CBSE EXAMINATION PAPER-2026

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 **7 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 18** are grammar short

vi. **Section D** – questions number **19 to 26** are short answer

vii. **Section E** – questions number **27 to 28** are paragraph

viii. **Section F** – questions number **29 to 30** are letter

ix. **Section G** – questions number **31 to 34** are long answer

x. There is no overall choice given in the question paper. However, an internal choice has been provided in few questions.

xi. Use of calculator is NOT allowed.

Section A

Question 1. Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read. Following him down the musty corridor of the gloomy French hotel where Ausable had a room, Fowler felt let down. It was a small room, on the sixth and top floor and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure. Ausable was, for one thing, fat, very fat. And then there was his accent. Though he spoke French and German passably, he had never altogether lost the American accent he had brought to Paris from

Boston twenty years ago. “You are disappointed,” Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder. (The Midnight Visitor)

(1)

Which of the following describes how Fowler felt on seeing Ausable for the first time?

(A) excited and happy

(B) indifferent and disgusted

(C) surprised and disappointed

(D) envious and in awe

[1 Marks]

Answer: Fowler felt surprised and disappointed as Ausable did not fit the description of a secret agent he had read about. The setting was unromantic and Ausable’s appearance, including his fatness and American accent, did not meet Fowler’s expectations.

Key Points: "Fowler was surprised and disappointed, Ausable did not match typical secret agent image, Expectation was different from reality"

(2)

Fill in the blank with the correct word:

Ausable’s reaction on seeing how Fowler felt shows that he was _____. (observant/embarrassed)

[1 Marks]

Answer: Ausable’s reaction shows that he was observant, as he sensed Fowler’s disappointment and commented on it, indicating his awareness of how others perceived him.

Key Points: "Ausable noticed Fowler's disappointment, He acknowledged Fowler’s feelings, Shows awareness of others' perceptions"

(3) In what way does Ausable defy the typical spy image?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Ausable defies the typical spy image by being fat and having a noticeable American accent, unlike the mysterious, agile, and romantic spy figures. His accommodation is modest and unexciting, which contradicts usual spy stereotypes.

> **Key Points: "He is fat, not fit or agile, Speaks with an American accent, Room is small and unglamorous, Not mysterious or romantic"**

(4) How did the hotel's atmosphere influence Fowler's mood?

[2 Marks]

Answer: The gloomy French hotel with a musty corridor and a small room on the top floor created an uninviting atmosphere. This influenced Fowler's mood negatively, making him feel let down because he had imagined a more thrilling espionage setting.

> **Key Points: "The musty corridor and gloomy hotel seemed uninviting, Small, shabby room reduced the sense of excitement, Made Fowler feel let down expecting thrilling adventure"**

Question 2. "I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die." (Nelson Mandela : Long Walk to Freedom)

(1)

What is the main ideal Mandela is talking about?

(A) economic prosperity

(B) representative and free society

(C) absolute power

(D) finishing racism

[1 Marks]

Answer: Mandela is talking about the ideal of a democratic and free society where all people live in harmony and have equal opportunities.

> **Key Points: "Democratic society, Freedom and harmony, Equal opportunities for all"**

(2) How does the statement reflect Mandela’s commitment to justice? (Answer in about 40 words)

[2 Marks]

Answer: The statement reflects Mandela's deep commitment to justice as he expresses readiness to live and, if necessary, die for a democratic society that guarantees equality and freedom to all, demonstrating his unwavering dedication to justice.

> **Key Points: "Shows strong dedication to democratic ideals, Willingness to sacrifice life for freedom, Commitment to equality and harmony, Passion for achieving justice"**

(3)

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

Nelson’s vision was not simply to reverse the oppression but to end it completely as he wishes to _____ (fight/appease) all forms of domination in which all persons live with equal opportunities.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Nelson’s vision was to fight all forms of domination to ensure complete equality and freedom for everyone, not merely to appease or temporarily relieve oppression.

> **Key Points: "Active resistance against domination, Complete eradication of oppression, Equality for all"**

(4)

The phrase “prepared to die” shows Mandela’s :

(A) anxiety

(B) desperation

(C) passion

(D) uprightness

[1 Marks]

Answer: The phrase 'prepared to die' shows Mandela's passion, determination, and uprightness in fighting for justice and equality, revealing his willingness to make the greatest sacrifice for his ideals.

> **Key Points: "Strong passion and determination, Ultimate commitment, Bravery and uprightness"**

Question 3.

What, what is the boy now

who has lost his ball.

What, what is he to do.

I saw it go

Merrily bouncing, down the street and then Merrily over – there it is in the water!

No use to say 'O there are other balls'.

(The Ball Poem by John Berryman)

(1) What does the repetition of the word "merrily" suggest in the context of the ball's movement?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The repetition of 'merrily' suggests the joyful and carefree bouncing of the ball, emphasizing its lively and innocent movement before it is lost.

Key Points: "Joyful, carefree movement, Emphasizes the liveliness of the ball, Creates rhythmic effect"

(2)

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

The poet uses the ball as a symbol of the boy's _____. (childhood/adventure)

[1 Marks]

Answer: The ball symbolizes the boy's childhood, representing his innocence and the carefree time that is now lost.

Key Points: "Lost innocence, Childhood and youthful joy"

(3) How does this moment contrast the mood of the poem before and after the ball falls into the water? (Answer in about 40 words)

[2 Marks]

Answer: Before the ball falls, the mood is light and joyful due to the repeated 'merrily.' After it falls into the water, the mood shifts to sadness and loss, symbolizing the boy's realization of loss and the end of innocence.

> **Key Points: "Before: Light-hearted and joyful tone, After: Sadness and loss, Change in mood reflects loss of innocence"**

(4)

The line, 'No use to say, oh there are other balls' signifies:

(A) Words of consolation are inappropriate.

(B) The boy must be left alone and play with other toys.

(C) The boy should not be left alone.

(D) No ball will be as expensive as the one the boy has lost.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The line signifies that telling the boy 'there are other balls' is of no use because the lost ball holds unique emotional value and its loss is deeply felt.

> **Key Points: "Consolation is ineffective, The lost ball is irreplaceable, Emotional significance attached to loss"**

Question 4.

All night the roots work

To disengage themselves from the cracks

in the veranda floor. The leaves strain towards the glass

small twigs stiff with exertion

long-cramped boughs shuffling

under the roof

like newly discharged patients

half dazed, moving to the clinic doors.

(Trees)

(1) What do the roots work upon all night?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The roots work all night to disengage themselves from the cracks in the veranda floor, struggling to free themselves from confinement.

Key Points: "Roots work to free themselves, Disengage from cracks, Move through restricted spaces"

(2) Each part of the trees works to get itself free. Describe their struggle. (Answer in about 40 words)

[2 Marks]

Answer: The leaves strain desperately toward the glass; small twigs stiffen with exertion, while the long-cramped boughs shuffle under the roof clumsily like dazed patients, all struggling to free themselves from confinement.

Key Points: "Leaves strain towards the glass, Small twigs stiff with exertion, Long-cramped boughs shuffle awkwardly, Branches compared to dazed patients"

(3)

Fill the blank with one word.

The long branches are compared to _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The long branches are compared to newly discharged patients.

> **Key Points: "Newly discharged patients, Dazed and weak beings"**

(4)

The phrase ‘half-dazed’ is used for the branches as they adjust from being indoors to being in the open. It highlights the branches’ :

(A) disorientation and fragility

(B) experience and privilege

(C) hurt and injury

(D) barrenness and pain

[1 Marks]

Answer: The phrase ‘half-dazed’ highlights the branches' disorientation and fragility as they adjust from the confinement indoors to freedom in the open.

> **Key Points: "Disorientation, Fragility after confinement, Adjustment to new environment"**

Section B

Question 5.

Read the following text :

(1) Forests are often called the lungs of the Earth, and in India, they are an integral part of the country’s ecological, economic, and cultural fabric. They regulate temperatures and help keep the air

clean. Covering about 21.71% of India's geographical area, forests play a pivotal role in sustaining biodiversity, regulating climate, and supporting the livelihoods of millions of people. However, these verdant expanses face numerous challenges, raising important questions about conservation, sustainable development, and policy priorities.

(2) India's forests are incredibly diverse, ranging from the lush tropical rain forests to the alpine vegetation of the Himalayas. This diversity is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, many of which are endemic or endangered, such as the Bengal tiger, Indian elephant, and Nilgiri Tahr. Forests also provide critical ecosystem services like water conservation, soil fertility, and carbon sequestration, which are essential in combating climate change.

(3) Economically, forests contribute significantly through timber, medicinal plants and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) like honey and bamboo. They are also central to the lives of tribal communities who depend on them for sustenance and cultural practices. However, this dependence brings to light the complex relationship between human development and forest preservation.

(4) Is it possible to achieve economic growth without degrading forest resources ? The pressures on India's forests are immense. Rapid urbanization, industrial expansion, mining, and agricultural encroachment have led to significant deforestation. According to recent reports, India lost around 66,000 hectares of forest cover between 2019 and 2021. This loss not only threatens biodiversity but also exacerbates climate-related challenges such as rising temperatures and erratic rainfall.

(5) Policy measures like the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 and initiatives such as Compensatory Afforestation and Van Mahotsav (Forest Festival) reflect efforts to preserve and expand forest areas. However, critics argue that these measures often fail to address ground realities. For instance, afforestation projects may involve planting monoculture species that disrupt ecosystems rather than restore natural biodiversity. Similarly, conflicts arise when policies overlook the rights of indigenous communities, leading to displacement and social tensions. India's forests are a microcosm of the global struggle to balance development with conservation.

(6) Solutions lie in adopting sustainable practices, such as agroforestry, eco-tourism, and community-based conservation models. Empowering local communities to act as custodians of forests ensures both their livelihoods and the health of forest ecosystems. Moreover, raising awareness about the importance of forests can inspire collective action at all levels.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

(1) In paragraph 1, what does the phrase ‘Lungs of the Earth’ refer to with reference to the passage?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The phrase ‘Lungs of the Earth’ refers to forests' role in regulating temperatures and keeping the air clean, similar to how lungs purify air for the body.

Key Points: "Forests regulate temperature and keep air clean, They play a vital role in Earth's ecological balance"

(2)

Complete the following with the correct option from the two given: Forests play a significant role in sustaining biodiversity by _____

(a) balancing climate change and creating livelihoods for people.

(b) Providing wood for fuel and industries worldwide.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Forests play a significant role in sustaining biodiversity by balancing climate change and creating livelihoods for people, as indicated in paragraph 1.

Key Points: "Forests sustain biodiversity by balancing climate, They support livelihoods for many people"

(3) Support the writer’s idea that forests provide critical ecosystem services with textual evidence. (Para 2)

[2 Marks]

Answer: Forests provide critical ecosystem services such as water conservation, soil fertility, and carbon sequestration, all of which are essential for fighting climate change.

Key Points: "Forests conserve water and soil fertility, They sequester carbon helping to combat climate change"

(4)

What do the recent statistics on deforestation reveal about the state of India's forests? (Para 4)

(A) Deforestation has decreased significantly.

(B) Forest loss has been stabilized.

(C) Forest cover is rapidly declining.

(D) There is no significant impact on forest cover.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The recent statistics reveal that forest cover in India is rapidly declining, as India lost approximately 66,000 hectares of forest between 2019 and 2021.

Key Points: "India lost around 66,000 hectares of forest cover recently, Forest cover is declining rapidly"

(5)

Select the concept that best reflects the complex relationship between human development and preservation. (Para 3)

(a) Rapid urbanization has led to widespread deforestation depriving flora and fauna of its natural habitat.

(b) The introduction of initiatives like Van Mahotsav serve as compensatory afforestation.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The complex relationship is reflected in how human development relies on forests for resources but also leads to their degradation through processes like rapid urbanization.

Key Points: "Human development depends on forests for resources, There is a conflict between development and forest preservation"

(6) State whether the following statement is true or false: Deforestation is one of the reasons for erratic rainfall. (Para 4)

[1 Marks]

Answer: True. The passage states that deforestation exacerbates climate-related challenges such as erratic rainfall.

Key Points: "Deforestation worsens climate-related challenges, Leads to erratic rainfall"

(7) List one challenge that critics see in compensatory afforestation measures. (Para 5)

[1 Marks]

Answer: Critics argue that compensatory afforestation often involves planting monoculture species that disrupt ecosystems rather than restoring natural biodiversity.

Key Points: "Planting monoculture species disrupts ecosystems, Does not restore natural biodiversity"

(8) How do community-based conservation models benefit both forests and local communities? (Para 6)

[2 Marks]

Answer: Community-based conservation empowers local people to protect forests, which sustains their livelihoods and supports the health of forest ecosystems.

Key Points: "Empowers local communities as custodians, Supports livelihoods and maintains forest health"

Question 6.

Read the following passage carefully :

The Rise of Electric Vehicles in India :

(1) Electric Vehicles (EVs) are gaining significant traction globally. In India, the push for EVs is driven by concerns over air pollution, rising fuel costs and government's commitment to reducing carbon emissions. The Indian Government has set ambitious targets for EV adoption, aiming for 30% of private cars, 70% of commercial vehicles, and 80% of two wheelers and three-wheelers to be electric by 2030. (2) The benefits of EVs extend beyond environmental impact : Lower running cost due to cheaper electricity, reduces maintenance because of fewer moving parts, and lowers noise pollution in urban areas.

(3) Despite the promising outlook, the EV industry in India faces several challenges currently. While public charging stations are slowly increasing, their availability, especially in semi-urban and rural areas, remains a bottleneck. The initial high purchase cost of EVs and concerns about range or the fear of running out of charge are other causes of anxiety.

(4) To overcome these hurdles, the government is offering subsidies and tax benefits to make EVs more affordable. Private companies are investing in developing new EV models with improved battery technology for longer ranges and battery swapping technology is also being explored as a quick alternative to traditional charging.

(5) The Indian EV market is witnessing rapid growth, with sales figures steadily climbing. In 2023, India recorded sales of over 1.5 million EVs, a significant jump from previous years. Two-wheelers dominated the sales, followed by three-wheelers and then passenger cars. States like Maharashtra, Delhi, and Karnataka have emerged as leaders in EV adoption, largely due to supportive state policies and greater awareness among consumers.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(1) Justify the following statement: Despite governmental support, the initial cost of EVs remains a challenge for consumers.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Although the government offers subsidies, the initial purchase price of electric vehicles remains high, making it difficult for many consumers to afford them.

Key Points: "EVs have a high upfront purchase cost, Subsidies help but do not fully offset this expense"

(2) Electric vehicles offer multiple benefits in India. Support the above statement in 40 words with evidence from the text.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Electric vehicles benefit India by lowering running costs due to cheaper electricity, reducing maintenance with fewer moving parts, and decreasing noise pollution in cities, which improves urban living conditions.

Key Points: "Lower running cost as electricity is cheaper than fuel, Reduced maintenance because of fewer moving parts, Lower noise pollution in urban areas"

(3) “In 2023, India recorded sales of over 1.5 million EVs, a significant jump from previous years.” State any one inference that can be drawn from the above statement.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The significant jump in EV sales indicates that the electric vehicle market in India is growing quickly and becoming more popular among consumers.

Key Points: "EV market is growing rapidly, Consumers are increasingly accepting EVs"

(4)

Complete the sentence suitably:

To address the challenge of charging infrastructure, various initiatives are being undertaken, such as _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: To address the challenge of charging infrastructure, initiatives such as increasing public charging stations and exploring battery swapping technology are being undertaken.

Key Points: "Development of public charging stations, Exploration of battery swapping technology"

(5)

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

Assertion: EVs are gaining traction in India.

Reason: The Indian government is committed to reducing carbon emissions.

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

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

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

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

[1 Marks]

Answer: Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation; the government's commitment to reducing carbon emissions is driving the growth of EVs in India.

> **Key Points: "Both assertion and reason are true, The reason explains why EVs are gaining traction"**

(6)

Complete the following with one suitable reason from the text:

The silent operation of EVs contributes to better urban living because _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The silent operation of EVs contributes to better urban living by reducing noise pollution in cities.

> **Key Points: "Lower noise pollution in urban areas improves environment"**

(7) According to the passage, what is ‘range anxiety’ in the context of electric vehicles?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Range anxiety refers to the fear that an electric vehicle will run out of charge before reaching a destination or charging station.

Key Points: "Fear of running out of charge while driving, Concern about insufficient driving distance on a full charge"

(8) Give one reason to support why the adoption of EVs is slow in some parts of India.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The adoption of EVs is slow in some regions due to the scarcity of public charging stations, especially in semi-urban and rural areas.

Key Points: "Limited availability of charging stations in semi-urban and rural areas"

(9) Based on the given text, which type of EV dominated sales in India in 2023?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Two-wheelers dominated the electric vehicle sales in India in 2023.

Key Points: "Two-wheelers, Highest sales among EV categories"

Section C

Question 7.

A manager wrote a report to his seniors about his team. Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete the report:

By the end of this quarter, the assistant manager _____ on this campaign for eight months.

(A) will be working

(B) will have been working

(C) will have working

(D) would have been working

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: (B) will have been working

Explanation: The sentence talks about a future point in time (the end of this quarter) and the duration of an action until that point (eight months). The correct tense to express an action that will continue up to a certain time in the future is the future perfect continuous tense. "Will have been working" is the future perfect continuous form of the verb "to work". Therefore, the correct sentence is: "By the end of this quarter, the assistant manager will have been working on this campaign for eight months." This shows the action started eight months ago and will still be ongoing at the specified future time.

Key Points: Future perfect continuous tense expresses ongoing action up to a future time - "Will have been working" is the correct form for duration until a future point - The sentence indicates duration (eight months) and future completion (end of this quarter)

Question 8.

Read the given sentence from a sales report: Identify the error and supply the correction:

Being checked all the figures twice, she was sure there were no errors.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Answer: (a) The error in the sentence is the incorrect use of the phrase "Being checked all the figures twice". It is grammatically incorrect because "Being checked" is a passive continuous form which is not properly connected to the rest of the sentence. (b) The correct form should be "Having checked all the figures twice" which correctly indicates that she completed checking the figures before being sure. (c) Corrected sentence: "Having checked all the figures twice, she was sure there were no errors." This shows that after she finished checking the figures twice, she felt confident about the accuracy.

Key Points: Incorrect use of "Being checked" - Correct phrase is "Having checked" - Sentence shows completion of action before the result

Question 9.

Read the conversation between the store supervisor and the salesman :

Supervisor : “Did you switch off all the lights before leaving office yesterday ?”

Salesman – “Yes, I did and I also handed over the keys to the night supervisor.”

A store supervisor asked the salesman whether he had switched off all the lights before leaving the office the day before.

The salesman confirmed _____. Report the salesman’s response.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The salesman confirmed that he had switched off all the lights before leaving the office yesterday and that he had also handed over the keys to the night supervisor.

> **Key Points: Report speech - Confirmation of action - Use of past perfect tense in indirect speech**

Question 10.

A school Principal addressed Board aspirants and said:

'_____ candidates must carry their identification proof.' Fill in the blank with the appropriate option:

(A) Each

(B) All

(C) Every

(D) One

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct option to fill in the blank is **(C) Every**. The sentence becomes: 'Every candidates must carry their identification proof.' Actually, it should be 'Every candidate must carry their identification proof.' because 'every' is used with singular countable nouns.
Explanation:
1. **Each** refers to individual items considered separately but is often used when focusing on individuals one by one.
2. **All** refers to the total number or group collectively and is generally used with plural nouns.
3. **Every** is used to refer to all the members of a group considered individually and is followed by a singular noun.
4. **One** refers to a single item or person.
Since the sentence talks about candidates individually having to carry ID proof, the correct usage is

Every candidate must carry their identification proof. Note that the noun should be singular after 'every'.

Key Points: Use of 'Every' with singular nouns - Difference between 'Each', 'All', and 'Every' - Subject-verb agreement with singular nouns after 'Every'

Question 11.

Isha said to her parents, 'My mentor will always guide me, even after this programme ends.'

Report what Isha said to her parents.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Isha told her parents that her mentor would always guide her even after the programme ended.

Key Points: Use of reported speech - Change of pronouns - Change of tense

Question 12.

Find the error in the sentence and supply the correction:

I was disappointed to see that in the library there was less books on the subject than expected.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Answer: The error in the sentence is the use of the word 'less' with the plural noun 'books'. The word 'less' is used with uncountable nouns, while 'fewer' is used with countable nouns like 'books'. The corrected sentence is: **I was disappointed to see that in the library there were fewer books on the subject than expected.**
Explanation:
1. 'Books' is a countable noun, so we must use 'fewer' instead of 'less'.
2. Also, since 'books' is plural, the verb should be 'were' instead of 'was'.
Thus, the corrected sentence is: "I was disappointed to see that in the library there were fewer books on the subject than expected."

Key Points: Error in use of 'less' with countable nouns - Correct form is 'fewer' for countable nouns - Use plural verb 'were' with plural noun 'books'

Question 13.

Fill in the blank with the correct option:

My friends _____ the movie tickets before we even reached the ticket counter.

(A) has collected

(B) had collected

(C) collect

(D) will collect

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: (B) had collected

Explanation: The sentence talks about an action that was completed before another past action ('before we even reached the ticket counter'). For actions completed before another past event, we use the past perfect tense. The past perfect tense is made by using 'had' + past participle of the verb. Here, 'collected' is the past participle of 'collect', so the correct phrase is 'had collected'. The other options are incorrect because (A) 'has collected' is present perfect, (C) 'collect' is simple present, and (D) 'will collect' is future tense, which do not fit the sentence context.

Key Points: Past perfect tense usage - Had + past participle structure - Action completed before another past event

Question 14.

Select the correct option to complete the sentence from a recipe book:

After stirring the cocoa into the melted butter, you _____ add the eggs one at a time before adding the flour.

(A) would

(B) might

(C) may

(D) must

[1 Marks]

Question 15.

Report the following sentence by a customer:

'Did you double-check the address before dispatching the washing machine?'

[1 Marks]

Answer: To report the sentence, we change the question into a reported speech statement. Since it is a question starting with "Did" in the past tense, we use the reporting verb "asked" or "inquired" followed by "if" or "whether" to introduce the reported question. The auxiliary verb "did" is removed and the main verb changes accordingly. The reported sentence is: The customer asked if/whether they had double-checked the address before dispatching the washing machine.

> **Key Points: Change question into statement - Use reporting verb like asked or inquired - Use if/whether for yes/no question - Remove auxiliary verb did - Change verb tense from past to past perfect**

Question 16.

Complete the following sentence by choosing the correct option:

If we had consulted the engineer, we _____ this mistake.

(A) would avoid

(B) will avoid

(C) would have avoided

(D) had avoided

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct option is (C) would have avoided.

This sentence is a third conditional sentence which talks about an unreal past condition and its probable past result. The structure of a third conditional sentence is: If + past perfect, ... would have + past participle.

Here, 'If we had consulted the engineer' is the condition in past perfect tense, and the result should be 'we would have avoided this mistake' which shows what could have happened but did not happen. Therefore, option (C) is correct because it follows this structure.

Options (A) and (B) are present or future forms and do not fit the past unreal condition. Option (D) 'had avoided' is not correct as it lacks the auxiliary 'would have' needed for the main clause in third conditional.

Hence, the completed sentence is: If we had consulted the engineer, we would have avoided this mistake.

Key Points: Understanding third conditional sentence structure - Correct tense usage with 'if' clause and main clause - Choosing 'would have' + past participle for past unreal condition

Question 17.

Complete the following newspaper report by filling in the blank:

The number of road accidents _____ increased this year.

(A) have

(B) are

(C) has

(D) were

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct option is (C) has. In this sentence, 'The number of road accidents' is the subject. 'Number' is a singular noun, so the verb should also be singular. Therefore, 'has' is the correct choice because it agrees with the singular noun 'number'. The sentence becomes: The number of road accidents has increased this year.

Key Points: The subject 'number' is singular - Use singular verb 'has' with singular subject - 'have' is used with plural nouns

Question 18.

The speaker in conversation with a group of ministers said,

"I feel reassured after hearing your opinions."

What did the speaker say to the ministers?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The speaker said to the ministers that he felt reassured after hearing their opinions. This means the speaker was expressing confidence and certainty because of the helpful and positive views of the ministers. Saying 'I feel reassured' shows that the speaker's worries or doubts were reduced and their confidence increased due to the opinions given by the ministers.

Key Points: speaker expressed feeling reassured - confidence gained from ministers opinions - reduced worries and doubts

Section D

Question 19. What lesson does the poet convey about nature in ‘How to Tell Wild Animals’?

[3 Marks]

Answer: The poet Carolyn Wells conveys a humorous yet important lesson about nature in the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals'. She warns readers about the dangers of trying to identify wild animals by their features because wild animals are unpredictable and can be dangerous. The poem uses a playful tone to show that nature is powerful and should be respected. It teaches us to admire wild animals from a safe distance and not to disturb them, as they have their own ways of living in the wild. Ultimately, the poet encourages respect for nature and awareness of the potential risks when dealing with wild creatures.

> **Key Points: Humorous warning about dangers of identifying wild animals - Nature is powerful and unpredictable - Respect and admire wild animals from a safe distance**

Question 20.

How does the short structure of poem ‘Dust of Snow’ enhance its message about emotional renewal ? Support your answer briefly.

[3 Marks]

Answer: The short structure of the poem "Dust of Snow" by Robert Frost enhances its message about emotional renewal by being simple and direct, just like the quick and unexpected change in the poet's mood. The poem has only four lines and a simple rhyme scheme that reflects how a small incident in nature can instantly change one's feelings. The brief and concise nature of the poem mirrors the sudden act of the crow shaking snow on the poet, which lifts his spirits and brings fresh positivity. This compactness emphasizes that emotional renewal can happen suddenly and from small moments in life, making the poem impactful and easy to remember.

> **Key Points: Short and simple structure - Reflects quick mood change - Emphasizes sudden emotional renewal**

Question 21.

In ‘Mijbil the Otter’, how does the narrator’s patience contrast with the reactions of fellow passengers and local people ? What does this reveal about human understanding of the unfamiliar ?

[3 Marks]

Answer: Answer: The narrator shows great patience towards Mijbil the otter by calmly observing and understanding his behavior without any fear or prejudice. In contrast, the fellow passengers and local people react with surprise, fear, and misunderstanding because they are not familiar with such an

animal. This contrast reveals that humans often react negatively or with fear to things or creatures they do not know well. The narrator's patience shows open-mindedness and willingness to learn, while others' reactions show ignorance and lack of understanding towards the unfamiliar. It teaches us the importance of patience and open-mindedness when faced with new or unknown things instead of fear and rejection.

> **Key Points: Narrator's patience and calmness - Fellow passengers' fear and surprise - Human tendency to fear unfamiliar things - Importance of understanding and open-mindedness**

Question 22.

In 'Madam Rides the Bus', how does the contrast between Valli's boldness and her emotional response to the dead cow shape your view of her maturity ?

[3 Marks]

Answer: In "Madam Rides the Bus," Valli shows boldness when she decides to take the bus alone, an act of courage and curiosity reflecting her desire for independence and new experiences. However, her emotional response to seeing the dead cow on her way back reveals her sensitivity and innocence. This contrast shows that although she is brave and adventurous, she is still a young girl learning about the world. Her mixture of boldness and vulnerability shapes the view that Valli is growing and maturing but still has a childlike innocence. It highlights that maturity is not only about courage but also about understanding and processing emotions.

> **Key Points: Valli's boldness - Her emotional sensitivity to the dead cow - Shows her growth and childlike innocence**

Question 23.

What was Chubukov's reaction when he heard about Lomov's proposal for his daughter's hand ? (The Proposal)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Chubukov was very happy and emotional when he heard about Lomov's proposal for his daughter Natalya. He warmly embraced and kissed Lomov, expressing his joy by saying that he had been hoping for this proposal for a long time and that it was his continual desire. He even shed a tear of happiness and said, "And I've always loved you, my angel, as if you were my own son." This shows that Chubukov sincerely approved of the alliance and trusted Lomov as a good match for his daughter.

> **Key Points: Chubukov was happy - He showed warmth by embracing and kissing Lomov - He expressed his long-held desire for the proposal - He said he loved Lomov like his**

own son - He was emotional and sincere about the proposal

Question 24.

Why does Griffin, despite his scientific genius, end up leading a destructive life ? (Footprints Without Feet)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Griffin, despite being a scientific genius, ends up leading a destructive life because of his lawless nature and lack of concern for ethics. He invents the invisibility formula to serve his own selfish purposes rather than for the benefit of humanity. His actions, like setting fire to his landlord's house in revenge and using his invisibility to commit crimes and create chaos, show his destructive tendencies. Instead of using his knowledge responsibly, his obsession with power and invisibility leads him to isolation and destruction, ultimately causing harm to himself and others. Thus, Griffin's misuse of science and absence of moral values transform his genius into a source of destruction.

Key Points: Griffin's lawless nature - misuse of scientific knowledge for selfish ends - lack of ethical concern leading to destructive actions

Question 25.

Why does Horace Danby consider himself an honest man despite being a thief ? How does this self-perception affect his decision in the story ? (A Question of Trust)

[3 Marks]

Answer: (a) Horace Danby considers himself an honest man because he believes his thefts are not done out of greed or malice but rather for his love of rare books and the challenge it brings. He steals only once a year and always with a plan, which shows his self-control. He thinks his intentions justify his actions, so he is "not completely dishonest".
(b) This self-perception affects his decision because when he believes the lady of the house trusts him, he is willing to take risks and not suspect any deceit. His belief in his own honesty blinds him to the possibility of being tricked, which ultimately causes him to falter in the story.

Key Points: Horace believes his thefts are justified by his love for books - He steals with a plan and not out of greed - His self-perception makes him trust the lady and take risks in the story

Question 26.

In ‘A Triumph of Surgery’, how does Tricki’s condition reflect the consequences of pampering pets excessively ? What does this suggest about human attachment ?

[3 Marks]

Answer:

(a) Tricki's condition shows the negative effects of pampering pets excessively. His mistress, Mrs Pumphrey, spoils him with too much rich food and treats him like a baby. Because of this, Tricki becomes overweight, unhealthy and falls seriously ill. The excessive feeding makes him weak and sick instead of strong and active.
(b) This situation suggests that human attachment to pets can sometimes be overprotective and indulgent. Mrs Pumphrey's love and care, though well-meaning, become harmful because she cannot control her desire to pamper Tricki. It shows that being overly attached can prevent owners from taking practical and effective care of their pets.
(c) Dr Herriot, the veterinary surgeon, cures Tricki by putting him on a strict diet and limiting his food. The dog recovers not through surgery but through discipline and a healthier lifestyle. This teaches us that love should be balanced with responsibility and knowledge about what is best for pets.

Key Points: Tricki becomes ill due to overfeeding and pampering - Mrs Pumphrey's excessive attachment leads to neglect of proper care - Excessive love can harm pets if not combined with responsibility

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Section E

Question 27.

The data given below shows how teenagers spend their daily screen time across different digital activities.

Analyse the data provided and write a paragraph analyzing how teenagers allocate their daily screen time. Focus on the activity that occupies the largest proportion of time and on other major and minor activities in descending order, and on the balance between entertainment and educational screen use. Conclude with an observation about the overall trend.

[5 Marks]

S. No.	Digital Activities	Percentage
1.	Social media	35
2.	Watching videos / streaming	30
3.	Gaming	20
4.	Online learning	10
5.	Others (browsing, reading news, etc.,)	5

Answer: The data shows that teenagers spend the largest proportion of their daily screen time on social media, which highlights its popularity among this age group. This is followed by watching videos

and playing online games, which are also popular entertainment activities. Other activities like browsing the internet, using educational apps, and video calling occupy smaller portions of their screen time. There is a clear balance tilted more towards entertainment rather than educational use. However, educational screen time, though smaller, is significant as it supports learning and homework. Overall, the trend suggests that teenagers primarily use digital devices for social interaction and entertainment, but also incorporate some educational activities, reflecting a mixed but entertainment-focused usage pattern.

> **Key Points: Largest screen time spent on social media - Other major activities: videos, online games - Minor activities: internet browsing, educational apps, video calls - More entertainment than educational use - Overall trend shows mixed but entertainment-focused screen time**

Question 28.

Read the given details of a community library designed for your neighbourhood:

● A well lit and ventilated reading lounge;

● A digital section with computers, tablets and e-books;

● A dedicated children's corner with picture books and storytelling sessions;

● A quiet study area with desk lamps and soundproof partitions for students;

● outdoor reading space under trees for senior citizens;

● book-sharing stands where people can donate and borrow books freely.

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words about the suitability of this library. Focus on factors such as accessibility, reading environment, suitability for different age groups, and community engagement.

[5 Marks]

Answer: The community library is very suitable for people of all age groups and promotes community engagement effectively. The well lit and ventilated reading lounge creates a comfortable environment for reading and studying. The digital section with computers, tablets and e-books makes information accessible to everyone, including tech-savvy youth. The dedicated children's corner with picture books and storytelling sessions supports early learning and creativity. The quiet study area with desk lamps and soundproof partitions is ideal for students who need concentration. Senior citizens can enjoy the peaceful outdoor reading space under trees, which connects them with nature. The book-sharing stands encourage people to donate and borrow books freely, fostering a sense of sharing and community. Overall, this library is inclusive, accessible, and provides diverse facilities for learning and interaction.

Key Points: well lit and ventilated lounge - digital section with modern devices - children's corner for early learning - quiet study area for students - outdoor space for senior citizens - book-sharing stands for community engagement

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Section F

Question 29. You are Devi / Dev Arora, a concerned resident. You are deeply concerned at the overflowing garbage dumps in the city. Besides being eyesores, these dumps create environmental and health risks. They produce a foul odour and attract stray animals and other scavengers. Write a letter to the Municipal Commissioner drawing attention to the situation. Suggest the need to identify systemic flaws in the collection system due to insufficient collection vehicles and irregular cleaning of dumps.

[5 Marks]

Answer: Respected Municipal Commissioner,
I am Dev Arora, a resident of this city. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the overflowing garbage dumps in our localities. These dumps have become eyesores and pose serious environmental and health risks to the residents. The foul odour from these dumps is unbearable and they attract stray animals and other scavengers, increasing the risk of spreading diseases.
I believe that the main reasons for this alarming situation are the insufficient number of garbage collection vehicles and the irregular cleaning of the dumps. There seems to be a systemic flaw in the garbage collection system that needs urgent attention. I urge you to take immediate action to identify and rectify these issues. Increasing the number of collection vehicles, ensuring regular cleaning, and implementing better waste management practices can greatly improve the situation.
Please consider this as an urgent matter that affects the health and well-being of the citizens. I hope the municipal authorities will take quick and effective measures to solve this problem.
Thanking you,
Yours sincerely,
Dev Arora

Key Points: Concern about overflowing garbage dumps - Environmental and health risks including foul odour and stray animals - Need to identify flaws in collection system due to insufficient vehicles and irregular cleaning

Question 30. Living in multistoreyed complexes with limited open space for sporting activities, you feel that children today are forced to stay indoors. This is leading to increased screen addiction, lack of concentration, and unhealthy eating habits and lifestyles. Write a letter to the editor on the need to build community centers with indoor sporting facilities for children. Highlight the benefits of creating a comfortable and safe environment, and its usefulness for residents. You are Shrushti / Sharan.

[5 Marks]

Answer: To The Editor,

Subject: Need for Community Centers with Indoor Sporting Facilities for Children

Respected Sir,

I am Sharan, a resident of Green Meadows Apartments. I wish to express my concern about the lack of open spaces for children in multistoreyed complexes nowadays. This situation forces children to stay indoors, leading to increased screen addiction, lack of concentration, and unhealthy eating habits. To address this, I strongly urge the authorities and resident welfare associations to build community centers equipped with indoor sporting facilities. Such centers would provide a comfortable and safe environment for children to engage in physical activities regardless of weather conditions. Moreover, these centers would promote fitness, social interaction, and mental well-being among children. They would also benefit residents by creating a strong community bond and encouraging a healthy lifestyle. Therefore, I request the concerned authorities to consider establishing these facilities at an early date to ensure the holistic development of our children.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Sharan

Key Points: Need for indoor sports facilities for children - Benefits include physical fitness, mental well-being, social interaction - Community centers create safe and comfortable environments - Helps reduce screen addiction and unhealthy lifestyles

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Section G

Question 31. How does Lencho's faith in God, as shown in 'A Letter to God' contrast with the skepticism of Kisa Gotami in 'Sermon at Benares'? Support your answer with details from the two texts.

[6 Marks]

Answer: (a) Lencho's Faith in God: Lencho, a poor farmer, shows complete and unquestioning faith in God. When a hailstorm destroys his crops, he writes a letter to God asking for a hundred pesos to save his family from poverty. He believes firmly that God will help him, which shows his strong trust and hope in divine intervention. For example, Lencho says, "God: if you don't help me, my family and I will go hungry this year." This indicates his deep reliance on God's help.

(b) Kisa Gotami's Skepticism in 'Sermon at Benares': In contrast, Kisa Gotami begins her journey with grief and denial after losing her child. She approaches the Buddha seeking medicine to bring her dead son back to life. The Buddha gently teaches her about the reality of death and suffering, leading her to realize that death is a universal truth and to let go of her skepticism and pain. Kisa Gotami moves from denial towards accepting the impermanence of life, showing a different kind of faith—not in miracles, but in understanding reality.

(c) Contrast in Their Faith: Lencho's faith is hopeful and devotional—he believes God will directly intervene to solve his problems. On the other hand, Kisa Gotami's skepticism comes from harsh

reality and grief; her story is about seeking enlightenment and understanding rather than asking for help. While Lencho's faith is based on expectation, Kisa Gotami's journey teaches acceptance.
In conclusion, Lencho shows strong, unwavering faith in God's power to help him materially, whereas Kisa Gotami represents the path from skepticism and grief to wisdom and acceptance of life's truths.

Key Points: Lencho has unwavering faith in God and expects help - Lencho writes a letter to God asking for money after hailstorm - Kisa Gotami experiences grief and seeks a miracle - Buddha teaches Kisa about impermanence and suffering - Lencho's faith is hopeful and devotional - Kisa moves from skepticism to acceptance and wisdom

Question 32.

Analyse how Amanda in the poem 'Amanda' and the dragon in the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' yearn for acceptance and a life free from criticism.

[6 Marks]

Answer: Answer:
Both Amanda and the dragon from 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' express a deep desire for acceptance and to live free from criticism, but in different ways.
(a) Amanda, in the poem 'Amanda', feels the constant burden of criticism mainly from adults and society who expect her to behave perfectly. She yearns to enjoy her childhood freely without being judged for her behaviors and mistakes. Amanda wants a life where she can be accepted as she is, with her faults and imperfections, and experience happiness and freedom away from the harsh eyes of critics.
(b) Similarly, the dragon in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' also craves acceptance. Although he is brave and loyal, others in the poem make fun of him and call him a coward, which hurts him deeply. Despite these criticisms, the dragon displays true courage when needed, showing that he wants to be valued and recognized for who he really is, beyond the negative opinions. His yearning is to be respected and accepted by his friends, living without constant mockery.
In summary, both Amanda and Custard the dragon reveal a universal human desire to be accepted without judgment and to live a life free from unfair criticism, highlighting themes of understanding, empathy, and the importance of recognizing true worth beyond appearances or mistakes.

Key Points: Amanda seeks freedom from criticism to enjoy childhood - The dragon desires respect and acceptance despite being mocked - Both characters represent a universal yearning for empathy and true recognition

Question 33.

In 'The Necklace', Madam Loisel spends years repaying a debt for a necklace that was never valuable. How does this irony expose the illusion of wealth and the consequences of chasing

appearances ?

[6 Marks]

Answer: Answer:

The irony in "The Necklace" lies in the fact that Madam Loisel and her husband spend ten years repaying a debt for a necklace that turns out to be fake and worthless. This twist exposes the illusion of wealth because Madam Loisel had believed that possessing a beautiful and expensive necklace would make her appear wealthy and admired in society. She chased this false appearance out of vanity and desire to fit into higher social circles.

By borrowing the necklace, she tried to hide her true social status, but this led to real suffering and hardship. The Loisels worked hard, sacrificed their comforts, and lived a life of poverty for many years, all because of this false belief in material wealth and appearances. This shows the consequences of chasing outward appearances instead of valuing truth and contentment.

The story teaches us that putting too much importance on material things and social status can lead to unnecessary misery. True happiness and worth do not come from outward show but from honesty and acceptance of one's reality. Thus, the irony highlights how illusions of wealth can ruin lives when people prioritize appearance over truth.

> **Key Points: Irony of the fake necklace - Illusion of wealth through appearances - Consequences of chasing materialistic desires**

Question 34.

In 'The Book That Saved the Earth', how does the play use humour and irony to comment on both futuristic technology and human assumptions ? What message do you think the author conveys through the Martians' misinterpretation of a nursery rhyme ?

[6 Marks]

Answer: (a) The play uses humour and irony effectively to show how even in the future, with advanced technology like Great and Mighty Think-Tank, misunderstandings can arise from simple things like nursery rhymes. The Martians mistake innocent rhymes for dangerous messages, which is ironic because such a highly advanced machine misinterprets harmless children's literature as threats. This shows that technology alone cannot replace common sense and understanding. (b) Through the Martians' misinterpretation of the nursery rhyme, the author conveys the message that misunderstanding can lead to unnecessary fear and conflict. It highlights how assumptions without proper context lead to wrong conclusions. The yellow book of Mother Goose, containing simple nursery rhymes, ironically ends up saving Earth by confusing the Martians and preventing their attack. (c) Overall, the play teaches us to be careful about making assumptions and to value the simple things, like children's stories, which can have unexpected importance. It also suggests that technology should be supported by human wisdom to avoid mistakes and chaos.

Key Points: Humour and irony highlight misunderstandings - Futuristic technology can misinterpret simple things - Misinterpretation leads to unnecessary fear - Nursery rhymes symbolize simplicity saving Earth - Importance of combining technology with human wisdom