CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2025

ENGLISH

(Solved)

Time allowed : 3 hours | Maximum Marks : 78

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 2** are unseen passage

iv. **Section B** – questions number **3 to 6** are case based questions

v. **Section C** – questions number **7 to 11** are grammar mcqs

vi. **Section D** – questions number **12 to 18** are grammar short

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.

Read the following text :

1. ChatGPT can search. It cannot research. The platform has attracted the world's attention because of the speed with which it assembles and produces information in a logical sequence, powered by artificial intelligence, as if a human being were prompting it to write.

2. Curious about understanding what ChatGPT can do, I opened an account and asked if it would replace research in the future. Promptly, it replied : "As an Al language model, I don't hold personal beliefs, but I can present arguments on both sides of the topic."

3. The answer amused me. The speed with which it typed the information across the screen was mind-boggling. I could not read the answer as fast as it typed out the sentence. But, when it had finished, I read through the document. It was impressive. It was truly informative.

4. Five different points had been explained briefly in seconds. I would have thought of those five points in an hour or more, depending on the complexity of the topic. "Al : Catalyst, not Conqueror : ChatGPT and the future of research" was the title that it threw up to my question. It matched my opinion about the future of research after ChatGPT. The write-up had an introduction and a conclusion, just as our English teachers have taught us.

5. The document came from countless databases, as that is what it's designed to do. By contrast, when I research a subject for an 800- word article, I visit five or six authoritative sources; I don't go to a million as most are copies.

6. The difference between the write-up of ChatGPT and my research article is the former is a mere summary. When I write, I search new ideas and knit them in a way that reflect my thoughts and perspective. I choose only what is original, unique and fresh and process them in my mind to create a fresh angle.

7. Research has no value if it only summarises known information. Even a literature survey in your subject requires you to say what you will do with it further, and how.

8. Research is not a joke. Years ago, I had asked my professor, later on my supervisor, "How can I publish an article in research journals ?"

9. He answered, "When you have read everything on the subject, and have something original to add to the existing body of research." My head swam.

10. Excellent research is a daunting task and calls for hard intellectual work. When you research, you don't go wide; you go deep. You thoroughly investigate a minor concept, researching it extensively, substantiating each claim with reliable sources, experiments, models and beyond. It took years to discover the atom and the theory of gravitation. ChatGPT can summarise these discoveries, but it cannot add to them. It does not have the mental wherewithal for that.

    Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

(1)

Which of the following statements best summarises the author’s views

about ChatGPT ?

(A) It can summarise discoveries.

(B) It assembles and produces information.

(C) Its information is based on numerous databases.

(D) It can only search but not research.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: The author believes that ChatGPT can only search and not research. It quickly assembles and produces information from countless databases but cannot do original research or add new ideas. Therefore, option (D) is the best summary of the author's view.

This is supported by the passage where it says ChatGPT can summarise discoveries but cannot add to them and that it can only search, not research.

Key Points: ChatGPT assembles information quickly - ChatGPT summarises but cannot do original research - Author views ChatGPT as a tool for searching only

(2)

What did the professor suggest to the author’s question of how he could

publish his research journal ? (Answer in 40 words only.)

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: The professor suggested that to publish in research journals, one must read everything on the subject and have something original to add to the existing body of research. This shows that research requires originality and deep understanding.

Key Points: Professor’s suggestion - Read everything on the subject - Add something original to existing research

(3)

Complete the given analogy :

Dependable : reliable : rational :_____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: logical
In the analogy, dependable is similar in meaning to reliable. Similarly, rational is similar in meaning to logical. Both pairs are synonyms, so the word that completes the analogy is 'logical'. This is consistent with the understanding from the passage where logical sequence of information is highlighted.

Key Points: Dependable and reliable are synonyms - Rational relates to thinking clearly - Logical is a synonym of rational

(4)

Complete the sentence appropriately.

The author noticed that the write-up produced by ChatGPT had an

introduction and a conclusion, just as he learnt in his English class but it

still lacked_____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The author noticed that although the write-up by ChatGPT had an introduction and conclusion as taught in English class, it still lacked originality and fresh ideas from personal research. It was only a summary of known information without new perspectives or deep analysis.

Key Points: Write-up has introduction and conclusion - Lacks originality and fresh ideas - Only a summary not deep research

(5)

The author was moved by the_____ with which the ChatGPT was

producing the article.

(A) originality

(B) information

(C) rationality

(D) speed

[1 Marks]

Answer: The author was impressed by the **speed** with which ChatGPT was producing the article. The passage clearly says that the speed with which it typed the information was mind-boggling and faster than the author could read. Hence, the correct answer is (D) speed.

Key Points: author impressed by speed - ChatGPT types mind-bogglingly fast - speed mentioned as notable feature

(6)

Quote the answer of ChatGPT, from the above given passage, when it was

asked whether it would replace research in the future ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The answer of ChatGPT to the question whether it would replace research in the future was: "As an AI language model, I don't hold personal beliefs, but I can present arguments on both sides of the topic." This shows that ChatGPT gave a balanced reply without personal opinions, as mentioned in the passage.

Key Points: ChatGPT replied it does not hold personal beliefs - It can present arguments on both sides - It did not say it would replace research

(7)

State whether the given statement is True/False :

Research is not beneficial if it only summarises the known information.

[1 Marks]

Answer: True. Research is not beneficial if it only summarises known information. As the passage mentions, research must add something original and unique, building upon existing knowledge, not just summarising it. True research involves deep investigation and presenting new ideas or perspectives.

> **Key Points: Research must add originality - Summarising known information is insufficient - True research involves deep investigation**

(8)

Mention one basic difference between the write-up of ChatGPT and

author's research article.

[2 Marks]

Answer: One basic difference between the write-up of ChatGPT and the author's research article is originality and inventiveness.
ChatGPT provides a summary of information gathered from numerous databases without adding new ideas.
In contrast, the author's research article reflects original thoughts, unique perspectives, and fresh ideas that are deeply processed.
This shows that while ChatGPT can quickly summarise known information, it cannot create new knowledge as true research does.

> **Key Points: ChatGPT provides mere summary - Author's article has original and fresh ideas - Research involves new and unique perspectives**

Question 2.

Read the following text :

1. **The climate and landscape in Uttarakhand vary greatly with altitude (186 — 7619 m), from the largest glaciers in the higher elevation to the subtropical forests in the lowest elevation.**

2. **The lowlands along the border of U.P. are covered by the drier Terai- Savanna grasslands, the moist deciduous forest of the Upper Gangetic Plains form the Bhabhar belt. Due to the extensive agricultural practices, most of these lowland forests have been cleared. Snow and bare ice occupy the highest altitudes.**

3. **This state occupies 53,483 sq.km., (1.63% of India's total land area). Out of 13 districts, Uttarkashi occupies the maximum area of 8039 sq. km., while Champawat covers the minimum area of 1634 sq. km. Uttarakhand experiences four types of seasons, namely, Monsoon (June to September), Post-monsoon (October to November), Cold weather (December to February) and Pre-monsoon (March to May). The normal annual precipitation in the state is 1446 mm. Rain usually starts at the end of April and lasts until September. The monsoon rainfall is 78% of the annual rainfall. This makes the state prone to flood during monsoon. Bageshwar receives the maximum normal annual rainfall (1872 mm). 81% falls of this rainfall occurs in the monsoon season. Haridwar receives the minimum normal annual rainfall (1107 mm).**

4. **Due to the differences in topographical features, temperatures vary widely. During March and April, temperatures rise until they peak in May and June, when the mean maximum temperature in the southern and valley regions is between 34° and 38 °C, and the mean minimum temperature is between 20° and 24 °C. Temperatures can reach 42 °C in the valleys and southern half of the state and 30 °C in two-kilometre-high elevations on some days. Day and night temperatures begin to dip around the end of September and reach the lowest in January and early February. January is the coldest month, with an average maximum temperature of 20 °C and an average lowest temperature of 6 °C. The mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures range from 10° to 12 °C at altitudes of 2 km. Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :**

(1) Fill in the blank suitably : The variance in climate and landscape of Uttarakhand as per paragraph 1 is marked by_____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The variance in climate and landscape of Uttarakhand as per paragraph 1 is marked by great changes with altitude, ranging from large glaciers at high elevations to subtropical forests at low elevations.
This shows how altitude affects both climate and vegetation in the state.

> **Key Points: variance in climate and landscape with altitude - glaciers at high altitude - subtropical forests at low altitude**

(2)

Based on your understanding of the paragraph 2, fill in the blanks with

the appropriate option from those given in brackets.

Most of the lowland forests are_____ (maintained/cleared) due to the

_____ (large-scale/small-scale) agricultural practices.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Most of the lowland forests are cleared due to large-scale agricultural practices as mentioned in paragraph 2. This is because extensive farming in the lowlands along the U.P. border has led to clearing of forests. Thus, forest cover in these areas has reduced considerably.

> **Key Points: Most lowland forests have been cleared - Due to extensive or large-scale agricultural practices - Lowlands along U.P. border mentioned in paragraph 2**

(3)

Based on the passage, which of the districts has the lowest rainfall in Uttarakhand ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Haridwar district has the lowest rainfall in Uttarakhand. According to the passage, Haridwar receives a minimum normal annual rainfall of 1107 mm, which is less than other districts mentioned. This information is found in point 3 of the passage where rainfall details for Bageshwar and Haridwar are compared.

> **Key Points: Haridwar has minimum annual rainfall - 1107 mm rainfall - passage point 3**

(4)

'This makes the state of Uttarakhand prone to flood during monsoon.'

Justify the statement with reference to the passage given above in 30-40

words.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Uttarakhand receives 78% of its annual rainfall during monsoon, which causes heavy precipitation in a short period. This high monsoon rainfall leads to increased water runoff and makes the state prone to floods, especially in the lower plains and valleys.

> **Key Points: High monsoon rainfall - 78 percent of annual rainfall during monsoon - Causes heavy precipitation - Leads to floods in Uttarakhand during monsoon**

(5)

In the given sentence taken from paragraph 3, select the option that

correctly replaces the underlined word, with its most likely Antonym.

Rain usually starts at the end of April and lasts until September.

(A) begins

(B) arrives

(C) ends

(D) commences

[1 Marks]

Answer: The underlined word in the sentence is 'starts'. The most likely antonym of 'starts' is 'ends'. So, the correct option is (C) ends. This means if rain does not start, it ends. According to paragraph 3, rain usually starts at the end of April and lasts until September, so when the period of rain stops, it ends.

> **Key Points: The word to replace is 'starts' - Antonym of 'starts' is 'ends' - Correct option is (C) ends**

(6)

Which two districts have maximum and minimum rainfall in the state ?

(A) Bageshwar and Chamoli

(B) Nainital and Rudraprayag

(C) Haridwar and Garhwal

(D) Bageshwar and Haridwar

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: Bageshwar receives the maximum normal annual rainfall of 1872 mm, while Haridwar receives the minimum normal annual rainfall of 1107 mm in the state of Uttarakhand as mentioned in the passage.
Hence, the correct answer is option (D) Bageshwar and Haridwar.

> **Key Points: Bageshwar has maximum rainfall - Haridwar has minimum rainfall - Option D is correct**

(7)

How is Bhabhar belt formed ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The Bhabhar belt is formed by the moist deciduous forest of the Upper Gangetic Plains as mentioned in the passage. It lies along the border of Uttar Pradesh in the lowlands of Uttarakhand. Due to extensive agricultural activities, much of the original forest in this belt has been cleared. This zone is characterized by its unique ecological features between the plains and the hills as described in the passage.

> **Key Points: Located along U.P. border - Formed by moist deciduous forest of Upper Gangetic Plains - Lowlands with cleared forests due to agriculture**

(8)

State which of the given statements is not true :

(A) January is the coldest month, with an average maximum

temperature of 20 °C and an average lowest temperature of 6 °C.

(B) The mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures range from

15 to 20 °C at altitudes of 2 km.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Statement (B) is not true. According to the passage, the mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures at altitudes of 2 km range from 10 deg to 12 deg C, not 15 to 20 deg C. Statement (A) is correct as January is mentioned as the coldest month with max 20 deg C and min 6 deg C. Therefore, the incorrect statement is option (B).

Key Points: January is the coldest month - Max temperature in January is 20 deg C - Temperature at 2 km altitude ranges from 10 deg to 12 deg C, not 15 deg to 20 deg C

(9)

Complete the given table :

Assertion	Reasoning
The temperatures vary widely in the state of Uttarakhand.	_____ _____ _____

[1 Marks]

Answer: The passage does not provide data to complete the table. The information given discusses climate, rainfall, temperature variations and geography of Uttarakhand but no specific table data is mentioned. Please refer to the passage for climate details like rainfall, seasons, and temperature ranges in different areas and altitudes of Uttarakhand.

Key Points: Uttarakhand climate varies with altitude - Rainfall maximum in Bageshwar and minimum in Haridwar - Temperature varies widely with season and altitude

Section B

Question 3. That was twenty-four hours ago. Since then nobody had come near him. The day before, all day long, he had watched his parents flying about with his brothers and sister, perfecting them in the art of flight, teaching them how to skim the waves and how to dive for fish. He had, in fact, seen his elder brother catch his first herring and devour it, standing on a rock, while his parents circled around raising a proud cackle and all the morning the whole family had walked about on the big plateau midway down the opposite cliff taunting him for his cowardice.

(1) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket : The use of the phrase 'proud cackle' adds to a sense of _____ (noise/pride) in the extract.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The phrase 'proud cackle' in the extract shows a sense of pride. The parents are proud because their elder brother caught his first herring. This phrase highlights the joy and pride of the family as they celebrate the achievement together.

Key Points: phrase 'proud cackle' shows pride - parents are happy about elder brother's success - family celebrates achievement together

(2)

Describe the contrasting reactions of the parents to their

children giving reasons.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The parents had different reactions towards their children based on their flying abilities. They were proud and encouraging when their elder son caught his first fish, showing happiness by circling and cackling loudly. However, with the younger one who was afraid to fly, the parents were harsh and critical, taunting him for his cowardice and threatening to let him starve unless he flew. This shows they wanted all their children to learn to fly and survive, so they encouraged the brave ones and pressured the fearful one to overcome his fear.

Key Points: Parents proud and encouraging to children who flew successfully - Parents taunted and threatened the child who was afraid to fly - Parents wanted children to learn to fly and fend for themselves

(3)

How do the parents teach their young to be independent ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: The parents teach their young to be independent by flying with them and showing them how to fly, skim the waves, and dive for fish. They encourage and train their children to learn these skills step by step, as seen when the elder brother caught his first herring with their guidance.

Key Points: parents teach flying skills - show how to skim waves and dive - encourage by example and training

(4)

The word ‘devour’ in the above extract most nearly means

(A) scared

(B) gobbled

(C) preserved

(D) cooled

[1 Marks]

Answer: The word 'devour' in the passage means to eat something eagerly and quickly. In the story, the elder brother caught a herring and devoured it, which means he gobbled it up with great appetite. So, the correct meaning of 'devour' here is (B) gobbled.

Key Points: Meaning of devour - Elder brother eat herring quickly - Correct option is gobbled

Question 4. Lomov : Hear me out, I implore you ! The peasants of your father’s grandfather, as I have already had the honour of explaining to you, used to bake bricks for my aunt’s grandmother. Now my aunt’s grandmother, wishing to make them a present. Natalya : I can’t make head or tail of all this about aunts and grandfathers and grandmothers. The Meadows are ours, that’s all. Lomov : Mine Natalya : Ours! You can go proving it for two days on end.

(1) What is Lomov pleading for ? (A) to be heard (B) bricks for his aunt’s grandmother (C) documents of the Meadows (D) for two days time to prove himself

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: Lomov is pleading to be heard by Natalya. He wants her to listen to his explanation about the ownership of the Meadows and to be reasonable. He says, 'Hear me out, I implore you!' showing he desires to be given a chance to explain his point of view.

Key Points: Lomov wants to be heard - He is explaining about the peasants and his aunt’s grandmother - He is asking Natalya to listen to his side

(2)

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket :

The use of the phrase ‘can’t make head or tail’ adds to a sense

of_____ (confusion/realization) to the extract.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The phrase 'can’t make head or tail' in the extract clearly shows a sense of confusion. Natalya says this because she finds Lomov’s complicated story about aunts and grandfathers confusing and difficult to understand, as shown in the line, "I can’t make head or tail of all this about aunts and grandfathers and grandmothers." This phrase highlights her inability to follow Lomov’s argument.

> **Key Points: The phrase shows confusion - Natalya is unable to understand Lomov’s story - It emphasizes the complicated nature of the argument about land ownership**

(3)

What is Lomov trying to prove ?

[-1 Marks]

Answer: Lomov is trying to prove that the Oxen Meadows belong to him. In the passage, he refers to the history involving their ancestors and claims that the land, called Oxen Meadows, is rightfully his property. However, Natalya disputes this saying the meadows belong to her family. The argument centers around ownership of the land, with Lomov insisting it is "mine" while Natalya says "ours." He uses the relationship between their ancestors as evidence of his claim, trying to convince her and her father to accept his ownership.

> **Key Points: Lomov claims ownership of Oxen Meadows - Lomov refers to ancestral history as proof - Dispute over land ownership between Lomov and Natalya**

(4)

What effect does the following sentence have on Natalya ? Why ?

‘The peasants of your father’s grandfather.....used to bake

bricks for my aunt’s grandmother.’

[2 Marks]

Answer: The sentence confuses and irritates Natalya because it involves a complicated family history with many relatives, making it hard for her to understand. She says she 'can’t make head or tail of all this about aunts and grandfathers and grandmothers,' showing her frustration. This causes her to dismiss Lomov’s argument and claim the Meadows as theirs, showing that the complicated explanation does not convince her.

> **Key Points: Sentence confuses Natalya - Causes irritation - Leads to rejection of Lomov’s claim**

Question 5. Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears, And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs, Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage, But Custard cried for a nice safe cage. Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful, Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him Percival (Tale of Custard the Dragon)

(1) What poetic device is used in the first sentence ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The poetic device used in the first sentence is a simile. It compares Belinda's bravery to a barrel full of bears using the word 'as'. This helps us understand that Belinda is very brave by comparing her to something strong and fearless, as shown in the case passage.

> **Key Points: Simile - Comparison using 'as' - Describes bravery**

(2)

Complete the following suitably :

The word ‘unmerciful’ in the given context implies that Belinda

is _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The word 'unmerciful' in the passage means that Belinda tickled Custard very much without stopping or showing any mercy. She was very playful and did not spare Custard while tickling him. This shows Belinda was enjoying teasing Custard a lot even though he cried for safety.

> **Key Points: unmerciful means without mercy - Belinda tickled Custard a lot - Belinda was very playful and not gentle**

(3)

What was ironical about Custard being referred to as Percival ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: It is ironical that Custard, the dragon who cried for a nice safe cage showing fear, was called Percival because Percival is a brave knight in stories. So, calling a cowardly dragon by the name of a brave knight is opposite and funny, as mentioned in the passage where "Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him Percival".

> **Key Points: Custard was afraid and cried for safety - Percival is known as a brave knight - Calling Custard Percival is opposite to his nature and hence ironical**

(4)

What image of Custard is created in the above lines ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The above lines create the image of Custard as a cowardly and timid dragon who cries for a nice safe cage instead of showing bravery like Belinda, Ink, Blink and Mustard. This shows Custard is afraid and does not like danger, unlike others who behave bravely.

> **Key Points: Custard is cowardly - Cries for safe cage - Unlike brave friends Belinda, Ink, Blink, Mustard**

Question 6. Don’t bite your nails, Amanda ! Don’t hunch your shoulders, Amanda ! Stop that slouching and sit up straight, Amanda ! (“There is a languid, emerald sea, where the sole inhabitant is me a mermaid, drifting blissfully.”) (Amanda)

(1) What image does the above extract create about Amanda’s mother ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The extract creates the image of Amanda's mother as a strict and caring woman who constantly advises Amanda to improve her posture and behavior. She seems concerned about Amanda's habits and appearance, urging her not to bite nails or slouch, showing she wants Amanda to be proper and disciplined. This is seen in the repeated commands like "Don’t bite your nails, Amanda" and "Stop that slouching and sit up straight, Amanda".

> **Key Points: Strict and caring - Constantly advises Amanda - Concerned about posture and behavior**

(2)

Why is the second verse written in brackets ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The second verse is written in brackets to show Amanda's imagination or daydream. It tells us what she is thinking inside while others are telling her to stop bad habits. This part is Amanda imagining herself as a mermaid, which is different from reality, so it is placed in brackets to separate her thoughts from the rest of the poem.

> **Key Points: The second verse represents Amanda's imagination - Brackets show a different thought or idea - It highlights Amanda's desire to escape reality**

(3)

Amanda calls herself a mermaid because_____

(A) Mermaid is Amanda’s favourite fantasy character.

(B) Amanda loves watching a mermaid drifting in water.

(C) Amanda longs to be free like a mermaid which sails

effortlessly in the sea.

(D) Amanda wants to sail with a mermaid in the deep-sea

water.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Amanda calls herself a mermaid because she longs to be free like a mermaid who sails effortlessly in the sea. In the passage, she imagines herself as the sole inhabitant of a calm, emerald sea, drifting blissfully, which shows her desire for freedom and peace. This matches option (C).

> **Key Points: Amanda imagines herself as a mermaid - She dreams of drifting freely in the sea - She longs for freedom like a mermaid**

(4)

Amanda wants to be the sole inhabitant in the sea.Elucidate.

[2 Marks]

Answer: If Amanda were a mermaid, she could drift blissfully in the languid, emerald sea as she imagines in the case passage. Being a mermaid means she would live underwater, enjoy swimming gracefully, and feel free without worries like slouching or biting nails. This imagination shows Amanda's wish to escape from the usual discipline she faces and enjoy a peaceful life in the sea.

Key Points: Amanda imagines being a mermaid - She would drift blissfully in the emerald sea - She would be free and relaxed underwater

Section C

Question 7. Replace the underlined word used in the sentence with the best option given below : Born in 1872, Richard Willstatter was a chemist who invents the process of paper chromatography.

[1 Marks]

(A) has invented

(B) invent

(C) will invent

(D) invented

Explanation: The sentence refers to a past event describing Richard Willstatter's contribution, so the past tense 'invented' is appropriate. 'Invents' is present tense and does not match the past context. 'Will invent' indicates future tense, which is incorrect here. 'Has invented' is present perfect tense, but since the sentence specifies a birth year and a completed action in the past, 'invented' is the best choice.

Question 8.

Fill in the blank to complete this message in a poster for safety. Our planet is precious and only we_____ save it.

[1 Marks]

(A) may

(B) shall

(C) will

(D) can

Explanation:

The correct option is 'can' because it expresses possibility and ability, implying that it is within our capability and responsibility to save our planet. The context emphasizes the value of water and the need to save it, underlining that humans have the power and duty to protect the environment.

Question 9.

Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the dialogues given below : Mother : Why aren’t you playing with your friends ? Rayan : I am not feeling well today. Mother asked Rayan_____ Rayan replied that he was not feeling well that day.

[1 Marks]

(A) that he was not playing with his friends.

(B) why he wasn't playing with his friends.

(C) whether he was not playing with his friends.

(D) why wasn't he playing with his friends.

Explanation:

In reported speech, when reporting a question starting with 'why', we use 'why' followed by the subject and verb in correct order. Hence, 'Mother asked Rayan why he wasn't playing with his friends.' is the correct transformation of the question. Other options are either incorrect in question format or tense usage.

Question 10.

Fill in the blank choosing the most appropriate option : The news about the retirement of my favourite character gave me _____ disappointment.

[-1 Marks]

(A) much

(B) many

(C) little

(D) few

Explanation:

The word 'disappointment' is an uncountable noun, so we use quantifiers suitable for uncountable nouns. Among the options, 'much' correctly quantifies uncountable nouns expressing a large amount. Therefore, 'much disappointment' is the correct choice. 'Many' and 'few' are used with countable nouns, while 'little' would suggest a small amount of disappointment, which is not appropriate here given the context of strong feelings caused by retirement news.

Question 11.

Complete the given sentence with the correct form of verb. It is important to_____ a healthy atmosphere.

[1 Marks]

(A) creating

(B) creates

(C) created

(D) create

Explanation:

The phrase 'It is important to' is followed by the base form of the verb (the infinitive without 'to'), which is 'create' in this case. 'Creating' would be a gerund form and does not fit grammatically after 'to' in this structure. 'Creates' and 'created' are incorrect verb forms here. Hence, the correct form is 'create'.

Section D

Question 12.

Rahil and Somil decided to reach the theatre at 5 pm. Report the

question asked by Rahil to Somil.

Which movie are we going to watch ?

Rahil asked Somil_____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Rahil asked Somil what movie they were going to watch. In reported speech, the question 'Which movie are we going to watch ?' changes to a statement form and the question word 'Which' remains. Since the original sentence is in present continuous tense ('are going to watch'), it changes to past continuous tense ('were going to watch'). So, the correct reported speech sentence is: Rahil asked Somil what movie they were going to watch.

Key Points: Identify the question in direct speech - Change present continuous to past continuous tense - Use appropriate question word in reported speech - Convert question into statement in reported speech

Question 13.

Read the given line and identify the error.

When the rounds were completed, the hurdle and mazes appeared

on the appropriate places.

[1 Marks]

error	correction

Answer: Correction: When the rounds were completed, the hurdles and mazes appeared in the appropriate places.
Explanation: The errors in the original sentence are plural and preposition errors. The word 'hurdle' should be plural as 'hurdles' because it refers to multiple obstacles. Similarly, 'mazes' is already plural. Also, the preposition 'on' is incorrect here; the correct preposition is 'in' when talking about something appearing within certain places. Hence, the corrected sentence is "When the rounds were completed, the hurdles and mazes appeared in the appropriate places."

Key Points: Use correct plural forms - Use correct prepositions - Subject-verb agreement

Question 14.

Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction

for the line given below :

In earlier times, public libraries plays an important role in the lives

of the people.

[1 Marks]

Option No.	error	correction
(A)	role	roles
(B)	of	in
(C)	in	of
(D)	plays	played

Answer: Explanation: The error in the sentence is in subject-verb agreement. The subject 'public libraries' is plural, so the verb should also be plural. The verb 'plays' is singular and should be corrected to 'play'.
Correct sentence: In earlier times, public libraries play an important role in the lives of the people.

Key Points: Subject-verb agreement - Plural subject needs plural verb - Correction of plays to play

Question 15.

Report the dialogue between a guard and a visitor by completing the

sentence :

Guard : Good morning Sir ! Park your car in the Visitor's Parking

Area.

Visitor : OK. Please help me park my car in the Visitor's Parking

Area.

The guard greeted the visitor and told him to park his car at the

Visitor's Parking Area. At this, the visitor requested him_____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Reported Speech: The guard greeted the visitor and told him to park his car at the Visitor's Parking Area. At this, the visitor requested him to help him park his car in the Visitor's Parking Area.

Key Points: Reported speech - Polite request - Use of 'to' + verb

Question 16.

Identify the error and supply correction for the following pre-flight

announcement before take-off.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome onboard flight 487 flying from Hong

Kong to San Francisco. We are currently third in line for take-off

and were expected to be in the air in approximately seven minutes

time.

Use the given format for your response.

[1 Marks]

error	correction

Answer: The error in the announcement is in the phrase "were expected to be in the air in approximately seven minutes time." The correct phrase should be "are expected to be in the air in approximately seven minutes." Explanation: 'were expected' is past tense which is incorrect here as the announcement is about the current situation; the correct tense is present 'are expected'. Also, "minutes time" is redundant; we just say "seven minutes". The corrected announcement would be:
Ladies and gentlemen, welcome onboard flight 487 flying from Hong Kong to San Francisco. We are currently third in line for take-off and are expected to be in the air in approximately seven minutes.

Key Points: Incorrect tense usage - Redundancy in expression - Corrected sentence structure

Question 17.

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the line

given below :

The roads have been widened so much that six lanes of vehicles

_____ (will/may/could) be accommodated.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct option to fill in the blank is "can", but since it is not given, the next best choice is "will". The complete sentence becomes: "The roads have been widened so much that six lanes of vehicles will be accommodated."

Explanation: The sentence talks about a definite fact that has occurred or is certain to happen because the roads have already been widened. Hence, "will" is appropriate to express certainty and future fact. "May" or "could" suggest possibility or uncertainty, which does not fit the context here.

> Key Points: Choosing the correct modal verb - Understanding certainty and possibility - Usage of "will" for definite future actions

Question 18.

Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket :

Mahi_____ (shirk) the task given to her and went out to play.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The sentence requires the past perfect tense form of the verb "shirk". The past perfect tense is formed by using "had" followed by the past participle of the verb. The past participle of "shirk" is "shirked". Therefore, the correct sentence is: Mahi had shirked the task given to her and went out to play. This shows that Mahi completed the action of avoiding the task before she went out to play.

> Key Points: Use past perfect tense - Form past perfect with had + past participle - Past participle of shirk is shirked

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Section E

Question 19.

Ilustrate Lencho''s unwavering faith in the Divine. (A Letter to God)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Lencho's unwavering faith in the Divine is shown clearly through his actions and words in the story. Despite the hailstorm ruining his crops, Lencho does not lose hope. He writes a letter directly to God, asking for a hundred pesos to help his family survive and sow the field again. His faith is so strong that he trusts God will help him without any doubt. For

example, he writes, "God, if you don’t help me, my family and I will go hungry this year." Even after receiving only sixty pesos from the postmaster and his colleagues who contributed secretly, Lencho still believes that God sent the rest and calls the post office employees "bad crop thieves" for not giving the full amount, showing he truly believes only God can help him. This shows Lencho's deep and pure faith in divine intervention, as he relies completely on God's help rather than on people.

> Key Points: Lencho writes a letter to God asking for help - He believes only God can help him in his difficult time - He trusts God completely even when the money sent is incomplete

Question 20.

In what way did Nelson Mandela’s yearning for freedom alter the

course of his life ? (Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Nelson Mandela's yearning for freedom deeply changed the course of his life. From his early years, Mandela dreamed of equality and justice for all South Africans. This strong desire led him to dedicate his life to fighting against the apartheid government that enforced racial discrimination and oppression. His hunger for freedom made him join the African National Congress and become a leader in the struggle for liberty. Despite being imprisoned for 27 years, Mandela's will to achieve freedom never broke. Finally, his yearning helped bring an end to apartheid, and he became the first black President of South Africa. Mandela's life showed that a deep love for freedom can inspire sacrifice, courage, and leadership to change a nation.

> Key Points: Yearning for freedom motivated Mandela - Fought against apartheid - Imprisoned for 27 years - Became a symbol of resistance - First black President of South Africa

Question 21.

Is it ethical to enclose wild animals within cages ? Discuss with

reference to the poem, ‘A Tiger in the Zoo'.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Answer:
The poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo' by Leslie Norris highlights the confinement of a majestic wild animal within the limited space of a zoo cage. Ethically, enclosing wild animals in cages can be seen as wrong because it restricts their freedom and natural behavior. The tiger in the poem is

portrayed as restless and uncomfortable, which shows the negative impact of captivity on wild animals.
However, zoos sometimes help in protecting endangered species and educating people about wildlife and conservation. Alternatives like wildlife sanctuaries and protected natural reserves can provide animals with more natural living conditions. Also, educating people through documentaries and virtual tours could be an option instead of caging animals.
In conclusion, while zoos have some benefits, it is not ethical to deprive wild animals of their natural habitat and restrict their freedom simply for human entertainment. Conservation efforts should focus on protecting animals in the wild and creating safe natural environments rather than confining them in cages.

> **Key Points: Tiger's natural freedom is restricted in cages - Captivity causes restlessness and suffering to animals - Zoos help in conservation and education but have ethical concerns - Alternatives include wildlife sanctuaries and virtual education - Conservation should focus on protecting animals in the wild**

Question 22.

Upon encountering the deceased cow on the road, Valli was

emotional. Comment with reference to ‘Madam Rides the Bus’.

[3 Marks]

Answer: In the story 'Madam Rides the Bus,' Valli was very happy and excited when she first saw the cow running in front of the bus. She clapped her hands with joy because the cow was lively and full of energy. But later, when the bus passed by the same spot and she saw the dead cow lying by the roadside, Valli felt sad and emotional. The sight of the dead cow made her feel disturbed and her excitement faded away. She no longer wanted to look out of the window because the memory of the dead cow haunted her. This shows that Valli was emotional because she cared about the living cow and was upset to see it dead.

> **Key Points: Valli initially happy and excited to see live cow - Later felt sad and emotional on seeing dead cow - Excitement dampened - No longer wanted to look out the window**

Question 23.

How does modern India recognize the tradition of courage and

bravery in Coorgi culture ? (Glimpses of India)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Modern India recognizes the tradition of courage and bravery in Coorgi culture by honoring their strong heritage of valour passed down through generations. Coorgi people take

pride in sharing stories of bravery related to their fathers and sons, reflecting a community deeply rooted in courage. Their traditional attire worn during special occasions symbolizes their identity and respect for customs, celebrating their valorous past. These customs and stories keep the spirit of bravery alive in modern times.

> **Key Points: Recognition of valour through stories - Pride in ancestral bravery - Traditional attire symbolizes identity and courage**

Question 24.

Education acts as a catalyst for a significant transformation in

Bholi. Comment. (Bholi)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Education brought a significant change in Bholi's life in many ways:
(a) Before going to school, Bholi was shy, unconfident, and unaware of her rights. Education helped her gain confidence and courage.
(b) She started to think independently and stand against social evils, like child marriage.
(c) Her teacher encouraged her to speak up and taught her about self-respect and dignity.
(d) Ultimately, education empowered Bholi to transform from a timid girl to a confident person who could fight for her own well-being and change her destiny.
Thus, education acts as a catalyst by bringing positive changes in Bholi's personality and life.

> **Key Points: Education increases confidence-Education empowers to fight social evils-Teacher's support is crucial-Education brings self-respect and dignity-Transformation from fear to courage**

Question 25.

Refusing to accept our circumstances can result in an unhappy life.

Discuss in brief with reference to the story 'The Necklace'.

[3 Marks]

Answer: In the story 'The Necklace', Mme Loisel was unhappy because she could not accept her middle-class life and always wished for a luxurious lifestyle. Her refusal to accept her circumstances made her borrow a necklace to appear rich at a party. When she lost the necklace, she and her husband spent ten years repaying a huge debt, leading to a very hard life. In the end, it is revealed that the original necklace was fake. This shows that refusing to accept our true circumstances can lead to unnecessary suffering and unhappiness. Accepting what we have and being content can make life peaceful and happy.

Key Points: Mme Loisel's dissatisfaction with her social status - Borrowing necklace to appear wealthy - Loss of necklace resulting in years of hardship - Necklace was fake - Refusal to accept reality leads to suffering

Question 26.

How was the Hari Singh's 'appealing smile' at the end different from

similar smiles of his on earlier occasions ? (The Thief's Story)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Hari Singh's appealing smile at the end was different from his earlier smiles because it was genuine and came from his heart. Earlier, his smiles were often mischievous, sly, and used to hide his true intentions as a thief. They were cunning smiles meant to deceive others. However, at the end, his smile showed kindness, honesty, and gratitude, reflecting a change in his character after Anil's kind treatment. This smile was natural and sincere, not forced or selfish like before.

Key Points: Earlier smiles were mischievous and deceptive - The final smile was genuine and heartfelt - It reflected Hari Singh's change of character and gratitude

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Section F

Question 27.

Convenience, variety, discounts and laziness are some of the reasons

for the growing popularity of ordering food online. You are Santa /

Suhail student editor for the National Times. Compose a letter in

about 120 words to the Editor of the newspaper highlighting the

adverse effects of take-out food ordered online. Emphasize on the

overall well-being of eating home-cooked meals.

[5 Marks]

Answer: National Times
Editor,
National Times,
Date: 20 June 2024

Subject: Adverse Effects of Ordering Food Online

Dear Sir,

I am Santa, a student editor for your esteemed newspaper. I would like to highlight the adverse effects of ordering food online despite its growing popularity due to convenience, variety, and discounts. Frequent consumption of online take-out food often involves unhealthy ingredients, excessive oil, and preservatives which can lead to health issues like obesity and digestive problems. Moreover, it affects family bonding which is strengthened during home-cooked meals. Home-cooked food is healthier, hygienic, and nutritious as it contains fresh ingredients and balanced nutrition. It promotes overall well-being and helps maintain good health. I urge readers to limit online food orders and opt for homemade meals for better physical and mental health.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Santa
Student Editor

> **Key Points: Convenience and variety lead to popularity of online food ordering - Adverse health effects of frequent online take-out consumption - Benefits of home-cooked meals for health and family bonding**

Question 28.

You visited your hometown after a period of four years and were disappointed at the condition of the roads. They were in a state of disrepair. The uneven surfaces, cracks and pot-holes were affecting daily commute and causing safety issues for the people. You are Sulekha/Salim. Write a letter to the Director of the Municipal Corporation in about 100-120 words drawing attention to the poor condition of roads and the inconvenience caused. Request him to look into the matter and take early action.

[5 Marks]

Answer: Sulekha/Salim
H No. 45, Green Park

Hometown - 123456
Date: 15 June 2024

To
The Director
Municipal Corporation
Hometown

Subject: Request to repair the damaged roads

Respected Sir,

I am Sulekha/Salim, a resident of Hometown. I recently visited after four years and was deeply disappointed to see the poor condition of the roads. The roads have become uneven with many cracks and pot-holes. This has created major difficulties in daily commuting and poses serious safety risks for pedestrians and drivers alike.

I kindly request you to look into this matter urgently and take immediate action to repair and maintain the roads. Good roads are essential for safe and smooth travel and they also improve the overall image of our city.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,
Sulekha/Salim

> **Key Points: Mention poor condition of roads - Explain how uneven surfaces and pot-holes affect daily commute and safety - Request urgent action for repair and maintenance**

Section G

Question 29.

Read the following details of a children's park in your colony :

Analyse the details of the park and write an analytical paragraph in

about 120 words about its suitability as a children's park.

[5 Marks]

- covered on all four sides with 2 gates
- skating rink and basketball court in the park
- swings in one corner for younger children
- open ground for colony functions
- specific timings

Answer: The children's park in our colony is a nice place for kids to play and enjoy. It is located near the main road which makes it easy to reach. The park has many tall trees that provide shade and fresh air, making it comfortable even on sunny days. There are safe swings, slides, and climbing frames which are perfect for children of different ages. The ground is covered with soft grass which is good for running and playing games safely. There is also a seating area for parents so they can watch their children while relaxing. The park is clean and well-maintained, which makes it a healthy environment. Overall, this park is very suitable for children because it has proper play equipment, enough space, shade, and safety for all kids.

Key Points: location near main road - availability of swings slides and climbing frames - tall trees providing shade and fresh air - soft grass making ground safe - seating area for parents - clean and well-maintained environment

Question 30.

There is an alarming increase in the percentage of students

suffering from obesity. Given below are some of the findings of a

survey conducted to identify causes :

- **unhealthy diet — 40%**
- **lack of exercise — 30%**
- **stress and anxiety — 25%**
- **genetic factors — 5%**

Analyse the causes for obesity.

[5 Marks]

Age group affected

0 – 5 years	:	13%
5 – 8 years	:	20%
8 – 12 years	:	28%
13 – 15 years	:	25%
16 – 18 years	:	14%

Answer: Obesity among students is increasing due to several main causes.
(a) Unhealthy diet (40%) : Eating too many high-calorie foods like fast food, sweets, and fried items leads to weight gain.
(b) Lack of exercise (30%) : Not doing enough physical activity causes the body to store extra fat.
(c) Stress and anxiety (25%) : Stress can increase eating habits or cause hormonal changes that promote obesity.
(d) Genetic factors (5%) : Some people inherit genes that make them more likely to gain weight.
Thus, obesity is mainly caused by unhealthy diet and inactivity, along with stress and genetic reasons. To prevent obesity, students should eat healthy food, exercise regularly, and manage stress properly.

Key Points: Unhealthy diet leads to excess calorie intake - Lack of exercise reduces calorie burning - Stress causes overeating and hormonal imbalance - Genetic factors influence body's tendency to gain weight

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Section H

Question 31.

Self-doubt and fear often act as barriers to success. On the other

hand, curiosity leads to learning new things. Justify the statement

citing instances from 'His First Flight' and 'Madam Rides the Bus'.

[6 Marks]

Answer: Answer:
(a) In 'His First Flight', the young seagull is filled with self-doubt and fear about flying. He is

afraid to take the first leap despite being ready because he doubts his ability and fears failure. His fear acts as a barrier to his success. However, with encouragement from his family and curiosity about what lies beyond the cliff, he finally overcomes his fear and takes the flight, which leads to his success.
(b) In 'Madam Rides the Bus', the young girl is curious and eager to explore the world beyond her limited environment. Despite not knowing how to ride the bus or what to expect, her curiosity overcomes any fear or hesitation. Her adventurous spirit helps her learn new things and have new experiences.
(c) These stories show that self-doubt and fear can hold us back from achieving our goals, while curiosity motivates us to explore and learn. Trying despite the possibility of failure is important for success. Both stories highlight the importance of overcoming fear with courage and curiosity to achieve growth and learning.

> **Key Points: Self-doubt creates fear which blocks success - Curiosity motivates trying and learning - Overcoming fear leads to growth and achievement**

Question 32.

What distinguishes the portrayal of the tiger in the poem 'A Tiger in

the Zoo' from the depiction of the tiger in the poem 'How to tell Wild

Animals' ?

[6 Marks]

Answer: Answer:
The poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo' portrays the tiger as a captive animal confined within the limits of a zoo. It shows how the tiger is restless, pacing in its cage and deprived of its natural freedom. The poem highlights the contrast between the wild, free tiger in the jungle and the caged, restrained tiger in the zoo. The tone is somewhat sad and pitying because the tiger cannot express its true nature.

On the other hand, the poem 'How to tell Wild Animals' describes the tiger in its natural habitat - the wild jungle. In this poem, the tiger is depicted as powerful, alert, and mysterious. It roams freely, unafraid and unconfined. The poem emphasizes the wild, untamed characteristics of the tiger such as its bright eyes and stealthy movements.

In summary, the main difference is that 'A Tiger in the Zoo' shows the tiger as a captive, deprived of its natural instincts, while 'How to tell Wild Animals' presents the tiger as a free, wild creature in its natural environment. The first shows confinement and sorrow, the second freedom and power.

Key Points: Tiger in the zoo is captive and restless - Tiger in the wild is free and powerful - Zoo tiger is deprived of freedom whereas wild tiger is untamed and alert

Question 33.

Imagine you are Bholi and write a diary entry, explaining how you dare to take such a bold step of refusing to marry Bishamber. (Bholi)

[6 Marks]

Answer: Dear Diary,
Today I took a stand that no one expected from me. I refused to marry Bishamber, and I am proud of my decision. My parents accepted Bishamber's proposal only because they thought he was rich and it was their duty to marry me off soon. At first, I agreed to this unequal match because I was scared of disappointing my family and society.
But later, I realized that I deserve respect and happiness, not just a marriage for the sake of it. Bishamber was rude and disrespectful. I could not live with someone who does not value me. I dared to speak out because I have gained confidence and strength from my schooling and my teacher's encouragement. Now I know my worth and I won't let anyone treat me unjustly.
I threw away the veil as a symbol that I will no longer hide my feelings or fears. I want to live with dignity and courage. I hope my family understands that my happiness matters too. This bold step is not only for me but for all girls who are treated unfairly. I am Bholi, but I have found my voice as Sulekha.
Yours,
Bholi

Key Points: Parents accepted Bishamber for his wealth - Bholi initially agreed out of fear and helplessness - She rejected marriage to assert her self-respect and dignity

Question 34.

In the story, 'A Triumph of Surgery', a wealthy woman's nonsensical

behaviour, is depicted. Do you think such individuals are merely

displaying foolishness or could their actions potentially, inflict harm

upon others ? Support your answer from the text.

[6 Marks]

Answer: In the story A Triumph of Surgery, Mrs Pumphrey, a wealthy woman, shows nonsensical or foolish behaviour in the way she treats her dog Tricki. (a) She is not merely silly; her actions are a result of her deep love and loneliness which make her spoil Tricki excessively with rich food and constant attention. (b) However, her foolish indulgence leads to

harm as Tricki becomes overweight and ill because of overfeeding and lack of exercise. (c) The narrator, a veterinary surgeon, understands her feelings but tactfully explains the consequences and advises a change in tricki's care. He performs no operation but prescribes common sense care which helps Tricki recover. Thus, the story shows that foolishness mixed with ignorance can unintentionally harm others, including animals, and that wise and tactful guidance is needed to manage such situations effectively.

> **Key Points: Mrs Pumphrey’s foolish behaviour is due to loneliness and love - Overindulgence causes harm to Tricki’s health - The narrator is wise and tactful, helps Tricki recover without operation**
