

Class XII Session 2023-24
Subject - English Core
Sample Question Paper – 5

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

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

SECTION-A
READING SKILLS (22 MARKS)

1. Read the following text.

(1) Suspense was over when my high school results finally came out. But I was upset. I had not done as well as I had expected. My father tried to console me. "Why are you worried? You have done very well my dear." "No, I have not Baba," I protested, controlling my tears, and wondering if I had disappointed him. "It does not really matter," he assured me. "Do you know what I got when I finished high school?" I looked into Baba's face and waited for the answer to his own question. "You know," he told me "I have never told you this. I got just a third division. But, look at me, I have done quite well." Baba got a third division! I was almost in shock, but the thought of my having done a lot better than that made me realize that I had no reason to complain. I certainly felt better! "Everything is under control!" said Baba, smiling. That was his favourite phrase. Posted in Kolkata, my father was then a senior official in the Indian Railway Service, and an expert in goods traffic operations. He was soon to become a director with the Railway Board. By the time he retired in 1981, he was general manager of the Central Railways. By the time Baba passed away in November 2000, his name had found place in several hearts as well. He was open, easy to know, and full of life. We were extremely close, but I had so much more to learn about him from many things I came to know after his death.

(2) In September 2000, he was in hospital for treatment of cancer and given just two months to live. When he found out, his reaction was an extremely rational one. He asked me to fetch files from his cupboard, so that he could explain the details of my mother's pension. He also dictated his will from his hospital bed. "Everything is under control!" After Baba's death, Satish, our old family retainer, was inconsolable. We tried to cheer him up. "Your Baba had scolded me only once in all these years!" he cried. Satish pointed to the watch on his left hand. "I had been coming late for work and everyone in the family was complaining about it," said Satish. "Then,

one day, your Baba gave me this watch and told me, 'Now that you have a watch, you can't be late.' That was the scolding Satish received. On the fourth day after Baba's death, my sister and I had to perform a ceremony. Since several relatives were expected, we decided to order lunch from a caterer in our locality, reputed for his home cooked food. But, when we went to pay to owner, we got a surprise. He refused to accept any money! "When I wanted to start my catering business, it was your father who lent me money," he told us. It seems Baba never asked for it back. Now, after four or five years, the caterer wanted to repay that debt. Of course, we made him accept the full payment for the fine food and service. "It was Baba's gift and it ought to remain so," I told him.

(3) Some days later, there was yet another piece of information as we were preparing for the main ceremony. Vikram, my brother drove me to the local market. On recognizing our car, the parking assistant, in his twenties, came running towards us and asked why he had not seen its owner for long. We had to break the news to him and to our utter surprise, he started crying. We were really surprised by this reaction from a stranger - until the man told us that Baba used to pay his daughter's school fees and buy her books. It seems, it was on my father's advice that he had even started sending the child to school. More than three years after Baba's death, as we were looking into Baba's personal things, we came across an old file with Baba's certificates and I found among them, his high school diploma from 1937, the one he told me about 30 years earlier, about the third division that had made no difference in his life or career. It had made me see beyond mere marks and first classes as the main road to success. But there was one more fact. Baba had actually got a first division, a rare achievement in his day. Today, years after his passing, when I think of Baba, I see a man who was able to sympathise with others so easily and touch their lives in such a special way.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. "I was almost in shock..."

Pick the option in which the meaning of shock[ed] is not the same as it is in the passage.

- A. Julie was deeply in shock by her grandmother's death.
- B. He completely shocked everyone with his news.
- C. When she went to China, she experienced culture shock.
- D. When the doctor noticed that the health of the patient was not improving, he suggested the shock therapy.

ii. Based on your reading of the passage, choose the option that lists the correct sequence of the events.

- 1. The narrator's result was declared.
- 2. The narrator's father told him about his high-school result.
- 3. The narrator went to the market with his brother, Vikram.

4. Baba passed away.

5. The narrator realised that his father had actually got a first division.

A. 5, 2, 1, 3, 4

B. 1, 2, 4, 3, 5

C. 3, 2, 1, 5, 4

D. 4, 1, 3, 5, 2

iii. After the reading of the passage, it can be concluded that the narrator's father had a _____ approach towards the people and society.

iv. According to the passage, the narrator's high school result was

V. How did the father console the narrator?

vi. Describe the incident that happened with Satish and father.

vii. Pick out the option that correctly lists the final feelings of the narrator after finding his father's old file.

1. frustrated

2. satisfied

3. hopeful

4. arrogant

5. pessimistic

6. disappointed

A. 2 and 3

B. 4 and 6

C. 1 and 5

D. 5 and 6

viii. Choose the correct synonym of 'rational' as given in para 2, from the options given below.

1. logical

2. reasonable

3. agitated

4. thoughtless

A. 1 and 4

B. 1 and 3

C. 2 and 4

D. 1 and 2

ix. What connection did the narrator's father have with the parking assistant?

2. Read the following text. (10 m)

- (1) Millions of people in the United States are affected by eating disorders. More than 90% of those afflicted are adolescents or young adult women. Although all eating disorders share some common manifestations, anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge eating, each have distinctive symptoms and risks. People who intentionally starve themselves (even while experiencing severe hunger pangs) suffer from anorexia nervosa.
- (2) The disorder, which usually begins around the time of puberty, involves extreme weight loss to at least 15% below the individual's normal body weight. Many people with the disorder look emaciated but are convinced they are overweight. In patients with anorexia nervosa, starvation can damage vital organs such as the heart and brain. To protect itself, the body shifts into slow gear: Menstrual periods stop, blood pressure rates drop, and thyroid function slows. Excessive thirst and frequent urination may occur. Dehydration contributes to constipation, and reduced body fat leads to lowered body temperature and the inability to withstand cold. Mild anemia, swollen joints, reduced muscle mass, and light-headedness also commonly occur in anorexia nervosa.
- (3) Anorexia nervosa sufferers can exhibit sudden angry outbursts or become socially withdrawn. One in ten cases of anorexia nervosa leads to death from starvation, cardiac arrest, other medical complications, or suicide. Clinical depression and anxiety place many individuals with eating disorders at risk for suicidal behavior.
- (4) People with bulimia nervosa consume large amounts of food and then rid their bodies of the excess calories by vomiting, abusing laxatives or diuretics, taking enemas, or exercising obsessively. Some use a combination of all these forms of purging. Individuals with bulimia who use drugs to stimulate vomiting, bowel movements, or urination may be in considerable danger, as this practice increases the risk of heart failure. Dieting heavily between episodes of bingeing and purging is common.
- (5) Because many individuals with bulimia binge and purge in secret and maintain normal or above normal body weight, they can often successfully hide their problem for years. But bulimia nervosa patients-even those of normal weight can severely damage their bodies by frequent binge eating and purging. In rare instances, binge eating causes the stomach to rupture; purging may result in heart failure due to loss of vital minerals such as potassium. Vomiting can cause the esophagus to become inflamed and glands near the cheeks to become swollen. As in anorexia nervosa, bulimia may lead to irregular menstrual periods. Psychological effects include compulsive stealing as well as possible indications of obsessive-compulsive disorder, an illness characterized by repetitive thoughts and behaviors. Obsessive compulsive disorder can also accompany anorexia nervosa. As with anorexia nervosa, bulimia typically begins during adolescence. Eventually, half of those with anorexia nervosa will develop bulimia. The condition occurs most often in women but is also found in men.
- (6) Binge-eating disorder is found in about 2% of the general population. As many as one-third

of this group is men. It also affects older women, though with less frequency. Recent research shows that binge-eating disorder occurs in about 30% of people participating in medically supervised weight control programs.

(7) This disorder differs from bulimia because its sufferers do not purge. Individuals with binge eating disorder feel that they lose control of themselves when eating. They eat large quantities of food and do not stop until they are uncomfortably full. Most sufferers are overweight or obese and have a history of weight fluctuations. As a result, they are prone to the serious medical problems associated with obesity, such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and diabetes.

(8) Obese individuals also have a higher risk for gallbladder disease, heart disease, and some types of cancer. Usually they have more difficulty losing weight and keeping it off than do people with other serious weight problems. Like anorexic and bulimic sufferers who exhibit psychological problems, individuals with binge-eating disorder have high rates of simultaneously occurring psychiatric illnesses, especially depression.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

i. Obese individuals also have a risk of.

- A. heart disease
- B. some types of cancer
- C. gallbladder disease
- D. all of these

ii. How many cases of anorexia nervosa can have fatal consequences?

- A. 90 per cent
- B. Ten out of twenty
- C. 50 per cent
- D. 1 in 10

iii. "Many people with the disorder look emaciated but are convinced they are overweight". The word 'emaciated' here means.

- A. fat
- B. skeletal
- C. nervous
- D. depressed

iv. According to the passage, which of the following is correct?

- A. Among the sufferers of anorexia nervosa, half of them will eventually develop bulimia.
- B. Binge eating disorder is found mainly in children.

- C. People with bulimia nervosa keep themselves in starvation.
D. More than 90% of those afflicted with eating disorders are men and old-age people.
- V. What makes people socially withdrawn?
- vi. What are the side effects of anorexia nervosa?
- vii. Discuss about binge-eating disorder.
- viii. State True or False.
Binge eating disorder is found in about 30% of the general population.

SECTION-B
CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 MARKS)

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

A. You are the Secretary of your School Literary Association. Write a notice for your school notice board, giving details of the proposed inauguration of the Literary Association of your school. You are XYZ of Jain Vidyashram, Cuddalore.

OR

B. Every year in the central park of the city a flower show is held in the month of February. Your school has received a circular from the District Collector inviting your students to visit it. Write a notice informing the students about the show and advising them to go and enjoy it. You are Navtej/Navita, Head Boy/Head Girl, Sunrise Public School, Surat.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

A. You are the Secretary of the Ritz Students' Association, St. Peters School, Nainital. The 20th Alumni Meet will be held on Sunday, 28th Sept. 20XX at 8.00 p.m. at Plaza Hotel. Write an invitation letter to all the old students of the school to attend the meet.

OR

B. Write a formal reply to Mr. and Mrs. Jain accepting the invitation to attend the birthday of their son Raj.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.

A. On Teacher's Day, you read in a newspaper that privately owned and managed schools in small towns or even in the suburbs of metropolitan cities exploit their teachers by paying them just a fraction of their authorised salaries. This affects their performance in the classroom and thus the lives of their students. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily raising your voice

against such exploitation. Suggest ways to solve this problem. You are Navtej/Navita, 112 Taj Road, Agra.

OR

B. Write an application (including a resume) for the post of receptionist advertised in a national newspaper by JKL Publishers, Peshwa Road, Pune. You are Karuna, M-114, Mall Road, Pune, a graduate from SNDT University and have done a Secretarial Practice Course from YWCA, Mumbai.

6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.

A. On the occasion of International Museum Day, write an article, to be published in a magazine, on the role of museums in preserving history and heritage. Also mention how students can benefit from visiting museums.

OR

B. You are Marina, Cultural Secretary of your school, D.B. Senior Secondary School, Nagpur. A week-long Arts and culture festival was organised by your school. Write a report for your school magazine. Invent the details.

SECTION-C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 MARKS)

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

A. It seemed a long way down. Those nine feet were more like ninety, and before I touched bottom my lungs were ready to burst. But when my feet hit bottom I summoned all my strength and made what I thought was a great spring upwards. I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork. Instead, I came up slowly. I opened my eyes and saw nothing but water - water that had a dirty yellow tinge to it. I grew panicky. I reached up as if to grab a rope and my hands clutched only at water. I was suffocating. I tried to yell but no sound came out. Then my eyes and nose came out of the water but not my mouth.

i. "Nine feet were more than ninety," to the narrator because

A. he felt lost in the water

B. he enjoyed the feeling of sinking in the water

C. he was struggling against the water to stay afloat and he was drowning despite his efforts

D. he felt he could go deeper than he already was

- iii. Which line/phrase says the narrator couldn't breathe?
- ii. What did the narrator first do when he reached to the bottom of the pool?
- A. I grew panicky.
 - B. I was suffocating.
 - C. I tried to yell but no sound came out.
 - D. I came up slowly.
- iv. How did the water look to the narrator at the bottom of the pool?
- V. "I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork." What is the figure of speech used in the line?
- A. Alliteration
 - B. Simile
 - C. Irony
 - D. Sarcasm
- vi. Who is the author of the given extract?
- A. A.K.Barton
 - B. Anees Jung
 - C. John Keats
 - D. William Douglas

OR

B. "He couldn't have addressed a more dazed and silent audience - no one knew what he was talking about and his accent defeated any attempt to understand what he was saying."

- i. Who is 'he' referred to here?
- A. The boss Mr. Vassan
 - B. Stephen Spender, an English poet
 - C. Mr. Kothamangalam Subbu
 - D. The Legal Advisor
- ii. The audience was silent and confused because
- A. speaker's accent was unfamiliar.
 - B. his topic of speech was not understood by the audience.
 - C. his voice was inaudible.
 - D. both (A) and (B)
- iii. The meaning of the word "stupefied" is
- A. bright
 - B. dazed
 - C. oriented
 - D. none of these

iv. The topic of visitor's speech was

A. English as second language in India

B. problems with democracy

C. problems with communism

D. monarchy and its problem

V. 'No one knew what he was talking about' then, why was 'he called to the Gemini Studios'?

vi. Name the author of the given extract.

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

A. Students on Ice, the programme I was working with on the Shokaskiy, aims to do exactly this by taking high school students to the ends of the world and providing them with inspiring educational opportunities

which will help them foster a new understanding and respect for our planet. It's been in operation for six years now, headed by Canadian Geoff Green, who got tired of carting celebrities and retired, rich, curiosity-seekers who could only 'give' back in a limited way. With Students on Ice, he offers the future generation of policy-makers a life-changing experience at an age when they're ready to adsorb, learn, and most importantly, act.

i. Select the option to fill in the blank correctly. Students on Ice is _____headed by Geoff Green.

A. a travelogue

B. an expedition

C. a globetrotting

D. a tour

ii. Choose the option that makes the odd one out based on your reading of the above extract.

A. Sumit donates 10% of his monthly income to the environment-friendly NGOs.

B. Manmeet and her twin plant a new plant on their birthday every year.

C. Vivek invests in eco-friendly cosmetics that are packaged in plastic containers.

D. Afsana plans to device a machine that recycles the biodegradable wastes from home.

iii. Characterise the celebrities based on your understanding programme.

iv. Why did Green start his Students on Ice programme?

OR

B. "I wondered, Your Excellency," Sadao murmured.

"It was certainly very careless of me," the General said. "But you understand it was not lack of patriotism or dereliction of duty." He looked anxiously at his doctor. "If the matter should come out you would understand that, wouldn't you?" "Certainly, Your Excellency," Sadao said. He

suddenly comprehended that the General was in the palm of his hand and that as a consequence he himself was perfectly safe. "I can swear to your loyalty, Excellency," he said to the old General, "and to your zeal against the enemy." "You are a good man," the General murmured and closed his eyes. "You will be rewarded."

- i. The general wanted to give reward to Sadao for _____
- ii. At the end of the conversation with the General, Sadao felt _____
- iii. Read the analysis of the General based on the given extract. Choose the option that fills in the given blanks most appropriately:

The General (i) _____ power but is (ii) _____ of the obligations of his job. He is so (iii) _____ interests, with his health that he forgets to send the assassins to kill the prisoner. Due to his (iv) _____ he doesn't want to expose Sadao and agrees to keep the prisoner's escape a secret.

- | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------|
| A. | (i) fantasizes; | (ii) lonely; | (iii) consumed; | (iv) vested |
| B. | (i) relishes; | (ii) weary; | (iii) self-absorbed; | (iv) selfish |
| C. | (i) fancies; | (ii) apathetic; | (iii) negligent; | (iv) worthless |
| D. | (i) desires; | (ii) concerned; | (iii) indisposed; | (iv) narrow |

iv. Pick the option that best matches the idioms with 'hand' with their meanings.

| Idioms | | Meanings | |
|--------|---------------------------------|----------|---|
| 1. | Know like the back of your hand | A. | Not have the ability to help or take action |
| 2. | Hands are tied | B. | In the care of somebody good or knowledgeable |
| 3. | Get out of hand | C. | To know a place very well |
| 4. | In good hands | D. | To get out of control |

- A. 1-A; 2-D; 3-C; 4-B
- B. 1-B; 2-C; 3-D; 4-A
- C. 1-D; 2-A; 3-B; 4-C
- D. 1-C; 2-A; 3-D; 4-B

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

A. Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways

Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,

Some shape of beauty moves away the pall

From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,

- i. What does the poet mean by unhealthy and over darkened ways?

ii. Is the poet hopeful despite the sadness surrounding life? Which line/phrase confirms it?

- A. Over darkened ways
- B. In spite of all
- C. Moves away
- D. Such the sun, the moon

iii. What removes the pall from our dark spirits?

- A. Unhealthy and darkened ways of the soul
- B. Searching for the dark path
- C. Shape of beauty like the sun, the moon
- D. Greed for things in life

iv. What does pall mean, what other words the poet uses to give similar expression?

- A. Over darkened ways
- B. Dark spirits
- C. Shape of beauty
- D. Both A and B

v. What does 'moves away the pall' mean?

vi. What are referred to as shapes of beauty?

- (1) Poem
- (2) Sun
- (3) Moon
- (4) Fire
- (5) Ice

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

OR

B. Those who prepare
green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors,

i. What statement does the poet make about wars?

- A. Wars are uneconomical and cause irrecoverable loss and damage to property and life.
- B. Wars are of varied kinds - green wars, wars with gas, wars with fire.
- C. Wars might be futile but its necessary for survival.

D. Both A and B

ii. Which proverb justifies the central theme of this poem?

A. Actions speak louder than words.

B. Adversity and loss make a man wise.

C. Speech is silver, silence is golden.

D. All that glitters is not gold.

iii. Why did the poet say .. Victory with no survivor'?

A. Wars are always fought at the expense of the civilization.

B. Victory is dependent on the number of survivors.

C. The destruction caused by any war is greater than number of survivors.

D. Both A and C

iv. Whom does 'those' refer to in this given extract?

A. Pacifists

B. Warmongers

C. Politicians, statesmen, scientist

D. All of these

V. Name the poem from which the given extract is taken.

vi. What are green wars?

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.

i. Why did the author go to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire?

ii. Why does the poet call the longings of the poor people childish and done in vain?

iii. Why did the villagers come to attend the class of M. Hamel?

iv. What are the different kinds of wars mentioned in the poem? What is Neruda's attitude towards these wars?

V. What was written in the letter that the peddler left for Edla?

vi. "It is his karam, his destiny," What is Mukesh's family's attitude towards their situation?

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

i. How do geological phenomena help us to know about the history of humankind?

ii. Why did Charley rush back from the third level?

iii. How does Derry interpret the fairy tale Beauty and the Beast? What does he feel about himself?

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

A. What efforts does Mr Lamb make to strike up a friendship with Derry, the small boy, who enters his garden?

OR

B. Giving a bribe is an evil practice. How did the Tiger King bribe the British officer to save his kingdom? How do you view this act of his?

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.

A. Attempt a character sketch of Sophie as a girl who lives in her dreams.

OR

B. How is a thing of beauty a source of joy? Explain in context of the poem.

SOLUTIONS

1. i. D. When the doctor noticed that the health of the patient was not improving, he suggested the shock therapy.
 - ii. B. 1, 2, 4, 3, 5
 - iii. humanitarian
 - iv. not as well as he expected.
 - v. The narrator was upset with his high school results. Father tried to console him by saying "Why are you worried? You have done very well, my dear. Father further tells him that he had never told him but he scored third division and still managed to do well in life. So worrying about his results is futile.
 - vi. When the narrator's father passed away after his battle with cancer, their family retainer was inconsolable. He told the narrator that his father scolded him only once for coming late. But he also gifted him a watch and told him that now that he has a watch he should not be late.
 - vii. A. 2 and 3
 - viii. D. 1 and 2
 - ix. As the narrator and his brother were preparing for the main ceremony, they went to a local market. The parking assistant identified the car and went up to meet them. On knowing that the narrator's father is no more, he started crying and told them how their father used to pay the fees of his daughter's school and buy her books.
2. i. D. all of these
 - ii. D. 1 in 10
 - iii. B. skeletal
 - iv. A. Among the suffers of anorexia nervosa, half of them will eventually develop bulimia.
 - v. Anorexia nervosa can make people socially withdrawn.
 - vi. People who suffer from anorexia nervosa can exhibit sudden angry outbursts or become socially withdrawn. One out of ten anorexia nervosa cases, people can die from starvation, cardiac arrest or other medical complications. People also tend to become suicidal. People with eating disorders also suffer from clinical depression and anxiety.
 - vii. People who have binge eating disorder lose control of themselves while eating. They tend to eat large quantities of food and do not know when to stop. They only stop when they are uncomfortably full. Binge-eating sufferers are generally obese and have fluctuations in weight. These people also suffer from high cholesterol, high blood pressure and diabetes.
 - viii. False.

3. A.

JAIN VIDYASHRAM, CUDDALORE

NOTICE

1 March, 20xx

School Literary Association Inauguration

All students and staff are cordially invited to the inauguration of the school's Literary Association on Monday, March 10, 20xx in the school library, 11 a.m. onwards. Our Chief Guest, renowned writer, Ms. Arundhati Roy, shall speak to the students on the importance of reading and writing.

XYZ

(Secretary, Literary Association)

OR

B.

SUNRISE PUBLIC SCHOOL, SURAT

NOTICE

10 February, 20xx

Flower Show

The District Collector has invited the students of our school to the Annual Flower Show to be held on 20 February, 20xx at Central Park from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. The event will showcase a variety of seasonal and off seasonal flowers, which would be a sight worth seeing.

Students interested, may collect passes from the undersigned latest by 18 February, 20xx.

Navita

(Head Girl)

4. A.

Ritz Students' Association

St. Peters School

Nainital

Dear Alumna/Alumnus,

Subject: 20th Alumni Meet

The 20th Alumni Meet of St. Peters School, Nainital will be held on Sunday, the 28th Sept. 20xx at 8 p.m. at The Plaza Hotel, Ajmer. Old students, along with their spouses will be our guests of honour.

Kindly assemble at 8.00 p.m. in the banquet hall for a get-together, dance and dinner party.

Please confirm your seats by sending ₹ 700 to the undersigned.

Meenakshi K.

Secretary

OR

B.

12th January, 20xx

Mr. and Mrs. Panday thank Mr. and Mrs. Jain for inviting them on the occasion of the 5th birthday of their son, Raj on Monday, 28th January, 20xx at Star Hotel and inform them that they will be glad to attend the function.

Best wishes

Pandays

5.A.

112, Taj Road

Agra

2 March, 20xx

The Editor

The Hindu

New Delhi

Subject: Exploitation of Teachers in Private Schools

Sir,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I would like to draw attention of the general public towards the exploitation of teachers by paying them less.

It is sad that the teachers in privately owned and managed schools in small towns and metropolitan suburbs are paid just a fraction of their authorised salaries.

Teachers play an important role in shaping a child's future. However, such a malpractice is seen to affect the performance of the teachers in the classroom. Most teachers take up other jobs and do not put in the requisite hours of teaching in the schools and sometimes pay less attention to the students. As a result students who are weak in studies join coaching classes, the extra cost of which is borne by the parents. Lesser pay, leads to frequent resignations and constant changes in the faculty. This, in turn, affects students' performances and leads to an atmosphere of uncertainty in the schools, which is detrimental to the cause of education.

As a nation which prides itself on revering its teachers, it must be noted that we cannot build a future for our students if we do not give due credit to our teachers. Therefore, I request your esteemed publication to take up this matter in order to investigate the issue further and mobilise the public towards calling for a complete overhaul in the education system of the country.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Navtej

OR

B.

M-114

Mall Road, Pune

1 March, 20xx

JKL Publishers

Peshwa Road, Pune

Subject: Application for the Post of Receptionist

Sir/Madam,

With reference to your advertisement published in 'The Times of India' dated 10th February, regarding a vacancy for the post of a receptionist, I am writing to you as I wish to apply for the same.

I am eligible for the said post as per the qualification required. I have done my graduation from SNDT University and a Secretarial Practice Course from YWCA, Mumbai. I am young and energetic with good command over English, having three years of work experience in the same field. If I get a chance to serve your organisation, I assure you I shall prove to be an asset for the company. I have enclosed my detailed resume with this letter for your consideration.

Hoping for a positive response from your side.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Karuna Krishnan

Encl. Resume

RESUME

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Name | : Karuna Krishnan |
| Father's Name | : Mr. Anurag Krishnan |
| Date of Birth | : 12.02.1983 |
| Address | : M-114, Mall Road, Pune |
| Educational Qualifications | : 1. Secondary Exam: From CBSE, Delhi in 2000 2. Sr. Secondary Exam: From CBSE, Delhi in 2002 3. B.A. Honors: SNDT University in 2005 4. Secretarial Practice Course: YWCA, Mumbai in 2006 |
| Work Experience | : 1. Worked as a receptionist in Tagore International School, Sitapur: One year (2007-08) 2. Working as a receptionist in Sararwati Publishing House, Sitapur: Two years (2008-10) |
| Other skills | : Working knowledge of the computers |
| References | : Mrs. Y.H. Sharma, Principal, Tagore Int. School, Sitapur 0121-257xxxx |

6. A. Role of Museums

There are a variety of museums all over the world. For instance, Madame Tussauds, the wax museum, is a famous tourist attraction in London. The Louvre, world's largest museum, is situated in France and is a historic monument of the country. In India, National Museum, Delhi; Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad; Albert Hall, Jaipur; Shankar's International Dolls Museum,

National Rail Museum, Gandhi Museum, etc. all are noteworthy establishments, which attract tourists from far and wide. They all may be different from each other, but each of them have one thing in common, they never cease to amaze us. One may find a visit to the museum less fun and interesting than a visit to the amusement park or to the movie theatre. However, museums are cultural institutions of a country and a great source of knowledge. Museums bring together history of ages and preserve it for our benefit and the generations to come. It is only because of the museums that we are able to view and study the artefacts and exhibits of rare and historic value. Many consider museums valuable because they provide first-hand information. This is why, in many countries, visit to the museum is a part of their informal education. Students after all cannot always rely on bookish knowledge. They need to be exposed to the history to which they belong. This is the only way students learn and develop pride in their cultural heritage.

OR

B. Arts and Culture Festival

26th August, 20xx: Our school organised a week-long Arts and Culture Festival, which commenced on the 18th of August and ended on the 26th of August, in which 15 schools of our town participated. It was a great music and dance extravaganza which saw a wide variety of creative art along with Indian classical music and folklore and western music and dance forms. During this week-long festival, many competitions and programmes were organised in our school and these were graced by illustrious painters and reputed theatre artists and dancers. On the concluding day of this festival, a two-hour-long programme displaying a unique fusion of classical and western dance and music was put up. This was a treat and delight for all music and dance lovers and was also the highlight of our festival. Seeing the huge success of this festival, our principal assured us that attempts would be made to organise it on a regular basis.

7. A. i. C. he was struggling against the water to stay afloat and he was drowning despite his efforts

ii. He summoned all his strength and tried to make a great spring upwards.

iii. B. I was suffocating.

iv. The water had a yellow tinge.

V. B. Simile

vi. D. William Douglas

OR

- B. i. B. Stephen Spender, an English poet
- ii. D. Both (A) and (B)
- iii. B. dazed
- iv. C. problems with communism
- v. Stephen Spender was called to the Gemini Studios because of their boss's inclination towards erudite and literary people.
- vi. Asokamitran

- 8. A. i. B. an expedition
- ii. C. Vivek invests in eco-friendly cosmetics that are packaged in plastic containers.
- iii. The given extract poses the celebrities to be miserly and impassive to the cause of the environment.
- iv. Green started his Students on Ice programme to make youngsters realise the gory reality of planet Earth and to persuade them into thinking about their planet earnestly.
- B. i. saving his life
- ii. relieved and guilt-free

OR

- iii. B. (i) relishes; (ii) weary; (iii) self-absorbed; (iv) selfish
 - iv. D. 1-C; 2-A; 3-D; 4-B
9. A. i. Vile and corrupt ways human have adopted in search of false comfort.
- ii. B. In spite of all
 - iii. C. Shape of beauty like the sun, the moon
 - iv. D. Both A and B
 - V. Remove sadness
 - vi. C. 2 and 3 only

OR

- B. i. D. Both A and B
 - ii. C. Speech is silver, silence is golden.
 - iii. D. Both A and C
 - iv. B. Warmongers
 - V. Keeping Quiet
 - vi. Green wars refer to the destruction that human activities cause to the environment.
10. i. The author had learnt swimming from a very capable instructor. But the author wanted to conquer 'his fear of water' completely. Therefore, he went to Lake Wentworth in New

Hampshire. He swam across the lake. Only once did his old fear of water return. However he brushed this thought of fear aside and swam across the lake.

ii. The poor people wait all day every day, hoping and praying that one of the cars will stop in front of their doors and the city dwellers will buy from them. The poor people desperately linger by the window just to hear the squeal of the brakes or the sound of cars stopping. However no car ever stops in front of their doors, and no city people ever want to buy their things.

Therefore, the poet calls their longing childish and done in vain.

iii. M. Hamel was taking the last class of French lesson. That is why elders of the village were sitting in the classroom to attend it. It was done not only to pay respect to M.Hamel but to pay respect to their own language.

iv. The poet writes that wars are against humanity and nature. Green wars, wars with poisonous gases and wars with fire are the kinds of the wars that are mentioned in the poem. Neruda's attitude towards war is one of rejection. He feels that such wars may bring victory but there are no survivors to celebrate the victory.

v. The peddler wrote, "Since you have been so nice to me all day long, as if I was a captain, I want to be nice to you, in return, as if I was a real captain. The rattrap is a Christmas present from a rat who would have been caught in the world's rattrap if he had not been raised to captain, because in that way he got the power to clear himself. Captain von Stahle."

vi. Mukesh's family's attitude towards their situation is that of mute acceptance. They view bangle making as their destiny. They do not dream of any other option because there is no will, to take the initiative, left in them.

11. i. Geological phenomena certainly helps us to know about the history of humankind. A giant southern supercontinent- Gondwana did exist 650 million years ago. The climate was much warmer. It had a huge variety of flora and fauna. Gondwana thrived for 500 million years. Finally, it broke in to separate countries as they exist today. It was the stage when dinosaurs were wiped out and the age of mammals started.

ii. When Charley took out the modern currency to pay for the two tickets to Galesburg, the ticket clerk accused him of trying to cheat him. He threatened to hand Charley over to the police. Charley was frightened and he decided to rush back from the third level, lest he was arrested and put into prison.

iii. According to Derry, it teaches us that outward appearance does not matter. It is what one is inside that is important. Handsome is as handsome does. Beauty loved the monstrous beast for himself. When she kissed him, he changed into a handsome prince. No one except Derry's mother kisses him. She too kisses him on the other side of the face. Derry was bitter and refused to seek comfort in the fairytale.

12. A. Mr Lamb is quite gentle, accommodating and protective. He asks Derry to mind the apples as he might trip. Instead of feeling angry over the way of his entry, he points out that the gate is always open and he is welcome. His cordial manner and conciliatory tone touches the inner most chords of a defiant boy like Derry who does not want to mix up with others. On learning about his burnt face, he does not react like others. Instead of exhibiting fear and revulsion, he shows understanding and affection. He admits that he is the same as the boy. If the boy has a burnt face, he has got a tin leg. Gradually, he tries to win over the confidence of Derry by reminding him of Beauty and the Beast. He then tells him the story of a man who feared everything and shut himself in a room. His positive attitude towards life inspires the boy to talk to him like a friend.

OR

B. The Tiger King dispatched a telegram to a famous British company of jewellers in Calcutta to send samples of expensive diamond rings of different designs. Some fifty rings arrived and the king sent all of it to the British officer's wife. The king and his minister expected that the duraisani would choose one or two rings and send the rest back. However, it turned out that the duraisani kept the entire lot and replied with a thank you note for the gifts. In two days, a bill of three lakh rupees was sent by the British jewellers, to the Maharaja which he was happy to pay. This is how the Maharaja had managed to retain his kingdom. This act of the king sheds light on the deplorable practice of bribery that perpetuates the vicious cycle of corruption, especially considering the fact that the king had personal interests to protect rather than the welfare of his kingdom.

13. A. The character of Sophie appears to be a girl who lives in her dreams. She belongs to a weak socio-economic background and to escape from the boring, working class existence, she often fantasises of a grand and promising future. She wants her future to have less hardships and money constraints. Given her adolescent age, she is fickle minded. When she grows up, she aspires to be a boutique owner or a manager, or an actress, who is also a fashion designer who also runs a boutique. However, she does not take concrete steps to convert any of her aspiration into reality. Of all her family members, Sophie admires her brother Geoff the most. She idealises him and at the same time is jealous of him, because he speaks less to Sophie, he seems full of mystery. She wants to be a part of her brother's mysterious world because it symbolises freedom and adventure, both of which fascinate her immensely. She thinks that she is tailor made for such a world. Also, a part of her dream world is Danny Casey, an Irish footballer. Sophie has watched him play only once and develops a crush on him. Her hero-worship towards Danny Casey is so intense that she fantasises meeting him. She romanticises it and later feels disappointed when her fantasy does not come true. Therefore, it is suffice to say that Sophie is

one incurable dreamer who lives in denial. Throughout the story, she has never once thought practically or come out of her dream world.

OR

B. A beautiful thing is a source of eternal joy, its attractiveness grows with the passage of time and its impact never fades away. It is as pleasant as a cool quiet bower or sound sleep with sweet dreams; or robust health and mental peace. It provides the beholder with a haven of tranquility and solace. It is the beauty of nature that keeps us attached to this earth. Every morning we collect fresh lovely flowers and prepare garlands. The fascination for flowers is our bonding with the earth. It helps us steer clear of despondency and disappointments. We forget all our despair, of acute shortage of noble souls, of misfortunes that overtake us to test our forbearance. Life is full of trials and tribulations and we often find ourselves in the midst of gloom. It is at such depressing moments that a sight full of beauty dispels the pall of sadness from our spirits making room for hope and optimism.