

Class X Session 2023-24
Subject - English (Lan & Lit)
Sample Question Paper – 3

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.

(10)

(1) The story of Grace Darling has captured imaginations for over a hundred years. Grace was an ordinary young woman who was boldly and unequivocally labelled a 'heroine' after the events of a stormy night in 1838. Being the daughter of a lighthouse keeper and having lived in various lighthouses, Grace was used to the harsh and dangerous environment around her. However, she had never experienced real danger until the night of the 7th September 1838 - the night that she entered the history books.

(2) On the 5th September the steamship SS Forfarshire set off from Hull to Dundee. On board the vessel were 60 crew members and passengers as well as containers of valuable cargo. Disaster struck the next day when the ship's boiler began to leak and by the morning of the 7th September the engine had stopped. The Forfarshire began to drift. Suddenly at about 4 a.m., there was a thunderous crash as the steamship collided with Big Harcar Rock. The impact was sudden and there was no time for the passengers to be called from their cabins and into smaller boats that would have taken them to safety. Within 15 minutes, the ship had broken in two. The sea waves pounded relentlessly at the fragile remnants of the ship until it had been reduced to a disintegrating wreck. The back half of the boat was swept away by the billowing waves and was quickly overpowered. The 48 people on board lost their fight for survival and were tragically consumed by the raging sea.

(3) That night, Grace Darling and her parents were in the lighthouse. They knew a fierce storm was blowing and they watched as huge waves battered their lighthouse walls. Grace who knew the sea intimately, who, within minutes of being in the sea's presence could tell the mood it was in, who read the signs and predicted its behaviour, had already sensed that something sinister was brewing. As a result, Grace stood by the lighthouse window that night and watched nervously as her long-time companion transformed into an unrecognizable and brutal force of death. It wasn't long before Grace saw some desperate and shadowy figures waving, their cries inaudible above the deafening crash of the savage sea.

(4) Grace's father knew that the local lifeboat service would not be able to launch their ship because of the brutal conditions; if these people were to have any chance of survival, then he and Grace were their only hope. Armed with blankets to warm any survivors, William and Grace took their tiny rowing boat and went into the vast and wild sea. Each wave appeared bigger than the last and the force of the rain stung their cheeks. It was almost impossible to see where they were heading and the boat was being thrown off course constantly. They knew the area around the Farne Islands was notorious for being a ship's graveyard and yet they rowed with determination towards almost certain death.

(5) As they approached the scene of the disaster, William went into the water to attempt to pull as many survivors into their boat as possible whilst Grace rowed frantically backwards and forwards just so she could stay in the same place and not crash into the reef. The storm whirled around her and the waves were like mountains. It was too late for many of the victims but William and Grace rescued nine people that night and rowed them back to safety. They arrived back to the lighthouse exhausted yet safely. Grace worked hard to care for the victims before they were returned to the mainland.

(6) Within a few days of the rescue, news of Grace's bravery had spread across the country. Newspaper reporters flocked to the village wanting to follow her every move. Requests for her to visit different places flooded in and many artists wanted her to sit for portraits. Such extraordinary bravery was a source of inspiration for many. Queen Victoria sent her £50 and she was awarded gold medals from a number of societies. However, Grace soon became increasingly weary of all attention and the commitments that came with it, feeling that she was unable to live a normal life any more. In a cruel twist of fate, Grace Darling succumbed to tuberculosis a mere four years later.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage.

i. Grace was used to the harsh and dangerous environment around her as she _____ .

(1)

A. lived a life in the forest all her younger years

B. was the daughter of a lighthouse keeper and lived in various sea conditions

C. used to live on the sea with her family

D. live in the mountains in extreme conditions

ii. Why did Grace stand by the lighthouse window that night? Write your answer, in about 40 words. (2)

iii. Based on the reading of the passage, describe, in about 40 words, how Grace and William saved the victims that night. (2)

iv. The rescue mission seemed more like a suicide mission. Which line/phrase supports this statement ? (1)

A. They watched as huge waves battered their lighthouse walls.

B. Each wave appeared bigger than the last and the force of the rain stung their cheeks.

C. They rowed with determination towards almost certain death.

D. They went in the water to attempt to pull as many survivors into their boat.

V. Select the option that makes the correct use of "notorious", as used in the passage, to fill in the blank.

A. The new Italian restaurant is _____ for its risotto.

B. The pet made _____ noise as the master came home.

C. Maxwell road is _____ for its deathly traffic accidents.

D. Harry is always the one being _____ in the class for his impeccable handwriting.

vi. Which attributes can be used for describing Grace Darling ? (1)

vii. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

"Newspaper reporters flocked to the village wanting to follow her every move." By this line the author meant, Grace was dealing with _____ .

viii. In the last paragraph, the author makes Grace's act of bravery sound like a burden. Which phrase/lines implies that ? (1)

A. News of Grace's bravery had spread across the country.

B. Many artists wanted her to sit for portraits.

C. She succumbed to tuberculosis a mere four years later.

D. She was unable to live a normal life any more.

2. Read the following text.

(10)

(1) The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) is the charity that saves lives at sea; they provide an on call, 24-hour, lifeboat search and rescue service and a seasonal lifeguard service. The vision of the RNLI has always been the same since its start in 1824: to end the preventable loss of life at sea.

(2) In 2013 there was an average of 23 RNLI lifeboats launched each day in the UK and across the year that total was 8,304. On an average, 23 rescues take place every day with 325 lives being saved in 2013 alone. These statistics surely prove that this type of service is fundamental to our safety.

(3) The RNLI have four core values and their work is driven by these values. All staff and volunteers are asked to strive for excellence in all they do. They are required to be selfless and put others before their own needs. They need to be dependable, always available and committed to saving lives. Being trustworthy is also a key value at the RNLI and staff and volunteers are asked to deal with their everyday affairs with transparency, integrity and impartiality. The RNLI is a charity and so it is important that the donations that people so generously entrust to the charity are used efficiently and wisely. Lastly, team members must be courageous as they are frequently putting themselves into dangerous situations.

(4) Since the RNLI's start in 1824, lifeboats and lifeguards have saved more than 140,000 lives. Although these figures are encouraging, it doesn't always translate to donations. None of the RNLI's work could happen without the generous gifts of the people of the UK. Some people leave money to the RNLI in their wills, others give one off donations and others give a little each month - every penny goes back into saving lives. The RNLI do not seek funding from central government and so they are dependent on donations as their income. Every time they have to deploy a lifeboat and lifeguards, it costs money. Some may say 'it is nothing to do with me' but nobody knows when we too may rely on such a service.

(5) Interestingly in 2013, 50% of all launches were to leisure craft users for example, powerboats, yachts, body boarders, surfers, etc. Although some people who find themselves in trouble do have the relevant experience and equipment to be in the sea, most do not. The RNLI are often called out to incidents where people have got into trouble through 'high jinx' or through not having awareness of the conditions of the sea. Without a service like the RNLI many precious lives would have been lost.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage.

i. According to the passage, which of these statements is not correct? (1)

- A. In 2013, the number of lives saved was 325.
- B. 23 lifeboats were launched every day on an average.
- C. The number of lives saved across the year of 2013 was 8,304.
- D. On an average 23 rescue attempts take place every day.

- ii. Describe the work of the RNLI in about 40 words. (2)
- iii. What are the qualities that staff and volunteers should have in the RNLI?
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

"It doesn't always translate to donations" in this phrase the word 'translate' means _____ .

V. In para 4, the main message the author is trying to give is _____ .

- A. RNLI team are selfless dedicated ones
 - B. how RNLI is a charity work and its need of donation money
 - C. how RNLI refuses government funds
 - D. how RNLI has saved more than 140,000 lives
- vi. Based on your understanding of the passage, choose a suitable title for the passage. (1)

- A. Saving Lives at the Sea
- B. RNLI and its Staff- A Closer Look
- C. RNLI - Saving Human Lives Since 1824
- D. Human Rescue Work

- vii. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)

Without a service like the RNLI many precious lives would have been lost.

In other words the RNLI is _____ .

- viii. Which of these sentences have the usage of the word "trouble" incorrect?

- A. My brother took the trouble of finding me my misplaced earphones.
- C. It is very trouble to get the children sleep in time.

D. If you find any trouble understanding the text you can come to me.

SECTION-B

WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)

GRAMMAR

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

i. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct form of the word given in the bracket, to complete the given paragraph. (1)

Being considerate is a beautiful trait. It doesn't take much to be considerate to the people around us. Every day we _____ (meet) different types of people. They give us an opportunity of learning more about human nature.

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

Excellent new surgical techniques are restore the vision in most cases.

Error	Correction

iii. Choose the correct option to complete the given narration. (1)

Meena : I am hungry.

Pari : _____?

Meena : Really! Are you sure?

Pari : Yes, it's fine. I am free anyways.

Meena: Thank you so much!

A. Should I go home

B. Will you go home

C. Do you want to eat now

D. Should we go together and grab something to eat

iv. Convert the given direct speech into indirect speech. (1)

She said, "I told Damantji to send you an e-mail three days ago."

v. Complete the given narration by choosing the correct option. (1)

Deepa was standing in the rain waiting for her father to pick her up. Saloni saw her and asked, "Do you want an umbrella? I can lend you mine since I am wearing a raincoat already."

Deepa replied, "Oh no that's fine, _____."

Saloni was a little taken aback and said, "Then maybe I should also try, let's see if this is fun." She took off her raincoat and they both started laughing together.

A I hate standing in the rain

B. I am waiting for my father

C. I don't need it

D. I love standing in the rain

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

There was no altruistic motive that prompt him to help her.

Error	Correction

vii. Fill in the blank with the correct option. (1)

I _____ finished my graduation by 2025.

A. will

B. will have

C. have had

D. had

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

The leader might have had some covert reason for the change of his political affiliations.

Error	Correction

ix. Fill in the blank with the correct option. (1)

Mothers like _____ their daughters.

A. nag

B. nagged

C. nagging

D. will nag

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

It is surprising to find her condoned such an act.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A.	surprising	surprises
B.	find	finding
C.	condoning	condoned
D.	such	few

xi. Choose the correct option to fill in the blank to complete the sentence. (1)

While being rude and selfish _____ get immediate results, being considerate will take us a long way to building character and relationships.

A. ought

B. need

C. shall

D. might

xii. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the given sentence. (1)

There's never _____ (much/many/a little) petrol left after Rahul uses the car.

WRITING

(10)

4. A. You are Maggie, who happened to encounter the lack of organisation of the casualty ward at your district hospital. Write a letter to the Chief Medical Officer, in about 120 words, bringing to light the situation and asking for action. Give necessary details.

(5)

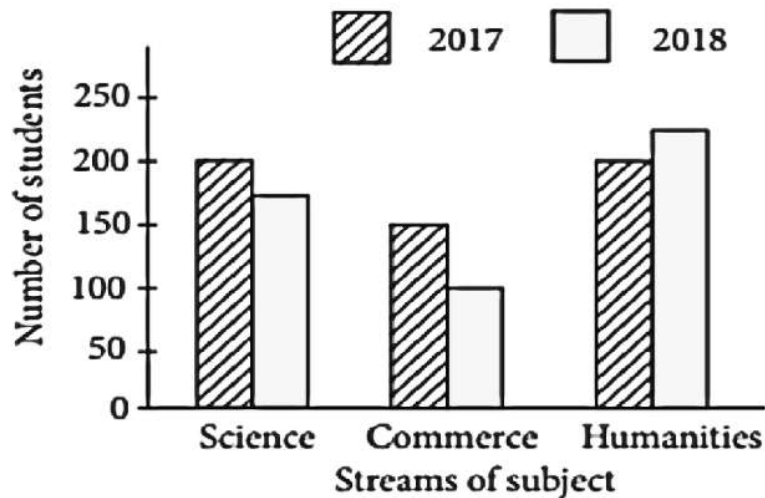
OR

4. B. You are Mr. Malik, the coordinator of the ABC Public School, 12, Pandeer Road. Write a letter, in about 120 words, to place a bulk order for school uniform to M/s Sinha Garments.

(5)

5. A. The number of students opting for humanities is higher than commerce and science in given two years. Write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, based on the statistics of the given chart.

(5)



OR

5. B. 'Martial arts is for self-defense and discipline.

Write a paragraph, in about 120 words, supporting or tearing down the statement with proper reasoning and facts.

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. The house-the only one in the entire valley-sat on the crest of a low hill. From this height one could see the river and the field of ripe corn dotted with the flowers that always promised a good harvest. The only thing the earth needed was a good downpour or at least a shower. Throughout the morning Lencho -who knew his fields intimately- had done nothing but see the sky towards the north-east.

i. The field of corn dotted with the flowers means that _____. (1)

ii. Lencho wished for a downpour or shower. Pick the option that correctly lists the correct match for kinds of rain. (1)

1. heavy rain

p. light rain that falls in very fine drops

2. thunderstorm

q. very heavy tropical rain

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 3. drizzle | r. rain is coming down quite strongly and you get wet very quickly |
| 4. torrential rain | s. really heavy rain that comes very suddenly |
| 5. downpour | t. is a violent, short-lived weather disturbance associated with lightning, thunder and strong, gusty winds. |

iii. Based on the given extract, what is Lencho NOT likely to think while looking at his field?
(1)

- A. Option (1) B. Option (2)
C. Option (3) D. Option (4)

OR

OMEGA: (bowing low) Perhaps the Great and Mighty Think-Tank will give us the benefit of his thought on the matter.

THINK-TANK: Elementary, my dear Omega. Hold one of the items up so that I may view it closely. (Omega holds a book on the palm of her hand.) Yes, yes, I understand now. Since Earth creatures are always eating, the place in which you find yourselves is undoubtedly a crude refreshment stand.

OMEGA: (to Iota and Oop) He says we're in a refreshment stand.

OOP: Well, the Earthlings certainly have a strange diet.

i. Choose the option that associates the person to a haberdashery. (1)

A. Jagdeep is a primary school teacher who teaches English.

B. Tanishq is a tailor who makes garments for men only.

C. Falguni is a chemist who manufactures her own medicine.

D. Asma is an engineer who works on designing space stations.

ii. Choose the option that explains what Think-Tank meant by saying-Elementary, my dear Omega. (1)

A. "It's simple general knowledge, Omega."

B. "It's something that a primary school person won't understand, Omega."

C. "It's quite obviously deducible, Omega."

D. "It's a little more than complicated, Omega."

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The quality of being crude has been allotted to the refreshment stand because _____. (1)

iv. Why did Omega bow low before Think-Tank? Answer in about 40 words.

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

A. The way a crow

Shook down on me

The dust of snow

From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart

A change of mood
And saved some part
Of a day I had rued.

i. Choose the option that lists the possible feelings of the poet prior to the experience shared in the poem. (1)

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. reassured | 2. disappointed |
| 3. curious | 4. demotivated |
| 5. thankful | 6. disheartened |
| 7. impulsive | |
| A. 1, 3 and 7 | B. 2, 4 and 6 |
| C. 5 and 7 | D. 1 and 3 |

ii. Synecdoche is a poetic device that uses a part to represent the whole. E.g. That's a great set of wheels! (Set of wheels has been used for car.) (1)

Pick an example of synecdoche from the poem.

- A. Has given my heart/A change of mood
- B. The way a crow/Shook down on me
- C. The dust of snow/From a hemlock tree
- D. And saved some part/Of a day I had rued

iii. Choose the option showing the reason NOT corresponding with "... a crow /Shook down on me / The dust of snow". (1)

- A. The crow's landing on the branch of the tree.
- B. The shivering of the crow, due to the cold.
- C. The readjustment of position of the crow on the branch.
- D. The cawing of the crow hidden in the foliage.

iv. What does the presence of the hemlock tree signify in the poem? Justify your answer in about 40 words. (2)

OR

B. He should be lurking in shadow,

Sliding through long grass

Near the water hole

Where plump deer pass.

i. Which fact DOES NOT connect with the significance of the water hole for the tiger?

A. Many tigers chase prey into the water and hold the victim's head under water until it drowns.

B. Prey feeds in the water on water-lilies, and often wanders into the middle of the water hole, where it is vulnerable and easy for the tiger to kill.

C. Prey that has quenched its thirst ensures consumption of hydrated meat for the tiger.

D. Chasing the panicked prey from shallow to deep water where the tiger grabs it.

ii. Pick the option that DOES NOT use 'lurking' correctly to fill in the blank.

A. The thug was _____ in the alley late evening, for unsuspecting passers-by.

B. The hyena was _____ in its den after a good meal.

C. The detective cautioned her team about the _____ dangers likely to impact the case.

D. The prejudices _____ beneath the surface create misunderstandings.

iii. 'shadow' here, refers to the shadow of _____.

iv. What do the first two lines of the poem signify? Answer in about 40 words.

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

i. How does the tiger walk in the cage? (3)

ii. Where did Buddha preach his first sermon? What was it all about? (3)

iii. What risk did the narrator take while flying? Describe his feelings. (3)

iv. What is the Chinese legend associated with the discovery of tea? (3)

v. Describe the appearance of the dragon. (3)

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

i. What did Horace Danby wonder about for a moment? What did he think and decide?

ii. Why is Sulekha called 'Bholi'?

iii. What would have happened to Matilda if she had confessed to her friend that she had lost her necklace?
(3)

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

A. You have learned and understood the poems, Fog and The Trees. You are aware of the main themes of the poem. Prepare a speech draft with reference to the central themes in both poems in not more than 120 words.

You may begin this way:

Good morning, everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss the central themes of the two pieces of literature 'Fog'

and "The Trees"...

You may end this way:

To conclude, I'd like to say that...

Thank you.

OR

B. 'Paper has more patience than people. Justify. (From the Diary of Anne Frank)

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

A. People should always try to live within their limits. Elaborate on the basis of chapter, "The Necklace.

OR

B. School education turned Bholi from a dumb cow into a bold girl. How did she save her father from a huge expense and become his support in his old age?

SOLUTIONS

1. i. B. was the daughter of a lighthouse keeper and lived in various sea conditions.
- ii. Grace stood by the lighthouse window that night and watched the sea nervously since she was familiar with the nature of the sea and could read the signs and predict what mood it was in, so she sensed something sinister was brewing inside it.
- iii. On that night, William went into the water to attempt to pull as many survivors into their boat as possible while Grace rowed frantically backwards and forwards just so she could stay in the same position and not crash into the reef. They both saved nine victims that night and brought them back to safety.
- iv. C. They rowed with determination towards almost certain death.
- v. C. Maxwell road is _____ for its deathly traffic accidents.
- vi. Valiant and Tenacious can describe Grace.
- vii. fame and paparazzi
- viii. D. She was unable to live a normal life any more.

2. i. A. In 2013, the number of lives saved was 325.
 - ii. The RNLI stands for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. It is the charity that saves lives at sea and Institution. It is the charity that saves lives at sea and provides an on-call 24-hour, lifeboat search and rescue service and a seasonal lifeguard service. Its main purpose is to end the preventable loss of life at sea.
 - iii. Staff and volunteers in the RNLI are required to be selfless. They need to be dependable, always available, and committed to saving lives. They need to put others before them. They are also required to work on their everyday affairs with transparency, integrity, and impartiality.
 - iv. render
 - v. B. how RNLI is a charity work and its need of donation money
 - vi. C. RNLI - Saving Human Lives Since 1824
 - vii. indispensable to the society
 - viii. C. It is very trouble to get the children sleep in time.
3. i. meet

ii.

Error	Correction
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are	can
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iii. D. Should we go together and grab something to eat

iv. She said that she had told Damantji to send an e-mail to me three days before.

v. D. I love standing in the rain

vi.

Error	Correction
prompt	prompted

vii. B. will have

viii.

Error	Correction
has	had

ix. C. nagging

x.

Option No.	Error	Correction
C.	condoning	condoned

xi. D. might

xii. much

4. A. A-114, Roop Nagar
Delhi
14 June 20xx
The Chief Medical Officer
Green Hospital
Subject: Complaint about the lack of organisation and smooth running of the casualty ward
Sir,
I am writing this letter to bring to your attention that your casualty ward is for a lack of a better word, a total mess. A week ago I ran into a hit and run accident victim and brought the victim to your hospital for medical aid. The victim was severely injured and was in need of immediate medical attention. But much to my dismay, your casualty/emergency ward lacked proper directions and proactive administrative staff. They wasted a lot of time in the chaos and made the gravely injured person wait for hours before medical attention was given to him. There was no proper system of admittance and direction of how to process such cases.
Fortunately, the patient did survive and is recovering but it would really save thousands of lives if you could kindly rectify this incompetence in your administrative dealings so that in future no lives would be lost while waiting for medical aid after reaching the hospital in time.
Yours faithfully
Maggie

OR

4. B. 12, Pandeer Road,
New Delhi
6th February, 20xx
M/s Sinha Garments
New Delhi
Subject : Order for school uniform sets
Dear Sir,
This letter is with reference to the meeting that took place at your factory. We wish to purchase uniforms for our students from you. Our requirement is as follows:

Size	Quantity
Small	80
Medium	75
Large	45

A total of 200 pieces.
Please note that the entire payment will be made only after the delivery and checking them for quality. Kindly make the delivery on or before 2nd April 20xx. I request you to offer us a discount on the order and send us the official bill along with the products.
Please review the order and if you have any recommendations, or need any clarification, please contact the undersigned. We hope for a long-term association with you.
Thank you
Yours Sincerely
Karan Malik (Coordinator)

5. A. The given double bar graph shows the increasing interest of students in taking up humanities as subject choice.

The given double bar graph shows the data of two years, if we look at it, in 2017, approximately 200 students opted for science, around 150 opted for commerce and around 200 opted for humanities. The interest in science and humanities was almost similar in 2017.

If we look at the data of year 2018, we see that there is a fall in the interest of students in science in comparison to 2017.

In 2018 around 175 students opted for science, around 100 students opted for commerce and maximum number of students showed interest in humanities taking the count to a remarkable 225 students in humanities.

To conclude the given information, the interest of students in humanities has seen a subsequent rise in the year 2018 and commerce and science have seen a slump in the interest rate.

OR

5. B. Martial arts is a great form of exercise, as it has a number of health benefits. From physical fitness to mental and physical enhancement, martial arts paves way for people to reach their peak potential. There are different types of martial arts and children should learn at least one type for well-rounded physical growth and personality.

Martial arts will help to teach children the art of self-discipline. It teaches them restraint and patience. Learning martial arts is a full workout not only for the body but also for the mind as well. Having a competition or tournament that the children can aim for, helps them teach to set goals in life and whether they win or not it helps them to deal with either outcome that will be beneficial in later life.

It is also a good way to teach self-defense without the aggression. It improves the reflex and can help in a number of day-to-day activities, such as driving and cooking. For children, it keeps the mind sharp and in good shape to learn new skills.

Martial arts can help relieve you of your daily stress and help you focus on your task at hand, providing you with the opportunity to get rid of distractions. A common misconception of martial arts is that they promote violent behaviour but in fact it is quite the opposite. Martial arts teaches children peaceful, non-violent conflict resolution skills and emphasise that physical altercations must be avoided.

6. A. i. a good crop can be expected

ii. D. 1-r, 2-t, 3-p, 4-q, 5-s

iii. D. Option (4)

iv. Lencho was an experienced farmer who was looking at the sky towards the north-east because, from his experience in farming, he could tell easily that the clouds from the side of the north-east would bring rain, so he was gazing at them waiting for the rain to come and flourish his harvest.

OR

B. i. B. Tanishq is a tailor who makes garments for men only.

ii. C. "It's quite obviously deducible, Omega."

iii. it produces food that is unrefined and unprocessed in nature

iv. Omega bowed low before Think-Tank as a mark of recognition and supremacy. Omega thought since they were unable to understand what the place where they had landed was, the mighty and most intelligent Think-Tank could give them the benefit of his thoughts on the matter.

7. A. i. B. 2, 4 and 6

ii. A. Has given my heart/A change of mood

iii. D. The cawing of the crow hidden in the foliage.

iv. A hemlock tree is a tree that signifies poison and toxicity because all parts of the tree are poisonous. The poet is in a bad mood, and the presence of the hemlock tree in the poem symbolises his depressed state of mind and negative mood.

OR

B. i. C. Prey that has quenched its thirst ensures consumption of hydrated meat for the tiger.

ii. B. The hyena was _____ in its den after a good meal.

iii. long grass

iv. The first two lines of the poem signify that the tiger is hiding in the shadow of the long grass to catch its prey (a plump deer). It would wait there patiently, and when the deer came close enough, it would ambush it.

8. i. Even though the tiger is captive in a cage, he walks in a proud manner. He walks quietly. He ignores the visitors. But his eyes show that he is very angry on being imprisoned in confined concrete walls. But he is helpless.

ii. Gautama Buddha preached his first sermon at the city of Benares, which is regarded as the holiest of the bathing places on the river Ganges. It was about the inscrutable suffering of the loss of a loved one and that death is undeniable. It is the most truthful aspect of human life.

iii. The narrator decided to take the risk to fly through the stormy clouds because he wanted to enjoy his holiday with his family back in England. But when the narrator entered the clouds, the aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air and all the instruments like compass, etc. stopped working due to bad weather conditions.

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

v. Custard, the dragon had a formidable appearance, with sharp teeth, toes like daggers, spikes on back and scales on the belly. Its mouth was a fireplace and the nose was always fuming like a chimney. However, in sharp contrast to the appearance its temperament was extremely timid.

9. i. After entering the drawing room where the safe was, Horace Danby looked at the poor painting behind which the safe happened to be and thought for a moment about collecting the pictures instead of books. But instantly he thought that paintings would take up more space, so the books are good for his small house.

ii. Sulekha is called 'Bholi' because she is a simpleton due to her suffering some brain damage after falling off a cot when she was ten months old. As a result, she is not as smart as children of her age.

iii. Truth and honesty would have saved Matilda from her doom. If only she has been courageous enough to confess to her friend the truth of the necklace, she would have come to know that it was a fake one that cost a mere five hundred francs. She would not have spent her husband's entire inheritance and borrowed eighteen thousand francs to pay for its replacement. In fact, she would have saved herself and her husband from ten long years of crushing poverty, misery and back breaking labour.

10. A. Good morning, everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss the central themes of the two pieces of literature, 'Fog' and 'The Trees'.

In the poem 'Fog', the poet uses an interesting metaphor to describe an element of nature. By suggesting that the movements of the fog are similar to those of a cat, he subtly equates the fog to the cat. Just like a cat, it moves stealthily and enters a city without anyone noticing it. Then it spreads over the entire city, just like a cat sits for a while in one place and observes its surroundings. Finally, the fog gradually dissipates from the city as well, like a cat.

In the poem "The Trees", the poet supports the liberty of the trees from human control by using the themes of freedom and liberation. The poet claims that humans have destroyed the forest and snatched it from the trees, which they called their home. They are no longer in their natural environment. But now that there are so many powerful initiatives urging people to recognise the value of trees, they are returning to their original homes. To conclude, I'd like to say we should understand nature and value its sacrifice for us.

Thank you.

OR

B. Anne believes that people are not interested in other's life as they are stuck with their own problems so it is really hard to get someone who can give importance to her diary. People feel bored and become impatient when we talk about our problems.

On the other hand, when we write our feelings and thoughts on paper, we can write as long as we want without thinking of anyone's intention as it doesn't react. We can share our feelings, both sad and happy. It never gets bored or stops us to write. It behaves like a true friend who keeps your secret and listens to you patiently. So, she thinks that paper has more patience than people.

11. A. Guy de Maupassant's short story "The Necklace" is about a young woman, who daydreams about wealth, social status and a life of luxury. She is truly happy, when she is able to have that life for one night adorned with a beautiful dress and a borrowed necklace, which ultimately brings her doom. As the story begins, we find her living in delusions of grandeur, imagining a better life. One can be ambitious in life and dream big. But it is very important to remain true to oneself.

Adorning that expensive dress and seemingly expensive necklace Matilda creates a make believe for herself that she belongs to high strata of the society. Lost in her imaginary world, she enjoys herself to the fullest on that night, only to realise later that her life was going to be changed forever. She falls into the trap of drudgery and grinding poverty. In order to return the necklace to Mme. Forestier they had to give up all their comforts, Matilda starts doing her household chores and in this whole process loses ten years of youth and carefree life. There is a lot that we can learn from Matilda's life but most importantly staying true to one's reality and trying to live within the means of one's life. Even though the aspirations of a human being have no limit but it is important to stick to ground reality.

OR

B. Owing to Bholi's handicaps and pock marked body, nobody was willing to marry Bholi. Finally, when Bishamber Nath, a well-to-do grocer from another village agreed to marry Bholi,

sans dowry, her parents' happiness knew no bounds. Bishamber Nath was about forty-five to fifty years of age, limped and had grown-up children from his first marriage. Being from another village, he was unaware of Bholi's condition. Therefore, when he saw Bholi's face for the first time near the sacred fire, Bishamber Nath staggered. He demanded a dowry of five thousand rupees from Bholi's father and threatened to leave without marrying her. Ramlal wept and requested Bishamber Nath to take two thousand rupees instead of five and marry Bholi as their family honour was at stake. In spite of many pleadings, Bishamber Nath did not agree. Hence, a helpless Ramlal had to pay the former the hefty sum of money as dowry. However, Bholi, whom education had made a smart, courageous and confident girl, asked her father to take back the money from Bishamber Nath as she no longer wished to have such a 'greedy and contemptible coward' as her husband. Hearing Bholi speak her mind, her father sent Bishamber Nath and his wedding party packing. School education turned Bholi from a 'dumb cow' into a bold girl. This transformation is evident from the way she saved her father from a huge expense.