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.

He felt certain that his wings would never support him; so he bent his head and ran away back to the little hole under the ledge where he slept at night. Even when each of his brothers and his little sister, whose wings were far shorter than his own, ran to the brink, flapped their wings, and flew away, he

failed to muster up courage to take that plunge which appeared to him so desperate. His father and mother had come around calling to him shrilly, upbraiding him, threatening to let him starve on his ledge unless he flew away. But for the life of him he could not move.(Two Stories about Flying — His First Flight)

(1)

State any one inference about the parents of the baby seagull from the given statement:

'His father and mother had come around calling to him shrilly, upbraiding him, threatening to let him starve on his ledge unless he flew away.'

[1 Marks]

Answer: The parents of the baby seagull were strict and firm. They wanted to encourage him to fly by motivating him strongly, even threatening to withhold food if he did not try to fly.

Key Points: Parents were firm-They called and upbraided the baby seagull-They threatened to starve him to make him attempt to fly-They wanted him to be independent and learn to fly

(2) Where did the little seagull sleep at night?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The little seagull slept at night in a little hole under the ledge where he stayed.

Key Points: The little seagull-slept at night-little hole under the ledge

(3)

Which factors contributed to the young seagull's reluctance to

fly despite the encouragement and threats from his parents ?

Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The young seagull was afraid because he felt his wings were too weak to support him. The vast sea below seemed terrifying, making the jump feel desperate. Despite his parents' calls and threats, fear held him back from trying to fly.

Key Points: Young seagull felt wings weak- Terrified by the vast sea below- Jump seemed desperate and scary- Fear stopped him from flying despite parents' encouragement and threats

(4)

Which phrase or word would correctly substitute ‘muster up’ in

the given sentence from the extract ?

He failed to ‘muster up’ courage to take that plunge which

appeared to him so desperate.

(A) review

(B) resolve

(C) distribute

(D) gather

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct word to substitute ‘muster up’ in the sentence is (D) gather.

Key Points: The phrase 'muster up' means to gather or collect something, in this case, courage.- The seagull could not gather enough courage to fly.- 'Gather' best fits the meaning in the given sentence.- Options like review, resolve, and distribute do not appropriately convey the meaning of 'muster up' in this context.

Question 2.

Tricki was tottering along in his little tweed coat.... He struggled on, drooping in his harness. I thought it wouldn’t be long before I heard from Mrs. Pumphrey. The expected call came within a few days. Mrs. Pumphrey was distraught. Tricki would eat nothing. Refused even his favourite dishes; and besides, he had bouts of vomiting. He spent all his time lying on a rug, panting. Didn’t want to go for walks, didn’t want to do anything. I had made my plans in advance. The only way was to get Tricki out of the house for a period. I suggested that he be hospitalized for about a fortnight to be kept under observation. The poor lady almost swooned. She was sure he would pine and die if he did not see her every day. But I took a firm line. Tricki was very ill and this was the only way to save him.(A Triumph of Surgery)

(1)

Why had the author made his plans in advance ?

(A) Mrs. Pumphrey was worried that Tricki would pine and die without her.

(B) The author was aware of the severity of Tricki's medical condition.

(C) The author knew about Mrs. Pumphrey's financial condition.

(D) The author had planned his own vacation.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The author had made his plans in advance because he was aware of the severity of Tricki's medical condition and knew that the only way to save him was to admit him to the hospital for observation and care.

Key Points: Author was aware of Tricki's serious illness - Tricki was refusing food and vomiting - Author suggested hospitalisation to save Tricki - Plans made in advance due to urgency of the situation

(2) The author firmly proposed the need to remove Tricki from the house for a specified period. Elaborate the reason for doing so in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The author suggested hospitalising Tricki for a fortnight because the dog was very ill, refusing to eat or walk, and was vomiting. Removal from home was necessary for proper observation and treatment to save his life despite Mrs. Pumphrey's distress.

Key Points: Tricki was very ill-Tricki refused food and vomited-He spent time panting and lying inactive-The author planned hospitalisation for observation-To ensure Tricki's recovery despite Mrs. Pumphrey's worries

(3)

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets.

The word ‘swooned’ in the following sentence indicates almost

_____*(tripped/fainted).*

[1 Marks]

Answer: The word 'swooned' in the sentence indicates almost fainted.

Key Points: The word 'swooned' means fainting or nearly losing consciousness - Mrs. Pumphrey was extremely upset and overwhelmed - 'Almost swooned' describes her reaction as being close to fainting due to distress

(4) Fill in the blank: The word ‘swooned’ in the sentence 'The poor lady almost swooned.' means almost _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The word ‘swooned’ in the sentence means almost fainted.

Key Points: Meaning of 'swooned'-Context of the lady's reaction-She was very upset and almost lost her consciousness

Question 3.

Some say the world will end in fire

Some say in ice.

From what I’ve tasted of desire

I hold with those who favour fire. (Fire and Ice)

(1)

The speaker offers evidence to support his preference for one

theory over the other. Mention the evidence.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The speaker prefers the theory that the world will end in fire because, from his experience, he has 'tasted of desire,' which is associated with fire. He uses desire as evidence to support the idea that fire, representing strong emotions like passion and conflict, is more powerful than ice.

Key Points: Speaker's preference for fire-The phrase 'From what I've tasted of desire'-Desire represents fire-Desire being powerful evidence-Fire stands for strong emotions like passion and conflict

(2)

What is the prediction of the poet about how the world will

come to an end ? Answer in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The poet predicts that the world will end either in fire or in ice. He believes fire, symbolizing desire and passion, is more likely to cause the end than ice, which represents hatred and coldness.

Key Points: world will end in fire or ice-poet prefers fire-fire symbolizes desire and passion-ice symbolizes hatred and coldness-fire more destructive according to poet

(3)

“Fire” and “Ice” are used in the poem as

(A) similes

(B) metaphors

(C) repetition

(D) oxymorons

[1 Marks]

Answer: In the poem, 'fire' and 'ice' are used as metaphors to represent strong human emotions and traits. Fire symbolizes desire, greed, and passion while ice symbolizes hatred, cruelty, and coldness.

Key Points: Fire and Ice symbolize emotions-Fire stands for desire and passion-Ice stands for hatred and cruelty-They are not similes or oxymorons-They are used metaphorically to convey deeper meanings

(4)

Comment on the overall mood of the extract.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The overall mood of the extract is contemplative and serious. The poem reflects on the possible ways the world might end, using 'fire' and 'ice' as metaphors for destructive human emotions like desire and hatred. It creates a mood of warning and reflection on the dangers of these emotions.

Key Points: Mood is contemplative-serious-The poem uses fire and ice as metaphors-Fire represents desire, ice represents hate-The extract warns about destructive human emotions

Question 4.

The leaves strain toward the glass

small twigs stiff with exertion

long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof

like newly discharged patients

half-dazed, moving

to the clinic doors. (The Trees)

(1)

How does the comparison between the boughs and newly

discharged patients contribute to the theme or message of the

poem ? Answer in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The comparison of the boughs to newly discharged patients highlights the trees' struggle and exhaustion after being confined. It emphasizes their slow, hesitant movement towards freedom, symbolizing resilience and the hope of recovery, which ties to the poem’s theme of endurance and renewal.

Key Points: boughs compared to patients-struggling and exhausted-movement is slow and hesitant-symbolizes recovery and hope-theme of endurance and renewal

(2)

Complete the sentence with the appropriate option:

The imagery and descriptions in the poem create a mood of _____.

(A) satisfaction and elation

(B) transition and uncertainty

(C) confusion and chaos

(D) pessimism and certainty

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct option is (B) transition and uncertainty. The poem uses imagery like 'half-dazed, moving to the clinic doors' and 'long-cramped boughs shuffling' which suggest a feeling of change and an uncertain movement, similar to patients just discharged and still adjusting.

Key Points: Imagery of leaves and boughs showing movement; comparison to 'newly discharged patients' indicating uncertainty and transition; mood created is not of joy or chaos but of cautious change.

(3)

Fill in the blank with one word.

The stiff movement of the twigs in the above extract suggests

the_____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The stiff movement of the twigs in the extract suggests the exertion.

Key Points: The twigs are described as 'stiff with exertion'-stiffness indicates strain or effort-the word 'exertion' captures the effort and tension portrayed in the movement of the twigs

(4)

Why does the poet describe the bough as ‘shuffling’ ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The poet describes the bough as ‘shuffling’ to show that it is moving slowly and awkwardly, like a person who has just been discharged from the hospital and is still weak and half-dazed. This word helps us imagine the boughs as tired and cramped from being confined, and now they are slowly moving under the roof.

Key Points: The word 'shuffling' means slow, repeated, and awkward movement - The boughs are long-cramped and stiff from exertion - The poet compares the boughs to newly discharged patients who are weak and moving slowly - This comparison shows the boughs are tired and are slowly adjusting after confinement

Section B

Question 5.

(1) Cinnamon is a spice obtained from the inner bark of several tree species from the genus Cinnamomum. Cinnamon is made by cutting the stems of cinnamon trees. The inner bark is then extracted and the woody parts removed. When it dries, it forms strips that curl into rolls, called cinnamon sticks. These sticks can be ground to form cinnamon powder. The spice, consisting of the dried inner bark, is brown in colour and has a delicately fragrant aroma and a warm sweet flavour. The distinct aroma and flavour of cinnamon derive from its essential oil and principal component, cinnamaldehyde, as well as numerous other constituents including eugenol.

(2) There are two main types of cinnamon: Cassia and Ceylon. The two have different nutritional profiles. Ceylon cinnamon comes from Sri Lanka. Some people call it “true cinnamon.” Cassia cinnamon, on the other hand, originates from southern China. Cassia is cheaper than Ceylon cinnamon. Cassia cinnamon has a robust, rich, somewhat bitter flavour while Ceylon is sweeter and lighter in flavor.

(3) Cinnamon was once more valuable than gold. In Egypt it was sought for embalming and religious practices. In medieval Europe it was used for religious rites and as a flavouring agent. Later it was the most profitable spice in the Dutch East India Company trade.

(4) Cinnamon is widely used as an aromatic condiment and flavouring additive in a wide variety of cuisines, sweet and savoury dishes, breakfast cereals, snack foods, bagels, teas, hot chocolate and traditional foods.

(5) Cinnamon is a spice that has been prized for its medicinal properties for thousands of years. In recent years, modern science has started to confirm many of the potential health benefits associated with cinnamon. Cinnamon has antimicrobial and antifungal properties, which is why it's often found in dental-hygiene products and is sold as cinnamon supplements. It is also a good source of antioxidants, substances that inhibit the effect of free radicals (reactive atoms that can damage cells). Due to its anti-inflammatory nature, cinnamon is currently being researched for its potential to fight Alzheimer's disease and decrease symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome and colon cancer.

(6) Studies also suggest that cinnamon has anti-diabetic properties, and may offer protection from cancer and cardiovascular disease, among other conditions. However, more evidence is needed to confirm cinnamon's benefits. In the short term, consuming moderate amounts of cinnamon as a spice or as a supplement seems to be safe for most people. However, cinnamon contains coumarin. This is a natural flavouring, but it also plays a role in creating warfarin, the common blood-thinning drug. Consuming too much coumarin can lead to liver damage and affect coagulation.

(1) Complete the sentence appropriately. The characteristic aroma and flavour of cinnamon originate from its essential oil, primarily composed of _____ .
Paragraph (1)

[1 Marks]

Answer: The characteristic aroma and flavour of cinnamon originate from its essential oil, primarily composed of cinnamaldehyde.

Key Points: Cinnamon aroma and flavour come from essential oil - The principal component of the essential oil is cinnamaldehyde - Cinnamaldehyde is responsible for cinnamon's distinct aroma and warm sweet flavour

(2)

Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, how cinnamon derived from the trees is made fit to be used as a spice. Paragraph (1)

[2 Marks]

Answer: Cinnamon is made by cutting the stems of cinnamon trees and extracting the inner bark. The woody parts are removed, and the bark is dried to form strips that curl into cinnamon sticks. These sticks can be ground into powder to be used as a spice.

Key Points: Cutting the stems of cinnamon trees-Extracting the inner bark-Removing woody parts-Drying the bark to form strips that curl into cinnamon sticks-Ground sticks form cinnamon powder

(3)

Mention one point of difference between Ceylon cinnamon and Cassia cinnamon. Paragraph (2)

[1 Marks]

Answer: Ceylon cinnamon is sweeter and lighter in flavor, whereas Cassia cinnamon has a robust, rich, and somewhat bitter flavor.

Key Points: Difference in flavor - Ceylon cinnamon is sweeter and lighter - Cassia cinnamon is robust, rich, and somewhat bitter

(4)

Which of the following statements about cinnamon and its health benefits is true ?

(A) Modern science has evidence to prove that cinnamon has many anti-diabetic properties, and it offers complete protection from cancer and cardiovascular disease.

(B) Cinnamon lacks antimicrobial and antifungal properties, making it unsuitable for dental hygiene products.

(C) Antioxidants found in cinnamon have no effect on free radicals in the body.

(D) Cinnamon's anti-inflammatory properties are being researched for its potential benefits in Alzheimer's disease, irritable bowel syndrome and colon cancer. Paragraph (6)

[1 Marks]

Answer: Option (D) is true. Cinnamon's anti-inflammatory properties are currently being researched for potential benefits in diseases like Alzheimer's, irritable bowel syndrome, and colon cancer.

Key Points: Cinnamon has anti-inflammatory properties-Cinnamon is being researched for benefits in Alzheimer's disease, irritable bowel syndrome, and colon cancer-Other options are false because cinnamon does have antimicrobial and antifungal properties and antioxidants which affect free radicals-More evidence is needed to confirm complete protection from cancer and cardiovascular disease

(5)

The writer's use of the phrases 'modern science has started to

confirm' in paragraph (5) and 'more evidence is needed to confirm'

in paragraph (6) suggests that the benefits of cinnamon are :

1. **proven**

2 scientific

3. **Uncertain**

4 controversial

5 harmful

Select the correct option :

(A) 1and 3

(B) 2 and 4

(C) only 3

(D) only 5

[1 Marks]

Answer: The benefits of cinnamon are uncertain because although modern science has begun to confirm some health benefits, more evidence is still needed to fully prove them. Therefore, the correct answer is (C) only 3.

Key Points: The phrases indicate ongoing research - modern science supports some benefits but they are not conclusively proven - more evidence is needed - benefits remain uncertain - choice (C) only 3 is correct

(6)

Complete the sentence appropriately.

The author says that cinnamon was once more valuable than gold because _____.

Paragraph (3)

[1 Marks]

Answer: Cinnamon was once more valuable than gold because it was highly sought after for embalming and religious practices in Egypt, for religious rites and flavoring in medieval Europe, and it was a very profitable spice in the Dutch East India Company trade.

Key Points: Cinnamon's historical value-Cinnamon used in embalming and religious practices in Egypt-Cinnamon used in religious rites and as a flavouring in medieval Europe-Cinnamon was the most profitable spice in the Dutch East India Company trade

(7)

Which of the following statements best describes the author’s attitude toward cinnamon and its uses ?

A) Finds cinnamon to be a prized condiment which can be used

in almost all food items.

(B) Believes that cinnamon should be used by everyone,

everyday.

(C) Recognizes that cinnamon has many useful properties,

including health benefits.

(D) Believes that cinnamon should only be used as a medicinal

supplement.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The author recognizes that cinnamon has many useful properties, including health benefits, as described by its antimicrobial, antifungal, and anti-inflammatory properties and ongoing research into its medicinal applications.

Key Points: Author discusses both culinary and medicinal uses of cinnamon- Highlights health benefits such as antimicrobial and antioxidant properties- Notes ongoing research on medicinal benefits- Mentions safety concerns with overconsumption- Does not suggest mandatory or exclusive usage as a supplement

(8)

What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph (5) ? Rationalize your response in about 40 words.

“Cinnamon is a spice that has been prized for its medicinal properties for thousands of years.”

[2 Marks]

Answer: The tone of the writer in the given lines is appreciative and informative. The writer respectfully highlights the long history and significance of cinnamon’s medicinal uses, showing admiration for its enduring value and contributions to health over thousands of years.

Key Points: Tone is appreciative and informative - Highlights historical importance - Emphasizes cinnamon’s medicinal properties - Shows respect and admiration for cinnamon’s value

Question 6.

Read the following passage carefully :

(1) When planning vacations, Indians typically prioritize domestic destinations, as shown by Ministry of Tourism data indicating 1.7 billion domestic tourist visits within India compared to 21 million international departures in 2022. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka stand out as the top states for domestic tourism. Reasons for domestic tourism are many, some travel because it suits their budget while others love to explore the historical, cultural diversity. The government today is focussing on tourist-friendly infrastructure which is making travel more convenient for the domestic traveller.

(2) In terms of outbound tourism, a significant proportion of Indian travellers, totalling 5.9 million, visited the United Arab Emirates in 2022, comprising 28 percent of total outbound tourist travel. Other Gulf states such as Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait also rank among the top destinations, with 2.4 million, 880,000, and 830,000 Indian visitors, respectively. Additionally, countries like the United States and the United Kingdom attract a considerable number of Indian tourists because these countries offer a mix of traditional and contemporary experiences along with enjoying unique cuisines and diverse landscapes.

(3) The popularity of Gulf States and the U.S. may be influenced by migration trends. The current issue of the International Organization for Migration’s (IOM) World Migration Report highlights significant migration flows from India to the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and Saudi Arabia. For instance, the Emirates hosted approximately 3.6 million Indian migrants as of August 2023. Only via two corridors have more people transferred from one country to another as of 2020

according to the IOM: Mexico to the United States with around 11 million and Syria to Turkey with approximately 4 million. These migration corridors rank among the top ten globally.

(1)

What does the use of the phrase ‘prioritise domestic destinations’ by the writer, in paragraph (1) imply ?

(A) Indian tourists prefer places in the country itself.

(B) Indian tourists like to stay at home.

(C) Indian tourists mainly travel on low budgets.

(D) Indian tourists love to hitch-hike and trek.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The phrase ‘prioritise domestic destinations’ implies that Indian tourists prefer to travel to places within their own country.

Key Points: The phrase means Indian tourists choose domestic locations over international ones - Ministry of Tourism data supports this - 1.7 billion domestic visits vs 21 million international departures in 2022 - Indicates preference for travelling within India

(2)

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given

in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph (2).

The statement that, World Migration Report highlights significant migration flows from India to the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and Saudi Arabia, is a/an_____(fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____(subjective judgement/objective detail).

[1 Marks]

Answer: The statement that, World Migration Report highlights significant migration flows from India to the United Arab Emirates, the United States, and Saudi Arabia, is a fact because it is an objective detail.

Key Points: Mention the statement is a fact - it is supported by data from the World Migration Report - It is an objective detail - It is based on real migration figures given in the passage

(3)

What is the writer's view about the tourism industry in the west ? Write any two points.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The writer views that the tourism industry in the west, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, attracts a considerable number of Indian tourists because these countries offer a mix of traditional and contemporary experiences along with unique cuisines and diverse landscapes. Additionally, the migration trends influence the popularity of these western countries as tourist destinations.

Key Points: Western countries like the US and UK attract many Indian tourists-They offer a blend of traditional and modern experiences-They have unique cuisines and diverse landscapes-Migration trends also influence tourism to the west

(4)

Draw a comparative analysis of domestic tourists travelling within India with domestic tourists travelling outside India in 2022. Answer in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

Answer: In 2022, India had 1.7 billion domestic tourist visits within the country while only 21 million Indian tourists travelled internationally. Domestic tourists preferred states like Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, while international tourists mainly visited the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and the USA.

Key Points: Domestic tourism is significantly higher than international tourism in India (1.7 billion vs. 21 million)-Top domestic states include Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu-International tourists mostly visit Gulf countries like UAE and Saudi Arabia, and western countries like the USA-Reason for domestic tourism includes budget and cultural interests-Migration patterns influence the choice of international destinations

(5)

Complete the sentence appropriately.

The fourth most visited outbound destination for Indians to the Gulf is_____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The fourth most visited outbound destination for Indians to the Gulf is Kuwait.

Key Points: Mention the Gulf countries visited by Indian tourists- Identify that UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Kuwait are listed in order- Recognize that Kuwait is the fourth most visited in the Gulf region by Indian travelers

(6)

Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below

Assertion : Indians prioritize Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for domestic tourism.

Reason : These states are full of historical monuments.

(A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.

(B) Both the Assertion and 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 because both the assertion and reason are true. Indians do prioritize Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for domestic tourism, and one of the reasons is that these states are rich in historical monuments, which attract many tourists.

Key Points: Assertion is true - Indians prioritize Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh for domestic tourism- Reason is true - these states have many historical monuments- Reason correctly explains the assertion as historical monuments attract tourists to these states

(7)

Identify the word in paragraph (3) that indicates the ‘preference’ of people travelling to the Gulf.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The word indicating the ‘preference’ of people travelling to the Gulf in paragraph (3) is 'corridors'.

Key Points: The word to find is in paragraph (3)-It should express the idea of chosen routes or paths by travellers-'corridors' indicates a preferred or common route of migration or travel

(8)

Mention any two reasons for domestic tourism becoming popular.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Domestic tourism has become popular because it suits the budget of many travellers, making it an affordable option. Additionally, many people love to explore India's historical and cultural diversity, which is rich and varied across different states.

Key Points: Budget-friendly travel-Exploration of historical and cultural diversity

(9)

Complete the following with a suitable reason.

Gulf states rank as popular destinations for Indians _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Gulf states rank as popular destinations for Indians because of significant migration and job opportunities available there.

Key Points: Presence of a large number of Indian migrants in Gulf states-Migration trends influencing travel-Migration corridors as per International Organization for Migration-Job opportunities and economic reasons for migration

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:

I believe that with your support and _____ (cooperate), we can find a mutually agreeable solution that meets the expectations of all stakeholders involved.

[1 Marks]

Answer: I believe that with your support and cooperation, we can find a mutually agreeable solution that meets the expectations of all stakeholders involved.

Key Points: Use the noun form of the word in brackets when filling in the blank- Understand the context to use the correct grammatical form- The correct form of 'cooperate' here is 'cooperation' since it complements 'support' in the sentence- The sentence should be meaningful and grammatically correct after filling the blank

Question 8.

Read the given sentence from an electric cooker's instruction manual. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.

For avoid damaging the appliance, do not immerse the electric cooker in water or any other liquid.

Use the given format for your response.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Answer: The error in the given sentence is in the phrase "For avoid damaging the appliance." The correct form should be "To avoid damaging the appliance." The word "For" is incorrectly used here; instead, "To" should be used before the verb "avoid" to express purpose or intention. Therefore, the corrected sentence is: "To avoid damaging the appliance, do not immerse the electric cooker in water or any other liquid."

Key Points: Identify incorrect use of 'For' before 'avoid'-Understand correct infinitive form 'To avoid'-Correction of phrase as 'To avoid damaging the appliance'-Rewrite the full corrected sentence

Question 9.

Amit and Pallavi had a conversation about the inauguration of Pallavi's event. Report Amit's question.

Did you manage to get any sponsors for the inauguration event scheduled for the next month ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Amit asked Pallavi if she had managed to get any sponsors for the inauguration event scheduled for the next month. The reported speech converts the direct question into an indirect question by changing the sentence structure and tense slightly. 'Did you manage to get' changes to 'if she had managed to get', and the question mark is removed since it becomes part of a statement.

The sentence is then framed as: Amit asked Pallavi if she had managed to get any sponsors for the inauguration event scheduled for the next month.

Key Points: Use of reported speech to change direct question to indirect question-Change of tense from 'Did you manage' to 'if she had managed'-Use of 'asked' to indicate reporting-Avoidance of question mark in reported speech-Correct word order for indirect questions

Question 10.

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

line of a notice placed on the notice board of a company.

Please be informed that there will be a staff meeting in the

conference room on Friday, 7th June, at 10:00 a.m. It is _____

for all to attend. (mandatory/obligatory/indispensable)

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct word to fill in the blank is 'mandatory'. The completed sentence will be: 'Please be informed that there will be a staff meeting in the conference room on Friday, 7th June, at 10:00 a.m. It is mandatory for all to attend.' The word 'mandatory' means something that must be done or is compulsory. In notices, this word is commonly used to emphasize the importance of attendance or compliance. While 'obligatory' and 'indispensable' also imply necessity, 'mandatory' is the most suitable for formal notices indicating a required action.

Key Points: Choose 'mandatory' to fill the blank-The sentence informs about a compulsory staff meeting-'Mandatory' means compulsory or required-Notices use 'mandatory' to indicate actions that must be followed-'Obligatory' and 'indispensable' are related words but less common in official notices

Question 11.

Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence

from a preface of a book.

Writing this book have been a journey of exploration and

discovery.

Use the given format for your response

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Answer: The error in the sentence is the incorrect use of the verb form 'have' for the singular subject 'Writing this book'. The subject here is singular, so the verb should also be singular. The correct sentence is: 'Writing this book has been a journey of exploration and discovery.'

Key Points: Identify the subject as singular - Use singular verb with singular subject - Correct verb form is 'has' not 'have' - Rewrite sentence with correction

Question 12.

Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the

correction for the opening line, from an analytical paragraph.

The advent of social media has revolutionized communication by

connected people across the globe in unprecedented ways.

[1 Marks]

Option No.	*Error*	*Correction*
(A)	has	have
(B)	communication	communicating
(C)	connected	connecting
(D)	in	for

Answer: The error in the sentence is the use of 'connected' instead of 'connecting'. The correct sentence should be: 'The advent of social media has revolutionized communication by connecting people across the globe in unprecedented ways.' The phrase 'by connecting people' correctly indicates the means through which communication has been revolutionized. Using the gerund form 'connecting' is appropriate after 'by' to show how social media has affected communication.

Key Points: Identify the error as incorrect verb form 'connected'-Explain that 'by' requires a gerund form '-Correction is 'connecting'-Correct sentence: 'by connecting people across the globe'-Explanation why gerund is used here

Question 13.

Report the dialogue between a salesman and his customer, by

completing the sentence.

Salesman : I have a wide range of sportswear.

Customer : Please show me something in cotton fabric, which is

suitable for summers.

The salesman stated _____. The customer requested the

salesman to show something in cotton fabric which would be

suitable for summers.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The salesman stated that he had a wide range of sportswear. The customer requested the salesman to show him something in cotton fabric which would be suitable for summers.

Key Points: Use reported speech to convey what the salesman said-Use reported speech to convey what the customer requested-Mention the salesman's wide range of sportswear-Mention cotton fabric as suitable for summers-Ensure tense changes appropriate for reported speech

Question 14.

Identify the error and supply the correction for the following

instruction put up for safe use of elevators.

Please refrain by standing near the door as it could lead to an

accident.

Use the given format for your response.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Answer: The error in the sentence is the incorrect use of the preposition and phrasing in "Please refrain by standing near the door". The correct expression should be "Please refrain from standing near the door". Alternatively, one could say "Do not stand near the door as it could lead to an accident." Therefore, the corrected sentence is: "Please refrain from standing near the door as it could lead to an accident." This correction makes the instruction clear and grammatically accurate for safe use of elevators.

> **Key Points: Identify preposition error - Correct 'refrain by' to 'refrain from' - Maintain clear, polite instruction - Use correct sentence structure - Emphasize safety in elevator use**

Section D

Question 15.

Read the dialogue between Bharti and her mother, Geeta, regarding Geeta's birthday plans. Bharti : Do you want to go to a hill station on your birthday ? Geeta : No, I want to stay at home and call my friends over. Select the correct option that reports the above dialogue. Bharti asked Geeta if she wanted to go to a hill station on her birthday. Geeta replied in the negative and said that _____.

[1 Marks]

(A) she wants to stay home by calling her friends to celebrate.

(B) she wanted to stay at home and call her friends over.

(C) I wanted to stay home and call my friends to celebrate.

(D) she wanted to stay home and call her friends for celebrating.

Explanation:

The correct option is 'she wanted to stay at home and call her friends over.' This is because the reported speech should maintain the past tense and accurately reflect Geeta's original words. Geeta clearly said she wanted to stay at home and call her friends over, which matches this option. Other options are either grammatically incorrect or do not accurately report the original statement.

Question 16.

Complete the given entry in a personal diary, by filling the blank with the correct option. Today was a rollercoaster of emotions. It started off with a sense of excitement and anticipation as I _____ on a new project at work.

[1 Marks]

(A) have embarked

(B) embarking

(C) embarked

(D) embark

Explanation:

The correct option is 'embarked' because the sentence is in the past tense describing an action that already started. 'Embarked' is the simple past form of the verb 'embark', which fits naturally with the past context indicated by 'Today was... It started off...'. Other options like 'have embarked' (present perfect), 'embark' (present tense), and 'embarking' (present participle) do not fit the past narrated context of the diary entry.

Question 17.

Complete the line from a ‘Save the Environment’ song, by filling the blank with the correct option. Pollution, pollution, its time to take a stand, for the health of our planet, we've got to lend a hand, Reduce, reuse, recycle, that’s the key, _____our world for you and me.

[1 Marks]

(A) to preserve

(B) for preserved

(C) for preserve

(D) to preserved

Explanation:

The correct option is 'to preserve'. The phrase 'to preserve our world for you and me' uses the infinitive form 'to preserve' which correctly fits grammatically and contextually in the sentence. The other options are grammatically incorrect. 'Preserve' here means to protect and take care of the environment, which aligns with the theme of saving the environment.

Question 18.

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete an announcement on a flight. In thirty minutes, our flight attendants meal _____service.

[1 Marks]

(A) can begin

(B) will begin

(C) will began

(D) should begin

Explanation:

The correct option is 'will begin' because the phrase 'In thirty minutes' indicates a future event, so the future simple tense 'will begin' is the appropriate choice to complete the sentence. The other options are grammatically incorrect or do not fit the context of a future announcement.

Section E

Question 19.

The transition from the apartheid system in South Africa to a new

era of equality reflects broader historical trends in the struggle for

human rights and social justice. Elaborate.

(Nelson Mandela — Long Walk to Freedom)

[3 Marks]

Answer: The transition from apartheid to equality in South Africa is a significant example of the global struggle for human rights and social justice. Apartheid was a system of racial segregation that oppressed the majority black population. Nelson Mandela, through his autobiography 'Long Walk to Freedom', narrates his lifelong fight against this injustice, including spending 30 years in prison. The end of apartheid and the democratic elections of 1994 marked a new era where Mandela became the first black president, symbolizing the victory of freedom and equality. This transition reflects a broader historical trend where oppressed people worldwide have demanded their fundamental rights and dignity, leading to significant social and political changes. Mandela’s understanding of freedom deepened over time, highlighting that it is not just about personal liberty but the freedom of all people to live with equality and justice. His journey parallels that of other global movements that fought

colonialism, racism, and inequality, emphasizing reconciliation, peace, and democratic governance as foundations of true freedom.

Key Points: Apartheid was racial segregation and oppression-Mandela's lifelong fight against apartheid-Mandela's 30 years in prison-Democratic elections in 1994-Mandela as first black President of South Africa-Transition symbolizes global human rights struggles-Freedom defined as equality and justice beyond personal liberty-Reconciliation and peace as foundations of new society-Connection to broader social justice movements worldwide

Question 20.

How does "The Ball Poem" by John Berryman explore the theme of

loss and its profound impact on an individual's emotional state and

perception of the world ?(The Ball Poem)

[3 Marks]

Answer: In 'The Ball Poem' by John Berryman, the theme of loss is explored through the experience of a boy who loses his ball. Though a ball can be easily replaced, the boy experiences deep emotional grief, showing that the loss is not just physical but also symbolic. The poet conveys how this loss affects the boy's emotional state, making him realize the reality of impermanence and change in life. This incident is a metaphor for the losses we all face in life, and how such experiences shake our perception of the world and maturity. The boy learns that some losses can cause 'shaking grief' and make him feel 'rigid' with sadness, but also teaches him to accept loss as part of growing up. Thus, through simple imagery, the poem profoundly reflects on the emotional impact of loss and the inevitable changes it brings to an individual's outlook towards life.

Key Points: The boy experiences deep emotional grief despite the ball's material value being low-The loss symbolizes the larger theme of impermanence and change in life-The boy's emotional state is deeply affected, showing the profound impact of loss-The poem teaches acceptance of loss as a part of growing up-Loss changes the perception of the world, leading to maturity

Question 21.

How does the description of the baker's lifestyle in the past evoke a

sense of nostalgia ? (Glimpses of India — A Baker from Goa)

[3 Marks]

Answer: The description of the baker's lifestyle in the past evokes a strong sense of nostalgia by highlighting the close relationship between the baker and the community, especially children who regarded him as a friend, companion, and guide. The baker's regular visits, at least twice daily, symbolize the warmth and simplicity of village life in Goa during Portuguese times. Elders often reminisce about those days, remembering the famous Portuguese loaves of bread and the cultural significance they held. While bread-making may not be as popular now, the continuation of traditional baking by the baker's descendants represents the legacy of a bygone era. This connection with the past through the baker's lifestyle brings back memories of a simpler and more connected time, invoking feelings of longing and admiration for the old cultural practices.

Key Points: The baker was a friend and guide to children-Regular visits of the baker symbolized close community bonds-Elders reminisce about the Portuguese era and famous loaves of bread-Traditional bread-making signifies cultural heritage-Continuation of baking by descendants keeps the legacy alive-Description brings a longing for simpler times and old customs

Question 22.

What role does each of Belinda's pets play in the narrative ? Select

any two of her pets. (The Tale of Custard the Dragon)

[3 Marks]

Answer: In the narrative of 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon,' Belinda's pets each have distinct characteristics that contribute to the story. For example, Custard, the dragon, is described as cowardly who cries for a safe cage, highlighting his timid nature. On the other hand, Mustard, the little yellow dog, is sharp and brave. These contrasting traits among the pets create a dynamic story that eventually reveals Custard's bravery when danger arises. The personalities of Blink, the little grey mouse, and Belinda's kitten also add to the playful and lively portrayal of her pets.

Key Points: Custard is the timid, cowardly dragon-Custard cries for a safe cage-Belinda's dog Mustard is sharp and brave-Creates contrast between pets-Shows Custard's hidden courage later in the story-Adds liveliness and personality to the narrative

Question 23.

Valli found joy and fascination in the simple act of watching the bus

pass through her village. What does this reveal about her

perspective on life and her surroundings ? (Madam Rides the Bus)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Valli's joy and fascination in watching the bus pass through her village reveal her innocent curiosity and excitement about the world beyond her small village. The bus represented a connection to the larger world, symbolizing adventure and new experiences that she longed to explore. Her perspective on life is filled with wonder and a desire to break free from routine. It shows that she appreciates even small things and finds happiness in simple moments, reflecting her hopeful and adventurous spirit.

Key Points: Valli's curiosity about the world-Valli's excitement about new experiences-Bus symbolizes adventure and the larger world-Simple things bring joy to Valli-Reflects her innocent and hopeful perspective on life

Question 24.

How did Ausable get rid of Max ? (The Midnight Visitor)

[3 Marks]

Answer: In the story "The Midnight Visitor," Ausable cleverly outwits Max, a crafty intruder who tries to kill him. Ausable pretends that his room has a balcony attached to it and describes the imaginary balcony in great detail, making it sound very convincing. He lures Max out onto this supposed balcony by making him believe it's there. When Max steps onto the 'balcony,' believing it to be real, he falls through the open window to the street below. This clever trick helps Ausable get rid of Max without any physical struggle. Ausable does not seem to have planned the exact method from the beginning but improvises skillfully using the available situation to his advantage. This shows Ausable's quick thinking and intelligence in dangerous situations.

Key Points: Ausable pretends there is a balcony attached to his room-Ausable gives a detailed and convincing description of the balcony-Ausable lures Max onto the imaginary balcony-Max falls from the window believing the balcony to be real-Ausable improvises his plan using the situation-Ausable outwits Max without physical fight

Question 25.

Why does Mme Loisel hastily depart from the ball when her

husband places a modest wrap on her shoulders ? (The Necklace)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Mme Loisel hastily departs from the ball when her husband places a modest wrap on her shoulders because she feels embarrassed and self-conscious. Throughout the story, Mme Loisel is portrayed as a woman who loves luxury and desires to appear wealthy and elegant. At the ball, she is dressed beautifully and attracts admiration. However, the modest wrap is a stark contrast to the

luxurious furs worn by other women. She fears being noticed for her poverty and feels that the modest wrap reveals her true social status. To avoid humiliation and to protect her image, she decides to leave the ball quickly before anyone can see her in the simple wrap, which she believes diminishes her appearance and social standing.

Key Points: Mme Loisel feels embarrassed by the modest wrap-Mme Loisel desires to appear wealthy and elegant-Ms Loisel fears being noticed for her poverty-The modest wrap contrasts with other women's luxurious furs-She leaves quickly to avoid humiliation and protect her image

Question 26.

“In time you will be more learned than anyone else in the village.

Then no one will ever be able to laugh at you.” What effect did her

teacher’s words have on Bholi ? Elaborate. (Bholi)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Bholi’s teacher’s encouraging words had a profound impact on her. Before going to school, Bholi felt insecure and afraid because of her appearance and the way others mocked her. Her teacher told her that if she studied well, she would become more learned than anyone else in the village, and no one would laugh at her. This gave Bholi confidence and hope. The teacher's faith in her abilities motivated Bholi to work hard in school. Over time, this transformed Bholi’s self-esteem and outlook on life, helping her overcome social barriers and become a respected member of the community. The teacher’s support played a crucial role in changing Bholi’s life and made her feel valued and capable.

Key Points: Bholi felt insecure and was laughed at by others-Teacher encouraged her by saying she will be more learned than anyone else in the village-This boosted Bholi’s confidence and motivation-Bholi worked hard and improved herself-Teacher’s words helped Bholi overcome social barriers and gain respect from the community

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Section F

Question 27.

As Sakshi/Saksham Bedi of 864, Solar Apartments, Lajpat Street,

Dipak Nagar, you feel that the lack of proper street lighting in

several areas of your neighbourhood is a threat to safety.

Residents, especially those who work late shifts or return home

after dark, feel vulnerable due to poorly lit streets. Write a letter to

the District Magistrate of your city area, in about 120 words,

stating the problem and requesting him to take necessary action

for installation of streetlights in those areas.

[5 Marks]

Answer:

864, Solar Apartments,
Lajpat Street, Dipak Nagar,
City - 123456
Date: 20 April 2024

To,
The District Magistrate,
City Administration Office,
City - 123456

Subject: Request for Installation of Streetlights in Our Locality

Respected Sir,

I am Saksham Bedi, a resident of Solar Apartments, Lajpat Street, Dipak Nagar. I wish to bring to your kind notice the lack of proper street lighting in several areas of our neighbourhood. This has become a serious safety concern, especially for residents working late shifts and those returning home after dark, as the poorly lit streets make them feel vulnerable to accidents and possible crimes.

I kindly request you to take necessary steps to install sufficient streetlights in these areas at the earliest to ensure the safety and security of all residents. Proper lighting will not only enhance safety but also promote a sense of security among the community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours faithfully,
Saksham Bedi

Key Points: Mention address and date-Introduce yourself as a resident of the area-State the problem of lack of street lighting-Explain how it compromises safety for residents working late or returning after dark-Request urgent installation of streetlights-Highlight benefits like safety and security-End with polite closing

Question 28.

You are Dharti Pradhan/Balal Goyal, the head girl/boy of Pinnacle School, Ustahpuri. You live in a culturally rich city with many historical monuments. You have observed that visitors have etched graffiti on these monuments and littered the area around. You are extremely disturbed at this irresponsible behaviour of the visitors. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, suggesting measures to stop such vandalism and -creating awareness about the importance of these monuments.

[5 Marks]

Answer: Dharti Pradhan/Balal Goyal Head Girl/Boy, Pinnacle School, Ustahpuri. Date: 20th June 2024 The Editor, The National Daily, New Delhi. Subject: Urgent Measures to Prevent Vandalism of Historical Monuments Sir/Madam, I am deeply disturbed to observe that several visitors to our city's historical monuments have been etching graffiti and littering the surroundings. Such irresponsible behavior not only spoils the beauty but also threatens the preservation of our rich cultural heritage. I urge the authorities and the public to take strict measures such as installing CCTV cameras, increasing patrolling by security personnel, and imposing fines on offenders to deter vandalism. Additionally, conducting awareness campaigns and educational programs in schools and public places can instill respect for these monuments. Visitors should also be encouraged to maintain cleanliness and preserve the dignity of these sites. Protecting our historical monuments is vital for future generations to appreciate our culture and history. Yours sincerely, Dharti Pradhan/Balal Goyal

Key Points: Introduction stating your position and concern - Description of the problem (graffiti and littering) - Importance of preserving cultural heritage - Suggestion of strict measures like CCTV, patrolling, fines - Suggestion of awareness campaigns in schools and public places - Appeal to visitors to maintain cleanliness - Emphasis on protecting heritage for future generations

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Section G

Question 29.

Natural food, typically refers to food that has not been processed or preserved in any significant way before it is consumed, while

ultra-processed food refers to food items that have been altered

from their natural state through various methods. Given below is a

table that differentiates between natural and processed foods.

Study the description given and write an analytical paragraph in

about 120 words, drawing a comparison between the two :

[5 Marks]

Natural Food	Processed Food
• High fibre	• High sugar
• Healthy nutrients	• Unhealthy nutrients
• Healthy fats	• Unhealthy fats
• Low sodium	• High sodium
• Regulates blood sugar, blood pressure and provides healthy nutrients	• Tasty, ready to eat and addictive

Answer: Natural foods are those that are consumed in their original form without any significant processing or preservation. These foods retain their natural nutrients, taste, and texture, and are often considered healthier as they do not contain artificial additives or preservatives. Examples include fresh fruits, vegetables, nuts, and whole grains. On the other hand, ultra-processed foods undergo multiple stages of processing, including the addition of artificial flavors, colors, preservatives, and other chemical substances. These foods are designed to be convenient, long-lasting, and palatable but often lack essential nutrients and may contribute to health problems when consumed excessively. While natural foods promote better health and maintain ecological balance, ultra-processed foods offer convenience but at the cost of reduced nutritional quality. Hence, choosing natural foods over ultra-processed ones is generally recommended for a balanced diet and overall well-being.

Key Points: Definition of natural food-Definition of ultra-processed food-Retained nutrients and health benefits of natural food-Use of artificial additives and preservatives in ultra-processed food-Impact on health and nutrition-Comparison in terms of taste, processing, and convenience-Recommendation for choosing natural foods

Question 30.

Social Media has a lasting impact on our thought process and

influences our thinking in both positive and negative ways. With

the help of the given cues and using your own ideas, write an

analytical paragraph on “The Impact of Social Media on

Teenagers” in about 120 words.

[5 Marks]

POSITIVE :
- connects peers
- creative expression
- access information
- community building

NEGATIVE :
- impacts self-esteem
- cyber bullying
- privacy intrusion
- distraction and addiction

Answer: Social media significantly influences teenagers by shaping their thoughts and opinions. On the positive side, it connects them globally, providing access to vast knowledge and different perspectives. Teenagers can express themselves creatively and stay informed about current events. However, social media also poses negative effects such as addiction, reducing face-to-face interactions, and exposing teens to cyberbullying or harmful content. It can sometimes create unrealistic expectations and pressure to conform, affecting mental health. Discussing the issue with friends, family, and seniors reveals mixed feelings, emphasizing the need for balanced usage. Overall, social media’s impact on teenagers is profound, and awareness is essential to maximize its benefits while minimizing harm.

Key Points: Social media connects teenagers globally - Enables access to knowledge and diverse views - Encourages self-expression and awareness - Can lead to addiction and decreased real-life interactions - Exposure to cyberbullying and harmful content - Creates unrealistic standards and peer pressure - Mental health impact - Opinions from friends, seniors, and family show mixed views - Importance of balanced and mindful social media use

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Section H

Question 31.

Analyse and evaluate the role of faith in ‘A Letter to God” and ‘The Sermon at Benares’.

[6 Marks]

Answer:

Faith plays a pivotal role in both ‘A Letter to God’ by G.L. Fuentes and ‘The Sermon at Benares’ by Buddha, yet it manifests differently in each story and conveys distinct messages. In ‘A Letter to God’, faith is portrayed through the character of a poor farmer who, despite the destruction of his crops by a storm, writes a letter to God, hoping for divine help. This act symbolizes human reliance on divine intervention and an unshaken belief in a higher power during adversity. The story critically explores the simplicity and innocence of faith, as well as the gap between human expectations and divine responses.

In contrast, ‘The Sermon at Benares’ reflects faith from the perspective of Buddha’s teachings. Here, faith is linked to understanding and spiritual awakening. It is not blind belief but a conscious acceptance of truths that lead to liberation from suffering. The sermon embodies faith as intellectual and experiential, encouraging followers to think, reflect, and realize the impermanence of life, thus promoting an enlightened path.

Evaluating both, ‘A Letter to God’ showcases faith as emotional and hope-filled, highlighting human vulnerability and trust in God’s benevolence. ‘The Sermon at Benares’ emphasizes faith as a transformative power through knowledge and self-awareness. Together, they offer contrasting yet complementary views on faith—one grounded in personal desperation and the other in philosophical enlightenment. These narratives underscore the multifaceted nature of faith in human life and spiritual journey.

> **Key Points: In ‘A Letter to God’, faith is depicted as hopeful reliance on divine help-In ‘The Sermon at Benares’, faith is intellectual and leads to enlightenment-The former highlights human vulnerability and simplicity of faith-The latter emphasizes understanding, reflection, and liberation from suffering-Both offer different but profound perspectives on the role of faith in human life**

Question 32. Explore the contrasting images of the tiger in ‘A Tiger in the Zoo’ and the tiger in ‘How to Tell Wild Animals’.

[6 Marks]

Answer: The poems ‘A Tiger in the Zoo’ by Leslie Norris and ‘How to Tell Wild Animals’ by Gerald Durrell present contrasting images of the tiger, highlighting different aspects of its existence and nature. In ‘A Tiger in the Zoo’, the tiger is portrayed as a captive creature, confined within the limits of the zoo, deprived of its natural freedom. The poem emphasizes the tiger’s power and fierce nature, but also depicts its frustration and loss of vitality due to captivity. The repeated mention of the tiger’s stripes and physical stature underlines its majestic wildness, which is subdued by the unnatural

environment of the zoo. In contrast, ‘How to Tell Wild Animals’ offers a more observational and educational perspective on the tiger in its natural habitat. The tiger here is shown in the jungle, free and dominant, with the emphasis on its stealth and movements among the wild. The poem focuses on how to identify and understand the wild tiger in its environment, celebrating its natural behavior and instincts. Therefore, while ‘A Tiger in the Zoo’ presents the tiger as a symbol of lost freedom and strength under human control, ‘How to Tell Wild Animals’ celebrates the tiger’s wildness and natural existence in the jungle. These contrasting images highlight the broader theme of man versus nature, captivity versus freedom, and the human impact on wildlife.

Key Points: Tiger in captivity in ‘A Tiger in the Zoo’-Power and majestic nature subdued by zoo environment-Captivity causes loss of vitality and frustration-Emphasis on tiger’s stripes and physical stature-Tiger in natural habitat in ‘How to Tell Wild Animals’-Tiger portrayed as free and dominant in jungle-Focus on tiger’s natural behavior and stealth-Observational and educational tone-Contrast between captivity and freedom-Man versus nature theme

Question 33.

Anil’s acceptance and forgiveness of the thief demonstrates empathy

and generosity. Elaborate. (The Thief's Story)

[6 Marks]

Answer: Anil’s reaction upon discovering the theft in "The Thief's Story" is a remarkable example of empathy and generosity. Instead of showing anger or fear like others, Anil felt only a touch of sadness—not for the loss of money, but for the loss of trust. He had given the thief the key to his house and complete freedom, trusting him fully. This deep trust shows Anil's generous nature. When the theft was revealed, Anil did not punish or complain; instead, he forgave the thief. This forgiveness reflects empathy because Anil understood the thief’s circumstances rather than judging him harshly. Anil’s attitude contrasts sharply with typical reactions where most people would get angry or report the thief to the police. He believed in seeing beyond the crime to the person’s situation, offering kindness instead of hostility. This shows true generosity of spirit—valuing human relationships more than material possessions. Anil’s behavior teaches the importance of trust, understanding, and compassion towards others, even when they err. It encourages us to respond to mistakes with kindness, which can inspire change and redemption in people rather than alienation or punishment.

Key Points: Anil's reaction showed sadness for loss of trust not money - He gave the thief the house key showing deep trust - He forgave the thief instead of anger or punishment - Empathy in understanding the thief's situation - Generosity in valuing human relationship over possessions - Contrast with common reactions of anger or fear - Importance of kindness and forgiveness - Encouragement for compassion and change

Question 34.

Trace the transformation of Richard Ebright from a young man with

potential to a respected and accomplished scientist. (The Making of a Scientist)

[6 Marks]

Answer:

Richard Ebright's journey from a young boy fascinated by butterflies to a respected scientist is truly inspiring. His interest in science was sparked early on through his love for collecting butterflies, which opened his eyes to the wonders of science. In high school, Richard was a straight-A student, excelling academically, but he also actively participated in debating and Model United Nations, showcasing his well-rounded personality. Despite not winning at a science fair, he learned valuable lessons about perseverance and the importance of continuous effort.

His mother played a key role in nurturing his curiosity and encouraging him to explore science further. Inspired by his admiration for a scientist, Richard undertook various experiments and projects, which helped develop his scientific skills and confidence. His passion for science combined with discipline and hard work led him to receive prestigious awards such as the Searle Scholar Award and the Schering Plough Award for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

In addition to his scientific pursuits, Richard was an accomplished debater and an expert photographer, particularly of nature and scientific exhibits, highlighting how he blended multiple interests to enrich his knowledge and personality. This transformation reflects qualities such as dedication, perseverance, curiosity, and a willingness to learn from failures, which are essential in the making of a successful scientist.

Key Points: Early interest in butterflies sparked fascination with science-Her mother's encouragement-Never giving up despite setbacks at science fair-Participation in debates and Model United Nations-Undertaking experiments and projects to develop skills-Receiving prestigious scientific awards-Having diverse interests like photography and canoeing-Qualities like dedication, perseverance, curiosity contributed to success