

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 5
English Language and Literature (184)
Class X (2024-25)

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

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

Section A - Reading Skills

1. Read the following passage carefully:

[10]

1. Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues, as rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them. Plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations, where garbage collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent. But the developed world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, also has trouble properly collecting discarded plastics. Plastic trash has become so ubiquitous that it has prompted efforts to write a global treaty negotiated by the United Nations.
2. Plastics made from fossil fuels are just over a century old. Production and development of thousands of new plastic products accelerated after World War II. It transformed the modern age so much that life without plastics is unrecognizable today. Plastics revolutionized medicine with life-saving devices, made space travel possible, lightened cars and jets - saving fuel and pollution - and saved lives with helmets, incubators, and equipment for clean drinking water.
3. The conveniences plastics offer, however, led to a throw-away culture that reveals the material's dark side: today, single-use plastics account for 40 percent of the plastic produced every year. Many of these products, such as plastic bags

and food wrappers, have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.

4. Most of the plastic trash in the oceans, Earth's last sink, flows from land. Trash is also carried to sea by major rivers, which act as conveyor belts, picking up more and more trash as they move downstream. Once at sea, much of the plastic trash remains in coastal waters. But once caught up in ocean currents, it can be transported around the world.
5. Millions of animals are killed by plastics every year, from birds to fish to other marine organisms. Nearly 700 species, including endangered ones, are known to have been affected by plastics. Nearly every species of seabirds eats plastics. Most of the deaths of animals are caused by entanglement or starvation. Seals, whales, turtles, and other animals are strangled by abandoned fishing gear or discarded six-pack rings.
6. The solution is to prevent plastic waste from entering rivers and seas in the first place, many scientists and conservationists - including the National Geographic Society - say. This could be accomplished with improved waste management systems and recycling, better product design that takes into account the short life of disposable packaging, and reduction in manufacturing of unnecessary single-use plastics.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage: (10)

- i. Which of the following statements best describes the reason why plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues? **(1)**
 - A. Plastic trash collection systems have become inefficient or nonexistent.
 - B. Rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them.
 - C. Some plastics have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.
 - D. The developed world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, has trouble properly collecting plastics.
- ii. What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph 2? Rationalise your response in about 40 words. It transformed the modern age so much that life without plastics is unrecognizable today. **(2)**
- iii. The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (A) - (E) below, identify two sets of synonyms. **(1)**
 - A. garbage and trash

- B. starvation and strangled
- C. disposable and reduction
- D. persist and downstream
- E. transformed and revolutionized

iv. Complete the sentence appropriately: **(1)**

The writer says that most of the plastic trash is found in the Earth's last sink and the reason it is transported around the world is _____.

v. Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, the downside of the convenience that plastic offers. **(2)**

vi. Complete the sentence appropriately: **(1)**

According to conservationists, the two ways in which most of the deaths of animals are caused are _____.

vii. Based on the passage, how can we contribute to the reduction of plastic waste? **(1)**

- A. by internationalising the waste management system
- B. by minimizing the use of single-use plastics
- C. by not abandoning fishing gear
- D. by not using helmets made of plastic

viii. State one reason why plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations. **(1)**

2. **Read the following passage carefully:**

[10]

1. Rotation of crops is a universal phenomenon which is practised by most of the farmers of the tropical and temperate countries. The main objective of rotation of crops is to obtain higher agricultural returns on the one hand, and to maintain the soil fertility on the other.
2. In other words, the rotation of crops helps in making agriculture more sustainable. The importance of crop rotation is more in the areas where farmers grow two, or more than two crops in the same field in a year. Irrigation facilities have also been appreciably developed in the country during the last three decades. The availability of water to the arable land has helped in the intensification of agriculture.
3. In the areas such as Punjab and Haryana, where the Green Revolution is a big success, one soil exhaustive crop (rice) is followed by another soil exhaustive crop (wheat). Subsequently, the field vacated by wheat is devoted to either rice

or maize or cotton. Thus, in one year, the farmers are harvesting three soil exhaustive crops from the same field. Such a rotation of crops may fetch more income to the farmers, but depletes the soil fertility at a faster pace.

4. A number of field studies were conducted to assess the traditional crop rotation pattern. One such field study about the changes in the rotation of crops was conducted in the village Banhera (Tanda), Haridwar district. The main rotation of crops of the village is shown in the table below.

Traditional Rotation of Crops (1960-65) in Banhera (Tanda)				
Year	Kharif (mid-June to mid-October)	Rabi (mid-October to mid-April)	Zaid (April to June)	No. of days land left fallow
1960	Millet/fodder/rice	Gram	Fallow	90
1961	Fallow	Wheat	Fallow	210
1962	Millet/fodder/rice	Gram	Fallow	90
1963	Fallow	Wheat	Fallow	210
1964	Millet mixed with urad/fodder/rice	Gram	Fallow	90
1965	Fallow	Wheat	Fallow	210

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage: (10)

- Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of para 2. **(1)**
One of the reasons that there has been an intensification of agriculture in the country is the development of irrigation facilities is a/an _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____ (subjective judgement/objective detail).
- Based on your understanding of paras 1 and 2, state whether the following statement is true or false. **(1)**
If proper irrigation facility is provided, higher agricultural returns can be obtained by making crop rotation more sustainable.
- Justify the following in about 40 words.
Crop rotation may fetch more income to the farmers, but depletes the soil fertility at a faster pace. **(2)**

- iv. Based on the table, mention the years when the land was left fallow for maximum number of days. **(1)**
- v. The study conducted in village Banhera (Tanda) reflects that during the years 1960 to 1965, from April to June, the land was left fallow or uncultivated throughout. State any one inference that can be drawn from this. **(1)**
- vi. Select the option that correctly states the significance of crop rotation as given below: **(1)**
1. Crop rotation is done to obtain higher agricultural returns.
 2. Higher agricultural returns can be obtained by harvesting soil exhaustive crops.
 3. Crop rotation demands that land should be left fallow for a few months to increase the fertility of soil.
 4. Better irrigation facility to the arable land has helped in the intensification of agriculture.
 5. If crops to be harvested are chosen wisely, crop rotation can help in maintaining fertility of soil.
- Options:
- A. (1), (2) and (4)
 - B. (1) only
 - C. (3) and (5)
 - D. (1) and (5)
- vii. Crop rotation is helping in making agriculture more sustainable. Mention one benefit and one drawback of crop rotation. (Answer in about 40 words) **(2)**
- viii. Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage? **(1)**
- A. The study needs to include more valid data to support the practice of crop rotation.
 - B. Crop rotation is a sustainable practice that can transform the agricultural sector.
 - C. The impact of crop rotation on been thoroughly explained.
 - D. Crop rotation is independent of the type of crops harvested and availability of water for irrigation.

SECTION B GRAMMAR

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

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

I _____ (entreat) you address this at your earliest convenience and issue the recommendation letters.

- (ii) Read the given sentence from a recipe review article. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence. [1]

The upma recipe was so delicious that I couldn't barely stop myself from having a second helping.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

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

Neha: I'm really looking forward to the class picnic tomorrow.

Namita: Yes, after a long time we will be meeting our friends and teachers.

Neha told Namita that she was really looking forward to the class picnic the next day. Agreeing to Neha Namita said _____.

- (iv) He said to his friend, "please wait for me". [1]

Reported speech: _____

a) He told his friend to wait for him.

b) He requested his friend that he should wait for him.

c) He said to his friend to wait for him.

d) He requested his friend to wait for him.

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

_____ (Much / Many / Few) time is required to learn a new language.

- (vi) Identify the error in the given sentence about the seating of the girls in a classroom and supply the correction. [1]

Each of the girls have their seat in this classroom.

Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

a) whether the dance classes are
being enjoyed by her

b) whether she was enjoying her
dance classes

c) whether she is enjoying her
dance classes

d) whether the dance classes
were being enjoyed by her

- (xi) **Complete the line from a self-awareness song, by filling the blank with the correct option.** [1]

"I _____ an arrow into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For, so swiftly it _____, the sight
Could not follow it in its flight."

- A. has shot, flew
B. shot, flown
C. have shot, has flown
D. shot, flew

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

VACCINATE YOURSELF TO COMBAT CORONA

No prior appointment required, Walk-in & get your jab

Facility are available for 18 years and above

Health Department, Chandigarh Administration

Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

SECTION B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

4. You come across the photograph given below and are upset to see the cattle blocking the road. In case you try to drive them away, their owners will come running from across the road and punish you with harsh words and even a punch or two. Write a letter to the editor of Hindustan Times, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, [5]

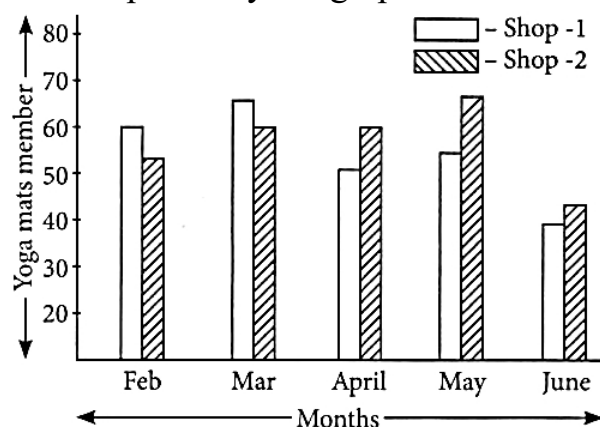
advocating the need of law for the punishment of such owners.



OR

You are Vaijanthi/Vijay from Prakasham Nagar, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh. Write a letter to Book Haven Store, requesting home delivery of the books, stationery and art materials you had ordered telephonically. Share the reason for being unable to pick up the goods in person. Confirm your address details and a convenient time slot.

5. The given double bar shows the sale of yoga mats over the given 6 months by the two shops. Study the graph and write an analytical paragraph. [5]



OR

The table below displays data about the number of gyms and the number of members in your city over the past decade. Write a paragraph analysing the given information:

Year	No. of Gyms	No. of Members
2010	24000	28000
2012	30000	28000
2014	30000	30000
2016	40000	35000
2018	45000	45000
2020	30000	28000
2022	35000	36000

SECTION C - LITERATURE

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

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

Max bit his lip nervously. The knocking was repeated.

"What will you do now, Max ?" Ausable asked. "If I do not answer the door, they will enter anyway. The door is unlocked. And they will not hesitate to shoot".

- i. Who is Max? (1)
 - a. a spy
 - b. a tourist
 - c. a businessman
 - d. a waiter
- ii. Max was unprepared for his mission. Elaborate with reference to the extract. (2)
- iii. Actually the door was knocked at by _____. (1)
- iv. Which word in the extract is opposite in meaning to the word 'confidently'? (1)

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

The moment the letter fell into the mailbox the postmaster went to open it. It said, "God: of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much. But don't send it to me through the mail because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks".

- i. What did Lencho mean by 'the rest'? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- ii. Read the following descriptions (a)-(c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract. (1)
 - a. Lencho thought only God could help them in that hour of need.
 - b. Lencho wanted to punish post office employees.
 - c. Lencho wanted more money.
- iii. Predict and justify the reaction of the postmaster after receiving the second letter from Lencho. (1)
- iv. Fill the blank with one word. A word which is the opposite of "honest" in the passage is _____. (1)

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

(i) Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow: [5]

The trees inside are moving out into the forest,
the forest that was empty all these days
where no bird could sit
no insect hide
no sun bury its feet in shadow
the forest that was empty all these nights
will be full of trees by morning

a. Complete the sentence appropriately.(1)

It is clear that personification is the poetic device used for 'No sun bury its feet....

b. State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE. Also, provide an explanation. The extract uses trees as a symbol for conservative people. (1)

c. Which of the following best describes the idea of a forest that has been 'empty all these days' is _____.

- a. unnatural
- b. scary
- c. magical
- d. legendary

d. Which three things cannot happen in a treeless forest? (2)

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

Belinda still lives in her little white house,
With her little black kitten and her little gray mouse,
And her little yellow dog and her little red wagon,
And her realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

i. With whom does Belinda live and where? (1)

ii. How many characters and animals are introduced in this extract? (1)

- a. 1, 4
- b. 2, 5
- c. 4, 1
- d. 1, 5

iii. Fill in the blank with one word. Bravest of all pets was _____. (1)

iv. What effect do the words 'realio and trulio' have on the poem? (2)

8. **Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words** [12]
- (i) How did the baker make his entry? [3]
 - (ii) What would the tiger do in the forest? [3]
 - (iii) How did Natalya justify that the Oxen Meadows were hers? [3]
 - (iv) Annie writes that it was fortunate that Mr. Keesing took the joke the right way. Why does she feel so? [3]
 - (v) Evaluate the line- Some say the world will end in fire/Some say in ice- in the context of volcanic eruptions, forest fires, meteor collisions, melting ice caps etc. Answer in the context of the poem **Fire and Ice**. [3]
9. **Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.** [6]
- (i) Mrs. Pumphrey said, "This is a triumph of surgery." What do you think about this statement? [3]
 - (ii) Does Bholi enjoy her first day at school? [3]
 - (iii) How was Griffin received at the inn in Iping? [3]
10. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words** [6]
- (i) In a parallel world, the pilot of the black aeroplane narrates his adventure in a story titled **The Old Dakota**. You come across an excerpt from the story, which responds to the ending questions of Black Aeroplane and describes the black aeroplane pilot's decision to fly away after watching the Dakota land. Compose the said excerpt of the story employing relevant details from **Black Aeroplane**. [6]
 - (ii) Tiger in a zoo just overheard from the visitors that Nelson Mandela became the first black president fighting for freedom. He writes a letter to Nelson Mandela appealing Mandela to set the him free. [6]
You may begin like this.
Dear Mandela,
I just heard from the visitors that you became the first black president fighting for freedom. I wanted to write to you to....

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

- (i) Imagine you're one of the columnists in a magazine. People write to you about their issues, seeking your advice. [6]

Matilda writes to you about the guilt she feels for having lost a necklace and how it changed the course of her life and her husband's. What would be your advice to her?

- (ii) Why did Hari Singh decide to return the stolen money? What light did it throw on his character? [6]

Solution
SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 5
English Language and Literature (184)
Class X (2024-25)

Section A - Reading Skills

1.
 - i. (B) Rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them.
 - ii. The tone of the writer in the given lines is appreciative and positive. They highlight the transformative impact of plastics on modern life, emphasizing its indispensable role in various innovations and life-saving applications, indicating a positive view towards the advancements enabled by plastics.
 - iii. (A) garbage and trash
(E) transformed and revolutionized
 - iv. The writer says that most of the plastic trash is found in the Earth's last sink and the reason it is transported around the world is that it gets caught up in ocean currents.
 - v. The downside of the convenience that plastic offers lies in its contribution to a throw-away culture, leading to significant environmental pollution. Single-use plastics, which account for 40 percent of annual plastic production, have very short lifespans yet can persist in the environment for hundreds of years, causing widespread damage to ecosystems and wildlife.
 - vi. According to conservationists, the two ways in which most of the deaths of animals are caused entanglement or starvation.
 - vii. (B) by minimizing the use of single-use plastics.
 - viii. One reason why plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations is that garbage collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent in these regions, leading to higher visibility of discarded plastics in the environment.
2.
 - i. One of the reasons that there has been an intensification of agriculture in the country is the development of irrigation facilities is a fact because it is an objective detail.
 - ii. This statement is True.
 - iii. This statement is inaccurate. Crop rotation is a practice designed to enhance soil fertility, not deplete it. By alternating the types of crops grown on a piece of land, different nutrients are used and replenished naturally, reducing the need for chemical fertilizers and preventing the rapid depletion of soil nutrients. It helps maintain a healthy balance in the soil, leading to sustainable agriculture and potentially more income for farmers due to healthier crop yields.
 - iv. According to the table, the years when the land was left fallow for the maximum number of days are 1961, 1963, and 1965, with 210 days each of those years.

- v. One inference that can be drawn from the fact that the land in Banhera (Tanda) was left fallow from April to June during the years 1960 to 1965 is that this period, which corresponds to the Zaid cropping season, may not be suitable for cultivation due to reasons such as extreme temperatures, insufficient rainfall, or perhaps cultural practices allowing the land to recover. Leaving the land fallow during these months could help in restoring soil fertility and moisture, preparing it for the upcoming Kharif and Rabi cropping seasons.
- vi. (D) (1) and (5)
- vii. One benefit of crop rotation is that it can enhance soil health by varying plant demands on soil nutrients, thus reducing the need for chemical fertilizers. A drawback is that it requires careful planning and knowledge of crop-specific requirements, which can be complex and labour-intensive.
- viii. (B) Crop rotation is a sustainable practice that can transform the agricultural sector.

SECTION B GRAMMAR

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

(i) entreat

(ii)	Error	Correction
	couldn't	could

(iii) that after a long time they would be meeting their friends and teachers.

(iv) (d) He requested his friend to wait for him.

Explanation: {

He requested his friend to wait for him.

(v) Much

(vi)	error	correction
	have	has

(vii) (A) a - the

(viii) (b) issued

Explanation: {

issued

(ix) that it was in the far corner on the second floor.

(x) (b) whether she was enjoying her dance classes

Explanation: {

whether she was enjoying her dance classes

(xi) D. shot, flew

The verse of the poem are presenting a past situation.

(xii)	error	correction
	are	is

SECTION B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

4. 10-C, SFS, Flats,

Karol Bagh,

New Delhi

30th July 2018

The Editor,

The Hindustan Times

Kasturba Gandhi Marg,

New Delhi

Sir,

Subject: Strict laws for cattle owners

Through your columns, I'd like to draw the attention to the menace caused by cattle on the roads. With people building palatial houses for themselves, there is little or no space left for the animals. Even those who own or domesticate cattle are least bothered to provide them with a good shelter. The result is that we find them loitering around in public places, thus hindering the traffic. All of us are well aware of the fact that traffic in this city has increased manifold and traffic jams everyday menace. When people try to drive them away, their owners who are also wandering nearby come rushing back and pick up a fight. It ends with just harsh words while at others they become physically violent and even give a punch or two. The need of the hour is that we should have a strict law to punish these people whose cattle roam on roads and create traffic problems. To sort out this problem, kindly address this issue through the esteemed columns of your daily.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Sudheer.

OR

204 Prakasham Nagar

Secunderabad

12 September 20XX

The Sales Manager

Book Haven Store

Secunderabad

Subject: Request for home Delivery of Books.

Sir,

This is with reference to the order placed telephonically on 8 September '20 by me for some reference books, registers, oil pastels, and brushes, I had informed you that I would pick up the goods of the placed order in person.

But through this letter, I request you to make arrangements for the home delivery of ordered goods. Actually, an emergency meeting has been called by our organisation and I have to leave for Mumbai for one week tonight only. I would really be grateful if you deliver the ordered goods at the address stated above.

Thank you

Yours sincerely

Vaijanthi

5. The given double bar graph shows data of sales of yoga mats by two shops in duration of five months, i.e., Feb to June. The number of yoga mats sold is given in hundreds.
- Shop-1 started off on a good note with a sale of 600 yoga mats in the months of February, in the months of March it saw a hike and reached 650 in sales. Next three months were not that good in terms of sales for shop 1 as it was able to sell 500 yogamats in April and 550 in May. The month of June was the worst month as shop-1 was able to sell only 400 yogamats. Therefore we can say that the best month in terms of sale of yogamats for shop-1 is March and the worst is June.
- Shop-2 started on a bad note in comparison to Shop1 and sold only about 500 yogamats in the month of February. Next two months March and April were good for Shop-2 as it saw a hike and sold 600 yogamats in both the months. The month of May proved to be even better for shop-2 by making a sale of about 700 yogamats. The month of June was bad for shop-2 as well as it managed to sell only 400 yogamats. So, we can say that May was the best sales month for Shop-2 and June the worst.
- To conclude the given information, we can say that Shop-1 sold total 2700 yogamats and shop-2 sold 2850. The sales of Shop-2 were good comparatively and it made significant profit as well.

OR

The table shows fluctuations in the number of gyms and gym memberships in the city over the past decade. From 2010 to 2018, there was a steady increase in both gyms and members, peaking in 2018 with 45,000 gyms and 45,000 members. This indicates a growing interest in fitness during this period. However, in 2020, there was a significant drop to 30,000 gyms and 28,000 members, likely due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to gym closures and reduced memberships. By 2022, the numbers began to recover, with 35,000 gyms and 36,000 members, reflecting a gradual return to

pre-pandemic fitness activities. Overall, the data highlights the resilience of the fitness industry and the community's commitment to health and wellness, despite challenges.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

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

- (i) i. (a) a spy
 - ii. Though Max was very cunning and he came prepared with a gun but he was indeed no match to Ausable. He was easily misled by Ausable into believing that there was a balcony attached to the room. So we can say that Max was a smaller spy before Ausable and he was also unprepared for his mission
 - iii. a waiter
 - iv. Hesitate
- (ii) i. Lencho asked God for hundred pesos and received seventy. So he was asking the remaining money which was thirty pesos which he denoted as 'the rest' in his second letter.
- ii. Lencho thought only God could help them in that hour of need. [cannot be (b) as Lencho was so innocent to punish someone; cannot be (c) because Lencho was not greedy, he wanted only the amount needed to grow the crop again]
- iii. He must be disappointed to see the ungrateful attitude of Lencho [For example: It was the postman himself who handed the letter to him while the postmaster, experiencing the contentment of a man who has performed a good deed, looked on from his office.]
- iv. crook

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

- (i) i. The figure of speech used in the given line is personification because the sun, which is non-human, is attributed the human feature of having feet.
 - ii. False, Explanation- Trees are symbolic of woman. Adrienne Rich is a feminist poet.
 - iii. (a) is correct. Explanation:- Trees are an integral part of nature/forest. So it is unnatural to depict a treeless forest.
 - iv. A forest is a natural habitat for numerous birds and insects. When forests are cleared, no bird can make its nest, nor can insects hide in the bark of the trees and there's nothing to shade the area from sunlight.
- (ii) i. Belinda lives with her pets - kitten, mouse, dog and dragon in a little white house.
- ii. (a) 1, 4 (Character- Belinda, Animals/pets- black kitten, a little gray mouse, a little yellow dog and a little dragon)
- iii. Custard, the dragon.

iv. The words 'realio and trulio' refer to really and truly respectively. They have been invented by the poet and repeated in different stanzas to enhance the rhythm and lyrical quality of the poem. This also adds the humour in the poem.

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

- (i) The baker made his musical entry on the scene with the 'jhang, jhang' sound of his specially made bamboo staff. One hand supported the basket on his head and the other banged the bamboo on the ground. He would greet the lady of the house with "Good morning" and then would place his basket on the vertical bamboo.
- (ii) In the forest, the tiger would walk freely without any foundation and terrify the villagers snarling around their houses. The tiger in the wild would be majestic. He would be free and lie under the shades and hunt for prey.
- (iii) Natalya justified that the Oxen Meadows were hers by saying that her grandfather and great-grandfather owned the land extended to Burnt Marsh. Since the Burnt Marsh extended beyond the Oxen Meadows, it meant that the Oxen Meadows were hers.
- (iv) Anne feels that it was fortunate that Mr. Keesing took the joke the right way because she had written a poem which was an allusion to Mr. Keesing. It had actually been written to turn the joke around on Mr. Keesing who could have taken it the other way also. She had written a poem referring to a father swan who bit his three ducks because they quake too much. The message was conveyed metaphorically. Had Mr. Keesing taken it the other way round, the disciplinary action could have been severe.
- (v) In the poem 'Fire and Ice' the poet considers the age-old question of whether the world will end in fire or in ice. This is similar to another age-old whether it will be preferable to freeze to death or burn to death. The either option would achieve its purpose sufficiently may be in storm of volcanic eruptions, forest fires or melting ice caps.

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

- (i) Mrs. Pumphrey loved her pet dog, Tricki from the core of her heart. She overfed him out of love and concern. As a result, Tricki fell seriously ill. Mr. Herriot hospitalised him and gave nothing him to eat except water. He gave him a lot of exercise. When she came to take Tricki back, she saw that he had fully recovered and that's why she said, "This is a triumph of surgery."
- (ii) When Bholi reaches the school, She is fearful. She doesn't know exactly what to do. But when she sees many other girls of her age, she feels comfortable and happy. She thinks that one of these girls might become her friend. After getting a book full of different pictures, She becomes happy. She never expects that it would be that

wonderful. She feels happier there as compared to her house. It is a wonderful experience for her.

(iii) Griffin was received with suspicion and curiosity at the inn in Iping. The innkeeper and the locals were wary of his strange appearance, covered from head to toe in bandages and wearing dark goggles. They found his behaviour and secretive nature unsettling, which created a sense of unease and intrigue among them.

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

(i)

The old Dakota

...I waved the pilot of the old Dakota and gestured him to follow me. Like an obedient child, he started to do so. He followed me until he could see the runway. I was tensed whether he would land safely or not. Because he had already made me understand that he was running short of fuel. I saw him landing safely on the runway. I was relaxed. I felt there was no need to wait. The good deed of the day was done. Once again, I had rescued a plane stuck in storm. So, I decided to fly away from there in search of someone else who may be in need of my help.

I, as the Marshal of the Air Force, had been using my skills of flying Air planes in the harshest weather since past ten years. Surprising the rescue ones by my mysterious entry and exists.

(ii) Dear Mr. Mandela,

I just heard from the visitors that you became the first black president fighting for freedom. I wanted to write to you to express my gratitude for your efforts in fighting for equality. I also wanted to let you know that I am still fighting for my own freedom. This news gave me hope that one day I, too, might be freed from my captivity.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask you to help set me free. I have been living in a small cage for many years where I am constantly watched by people. I long to be free in the wild. I know that you understand what it is like to be oppressed, and I hope that you will see fit to help me in my own fight for freedom. I know that you are a busy man, but I hope that you might be able to help me.

Please, Mr. Mandela, help me to be free.

Sincerely,

The Tiger in a Zoo

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

(i) The Editor

Mr Jay,

It's a pleasure to write of my woes in your column. You are the best adviser to

everybody's problems. You lent a patient ear to each of your guests. Now listen and be the best adviser to me.

I am into depression mode as I recently lost a diamond necklace of my best friend which I had borrowed for a party. No amount of pacifying from my husband M Loisel could bring me out of this feeling. Though I was cynosure of everybody's eyes in the party. The loss of necklace brought it all down. After losing it, I got so worried as how I will face my friend now. All through this my husband has been very supportive of me, his immense love and faith in me sailed me through this time. He did all in his capacity to get me out of it. To repay the necklace we borrowed her another necklace which has made our lives very difficult and we now live a life of penury with meager income to support us. How should I help myself to get out of this!

Mr. Jay: Well Matilda! Whatever happens, happens for the best. So put your worries across and think of your future ahead. You have suffered enough, now think of brighter side of life and learn from your mistakes. I am sure you will be out of it soon.

- (ii) When Hari Singh reached the station after stealing money, he missed the train. He had no idea where to spend the night. He had no friends. The only person he knew at that place was Anil, whom he had robbed. He thought that Anil would show sadness and it would not be for the loss of money, but for the loss of trust. He knew Anil would feel bad. He roamed around aimlessly and remembered the good times he had spent with Anil. Anil taught him to read and write. Hari Singh remembered how happy he was when he learnt to write his own name for the first time. His conscience made him realise that education would add to his abilities and it could give him more than a few hundred rupees. He could lead a respectable life after getting an education. So he decided to go back to Anil out of his respect for him and his own desire to get an education and follow the path of honesty.

These qualities showed that Hari Singh was not really a bad man but the circumstances forced him to steal. His interaction with Anil had brought a positive change in his character.