

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER

BLUE PRINT

Time Allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

Typology	MCQs (1 mark)	SA-I (2 marks)	SA-II (3 marks)	LA (5 marks)	Total
Reading Skills	20	–	–	–	20
Writing Skills	–	–	2	2	16
Literary Text Books and Supplementary Reading Text	20	7	–	2	44
Total	$20 \times 1 = 20$	$7 \times 2 = 14$	$2 \times 3 = 6$	$4 \times 5 = 20$	80

ENGLISH CORE

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum marks : 80

General Instructions :

- (i) *This paper is divided into two parts: A and B. All questions are compulsory.*
- (ii) *Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.*
- (iii) *Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.*

PART - A (40 Marks)

READING (20 Marks)

1. Read the passage given below.

- (1) The United States Postal Service (also known as USPS, the Post Office, informally known as the P.O., or the U.S. Mail) is the third largest employer in the United States, after the Department of Defense and WalMart. It employs over 785,000 workers in over 14,000 U.S. postal facilities.
- (2) The Postal Service has certainly grown and changed since 1775 when the first Postmaster General – Benjamin Franklin – was named to head the Post Office Department, the forerunner of the current USPS. At that time, members of the Second Continental Congress agreed that the Postmaster General headquarters, or most important offices, would be stationed in Philadelphia, and that the Postmaster would be paid \$1,000 a year for his or her service.
- (3) As the country grew westward, it became necessary for the railroad system to carry the mail. The Railway Mail Service (RMS) was initiated in 1862. The RMS workers sorted mail on the train, and became some of the fastest workers in the system. They sorted about 600 pieces of mail per hour. All the mail had to be sorted before the train reached the first stop, since some of the mail was destined for that first stop on the route.
- (4) By 1918, the Post Office took over air mail from the U.S. Army. The first airplanes used in U.S. air mail were surplus planes from World War I. The Post Office started with only four pilots flying these leftover planes in August 1918, but by the end of that year, the Post Office had hired 36 more pilots. By 1920, over 49 million air mail letters had been delivered.
- (5) The Post Office has used alternate methods of transmission during its history. It owned and operated the first telegraph lines from 1884 to 1887 – when the lines were privatized. It utilized “V-Mail” (Victory Mail) during World War II when U.S. military mail was put on microfilm in the U.S. and printed near its destination, in order to save space on military transport. During the 1980s, Electronic Computer Originated Mail, called ECOM, was used for some bulk mailings. Computer generated mail was printed near its destination, and bore a blue ECOM logo on its special envelopes.
- (6) In 1970, the Postal Reorganization Act, signed by President Richard Nixon, replaced the Post Office Department (a Cabinet-level department) with the independent US Postal Service.
The independent US Postal Service has streamlined its workload and modernized operations. Today’s multi-line optical character readers (MLOCs) can read the entire address on an envelope, print a barcode on the envelope, and sort the mail at the rate of nine letters per second. The zip code +4, a four digit code

added to the end of the existing 5–digit code, has decreased the number of times a piece of mail needs to be handled.

- (7) Special barcode sorters assign an 11–digit zip code to each address, apply a barcode to each letter, and sort the mail in order of delivery.

The Postal Service has installed automated customer–service equipment in lobbies, and is planning to automate even more of its work, including more machines which will process parcels and forwarded mail. The price of a first–class stamp - recently approved at 44 cents and good for up to one–ounce domestic mail- seems relatively inexpensive compared to its predecessor; the first U.S. postage stamp, issued in 1847. The first stamps, adorned with a picture of Benjamin Franklin, sold for 5 cents apiece. They were used for letters weighing less than one ounce with a travel distance of less than 300 miles. By way of comparison, pay records available for the 1890s indicate that a typical year’s pay for a schoolteacher was around \$500, or 10,000 times the price of a stamp. Stamp prices then seem relatively high when compared to today’s average teacher pay, in the \$40,000 per–year range, or about 1,000,000 times the price of a postage stamp!

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven given below. $(1 \times 10 = 10)$

- (i) The second largest employer in the US is
(a) United States Postal Service (b) Department of Defense
(c) Walmart (d) Dominoes
- (ii) The annual salary of a post master was
(a) \$2000 (b) \$.1000 (c) \$100 (d) \$10000
- (iii) The railway mail service was established in
(a) 1775 (b) 1980 (c) 1862 (d) 1884
- (iv) How did the RMS become some of the fastest workers in the service?
(a) By inviting people to sort the mail. (b) By sorting the mail on the train before every stop
(c) By using pigeons (d) By using computers
- (v) By the end of the year of 1918 the post office had hired a total number _____ pilots.
(a) 4 (b) 36 (c) 40 (d) 38
- (vi) The Postal Reorganization Act was signed by
(a) Benjamin Franklin (b) Richard Nixon
(c) The general of the US army (d) The cabinet
- (vii) “The independent US Postal Service has streamlined its workload” here the phrase streamlined its workload means
(a) Taking up more workload (b) Making more workload
(c) Organise its workload to work efficiently (d) To decrease the workload
- (viii) The first stamps had a picture of _____.
(a) U.S. Army (b) Benjamin Franklin (c) Richard Nixon (d) USPS
- (ix) The first postage stamp was priced at
(a) 44 cents (b) 5 cents (c) 40 cents (d) 300 cents
- (x) Which of the following statement is false?
(a) Department of Defense is the largest employer in the US.
(b) Postal Reorganization Act was signed in 1970.
(c) MLOCRS can sort the mail at the rate of nine letters per second.
(d) The first U.S. postage stamp, issued in 1849.
- (xi) The word average in the last paragraph means:
(a) boring (b) regular (c) median (d) not special

2. Read the passage given below.

- (1) The monsoon is such a welcome respite from the scorching summer thanks to the overcast sky, gentle rain and lush greenery all around. Almost all of us love to savour spicy and crunchy food items, such as fritters (pakoras) and chaats like panipuri, sevpuri teamed with cutting chai as the rainwater lashes against the windowpane. However, the season also brings along a lot of diseases, such as dengue, malaria, conjunctivitis, typhoid, viral fever, pneumonia, gastrointestinal disturbances, diarrhea, food poisoning, cholera, cough and cold and jaundice due to bacteria in the environment. The challenge lies in going about your daily routine without falling ill. If you suffer from low immunity, you are at a higher risk of contracting these diseases.

However, the right dietary tips can strengthen your immunity and help you stay hale and hearty.

- (2) Due to the humid climate, you may not feel too thirsty and consume just one litre of water every day. But you need to be well hydrated as sweat doesn't evaporate quickly in monsoon. Consequently, this prevents the body from releasing heat. So consume a lot of water as it helps to flush out toxins from the body. Ensure that the water is clean, pure and safe to drink. Avoid aerated drinks; instead consume warm beverages, such as green tea with holy basil leaves, ginger, pepper and honey as they have anti-bacterial properties. A bowl of hot vegetable soup is also a good option. The hot beverages increase your body temperature (which will in turn give you warmth) while the ingredients will boost your immunity.
- (3) Consume fruits, such as cherries, bananas, apples, pomegranates, plums, litchis and pears as they are packed with anti-oxidants and are rich in vitamin A, E, C and minerals. Vegetables, such as cauliflower, potatoes, cluster beans, lady's finger, kidney beans, pigeon pea and sprouted grains get spoilt easily due to the humidity. So, they should be avoided. Opt for cooked or steamed veggies. Avoid salads as they comprise raw vegetables that contain active bacteria which lead to various infections and affect the body's immunity. Avoid strong smelling or extra sweet fruits, such as mangoes and jackfruit that attract flies as their excess intake can cause skin irritation and stomach ache. It's also important to store vegetables the right way during the rains. Do not wash the veggies thoroughly before storing, as the moisture will attract pathogenic fungus. These bacteria can spread to other susceptible food items as well, making them unhygienic. Instead, pat dry and store separate food items in different containers. Buy them in limited portions and use them as soon as possible.
- (4) Dehydration makes your hair brittle and scanty. So hydrate yourself. Zinc and iron help to keep your tresses healthy and beautiful. Consume nuts, eggs and walnuts to maintain hair strength. Walnuts are rich in biotin and vitamin E, which are excellent antioxidants. Proteins are important for hair strength too. So add curd to your diet, as it is a great source of protein. Amla juice, oranges and other citrus foods are rich in vitamin C. Vitamin C keeps your hair strong as it helps in production of collagen that among other things strengthens the hair capillaries (ensuring proper nutrient supply to our hair). Also, ensure that you wash your locks on alternate days and cover them well during the monsoon. Dried apricots, roasted sunflower seeds and lentils are better foods to consume during monsoon than other iron-rich foods which are susceptible to microbial attack. Do not forget to eat yummy corn on cob as corn is also rich in iron and zinc.
- (5) So, the secret to enjoy the rains, without the fear of affecting your health is to go light on eating. Have a safe and healthy monsoon.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven that follow.

(1 × 10 = 10)

- (i) Which of these diseases are not brought with the onset of monsoon?
(a) Typhoid (b) Conjunctivitis (c) Dengue (d) Tuberculosis
- (ii) You are prone to get the diseases brought by seasonal change if
(a) you oversleep (b) you suffer from low immunity
(c) you are exercising regularly (d) you suffer from weak eye sight

- (iii) Drinking water helps in
 (a) keeping the body hydrated (b) flushing toxins out of the body
 (c) building strong bones (d) Both (a) and (b)
- (iv) Raw vegetables should be avoided because:
 (a) they contain active bacteria which lead to various infections
 (b) they are hard to chew
 (c) they attract a lot of flies
 (d) they are poisonous
- (v) The correct way to store veggies is to :
 (a) wash them properly before storing
 (b) buy them in bulks
 (c) pat them dry, store separate items in different food containers
 (d) soak them in water
- (vi) The effects of dehydration on hair is that it :
 (a) makes it brittle and thin (b) makes it smooth
 (c) makes it luscious soft (d) makes it stink
- (vii) Foods to be consumed for healthy strong hair is
 (a) sweets (b) eggs and walnuts (c) bread (d) rice
- (viii) Which vitamin helps in the production of collagen?
 (a) Vitamin A (b) Vitamin B (c) Vitamin C (d) Vitamin D
- (ix) Choose an appropriate heading for the given passage.
 (a) How to store your food during the rainy season
 (b) Beat the monsoon woes by eating right
 (c) Monsoon sickness
 (d) Hair fall Remedy
- (x) Which of these statements is false?
 (a) Warm beverages like soup is healthier option than aerated drinks.
 (b) Vegetables such as cauliflower, bean sprouts, ladies finger are more likely to get spoilt.
 (c) Amla juice, oranges and other citrus foods are rich in vitamin D.
 (d) Iron and Zinc helps in keeping our hair healthy.
- (xi) Synonym of scorching is
 (a) breaking (b) sweltering (c) poaching (d) fluctuating

LITERATURE (20 Marks)

3. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY TWO of the three given by answering the questions that follow. (4 + 4 = 8)
- A. My last French lesson ! Why, I hardly knew how to write ! I should never learn any more ! I must stop there, then! Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons, for seeking birds' eggs, or going sliding on the Saar! My books, that had seemed such a nuisance while ago, so heavy to carry, my grammar and my history of the saints, were old friends now that I couldn't give up. And M. Hamel, too; the idea that he was going away, that I should never see him again, made me forget all about his ruler and how cranky he was.
- (i) Who is regretting for not learning the French language properly?
 (a) M Hamel (b) Franz (c) The Germans (d) The villagers

- (ii) Why was M Hamel going away?
- Because he got a promotion.
 - Because he is old and retiring.
 - Because teaching of French language was going to be banned from schools.
 - Because he was transferred to another school.
- (iii) "About his ruler and how cranky he was." Means M Hamel was a/an _____ teacher.
- funny
 - lenient
 - strict
 - evil
- (iv) Which word in the passage means "burden"?
- Lessons
 - History
 - Nuisance
 - Cranky
- B.** You look at me...and then you see my face and you think. 'That's bad. That's a terrible thing. That's the ugliest thing I ever saw.' You think, 'Poor boy.' But I'm not. Not poor. Underneath, you are afraid. Anybody would be. I am. When I look in the mirror, and see it, I'm afraid of me...
- (i) Who said these lines?
- Mr Lamb
 - Derek
 - Derek's mother
 - Stranger
- (ii) People called Derek "poor boy" because
- They were angry at him
 - They were genuinely concerned for him
 - They felt pity for him
 - They thought the boy needed money
- (iii) What did he mean by the terrible thing?
- Mr lamb's legs
 - Derek's scar on his face
 - Derek's personality
 - Mr Lamb's personality
- (iv) Who is afraid of whom according to Derek?
- Mr Lamb is afraid of Derek
 - Derek is afraid of Mr lamb
 - Everyone is afraid of Derek
 - His mother is afraid of Derek
- C.** 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
- he felt lost in the water
 - he enjoyed the feeling of sinking in the water
 - he was struggling against the water to stay afloat and he was drowning despite his efforts
 - he felt he could go deeper than he already was
- (ii) What did the narrator first do when he reached to the bottom of the pool?
- He opened his eyes in the water.
 - He tried to breathe under water.
 - He tried to scream for help.
 - He summoned all his strength and tried to make what a great spring upwards.
- (iii) Which line/phrase says the narrator couldn't breathe?
- I grew panicky.
 - I was suffocating.
 - I tried to yell but no sound came out.
 - I came up slowly.
- (iv) How did the water look to the narrator at the bottom of the pool?
- The water had a yellow tinge.
 - The water looked vast.
 - the water looked grey and dark.
 - The water looked like a rope.

4. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow. (1 × 4 = 4)

A. I looked again at her, wan, pale
as a late winter's moon and felt that old
familiar ache, my childhood's fear,

- (i) Who is 'her' in the poem?
(a) Her is the childhood of the poem (b) 'Her' refers to the mother.
(c) Her means the poet herself (d) None of these
- (ii) Why did the poet look at 'her' again?
(a) Because she hadn't seen her mother for a long time.
(b) Because they were saying goodbye.
(c) Because she was worried about her aging mother and was afraid of losing her.
(d) Because she was not able to recognise her mother's face.
- (iii) What was the poet's childhood fear?
(a) Losing her mother. (b) Losing her youth
(c) Running into monsters (d) Losing her home
- (iv) The main highlight of the given lines is about
(a) The poet's mother is old, weak and possibly ill (b) The poet's childhood memories
(c) The poet's fear of losing her youth (d) The poet's guilt of not being with her mother

B. When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie.
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.
The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

- (i) Why are Aunt Jennifer's hands terrified?
(a) Due to the ordeals and hardships she has had to face being in a patriarchal society
(b) Due to old age her hands were shaking
(c) Due to the terror she spread while alive
(d) Due to her own insecurities
- (ii) Why did she make the tigers?
(a) She wanted the tiger's design in the embroidery
(b) She has created tigers which are symbols of confidence and fearlessness because she wants to be like them.
(c) Because tigers will take care of the bad people
(d) Because tigers were lucky for Aunt Jennifer
- (iii) How is the tiger that Aunt Jennifer created?
(a) Quiet and timid (b) Bright and sweet
(c) proud and unafraid (d) Ugly and evil
- (iv) "ringed with ordeals" signifies
(a) The ring on her hands (b) The burden of marriage and patriarchy
(c) Aunt Jennifer's happy life (d) The tiger

5. Attempt ANY EIGHT questions of following from the ten given below. (1 × 8 = 8)

- (i) Douglas had his first trauma of water when he was
(a) at the YMCA pool (b) at the beach with his father
(c) at Lake Wentworth (d) diving off a cliff

- (ii) John Keats believed that a thing of beauty
 (a) was meaningless (b) gives you false pleasure
 (c) gives you eternal joy (d) doesn't last forever.
- (iii) Saheb was happier picking rags for a living than
 (a) going to school (b) working as a bangle maker
 (c) working at a tea stall (d) studying at school
- (iv) Sadao couple put _____ before patriotism
 (a) greed (b) fear (c) humanity (d) work
- (v) Stephen Spender wanted the children in the slum
 (a) to get a decent education and escape from their dreary lives
 (b) to give up on their miserable existence
 (c) for people to come forward and adopt these slum children
 (d) for the children to hate their parents
- (vi) When Aunt Jennifer embroidered the Tiger, it was supposed to be a symbol of _____
 (a) loss (b) love (c) courage (d) weakness
- (vii) Two adjectives that can be best associated with Evans is
 (a) petty and competitive (b) bold and daring
 (c) shrewd and meticulous (d) impulsive and ambitious
- (viii) Pablo Neruda in Keeping Quiet is mainly asking the world
 (a) to observe total inactivity
 (b) to leave their jobs and start meditation
 (c) to suspend useless activities that bring harm to the world
 (d) to abandon all ambition
- (ix) For Jo the fact that Roger Skunk was made to smell like a skunk again felt like a
 (a) good ending (b) wrong ending (c) touching ending (d) wise ending.
- (x) The peddler was mostly influenced by _____ to mend his ways.
 (a) Elda (b) Elda's father (c) the crofter (d) ironsmith

PART - B (40 Marks)

WRITING (16 Marks)

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 3 = 3)
- A. Your grandfather with amnesia aged 75 has been missing for the last three days. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words for the Missing Persons column of a local newspaper. You are Shree. Contact number 98XXXXXX.
- OR
- B. The school magazine 'RAMBLINGS' will be published in the first week of December. Students are requested to contribute articles, poems, riddles, short stories, funny anecdotes, cartoons etc to the undersigned by 10th September. Write a notice for school notice board in 50 words.
7. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 3 = 3)
- A. On 30th November your school is going to hold its annual sports day. You want Mr. Napoleon Singh a noted football player to give away the prizes to the budding sportspersons of the school. Write a formal invitation in about 50 words requesting him to grace the occasion. You are Karuna/Karan, Sports Secretary, Sunrise Global School, Agra.

OR

- B. You have received an invitation to be the judge for a debate competition in St. Ann's School. Send a reply in not more than 50 words, confirming your acceptance.

8. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 5 = 5)

- A. You are Mandeep/Manya, a resident of Flat No. - 97, Good Faith Apartments, M.G. Road, Pune. You placed an order for the supply of several books a month ago. You finally received the books a month late and you found that the books sent weren't the ones you ordered. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the manager of Sai Book Store, Delhi, returning the sent books and cancelling the order. Ask for refund of the amount you paid in advance at the time you placed the order and also the cost you had to bear in order to return the package.

OR

- B. You are Roy of 2/A, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi. Write a letter to the Police commissioner (traffic) about inadequate parking facility in the nearby area of New Delhi.

9. Attempt ANY ONE of the following : (1 × 5 = 5)

- A. Your school recently joined a campaign for water conservation. Write a report on the event.

OR

- B. Write an article on the value and appreciation of art and how it enriches our lives. You are Rajiv/Rani.

LITERATURE (24 Marks)

10. Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below, in 30-40 words each. (2 × 5 = 10)

- (i) Why can't the bangle makers organise themselves into a co-operative?
- (ii) Why did the author go to Lake Wentworth in New Hampshire?
- (iii) What does Stephen Spender want for the children of the school in a slum?
- (iv) How can 'mighty dead' be things of beauty?
- (v) Why did the villagers come to attend the class of M. Hamel?
- (vi) What was Kamala Das' childhood fear?

11. Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below in 30-40 words each. (2 × 2 = 4)

- (i) What doubts did Edla have about the peddler?
- (ii) Why did Charley rush back from the third level?
- (iii) How did Dr Sadao take bullet out of the body of the American soldier?

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words. (1 × 5 = 5)

- A. Why according to Gandhi the amount of refund didn't matter as much as the act of getting the refund?

OR

- B. How did the instructor make Douglas a good swimmer?

13. Attempt ANY ONE out of the following questions in 120-150 words (1 × 5 = 5)

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

OR

- B. How far was Stephens helpful for Evans' escape?

SOLUTIONS

1. (i) (c) Walmart
(ii) (b) \$.1000
(iii) (c) 1862
(iv) (b) By sorting the mail on the train before every stop
(v) (c) 40
(vi) (b) Richard Nixon
(vii) (c) Organise its workload to work efficiently
(viii) (b) Benjamin Franklin
(ix) (a) 44 cents
(x) (d) The first U.S. postage stamp, issued in 1849.
(ix) (c) median

2. (i) (d) tuberculosis
(ii) (b) you suffer from low immunity
(iii) (d) Both (a) and (b)
(iv) (a) they contain active bacteria which lead to various infections
(v) (c) pat them dry, store separate items in different food containers
(vi) (a) makes it brittle and thin
(vii) (b) eggs and walnuts
(viii) (c) Vitamin C
(ix) (c) Monsoon sickness
(x) (c) Amla juice, oranges and other citrus foods are rich in vitamin D.
(xi) (b) sweltering

3. A. (i) (b) Franz
(ii) (c) Because teaching of French language was going to be banned from schools.
(iii) (c) strict
(iv) (c) Nuisance

OR

- B. (i) (b) Derek
(ii) (c) They felt pity for him

- (iii) (b) Derek's scar on his face
(iv) (c) Everyone is afraid of Derek

- C. (i) (c) he was struggling against the water to stay afloat and he was drowning despite his efforts
(ii) (d) He summoned all his strength and tried to make what a great spring upwards.
(iii) (b) I was suffocating.
(iv) (a) The water had a yellow tinge.

4. A. (i) (b) 'Her' refers to the mother.
(ii) (c) Because she was worried about her aging mother and was afraid of losing her.
(iii) (a) Losing her mother.
(iv) (a) The poet's mother is old, weak and possibly ill
B. (i) (a) Due to the ordeals and hardships she has had to face being in a patriarchal society
(ii) (b) She has created tigers which are symbols of confidence and fearlessness because she wants to be like them.
(iii) (c) Proud and unafraid
(iv) (b) The burden of marriage and patriarchy

5. (i) (b) at the beach with his father
(ii) (c) gives you eternal joy
(iii) (c) working at a tea stall
(iv) (c) humanity
(v) (a) to get a decent education and escape from their dreary lives
(vi) (c) courage
(vii) (c) shrewd and meticulous
(viii) (c) to suspend useless activities that bring harm to the world
(ix) (b) wrong ending
(x) (a) Elda

6.A.

Missing Person

General Public is hereby informed about the missing of a 75-year-old man from Jagni Park in Giraj Nagar three days ago. The man has amnesia and might not remember his name, he is known by the name Kailash, is fair complexioned and was wearing a grey shirt and blue pants. Anyone knowing anything about his whereabouts please contact: Shree, contact no. 98xxxxxxx A cash prize to anyone who brings him home is promised.

7.A.

Sunrise Global School takes pleasure in inviting

Noted Football Player
MR. NAPOLEAN SINGH
to grace the occasion of its

Annual Sports Day, and to give away prizes to our budding sportspersons.
on 30th November, 20xx
From 8:00 am to 12:00 pm
Awaiting a favourable response from your end.
Karuna
Sports Secreta

8. 48, Court Road
Trichur
21st March, 20××
The Editor
The Daily Mirror
M.G. Road,
Kerala-19
Sir/Madam,

Subject: Suggestions to Make Tourist Spots Appealing

Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I would like to draw the attention of the concerned authority as well as the general public towards lack of maintenance of tourist spots.

My recent experience at a popular tourist spot close to where I live has left me extremely disappointed and I couldn't help but wonder at the way the place was being maintained.

I was saddened to see the place littered with garbage, empty bottles and wrappers of eatables, entry ticket etc. but no one to clean it.

This is the result of the callous attitude of the people visiting the tourists spots and their complete disregard for the rules laid down by the authorities. In addition to that caretakers fail to take proper care of the place, which leads to its gradual ruination. Tourist spots, lying in utter neglect are an eye sore and create a negative impression on tourists. It also puts our country in bad light further leading to its negative publicity. The authorities should take strict action against those caught littering, breaking the rules or causing any kind of damage to the tourist spots. Residents living in the surrounding areas, with the help of volunteers, should start cleanliness drives and also encourage others to take the initiative.

I hope, I have been able to highlight the problem in this letter and that the suggested solutions will help bring about some positive changes.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Maya Swamy

9. B. Importance of Art

by Rani

Art has existed for many years in our society. We have seen paintings in caves and rocks. However, many of us don't take art very seriously. We think it's something anyone can do. But art needs lots of creativity and is very important for our society. It's a part of what makes us human – a form of expression. When children are young, they draw to express themselves. They try to draw something creative that reflects their thought process.

Art is also a remarkable mode of depicting culture from all over the world. Just like the paintings made in caves and rocks by the ancient people, it gives us an idea about their culture and a form of preserving it. It reflects a society's beliefs, cultural values, etc.

Art is powerful because it can potentially influence our culture, politics, and even the economy. When we see a powerful work of art, we feel moved, connected to a wider understanding of human experience. It calls to the emotional response and make people access to higher, deeper ways of thinking and perception.

In today's world art can be consumed in varied formats like films, music, painting, sculpture etc, art has the flexibility to educate and awaken the conscious of people while entertaining its audience/spectator.

Art may not cure diseases and drive away poverty but it plays a big role in evoking empathy and care towards the world. After all what's knowledge without soul, just logic without purpose and art provides the soul of our collective understanding.

10. (i) The bangle makers can't organise themselves into co-operative because they have fallen into a vicious circle of middlemen who had trapped their fathers and forefathers. If they get organised, they are beaten and dragged to jail for doing something wrong.
(ii) 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.

(iii) The poet wants that the children should be shown green fields; they should be allowed to live a free and carefree life. Without any worry, they can concentrate well on their studies. The poet says only those people create history who are carefree.

(iv) The 'mighty dead' refers to our forefathers. The glorious tales of our valor fill us with a sense of pride and are also things of beauty as they fill us with pleasure and motivation. Their death though tragic continues to inspire us through their brave sacrifice.

(v) M. Hamel was taking the class of last 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 his own language.

11. (i) As Edla lifted the peddler's hat, he jumped up abruptly and seemed to be quite frightened. Even her kind looks, disclosure of her name and purpose of visit failed to calm him. From his fear, she thought that either he had stolen something or he had escaped from jail.

(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.

12. A. Gandhi fought the case on behalf of the sharecroppers and the evidence that he collected was so overwhelming that the landlords were asked to repay. When Gandhi asked for 50% repayment, the landlords

offered to pay only 25% as they wanted to create a deadlock and thus prolong the dispute. Gandhi agreed to a refund of 25%. According to him the amount of refund had very little impact as compared to the idea of the British govt and the landlords giving in to the rightful demands of the farmers. What mattered was that these people in power and position after years of exploiting the helpless farmers were obliged to surrender a part of their money and with it, part of their prestige. The peasants understood their rights and how people were there to support them in upholding their rights. They learned courage. Gradually, indigo sharecropping disappeared from the area and the land came back to the poor peasants.

13. 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 touch 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.

