

Class XII Session 2023-24
Subject - English Core
Sample Question Paper - 2

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

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

SECTION-A
READING SKILLS (22 MARKS)

1. Read the following text.

(1) No student of a foreign language needs to be told that grammar is complex. By changing word sequences and by adding a range of auxiliary verbs and suffixes, we are able to communicate tiny variations in meaning. We can turn a statement into a question, state whether an action has taken place or is soon to take place, and perform many other word tricks to convey subtle differences in meaning. Nor is this complexity inherent to the English language. All languages, even those of so-called primitive tribes have clever grammatical components. The Cherokee pronoun system, for example, can distinguish between you and I, 'several other people and I' and you, another person and I. In English, all these meanings are summed up in the one, crude pronoun 'we'. Grammar is universal and plays a part in every language, no matter how widespread it is. So the question which has baffled many linguists is - who created grammar?

(2) At first, it would appear that this question is impossible to answer. To find out how grammar is created, someone needs to be present at the time of a language's creation, documenting its emergence. Many historical linguists are able to trace modern complex languages back to earlier languages, but in order to answer the question of how complex languages are actually formed, the researcher needs to observe how languages are started from scratch. Amazingly, however, this is possible.

(3) Some of the most recent languages evolved due to the Atlantic slave trade. At that time, slaves from a number of different ethnicities were forced to work together under colonizer's rule. Since they had no opportunity to learn each others' languages, they developed a make-shift language called a pidgin. Pidgins are strings of words copied from the language of the landowner. They have little in the way of grammar, and in many cases

it is difficult for a listener to deduce when an event happened, and who did what to whom. Speakers need to use circumlocution in order to make their meaning understood. Interestingly, however, all it takes for a pidgin to become a complex language is for a group of children to be exposed to it at the time when they learn their mother tongue. Slave children did not simply copy the strings of words uttered by their elders, learn their mother tongue. Slave children did not simply copy the strings of words uttered by their elders, they adapted their words to create a new, expressive language. Complex grammar systems which emerge from pidgins are termed creoles, and they are invented by children.

(4) Further evidence of this can be seen in studying sign languages for the deaf. Sign languages are not simply a series of gestures; they utilise the same grammatical machinery that is found in spoken languages. Moreover, there are many different languages used worldwide. The creation of one such language was documented quite recently in Nicaragua. Previously, all deaf people were isolated from each other, but in 1979 a new government introduced schools for the deaf. Although children were taught speech and lip reading in the classroom, playgrounds, they began to invent their own sign system, using the gestures that they used at home. It was basically a pidgin. Each child used the signs differently, and there was no consistent grammar. However, children who joined the school later, when this inventive sign system was already around, developed a quite different sign language. Although it was based on the signs of the older children, the younger children's language was more fluid and compact, and it utilised a large range of grammatical devices to clarify meaning. What is more, all the children used the signs in the same way. A new creole was born.

(5) Some linguists believe that many of the world's most established languages were creoles at first. The English past tense-ed ending may have evolved from the verb 'do' 'It ended' may once have been 'It end-did. Therefore it would appear that even the most widespread languages were partly created by children. Children appear to have innate grammatical machinery in their brains, which springs to life when they are first trying to make sense of the world around them. Their minds can serve to create logical, complex structures, even when there is no grammar present for them to copy.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i. Why did the narrator say that it is impossible to say who created grammar?
- ii. The language created by children of slaves with complex grammar system is called
 - A. Pidgin
 - B. Creoles
 - C. Cherokee
 - D. English
- iii. All the following sentences about Nicaragua sign language are true EXCEPT:

- A. The language has been created since 1979.
- B. The language is based on speech and lip reading.
- C. The language incorporates signs which children used at home.
- D. The language was perfected by younger children.
- iv. Sign language is not simply a series of gestures because _____
 - A. they were developed from the English language
 - B. they incorporated the same grammatical system found in spoken languages
 - C. they were basically pidgin
 - D. children developed it with lip reading system
- v. What was the main disadvantage of the sign language used in the schools for deaf in 1979?
- vi. Which word in para 3 have the same meaning as "extrapolate"?
 - A. Evolved
 - B. Opportunity
 - C. Complex
 - D. Deduce
- vii. "Some of the most recent languages evolved due to the Atlantic slave trade." Justify this statement.
- viii. How do children play a role in the creation of a language?
- ix. The pidgin language was created so that _____
 - A. colonisers can speak to the slaves
 - B. slaves can learn new languages
 - C. slaves with different languages could communicate with one another
 - D. to improve existing language of the land owners

2. Read the following text.

(1) Today, India looks like it is on course to join the league of developed nations. It is beginning to establish a reputation not just as the technology nerve centre and back-office for the world, but also as its production centre. India's secularism and democracy serve as a role model to other developing countries. There is great pride in an Indian that easily integrates with a global economy, yet maintains a unique cultural identity.

(2) But what is breathtaking is India's youth. Despite being an ancient civilization that traces itself to the very dawn of human habitation, India is among the youngest countries in the world. More than half the country is under 25 years of age and more than a third is under 15 years of age.

(3) Brought up in the shadow of the rise of India's service industry boom, this group feels that it can be at least as good if not better than anyone else in the world. This confidence has them demonstrating a great propensity to consume, throwing away ageing ideas of asceticism and

thrift. Even those who do not have enough to consume today feel that they have the capability and opportunity to do so.

(4) The economic activity created by this combination of a growing labour pool and rising consumption demand is enough to propel India to double digit economic growth for decades. One just has to look at the impact that the baby boomers in the US had over decades of economic activity, as measured by equity and housing prices. This opportunity also represents the greatest threat to India's future. If the youth of India is not properly educated and if there are not enough jobs created, India will lose its opportunity forever. There are danger signs in abundance.

(5) Fifty-three per cent of students in primary schools drop out, one-third of children in Class V cannot read, three quarters of schools do not have a functioning toilet, female literacy is only 45 per cent and 80 million children in the age group of 6-14 do not even attend school.

(6) India's IT and BPO industries are engines of job creation, but they still account for only 0.2 per cent of India's employment. The country has no choice but to dramatically industrialize and inflate its domestic economy. According to a forecast by the Boston Consulting Group, more than half of India's unemployed within the next decade could be its educated youth. We cannot allow that to happen.

(7) India is stuck in a quagmire of labour laws that hinder employment growth, particularly in the manufacturing sector. Inflexible labour laws inhibit entrepreneurship so it is quite ironic that laws ostensibly designed to protect labour actually discourage employment.

(8) Employment creation needs an abundant supply of capital. Controls on foreign investment have resulted in China getting five times the foreign direct investment, or an advantage of \$200 billion over the past five years. The growing interest in India by global private equity firms offers well as they represent pools of patient and smart capital, but they too face many bureaucratic hurdles.

(9) When it comes to domestic capital availability, budget deficits adding up to 10 per cent of the national GDP impede capital availability for investment and infrastructure.

(10) Raising infrastructure spending, coupled with rapid privatization, may not only create employment but also address the growing gaps in infrastructure. China has eight times the highway miles and has increased roads significantly in the past few years while India has only inched along. Freight costs at Indian ports are almost double the worldwide average, just to, give two examples.

(11) Moreover like the Lilliputians that kept the giant Gulliver tied down there are some 30,000 statutes in India of which only a portion are even operational and these keep the employment creation engine tied down. Since there are no sunset provisions in any laws the regulatory morass only grows every year.

(12) In the meantime, we as citizens of the world and descendants of India have to make a

difference. We have to ensure that India and its youth attain that potential both through our business pursuits and the support of educational charities, on-the-ground proponents of participative democracy as well as other deserving organizations and initiatives.

(13) I believe that hope can triumph and that this can be India's century -- not one that will happen as surely as the sun will rise each day, but one that many willing hands will need to create together.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. India is on its way to establish a reputation as

- A. technology nerve centre
- B. back office to the world
- C. production centre
- D. all of these

ii. Why is India amongst the youngest countries of the world?

iii. "This confidence has them demonstrating a great propensity to consume" the confidence referred here is :

- A. India being a young country.
- B. The feeling that India can be at least as good if not better than anyone else in the world.
- C. India being the world's back office.
- D. India being the biggest spender.

iv. The one factor that is obstructing the growth of employment in manufacturing sector in India is :

- A. Population growth
- B. Uneducated youth
- C. Labour laws
- D. Lack of investors

v. The narrator suggests, _____ for creating more employment.

vi. Synonym of the word morass is

- A. Hiatus
- B. Remorse
- C. Quagmire
- D. Problem

vii. According to the narrator, raising infrastructure spending and rapid privatization will create more employment opportunities. TRUE or FALSE.

viii. The narrator states 'India is stuck in a quagmire of labour laws. Explain

SECTION-B
CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 MARKS)

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

A. You are Secretary of the History Club of Vidya Mandir School. Draft a notice informing students of a proposed visit to some important historical sites in your city.

OR

B. You are Sonu/Sonali, Sports Secretary of Maharani Public School, Gwalior. Write a notice for the school notice board, asking students interested in playing hockey to give their names for selection in the school hockey team. Invent date, time, eligibility criteria, etc.

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

A. You are a student of Newton Public School, Nagpur. The school is holding its annual function on Saturday, the 15th of November, 20xx at 11 a.m. The HRD Minister, Dr. M.M. Joshi has consented to be the chief guest. Design an invitation to be sent to the parents and other invitees.

OR

B. You are Dr Avinash Bhalla. You have received an invitation from the Director, Health Services, Haryana who has invited leading medical practitioners of the state to attend a workshop on 'child care' on 20 May, 20xx at 10 a.m. in Civil Hospital Ambala. Respond to the invitation.

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

A. You are Apoorva, B-120, Malviya Nagar, Chennai. Read the advertisement given below and write a letter to the advertiser, applying for the job.

INDIAN PHARMACEUTICALS,
20 Coast Road, Kochi, requires
Trainee Medical Representatives.

Candidates should be Science or Pharmacy graduates and below 25 years of age. Fluency in English and any one of the regional languages is essential. Attractive stipend with handsome working allowances will be offered during training period. After successful completion of the training, the candidates will be appointed on regular basis. Please apply with complete resume and a passport size photograph at the above address.

OR

B. There is a flood of advertisements on television channels these days. Useless commodities and even superstitious beliefs are promoted through glamorous and exaggerated presentations. Write a letter to the Editor, 'New Indian Express' about the negative influence such advertisements have on the minds of the people. You are Radha/Ramesh of Mayur Vihar, Lucknow.

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

A. Write an article against Gender Discrimination in India.

OR

B. Your school organised a seminar on 'Swine Flu' for creating awareness among students of your school, and their parents. As secretary of the Health Club of Oasis Public School, Hyderabad, write a report for "The Deccan Herald".

SECTION-C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT

(40 MARKS)

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

A. It seemed a long way down. Those nine feet were more like ninety, and before I touched bottom my lungs were ready to burst. But when my feet hit bottom I summoned all my strength and made what I thought was a great spring upwards. I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork. Instead, I came up slowly. I

opened my eyes and saw nothing but water - water that had a dirty yellow tinge to it.

i. Why did the nine feet deep pool seemed ninety to Douglas?

A. Because he was afraid of the water and didn't know swimming.

B. Because he didn't know that the pool is so deep inside.

C. Because he didn't know the calculation.

D. Because the pool's water is so dirty.

ii. The expression "I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork" implies that

A. Douglas was afraid to die.

B. Douglas accepted his failure and ultimate death.

C. Though Douglas was frightened he was not out of his wits.

D. Frightened, Douglas was not able to shout for help.

iii. Choose the word from the given options which means to 'make a quick, short movement up and down.

A. Burst

B. Tinge

C. Bob

D. Summoned

iv. The above extract has been taken from

A. The Last Lesson

B. Indigo

C. The Rattrap

D. Deep Water

V. Where did the given event take place?

vi. 'It seemed a long way down? What was the author referring to?

OR

B. His dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets that fill his town Firozabad, famous for its bangles. Every other family in Firozabad is engaged in making bangles. It is the centre of India's glass-blowing industry where families have spent generations working around furnaces, welding glass, making bangles for all the women in the land it seems.

i. Whose dream is being talked about in this extract?

ii. Which figure of speech is employed in the phrase "his dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets".

A. Metaphor

B. Hyperbole

C. Apostrophe

D. Simile

iii. Choose the statement that is NOT TRUE about Firozabad.

A. Majority of the population in Firozabad is involved in bangle making.

B. Firozabad is the centre of India's glass-blowing industry.

C. It is legal for children to work in the glass furnaces with high temperatures.

D. Children toil in the furnaces for hours, in dingy cells which affects their eyesight.

iv. Why did the narrator refer to his dream as a 'mirage'?

A. It is just an illusion.

B. His reality is different from his far-fetched dream of becoming a motor mechanic.

C. It's an unrealistic hope that cannot be achieved.

D. Both (B) and (C)

V. What is the name of the chapter?

Vi. Whose family had spent generations working around furnaces?

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

A. While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,

Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits

That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,

And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day,

Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way.

i. Why does the poet call the good-doers 'greedy' and 'beneficent beasts of prey'?

ii. What will be the effect of all the benefits on the poor?

iii. Why would the poor people's sleep get destroyed?

iv. Give the meaning of the word 'beneficent'.

V. The literary device used in 'greedy good-doers' is

A. Simile

B. Allegory

C. Alliteration

D. Personification

vi. Name the poet of the given lines of poetry.

A. Robert Frost

B. John Keats

C. Pablo Neruda

D. Adrienne Rich

B. From our dark spirits,

Such the sun, the moon,

Trees old,

and young,

sprouting a shady boon

For simple sheep; and such are daffodils

With the green world they live in; and clear rills

i. What is the meaning of the word, 'rills'?

A. The new sprouts and blooms

B. A type of song bird

C. Small streams

D. An object used to catch fishes

ii. According to the extract, which of the following images are being evoked?

1. Daffodils

2. Trees

3. Spider

4. Sunflower

5. Sheep

A. 3 and 4

B. 4 and 5

C. 1, 2 and 5

D. 1, 2, 3 and 4

iii. The poet says that the old and young trees are spreading their shade for simple sheep. What is the basis of this kind of ideas?

A. The theory of evolution

B. Logical connection

C. Inferential assessment

D. Poetic imagination

iv. What does a rill do to the greenery?

V. Match the following correctly.

(i) rills - (a) a small area of still water

(ii) pools - (b) a natural flow of water for long distances to sea/ocean.

(iii) rivers - (c) a shallow channel cut by water flowing over rock/soil

A. (i)-(c), (ii)-(a), (iii)-(b)

B. (i)-(a), (ii)-(b), (iii)-(c)

C. (i)-(c), (ii)-(b), (iii)-(a)

D. (i)-(b), (ii)-(a), (iii)-(c)

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

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

A. The corridor I was in began angling left and slanting downward and I thought that was wrong, but I kept on walking. All I could hear was the empty sound of my own footsteps and I didn't pass a soul. Then I heard that sort of hollow roar ahead that means open space and people talking. The tunnel turned sharp left; I went down a short flight of stairs and came out on the third level at Grand Central Station.

i. What does the phrase "I didn't pass a soul" mean?

A. That the narrator was dead.

B. That nobody was there except the narrator.

C. That there were so many dead souls roaming.

D. That the narrator was thinking about a ghost.

ii. Which is the only sound that the speaker heard when he entered the corridor?

A. Chirping of the birds

B. Voices of the people talking

- C. Sound of the trains moving at the Grand Station
- D. Empty sound of his own footsteps
- iii. 'Began angling' what does the phrase imply?
- iv. To which chapter the given extract belongs?

OR

B. Students on Ice, the programme I was working with on the Shokalskiy, aims to do exactly this by taking high school students to the ends of the world and providing them with inspiring educational opportunities which will help the foster a new understanding and respect for our planet.. With Students on Ice, he offers the future generation of policy-makers a life changing experience at an age when they're ready to absorb, learn, and most importantly, act.

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract.
The writer refers to the educational opportunities as 'inspiring' because,

ii. Which of the following would NOT be 'a life changing experience'?

- A. Being given the lead role in a play.
- B. Going on an adventure trip.
- C. Playing a video game.
- D. Meeting a great leader you admire.

iii. Select the most suitable title for the given extract.

- A. Adventure with a Mission
- B. Adventure- The Spice of Life
- C. The Wanderlust
- D. Students of the Future

iv. Why does the writer refer to act' as more important than 'absorb' or 'learn'?

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

- i. Why did the author appear to be doing nothing at the studios?
- ii. Why did Gandhiji feel that it was useless for the peasants to go to law courts?
- iii. What is your impression of Sophie's brother Geoff?
- iv. Describe the endless fountain of immortal drink.
- V. Why did the peddler sign himself as Captain von Stahle?
- vi. What does the title 'Lost Spring' convey?

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

- i. Hana told Yumi to wash the soldier's wounds. How did Yumi react?
- ii. Why did Zitkala-Sa resist the cutting of her hair?
- iii. What peculiar things does Derry notice about the old man, Mr. Lamb?

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

A. What do you understand about the author's literary inclinations in the story 'Poets and Pancakes'?

OR

B. How is Umberto Eco's style of academic writing different from others?

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

A. What lessons can be learnt from an expedition to Antarctica?

OR

B. How did the Tiger King stand in danger of losing his Kingdom? How was he able to avert the danger?

SOLUTIONS

1. i. In the second paragraph, the narrator said that it was impossible to say who created grammar because of the fact that someone had to be present when the language was created. This will require the individual to not only be present but also document the creation process of the language.
- ii. B. Creoles
- iii. A. The language has been created since 1979.
- iv. B. they incorporated the same grammatical system found in spoken languages
- v. the signs were used differently, and there was no consistent grammar.
- vi. D. Deduce
- vii. The narrator believes that the Atlantic slave trade was one way of spreading or integrating different languages. The slaves from different ethnicities who were forced to work together had no chance to use their known language so they had to create/come up with a new way of communicating among themselves.
- viii. Children have an innate grammatical machinery in their brains that comes to life when they are first trying to make sense of the world around them. And it is this sense to create logical, complex structures that makes their minds work even without the presence of any grammar for them to copy.
- ix. C. slaves with different languages could communicate with one another
2. i. D. all of these
- ii. India's civilization has been from ancient times. But despite the fact that its civilization has been from the dawn of human habitation, the country is still among the youngest countries in the world. This is because more than half of the country's population is under 25 years of age and more than a third is under 15 years of age.
- iii. B. The feeling that India can be at least as good if not better than anyone else in the world.
- iv. B. Uneducated youth
- V. raising infrastructure spending and rapid privatisation
- vi. C. Quagmire
- vii. TRUE
- viii. The country's slow employment growth has left the youths of the country unable to do anything. Added to this are the various 'laws' that hinder growth. The many laws laid down by the government with the supposed intention of making more jobs available are in actuality, discouraging employment.

3.A.

VIDYA MANDIR SCHOOL
NOTICE

18 February, 20xx

Educational Excursion

History Club is planning an educational excursion to some of the important historical monuments and sites in the city. Duration of the tour is within the school timings (8 a.m.-2 p.m.). The per head cost is Rs. 500/ inclusive of transport and meals. Those interested may contact the undersigned.

XYZ

(Secretary, History Club)

OR

B.

MAHARANI PUBLIC SCHOOL, GWALIOR
NOTICE

3 March, 20xx

Accepting New Players in School Hockey Team

Students interested in playing hockey are requested to give their names to the undersigned for selection in the school hockey team by March 10, 20xx. Selection will be held on the basis of merit on March 12, 20xx from 9 a.m. onwards.

Sonali

(Sports Secretary)

4. A.

The Principal, Staff and Students
of
Newton Public School, Nagpur

Cordially invite you to our Annual function. Honourable HRD Minister, Mr. M M. Joshi has consented to be our chief guest and grace the occasion. We request you to attend the function and encourage the students, who have participated in various events.

Date : 15th November, 20xx

Time : 11 A.M. onwards

Venue : School Sports Ground

R.S.V.P.

Ravisha (Head Girl)

OR

B.

C-112, Mayur Vihar Delhi

Avinash Bhalla has a great pleasure in receiving the invitation from the Director, Health Services, Haryana to attend a workshop on 'Child Care' on 20 May, 20xx at 10 a.m. in Civil Hospital Ambala.

He confirms his presence with thanks.

Dr. Avinash Bhalla

16 March, 20xx

5. A.

B-120

Malviya Nagar

Chennai

1 March, 20xx

Indian Pharmaceuticals

20 Coast Road

Kochi,

Subject : Job Application for Trainee Medical Representative

Sir/Madam,

This letter refers to your advertisement, dated 28 February, 20xx, for the requirement of trainee medical representative in Indian Pharmaceuticals. I wish to apply for the same.

I have recently completed my graduation in Pharmacy from University Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Punjab University.

Although I do not have any work experience, I am enthusiastic and a quick learner. I am enclosing my resume and a passport size photograph as requested by you with this letter.

I hope you shall consider my application for aforesaid post.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Apoorva Agnihotri

Enclsd: Bio-data, 1 passport size photograph

BIO-DATA

Name : Apoorva Agnihotri

Gender : Male

Father's Name : Mr. Vijay Agnihotri

Date of Birth : 12 February, 1990

Marital Status : Unmarried

Current Add. : B -120, Malviya Nagar, Chennai

Contact No. : 971234xxxx

Academic Record :

Examination	Institution	Board/University	Marks
B.Sc (Pharma)	University Institute of Pharmaceutical sciences	Punjab University	60%
XII (Science)	Matri Kala School	CBSE	95%
X	Matri Kala School	CBSE	90%

Scholarship/Awards	: Scholarship holder in class XI and XII
Skills	: Knowledge of computers Good Communication skills
Languages Known	: Fluent in English, Hindi, Tamil and Punjabi
Reference	: Mrs. J.S. Sharma, head of the Department Department of Pharmacy, PU, 951234xxxx

OR

B.

Mayur Vihar
Lucknow-18
15 March, 20xx
The Editor
New Indian Express
XYZ Road
Lucknow-21
Subject: Negative Influence of Advertisements

Sir,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw the attention of the general public towards the negative influence of advertisements on the mind of the general public.

The general public is very well aware of the flood of advertisements on television channels, selling wrong ideas and superstitious beliefs along with useless commodities, which may or may not be completely effective. Advertisements, especially those of fairness products, anti-aging creams, body sprays/perfumes, etc. are misleading the general public. They promote ideas, such as fair skin is beautiful, aging is bad and some fragrances make you irresistible to the opposite sex. That's not all. Most advertisements objectify women, which does not send a right message to the children. Advertisements, which show celebrities doing dangerous stunts by themselves, influence kids and youngsters to quite an extent. There have been incidents where kids/youngsters have met with fatal accidents while attempting these stunts at home without adult supervision. Although such an ad comes with a warning that the stunts should not be tried at home. However, it is so small that it easily goes unnoticed. There are also ads, which appeal to the religious psyche of some viewers. They try to sell solutions for various life problems one is suffering from by offering religious remedies. Superstitious consumers fall prey to these ads quite easily and resort to various ill-practices to fulfil their wishes.

It is through your newspaper that, I wish to appeal to the general public not to believe everything that is shown to them in television ads and make their buying decisions wisely.

Thank you
Yours sincerely
Radha Shah

6. A. Gender Discrimination

In our male-dominated society the girl child is considered inferior. The birth of a male child is an event for celebration while that of a female child is rued. The bias is more pronounced in rural areas. Daughters are not given good quality food. Milk, eggs, fruit, etc. are reserved for the boys. Girls are sent to schools which have no claim to any quality education or facilities. On the

other hand, boys are sent to the most exclusive 'public schools. After school the daughters stay at home and assist in household work. The boys go out to meet friends, enjoy movies and shows or play games. It is the girls who face all types of restrictions. This discrimination is unjust and harmful. Ultimately it is the society that suffers. There's also the case of dowry in most cases of Indian wedding where a bride is expected to bring hefty amount of money and goods in the name of wedding gift, this practice makes the birth of a girl even more burdensome and unwanted in a middle-lower class families. Even in work places hiring males is more preferred to females due to certain gender related prejudices. Some of the girls do grow up in an environment where they do not receive the same amount of support or encouragement as their male counterparts and end up losing in the competitive spheres later in life. Girls too have intelligence, talent and creativity. Indeed they have more sensibility, affection and love. We should end the evil discrimination against the girl child and give them equal opportunities and support to fly high.

OR

B. Seminar on Swine Flu

by XYZ, Secretary, Health Club,
Oasis Public School, Hyderabad

Hyderabad, June 10, 20xx: Oasis Public School organised a seminar on Swine Flu on Saturday, June 9, 20xx. The one day seminar was organised for creating awareness among the school students and their parents. Held at the school auditorium, the seminar had various sessions lined up one after another to educate the attendees of the causes, effect and cure for the fatal disease. Guest speakers and panel of experts consisted of eminent doctors practising at AIIMS, Delhi, and representatives of local NGOs working towards health and sanitation. The message of proper health care and prevention from swine flu was spread across with the help of Nukkad Natak, presented by volunteers and also an interactive visual presentation. Doctors emphasised on immediate action at the first sign of symptoms. The Principal thanked the panel of experts and guest speakers for enlightening all with so many facts. No doubt, the seminar was beneficial in being prepared for swine flu.

7. A. i. A. Because he was afraid of the water and didn't know swimming.

ii. C. Though Douglas was frightened he was not out of his wits.

iii. C. Bob

iv. D. Deep Water

v. The given event took place in YMCA pool when the narrator was a child.

vi. The author was referring to the depth of the water/ swimming pool he was thrown into.

OR

- ii. A. Metaphor
- iii. C. It is legal for children to work
- iv. D. Both B and C
- V. Lost Spring
- vi. Mukesh's family has spent generations working around furnaces.

- 8. A. i. Because the benefits which they bestow upon the poor people are forced and really for their own personal gain.
- ii. The poor people will become lethargic and sleep all day. They'll stop working hard and would only want to lead a comfortable and luxurious life.
- iii. Because given the benefits of wealth and luxury, they will forsake their ancient way of working hard by day and sleeping peacefully at night.
- iv. Generous
- V. C. Alliteration
- vi. A. Robert Frost

OR

- B. i. C. Small streams
- ii. C. 1, 2 and 5
- iii. D. Poetic imagination
- iv. It makes the land fertile for plants to grow.
- V. A. (i)-(c), (ii)-(a), (iii)-(b)
- vi. A Thing of Beauty

- 9. A. i. B. That nobody was there except the narrator.
- ii. D. Empty sound of his own footsteps
- iii. The given phrase indicates towards the beginning of hallucination of Charley.
- iv. The Third Level

OR

- B. i. it would motivate them to work towards the good of the planet
 - ii. C. Playing a video game.
 - iii. A. Adventure with a Mission
 - iv. Because actions produce an impact which is far more important than just understanding.
- 10. i. The job of the author was to cut newspaper clippings and file them. For the other employees, all he seemed to be doing is tearing newspapers, which according to them did not qualify as work. Therefore, they often considered him free and available for their miscellaneous

work.

ii. Gandhiji felt it was useless to take the Champaran case to the court because it was a British court and the judge was British too. They would never get the decision in their favour.

Moreover, the Indian eminent lawyers were charging huge fees.

iii. Geoff was an introvert by nature. He often remained silent and lost in his own world, a world to which Sophie had no access. She often sought her brother's affection and attention. She was quite fascinated about Geoff's world as it symbolised adventure and freedom for Sophie. She hero- worshipped her brother.

iv. It is nature's beauty, which Keats considers an endless fountain of immortal drink. According to him, the drink is immortal because of the joy and delight it provides, it never passes into nothingness; the joy is forever and its loveliness ever-increasing.

v. The peddler signed himself as Captain von Stahle because even though Edla knew the peddler was not really a captain, she treated him with equal respect and kindness. He felt honoured that the young woman made him feel important. Her behaviour and action brought a transformation in the peddler. He wanted to begin again as a man of dignity, as Captain von Stahle.

vi. The title 'Lost Spring' conveys that the grinding poverty and the traditions which condemn poor children to a life of exploitation, cause them to lose their childhood, which is really the spring time of their life. The slum children have to start earning their living and taking care of their family at a very young age. As a result, they do not get to enjoy a normal childhood.

11. i. When Hana told Yumi to wash the American soldier's wounds, Yumi refused to touch him. She had a fierce look of resistance as she said she had nothing to do with him. She even threatened to leave the job, which she eventually did.

ii. Zitkala-Sa resisted the shingling of her hair because in her culture, long hair was valued. In her culture, it was only the warriors captured by the enemy, cowards and mourners who wore their hair shingled or short.

iii. Derry notices that Mr. Lamb always leaves the gates open for anybody and everybody so as to welcome strangers. Derry is amazed that unlike others, old Mr. Lamb treated him with utmost kindness, that he is not repulsed by Derry's scarred face. Derry also finds it peculiar that Mr. Lamb lives in a huge house with a huge garden but without curtains.

12. A. Though the author had a very tedious and unchallenging job at the studios, his interest in literature and writing is apparent in his willingness to participate in the short story contest organised by the British periodical, The Encounter. Moreover, the author appears to be a keen reader visiting libraries and buying books on wide-ranging topics whenever he could afford them. Besides, the narrative also establishes the fact that the author was one of the most knowledgeable persons in Gemini Studios. His idea about how prose writing was not meant for

geniuses but for those with patience and perseverance, highlight his reflective and deep thoughts on literature and creative writing.

OR

B. Eco's writing style is strikingly different from that of the standard academic mode. The academicians first make a thorough research, then move on to prove their hypotheses, and finally give their conclusion on the subject. The final outcome, therefore, comes out as tedious. Eco, on the other hand, tells the story of his research, including his "trials and errors". While the scholars usually use a very depersonalised and dull manner, Eco's manner is personalised and playful, and in the form of a narrative.

13. A. While in Antarctica, one can witness the ice-sheets breaking, water level rising, seals taking sun bath on the icefloes. One can also walk on the thin layers of ice and feel the life under one's feet. One can see icebergs as big as a small country. And earlier these ice sheets were many times bigger than their present size. One can see a green patch of phytoplankton - a microscopic grass that feeds the entire marine life. Lastly, if one can get a chance to dig a bit, one can be lucky to see the fossils of half a million years old animals, plants and birds that got killed in the previous ice-age. This way one can learn the lesson of the slow impending death of the planet earth and therefore take some constructive actions to save it from its doom.

OR

B. A high-ranking British officer, who was fond of hunting tigers, visited Pratibandapuram. The Tiger King refused to allow the British officer to hunt tigers saying it was banned in his kingdom. He did not even permit the officer to get himself photographed with the tiger killed by the king. This annoyed the high-ranking British officer because directly or indirectly, the king was preventing an important man from fulfilling his desire. Anticipating unfavourable consequences of denying a British officer and to avert the danger of losing his kingdom, the Tiger King sent a gift of fifty expensive diamond rings to the British officer's wife. Although he thought that the duraisani would only select a couple of rings, he did not mind that she kept them all. In fact, he was happy to know that he was able to retain his kingdom even though he had to pay three lakh rupees to the British jewellers for the diamond rings.