CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2025

ENGLISH

(Solved)

Time allowed : 3 hours | Maximum Marks : 80

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions carefully and follow them :

i. This question paper contains **34 questions.** All questions are **compulsory.**
ii. This question paper is divided into **8 sections.**
iii. **Section A** – questions number **1 to 4** are case based questions
iv. **Section B** – questions number **5 to 6** are unseen passage
v. **Section C** – questions number **7 to 14** are grammar short
vi. **Section D** – questions number **15 to 18** are grammar mcqs
vii. **Section E** – questions number **19 to 26** are short answer
viii. **Section F** – questions number **27 to 28** are letter
ix. **Section G** – questions number **29 to 30** are paragraph
x. **Section H** – questions number **31 to 34** are long answer
xi. There is no overall choice given in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in few questions.
xii. Use of calculator is NOT allowed.

Section A

Question 1.

Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he

stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons, 'A plague of locusts would have left more than this. The hail has left nothing. This year we will have no corn.'

That night was a sorrowful one.

'All our work, for nothing.' '

There's no one who can help us.'

'We'll all go hungry this year.' (A Letter to God)

(1)

Why were there no leaves left on the trees ?

(A) The locusts ate them up.

(B) An earthquake had occurred.

(C) There was a hailstorm.

(D) The animals grazed on them.

[1 Marks]

Answer: There were no leaves left on the trees because a hailstorm had passed through the area, completely destroying the plants and leaves.

Key Points: The passage mentions that a hailstorm caused destruction - Lencho said 'The hail has left nothing.'- The trees lost all their leaves due to the hailstorm- The destruction was so severe that not even a plague of locusts would have caused as much damage

(2)

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. Lencho felt _____(jubilant/devastated) when he saw his destroyed corn fields.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Lencho felt devastated when he saw his destroyed corn fields.

Key Points: Lencho's corn fields were totally destroyed-Lencho's soul was filled with sadness-No leaf remained on the trees-All the flowers on the plants were

gone-The statement 'This year we will have no corn' shows his sadness and hopelessness

(3)

When Lencho says, "All our work, for nothing," what does he refer to ? Explain in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Lencho says "All our work, for nothing," to express his sadness that the hailstorm has destroyed his crops completely. Despite all the hard work he and his family put in, their efforts have been wasted as there will be no harvest this year.

Key Points: Lencho refers to destroyed crops-Lencho's sadness and disappointment-All efforts wasted due to hailstorm-No crop yield this year

(4)

Why would Lencho have preferred a plague of locusts to a hailstorm ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Lencho would have preferred a plague of locusts to a hailstorm because locusts would have left some part of the crops intact, whereas the hailstorm completely destroyed everything. After the hailstorm, not a leaf remained on the trees, the corn was totally destroyed, and the flowers were gone from the plants, leaving nothing for Lencho and his family. Hence, he felt that a plague of locusts would have done less damage than the hail.

Key Points: Hailstorm destroyed everything-Lencho saw nothing remained on the trees or crops-Locusts would have left some crops intact-Hail was more harmful-Lencho's sadness and fear of no harvest

Question 2.

Later, he patted me on the head and said never mind, he'd teach me to cook. He also taught me to write my name and said he would soon teach me to write whole sentences

and to add numbers. I was grateful. I knew that once I could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what I could achieve.

It was quite pleasant working for Anil. I made the tea in the morning and then would take my time buying the day's supplies, usually making a profit of about a rupee a day. I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind. (The Thief's Story)

(1)

What does the following line tell us about the character of Anil?

"I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind."

[1 Marks]

Answer: This line shows that Anil was a kind and understanding person. He was generous and trusted the narrator. Even though he knew the narrator made a little profit by buying supplies, he did not object or get angry. This reflects Anil's forgiving and caring nature.

Key Points: Anil is kind and understanding-Anil is generous and trusting-He does not mind small mistakes or profit made by the narrator-Anil's character is forgiving and caring

(2)

Which of the following best describes the realization Hari Singh had while working for Anil ?

(A) that he would become a rich person one day

(B) that Anil was a very intelligent master but a miser

(C) that he would be able to accomplish a lot if he gets educated

(D) that Anil made a lot of money from his job

[1 Marks]

Answer: Hari Singh realized that if he got educated, he would be able to accomplish a lot in life. He believed that education would open many opportunities for him, and there would be no limit to what he could achieve.

Key Points: Hari Singh's gratefulness to learn writing - education is key to accomplishments - belief in limitless potential after getting educated

(3)

What did Anil promise to teach Hari Singh, and how did Hari Singh feel about the opportunity to learn ? Answer in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Anil promised to teach Hari Singh to write whole sentences and to add numbers. Hari Singh felt grateful for this opportunity because he believed that learning to write like an educated man would open endless possibilities for his future.

Key Points: Anil's promise to teach writing and arithmetic-Hari Singh's gratitude-Hari Singh's hope for limitless achievements through education

(4)

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. The narrator earned extra money by making a/an _____(profit/investment) of about a rupee a day.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The narrator earned extra money by making a profit of about a rupee a day.

Key Points: The narrator made some extra money while buying supplies.-The term 'profit' means the extra money earned after expenses.-The correct word in the blank is 'profit' not 'investment'.

Question 3.

"I heard an old religious man

But yesternight declare

That he had found a text to prove That only God, my dear,

Could love you for yourself alone

And not your yellow hair." (For Anne Gregory)

(1)

Complete the sentence appropriately : 1 The speaker addresses the person he is speaking to as "my dear" because _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The speaker addresses the person he is speaking to as "my dear" because he wants to express affection and emphasize the sincerity of the old religious man's declaration that only God could love her for her true self and not for her physical appearance like her yellow hair.

Key Points: Speaker shows affection by using 'my dear'-Emphasizes the importance of true love beyond physical beauty-Reflects the religious man's belief-Highlights the genuine nature of love

(2)

The poet mentions "yellow hair". What is its significance in the context of the statement ? Answer in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

Answer: In the poem, "yellow hair" symbolizes physical beauty or appearance. The poet emphasizes that true love should be for a person's inner self and not just for their outward looks, like yellow hair, which can be superficial and temporary.

Key Points: Yellow hair symbolizes physical appearance- True love should be for inner qualities- Contrast between outer beauty and inner self- Love for oneself alone, not based on looks

(3)

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. 1 The poet suggests that God's love in comparison to that of a human being is _____(selfish/selfless).

[1 Marks]

Answer: The poet suggests that God's love is selfless because God loves a person for themselves alone and not for their external appearance, such as yellow hair.

> Key Points: God's love is unconditional-God loves for the person alone, not for physical attributes-The poet contrasts God's love with human love-God's love is selfless

(4)

As per the above extract, what attributes does God not love a person for ? Select the correct option.

1. Wealth

2. Physical appearance

3. Intelligence

4. Inner qualities

5. Youth

(A) I and 4

(B) 3,4,and 5

(C) 2 and 4

D) Only 4

[1 Marks]

Answer: According to the extract, God does not love a person for their physical appearance, such as yellow hair. Instead, God loves a person for who they truly are inside. Therefore, the correct options are about physical appearance.

> Key Points: God's love is unconditional-God loves a person for themselves alone-God does not love based on physical attributes like yellow hair-Physical appearance is not a factor in God's love

Question 4.

He stalks in his vivid stripes

The few steps of his cage,

On pads of velvet quiet,

In his quiet rage.

He should be lurking in shadow,

Sliding through long grass (A Tiger in the Zoo)

(1)

Identify and name any one figure of speech in the above extract.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The rhyme scheme of the first four lines is ABAB as 'stripes' (A), 'cage' (B), 'quiet' (A), and 'rage' (B) rhyme alternately.

Key Points: Identify the end words of the four lines - stripes, cage, quiet, rage - Determine the rhyming pattern - 'stripes' and 'quiet' form the A rhyme; 'cage' and 'rage' form the B rhyme - The pattern is alternate rhyming (ABAB)

(2)

Fill in the blank with one word.

The tiger's stalking on 'pads of velvet' suggests a movement that is

_____

[1 Marks]

Answer: The figure of speech used in the extract is a metaphor. The line "On pads of velvet quiet" compares the tiger's paws to soft velvet, highlighting the silent and smooth movement of the tiger without using 'like' or 'as'.

Key Points: Figure of speech-metaphor-Explanation of metaphor using 'pads of velvet quiet'-Emphasizes the softness and quietness of the tiger's movement

(3)

Based on the given lines from the poem, which words would best describe the feelings of the tiger? (A) Calm and content

(B) Both subdued and angry

(C) Both frustrated and happy

(D) Both angry and famished

[1 Marks]

Answer: The words that best describe the feelings of the tiger in the given lines are (B) Both subdued and angry. The tiger is confined in a small cage and moves quietly but with an underlying anger, showing that it is both calm on the outside and angry within.

Key Points: The tiger is confined to a small space (few steps of his cage)-Moves silently on velvet pads indicating subdued movement-'In his quiet rage' shows anger hidden beneath calmness-The tiger is out of place, as it 'should be lurking in shadow' in the wild

(4)

Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the first four lines of the given extract.

(A) The people along the sand

All turn and look one way

They turn their back on the land

They look at the sea all day

(B) Along the sand, the people

All turn and look one way

They turn back on the sand

They look at the sea all day

(C) The people along the sand

Look one way and all turn

Their backs on the land

They look at the sea all day

(D) The people along the sand

They turn their back on the land

They look one way

At the sea all day.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The tiger's stalking on 'pads of velvet' suggests a movement that is silent.

> Key Points: The phrase 'pads of velvet' indicates softness and quietness - Tigers move silently on their soft paws - Silent movement helps the tiger stalk its prey without being noticed

Section B

Question 5.

Read the following passage carefully :

(1) Saffron is a spice that's long been revered across the globe, captivating hearts and palates with its deep-red hue and complex flavour. It is one of the most prized spices that you can find on this planet. Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices. Also known as 'kesar' in Hindi, it has a rich history and is often called an ancient spice. Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the royals and the elite as it contains medicinal properties.

(2) Originating from the delicate stigma of the saffron crocus flower, it transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary, infusing dishes with a subtle, earthy sweetness that adds a special taste to the palate. Saffron has a strong exotic aroma and a unique flavour and is used to colour and flavour many Mediterranean and Asian dishes, particularly rice, fish and English, Scandinavian, and Balkan breads.

(3) Saffron forms the backbone of several iconic dishes from around the world, such as the Spanish rice, seafood dish Paella, the French stew Bouillabaisse, Italian rice dish Risotto Milanese, the Indian ice cream Kesar Kulfi, Pakistani rice dish Biryani, and baked Iranian rice Tachin. Saffron's rich red colour is attributed to crocin; its bitter taste, to picrocrocin; and its distinctive aroma, to safranal.

(4) Saffron is cultivated chiefly in Iran but is also grown in Spain, France, Italy, and parts of India. A labour-intensive crop, the three stigmas are handpicked from each flower, spread on trays, and dried over charcoal fires for use as a food flavouring and colouring agent.

(5)Most historians speculate it was first domesticated in Iran, but south-western Greek islands remain strong contenders. Traders, conquerors, and world explorers introduced it to China, India and the Middle East. From there, it travelled to Mediterranean Europe.

(6)The high retail value of saffron is maintained in world markets because of labour-intensive harvesting methods, which require some 444,000 hand-picked saffron stigmas per kilogram — equivalently, 150,000 crocus flowers per kilogram. Forty hours of labour are needed to pick 150,000 flowers. Almost all saffron grows in a belt from Spain in the west to India in the east. Iran is responsible for around 88% of global production. Afghanistan comes second, and Spain is the third largest producer, while the United Arab Emirates, Greece, the Indian subcontinent and Morocco are among minor producers.

(7)Given its high price, adulteration is quite common, unfortunately. Adulterants like beetroot or pomegranate are used to enhance red colour; silk fibres, oil, or wax are used to add bulk, and powdered saffron can be adulterated with turmeric and paprika.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(1) What is the tone of the writer in the given lines ? Rationalise your response in about 40 words. "Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the royals and the elite as it contains medicinal properties." Paragraph (1)

[1 Marks]

Answer: The tone of the writer in the given lines is respectful and admiring. The writer appreciates saffron's historical significance and its valued status among royals due to its medicinal properties, highlighting its importance and prestige over time.

Key Points: Tone is respectful and admiring-Highlights saffron's ancient usage-Honours its value to royals and elites-Refers to medicinal properties-Emphasizes saffron's prestige and importance

(2)

Which of the following statements best describes the comparison made in the sentence ?

"Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices."

(A) Gold and saffron have similar physical properties.

(B) Gold and saffron have equal monetary value.

(C) Saffron is considered the most valuable spice, similar to how gold is valued among metals.

(D) Gold and saffron are both rare commodities in the global market

Paragraph (1)

[1 Marks]

Answer: Option (C) is correct. The sentence compares saffron to gold by saying that just as gold is the most valued metal, saffron is similarly considered the most valuable spice. This comparison highlights saffron's high value and prestige among spices, similar to gold's position among metals.

Key Points: Comparison highlights value-Saffron as most valuable spice-Gold as most valuable metal-Not about physical properties-Not about equal monetary value-Emphasis on importance and prestige

(3)

List any two points why saffron is revered across the globe.

Paragraphs (2) and (3)

[2 Marks]

Answer: Saffron is revered across the globe because it has a strong exotic aroma and a unique flavour that enhances the taste of dishes. Additionally, it is used to colour and flavour many dishes, especially rice, fish, and bread in various regions, making ordinary food extraordinary.

Key Points: Strong exotic aroma-Unique flavour-Used to colour and flavour many dishes-Enhances the taste and appearance of food

(4)

Fill in the blank from the given options :

In the phrase 'backbone of several iconic dishes', the word 'iconic' refers to_ .

(A) delicately cooked

(B) widely recognized

(C) peculiar and rare

(D) strange and infamous

Paragraph (3)

[1 Marks]

Answer: The word 'iconic' in the phrase 'backbone of several iconic dishes' refers to (B) widely recognized.

Key Points: Meaning of 'iconic' as widely known or recognized- Usage of the word in the passage describing dishes that are well-known- Option (B) 'widely recognized' correctly matches the meaning of 'iconic' in this context

(5)

State whether the following statement is True or False :

According to historians, saffron was first used in the kitchens in Iran.

Paragraph (5)

[1 Marks]

Answer: False. Most historians speculate that saffron was first domesticated in Iran, but there is no definite evidence that it was first used in kitchens there. Other regions like the south-western Greek islands are also considered strong contenders.

Key Points: Historians speculate saffron's origin-Most likely domesticated in Iran-Other possible origin: south-western Greek islands-Introduction by traders and explorers-Saffron spread to China, India, Middle East, and Mediterranean Europe

(6)

Which of the following statements best describes the reason for saffron's high retail value ?

(A) Due to its magical or mystical properties.

(B) Because it can only be grown in specific regions.

(C) Due to its labour-intensive cultivation process and its relatively low yield per plant.

(D) Because traders, conquerors, and world explorers hoard it.

Paragraph (6)

[1 Marks]

Answer: The high retail value of saffron is mainly due to its labour-intensive cultivation process which requires handpicking a very large number of stigmas from crocus flowers, and the relatively low yield per plant.

Key Points: Labour-intensive harvesting process- Requires handpicking 444,000 stigmas per kilogram- Needs 40 hours of labour for picking 150,000 flowers- Low yield per plant leads to high cost

(7)

Support the writer's view with evidence from the text that saffron is often adulterated.

Paragraph (7)

[1 Marks]

Answer: The writer states that saffron is often adulterated with substances like beetroot or pomegranate to enhance the red colour. Additionally, silk fibres, oil, or wax are added to increase the bulk, and powdered saffron may be mixed with turmeric and paprika.

Key Points: Adulteration is common in saffron - beetroot and pomegranate used to enhance red colour - silk fibres, oil, wax added to increase bulk - powdered saffron mixed with turmeric and paprika

(8)

Complete the sentence appropriately :

Saffron has a labour-intensive cultivation process which involves

_____Paragraph(4)

[2 Marks]

Answer: Saffron's labour-intensive cultivation process involves handpicking the three stigmas from each saffron crocus flower, spreading them on trays, and drying them over charcoal fires to be used as a food flavouring and colouring agent.

> Key Points: labour-intensive cultivation - handpicking three stigmas per flower - spreading stigmas on trays - drying over charcoal fires - used as flavouring and colouring agent

Question 6.

Read the following passage carefully :

(1) Silk is a natural protein fibre, some forms of which can be woven into textiles. Silk has a long history in India. It is known as Resham in eastern and northern India, and Pattu in the southern parts of India. India is the second largest producer of silk in the world after China.

(2)Silk is renowned for its luxurious qualities with a natural soft and smooth texture that feels comfortable on the skin. One of its unique qualities is to absorb and release moisture, regulating the body temperature, and keeping the wearer cool and dry.

(3)Silk is one of the strongest natural fibres, but it loses up to 20% of its strength when wet. Its elasticity is moderate to poor: if elongated even a small amount, it remains stretched. It can be weakened if exposed to too much sunlight. It may also be attacked by insects, especially if left dirty.

(4)The process of silk production is known as sericulture. Silk is produced by several insects; but, generally, only the silk of moth caterpillars has been used for textile manufacturing. To produce 1 kg of silk, 104 kg of mulberry leaves must be eaten by 3000 silkworms.

(5)So what makes silk so costly ? Firstly, cultivation of silk is a labour-intensive work. Secondly, the silk fabric is carefully derived from the larva of the silkworms which spin silk threads around themselves to make cocoons from natural sources. This makes the production limited due to factors like — climate, availability of quality mulberry leaves and time required by silkworms to complete their lifecycle. Thirdly, the intensive work can only be carried out with specialized knowledge and expertise by skilled artisans and

craftsmanship. Lastly, superior quality silk fabrics are made from long and uniform silk fibres giving them a smooth and lustrous appearance. Thus, production requires careful selection, adding to the cost.

In 2021, Karnataka was the highest producer of raw silk at 8483 metric tonnes followed by Andhra Pradesh at 5520 metric tonnes with Assam close behind at 5038 metric tonnes. At the other end of the spectrum there was Chhattisgarh (248 metric tonnes), Nagaland (230 metric tonnes) and UP trailed behind at 179 metric tonnes.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(1) What does the phrase 'luxurious qualities' in paragraph (2) tell you about the silk fabric ? Write in 40 words with evidence from the text.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The phrase 'luxurious qualities' means that silk is soft, smooth, and comfortable to wear. It also has the unique ability to absorb and release moisture, regulating body temperature, thus keeping the wearer cool and dry, making it very pleasant.

> Key Points: Silk is soft and smooth-Silk feels comfortable on skin-Silk absorbs and releases moisture-Silk regulates body temperature-Keeps wearer cool and dry

(2)

Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below.

Assertion : Silk production requires careful selection.

Reason : Long and uniform silk fibres give silk a glossy appearance.

(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

(B) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.

(C) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.

(D) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Option (A) is correct. Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason correctly explains the assertion. Silk production requires careful selection because superior quality silk fabrics are made from long and uniform silk fibres, which give the silk a smooth and lustrous (glossy) appearance.

Key Points: Silk production involves careful selection-Careful selection ensures superior quality silk-Long and uniform silk fibres contribute to silk's glossy appearance-Glossy appearance is a unique characteristic of good quality silk

(3)

Based on the given text, mention the states which produced the most and the least amount of raw silk in India in the year 2021.

[1 Marks]

Answer: In 2021, Karnataka produced the most raw silk in India with 8483 metric tonnes, while Uttar Pradesh produced the least, with 179 metric tonnes.

Key Points: Karnataka highest producer of raw silk in 2021 - 8483 metric tonnes - Uttar Pradesh lowest producer of raw silk - 179 metric tonnes

(4)

Complete the sentence suitably.

104 kgs of mulberry leaves eaten by 3000 silkworms results in_____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: 104 kgs of mulberry leaves eaten by 3000 silkworms results in 1 kg of silk.

Key Points: 104 kg of mulberry leaves-3000 silkworms-1 kg silk production-sericulture process

(5)

"Factors like climate, availability of quality mulberry leaves and time required by silkworms to complete their lifecycle are important factors for the production of silk."

State any one inference that can be drawn from this.

[1 Marks]

Answer: One inference that can be drawn is that the production of silk is highly dependent on natural and environmental conditions, which makes it limited and costly.

Key Points: Production depends on favorable climate-Quality mulberry leaves are essential for silkworm growth-Time needed for silkworm lifecycle limits production-These factors cause production to be limited and increase silk cost

(6)

Complete the following with a suitable reason from the text : Though silk is considered one of the strongest fibres, it is_____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Though silk is considered one of the strongest fibres, it is weakened when wet and can lose up to 20% of its strength.

Key Points: Silk is one of the strongest natural fibres-Silk loses up to 20% of its strength when wet-Silk can be weakened if exposed to too much sunlight

(7)

With reference to the given passage, give one reason why silk production is considered labour-intensive.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Silk production is considered labour-intensive because it involves careful work of skilled artisans who extract silk threads from silkworm cocoons, requiring specialised knowledge and expertise.

Key Points: silk production requires skilled artisans-silk threads are carefully derived from silkworm cocoons-production involves special knowledge and

expertise-labour intensive work

(8)

According to the passage, mention the top two countries that produce silk.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The top two countries that produce silk are China and India, with China being the largest producer and India the second largest.

Key Points: China is the largest producer of silk-India is the second largest producer of silk

(9)

Justify the following statement :

Silk whispers luxury! Its price reflects not just its rarity but the value of the meticulous process behind its creation.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Silk is considered luxurious due to its natural softness, smooth texture, and ability to regulate body temperature. The production of silk, known as sericulture, is a labor-intensive and time-consuming process requiring silkworms to eat massive quantities of mulberry leaves to produce a small amount of silk. Skilled artisans carefully extract the silk threads from the silkworm cocoons, and maintaining superior quality requires expertise and careful selection of long and uniform fibers. These factors, along with the limited production caused by climate and resource availability, make silk rare and costly. Therefore, the price of silk reflects not only its rarity but also the painstaking, delicate process behind its creation.

Key Points: Silk's luxurious qualities - soft, smooth texture and comfort -Labor-intensive sericulture process- Requirement of large quantity of mulberry leaves and silkworms- Skilled artisanship and expertise needed- Limited production due to environmental factors- Careful selection of fibers for superior quality- Price reflects both rarity and meticulous production process

Section C

Question 7.

Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets, for the given portion of a letter.

'Thank you for _____ (consider) my application. I look forward to working in your organization.'

[1 Marks]

Answer: Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to working in your organization.

Question 8.

Read the given sentence. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence:

Ninety-seven percent of the Earth's water is salty ocean water and another two percent is trapping in the Earth's ice caps and glaciers.

[1 Marks]

Error	Correction

Answer: The given sentence contains an error in the usage of the word 'trapping.' The correct word should be 'trapped,' which is the past participle form, as it refers to water that is held or stored. The corrected sentence is: Ninety-seven percent of the Earth's water is salty ocean water and another two percent is trapped in the Earth's ice caps and glaciers.

Question 9.

Yukti and Sanjay had a conversation about going to a restaurant.

Report Yukti's question: 'Does this restaurant serve good South Indian food?'

[1 Marks]

Answer: Yukti asked whether the restaurant served good South Indian food. She wanted to know if the quality and taste of the South Indian dishes offered at the restaurant were good. This reported question conveys Yukti's original inquiry in indirect speech, suitable for polite and formal communication.

Question 10.

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the sentence taken from a book about 'Birds'.

Each year, thousands of birds _____- (migrate/immigrate/emigrate) southwards to avoid the harsh winter, embarking on an incredible journey that spans thousands of miles.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct word to fill in the blank is 'migrate'. Each year, thousands of birds migrate southwards to avoid the harsh winter. Migration refers to the seasonal movement of animals from one region to another to find better living conditions, food, or climate. It is different from 'immigrate', which means to come into a new country or region to live permanently, and 'emigrate', which means to leave one's country or region to live elsewhere. Birds migrating southwards undertake an incredible journey covering thousands of miles to escape the cold and find suitable habitats.

Question 11.

Identify and correct the error in the given line taken from an agency's advertisement.

Tell us much about your project and we'll select suitable candidates for you to hire.

Use the given format for your response.

[1 Marks]

Error	Correction

Answer: The error in the sentence is the use of "much" instead of "more". The word "much" is usually used with uncountable nouns and does not fit in this context. The correct sentence should be: "Tell us more about your project and we'll select suitable candidates for you to hire." This correction makes the sentence grammatically correct and clearer in meaning.

Question 12.

Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line taken from an article about growing obesity:

'Obesity in teenage children is a major concern between parents today.

[1 Marks]

Option No.	*Error*	*Correction*
(A)	teenage	teenagers
(B)	concern	concerns
(C)	between	among
(D)	today	now

Answer: The error in the sentence lies in the use of the preposition 'between'. The word 'between' is used to refer to something involving two entities, but here it incorrectly connects 'parents' in a collective sense. The correct preposition should be 'for' to express that obesity is a concern regarding or affecting parents. Therefore, the corrected sentence is: 'Obesity in teenage children is a major concern for parents today.'

Question 13.

Report the dialogue between two friends by completing the sentence:

Bhawna: I finished the project yesterday.

Sohail: That's great! Are you going to present it tomorrow?

Bhawna told Sohail that _____. Sohail responded that it was great and asked if she were going to present it the next day.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Bhawna told Sohail that she had finished the project the day before. Sohail responded that it was great and asked if she was going to present it the next day.

Question 14.

Identify the error and supply the correction for the following note in an air purifier's instruction manual: The plug should fit upto the outlet. If it doesn't fit, do not force it in.

Use the given format for your response.

[1 Marks]

Error	Correction

Answer: The error in the note is the incorrect use of the word 'upto'. The correct word is 'up to', which is a phrase made of two words. Therefore, the sentence should be written as: 'The plug should fit up to the outlet. If it doesn't fit, do not force it in.' Using 'upto' as a single

word is incorrect in standard English. 'Up to' means 'as far as' or 'until reaching'. Hence, it is important to write it as two words in this context.

Section D

Question 15.

Read the dialogue between Amit and his sister Ananya, regarding her travel to the railway station. Amit : Are you sure you can manage to go to the railway station on your own ? Ananya : Oh yes! I have already booked a cab. Select the correct option to report the above dialogue. Amit asked Ananya _____ to go to the railway station on her own. Ananya replied in the affirmative and said that she had already booked a cab.

[1 Marks]

(A) if she was sure she could manage

(B) if she was sure to managing

(C) if she is sure she can manage

(D) if she surely can manage

Explanation:

In reported speech for yes/no questions, 'are you sure you can manage' changes to 'if she was sure she could manage'. The present tense 'are' changes to past tense 'was', and 'can manage' changes to 'could manage' to reflect the past narration. Therefore, the correct option is 'if she was sure she could manage'.

Question 16.

Complete the given narrative with the correct option to fill in the blank: Yesterday, Tanu walked to the park and _____ a breezy evening.

[1 Marks]

(A) enjoyed

(B) will enjoy

(C) did enjoyed

(D) to enjoying

Explanation:

The sentence refers to a completed action in the past, as indicated by the word 'Yesterday.' Therefore, the past simple tense of the verb 'enjoy' is appropriate, which is 'enjoyed.' The other options are grammatically incorrect in this context: 'did enjoyed' is incorrect because 'did' should be followed by the base form of the verb; 'to enjoying' is a wrong form; 'will enjoy' refers to the future tense, which does not fit with 'Yesterday.'

Question 17.

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the notice on a school notice board: We are pleased to announce that our Annual Sports Day _____ on 30th April, 2025 at the school playground from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

[1 Marks]

(A) had been held

(B) to be held

(C) is held

(D) will be held

Explanation:

Since the notice is announcing a future event scheduled for 30th April, 2025, the correct verb tense to use is the simple future tense 'will be held'. The other options either refer to past events ('had been held'), or use incorrect or less suitable tenses for this formal announcement.

Question 18.

Complete the slogan on 'Save Earth', by filling in the blank with the correct option. Lets join hands, cultivate conservation, and _____ a greener tomorrow for generations to come.

[1 Marks]

(A) ensured

(B) ensuring

(C) ensures

(D) ensure

Explanation:

The sentence structure uses 'Lets join hands, cultivate conservation, and _____ a greener tomorrow', which requires the base form of the verb 'ensure' to maintain parallelism with the other verbs 'join' and 'cultivate'. Hence, 'ensure' is the correct choice. Other options like 'ensured' (past tense), 'ensures' (third person singular), or 'ensuring' (present participle) do not fit grammatically in this context.

Section E

Question 19.

Mandela in his speech says, “The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in my country and my people.” Explain the significance of the word “wound” as used by Mandela. (Nelson Mandela — Long Walk to Freedom)

[3 Marks]

Answer: In his speech, Mandela refers to apartheid as a "deep and lasting wound" to describe the severe harm and suffering caused to South Africa and its people. The word "wound" symbolizes the painful and enduring damage apartheid inflicted on the social fabric, equality, and human dignity of the country. Apartheid institutionalized racial discrimination, segregation, and oppression, creating a divide that hurt generations. Mandela highlights that this wound will take many years, if not generations, to heal, indicating the profound and lasting impact of apartheid on the nation’s psyche and development.

Question 20.

‘Dust of Snow’, by Robert Frost is a poem about nature and simplicity. Elaborate.

[3 Marks]

Answer: In the poem 'Dust of Snow' by Robert Frost, nature is portrayed in a simple yet profound way, highlighting its ability to influence human emotions positively. The poem describes a moment when a light dusting of snow falls from a hemlock tree onto the poet, thereby changing his mood from gloom to happiness. This small, natural incident shows how nature's simplicity can uplift spirits and bring joy amidst everyday struggles. Frost uses this incident to suggest that even minor moments in nature can have a significant impact on people's outlook on life, reflecting his usual style of addressing ordinary experiences with insightful meaning.

Question 21.

Explain the reasons for Rajvir’s excitement on seeing the plantation and Pranjol’s lack of enthusiasm. (Glimpses of India — Tea from Assam)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Rajvir was very excited on seeing the tea plantation because it was a new and beautiful sight for him. The vast greenery and the neatly arranged tea bushes fascinated him as he had never seen such a large plantation before. Additionally, Rajvir had read about tea and its history, so he was eager to experience it firsthand. On the other hand, Pranjol was not enthusiastic because he was born and brought up in Assam, surrounded by tea gardens throughout his life. For him, the plantations were ordinary and common sights, so they did not create any special excitement.

Question 22.

Analyze how Wells employs humour, rhyme, and exaggerated traits to not only entertain, but also educate readers about various wild animals. Explain.

(How to Tell Wild Animals)

[3 Marks]

Answer: In Carolyn Wells' poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals,' humour, rhyme, and exaggerated characteristics are cleverly used to both entertain and educate readers about wild animals. The poem humorously suggests unsafe and exaggerated ways to identify different animals, which makes it funny and engaging for readers. The use of rhyme creates a strong, rhythmic flow that makes the poem memorable and enjoyable to read aloud. The exaggerated traits — such as describing an animal's behavior or appearance in an over-the-top manner — help to highlight distinctive features of each animal, making it easier for readers to remember them. This playful approach captures the imagination and interest of students while subtly teaching them about animal behaviors and traits. Thus, Wells combines entertainment with educational content, making learning about wild animals fun and effective.

Question 23.

Mijbil's transportation to England was no less than a nightmare for the author. Justify the statement using incidents from the lesson. (Mijbil the Otter)

[3 Marks]

Answer: The author's journey to transport Mijbil, the otter, to England was indeed a nightmare. To begin with, Mij was put in a box, and the author had to hold down the lid with his hand to keep Mij inside. During the car ride through the streets of Basra, the driver drove recklessly, making the journey very uncomfortable and distressing. Mij's constant struggles to get out of the box made the situation even more difficult. The author feared for Mij's safety and well-being throughout the trip. The whole transportation was a stressful and challenging experience, reflecting the author's dread and difficulties in bringing Mij safely to England.

Question 24.

Analyze how Herriot uses Tricki and Mrs. Pumphrey's relationship to comment on societal attitudes towards pets and the responsibilities associated with their care. (A Triumph of Surgery)

[3 Marks]

Answer: In 'A Triumph of Surgery,' Herriot uses the relationship between Tricki, the pampered dog, and Mrs. Pumphrey, his indulgent owner, to highlight societal attitudes towards pet care. Mrs. Pumphrey's excessive pampering and overfeeding of Tricki reflect a common tendency among some pet owners to confuse love with indulgence, which can lead to health problems for pets. Tricki falls ill because of this overindulgence, showing a neglect of the true responsibility of pet ownership: ensuring a pet's health and well-being rather than mere luxury. Herriot, as the vet, emphasizes the importance of discipline, proper care, and wholesome treatment over mere affection. His caring yet firm approach to treating Tricki contrasts with Mrs. Pumphrey's complacency and highlights the need for responsible pet care. By showing how Tricki improves once he is on a proper diet and routine, Herriot comments on the societal need to rethink how we care for pets and stresses that love must be accompanied by responsibility.

Question 25.

Today reading books is on the decline because of the prevalence of electronic media. Contrarily, earth is saved by a 'Book' in the chapter "The Book That Saved the Earth". Elaborate.

[3 Marks]

Answer: In the chapter "The Book That Saved the Earth," the book plays an extraordinary role in protecting the Earth from a Martian invasion in the year 2040. Although reading books is decreasing due to electronic media, this story highlights how books hold valuable knowledge and power. Unlike electronic media, books are reliable, carefully reviewed, and offer deep insights that can influence and guide humanity. The book saved the Earth by providing crucial information that helped stop the Martians, showing that books are more than just sources of entertainment. This story emphasizes that despite the rise of electronic devices, the significance of books as carriers of knowledge and wisdom remains unmatched and essential for the survival and progress of humankind.

Question 26.

Discuss the character development of Griffin, as he grapples with the repercussions of his actions and attempts to navigate a world, where his once extraordinary abilities have become a burden. (Footprints without Feet)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Griffin, the protagonist in 'Footprints without Feet,' undergoes significant character development as he struggles with the consequences of his scientific experiments that made him invisible. Initially, his newfound ability gives him a sense of power and advantage over others. However, as his condition isolates him and leads to lawlessness, he realizes that invisibility is more of a curse than a blessing. Griffin becomes desperate and frustrated, unable to connect with the world around him. People try to capture him, but he remains elusive, symbolizing his alienation. His invisibility, once an extraordinary gift, becomes a burden that forces him to live as an outcast. Ultimately, Griffin's journey reflects the dangers of unchecked ambition and the loneliness that can come from abusing one's powers.

Section F

Question 27.

You are Soumya Hansal/Sumit Hansal living at F-32, Shanti Nagar, Vayugarh. Seeing the inadequate healthcare infrastructure in your town, write a letter to the MLA of your area, in about 120 words, suggesting the need for improving existing healthcare facilities and creating more "Wellness Centres" including a specialized hospital for children and women.

[5 Marks]

Answer:

F-32, Shanti Nagar,
Vayugarh
Date: 10 June 2024

To,
The MLA,
Vayugarh Constituency.

Subject: Request for Improvement of Healthcare Facilities in Vayugarh

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am Soumya Hansal, a resident of Shanti Nagar, Vayugarh. I am writing to draw your attention towards the inadequate healthcare facilities in our town. The existing healthcare centers often lack essential medical equipment and adequate staff, causing difficulties for patients especially women and children.

I humbly request you to take measures to improve the current healthcare infrastructure by upgrading facilities and ensuring proper medical staff availability. Additionally, establishing more Wellness Centres will promote preventive healthcare. It is also

imperative to create a specialized hospital for children and women to address their specific health needs effectively.

Improved healthcare facilities will not only benefit the residents but also enhance the overall health and well-being of the community.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,
Soumya Hansal

Question 28.

You are Risha Khan / Zuhaan Khan, the sports captain of Highrise Public School, New Line, Rai Nagar. You believe that games and sports are an integral part of a student's life. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, sharing your views on the importance of physical education and suggesting the need to establish a dedicated sports university, so that students can pursue and focus on their favourite sport.

[5 Marks]

Answer:

From
Risha Khan / Zuhaan Khan,
Sports Captain,
Highrise Public School,
New Line, Rai Nagar.

Date: 24 June 2024

To,
The Editor,
A National Daily,

Subject: Need for a Dedicated Sports University

Sir/Madam,

Games and sports are essential for students, contributing significantly to their physical and mental development. Physical education not only promotes health and fitness but also teaches important life skills like teamwork, discipline, and leadership. Unfortunately, sports often take a backseat due to academic pressures.

I strongly believe that establishing a dedicated sports university will provide students with a focused platform to pursue their favorite sports professionally. This university can

nurture talent, promote sports culture, and create future athletes who can represent our country globally.

Therefore, I request the authorities to consider this proposal to build a better sporting future for students.

Yours sincerely,
Risha Khan / Zuhaan Khan

Section G

Question 29.

In the past few years, the teaching-learning process has taken a leap and gone beyond the four walls of the classroom. Today, it has become possible to learn not just by sitting in a physical classroom, but from anywhere. Given below is a chart depicting the differences between E-learning and Classroom learning. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, assessing the benefits and drawbacks of both, by selecting features that support your analysis.

[5 Marks]

E-learning	vs.	Classroom learning
• accessible anytime anywhere • at your own pace • no travel costs, saves time		• same place, same time • caters to the needs of the class • transportation cost and time consuming

Answer: E-learning and classroom learning each have their unique benefits and drawbacks. E-learning offers flexibility, allowing students to learn from anywhere using computers and virtual classrooms. It uses modern technology, like video lessons and interactive games, which make learning interesting and adaptable to individual pace. It also connects students from different locations, enabling real-time discussions. However, e-learning may lack the personal touch and immediate support of physical classrooms. Classroom learning facilitates face-to-face interaction, better discipline, and social development but is limited to time and place. It may sometimes be less flexible and slower. Thus, a blend of both methods can provide an effective learning experience combining technology and human interaction.

Question 30.

Read the given details of a computer.

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words about the description and role of computers in today's world.

[5 Marks]

* electronic device that can store and process information
* makes life easy and simple
* physical description — monitor, keyboard, CPU and mouse
* computer technology used in all fields — education, medicine, commerce, entertainment

Answer: Computers have become an essential part of modern life and play a vital role in various fields such as education, business, communication, and entertainment. They help us process large amounts of information quickly and efficiently. With the advancement of technology, computers have transformed how we work, learn, and interact. The ability to store, retrieve, and manipulate data easily has revolutionized industries. They are used for tasks like writing documents, searching for information, and even in creative fields such as graphic designing. Computers also enable communication through emails and social media, connecting people worldwide. Moreover, with increasing digitalisation, many books and resources are now available on computers, reducing the need for printed paper. Overall, computers improve productivity, enhance learning, and make daily tasks easier in today's world.

Section H

Question 31.

In 'The Ball Poem', Berryman explores the themes of loss, growing up, and transformation. Mandela also experienced loss of freedom and suffering along with his countrymen during his growing years on the basis of his race and colour.

Compare and contrast the commonality of themes in both the texts.

(The Ball Poem and Nelson Mandela — Long Walk to Freedom)

[6 Marks]

Answer:

Both John Berryman's poem 'The Ball Poem' and Nelson Mandela's autobiography 'Long Walk to Freedom' deal with the profound themes of loss, growth, and transformation, though in different contexts and magnitudes. In 'The Ball Poem', a young boy experiences the loss of his ball, symbolizing his first encounter with loss and the subsequent understanding of growing up. This loss signifies the inevitable changes and responsibilities that come with maturity, marking a personal transformation through acceptance of impermanence.

Similarly, Nelson Mandela faced loss in a deeply political and social context. Growing up under apartheid, Mandela endured the loss of freedom not just personally but also as part of his community suffering racial discrimination and oppression. This profound loss shaped his understanding of justice and freedom. Mandela's journey from youthful 'transitory freedoms' to the lifelong struggle for 'the basic and honourable freedoms' reflects his transformation into a leader fighting for collective liberation.

Thus, both texts revolve around loss leading to growth and transformation. The boy's loss in the poem is personal and symbolic, teaching him acceptance and maturity, whereas Mandela's losses are communal and political, inspiring resilience, courage, and a commitment to social change. Despite different scales, both emphasize that loss is an essential step towards gaining deeper awareness and responsibility in life.

Question 32.

Horace ends up in prison only to regret that a man should not trust anyone blindly without finding out the truth. Do you think his own foolishness was responsible for his arrest ? Give a reasoned answer.

(A Question of Trust)

[6 Marks]

Answer:

Horace Danby's arrest was indeed a result of his own foolishness, primarily because he trusted the young lady blindly without verifying her intentions. Despite being a meticulous planner and a man who valued rare books, Horace's downfall came when he let his guard down due to emotional trust. His lack of honesty, with a habit of stealing rare books despite being respectable, also contributed to his imprisonment. Horace's regret reflects his realization that blind trust can lead to serious consequences. A wise person should always seek the truth before trusting others completely. Thus, Horace's past dishonest actions and his naivety in trusting someone without caution were responsible for his arrest. This teaches the valuable lesson that trust must be earned and cautiously given, especially in situations involving personal risk.

Question 33.

Matilda's character embodies the journey of change or progression throughout the story, encapsulating the transformations she endured as a consequence of her experiences, trials, and engagements with other characters.

In the light of the above information, trace the transformation seen in Matilda's character in the story. (The Necklace)

[6 Marks]

Answer:

Matilda's character undergoes a significant transformation throughout the story 'The Necklace'. At the beginning, she is portrayed as a dissatisfied woman who longs for a luxurious and wealthy lifestyle, resenting her modest existence. When invited to the grand party, she borrows a beautiful necklace to appear elegant, reflecting her desire for social status. However, losing the necklace changes her life drastically. To replace the lost necklace, she and her husband plunge into debt and lead a life of hardship and poverty for ten years. This struggle transforms Matilda from a vain and self-centered woman to a hardworking and humble individual. She endures physical and emotional suffering and adapts to a simple life full of toil and sacrifice. The necklace incident thus humbles her and brings a profound change in her personality. Ironically, at the end, it is revealed that the original necklace was a fake, meaning all the suffering was needless. Through this story, Matilda's journey symbolizes the consequences of pride and the value of honesty. Her character progression emphasizes how adverse experiences reshape one's attitude toward life.

Question 34.

Amanda and Valli both represent a longing for freedom. Examine the above observation with reference to the two texts. (Amanda and Madam Rides the Bus)

[6 Marks]

Answer:

Amanda from Tennessee Williams' play 'The Glass Menagerie' and Valli from the story 'Madam Rides the Bus' both symbolize a strong desire for freedom, albeit in different contexts and ways. Amanda, a mother, yearns for freedom from loneliness and a confined life shaped by her past experiences and worries about her children's futures. She reminisces about her youthful dreams and longs for a better, freer life. On the other hand, Valli, a young girl from a modest background, expresses her longing for freedom through her adventurous spirit. She plans and embarks on a bus journey alone to experience the wider world beyond her village, symbolizing her desire to break free from daily monotony and routines. Both characters portray freedom as an escape from their current limitations—Amanda's emotional and social confinement and Valli's physical and experiential

boundaries. Their actions and thoughts are driven by a need to explore, experience, and break away from restrictions. While Amanda's freedom is more about emotional and psychological release, Valli's freedom is physical and experiential, showing how the theme of freedom is relevant across different ages and circumstances.
