CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2024

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 2** are unseen passage

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

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.

Read the following passage carefully :

(1) Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues, as rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them. Plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations, where garbage collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent. But the developed world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, also has trouble properly collecting discarded plastics. Plastic trash has become so ubiquitous that it has prompted efforts to write a global treaty negotiated by the United Nations.

(2) Plastics made from fossil fuels are just over a century old. Production and development of thousands of new plastic products accelerated after World War II. It transformed the modern age so much that life without plastics is unrecognizable today. Plastics revolutionized medicine with life-saving devices, made space travel possible, lightened cars and jets — saving fuel and pollution — and saved lives with helmets, incubators, and equipment for clean drinking water.

(3) The conveniences plastics offer, however, led to a throw-away culture that reveals the material's dark side : today, single-use plastics account for 40 percent of the plastic produced every year. Many of these products, such as plastic bags and food wrappers, have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.

(4) Most of the plastic trash in the oceans, Earth's last sink, flows from land. Trash is also carried to sea by major rivers, which act as conveyor belts, picking up more and more trash as they move downstream. Once at sea, much of the plastic trash remains in coastal waters. But once caught up in ocean currents, it can be transported around the world.

(5) Millions of animals are killed by plastics every year, from birds to fish to other marine organisms. Nearly 700 species, including endangered ones, are known to have been affected by plastics. Nearly every species of seabirds eats plastics. Most of the deaths of animals are caused by entanglement or starvation. Seals, whales, turtles, and other animals are strangled by abandoned fishing gear or discarded six-pack rings.

(6) The solution is to prevent plastic waste from entering rivers and seas in the first place, many scientists and conservationists — including the National Geographic Society — say. This could be accomplished with improved waste management systems and recycling, better product design that takes into account the short life of disposable packaging, and reduction in manufacturing of unnecessary single-use plastics.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(1)

Which of the following statements best describes the reason why plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues?

(A) Plastic trash collection systems have become inefficient or nonexistent.

(B) Rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them.

(C) Some plastics have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.

(D) The developed world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, has trouble properly collecting plastics.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The best reason why plastic pollution has become a pressing environmental issue is that rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them.

Key Points: Plastic pollution is pressing because of rapid increase in disposable plastic production - This overwhelms waste management systems - Both developing and developed countries face difficulties in handling plastic waste due to this increase

(2)

What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph 2 ? Rationalise your response in about 40 words.

‘It transformed the modern age so much that life without plastics is unrecognizable today.’

[2 Marks]

Answer: The tone of the writer is appreciative and admiring as he acknowledges the significant positive impact of plastic on modern life, highlighting that plastics have revolutionized various fields and made day-to-day life much easier and different from the past.

Key Points: Tone is appreciative and admiring-The writer recognizes plastics have transformed modern life-Plastics have important uses in medicine, transport, and safety-Life without plastics seems unimaginable today

(3)

The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (A) — (E) below, identify two sets of synonyms.

(A) garbage and trash

(B) starvation and strangled

(C) disposable and reduction

(D) persist and downstream

(E) transformed and revolutionized

[1 Marks]

Answer: The two sets of synonyms are (A) garbage and trash, and (E) transformed and revolutionized.

Key Points: Synonyms are words having the same or nearly the same meaning.- Garbage and trash both mean waste material.- Transformed and revolutionized both mean to change significantly or completely.- Other pairs do not have similar meanings.

(4)

Complete the sentence appropriately :

The writer says that most of the plastic trash is found in the Earth's last sink and the reason it is transported around the world is _____

[1 Marks]

Answer: The writer says that most of the plastic trash is found in the Earth's last sink because it gets caught up in ocean currents, which transport it around the world.

Key Points: Most plastic trash is found in the oceans - Oceans are called Earth's last sink - Plastic trash enters oceans from land - Ocean currents transport plastic trash globally

(5)

Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, the downside of the convenience that plastic offers.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The convenience of plastics has led to a throw-away culture, producing vast amounts of single-use plastics that persist in the environment for hundreds of years, causing widespread pollution. This harms wildlife through entanglement and ingestion, severely damaging ecosystems.

Key Points: Throw-away culture caused by plastic convenience-Single-use plastics last for hundreds of years in environment-Harms animals and marine life through entanglement or starvation-Environmental pollution caused by plastic waste

(6)

Complete the sentence appropriately : According to conservationists, the two ways in which most of the deaths of animals are caused are_____

[1 Marks]

Answer: According to conservationists, most of the deaths of animals are caused by entanglement and starvation.

Key Points: Deaths caused by entanglement-Deaths caused by starvation-Animals affected include seals, whales, turtles and seabirds

(7)

Based on the passage, how can we contribute to the reduction of plastic waste ?

(A) Dby internationalising the waste management system

(B) by minimizing the use of single-use plastics

(C) by not abandoning fishing gear

(D) by not using helmets made of plastic

[1 Marks]

Answer: We can contribute to the reduction of plastic waste by minimizing the use of single-use plastics, as these account for a large portion of plastic pollution and have a very short life but persist in the environment for hundreds of years.

Key Points: Minimize use of single-use plastics-Reduce plastic waste entering rivers and seas-Improve waste management and recycling-Reduce production of unnecessary disposable plastics

(8)

State one reason why plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations because garbage collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent there.

Key Points: Plastic pollution-Developing Asian and African nations-Garbage collection systems inefficient or nonexistent

Question 2.

Read the following passage carefully :

(1) Rotation of crops is a universal phenomenon which is practised by most of the farmers of the tropical and temperate countries. The main objective of rotation of crops is to obtain higher agricultural returns on the one hand, and to maintain the soil fertility on the other.

(2) In other words, the rotation of crops helps in making agriculture more sustainable. The importance of crop rotation is more in the areas where farmers grow two, or more than two crops in the same field in a year. Irrigation facilities have also been appreciably developed in the country during the last three decades. The availability of water to the arable land has helped in the intensification of agriculture.

(3) In the areas such as Punjab and Haryana, where the Green Revolution is a big success, one soil exhaustive crop (rice) is followed by another soil exhaustive crop (wheat). Subsequently, the field vacated by wheat is devoted to either rice or maize or cotton. Thus, in one year, the farmers are harvesting three soil exhaustive crops from the same field. Such a rotation of crops may fetch more income to the farmers, but depletes the soil fertility at a faster pace.

(4) A number of field studies were conducted to assess the traditional crop rotation pattern. One such field study about the changes in the rotation of crops was conducted in the village Banhera (Tanda), Haridwar district. The main rotation of crops of the village is shown in the table below.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

Traditional Rotation of Crops (1960-65) in Banhera (Tanda)				
Year	*Kharif (mid-June to mid-October)*	*Rabi (mid-October to mid-April)*	*Zaid (April to June)*	*No. of days land left fallow*
1960	Millet/fodder/rice	Gram	Fallow	90
1961	Fallow	Wheat	Fallow	210
1962	Millet/fodder/rice	Gram	Fallow	90
1963	Fallow	Wheat	Fallow	210
1964	Millet mixed with urad/fodder/rice	Gram	Fallow	90
1965	Fallow	Wheat	Fallow	210

(1)

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of para 2.

One of the reasons that there has been an intensification of agriculture in the country is the development of irrigation facilities is a/an_____(fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____(subjective judgement/objective detail).

[1 Marks]

Answer: One of the reasons that there has been an intensification of agriculture in the country is the development of irrigation facilities is a fact because it is an objective detail.

Key Points: Irrigation facilities have developed - stated as a fact- It is an objective detail - It has helped intensification of agriculture

(2)

Based on your understanding of paras 1 and 2, state whether the following statement is true or false. If proper irrigation facility is provided, higher agricultural returns can be obtained by making crop rotation more sustainable.

[1 Marks]

Answer: True. Proper irrigation helps in growing multiple crops in the same field, and crop rotation maintains soil fertility. Together, they make agriculture more sustainable and result in higher agricultural returns.

Key Points: Crop rotation maintains soil fertility - Irrigation allows multiple cropping - Combined effect leads to sustainable agriculture and higher returns

(3)

Justify the following in about 40 words. Crop rotation may fetch more income to the farmers, but depletes the soil fertility at a faster pace.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Crop rotation involving soil exhaustive crops like rice and wheat in the same field increases farmers' income by producing multiple crops yearly. However, this practice depletes soil nutrients quickly, reducing soil fertility and affecting long-term productivity if not managed properly.

Key Points: Crop rotation means growing different crops in the same field-yearly-Increasing crop numbers increases farmers' income-Soil exhaustive crops remove more nutrients from the soil-Faster depletion of soil fertility-Long-term soil health gets affected

(4)

Based on the table, mention the years when the land was left fallow for maximum number of days.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The land was left fallow for the maximum number of days in the years 1982 and 1984 as per the rotation pattern shown in the table.

Key Points: Mention of years with maximum fallow days-Reference to the crop rotation table-Fallows means the land is not cultivated during that period

(5)

The study conducted in village Banhera (Tanda) reflects that during the years 1960 to 1965, from April to June, the land was left fallow or uncultivated throughout. State any one inference that can be drawn from this.

[1 Marks]

Answer: One inference that can be drawn is that farmers left the land fallow during April to June to allow the soil to regain nutrients and fertility, which is important for sustainable agriculture.

Key Points: Land left fallow to restore soil fertility - Crop rotation importance - Sustainable agricultural practice

(6)

Select the option that correctly states the significance of crop rotation as given below :

(1) Crop rotation is done to obtain higher agricultural returns.

(2) Higher agricultural returns can be obtained by harvesting soil exhaustive crops.

(3) Crop rotation demands that land should be left fallow for a few months to increase the fertility of soil.

(4) Better irrigation facility to the arable land has helped in the intensification of agriculture.

(5) If crops to be harvested are chosen wisely, crop rotation can help in maintaining fertility of soil.

Options :

(A) (1), (2)and (4)

(B) (1) only

(C) (3)and (5)

(D) (1) and (5)

[1 Marks]

Answer: Option (D) (1) and (5) is correct. Crop rotation is done to obtain higher agricultural returns and when crops are chosen wisely, it helps in maintaining the fertility of the soil.

Key Points: Crop rotation helps to increase agricultural returns-Crop rotation maintains soil fertility-by choosing crops wisely soil fertility is preserved-Options (1) and (5) correctly explain the significance of crop rotation.

(7)

Crop rotation is helping in making agriculture more sustainable. Mention one benefit and one drawback of crop rotation. (Answer in about 40 words)

[2 Marks]

Answer: One benefit of crop rotation is that it helps maintain soil fertility and enables sustainable agriculture. However, a drawback is that continuous cultivation of soil exhaustive crops in rotation can deplete soil nutrients rapidly.

Key Points: Benefit: Maintains soil fertility-Makes agriculture sustainable; Drawback: Soil fertility depletion due to repetitive soil exhaustive cropping

(8)

Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage ?

(A) The study needs to include more valid data to support the practice of crop rotation.

(B) Crop rotation is a sustainable practice that can transform the agricultural sector.

(C) The impact of crop rotation on farmer's upliftment has been thoroughly explained.

(D) Crop rotation is independent of the type of crops harvested and availability of water for irrigation.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The main takeaway from the study is that crop rotation is a sustainable practice that can transform the agricultural sector.

Key Points: Crop rotation helps maintain soil fertility-Crop rotation is practiced widely in tropical and temperate countries-Crop rotation makes agriculture sustainable-The study emphasizes the importance of crop rotation in sustainable farming

Section B

Question 3. For the first twenty-four hours, Mijbil was neither hostile nor friendly; he was simply aloof and indifferent, choosing to sleep on the floor as far from my bed as possible. The second night Mijbil came onto my bed in the small hours and remained asleep in the crook of my knees until the servant brought tea in the morning, and during the day he began to lose his apathy and take a keen, much too keen, interest in his surroundings. I made a body-belt for him and took him on a lead to the bathroom, where for half an hour he went wild with joy in the water. (Mijbil the Otter)

(1)

Which of the following is not a reason why Mijbil came on to Maxwell's bed in the small hours?

(A) He had started taking interest in his surroundings.

(B) He was becoming friendly with Maxwell.

(C) He wanted to play with Maxwell on his bed.

(D) He wanted to feel safe and not remain indifferent.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Option (C) He wanted to play with Maxwell on his bed is not a reason mentioned in the passage for why Mijbil came on to Maxwell's bed.

Key Points: Mijbil initially was indifferent and slept far from the bed-Mijbil came onto the bed showing he was losing apathy and becoming friendly-Mijbil taking interest in surroundings is mentioned-No mention of wanting to play on the bed

(2)

Maxwell says that Mijbil was neither hostile nor friendly, he was simply aloof and indifferent for the first twenty-four hours. Give reasons in not more than 40 words.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Mijbil was unfamiliar with his new environment and was cautious. He kept his distance by sleeping on the floor away from Maxwell's bed, showing neither friendliness nor hostility but aloofness and indifference.

Key Points: Mijbil was new to the surroundings-Mijbil kept his distance by sleeping on the floor-He showed no signs of friendliness or hostility but was aloof and indifferent

(3)

Read the following descriptions (A) — (D) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract.

(A) Owning a pet is tedious and needs commitment.

(B) A pet needs his own space and time to get adjusted to his owner's environment.

(C) Maxwell decided to bring Mijbil because he was very sad to lose his dog.

(D) Maxwell and Mijbil loved travelling.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Option (B) is correct, as it shows that Mijbil needed his own space and time to adjust. Initially, Mijbil was aloof and indifferent, sleeping far from Maxwell's bed, but later he became comfortable and affectionate, coming onto the bed and showing interest in his surroundings.

Key Points: Mijbil was aloof and indifferent at first-Mijbil chose to sleep far from Maxwell's bed-Second night Mijbil became more comfortable and affectionate-Mijbil showed keen interest in surroundings-Option (B) matches the extract

(4)

Which characteristic trait of otters is revealed when Mijbil is taken to the bathroom ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The characteristic trait revealed is that otters love water and enjoy playing in it.

Key Points: Otters love water-Mijbil went wild with joy in the water-Otters are playful animals

Question 4. The arrival of a stranger at an inn in winter was in any case an unusual event. A stranger of such uncommon appearance set all tongues wagging. Mrs. Hall, the landlord's wife, made every effort to be friendly. But Griffin had no desire to talk, and told her, 'My reason for coming to Iping is a desire for solitude. I do not wish to be disturbed in my work. Besides, an accident has affected my face.' Satisfied that her guest was an eccentric scientist, and in view of the fact that he had paid her in advance, Mrs. Hall was prepared to excuse his strange habits and irritable temper. (Footprints Without Feet)

(1)

State any one inference about Griffin from the given context:

“My reason for coming to Iping is a desire for solitude. I do not wish to be disturbed in my work. Besides, an accident has affected my face.”

[1 Marks]

Answer: One inference about Griffin is that he is a secretive and solitary person who does not want to be disturbed. He prefers to keep to himself, possibly to hide something unusual about himself, such as his face being affected due to an accident.

Key Points: Griffin desires solitude-Griffin does not wish to be disturbed-Griffin may be hiding something about himself-Griffin is secretive

(2)

State True or False :

Even though Mrs. Hall was satisfied with Griffin, she was skeptical to excuse his strange habits and irritable temper.

[1 Marks]

Answer: False.

Key Points: Mrs. Hall was satisfied that Griffin was an eccentric scientist - She was prepared to excuse his strange habits and irritable temper - She was not skeptical but forgiving due to his advance payment and unusual behavior.

(3)

It was not difficult for Griffin to convince the landlord and his wife about his strange appearance and eccentric behaviour. Elaborate in about 40 words with reference to the context.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Griffin convinced the landlord and Mrs. Hall by explaining that he sought solitude for his scientific work and that an accident had affected his face. His prepaid rent and Mrs. Hall's belief in his being an eccentric scientist made them accept his strange behavior.

Key Points: Stranger's need for solitude-Griffin's explanation of an accident affecting his face-Prepaid rent by Griffin-Mrs. Hall's belief that he was an eccentric scientist-Acceptance of strange habits and temper

(4)

Which phrase would correctly substitute ‘set all tongues wagging’ in the given sentence from the extract ?

A stranger of such uncommon appearance_____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: A stranger of such uncommon appearance made everyone talk about him.

Key Points: The phrase 'set all tongues wagging' means that many people started talking or gossiping - It expresses curiosity or surprise among the people - It shows that the stranger's arrival attracted attention

Question 5.

But he’s locked in a concrete cell,

His strength behind bars,

Stalking the length of his cage,

Ignoring visitors. (A Tiger in the Zoo)

(1)

Why is the tiger ‘stalking the length of his cage’ ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The tiger is stalking the length of his cage because he is confined and restless. Being locked in a small concrete cell restricts his natural movements, so he paces back and forth out of frustration and to express his strength that is trapped behind the bars.

Key Points: Tiger is confined in a small concrete cage - His natural freedom is restricted - He expresses restlessness by pacing - Shows his strength and frustration behind bars

(2)

What is the significance of the use of the word ‘locked’ to describe the concrete cell where the tiger is kept and how does it contrast with the tiger’s presence in its natural habitat ? Answer in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The word 'locked' highlights the confinement and restriction of the tiger in the concrete cell, contrasting with its natural habitat where it roams freely. It shows how the tiger’s strength is wasted behind bars, symbolizing loss of freedom.

Key Points: Meaning of 'locked' indicates confinement-Concrete cell restricts tiger’s movement-Contrast with tiger’s freedom in natural habitat-Tiger’s strength is wasted behind bars-Loss of natural freedom and power

(3)

Complete the sentence with the appropriate option : The lines from the poem tell us that the tiger is_____.

(A) enjoying his time in the cell

(B) being indifferent to visitors because it is a daily routine for him

(C) not as strong as his counterpart in the jungle

(D) wanting to be free from the cage

[1 Marks]

Answer: The lines from the poem tell us that the tiger is (B) being indifferent to visitors because it is a daily routine for him.

Key Points: The tiger is locked in a concrete cell-The tiger is behind bars-His strength is contained within the cage-He is stalking the length of his cage, showing restlessness-He is ignoring visitors, which suggests indifference rather than enjoyment or freedom

(4)

Identify the type of literary device used in the line :

‘But he’s locked in a concrete cell’

[1 Marks]

Answer: The literary device used in the line 'But he’s locked in a concrete cell' is metaphor. Here, the tiger’s captivity is compared to being locked in a concrete cell, symbolizing confinement and loss of freedom.

Key Points: Identify metaphor-literary device-symbolism of confinement-the tiger's loss of freedom

Question 6.

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. (The Tale of Custard the Dragon)

(1)

Comment upon the contrast that is reflected in the last two lines of the extract.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The last two lines show a clear contrast between Mustard and Custard. While Mustard is described as brave, like a tiger in a rage, Custard is shown to be fearful as he cries for a safe cage. This contrast highlights Custard's timid nature compared to the bravery of the others.

Key Points: Mustard is brave like a tiger-Custard is fearful and cries for safety-Contrast highlights difference between bravery and fearfulness

(2)

Fill in the blank with one word.

While describing Ink and Blink, the speaker says that they could chase lions down the stairs. By saying so, he is revealing the_____ characteristic of their personality.

[1 Marks]

Answer: brave

Key Points: Ink and Blink are described chasing lions down the stairs-Indicates courage and fearlessness-The characteristic shown is bravery

(3)

Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines in about 40 words.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The poet uses similes to emphasize the bravery of Belinda, Ink, Blink, and Mustard, comparing them to bears, lions, and a raging tiger. In contrast, Custard is shown as timid by mentioning that he cried for a safe cage, highlighting his cowardice.

Key Points: Use of similes-Bravery of characters highlighted-Comparison with animals-Contrast between brave and cowardly characters-Emphasis on Custard's timid nature

(4)

Which of the following best describes the theme of the poem ?

(A) Bravery and heroism

(B) Humility leads to bravery

(C) Valour and diligence

(D) Crisis reveals character

[1 Marks]

Answer: The best description of the theme of the poem is (A) Bravery and heroism because the poem talks about characters like Ink, Blink, and Mustard being very brave, chasing lions and showing courage.

Key Points: The poem shows bravery of Ink and Blink - chasing lions down the stairs-Mustard is brave like a raging tiger-Custard, although called cowardly, is part of the poem about bravery-Bravery and heroism is the main theme

Section C

Question 7.

Read the given sentence from a science journal. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.

‘When nutrition therapy is provided by a qualified professional, people could learn how to make better food choices.” Use the given format for your response.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Answer: The error in the sentence is the use of the word 'could' which incorrectly implies uncertainty or conditional possibility. The correct modal verb to use here is 'can,' which indicates ability or possibility in the present. The corrected sentence is: 'When nutrition therapy is provided by a qualified professional, people can learn how to make better food choices.' This correction is essential because

nutrition therapy, when properly prescribed, actively helps individuals improve their dietary habits and make informed food choices, reflecting the intended meaning of certainty and capability.

Key Points: Identify incorrect use of 'could' instead of 'can'-Explain that 'can' indicates ability or possibility-Provide corrected sentence with 'can'-Highlight that a qualified professional's nutrition therapy enables people to learn better food choices-Pertinent to prescribed course of diet and exercise

Question 8.

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

Please keep me _____ (apprise) of your next step to address this matter.Thanks for your time.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Please keep me apprised of your next step to address this matter. Thanks for your time.

Key Points: Use the correct form of the verb given in brackets according to the sentence context- 'Apprise' in this sentence acts as a verb meaning to inform; thus, the appropriate form 'apprised' (past participle) is used after 'keep me' to form the phrase 'keep me apprised'- The sentence should be polite and clear as per letter writing conventions- Avoid using hanging participles or inappropriate endings like 'Thanking you' at the end of letters

Question 9.

Sunanda and Pushkar had a conversation about their travels. Report Pushkar's question:

Have you ever been to Peri Bagh?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Pushkar asked Sunanda if she had ever been to Peri Bagh. In reported speech, the question 'Have you ever been to Peri Bagh?' is changed to 'if' or 'whether' form. So, Pushkar's question can be reported as: Pushkar asked Sunanda if she had ever been to Peri Bagh. This changes the present perfect tense 'have you ever been' to the past perfect 'had ever been' and the question form changes to a statement form while introducing 'if'.

Key Points: Use reported speech for yes/no questions - introduce with 'asked if' or 'asked whether'- Change present perfect tense 'have you ever been' to past perfect 'had ever been'- Change question form to statement form without question mark- Maintain the original meaning of the question

Question 10.

Identify the error and supply the correction for the given sentence from a private coaching institute's advertisement.

Are you living a happy life ? Do you want to find your identification ? Do you want to enhance your career ?

Use the given format for your response.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Answer: 1. Error: "Are you living a happy life ?" Correction: "Are you living a happy life?" Explanation: There should be no space before the question mark. 2. Error: "Do you want to find your identification ?" Correction: "Do you want to find your identity?" Explanation: "Identification" is incorrect in this context; "identity" is the correct noun to express finding oneself. 3. Error: "Do you want to enhance your career ?" Correction: "Do you want to enhance your career?" Explanation: There should be no space before the question mark.

> **Key Points: Remove space before question mark-Correct noun usage: identification → identity-Correct punctuation**

Question 11.

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the line from an insurance company brochure.

Suitable for someone who wishes to _____(insure/assure/ensure) adequate financial backup. It is available to the family in case of his/her untimely death.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct word to complete the sentence is "ensure." The sentence reads: "Suitable for someone who wishes to ensure adequate financial backup. It is available to the family in case of his/her untimely death." Here, "ensure" means to make certain or guarantee something. In this context, it means to guarantee that adequate financial support is available for the family if the person passes away unexpectedly. "Insure" relates specifically to buying insurance, while "assure" means to promise or make someone confident. The best choice here is "ensure" because it refers to guaranteeing financial protection.

Key Points: Meaning of 'ensure' - to guarantee or make certain - Difference between insure, assure, and ensure - Context of financial backup for family - Correct usage of ensure in the sentence

Question 12.

Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for a pop-up that appeared on a webpage.

These cookies are used to collect information about how you interact with our website and allows us to remember you.

[1 Marks]

Option No.	*Error*	*Correction*
(A)	interact	interacted
(B)	with	to
(C)	about	for
(D)	allows	allow

Answer:

The error in the sentence is a subject-verb agreement mistake. The subject ‘These cookies’ is plural, so the verb should also be plural. However, the verb used is ‘allows’, which is singular. The correct verb form to agree with the plural subject ‘cookies’ is ‘allow’. Therefore, the correct sentence should be: ‘These cookies are used to collect information about how you interact with our website and allow us to remember you.’

Key Points: Identify the subject as plural - 'These cookies'- Recognize subject-verb agreement error- Use plural verb form 'allow' instead of singular 'allows'- Rewrite the sentence with the correct verb form

Question 13.

Report the following dialogue between two friends who are visiting a museum, by completing the sentence.

Auronima : What are you staring at ?

Soumitra : T am in awe of this beautiful painting! I have not seen anything like this before.

Auronima asked Soumitra what he was staring at. Soumitra exclaimed that he was in awe of the beautiful painting and that _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Auronima asked Soumitra what he was staring at. Soumitra exclaimed that he was in awe of the beautiful painting and that he had never seen anything like it before.

Key Points: Use indirect speech for the question and exclamation- Convert 'What are you staring at?' to 'asked what he was staring at'- Convert 'I am in awe of this beautiful painting!' to 'he was in awe of the beautiful painting'- Include 'he had never seen anything like it before' to report 'I have not seen anything like this before'- Maintain correct tense and pronouns in reported speech

Question 14.

Identify the error and supply the correction for the following advertisement of an antivirus software.

A properly installed and maintained antivirus program may wipe out any malware attack, be it a bot, a virus, a Trojan or even ransomware.

Use the given format for your response.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Answer: The error in the sentence is the use of the phrase 'wipe out any malware attack'. The phrase is not appropriate because an antivirus program cannot 'wipe out' a malware attack itself but can detect or remove malware. A better way to express the idea is to say 'may protect against any malware attack' or 'may detect and remove any malware such as a bot, a virus, a Trojan, or even ransomware.' Thus, the corrected sentence can be: 'A properly installed and maintained antivirus program may protect against any malware attack, be it a bot, a virus, a Trojan or even ransomware.'

Key Points: Identify phrase 'wipe out any malware attack' as incorrect-Correct phrase to 'protect against any malware attack' or 'detect and remove malware'-Understand that antivirus programs cannot remove an attack but can remove malware-Provide a grammatically correct and meaningful sentence-Correct usage of technical terms like bot, virus, Trojan, ransomware

Section D

Question 15.

Read the dialogue between Vilakshna and her physician, Dr. Sharnani, regarding the effectiveness of her medication.

Dr. Sharnani : How is your acid reflux problem now ?

Vilakshna : I'd tried everything without success, but this new medicine is great.

Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the above dialogue.

Dr. Sharnani asked Vilakshna about her acid reflux problem to which Vilakshna replied that she'd tried everything without success,_____.

[1 Marks]

(A) but that new medicine was great

(B) but the new medicine was great

(C) but she thought that this new medicine was great

(D) but she found the new medicine to be great

Explanation: The correct option is 'but she found the new medicine to be great' because it correctly completes the sentence by contrasting her previous unsuccessful attempts with the positive effect of the new medicine. The phrase maintains the original meaning of the dialogue, where Vilakshna mentions she tried everything without success, but this new medicine worked well for her. The other options do not fit grammatically or change the meaning.

Question 16.

Complete the given narrative by filling in the blank with the correct option. I _____ watching that programme every week since it started.

[1 Marks]

(A) was been

(B) had

(C) has been

(D) have been

Explanation:

The correct option is 'have been' because the sentence talks about an action that started in the past and is still continuing in the present, which requires the present perfect continuous tense. 'Have been watching' correctly shows this ongoing activity since the programme started.

Question 17.

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the weather warning given by the IMD. IMD on Sunday _____ a ‘thunderstorm’ alert for some districts in coastal Maharashtra in view of the extremely severe cyclonic storm Biparjoy gushing over the Arabian Sea.

[1 Marks]

(A) issued

(B) will be issuing

(C) is issuing

(D) will issue

Explanation:

The correct option is 'issued' because the sentence is reporting a past event that happened on Sunday. 'IMD on Sunday issued a ‘thunderstorm’ alert' correctly uses the past tense to indicate that the alert has already been given. The other options are present continuous ('is issuing') or future tense ('will be issuing', 'will issue'), which do not fit when referring to an action that took place on a specific past day.

Question 18. Complete the slogan, by filling in the blank with the correct option. When it gets really hot, rain _____a blessing.

[1 Marks]

(A) should be

(B) will be

(C) must be

(D) ought to be

Explanation: The correct option is "should be" because the helping verb "should" is used to give recommendations or advice. In this context, the slogan suggests that when it gets hot, rain is advised or recommended to be a blessing, which fits the use of "should be." Other options like "ought to be" and "must be" express necessity or obligation, which are stronger than the intended suggestion here.

Section E

Question 19.

Nelson Mandela in his inauguration speech says, “We, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil.”

What is the significance of this statement with reference to the political system that prevailed before this ? (Nelson Mandela — Long Walk to Freedom)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Nelson Mandela’s statement highlights the immense transformation South Africa underwent after decades of apartheid, a system of racial segregation and oppression. Before Mandela’s presidency, black South Africans and other non-white groups were treated as outlaws and denied basic rights, including voting and equal participation in governance. The apartheid regime isolated South Africa internationally due to its policies of discrimination and injustice. Mandela’s inauguration as the first black President symbolized the end of this oppressive era. The fact that former 'outlaws' could now welcome nations from around the world to their land shows the country’s newfound freedom, unity, and acceptance globally. This rare privilege underscores the shift from a discriminatory, racist political system to a democratic system based on equality and human rights. Mandela’s speech marks the birth of a new South Africa committed to healing, inclusion, and peaceful coexistence among all racial groups.

> **Key Points: Apartheid was a system of racial segregation and oppression - Non-white South Africans were denied political rights and seen as outlaws - Mandela’s election symbolized the end of apartheid - The inauguration represented South Africa’s acceptance on the world stage - Transformation from oppression to democracy and equality - New era of peace, unity, and freedom for all South Africans**

Question 20.

‘The Ball Poem’ initially appears simple but it is actually quite impactful and intense. Comment upon the theme of ‘The Ball Poem’.

[3 Marks]

Answer: ‘The Ball Poem’ by John Berryman, though seeming simple at first, explores deep emotions about loss and growing up. The poem narrates a boy losing his ball, which symbolizes much more than a mere object. This loss represents a boy’s first experience with loss and the pain it brings, teaching him about the nature of life. The poem suggests that life involves accepting loss and learning to cope with it. Despite the ball’s material insignificance, the boy's sorrow is real and significant, showing how personal experiences of loss shape one’s understanding of life and maturity. Thus, the poem’s theme revolves around the inevitable process of loss, the emotional pain it causes, and the growth that follows as one learns to accept realities beyond material things.

Key Points: Theme of loss and its emotional impact- Symbolism of the ball as innocence and childhood- Learning to cope with loss and growing up- Life's inevitability of change and acceptance- Personal growth through experience of loss

Question 21.

Coorg has been defined as a 'piece of heaven' by the writer. Justify. (Glimpses of India)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Coorg, also known as Kodagu, is beautifully described as a 'piece of heaven' due to its breathtaking natural beauty and peaceful environment. Located between Mysore and Mangalore, Coorg is a land of rolling hills, covered with evergreen rainforests that make up about thirty percent of the district. The district is famous for its coffee plantations and spices, which add to its charm. The lush green forests, misty hills, and pleasant climate create a magical atmosphere that enchants visitors. Despite heavy monsoon rains, the beauty of Coorg remains captivating. It is also home to a proud community known for their valor and culture. The presence of wildlife and thrilling adventure sports make it an exciting place for nature lovers and adventure seekers alike. All these qualities make Coorg truly a heavenly place, a paradise on earth that anyone can enjoy.

Key Points: Location between Mysore and Mangalore-Natural beauty with rolling hills and evergreen rainforests-Coffee plantations and spices-Misty hills and lush green forests-Pleasant climate and heavy monsoon rains-Proud and brave local community-Wildlife and adventure sports

Question 22.

"Oh, what a burden, Lord, to be the father of a grown-up daughter!" Explain what this line conveys about Chubukov as a father. (The Proposal)

[3 Marks]

Answer: The line "Oh, what a burden, Lord, to be the father of a grown-up daughter!" reflects Stepanovitch Chubukov's feelings of frustration and anxiety about his daughter Natalya's marriage prospects. As a father, Chubukov is concerned with securing a good match for Natalya, but the prospect also seems overwhelming and stressful to him. It shows that he feels the responsibility of finding a suitable husband and the difficulties involved in managing relationships between the families, especially as Natalya is 25 years old, which in the social context means she should be married. This burden is not just about the practical matters but also about the emotional strain and the challenges in dealing with the quarrelsome nature of both Natalya and Lomov, the suitor. Despite the struggles, Chubukov is actively involved and even gives his blessing when the proposal finally takes place. Thus, the line shows Chubukov as a concerned, somewhat anxious, but a caring father who wants the best for his daughter, even if he is overwhelmed by the process.

Key Points: Chubukov feels frustrated and burdened by his role as father-Chubukov is anxious about his daughter Natalya's marriage prospects-Natalya is a grown-up daughter (25 years old) and needs to be married-Securing a good match is a heavy responsibility-He finds the process stressful due to quarrels and disagreements-Shows his emotional involvement and care-Reflects societal pressure to marry off daughters-Despite burden, he supports and gives blessing for the marriage

Question 23.

In every alternate stanza, Amanda drifts into fantasy and yearns for more freedom and silence. Justify and elaborate the reason. (Amanda)

[3 Marks]

Answer: In the poem "Amanda" by Robin Klein, Amanda frequently drifts into fantasy in every alternate stanza as a way to escape the strict control and constant instructions imposed upon her by adults. These fantasies express her deep desire for freedom, silence, and independence. Amanda imagines herself as various characters like Rapunzel or a mermaid, which symbolize her longing to break free from the constraints of her everyday life. These daydreams reveal her feelings of being trapped and controlled, underscoring the universal experience of children wanting to have their own space and voice. The silence she yearns for represents peace away from the nagging and restrictions, allowing her to enjoy her life freely. Thus, the poem highlights Amanda's inner struggle between the reality of adult supervision and her wish to live in a carefree world of her imagination.

Key Points: Amanda drifts into fantasy to escape control-Expresses her desire for freedom and silence-Fantasies like Rapunzel and mermaid symbolize longing for independence-Reveals feeling trapped and controlled-Represents universal childhood experience-Nagging and restrictions cause yearning for peace-Highlights inner conflict between reality and imagination

Question 24.

“We are often over-indulgent towards people we care about.” Explain with reference to the context of the story “A Triumph of Surgery”.

[3 Marks]

Answer: In the story “A Triumph of Surgery” by James Herriot, Mrs Pumphrey shows over-indulgence towards her dog, Tricki. When Tricki gets ill, Mrs Pumphrey pampers him excessively by feeding him rich and unhealthy food, believing it will help him recover. Instead, this indulgence worsens Tricki’s condition. Dr. Herriot criticizes Mrs Pumphrey’s excessive care, pointing out that spoiling a sick animal with too much food is harmful, not helpful. The story illustrates how love and care can sometimes lead to over-indulgence, which may not always be beneficial. It teaches the importance of balanced and sensible care towards those we love.

Key Points: Mrs Pumphrey's excessive pampering of Tricki-Mistaken belief that rich food aids recovery-Tricki's condition worsens due to overfeeding-Dr Herriot's advice about sensible care-Love may lead to over-indulgence-Over-indulgence might harm instead of help-Importance of balanced care in love

Question 25.

How did Apprentice Noodle act smartly by suggesting something about the book without offending Think-Tank ? (The Book That Saved The Earth)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Apprentice Noodle was careful and respectful while pointing out mistakes made by Think-Tank. Instead of directly criticizing him, Noodle used polite language and indirect suggestions to make his point. For example, when he mentioned that the Earthlings did not listen to the sandwiches but opened them and watched, he was hinting at a mistake without blaming Think-Tank. He also asked questions like whether the chemical department gave vitamins to space people to increase intelligence, which helped Think-Tank think about the problem without feeling insulted. This approach allowed Noodle to correct errors while respecting Think-Tank's authority and intelligence.

Key Points: Noodle was respectful and polite-Noodle used indirect suggestions to correct mistakes-Noodle asked thoughtful questions instead of giving direct criticism-Noodle avoided offending Think-Tank while making his point-Noodle maintained Think-Tank's dignity while addressing errors

Question 26.

Despite his unusual appearance, Ausable's presence of mind helped him get rid of Max.

Comment with reference to the story 'The Midnight Visitor'.

[3 Marks]

Answer: Ausable, despite his unattractive and unusual appearance, displays exceptional presence of mind in 'The Midnight Visitor'. He calmly and cleverly deals with the dangerous situation posed by Max, who intends to kill him. Ausable quickly invents a detailed story about a balcony attached to his room, making Max believe he will escape if he jumps out of it. This makes Max leap out of the window, which injures him and leads to his capture by the police. Ausable's quick thinking, calmness, and ability to use clever deception show how presence of mind is more important than appearance in critical situations.

Key Points: Ausable's unusual appearance does not hinder his intelligence - Ausable remains calm and quick-thinking under threat - He invents a convincing story about a

balcony to trick Max - Max's belief in the story leads to his downfall - Presence of mind helps Ausable avoid danger - Ausable's cleverness is the key to outwitting Max

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Section F

Question 27.

The problem of speeding traffic on colony roads causing accidents is increasing day by day. As a young citizen, who wants to minimize the accidents caused by them, write a letter to the editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, expressing your concern at the situation and suggesting measures to resolve the problem and drawing attention of the concerned authorities.

You are Samyukta Khanna/Sanjay Khanna of 567, Madhur Apartments, Amar Vihar, Aram Nagar.

[5 Marks]

Answer:

567, Madhur Apartments,
Amar Vihar,
Aram Nagar.
15 April 2024

The Editor,
The National Daily,
New Delhi.

Subject: Concern over increasing accidents due to speeding traffic in our colony

Sir,

I wish to draw your attention towards the alarming problem of speeding vehicles on the colony roads in our area, leading to frequent accidents and putting lives at risk. As a concerned young citizen, I feel the need for urgent measures to curb this menace.

The concerned authorities should install speed breakers and clear traffic signs along the roads. Increasing police patrolling and imposing fines for overspeeding will also deter rash driving. Additionally, awareness campaigns can educate residents about safe driving practices.

I hope that publishing this will urge the authorities to act promptly and ensure safety in the colony.

Yours faithfully,
Samyukta Khanna

Key Points: Express concern about speeding traffic leading to accidents - Suggest measures like speed breakers, traffic signs, police patrols and fines - Emphasize the need for awareness campaigns - Request authorities to take immediate action - Maintain formal tone and structure of letter to editor - Include sender's address and date

Question 28.

As Kaveri Mahajan, of 543, Narmada Apartments, Jeev Nagar, you feel that during the monsoon season all the rain water goes down the drain without being utilized.

Write a letter to the RWA of your society, in about 120 words, suggesting measures to save and preserve rain water emphasizing the importance of saving every drop of water.

[5 Marks]

Answer:

543, Narmada Apartments,
Jeev Nagar,
Date: 20th June 2024

The President,
Residents' Welfare Association,
Narmada Apartments,
Jeev Nagar.

Subject: Suggestion to Save and Preserve Rain Water

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my concern about the rain water that goes waste during the monsoon season as it drains away unused. Considering the critical water scarcity we face, it is imperative to save and preserve every drop of rain water.

I suggest that our society installs rainwater harvesting systems to collect and store rainwater effectively. We can also promote the use of water percolation pits and recharge wells to replenish groundwater levels. Additionally, educating residents about water conservation will ensure responsible usage.

Efficient rainwater management will not only help conserve water but also reduce water bills and prevent waterlogging. I hope the RWA will consider these measures urgently.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours faithfully,
Kaveri Mahajan

Key Points: Mention address and date - Address the President of the RWA - State the problem of rainwater going waste - Emphasize the importance of saving water - Suggest installing rainwater harvesting systems - Recommend water percolation pits/recharge wells - Suggest awareness among residents about water conservation - Highlight benefits such as conserving water, reducing bills, and preventing waterlogging - Polite closing and signature

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Section G

Question 29.

Co-curricular activities help to enhance holistic development and assist in inculcating critical skills and abilities to be successful and happy in the 215t century life and workplace.

Based on the table given below, write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, on how co-curricular activities supplement the theoretical curriculum.

[5 Marks]

ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND VALUES THAT CAN BE DEVELOPED THROUGH CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- logical and analytical thinking
- creative and critical thinking
- problem-solving skills
- leadership skills
- social, emotional and communication skills
- recreational value
- enhanced technology skills

Answer: Co-curricular activities play an important role in complementing the theoretical curriculum by providing practical experience and enhancing various skills among students. While the theoretical curriculum focuses on academic knowledge, co-curricular activities develop critical thinking, creativity, teamwork, and communication skills. For example, activities like essay writing, art, and debates help students express their ideas effectively and think critically. These activities also promote holistic personality development by encouraging social interaction and leadership qualities. They help students apply classroom knowledge to real-life situations, making learning more meaningful and

enjoyable. Hence, co-curricular activities are essential for developing well-rounded individuals prepared to thrive in the demands of the 21st century workplace and life.

Key Points: Co-curricular activities complement theoretical curriculum-Develop critical skills like creativity, communication, teamwork-Enhance holistic development and personality growth-Provide practical application of academic concepts-Promote social interaction and leadership-Prepare students for real-life situations and workplace demands-Help express ideas and think critically

Question 30.

Tourism stands as a cornerstone of the nation's development. The following table provides an insight into the multifaceted impact and positive contributions of tourism. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words assessing the significance of tourism.

[5 Marks]

IMPACT OF TOURISM

- contributes to GDP and foreign exchange
- boosts local markets and businesses
- creates employment
- preserves culture
- promotes infrastructural development

Answer: Tourism plays a vital role in the development of a nation by boosting its economy and cultural exchange. It creates employment opportunities for locals, including shopkeepers and service providers, enhancing their livelihoods. Tourists visiting popular destinations like Shimla contribute to local businesses such as eateries and shops. Moreover, tourism promotes awareness and appreciation of a country's natural beauty, heritage, and wildlife, fostering conservation efforts. It also encourages infrastructure development, improving transportation and facilities. Additionally, the interaction between tourists and locals leads to cultural understanding and harmony. Overall, tourism is an essential sector that supports economic growth, preserves cultural heritage, and promotes environmental awareness, making it indispensable to national progress.

Key Points: Tourism boosts economy and creates jobs-Tourists support local businesses and eateries-Promotes cultural exchange and understanding-Encourages

environmental conservation-Improves infrastructure development-Essential for national growth and heritage preservation

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Section H

Question 31.

Grief or sadness is an emotion natural to all types of loss or significant change. You have been asked to present an analysis of the approaches of Lencho and Kisa Gotami in dealing with their respective losses. Write this presentation draft including your insights, and comparing the approaches of both.

You may begin like this: One acknowledges that Lencho had unwavering faith in God whereas Kisa Gotami in her grief, believed that her son ..... however ..... . (Reference A Letter to God and The Sermon at Benares)

[6 Marks]

Answer: One acknowledges that Lencho had unwavering faith in God whereas Kisa Gotami in her grief, believed that her son could be brought back to life, however through her journey came to understand the inevitability of death and the nature of suffering. Lencho, from the story 'A Letter to God,' exemplifies blind faith and optimism. Despite losing his entire crop to a storm, he confidently writes a letter to God asking for help, showing his dependence on faith to overcome adversity. On the other hand, Kisa Gotami, from 'The Sermon at Benares,' initially could not accept her child's death and sought a remedy, which led her to the Buddha. The Buddha taught her that death is a universal truth and an inevitable part of life, guiding her towards acceptance and inner peace. Comparing the two, Lencho's approach is rooted in unwavering hope and faith that external help will solve his problems, whereas Kisa Gotami's path is one of personal transformation through understanding and acceptance of loss. While Lencho depends on divine intervention for relief, Kisa Gotami learns to cope by embracing the reality of suffering and mortality, which reflects the Buddhist teaching on impermanence. From these narratives, it is clear that while faith can provide comfort during grief, true healing often requires acceptance and understanding of reality. The Buddha's teachings continue to hold relevance even today as they help individuals process grief in a way that leads to peace, unlike blind faith which may delay acceptance. Thus, these stories collectively highlight different human responses to grief - one of hopeful reliance and one of mindful acceptance - both important but with different implications for emotional healing.

Key Points: Lencho's unwavering faith in God - Lencho's optimistic reliance on divine help - Kisa Gotami's initial denial and grief over her son's death - Kisa Gotami's learning of the universality of death from Buddha - Comparison of faith-based coping vs acceptance-based coping - Reflection on Buddhist teachings about impermanence and

suffering - Significance of acceptance for healing from grief - Relevance of Buddha's teachings to modern grief management

Question 32.

You have been chosen to address the school assembly on the occasion of Women's Day. You choose to speak on the resilience and indomitable spirit of the young girls : Anne Frank and Valli. Prepare the speech draft, with reference to the commonality and contrast in the situations and circumstances of both the girls.

(Madam Rides the Bus and From the Diary of Anne Frank)

You may begin like this : Good morning everyone. Today, I'd like to express my insights on the resilience of two young girls You may end this way : To conclude I'd like to say that ..... .

Thank you.

[6 Marks]

Answer:

Good morning everyone. Today, I'd like to express my insights on the resilience of two young girls, Anne Frank and Valli, who despite facing very different situations, showed an indomitable spirit that continues to inspire us all.

Anne Frank, a young Jewish girl during the Second World War, faced the horrors of war and persecution. Hiding in a secret annex to escape the Nazis, Anne maintained hope through her diary, which recorded her thoughts, dreams, and courage in the face of extreme fear and uncertainty. Her resilience was remarkable as she tried to see the good in humanity even in such dark times.

On the other hand, Valli from 'Madam Rides the Bus' represents everyday courage and determination. She faced the limitations of her strict family environment and financial difficulties but was eager to explore the world beyond her village. Valli's spirit showed a different kind of bravery — the desire to break free from societal limitations and fulfill her dreams.

The commonality between Anne and Valli lies in their youthful spirit and strong will to overcome obstacles. Both girls displayed resilience — Anne through hope amid adversity, and Valli through daring to dream and acting on it. The contrast lies in their circumstances; Anne was caught in a disastrous war, facing life-threatening fear, while Valli's fight was for personal freedom and experience within her social confines.

To conclude, I'd like to say that resilience and courage come in many forms, and both Anne Frank and Valli teach us that no matter the challenges we face, having hope, determination, and the spirit to move forward can help us overcome difficulties. Let us be inspired by their stories and embrace their strength in our own lives.

Thank you.

Key Points: Introduction mentioning Women's Day and two young girls-Anne Frank and Valli-Describe Anne Frank's situation during World War II and her hope and resilience through her diary-Describe Valli's situation from 'Madam Rides the Bus' showing her boldness and desire to explore despite hardships-Highlight the commonality: both are young girls with indomitable spirit and resilience-Explain the contrast: Anne's war and persecution vs. Valli's personal and social limitations-Conclude by emphasizing the lessons of courage, hope, and determination from both stories to inspire the audience

Question 33.

Imagine that Hari Singh from 'The Thief's Story' by Ruskin Bond, writes a diary entry, exploring the theme of human values and relations that are essential in life and can transform a person in the context of his own experience. Write this diary entry as Hari Singh. (The Thief's Story)

[6 Marks]

Answer:

Dear Diary,

Today, I reflect deeply on the path my life has taken and the changes that someone's kindness and trust have brought into it. I never imagined that I, a fifteen-year-old thief, could see a different side of life – one filled with human values like honesty, kindness, and education. For a long time, stealing seemed like the only way to survive. But when I met the writer, his patience and belief in me showed me the power of trust and respect. He treated me not with suspicion but with dignity, which stirred something inside me. I realized that stealing only brings momentary gain but a life shaped by trust and learning promises a better future.

I now dream of education because I understand its power. Once, I thought writing was just for the elite. But now, I believe that if I can write like an educated man, the world will open up to me. This hope is a new light in my life. I feel that human relationships based on love and trust can transform even a stubborn thief like me. I am eager to change, learn, and become a better person.

Hari Singh

Key Points: Hari Singh's background as a young thief-His initial survival-driven mindset vs. his evolving understanding of human values-Impact of the writer's trust, kindness, and patience on him-Realization of the importance of honesty and education-Transformation in his attitude towards life and learning-Hope and desire to change and improve oneself through human relationships and values

Question 34.

A character arc is the transformation or development of a character throughout a story and refers to the changes a character undergoes as a result of his/her experiences, challenges and interactions with other characters.

In the light of the above information, trace the character arc of Bholi in K.A. Abbas's 'Bholi'.

[6 Marks]

Answer: Bholi's character arc in K.A. Abbas's story 'Bholi' is a remarkable journey of transformation from a timid, neglected girl to a confident and self-respecting individual. At the beginning of the story, Bholi is presented as a simple, underconfident girl with a stammer and physical imperfections, which led to her being mocked by her peers and neglected by her family. Her apprehensions about going to school stem from her low self-esteem and fear of rejection. However, Bholi's teacher plays a crucial role in changing her life. The teacher takes a special interest in Bholi, encouraging her to attend school and boosting her confidence through constant motivation and support. This positive influence ignites a change in Bholi, who starts participating actively and shaving off her fears. Her transformation is highlighted when she stands up to reject the unwanted marriage proposal from a man significantly older than her, demonstrating newfound courage and self-respect. The final transformation is symbolized when she is called by her real name 'Sulekha' rather than 'Bholi' (meaning simpleton), indicating that she has shed her insecurities and embraced her true identity. Thus, Bholi's character arc reflects growth, empowerment, and hope through education and encouragement from her teacher, showing that social barriers can be overcome with support and courage.

Key Points: Initial low self-esteem and timid nature-Apprehensions and fear of going to school-Teacher's encouragement and support-Gradual increase in confidence-Standing up against the unwanted marriage proposal-Being called by her real name 'Sulekha'-Symbolizing transformation and empowerment-Theme of education and self-respect