminding me that commitment and curiosity are essential ingredients in realising one's aspirations.

(b) Sulekha's teacher is the true embodiment of the saying that an excellent teacher is the beacon which guides one to traverse even the darkest of routes. Her teacher understood Sulekha's potential and endowed her with the guidance and encouragement required to transcend her problems. Nurturing Sulekha's natural capabilities, the teacher gave her strength and enabled her to hone her skills. The teacher's motivation and faith in Sulekha's ability allowed her to become a bright and shining star, changing the course of her life. This support and mentorship exemplify how a dedicated teacher can become a pillar of strength, helping students navigate difficulties and achieve their full potential.

Set-2

Q.P. Code: 2/6/2

SECTION – B

4. (a)

B/66 Mall Road
Guwahati

15 February 20xx

The Editor
The Geo Youth Times
Mumbai

Subject: Concern over Declining Writing Habits Among Students

Dear Sir/Madam

As a parent of a Grade 10 student, I am writing to express my concern about the declining writing habits among students in today's digital age, which significantly

impacts their academic performance. Increased reliance on Internet resources has adversely affected children's ability to express themselves effectively through writing.

In order to tackle this problem, schools should also stress the value of reading and writing skills. Routine writing exercises, creative writing workshops and reading sessions can improve the writing skills of the students. Writing competitions and making students keep journals can also instil a passion for writing.

It is important to identify the long-term advantages of good writing skills and actively ensure to develop them in our students.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely
Vidhi/Vaibhav

(b)
45 Westwood Street
Nainital
15 February 20xx
The Resort Manager
The Retreat Resort
Goa

Subject: Inquiry Regarding Stay and Amenities at Your Seaside Resort

Dear Sir/Madam

I recently came across your advertisement for the seaside resort and am interested in planning a family getaway. Could you please provide details about the following:

1. The costs of stay at the resort, including any packages or discounts available.
2. The room options available, including types of rooms and their amenities.
3. The nearby attractions that guests can visit during their stay.
4. The available activities at the resort, such as sports, excursions, or entertainment.
5. The process for booking a stay, including any advance payment requirements.
6. The amenities offered at the resort, such as dining options, spa services, and transportation.

I am looking forward to this getaway with my family, so I would request you to provide the details as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely
Ashish/Anuradha

SECTION – C

8. (i) In 'A Sermon at Benaras', Buddha preached that death and suffering are an integral part of life. He explained that mourning only makes one suffer more, and the key to peace is acceptance. Through the example of Kisa Gotami, he highlighted the need to accept and comprehend the natural cycle of life and death.
- (ii) In 'Dust of Snow', Robert Frost portrays nature's capability to improve and transform one's mood. The mere act of a crow shaking snow dust off a hemlock tree improves the poet's day, showing nature's capability to surprise us with happiness and change our outlook in a positive way.
- (iii) In 'A Letter to God', Lencho's strong belief in God is an icon of hope in the middle of his despondency due to the destruction of his crops by a storm. His confidence in God makes him sit down and write a letter to God for assistance, illustrating the power of belief to offer peace and support in the face of adversity.
- (iv) The seagull was terrified of flying because he feared falling and was not confident. He was left alone by his family, who were fed up with his refusal to fly and abandoned him on the ledge in an attempt to push him to make the jump and learn to fly for himself.
- (v) Inside captivity, the behaviour and daily routine of the tiger depicts frustration and confinement. It keeps moving to and fro in the limited area of the concrete cell, indicating signs of restlessness and desire for freedom. Lacking its natural habitat, the tiger's fierce and majestic aspect is tamed.
9. (i) James Herriot intended to get Tricki out of the home for his health to break him away from excesses. At the hospital, he limited Tricki's diet and exercised him more, resulting in Tricki's recovery and enhanced vitality.
- (ii) Matilda's primary flaw in "The Necklace" is her excessive pride and desire for material wealth. Dissatisfied with her modest life, she borrows a costly necklace, resulting in years of hardship when it gets lost. Her vanity and discontentment ultimately lead to her downfall.
- (iii) Anil's wise action and forgiveness changed Hari Singh by demonstrating trust and kindness towards him. Rather than turning him into the police, Anil offered Hari an opportunity to reform, which changed Hari's mind about his actions and his need to change for the better.

Set-3

Q.P. Code: 2/6/3

SECTION – B**4. (a)**

B/20 Shastri Road
Mumbai

15 February 20xx

The Editor
The Times of India
Mumbai

Subject: Urgent Need to Address Pollution at Marine Lines

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing as a concerned citizen and a volunteer with "Clean India" to draw attention to the alarming pollution levels at Marine Lines. The place has become highly contaminated with plastic and trash, which is causing serious environmental and health hazards.

In order to counter this problem, there needs to be a proper coordination among NGOs, citizens and government agencies. NGOs need to initiate cleanup activities and awareness campaigns to create better waste disposal practices. Citizens can help reduce the use of single-use plastics and join community cleanup efforts. Government agencies can introduce better waste management regulations, impose fines on littering, and offer sufficient waste disposal facilities.

Together, let's bring Marine Lines back to its original state and create a cleaner, healthier environment for everyone.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Yours sincerely
Mahima/Manoj

(b)

A-411
Vivek Vihar
Delhi

15 February 20xx

The Commissioner
Municipal Corporation
Delhi

Subject: Urgent Need for Repair of Street Lights in Vivek Vihar

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to draw your attention to the recurring problem of non-working street lights in Vivek Vihar, which has been creating serious safety issues and inconvenience for the residents. The absence of proper street lighting has rendered the area vulnerable to accidents, thefts and other criminal activities, compromising the safety of the community.

The poorly lit streets also pose problems for pedestrians and drivers, particularly in the evening and nighttime. This calls for immediate response and repair of the street lights to guarantee the safety of the residents.

I respectfully urge you to take immediate action to redress this issue and make arrangements for the requisite repairs at the earliest. Your timely intervention will be appreciated.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue.

Yours sincerely
Sapna/Samar

SECTION – C

8. (i) The young seagull is at first afraid of flying but, driven by hunger and his parents' urging, he takes the leap. His flight shows that motivation and perseverance can overcome fear to eventually result in success.
- (ii) The metaphor "The Fog comes on little feet" indicates the silent and stealthy onset of fog, similar to a cat. It shows how fog quietly covers the surroundings, giving rise to a peaceful and mysterious environment.
- (iii) In "Mijbil the Otter", Gavin Maxwell portrays Mijbil as smart through his problem-solving ability and inquisitiveness. Mijbil's friendliness is portrayed in his interactions with humans, while his playfulness is revealed in his play and games. His attachment to Maxwell shows that he needs love.
- (iv) The title "The Proposal" is significant since it all centres on the marriage proposal from Lomov to Natalya. The proposal sparks humorous quarrels over belongings and dogs, demonstrating the misunderstandings between the characters, ultimately leading to a reconciliation and agreement.
- (v) In "For Anne Gregory", the poet redefines beauty beyond physical appearance. He asserts that beauty is a matter of inner qualities and one should be cherished for these aspects, not just for physical appearances, defying traditional ideas about beauty.
9. (i) When Mrs. Hall accused Griffin for the theft, Griffin responded in an aggressive manner. Griffin grew angry and exposed his invisibility to get out of the situation. This shocking exposure resulted in an uproar and further increased Mrs Hall's suspicions about his sinister and mysterious personality.
- (ii) Matilda is dissatisfied with her existence because she craves richness and luxury. Despite having a comfortable middle-class life, she constantly dreams of opulence and feels dissatisfied with her modest circumstances. Her desire for material possessions and social status makes her feel discontented and unfulfilled.
- (iii) Horace Danby was falsely accused and apprehended for a burglary he did not commit because he was duped by a clever woman who pretended to be the owner of the house. She manipulated Horace into opening the safe, and he unknowingly helped her steal. When his fingerprints were discovered at the crime scene, Horace was unfairly accused.