

CHARITABLE COACHING CENTRE

Class X Sample Paper-2

Time allowed: 3 hours

Maximum marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. The question paper contains THREE sections –
Section A – Reading Skills.
Section B – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills.
Section C – Literature.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SET I

Section A – Reading Skills

20 Marks

Question 1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow:

1. Water is one of the most essential resources on Earth, yet it is often taken for granted. Despite its abundance, the reality is that only a small fraction of the world's water is fresh and available for human use. With increasing populations, climate change, and industrial demands, the pressure on our water resources is growing. This makes water conservation not just a collective responsibility but a crucial individual duty. Each person's effort towards conserving water can significantly impact the preservation of this vital resource for future generations.
2. One of the primary reasons individual water conservation efforts are so important is the cumulative effect of small actions which may seem trivial on their own. However, when multiplied by millions of people, these actions can lead to substantial water savings. For example, a single dripping tap can waste over 15 litres of water a day. Imagine the water saved if every household in a city repaired just one leaky faucet. This highlights the power of collective individual actions in reducing water waste.
3. Moreover, personal efforts towards water conservation often lead to greater awareness and education. When individuals take steps to conserve water, they become more conscious of their water usage and the importance of this resource. This awareness can then spread within communities, inspiring others to adopt similar practices. For instance, a family that installs water-saving devices in their home may encourage neighbours and friends to do the same, creating a ripple effect. This grassroots approach to conservation can be particularly effective in areas where larger-scale initiatives may be slow to implement or lacking in support.
4. In addition to daily habits, individuals can also make a difference through more significant lifestyle choices. For instance, opting for drought-resistant plants in gardens and supporting water-efficient agriculture can all contribute to water conservation. Agriculture, especially livestock farming, is one of the largest consumers of water globally. By supporting sustainable farming practices, individuals can indirectly reduce the water footprint of their food.
5. Critics might argue that individual efforts are negligible compared to the large-scale water consumption by industries and agriculture. However, this perspective overlooks the potential for individual actions to drive systemic change. When people collectively make water-conscious choices, they send a powerful message to businesses and policymakers about the importance of conservation.
6. Each person's commitment to saving water, no matter how small, contributes to a larger culture of sustainability. By making conscious choices and spreading awareness, individuals can help ensure that future generations have access to the clean, fresh water they need to thrive. Water conservation is not just the responsibility of governments and industries; it is a shared duty that begins with each of us.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- (i) In paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'each person's effort towards conserving water can significantly impact the preservation of this vital resource' emphasise? (1)

Answer: The phrase emphasises that personal responsibility is critical in preserving water resources for

generations to come. It means that small individual actions can come together as a collaborative effort to make a substantial impact on conserving water.

(ii) Complete the following with the correct option from the two given. (1)

Water is often taken for granted, despite its essential nature because

- (a) it is abundant and always easily accessible, making people less aware of its usage
- (b) its importance is not always recognised, leading people to overlook its value (paragraph 1)

Answer: (b) its importance is not always recognised, leading people to overlook its value.

(iii) Support the writer's idea that small individual actions towards water conservation are not trivial, (paragraph 2) (2)

Answer: The writer's idea that small actions can make a difference is supported by the fact that while individual actions may be minor, but when collaborated, they can accumulate into substantial water savings. This is an indication of how individual efforts which are often looked at as insignificant, play an essential role in achieving conservation goals. This further highlights the significance of collaborative widespread participation in water-saving practices.

(iv) Select the option that best reflects the concept of a 'ripple effect' in the context of student life at school, (paragraph 3) (1)

(a) A student's act of volunteering at a local charity leads to the school administration organising a large-scale fundraising event.

(b) A student who consistently follows good study practices inspires classmates to improve their own study routines, creating a culture of academic excellence in the class. (Paragraph 3)

Answer: In the context of student life at school, the ripple effect is reflected by a student who consistently follows disciplined study practices. This inspires the classmates to improve their study routines, creating a culture of academic excellence in the class.

(v) State whether the following statement is True or False, (paragraph 3) (1)

Grassroot efforts like personal efforts are more effective in water conservation.

Answer: Statement not given

(vi) The writer mentions 'sustainable farming practices' in paragraph 4. Which of the following is a sustainable farming practice? (1)

- (a) Using chemical fertilizers and pesticides extensively to increase crop yields.
- (b) Clearing large areas of natural vegetation to expand farmland for organic farming.
- (c) Implementing crop rotation and using organic compost to maintain soil health.
- (d) Relying solely on monoculture farming to maximise production efficiency.

Answer: (c) Implementing crop rotation and using organic compost to maintain soil health.

(vii) List any two points that a powerful message sent to businesses and policy makers about the importance of water conservation might include, (paragraph 5) (2)

Answer:

The passage sends a powerful message to businesses and policy makers about

- Stressing the need to implement water-efficient technologies and methods which reduce their overall water consumption.
- The necessity of policymakers to create and enforce strict regulatory guidelines that help promote water conservation and address water management issues effectively.

(viii) Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given, (paragraph 6) (1)

In the phrase 'culture of sustainability,' the word 'culture' refers to

- (a) A set of beliefs and practices shared by a group
- (b) The artistic and traditional practices specific to a community's heritage.
- (c) The lifestyle habits and choices that are popular among the urbane
- (d) The techniques and methods used in development efforts

Answer: (a) A set of beliefs and practices shared by a group

Question 2. Read the following text. (10)

1. A thorough study conducted across several villages of north-west India unveiled fascinating insights into the mural* landscape. It revealed that a significant majority, comprising around 80%, of these vibrant artworks are meticulously crafted by the villagers themselves. Approximately 15% of the murals stem from collaborative endeavours between villagers and local or visiting artists.

2. Surprisingly, a small fraction, about 5%, of the murals are the result of sponsored initiatives, often commissioned by governmental or non-governmental organisations. These murals convey

social messages ranging from education and environmental conservation to public health awareness.

3. Among the locally crafted murals, nearly 55% depict scenes from mythology and folklore, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the region. About 26 % of these murals showcase daily life in the villages, capturing moments of joy, struggle, and victory. The remaining 19% feature abstract or contemporary themes, reflecting evolving artistic expressions in rural settings.

4. Further analysis reveals that among the locally crafted murals, nearly 63% are found on the walls of community centres, temples, and other public spaces. Around 27 % adorn the exterior walls of residential houses. The remaining 10% are scattered across schools, health centres, and other institutional buildings, serving as educational tools and sources of inspiration for the younger generation.

5. To delve deeper, comparisons across various parameters such as demographic patterns, subject matter, techniques, community engagement, and impact are crucial. Analysing these facets not only provides a comprehensive understanding of mural creation in northwest Indian villages but also unveils avenues for cultural preservation, community development, and creative expression.

* a large painting or artwork that is typically created directly on a wall or ceiling Created for academic usage/252 words

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(i) What does the use of the phrase 'fascinating insights' by the writer, in paragraph 1, tell us about their feelings? (1)

- (a) The writer is expressing surprise.
- (b) The writer is conveying boredom and frustration.
- (c) The writer is indicating interest and enthusiasm.
- (d) The writer is showing disappointment.

Answer: (c) The writer is indicating interest and enthusiasm.

(ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below. (1)

Assertion The murals in North-West Indian villages are meticulously crafted.

Reason The murals are the result of collaborative endeavours.

- (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.

Answer: (c) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.

(iii) Identify the word that indicates that the writer anticipated a higher percentage of sponsored initiative murals. (1)

Answer: Surprisingly

(iv) How do the murals in North-West Indian villages contribute to community engagement and awareness? (1)

Answer: The murals in northwest Indian villages contribute to community engagement and awareness as they not only beautify the village but also serve as educational visual platforms for conveying crucial social messages and are sources of inspiration.

(v) Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank. (1)

In Hari's village, a mural depicting sustainable farming practices is showcased on the Panchayat office wall.

The percentage of mural type that this would be counted in is. (26% / 19% / 55%)

Answer: 19% (category that features abstract or contemporary themes)

(vi) What does the highest percentage of different mural themes suggest about the artistic preferences and cultural priorities in northwest Indian villages? (1)

Answer: The highest percentage of 55% is an indicator of deep-rooted connection of people with folklore and mythology, which showcases a desire to celebrate and preserve traditional narratives.

(vii) Complete the sentence suitably. (1)

The significant presence of murals on the exterior walls of residential houses highlight.

Answer: the integration of artistic skills into everyday life.

(viii) Complete the following with a suitable reason. ‘

(1)

The most likely reason the writer believes that a mural can serve as an ‘educational tool’ is because it can

Answer: convey and spread information through vivid visual representation, making people easily comprehend complex social issues.

(ix) In the context of the last paragraph, describe the significance of comparing various parameters such as demographic patterns, subject matter, techniques, community engagement, and impact in understanding the mural landscape in North-West Indian villages.

Answer: The significance of comparing various parameters impacts on holistic understanding of mural creation and adds to identifying trends and charts of various themes used in these paintings. It helps us understand the involvement of the community in these projects and evaluate the impact of murals on cultural preservation.

Section B

Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

(20 Marks)

Question 3. Complete any ten of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.

(i) Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete the opening line of a formal letter:

Dear Mr. Patel,

We are pleased to inform you that your proposal for the upcoming project by the board of directors.

(a) had endorsed

(b) will have been endorsed

(c) has been endorsed

(d) have endorsed

Answer: (c) has been endorsed

(ii) Read the given sentence from a marketing report. Identify the error and supply the correction in the given format.

The company continues to strives tirelessly to meet customer demands.

Error	Correction
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Answer:

Error	Correction
Strives	strive

(iii) Rhea asked the following question to her colleague, Deepak.

Have you finalised the magazine content to be submitted tomorrow?

Report Rhea’s question correctly

Answer: Rhea asked her colleague if he had finalised the magazine content to be submitted the following day.

(iv) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete an official announcement.

Attention all prefects,

Please be informed that the deadline for submitting your registrations for participation in the Art Exhibition has been extended; (that/these/this) should be communicated to all students of classes IX-X.

Answer: this

(v) Read Sana’s reply to her team leader, regarding the preparation of an important presentation.

I’m sorry I forgot ma’am. I’ll have the presentation ready for you very soon today.

Report Sana’s reply by ‘completing the following sentence correctly.

Sana apologised for having forgotten and said

Answer: Sana apologised for having forgotten and said that she would have the presentation ready for her very soon that day.

(vi) Identify and correct the error in the given line taken from an online news report:

Nearly most shop was closed for the public holiday.

Options	Error	Correction
(a)	most	every
(b)	shop	shops
(c)	was	were
(d)	the	that

Answer: a most – every

(vii) Complete the given school announcement by selecting the correct option to fill in the blank.
Good news, everyone! (1)

Our school's robotics team has successfully a place in the semi-finals.

- (a) securing
- (b) secured
- (c) will secure
- (d) had secured

Answer: (b) secured

(viii) Detect the error and supply the correction for the given observation by a child. That needn't be Dad's jacket. It's too small. (1)

Error	Correction
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Answer:

Error	Correction
needn't	can't

(ix) Report the dialogue between a teacher and a student, by completing sentence. (1)

Teacher: Did everyone understand the new assignment?

Students: Yes, we all got it, thank you!

The teacher asked if everyone had understood the new assignment, to which the students expressing their gratitude.

Answer: responded

(x) Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from a handbook for managers. The manager consider the proposal before making a decision. (1)

- (a) will
- (b) should
- (c) might
- (d) can

Answer: (b) should

(xi) Complete the given sentence about the reaction of some friends, by selecting the correct option (1)

The group of friends excited at the prospect of their upcoming adventure.

- (a) are
- (b) has
- (c) is
- (d) were

Answer: (c) is

(xii) Read the conversation about social media, between a teacher and a student Teacher: How do you think social media influences our perceptions of reality? (1)

Jagrit: I believe it distorts our perception of reality by only showing the highlight reels of people's lives.

Report the student's response by completing the following.

The student remarked by only showing the highlight reels of people's lives.

Answer: that he believed social media distorts their perception of reality.

Writing

Question 4. (a) You are Nirmal Pillai, a concerned citizen from Aluva, Kochi. Compose a letter in about 120 words, to the Project Head of the E-Waste Management Cell at Electronics Vatika, New Delhi, highlighting the adverse effects of e-waste* pollution. Suggest measures for addressing its

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management through community engagement and government initiatives.

* Discarded electronic devices such as smartphones, computers, and televisions, which are no longer in use or have reached the end of their lifecycle. (5)
Or

(b) You are Chhavi Pathak of Ranchi, Bihar. Write a letter in about 120 words addressing the Secretary of the City Municipal Authority. Detail the problem of overgrown trees and shrubs in the neighbourhood and request the delegation of personnel for regular pruning.

Answer:

(a) 68, Vardhman Homes

Aluva, Kochi

5th September, 20XX

The Project Head

E-Waste Management Cell

Electronics Vatika, New Delhi

Subject Urgent Action Needed to Address E-Waste Pollution and Management

Sir/Madam

This is to draw your attention towards the spreading menace of e-waste in the community. E-waste is generated by discarded or damaged electronic products and various gadgets and hence, should be separated from everyday waste.

The adverse effects of such electronic waste includes leaching of hazardous material into soil and water, which is harmful for both human and animal health. It also adversely affects the health of plants and ceases their proper growth. E-waste leads to contamination of ecosystems by releasing hazardous chemicals. They are usually toxic in nature and unfit for human exposure.

Therefore, it is necessary to build a collaborative effort in order to manage the drastic amount of e-waste effectively. This could be done by organising e-waste collection drives and recycling events frequently. This will ensure proper disposal of such waste. Awareness campaigns can be conducted in schools, colleges, offices and community centres where e-waste management techniques should be discussed.

The government can further testify this by establishing e-waste collection centres in both urban and rural areas. Strict penalties can be enforced for illegal dumping of e-waste. There is an urgent need to address this issue, so that environmental risk can be minimised. I hope that you look into this matter and take necessary actions as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Nirmala Pillai

(A concerned resident)

(b) 341, Vinaykapur

Ranchi .

5th September, 20XX

The Secretary

City Municipal Authority

Ranchi

Subject Request for pruning overgrown trees and shrubs in the neighbourhood

Dear Sir/Madam

This is to draw your attention towards overgrown trees and shrubs in my neighbourhood. The trees have grown beyond their height and the shrubs are unkempt which causes problems for both plants itself and the residents. The overgrown trees and shrubs reduce visibility of roads as they block the area with their height. It also poses a risk to motor commuters because of falling branches. It also blocks direct sunlight in homes and invites insects which further cause diseases. Moreover, this creates an unpleasant site which diminishes the aesthetic value of locality.

Kindly allocate the personnel for regular pruning of these trees and shrubs. This proactive measure will not only enhance the aesthetic beauty of our locality but also ensure the safety and convenience of residents and the pedestrians.

There is an urgent need to look into this matter. I would be grateful if you take the necessary measures as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely
Chhavi Pathak
(A concerned citizen)

Question 5. (a) Read the product details on a label for a school bag.

(5)

ECO-FRIENDLY SCHOOL BAG

1. Made from recycled materials
2. Ergonomic* design with padded shoulder straps and breathable mesh back panel
3. Spacious main compartment with multiple pockets and organisers
4. Reflective strips for visibility and safety
5. Water-resistant fabric
6. Available in various vibrant colours and patterns

Now, analyse why this school bag would be a beneficial purchase. Write the analytical paragraph in 120 words, considering factors such as its eco-friendliness, comfort features, functionality, safety aspects, and design options.

* Design that is intended to maximise comfort, efficiency, and safety for the user.

Or

(b) Read the given details of a playground intended for your resident area.

- A central climbing structure inspired by traditional Indian architecture, such as a miniature fort, with multiple levels and slides.
- Swings adorned with colourful Indian patterns, along with monkey bars and a zip line.
- A water play feature inspired by Indian fountains or rivers.
- Shaded seating areas with benches and swings, resembling traditional chaupals or gazebos.
- Trees, shrubs, and flower beds
- Ample open space

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words about the suitability of this playground.

Focus on factors such as safety, inclusivity, fun features, suitability for different age groups, and overall experience.

Answer: (a) The Eco-friendly school bag stands out as an excellent consumption choice for various reasons. Firstly, its use of recycled materials highlights and reinsures a commitment to environmental sustainability, making it an eco-conscious option. Additionally, the ergonomic design, featuring padded shoulder straps and a breathable mesh back panel, ensures maximum comfort for children during long school days. The spacious main compartment with multiple pockets helps organise textbooks, notebooks, and other essentials, promoting efficiency and ease.

Moreover, reflective strips that are included in the design enhance visibility and safety during low light conditions. The fabric is water-resistant. This further protects belongings from unexpected rain, making the bag durable and reliable. The bag is available in various vibrant colours and patterns and not only meets functional needs but also allows for personal expression of style, making it a versatile choice for students.

(b) The playground design proposed for the resident area embodies an intelligent collaboration of traditional Indian aesthetics and modern play elements. The central climbing structure, like a miniature fort, offers multifaceted play experiences, encouraging physical activity and imaginative exploration. The swings are to be decorated with vibrant Indian patterns, coupled with monkey bars and a zip line, adding cultural flair as well as a sense of excitement to the playground. Additionally, the incorporation of a water play feature is inspired by Indian fountains or rivers.

This not only provides sensory stimulation but also offers a refreshing respite from the heat. Shaded seating areas, resembling traditional chaupals or gazebos, provide comfortable spaces for parents and caregivers to supervise and socialise. Furthermore, the presence of ample greenery such as trees, shrubs, and flower beds, along with ample open space, enhances the overall aesthetic appeal and promotes environmental sustainability. This playground prioritises safety, inclusivity, cultural enrichment, and environmental consciousness, ensuring an engaging and enriching experience for residents of all ages.

Section C

Literature Textbook

(40 Marks)

Question 6. Read the given extracts and answer any one of the two questions given below (5)

(a) With a loud scream he fell outwards and given downwards into space. Then a monstrous terror

seized him and his heart stood still. He could hear nothing. But it only lasted a minute. The next moment he felt his wings spread outwards. The wind rushed against his breast feathers, then under his stomach, and against his wings. He could feel the tips of his wings cutting through the air. He was not falling headlong now. He was soaring gradually downwards and outwards.

(His First Flight)

(i) What effect does the experience, as described in the lines below, have on the baby seagull? (1)

With a loud scream he fell outwards and downwards into space. Then a monstrous terror seized him and his heart stood still.

Choose the most suitable option.

- (a) exhilarates
- (b) overwhelms
- (c) energises
- (d) confuses

Answer: (b) overwhelms

(ii) How does the author's use of descriptive language enhance the narrative technique in the paragraph? (2)

Answer: The author's use of descriptive language clearly portrays the intense emotional journey of the baby seagull. It hints at the physical sensations experienced by the baby seagull during its first flight. This adds to the sensory experience. Phrases such as 'monstrous terror' and 'wind rushed against his breast feathers' help the reader in understanding what seagull experienced. This enhances the emotional impact of narrative and makes it more real.

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. (1)

The use of the word 'rushed' adds to a sense of (speed / relief), in the extract

Answer: speed

(iv) How does the seagull's feelings towards the end of the extract contrast with the initial feeling of terror? (1)

Answer: A sharp contrast between seagull's feelings of exhilaration at the end of the extract with the initial feelings of terror can be seen when it learns to fly and soar high. The new feeling is the feeling of empowerment and excitement.

(b) And suddenly Bholi noticed that the teacher was standing by her side, smiling at her. "What's your name, little one?"

"Bh-Bho-Bho" She could stammer no further than that.

Then she began to cry and tears flowed from her eyes in a helpless flood. She kept her head down as she sat in her corner, not daring to look up at the girls who, she knew, were still laughing at her. When the school bell rang, all the girls scurried out of the classroom, but Bholi dared not leave her corner. Her head still lowered, she kept on sobbing.

"Bholi"

The teacher's voice was so soft and soothing! In all her life she had never been called like that. It touched her heart. (Bholi)

(i) What is the tone the teacher is UNLIKELY to have used in the line, "What's your name, little one?" (1)

- (a) reassuring
- (b) comforting
- (c) settling
- (d) calming

Answer: (c) settling

(ii) How does the author's use of Bholi's perspective help build the narrative in the extract? (2)

Answer: The author's use of Bholi's perspective in the extract helps readers to look directly into Bholi's thoughts, emotions and experiences. By experiencing the vents through Bholi's eyes, it becomes easy to understand the depth of Bholi's vulnerability. This allows the author to convey the impact of the teacher's kindness in contrast with her classmates' laughter more effectively. It enhances the reader's engagement with the narrative.

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket.

The word 'flood' in the line '...tears flowed from her eyes in a helpless flood.' Indicates that Bholi was crying (uncontrollably / unintentionally).

Answer: uncontrollably

(iv) How does the teacher's comforting demeanour contrast with the behaviour of the other girls in the classroom? (1)

Answer: The teacher's behaviour is gentle towards Bholi. She approaches her with kindness and

understanding, which offers a supportive presence for her. The other girls display insensitivity by laughing at Bholi stammering.

Question 7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any one of the two, given. (5)

(a) He stalks in his vivid stripes

The few steps of his cage,

On pads of velvet quiet,

In his quiet rage. (Tiger in the Zoo)

(i) What is the most likely reason the poet chooses to say 'vivid' stripes instead of just stating the colours of the stripes? (2)

Answer: The use of the word 'vivid' stripes evokes a sense of intensity and liveliness in the appearance of the tiger. The word suggests that the stripes are not only distinct in colours but also vibrant and full of life. It conveys the idea that tigers' markings are not subdued but rather striking and attention-grabbing. This points to the magnificence of the animal.

(ii) Fill the blank with ONE word.

The tiger's stalking suggests a movement that is within the confines of its cage. (1)

Answer: restless

(iii) How does the poet reinforce the contrast between the tiger's confined environment and its internal emotions? (1)

Answer: The poet reinforces the contrast between the tiger's confined environment and its internal emotions by using the word 'quiet' twice in the given lines.

(iv) Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the lines of the given extract.

(a) This bird so small and sweet, green,

Sings aloud in the morn,

Perched on a branch green, sweet,

Chirp, chirp, tweet, tweet.

(b) Perched on a branch

This bird so sweet and lean,

Sings aloud in a voice

Chirp, chirp, tweet, tweet.

(c) This bird sings without a care, sweet Perched on a branch green,

A song with the world to share,

With its feelings so keen.

(d) This bird so small and

Sings aloud in the morn

Perched on a green branch

Singing its own melody

Answer: (a) ABCB

Or

B. Belinda paled, and she cried Help! Help!

But Mustard fled with a terrified yelp,

Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,

And little mouse Blink strategically householed. (The Tale of Custard the Dragon)

(i) Examine the portrayal of Blink in the given lines. (2)

Answer: Blink's retreat is portrayed as a calculated and swift movement to safety. The imagery of Blink 'strategically' making the mousehole suggests a quick and calculated response to the perceived danger. This further highlights Blink's instinctual survival skills in the face of adversity.

(ii) Complete the following suitably.

The word 'paled' implies that Belinda

Answer: recognised that she was in a threatening situation.

(iii) What kind of picture is painted by the poet through the line, 'Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household'? (1)

Answer: In this context, the picture painted by the poet is that of a slow descent / a with Ink trying to avoid drawing attention to itself and seeking safety in a cautious and inconspicuous manner.

(iv) What kind of atmosphere is created through these lines? (1)

1. Urgency

2. Apprehension

3. Uncertainty

4. Mystery

5. Aggression

Select the correct option

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

Answer:(c) 1, 2 and 3

Question 8. Answer any four of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. (4 × 3 = 12)

(i) How does the ignorance about Mijbil as a creature in the urban environment of London reveal insights about people's perceptions and knowledge regarding animals? (Mijbil the Otter) (3)

Answer: The ignorance about Mijbil as a creature in the urban environment of London reveals limited understanding of diverse animal species. People may not recognise them outside of their natural habitat. This presents opportunities for education and awareness-building about wildlife conservation and responsible pet ownership. By learning about Mijbil's species and needs, people in London can gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity of life and understand the importance of respecting animals' natural behaviours and habitats.

(ii) How does the imagery of the trees' movement from the house to the forest, in "Trees", reflect broader themes of liberation and growth in human experiences? (3)

Answer: The imagery of the trees' movement from the house to the forest reflects broader themes. The breaking free of trees from the constraints of the house is symbolic of desire for freedom and autonomy. The movement of trees towards the forest embodies the journey towards self-discovery and possibility. It, thus, highlights themes of liberation and growth in human experiences.

(iii) What does the postmaster's reaction to Lencho's letter reveal about his character? (3)

(A Letter to God)

Answer: The postmaster's reaction to Lencho's letter reveals that the postmaster is deeply moved by Lencho's faith. This prompts a compassionate response rather than dismissal or mockery. This also highlights that he respects Lencho's belief system, despite its naivety, indicating a high regard for individual faith and personal convictions.

(iv) Assess the narrative's effectiveness in portraying the tension between the comfort of familiarity and the allure of the unfamiliar in 'Madam Rides the Bus'. (3)

Answer: Valli's longing to ride the bus showcases her yearning to break free from the confines of her everyday life and explore the unknown. The familiar surroundings of her street represent safety and predictability while the bus symbolises adventure and opportunity. This contrast creates a sense of tension as Valli grapples with her desire to step into a world of the unfamiliar.

(v) What kind of picture is painted by the poet through the line, "Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household"? (3)

Answer: The line serves to establish the difference between the external commands directed at Amanda and her internal imaginative escapes. This also highlights the contrast between Amanda's reality and her desires. This aids in the reader's understanding of her struggle between sticking to the expectations and seeking freedom through imagination.

Question 9. Answer any two of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2 × 3 = 6)

(i) How does Matilda's desire for material wealth drive the plot of "The Necklace"? (3)

Answer: Matilda's desire for material wealth leads her to borrow a necklace from her friend Forestier to appear wealthy at a party. She loses the necklace and along with her husband, she embarks on a desperate journey to replace it. This incident ultimately leads to their financial ruin. Her desire for material wealth sets off a chain of events that shape the plot of the narrative.

(ii) Justify the opinion that Ebright's early successes were essential for his later achievements in science. (The Making of a Scientist) (3)

Answer: Ebright's early successes were essential for his later achievements in science as these wins motivate him, validate his talent, and open up opportunities for growth. These steps instilled confidence in his abilities, affirmed his passion for science, and cultivated a competitive spirit that drove him to excel further in his scientific pursuits. Thus, they shape his trajectory as a successful scientist.

(iii) How does 'The Book that Saved the Earth' include elements of satirical science fiction? (3)

Answer: 'The Book that saved the Earth' protrudes exaggerated portrayal of Martian characters and the interactions with Earth culture. The play gives a humorous critique of human behaviour and social standards by presenting Martians as arrogant and intellectually superior beings who misunderstand basic Earth concepts.

Question 10. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words (6)

(i) Both poems 'Dust of Snow' and 'Fire and Ice' use contrasting elements of nature to convey their respective messages about life and human emotions but they do it differently. Examine these differences.

Answer: Dust of Snow emphasises the potential for beauty and renewal in the smallest aspects of nature, whereas, Fire and Ice explores the darker aspects of human desire and hatred, highlighting the destructive forces shaping human existence. Dust of Snow employs imagery of lightness, purity, and serenity through the snowfall and the hemlock tree.

In contrast, Fire and Ice utilises imagery of destruction and intensity highlighting the darker aspects of human emotions and relationships.

In Dust of Snow, the speaker's emotional response to nature is one of gratitude and appreciation.

Conversely, Fire and Ice evokes a sense of fear and contemplation about the destructive forces inherent in human nature. Dust of Snow focuses on the idea of small, unexpected moments in nature leading to positive change and renewal in the individual. Fire and Ice suggests that these internal forces have the potential to shape not only individual lives but also the fate of humanity as a whole.

(ii) Both the texts, 'For Anne Gregory' and 'The Sermon at Benares', grapple with the idea that external attributes are fleeting and subject to decay. Examine the similarities.

Answer: Both 'Anne Gregory' and 'The Sermon at Benares' confront the short-lived nature of external attributes. In the poem, the speaker's shifting perception of Anne's beauty, from cherishing her hair and face to valuing her inner qualities, highlights the transient nature of physical appearance.

Similarly, in 'The Sermon at Benares', the Buddha's teachings emphasise the inevitability of death and the impermanence of life, urging listeners to recognise the fleeting nature of existence. Both texts suggest that external attributes, whether beauty or life itself, are fleeting and subject to decay, prompting contemplation of deeper truths beyond the surface. This highlights the significance of internal beauty and internal aspects of human self.

Question 11. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (6)

(i) Evaluate how Griffin's character is shaped by a combination of personal ambition, the unintended consequences of his scientific pursuits, and the reactions of the society he faces.

Answer: Griffin's character is a combination of personal ambition, the unintended consequences of his scientific pursuits, and the reactions of the society he faces. Griffin is deeply motivated by his desire to achieve scientific "breakthroughs and willingly isolates himself to focus on his experiments, indicating a prioritisation of personal goals over social or ethical considerations.

The state of invisibility, however, leads to paranoia and a disconnection from human relationships which alters his perception and interaction with the world. Society's initial reaction is a mix of curiosity and fear, which quickly shifts to hostility as Griffin's actions become more desperate and harmful. The lack of understanding from others about his condition and needs deepens his resentment and estrangement, fuelling his hostile behaviour.

(ii) Evaluate how James Herriot's characterisation contributes significantly to the overarching theme of responsible pet ownership and animal welfare.

Answer: James Herriot's characterisation as a compassionate yet firm veterinary surgeon contributes significantly to the overarching theme of responsible pet ownership and animal welfare. Herriot's compassion towards animals is evident throughout the narrative. He genuinely cares about Tricky's well-being and is willing to go the extra mile to ensure the dog receives the care and attention it needs. This compassion is reflected in his interactions with Mrs. Pumphrey, where he patiently educates her about proper pet care and advocates for Tricky's health.

Herriot's firmness highlights his commitment to advocating for the best interests of the animals under his care. Despite Mrs. Pumphrey's initial reluctance to acknowledge Tricky's health issues, Herriot remains steadfast in his recommendations for dietary and lifestyle changes. His firm yet compassionate demeanour shows the importance of setting boundaries and making tough decisions for the well-being of pets. This aspect of Herriot's characterisation reinforces the theme of responsible pet ownership by emphasising the need for owners to prioritise their pets' health and welfare above personal indulgence.