

ON BOARD!

Communicate in English

COMPANION

CBSE Communicative English (Code: 101)
a complete resource for teachers

Class
10



An imprint of Ratna Sagar P. Ltd.

SECTION A

READING SKILLS

NON-CONTINUOUS TEXTS

- 1.1
1. Probable reasons for controversy in India over fast food could be that they promote unhealthy eating habits and are pricier.
 2. The passage characterizes the Indian fast-food consumption pattern as one increasingly following the US model, propelled by factors such as rising disposable income and the growing presence of global fast-food chains in the country.
 3. ...because they provide a boost in calcium and iron levels while also satisfying sweet cravings, though they come with high calories and sodium.
 4. The research found that over time, fast-food desserts showed an increase in calcium and iron levels. Specifically, the daily value of calcium increased by 3.9% in desserts and iron by 1.4%.
 5. b. Portion sizes and calorie intake had increased.
 6. Eating fast food regularly can lead to health issues such as cardiovascular disease, obesity, and hypertension due to the high intake of trans-fat, sugars, and salt.
 7. The factors responsible for Indians following the Americans in fast food consumption include changing consumer behaviour, an increase in disposable income, and the introduction of international fast-food chains in India.
 8. d. (iii), (iv) and (v)
- 2.1
1. The Indian tourism sector is one of the fastest-growing economic sectors, with its contribution to the GDP expected to exceed USD 500 billion by 2029. It is a significant source of foreign exchange and creates both direct and indirect employment opportunities.
 2. Two objectives are as follows:
 - (i) To develop and promote tourism.
 - (ii) To maintain India's competitiveness as a tourist destination.
 3. Indirect employment in the tourism industry refers to jobs that are created in sectors that support tourism but are not directly part of the tourism services. An example would be jobs in local transportation (like taxi drivers) or in the supply of goods and services (such as food suppliers for hotels and restaurants).
 4. ...it generates foreign exchange, creates jobs, and stimulates economic growth in various sectors.
 5. cultural
 6. a. India is a popular destination for both its Asian neighbours.
 7. The following are two relevant examples:
 - (i) The Apna Desh Dekho campaign encourages Indian citizens, particularly the growing middle class, to explore their own country.
 - (ii) It provides incentives and budget-friendly tour packages, making travel more accessible for domestic tourists.
 8. Tamil Nadu (20.9%) and Uttar Pradesh (14.2%) see the most footfall among domestic tourists.
- 3.1
1. India has the third largest revenue because it has the lowest ticket prices in the world, despite producing a large number of films and having significant ticket sales.

2. In India, 72% of people enjoy the ambience of watching films on a large screen, although 31% find it expensive. For over 60% of people, watching movies in a cinema hall is considered a social experience, best enjoyed with family and friends.
 3. Movie outings can be termed as a “social experience” because more than 60% of people enjoy watching films in a cinema with their family and friends, making it a communal activity.
 4. the most popular genres in both countries differ significantly, with action, comedy, and drama being favoured in the USA, while Indians prefer genres like romance and comedy.
 5. d. Documentary
 6. c. (iii), (iv) and (v)
 7. ticket prices
 8. Market surveys and research are essential for the film industry because they help understand audience preferences, target demographics, and popular trends. This enables filmmakers and producers to make informed decisions, tailor content, and design effective marketing strategies to maximize their audience reach and box office revenues.
- 4.1
1. ... while the government has implemented policies like the National Sports Policy and the Khelo India Programme, the actual emphasis on sports in schools is often lacking, and sports education remains secondary to academics.
 2. Sports encourage inclusiveness by bringing together children from different backgrounds, abilities, and social groups, promoting teamwork, mutual respect, and cooperation, thus fostering an inclusive community.
 3. ... the implementation is often insufficient and lacking in focus.
 4. Sports provide a platform for children to develop essential qualities such as leadership, teamwork, resilience, and discipline. These qualities are crucial for success in life, and by participating in sports, children can learn to face challenges and emerge as leaders, which is why it is important for sports to be a core part of education.
 5. Youth who participated in sports were less likely to use tobacco, drugs, and alcohol, and were more likely to disapprove of their peers' use of such substances.
 6. c. Cricket
 7. Sports improve cardiovascular health and physical fitness while also reducing anxiety and depression. The sense of achievement and camaraderie in sports enhances emotional well-being, encourages healthier eating habits, and boosts mental health. It is holistic activity.
 8. d. (ii) and (v)
- 5.1
1. The law protects children by making it illegal for children under the age of 15 to work, and for children under 18 to perform hazardous work. This ensures their right to education and prevents the exploitation of their labour.
 2. Exploitation through child labour deprives children of their right to education, social development, and childhood. It subjects them to physical harm, emotional trauma, and long-term developmental setbacks.
 3. c. (i), (iii), and (iv)
 4. ... these sectors involve tasks that are low-skilled, require minimal training, and are labour-intensive, making children ideal workers for employers seeking to reduce costs.
 5. d. There is a smaller percentage of children working in cities because they are frightened of the strict laws and fear being punished.
 6. include exposure

7. Child labour is concentrated in rural areas because of poverty, lack of educational opportunities, and social norms that tolerate or even justify the exploitation of children for labour in farming and other sectors.
8. Child labour is preventable through enforcement of laws, compulsory and free education, and greater awareness. Society can fight child labour by ensuring that children have access to education, advocating for stronger laws and their enforcement, and encouraging responsible consumer behaviour which avoids products made by child labour.
- 6.1
 1. The inference that can be drawn is that the increase in tiger numbers is a positive outcome of the efforts made by conservationists and wildlife authorities.
 2. ... the increase in the tiger population is the result of years of dedicated conservation efforts, and such progress cannot happen instantly.
 3. The credit for the 2018 tiger census goes to work done by wildlife authorities and wildlife conservationists in order to protect the tiger since it involved 15 months of work by forest officials, who surveyed a vast area and used advanced techniques like camera traps to track tigers. This proves that it was the result of diligent efforts by wildlife authorities and conservationists.
 4. brink
 5. c. The combined tiger population of Kerala and Tamil Nadu is less than that of Uttarakhand alone.
 6. b. (ii) and (iv)
 7. The forest officials installed 26,760 camera traps and analysed 35 million images of wildlife to monitor the tiger population.
 8. A balance between development and environment will allow India to grow economically while preserving its natural resources, ensuring a sustainable future for both people and wildlife.
- 7.1
 1. Nutrients important for the normal growth of children are protein, carbohydrate, fat, vitamins, and minerals.
 2. primary
 3. A well-balanced diet ensures that children get essential nutrients for proper growth, energy, better concentration, and stronger muscles and bones, contributing to their improved physical and mental health.
 4. a. More teenage boys consume junk food in a week compared to teenage girls.
 5. d. (iv) and (v)
 6. Poor nutrition may lead to depression, irritability, and an inability to concentrate.
 7. ... junk food is consumed in excess, often in a compulsive manner, similar to addiction, affecting both physical and mental health.
 8. Schools encourage children to maintain a healthy diet by implementing policies regarding consumption, banning junk food on campus, educating students and parents, and offering midday meals with better nutritional standards.
- 8.1
 1. Yoga means 'to join' because it unites the body, mind, and spirit, bringing a holistic sense of harmony and balance.
 2. Yoga is holistic because it addresses not just physical health but also mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being, thus aiming for overall good health.
 3. aid in
 4. Yoga encourages mindfulness, making individuals more aware of hunger and fullness cues, leading to healthier eating habits and a better relationship with food.
 5. d. an increase in flexibility and a decrease in maintaining balance.

6. ... both yoga and Zumba promote physical health, but yoga focuses on flexibility, balance, and mindfulness, while Zumba is more about cardiovascular fitness and dance.
 7. c. (iii) and (v)
 8. In the West, yoga has been adapted primarily as a form of physical exercise for fitness and relaxation, focusing on postures (asanas), rather than incorporating its spiritual and meditative aspects.
- 9.1
1. Guwahati's fast population growth has led to deforestation, pollution, and soil infertility, showing how population growth can degrade the environment and disturb the natural equilibrium of a habitat.
 2. Healthy ecosystems with balanced plant and animal populations is a good example of the term 'natural equilibrium'.
 3. There was a significant decrease in the dense forest area, while the inhabited area increased dramatically between 1986 and 2015.
 4. burgeoning
 5. a. Only (iv)
 6. ... the city is naturally situated in a prime location, surrounded by hills and the Brahmaputra River which provides an ideal environment for development.
 7. b. 1968 – 1986
 8. The increasing population and demand for agricultural land, coupled with overconsumption of resources, led to shifting cultivation practices, resulting in deforestation in the northeast states which disrupted their natural ecosystem.

CONTINUOUS TEXTS

- 1.1
1. The Arctic is an ice-covered ocean surrounded by land, while the Antarctic is an ice-covered land surrounded by water.
 2. ... the ocean to warm up, which increases ice melting.
 3. The Arctic's ice expands in winter and shrinks in summer.
 4. The passage suggests that the organisms that live in the waters of Antarctica have special proteins in their bodies that help them avoid freezing to death.
 5. The burning of fossil fuels in cars, power plants, and factories releases carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases that trap excess heat in the atmosphere, thus exacerbating global warming.
 6. Biking, walking, using public transport, switching to energy-saving light bulbs, and turning off lights when not in use can help reduce emissions.
 7. The Arctic has an ice-covered ocean surrounded by land, while the Antarctic is a landmass covered by ice, surrounded by water.
 8. a. Animal presence is an inadequate marker of climate change.
 9. c. Destructive impact on animals.
- 2.1
1. Webster believed that English in America should have some standards and that the country needed a dictionary that reflected American usage.
 2. ... stop the language from evolving over time.
 3. a. Noah Webster was a visionary who understood the needs of the American people.
 4. Language evolves in order to suit the needs of those speaking it.

5. Language changes because of the busy nature of society, as well as the need for language to remain useful and relevant.
 6. The book was called so because of the colour of its cover.
 7. a. Schoolchildren were asked to define words 'according to Webster'.
 8. Pizza (borrowed from Italian)
 9. It helps language adapt to changing contexts and ensures communication remains relevant.
- 3.1
1. Sleeplessness leads to increased stress and a higher concentration of stress hormones. Women are more prone to sleep disturbances.
 2. ... concentration, memory, and emotional control.
 3. d. Sleep deprivation has a negative impact on memory and retentive abilities.
 4. The impact of sleep deprivation on both the brain and bodily functions is alarming, not just the brain.
 5. Sleep is crucial for maintaining bodily functions. Its deprivation can affect the body's ability to break down carbohydrates, disturb hormones, and worsen ailments like diabetes and high blood pressure.
 6. The passage recommends regular exercise, yoga, meditation, weekly massages, or a lavender-scented bath to help with sleep.
 7. Ailments such as chest pain, arthritis, depression, diabetes, and high blood pressure can worsen due to sleep deprivation.
 8. a. Protein.
 9. Sleep, especially deep sleep, allows the nervous system to recover and function well, contributing to emotional and social adeptness.
- 4.1
1. The two World Wars and the Cold War.
 2. ... they must analyse various historical sources and draw conclusions from them.
 3. History is the foundation of our collective identity and cultural understanding, not our individual identity.
 4. The study of history provides examples of people overcoming adversity, offering inspiration for young people to bring about positive change in society.
 5. History develops critical thinking and analytical skills and helps us understand human behaviour and societal changes.
 6. a. The study of history enables one to spot and counter misinformation.
 7. c. Empathy for other social groups.
 8. The study of history helps identify patterns and trends that affect contemporary society and allows us to see that many current issues have deep historical roots.
 9. By engaging with diverse historical sources and forming interpretations based on evidence.
- 5.1
1. Hemal became suspicious when Unnati began putting on weight despite no change in her food intake and complained of constant fatigue.
 2. ... physical and mental well-being is bound to be stunted.
 3. Hemal noticed Unnati's weight gain, fatigue, and changes in her school and sports activities, which led her to consult a nutritionist for advice.
 4. Tea, coffee, and cola are not recommended dietary supplements for the 3–5-year age group.

5. The alarming finding is that over 50% of healthy-looking children suffer from deficiencies in essential vitamins (A, C, B2, B6, and folate), and over two-thirds are unaware of their iron deficiency.
 6. Parents should lead by example and engage children in decisions about their diet. For example, parents can make mealtime fun, like playing games to encourage kids to eat healthy foods such as vegetables.
 7. b. Snacking on nuts and seeds
 8. d. Increased levels of energy
 9. Leading by example helps because children are more likely to follow healthy habits if they see their parents exercising them. This can be encouraged by involving children in decisions about their dietary intake and creating fun activities that inspire healthy eating, such as making a game out of eating vegetables or preparing meals together.
- 6.1
1. Both Mandela and Kennedy's deaths were events of great collective sorrow, but the former's death is noted to have had a more echoing impact globally than the assassination of the latter. While Kennedy's assassination was crushing, it occurred in a time when the world was less connected, whereas Mandela's life, which represented hope fulfilled, was recognized worldwide, and thus his death was globally mourned.
 2. ... after the post-apartheid election of 1994.
 3. Mandela did not inherit the presidential chair because of his royal ancestry; he earned it through his struggle for equality and leadership in the anti-apartheid movement.
 4. Mandela worked towards eliminating racial division by leading a peaceful revolution that aimed at ending apartheid. His release from prison in 1990, followed by the 1994 election, was the culmination of this effort.
 5. Mandela was born into the royal house of the Thembu people, though his family was not in the direct line of succession to the throne.
 6. Apart from his name, Mandela's father gave him a strong constitution and a connection to the Thembu royal house.
 7. Mandela's peaceful revolution to end apartheid and his statesmanship that brought peace to South Africa attest to his greatness.
 8. a. Racism
 9. d. Rolihlahla
- 7.1
1. In order to ensure that his attire suitable for English society, Gandhi bought new clothes, including a chimney-pot hat, an evening suit from Bond Street, and a double watch-chain of gold. He also learned how to tie his own tie since readymade ties were not considered proper.
 2. ...he was trying hard to conform to the expectations of an English gentleman.
 3. One effort made by Gandhi to appear more polished was to purchase a chimney-pot hat costing nineteen shillings.
 4. The sentence about Gandhi's hand automatically moving to fix his hair shows his habitual response to wearing a hat.
 5. Gandhi thought learning French was crucial because it was the language of the neighbouring country, France, as well as the lingua franca of the continent, and he had a desire to travel there.
 6. Gandhi's friends advised him to adopt the ways of the English gentlemen if he wanted to live in England.
 7. b. Chelsea boots

8. c. An English gentleman would not wear unbecoming readymade ties.
9. Gandhi characterized his spending on clothes as wasteful, emphasizing that he spent excessive amounts to fit into English society.
- 8.1
 1. Biju was usually found on oak trees gathering fodder for his cows, and he specifically denied feeding them walnuts.
 2. ...the woodpecker was strictly non-vegetarian, only feeding on insects.
 3. The narrator has an intimate relationship with the trees. He describes them as being almost within his reach, and he enjoys their proximity. Additionally, he appreciates having a walnut tree that gives him baskets of walnuts, annually.
 4. The narrator did not feel that the old woman should have apologized or returned all the walnuts.
 5. The narrator realized that despite being only forty-five years old, he would never have the same agility as the old woman, who was about sixty and still could climb trees with ease.
 6. The narrator admired the old woman's agility in climbing the walnut tree, despite her age.
 7. d. All of these
 8. c. he loved his idyllic life.
 9. Flora and fauna mentioned in the passage:
 - (i) Flora: Oak, chestnut, walnut, dahlias
 - (ii) Fauna: Woodpecker, cows, civet-cat
- 9.1
 1. The NDMA was created after the 2004 tsunami which was a devastating natural disaster.
 2. India is vulnerable to natural disasters because of its unique geo-climatic conditions.
 3. The lack of coordination in the NDMA stems from the absence of strong leadership at the centre, as well as issues in transportation, equipment, and fund implementation.
 4. The passage criticizes the NDMA for its poor performance, especially in the aftermath of the 2013 Himalayan rains.
 5. Floods, droughts, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides, and the tsunami of 2004, as six categories of natural disasters India has been compelled to face in the past, and these have mostly impacted the poor and underprivileged.
 6. A decentralized community participation in disaster management approach encourages more local involvement and better response to emergencies, ensuring a more effective management system.
 7. d. The Survey of India.
 8. b. The ignorance and lack of involvement of citizens.
 9. The tone of the passage is critical and reflective, highlighting the shortcomings in disaster preparedness in India.

WORD POWER

WORKSHEET 1

1. The slum-dwellers are living in abject poverty.
2. The hotel manager acquiesced to the angry customer's demand for brand new napkins.
3. Lalit used to disparage his puny classmate everyday because Lalit was stronger and bigger.
4. Suresh had a lot of brawn, but eventually Rajesh's brain was what resolved most conflicts.

5. Her pragmatic approach towards finances was what kept the house running smoothly even though recession had set in.
6. The resilient spirit of Mumbai is apparent when one observes how quickly the city recovers from disasters.
7. Behind that beautiful façade lies a cruel heart.
8. He missed the halcyon days of his childhood in the village.
9. Omnipotence is not reserved for the gods; each individual is a storehouse of infinite potential.
10. Charlotte Bronte created an endearing protagonist in Jane Eyre.
11. Anita is a rational and level-headed girl.

..... **WORKSHEET 2**

1. widespread, raging
2. retreated, withdrew or ebbed
3. hardships, difficulties
4. self-confidence and a charming style
5. doubtful, uncertain
6. excuse, disregard
7. distressed, very upset
8. adventures, antics

..... **WORKSHEET 3**

1. Nisha's hair is unkempt as she is a careless girl.
2. The alert neighbours called the police and thwarted the robbers' plans.
3. Many readers found the book blasphemous.
4. He was a very dogmatic boss and did not consider his subordinates' opinions.
5. She had to forfeit dessert since her doctor had advised her to avoid sweets.
6. The impertinent boy was punished for his rude remarks.
7. A mentor is essential for one to succeed and grow in any field.
8. She had misgivings about quitting her job.
9. Neha outwitted him and won the box of chocolates.

..... **WORKSHEET 4**

1. inclined to
2. sophisticated, charming
3. counterfeit, fake
4. persistent, resolute
5. self-centredness, arrogance

6. unbelievable, far-fetched
7. negative-minded, cynical
8. recoiled, cringed

WORKSHEET 5

1. The deep sea looked pristine and calm.
2. He raves and rants when dinner is not to his liking.
3. The new tax policy led to an insurrection in some parts of the country.
4. She was crying so much after the fight that her speech was incoherent.
5. The jubilation that followed the victory lasted till the wee hours of the morning.
6. The lake was limpid and undisturbed.
7. 'Honesty is the best policy' is a time-proven maxim.
8. At the party, I was made to sit beside a loquacious man who kept bothering me with his endless chattering.

WORKSHEET 6

1. corrupt, immoral
2. renovated, redecorated
3. tactful, prudent
4. loud, unrestrained laughter
5. full of, sated with
6. thin, sunken
7. doubtful, uncertain
8. lazy, sluggish

WORKSHEET 7

1. I envisage a very happy married life for my daughter.
2. She was ebullient all throughout the inter-state competitions.
3. Mary Ann Evans wrote under the pseudonym George Eliot.
4. The dog ran across the lawn to retrieve the frisbee.
5. I always turn to Sara for her sagacious advice.
6. Dr Kalam acclaimed her as one of the post promising writers in India.
7. The violent aftermath of the match was witnessed by millions of viewers on television.
8. She shrugged off his attentions brusquely.

WORKSHEET 8

1. get very angry
2. understand, comprehend

3. became inaudible
4. an exceptionally good work which didn't keep up to its promise
5. the person who is most trusted and closest to the boss
6. being suspected of having committed a crime
7. stop being telecast on television
8. winning an argument, proving a point

SECTION B

WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR

WRITING SKILLS

FORMAL LETTER

1. House No 675
Sector 12
Kolkata

8 August 20XX

The Manager
M/s Electronics India
Lake Road
Kolkata

Subject: Complaint against washing machine

Dear Sir/Madam

This is regarding the Z-King washing machine that I bought from your showroom on 25 May 20XX. I paid ₹ 25,000 and the cash memo number is 345. The product lies within the guarantee period and the guarantee card number is 23.

The machine worked well for two months after its installation, but suddenly the spin dry system of the machine stopped functioning properly. The clothes are wet even after the spin dry function is completed according to the machine. I am also alarmed to find that the machine is producing a sharp sound. I am extremely disappointed with the product and it has caused me great inconvenience.

I would request you to replace the machine. I would appreciate a prompt action as I have already been put to great inconvenience.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully
Anand/Akshita

2. 53 Banjara Hills
Hyderabad

18 December 20XX

The General Manager
Clear Vision
Hyderabad

Subject: Complaint against defective television set

Dear Sir/Madam

This is regarding the Videopan colour television that I bought from your showroom on 24 June 20XX. I paid ₹ 35,000 and it carries a warranty period for two years (warranty card no. 237).

The television worked well for six months after its installation. But recently I have observed that the picture gets blurred every now and then. Even the sound has become unclear. I am extremely disappointed with the product and it has caused me great inconvenience.

I would like to request you to replace or repair the television. I would appreciate a prompt action as I have already been put to great inconvenience.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully
Sheeja George

3. ABC
Director
IRT (Institute of Research in Technology)
Mumbai

10 November 20XX

Messrs Golden Pvt. Ltd.
Thane

Subject: Reply to enquiry

Dear Mr X

Thank you for your letter enquiring about our hugely popular summer training courses for Arts graduates. Apparently you seem interested in pursuing the regular course for trainees from the humanities stream.

From your qualifications I gather, the most suitable course for you would be our consolidated package which awards a certificate at the end of 3 months. It is divided into 4 segments of 3 weeks each. Each segment deals with a different branch of technology, for example, mechanical, electrical/electronics, civil, automobile, biotechnology, robotics, IT, etc. and gives you the option of choosing the subjects of your interest. Trainees are taken gradually from the rudiments of the subject until they have acquired a functional knowledge. Training is imparted through cutting edge technology which includes 3D audio visuals and practical on site experience.

The best part is the fee which is refundable in full if the trainee scores above 90 per cent in the term tests. If his/her score is above 80 per cent he/she is refunded 50 per cent of the fee. The fee itself is a nominal ₹ 999.99 but if you enroll within 2 working days of receiving this letter you get a further discount of 20 per cent.

All courses begin from the first working day of January, April, July and October. We have courses to suit every pocket and requirement. For information on other packages kindly see the attachment or visit our nearest office.

Please feel free to get in touch for any other query.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully
ABC
Director IRT

4. ABC
Secretary
Health Club
Shillong

11 November 20XX

Dear Mr Bohra

Subject: Membership information

We are pleased to know that you wish to become a member of our prestigious club.

We currently offer 3 membership schemes – silver, gold and lifetime. You could also experience our services for a day as a guest member which comes absolutely free. All you need to do is furnish a medical statement stating that you are free of any infectious ailment and the name of an existing member who can refer you.

As a high flying businessman who does not frequent the club on a regular basis, I would suggest the gold scheme for you. It is valid for a year and permits you to avail every facility in the club. The main feature of this scheme is that charges are levied only on the basis of the number of visits to the club, which I believe will best suit your lifestyle and be cost effective as well. You may collect the membership form from our office and return duly completed. The registration fee is a mere ₹ 199.00 which is common for all the schemes. Charges per day for the gold scheme are ₹ 70.00 only. Facilities offered are five star rated, which include a heated leisure pool, sauna, steam, yoga, cardio gym, aerobics studio, cycling studio, conference hall, boutique, locker rooms. All workouts are conducted under the expert supervision of professional trainers.

Please feel free to contact us for our other services.

Looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully
ABC

5. House No 123
Sector 12
ABC City

The Manager
Seema Travels
PQR Street
Ambala

12 November 20XX

Dear Sir/Madam

Subject: Enquiry regarding tour to South India

This is in reference to your advertisement in 'The Times of India' dated 3 June 20XX.

I, along with three friends, plan to go to South India for a vacation. Before I plan the trip, I would like you to send me complete information regarding the holiday package that you are offering.

We have scheduled our trip in the last week of June and would like to visit Bengaluru and Mysuru.

Your advertisement claims to offer a heavy discount. What is the total amount required to be paid per head for the package you have advertised? Will this amount include board and lodging as well? I would also like to know about the accommodation and local travel arrangements.

I would appreciate a prompt response as it would enable us to take a timely decision.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully
Aditi Goel

6. House No 987
Pink Valley
Agra

The Director
Minerva Training Institute
PQR Street
Delhi

22 November 20XX

Dear Sir/Madam

Subject: Information regarding medical entrance examination

This is in reference to your advertisement in 'The Hindustan Times', dated 13 October 20XX.

Your Institute offers a short-term training course for students preparing for Medical Entrance examination. I would like to gain some information regarding the same.

What is the fee structure? I would like to know the number of batches, the timing and exact duration of the course. Do you offer any discount to students who have excelled in academics? Kindly let me know the exact date of the commencement of this course. Do you have board and lodging facilities for students who wish to avail them?

I would appreciate a prompt response.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully
Hemant Bakshi

7. ABC School
XYZ City

20 July 20XX

The Sales Manager
Trendy Shoes
Friends Road
Lucknow

Subject: Placing an order for shoes

Dear Sir/Madam

I have reliably learnt that your shop supplies sports shoes for students of various schools in the city. I would like to place the following order for the basketball team of our school.

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Brand</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
1.	5	Neki	blue	3 pairs
2.	6	Adiman	red	4 pairs
3.	7	Furore	black	4 pairs

A cheque of ₹ 12,000 is enclosed as payment in advance. The rest of the amount will be paid as soon as we receive the order. Kindly give top priority to our order and send the shoes through a reliable courier service, at the earliest.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully
PQR

8. XYZ Sports Club
ABC City

15 July 20XX

Proprietor
Sports Way
Patiala

Subject: Placing an order for sports equipment

Dear Madam/Sir

I have reliably learnt that your shop supplies sports equipment for various schools in the city. I would like to place the following order for our school.

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Brand</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
1.	Cricket bats	Cosmo	10
2.	Cricket balls	Cosmo	9
3.	Cricket wickets	Star	5
4.	Tennis rackets	Diamond	12
5.	Tennis balls	Diamond	15

Kindly despatch the order by a good courier service and the payment will be made on receipt of the goods. We would appreciate a prompt and safe delivery of the equipment.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully

Signature
ABC
Secretary

9. House No. 123
Sarojini Colony,
Sholapur

The Editor
The Sun News
Kamal Nagar,
Sholapur

1 September 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Exploitation of children

Recently, I visited a construction site in the hills, where a large number of children below the age of fourteen were being made to work.

The contractors hire the services of these children from nearby slums at low wages. The gruelling heat, hard labour, unhealthy environment and long working hours take a heavy toll on their physical and mental health. In the absence of strict labour laws and the apathetic attitude of the authorities, the problem has assumed alarming proportions.

Citizens should voice their concern in the matter. The government needs to address this problem

as top priority by implementing laws against child labour. The media can also play a vital role in highlighting the problem and moulding public opinion.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely
Mitali Banerjee

10. House No. 12, XYZ Street
Sector 19,
Shimla

The Editor
The Times Today
Sector 21,
Shimla

1 September 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Increasing problem of global warming

Recently, your newspaper reported that nineteen glaciers in the Satluj, Ravi, Beas and Chenab basins have shrunk, and there is a marked increase in heat and humidity levels in Shimla.

Global warming refers to an increase in average measured temperature of the Earth's surface, air and oceans. It occurs largely due to the increase in anthropogenic (man-made) greenhouse gas concentration. Global warming causes a rise in sea levels, increase in the extremity of natural calamities, changes in agricultural yields, glacier retreats, species extinction, ozone depletion, etc.

Steps like afforestation, control of pollution, decreased use of CFCs and encouraging recycling of resources are required to curb the extent of the problem. Since global warming affects the entire world, countries need to come together and address it.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely
XYZ

11. House No. 20
Sector 14D,
Chandigarh

The Editor
The Tribune
Sector 29,
Chandigarh

24 Oct 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Decreasing standard of food hygiene at eating places in the city

Recently, I happened to visit a fast food restaurant and while dining I found a shard of glass in the food I had ordered. In another incident, a friend of mine found an insect in the soup she was having.

All these incidents and the growing cases of stomach infection, typhoid, dysentery and food poisoning point to the decreasing standard of hygiene in eating places in our city.

Stringent measures should be taken by the food and health department to check the negligence and callous attitude of restaurant owners. Food inspectors should conduct regular unannounced inspections and people found guilty should be punished/heavily fined so that a conscious effort is made to improve the food quality in the local hotels and restaurants.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely
ABC

12. House No. 23
Sector 15,
Noida

The Editor
The National News
Sector 3,
Noida

3 October 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Growing problem of drug addiction

Newspapers regularly report cases of violence, rape, murder and many other crimes committed under the influence of drugs.

Cases of deaths related to drugs are also on the rise. Drug addicts lose their power of discrimination and start to behave irrationally. It is unfortunate that the government has failed to check the trafficking of drugs. Despite frequent arrests of drug peddlers, drug trade is carried out in a clandestine manner and on a large scale.

Illicit trade in drugs like smack and opium has to be stopped. Citizens must step forward and volunteer at de-addiction centres in order to wean people away from drugs. Awareness programmes and the media could contribute towards this cause.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely
LMN

13. House No. 2356
Venkat Lane,
Chennai

The Editor
The News Times
Annapillai Street,
Chennai

3 October 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Increasing number of road accidents in the city

Two very serious accidents involving school buses on the outskirts of Chennai were recently reported in your newspaper. They resulted in heavy casualties.

Road accidents are becoming quite frequent these days. The accidents caused by buses, trucks and other heavy vehicles are often fatal. One of the main reasons behind this is that these vehicles run in hazardous conditions and are driven by untrained or irresponsible drivers.

The department of public transport should be made more accountable. The obsolete public transport should be duly replaced and only trained and responsible drivers recruited in government jobs. Pedestrians, too, must be cautious while crossing roads and using the pavements.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

XYZ

14. House No. 237
Sector 9,
Ranchi, Jharkhand

The Editor
The Ranchi Times
Sector 5,
Ranchi, Jharkhand

4 October 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Growing rate of illiteracy in Ranchi

Of late, there has been an increase in the rate of illiteracy in Jharkhand. The number of children enrolled in schools has decreased over the years.

Children are easily attracted by the glamour of city life and the work opportunities for unskilled labour. They lack foresight and do not realize the benefits of education. Literacy makes a person independent, conscious of her or his rights and duties, and improves self-esteem, thereby enhancing her or his overall personality.

As enlightened citizens it becomes our duty to spread awareness highlighting the importance of literacy and education. Conscious efforts should be made by the Human Resource Development Ministry to check this trend and spread education at the grassroots. Strict implementation of laws against child labour could also help.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

Ravi Gupta

15. 43, Mall Road
Mussoorie, Uttarakhand

The Editor
The Times of India
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi

5 May 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Government efforts to check deforestation successful

The Uttarakhand government recently passed a law banning deforestation in Mussoorie. It also

launched a 'Plant a Sapling' drive. It has further ordained that wood can only be obtained from naturally dead trees. As a result of these efforts, the total number of trees in Mussoorie has risen from about ten thousand to two lakhs in the last five years.

Trees, apart from providing wood, also create many chemicals, seeds and fruits. They provide a habitat for various animals, birds and insects. Trees also act as the lungs of the environment and provide refreshing shade. Further, dead trees buried in soil provide fossil fuels.

Therefore, it is imperative to continue these efforts to conserve and plant trees in Mussoorie.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely
Manhar Rawat

16. A/98, Sitaram Colony
Pune, Maharashtra

The Editor
Pune Times
69, German Bakery Market
Pune, Maharashtra

24 February 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Changing perception towards reading books

The time when avid readers would huddle together to discuss the plots of books seems to be over. Today, people read books not for pleasure, but because they have to in order to do well academically.

Reading books needs to be promoted as a hobby. More public libraries need to be opened, and mobile library vans ought to be introduced. There should be a compulsory reading period in schools at least thrice a week, and the parents' involvement is necessary for the same. More quiz competitions based on fiction or poetry could also help.

Books help discover the undiscovered, explore the unexplored, dream the unheard of. In short, books help us imagine, and the need of the hour is to develop this imagination.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely
ABC

17. B-12, Hudson Lane
Civil Lines,
Delhi

The Editor
The Times of India
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi

23 September 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: The evil of communal disharmony

Religion is meant to encourage spiritualism and faith. Instead, it often creates divisions between people who see themselves as distinct communities that have nothing in common with each other, Such religious intolerance can take drastic forms such as communal riots, vote bank politics, booth capturing, poll rigging and other corrupt practices. In all these cases, it is the innocent citizens who are targeted.

The youth must take action against this evil. Demonstrations and protests can go a long way in making the government aware of public agitation and its intentions. These spirited young men and women can even join politics.

It is time to gradually change the face of India from within, by uprooting one of its persistent problems.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

PQR

18. A-1115, Pocket B3/D
Seema Street,
Hyderabad

The Editor
Andhra Tribune
Rahim Gali,
Hyderabad

23 May 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Need for adventure clubs in the city

Today, the pursuit of academic goals has become of utmost importance and physical exercise has taken a backseat.

But outdoor games provide more than just recreation. They stimulate the senses and help prevent depression. Rigorous exercise assists physical fitness, strengthens the muscles and the cardiovascular system, hones athletic skills and reduces vulnerability to diseases.

The setting up of adventure clubs in the city would counter the growing obesity and depression rates among the public. They ought to have well-maintained fields for playing football and hockey, and courts for lawn tennis and badminton. Pitches for cricket and jogging tracks, along with gymnasiums, basketball courts and swimming pools would be ideal. And of course, veteran coaches must be made available for each sport.

Let's move towards a healthier Hyderabad.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

DEF

19. C-45, Bandra West
Lower Parel,
Mumbai

The Editor
Hindustan Times
Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi

23 June 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Initiative of students and NGOs in dealing with social issues

Students and NGOs today play an active role in tackling social and environmental problems. The recent students' campaign against the use of plastic bags is a case in point, as is the work of NGOs like 'Shiksha' and 'Van jagriti' to spread literacy and prevent deforestation, respectively.

There is, however, a lot that still needs to be done. Age-old social customs like stereotyping women's roles, the caste system and condemning the people of a particular religion, and environmental challenges like global warming, rising pollution and overpopulation, continue to plague our generation. They can be faced if students and NGOs come together to participate in rallies and demonstrations to create an awareness about these issues and help the people to take corrective measures. They can form unions and start campaigns.

It is time to make a new beginning.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely
PQR

20. 64, Shyam Lal Lane
Gorakhnagar

The Editor
The Gorakhnagar Times
Ganesh Das Road,
Gorakhnagar

24 October 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Ill-effects of proposed urbanization in Gorakhnagar

I read recently in your newspaper about the proposed conversion of outlying fields and forests into concrete skyscrapers for commercial and residential purposes. I wish to protest against the same.

Gorakhnagar is known for its rustic beauty. If the trees are cut down, the green belt would be reduced, leading to losses for the tourism industry. More importantly, forests are home to a variety of animals that would lose their habitat. Also, pollution levels are sure to rise as a result of such large-scale deforestation and construction.

The government needs to ban the sale of such fields for construction. The development authority could use barren land for construction purposes. I hope the authorities become aware of the public disapproval of this plan, and do not go ahead with it.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely
LMN

21. 2233, M Block, Greater Kailash I
New Delhi

The Editor
The Times of India
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi

16 November 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Usefulness of the Internet

The advent of the Internet age has given people a thirst for knowledge by expanding horizons and increasing their awareness about happenings around the globe while staying put. People can also communicate with relatives, friends and acquaintances via email, chat and social networking sites. However, one must not turn a blind eye to cyber crime that includes hacking, leading to loss of privacy or losses during online monetary transactions. People need to be more cautious and keep their passwords and other details confidential. They must not reveal these unless it is to someone who can be trusted implicitly.

The arrival of the Internet is symbolic of the beginning of a new era of globalization.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely
Revathi Ram

22. 13 Park Avenue
Salt Lake City,
Kolkata

The Editor
Bangla Jagran
12, Howrah Road,
Kolkata

9 August 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Honing the spirit of the country's youth

A recent survey reported in your newspaper has shown that the median age in India will be 29 years by 2020, making it the youngest country in the world. This presents exciting opportunities, but also poses new challenges for our country.

By combining youth participation and development, we can create positive social and environmental change. The spirit of the youth is energetic and motivated. Young people are ambitious and industrious, with a willingness to work. They also have the perseverance to battle against competition and unemployment.

However, genuine youth engagement requires the presence of a combination of factors such as sound education at affordable costs, employment opportunities, and the support of family and friends. Understanding and increasing youth participation is the need of the hour.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely
Akanksha Mitra

23. 22, Kolhapur Road,
Mumbai

The Editor
The Times of India
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi

6 June 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Role of newspapers

The newspaper is a reliable and authentic source of information. Its biggest advantages are its easily availability, economy and portability. Controversial information is reported with extreme care and sensitivity, and individual opinions that often reflect or mould the public mood find expression on the editorial page.

At the same time, I feel the focus in terms of content needs to change a little. Matters of hardcore politics should be given less importance and those that concern society, or the environment, must be given more weight. Also, the orientation needs to shift from the lives of celebrities to the common masses, eliminating the element of sensationalization.

The newspaper is ideal for spreading awareness, but can become even more informative and engaging.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely
ABC

24. N-96, Sahimbam Road,
Guwahati, Assam

The Editor
The Assam Herald
M G Road,
Guwahati, Assam

24 January 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Endangered fauna

Man's insatiable lust and his indirect intervention in the environment, in the form of global warming and acid rain, are destroying animal habitats, ultimately wiping them out.

Empirical data reveals that at least twenty per cent each of the species which are amphibians, fish, reptiles and mammals are either vulnerable or endangered. Reptiles, in particular, are at risk, because thirty per cent are vulnerable, about fifteen per cent endangered and another fifteen per cent critically endangered.

The World Wildlife Fund, Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust and International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation, along with national projects like Save the Tiger, claim to have worked wonders.

But a lot clearly remains to be done. We need to protect the habitats of these animals and ensure that poaching does not take place at any cost.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely
Simran / Samar

25. H/34, Gali No. 8, Ganesh Nagar
Cuttack, Odisha

The Editor
Odisha Today
Subhash Bose Marg,
Bhubhaneshwar, Odisha

6 May 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Growing violence – an evil

Newspapers report communal riots, brutal killings, violent demonstrations and rapes almost daily.

The growing violence in our society is a very disturbing phenomenon. As citizens we must strongly condemn this and analyse it in a broader perspective. Swept by communal passions and materialism, people are forgetting moral values. Extreme poverty, unemployment, human exploitation, alcoholism and drug abuse, seem to be the breeding grounds of crime and violence.

The youth, filled with a spirit of self-sacrifice, should rise to the occasion to stem the rot. Greater stress should be given to moral values in the curricula of schools and colleges. An intensive campaign should be launched to instil a sense of social responsibility among all sections of society.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely
LMN

26. House No. 678
Meena Lane,
Indore

The Editor
Madhya Samachar
Mall Road,
Indore

14 September 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Educational opportunities in India

There is a growing urge among students today to study overseas. They overlook the opportunities offered in India itself.

Some of the best colleges in the world, including St. Stephen's, LSR, Loyola, St. Xavier's, and Presidency, are in India. Further, the job prospects here are quite exciting. In the field of commerce,

for instance, chartered accountancy, law, banking and auditing are only some of the careers that one can pursue.

Moreover, the glamour of leading life abroad is very misleading. There is a lack of services that are considered basic in India, such as those provided by house help, cooks and nannies. And then, it is never easy to acclimatize to an entirely new culture, system and country.

India has come a long way in the field of education in the last two decades, and has a lot to offer.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

PQR

27. 23, Green Meadows Road,
Bengaluru

The Editor
Karnataka Tribune
35, M G Road,
Bengaluru

29 March 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Need for public-government collaboration

The democratic process spurs citizens to form opinions on a number of issues. Voters are called upon to choose candidates in elections, consider constitutional amendments, and approve or reject municipal taxes and other legislative proposals. The government needs to realize that it may launch welfare schemes, but ultimately, it is the people themselves who determine its success.

Some projects, for example Save Water, Conserve Electricity or Preserve Wildlife, require public volunteers to initiate drives for these campaigns and spread awareness. On the other hand, there are also programmes that directly impact our lives, for instance poverty alleviation and urban development, which cannot be achieved without citizens' support.

Only with active public participation can governmental schemes be successful.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

Venkat / Vaishali

28. A-14, Dal Lake Road
Srinagar, J&K

The Editor
Kashmir Herald
Mall Road,
Srinagar, J&K

24 April 20XX

Dear Madam/Sir

Subject: Media and its positive impact

The role of the media in shaping our lives is immense. It provides useful information on matters of general knowledge, politics, economic affairs, environmental issues and public health.

The media directs its searchlight on civic problems like poverty, unemployment and inflation, and serves as a forum for discussion of topical events. Sometimes it helps fight social injustice and mould public opinion as in the Jessica Lal case, Arushi murder case and Nirbhaya case. Moreover, the announcement of national, sports and civilian awards by the media provides encouragement to the awardees and the nation.

The media must adopt an honest and unbiased approach in order to fulfil its role as a guardian of people's welfare.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

ABC

STORY WRITING

1. The Patel family has good reason to smile. Yesterday Mrs Vani Patel won three lakh rupees in the Maharashtra state lottery.

For schoolteacher Vani and her husband Sumant, a graphic designer, the money is an unexpected and delightful windfall. "I first bought a ticket for the state lottery when we got married," Vani said, "and ever since, I have bought it every year. It has become a kind of family tradition. We have never won anything before, so this is a wonderful surprise."

15-year-old Sunita and her brother Karan, aged 12, are equally thrilled. The whole family is debating what they should do with the money. "Probably we will use it to go on a vacation in southeast Asia this summer," said Vani. "We have always wanted to show our children the world!" But she adds, "This lottery does not, however, affect us all that much. Once the vacation is over, the money will be spent, too, and life will return to normal. And I think all of us are happy that that is the case."

Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the Patels will enjoy their time abroad. Happy Holidays!

2. Nilima was getting late for work. She grabbed her bag from the chair and rushed towards the door when the phone rang. Glancing at her watch impatiently, she answered the phone. As she listened, she sank weakly into a chair.

One evening six months ago, Nilima's mother asked her son Jatin to get some milk and eggs. An hour later, when he hadn't returned, the family went out looking for him. The police were called, neighbours and shopkeepers questioned. But no one seemed to have seen Jatin that night. In the dark days that followed, Nilima's mother took to her bed, her father became a hollow, silent shell, and Nilima alone held them together, hoping against hope that some day Jatin would magically return.

Now, a stranger was telling her that Jatin had been in a hit-and-run accident six months before. The stranger had found him injured and taken him to a hospital, where it was found that Jatin had lost his memory. Over time, as bits of Jatin's memory returned, the stranger had pieced together the information and traced his family. He gave Nilima the address of the hospital.

With joy and anticipation, Nilima rushed out of the door to bring her brother home.

3. At the dinner table one evening, Sakshi's father said, "It is high time to pull up your socks and get to work, Sakshi. Do you realize that your exams are barely two weeks from now?"

Sakshi nodded noncommittally. Her parents kept telling her that. Frankly, she didn't care for her teachers' lectures, her parents putting pressure, her classmates' serious faces. She would continue practising her tennis strokes and going cycling. Consequently, a fortnight later, exam after exam went by in a daze. The results came after a month. She had managed to scrape through in all the subjects, but with such abysmal marks that she felt it would have been better had she failed.

That evening as she moped about the house, her father reprimanded her. "What is wrong with you? So you didn't do well this time. Well, what did you expect? All you can do is vow to study harder the next time."

"Oh, I will, Dad, with all my heart. But what good would that do? The damage is already done."

"What good? Sakshi, these marks are not the be all and end all. If you perform better in the future, you can make up for your performance this term. Remember, better late than never."

4. My trip to the Corbett National Park earlier this year turned out to be unforgettable. We were caught in a real-life drama!

Once our convoy of jeeps on the early morning safari was lined up, we tourists stood and admired a herd of elephants, making its way to the river leisurely, walking within ten feet of us, ignoring us placidly. My friend Ravi was clicking away madly, and then reviewing the photographs. Suddenly he exclaimed, and nudged me. I looked down at a photograph of a baby elephant. In the top right corner, behind the herd and almost totally camouflaged in a tree, was a man with a gun aimed at the herd! We both looked up, and sure enough, there was the poacher, sitting quietly, waiting for our convoy to leave so he could shoot his prize.

Ravi quietly went to speak to the guide, who then spoke into a walkie talkie. Two minutes later a jeep roared into sight. The poacher looked startled and slipped down the tree to escape into the jungle.

A brave officer chased him on foot, dragged him out, handcuffed and took him away.

What an adventure it was!

5. It was a cold and windy day. A group of bleary-eyed commuters stood on the platform, most with their arms folded protectively against the misery of the morning.

A collective wince of discomfort could be seen on every face each time a train whooshed into the station, bringing with it a gust of freezing air. Suddenly, a timid looking middle-aged man burst into a foot-tapping song. All heads turned towards him in surprise. With a flourish and a bow, and still singing, he ushered two ladies standing beside towards the now-open doors of a train that had just arrived. One of the ladies, a young woman wrapped in a bright yellow shawl, laughed aloud in surprised delight. At once the other commuters started to laugh too.

The middle-aged man's strange outburst broke the ice between all the strangers gathered there, and distracted them for a moment from their discomfort. A smile played on their lips as the commuters filed onto the train.

6. The one thing that always defeated me was swimming. It was not that I was afraid of water, or that I hadn't tried to learn. The summer that I turned eight, my mother enrolled me in a swimming class. I joined it happily, but somehow the overly strict coach with his whistle and slave-driver attitude made me associate swimming with pure misery.

For years after that I avoided all things aquatic. Once when I was 15, in the course of a class discussion about what we could and couldn't do, it somehow came out that I was the only one who didn't know how to swim. For some reason my classmates found this hilarious. I instantly resolved to learn to swim.

The younger children in the local pool found it amusing to have me in their midst. I ignored them, and practised diligently. Swimming became an obsession. I attended lessons every day, practising strokes or holding onto the edge and 'scissoring' my legs without bending my knees, as I had been instructed. On the first day of the new school year, I tried out for the school swim team and got selected.

I knew that my hard work would not go waste.

7. Last December, I remember, it was a sunny Sunday and Mummy thought it was an ideal day to go for a trek. Mummy, Sara and I packed our small rucksacks and began our trek. We had decided to cross the Shivalik hills near Ranikhet.

The sunlit but cold pastures of Uttarakhand spread out below us as we climbed the rocks and boulders. Mummy was at the head of the rope that the three of us were holding on to. We were sweating despite the chill in the air, and once when Sara slipped, all three of us had to sit down to catch our breath. The climb was very steep and tiring, but we were determined that, come what may, we would reach our destination.

At last, the flag fluttering over the Naina Devi temple became visible. We had run out of water, and it was the excitement of the moment alone that kept us going. A few more exhausting minutes, and we would reach. Huffing and puffing, we finally made it to the top. We all agreed that it had been an incredible journey, energy-sapping, but well worth it.

8. Passengers on board a train from Chennai to Delhi were caught unawares when a small act by a good Samaritan led to a shocking find.

Just five hours into the journey, a passenger cried out in alarm that one of her bags was missing. Concerned, others sitting around her got up to help and soon the entire carriage was engaged in a hunt for the elusive bag, which the passenger described as being small and blue. But the bag was nowhere to be found.

Suddenly, from the other end of the compartment came a surprised yell. An old man who had been helping in the search for the passenger's lost luggage had stumbled across a small, grey bag under a berth. Though he had asked around for its owner, it remained unclaimed. On opening it, they found a cache of ammunition in it.

The bag was handed to the railway police at the next station, and a bomb squad was called to diffuse its contents.

9. Yesterday I saw something that I will never forget. A monkey on a leash was performing in the street.

This might seem commonplace to many. But have we ever stopped to think what it must be like to be a captured wild animal, beaten and tormented into submission, taught with pain and bribery to perform paltry tricks for the amusement of an indifferent public? What should it be like to be dressed up in human clothes, painted, powdered, taught to ape human behaviour, then prodded and whipped several times a day? And to what end performing these 'tricks' and please one's tormentor by earning him some coins?

To be thus stripped of both identity and dignity is cruelty in its most lethal, disturbing form. As these performing monkeys lay their weary heads to rest after a gruelling day's work, I wonder what thoughts flit through their minds. Do they remember the days when they were free and wild? Do they dream that such a day may come again? Or like so many of us from the species that captures and torments them, have they closed down their minds to such thoughts and think only of the sweet sleep in which they will find a brief escape?

Anthony and John were walking to school. It was story-telling day, and they were telling each other what they had prepared to share with the class.

Suddenly, they heard wailing. An infant, barely two months old, was lying abandoned on the nearby railway tracks with a train approaching in the distance!

"Look at that! We have to do something!" exclaimed John.

"What can we do? We are no superheroes!"

"This is no time to argue, Anthony! We have to do this!"

They ran across the tracks, picked up the baby and carried it to the other side, just as the train went whooshing past. Hardly believing what they had done, they stared at each other, dumbstruck. The baby's crying shook them out of their reverie.

Anthony said, "Let's take it to the police station, someone will come and claim it."

So they went and gave the child to the inspector, who listened to them in awe. Then John shouted, "Look at the time! School started a half hour ago!"

With Anthony following him, he dashed out. When they reached, their teacher reprimanded them and said, "Since you both are so late, let's begin the storytelling with you." They winked at each other and told the story of their morning escapade to a spellbound class.

That day, they realized that all it takes is a little courage and humanity to be heroic.

11. A little boy and his mother were walking in the park on a peaceful Sunday evening, and the park was crowded. Everywhere they looked, they saw children eating delicious ice creams.

The little boy begged his mother for an ice cream, but though they walked for a long time, they couldn't find an ice-cream vendor. The boy began to get tired, but still he insisted on getting an ice cream. At last, after circling almost the entire park, they found a colourful Kwality Walls cart. The vendor had almost sold out of his wares, but had just enough to make one last cone. The little boy was thrilled. But just as he took the cone, it slipped from his hand and dropped onto the dusty path.

The disappointed child burst into tears. His mother embraced him and tried to soothe him. She carried him home, and after a hot bath and dinner, tucked him into his cosy bed with a kiss and a promise that the next day they would go back to the park for another ice cream. Pacified at last, he was happy again and went to sleep peacefully.

12. Neeru was a senior nurse in the 14th Regiment of the Indian Army, and was in charge of a team of nurses at the Sialkot army camp during the Indo-Pak War.

She had been a nurse for fifteen years, but this was her first experience of wartime conditions. The first time she went inside the hospital ward, she had thrown up at the sight of the soldiers' injuries. Gradually, she became used to the stench and sight of the wounds – not that they affected her any less. There were days when the fighting was particularly heavy, and the number of patients was very large. She worked tirelessly, almost round the clock in order – dressing their wounds, bathing them, ensuring that they took their medicine on time, doing all she could to ensure their speedy recovery.

Towards the end of the war, almost all the soldiers were fully cured and sent back to India. The battle was won, and the nurses returned to their hospitals. When Neeru returned, she was greeted with garlands and flowers at the airport, and the next day received the State Award for Excellence in Nursing. The newspapers hailed her as the "Florence Nightingale of Our Times".

13. My family had just moved from Lucknow to Mumbai. I was furious at having had to leave behind my home and school and friends.

On my first day at Bombay High, as the teacher introduced me to my new class, a girl looked me in the eye and smiled warmly. I scowled fiercely. I later learnt that her name was Kavita. With her short curly hair, her confidence, her seemingly hundreds of friends, her flawless English – she represented to me all that I hated most about Mumbai. Pretty soon, I alienated everyone around with my hostility and rudeness.

On the fourth day, as I sat miserably, Miss Popularity herself came and sat down beside me. “Hi,” she said. “Listen, I’m having some friends over after school tomorrow, why don’t you come too? It’ll be great fun.” There was that warm, open grin of hers again.

I was surprised. “Why would you invite me?” I blurted out.

“Because I know how hard it is to join a new school. You see, I was the new girl last year. My family moved here from Ahmednagar.”

That’s how our friendship started. And that day I learnt that one should not judge a book by its cover.

14. Sneha looked out of the window as the plane prepared for take-off. She bit her nails as she experienced an unfamiliar swooping sensation in her stomach.

It was Sneha’s first time in an aeroplane. She was on her way to Manchester to visit her uncle, and had just changed flights in London. It was a small airbus, and all around her were foreigners speaking in accented English that she barely understood.

Suddenly the lady behind her, who had been busy looking for something in her purse, smiled warmly at her and said, “You all right, love? You look a little peaky. Nothing to be jittery about, we’ll be there before you know it.”

Those few words of comfort had an almost magical effect on Sneha. She smiled back gratefully, and closed her eyes. She drifted off to sleep, and awoke when the plane was touching down. She then got off the plane, and after getting her baggage, went towards the exit where her uncle stood, waving. She looked behind, smiled and said, “Have a good trip. Bye!”

The lady from the plane smiled back and said, “You too. Bye!”

15. One evening, a businessman had to travel from Mumbai to Nasik by bus. However, when he reached the ticketing office, there was a long queue. He stood at the end of the line, impatient to start the journey.

The booking officer then announced that all buses were late. Immediately, the passengers started getting restless. They began discussing other options like private taxis and trains. Only one boy at the end of the queue remained unfazed and stood patiently waiting for his turn.

Soon, the businessman and most of the other passengers stepped out of the line to hire taxis. However, when they went outside, they realized that there were only a handful of taxis and they had all been booked!

Dejected, everyone returned to the ticketing queue. Now the boy who had once been at the end of the line, was right in front of the ticket window! Since everyone else had left, he had moved ahead.

He got onto the first bus that arrived, while most of the other passengers had to wait for later buses, proving once again that patience pays.

16. Deepa and Nazneen were very excited about the upcoming Madurai education tour.

“All thirty-four tickets tickets will be booked tomorrow,” announced Suneeta, the coordinator.

“But there are thirty-five students in the class,” said Nazneen.

Suneeta whispered, “I don’t think Prerna can make it.”

Prerna was the smartest, most hard-working student in their class but her family found it difficult to make ends meet. They would not be able to afford the expenses.

"Let's ask if everyone can contribute an extra hundred rupees," said Deepa. "Then, we'd have ₹ 3400 more."
"Yes, I'm sure everyone will agree. But the total cost is ₹ 4000," said Suneeta. "Let's discuss it with Mrs Joshi."

When they told their teacher about their plan, she was touched. She said, "We will take the ₹ 100 extra from anyone who volunteers. I will give the rest of the amount for Prerna. And we will tell her that the school is sponsoring her trip because she has performed so well."

So the next week, a beaming Prerna got into the bus and sang all the way to Madurai. It was going to be a memorable trip.

17. When my father announced that he was going to sea again, I insisted on accompanying him. As a deep-sea scuba diver, he travelled a lot. I would see dolphins, tuna, herrings, maybe even a shark! Papa finally agreed. "It's just three days," he told my mother, "and she'll stay on board the whole time."

However, destiny had other plans. On the second night, we were caught in a storm. The sea raged and the winds tore through the little resistance that our little boat could offer. We sent radio signals asking for help.

Although we could see land a little distance away, our boat capsized before we could reach there. Papa tied a life vest around me and held me close. We bobbed in the water for a while and made our way to the little strip of land. We were shipwrecked!

"We're like the Crusoes!" I told Papa.

"I hope not," he replied.

Soon the helicopters came looking for us. They had brought us blankets and food and hot chocolate!

The next time Papa went deep sea diving, I didn't insist on joining him. I had had my fill of adventures.

18. The Future Lies in our Hands

The residents of Kirpur were distressed. A dense forest once surrounded their village but over the past several years, many trees had been cut down stealthily.

With the forest disappearing, the wild animals had no place to hunt or rest. The villagers knew that their livestock and children were in danger.

They decided to take matters in their own hands. The villagers arranged processions within all the nearby villages so that people would be alert and catch the offenders. However, the next week, some more trees were felled.

Finally, the village elders approached the office of the forest department. The forest officials placed cameras and sensors all around the woods. Within two days, they identified the culprits and caught them trying to load logs onto trucks on the highway.

The villagers were relieved. However, they still had work to do. Each person brought five saplings and planted them in the forest. They knew that the future lay in their own hands. The villagers ensured that their environment and their families remained protected.

19. Communication at its Best

One fateful evening, my daughter Kamini, my granddaughter Trisha and I were travelling by train from Nagpur to Mumbai. Suddenly, the train flew off the tracks. Several compartments turned and fell on their side. I hit my head against the window and blanked out.

When I regained consciousness, I was in a hospital chair with Trisha beside me. Kamini was nowhere to be found. We checked the hospitals and morgues and registered a police complaint as well. We

remained near the site of the accident for weeks hoping that someone would lead us to Kamini, but to no avail.

Finally, Trisha shared the details of the accident on email, Facebook and other social networking sites. At first, we just got messages of support but after a few months, someone wrote to us. They had Kamini! She had hurt her head in the accident and had wandered off. A kind family had found her and nursed her wounds.

Once we took Kamini home, she slowly began to regain her memory. I then realized the power of communication on the Internet; it reunited me with my daughter.

20. At the far end of Anand Nagar was a dusty construction site. Among the many who laboured at the site were some young boys.

One evening, Abdul, a college student was trying to find an address when he took a wrong turn. He stopped in front of the boys toiling with the bricks.

"Where is Godrej Society?" he asked them.

"That way," one of the boys pointed.

"Shouldn't you be in school?" Abdul began talking to them.

Seeing this, the boys' parents approached. "They need to work. We have to feed our stomachs," they said.

Abdul decided that if they couldn't go to school, he would bring the school to them. Every evening after college, he taught the boys. They chanted tables as they worked, they learnt addition, subtraction, the human body, names of cities and even some poems.

After a month, all the parents noticed that their children were happier, more confident and more hopeful about their future. The parents decided that they would work a few more hours but send their children to school.

The boys were thrilled; they had finally found a way towards a brighter future.

GRAMMAR

WORKSHEET 1 – DETERMINERS

1. a, much, the, a, the, Most/Some, the, a
2. a. of – by b. are – is c. but – and
d. in – of e. got – get f. an – a
g. is – are h. get – gets
3. Thunderclouds, high up in / sky, are filled with electric charges. a. the
The positive charges are towards the upper part of the clouds b. the
and the negative charges towards / lower part. c. the
Now, / ground level builds up electric charges too and the positive d. the
charges concentrate on / tips of mountains, buildings, trees e. the
and even people. f. an
These positive charges connect with / negative charges on g. a
lower parts of the cloud and / electric current is formed.
Finally, / sparkling electric lightning strikes and can be seen as
/ large, crackling spark of light.

WORKSHEET 2 – CONNECTORS

- and, and, and, but, because/since, Moreover/Furthermore
- When Wilbur was eleven and Orville seven years old, their father gifted them a flying toy.
 - The children thoroughly enjoyed flying the toy.
 - Later, this inspired them to make a machine which would fly.
 - Orville made kites which he sold at school.
 - This helped him to make some money.
- and, but, but, and, Since, and

WORKSHEET 3 – SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

- are, are, are, is, live, like, is
- have, is, have, is, are, are, is
- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------|
| a. is—are | b. X | c. is—are |
| d. helps—help | e. has—have | f. X |
| g. protects—protect | h. sheds—shed | |

WORKSHEET 4 – COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

- tiny, great, minute, light, enormous, larger, huge, big
- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| a. high—highest | b. larger—large | c. higher—highest |
| d. X | e. X | f. superstitious—more superstitious |
- | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|
| a. active | b. most beautiful | c. highest | d. spectacular | e. more popular |
|-----------|-------------------|------------|----------------|-----------------|

WORKSHEET 5 – MODALS AND THEIR USAGE

- can, can/may, could, may / can, may
- A submarine is a large vessel that / be operated under the water surface. For ensuring safety of the mariners, the hull, under which huge ballast tanks are located, / be a strong one. These tanks / be filled with or emptied of sea water or air. When the submarine is required to travel on the surface, its ballast tanks / be filled with air. This makes the vessel less dense and it floats. When the submarine / to be submerged in water, its ballast tanks / be flooded with seawater. This action makes the submarine sink and it / be moved about underwater. Submarines / be used for military or research purposes.

a. that can be
b. must be a
c. should be filled
d. must be filled
e. needs to be
f. tanks should be
g. it can be
h. Submarines may be
- Could, may, should, could, could, could, should

..... **WORKSHEET 6 – VOICE**

1. a. -P b. -A c. -A d. -P e. -A f. -A g. -A h. -P
2. a. In 1913, the world's first airplane with four engines was built by Sikorsky.
b. Planes that carried mails in World War I were designed by Sikorsky.
c. A machine that carried sixteen passengers was then made by him.
d. Planes that were used to carry bombs were also made by him.
e. In 1924, the much-awaited aircraft called S-29 was made by Igor.

..... **WORKSHEET 7 – FORMATION OF TENSES**

1. were, were, had been, was, were, was, became, went, was
2. The Tragedy of the Space Challenger Shakes the World
At 11:38 a.m. on 28 January, 1986, the Space Shuttle Challenger launches from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida. Millions of people across the world watch the space vehicle that has their heroes aboard. Among them is also a social studies teacher, the first private person to get the opportunity to go into space. Just 73 seconds after the take off, the Challenger explodes! It is discovered later that the malfunctioning of a part of the rocket booster has caused the disaster.
3. a. was—is b. flew—fly c. having—have
d. experiment—experimenting e. made—makes f. enabled—enables

..... **WORKSHEET 8 – PREPOSITIONS**

1. on, in, on, across, within, from
2. In, from, around, at, in, Towards, into
3. In the beginning / the Mesozoic Era, some amphibians developed / gigantic-sized reptiles called dinosaurs. The dinosaurs that were herbivorous fed greedily / the abundant supply / vegetation. It is believed that some species of the plant-eating dinosaurs lived / herds. This helped them to protect themselves / the attacks / the carnivorous dinosaurs. Some carnivorous dinosaurs hunted / packs.
- a. of
- b. into
- c. on
- d. of
- e. in
- f. from
- g. of/by
- h. in

..... **WORKSHEET 9 – SPEECH**

1.
 - a. if he knew that the Christmas party scheduled for the following week had been called off.
 - b. in the positive
 - c. that it has been called off to pay their respects to the people who had died in the landslide that had occurred
 - d. could collect enough money to contribute towards the funds that were being collected for the victims
2. commanded, complained, told/reminded, promised (answers may vary)
3.

a. reach—reached	b. told—asked	c. tells – told	
d. This—That	e. give—gave	f. all of us— them	g. found – have found

INTEGRATED GRAMMAR PRACTICE

GAP FILLING

A.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. a. (ii) that
e. (i) you | b. (i) It
f. (iii) If | c. (iii) but
g. (i) which | d. (iv) your
h. (iv) should |
| 2. a. (ii) the
e. (iii) till | b. (ii) at
f. (ii) was | c. (iii) above
g. (i) from | d. (iv) was
h. (iii) discovered |
| 3. a. (ii) who
e. (iii) from | b. (iii) was
f. (ii) the | c. (iv) while
g. (iv) be | d. (i) would
h. (iii) the |
| 4. a. (ii) a
e. (iii) from | b. (iii) at
f. (ii) that | c. (iv) was
g. (i) by | d. (iii) in
h. (ii) for |
| 5. a. (ii) at
e. (i) the | b. (i) in
f. (iii) his | c. (iv) age
g. (ii) and | d. (iv) of
h. (iv) towards |
| 6. a. (ii) who
e. (iv) with | b. (iii) that
f. (ii) when | c. (i) of
g. (iii) through | d. (iii) flew
h. (ii) with |
| 7. a. (iii) for
e. (iii) of | b. (i) is
f. (ii) the | c. (ii) that
g. (iii) most | d. (iv) who
h. (i) and |
| 8. a. (i) were
e. (iii) on | b. (ii) was
f. (iii) the | c. (iv) and
g. (ii) with | d. (iv) a
h. (iv) into |
| 9. a. (i) in
e. (ii) was | b. (iii) by
f. (iv) the river | c. (iv) their
g. (i) of | d. (iii) the
h. (iii) they |
| 10. a. (ii) her
e. (i) was | b. (i) a
f. (ii) and | c. (iv) which
g. (iii) when | d. (iii) had been
h. (i) became |
| 11. a. (ii) of
e. (iii) in | b. (i) from
f. (ii) make | c. (iii) of
g. (iv) to | d. (iv) were
h. (i) became |
| 12. a. (i) when
e. (ii) on | b. (iii) were
f. (iv) could | c. (iv) of
g. (i) by | d. (ii) that
h. (ii) from |
| 13. a. (ii) that
e. (iii) to | b. (iii) in
f. (i) for | c. (iv) for
g. (iii) as | d. (ii) is
h. (ii) the |
| 14. a. (ii) that
e. (ii) in | b. (iv) into
f. (i) is | c. (iv) the
g. (i) in | d. (iii) its
h. (iv) for |
| 15. a. (ii) over
e. (iii) have | b. (iii) have
f. (i) of | c. (ii) being
g. (ii) that | d. (iv) on
h. (iv) from |
| 16. a. (i) a
e. (ii) known | b. (iii) are
f. (i) in | c. (ii) that
g. (ii) was | d. (iv) of
h. (iii) did |
| 17. a. (i) over
e. (ii) on | b. (iv) on
f. (iv) than | c. (iii) to
g. (i) and | d. (iii) in
h. (ii) that |

- | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| 18. a. (i) who | b. (iii) like | c. (iv) on | d. (ii) which |
| e. (iii) the | f. (iv) and | g. (i) in | h. (ii) have |
| 19. a. (i) for | b. (iii) who | c. (iv) and | d. (iii) a |
| e. (ii) These | f. (i) into | g. (iv) are | h. (iii) this |
| 20. a. (iv) an | b. (i) to | c. (ii) its | d. (ii) as |
| e. (iii) was | f. (i) of | g. (iii) of | h. (iv) and |

EDITING

B.

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. a. its – a | b. but – and | c. to – with |
| d. was – is | e. close – closely | f. with – to |
| g. is – are | h. ones – one | |
| 2. a. Much – Many | b. clear – clearly | c. attending – attend |
| d. reasoning – reason | e. which – that | f. due to – in spite of |
| g. advise – advice | h. the – a | |
| 3. a. if – though | b. on – behind | c. in – of |
| d. on – in | e. is – are | f. at – in |
| g. does – do | h. a – an | |
| 4. a. flew – flows | b. its – the | c. had – has |
| d. them – they | e. made – make | f. millions – million |
| g. came – come | h. liking – like | |
| 5. a. are – is | b. effect – affects | c. an – a |
| d. causing – caused | e. do – does | f. for – of |
| g. these – this | h. has – have | |
| 6. a. has – have | b. bless – blessed | c. Gandhis' – Gandhi's |
| d. an – the | e. extensive – extended | f. stand – stood |
| g. were – was | h. encouraging – encourage | |
| 7. a. has – had | b. much – many | c. great – greatly |
| d. story – stories | e. and – but / yet | f. wishing – wished |
| g. away – out | h. found – find | |
| 8. a. were – was | b. greater – greatest | c. of – to |
| d. working – worked | e. becomes – became | f. where – when |
| g. publishing – published | h. on – in | |
| 9. a. on – in | b. were – was | c. am – was |
| d. but – and | e. has – was | f. with – by |
| g. happier – happiest | h. marry – married | |
| 10. a. theirs – their | b. by – of | c. guarding – guarded |
| d. were – was | e. who – that | f. feel – felt |
| g. them – they | h. but – and | |

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 11. a. becomes – became | b. a – the | c. into – in |
| d. on – at | e. were – was | f. of – for |
| g. much – many | h. a – the | |
| 12. a. at – in | b. who – that/which | c. her – his |
| d. it's – its | e. a – the | f. calculates – calculated |
| g. were – was | h. they – it | |
| 13. a. on – in/into | b. hour – hours | c. these – this |
| d. larger – large | e. much – many | f. work – works |
| g. is – are | h. through – from | |
| 14. a. can – may / must | b. to – for | c. what – how |
| d. experienced – experience | e. he – they | f. which – who |
| g. call – called | h. does – do | |
| 15. a. were – was | b. at – in | c. yet – and |
| d. fly – flying | e. an – a | f. a – the |
| g. orbits – orbited | h. those – this / that | |
| 16. a. women – woman | b. of – in | c. in – at |
| d. begun – began | e. were – was | f. on – in |
| g. a – the | h. cancel – cancelled | |
| 17. a. find – found | b. had – has | c. an – a |
| d. bodies – body | e. knowing – known | f. but – and |
| g. who – which | h. it's – its | |
| 18. a. Much – Many | b. It – They | c. and – or |
| d. does – do | e. made – make | f. tarantula's – tarantulas |
| g. at – in | h. are – is | |
| 19. a. a – an | b. and – but | c. the – a |
| d. find – found | e. a – the | f. were – are |
| g. at – in | h. on – in | |
| 20. a. can – could | b. for – to | c. to – into |
| d. where – when | e. has – had | f. using – used |
| g. or – and | h. engine – engines | |

C.

1. b. the two
2. a. every
3. b. None
4. a. A
5. d. our
6. b. shall
7. b. shall
8. c. Would
9. d. Can
10. b. must

D.

1. The American naturalist / author Luther Burbank has / called the wizard / horticulture. He was interested / developing new types of fruits, flowers / vegetables for humankind rather than / science. He bought / farm and experimented. He developed new varieties / berries and flowers like lilies, poppies and roses.
 - a. and
 - b. been
 - c. of
 - d. in
 - e. and
 - f. for
 - g. a
 - h. of
2. In 1925, Admiral Peary / to Chicago, where he established / training centre for navy pilots. The National Geographic Society wanted / make a scientific study of the Arctic. The US Navy / to supply aircraft, pilots and mechanics. / July 1925, the party sailed on the S S Peary and in August the base / established at Etah. Byrd realized that it / extremely important to study the weather and make all the necessary arrangements before taking / the expedition. By 1926, he was ready for the attempt to reach the North Pole.
 - a. went
 - b. a
 - c. to
 - d. was / had
 - e. In
 - f. was
 - g. was
 - h. on
3. In 1924, Enid Blyton married / publisher, Hugh Pollock. She ended her teaching career / became a full-fledged writer. She even worked / a teacher's magazine. In 1953, the magazine, Sunny Stories, / replaced by Blyton Magazine. In 1929, the couple moved / Old Thatch in Bourne End. Here their daughters, Gillian and Imogen, / born. When World War II began, her marriage broke up. Then / married Doctor Kenneth Darrell Waters. That is why Enid also came to / called Enid Mary Waters.
 - a. a/the
 - b. and
 - c. on
 - d. was
 - e. to
 - f. were
 - g. she
 - h. be
4. Till the age of eighteen, Tenzing lived / his family and then he moved to Darjeeling. At / age of twenty-one, he began working / an expedition pointer. He joined an expedition to scale Mount Everest, headed / Eric Shipton. His dream / reaching the peak remained unfulfilled because they / to return after reaching North Col, at a height of 22,000 feet. During / expedition Tenzing gained valuable experience / helped him later in life.
 - a. with
 - b. the
 - c. as
 - d. by
 - e. of
 - f. had/decided
 - g. the
 - h. that/which

5. A cat and a mouse decided / keep house together.
For times of need / bought a pot of fat and put it in
the church where / would be safe. After a little while
the cat yearned / the fat and made up an excuse that her
sister had / kitten and that she had been asked to be the
godmother. But she / to the church and ate the top off
the fat / the pot. When the cat came home, the mouse
asked / name of the kitten. The cat said, "Top-off".
 - a. to
 - b. they
 - c. it
 - d. for
 - e. a
 - f. went
 - g. in
 - h. the
6. A peasant had / faithful horse which had grown old
and could not work anymore, so his master stopped / him
anything / eat and with an excuse chased
him / the open country. The horse was sad and
went to a forest / seek a little protection
there / the weather. A fox met him and asked
him / he looked so miserable.
The horse told him / sad story.
 - a. a
 - b. giving
 - c. to
 - d. into
 - e. to
 - f. from
 - g. why
 - h. his
7. Walnuts and almonds are good for health / like
any other food item, they too must not / consumed in
excessive quantities. People / India consume them the
most during the winter / least during the summer.
They / also used generously in Indian desserts.
Children thoroughly enjoy eating handfuls / cashew nuts
and raisins. An overdose / these nuts can be harmful
/ lead to an allergy.
 - a. but
 - b. be
 - c. in
 - d. and
 - e. are
 - f. of
 - g. of
 - h. and
8. The second half / the nineteenth century ushered
in an era of nationalism in India. Though / Revolt of 1857
did not result in victory / the Indians,
the spirit / challenged foreign rule continued.
Political ideas also / taking shape.
The intellectuals / greatly inspired
/ the political principles and methods
/ protest in Europe.
 - a. of
 - b. the
 - c. for
 - d. that/which
 - e. started
 - f. were
 - g. by
 - h. of
9. The United Nations Organization / formed
/ replace the discredited League of Nations, which
failed / its quest for world peace. The aim of this
body / to preserve peace, remove the causes of
conflict / encourage economic, social, educational
and cultural progress throughout / world.
It hoped / eliminate some of the problems that
had led to / failure of the League.
 - a. was
 - b. to
 - c. in
 - d. was
 - e. and
 - f. the
 - g. to
 - h. the

10. Water bodies / replete with magnificent aquatic creatures.
The green swordtail is one of them. The fish / its
name from the elongated lower part / the fin that
looks like a sword. This 'sword' is present / the
male fish / not in the female. The swordtail is green
/ various coloured stripes and spots.
It / commonly found in streams, rivers and canals.
It eats plants / small water animals.
11. The Great Lakes are freshwater lakes. They / located
in North America, between Canada / the United States.
The lakes are connected to each other / straits, short rivers
and canals. They include five lakes. Lake Superior / the
largest of the Great Lakes. It is also / coldest and the
deepest / all five. Lake Michigan is the second largest
/ Lake Huron is the third largest. Lake Erie is
larger / Lake Ontario which is the smallest of the five lakes.
12. Shallow lakes warm up quickly / summer and
freeze quickly in winter. In summer, / warmth
of the water makes the shallow lakes a good place / plants
and animals to live in. The waste products / polluting
materials from homes in cities and factories / making the
lakes' water polluted and smelly. Besides making / water
unhealthy for the aquatic plants and animals / polluted lakes
increase the chances / the spread of diseases among people
who live in their vicinity.
13. Noh Mai is / elegant Japanese dance form. The dancers make
graceful movements and dance / the music made by flutes
and small drums. There are various types / Noh Mai dances.
Some dances are slow like the Jo No Mai / very fast
like the Kami Mai. A type of Noh Mai that is / fast nor slow
is called Chu No Mai. This is usually performed / a woman.
Most Noh Mai dancers dress and wear a mask according / the
character of the dancer. The masks / made artistically and the
dresses are elaborate.
14. Agbekor is a well-known warrior dance performed / Africans.
Long ago it was called Atamga. The word Atamga means
great oath. Hence, this dance / performed to take an oath
before going to war. Presently, Agbekor is performed / a
community / Ghana at cultural events or funerals. The dance
movements display actions used / a battlefield, like
stabbing. The beats / the drum, the alternating slow
- a. are
b. gets
c. of
d. in
e. but
f. with
g. is
h. and
- a. are
b. and
c. by
d. is
e. the
f. of
g. and / while
h. than
- a. in
b. the
c. for
d. and
e. are
f. the
g. also
h. of
- a. an
b. to
c. of
d. or
e. neither
f. by
g. to
h. are
- a. by
b. was
c. by
d. in
e. in
f. of

- and fast movements of the dancers make / dance
a very interesting one not only to perform but / to watch.
15. The species of birds called raptors / a very sharp eyesight.
Their eyes are / large that they cannot move. The bird
has to turn its head / look around. The eyes of a
raptor have three eyelids. The third one closes
laterally and it / slightly transparent. It keeps the eyes moist
and protects / while the bird is fighting against its enemy
or prey. Some raptors have / bony shield above the eyes.
This also helps / protecting the eyes of the
bird from the strong rays of the sun and injury / struggling
with its enemy.
16. Depending / the type of raptor, the birds may make
their nests with sticks / live in nests made by
other birds. They may also live and lay eggs / the
cavities in tree trunks, or burrows that have been
made and left / other animals. Some raptors make nests on
treetops, some on / ground while some make them on the
faces / cliffs. Normally, the female bird makes the nest while
the male bird gathers and brings the material for it.
Different types of raptors lay different types / eggs.
They may be round or oval-shaped and even the colour / vary.
17. The bullet train / invented by a Japanese engineer Hideo Shima.
He wanted to make a train / would make the passengers feel
as comfortable / in an airplane. The speedy and comfortable
bullet train was launched / October 1, 1964. Bullet trains are
powered by electricity. They are getting better / better
by the day and their punctuality / worth appreciating.
Since Japan experiences frequent earthquakes, / train is
fitted / a computer system that can sense an earthquake.
18. Spider monkeys are found / the tropical rainforests of
Central and South America. They / long, thin arms
and strong tails / help them move swiftly from
branch / branch and tree to tree. They can hang upside-down
with all the four limbs and the tail. When the tails / used
for gripping on to branches, the monkeys look / spiders.
Their fur colour can / red, black, brown, golden or tan. They
are mostly noisy / they screech, bark and make other sounds.
19. The Mandrill is / largest and the most colourful of all monkeys.
It is found in the rainforests / Africa. It spends a lot of time
on the ground / it prefers to sleep in trees. This species of
- g. the
h. also
a. has
b. so
c. to
d. is
e. them
f. a
g. in
h. while
a. on
b. or
c. in
d. by
e. the
f. of
g. of
h. may
a. was
b. that/which
c. as
d. on
e. and
f. is
g. the
h. with
a. in
b. have
c. that/which
d. to
e. are
f. like
g. be
h. when
a. the
b. of/in
c. but

monkeys is identified / its rich brown fur, large, muscular body and a short, thick tail. It / long canine teeth and cheek pouches. It enjoys feeding / plants, insects and reptiles including snakes! Mandrills / ferocious animals and they use their teeth / defend themselves.

20. Cumulus clouds are clouds / are heaped up into piles.

They / puffy clouds and float slowly. They may be light and white in colour / even grey and heavy.

The latter ones are commonly referred to / dark clouds.

Stratus clouds give the appearance of a smooth blanket and they hang low. They give way /

rain if the day is a warm one and if it / a chilly winter day, you can expect them to give you snow.

Cirrus clouds are delicate wisps / clouds that are scattered afloat about high up in the sky. If the sky has these clouds, you / be quite sure that the day will go by without any rain.

- d. by
- e. has
- f. on
- g. are
- h. to

- a. that
- b. are
- c. or
- d. as

- e. to
- f. is

- g. of

- h. can

..... SENTENCE REORDERING

1.
 - a. We often believe that bats are the scariest creatures in the world.
 - b. Bats are the only mammals that have the ability to fly.
 - c. They have furry bodies and leathery wings made up of membrane.
 - d. The membrane is stretched over the bones.
2.
 - a. In ancient times, it was believed that sea monsters existed.
 - b. These monsters were called Kraken.
 - c. People said that such a monster had ten arms and could swallow a ship.
 - d. Today we know that there is no such thing as a sea monster.
3.
 - a. The mineral resources of the earth have been exploited.
 - b. They are uniformly distributed over the surface of the earth.
 - c. They are mixed with a large variety of impurities.
 - d. They are exhaustible resources.
4.
 - a. The Stone Age is marked as the time when humans made weapons from stones.
 - b. Copper was probably the first mineral that humans learned to mine.
 - c. Then, humans made a stronger and more durable mineral by mixing copper and tin.
 - d. This age, called the Bronze Age, was soon replaced by the Iron Age.
5.
 - a. Rubber got its name because it could rub out pencil marks.
 - b. Rubber can stretch and bounce.
 - c. Earlier all rubber used to come from trees.
 - d. Now it is made from oil or gas.
6.
 - a. The largest bird in the world can't fly at all.
 - b. Ostriches are so big that it is impossible for them to fly.
 - c. They can run as fast as racehorses.
 - d. They wander around in large flocks.

7.
 - a. A shooting star flashes across the sky.
 - b. It is actually a tiny lump of rock.
 - c. It is also called a meteoroid.
 - d. As it hits the Earth's atmosphere, it glows white hot and burns up.
8.
 - a. The world's biggest desert is the Sahara in Africa.
 - b. It is sixteen times the size of France.
 - c. Long ago, the Sahara was fertile and rivers flowed across it.
 - d. Only twenty per cent of the Sahara is soft sand.
9.
 - a. Arabia is known for many discoveries.
 - b. The Arabs were among the first people to study stars.
 - c. There were astronomical observatories at Baghdad and Damascus.
 - d. Many stars have been named by Arab astronomers.
10.
 - a. The leaves release water from the plant through stomata.
 - b. This is called transpiration.
 - c. Transpiration helps in keeping the leaves cool.
 - d. Transpiration also helps in pulling more water from the roots.
11.
 - a. Plants living in water have to adapt themselves to several factors.
 - b. Their roots are reduced but their stems are long and narrow.
 - c. Their long stems have air spaces to enable the plants to float.
 - d. The floating leaves are large and flat.
12.
 - a. Raja Rammohun Roy was a pioneer of the reform movements.
 - b. He opposed the worship of idols and the performance of rituals.
 - c. He was against untouchability and superstition.
 - d. He condemned the caste system and the custom of sati.
13.
 - a. Every endeavour must be made to reduce waste.
 - b. We should carry our own cloth bags for shopping.
 - c. We should use paper bags only when required.
 - d. Plastic bags should not be used.
14.
 - a. Dr Vincent Schaefer, an American scientist, made the first artificial snowstorm.
 - b. He tested his discovery on 13 November 1946.
 - c. The success of the experiment inspired many other scientists across the world.
 - d. In 1949, there was a severe drought in the UK.
15.
 - a. A satellite is a body that revolves around a planet.
 - b. The moon is the natural satellite of the earth.
 - c. An artificial satellite is a manufactured product.
 - d. It orbits the earth or another planet.
16.
 - a. The first artificial satellite was Sputnik 1.
 - b. To launch a satellite, a space shuttle may carry it into space.
 - c. The satellite may be launched by a rocket.
 - d. The working of the satellite is monitored by scientists in the control centre.
17.
 - a. Geysers are special kinds of hot water springs.
 - b. They are commonly found in volcanic regions.
 - c. Some geysers erupt with great force.
 - d. The water spout may go as high as 30 metres.

18. a. A large variety of fish live in the water bodies of the world.
b. The lungfish lives in freshwater.
c. It has a lung-like organ called a gas bladder.
d. There are six species of lungfish.
19. a. Terracotta was discovered during prehistoric times.
b. It is a kind of baked porous clay.
c. Its colour ranges from brown to red.
d. Terracotta is normally used in an unglazed form.
20. a. Pottery is one of the oldest crafts practised across the world.
b. Wheel-made pottery has been found in the ruins of ancient cities.
c. A potter's wheel is used to make pottery.
d. The main material used is clay.

..... SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION

E.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. a. (ii) onion rings is | b. (iii) is seasoned with |
| c. (iv) is sprinkled over it | d. (i) is poured over the cheese. |
| 2. a. (iv) was mixed into it with a paintbrush. | b. (ii) was sliced across. |
| c. (iii) was dipped into the paint. | d. (i) to make designs |
| 3. a. (i) is mixed with water | b. (ii) added to the |
| c. (iii) and a scoop of vanilla ice cream are put in a | |
| d. (iii) is poured over | |
| 4. a. (ii) are taken | b. (iv) is kneaded into a |
| c. (i) is kept aside | d. (ii) are made and rolled |
| 5. a. (ii) is marked on it. | b. (iii) are tied with a thick thread. |
| c. (ii) is boiled | d. (i) the desired colour is added to it. |
| 6. a. (iii) was put into a | b. (iii) milk and sugar was added and the |
| c. (iv) were added | d. (iii) was poured into a glass and |
| 7. a. (ii) should be cut out | b. (iv) should be slit. |
| c. (iii) should be inserted into | d. (ii) should be pushed through |
| 8. a. (ii) dipped in a beaker of boiling water | b. (iv) spirit is poured into the tube |
| c. (i) heated till the leaf loses its colour. | d. (iii) is poured over the leaf. |
| 9. a. (ii) is put into a | b. (i) is added and the |
| c. (iv) is poured into a tall glass and | d. (i) is poured over it. |
| 10. a. (iii) are soaked in the water for | b. (ii) is taken out and pounded |
| c. (iv) is added to thicken it | d. (i) is pressed out and the |
| 11. a. (iii) coloured woollen mitten is taken | b. (iv) are cut out of glazed paper sheets |
| c. (ii) are pasted at appropriate positions | d. (i) is left free to work like |
| 12. a. (iii) seeds will be taken. | b. (ii) will be drained out. |
| c. (i) will be wrapped in | d. (iv) will be kept moist by sprinkling |

SENTENCE COMPLETION

REPORTED SPEECH

F.

1. a. (ii) that he wanted to select a bicycle so that his parents could buy it for him.
b. (iii) which colour and type of bicycle he wanted.
c. (iv) which bicycle would take him the fastest
d. (i) were the same and added that the speed would depend upon how fast he would
2. a. (ii) how her first day as a mathematics teacher had been.
b. (i) it had been good.
c. (iii) asked her if she had any problem.
d. (iv) that she had forgotten the multiplication table of thirteen so she had skipped it and gone on
3. a. (iv) if he would buy him a laptop.
b. (i) that he would not buy it then and added that he would wait for
c. (ii) said that all his friends had one.
d. (ii) replied that that was because all his friends had passed their exam the previous year itself.
4. a. (i) how she was.
b. (iii) that she was on her way to a bookshop and asked him if he would like to go along with her.
c. (ii) that he had to buy a book for Ashok's birthday.
d. (iv) thanked Sagar for reminding her and said that she too could find a nice gift for him.
5. a. (ii) that her friend, Neha had called while she had been out.
b. (iii) if she had left any message for her.
c. (i) she had said that she would call Avantika after her swimming class.
d. (iv) said that she would go and meet her at the pool.
6. a. (iv) if the history teacher had given them any homework for that day.
b. (iii) that she was not aware of any.
c. (i) if she would like to play a game of tennis after school.
d. (ii) that she would have liked to but she had already made plans to go shopping with Rani.
7. a. (ii) that she was looking forward to the picnic.
b. (iii) her where she was going for the picnic.
c. (iv) that the school was taking them to a riverside.
d. (i) whether her teacher would allow the students to do some fishing.
8. a. (ii) that why he couldn't stop singing.
b. (i) that he was practising for a competition.
c. (iv) him that when the competition was going to be held.
d. (iii) that it would be held in about six months' time.
9. a. (iii) if he had registered his name for the inter-school debate.
b. (ii) in the affirmative and further added that he had also started
c. (iv) that they both were selected.
d. (i) if they were selected they would do their best
10. a. (i) that she would like to cancel her travel plans
b. (iv) if she could meet the manager.

- c. (iii) that she might not be able to go there again for
 - d. (ii) requested her to leave all the details of her bookings with him.
11. a. (ii) that she would have to get a new one made.
b. (iv) what the procedure was.
c. (i) instructed her to submit it along with a
d. (iii) thanked the librarian for the
 12. a. (iv) that she wanted to donate some money for the underprivileged students of their school.
b. (i) how much she would like to donate.
c. (ii) previous year's pocket money and she wanted to donate all of it.
d. (iii) that she was glad that she could be of some help to somebody.
 13. a. (ii) why he was going to school on a Sunday.
b. (ii) if his teacher had asked him to attend
c. (iv) in the negative and added that he wanted to improve his performance
d. (i) that she was very impressed with his dedication
 14. a. (i) if he was prepared for the match.
b. (iii) that it would not be easy to beat the team from Holland
c. (ii) that the winners would be taken to Singapore for a holiday.
d. (iv) wished that his team might win
 15. a. (iii) that he wanted to meet the secretary of
b. (i) if she could know the purpose of his visit
c. (iv) he had to give a presentation on his company's products.
d. (ii) requested Jeev to wait in the lounge
 16. a. (i) exclaimed with joy that they had won the
b. (i) that her team had toiled for that
c. (iv) when the next match would be held.
d. (iii) that it was scheduled for the following

G.

1. Frida asked Rijul if she did not remember what they had agreed upon.
2. The old refugee responded that she was as old as that country.
3. Ajay asserted that he wanted to work for a while before going in for another degree.
4. The therapist asked her client whether he had any dreams or ambitions.
5. Josie exclaimed cheerfully that it was a lovely day to be out and about.
6. Hina stated resolutely that she would avenge that insult.
7. He threatened that he would make her regret that.
8. The mayor admitted that she felt sorry for the losses borne by the people of that great city.
9. The stranger requested the directions to the nearest hospital.
10. An attendee exclaimed with delight that it was a great time to be alive.

SECTION C – LITERATURE TEXTBOOK

PROSE

1. Two Gentlemen Of Verona

- A. 1. a. The 'we' were the narrator, his companion, and their driver, Luigi.
b. Since the strawberries they were selling were wild, it shows that they would have plucked them from bushes in the fields.
c. Luigi judged the children on their shabby appearance, and was biased to think that they could only be selling inferior quality fruit.
d. 'Two small boys stopped us on the outskirts of Verona' tells us that they waited outside the town to sell their wares because inside they may not have been so successful.
2. a. The fact that they bought the largest basket shows their generosity, kindness, and empathy for the two children.
b. They had chosen the public square, which was a busy place, to shine shoes, and therefore had a lot of customers.
c. The sentence 'then as trade slackened we went over' shows that they were careful not to disturb the boys when they were busy earning their money.
d. He wanted them to hire him and his brother as guides to show them the tourist places in Verona so that they could make some money.
3. a. During these summer days, under the hot sun...' shows that even such extreme weather could not stop or slow them down from working.
b. Besides displaying their willingness to work, the boys showed innovativeness in doing a variety of jobs, physical endurance, and mental strength.
c. Their hearts must have been full of pity at seeing the two boys sitting tired on the pavement.
d. He was sitting upright so that his shoulder could support his younger brother's head while he slept.
4. a. To Jacopo, the promise of a comfortable ride in a car was more exciting than riding a bicycle thirty kilometres to their destination.
b. The narrator did not want to back out of his offer after asking the boys what he could do for them before he left Verona.
c. '...in a rather put out tone,' shows Nicola was not happy about the narrator driving them to Poletto.
d. The narrator was a kind and sympathetic person, who wanted to do something for the two boys, even at an inconvenience to himself.
5. a. The narrator had shaken his head when the nurse had invited the narrator to join the boys and their sister in the cubicle.
b. The narrator respected the privacy of the siblings while they were having their private family time together, and so did not want to intrude.
c. The phrase 'begged her' shows the keenness the narrator had to clear up the mystery surrounding the two boys he had befriended.
d. Because of the war, the three children had lost their widowed father and their home, and had to live on the streets.

6. a. The boys must have been very overwhelmed after spending time with their beloved sister and were still relishing those moments, rather than making small talk.
 - b. Being involved in the war at such a young age could have made the boys cold, cynical, and bitter, but their family loyalty and sibling love triumphed over it all.
 - c. The narrator viewed the two boys with deep respect and admiration, and believed that they were the torchbearers for a better human society.
 - d. The phrase 'a new nobility to human life' qualifies the title for the two boys because with their qualities of devotion, courage, and sacrifice, they were indeed true gentlemen.
- B. 1. He discouraged the narrator and his companion from buying strawberries from them and he doubted their credibility.
2. The boys guided them to places of interest and if they wanted a pack of American cigarettes, or seats for the opera or the name of a good restaurant, Nicola and Jacopo could be relied upon to satisfy their needs.
 3. The two boys were seated at the bedside of a girl of about twenty who was propped up on pillows, wearing a pretty lace jacket. She was listening to their chatter, her eyes soft and tender. A vase of wild flowers stood on her table, beside a dish of fruit and several books.
 4. They had lost their father in the early part of the war. Later, their home was bombed and soon after that, their sister fell sick. They became homeless and poor.
 5. They paid the fee for Lucia's treatment at the hospital in Poleta, every week.
 6. He respected their privacy and felt that they would not be comfortable if their selflessness had been discovered. He also felt that they did not wish to seek any sympathy.
- C. 1. Nicola and Jacopo suffered tremendously during the war. They lost their father in the early part of the war and later they lost their home in a bombardment. They and their sister, Lucia, who was training to be a singer became homeless and penniless. Despite these hardships, the boys did not give up. They joined the resistance movement with the hope of getting rid of the Germans. When their sister fell sick, they did not give up. They worked very hard and paid for her treatment. They hoped that one day she would be well and they would get the opportunity to go to the States. The nurse too was optimistic that Lucia would be well soon and she would be able to sing again.
2. The Park Hotel

Verona

12 January 20XX

Dear Fred

James and I are here in Verona for the past one week. It's a beautiful place with a number of historical places like Juliet's tomb.

I have come across two boys whose devotion and urge to work has touched my heart. They are twelve and thirteen years old. They work hard, earn a fair amount of money but one never sees them eat or dress well. Most of their money is going into their elder sister's treatment. They have suffered immensely in the past few years – they lost their father and their home during the war. Now, their main aim is to get their sister treated till she recovers completely and then perhaps they can move on in life. God Bless these boys!

I am in awe of these young lads' devotion and determination to come out of their present crisis.

I shall write to you again when I reach home.

ABC

3. Nicola and Jacopo were boys with immense grit, self respect and determination. Their suffering during the war did not kill their spirit. They worked selflessly and worked very hard to earn money for their own and their sister's survival. Despite the hot summer days they shined shoes, sold fruit, hawked newspapers, conducted tourists round the town, and ran errands. Being friendly, they smiled while working and never complained that they had to work so hard.

The boys were sacrificing – they spent money economically – every Sunday they cycled to Poleta, 30 kilometres away from Verona. Their main aim was to help their sister recover and they dressed poorly, lived on meagre meals – contributing most of their earnings towards their sister's treatment.

The boys were indeed a symbol of sincerity and selflessness.

4. The narrator was a kind-hearted man. His generosity was evident from the fact that he and his companion bought the biggest basket of strawberries from the two boys. He was interested in knowing why the boys worked so hard, earned fairly well but lived so poorly. He was compassionate and concerned about their well being. He offered to help them before he left Verona.

At the hospital, he inquired about the boys but he did not want to intrude into their privacy. He was sensitive to the boys' feelings regarding their personal life and the sacrifice they were making for their sister.

5. Nicola and Jacopo bore many hardships but their positive attitude lightened the burden.

They toiled all day in hot summer days, shined shoes, sold fruit, hawked newspapers, conducted tourists round the town, and ran errands, and each task was done with a smile. Their friendly faces and willingness to work without complaining made them popular among the people they worked for. Their spirited nature and hard work helped them to alleviate the misery they were facing.

During war, they were orphaned and a bomb blast destroyed their home. They built a shelter with their own hands. They were determined to take care of their sister Lucia, who was about 22 years old. She was suffering from tuberculosis of the spine. Her brothers worked tirelessly, and never complained about their work. Cheerfully, they would meet their sister, never showing her any anxiety or fatigue.

6. Nicola and Jacopo believed in dignity of labour. No work was mean enough to be rejected. If they did not have this attitude towards life, they would have succumbed to their ill-fated destiny. When their house was bombarded, they wouldn't have built it again with their bare hands. If they did not respect any kind of work, they wouldn't have done the numerous chores that helped them to make two ends meet. If their sister was being treated in a hospital, it was merely because the boys were willing to do any work, any chore that got them some money. It was this dignity of labour that kept the three surviving, and they not only alleviated their own miseries with this approach but also won the respect of the people they worked for.

2. Mrs Packletide's Tiger

- A. 1. a. Mrs Packletide was in India as the wife of one of the British officials posted in colonial India.
b. The phrase 'lust to kill' tells us that this was not a reason for Mrs Packletide desiring to shoot a tiger.
c. The writer has used an allusion to a Biblical character, Nimrod, who was a mighty hunter, to mock the meagre shooting skills of Mrs Packletide.
d. Loona Bimberton was also a socialite, a member of the frivolous upper-class society, who loved to be the centre of attention.

2.
 - a. A village close by was being visited by an old tiger to hunt for food, and this suited Mrs Packletide's need for a tiger she could shoot with her limited capabilities.
 - b. The tiger has been described as an animal of 'respectable antecedents,' which shows that he had caused fear when he was younger.
 - c. Mrs Packletide believed that subduing a powerful beast was a strong statement of her superiority over others, as compared to Loona Bimberton flying for eleven miles in an aeroplane.
 - d. The writer, Saki, uses humour to mock the upcoming hunt as the 'fierce' animal chosen was an old, infirm tiger who could only catch domestic animals.
 3.
 - a. The phrase 'an accurately sighted rifle' tells us that Mrs. Packletide had a good view of the spot where the tiger would appear.
 - b. The writer has used humour to mock the hunt where an old, ill tiger is chosen, making it a least dangerous expedition.
 - c. The pack of cards was there to help the two English ladies pass the time patiently till the tiger made an appearance.
 - d. The writer seems to be mocking Mrs Packletide as she had neither the skills nor the right intention to be called a 'sportswoman.'
 4.
 - a. She spoke loudly in Hindustani so that the village headman knew she was aware of the tiger being ill, and then Mrs Packletide would be able to pay less for it.
 - b. The phrase 'the tiger commenced ambling' tells us that his walk was slow and plodding, a sign that shows he was not a healthy tiger.
 - c. Even during the excitement of the kill, she could only think how money could be saved. Her meanness is seen in how she thinks of the ways the money of the poor villagers could be cut.
 - d. The goat had been chosen because it had a persistent bleat which even a partially deaf tiger could hear from a distance.
 5.
 - a. An old, harmless tiger, who had a heart-attack and died from fright at the sound of a gunshot, sounds rather amusing than sad to the reader because of its unusualness.
 - b. The irony is that Mrs Packletide did not actually shoot the tiger, but her upper-class social circle believed she did.
 - c. They did this gladly because they were anxious for the thousand rupees they had to get from her.
 - d. The phrase 'pardonably annoyed at the discovery' shows that except for some annoyance, she felt secure her secret wouldn't be betrayed.
 6.
 - a. She honoured the dead tiger by christening her cottage as 'The Wild Beasts,' and by growing tiger-lilies in the garden.
 - b. The line "The incidental expenses are so heavy," tells us obliquely that her tiger shoot had proved to be very expensive for her.
 - c. One assumes that Louisa Mebbin continued to work as a paid companion to Mrs Packletide, and continued to take financial advantage of her.
 - d. The writer pokes fun at the foolish and pretentious women of upper-class Edwardian British society, and scorns vain and frivolous women like Mrs Packletide, who are obsessed by social aspirations.
- B. 1. Mrs Packletide had heard about Loona Bimberton's flight with an Algerian aviator. She wished to gain fame and publicity and outshine her.

2. She planned to throw a luncheon-party and also gift Loona Bimberton a tiger-claw brooch to spite her.
 3. The villagers spotted an old, weak tiger which could not run around for a big hunt. Instead, it confined its hunt to smaller animals.
 4. Miss Mebbin pointed out that the goat and not the tiger had been shot. The tiger died of the shock of the report of the rifle.
 5. Miss Mebbin hinted to her that she could give away the secret of the hunt to Loona Bimberton who would happily believe that the tiger had died of a shock and not the bullet.
 6. Miss Mebbin named the cottage Les Fauves and planted tiger lilies as a reminder of the hunt.
- C. 1. The villagers spotted a weak, old tiger which could not run around for a big hunt. Instead, it confined its hunt to smaller animals. Children were posted night and day on the outskirts of the local jungle to head the tiger back incase it looked for food elsewhere. The villagers ensured that cheaper kinds of goats were left about for the tiger. Furthermore, mothers carrying their babies hushed their singing lest they might disturb the tiger. The villagers constructed a platform in a comfortable and convenient place on a tree for Mrs Packletide and her paid companion, Miss Mebbin.
2. Miss Louisa Mebbin was a paid companion to Mrs Packletide. She was extremely materialistic. She counted every penny spent by Mrs Packletide and held back any money she felt would be spent wastefully. She wished to pay the villagers less for bringing in the ailing tiger. Regardless of the currency, she exhibited great restraint in spending it. Whether it was a hotel in Moscow or it was the payment for the old tiger's hunt, she tried to spend the least. She felt uncomfortable if she was made to work more than she was paid for. Her materialistic desire was further exhibited by her unscrupulous behaviour. She blackmailed Mrs Packletide and got her to buy her a cottage in return of keeping her secret regarding the hunt.
 3. Dear Mabel

You'll be delighted to know that I am the owner of a pretty weekend cottage near Darking. You'll be even more delighted to know that I didn't pay a penny for it!

I work for Mrs Packletide who got this sudden passion for hunting a tiger – not because of her lust for hunting but simply because she had heard about Loona Bimberton's flight with an Algerian aviator. She wished to gain fame and publicity and to outshine her.

We took the help of some villagers who reside near a forest. They spotted an old, weak tiger which could be hunted easily.

When Mrs Packletide shot the tiger, the bullet hit the goat that had been tied as a bait for the tiger to move towards the spot a little away from where we were positioned to shoot. She enjoyed the publicity and fame but soon I reminded her that the goat and not the tiger had been shot. I hinted to her that I could give away the secret of the hunt to Loona Bimberton who would happily believe that the tiger had died of a shock and not the bullet.

Poor Mrs Packletide – she had no choice but to fulfil my desire of owning this beautiful cottage that I couldn't afford to buy.

I have named the cottage Les Fauves and planted tiger lilies as a reminder of the hunt!

Do come and stay with me in this cottage on any weekend.

Yours affectionately

Louisa

4. *Mrs Packletide's Tiger* is set in a jungle in India and revolves around an English woman whose sole aim is to out do her rival and be in the limelight regardless of what it costs her. The author, Saki has satirized the section of society in which British women living in India during the Raj, enjoyed publicity and their vanity and jealousy knew no bounds.

Loona can't stop talking about her flight with an Algerian aviator and in order to put her down. Mrs Packletide plans a tiger's hunt which would give her immense fame and publicity. She also plans to spite Loona by throwing a luncheon-party and presenting her a tiger-claw brooch as a reminder of the hunt.

The hunt and the fame is so precious to Mrs Packletide that she is easily blackmailed by her paid companion Miss Mebbin who threatens to tell people, especially Loona that the goat died in fear of the tiger. The promise of keeping a secret of the hunt cost her six hundred and eighty.

Mrs Packletide and Loona Bimberton are perfect examples of snobbish and vain women.

5. The desire to outshine the others not for the sake of achievement but mere haughtiness and pride reflects the lack of values in one's life. Mrs Packletide had a strong dislike for Loona Bimberton and she was extremely jealous of her flight with an Algerian aviator. Not for a sense of achievement, but driven by jealousy, she wished to outdo her fame by hunting a tiger. Mrs Packletide was gripped with jealousy and pride. She hunted the tiger by hook or by crook, and at the end of it threw a lunch in Loona's honour. Mrs Packletide got great publicity as her pictures appeared in various magazines and newspapers. Now, Loona, who was filled with envy, refused to look at an illustrated paper for weeks. Even her letter of thanks for the gift of a tiger-claw brooch revealed envy. Furthermore, she declined the invitation for the luncheon-party.

What both the women achieved by their acts were only feelings of bitterness, envy and spite. Neither of them benefitted from any of their acts, and simply end up spending large amounts of money, developing a stronger dislike for each other and even been mocked at by the onlookers. People like Miss Mebbin take the opportunity of exploiting the situation.

6. Mrs Packletide is extremely envious of Loona Bimberton's fame and to outshine her, manipulates a hunt. She offers the villagers a thousand rupees to find a tiger that she could shoot without any risk. The villagers, in turn, manipulate and ensure that the tiger is kept in a position where it can be hunted down. When the tiger is killed, they realize that it died of a shock of the sound of the bullet and not the bullet itself. Miss Mebbin takes full advantage of the situation and makes Mrs Packletide her victim. She blackmails Mrs Packletide and gets her to buy her a cottage in return for keeping her secret regarding the hunt. Then, in order to spite Mrs Packletide and keep the memory of the hunt alive, she names the cottage Les Fauves and plants tiger lilies as another reminder of the hunt.

3. The Letter

- A. 1. a. Besides the fact that the old man seemed to be rather poor because of his tattered clothes, he strikes one to be extremely lonely.
- b. The stars still shining in the gloomy sky, and the sweet cheerful voices of women singing at their work, were the two 'happy things of the morning.
- c. At that time, the winter sky was gloomy even at dawn, and the whole town was wrapped in deathly silence. Since it was bitterly cold, almost everyone was sleeping, and therefore it was strange for the old man to be out.

- d. The sounds that the old man heard while on his way were the singing of women working, the grinding of mills, the footsteps of workmen going to work, an occasional bar of a dog, and the screech of a bird.
2. a. The clerk's job was to read out the names and addresses written in English on the envelopes and fling them to the respective postmen and peons waiting to deliver the letters to the right addressees.
- b. 'In the midst of this procedure a jesting voice from inside called, "Coachman Ali!"' is the line which shows the utter callousness and cruelty of the clerk in making fun of a poor old man and playing with his vulnerability.
- c. Ali raising his eyes to heaven in gratitude showed his immense relief and joy at finally getting a letter from his beloved daughter after patiently waiting for five years for it.
- d. Ali cuts a picture of pathos here, and one sympathises with this unhappy father who was living from day to day in the twilight of his life, just to hear from his beloved child whom he had not heard of for five years.
3. a. Ali had a single child, and when she got married and went off with her soldier-husband to where he was posted, he lost contact with her. For five years he lived in utter loneliness and grief without hearing from her.
- b. One can only presume that Miriam had not been so attached to her father. It speaks of her heartless attitude towards her aged father at a time in life when he needed her most.
- c. After Miriam went away, Ali learned how much he loved his daughter. He then understood how as a hunter, he had contributed to the misery and terror of animals when he destroyed their families.
- d. After Miriam's going away, Ali gets consumed with loneliness and grief, and spends his time sitting in the Post Office waiting for her letter rather than crouching in the wild waiting excitedly for an animal to hunt.
4. a. Like a pilgrim, Ali walked all the way every day to the post-office, with hope and faith that his prayers for a letter from his daughter would be answered. Therefore, it has been referred to as his place of pilgrimage.
- b. Instead of showing sympathy to the old man who had been coming there every day for five years, the postmen showed a callous and cruel attitude towards him by mocking his situation and giving him false hope.
- c. 'He always occupied a particular seat in a particular corner of the building' tells us that the old man had a fixed routine and was a creature of habit, who did the same thing every day.
- d. The attitude of the employees of the post-office towards Ali is similar to the irresponsible and insensitive way common people are treated by those in power. In fact, they were friendlier and cooperative with the smart peons of firms.
5. a. For five years, Ali had shown immense patience waiting for a letter from his beloved Miriam. But now, for the first time he was impatient because he knew that he was running out of time as his end was near.
- b. No one had bothered because they did not really care about Ali, and had never shown any sympathy or understanding for his sad situation. Instead they believed him to be a mad-man and had made fun of him.
- c. The line is 'At last he came again; but it was a struggle for him to breathe and on his face were clear signs of approaching the end.' This shows that even at this point of his life, the love for his daughter was paramount on his mind.

- d. Even though it was obvious that Ali was a sick, dying man, the postmaster showed him no empathy or kindness, and instead was only concerned with getting rid of him. He even referred to Ali as a 'pest.'
6. a. The postmaster had actually thought that the letter was meant for him, but when he saw Ali's name on it, he was startled as Ali had been forgotten by them. He knew at once it was the letter Ali had been waiting for.
- b. The line 'he was anxiously waiting for news of her' shows that his situation was now exactly how Ali's had once been.
- c. The postmaster earlier was impatient, rude, selfish, inconsiderate and ill-tempered. But when he faces a situation similar to Ali's, he becomes concerned, understanding, and empathetic.
- d. The one emotion which would have led to that realisation is guilt. The postmaster would have felt remorse about the way he had ill-treated poor Ali.
- B. 1. youth skilled, passionate shikari; didn't care for animals and killed ruthlessly; did not understand the meaning of love and separation; Old age understood the meaning of love and separation; became patient; reflected and realized love and grief were inseparable; appreciated nature; regretted having hunted and separating young animals from their parents; spent lonely, painful old age; waited patiently for a letter from Miriam and had faith it would come one day
2. people go on a pilgrimage to achieve a goal, or fulfil a wish; Ali undertook the journey to the post office to fulfil his wish to get a letter from his daughter, Miriam. It was his only desire.
3. mocked Ali, impatient with him; declared him senile; played jokes on him; treated him with disrespect and found him to be a nuisance.
4. met Lakshmi Das; wished to give him five golden guineas and asked him to deliver Miriam's letter to his grave, in return; he had faith that the letter would arrive
5. when the postmaster's daughter fell sick and he had to wait for news of her; the anxiety regarding her health tortured him; realized the value of a letter and its human worth; understood Ali's agony
- C. 1. At 5.00 a.m. heard a soft knock; Ali at the door; Ali, tearful, weary face, softened features, leaning on a stick; unearthly eyes shocked the postmaster who withdrew; Lakshmi Das heard the postmaster; inquired who it was; the postmaster learned that Ali had died three months back; saw letter lying near the door; postmaster was bewildered
2. Use format of Diary Page. Include the following: sad over not receiving letter but have faith it will come; believe Lakshmi Das will deliver it; regret having been a hunter; understood love and separation after daughter married; pray for her welfare and now wait for last breath
3. include – weak physical state emotional distress – longed to communicate with daughter; regretted having hunted; daily journey to post office; suffered humiliation at post office; exhibited extreme patience and strong faith for five years
4. Use format of diary page. You may include: grief-stricken over father's death; pained to know how he spent five years waiting for a letter; guilty for not having written to him; got too preoccupied with family and never realized father would be waiting for some news of welfare; pray to God for forgiveness
5. The underprivileged are often at the mercy of those in power and authority. The officials in power are not always charitable and understanding by nature. Ali, an underprivileged man visits the post office every day with the hope that he would get a letter from his daughter. Unfortunately, the staff there is insensitive and mock his persistence. The postmaster is impatient and nasty. Had the staff shown some kindness, perhaps Ali would have been comforted. Perhaps, if the postmaster had

been kind enough, he could have helped to maybe even track his daughter. Instead, their selfish approach and heartlessness only adds to the misery of the old man, and he dies a pained soul. A touch of sympathy, a touch of thoughtfulness would have been extremely comforting for the man who never let his hope for a letter die.

6. Yes, Ali and the postmaster indirectly get back what they do.

Ali was a skilled, passionate shikari. He didn't care for animals and killed them heartlessly. He never understood that in each hunt he separated members of the animal families and deprived them of each other's presence and love. He pays for his sins in the later years of his life. His daughter gets married and goes away. For years, he is unable to get in touch with her. He spends numerous years in waiting for a simple letter telling him of her well being. Unfortunately, the letter arrives after his demise. It is evident that he paid for his heartlessness in the gravest manner possible.

The postmaster rebukes and often mocks at Ali's state and persistence. He is unable to understand his agony. After Ali's death, the postmaster is faced with a similar situation, though much less in magnitude. He waits for a letter from his daughter who is unwell. It is then that he understands the agony of separation and the importance of a letter from a loved one.

The postmaster too is filled with regret and his guilt torments him.

4. A Shady Plot

- A. 1. a. This is because Jenkins was the editor of the magazine which published Hallock's stories, and so Hallock had to write what he was instructed to do.
- b. The readers of the magazine enjoyed reading Hallock's stories based on supernatural elements and horror, and found his ghosts to be very 'real.'
- c. 'Well, I was in no position to contradict Jenkins' tells us that Hallock had no choice but had to write whatever Jenkin asked him to only because he was dependent on the income he was getting from the magazine.
- d. Jenkin was an astute editor who knew exactly what the readers of his magazine enjoyed, and he knew how to use encouragement to get what he wanted from his writers like Hallock.
2. a. Hallock was waiting for inspiration to strike him so that he could start working on the plot for the ghost story he had to write for the magazine.
- b. His wife's fondness for shopping must have contributed to his financial woes as he wouldn't have been making enough as a writer for her bills.
- c. The phrase 'work it to death' tells us that once his wife got interested in something, she pursued it in an almost obsessive and extreme manner.
- d. Hallock had been sitting at his desk, waiting for inspiration to strike. He had started getting bored and his mind had started meandering. Therefore he made the comment in a sarcastic manner.
3. a. The line "'Didn't you send for me?" she crisped' shows that her tone was crisp and confident, and gave her the air of someone very much in command.
- b. Hallock must have been very taken aback at the accusing tone of the ghost, and also confused as to why she was blaming him for calling her.
- c. Hallock froze with fright thinking that the ghost wanted him to give her the job as his stenographer as he couldn't imagine a ghost working for him.

- d. The ghost was referring to when Hallock's mind had lost concentration and switched off to thinking about his wife's obsession with shopping and how to cure her of her interest in latest fads.
4. a. Hallock displays a sense of panic and dismay when he realises that now he would not be able to write his stories without the inspiration of the ghost-writers, and feels that the ghosts were being unfair to him.
- b. Hallock shows her due respect and confirms his gratitude for her help. He tries to appeal to her sense of fair play by insisting that he was someone who had never asked them questions and so should not be punished.
- c. The ghosts were annoyed because fanatics of the Ouija board had started keeping them so busy answering their useless questions at all odd hours, that they were left with no time of their own.
- d. The ghost cleverly suggested that only if Hallock managed to get his friends and acquaintances to stop using the Ouija board would the ghost-writers continue helping him write his ghost stories.
5. a. The ghost had just criticised the Ouija board to him, and Hallock too was keen to dissuade his wife from using one. Therefore he termed it as a 'foolish thing.'
- b. It is ironic that Lavinia mentions Helen of Troy as it was the name the ghost introduced herself with. Besides, she doesn't want her husband talking to Helen of Troy, and this later in the story became a reason for a misunderstanding.
- c. Lavinia was unaware that if her husband ever used an Ouija board, it would be the end of his writing career. Instead of helping him, it would actually destroy his livelihood.
- d. The sentence, 'You wouldn't have to wear your eyes out over those musty old books in the public library' shows that she had genuine concern for her husband's well-being.
6. a. If the ghost had not appeared to Hallock, his life would have continued as before. But it was only after their meeting that things had gone downhill for him.
- b. From the language she uses, one can make out that Gladolia the cook was an African. Therefore her pronunciation and dialect was a bit difficult to understand.
- c. The line 'I leaped from my chair with unaccustomed agility and sprang in front of my wife' shows how desperate Hallock was in trying to keep his wife from seeing the ghost in his room.
- d. Lavinia thought that her husband had flirted with Laura Hinkle, and was cheating on her with a woman named Helen as well. This made her very upset and angry, and therefore she decided to leave him.
- B. 1. John was a writer for a magazine and he earned some money by working as a part time bookkeeper for a lumber company.
2. The ghost appeared in parts – first an arm came out, then a bit of sleeve of a stiff white shirtwaist – then a leg and a plaid skirt, until at last there she was complete. The ghost was long and angular, with enormous bespectacled fishy eyes spectacles – hair tied in a tight wad at the back of her head.
3. The ghost said she was a writer and then a reader in her real life – now as a spirit she was member of a 'The Writer's Inspiration Bureau' that helped writers without ideas.
4. The members of 'The Writer's Inspiration Bureau' were on strike because too many people were using the Ouija boards that did not allow the spirits to rest. They were too frequently called upon to answer questions which were mostly quite silly.

5. She had bought an Ouija board at a sale. John was upset because the ghost had just asked him to discourage people from using it. The ghost had also warned him that the bureau would not help him unless people stopped using the Ouija board. It was too uncanny for him to bear the situation normally.
6. Lavinia said that she had bought it to enable John to write historical stories faster as he could call upon the spirits of people like Napoleon and William the Conqueror.
She couldn't return it because she had bought it from a sale where things once purchased could not be returned.
7. Mrs William Augustus Wainright had not turned up and Laura Hinkle could not work on the Ouija board alone. Before John could protest his fingers were working on the board.
8. The message came in parts. It called John a traitor and the spirit called itself Helen.
9. John was angry with the ghost. It had caused differences between his wife and him, he had lost his peace of mind and happiness. Soon, he was going to lose his cook.
10. John was worried that Lavinia would get upset and faint at the sight of the ghost.

No, when Lavinia finally saw the ghost she gave a smile of relief that the ghost was not Helen of Troy.

- C. 1. John was sitting at his desk trying to think of a plot for a ghost story when a ghost appeared. It came in parts – first an arm came out, then a bit of sleeve of a stiff white shirtwaist – then a leg and a plaid skirt, until at last there she was complete. She was long and angular, with enormous bespectacled fishy eyes spectacles – hair tied in a tight wad at the back of her head.

John was quite taken aback. The ghost said that in her real life she had been a writer and then a reader – now as a spirit she was member of a 'The Writer's Inspiration Bureau.' that helped writers without ideas. She claimed that she had been assisting John with all the ghost stories that he had written for Jenkins.

The ghost demanded that Hallock should help to stop people from using the Ouija boards that did not allow the spirits to rest-they were too frequently called upon to answer questions which were mostly quite silly. She warned him that she would not assist him unless people stopped using the Ouija boards.

The moment Lavinia entered the room, the ghost disappeared.

2. Dear Liela

Yesterday, I had a wonderful time at Lavinia's Ouija party.

A strange series of events took place that made the party so thrilling.

First of all, I was told that Lavinia's husband, John would pair up with me and work the Ouija board. You see, Mrs William Augustus Wainright had not turned up.

John protested but before he could get away, I got the board working. It was strange that a message was conveyed for John on our board. It was a message from Helen and she called John a traitor and soon all the boards were calling for John!

Poor fellow, he was too embarrassed and he simply got up and left the place. He looked so sheepish!

After we all left I am sure John had some explanations to give Lavinia—poor girl—she truly loves her husband and look at that sly man—he has a Helen in his life!

I'll let you know more about the couple in my next letter

Your affectionately

Laura

3. Sunday, 19 May 20XX

I am so relieved that the Helen who sent a message for John through the Ouija board is Not Helen of Troy! I shouldn't have suspected John of betraying me.

When I bought the Ouija board I was alarmed at the way John reacted. I did not know that there was a ghost in his life! The Ouija party turned out to be a great sensation for my guests but a disaster for John and me—some Helen was trying to convey a message to John and she also called him a traitor—how was I to know in what way he had been a traitor. Distressed, I packed my bags to leave for my grandmother's house—for ever!

Before leaving, had I not entered John's library and forcibly seen Helen, I would have never known the truth—after all, she was not the beauty—Helen of Troy!

If I had known that the Ouija board would have caused so much agony in my house, I would have never bought one. Good, I've burnt mine and I'll ask my friends to do the same with theirs.

4. One day Lavinia declares that she had bought an Ouija board from a sale. Hallock insists that she should return it but Lavinia says neither would it be taken back nor did she plan to return it. She wants Hallock to use it to write stories. Lavinia is disappointed with Hallock's lack of interest in the Ouija Board. Hallock should have revealed to her the appearance of the spirit and its disapproval of the Ouija board. Hallock's disinterest perturbed Lavinia. She was further antagonized at the party. Lavinia insisted that Hallock should pair up with Miss Hinkle and work the Ouija board. Hallock was almost compelled to put his finger on the board – a message appeared in stages. The Ouija board used by Mrs Hunt and Mrs Sprinkle also revealed that Helen was trying to communicate with John. All Ouija boards began calling for John Hallock who got up and left. The party got over leaving Lavinia very disturbed and she slept in the guest room. The next day when the spirit appeared again, Hallock should have told Lavinia about it, but instead he protectively tried to hide the spirit behind him – he felt that Lavinia would faint if she saw it. These actions almost broke the relationship. When Lavinia discovered the truth she was relieved. Had she been told of it much earlier, the couple would have been saved some distressful moments.
5. It is very essential to be self-reliant. If one depends on others for one's own work, it is either delayed or never done. Such was the case with Hallock who depended on the spirit to give him ideas for writing ghost stories. Then, a time came when the spirits got fed up of being used repeatedly. They decided to go on a strike. This meant that all those who depended on them for their work would be left in the lurch. Hallock was also warned by the spirit of Helen that people should stop using the Ouija board and asking the spirits questions which were mostly quite silly. Depending on the spirits to get answers was another example of dependency which only frustrated the spirits. It is essential to be self-reliant and not depend on others for one's work – not even spirits!

5. Patol Babu, Film Star

- A. 1. a. Patol Babu had a smooth life till then as he had held good clerical positions with good pay in his jobs. He was in his boss' good books, but sudden retrenchment due to the war had cost him his nine year job.
b. The line which shows this aspect of Patol Babu's character is 'he gave up in disgust when his boss began to treat him in too high-handed a fashion.' This tells us that he had dignity and self-worth.
c. Although life had dealt Patol Babu a raw deal, he was not someone to give up easily. He was open to trying out different career options, and worked and struggled hard to provide for his family. He was not one to give up.
d. Patol Babu had had some success as a stage actor, and remembering those days when he was successful, and content gave Patol Babu happiness. He enjoyed the memories and loved reciting some of the lines he still remembered.
2. a. While watching the going-ons, Patol Babu was impressed by how hard everyone worked while shooting the film, especially of the physical efforts required for handling the equipment.
b. Patol Babu was nervous because there wasn't much time till he was called for his shoot, and as no one had yet given him his dialogues, he had no idea what he was supposed to do and say.
c. Patol Babu planned on giving his best to his role, even though it was a small one. He did not want to embarrass himself in front of so many people and therefore wanted to be well-prepared for it.
d. 'The last time he acted on stage was twenty years ago.' This explains why Patol Babu could have felt lacking in self-confidence, and added to his nervousness.
3. a. When Patol Babu saw the single monosyllable scribbled on a piece of paper, he couldn't believe his eyes. He felt as if a joke was being played on him by some cruel people in order to humiliate him.
b. The line which shows his shock is 'Patol Babu said in a hardly audible voice, 'I find it rather strange.'" He was in such a state of disbelief that he could barely speak.
c. One feels saddened for Patol Babu's situation at this moment. He had come there with big dreams, and for an actor who had been popular in his heydays, it was a terrible disappointment, and one cannot help feeling sympathetic towards him.
d. Sosanko sensed Patol Babu's heartbreak, and explained to him that he was actually lucky to have got an opportunity to work in a famous director's film. Unlike hundreds who had got no line to say, he was the luckiest as he had got a speaking part.
4. a. This shows that Patol Babu's initial disappointment and shock had now turned into anger towards the film crew. Earlier he had been impressed with their working methods, but now he was just contemptuous of them.
b. While watching the shooting, Patol Babu had noticed that just before the camera had started rolling, the crowd was told to stop talking by someone shouting 'Silence' so that the scene could proceed. This was the 'Silence' that Patol Babu found pompous.
c. Besides Gogon Pakrashi also being a fellow stage actor, Patol Babu admired him for his lack of vanity, his saintly qualities, and his brilliance and talent in acting.
d. Patol Babu learnt that as an actor, no role was below his dignity and that he had to give his very best to every dialogue and serve it to the audience. The success of a play depended on good teamwork.

5.
 - a. The line, 'While these people didn't seem to believe in rehearsals, he himself would rehearse his own bit.' The emphasis on 'These people' shows that he did not think of them as being of the same calibre as a stage actor.
 - b. One notices Patol Babu's attention to details, his hard-working nature, his creativity, and his commitment to his craft while he is practising for his tiny role.
 - c. Patol Babu kept in mind his mentor Pakrashī's advice to give his very best to any role that he was given and not consider it beneath his dignity. This is what cleared his mind and helped him accept his minor role.
 - d. Patol Babu showed inventiveness by choosing a quiet side street which did not have many people around so that he had privacy. He used the glass of a large shop window as a mirror to practise his expressions and actions.
6.
 - a. After Patol Babu had lost his job due to a sudden retrenchment, he had to struggle to make a living. Though his acting had become a thing of the remote past, his wonderful performance proved that his acting skills were still intact even after twenty years.
 - b. Patol Babu had been motivated by what Gogon Pakrashī had taught him, which was to put his very best, as an actor, into even the smallest of roles and give his best to his audience. And this is what Patol Babu had done today.
 - c. The sentence 'They just got hold of some people, got them to go through certain motions, paid them for their labours and forgot all about it.' showed that Patol Babu found the film industry to be fickle and not very talented.
 - d. Although Patol Babu was in need of money, he felt that taking money for the small part he had performed would trivialise his performance. His creative satisfaction was far more important to him than money.
- B.
 1. Nishikanto Babu had recommended Patol Babu for a role in a film produced by a company in which his brother-in-law worked in the production department. The role was to be played by a man around fiftyish, short, and bald-headed. Patol Babu fitted the role perfectly.
 2. In 1943, the sudden retrenchment in his office due to the war cost him his nine-year-old clerical job with Hudson and Kimberley. Then he opened a variety store which he had to wind up after five years. Later, he had a job in a Bengali firm which he gave up in disgust and for ten long years, he worked as an insurance salesman. He didn't rise from there and now he was hoping to get a job at a small establishment dealing in scrap iron.
 3. Patol Babu was required to report outside the Faraday House office at eight-thirty sharp the next day, i.e. Sunday.
 4. Patol Babu recalled having started his career in stage acting from playing a simple role of a dead actor. Hence, he had no doubt that the role being offered would take him up the ladder.
 5. He saw a big crowd outside the building. There were three or four cars parked on the road. There was also a bus which carried equipment on its roof. On the edge of the pavement was equipment to be used for the shooting.
 6. Sosanko convinced Patol Babu that his role was a significant one by telling him that he was lucky he had a role and something to say in a Baren Mullick film. He also told him that his was a very crucial role that reveals that the main actor, Chanchal Kumar was in a preoccupied state of mind-thinking about the embezzlement in his office.

7. Patol Babu cleared his throat and began giving the exclamation a different inflection each time he uttered it – the exclamation 'Oh!' gained immense importance. He practised flinging out his arms in pain and twisted his features as if in pain and he did all this in front of a large glass window.
 8. Patol Babu did not think that the money was of any importance when he was extremely satisfied with his own performance.
- C. 1. Patol Babu had a real passion for the stage. As a young man he acted in *Jatras*, in amateur theatricals and in plays put up by the club in his neighbourhood. He was always in demand. His love for acting was very evident in his excitement, when at the age of fifty-two he was told that he would be approached for a role in a film. He keenly looked forward to meeting Naresh Dutt, very punctually reached the site and then almost impatiently waited for his turn. Although his role was extremely brief with almost nothing to say – just an 'Oh!' like a true actor he made the best of it. He rehearsed well to ensure that he presented his best. The satisfaction that he got from the single act that he performed filled his heart with pleasure and he had no desire to wait for the payment. It was the love for acting that was more dominant than the need for money. His optimism about making it big from the small role offered to him also shows his strong inclination towards acting. Patol Babu was indeed a passionate actor.
2. Patol Babu reached the site very punctually. Initially, he felt lost in the crowd. Naresh Dutt asked him to wait for his turn. Patol Babu wondered what his dialogues would be and after much hesitation he asked for them. Naresh asked Sosanko to do the needful. Patol Babu was extremely disappointed to know that he had to say only, "Oh!".
- He recalled the words of his mentor Gogan Prakash who had always said that no role is small or big – it is how one presents it is what matters. He also recalled his words that explained that a play is the combined work of many – no matter how small or big each person's role is.
- Inspired by this recollection, Patol Babu rehearsed the expression 'Oh!' and his role of colliding with the hero of the film most passionately. When he finally performed his part with great enthusiasm and precision, he was applauded for his acting skills.
- The performance and appreciation was extremely satisfying, proving that no role is big or small – each role is important in its own way.

3. Calcutta

13 May 19XX

Dear Mahesh Babu

I haven't written to you for long as I've been very busy with the production of a film – you know how hectic it gets while working with Baren Mullick.

While working for a film, I come across many kinds of people. Lately, I met a gentleman called Patol Babu – about fifty two years of age. Even at this age he exhibited immense dedication and passion for acting.

I met Patol Babu first when I went to offer him a role in the film. His sincerity was very evident and unlike other actors, his punctuality was commendable. I know he was disappointed with the small role given to him but what a performance!

Baren was thrilled with his performance and we didn't need to go through a second shot.

Strangely, I know the gentleman is in dire need of money but after the shot he didn't even wait for the payment.

I plan to go to his house next week and give him his due.

Yours affectionately

Naresh

4. Patol Babu had a real passion for the stage. As a young man he acted in *Jatras*, in amateur theatricals and in plays put up by the club in his neighbourhood. He was always in demand. His love for acting was very evident in his excitement, when at the age of fifty-two he was told that he would be approached for a role in a film. He keenly looked forward to meeting Naresh Dutt, very punctually reached the site and then almost impatiently waited for his turn. Although his role was extremely brief with almost nothing to say – just an ‘Oh!’ like a true actor he made the best of it. He rehearsed well to ensure that he presented his best. The satisfaction that he got from the single act that he performed filled his heart with pleasure and he had no desire to wait for the payment. It was the love for acting that was more dominant than the need for money. His optimism about making it big by performing the small role offered to him also shows his strong inclination towards acting. Patol Babu was indeed a passionate actor and money, though much needed, held less importance than the opportunities and the subsequent satisfaction that he gained from acting.
5. Patol Babu was offered a role in a film. He was expecting a role with some substance, or at least some dialogues that would make his presence felt. Instead, all that he had to say was the exclamatory word – ‘Oh!’ This disappointed him but his love for acting made him forget how small or big the role was. He recalled the words of Gogon Pakrashi, his mentor: however small a part you’re offered, never consider it beneath your dignity to accept it. As an artist your aim should be to make the most of your opportunity, and squeeze the last drop of meaning out of your lines. A play involves the work of many and it is the combined effort of many that makes a success of the play. Patol Babu rehearsed numerous times till he perfected the exclamation. The final performance was laudatory and it gave him immense satisfaction.

6. Virtually True

- A. 1. a. The narrator, Michael, meant that it was not a common name. In fact, that was the reason why it had caught the attention of Michael when he saw it in the headline of a newspaper article.
b. The lady sitting in front of Michael in the train was reading a newspaper, and over her shoulder Michael was able to read the article he had spotted on the open page in front of him.
c. Though Sebastian had been stable, he was critical and in a coma after being badly injured. Even though the doctors were doing their best, there had been no improvement. It was thought only a miracle could help him.
d. The line which tells us that a miracle had taken place is ‘*Sebastian Shultz, a 14-year-old schoolboy from South London, awoke yesterday from a coma that doctors feared might last forever.*’
2. a. The genre used by the writer is science fiction, since it deals with an imaginative story based on science and technology.
b. The duo was especially close over their common fascination with computers and related technical gadgets, and Michael’s father bought gizmos which he felt his son would also enjoy. Their spending an entire Saturday afternoon shopping together bears testimony to this.
c. “They’re terrific,” and “Well, cool,” are the two expressions which reflect the palpable excitement of a teenager over his new games.
d. The virtual reality visor and glove changed what one saw and also allowed one to control the action by one’s thoughts. This made it much more interactive than the previous games.

3.
 - a. The score that Michael wonders about are the points that a computer game gives the player for each step of the game. As a player, he would have wanted a high score.
 - b. The logical step would have been to follow Jed outside the saloon, but surprisingly another sheriff appeared waving his hands about and shouting at Michael to follow him instead.
 - c. This second sheriff was not like the other characters in the room. Although he was about the same age as Michael, and looked like a computer image, he did not move like one.
 - d. 'There's no time to explain,' he shouted. 'Just follow me,' shows that something was wrong and the second sheriff needed Michael's help.
 4.
 - a. The tone of the second knight must have been rather urgent, but also tinged with a touch of grim humour when he said that it was he who actually needed rescuing.
 - b. Since the game consisted of familiar characters from traditional children's stories, such as Rapunzel, the second knight knew that the princess' long hair could be used as a rope to help them climb down the tower and escape.
 - c. Although it was a game, it seemed real to Michael because he could actually hear, smell and feel the fiery breath of the dragon as they were running down a staircase with the dragon in hot pursuit.
 - d. This attempt to rescue Sebastian was also disastrous. Although Michael attempted to fight the dragon with a sword, he was unable to save Sebastian from being destroyed by the dragon.
 5.
 - a. The action of this virtual game 'Warzone' takes place in a bombed out city. Michael and Sebastian had to dodge bullets and exploding bombs to reach a helicopter which was waiting to rescue them.
 - b. This incident in the game mirrored the car accident Sebastian had been involved in. His body had then 'turned to stone' which is a reference to the coma he was in.
 - c. It was Sebastian himself who had thought of the helicopter as a means of escape as the earlier plans had not worked. During the jailbreak, it had almost worked, but with better planning, this time it was successful.
 - d. 'I pulled him up.' This action of Michael pulling Sebastian out of the car wreck into the safety of the helicopter tells us that Sebastian was now come out the coma he was lying in.
 6.
 - a. Michael wanted to check what Sebastian was doing in the car at the time of the accident. He needed this information to try and work out a theory he had thought of.
 - b. 'My heart pounded furiously.' This line shows how Michael himself found it difficult to fathom the enormity of all that happened, and how he had managed to save someone's life through a game.
 - c. When the accident had occurred, Sebastian was plugged into one of the same psycho-drive games that Michael and his dad had bought at the Computer Fair. So when he banged his head, the computer saved his memory into its own.
 - d. Michael read in the article that the disks that were in the wrecked car had been stolen by someone. He also remembered that some of the ones they bought at the Computer Fair were not new, and so realised that these were actually Sebastian's.
- B. 1. Sebastian Shultz, a 14 year-old schoolboy from South London had recovered from a coma. Six weeks ago, Sebastian Shultz was badly injured in a motorway accident. Michael was alarmed because he had encountered the boy in his computer games.
2. Yes, Michael's father was passionate about computer technology. He possessed a Pentium 150 Mhz4 processor, with 256 of RAM, a 1.2 Gb hard disk drive and 16 speed CD ROM complete with

speakers, printer, modem and scanner. He encouraged his son to play games on the computer. Soon after Sebastian's recovery, he wished to buy a stock of games to replace the stolen ones.

3. The virtual reality visor and glove could change what one was seeing on the computer and also control the action by what one was thinking.
 4. Before Sheriff Dawson could follow Black-Eyed Jed, another sherrif appeared and warned Sherrif Dawson not to follow Black-Eyed Jed. Instead, he took him to the rear of the bar where both mounted a horse and galloped away.
 5. The main aim was to rescue the boy Sebastian Shultz.
Sebastian Schultz was his cellmate. No, Michael could not rescue Sebastian.
 6. Sebastian thanked Michael for having saved his life. He hoped to meet him sometime and he asked Michael to keep the games that originally belonged to him.
- C. 1. As soon as Michael entered the game he found himself striding down the dusty track through the centre of town wearing a badge with the name Sherrif Dawson. He burst into a saloon and strode over to the bar and ordered a 'Sarsaparilla!'. As soon as he took a sip he heard a loud crash and Black-Eyed Jed, the fastest gun in the west entered the bar. He lured Sheriff Dawson into a fight outside but before the Sheriff could go out of the bar another sherrif appeared. He warned Sherrif Dawson not to follow Black-Eyed Jed – instead he took him to the rear of the bar where they both mounted a horse and galloped away. The second sherrif did not reveal his name and was shot by a pursuer – Sherrif Dawson was safe and then the message flashed GAME OVER. A message in the printer tray said.

'I'M STUCK. PLEASE HELP TO RETRIEVE ME. TRY 'DRAGONQUEST'. SEBASTIAN SHULTZ.

2. Wednesday, 20 March 20XX

I am extremely disappointed with the game – only if I could have played it better, maybe I could have saved Sebastian.

When I entered Dragonquest, I found it quite easy to collect the dragon's treasure and reach the tower to rescue the princess. The real challenge began when I saw the other Knight – Sebastian. While the princess kept screaming for help, my attention was focused on the Knight – Sebastian.

All the hard work of chopping off the princess' hair and escaping from the tower and heading for the dungeons was futile-my heart sank as the dragon managed to catch Sebastian!

I do hope that tomorrow, when I play Jailbreak, I will be successful in rescuing Sebastian. I do feel that I have let him down-he really has pinned his hopes on me.

3. It was in the fourth game that Michael finally rescued Sebastian. Michael found himself in a city with tall windowless, bullet riddled buildings and machine guns raked the sky. He watched the buildings tumble and bombs explode. Sebastian and Michael ran across a no-man's-land of rubble and smoke, dodging sniper fire – Faraway, a helicopter could be seen on the ground and tank fire chased them. They both jumped into a jeep and fled from the place. Sebastian applied sudden brakes that made the jeep skid into a spin and somehow Michael managed to jump into the helicopter. But Sebastian hadn't got out of the jeep and the tank crashed into the jeep. Next, Sebastian was thrown into the air and he landed with a thud, just below the hatch. Michael pulled him up to safety and finally Sebastian had been rescued.
4. The time period of six weeks is of great significance. Michael calculated that the accident mentioned in the news had taken place six weeks ago. He and his father had bought the computer games from the Computer Fair a month ago i.e. about four weeks ago. The computer games were stolen soon after the accident, they reached the fair and were bought by Michael's dad. It

was these games that Michael played and he tried to retrieve Sebastian's memory. He had saved Sebastian just a day before the news flashed that Sebastian had recovered from a coma. Hence, the time frame of six weeks helped Sebastian to unravel the mystery of the Miracle Recovery.

5. Michael was helpful and kind by nature. He made several attempts to save Sebastian. The first three attempts failed. It was in the fourth game that Michael finally rescued Sebastian. In each attempt, something or the other went wrong. Finally, in the fourth attempt, Michael found himself in a city with tall windowless, bullet riddled buildings and machine guns raked the sky. He watched the buildings tumble and bombs explode. Sebastian and Michael ran across a no man's land of rubble and smoke, dodging sniper fire. Faraway, a helicopter could be seen on the ground and tank fire chased them. They both jumped into a jeep and fled from the place. Sebastian applied sudden brakes that made the jeep skid into a spin and somehow Michael managed to jump into the helicopter. But Sebastian hadn't got out of the jeep and the tank crashed into the jeep. Next, Sebastian was thrown into the air and he landed with a thud, just below the hatch. Michael pulled him up to safety and finally Sebastian had been rescued. If Michael had given up and not tried repeatedly, he would not have been successful in his endeavour to save Sebastian.
6. Michael, the narrator is a young boy who is very fond of playing computer games. In the story, Sebastian Shultz: lives a virtual life in computer games. Michael's father is passionate about computer technology and he possesses a Pentium 150 Mhz 4 processor, with 256 of RAM, a 1.2 GB hard disk drive and 16 speed CD ROM complete with speakers, printer, modem and scanner. He encourages his son to play games on the computer. He visited a Computer Fair and bought a virtual reality visor and glove that can change what you see and control the action by what you are thinking. He also bought a handful of the latest interactive psycho-drive games for Michael.

Michael derives great pleasure by playing these games. His involvement is so great that after a while, he begins to face tremendous challenges and experience risky adventures-virtually. These experiences, along with the joy of final triumph are virtual – distant from reality.

If children continue to get experiences and joy from virtual lives, how will they get to see life in its true form, face challenges' in reality and feel their moments of victory in reality.

POETRY

1. The Frog and the Nightingale

- A. 1. a. The structure of the poem with a couplet rhyme scheme AABBC makes it simpler to read and gives the poem a melodious effect, keeping in mind its theme of music.
- b. The two phrases are 'crass cacophony' and 'whose foot the frog.'
- c. The frog's insensitive and arrogant behaviour is seen in his total disregard of his neighbours feelings. It also shows how conceited and thick-skinned he was.
- d. When their complaints nor abuse worked in making the frog stop, the poor animals had no choice but to continue listening to his loathsome singing throughout the night.
2. a. The frog was dumbstruck at the nightingale's talent because his ability to sing paled in comparison.
- b. The admiring bog refers to the others who witnessed the nightingale's enchanting performance.
- c. The rhyme scheme of the above stanza is *aabc*.
- d. The 'entire bog' applauded when the nightingale concluded her song. They clapped for her and cheered her on.

3.
 - a. As in a fable, the use of human-like animal characters to tell a story appeals to a young audience. All the animals mentioned in the poem speak and behave as humans do.
 - b. The animals of the bog were 'enraptured' by the nightingale's voice and responded to her beautiful singing with 'applause,' showing that they appreciate music.
 - c. Music has the power to evoke strong emotions, and therefore the beauty of the melodious voice of the nightingale moved the sensitive loon to tears. He was deeply touched by its quality.
 - d. The nightingale is known to sing in solitude in woodlands. But here in the bog, she found an appreciating audience consisting of the numerous animals who lived there.
4.
 - a. The nightingale was just about to launch into another song for her admiring audience, she was interrupted by the frog's croak.
 - b. "I'm the frog who owns this tree" shows the territorial nature of the frog. He felt he owned the sumac tree only because he lived at its foot.
 - c. The frog, in his vanity, referred to his ugly croaking voice as a 'baritone,' which is a deep manly, singing voice.
 - d. The frog must have felt very jealous of the nightingale's voice and the attention she was getting. Not to be outdone, he must be wanting to impress her with his own importance by telling her falsehoods.
5.
 - a. Here the poet alludes to the role of critics towards any new talent, and how they can exploit a newcomer for their personal gain.
 - b. Despite the praise heaped on her by the other animals, the gullible nightingale naively believed the frog when he undermined her talent. Her foolishness in trusting the frog showed her lack of self-confidence.
 - c. The 'fairy tale' the nightingale refers to turns into a nightmare for the poor bird later. Referring to the frog as 'Mozart' is also ironic as he knew nothing about music.
 - d. "Well I charge a modest fee" shows that the sly frog had the intention of exploiting the talent of the nightingale for his own monetary benefit.
6.
 - a. Through the poet's description, one imagines the sumac tree as an opera house, packed with a wealthy and distinguished audience who had come to hear the famous singer, the nightingale.
 - b. The frog's joy was sweet because the presence of the wealthy audience meant that he was getting richer. But it was also bitter because it was not him who was a singing success, but the nightingale.
 - c. The frog continued to scold her because it was part of his plan to keep her submissive by criticism. If she had become confident about herself, she would have gotten rid of him.
 - d. The word 'twittering' tells us that the wealthy ladies at the show exchanged small talk with one another during the interval.
7.
 - a. The frog was so enraged by the attitude of the nightingale that he abused her by calling her a "brainless bird."
 - b. When the ticket-office money started declining due to the poor performance of the nightingale, the frog saw his dream of becoming rich crashing. This is what drove him to anger.
 - c. The nightingale's state shows her timid and servile nature. She did not have the courage to stand up for herself because she had no self-confidence.
 - d. The poet wants one to understand that one should not be a victim to flattery and manipulation like the poor nightingale, and keep clear of cunning people.

- B. 1. The frog loved his own voice and croaked all night. The creatures of the bog hated his voice. They complained, pleaded and even threatened the frog, but in vain.
 2. He told the bird that he was the owner of the tree and was a great singer and music critic. The frog convinced her that only great singers like him could help her to improve her singing and the fee that she would need to pay would not hurt her.
 3. Over a period of time, the nightingale got exhausted and the constant scolding of the frog disheartened her. Her song became lifeless and monotonous and the bored audience dwindled away.
 4. The frog did not want to be blamed for the nightingale's death. He said that she was a foolish bird and far too nervous. Furthermore, he added that the nightingale should have done what she was capable of and not got influenced by him.
 - C. 1. a. In this world there are gullible people like the nightingale – get trapped by manipulative people like the frog. The latter exploit and use the former for their own benefit.
 - b. We should not try to imitate others; should recognize our own abilities; only do what we are capable of.
 2. Death. She was trapped by the frog, did not recognize her own talent, blindly followed the frog, wished to please him, tried to achieve what was beyond her
 3. territorial – possessive about the tree, says it is his own; greedy – uses the nightingale to collect money; heartless – cruel to nightingale, criticizes her song to trap the nightingale, finally gets rid of her
 4. In this world there are gullible people like the nightingale and often they get trapped by manipulative people like the frog. The latter exploit and use the former for their own benefit. One day a nightingale perched on the sumac tree and sang a delightful song. The creatures of the bog were mesmerized by the enchanting song.
- The frog was jealous and planned to get rid of her. He also planned to exploit her for to make money. He told the bird that he was the owner of the tree and was a great singer and music critic. The gullible nightingale believed him and was lured into a trap. The frog convinced her that only great singers like him could help her to improve her singing and he would charge a fee.
- During the day, the frog made her rehearse and at night she performed for a large audience. The frog charged an admission fee and made money for himself. Finally, the nightingale got exhausted and the constant scolding of the frog disheartened her. Her song became lifeless and monotonous and the bored audience dwindled away. The frog expressed his anger at the nightingale's poor performance and asked her to sing loudly and forcefully. In order to please the frog, the nightingale puffed her lungs out and tried to sing loudly. As a result, she burst a vein and died.
5. It is important to recognize our own talents and use them to the best of our ability and not blindly follow what others want us to do. The nightingale failed to recognize her own talent and blindly followed what the frog told her to do. She believed his false judgement, and she was so blinded by admiration for him that she could not see through his devious plan. When the nightingale sang for the first time, the creatures of the bog flocked and heard her song. They asked her to sing again. All this clearly shows that the nightingale was a gifted singer, but she failed to recognize her own talent and potential. Hence, the clever frog took advantage of her ignorance and lack of confidence. By blindly following what the frog said, the nightingale not only lost her voice, but also her life.

2. Not Marble, Nor The Gilded Monuments

- A. 1. a. Building grand gold-plated monuments in the memory of important people is to show reverence and the importance of the person, and because they do not get damaged easily.
- b. The tone of the poet is confident and optimistic. He is clear that nothing could ever outlive his "powerful rhyme."
- c. The "you" is someone dear to the poet, in whose honour a poem has been written and whom he wanted to immortalise for his admirable qualities.
- d. The poet believed that though time would wear out even the strongest of statues and monuments, his dear friend would be remembered for time immemorial through this powerful poem.
2. a. The phrase is 'wasteful wars,' and war has been described as 'wasteful' because it is destructive and can turn grand monuments into ruins.
- b. According to the poet, the poetry written in honour of the poet's dear friend cannot be destroyed even by the greatest warrior of all time, Mars. Even if he uses his weapons or even fire, the written sword would survive throughout time
- c. The 'work of masonry' refers to the marble and gilded monuments built to honour powerful men throughout the ages.
- d. The term the poet uses to describe his powerful rhyme is 'living record.' This is what would keep his dear friend alive even after he died.
3. a. The poet knows that death is inevitable, but he feels that one can be immortalised by being remembered through time.
- b. The "you" would stride forth defeating death in the face of his enemies. He would be confident about the fact that he would remain alive through the poetry written by the poet exalting his admirable qualities.
- c. The word 'doom' in the extract refers to doomsday or the judgement day, when time will come to an end and the dead will rise out of their graves.
- d. All the generations born on the earth would read about the admirable qualities of the poet's loved friend in his poem and praise him for his wonderful deeds. In this way they would immortalise him forever.
4. a. The poet here means that even after death, his dear one would continue to be remembered and praised because he had been immortalised in his poetry.
- b. Successive generations who are born after the death of the poet's beloved friend and till the end of the world are referred to here.
- c. This is the day when time stops and the dead come back to life. Till then the poet's dear friend would 'live' in the pages of his poetry.
- d. The poet deeply admires his friend and holds him in great esteem. Therefore he had immortalised him for posterity in his poetry.
- B. 1. The poet has referred to time, enmity, broils, war and neglect as factors that lead to death and decay.
2. He has written a verse for his friend which shall outlive all the things that are destroyed by time and war.
3. They build monuments and statues.
4. Their works like statues and monuments are destroyed with time, war and neglect.

5. It can be read till the Day of Judgement – till the end of the world.
 6. wasteful war shall statues overturn
broils root out the work of masonry,
Mars his sword war's quick fire shall burn
- C. 1. Shakespeare claims that the verse he has written for his friend will outlive marble gilded monuments and statues that are built in memory of great men. His verse will outlast the things that are ravaged by time, enmity and war.
- His verse will remain till the last Day of Judgement and the friend's admirers and posterity will continue to read his praises. Hence, the poet's works are powerful and have a longevity that outshines that of the other things created by man. It will live till the end of the world.
2. Shakespeare has personified time. He has called it sluttish. Time appears to be cruel, killing and destroying with its passage. The poet has also personified war. He has called it wasteful. War destroys, overturns statues and roots out works of great masons. Enmity has been called oblivious. It seems to forget everything and only destroy.
 3. Shakespeare refers to Mars – the Roman mythological god of war. He ruins and destroys all that comes in his path. This highlights the fact that everything on earth is mortal.
- The poet also refers to 'the ending doom' and 'judgement'. These are biblical references to the end of the world. The poet's verses will be kept alive and be read till the Day of Judgement. This shows the strength and longevity of the poet's creation.
- These references are impactful and convey a strong impression of death and the final destruction of the world and the poet's works will overcome the former.
4. The poet has mentioned that his friend will shine brighter than the gold plated monuments through his verses. He is convinced that he will be fondly remembered and his praises will continue to be read by his admirer, friends and generations to come till the Day of Judgement.
 5. Shakespeare states that materialistic things like marble or the gilded tombs of princes are not immortal. They will decay and die one day. There are immaterialistic things like relationships and scripts like poetry that immortalize a person. Poetry keeps a person alive, and the verses that he is writing for his friend will immortalize him. The verses will neither decay nor get destroyed like structures made of material. No enmity, war or any other catastrophe can destroy it. All the successive generations will continue to read his praises until doomsday. So till the Day of Judgment he will continue to live in this poetry and in the eyes of his admirers who read this verse.
 6. Answer is the same as D1.

3. Ozymandias

- A 1. a. It seemed strange because the broken statue was huge, and was far out in the desert, where there was nothing else but stretches of sand.
- b. One infers that the statue was extremely old and had been made to honour one of the mighty kings whose kingdom had existed in ancient times.
- c. The word "stone" tells us that the statue had been made with a hard material so that it would last forever. But it is ironic that nature proved to be even stronger.
- d. The broken statue symbolises the destruction that is caused by the passage of time, and shows that no one has any power over the merciless march of time.
2. a. The fact that this particular sculptor had been chosen to make the statue of the king, points to his skill. He brought out the expressions of the king so well that they were distinguishable even in their broken state.

- b. Even though the statue was broken, it had preserved the history of the king over time. The frown, wrinkled lip, and sneer tell us that Ozymandius was an arrogant and cruel ruler.
 - c. The line 'Tell that its sculptor well those passions read' shows that the sculptor was skilled in understanding expressions and carving them into stone.
 - d. The poet is referring to the skillful hands of the sculptor, who had brought out the expressions of cruelty and pride of the king, so that people could see what kind of man he actually was in his heart.
3. a. The three voices are those of the 'I' who is the poet, the unnamed traveller, and of the king Ozymandias in the inscription on the broken base of the statue.
- b. Ozymandius was arrogant and vain to consider himself the mightiest of all rulers. His pretension to greatness from his self-given title shows that he was obsessed with power.
 - c. One feels a sense of sadness at man's foolishness in believing that the ravages of time would not affect him. The broken statue is a testament to the impermanence of glory and power.
 - d. Ozymandius wanted people to admire his conquests, his kingdom sprawled in the desert and the colossal statue made to impress everyone with its grandeur.
4. a. One theme is about how the ravages of time spare no one, and all grandeur and glory are reduced to dust with the march of time. Secondly, it is only art-- as seen in the ruins of the statue-- that outlives everything.
- b. The phrases 'boundless and bare' and 'lone and level' sands describe the scene around the broken statue.
 - c. Ozymandius had been a powerful king but nothing remained of his vast kingdom, which had been wiped out in the vast deserts of time, leaving only boundless and bare sand.
 - d. The word 'colossal' tells us that the statue of Ozymandius was huge so as to reflect his stature in the political stage at that time. It gave an impression of him towering over his kingdom and all other mighty kings.
5. a. The poet has painted a visual picture of a huge desolate desert with a strange image of two huge trunkless legs standing upright in the landscape, with some shattered pieces lying half-buried in the sand.
- b. The traveller would have felt curious about the statue, and also awed by its size and importance. The eerie loneliness of the landscape might have made him feel a bit disturbed.
 - c. The craftsman had brilliantly interpreted the characteristics of the king as seen in the 'frown,' 'wrinkled lips', and the 'sneer' on his face. Even after hundreds of years, one could decipher the personality of the king as being proud, cruel and arrogant.
 - d. The unkindness of time is seen in the 'shattered' face and the pitiful pieces of the splendid statue scattered around in the sand. The fact that even a king can lie decaying, and an entire kingdom wiped out, shows that time can be merciless.
6. a. These arrogant words uttered by a mighty king and carved for posterity in stone, exemplify the impermanence of legacy and power of those who believe that their dominion would last forever.
- b. Just when the speaker repeats the words carved on the pedestal about the king's greatness, he immediately follows it up with the stark line of 'Nothing beside remains.' This sharp contradiction makes the king's arrogant declaration of Ozymandius ironic.
 - c. The words 'decay' and 'wreck' show how time can destroy everything. Here it destroyed not just the statue, but also erased the entire kingdom the statue overlooked.
 - d. The desert symbolises the vast stretch of time, and its sand symbolises the power of the elements of nature.

- B. 1. The traveller was returning from the ancient land of Egypt where he saw part of a broken statue in the desert. The statue was that of an old Egyptian King, Ozymandias. Only the trunk less legs of the statue stood erect while the broken head lay almost buried in sand.
2. Although the statue was shattered, the expression on the face of the king continued to show his haughtiness and vanity.
3. The sculptor had understood the harsh feelings and arrogance of the pharaoh.
4. The inscription conveys that the king was very powerful. He was extremely vain and he felt that no one could be better than him in any form. He was convinced that if anyone tried to outshine him or even try to equal him, he would only end up in despair.
5. It ends up in dust. It is not immortal and like the pharaoh's achievements, pride and vanity—it all ends in nothingness.
- C. 1. The poet has gradually built the image of the king. He first refers to the broken visage of the pharaoh lying in the desert. Then he refers to the scornful expression on his face of the statue which brings out the king's passionate feelings of contempt and haughtiness. He also mentions how the sculptor had gauged the king's passionate feelings of arrogance and contempt. Finally, we get to read about the king's message that is filled with pride, vanity and arrogance.
2. *Ozymandias* is a poem that illustrates the fact that human power and influence, like that exhibited by political powers and kings is only mortal – it fades into nothingness. *Ozymandias* was an Egyptian king who was vain and proud of his supreme power but now his statue lies shattered among the sands of a deserted desert. The work of art of the sculptor remains but all the achievements of the pharaoh have come to a nought. Power and pride cannot last forever – they are not immortal.
3. In this poem, the poet has built the image of King Ozymandias gradually. First, the poet mentions only the huge broken trunkless legs of the statue. We get an idea of the enormity of the size of the statue. He then refers to the broken face which reveals the contemptuous feelings of the king. Then, P B Shelly quotes the lines on the pedestal that completes the image of the powerful, vain and proud King Ozymandias.
4. Ozymandias had his own enormous statue built to 'immortalize' the memory his power and achievements. He wished people to remember him for his power and strength. It is ironical that the same statue lies uncared for and unattended in a desolate desert. The statue is broken apart and the pedestal that conveys the king's arrogant message lies in a state of complete neglect. The king's desire to immortalize himself through his statue remains unfulfilled. Power and pride cannot last forever-they are not immortal.
5. The poem *Ozymandias* illustrates the fact that human power and influence, as exhibited by political powers and kings is only mortal, it is temporary and it fades into nothingness. The poet has elaborated this fact by giving an example of Ozymandias, an Egyptian king. He was vain and proud of his supreme power but now his statue lies shattered among the sands of a deserted desert. Even his statue is shattered and lies in dust. What remains in the minds and hearts of the people is his arrogance, haughtiness and pride. The king's achievements decayed and were lost long ago and the head of the King that used to wear a crown now lay all by itself amidst the sands of the vast desert. Hence, Ozymandias has become a metaphor for the ephemeral nature of power, pride and vanity of man.
6. People harbour ill feelings for those who are cruel and heartless. The feelings are initially suppressed but they finally surface with great vengeance. While Ozymandias, the heartless king

was alive, people succumbed to his authority. They harboured hatred for him, and such feelings were felt by the sculptor who made his statue. The sculptor could sense the king's arrogance and pride which showed clearly on the face of the statue. After the king's death and with time, whether a natural calamity, or man-made one, the statue was broken with great feeling of vengeance. People are often compelled to give in to authority of unscrupulous people, but in time, the score is settled through man himself or through nature.

4. The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

1. a. The mariner is identified as the 'he' in the given lines.
 b. The mariner is the narrator of the 'rime' about the ship, its crew, and the albatross. He wished to share his emotional burden by retelling what he had experienced out at sea.
 c. We can detect a sense of urgency and forlornness in the mariner who had probably grabbed the first listener he could get.
 d. The mariner's hand was skinny. One may infer that he was wasting away at the haunting thoughts of what had transpired in the past.
2. a. The Mariner had a streak of desperation and madness which made his eyes glitter. This made his gaze strong and intense, and almost hypnotic.
 b. The Wedding-Guest, who earlier had been unwilling to listen to the Mariner, was now held spell-bound by the look in his eyes, and so settled down to hear his story.
 c. The poet has used a simile when he compares the Wedding-Guest to a 'three years' child.' It shows that the Wedding -Guest was as interested in listening to a story as a young child would be.
 d. Earlier, the Mariner had stopped the Wedding Guest physically by holding him by his skinny hand, and by the strange look in his eyes.
3. a. The ship at that time was near the South Pole. It was extremely cold with mist and snow, and huge icebergs were floating around.
 b. The sailors were a religious and superstitious lot, and hence believed in the maritime myth of the albatross being a good omen. Seeing one far out at sea was believed to bring good luck to sailors.
 c. The ship had been blown off-course, and sailors were frightened and miserable. The albatross was the first sight of life in the ice, and it gave them hope that God had heard their prayers.
 d. The albatross is a seabird and hence has a diet which consists only of marine life. But this albatross ate food which the sailors fed it and behaved in a friendly manner with them.
4. a. While narrating his tale, the Mariner suddenly got a strange look on his face, and so the Wedding-Guest wondered what had happened to him.
 b. The Wedding-Guest referred to the Mariner as 'ancient' because of his appearance. He was old with a long grey beard and skinny hands, and his face showed that he had experienced a lot in life.
 c. The term 'fiends that plague' shows that the Mariner must have looked tortured and tormented at the thought of something bad, which made the Wedding-Guest believe that there were some devils chasing him.
 d. The Mariner had just finished describing the good luck the albatross had brought to the sailors, and therefore this abrupt, unexpected statement comes as a shock to the reader.
5. a. This poem has been written in the form of a ballad, with the majority of the stanzas being four-line quatrains. This stanza consists of six lines.

- b. The sight of the rising sun after days of being stranded in the icy area of the South Pole, was a 'glorious' sight for the sailors. It seemed as if they were in the shining presence of God.
 - c. It shows the fickleness of the minds of the sailors. Earlier, they had berated the Mariner for killing their lucky mascot, but once things turned fine, they said he was right to kill it as it had brought them their earlier ill-luck.
 - d. The killing of the innocent albatross was an impulsive and wanton action by the Mariner. It had not harmed him but instead brought the lost sailors hope.
6. a. This stanza, through the repetition of 'day after day' reflects a certain tiredness and hopelessness of the sailors on the ship. The use of 'painted' gives an image of inertia.
- b. The ship was stranded near the equator in the terrible heat. It is ironic because they had earlier been stranded in the icy waters of the South Pole.
 - c. Just when a favourable wind had blown the ship towards warmer waters, the wind had completely stopped, and so the sails had dropped. Even the sailors were too tired to move or speak.
 - d. Though the sailors were surrounded by water, they had no water to drink. Besides this, the ocean had begun to rot and stink.
7. a. The hard heat of the sun has dried up and shrunk the boards of the ship.
- b. There was no water to drink since they were surrounded by the saline water of the sea.
 - c. The poetic technique used in these lines is repetition. 'Water, water everywhere' is repeated twice for emphasis.
 - d. The vast sea that surrounds them is referred to as 'everywhere' in the narration.
8. a. i. Dreams about the albatross haunting them relentlessly
ii. The supernatural elements influencing the weather and the movement of the ship
- b. The sailors held the mariner responsible for the problems they were facing since he had killed the albatross.
 - c. The reader is reminded of how guilt manifests in unusual ways and the fears that surface in dreams.
 - d. The sailors were thoroughly disturbed by all that they were exposed to since they were haunted by dreams of the albatross pursuing them in the form of a spirit.
- B. 1. Motionless in the silent sea, at the equator, extremely hot, no water to drink, slimy sea creatures crawling, death fires (sea creatures dance movements), parched throats, choking and close to death.
2. The mariner first held the wedding guest by the hand and looked into his eyes with his hypnotic eyes. The wedding guest protested and the mariner left his hand but continued to hold him with his hypnotic eyes. The wedding guest had no choice but to listen to the mariner.
3. The ship was surrounded by emerald-green-coloured icebergs. The sailors could not see any human being or animal in that region. They were completely surrounded by ice that crackled. The sailors found the fierce, unpleasant sounds very disturbing.
4. The ship was surrounded by sea water, but there was no water for the sailors to drink. The sea water was too salty to drink and the sailors had run out of water stored for drinking. The intense heat further aggravated the dryness.
5. He has compared the withering and drying of the tongues of the sailors to the withering of roots of plants which become lifeless in a drought. The tongues become lifeless and the sailors are unable to speak.

- C. 1. Include: hypnotic eye of mariner storm personified as a powerful creature emerald green icebergs magical numbers of 3 and 9 silent sea stagnant sea, ship death fires spirit of albatross sea compared to witch's oil choked sailors
2. i. fickle-minded: condemn the mariner, praise the mariner and again condemn the mariner for killing the albatross.
- ii. superstitious: believe that the bird caused the weather changes, that it brought the wind, mist, fog and the sun appeared only after its death, also believed that death-fires foretell death
3. After a long time in the ice bound area, an Albatross flew through the fog and the sailors were delighted to see it. The Albatross became their companion. Soon, a good South Wind began to blow and the icebergs split. A path was made for the ship to steer through and the wind helped it to move out of the South Pole. Unfortunately, the ancient mariner thoughtlessly shot the bird with his crossbow. The ship continued to sail out of the South Pole. The sailors condemned the killing. As the ship was moving towards the equator, the sun appeared and the fog began to fade away. The sailors now praised the mariner for having killed the bird.
4. The mariner's thoughtless action of killing the albatross led to immense misery for the sailors. Initially, the fickle minded sailors lauded the mariner's action thinking the albatross had brought them bad luck. When the ship stagnated in the silent sea, the sailors condemned the mariner and his actions. The sin of killing the harmless creation of God brought the entire crew of the ship ill luck. The lack of drinking water and the burning heat of the sun agonized the men. The aquatic creature's appearances around the ship reminded the sailors of death-fires, and with no relief in sight, became torturous for the sailors. Each one knew that the ultimate would be death. The mariner continued to live and this prolonged his suffering and misery. His one thoughtless action led to his own, as well as his companion's misfortune.
5. God's creations on this earth have equal rights to life. When a life is taken, it is avenged. This has been well exemplified in the poem. A mariner along with his shipmates, left the harbour and the ship sailed towards the equator. Suddenly, a fierce storm pushed the ship towards the South Pole. Here, the ship was surrounded by emerald-green icebergs. After a long time, an Albatross flew through the fog. Soon, a good South Wind began to blow and a path was made for the ship to steer out of the ice bound area. Unfortunately, the ancient mariner thoughtlessly shot the bird with his crossbow. The sailors condemned the killing. As the ship was moving towards the equator, the sun appeared and the fog began to fade away. The sailors now praised the mariner for having killed the bird.

What followed was agony for both, the mariner as well as the sailors. The ship became stagnant and motionless. The seawater began to rot and became slimy and aquatic creatures crawled on its surface. The sailors were convinced in their dreams that the spirit of the Albatross was haunting them. Deprived of water, the sailors died, and the mariner continued to live, for his penance was not yet over. The mariner was cursed for life and this has been indicated by the metaphoric phrase quoted by the mariner 'the Albatross about my neck was hung.'

5. Snake

- A. 1. a. The poet has written the poem in free-verse and as a first-person narrative. By using pronouns 'I' and 'my,' he tells his story from his own personal perspective.
- b. The term tells us that it was an extremely hot afternoon, so hot that the poet preferred to wear pajamas to stay cool. He ventured out in the heat only to get himself a refreshing drink of water.

- c. The poet has used both visual and olfactory imagery in this description of the carob tree. It helps the reader visualise the setting of the incident.
 - d. Instead of panicking at seeing a snake, the poet viewed it as just another thirsty creature needing some water. He shows courtesy for his guest by waiting for his own turn, and also by personifying it as "he."
2. a. One can visualise its 'yellow-brown' body slithering on its soft belly and the way it sipped the water from the small pool through the poet's use of language to create a visual image of the snake.
 - b. The 'gloom' is actually the deep shade provided by the great dark carob tree under which the trough of water stood.
 - c. The movements of the snake, such as its slithering or its sipping of water, were all made "silently." The poet, too, all the while, stood with his pitcher quietly waiting and watching the snake.
 - d. The poet displays wonderful observational skills as seen in his detailed description of the snake, and patience as seen in how he waits 'like a second comer.'
3. a. By personifying the snake, the poet shows that to him the snake was also a creation of nature, like him, and hence deserved respect. He sees both of them on equal terms.
 - b. The poet uses repetition of the simile 'as cattle do' to emphasise on the fact that the snake was, like cattle, harmless. Its gestures reminded him of the look cattle had while drinking.
 - c. Thirst was the common factor which had brought both the snake and the poet to come out of their houses to get water from the trough in the garden.
 - d. Besides the regular summer heat of Sicily in the month of July, the smouldering heat of the active volcano Etna, had made the 'bowels of the earth' burn like hell's fires.
4. a. The poet is presumably referring to his religion in which a biblical myth considered the snake to be a vile, evil and dangerous creature, a source of danger to humankind.
 - b. After the slow, languid pace of the previous stanzas, suddenly a tension builds up due to the voices that arise in the poet's head. So far the snake was seen as non-threatening, but now it is seen as something which should be killed.
 - c. The phrase 'If you were a man' sounds as if the voice in his head is taunting him to display his 'manly' courage and kill the evil creature.
 - d. The snake was golden in colour, which identified it as a venomous one. But it was of no danger to the poet, as it was not even aware of his presence.
5. a. The poet has a conversational tone, and what makes it special is the way his observations are interwoven with his thoughts and feelings.
 - b. The poet honoured because he considered the snake as a guest who had come to his water trough to quench his thirst. Such a meeting was not an everyday occurrence and rarely happened between man and snake, and so he considered it special.
 - c. 'And truly I was afraid, I was most afraid,' is an admission which the poet makes for the first time. Fear is the natural instinct a human feels when he encounters a snake.
 - d. On one hand, the poet wondered if he were a coward by not killing the snake, and on the other he felt he wanted to befriend it as he was honoured to have him as a guest.
6. a. The repetition of the word 'slowly' shows how languidly the snake moved, climbed into the hole, and started disappearing into it. It showed that it was calm, almost in a dream-like state.

- b. The poet saw the hole as 'dreadful' and 'horrid' because it led to darkness, deep in the burning bowels of the earth. To him, it seemed that such a fascinating creature was forced to live like that.
 - c. The poet had felt honoured by the experience he had had. It was a rare moment in his life, and the thought of the snake going back to its hidden life seemed unfair to him. .
 - d. The poet believed in the peaceful co-existence of man and other creatures in the world, as everyone had the right to live. Even in a snake, he saw only beauty.
7. a. The action of the poet reflected the confusion and conflict in his mind made by the contrasting voices of his personal emotions and his learned behaviour.
- b. The poet had acted impulsively by throwing a log at the snake, and this is reflected in the line 'And immediately I regretted it.'
 - c. The simile 'writhed like lightning' shows that when the earlier slowly- moving snake experienced a danger to its life, it moved in haste to escape.
 - d. The hole seemed to him to be like the lips of the earth into which the snake had been swallowed. This image is what fascinated him.
8. a. The poet despised himself for trying to kill the snake. He saw it as a mean thing to do against another of nature's creation, especially since it had not been a danger to him.
- b. Snakes had always been seen as evil creatures because of religious texts and mythological stories. But the poet saw only the beauty and grace in 'his' snake, and therefore cursed the 'education' which had made react badly towards him.
 - c. Like the Ancient Mariner, the poet too had behaved impulsively towards a harmless creature, and had not respected the sanctity of its life. It also is apt, because like the mariner, he would carry his guilt of penance for his thoughtless deed.
 - d. The poet had noticed his graceful, noble and dignified movements. He was also aware of the power a snake had, and the awe and fear he was perceived by in both the human and animal kingdom.
- B. 1. He treats the snake with respect and follows the norm of 'first come, first served'.
2. The poet compares the snake with cattle. He looks at the poet as harmlessly and peacefully as cattle would do.
3. It has taught him that all black snakes are harmless while the gold ones are poisonous; Hence, the gold coloured ones should be killed.
4. Society has taught him that if he was a man, he would kill the snake. This feeling urges him to pick up a log and throw it at the snake.
5. No, it does not. He suffers from a sense of guilt for having attacked an innocent creature.
6. The poet feels that the snake, like the albatross is a harmless creature. And, like the mariner had killed the albatross, he had thoughtlessly attacked the snake.
7. He found his own behaviour very petty and he wishes to make amends for that.
- C. 1. The poem begins with the feeling of respect that the poet has for the snake. He patiently waits for his turn. The respectful feelings are overshadowed by the voices of society and education that urge the poet to behave violently towards the snake. He suffers from fear of killing the snake. Then with a sudden feeling of revolt he throws a log at the snake. This act of violence fills him remorse and regret. The poem ends with a strong feeling of regret – the poet wishes to have the snake back so that he could honour it as one of the lords of life.

2. The poet mentions that he was wearing pyjamas to face the heat and he needed water from the trough. He refers to Etna smoking and the month of July. The heat is also emphasized by the fact that the snake continues to drink more water to beat the heat.

The poet has described the snake as soft bellied, yellow-brown in colour. Its movements have been portrayed as slow and smooth. He looks at the poet harmlessly. The snake's movements get hurried and swift only when he is threatened with the log thrown at him by the poet.

3. The moment the poet sees the snake he has feelings of respect for the animal. He also feels honoured that the snake was drinking water from his trough.

It is only when the poet thinks of the education imparted to him and the norms of society that he experiences mixed feelings of admiration for the snake, a desire to kill it and also the fear of killing the animal.

When the poet impulsively throws a log at the trough and watches the snake hurriedly slither into its hole, he is overwhelmed with regret and remorse. He wishes to get the snake back so that he could honour him.

Ultimately, it is his natural instinct, the admiration and respect for the snake that prevails.

4. When the poet first watches the snake, the latter's movements are slow, slack and smooth. The relaxed head rests against the trough and the snake has a drink of water at leisure. The poet has compared the lifting of the head and the vague look in the eyes of the snake with that of cattle. It drinks more water and then moves away slowly and gracefully. The movements make a sudden change and become uneasy and hurried. This happens only when the snake feels threatened by the sudden clatter of the log that had been thrown by the poet.
5. Once on a hot summer day, the poet, in his pyjamas, was walking towards his water-trough to drink some water when he saw a snake moving towards the same trough. The poet instinctively admired the snake and felt honoured to have it drinking water from his trough but he was reminded of his education and society that had taught him to kill what seemed dangerous. Here, the snake which apparently being golden in colour would be a poisonous one. A voice within him challenged him to kill the innocent animal. The poet did not attempt to attack it – perhaps because he felt honoured to have the snake drinking from his trough. After a long drink of water, the snake turned to leave. It gradually slithered towards its hole and as it began slithering into it, the poet seemed to suddenly revolt. He put down his pitcher, picked up a log and threw it at the water-trough. The snake wasn't hurt but the sudden attack made him quicken his movements. With clumsy hurried movements it disappeared into the hole. The poet regretted having made an attempt to harm the snake. The poet cursed himself and his education which taught him to fear the snake and kill it because he was dangerous.

No, the act was not justifiable. The snake had made no attempts to harm the narrator, and the latter's actions were irrational, completely driven by the education imparted against animals.

6. In the poem, the poet describes his encounter with a snake. The snake is harmless and the narrator admires him. The admiration is overpowered by the education that had taught the narrator to kill what seemed dangerous. Here, the snake which being golden in colour, would be a poisonous one. A voice within him challenged him to kill the innocent animal. Initially, the poet controls his emotions, but as the snake is withdrawing into its hole, he strikes the water trough with a stick. It is the snake that is filled with fear and it hurriedly disappears into its hole. The snake's fear of man is evident, yet man is taught to fear snakes.

The poet could have allowed the snake to return to its hole without evoking any fear in the harmless animal. It had not made any attempts to harm the narrator.

1. The Dear Departed

- A. 1. a. Stage-settings create the physical space in which the drama is performed, and introduces certain props which will be used in the course of the play.
- b. The partially-laid table and a kettle on the fire tells the audience that the house was in a state of being getting readied for visitors who would be having tea there.
- c. Mrs Slater exchanges this set of drawers with the bureau of her father's even as he lay dead in the same room, as she did not want her sister to lay claim to it.
- d. It signifies that the Slater's were not very well-off and therefore did not have any valuable possessions. The 'gaudy' slippers also point to the poor taste of the buyer.
2. a. This shows that Mrs Slater was very conventional and concerned about how others perceived them.
- b. According to social norms, one was expected to wear black as a sign of mourning at someone's death. Since it was Mrs Slater who had died, it was important that the family dressed appropriately.
- c. From this we learn that there had been some discord between the sisters and they had not met each other for a long time.
- d. Victoria seems to be a regular young girl, more interested in playing outside in the street than sitting at home in mourning. She seems inquisitive and rather sharp as seen in her remarks about her aunt.
3. a. Mrs Slater was very particular for her family to outshine that of her sister's in their new clothes specially ordered for the mourning period. It reflects her petty mind and the rivalry between the sisters.
- b. She wanted him to do so because he had just come in from the streets, and she did not want the dirt of his boots to mess up the floor. She wanted to impress her sister with her spotless house.
- c. The irony is that Mrs Slater criticises her sister for a character trait which she herself possessed, but was blind to see.
- d. Henry's instinctive and rather sarcastic comment shows that he knew his in-laws well, and was aware of their negative traits.
4. a. Henry was referring to the fact that members of his in-law's family could be 'hard' when they liked, but excluded his wife from the list as he feared a quarrel.
- b. The sight of her dead father's things lying around and realising that he would never use them again, makes Mrs Slater feel sentimental and moves her to tears.
- c. Mrs Slater's practical nature overtakes the brief minute of emotional weakness, when she briskly tells her husband to start using her father's new pair of slippers.
- d. Though Mrs Slater was aware of her husband's needs, she was rather overbearing. She did not care that her father's slippers would be tight for him, and instead forced him to do what she wanted.
5. a. Henry comes across as an honest and fair-minded person, who automatically assumed that his wife would share everything with her sister in the right manner.
- b. The line 'Eh, what it is to have a low money grubbing spirit!' is humorous as Mrs Slater uses it to describe her sister, but ironically it describes her as well.

- c. When Henry suddenly realised where his wife's thoughts were taking her, he was shocked and therefore literally came to his feet. He could not believe she was planning to do something dishonest.
 - d. Mrs Slater's twisted thinking shows her greedy and dishonest nature. It also showed her insensitivity towards her dead father, and total disregard of her husband's sensible advice.
6. a. Victoria was observant enough to notice that her father was not completely dressed for the visit of their relatives. She had also noticed that her grandfather had been drunk that morning.
- b. This shows that Victoria was very sharp and intelligent and could understand a lot about the things happening in the house. She understood what what her parents were plotting.
- c. The grandfather was a man who indulged in buying good things such as his bureau and handsome clock. He seemed to be rather fond of drinking and was drunk even in the morning.
- d. Mrs Slater wanted these things for herself and did not want her sister to raise a claim for them. Her plan was to let her sister believe that they belonged to the house.
- B. 1. Abel Merryweather lay motionless in bed. Amelia found his body quite cold and she simply concluded that he was dead. She called out for Henry who also felt that the Abel had died.
2. Elizabeth had quarrelled with Amelia and had said that she would never set foot in her house ever again.
3. Amelia liked the bureau and since she thought that her father had died, she wished to possess it now. She was sure that when Elizabeth and she divided his things between them, the latter would not let her have it easily. Hence, she wanted to replace the bureau with the chest of drawers before the Jordans reached home.
4. She replaced the bureau with the chest of drawers and she asked Victoria not to open the door till the exchange was completed.
5. The Jordans had to buy their sets of perfect mourning black clothes. Elizabeth wanted to show her sister down in her preparation for the mourning.
6. According to Mrs Jordan, the fact that no doctor attended to Abel after the Slaters felt he was dead, was a mistake—it took away the chances—if any—of saving their father. She felt that if a doctor had been consulted, perhaps their father could have been saved.
7. The family's main concern is to impress their friends and relatives. There is no genuine emotion attached to the words they wish to use for the announcement. They wish to convey that they loved Abel tremendously and his death has been a heavy loss but in reality there are no such feelings for the man.
8. She said that Ben had lost his brother and Ben was compelled to join in the pretence. He said his brother Fred Alb Issac who was five years elder to him had died in Australia.
9. Abel was disappointed with his daughters' attitude towards him. Both of them made it very obvious that he was a burden on them. He told his daughters that whosoever looked after him would be the rightful heir to his property.
10. They showed a sudden change in attitude towards him and each one of them wanted to keep him with her.
- C. 1. Amelia and Elizabeth are very indifferent towards their father. Rather, they both find him to be a burden. Their sole interest lies in his property. They are very evidently worried about the payment of the premium of his insurance. While Amelia didn't bother to get a doctor to examine her father when she declared him dead, Elizabeth chose to have tea before she went up to see him. Making a list of the things to be divided seemed to their topmost priority. Both of them wished to word the

announcement of his death in such a way that it showed that they loved their father tremendously and his death had been a grave loss to them. Their desire to outshine each other in the manner they dressed for the mourning brought out their pettiness. Their pretence of being sad over the death further supports the fact that they both are heartless daughters who had no affection for their father.

2. Amelia and Elizabeth find their own father a burden. Elizabeth kept him for three years and finally asked Amelia to take him over. They both are deeply interested in his property and hope that on his death they would inherit his wealth. On believing he is dead, they imagine they would benefit from his insurance. Elizabeth is already claiming the gold watch for her son Jimmy while Amelia has furtively exchanged the expensive bureau with her old chest of drawers.

Both the women are extremely shocked to know that their father had decided to marry Mrs John Shorrocks who would obviously be his rightful heir. Mrs Shorrocks role is of great significance as the plot takes a new dimension with Abel's decision to marry her.

3. Monday, 21 May 20XX

I am extremely disappointed with my very own daughters' behaviour – how shallow can they get. I never expected Amelia and Elizabeth to be so materialistic and manipulative in life. Amelia did not take a moment to swap my bureau and pinch my clock – she couldn't even wait for my 'funeral'! Elizabeth always found me to be a burden and I am saddened that at this age neither of them wish to take care of me.

Last week, Amelia declared me dead and I saw their true colours. How they changed their attitude towards me when I told them that I would be rewriting my will. Suddenly, they both wanted to take care of me for life.

I am happy that I met Mrs John Shorrocks. What a caring and affectionate person she is I am happy I am married to her and today morning I rewrote my will making her the rightful heir to all my property and belongings. Elizabeth and Amelia deserve to get simply nothing!

I have also paid my premium for the insurance which too would be the right of my wife.

I hope to live happily and peacefully in my new home.

4. Dear Jimmy

I was hoping to meet you when Aunt Elizabeth and Uncle Ben came here. They were supposed to be here for Grandpa's funeral but Grandpa is actually alive! I am also surprised that my parents didn't get a doctor to see if grandfather was actually dead or not.

I was unhappy to see the way our mothers fought over small things like Granddad's furniture pieces. Our parents talked of nothing but his insurance, making lists of things he possessed and how much of a burden he had been to the two families. Your mum didn't even bother to see him right away-having tea and talking about what they would inherit seemed more important to them. Did Grandpa actually promise to give you his gold watch or was Aunt Elizabeth just trying to trick my mother!

You should have seen our parents' faces when they saw grandfather walking down the stairs! I was thrilled to see him alive but I don't think our parents felt the same.

I am happy that Grandpa is alive but I am going to miss him. He's moving out and is getting married to Mrs John Shorrocks, on Monday.

I hope we do not grow up to be like our parents. I do wish to be a considerate and caring child of my parents.

Yours affectionately

Victoria

5. The title *The Dear Departed* conveys a lot of warmth attached to the deceased but ironically that is not the case with the 'death' of Abel Merryweather. Neither did he 'depart' nor was he 'dear' to his daughters. The title is an ironical one.

From the very time the Slaters think that Abel Merryweather had died, their uppermost thoughts lie in the content and extent of inheritance. The two daughters exhibit immense pettiness by showing each other down even in the way they dress for the mourning. There is no grief whatsoever and rather they do not hesitate to remind each other what a burden their father had been to them. They do wish to advertise their warm feelings for him through the announcement in the papers but it is a farce – only the impression of their love matters to them.

Their sole interest lies in his property. They are very evidently worried about the payment of the premium of his insurance. While Amelia didn't bother to get a doctor to examine her father when she declared him dead, Elizabeth chose to have tea before she went up to see him.

Making a list of the things to be divided seemed to their topmost priority. Their pretence of being sad over the death supports the fact that both of them are heartless daughters who had no affection for their father.

6. The fact that materialism has taken priority over the warmth of relationships has been well brought out in the play, *The Dear Departed*. From the time the Slaters think that Abel Merryweather had died, their uppermost thoughts lie in the content and extent of inheritance. The two daughters exhibit immense pettiness by showing each other down even in the way they dress for the mourning. There is no grief whatsoever and rather they do not hesitate to remind each other what a burden their father had been to them. They wish to advertise their warm feelings for him through the announcement in the papers but it is a farce – only the impression of their love matters to them.

Their sole interest lies in his property. They are very evidently worried about the payment of the premium of his insurance. While Amelia didn't bother to get a doctor to take examine her father when she declared him dead, Elizabeth chose to have tea before she went up to see him. Making a list of the things to be divided seemed to their topmost priority. Their pretence of being sad over the death supports the fact that they both are heartless daughters who had no affection for their father, the relationship had no value- all that mattered was the inheritance of the wealth owned by the father.

7. Elizabeth and Amelia offer to keep their father, and rather they argue over whom Abel should stay with. Each one wishes to keep him obviously for his money, and this is very evident to Abel. He reveals his plans of getting married to Mrs Shorrocks, and not living with either of his daughters.

His actions are completely justifiable. The daughters who had no feelings for the father, and loved only his money, were not worthy of his affection or inheriting his wealth. On the other hand, Mrs Shorrocks runs her own restaurant and is very fond of Abel. She would be happy to take care of Abel and it is she who is worthy of his affection, as well as his inheritance.

2. Julius Caesar

1.
 - a. It shows that Calpurnia was a practical woman, who did not believe in dreams or omens, until that night. She also comes across as a devoted wife, worried about her husband's welfare.
 - b. The imagery is of scenes of the horrors of war and events which go against the order of nature, such as dead men coming alive, ghosts shrieking on the streets, and a wild lioness giving birth on the street.
 - c. Calpurnia was frightened by what she saw in her dreams and the unnatural events recanted by others. She felt they were signs of danger and foretold of harm to her husband.
 - d. The audience knows that Calpurnia was right in her fear about Caesar's death. If Caesar had taken her warnings seriously, he would have lived, but he did not listen to her.
2.
 - a. The servant had been sent by Caesar to the priests to present a sacrifice and bring back their report about its success. He had done this because Calpurnia had dreamed about his death.
 - b. When the augurers examined the entrails of the sacrificed animal, they found something unnatural. They could not find a heart within the beast.' This was the reason why they understood it was a warning from the gods.
 - c. Caesar was a celebrated general and conqueror, and so he compared himself to the bravest of animals– the lion, to whom he felt far more superior in strength and courage. Therefore, he felt he could not show any weakness.
 - d. According to Caesar, the sacrificed animal did not have a heart because it was the way of the gods to mock Caesar for showing fear of venturing out of the house. The absence of a heart showed that Caesar was a coward.
3.
 - a. Calpurnia's dream in which she saw her husband's statue sprout blood in which many smiling Romans bathed their hands in, foreshadowed Caesar's death in the senate at the hands of those who were the closest to him.
 - b. Decius was very quick-witted as he very intelligently turned the entire meaning of Calpurnia's dream to suit the purpose of the conspirators. He knew Caesar's weak side well and appealed to his vanity by praising him.
 - c. While Calpurnia appealed to her husband for sentimental reasons, Decius' argument appealed to Caesar's ego and pride. He interpreted her terrible prophecies as being lucky and fortunate, signifying Caesar's mighty power.
 - d. This line is ironic because later, when Antony speaks to the citizens, he uses almost the same words spoken here by Decius, one of the conspirators, to incite the crowd to take revenge for Caesar's death.
4.
 - a. Cimber was one of the conspirators, and his role was to set the stage for the attack on Caesar by presenting a petition to him. This gave the others to crowd around him too while supporting Cimber.
 - b. Cimber's brother had been banished from Rome by the Senate, and Cimber's fake petition was to request Caesar to repeal the law so that his brother could return.
 - c. As the leader of the Senate, Caesar shows integrity in not repealing a law in order to get Cimber's brother back from exile. He shows determination, and respect for the laws of Rome, and does not let Cimber's flattery change his mind.
 - d. Caesar seems to have no patience with Cimber begging him for a favour, and treats him with scorn. He even threatens him that if he continued with that behaviour, he would push him out of his way like he would chase away a dog.

5.
 - a. When Brutus, a respected member of the Roman Senate, too joined Cimber in appealing for Caesar to pardon Cimber's brother, Caesar must have been astonished. Therefore, this astonishment must have been reflected in his tone.
 - b. Crowding around Caesar and joining Cimber's appeals to him, was a ploy of the conspirators to divert his attention and get physically close to him. This would have facilitated them in attacking him.
 - c. When Caesar makes this statement, he wants the others to understand that he would not be moved from his commitment to justice or be swayed by the pleadings of those who want him to do something unlawful.
 - d. The northern star is unique in its fixedness, because it is the only star that never changes its position in the sky, and therefore is used as a guide by travellers. In the same way, Caesar implies that he too is superior to others.
 6.
 - a. The conspirators wanted to justify their act to the people of Rome who had adored Caesar. By calling him a tyrant and showing themselves as liberators, they could impress upon the people the rightness of their action.
 - b. The tone that Antony must have used while referring to the murderers of Caesar as "gentlemen" must have been ironic and mocking. Killing their leader in cold blood was no 'gentlemanly' thing to do.
 - c. Antony was filled with grief and shock at seeing such a mighty and powerful man like Caesar lying dead on the lowly ground. He could not understand why the 'gentlemen' around him had wanted Caesar dead.
 - d. Antony pleads for Brutus and the others to kill him too at that moment, if that was their plan. He tells them that he would be honoured to die by the same swords which still had Caesar's noble blood on it.
 7.
 - a. The speaker is Mark Antony.
 - b. The contents of the will revealed Caesar's generosity towards the people of Rome and his concern about their living conditions and recreation.
 - c. Antony's real intention was to sway the crowd by tempting them, but more importantly, appeal to their simple emotions. He wanted the tide to turn against the conspirators.
 - d. The crowd reacted to the contents of the will just as Antony had predicted — they began focusing less on what Brutus has said about Caesar's death being a necessary evil, and started reflecting upon Caesar's kindness and generosity. Eventually, the crowd worked up a vindictive rage against the cabal of conspirators.
 8.
 - a. Blood streamed out of Caesar at the Capitol, where he was brutally assassinated.
 - b. When he says 'all of us fell down' Antony indicates that with the death of Caesar, all Romans experienced a loss, and their strength diminished in his absence.
 - c. The use of 'flourished' here can either refer to the growth of treason, or raising of the banner of treason along with the fanfare of horns or trumpets.
 - d. The commoners of Rome are being addressed in these lines.
- B.
1. lioness whelped, graves opened, fierce warriors upon clouds, blood drizzled on capitol, ghosts shrieking, dying men groaning and horses neighing.
 2. He said that cowards die many deaths in fear of death while the brave die only once when death actually comes to them.

3. Antony said that there would be no better hour nor better weapon to be killed with. He was ready to be killed by the very men who had killed Caesar and lie dead beside him.
 4. Antony wanted to know the reason why Caesar had been assassinated. He wanted permission to carry Caesar's body to the market place and speak at the ceremony for the funeral.
 5. men would become disabled, blood, destruction, death would prevail everywhere in Rome. Mothers would lose sanity, smile on seeing infants killed and no pity would be left. Caesar's spirit with Ate would take revenge and dead bodies would moan for burial.
- C. 1. Caesar's statue ♦ a hundred spouts blood spurting like a fountain ♦ lusty Romans bathing hands interpreted as a bad omen – Caesar's death
2. Stressed that Caesar refused the crown, thrice shared sorrows of the poor, Caesar was sensitive to their grief, money attained by ransom for prisoners was put into coffers of Rome
 3. Include gullible: believe whatever is told to them fickle minded: easily swayed by Brutus and then Antony materialistic: carried away by the will violent: break into violence emotional: stirred by Antony's frequent reference to Caesar's love for them and his brutal assassination
 4. Interpreted good omen Romans would draw inspiration from Caesar Rome would benefit from his leadership Caesar's reaction Caesar is flattered ashamed he had listened to Calpurnia leaves for the Senate House Decius is successful in luring Caesar to the Senate House
 5. Claims that he loved Caesar but loved Rome more than him Caesar had become a tyrant, would have enslaved the Romans Caesar had become ambitious, dangerous for Rome pity for Rome had driven away all pity for Caesar, now Romans would be free and Rome would prosper
 6. The fact that pride and overconfidence can largely influence one's doom has been well brought out in the play, Julius Caesar. Caesar is repeatedly warned by his wife, Calpurnia to refrain from going out. The evil omens through her dream, and what she had heard in the palace, indicated his doom. At a point when Caesar is willing to relent to her wishes, he is flattered and convinced by Decius that the omen is a good one. Consumed by his confidence, pride and fearlessness. Caesar is lured with temptation of crown. He proceeds to the Senate House. Here, Metellus Cimber pleads for Publius Cimber's liberty and his freedom to return to Rome. Brutus pleads for the same and so does Cassius. The proud Caesar compares himself to the Northern Star and this leads to his assassination.

Had Caesar paid heed to Calpurnia's warnings, and had he not got carried away by the words of Decius, he would not have been assassinated. Furthermore, had he relented to the pleadings of the men outside the Senate House, his assassination would have been averted.

7. When people lose their sense of judgement and power of reasoning, they behave like a herd of uncontrollable animals. And, this situation is most exploited by people with evil designs. In the play, the mob loses its sense of judgement. It is fickle minded and easily swayed by Brutus and then Antony. The men are carried away by the will violent and on the slightest provocation, they break into violence. The emotions run high, and destruction, murder and chaos is evident. It is Antony who would benefit from this outbreak of violence. He had devious plans for revenge and personal gains. He would be empowered by the thoughtless, irrational actions of the mob.