



BCM School, Basant Avenue, Dugri Road , Ludhiana
English-Language & Literature (184)
Class X | 2024–25

Time allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum marks: 80

General Instructions:

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

Section A: READING SKILLS (20 marks)

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

1.	Read the following text.	10m
(1)	The invention of the safety bicycle in the late nineteenth century transformed the world of cycling. While early versions of bicycles had been used in Europe since the seventeenth century, it was the safety bicycle with its lightweight hollow steel frame and equal-sized wheels that revolutionised the cycling experience.	
(2)	This resulted in enhanced mobility for both men and women, allowing them to explore the countryside freely and travel between towns. Bicycles symbolised freedom, particularly for women, granting them self-reliable transportation and the ability to participate in recreational activities, like bicycle racing. The rise of bicycles also brought a shift in fashion, with more functional and relaxed clothing tailored specifically for cycling.	
(3)	Bicyclists also became a political force. They played a significant role in the development of road maps, guiding riders along the best routes. They campaigned for better infrastructure to enhance their riding experiences.	
(4)	Today, advances in technology, <i>wearables</i> * and complex data analysis have transformed sports science, particularly in endurance sports, like cycling. Cyclists can now gather vast amounts of data simply by using mobile apps to track their activities. This data not only encompasses exercise details, like its volume or intensity, but also external factors like the impact of weather on the physiological response of the athlete. Furthermore, technology has made it very easy to monitor performance-influencing data outside of	



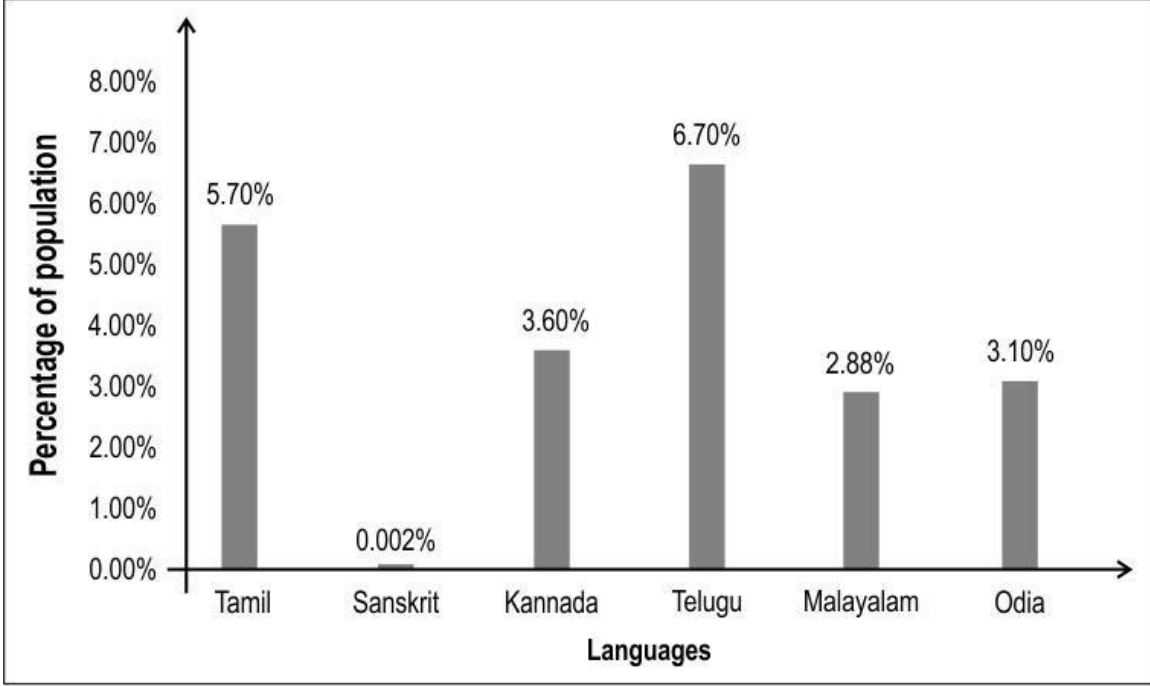
	training, such as heart rate or sleep quality, through various wearables and cost-effective mobile apps.	
(5)	However, just because we are able to monitor so much information does not mean that it is useful for improving the sports performance of our athletes. In this sense, we believe that we must be critical while adopting any new technologies or trends in training. The first thing we should know is whether there is scientific support for the use of that new gadget or wearable. For example, core temperature is of great importance in the mechanisms that produce fatigue and exhaustion in endurance sports. A few years ago, a device came on the market that estimated this measurement in a non-invasive way and we saw many top cyclists and runners wearing it. However, a study later showed it is an invalid device for measuring one's temperature.	
(6)	Innovation in cycling has evolved from the invention of safety bicycles to technological advancements in sports science. Maximizing the potential benefits of these developments requires critical thinking to enhance the training and performance of modern cyclists.	
	<p>Glossary: <i>*wearables</i> - technological devices worn on the body for data collection</p> <p>Sources (edited): <i>JSC Journal</i> - 'https://www.jsc-journal.com/index.php/JSC/article/view/795/732,' <i>MNOPEDIA</i> - 'https://www.mnopedia.org/event/bicycling-craze-1890s, (404 words)</p>	
Answer the following questions based on the passage above.		
i	<p>What is the passage mainly about?</p> <p>A. How did the advancement of sports science impact the fashion industry?</p> <p>B. What were the primary societal changes brought about by the rise of bicycles?</p> <p>C. How did the invention of the safety bicycle contribute to the development of wearable technology?</p> <p>D. In what ways did early versions of bicycles differ from the safety bicycle in the late nineteenth century?</p>	1



ii	<p>In which sentence does the author express uncertainty about the use of new technologies in training?</p> <p>A. "...advances in technology have transformed sports science." (paragraph 4)</p> <p>B. "This data not only encompasses exercise details but also external factors like weather." (paragraph 4)</p> <p>C. "...just because we can monitor so much information does not mean it is useful." (paragraph 5)</p>	1
	<p>D. "Maximizing the potential benefits of these developments requires critical thinking." (paragraph 6)</p>	
iii	<p>Complete the sentence appropriately by providing two distinct reasons in the blank below.</p> <p>It can be said the world of cycling has seen massive changes because _____.</p>	1
iv	<p>Which of these is opposite to 'invalid' as used in paragraph 5?</p> <p>A. ethical</p> <p>B. accurate</p> <p>C. authentic</p> <p>D. trustworthy</p>	1
v	<p>Using information solely from the passage, provide two distinct reasons to complete the sentence appropriately.</p> <p>Bicycles can be seen as a symbol of empowerment because _____.</p>	1
vi	<p>Imagine you are a sports scientist tasked with developing a new technological tool to aid cyclists in their training. Provide a brief description, within 40 words, of its specific features and why you chose to include them.</p>	2
vii	<p>Select the option that shows the correct relationship between (1) and (2).</p> <p>(1) Cyclists were able to improve the accuracy of maps.</p> <p>(2) Cyclists became influential and campaigned for better infrastructure.</p> <p>A. (2) is a contradiction of (1)</p> <p>B. (2) is independent of (1)</p> <p>C. (2) is an example of (1)</p> <p>D. (2) is the cause of (1)</p>	1



viii	Below are statements from cyclists. Identify two statements that could be said by a cyclist in the late nineteenth century. 1. "I like having a personal coach on my wrist. It just told me how many calories I have burned so far!" 2. "It's quite a struggle riding up these steep hills on my heavy steelframed bicycle." 3. "I feel so liberated whenever I hop on my bicycle. I didn't have freedom like this before!" 4. "Ugh, there is so much traffic ahead. And I feel so pressured to meet my performance targets every time I hop on a bike."	1
2.	Read the following text.	10m
(1)	India is a country of many languages. The constitution recognises 22 languages officially, but over 121 unique languages have been identified in the country.	
(2)	To preserve and encourage the literary function of language, the government introduced 'classical languages' in 2004. According to the Ministry of Culture, a classical language is one that is at least 1,500 years old and has ancient, valuable literature recorded in it. Further, such a language is original and not derived from another language. Based on	
	these guidelines, six languages have been classified as classical languages: Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam and Odia.	

<p>(3)</p>	<p>The following graph shows the percentage of Indian people whose mother tongue is a classical language. This is as per data collected by the <i>census</i> of 2011. The census was not conducted in 2021 due to the pandemic.</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Language</th> <th>Percentage of population</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Tamil</td> <td>5.70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sanskrit</td> <td>0.002%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kannada</td> <td>3.60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Telugu</td> <td>6.70%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Malayalam</td> <td>2.88%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Odia</td> <td>3.10%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Language	Percentage of population	Tamil	5.70%	Sanskrit	0.002%	Kannada	3.60%	Telugu	6.70%	Malayalam	2.88%	Odia	3.10%
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<p>(4)</p>	<p>According to the graph, around 6.7% of the Indian population are native speakers of Telugu, whereas Sanskrit has been identified as a mother tongue by only 0.002% of the population, which is around 24,821 people. Malayalam has the second lowest number of native speakers, making up about 2.9% of Indians.</p>														
<p>(5)</p>	<p>The 2011 census data also noted that a majority of the native speakers reside in the area that their mother tongue originated from. For example, 93% of Kannada speakers live in Karnataka. Similarly, 93% of Malayalam speakers live in Kerala.</p>														
<p>(6)</p>	<p>Balancing preservation of culture and inclusivity is a delicate equation for a heterogeneous country like India. With growing awareness, concepts like 'classical languages' may help us achieve harmony.</p>														
	<p>Glossary: <i>census</i> - a survey that is conducted every ten years to collect information about the population of the country</p> <p>Source (Edited):</p>														



	<p>'Explainer: What are classical languages of India?' -https://factly.in/explainer-whatare-classical-languages-of-india/</p> <p>(258 words)</p>	
Answer the following questions, based on the passage above		
i	<p>Which of these pieces of information can be confirmed by reading the passage?</p> <p>(I) the number of people in India who speak Tamil (II) where the majority of native Sanskrit speakers live (III) the reason Malayalam is considered a classical language (IV) when the idea of classical languages was introduced in India</p> <p>A. Only (I) B. Only (IV) C. Only (I) and (II) D. Only (III) and (IV)</p>	1
ii	<p>Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets.</p> <p>Based on the passage, the _____ (functional/historical) value of a language is of utmost importance while (preserving/categorising) it as a classical language.</p>	1
iii	<p>Imagine that a committee was formed to ensure that classical languages have more native speakers by the time the next census is conducted. In 40 words, answer the following questions to help the committee achieve its objective.</p> <p>(1) Which classical language needs its attention most urgently and why? (2) Which classical language would be THIRD on its priority?</p>	2
iv	<p>State an example from the passage that shows that India is a '<i>heterogeneous country</i>'. Answer in one sentence.</p>	1
v	<p>Why has the writer stated the following line in the passage? Give a reason.</p> <p><i>The census was not conducted in 2021 due to the pandemic.</i></p>	1
vi	<p>Complete the sentence based on information from the passage.</p> <p>If Tamil originated from Tamil Nadu, we can infer that _____ of the native Tamil speakers would be living in Tamil Nadu.</p>	1



vii	Which of these hypothetical situations would help India achieve harmony? Justify your answer in about 40 words. (a) if the majority of Indians who speak a classical language are settled abroad (b) if more languages from remote and tribal areas of India are identified as classical languages	1
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	(c) if the percentage of Indians who are native Telugu speakers increases to more than 10 percent	
viii	Which of these sentences uses ' <u>delicate</u> ' in the same way as paragraph (6) does? A. She looked beautiful in the dress with the <u>delicate</u> floral pattern. B. He was frequently admitted to the hospital due to his <u>delicate</u> health. C. This discussion will require careful consideration as it is a <u>delicate</u> matter. D. Please handle these <u>delicate</u> items carefully during transportation as they break easily.	1

SECTION B: WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 marks)

GRAMMAR		
3	Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed.	1 x 10
i	Two friends, Aarav and Ananya, are discussing their upcoming trip. How would Aarav report Ananya's dialogue? Aarav: "I have already booked the hotel for our trip tomorrow." Ananya: "Are you sure? Don't forget to confirm the reservation." Ananya asked me _____	1
ii	Fill in the blanks with the correct option. The coach shouted, "_____ the ball!" Later, he _____ onto the ball in order to dictate the game's pace. A. Pass; commanded them to hold B. Passed; command them to held C. Passes; commands them to hold D. Passing; commanded them to held	1



iii	Read the given dialogue carefully. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence. Sanya exclaims, "Look! My keys are in the refrigerator. I will have absentmindedly put them here while putting away the groceries."	1
iv	Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket. In the depths of the enchanted forest, where time _____ (stand) still and mythical creatures roamed freely, a young adventurer embarked on a quest.	1
v	Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence below.	1

	Shazia stared at the mountain range before her. From a distance, _____ (this/that/these/those) towering peaks seemed to touch the sky, creating a breathtaking sight.																
vi	Report Sana's instructions to Manisha. Sana said, "First, you heat the sugar and water in a saucepan." Manisha: Sana said that _____ and water in a saucepan. A. we first heat the sugar B. Manisha, heat the sugar C. first, you heat the sugar D. I should first heat the sugar	1															
vii	Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the given line, from a survey. <i>Everyone are expected to submit their feedback to our customer service representative at the event.</i> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Option no.</th> <th>Error</th> <th>Correction</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A.</td> <td>are</td> <td>is</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B.</td> <td>their</td> <td>your</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C.</td> <td>feedback</td> <td>feedbacks</td> </tr> <tr> <td>D.</td> <td>the</td> <td>a</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Option no.	Error	Correction	A.	are	is	B.	their	your	C.	feedback	feedbacks	D.	the	a	1
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viii	Fill in the blank with the correct option. When one gazes at the sky, the glimmer of stars _____ the vastness above. A. fill B. fills C. to fill D. is filling	1
ix	Identify the error and supply the correction for the following statement. The national team could adhere to a strict code of conduct, refraining from cheating and unethical behaviour, or else they will be disqualified.	1
x	Fill in the blank with the correct option. Dad: "Ramya, I heard your school made some changes recently. What is going on?" Ramya: "Yes, dad. The school administration _____ a revised attendance policy to ensure academic success."	1

	A. will implement B. is implementing C. has implemented D. was implementing	
xi	Complete Nelson Mandela's quote by filling in the blank with the correct option. "The greatest glory in living _____ not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall." - Nelson Mandela A. lie B. lies C. lays D. laying	1
xii	Identify the error and supply the correction for the given historical fact. Chess is believed to have originated in ancient India during the Gupta Empire, around the 6th century, evolving intricately from a captivated game known as "Chaturanga".	1
WRITING		10



Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purposes.

4. A	<p>You are Nehal Kumar, Head of the Computer Club in Sunshine School, Noida. Digital literacy refers to someone's ability to use digital technology to find, evaluate, create and communicate information. You believe that digital literacy and navigating the digital world responsibly is crucial in today's technology-dependent age.</p> <p>Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, stressing the need for promoting digital literacy among individuals of all age groups. Discuss the benefits and challenges of digital technology, and propose initiatives to empower people with digital skills.</p>	5
OR		
4.B	<p>You are Ishaq Shah, of Starlight Apartments, Trivandrum. You recently read an article that stated that an average Indian wastes approximately fifty kilograms of food per year.</p> <p>Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, expressing your concerns about the alarming amount of food waste in the country. Share practical ideas and suggestions for reducing food waste at home and encourage readers to distribute surplus food to those in need.</p>	5
5. A	Read an excerpt from an article below:	5



Speeding towards the Unknown

Self-driving cars are designed for travel without a human operator. Instead of a driver, the car will use a combination of sensors, cameras, radar, and artificial intelligence to travel between destinations. They are going to revolutionise the transport industry by enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of vehicles. However, this change is happening too rapidly, and self-driving cars pose more problems than solutions. There are several concerns with regard to the safety of such vehicles, as well as their potential impact on employment.

Write a paragraph in about 120 words analysing the argument surrounding self-driving cars. You can think about what alternative explanations might weaken the given conclusion and include rationale/evidence that would strengthen/counter the given argument.

You may begin like this:

I believe self-driving cars offer more solutions than problems/I believe self-driving cars offer more problems than solutions.

You may end like this:

For these reasons, I believe that self-driving cars are more helpful than problematic/I believe that self-driving cars are more problematic than helpful.

OR



5.B	<p>Students at Rainbow School are divided into two houses — Blue or Red. The data in the table below shows the performance of these houses in different categories (out of a total score of 100).</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th></th><th>Blue House</th><th>Red House</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Academics</td><td>91</td><td>79</td></tr><tr><td>Sports</td><td>75</td><td>90</td></tr><tr><td>Arts</td><td>82</td><td>85</td></tr><tr><td>Others</td><td>- organised a successful interschool sports tournament - organised a donation campaign to encourage school students to donate toys to the local orphanage</td><td>- organised a successful school-wide recycling campaign - organised a successful interschool cultural festival</td></tr></tbody></table> <p>The school's Principal has decided that Blue House should win the Best House Trophy at the end of the year. As school captain, the Principal has asked for your input on this decision.</p>		Blue House	Red House	Academics	91	79	Sports	75	90	Arts	82	85	Others	- organised a successful interschool sports tournament - organised a donation campaign to encourage school students to donate toys to the local orphanage	- organised a successful school-wide recycling campaign - organised a successful interschool cultural festival	5
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	<p>Analyse this data to either <u>support</u> or <u>oppose</u> the Principal's decision. Write this analytical paragraph in about 120 words with supporting details to justify your opinion.</p> <p>You may begin like this: A thorough analysis of the data provided indicates that Blue House should win the Best House Trophy/Red House should win the Best House Trophy.</p> <p>You may end like this: Therefore, the Best House Trophy must go to Blue House/Red House.</p>	
SECTION D: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)		
6.	Read the two given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two.	5



A.	<p>Writing in a diary is a really strange experience for someone like me. Not only because I've never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl. Oh well, it doesn't matter. I feel like writing, and I have an even greater need to get all kinds of things off my chest. 'Paper has more patience than people.' I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out. I finally stayed where I was, brooding: Yes, paper does have more patience, and since I'm not planning to let anyone else read this stiff-backed notebook grandly referred to as a 'diary', unless I should ever find a real friend, it probably won't make a bit of difference.</p> <p><i>(From the Diary of Anne Frank)</i></p>	
i	In her description of her notebook, why does Anne use quotes around the word 'diary'?	1
ii	Based on the extract, describe why writing is an effective way to express emotions. Answer in 40 words.	2
iii	<p>Provide a line/phrase from the extract that justifies why the following statement is FALSE.</p> <p>Anne was able to confide in a lot of people.</p>	1
iv	<p>Mention one word that can correctly replace 'musings' in the below sentence from the extract.</p> <p><i>...neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the <u>musings</u> of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl.</i></p>	1
OR		
B.	Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read. Following him down the musty corridor of the gloomy French hotel where Ausable had a room, Fowler felt let down. It was a small room, on the sixth	

	<p>and top floor, and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure. Ausable was, for one thing, fat. Very fat. And then there was his accent. Though he spoke French and German passably, he had never altogether lost the American accent he had brought to Paris from Boston twenty years ago. "You are disappointed," Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder. "You were told that I was a secret agent, a spy, dealing in espionage and danger. You wished to meet me because you are a writer, young and romantic. You envisioned mysterious figures in the night, the crack of pistols, drugs in the wine."</p> <p><i>(The Midnight Visitor)</i></p>	
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i	Which of these describes how Fowler felt at the beginning of the extract? A. His heart sank. B. He was shaken up. C. His stomach was in knots. D. He was at the end of his rope.	1
ii	State one observation about Ausable based on the way he handled Fowler's disappointment with him.	1
iii	How did the atmosphere of the French hotel influence Fowler's mood? Answer in 40 words.	2
iv	Which of these means the same as 'romantic' in the line below? <i>It was a small room, on the sixth and top floor, and scarcely a setting for a <u>romantic</u> adventure.</i> A. great B. exciting C. idealistic D. passionate	1
7.	Read the two given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two.	
A.	He should be snarling around houses At the jungle's edge, Baring his white fangs, his claws, Terrorising the village! But he's locked in a concrete cell, His strength behind bars, Stalking the length of his cage, Ignoring visitors. <i>(A Tiger in the Zoo)</i>	
i	Fill in the blank with one word.	1

	<i>The speaker describes the tiger as 'stalking' up and down his cage to show how _____ the tiger felt.</i>	
ii	What could be a reason the speaker mentions the behaviour of the tiger at the jungle's 'edge' and not at its centre? Answer in about 40 words.	2



iii	Which of these explains the meaning of the phrase 'His strength behind bars'?	1
	<p>A. The tiger's strength is in its ability to break free from the cage it is in.</p> <p>B. The tiger's strength is shown when he pushes against the bars of the cage.</p> <p>C. The tiger's strength is in his resilience and ability to adapt to a new environment.</p> <p>D. The tiger's strength is confined within the bars of the cage and this makes him less threatening.</p>	
iv	Why does the tiger ignore the visitors? Answer in one sentence.	1
OR		
B	<p>Merrily over — there it is in the water! No use to say 'O there are other balls': An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy As he stands rigid, trembling, staring down All his young days into the harbour where His ball went. I would not intrude on him; A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now He senses first responsibility In a world of possessions. People will take Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy. And no one buys a ball back. Money is external.</p> <p><i>(The Ball Poem)</i></p>	
i	Complete the conversation with what the boy would most likely say. Answer in one sentence.	1
	<p>John: Oh don't worry, there are plenty of other balls to play with. Boy: _____</p>	
ii	Which line first indicates that the ball is a metaphor for something else?	1
	<p>A. <i>Merrily over — there it is in the water!</i> B. <i>An ultimate shaking grief fixes the boy</i> C. <i>All his young days into the harbour where</i> D. <i>I would not intrude on him;</i></p>	
iii	Which literary device does the speaker use to describe the boy's sorrow? Why does the speaker use this device? Answer in one sentence.	1
iv	Based on the extract, what makes a possession valuable? Answer in about 40 words.	2
8	Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions in about 40–50 words.	4 x 3=12
i	How does the repeated use of the name 'Amanda' influence the overall tone of the poem? (<i>Amanda!</i>)	3



ii	How did the Buddha respond to Kisa Gotami's request? What can be inferred about his method of teaching from the same? (<i>The Sermon at Benares</i>)	3
iii	What effect does the short structure of the poem <i>Fog</i> have on its meaning?	3
iv	State two ways in which the oppressor and the oppressed are similar, according to Mandela. (<i>Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom</i>)	3
v	Explain how hunger is nature's strongest motivator in the story <i>His First Flight</i> .	3
9	Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40–50 words.	2x3=6
i	A satire is when a person, idea, or institution is criticised by highlighting their faults and weaknesses using humour. Describe how <i>The Book That Saved the Earth</i> can be considered a satire with supporting examples from the text.	3
ii	How does <i>The Necklace</i> teach a moral lesson on the importance of contentment?	3
iii	How important is curiosity to scientific exploration and discovery? Justify your answer with examples from the text <i>The Making of a Scientist</i>	3
10	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 100–120 words.	1x6=6
(A)	You have been asked to give a speech on the topic 'The journey is more important than the destination'. Prepare a draft for the speech, in not more than 120 words, with reference to the texts <i>Madam Rides the Bus</i> and <i>The Black Aeroplane</i> . You may begin this way: Good morning, everyone. Today, I would like to talk to you about how the journeys that we experience in life are often more important than their destinations. You may end this way: To conclude, I would like to say that... Thank you.	6
OR		
(B)	Imagine Robert Frost from <i>A Dust of Snow</i> met with Lencho from <i>A Letter to God</i> and discussed the various ways nature can influence a person's mood. Create this conversation in not more than 120 words. You may begin this way: Lencho: As a farmer, my livelihood depends on nature and sometimes nature can be cruel.	6
11.	Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100–120 words.	1x6=6
(A)	Did Griffin from <i>Footprints without Feet</i> follow the saying 'with great power comes great responsibility'? Justify your answer in 120 words.	6
(B)	Imagine that Mrs Pumphrey from <i>A Triumph of Surgery</i> , reflects upon her behaviour, learns from her mistakes, and writes a diary entry about the consequences of overindulgence. Write this diary entry as Mrs Pumphrey in about 120 words.	6

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