

Class XII Session 2023-24
Subject - English Core
Sample Question Paper – 7

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

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

SECTION-A
READING SKILLS (20 MARKS)

1. Read the passage given below.

(1) Torrential rains and swollen rivers have caused chaos across central and eastern Europe, while a massive heat wave in southern Europe has helped reduce the Portuguese wood land to tinder. Tens of thousands of people face a massive relief operation as the extent of the devastation slowly becomes clear. The death toll continues to mount steadily across the continent. The latest estimate puts the number since mid August, 2005 at over 150.

"Unfortunately, we are expecting the number of victims to rise by the hour," said Romanian interior minister Vasile Blaga. Though the heat wave persists in Portugal and Spain, forest fires in Portugal have been brought under control. By August 26, 2005, the waters began to recede across Germany and the Czech Republic, the countries hardest hit by the floods. The situation also improved in Croatia, Austria, Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary and Slovenia. But some areas of Switzerland and Germany remained on alert. Huge damages were reported from all over Europe. Thousands of people had to be evacuated from their homes. Many villages were abandoned in Portugal, while helicopters were used in Switzerland and Austria to airlift people from flooded houses and landslides. The floods worst impact was along the Danube, Morava and Elbe rivers and their tributaries. Dresden in Germany was one of the hardest hit. Germany puts the damages at around US \$14 billion, but the German state of Saxony alone puts its own costs at around US \$16 billion. Austria quotes a clean up bill of US \$2 billion, and the 'Czech Republic US \$3 billion. But all these figures are speculative. What is disturbing is that relief operations appear stretched. In Germany, only US \$200 per adult is currently available from both the EU and the government. The reason behind the bedlam is the jet stream, high-speed winds usually found just below the tropopause, which drives the depressions and fronts that

affect the weather. Usually found between 7,620 metres (in) and 13,716(m) altitude, it flows eastwards at speeds up to 200 m per hour around the Earth. It is formed when cold air from the Arctic meets warm air from the tropics. Because the jet stream fluctuates, its track makes huge differences to the weather. This year it positioned around Europe locking high pressure over southwest Europe which in its turn is responsible for creating intense drought in some parts and deluges of rain in other parts.

(2) While many blame global warming for the disaster, some scientists are reluctant to draw a direct link. "We are linking these events to climate change... There are also other things happening building up of the land, bad land use plans, bad fire prevention in the south... But all the factors together are more and more exacerbated by global warming," explains Martin Hiller spokesperson for Worldwide Fund for Nature Malcolm Haylock of the University of East Anglia the UK, is more dithering. You can say that due to the Earth getting warmer there will be on an average more extreme events but you can't attribute any specific event to climate change.

(3) Despite growing consensus about global warming, it is hard to find long term trends in rainfall that would have direct effect on the droughts and floods. Some experts believe the North Atlantic Oscillation climate system has caused a drift towards drier conditions in southern Europe and more rainfall in the north during winters; its effects during summers are not as clear. Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i. The narrator states "all these figures are speculative". What is he talking about?
- ii. Which country had the forest fire under control despite the heat wave?
- iii. There was a bedlam in carrying out the relief operations. Provide evidence from the text to prove this.
- iv. What is the reason for the mayhem?
- V. "But all the factors together are more and more exacerbated by global warming" meaning :
 - A. Global warming combined with the other factors made little difference.
 - B. Global warming slowed down the impact of other factors.
 - C. Global warming was the root cause of the other factors.
 - D. Global warming made all the factors turn worse.
- vi. "Despite growing consensus about global warming, what is the growing consensus referred here?
- vii. Which of the following statements is false?
 - A. Torrential rains and swollen rivers have caused chaos across central and Eastern Europe.
 - B. In Germany, only US \$200 per adult is currently available from both the EU and the government.
 - C. Many villages were abandoned in Spain during the flood.
 - D. The floods worst impact was along the Danube, Morava and Elbe rivers and their tributaries.
- viii. "deluges of rain" means _____

- A. short period of rain
- B. heavy rain coming down at the same time
- C. little episodes of rain
- D. frequent rain

2. Read the following text.

(1) By the time Michael Phelps, the world famous swimmer, finished at the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics, having come out of retirement, he had bagged five gold medals. This was one short of the six overall medals India has won in 70 years since independence.

(2) But put the swimmer's four Olympics together, since Athens 2004, and he has 28 medals, including 23 gold. India has 23 medals in total since 1948.

(3) This comparison was cited often after India bagged a disappointing two medals in Rio, a slide since London 2012 when it won - by its standards, a record - six medals.

(4) When seen in comparison to India's overall size and population, we have the lowest number of medals per capital. India has never played the football world cup, has won a single individual gold medal at the Olympics and has had only a handful of people ranked No. 1 in their sport. The country's only worthwhile success has come in a sport played by just a dozen nations.

(5) If we take into account the country's sporting achievements since independence, the successes seem limited considering all disciplines except cricket - Olympic sports and others like chess, squash, racing, etc. In many, participation has not been credit-worthy. Gymnast Dipa Karmarkar, who finished fourth in the vault at Rio, and Dipika Pallikal, who got into the top 10 ranking in women's squash in 2012, were significant achievements for Indian sportswomen. Yet - and cruelly so - they were no big achievements in the world of sport.

(6) But why is India so poor in sports? Football is a craze in Bengal, Goa and Kerala, then why is the Indian football team ranked no. 97 in the World? Over the years, experts and fans have offered several reasons to explain our lack of success : hereditary characteristics, poverty (therefore lack of nutrition), social divisions and an absence of sporting culture. Hereditary characteristics are used to explain why we do well in sports that do not require high athletic ability, speed and strength. Like cricket, billiards, chess, archery, shooting and tennis doubles (as opposed to singles which requires the entire court to be covered). But the Chinese, Koreans and Japanese share relatively the same height and physicality as Indians - China won 27 gold medals in Rio. If poverty were the reason, then it becomes difficult to explain the success of nations like Jamaica (11 medals in Rio, for example, and Usain Bolt), Ethiopia (8) and Kenya (14) in athletics. Lack of sporting culture may be one reason. For generations, Indians have felt the need to focus on academics as their ticket to a better life. Many schools and colleges do not have sports programmes, grounds or facilities. Politics, administration and corruption are a few obstacles responsible for robbing aspiring athletes of success in their fields. Scandals, scams

and abuse of power have weakened several associations.

(7) But there are reasons why we are collectively feeling optimistic post London 2012. A bunch of non-governmental organisations are trying (and succeeding) to fill the gaps that administrations have left behind, in providing funds to promising athletes. There is a change in mindset too. Parents are now able to allow their children to focus on sports, believing it to be a genuine career choice. Successful champions are investing in the growth of talent. Be it Geet Sethi, Viswanathan Anand, Prakash Padukone or P. Gopi Chand, they are bringing their star appeal and expertise to back their chosen sport. Leagues have started among many sporting disciplines, which, if continued and successful, are bound to create talent pools in the years to come, besides being financially rewarding.

(8) The growth of cricket, since the 1983 World Cup, through the business sense of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and thanks to the marketability of Sachin Tendulkar and M.S. Dhoni, among others, has seen the sport grow in small towns. Class and caste distinctions are less visible in cities, making sport more widely accessible. India's growing economic strength is helping too - corporate giants as well as new businessmen are investing money and technology in sports businesses.

Answer the following questions based on the above passage.

- i. What is ironic about the medals won by Michael Phelps at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics?
- ii. Is it justifiable to say India's non-performance in the international sporting world is attributed to its poverty and hereditary characteristics?
- iii. India's best performance in the Olympics was at _____
- iv. India has never played _____

- A. in Olympics
- B. in Cricket World Cup
- C. in Football World Cup
- D. individual sports

V. "The country's only worthwhile success has come in a sport played by just a dozen nations."

Which sport is the author referring to?

- vi. The Indian states like Kerala, West Bengal and Goa are known for _____

- A. their craze for football
- B. their craze for chess
- C. their craze for hockey
- D. their craze for wrestling

vii. Citing evidence from the text, provide how NGOs are helping fill the gap for athletes and upcoming athletes.

- viii. A few obstacles hindering aspiring athletes are _____

- A. administration

- B. politics
- C. corruption
- D. all of these

ix. Which of the words in the para 7 means talented?

- A. Promising
- B. Genuine
- C. Expertise
- D. Appeal

SECTION-B

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 MARKS)

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

A. As Teacher Co-ordinator of the Quiz Club of AMM School, Pune, draft a notice informing students of the inter-class quiz contest asking them to register their names with the Secretary of the Club within a week.

OR

B. You are Mahender, Sports Captain, St. John's School, Lucknow. Write a notice for the school notice board informing students about an Inter-School Football match to be played in your school. Invite them to watch and cheer the teams.

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

A. You are Riya/Ryan living at 40, Krishna Colony, Manali. You decided to hold a lunch party to congratulate your grandparents on their golden wedding anniversary. Draft a formal invitation to all family members to attend a grand lunch at home.

OR

B. The literary club of your society is putting up the play 'Macbeth'. As secretary of the club, draft an invitation inviting the famous writer Rohit Sharma to be the guest of honour at the function. You are Gaurav/Garima.

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

A. Two main parks in your locality have suffered from neglect on the part of local authorities. They have virtually been overtaken by undesirable elements. As a result, the residents have stopped going to the parks. Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your concern about the problems, the neglect has created and suggest measures to reclaim the parks for children. You are Anil/Anju of 2, Sunlight Enclave, New Delhi.

OR

B. Write a letter to Editor of local daily, New Delhi about water scarcity in you locality suggesting ways to improve the condition of water supply. You are Bobby/Babita of Ghaziabad.
6. Attempt ANY ONE of two in about 120-150 words.

A. Visiting new places and meeting new people enhance our understanding and knowledge besides being a source of great pleasure. Write an article on "Travel, a Source of Knowledge and Pleasure. You are Gopal/ Govindi.

OR

B. You witnessed a road accident near Nalbandh Chowraha at Agra in which a bus and a scooter were involved. Write a report for Amar Ujala signing yourself as Vivek/Vimala, Special Correspondent.

OR

B. You witnessed a road accident near Nalbandh Chowraha at Agra in which a bus and a scooter were involved. Write a report for Amar Ujala signing yourself as Vivek/Vimala, Special Correspondent.

SECTION-C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 MARKS)

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

A. No, in country money, the country scale of gain,
The requisite lift of spirit has never been found,
Or so the voice of the country seems to complain,
I can't help owning the great relief it would be
To put these people at one stroke out of their pain.
And then next day as I come back into the sane,
I wonder how I should like you to come to me
And offer to put me gently out of my pain.

i. What does the poet mean by the line 'the requisite lift of spirit has never been found??

A. Boosting the mood of someone.

B. The rural people are happy.

C. It means only money that can lift their living standard is not available.

D. The city people are sad.

ii. What makes him change his mind?

- A. The poet hopes to get out of the village so he doesn't have to think.
- B. The poet hopes that someone would offer relief to his pain.
- C. The poet is carried away by nature.
- D. The poet starts favouring city people.
- iii. What does the poet wish he could do for these people?
- iv. Which word in the passage means 'necessary'?
- A. Requisite
- B. Relief
- C. Gentle
- D. Sane
- V. What does the expression 'country money' refer to?
- vi. List out all the rhyming words in the given extract.

OR

- B. That for themselves a cooling covert make
'Gainst the hot season;
the mid forest brake,
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;
and such too is the grandeur of the dooms.
- i. What is the figure of speech used in 'cooling covert'?
 - A. Irony
 - B. Allusion
 - C. Personification
 - D. Alliteration
 - ii. What according to the poet is a mid-forest brake?
 - iii. Which of the following is compared to the sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms?
 - A. The clear rills
 - B. To the immortal drink
 - C. To a fountain
 - D. To the grandeur of dooms
 - iv. What does the poet mean by the grandeur of dooms'?
 - A. Our grand dreams
 - B. The plants that are destroyed
 - C. The monuments made of plants
 - D. The monuments we erect to honour the 'mighty dead'
 - iv. What does the poet mean by 'the grandeur of dooms'?
 - A. Our grand dreams

B. The plants that are destroyed

C. The monuments made of plants

D. The monuments we erect to honour the 'mighty dead'

V. What is the figure of speech that is found in the lines, 'Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms; And such too is the grandeur of the dooms'?

A. Alliteration

B. Simile

C. Metaphor

D. Irony

vi. Name the poem and the poet.

A. Our grand dreams

B. The plants that are destroyed

C. The monuments made of plants

D. The monuments we erect to honour the 'mighty dead'

V. What is the figure of speech that is found in the lines, 'Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms; And such too is the grandeur of the dooms'?

A. Alliteration

B. Simile

C. Metaphor

D. Irony

vi. Name the poem and the poet.

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

A. Friends everywhere. People come in everybody knows me. The gate's always open. They come and sit here. And in front of the fire in winter. Kids come for the apples and pears. And for toffee. I make toffee with honey. Anybody comes. So have you.

i. The above lines are taken from the chapter,

ii. What does the phrase 'gate's always open' show about the speaker?

A. That he is very warm and welcoming.

B. That he has no lock on the gate.

C. That he has some extra apples.

D. That he likes some people to come.

iii. The extract shows the speaker to be

A. pessimistic

B. genial

C. overthinker

D. none of these

iv. Name the writer of the given extract.

OR

B. "The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea," Hana said, But neither of them moved. They were staring with a curious repulsion upon the inert figure. "What is he?" Hana whispered. "There is something about him that looks American," Sadao said. He took up the battered cap. Yes, there, almost American warship." He spelled it out: "U.S. Navy?" The man was a prisoner of war!

i. How did they know he was a prisoner?

A. There were posters with his photo.

B. The man was unconscious when he muttered his identity.

C. The man was wearing faded cap that mentioned U.S. Navy.

D. The man said so.

ii. Why would that be kind?

iii. Did they put him back in the sea?

A. No, they were not allowed to do so.

B. No, they didn't put him back in the sea.

C. Yes, they didn't put him back in the sea.

D. No, he was too heavy.

iv. What did they do with him?

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

A. Gandhi told Shukla he had an appointment in Cawnpore and was also committed to go to other parts of India. Shukla accompanied him everywhere. Then Gandhi returned to his ashram. For weeks he never left Gandhi's side. "Fix a date," he begged. Impressed by the sharecroppers tenacity and story Gandhi said, "I have to be in Calcutta on such-and-such a date. Come and meet me and take me from there".

i. Who was Shukla?

A. A lawyer

B. A government officer

C. A politician

D. A poor peasant

ii. Why was Shukla following Gandhiji?

A. Because he wanted to get ideas to become famous.

B. Because he wanted to learn from him the art of speaking.

C. Because he wanted to seek his guidance for his own upliftment.

- D. Because he wanted to seek his help for the poor sharecroppers of his village.
- iii. Which quality of Shukla impressed and convinced Gandhi to come with him?
- A. His stubbornness
 - B. His perseverance
 - C. His arrogance
 - D. His indecisiveness
- iv. The author of this chapter is
- A. Pablo Neruda
 - B. Selma Lagerlöf
 - C. R.K. Narayan
 - D. Louis Fisher
- V. What kind of person was Shukla?
- vi. What is the meaning of the word 'tenacity'?

OR

B. Mukund: Over 40! Among them a seminal piece of work on semiotics. But ask most people about Umberto Eco and they will say, "Oh, he's the novelist." Does that bother you? Umberto Eco: Yes. Because I consider myself a university professor who writes novels on Sundays. It's not a joke. I participate in academic conferences and not meetings of Pen Clubs and writers. I identify myself with the academic community.

i. 'Does that bother you? What attitude of the interviewer is highlighted?

- A. Inquisitive
- B. Intruding
- C. Imaginative
- D. Arrogant

ii. Why was this question asked?

- A. Because people like teasing him.
- B. Because people don't like his academic writing.
- C. Because people know him only as an academician.
- D. Despite being an academician and having written 40 pieces of writing, he is only known for his novel.

iii. What was the answer to the question?

- A. He answered that it does bother him.
- B. He answered that it does not bother him.
- C. He answered that it doesn't matter.
- D. He didn't answer at all.

iv. What reason did he give for his answer?

- A. He said he doesn't care.
B. He gave the reason that he considers himself a professor who writes on Sundays.
C. He said that he was angry at reading in public.
D. He said he wanted to be a full-time academician.
V. What do 'Pen Clubs' indicate?
vi. Complete the given analogy.
Identify : Recognise :: Community: _____

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

- i. What does the writer mean by 'the fiery misery of those subjected to make-up'?
ii. What did Umberto Eco identified more as? Why?
iii. Why was Sophie jealous of Geoff's silence?
iv. What was the news that was being spread around the village in the poem 'A Roadside Stand'?
V. What are the different kinds of wars mentioned in the poem? What is Neruda's attitude towards these wars?
vi. What was the content of the letter written by the peddler to Edla?

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

- i. What are the indications for the future of humankind?
ii. What were the articles in the stalls and shops that fascinated Bama on her way back from school?
iii. What sort of hunts did the Maharaja offer to organise for the high-ranking British officer? What trait of the officer does it reveal?

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

- A. Zitkala-Sa's experience in 'Memories of Childhood' is that of a victim of the racial discrimination. What kind of discrimination does Bama's experience depict? What are their responses to their respective situations?

OR

What are phytoplankton? How are they important to our ecosystem?

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

- A. What is Umberto's opinion on the success of his novel?

OR

- B. What is the role of nature in Keats' poem?

SOLUTIONS

1. i. The natural disasters like floods and heatwave have led to major destruction in major European countries. Countries that were affected provided their estimate costs for the clean-up cost, which was what the narrator was talking about when he stated, "all these figures are speculative". The 'figures' refer to the amount of money required.

ii. Portugal

iii. There was a bedlam in carrying out the rescue operations because of the jet stream, high speed winds that are causing havoc. These fluctuations in the jet streams then results in huge differences in the weather, thereby creating 'intense drought in some parts and deluges of rain in other parts.

iv. Jet stream, high-speed winds usually found just below the tropopause affects the weather causing the mayhem.

v. D. Global warming made all the factors turn worse.

vi. That global warming is responsible for these extreme events.

vii. C. Many villages were abandoned in Spain during the flood.

viii. B. heavy rain coming down at the same time

2. i. The world-famous swimmer Michael Phelps won 5 gold medals at the 2016 Rio Olympics, that too, after coming out of retirement. Ironically, the number of gold medals won by a single individual (Phelps) in a single Olympics is almost the same as the number of medals won by a country (India) over a period of 70 years.

ii. No, we cannot say it is because of poverty or hereditary characteristics. This is because if we blame poverty, there are also poorer countries like Africa that still manage to achieve great success. And if we talk about hereditary characteristics, the Chinese and Koreans have the same build as Indians but they still fare much better in sports. So, it is not justifiable.

iii. London

iv. C. in Football World Cup

V. Cricket

vi. A. their craze for football

vii. The 7th paragraph talks of how "a bunch of non- governmental organisations are trying (and succeeding) to fill the gaps that administrations have left behind, in providing funds to promising athletes". This has also led parents to be more welcoming in allowing their children to pursue sports as a career and not only focus on academics.

viii. D. all of these

ix. C. Expertise

3. A.

A.M.M. SCHOOL, PUNE

NOTICE

21 April, 20xx

Register for Quiz Competition

This is to inform all students of classes VI-XII that an interclass quiz competition will be held this Friday, 25 April, 20xx in the audio - visual room from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Maximum number of students representing per class is three. Those interested can give their names to the secretary of the Quiz Club for registration.

XYZ

(Teacher Co-ordinator, Quiz Club)

OR

B.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL, LUCKNOW

NOTICE

20 Aug., 20xx

Inter-School Football Match

An Inter-school football match will be held on Friday 25th August, 20xx, 9:00 a.m. onwards at our school playground. All students are requested to be present at the venue to cheer and encourage the participants. Contact the under signed for further query.

Mahender

(Sports Captain)

4. A. 40, Krishna Colony

Manali

20 Feb. 20xx

My dear uncle and aunt, on the auspicious occasion of the Golden wedding anniversary of my grandparents, I am inviting you to the grand lunch at our residence. The lunch is scheduled to be on 28 Feb. at 12 : 30 pm onwards.

Kindly confirm your presence by 25 February.

Thank you

Riya

OR

B. New Homes

Tilak Nagar

New Delhi

15 January 20xx

Respected sir,

The Literary Club of our society is going to present the play 'Macbeth' on 3 February 20xx in the Community Hall of our society. We would be pleased if you accept to be the guest of honour for the same.

Kindly confirm your presence for the occasion.

Hoping for a positive reply.

Thank you

Yours Faithfully

Garima Mehra

(Secretary, Literary Club)

5. A.

2, Sunlight Enclave,
Delhi-19

31st August, 20xx

The Editor
The Morning Chronicle
31, MG Road
New Delhi-01

Subject: Utter Neglect of the Two Main Parks in the Locality

Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I would like to draw the attention of the concerned authorities and express my concerns regarding the problems arising due to utter neglect of the two main parks in Sunlight Enclave both of which are visible from my house.

The caretaker and gardener assigned by the horticulture department are inefficient in doing their jobs. As a result, the trees, grass as well as the bushes remain untrimmed. The garden too is not properly tended to because of which there aren't many flowers to please our senses. Needless to say, the local authorities have failed to do their duties of looking after the two main parks, and now they have virtually been taken over by undesirable elements, who are often seen involved in substance abuse. Many residents have complained about the nuisance they create for the park-goers under the influence of alcohol. However, no action has been taken against these anti-social elements. These parks used to be a sight for the sore eyes because they were so well maintained and beautiful. I regret to inform you that because of the above mentioned reasons the residents have stopped going to the park.

The concerned authorities must take adequate action immediately to restore the two main parks of Sunlight Enclave to their old glory. It must hire responsible people to tend to the parks and the gardens and keep a check on their maintenance by paying surprise visits. They should appoint two security guards on 24x7 basis who must be alert on duty. Only then the undesirable elements will be prevented from entering the parks.

I hope I have been able to put my concerns and views across in this letter and that required actions will be taken by the concerned authorities at the earliest.

Thank you
Yours sincerely
Anju Sharma

OR

B. A-10, New Colony
Ghaziabad
2 March, 20xx
The Editor
Hindustan Times
New Delhi- 12001
Subject : Water crisis in New Colony
Respected Sir

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw the attention of the concerned authorities towards the problem of water scarcity in our locality.

It is still early summer and the residents are already facing acute water shortage in the area. The supply starts at 7:30 a.m. and cuts off at 8:30 a.m in the morning and is restored only for half an hour in the evening between 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Since the timings are erratic, many people, especially, the working couples are unable to store water. Frequent complaints to the Jal Board haven't yielded any result as the authorities express their helplessness saying that one of the tanks of the Hyderpur Water Treatment plant is under repair and has been shut down for a month or so thereby affecting the water supply in the area. But it is nearly one and a half months since the problem began, yet there is no respite for the residents.

The Jal Board should, in the meantime, make provisions for water tankers at different hours of the day. Also, measures must be taken to expedite the repair work.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Bobby

6. A. Travel, a Source of Knowledge and Pleasure

by Gopal Some might say that they detest travelling because it leaves them completely wearied and irritated. However, there are others who beg to differ. They believe that travel, most certainly, is a source of pleasure as well as knowledge, and that is why, they enjoy their vacation to the fullest. One cannot deny that visiting new places and meeting new people enhances one's understanding and knowledge and at the same time lets one unwind from his/her daily routine. Travelling is a great stress buster as it entertains one, thus rejuvenating one to his/her core. But, why is travelling or going on a vacation so much fun and entertaining? It is so probably because being at new places allows one to learn about new cultures, lifestyles, languages, experience new things, make new memories, try new cuisines, etc. One is intrigued no doubt, when one comes face to face with the vast diversity, which one way or the other unites the world. A wise person once said that it's not the destination that matters. It is always the journey made to reach the destination that matters the most. How profound!

OR

B. A Fatal Collision Near Nalbandh by Vimala, Special Correspondent, Amar Ujala Agra, 6 March, 20xx: Two people were killed and at least four seriously injured, when a scooter and a bus collided with each other near Nalbandh Chowraha in Agra. The accident happened at 3:00 p.m. when there was less traffic on the road. According to the correspondent who is an eye witness to the accident, both vehicles approached from the adjacent road in full speed, unaware of the other and collided at the intersection. While the scooterist and the pillion rider died on the spot, the bus driver, conductor and passengers sitting in the front portion of the bus were fatally injured. They were rushed to the government hospital immediately. A case has been registered at the Nalbandh police station. An early action is expected.

7. A. i. C. It means only money that can lift their living standard is not available.

ii. B. The poet hopes that someone would offer relief to his pain.

iii. He wishes that rural people get relieved in one stroke.

iv. A. Requisite

V. The 'country money' refers to the meagre income and the meagre profit that the poor farmer makes.

vi. gain, complain, pain and sane.

OR

B. i. D. Alliteration

ii. The thick-mass of ferns

iii. D. To the grandeur of dooms

iv. D. The monuments we erect to honour the 'mighty dead'

V. D. Irony

vi. Poem - A Thing of Beauty

Poet - John Keats

8. A. i. On the face of it

ii. A. That he is very warm and welcoming.

iii. B. genial

iv. Susan Hill

OR

B. i. C. The man was wearing faded cap that mentioned U.S. Navy.

ii. Since he is an American war prisoner, putting him back into the sea means giving him a chance to live.

iii. B. No, they didn't put him back in the sea.

iv. They took him home and treated his wounds and cared for him.

9. A. i. D. A poor peasant

ii. D. Because he wanted to seek his help for the poor sharecroppers of his village.

iii. B. His perseverance

iv. D. Louis Fischer

V. Shukla was a resolute man, full of determination to get the task done for the betterment of sharecroppers.

vi. Persistent

OR

B. i. A. Inquisitive

ii. D. Despite being an academician and having written 40 pieces of writing, he is only known for his novel.

iii. B. He answered that it does not bother him.

iv. B. He gave the reason that he considers himself a professor who writes on Sundays.

V. Pen Clubs indicate writers/novelists associations

vi. Association/company

10. i. The make-up room of Gemini Studios looked like a hair cutting salon. It had around half a dozen mirrors with incandescent lights at all angles around them. The artists would feel the heat coming from these lights. Thus, the writer uses the term 'fiery misery' to denote the uncomfortable situation of those subjected to makeup.

ii. Umberto Eco considered himself an academic scholar first and then a novelist. He wrote more scholarly articles as compared to novels; and he attended academic conferences and not meetings of Pen Clubs and writers. According to him, he was a university professor who wrote novels on Sundays. "I started writing novels by accident," he said.

iii. Geoff was an introvert by nature. Sophie was jealous of his silence because when he was not speaking, it seemed to Sophie that he was away somewhere, in his own world, the places Sophie had never been to, the people whom she had not met. The mystery of the world to which Geoff belonged fascinated her quite a lot. She wished to be admitted into his world because it symbolised freedom and adventure and she craved for both.

iv. The news making its round is about the resettlement of the poor, rural people who will be resettled in the villages, next to the theatre and the store. They would be close to the cities and will not have to worry about themselves anymore.

v. The different kinds of wars mentioned in the poem are green wars, wars with gases and wars with fire. No matter which type of war it is, it is always against either humanity or nature.

Therefore, Neruda condemns all kinds of wars saying that wars may bring victories, but there are no survivors to celebrate such victories. He urges us to stop, keep quiet, count to twelve and

introspect.

vi. Edla was happy to see the gift left by the peddler because he had not let her down. She realised that she had succeeded in bringing about a transformation in the peddler. The letter expressed gratitude towards Edla for elevating him to the status of captain, a pleasant Christmas surprise and a chance to free himself from the rattrap of the world.

11. i. Rapid human population growth and limited resources exert pressure on land. Burning of fossil fuels has only helped in increasing the average global temperature. Melting of ice-caps, depletion of the ozone layer and global warming are the real and immediate dangers for mankind. They will affect the lives of all the marine animals and the birds of the region.

ii. The articles in the stalls and shops, which fascinated Bama on her way back home from school included dried fish stall by the statue of Gandhi, the sweet stall, the stall selling fried snacks. Other than, that the hunter gypsy with his lemur, selling needles, clay beads and instruments to clean out the ears; the way each waiter cooled the coffee, people sitting in front to the shops, chopping onions, etc. all of these attracted Bama.

iii. The Maharaja refused to allow the British officer to hunt tigers in his kingdom. Instead, the Maharaja offered to organise a boar hunt or a mouse hunt or even a mosquito hunt. It shows the shallowness and pretence of the British official.

12. A. Zitkala-Sa's experience in 'Memories of Childhood' is that of a victim of the racial discrimination. Bama, on the other hand, experienced discrimination on the basis of her caste. Zitkala-Sa is a native American girl sent to a convent school, where she is treated badly at the hands of white people who consider themselves a superior race. Zitkala-Sa has to abide by many rules and regulations, which overwhelm her on the very first day of her school. She, along with others, is made to 'eat by formula' and it distresses her. It is the cutting of her long hair, which makes her hysterical. In her community, only mourners and cowards wear their hair short. So, when it is her turn to get her hair shingled, she decides, she is not going to submit without a struggle. When she is dragged out from under

the bed and carried downstairs, she resists by kicking and scratching wildly. She fights getting hair cut by shaking her head. A slightly different, but equally disturbing struggle, Bama has had already seen, felt, experienced and been humiliated by what untouchability is/was. The discrimination, in the beginning, is not quite evident to Bama until she sees an elder member of her community carry a packet of eatables by a string for a man of upper caste. It is from her older brother that she comes to know about the ill-treatment meted out to the Dalits by the members of the upper castes. This information terribly saddened and infuriates Bama as she feels that such discrimination is unfair and unjustified. Even after facing discrimination in their

respective lives, Bama and Zitkala-Sa both became powerful writers and used this power to voice their opinion and fight oppression by the so called superior caste or race.

OR

B. Phytoplanktons are single-celled grass that feed the entire southern ocean's marine life. They are the main form of vegetation and source of food in the entire southern ocean. Through the process of photosynthesis, they provide food and oxygen to all the marine life at the sea. They convert the carbon dioxide into food and water with the help of sunlight. These tiny plants require a low degree of temperature for their survival. But due to global warming, ozone layers are depleting which filter harmful UV rays of the sun. The rise in temperature adversely affects their activities. If phytoplankton cannot thrive, the whole of marine animals will be at risk too. The chain reaction will not just stop there, this will lead to bigger problems for the ecosystem. Any imbalance in the ecosystem means a threat to all living beings on the planet.

13. A. He is not even very sure about any one single reason for the huge success of his novel "The Name of the Rose. He feels perhaps the timing of the novel's publication was the most important factor of its success. The fact that at one level it appears to be a detective yarn but also delves into metaphysics, theology and medieval history also adds to its appeal. Though the novel is quite a heavy reading experience, it attracted a mass audience and made Eco popular more as a novelist rather than an academic scholar. As someone who considers himself an academician who 'became a novelist by accident' Eco is glad that the idea of difficult intellectually challenging books are only enjoyed by a few has been proven wrong by the immense success of his work.

OR

B. John Keats was a British Romantic poet. Romanticism placed emphasis on nature. In the poem, 'A Thing of Beauty' he says that sun, moon, trees, old and young and daffodils are shapes of beauty that move away the pall from our dark spirits. He describes the green world that animals live in, the forest the fair musk-rose blooms, etc. He again makes a comparison between the gardens of nature and the gardens of the dooms and the mighty tales of the dead and describes it as 'endless fountain of immortal drink. The poem also illustrates a connection with nature, that we weave a 'flowery band to bind us to the earth, even saying that beauty can keep us healthy although we may have 'dark spirits' and some shape of beauty moves away the pall. The feeling that beauty in life is a joy forever runs through the poem.