

Class X Session 2023-24
Subject - English (Lan & Lit)
Sample Question Paper – 2

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) Technology is making advancements at a rapid rate but at the cost of a valued tradition-the crafts industry. The traditional crafts industry is losing a lot of its trained and skilled craftsmen. With that, the art of embellishing brass and copper utensils with fine engravings is also disappearing. The government has identified around 35 crafts as languishing craft.

(2) The speciality of handcrafted items is their design, an association with long traditions belonging to a specific region. The word 'handcrafted' does not imply the involvement of dexterous human fingers or an agile mind with a moving spirit anymore. Lessening drudgery, increasing production, and promoting efficiency have taken precedence. Labour-saving devices are taking the place of handcrafted tools, and this has led to a decline in traditional craftsmanship and a loss of cultural heritage associated with these artisanal practices.

(3) Mechanisation has made its way into everything - cutting, polishing, edging, designing etc. Ideally, the use of machinery should be negligible and the handicrafts should be made purely by hand with a distinguishable artistic appeal. However, with the exception of small-scale industries, the export units are mostly operated by machines. The heavily computerised designs contribute to a faster production at lower costs.

(4) Although mechanization of crafts poses a challenge to safeguarding traditional crafts, the artisans are lured with incentives in order to impart handicrafts training. Some makers do see

machines as a time-saving blessing since they are now able to accomplish difficult and demanding tasks with relative ease. These machines might give a better finesse to these products but they don't stand out as handcrafted. Quantity has overtaken quality in this industry.

(5) A need to highlight the importance of the handmade aspect is required by both the government and private sectors, in order to amplify awareness and also support the culture of making handicrafts. A few artisans are still trying their best to rejuvenate and revive their culture and heritage but it's an uphill task competing with the machine-made goods. A multitude of artisans have changed their professions and are encouraging their progeny to follow suit. There are others who have stayed their ground but are clearly inclined towards buying machines.

(6) Nearly two decades ago, there were around 65 lakh artisans in the country. Three years ago, when the government started the process of granting a unique number to the artisans based on the Aadhaar card, 25 lakhs were identified. Loss of traditional crafts is clearly a worrying issue, but it stands to reason that forcing any artisan to follow old ways when concerns of livelihood overrule other considerations, is unfair.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage.

- i. Why does the writer call handicrafts a 'valued tradition'? (1)
- ii. Replace the underlined phrase in the given sentence by choosing the correct option.
(1) If it continues, the workcation (work + vacation) trend will be a powerful boost to domestic tourism operators failing to make progress in the economic slump caused due to the pandemic.
A. Agile
B. Precedence
C. Languishing
D. Lessening
- iii. Complete the following sentence.
Artisans are choosing to work via machines rather than handcrafted tools because _____. (1)
- iv. Why do the artisans need to be 'lured with incentives' to impart handicrafts training?
- v. List two likely impacts of the support of government and private sectors towards the culture of making handicrafts. (2)
- vi. Complete the following sentence. (1)

The writer can justify an artist's act of abandoning her/his traditional craft for a more lucrative option via _____.

vii. The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets A - D below, identify a set of antonyms. (1)

A. Appreciate - Applaud

B. Automated Mechanical

C. Homemade Machined

D. Common – Simple

viii. State whether the following line displays the writer's idea as simple/complex/outright/justified.

Quantity has overtaken quality in this industry. (1)

2. Read the following text. (10 m)

(1) The North-East of India is a melting pot of variegated cultural mosaic of people and races, an ethnic tapestry of many hues and shades. Yet, these states are lesser explored as compared to the rest of the country. The new generations of travellers who are 'money rich and time poor' are increasingly looking for unique experiences --a phenomenon being called the emergence of the 'experience economy. For this new and growing breed of tourists, the North-East with its variety and uniqueness holds immense attraction.

(2) A study conducted in 2020 by Dr. Sherap Bhutia, revealed that the foreign tourist arrival in the North-East increased from 37,380 persons in 2005 to 118,552 in 2014. The overall growth rate of tourist (both domestic and foreign) in the North-East was as high as 26.44% during 2005-06. A high and positive growth of 12.53% was registered in foreign tourist visits to North-East States of India during 2012 from 2011, which further rose to register a growth of 27.93% during 2013 from 2012. Foreign tourist arrivals in the North-East witnessed a growth of 39.77% during 2014 from 2013, according to data provided from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

(3) The study recommendations for tourism planners included the need to concentrate on some key areas like enhancement of tourist facilities, tourism financing, focus on community involvement and others for the formulation of a sustainable tourism strategy in the North-East States of India.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage.

i. Infer one reason for the following, based on information given in paragraph 1.

The rate of tourism in the North-East of India puzzles tourism officials.

ii. Select the appropriate option to fill in the blanks.

From paragraph 1, we can infer that the _____ and _____ of the North-Eastern states aid attracting the 'money rich and time poor' tourists. (1)

1. distinctiveness 2. Conventionality 3. uniqueness
4. uniformity 5. modernity

- A. 1 and 3 B. 2 and 4
C. 2 and 5 D. 1 and 4

iii. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 1.
(1)

aroma: cooking:: _____ :painting

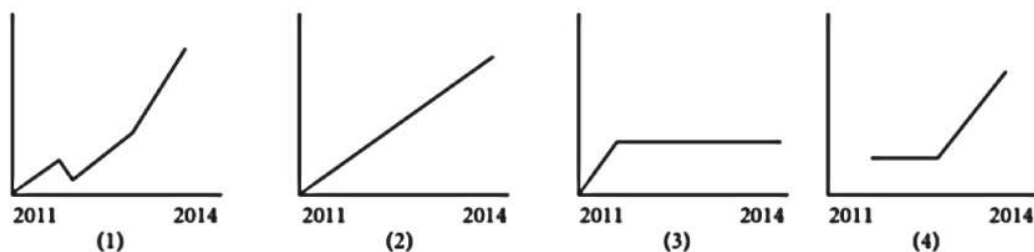
(Clue: Just like aroma is integral to cooking, similarly _____ is/are integral to painting.

iv. Select the correct option to complete the following sentence.

Travellers advocating the 'experience economy' seek a holiday package with _____
(Paragraph 1) (1)

- A. grand facilities, expensive hotels and excellent services to pamper them
B. a wholesome experience within the budget they have planned for
C. places and cities to buy things from and opportunities to spend money
D. cost-effective services, affordable accommodation and many days of touring

v. Select the chart that appropriately represents the trend of foreign tourist travels in the North-East, from 2011-2014, as per paragraph 2. (1)



A. Option 1 B. Option 2 C. Option 3 D. Option 4

vi. What do you understand by 'sustainable tourism'? (1)

vii. List any 2 examples of 'tourist facilities' as referred to, in Paragraph 3.

viii. List one reason why the researchers recommend that the formulation of a tourism strategy in the North-Eastern States of India be sustainable.

SECTION-B
WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)
GRAMMAR

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

i. Choose the correct option to complete the given sentence.

_____ people in our office have no idea about health care policies.

A. Much

B. Many

C. Little

D. More

ii. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply its correction.

One of the joys on being eighteen years old is that we acquire driving license and hence, drive.

Error	Correction

iii. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line.

Sachin Tendulkar is not have thought much about the ministry in sports.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A.	is, much	was, more
B.	is, in	may, of
C.	have, in	being, of
D.	about, in	for, of

iv. Choose the correct option to complete the following sentence.

Your phone. _____ for the last 10 minutes, you better answer.

A. had been ringing

- B. rang
- C. has been ringing
- D. rings

V. Select the correct option to complete the following sentence.

He _____ fined if he _____ on the phone while driving.

- A. is, talks
- B. will be, did not talk
- C. would not have been, had not talked
- D. had not been, did not talks

vi. Choose the correct option to complete the following sentence.

Jaya _____ on the 5th of this month at the temple.

- A. had married
- B. got married
- C. has married
- D. marries

vii. Choose the correct option to complete the following sentence.

No sooner _____ Sara presented with the award than she started crying.

- A. was
- B. had
- C. has
- D. is

viii. Choose the correct option to complete the following sentence.

Pasta is my favourite food but today I _____ eat burger instead.

- A. could
- B. must
- C. shall
- D. can

ix. Choose the correct option to fill in the blank.

I'm so hungry my stomach just _____ like thunder.

- A. growled
- B. had growled
- C. is growling
- D. growls

Choose the correct option to complete the given paragraph.

Harry is going to buy tickets for his friends at the movies. He walks up to the ticket counter and says, "4 tickets of The End Game movie, please". The staff answers, "We have a 3 pm and a 4

pm show, (x) _____ Harry replies, "The 3 pm one." The staff says,
“(xi). _____?” Harry answers, "By cash." The staff handed over 4 tickets to Harry; he
smiled and (xii) _____ the staff.

X. A. Which one would you like to book

B. What movie are you watching

C. When are you coming

D. Do you want some water

xi. A. How many seats do you want

B. Would you like to pay by card or cash

C. Would you go home in between

D. Can I refer you to another place

xii. A. waved at

B. thanked

C. swore at

D. screamed at

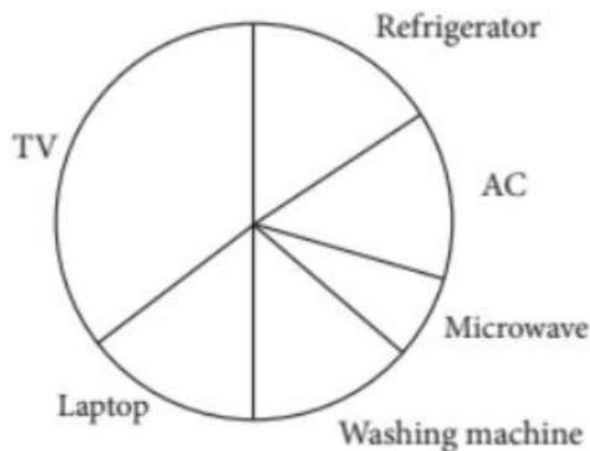
WRITING

4. A. Write a letter to Delhi Sports, Daryaganj, New Delhi, placing an order for sports items like footballs, cricket balls, tennis balls and cricket bats to be supplied to your school. Sign as Ravi/Raveena, Sports Secretary.

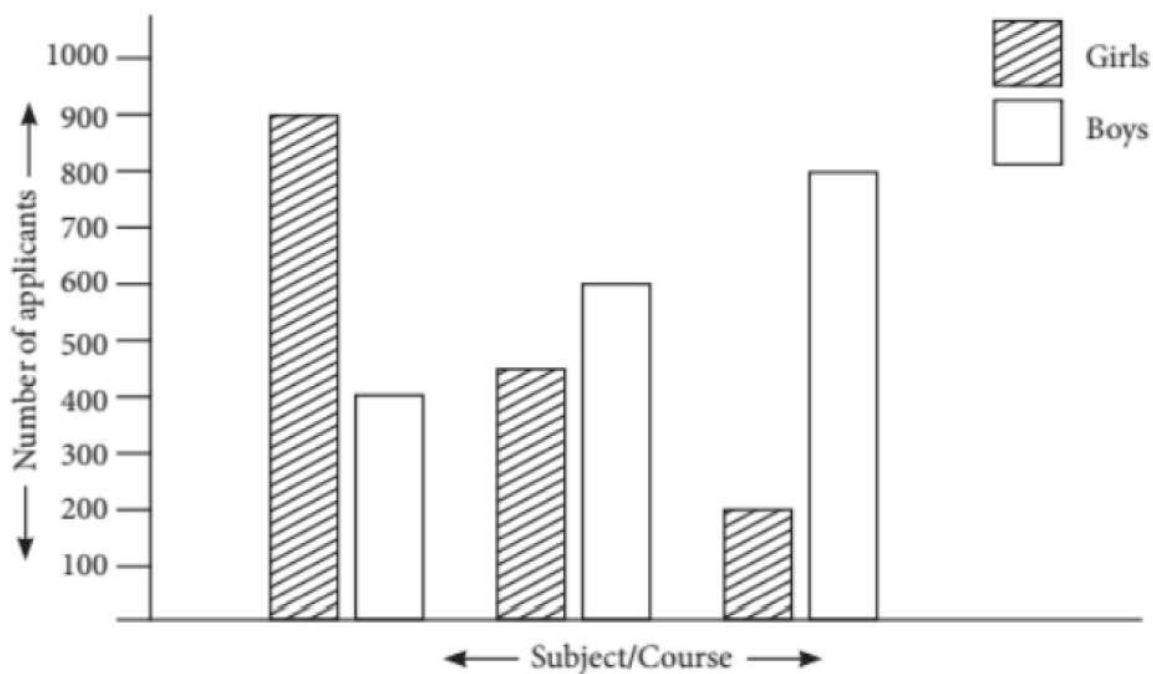
OR

4. B. You recently visited a government hospital. You were shocked to see the poor state of sanitation. Write a letter to the Director of Health Services requesting him to pay urgent attention to this situation and take remedial measures. You are Lokesh/Lalita, D-76, Anandpur, Delhi.

5. A. The given pie chart shows a variety of different electronic appliances used by average middle class families of old Gurugram. Write an analytical paragraph in about 100-120 words elaborating the given information.



5. B. Given is a bar graph showing the subject choices of boys and girls at the time of admission in a big university of Delhi. Write an analytical paragraph in about 100-120 words based on the statistics of the graph.



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.

(5)

A. When I returned, there was an appalling spectacle. There was complete silence from the box, but from its airholes and chinks around the lid, blood had trickled and dried. I whipped off the lock and tore open the lid, and Mij, exhausted and blood-spattered, whimpered and caught at my leg. He had torn the lining of the box to shreds; when I removed the last of it so that there were no cutting edges left, it was just ten minutes until the time of the flight, and the airport was five miles distant. I put the miserable Mij back into the box, holding down the lid with my hand. I sat in the back of the car with the box beside me as the driver tore through the streets of Basra like a ricocheting bullet.

i. Choose the speaker that uses the phrase 'appalling spectacle' correctly.

Speaker 1 - We got back home to see that our pet dog had eaten kheer my mother had kept out of the fridge.

Indeed, an appalling spectacle.

Speaker 2 - We got back home and witnessed that our cousin had dressed our pet dog in his t-shirt. Have to admit that it was an appalling spectacle.

Speaker 3 - We got back home to see that our pet dog sitting with a mangled rat. It was an appalling spectacle.

Speaker 4 - We got back home from the airport and observed our pet dog sound asleep on the rug. What an appalling spectacle!

A. Speaker 1

B. Speaker 2

C. Speaker 3

D. Speaker 4

ii. "whipped off", is an example of a phrasal verb i.e. a combination of a verb and a preposition. Choose the option that DOES NOT fit the given definition.

1.

down	after
out	off

3.

up	in
away	back

2.

up	out
along	down

4.

up	in
out	back

A. Option (1)

B. Option (2)

C. Option (3)

D. Option (4)

iii. Choose the option that correctly states Maxwell's likely feelings, in the situation below.
(1)

"... I put the miserable Mij back into the box, holding down the lid with my hand."

(1) anxious

(2) disappointed

(3) terrified

(4) guilty

(5) insulted

A. (1) and (5)

B. (2) and (3)

C. (1) and (4)

D. (3) and (5)

iv. What happened when Maxwell returned after having a quick meal? Answer in about 40 words.
(2)

OR

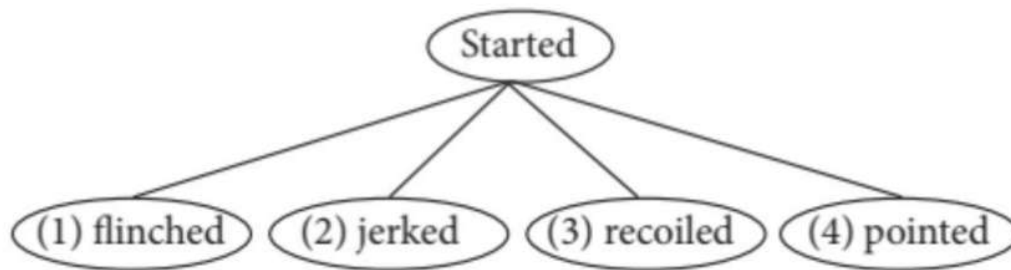
B. The two boys started in surprise at the fresh muddy imprints of a pair of bare feet. What was a barefooted man doing on the steps of a house in the middle of London? And where was the man?

As they gazed, a remarkable sight met their eyes. A fresh footmark appeared from nowhere!

Further footprints followed, one after another, descending the steps and progressing down the street. The boys followed, fascinated, until the muddy impressions became fainter and fainter, and at last disappeared altogether.

i. Why were the boys surprised to see a barefooted man in London? What did they feel? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

ii. Pick out the option that is NOT related to 'started' as used in the extract.



A. Option (1)

B. Option (2)

C. Option (3)

D. Option (4)

iii. Pick the option that best describes how the boys are feeling based on the extract.

A. enchanted, curious, troubled

B. captivated, curious, puzzled

C. repulsed, curious, captivated

D. enchanted, repulsed, curious

iv. Pick the option that best matches synonyms of the word 'gazed'. (1)

A. (1) gaped (2) gawked

B. (1) admired (2) disbelieved

C. (1) overlooked (2) stared

D. (1) surveyed (2) overlooked

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (5)

A. "Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,

And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed.

But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine,

Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,

With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm,
He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm"

i. Which option lists the quotes that support the ideas in the extract? (1)

- (1) Fear makes strangers of people who would be friends.
- (2) If you're brave enough to start, you're strong enough to finish.
- (3) Courage doesn't mean you don't get afraid. Courage means you don't let fear stop you.
- (4) You get in life what you have the courage to ask for.
- (5) Fear has a large shadow, but he himself is strong.

- A. 1 and 5
- B. 2, 3 and 4
- C. 2 and 3
- D. 1, 3 and 5

ii. What is the poet's purpose of using the onomatopoeic words given in the extract?

- A. It is to emphasize the might and boldness of Custard.
- B. It is to introduce the character Custard to the readers.
- C. It is to impress upon the readers that Custard was ready.
- D. It is to make Custard bold enough to face the situation.

iii. Select the option that fits with the reaction of the characters in the context of the extract.

Ink: terrified :: Blink: 1) _____

Pirate: 2) _____ :: Custard: undaunted

- A. (1) shocked (2) displeased
- B. (1) petrified (2) wondered
- C. (1) upset (2) dazed
- D. (1) petrified (2) shocked

iv. "He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm". (2)

Why has this comparison been used in the extract? Answer in about 40 words.

OR

B. But I can get a hair-dye

And set such colour there,
Brown, or black, or carrot,
That young men in despair
May love me for myself alone
And not my yellow hair.

i. Given below are the taglines of four hypothetical brands. Choose the correct option that fits the best with the first three lines of the given stanza.

1. LITELIFE Food that makes you light.	2. GET SET My home. My gym.
3. LOOKBOOK No game over, get makeover.	4. PLANET FOOD Eat! Eat! Eat! Repeat!

A. Option (1)

B. Option (2)

C. Option (3)

D. Option (4)

ii. The form of the given stanza is a part of a/an _____. (1)

A. agreement

B. disapproval

C. engagement

D. argument

iii. The "yellow hair" is a symbol in the poem. Briefly support the statement with reference to the poem "For Anne Gregory". (2)

iv. Read the statements 1 and 2 given below and choose the option that correctly assesses these statements. (1)

1. The speaker wants to change her hair colour so that it may appeal to young men.

2. The speaker's appearance due to her gorgeous yellow hair is largely the reason young men hope to get her attention.

A. (1) is false, (2) is true and clearly inferred from the poem.

B. (1) is true, (2) cannot be clearly inferred from the poem.

C. (1) cannot be clearly inferred from the poem, (2) is false.

D. (1) is true and can be inferred from the poem, (2) is false.

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

(4 × 3 = 12)

i. Why, according to the author, did the baker and his family never starve?

(3)

ii. Describe the tiger in the cage.

(3)

iii. What ideals do Nelson Mandela set for the future of South Africa?

(3)

iv. Give a reason for Anne wanting to keep a diary.

(3)

v. Why did the narrator follow the black aeroplane?

(3)

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

(2×3=6)

i. What was the significance of the balcony in the story, The Midnight Visitor?

ii. For what unusual reason was Bholi sent to school?

(3)

iii. Why did Hari Singh approach Anil?

(3)

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

A. One can learn a lot from the characters and the surroundings in the lesson "Madam Rides the Bus". Valli learns a lot from others. Describe the qualities of her character that enable her to take in information from others and interact with her surroundings.

OR

B. The play "The Proposal" tells us to rise above the pettiness and focus on what's really important in life.

Prepare a speech draft with reference to the chapter in not more than 120 words.

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

A. Pen down the incidences in support of values one should inculcate from Mr. James Herriot.

OR

B. What kind of person is Matilda Loisel? Support your answer by giving examples from the story "The Necklace".

SOLUTIONS

- i. Because it showcases talents that are associated with artisans' lifestyle and history and it also represents our rich and artistic culture.
- ii. C. Languishing
- iii. it saves labour and reduces drudgery
- iv. The artisans need to be 'lured with incentives' because if they impart training to bulk producers, they run the risk of losing their traditional livelihood to them and hence need to be tempted to do so via benefits or rewards.
- v. The support of the government and private sectors towards the culture of making handicrafts impacts the creation of awareness and public support for the artisans and their work. Moreover, more artisans would be incentivised to continue their tradition, and artisans wouldn't change their professions to seek a better livelihood.
- vi. the argument that the artisans cannot be expected to continue their profession if it is not profitable

vii. C. Homemade-Machined

viii. Outright

2. i. This is so because these states are lesser explored as compared to the rest of the country, in spite of having lots to offer.

ii. A. 1 and 3

iii. hues/shades

iv. B. a wholesome experience within the budget they have planned for

v. B. Option 2

vi. Sustainable tourism refers to protecting natural environments, wildlife and natural resources. It means to protect the beauty of the earth while developing tourism activities.

vii. Accommodation-hotels, camps Essential eating outlets, water points, toilets, certified travel guide availability

Transport - dedicated shuttle service, car hiring stations Digital upgrades: wifi availability, websites

viii. The researchers recommend the formulation of a tourism strategy to create socio-economic benefits for the local community to reduce the negative impacts caused on the destination and to protect natural wildlife and resources.

3. i. B. Many

4. A.

Happy Time Public School

Bhajanpura

New Delhi 1100xx

19 January 20xx

The Manager

Delhi Sports, Darya Ganj

New Delhi

1100xx

Dear Sir

Subject : Order Placement of sports goods

This is in reference to the quotation dated 19 December 20xx. Kindly send the following items at the above address.

- | | | | |
|----|---------------|---|----|
| 1. | Footballs | — | 30 |
| 2. | Cricket balls | — | 25 |
| 3. | Tennis balls | — | 35 |
| 4. | Cricket bats | — | 20 |

All the items should be in good condition, well bound and packed properly and delivered within a week. The payment will be made by cash once the items reach us. Any damage during transportation would be your responsibility. Though in the past, you have never given us any opportunity to complain and the goods have always reached us well on time, and in excellent condition as per our specifications, we do expect the same delivery this time as well.

Yours faithfully

Raveena

(Secretary)

OR

4. B.

D-76

Anandpur

Delhi

17 March, 20xx

The Director

Health Services

City Government Hospital

New Delhi

Subject: Poor Sanitation of Government Hospital

I write to your esteemed self to express my deep concern towards the poor state of sanitation of City Government Hospital.

As you already know there is an outbreak of dengue, malaria and chikungunya in the city. My sister was also affected by malaria unfortunately. We took her to the City Government Hospital. As we reached the hospital, we did not find anyone at the emergency, an old nurse was napping in a corner. The doctor on duty was also not there. Above all, the hygiene and sanitation was horrible at the emergency room. The bedsheets and curtains were soiled and dirty. The dustbins were overflowing with used band-aids, empty medicine bottle, gauzes, etc. There were flies and mosquitoes everywhere. After half an hour's wait, the doctor came and asked us to admit my sister. But after witnessing the situation of the hospital, we could not gather the courage to admit my sister there. We had to take her to a private hospital. Seeing this poor state of affairs filled me with anguish and I felt so outraged at how our national resources and tax money is being wasted. Where will the poor go in the hour of need? I wish that the concerned authorities take notice of my concerns and take prompt action.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Lokesh

5. A. The given pie chart shows the type of various electronic appliances used by average middle class families in old Gurugram. The given data shows that an average middle class family in old Gurugram preferred to have a TV the most. Second preference happened to be refrigerator. AC, washing machine and laptop fell into almost same category. And the least preferred appliance is microwave. The pie chart shows comparison in the product preferred and it is mainly due to their usage and utility based on the usefulness in lessening the human workload. Laptop stands equal to washing machine and AC as it has become a necessary aid in children's education. To conclude the given chart, it clearly shows TV as the most preferred

choice and microwave as the least preferred one. This has helped us in understanding the consumer preferences in case of electronic appliances based on their usability.

OR

5. B. The graph shows a comparison in the preferences of subjects shown by boys and girls for college courses at the time of admission in the year 2020, in a big university in Delhi. The graph illustrates the changing choice of general preference of students according to their gender. Here, commerce subject shows an utmost interest from boys while humanities seem to be highly picked by girls. With humanities touching as high as 900 girls applicants choosing it over a mere 400 boys. Science is slightly better in terms of choice disparity with around 600 boys choosing it followed closely by 450 girls. But when it comes to commerce subject, the boys heavily outnumber the girls with a whooping 800 choosing it over a mere 200 girls. To look at the bigger picture, technical subjects seem to be the rage amongst boys while the girls' choices are somewhat evenly more scattered between science and humanities subjects. This means inclinations wise, boys prefer logic based line of study while girls are more inclined towards intellectual based line of study. Of course, subject choice aren't always a full story of what really makes boys and girls different in terms of acquiring knowledge. This graph, in conclusion, provides us a snippet of how society or other influences around these young minds make them choose certain line of subject over the idea and how gender also plays a role in this decision. It shows us the preference as well as the ongoing trend amongst boys and girls over the subjects they think will benefit them the most.

6. A. i. C. Speaker 3

ii. B. Option (2)

iii. C. (1) and (4)

iv. Maxwell was shocked when he returned after having a hurried meal, as he saw a horrifying spectacle. There was a complete silence from the box, and he found that blood had trickled and dried from the airholes and chinks around the lid of the box.

OR

B. i. The boys were surprised to see a barefooted man in London because it was pretty cold there, and to see someone move around barefoot surprised them. They felt that the footprints they saw were those of a mysterious man.

ii. D. Option (4)

iii. B. captivated, curious, puzzled

iv. A. (1) gaped (2) gawked

7. A. i. C. 2 and 3

ii. A. It is to emphasize on the might and boldness of Custard.

iii. D. (1) petrified (2) shocked

iv. Custard is being compared to a robin in the given extract because when the pirate entered the house, everyone was scared of him, but just like the robin catches the worm, Custard attacked him without delay, hit him hard with its tail, and gobbled him up.

B. i. C. Option (3)

ii. D. argument

OR

iii. The poem is a conversation between a girl named 'Anne' and the poet. The 'yellow hair' of Anne in the poem symbolises her youth and beauty and is a reminder that both are temporary and fleeting; the beauty of youth fades away with time, and death is inevitable.

iv. A. (1) is false, (2) is true and clearly inferred from the poem.

8. i. Baking was a profitable profession to be in the older days. Bread used to be (and still is) an integral part of every Goan tradition and festivals. Therefore, the fire in the baker's furnace never extinguished. As a result, the baker and his family never had to face the situation where they had to starve. Instead, the baker, his family and even the servants looked happy and prosperous.

ii. The tiger in the cage is just a diminished form of his original self. He paces up and down in the cage restlessly. He is confined in the narrow cell and keeps staring at the stars as if longing for freedom. He is helpless and draws pity for his condition.

iii. In his address Nelson Mandela sees a bright future of the country. He promises that under his presidency the country shall never face the oppression of one by another. It shall progress and progress further. The sun shall never set on its freedom. Freedom shall rule. All people shall be free to do what they like. God shall bless their doing so.

iv. Anne always felt lonely even when she was surrounded by her friends and loved ones. The only person Anne needed the most in her life was a true friend. Anne says that she did not feel closer to her existing friends, so she did not confide in them. A diary, on the other hand, would be ideal because Anne would easily express what's on her mind and in her heart. Unlike others, a diary wouldn't judge her or be dismissive of her.

v. The narrator saw a black aeroplane which had no lights on its wings. The narrator saw the face of the pilot of the other plane in the black clouds who was waving and signalling him to follow in order to get out of the storm. So, the narrator followed the black aeroplane because he had lost the way in the storm and was unable to see anything. Following the other plane could help him to get out of the storm and land safely.

9. i. The significance of the balcony in the story "The Midnight Visitor" is quite inevitable to the essence of the story. There was no balcony there in reality. Ausable creates a story to deceive Max. Max had the gun pointed at Ausable and he had to create a story to outwit Max while keeping calm. He also tells Max that there are police at his door when there was knocking. The whole incident proved Ausable to be an alert and smart detective.

ii. Tehsildar sahib had asked Ramlal to send his daughters to school. Since he could not disobey Tehsildar sahib, Ramlal decided to send Bholi to school. The other reason for doing so was that Bholi had little to no chances of getting married because she was slow witted, had pock marks on her face and body, and she stammered.

iii. Hari Singh was a thief who had not much luck in his work recently. So, he approached Anil with the intention of robbing him, as he seemed to be an easy going and simple man. According to Hari, winning Anil's confidence was an easy task.

10. A. Valli was an eight-year-old girl who was born in a small village. She liked gazing at the hustle and bustle of the street and her most favourite part was the sight of a bus arriving and departing every hour. Valli was curious about the bus rides and used to listen to other people talking about their bus ride and dreamt of riding on bus herself. She asked those people questions about their experience of the ride so that she could gather information regarding the bus journey.

When Valli gets on the bus she acts confidently and behaved maturely. She tries to carry herself as an adult and refuses to take help from others. When the bus reached the town, she was observant and explored the town. Later she learns about the death of a cow and gets sad. She handled it with maturity and accepted death as a part of life.

OR

B. Good morning, everyone.

Today, I'd like to talk about the play 'The Proposal'.

But before that, I would like to tell everyone that we are human beings, and jealousy, anger, etc. are the emotions that we all possess. But what really matters is how we rise above all these in our lives and worry about more important things.

The play "The Proposal" teaches us how anger and arguments can easily ruin a relationship. It is true to an extent that people usually give more importance to the unimportant issues forgetting their priorities. Just like how Lomov came to propose Natalya but due to their argument that matter was left unaddressed.

Thus, it becomes very important to set priorities in life. One must ignore the unimportant issues. It is a waste of time to have discussions over them. One should not pay too much attention on the trivialities. This energy can be saved on spending it over some useful and important issues that give a fruitful result.

To conclude my speech, I would say that we should understand that wasting time in meaningless conversations or doing things that just bring stress is unnecessary. So, stop spiralling and always come to the point, whatever or however you do.

11. A. The narrator, a veterinary surgeon, is a capable, compassionate and wise doctor. He handles Tricki properly which shows that he is sincere about his profession. He does not operate upon the dog unnecessarily and cures him by altering his diet and activities. He is a tactful person as he knew exactly how to convince Mrs. Pumphrey to hospitalize Tricki for a surgery. He understands and sympathises with Mrs. Pumphrey's mental state regarding Tricki's health therefore; to ease her suffering, Mr. Herriot lets her know that Tricki is recuperating. His decision to inform Mrs. Pumphrey to collect Tricki, supports his sensibilities even though he was tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest.

These are some of the values that each of us can inculcate in ourselves. Also, Mr. Herriot was in a profession, which he liked, therefore, he cared about his work and his patients. We too must pursue that field of work, which we deeply love and care about.

OR

B. Matilda Loisel was a beautiful young woman who was born in a family of clerks. She believed that she deserved a life of luxuries and delicacies. Therefore, she was constantly unhappy and dissatisfied with the modest life she led. She had no choice but to marry a petty clerk, M. Loisel, who worked at the Board of Education and was completely opposite of her. She felt tortured by the lack of exquisite dinners, elegant dresses, jewels, etc.

Jeanne Forestier, a rich friend of hers, who Matilda went to school with, further added to her discomfort because Matilda envied her friend. Matilda borrowed a necklace from Mme. Forestier to wear with her dress on the evening of the ball. The precious piece of jewellery was there to appease her vanity, pretensions and false ego; it gave her the joy. The necklace was lost by her, and the Loisels had no other option but to replace the necklace. Thus, Matilda Loisel spiraled down to utter poverty. She had to do all sorts of menial jobs and suffered a needless

sacrifice for ten years to pay off the debt. In these ten years, the adverse situation made her a strong, hard, crude woman of poor household. Therefore, she remained bitter and unhappy throughout her life.