

Class X Session 2023-24
Subject - English (Lan & Lit)
Sample Question Paper - 6

Time allowed: 3 hours

Maximum marks: 80

General Instructions:

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

SECTION-A
READING SKILLS (20 MARKS)

1. Read the following text.

(1) Much of India's law-making process has been outside the scrutiny of ordinary people. They are not framed by legislators or even senior bureaucrats but are often drafts prepared by babus. Sometimes, powerful business interests influence these laws (like the Special Economic Zone Act) and then they are passed in Parliament with little or no discussion.

(2) Sometimes, a popular public demand enters the discourse of a political party and takes the shape of policy and legislation. However, the desire of citizens to participate in the framing of law and policy has intensified over the years, and their voice needs to be included in democratic decision making.

(3) With growing interest in governance, citizens may suggest policy and legislation and such deliberations will only strengthen constitutional processes. Actual consultation on draft legislation and policy require detailed discussion of the principles, framework and formulation of species. These consultations will provoke multiple views and it is important for the institutional framework to assimilate and consider them.

(4) Any group placing its views in the public domain cannot claim total representation. There will be criticism and those need to be resolved. However, assemblies of people can only support the need for legislation. Surveys and votes by raising hands are important to register support for the general idea but cannot be the basis for detailed drafting of a law and its constituent parts.

(5) The principles and framework of any legislation must be debated and the erroneous conclusion that any difference of opinion is tantamount to mala fide intent needs to be questioned. It is in any case only of peripheral importance, as the issues themselves need to be addressed. This applies to laws made both by the formal and informal structures.

(6) Many democracies in the world already have started placing policy and draft laws in the public domain before they are sent to the government, cabinet and then Parliament. The deliberative consultative process is for everyone but focuses more on people who are most affected by the legislation. The policy and the sharing of framework are followed by a draft of the bill itself. All this is done within a time frame. The nascent process of participation of citizens in shaping legislation in the two decades will find systemic space and democratic credibility.

(7) Today, Lokpal has become a phrase, a concept and almost a passion. But that apart, the unpacking of the concept and the understanding of the bill, and its legal and administrative mechanisms are restricted to a few civil society and government groups. It is time for the interest groups to build a constituency of concerned people who will steer democracy in consonance with constitutional rights. What we need is a well-argued critique of the way we want change.

(8) What we need is a transparent pre-legislative process within the democratic framework. It is important that the pre-legislative process is evolved and shaped in a synergetic manner. If it is properly institutionalised, it will not impinge on executive or legislative privilege. There should be a response to citizens' desire to participate in framing legislation by creating platforms for institutionalised participation to deepen democratic processes.

(9) India today is at a moment in history where a more complex political idiom is being evolved. This needs to be understood, nurtured and used for enriching our processes of making law and policy. It is a test of the maturity of people, polity and the underlying democratic mores of all of us.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage.

i. What is the author's view about principles and framework of any legislation? Why is the discussion on draft legislation required?

ii. According to the author, a country could gain democratic credibility by. _____

iii. What, according to the author, is wrong with Lokpal Bill?

A. Lokpal Bill does not cater to the poor.

B. Only the rich benefit from it.

C. Very few people understand the legal and administrative mechanisms of the Lokpal Bill.

D. All of these

iv. Which of these statements is false?

A. Sometimes, powerful business interests influence laws.

B. Any group placing its views in the public domain cannot claim total representation.

C. India today is at a moment in history where a more complex political idiom is being evolved.

D. Surveys and votes by raising hands are enough to register support for drafting laws.

V. Whom is the deliberative consultative process for and how does it work?

vi. The author's suggestion for citizens wanting to participate in framing legislation is _____

vii. What we need is a well-argued critique of the way we want change. "well-argued critique" means _____

viii. Indian laws are mostly drafted by. _____

2. Read the following text.

(1) Are your children toxic? I don't mean 'toxic' as in the pain-in-the neck teenager state that occurs between the ages of 12 and 16 and makes you wish you could flush them down the toilet because they grunt instead of talk, and loll about sighing endlessly for hours on end. I mean, are your children having the kind of childhood that is damaging them in a way that will debilitate them for the rest of their lives?

(2) If they are not having a toxic childhood it is probably because you are not letting them lead the kind of lifestyle that many, if not most, of their friends are leading; a lifestyle that is causing great concern among teachers from many countries around the world.

(3) All around the world, teachers are examining and discussing how the cultural and lifestyle changes of the past 25 years are affecting the lives of children. They know that many of the changes that benefit adults are far from healthy for our children. "A toxic cocktail of the side effects of cultural change is now damaging the social, emotional and cognitive development of a growing number of children with knock-on effects on their behaviour," is how educationist and author Sue Palmer explains it.

(4) 110 teachers, psychologists, children's authors and leading childcare experts called on the government of Britain to act to prevent childhood being killed off altogether. According to them, processed food, computer games and over-competitive education are poisoning today's children, and increasingly children are being forced "to act and dress like mini adults."

(5) Research backs what these childcare experts are saying. Changes in diet, childcare patterns, parenting, family structure, play, bed times, family interaction, education, marketing, peer pressure, technology, electronics, and the way we communicate with our children are creating a 'toxic mix' that is damaging them. Children are becoming increasingly unhealthy and depressed, and are experiencing growing levels of behavioural and developmental problems. Not only this, the experts also point out that children lack first-hand experience of the world and regular interaction with their parents.

(6) Of course, we do not need experts or research to tell us that academic pressure, marketing, absent careerist parents and the rest of the modern toxic mix is damaging our children. We can see it here in the increase in childhood obesity and childhood diabetes; in the rise in the number of children with attention deficit problems and in the increase in numbers of hyperactive

children. We know it from the stress and strain related to exams and study, and in the increase in study/exam-related suicides.

(7) So before you answer the question "are your children toxic?", take a good long look at them and their lifestyle. And remember, parents don't usually poison their children on purpose. Adults too are susceptible to "market forces" and peer pressure. It is almost natural when all around you other people's kids are eating junk and living toxic lives to look at your own child and think: mine must too. But it doesn't have to be that way. Luckily, for all of us there are plenty of changes we can make to detoxify our children's childhood. All it needs is a little thought and some common sense. In the process, we can help detoxify ourselves.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage.

i. What are teachers around the world concerned for?

ii. Complete the following statement appropriately.

Children being toxic mean when _____

iii. What suggestion does the author have for parents to detoxify their children's childhood?

A. Giving them more pocket money

B. Sending them to a strict school

C. A little thought and some common sense

D. More computer games

iv. State whether the following lines display an example of simple/complex/suggestive/objective statement. Children are being forced "to act and dress like mini adults".

V. What did the experts point out in the context of childrens' behavioural and developmental problems?

vi. Teachers, psychologists and child experts observed some reasons behind the behavioural changes prevailing in the children. Elaborate those ways/reasons that harm our children.

vii. Which of these problems is not the ill-effects from a toxic environment?

A. Child obesity

B. Suicide deaths related to exam

C. Attention deficit problems in children

D. Improvement in grades

viii. By "absent careerist parents", the author is calling out parents who _____

SECTION-B

WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)

GRAMMAR

(10)

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

i. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option.

(1)

I _____ my summer project yesterday and now I am bored.

A. am completed B. has completed C. completed D. am completing

ii. Read the following dialogue between a mother and her son. Complete the paragraph that follows by filling in the gaps appropriately. (1)

Marie : Did you see my new umbrella? Isn't it fine?

Tony: Yes, it is! Did you buy it from the mall?

Marie: No, your father has brought it for me.

Marie asked her son Tony _____ and she wanted to know whether it was a fine one.

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

According to scientists, chimpanzees _____ walk upright like a man.

A. may

B. can

C. should

D. must

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

Swift's 'Gulliver's Travels' have been read by me several times.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A.	Swift's	Swift
B.	have	has
C.	by	with
D.	times	time

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

Before I reached the hospital, the doctor _____ performed the operation.

A. has

B. was

C. had

D. will have

vi. Fill in the blank with the most suitable verb form. (1)

The modern students _____ (understand) the importance of physical exercise. They want a healthy future, and are obligated to keep themselves fit.

vii. Report the dialogue between a grandson and his grandfather by completing the sentence. (1)

Grandfather: I bought this book for you a day before yesterday.

Grandson: Thank you so much, grandpa.

Grandfather told his grandson that _____ .

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

I stand up for him when everyone else was criticizing him.

	ction

ix. Report into indirect speech.

Aman said to Tia, "Did you go to the mall yesterday?"

x. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the given sentence.

Alex invited us over _____ (few/ a few/ the few) days ago to her house for dinner, as she was about to announce something important.

xi. Complete the narration of the given dialogues. (1)

Garima : So, after a decade in the industry, are you truly satisfied?

Karan : I love the film industry. It has its flaws though.

Garima : What do you mean by this statement?

Karan : We are a bunch of competitive, ambitious, sometimes petty people. But the passion cements us together.

Garima asked Karan if after a decade in the industry if he was truly satisfied. Karan told her although it had its flaws.

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

Having deprived from their homes in the recent earthquake, they had no other option but to take shelter in a school.

	ction

WRITING

(10)

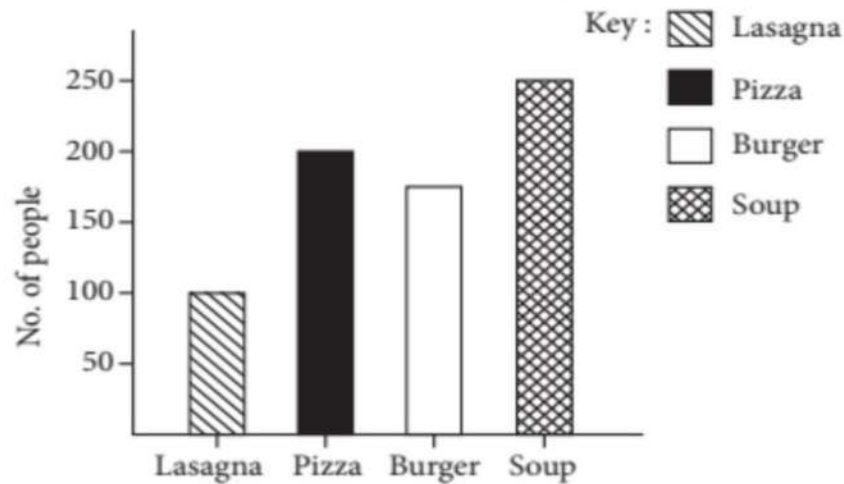
4. A. You are Drishti, Head Girl of Zenith Public School, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi. You have to organise short tours to Agra, Jaipur and Chandigarh. Write a letter to Globe Tours and Travels, 235, Nehru Place, New Delhi, in about 120 words, enquiring about their terms for conducting tours by deluxe buses. Also ask about the fare, boarding and lodging charges and arrangements, total time of the trip and mode of payment.

OR

4. B. You are Anjali/Ajay of House No. 101, Sector 22, Chandigarh. You are greatly disturbed by the increase in traffic, pollution and uncleanliness in your "City Beautiful". Write a letter to the Editor of The Tribune, Chandigarh, in about 120 words, throwing light on these aspects, so as to make the citizens aware of these growing drawbacks in their city and seeking their cooperation.

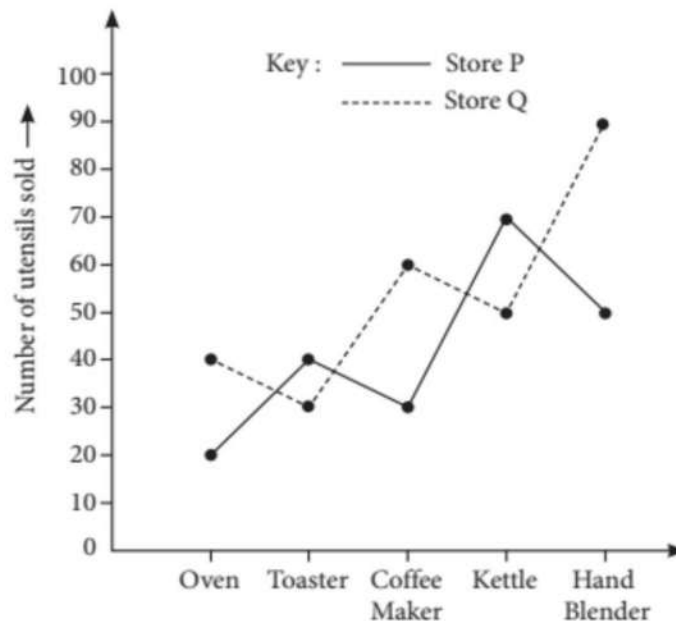
5. A. The given bar graph shows the most preferred choices of customers of a famous restaurant about savoury dishes. Analyse the given data and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words.

(5)



OR

5. B. The given double line graph shows the different types of kitchen utilities sold by two stores during festival season. Read the graph carefully and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words.
(5)



SECTION-C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 MARKS)

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

A. Mijbil, as I called the otter, was, in fact, of a race previously unknown to science, and was at

length christened by zoologists *Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli*, or Maxwell's otter. For the first twenty-four hours Mijbil was neither hostile nor friendly; he was simply aloof and indifferent, choosing to sleep on the floor as far from my bed as possible.

- i. Who was Mijbil?
- ii. How did the otter behave for the first twenty-four hours?
- iii. Find the exact word from the extract which means 'having no particular interest'.
 - A. Indifferent
 - B. Christened
 - C. Unknown
 - D. Hostile
- iv. Why is the otter called 'Maxwell's otter'?

OR

B. "NATALYA : What proposal?

CHUBUKOV: Why, he came here to propose to you.

NATALYA : To propose? To me? Why didn't you tell me so before?

CHUBUKOV: So he dresses up in evening clothes. The stuffed sausage! The wizen-faced frump!

- i. Who is being referred to as 'he'?
- ii. Why did he meet Chubukov? How is he received?
- iii. Find the exact word from the extract which means 'having no particular interest'.
 - A. Indifferent
 - B. Christened
 - C. Unknown
 - D. Hostile
- iv. Why is the otter called 'Maxwell's otter'?

OR

B. "NATALYA: What proposal?

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NATALYA : To propose? To me? Why didn't you tell me so before?

CHUBUKOV: So he dresses up in evening clothes. The stuffed sausage! The wizen-faced frump!

- i. Who is being referred to as 'he'?
- ii. Why did he meet Chubukov? How is he received?
- iii. Find the word from the extract which means 'make an offer of marriage to someone'.
 - A. Frump

- B. Stuffed
- C. Propose
- D. Sausage

iv. Who was dressed up like a stuffed sausage?

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

A. What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,

What, what is he to do? I saw it go

Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then

Merrily over- there it is in the water!

No use to say 'O there are other balls':

i. What was the boy doing when the poet saw him?

ii. Why does the poet say 'No use to say - 'O there are other balls. What does it refer to?

iii. Which thing does the poet refrain from saying?

A. There are other balls.

B. There are no balls.

C. The ball is in the water.

D. The ball was lost.

iv. The ball went. _____

B. The way a crow

Shook down on me

The dust of snow

From a hemlock tree

OR

i. Who is 'me' in the given extract?

A. Poet

B. Snow

C. Crow

D. Tree

ii. What did the crow do to the hemlock tree?

iii. What is a 'dust of snow'?

iv. Do you think a crow is often mentioned in poems? What images come to your mind when you think of a crow?

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

i. Give one reason why, 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' is more a fable than a ballad.

- ii. In what way is China related to tea?
- iii. What does Mr. Mandela pledge to have for the newly liberated South Africa?
- iv. Why does the tiger express his rage quietly?
- V. Describe the sky when Dakota took-off from Paris.

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

- i. Validate the importance of small, fun learning tasks towards successful careers, in the context of Richard Ebright in the making of a scientist?
- ii. Why did Griffin decide to leave London and go to the village of Iping?
- iii. How did Hari Singh know that Anil had forgiven him?

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

A. Imagine that you are God. You have recently received Lencho's second letter in which he has called the post office employees a bunch of crooks' and have accused you and others of stealing the pesos. Write a suitable reply to Lencho's letter.

OR

B. Valli is not a selfish person, nor is she insensitive to the sufferings of others. She grieves over the accidental death of a young cow. Discuss the values of Valli's character on the basis of 'Madam Rides the Bus'.

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

A. 'The Necklace' reveals that vanity is an evil. It may bring joy for a short period but ultimately it leads to ruin. If you were placed in a situation similar to that of Matilda, what would you have done? Write your views.

OR

B. The story, 'Bholi' throws light on some social evils being practised in our society. Bholi took a stand and succeeded in overcoming social barriers. What can you contribute to change the social attitudes illustrated in the story?

SOLUTIONS

1. i. According to the author, the principles and framework of any legislation must be debated. The consultation or discussion on draft legislation and policy is required because these consultations will provoke multiple views and it is important for the institutional framework to assimilate and consider them.

ii. participation of citizens in shaping legislation over two decades

iii. C. Very few people understand the legal and administrative mechanisms of the Lokpal Bill.

iv. D. Surveys and votes by raising hands are enough to register support for drafting laws.

v. The deliberative consultative process is for everyone and it is especially for those who are most affected by the legislation. The policy and the sharing of framework are followed by a draft of the bill itself; all this is done within a time frame.

vi. by creating platforms for institutionalised participation to deepen democratic processes

vii. well-discussed analysis

viii. Babus

2. i. The teachers around the world are concerned for how the cultural and lifestyle changes of the past 25 years are affecting the lives of children. They know that many of the changes that benefit adults are far from healthy for our children.

ii. their childhood is damaging in a way that will destroy them for the rest of their lives

iii. C. A little thought and some common sense

iv. objective

V. The experts pointed out that children lack mainly first-hand experience of the world and regular interaction with their parents.

vi. Changes in diet, childcare patterns, parenting family structure, play, bed times, family interaction, education, marketing, peer pressure, technology, electronics and the way parents communicate with their children are bringing changes in the growing level of behavioural and developmental problems. All these harm our children.

vii. D. Improvements in grades

viii. focus on their career more instead of spending time with their child

3. i. C. completed

ii. if he had seen her new umbrella

iii. B. can

iv. B.

	ction

v. C. had

vi. understand

vii. he had bought that book for him a day before the previous day

viii.

	ction

ix. Aman asked Tia whether she had gone to the mall the previous day.

x. a few

xi. that he loved the film industry

xii.

	ction
ng	ng been

4. A.

Zenith Public School
Ashok Vihar
New Delhi
16 July 20xx
M/s Globe Tours and Travels
235, Nehru Place
New Delhi
Subject : Enquiry about conducting tours
Sir,
We are organizing short educational tours to places of social and historical interest during the autumn/winter break. The likely places of visit this year are Agra, Jaipur and Chandigarh.
Please let me know your terms and conditions for conducting tours by deluxe buses to places mentioned above. The rates should include lodging/boarding charges, fare per person. I would also like to know the kind of boarding and lodging facilities provided by you, the duration of journey and halting charges, if any.
Please let me know if group discount and student discount are admissible if we charter a bus. Enclosing a self addressed envelope for your convenience.
Expecting early response.
Thank you
Yours faithfully,
Drishti
(Head Girl)

Az

OR

4. B.

H.No. 101, Sector-22

Chandigarh

9 June 20XX

The Editor

The Tribune

Chandigarh

Subject: Increasing Pollution and Uncleanliness

Sir,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper I would like to draw the attention of concerned authorities towards the degrading uncleanliness and pollution in our city Chandigarh. Chandigarh is known as the 'City Beautiful' and we are rightly proud of being privileged citizens of this modern city. Of late, however, some disturbing trends have been noticed. The volume of vehicular traffic has spurted manifold. Many factories have sprung up in the vicinity of the city. The smoke emitted by the chimneys of these factories or spewed out by the fast plying vehicles has made the lives of citizens miserable. Pollution has increased to intolerable limits. The heaps of garbage and unclean roads compound the problem. Some voluntary organisations have organised cleanliness campaigns in Sector 7 and 14 and are creating social awareness by educating the masses against the dangers of pollution. Kindly publish this letter with your editorial comments to make the citizens aware of these drawbacks. I do hope that the people of Chandigarh will cooperate to keep their city clean.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Anjali

5. A. The given bar graph shows the most preferred food item choices of customers of a famous food joint. The given number of people is in hundreds and the data states about four most preferred choices. If we look at the data around 100 people chose lasagna as their main course. However, pizza stands out as the most preferred choice as main course as out of 250 people, 200 ordered it. Next most preferred item is burger which was ordered by 175 people. Soup seems like the most preferred choice of appetizer as all of the 250 people have ordered it. To compare the given data pizza and burger are almost equally preferred by the customers as there is a difference of only 25 people between these choices. Lasagna being second and possibly the least preferred food item only garners 100 customers. The given food choices are of appetizer and main course and by analysing the data we can see that the only appetizer available in the data is ordered and preferred by almost all. To conclude the given information, it is clearly evident that soup is the most preferred food item whereas lasagna is the least one.

OR

5. B. The given double line graph shows the sale of various kitchen utility items during festival season. The items are oven, toaster, coffee maker, kettle and hand blender.

By looking at the graph we see the different fluctuations of items sold in two different shops. The store-Q has sold around 40 ovens, 30 toasters, 60 coffee makers, 50 kettles and around 90 hand blenders.

The store-P has sold 20 ovens, 40 toasters, 30 coffee makers, 60 kettles and 50 hand blenders. The highest selling item of store-Q is hand blender whereas store-P has sold the kettles the most.

The overall graph shows that store-Q has better sales than store-P. Three products of store-Q i.e., oven, coffee maker and hand blender have surpassed store-P in sales.

On the other hand store-P has sold more toasters and kettles in comparison to store-Q. The graph also shows that hand blender and kettle are the most preferred choice of consumers during festival season. Hand blender sales shows the most wide gap of 40 customers, and toaster shows only a gap of 10 customers between the two stores P and Q.

To conclude, the given information, it shows the preferences of consumers in buying different kitchen utility items and shows that on an average store Q made better sales overall.

6. A. i. Mijbil was the name of the otter brought by the narrator Maxwell.
- ii. The otter was indifferent and stayed as far as possible from the narrator for the first twenty four hours.
- iii. A. Indifferent
- iv. The otter was of a race previously unknown to science. So, he was named by zoologists as *Lutrogale perspicillata maxwelli* or Maxwell's otter.

OR

- B. i. Lomov is being referred to as 'he' in the extract.
- ii. Lomov met Chubukov to ask for Natalya's hand. He is received with all the respect by Chubukov, who also felt happy.
- iii. C. Propose
- iv. Lomov was dressed up like a stuffed sausage.

7. A. i. He saw his ball wash away by the water.
- ii. The poet says this because he knows well that the ball is special to the boy and any other ball can't replace it. It refers to the philosophy of life. The boy was attached to it and it meant something important to him.
- iii. A. There are other balls.
- iv. into the water

OR

B. i. A. Poet

ii. It shook the hemlock tree.

iii. Small particles of snow

iv. Crow is rarely mentioned in poems and is generally associated with harsh voice and bad omens. When one thinks of crow, images of tragedy and sadness comes to mind.

8. i. Fable is a fictitious narrative usually with animals, birds, etc. as characters. It also conveys a strong message. On the other hand, a ballad is a narrative verse that can be silly or heroic. The Tale of Custard the Dragon is a humorous and fictitious story of a dragon named Custard and how he bravely saved everyone from a pirate. The poem may have all the qualities of a ballad but it is a parody. Thus, it qualifies more as a fable than a ballad.

ii. There are two legends associated with the origin of tea. One of them tells us about the Chinese emperor who accidentally dropped a few leaves from the twigs used to light the fire under the pot in which he was boiling his drinking water. It made the water taste delicious. Those leaves were said to be tea leaves. This legend shows how China is related to the discovery of tea.

iii. Mr. Mandela pledged to liberate the people of South Africa from the perpetual bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other forms of discrimination. He pledged to bring equality in South Africa and set an example for the entire world.

iv. The tiger expresses his rage quietly because he's captivated in the concrete cage. His strength lies behind those bars. He feels helpless. While dreaming of freedom, he has somehow accepted his state of being captive. He is no longer free and thus, roams in the cage expressing his rage quietly.

v. The sky was clear. The stars were shining. The moon was coming up in the East. There wasn't a cloud in the sky when the narrator took off in his Dakota from Paris back to the England. It was 1:30 in the morning. It was a clear sky absolutely perfect for a delightful flight.

9. i. When Ebright was in second grade, he collected all the twenty-five species of butterflies as a fun activity. He got excited about the gold spots and started tagging the butterflies. When he was in the eight grade, he tried to find the cause of the disease that used to kill nearly all the monarch butterflies. Later on, he proved that the cells of a monarch would develop into a normal butterfly wing only if they were fed the hormone from gold spots. As a result of it, he discovered how the cell could read the blueprint of its DNA. This led him to the path of a scientist.

ii. After the fateful incidents in London that almost got him arrested, Griffin felt it was time to leave the big city and become underground to avoid arrest. He came to the village of Iping

because it was a small, almost obscure village; Griffin was sure no one here knew who he was or had heard of his wrong doings.

iii. It seems Anil knew about theft but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything. He gave him fifty rupees and told him that now he would be paid regularly. He informed him that he would teach him to write sentences. It shows that Anil had forgiven him.

10. A. Dear Lencho

I hope you have received the 70 pesos that I sent you. I believe you are angry with the post master and post office employees for taking some of your money. But let me tell you what exactly happened. When you posted your first letter the seal got broken and the letter slipped out of it. One of the employees saw it and took it to the postmaster. He being the thorough gentleman, wrote a small note for me to send you money as soon as possible, sealed it and resent it. Now let me tell you why the money is a little less than what you asked for. You saw the hailstorm. It was devastating. I have received a lot of letters from others for help as well and being God I have to help everyone, you know that. So, I only kept 50 pesos in the envelope and sent back. The post office employees and the post master are so generous that they have kept extra 20 pesos in many envelopes like yours to help you and others. They have collected the money among themselves. They are not bad people, they are a bunch of generous, helpful people who helped you and many others. Don't be angry, just manage with what you have. I'll bring good rains next year. Take care. God

OR

B. In modern era, people are selfish and insensitive to the sufferings of their neighbours. But Valli is not one of them. On her way to the town, while she was in the bus, she came across a young cow running in the middle of the road, in front of the bus. Watching the young creature running about spiritedly, filled little Valli with joy and excitement, and she clapped with glee. However, the joy and excitement was shortlived as while coming back from the town, she saw the same young cow lying by the roadside, quite dead. Valli had been enthusiastic throughout the journey and would have never imagined of witnessing death so closely. But on being faced with such a tragic and dismal truth of life, the readers come across a sensitive Valli as she grieved the accidental demise of the young cow. She became sombre thinking about what had been a beautiful creature a while ago, alive and free spirited, was not so anymore. It seemed to have lost its charm, now that it lay lifeless in a pool of blood. Eight year old Valli neither feels frightened nor does she lose her confidence, only her enthusiasm dampens. Instead, she processes the information like a grown up. She feels sympathy for the dead young cow.

11. A. Matilda always craved for a life of riches, exquisite food, sparkling jewellery, etc. However, she did not have such a life, and it upset her. Matilda envied her childhood friend,

Mme. Forestier, because the latter had everything that Matilda desired. Matilda was finally able to fulfil her heart's deepest desire when she and her husband M. Loisel were invited to a fancy ball organised by M. Loisel's boss, the Minister of Education. Matilda Loisel bought an expensive dress. But that was not enough. So, she borrowed a staggeringly beautiful diamond necklace from her childhood friend to wear with the dress on the evening of the ball. That night, she was the fairest maiden of them all and she basked in the glory to the fullest. The profound joy of being the centre of attraction was shortlived for Matilda. She had lost the precious necklace. Economically, the Loisels' situation worsened because M. Loisel had to borrow a huge amount of money to replace the lost diamond necklace. The Loisels' lifestyle changed as they became completely poor. Their misery continued for ten years. Eventually, when the debt was paid off, Matilda Loisel had lost everything. Everything about her had changed except for one thing. She was even sadder and more bitter than what she used to be. "The Necklace" reveals that vanity is an evil. It may bring joy for a short period but ultimately it leads to ruin. If I were in Matilda Loisel's place, I would cut my coat according to my cloth and be content with what I have. What Matilda failed to understand before she lost the diamond necklace is that modest life can be sufficient and comfortable. Had I been the one to lose the necklace instead of Matilda, I would have confessed to my friend and apologised for losing the necklace.

OR

B. Social discrimination against women has been highlighted in the narrative of 'Bholi' where women are considered a liability, a burden to be borne till they are eventually disposed off in marriage. The family in particular and the society at large have no faith in their capabilities and hence, do not consider it essential to educate girls. But Bholi's incidence proves that daughters are capable and responsible in supporting the family same as the men folk and can be the bread winners, if the family invests in their education. A significant change in the social attitudes can be brought about by creating awareness and counseling. Mass media, such as television is very influential and significant work is already being done to initiate a change in attitude towards the girls. Women in our Indian culture are the 'Ghar ki Lakshmi' and deserve to be honoured.