

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 2
English Language and Literature (184)
Class IX (2024-25)

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

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

Section A Reading

1. Read the passage given below:

[10]

1. If you're like most kids, you may love snow. Not only can it get you out of school, but it's also fun to play with. Who doesn't love to sled and build snowmen ? Snow can also be dangerous, too. You may have heard your parents talk about how difficult it can be to drive in snow. Car accidents aren't the only dangers created by snow. If you're ever skiing in the mountains, you'll want to be aware of avalanches. An avalanche is a sudden flow of snow down a slope, such as a mountain. The amount of snow in an avalanche will vary based on many things, but it can be such a huge pile that it can bury the bottom of a slope in dozens of feet of snow.
2. Avalanches can be caused by many things. Some of them are natural. For example, new snow or rain can cause built up snow to loosen and fall down the side of a mountain. Earthquakes and the movement of animals have also been known to cause avalanches. Artificial triggers can also cause avalanches. For example, snowmobiles, skiers, gunshots and explosives have all been known to cause avalanches. Avalanches usually occur during the winter and spring, when snowfall is greatest. As they are dangerous to any living beings in their path, avalanches have destroyed forests, roads, railroads and even entire towns.
3. Warning signs exist that allow experts to predict - and often prevent - avalanches from occurring. When over a foot of fresh snow falls, experts know

to be on the lookout for avalanches. Explosives can be used in places with massive snow build-ups to trigger smaller avalanches that don't pose a danger to persons or property. When deadly avalanches do occur, the moving snow can quickly reach over 80 miles per hour. Skiers caught in such avalanches can be buried under dozens of feet of snow. While it's possible to dig out of such avalanches, not all are able to escape.

4. If you get tossed about by an avalanche and find yourself buried under many feet of snow, you might not have a true sense of which way is up and which way is down. Some avalanche victims have tried to dig their way out, only to find that they were upside down and digging themselves farther under the snow rather than to the top ! Experts suggest that people caught in an avalanche try to "swim" to the top of the moving snow to stay close to the surface. Once the avalanche stops, do your best to dig around you to create a space for air, so you can breathe easier. Then, do your best to figure out which way is up and dig in that direction to reach the surface and signal rescuers.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below: (10)

- i. Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option: Avalanche can be caused by (1)
 - a. new snow or rain.
 - b. heavy winds.
 - c. high altitude.
 - d. global warming.
- ii. Comment on warning signs exist which allow experts to predict avalanches in two sentences. (2)
- iii. Mention two reasons which destroyed the natural scenery. (2)
- iv. Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'massive': (1)
 - a. tiny
 - b. lengthy
 - c. bulky
 - d. extensive
- v. The writer will agree with one of the given statements (paragraph 4) (1)
 - a. People caught in the Avalanche can try to swim to the top.
 - b. Put on an oxygen Mask.

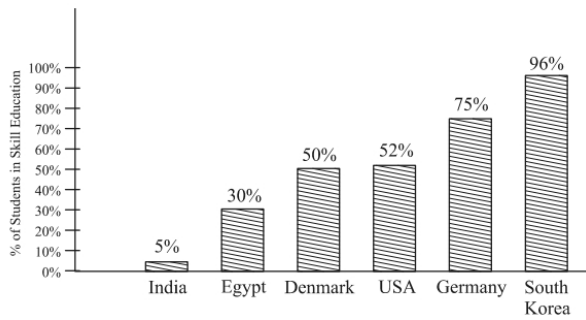
- c. Digging is not possible.
- d. Should not come close to the surface.
- vi. Select the option that corresponds to the following relation below:
You may not have an idea of which way is up and which way is down. (1)
 - a. The crowd will gather at Gate No. 1 and disperse from Gate No. 2.
 - b. Due to the torrential rain, there was a heavy flooding.
 - c. The guest felt uneasy and uncomfortable watching the child's performance.
 - d. The more the effort, the bigger the gain.
- vii. Fill in the blank with a suitable text:
The major causes which do not trigger an avalanche is _____ (1)
- viii. Explosives can be used in places _____. (complete the sentence) (1)

2. Read the extract given below:

[10]

1. The National Education Policy 2020 proposes the revision and revamping of all aspects of education, including the educational structure, regulations and governance, to create a new system which is aligned with the aspirational goals of 21st century students. According to the policy, by 2025, at least 50 % of learners through the school and higher education system shall have exposure to skill education, for which a clear action plan with targets and timelines are to be developed.
2. The policy aims to overcome the social status hierarchy associated with skill education and integration of skill education into mainstream education in all educational institutions in a phased manner. Beginning with skill exposure at early ages in middle and secondary school, quality skill education will be integrated smoothly into school and higher education.
3. Every child will learn at least one skill and is exposed to several more. This would lead to emphasizing the dignity of labour and importance of various vocations involving Indian arts and artisanship.
4. The development of skill capacities will go hand-in-hand with the development of 'academic' or other capacities. To achieve this objective, secondary schools will have to collaborate with Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), Polytechnics, Local Industry, etc. Skill labs will also be set up and created in the schools in a Hub and Spoke model, which will allow other schools to use the facility. Higher education institutions will offer skill education either on their own or in partnership with industry and other institutions.

The Global Scenario of Students in Skill Education Sector.



For visually challenged students only:

Percentage of students in Skill Education in various countries is as follows:

India - 5%

Egypt - 30%

Denmark - 50%

USA - 52%

Germany - 75%

South Korea - 96%

Based on your understanding of the extract, answer the questions given below: (10)

- i. Based on the reading of the extract, list 2 objectives of NEP 2020. (2)
- ii. Fill in the blank with appropriate option from those given in the brackets, based on the understanding of paragraph 4.

The statement:

"The development of skill capacities will go hand-in-hand with the development of academic or other capacities" is a / an _____ (fact / opinion) because it is a / an _____ (subjective judgement / objective detail)
(1)

- iii. Select the option that corresponds to the meaning of the statement given below:
"According to the policy, by 2025, at least 50% of learners through the school and higher education system shall have exposure to skill education." (1)
A. Maximum 50% learners shall have exposure to technical education.
B. Minimum 50% learners shall have exposure to technical education.
C. Minimum 50% learners shall have exposure to skill education.
D. Maximum 50 % learners shall have exposure to skill education.
- iv. Based on the understanding of the passage, complete the following statement appropriately: (1)
The benefit of the hub and spoke model will be _____

- v. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word / phrase from paragraph 3.: (1)
Racism: condemn:: _____: respect
- vi. As per the Global Scenario which country has the maximum percentage of students in Skill Education and what can be the possible reason (2)
- vii. Fill in the following blank choosing the most appropriate option from the ones given below:
As per NEP 2020, skill exposure will begin at _____. (1)
A. middle and secondary school
B. primary school
C. higher school
D. senior secondary school
- viii. Justify the statement - 'The NEP will create an awareness and appreciation of Indian arts and artisanship.' (1)

Section B Grammar

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed [10]

- (i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter: [1]

As very little information is available about this course, I _____ (be) extremely grateful if you could send me detailed information about it.

- (ii) Identify the error and supply the correction, for the following: [1]

Government of Haryana	
WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY	
‘Nagar Van’ are being established for the objective to make the cities pollution free	

Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

- (iii) Read the conversation and complete the sentence by reporting the reply correctly. [1]

Ranbir: Sir, can I be excused this once?

Policeman: I hope you'll remember the lesson you learned today.

Ranbir requested the policeman to excuse him that once. The policeman hoped _____.

- (iv) Ritu bumped into an ex-colleague (Gautam) at a party. They discussed their current job profile. Report what Gautam asked Ritu. [1]

Do you work from home?

- (v) She got her license without _____ problems. [1]

- a) every b) some
c) any d) All

- (vi) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a news report: [1]

Education plays a important role in building an individual's identity and personality.

Option no.	Error	Correction
A	plays	play
B	a	an
C	in	for
D	an	the

- (vii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the words of Pablo Picasso. **[1]**

Inspiration does exist, but it find you working.

- a) must b) will
c) may d) can

- (viii) I expect you _____ from school by this time next year and _____ for a [1]
job.

- a) graduate / will have been looking b) will have graduated / will be looking
- c) are graduating / have been looking d) have graduated / will have looked

(ix) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option. [1]

We _____ not really change a man's mind and heart with money.

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| a) may | b) might |
| c) could | d) can |

(x) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter: [1]

The President

RWA, Magna Greens Apartments

42, Gandhi Marg, Jonpara

Mumbai

Subject: _____ (seek) Recommendation for 'Serving Citizens' Award'
Nominations.

Dear Sir

(xi) The boy who won the two medals _____ a friend of mine. [1]

- | | |
|--------|---------|
| a) is | b) have |
| c) are | d) had |

(xii) Many students _____ made the same mistake. [1]

- | | |
|---------|--------|
| a) have | b) is |
| c) are | d) has |

Section B Writing

4. You recently visited the Children's Park, a favourite place for all children, in your city. Write a description. [5]

OR

'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 to analyse the given statement. Think of alternative explanation to counter or weaken the given statement.

5. Write a diary entry about how you helped an old woman who was travelling by herself in the bus. [5]

OR

Complete the story with the following beginning. Also, give it a suitable title.

Madhukar is Radhika's constant companion. She met him on the train in a very unusual way when ...

Section C Literature

6. **Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.** [5]

- (i) **Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:** [5]

“Look here, it seems to me I met you the day before yesterday in Sadovya Street,” he said; “but you told me then that you were a student who had been expelled, and not a village school teacher. Do you remember?” “N-no, that can’t be so,” mumbled the beggar, taken aback. “I am a village school teacher, and if you like I can show you my papers.” “Have done with lying! You called yourself a student and even told me what you had been expelled for. Don’t you remember?” Sergei flushed and turned from the ragged creature with an expression of disgust. “This is dishonesty, my dear sir!” he cried angrily. “This is swindling — I shall send the police for you, damn you!” “Sir!” he said, laying his hand on his heart, “the fact is I was lying! I am neither a student nor a school teacher. All that was fiction. Formerly I sang in a Russian choir and was sent away for drunkenness. But what else can I do? I can’t get along without lying. No one will give me anything when I tell the truth, what can I do?”

- i. State one inference about beggar from the given context (1)
- ii. What is Sergei's reaction to the beggar's confession, and what does it reveal about Sergei's character? Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract. (2)
- iii. State TRUE or FALSE. (1)
None of the options (a)-(d) below, can be applied to the question - What was the beggar's actual occupation?
 - a. Student
 - b. Teacher
 - c. Advocate
 - d. Singer

iv. Which phrase or word would correctly substitute "expelled" in the given sentence from the extract? (1)

“but you told me then that you were a student who had been expelled, and not a village school teacher.

(ii) **Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:** [5]

I took off my black coat, white shin, and not-so-white vest and hung them up. I opened the two windows in the room. It was an outer room with one wall facing the open yard. It had a tiled roof with long supporting gables that rested on the beam over the wall. There was no ceiling. There was regular traffic of rats to and from the beam. I made my bed and pulled it closer to the wall. I lay down but I could not sleep. I got up and went out to the veranda for a little air, but the Wind God seemed to have taken time off.

- a. What inference would you draw from the doctor's description of his surroundings? (1)
- b. Which celestial entity appeared to be absent when the narrator sought some fresh air in the veranda? (1)
 - i. The Sun
 - ii. The Moon
 - iii. The Wind
 - iv. The Rain
- c. The doctor's approach towards describing his surroundings was highly effective and had slight humour. Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract (2)
- d. Which phrase would correctly substitute 'taken time off.', in the given sentence from the extract? (1)

I got up and went out to the veranda for a little air, but the Wind God seemed to have taken time off.

7. **Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.** [5]

(i) **Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.** [5]

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood

And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

- a. The color yellow symbolizes the _____ season. (1)
- b. What is the cause of the poet's feelings of sorrow? (2)
- c. What was the emotional state of the poet in the provided lines? (1)
 - i. he was confused
 - ii. he was indifferent
 - iii. he was agitated
 - iv. he was excited
- d. What does the phrase 'long I stood' reflect about the poet? (1)

(ii) **Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.** [5]

No motion has she now, no force-
She neither hears nor sees,
Rolled round in earth's diurnal course
With rocks and stones and trees.

- a. **'Rolled round in earth's diurnal course'** What does the poet intend to say in the given line? (1)
- b. She can't see and hear because she is _____. (1)
- c. What is she incapable of doing? (2)
- d. Which part of speech is represented by **diurnal**? (1)
 - i. adjective
 - ii. adverb
 - iii. verb
 - iv. pronoun

8. **Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words** [12]

- (i) Why did Albert Einstein leave his school? [3]
- (ii) What shows that the poet loved his mother? Write your answer in the context of the poem, 'Rain on the Roof'. [3]
- (iii) What do you think Dinamani is the name of? Give a reason for your answer. [3]
- (iv) What is the belief at Pashupatinath about the end of Kaliyug? [3]

(v) Why does the poet say that the hours of the day are few? Write your answer in the context of **A Legend Of the Northland**. [3]

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. [6]

(i) Who was Behrman? What was his masterpiece? [3]

(ii) Why did the author dislike growing up? Write your answer in the context of A House is Not a Home. [3]

(iii) How did Iswaran describe the uprooted tree? [3]

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words [6]

(i) How did Evelyn Glennie fight with her physical disability? [6]

(ii) How did Santosh carve her own destiny? [6]

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. [6]

(i) The Disciple in the story didn't look into the depth of the matter and took a hasty decision of not leaving the kingdom of fools. What light does the story throw on the importance of good decision-making in one's life? [6]

(ii) What changes do you notice in the behaviour of the child, once he is separated from his parents in the story **The Lost Child**? [6]

Solution
SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 2
English Language and Literature (184)
Class IX (2024-25)
Section A Reading

1.
 - i. new snow or rain.
 - ii. Even after warning signs that reveal danger of avalanches, there is a high risk of danger to persons or property. Escape from such danger is not possible always.
 - iii. (1) Artificial Reasons – Snow mobiles, skiers, gunshots and explosives
(2) Natural Reasons – Earthquakes, avalanches
 - iv. tiny
 - v. People caught in the Avalanche can try to swim to the top
 - vi. The crowd will gather at Gate No. 1 and disperse from Gate No. 2.
 - vii. Plastic waste
 - viii. With massive snow build-ups to trigger smaller avalanche
2.
 - i.
 - a. Increase access to skill education
 - b. Integrate skill education into mainstream education
 - ii. a fact, an objective detail
 - iii. Minimum 50% learners shall have exposure to skill education.
 - iv. allowing other schools to access the facility of skill models.
 - v. Racism : condemn :: Skill education : respect
 - vi. South Korea - 96%
Reason: The possible reason for this could be the emphasis and importance laid on vocational and skill-based education in the country's education system.
 - vii. (A) middle and secondary school
 - viii. The NEP aims to ensure that every child learns at least one skill and is exposed to several more, including Indian arts and artisanship. By integrating skill education into mainstream education and emphasizing the dignity of labor, the NEP will promote awareness and appreciation of Indian arts and artisanship among students, thus preserving and promoting traditional Indian crafts and skills.

Section B Grammar

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed

(i) would be

(ii) error	correction
for	with

(iii) that he would remember the lesson he had learned that day.

(iv) Gautam asked Ritu if/whether she worked from home.

(v) (c) any

Explanation: {

any

(vi)(B) a - an

(vii)(a) must

Explanation: {

must

(viii)(b) will have graduated / will be looking

Explanation: {

will have graduated / will be looking

(ix)(d) can

Explanation: {

can

(x) Seeking

(xi)(a) is

Explanation: {

is

(xii)(a) have

Explanation: {

have

Section B Writing

4. Children's Park is the place all children love to go. The park in our city of Delhi is huge. There are about 4 play areas with different types of playthings. The area for small children has swings, see-saw and slides. Then there is a ground where children can play games like badminton, volleyball etc. There is a football court as well. Facing the India Gate is a Tennis court.

Apart from all these there are green areas for parents to play with their children. Families come here for outdoor activities and enjoy picnics especially during winters. There is a provision for cooking as well. There are many trees. As a result during summers, this park remains cool in the day. A park, which, all children should definitely visit.

OR

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 a mental block in peoples minds 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 caregiving. 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.

5. 5 June, 20XX

9:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Dear Diary,

Today, I had a heartwarming encounter that reminded me of the power of kindness. While riding the bus, I noticed an elderly woman struggling to find a seat. Without hesitation, I offered her my seat and helped her settle down comfortably.

As we chatted during the journey, I learned that she was travelling alone and found it challenging to navigate the bus on her own. I offered to assist her with anything she needed, whether it was holding her belongings or helping her get off at her destination. Seeing the gratitude in her eyes filled my heart with warmth and reminded me of the importance of lending a helping hand to those in need. It was a small act of kindness that made a big difference in her day.

As I stepped off the bus, I couldn't help but smile, knowing that I had made a positive impact on someone's life. Today's experience reinforced my belief in the power of compassion and reminded me to always be ready to help others in any way I can.

Lata

OR

A Fateful Encounter

Madhukar is Radhika's constant companion. She met him on the train in a very unusual way when she was facing physical pain in her body. It was July last year when she, a medical student, was going back to her college after the summer vacation. She was glad that after a long period, she would be able to see her friends and enjoy her hostel life, but

the sudden pain in her body made her anxious. As the train chugged along, the pain became unbearable, and Radhika was worried. It was then that Madhukar, a kind-hearted fellow passenger, noticed her discomfort and offered her a pain relief balm. His simple act of kindness not only eased her pain but also sparked a deep conversation between them. Madhukar, an elderly man, shared his life experiences, and Radhika found solace in his words. From that day on, they became inseparable friends. Madhukar's wisdom and compassion became a guiding light for Radhika, and their chance encounter blossomed into a beautiful and enduring friendship.

Section C Literature

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

- (i) i. One possible inference about the beggar from the given context is that he resorts to lying and dishonesty as a means of survival because he believes that people are more likely to help him when he makes a more sympathetic story, even though it may not be true.
- ii. Sergei reacts angrily to the beggar's confession, expressing disgust and even threatening to send for the police. This reaction suggests that Sergei values honesty and despises dishonesty, indicating a sense of moral integrity in his character.
- iii. False [Option d is correct. The beggar's actual previous profession was Singer before lying about being a student or a school teacher.]
- iv. Dismissed/Ejected/Ousted/Banished [or any other possible meaning.]
- (ii) a. One possible inference that the reader draws from the given context is that the doctor was in an uncomfortable or unpleasant environment. The description of the room projected a lack of comfort or tranquility in his surroundings.
- b. (iii) The wind
- c. The doctor's description of his surroundings in the passage was effective due to his use of humor. He humorously noted how the "Wind God seemed to have taken time off," highlighting the lack of breeze. His dry wit continued as he described his clothing and the room. The mention of rats added a touch of absurdity, emphasizing the unconventional and uncomfortable nature of his environment. This blend of effective description and subtle humor created a vivid and memorable image for the reader.
- d. The phrase "but the Wind God seemed to have gone on a break" could correctly substitute "taken time off" in the given sentence.

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

- (i) a. autumn

- b. The poet repents being unable to take up both the roads as he had an ardent desire to explore both of them.
- c. (i) he was confused
- d. The speaker deeply desired to explore both paths, contemplating his decision with great intensity. He fixed his gaze upon one road, attempting to discern its destination. The phrase, '**long I stood**' projected that the poet was in a dilemma. He pondered for a while and eventually was forced to make a choice.

(ii) a. The poet reflected the fact that his lover has now become a part of earth's diurnal course which implied that now that she has been buried after death, she and earth have unified in the eternal process of day and night. This merger implied a perpetual unity, wherein she and the Earth coexisted in an unchanging progression of alternating light and darkness.

- b. dead
- c. She was unable to exhibit any motion and failed to hear, see and express.
- d. (i) adjective.

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

- (i) Albert Einstein left his school because he was not happy with the education system. He was not at ease with the strict regimentation of the school. He felt suffocated because of which he decided to leave the school.
- (ii) The pattering sound of the rain mesmerized the poet with its soothing power and sent the poet in the flashback mode. The poet remembered his mother's face. She appeared as she were years ago. The poet could still witness the same fondness in her look. This shows that the poet loved his mother.
- (iii) Dinamani is the name of a local newspaper. It can be said so because Abdul Kalam often made attempts at tracing stories related to the war in the headlines of Dinamani.
- (iv) There is a small shrine on the banks of the holy Bagmati in the Pashupatinath temple. Half part of this shrine protrudes from a stone platform. It is believed that when the shrine will emerge completely from the platform, the Goddess in the shrine will escape and that will mark the end of the Kaliyug. In other words, people there believe that once the shrine completely emerges out of the river, the goddess will be free and this incident will mark the end of Kaliyug, the calamitous era.
- (v) In the poem, the poet uses the name Northland. In the region around the North Pole (Northland), the duration of the day is very less because its position is such that the Sun's rays reach for a very short time. When this area is experiencing winter season, the duration of night is very long, and the daytime hours are very less. As a result, there are very few hours in a day.

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

- (i) Behrman was a sixty year old painter who lived on the ground floor. His masterpiece was the 'Ivy Leaf' that he painted on the wall and which looked so real. It was a masterpiece because it saved someone's life though it cost him his own life.
- (ii) The author disliked growing up because he felt that growing up brought many losses with it. He had lost his old school and his friends when he had moved to a new high school. Moreover, he lost his house when it burnt in the fire. But most of all he mourned the loss of his beloved pet cat who went missing after the fire.
- (iii) Iswaran describes the uprooted tree by first adding suspense and then a surprise ending to the account. He uses his eyes and hands quite dramatically while recounting that he was alone on a deserted road when he saw something that looked like an enormous bushy beast. Later, on a closer look, he saw that it was a fallen tree with dry branches spread out.

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

- (i) Evelyn Glennie was mentally an extremely strong girl. She defeated her physical disability due to her sheer determination and hard work. She learnt to open her body and mind to the sounds and vibrations. She used to feel as if the music was flowing through her body, skin, her cheekbones, and even in her hair. So, she joined an orchestra and later the Royal Academy of Music. She did not want to be deprived of the joy of music that made her happy. She later even gave solo performances on stage in many countries and became famous.
- (ii) Santosh did not want to let norms dictate her life. She never wanted to adhere to the irrational, hackneyed customs and wanted to live life on her own terms. In fact, she believed that if she chose a correct and a rational path, others would have to change and align themselves to her choices. Santosh left home for Delhi when she turned sixteen because her parents had begun to pressurise her to get married in keeping with the tradition. She declared that she would not marry at all if denied proper education. She told them that she planned to work part-time in order to pay her fees. They realized that their daughter was independent, had a strong will-power and firm self-belief. However, she tried her best not to hurt her parents and wrote a letter of apology to her father for not having sought his permission before joining the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering in Uttarkashi. She thus managed to carve her own destiny.

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

- (i) The Disciple in the story didn't look into the depth of the matter and took a hasty decision of not leaving the kingdom of fools. The Disciple was waylaid by the prices of the commodities. Anything could be bought with a 'Duddu'. Either it could be a mass of rice or a bunch of bananas. So, the disciple decided to stay back not listening to his Guru who advised his disciple that it was dangerous to stay back in the kingdom of fools, as there was no justice prevalent in such a kingdom. The disciple did not adhere to his Guru's advice and ultimately had to suffer. It was only when the disciple was chosen as the suitable person for execution, that he realized his mistake. He regretted his decision of staying back. Had the Guru not saved him, this small decision could have costed him his life.
- (ii) A child along with his parents went to a fair. He was extremely excited and happy on seeing the numerous stalls of toys and sweets at the fair. Unfortunately, he got separated from his parents and started crying inconsolably. He ran here and there in search of his parents, but in vain. Since the place was overcrowded, he got really scared. He started crying as he was all alone. A kind-hearted man offered him many things but he refused. The child who wanted everything from the fair was now not interested in any of these things, as he only yearned to be with his parents.