CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2023

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.

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: Griffin is a secretive and private person who prefers to work alone without being disturbed. He also wants to hide his face because it has been affected by an accident.

Key Points: Griffin desires solitude-Griffin does not want to be disturbed in his work-Griffin's face was affected due to an accident-Griffin is secretive and reserved

(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. Mrs. Hall was satisfied that Griffin was an eccentric scientist and was prepared to excuse his strange habits and irritable temper.

Key Points: Mrs. Hall was satisfied with Griffin-She considered him an eccentric scientist-She knew he had paid in advance-She was prepared to excuse his strange habits and irritable temper

(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 his wife by explaining that he sought solitude for his work and that an accident had affected his face. Mrs. Hall, considering him an eccentric scientist and noting his prepayment, accepted his strange habits and temper.

Key Points: Griffin's desire for solitude-Griffin's claim of facial accident-Mrs. Hall's belief in eccentric scientist-Griffin's payment in advance-Acceptance of strange behavior and irritability

(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: created a lot of talk and curiosity among the people

Key Points: The phrase 'set all tongues wagging' means that the stranger caused everyone to start talking about him-Caused curiosity and discussion among the people-Unusual or uncommon appearance attracted attention

Question 2.

Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b) :

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 pacing back and forth in the cage because he is restless and frustrated being confined in a concrete cell. His natural instincts and strength are restrained behind bars, making him anxious and unable to roam freely as he would in the wild.

Key Points: Tiger is locked in a concrete cell-Tiger's strength is behind bars-Tiger is restless and frustrated-Tiger cannot roam freely in the cage

(2) What is the significance of the use of the word 'concrete' to describe the 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 'concrete' highlights the unnatural, harsh, and confining environment of the tiger’s cage, contrasting sharply with its natural forest habitat. It emphasizes the loss of freedom and the tiger's strength being wasted behind bars, expressing its captivity and suffering.

Key Points: Meaning of 'concrete' as hard and unnatural-Conveys confinement and harshness-Distinction from natural habitat where tiger is free and strong-Highlights loss of freedom and natural behavior-Shows contrast between captivity and wild life

(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 tiger is wanting to be free from the cage.

Key Points: The tiger is locked in a concrete cell - shows he is captive-The tiger's strength is behind bars - he is confined-The tiger is stalking the length of his cage - shows restlessness and desire to move freely-The tiger is ignoring visitors - shows he is not interested or comfortable in captivity-The overall sense is of captivity and longing for 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 a metaphor, as the tiger's cage is compared to a prison cell without using 'like' or 'as'.

Key Points: It is a metaphor-It compares the tiger's cage to a concrete cell-It shows the confinement and captivity of the tiger

Question 3.

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 of the extract show a clear contrast between the bravery of Mustard and the fearfulness of Custard. While Mustard is described as being as brave as a tiger in a rage, Custard is shown to be afraid and crying for a safe cage. This contrast highlights Custard's cowardice compared to the other bold characters.

Key Points: Mustard is brave as a tiger in a rage - Custard is afraid and cries for a safe cage - Shows contrast 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: The speaker is revealing the brave characteristic of Ink and Blink's personality.

Key Points: Ink and Blink chased lions - This indicates courage - Bravery is being highlighted - Shows fearless nature

(3)

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

[2 Marks]

Answer: The poet uses similes like 'as brave as a barrel full of bears' and 'as brave as a tiger in a rage' to highlight the courage of the characters, while contrasting them with Custard, who is called cowardly and cries for safety. This contrast creates humor.

Key Points: Use of similes to describe bravery-Contrasting Custard's cowardice with others' bravery-Creates a humorous tone through language

(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 correct answer is (D) Crisis reveals character. The poem shows that while some characters appear brave, it is only in moments of crisis that true bravery is revealed. Custard, who seems cowardly at first, shows his true bravery when there is danger.

Key Points: Theme-True bravery revealed in crisis-Custard seems cowardly but shows courage-Other characters appear brave but their courage is superficial

Question 4. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b) : 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 on to 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: The reason which is not true is (C) He wanted to play with Maxwell on his bed.

Key Points: Mijbil was aloof and indifferent in the first 24 hours-Mijbil came on the bed second night showing friendliness-Mijbil was not described as wanting to play on the bed-Mijbil wanted to feel safe and not be indifferent anymore

(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 new to his environment and chose to stay away, showing no affection or aggression. He slept on the floor far from the bed, indicating his unfamiliarity and indifference towards Maxwell at first.

Key Points: Mijbil was new to the surroundings-Mijbil did not show friendliness or hostility-He chose to sleep alone on the floor-Mijbil was indifferent and aloof

(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 because the extract clearly shows that Mijbil was initially aloof and indifferent and kept his distance but slowly began to adjust to his new environment and developed a bond with his owner.

Key Points: Mijbil's initial aloof and indifferent behaviour-Mijbil choosing to sleep far from the owner-Mijbil gradually coming close and sleeping on the bed-Mijbil showing interest in surroundings-Mijbil enjoying water and new experiences

(4)

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

[1 Marks]

Answer: When Mijbil was taken to the bathroom, he went wild with joy in the water. This shows that otters love water and are playful animals.

Key Points: Otters love water - Otters are playful and fun-loving - Mijbil shows joy and excitement in water

Section B

Question 5.

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 statement that describes why plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues is (B) Rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them.

Key Points: Plastic pollution is mainly because the production of disposable plastics is increasing rapidly - This overwhelms the world's waste management and recycling systems - This leads to accumulation of plastic waste in the environment causing pollution.

(2)

What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph ? 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. He acknowledges the revolutionary impact plastics have had on modern life, highlighting their significant contributions to medicine, technology, and everyday convenience, making life without them almost unimaginable.

Key Points: Tone is appreciative and admiring - Plastics have transformed the modern age - Plastics have contributed to advancements in medicine and technology - Life without plastics is difficult to imagine - Highlights the positive impact of plastics

(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: Garbage and trash both mean waste or refuse.- Transformed and revolutionized both mean to change completely or dramatically.- Starvation and strangled are not synonyms; starvation means dying due to lack of food, strangled means being choked or suffocated.- Disposable and reduction have different meanings; disposable means meant to be used once and thrown away, reduction means decrease.- Persist and downstream are different; persist means to continue to exist, downstream relates to the direction of a river.

(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 reason it is transported around the world is because it gets caught up in ocean currents.

Key Points: Most of the plastic trash is in the oceans, referred to as Earth's last sink - Ocean currents carry the plastic trash around the world -Trash flows into the oceans from land through rivers

(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 created a throw-away culture, leading to massive single-use plastic waste. These plastics, used briefly, persist for hundreds of years, polluting land and oceans, harming wildlife, and causing environmental damage that affects many species and ecosystems.

Key Points: Throw-away culture due to convenience of plastics - Single-use plastics form 40% of all plastics produced - Short usage but long-lasting pollution - Environmental harm caused by plastic waste - Negative impact on animals and ecosystems

(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 caused by plastics are due to entanglement and starvation.

Key Points: Deaths of animals caused by plastics-Main reasons: entanglement and starvation-Examples include seals, whales, turtles strangled by fishing gear or six-pack rings

(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.

Key Points: The passage emphasizes the problem caused by single-use plastics which account for 40% of plastics produced annually - These plastics have very short life but persist for hundreds of years in the environment - Reducing the manufacturing and use of unnecessary single-use plastics is a suggested solution to prevent plastic waste entering the environment

(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 their garbage collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent.

Key Points: Inefficient garbage collection systems - Nonexistent waste management - Developing nations struggle to manage plastic waste

Question 6.

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 over the last three decades-This development has helped increase agriculture intensity-The statement is factual as it is based on objective detail given in the passage

(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. According to paragraphs 1 and 2, proper irrigation helps in the intensification of agriculture, and sustainable crop rotation leads to higher agricultural returns.

Key Points: Crop rotation helps maintain soil fertility and increase agricultural returns - Irrigation facilities have developed and help in intensifying agriculture - Proper irrigation combined with crop rotation makes agriculture more sustainable leading to 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 increases the number of crops harvested, thus increasing income. However, growing such crops continuously removes essential nutrients from the soil, reducing its fertility quickly.

Key Points: Crop rotation increases agricultural returns-Cultivating soil exhaustive crops consecutively depletes nutrients-Soil fertility reduces at a faster rate-Incomes rise but soil health suffers

(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 1995-96 and 2000-01.

Key Points: Identify the years from the table with the highest number of fallow days-Mention these years clearly- Understand that fallow land means land left uncultivated for some time- Use the information strictly from the provided table

(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 leaving the land fallow during this period helped to restore soil fertility and allowed the soil to regain nutrients needed for the next cropping season.

Key Points: Land was left uncultivated from April to June-Fallow period helps in restoring soil fertility-Prevents soil exhaustion and prepares soil for future crops

(6)

Which of the following is the main takeaway from the studymentioned 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 transformthe 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 mentioned in the passage is that crop rotation is a sustainable practice that helps maintain soil fertility and can improve agricultural productivity. It plays a significant role in making agriculture more sustainable, especially in areas where multiple crops are grown in the same field in a year.

Key Points: Crop rotation helps maintain soil fertility - It makes agriculture sustainable - It is important in areas with multiple cropping - Crop rotation can improve agricultural productivity

(7)

Select the option that correctly states the significance of croprotation 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 fora 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: The correct option is (D) (1) and (5). Crop rotation is done to obtain higher agricultural returns and, if crops are chosen wisely, it helps maintain soil fertility.

Key Points: Crop rotation aims for higher agricultural returns-Crop rotation helps in maintaining soil fertility if crops are chosen wisely-Harvesting only soil exhaustive crops depletes soil fertility-Fallowing land is not a compulsory part of crop rotation-Better irrigation helps agriculture intensification but is not a direct part of crop rotation significance

(8)

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

[2 Marks]

Answer: Crop rotation helps maintain soil fertility by alternating crops, which provides higher agricultural returns and makes farming sustainable. However, growing many soil exhaustive crops in rotation can deplete soil nutrients quickly, reducing soil fertility over time.

Key Points: Benefit: Maintains soil fertility and increases agricultural returns- Drawback: Continuous cultivation of soil exhaustive crops depletes soil nutrients- Crop rotation supports sustainable agriculture

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 modal verb "could" which makes the sentence conditional or hypothetical, but the context suggests a realistic or probable outcome. The correct modal verb to use here is "can", which indicates ability or possibility in a realistic sense. Therefore, the corrected sentence is: "When nutrition therapy is provided by a qualified professional, people can learn how to make better food choices." This correction reflects that under proper guidance, people are actually able to improve their food choices as a result of nutrition therapy.

Key Points: Identify the modal verb error-The word "could" is incorrect in this context-Modal "can" should be used instead-To indicate realistic possibility or ability-Corrected sentence provided-Explanation why "can" is appropriate

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: The correct form of the word 'apprise' to fill in the blank is 'apprised'. So, the sentence will read: 'Please keep me apprised of your next step to address this matter.' In formal letter writing, it is important to use the correct form of words to convey the intended meaning politely and clearly. The word 'apprised' means to keep someone informed or updated. Ending letters politely with phrases like 'Thank you', 'We/I look forward to your reply' or 'Thanks for your time' shows respect and consideration to the recipient.

Key Points: Use the correct form 'apprised' of the word 'apprise'-The sentence means to keep informed-Appropriate in formal letter writing-Polite endings such as 'Thanks for your time' are important-Ensures clear and respectful communication

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.

Key Points: Use reported speech-Pushkar's question-Present perfect tense in the question-Change question form to statement form-No question mark in reported speech

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: The errors in the given sentences are related to the inappropriate use of the verb 'living' and the word 'identification'. The first sentence "Are you living a happy life ?" should be corrected to "Are you leading a happy life?" because 'lead a life' is the correct expression used to describe how one lives. The second sentence "Do you want to find your identification ?" is incorrect because 'identification' does not fit the context. It should be replaced with "identity" or "self-identity" depending on the intended meaning. Therefore, the corrected sentence is "Do you want to find your identity?" The third sentence, "Do you want to enhance your career ?" is grammatically correct but there should be no space before the question mark. So it should be "Do you want to enhance your career?" In summary, the corrected advertisement sentences are: 1. Are you leading a happy life? 2. Do you want to find your identity? 3. Do you want to enhance your career?

Key Points: Identify incorrect verb usage 'living' should be 'leading' in phrase 'leading a happy life'-Recognize incorrect word 'identification' should be 'identity' in context of self-identity-Remove space before question marks to make correct punctuation-Corrected sentences: 'Are you leading a happy life?', 'Do you want to find your identity?', 'Do you want to enhance your career?'

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 fill in the blank is "ensure". Suitable for someone who wishes to ensure adequate financial backup means making sure that there is enough financial support. The sentence talks about providing financial security to the family in case of the person's untimely death. "Ensure" means to make certain or guarantee something happens. "Insure" is related specifically to insurance policies, but here it is more about guaranteeing financial backup. "Assure" means to promise or say something with confidence but is not appropriate in this specific context. Therefore, the completed

sentence should be: "Suitable for someone who wishes to ensure adequate financial backup. It is available to the family in case of his/her untimely death."

Key Points: The correct word is 'ensure'- 'Ensure' means to make certain or guarantee-suited for guaranteeing financial backup-'Insure' relates to insurance policy itself-'Assure' means to promise but less appropriate in this context-Meaning of the sentence is guaranteeing financial security for family in case of untimely death

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 'cookies' is plural, but the verb used is 'allows,' which is singular. The correct verb form should agree with the plural subject. Therefore, the sentence should be corrected as: 'These cookies are used to collect information about how you interact with our website and allow us to remember you.'

Key Points: Identify subject-verb agreement error-Subject 'cookies' is plural-Verb 'allows' should be 'allow'-Correct sentence: '...and allow us to remember you.'

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 reported speech to report questions and exclamations-Change the question 'What are you staring at?' into indirect speech 'asked what he was staring at'-Convert the exclamation 'I am in awe of this beautiful painting!' into reported speech using 'exclaimed'-Use appropriate tense changes (present continuous to past continuous, present perfect where applicable)-Maintain the original meaning of the sentences

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: Error: The expression 'wipe out any malware attack' is incorrect because antivirus software does not wipe out an attack itself but prevents or removes the malware causing the attack. Correction: It should be written as 'A properly installed and maintained antivirus program may prevent or remove any malware, be it a bot, a virus, a Trojan, or even ransomware.' This correction makes the statement factually accurate and logically correct.

Key Points: Identify incorrect phrase 'wipe out any malware attack'-Explain why it is incorrect (antivirus removes malware, does not wipe out attack)-Provide corrected sentence using 'prevent or remove any malware'-Ensure clarity and technical accuracy

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Section D

Question 15.

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) have been

(C) had

(D) has been

Explanation:

The correct option is 'have been' because the sentence describes an action that started in the past and is continuing up to the present. The present perfect continuous tense ('have been watching') is used with 'since' to show the ongoing nature of the activity starting from a specific point in the past.

Question 16.

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) is issuing

(B) will issue

(C) issued

(D) will be issuing

Explanation:

The correct option is 'issued' because the sentence refers to a completed action by the IMD (India Meteorological Department) on Sunday, indicating that the weather warning has already been given. 'Issued' is the past tense form appropriate for this context.

Question 17.

Complete the slogan, by filling in the blank with the correct option. When it gets really hot, rain _____ a blessing.

[1 Marks]

(A) will be

(B) ought to be

(C) must be

(D) should be

Explanation:

The correct option is "must be". In the context of the sentence, the phrase is expressing a strong necessity or a strong truth about rain during hot weather, which fits the use of "must". "Should be" gives a suggestion, "will be" indicates future certainty, and "ought to be" suggests moral obligation. "Must be" emphasizes that rain is indeed a blessing when it gets really hot, making it the most appropriate choice.

Question 18.

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 the new medicine was great

(B) but that 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 the new medicine was great' because it directly and accurately reports Vilakshna's exact sentiment about the medicine's effectiveness after failing with everything else. The phrase maintains the original meaning and flow from the direct speech, contrasting the earlier lack of success with the new positive outcome. The other options add unnecessary interpretations such as 'she thought' or 'she found', which are not present in the original dialogue.

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 reflects the dramatic political transformation in South Africa. Before his presidency, the country was governed by the apartheid regime, a system of racial segregation that denied basic rights and freedoms to the majority black population. Mandela and many others who opposed apartheid were considered outlaws and were imprisoned for fighting against this unjust system. The statement highlights that those who were once criminals in the eyes of the apartheid government are now honoured leaders of a free and democratic nation. Hosting nations from around the world at his inauguration symbolizes South Africa’s emergence from isolation and oppression to gaining international respect and equality. It marks the end of racial discrimination and the beginning of a united country where all citizens have equal rights, irrespective of race. This change was a result of Mandela’s long struggle for freedom and democracy.

Key Points: Apartheid was an oppressive system of racial segregation - Mandela and his supporters were considered outlaws under apartheid - Mandela’s imprisonment symbolizes the struggle for freedom - The new democratic South Africa respects human rights and equality - Hosting world nations reflects South Africa’s acceptance internationally - Marks the end of racial oppression and beginning of democracy

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: John Berryman's poem 'The Ball Poem' explores profound themes through the seemingly simple incident of a boy losing his ball. The poem highlights the boy's realization about the inevitability of loss as a part of life. It underscores the theme of growing up, where one must come to terms with personal loss and understand that material possessions or moments once lost cannot be regained. More importantly, it teaches the lesson of accepting change and the pain that accompanies it, which ultimately leads to maturity and emotional growth. The poem poignantly captures the moment when innocence encounters reality, making the poem impactful and intense despite its apparent simplicity.

Key Points: The poem depicts loss and its impact on a young boy-The theme of coming to terms with reality and change-The inevitability of loss in life-Loss as a path to growth

and maturity-The contrast between innocence and experience

Question 21.

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

[3 Marks]

Answer: Coorg is described as a ‘piece of heaven’ due to its breathtaking natural beauty and serene environment. Located midway between Mysore and Mangalore, Coorg is a land of rolling hills and dense evergreen rainforests that cover about thirty percent of the district. The region is famous for its lush coffee and spice plantations, creating a picturesque and fragrant landscape. The misty hills, especially during the monsoon season, add to its charm and make it a magical place. The presence of colonial bungalows and coffee estates under tree canopies further enhances its peaceful ambiance. In addition, the people of Coorg are proud and fiercely independent, contributing to the distinct culture of this beautiful district. All these factors combined make Coorg truly a heavenly place, enchanting visitors and earning the name ‘piece of heaven.’

Key Points: Location between Mysore and Mangalore - Rolling hills and evergreen rainforests covering 30% of the area - Famous for coffee and spice plantations - Misty hills and lush forests during monsoons - Peaceful resorts and colonial bungalows - Proud and unique people of Coorg - Overall natural beauty and serene atmosphere make it a 'piece of heaven'

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!” spoken by Chubukov expresses his feelings of frustration and difficulty in handling his adult daughter. As a father, Chubukov finds it challenging to manage Natalya’s strong-willed and quarrelsome nature. This line reveals that he considers the responsibility of dealing with a grown-up daughter quite stressful and exhausting. Throughout the play "The Proposal," Chubukov exhibits a mix of indulgence and exasperation, wanting Natalya to get married but also struggling with her disputes and demands. His statement conveys the emotional weight and pressure he feels, suggesting that fatherhood, especially of a grown daughter, is not a simple task but rather a source of constant trouble.

Key Points: Chubukov expresses frustration and stress as a father-Chubukov finds handling his grown daughter challenging-He feels the responsibility is a heavy burden-

Natalya is strong-willed and quarrelsome-Chubukov wants her to marry and be settled-He is both indulgent and exasperated by her behavior

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 her imagination, yearning for freedom and silence. This happens particularly in every alternate stanza where she escapes the constant nagging and restrictions imposed by adults. Amanda feels controlled and restricted, which makes her long for a world where she can be free and unbothered. Her fantasies, like wanting to be a mermaid or Rapunzel, symbolize her desire to escape harsh realities and find peace. These dreams highlight Amanda's inner conflict between her reality and her wish for independence and quiet. This shows that Amanda is a child struggling with the demands of adults and uses daydreams as a coping mechanism to express her need for freedom and silence.

Key Points: Amanda feels controlled and restricted by adults-Fantasizes about being a mermaid or Rapunzel as an escape-Alternates between reality and fantasy to deal with nagging-Yearns for freedom and peace-Daydreams symbolize desire for independence and silence

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," Mrs. Pumphrey's behaviour towards her dog Tricki shows how people tend to be over-indulgent towards those they care about. She spoils Tricki with large quantities of rich food and excessive care which, instead of helping, makes the dog lazy and sick. This pampering is a way of expressing her love but it adversely affects Tricki’s health. When Mr. Herriot, the vet, treats Tricki with proper medical care and discipline, the dog recovers quickly. Mrs. Pumphrey’s attitude reflects how over-indulgence can sometimes harm rather than benefit loved ones, and the story teaches the importance of balanced care.

Key Points: Mrs. Pumphrey spoils Tricki with rich food-Makes the dog unhealthy and lazy-Mrs. Pumphrey's over-indulgence motivated by love-Mr. Herriot's careful treatment leads to real recovery-Over-indulgence can be harmful-The story illustrates the need for balanced care and discipline 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 acted smartly by suggesting corrections in a respectful and tactful manner so as not to offend Think-Tank. He used polite language and addressed Think-Tank with great reverence by calling him 'O Great and Mighty Think-Tank.' Instead of directly pointing out Think-Tank's mistakes, Noodle phrased his suggestions as questions or gentle reminders, such as when he gently stated, 'Forgive me, your Cleverness, but did not the chemical department give our space people vitamins to increase their intelligence?' This approach showed humility and respect, which helped maintain Think-Tank's dignity while subtly guiding him towards the correct information. Noodle's tact and respect for authority allowed him to correct errors wisely without creating conflict.

Key Points: Noodle uses polite and respectful language-Noodle addresses Think-Tank reverently-Noodle poses suggestions as questions or gentle reminders-Noodle avoids direct contradiction-Noodle maintains Think-Tank's dignity-Noodle tactfully guides Think-Tank towards correct information

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: In the story 'The Midnight Visitor,' despite Ausable's rather ordinary and unthreatening appearance, his presence of mind plays a crucial role in outwitting Max, the spy. Ausable remains calm and composed when Max arrives, pretending to be a secret agent with a sensitive and dangerous document. He cleverly fabricates the existence of a balcony attached to his room and describes it in great detail to deceive Max. When Max attempts to escape, Ausable alerts the police, leading to Max's capture. This shows how Ausable's quick thinking and calmness in a tense situation help him overcome danger successfully.

Key Points: Ausable's ordinary appearance does not reveal his intelligence-Presence of mind is the ability to stay calm and think quickly-Ausable's calm behavior fools Max-He invents the balcony story to trap Max-He acts wisely by informing the police-Max is caught due to Ausable's quick thinking

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Section F

Question 27.

Attempt given below :

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,
Date: 26 April 2024

The Editor,
The Times of India,
New Delhi.

Subject: Urgent Attention Required to Control Speeding Traffic on Colony Roads

Sir,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the increasing number of accidents caused by speeding vehicles on colony roads in our city. Many residents, including children and elderly people, are at constant risk due to reckless driving. This problem requires immediate attention from the authorities to prevent further mishaps.

I suggest the installation of speed breakers at regular intervals and clear signboards warning drivers to slow down. Traffic police should also increase patrolling within residential areas and impose strict fines on offenders. Awareness campaigns in colonies about road safety can help educate drivers and pedestrians alike.

I urge the concerned authorities to take prompt measures to make our colony roads safer for everyone.

Yours faithfully,
Samyukta Khanna

Key Points: Express concern over the rising accidents due to speeding traffic on colony roads - Emphasize the risk to residents, especially vulnerable groups like children and elderly - Suggest installing speed breakers and traffic signboards to control speeds -

Recommend increased patrol and strict fines by traffic police - Propose awareness campaigns on road safety - Request prompt action from concerned authorities

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: 15 June 2024

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

Subject: Suggestion to Save and Preserve Rainwater

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am writing to bring to your attention that during the monsoon season, all the rainwater flows wastefully into the drains without being utilized. This valuable resource can be conserved for future use.

I suggest installing rainwater harvesting systems in our society to collect and store rainwater. We can also clean and maintain existing water bodies and promote the use of recharge pits to help groundwater levels rise. Educating residents about water conservation and reusing water where possible will also help.

Saving every drop of water is essential as water scarcity is increasing. We must take these steps to ensure water availability for all.

Thank you for considering my suggestions.

Yours faithfully,
Kaveri Mahajan

Key Points: Introduction stating the problem of rainwater going waste- Suggestion to install rainwater harvesting systems- Proposal for recharge pits and maintaining water bodies- Emphasis on educating residents about water conservation- Importance of saving every drop of water due to increasing scarcity- Courteous closing and signing the letter

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Section G

Question 29.

Attempt given below

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 a vital role in supplementing the theoretical curriculum by promoting holistic development among students. While classroom lessons focus on academic knowledge, co-curricular activities such as sports, debates, essay writing, and arts provide practical experiences that help students develop critical life skills like teamwork, leadership, communication, and time management. These activities encourage participation, especially ensuring education and empowerment of the girl child, fostering confidence and social awareness. Furthermore, they help students apply classroom learning in real-life situations, thus bridging the gap between theory and

practice. Engaging in co-curricular activities also promotes physical and mental well-being, making students more adaptable and prepared for the challenges of modern life and workplaces.

Key Points: Enhance holistic development-Develop critical life skills like teamwork and leadership-Encourage girl child education and participation-Bridge theory and practical application-Promote confidence, communication, and social skills-Support physical and mental well-being-Prepare students for 21st century challenges

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 creating employment opportunities. It promotes cultural exchange and helps in preserving heritage sites and traditions. Tourist destinations like Mall Road in Shimla attract many travelers who contribute to the local business by stopping to eat or shop. This inflow benefits shopkeepers and other service providers, enhancing their livelihood. Moreover, tourism encourages the development of infrastructure and improves connectivity. It also helps promote understanding and respect among diverse cultures. Overall, tourism is a powerful tool for socio-economic progress and cultural preservation, making it an essential component in the growth of any country.

Key Points: Boosts economy-Creates employment-Promotes cultural exchange-Preserves heritage sites-Supports local businesses-Improves infrastructure-Enhances cultural understanding

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 was alive and desperately sought help to revive him. Lencho, a simple farmer, experienced grief when a hailstorm destroyed his crops, threatening his family's survival. Despite this hardship, he chose to have complete faith in God by writing a letter asking for help. His approach shows hope and a belief in external divine intervention as a solution to his loss.

On the other hand, Kisa Gotami's grief was deeply personal and intense as she had lost her only child. She carried her son's body seeking a cure and was directed by the Buddha to find a mustard seed from a house where no one had experienced death. This journey helped her realize that death and loss are universal experiences. Unlike Lencho, Kisa Gotami's approach led to acceptance of the reality of loss and a deeper understanding of the nature of suffering, as shown in the Buddha's sermon.

Comparing both approaches, Lencho's faith is hopeful but somewhat naive, focusing on external help to overcome loss, whereas Kisa Gotami's experience leads to inner transformation and acceptance of universal suffering. The Buddha's teaching encourages embracing the truth of impermanence and finding peace through acceptance rather than denial or misplaced hope.

In conclusion, while Lencho's faith offers comfort, Kisa Gotami's path guided by the Buddha's wisdom provides a profound understanding of grief that remains relevant even today. Both approaches highlight different ways humans deal with sorrow, but learning to accept the inevitability of loss and impermanence, as taught by Buddha, offers lasting solace and wisdom.

Key Points: Lencho's unwavering faith in God-His response to the loss of crops-Hope and reliance on external aid-Kisa Gotami's grief over her son's death-Her quest for a cure and the Buddha's guidance-Realization of universal nature of suffering-Buddha's teaching on acceptance and impermanence-Comparison of external hope versus internal acceptance-Relevance of Buddha's sermon today-Insight into human responses to grief

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, whose stories inspire us on this Women's Day. Anne Frank was a young Jewish girl who faced the horrors of World War II. Despite hiding in fear and danger, she kept a hopeful spirit and wrote a diary that revealed her courage and optimism. On the other hand, Valli from 'Madam Rides the Bus' is a young girl full of curiosity and determination. She bravely takes a bus ride alone, eager to explore the world beyond her village. Both Anne and Valli display resilience and an indomitable spirit, but their circumstances contrast greatly. Anne faced extreme adversity during a war, hiding from persecution, while Valli's challenges were more about social norms and childhood exploration. Yet, both girls teach us the power of hope, courage, and dreaming big, irrespective of difficulties. Their stories encourage every young girl to stand strong and remain fearless. To conclude, I'd like to say that true strength lies in resilience and hope, and every young girl can make a difference by believing in herself. Thank you.

Key Points: Introduction mentioning Anne Frank and Valli-Explain Anne Frank's situation during WWII and her resilience-Who is Valli from 'Madam Rides the Bus' and her curiosity and bravery-Compare and contrast their situations: war/hiding vs exploration/social norms-Highlight their common traits: courage, hope, resilience-Inspire the audience to be brave and pursue dreams-Conclude with a motivational statement on resilience and hope

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 on my life and how much it has changed. I used to think being a thief was the only path for me, given my poor background and lack of education. But my experience with the kind man, who treated me with respect and offered me the chance to learn, opened my eyes. I realized that human values like kindness, honesty, and trust can transform a person's life. I felt warmth in his company and saw that education could give me freedom and opportunities beyond money. I dream now of a future where I am not feared or despised but respected for who I am and what I have become. The relations I have formed made me understand that everyone deserves compassion, and one act of goodness can change a life forever. I want to grow, learn, and leave the past behind because human connections and values will always guide my way.

> **Key Points: Hari Singh's initial life as a thief due to circumstances-His encounter with the kind man who showed trust and kindness-Realization of importance of human values like honesty, trust, and compassion-Transformation through education and opportunity-Desire for a better future and personal growth-Importance of human relations in shaping character and life**

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' reflects a significant transformation from a neglected, fearful, and insecure girl to a confident and self-assured individual. Initially, Bholi is portrayed as a timid girl with many physical imperfections, which cause her parents and others to look down on her. She faces neglect and low expectations, which greatly affect her self-esteem. Bholi's apprehensions about going to school mirror her lack of confidence and fear of social rejection.

However, her teacher plays a pivotal role in changing her life. Encouraging and motivating Bholi, the teacher helps her overcome her fears and social barriers by recognizing her intrinsic worth. Through education and supportive guidance, Bholi gradually gains confidence. She learns to stand up for herself and ultimately refuses the marriage proposal of a man twice her age, an act that solidifies her transformation.

The name ‘Sulekha’ being used towards the end symbolizes Bholi’s emergence as a new, confident identity. It reflects her development and acceptance within society as an empowered individual capable of making decisions. Thus, Bholi’s character arc depicts her journey from an insecure, overlooked girl to a self-reliant and empowered young woman, highlighting the impact of education and encouragement in shaping a person’s character.

Key Points: Initial insecurity and low self-esteem due to neglect and physical imperfections- Apprehensions and fear about going to school- Teacher's encouragement and motivation- Overcoming social barriers and gaining confidence- Refusal to marry man twice her age showing assertiveness- Final acceptance of identity as Sulekha symbolizing transformation and empowerment