

**Class X Session 2023-24**  
**Subject - English (Lan & Lit)**  
**Sample Question Paper – 8**

**Time allowed: 3 hours**

**Maximum marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The question paper contains three sections - Reading, Writing & Grammar and Literature.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

**SECTION – A**  
**READING SKILLS (20 MARKS)**

1. Read the following text. (10 m)

(1) India has stood for freedom: Even before Independence we viewed our own struggle and difficulties on the larger canvas of global problems. If democracy is basically tolerance for others' opinions, the concept of coexistence is democracy on the international plane, for it embodies tolerance of other nations and systems.

Similarly non-alignment gives depth to our independence and self-reliance for it enables us to retain our freedom of judgement and action on international issues in the light of our national interests. We avoid involvement in the conflicts and disputes of others and this helps to blunt conflict between power blocs. I should like to think that it has also helped world stability.

(2) A country is an extended family. When income and resources are limited, one must budget to ensure that waste is avoided, resources husbanded, priorities established, education and other social needs catered to, special provision made for those who are weaker or smaller. Industry has to be balanced with agriculture; technology with culture; state ventures with private initiative; economic growth with social justice; the large with the small. Every section of society must be stimulated to creative activity.

(3) That is our planning. In no way is it totalitarian or coercive. Industrializing, modernizing and transforming an ancient society of immense size, population and diversity is a daunting venture and inevitably, a gradual one. Otherwise, there will be resentment. Transformation

should not cause too much dislocation or suffering for the people nor should it jettison the basic spiritual and cultural values of our civilization.

(4) India's planning experience sums up the successes and problems of our democratic development. The magnitude and significance of democracy's operation in India are not well understood, for it is often treated as an adventitious or borrowed growth. Why has democracy worked in India? Our national leadership was dedicated to it and we wanted it to work, but, also, because in our society there were elements and traditions which supported the growth of democracy.

(5) In our democratic system, there may be differences in many spheres but we rise above them. To achieve the objective of keeping the country united, we have to transcend political and party-based differences, which create dissensions. If we cannot remain united and the country does not remain strong, with whom shall we have differences? Against whom shall we fight? With whom shall we be friends? Brothers and sisters, if the country falls, nobody survives. When we were fighting for the freedom of our country, it did not mean only political freedom. It also meant social justice, equality and economic justice. Only one phase is over and another one is under way. We have to cover a long and difficult path. Whereas the enemies were visible during those days; now they are in disguise. Some of them are openly our enemies, but many become unintentional pawns of others.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage.

- i. Why has democracy worked in India? Justify your answer in about 40 words.
- ii. "Similarly non-alignment gives depth to our independence and self-reliance". Here the word non-alignment means \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
  - A. choosing a side already
  - B. not choosing to be affiliated with a big power bloc
  - C. being incooperative towards big power blocs
  - D. being aloof towards all nations
- iii. Fill in the blank appropriately.

Industry has to be balanced with agriculture likewise economic development with \_\_\_\_\_.

iv. "In no way is it totalitarian or coercive" in other words the author means the planning is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. in no way inclusive or forceful
- B. a completely iron clad and self-driven
- C. in no way dictatorial and forceful
- D. none of these

v. Based on the reading of the passage, discuss how too much transformation affects the weaker sections of society. Answer in about 40 words.

vi. From the sets 1 - 5 below, identify two sets of synonyms. (1)

- 1. Tolerance - Resistance
- 2. Initiative - Inactivity
- 3. Resentment - Irritation
- 4. Dissensions - Agreements
- 5. Totalitarian - Monolithic

- A. 1. and 5.
- B. 2. and 3.
- C. 3. and 4.
- D. 3. and 5.

vii. Which of these statements is false? (1)

- A. Non-alignment enables us to retain our freedom of judgement and action on international issues.
- B. The magnitude and significance of democracy's operation in India are not well understood.
- C. Transformation should jettison the basic spiritual and cultural values of our civilization.
- D. To achieve the objective of keeping the country united, we have to transcend political and party-based differences.

viii. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

According to the author, freedom for the country means \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Read the following text. (10)

(1) The number of children and teens that are overweight or obese has more than tripled between the years of 1980 and 2004. While obesity is not restricted by gender, ethnicity or socio-economic status, there is a slightly increased risk for those who are from poorer families. Girls are more likely to be overweight than boys, and Hispanic and African American teens are slightly more likely to be obese than other races.

(2) Younger people, especially teens who are obese, face multiple problems caused by their weight. First, they face the same health problems that an overweight adult would, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, kidney disease, hypertension and cancer. Second, they face developmental troubles because of their weight and their health, especially if they are unable to go to school on a regular basis. And finally, they also face social development problems as they struggle to develop their personality while facing peer pressures beyond what the average child is facing.

(3) Children and teens become obese for a variety of reasons: they tend to eat a poorly balanced diet filled with fast foods and very limited fruits and vegetables. One study showed that girls and boys ages 10 to 15 admitted that French fries were the only vegetable that they consumed on a regular basis. Another study showed that girls would eat other vegetables but only if they were covered in a cheese sauce.

(4) In addition to poor food choices, they tend to be very sedentary, most of them spending most of their time in front of a television or computer screen or texting and talking on their cell phones. Finally, the children in the study that were found to be the most overweight also had overweight parents, suggesting not only a genetic link to explain their weight but an atmospheric one as well. After all, children of smokers tend to be smokers themselves, so it would stand to reason that obese parents typically will produce obese children.

(5) The problem with weight and young teens, especially girls, is the fact that dieting and weight loss programs tend to backfire. In a three-year study that monitored boys and girls, ages 9 to 14, the dieters ultimately gained more weight than those who did not diet at all. It is necessary to use a different approach when dealing with young children and teens who are overweight. First, the family must be in total agreement that there is a problem. Several school districts came under fire in recent years when they sent home letters regarding a child's weight and the health risks. The parents were either unaware that their child could develop such "adult" health problems as Type II diabetes or heart disease, or they did not accept that the child was anything but "stocky" or "husky". Rather than face the legal ramifications, the school districts stopped informing the parents, hoping that the child's doctor would take on the battle instead.

(6) It is normal for a girl to increase her body fat during puberty; it is simply the way that the female body works. At this time, it is common for the girls to start paying more attention to

their physical appearance, with many of them developing eating disorders because they are unhappy with what they see. It should also be noted that these girls are more likely to develop depression, which may also increase their chance of gaining even more weight.

(7) Boys start adding more muscle and also increase in height, leading them to feel more satisfied with their bodies, while young girls are getting increasingly more upset by what they see in the mirror. By the age of 15, over half of the girls in 16 countries are dieting. The United States is the country that has the most weight-obsessed girls, with 47% of girls aged 11, dieting and 62% of 15-year-olds doing so. Ethnicity plays a role in how the girls feel about their bodies, with African American girls feeling more body satisfaction than Caucasian girls of the same age group.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage.

i. What are the problems that overweight children develop? Answer in about 40 words.

(2)

ii. Select the incorrect statement from the ones given below. (1)

A. The number of children and teens that are overweight has decreased.

B. Girls are more likely to be overweight than boys.

C. The family must be in total agreement that there is a problem.

D. Hispanic and African teens are slightly more likely to be obese than other races.

iii. What can be inferred from the following sentences? (1)

"While boys grow leading them to feel more satisfied with their bodies, young girls are getting increasingly upset."

A. Boys are made to feel bad about growing.

B. Growing up is not good for girls.

C. Women are made to feel bad about their bodies.

D. It is better to remain as children.

iv. According to the study, the girls that develop eating disorders are more likely to develop depression which in turn can also \_\_\_\_\_. (1)

A. help them gain self-esteem

B. lead to malnutrition



C. lead them to gain even more weight

D. cause them to feel better

v. In which period of life are girls more likely to become obese and what they do? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

vi. Select the option that lists what the given sentence refers to. (1)

'Finally, the children in the study that were found to be the most overweight also had overweight parents.

A. Obesity is caused by virus.

B. Obesity is contagious.

C. There is a genetic disposition to being obese.

D. Children shouldn't imitate parents' food habits.

vii. Which country has the most weight obsessed girls? (1)

viii. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

According to the study, girls would eat other vegetables but only if they were covered in a \_\_\_\_\_.

## **SECTION-B**

### **WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)**

#### **GRAMMAR**

**(10)**

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. (1 × 10)

i. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the given line.

Simba and Tan were playmates. They met every now and then. Their masters got along just fine, so these puppies \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) a lot of time together.

ii. Mother and son had a conversation about her son's upcoming exams. Report the mother's question. (1)

Mother: Are you well prepared for the exams?

iii. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the given statement. (1)

After being unemployed \_\_\_\_\_ (most/much/every) people started their own businesses to run their households during the pandemic.

iv. Identify the error and supply its correction for the given sentence. (1)

He was punished for avoided his official work.

Error	Correction

v. Identify the error and supply its correction for the given sentence. (1)

Sentence	Error	Correction
A saint walks the streets of Kolkata.	<i>e.g., walks</i>	walked
It can happen only at India.	_____	_____

vi. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option. (1)

Amateurs \_\_\_\_\_ against the pros, this feels a little unfair.

- A. was competing                      B. were competing  
C. are competing                      D. is competing

vii. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option. (1)

How \_\_\_\_\_ you forget that today's my birthday?

- A. would                      B. could  
C. won't                      D. must

viii. Identify the error and supply its correction for the given sentence. (1)

Mr. Smith was accusing of murder but the court found him not guilty and acquitted him.

Error	Correction

ix. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option. (1)  
Mark \_\_\_\_\_ applying for jobs ever since he passed his examination in March.

A. had                      B. was                      C. has been                      D. were

xi. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line. (1)

I am trying to finish this letter for the last one hour. I wish you would go away or stop disturbing me.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A.	am	have been
B.	to finish	finishing
C.	for	since
D.	would	could

xii. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option. (1)

You \_\_\_\_\_ reply back immediately to the client for every email we receive.

A. could                                      B. would  
C. must                                      D. might

**WRITING (10)**

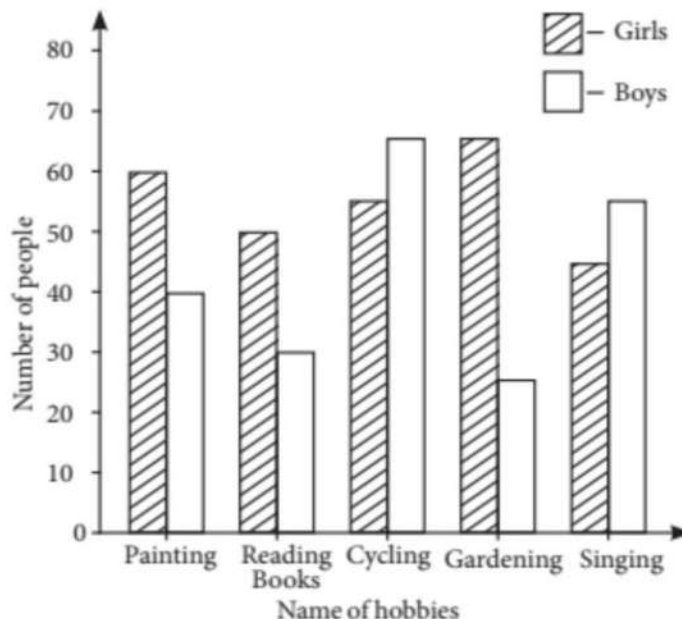
4. A. You are Sangeeta of 17 E, Ravi Dass Road, Kochi. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper, in about 120 words, about the nuisance caused by loudspeakers in the city during examination days drawing attention of the authorities concerned to the problem. (5)

OR

4. B. You have lost your original certificates of Class X and XII. You want to get their duplicates issued but you do not know the procedure. Write a letter to the Chairman, CBSE, Preet Vihar, in about 120 words, enquiring about the fee to be deposited, mode of payment, time taken by the board for issuing duplicate certificates and any other formalities. You are Tarun/Taruna, 7/9, Kunj Apartments, Shimla. (5)



5. A. The chart shows the interest of young people in pursuing different hobbies by girls and boys in USA. Write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, using the given information. (5)



OR

5. B. Mental health and mental health issues are as important to be taken care of as other diseases. People often look down upon the people who share their mental health issues which is why it has become a taboo. The given excerpt is taken from a health and wellness magazine. Write a paragraph, in about 120 words, to analyse the given statement. Think of alternative explanation to counter or weaken the given statement.

### SECTION-C

#### LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 MARKS)

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

A. The moment the letter fell into the mailbox the postmaster went to open it. It said: "God: Of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much. But don't send it to me through the mail because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks". Lencho.

i. What does Lencho mean by 'the rest' here?

A. remaining money

B. other half of the letter

C. snow

D. crops

ii. Why was the postmaster curious to open the mailbox at that moment?

iii. Lencho didn't want God to send the money through the post office because \_\_\_\_\_

iv. What was Lencho thinking of while writing the letter?

### OR

B. He just felt a bit dizzy. Then he flapped his wings once and he soared upwards. "Ga, ga, ga, Ga, ga, ga,

Gaw-col-ah," his mother swooped past him, her wings making a loud noise. He answered her with another

scream. Then his father flew over him screaming. He saw his two brothers and his sister flying around him

curveting and banking and soaring and diving. Then he completely forgot that he had not always been able

to fly, and commended himself to dive and soar and curve, shrieking shrilly.

i. Complete the following sentence appropriately.

The young seagull felt dizzy because \_\_\_\_\_

ii. The extract refers to the many movements of the young seagull's brothers and sister. Choose the option that correctly sequences these movements.

A. The young seagull's brothers and sister flew by tilting their wings, rose high, made darting movements and plunged headfirst.

B. The young seagull's brothers and sister flew by plunging headfirst, making darting movements, tilted their wings and rose high.

C. The young seagull's brothers and sister flew with darting movements, tilted their wings, rose high and plunged headfirst.

D. The young seagull's brothers and sister flew by rising high, plunging headfirst, making darting movements and tilting their wings.

iii. What does the given line imply? "He completely forgot that he had not always been able to fly."

iv. Which of the following mirrors the use of the literary device in "shrieking shrilly"?

A. sparkling saga

B. singing soft

C. slippery sloppily

D. sneeze silently

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

A. (I am an orphan, roaming the street.  
I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.  
The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)

i. The tone of the given lines is

- A. analytical
- B. despairing
- C. peaceful
- D. nervous

ii. Read the statements a and b given below, and choose the option that correctly evaluates these statements. Statement 1 – The figure 'I' imagines a less than realistic view of being an orphan. Statement 2 - The figure 'I' does not like the speaker.

- A. 1 is true, 2 is false, according to the extract.
- B. 1 is true, 2 cannot be clearly inferred from the extract.
- C. I cannot be clearly inferred from the extract, 2 is false.
- D. 1 is true and can be inferred from the poem, 2 is true too.

iii. The golden silence is contrasted with the

iv. What do you understand by the literary device 'transferred epithet'? Give one example of this device from the given extract.

**OR**

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

i. Choose the option with qualities of the cat that Carl Sandburg applies to the fog?

- 1. Cats are independent animals, they don't follow rules, they slip and slide in and out of our lives as they please.
- 2. Cats are distrustful of strangers and can be jealous and moody.
- 3. Cats are stealthy, moving in slow motion at times and they appear to be moving in a mysterious fashion.
- 4. Cats often communicate with a combination of a distinctive sound and body language
- 5. Cats like to move on at their own pace and before you know it, they've disappeared.

- A. Only 1
- B. 2, 3 and 4

- C. 1, 3 and 5
- D. Only 4

iii. To which does the poet compare fog? What are similarities between that and fog?

iv. The meaning of the word 'harbour' is \_\_\_\_\_

- A. a play area
- B. ships' resting area
- C. a centre location
- D. none of these

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

i. Why did Lencho write a letter to God?

ii. Why is the climb to the Brahmagiri hills an important part of a visit to Coorg?

iii. Why does the conductor call Valli, 'Madam'?

iv. What do people and the poet think about the ending of the world?

V. How has the attitude of the military generals towards Mr. Mandela changed?

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

i. Why does Mrs Hall find the scientist eccentric?

ii. Why did Hari Singh change his name every month?

iii. How did the teacher build confidence in Bholi?

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

A. Parents play a crucial role in the upbringing of their children. Critically examine the parents of Bholi and Ebright, highlighting their impact on their children's lives.

## SOLUTIONS

1. i. Democracy has worked in India because our national leadership has always been dedicated to it and we wanted it to work, but also because in our society there were elements and traditions that also supported the growth of democracy in the country.

ii. B. not choosing to be affiliated with a big power bloc

iii. social reform

iv. C. in no way dictatorial and forceful

v. Transformation is the most important aspect of a country's development, but too much transformation affects the weaker sections of society because it causes dislocation or suffering for them and also jettisons the basic spiritual and cultural values of our civilization. Transformation should be balanced so that every section of society is stimulated by it.

vi. A. 1. and 5.

vii. C. Transformation should jettison the basic spiritual and cultural values of our civilization.

viii. freedom from inequality, social and economic injustice

2. i. Children who are obese tend to develop multiple problems because of their weight. They are susceptible to illnesses including cancer, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and others that an obese adult is more likely to develop. In addition to developing developmental problems from being overweight, children also battle with social developmental issues as they try to form their own identities while dealing with greater peer pressure than the ordinary child does.

ii. A. The number of children and teens that are overweight has decreased.

iii. C. Women are made to feel bad about their bodies.

iv. C. lead them to gain even more weight

v. Girls are more likely to become obese during puberty, as it is normal for them to increase their body fat at this stage of life because this is simply the way a female body works. At this stage, they start noticing their physical appearances a lot, with many of them developing eating disorders because they are unhappy with what they see in mirrors.

vi. C. There is a genetic disposition to being obese.

vii. The United States of America

viii. cheese sauce

3. i. spent

ii. Mother asked her son whether he was well prepared for the exams.

iii. most

iv.	Error	Correction
	avoided	avoiding

v.	Error	Correction
	at	in

vi. C. are competing

vii. B. could

viii.	Error	Correction
	accusing	accused

ix. C. has been

x. B. didn't

xi.	Option No.	Error	Correction
	A.	am	have been

xii. C. must

4. A.

17 E, Ravi Dass Road  
Kochi  
Kerala  
2 March 20xx  
The Editor  
The Times of India  
Kochi  
Kerala

**Subject :** Nuisance caused by loudspeakers in the city during examination days

Respected Sir,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper I would like to draw the attention of the authorities concerned to the nuisance caused by the indiscriminate use of loudspeakers at religious places, wedding processions, market places and jagrans during the examination days. Students are unable to concentrate on the heavy backlog of revision work during these days. The result is that they fare badly in the examinations and this leads to frustration and unhappiness among students. Their parents also suffer due to it. It is high time the concerned authorities take a serious note of this nuisance and initiate remedial measures to keep the problem in check. Use of loudspeakers should be totally banned irrespective of the place where these are used. It is not only a cause of nuisance but also adds to the noise pollution.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Sangeeta



OR

4. B.

7/9 Kunj Apartments

Shimla

23<sup>rd</sup> March, 20xx

The Chairman

CBSE

Preet Vihar

Delhi-110006

**Subject:** Query Regarding Issuing of Duplicate Certificates

Sir/Madam,

I am writing to you, seeking information regarding issuing of duplicate certificates of Class X and XII by the CBSE Board. While returning from an interview via train, my luggage which also had my certificates' file got lost. I wish to get the duplicate copies of my Board certificates, however, I don't know the procedure. I request you to kindly provide me with the details of the following :

(i) Fee to be deposited

(ii) Mode of payment

(iii) Time duration of the process

I am sending a self addressed envelope. Please revert with all the requisite information at the earliest possible.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Tarun Gupta

5. A. The graph shows the number of boys and girls who pursued different hobbies in USA. As shown in the chart, gardening is the most favorite pastime among girls and the least favourite among boys with levels of over 65 and less than 30 respectively. For all other amusements, singing, painting and cycling are very popular among both the genders. As per the given chart the number of boys preferring cycling and girls doing gardening is almost equal. Most boys like to do cycling with around 65 compared to 55 girls.

Girls also like to do painting with levels of around 60, on the contrary only 40 boys like to do painting in their leisure time. There is a difference of about 20 between boys and girls showing interest in reading books. Around 50 girls like to read books in their free time whereas, only 30 boys in comparison to girls showed their interest in it. On the other hand, other than cycling, boys are more interested in singing, where almost 55 boys are there numbering 10 more than girls.

Overall, the figures demonstrate that girls significantly love to spend most of their leisure time on gardening and painting, and after that time on cycling and reading books, and the least they want to spend on singing. However, boys preferred cycling the most, then singing and painting but significantly the least they preferred to do is gardening.

OR

5. B. Our mental health encompasses our psychological, emotional and social well-being. This means it impacts how we feel, think and behave each day. Our mental health also contributes to our decision-making process, how we cope with stress and how we relate to others in our lives.

There is a great misconception for the mentally ill. Many think these people are lazy or just making it up.

There is also the attitude that these people are either crazy, possessed by demons, violent, out of control and unsafe. These are negative labels that have been attached due to the lack of awareness. Raising awareness can reduce misconceptions. Emotional and mental health is important because it's a vital part of your life and impacts your thoughts, behaviors and emotions.

Being healthy emotionally can promote productivity and effectiveness in activities like work, school or care-giving. It plays an important part in the health of your relationships, and allows you to adapt to changes in your life and cope with adversity.

Often mental health is disregarded as mood swings and many people consider having mental/psychological troubles as a sign of weakness. Reaching out and opening up to other people in your life can help provide emotional support. Depression is real and has many physical and psychological manifestations. Thus, the topic mental health should be normalised and taking medical and appropriate help shouldn't be frowned upon.

6. A. i. A. remaining money

ii. The postmaster collected the money and sent it to Lencho who actually asked for help from God in terms of money. Now Lencho wrote another letter and dropped it into the mailbox. The postmaster was anxious to open the mailbox to see Lencho's reply, expecting a thanking note.

iii. he didn't trust the post office employees

iv. Lencho blamed/accused the post office employees of stealing the 30 remaining pesos.

**OR**

B. i. he hadn't eaten anything for a day

ii. C. The young seagull's brothers and sister flew with darting movements, tilted their wings, rose high and plunged headfirst.

iii. It had been twenty four hours since the young seagull had eaten. He flapped his wings and made a loud sound when he realized that his parents and siblings had already flown on to the ledge. He completely forgot that he had not always been able to fly because it was the naturalness of the act of flying for the young seagull.

iv. D. sneeze silently

7. A. i. C. peaceful

ii. B. 1 is true, 2 cannot be clearly inferred from the extract.

iii. constant instructions received

iv. A 'transferred epithet' is a literary device where the modifier or epithet is transferred from the

noun; it is meant to describe another noun in the sentence. 'Hushed (base) feet' is the example of transferred epithet.

B. i. C. (1), (3) and (5)

ii. D. Only 3

## OR

iii. The poet compares fog to a cat. The silent steps of a cat and the way it sits on its haunches is very similar to the way fog comes and surrounds the city and looks over it.

iv. B. ships' resting area

8. i. Lencho had strong faith in God, for when his crops needed rain, Lencho wished and prayed for the rain to God. Next morning he sat in his house and waited for the rain. As soon as the rain started, he became very happy and began calling the raindrops 'silver coins. But unfortunately the rain was accompanied with hailstorm, it turned into a disaster to the crops, plants and trees, not even a leaf remained on them. The crops were totally destroyed. Seeing this, Lencho's heart was filled with sadness and thus, his mood changed into concern. So, he wrote a letter to God, asking for help.

ii. The climb to the Brahmagiri hills offers the panoramic view of the entire misty landscape of Coorg. Besides, it leads to Nisargadhama and then, to Bylakuppe; the hidden surprises for the visitors. Thus, it is important to climb the Brahmagiri hills while visiting Coorg.

iii. The conductor called Valli 'madam' because even though she was just an eight year old girl, she behaved like a grown up. She demanded respect and wanted to be treated like an adult because she too had paid her own bus fare like other adults present in the bus. The conductor, seeing Valli behave like that, treated her with respect even though he did it to humour her.

iv. There are some people who believe that some day, fire will end the world, whereas there are other people who think that the world will see its doom by ice. The poet has tasted both fire and ice and he thinks that the world will be ended in fire as fire stands for the unending desires of humans.

v. There is a change in the attitude of the military generals towards Mr. Mandela. They saluted him and pledged their loyalty. This change in their attitude is significant because during apartheid, the same military generals would have arrested him instead of saluting him.9 i. Mrs. Hall found the scientist eccentric because of his strange appearance and also, when she tried to be friendly with him, he told her sternly that he did not want to be disturbed and he had come there for solitude and wanted to concentrate on his research. He also told her thativ. There are some people who believe that some day, fire will end the world, whereas there are other people who think that the world will see its doom by ice. The poet has tasted both fire and ice and he thinks that the world will be ended in fire as fire stands for the unending desires of humans.

v. There is a change in the attitude of the military generals towards Mr. Mandela. They saluted him and pledged their loyalty. This change in their attitude is significant because during apartheid, the same military generals would have arrested him instead of saluting him.

9 i. Mrs. Hall found the scientist eccentric because of his strange appearance and also, when she tried to be friendly with him, he told her sternly that he did not want to be disturbed and he had come there for solitude and wanted to concentrate on his research. He also told her that an accident had affected his face which is why it is covered in bandages.

ii. Hari Singh was a con who changed his name every month to avoid police. The young thief would change his name and easily escape from police and his former employees too. He introduces himself as Hari Singh to Anil but it is most definitely supposed to be a fake name.

iii. Bholi's teacher treated her with love and compassion, and encouraged her to read and study. She inspired Bholi to become a teacher herself. Education helped Bholi gain her self-confidence. She became aware of self-respect and bravely enough, refused to marry the aged, mean, greedy and cowardly Bishamber Nath.

10. A. It is a fact that parents play a crucial role in the upbringing of their children. Parents influence their children both indirectly and explicitly. They are the role models, first teachers, friends, companions and guides. If we see the example of Richard H. Ebright; his mother was loving, caring, understanding, a friend and a true companion. She played an important role in making him a successful scientist. She not only encouraged him but also bought him scientific equipment. She invested her time and energy in his upbringing which made him see heights of success. On the other hand, Bholi's parents were uncaring, indifferent, biased, insensitive and having a narrow mindset. They had a traditional outlook; due to this they didn't believe in the education of girls, they neglected Bholi and her needs. Despite their prosperity, they left Bholi to her own misery. The contribution and companionship of parents cannot be denied. Love, care, and guidance from parents makes a difference, sculpts children and shapes their future.

**OR**

B. Lomov and Natalya meet for a serious purpose, i.e., to talk about marriage that decides the progress of one's life as a member of the conventionally established society. But the purpose of their meeting gets lost on two consecutive occasions because Lomov's faith in the values of his society disrupts his approach to the topic of marriage. He learns that the girl and her father like him, but, instead of proposing to marry her and discussing how their marriage should be organised, he goes on to talk about properties, relations, family histories, and pets, draws them into an unnecessary argument, and antagonises both of them. Finally, Chubukov marries Lomov and Natalya by force before another problem crops up. Thus, the play ends on a comic note, just because the couple gets together with their father to celebrate their marriage while the dispute



over the pets is still continuing. For any healthy relationship, there should be mutual understanding and respect. Quarreling over trivial issues like dog cannot guarantee longevity of a relationship.

11. A. Life is a great misery. For every individual this mystery of life comes wrapped in a unique package. For some it is all riches, comfort, name and fame. For some, it is nothing but sheer hunger, poverty, anguish and an everyday quest for bare survival. One however, must learn to live within one's means and be content with what one has. Aspirations have no limits but one should never forget the ground realities. One may try to improve his lot by honest means and be content with what one has. One may try to improve his lot by honest means but eventually must be at peace with what one manages to have. "The Necklace" reveals that vanity is an evil. It may bring joy for a short period but ultimately it leads to ruin.

**OR**

B. The narrator, a veterinary surgeon, is a capable, compassionate and wise doctor. He handles Tricki properly

which shows that he is sincere about his profession. He does not operate upon the dog unnecessarily and cures him by altering his diet and activities. He is a tactful person as he knew exactly how to convince Mrs. Pumphrey to hospitalise Tricki for a surgery. He understands and sympathizes with Mrs. Pumphrey's mental state regarding Tricki's health therefore, to ease her suffering, Mr. Herriot lets her know that Tricki is recuperating. His decision to inform Mrs. Pumphrey to collect Tricki supports his sensibilities even though he was tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest. These are some of the values that each of us can inculcate in ourselves. Also, Mr. Herriot was in a profession, which he liked, therefore, he cared about his work and his patients. We too must pursue that field of work, which we deeply love and care about.