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.

Read the given extract and answer the following questions given below :

It was a new bus, its outside painted a gleaming white with some green stripes along the sides. Inside, the overhead bars shone like silver. Directly in front of Valli, above the windshield, there was a

beautiful clock. The seats were soft and luxurious. Valli devoured everything with her eyes. But when she started to look outside, she found her view cut off by a canvas blind that covered the lower part of her window. So she stood up on the seat and peered over the blind. (Madam Rides a Bus)

(1)

The effect on Valli as she describes the bus reveals that she is _____.

Choose the most suitable option.

(A) awed

(B) scared

(C) disgusted

(D) repulsed

[1 Marks]

Answer: Valli is awed by the new bus as she describes it with fascination and admiration, indicating her excitement and eagerness to explore the new experience.

Key Points: "Valli feels awe and wonder, She is fascinated by the new bus, She is impressed by the luxury"

(2) How does the author's use of descriptive language enhance the narrative technique in the passage?

[2 Marks]

Answer: The author uses descriptive language to create vivid images of the bus's gleaming exterior and luxurious interior, allowing readers to see through Valli's eyes and experience her awe, enhancing the narrative by making it lively and engaging.

Key Points: "Paints vivid imagery of the bus, Creates a sensory experience for the reader, Shows Valli's perspective and excitement"

(3) Which action of Valli shows that she did not want to miss out on any part of the experience?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Valli's action of standing up on the seat and peering over the blind shows her determination not to miss anything, highlighting her enthusiasm to fully experience the new surroundings.

> **Key Points: "She stood up on the seat, Peered over the canvas blind, Actively tries to get a better view"**

(4)

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

The use of the word 'devoured' adds to a sense of _____ (fascination / hunger) in the extract.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The word 'devoured' conveys Valli's intense fascination and eagerness to absorb every detail of the bus, emphasizing her curiosity and excitement.

> **Key Points: "Word choice shows intense interest, Indicates Valli's eagerness, Focus on fascination rather than literal hunger"**

Question 2. I sit inside, doors open to the veranda writing long letters in which I scarcely mention the departure of the forest from the house. The night is fresh, the whole moon shines in a sky still open the smell of leaves and lichen still reaches like a voice into the rooms. (Trees)

(1) Comment on the portrayal of the narrator in the given extract.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The narrator is portrayed as reflective and sensitive, feeling a quiet nostalgia and loss for the forest's departure while still being connected to nature through lingering memories and sensory cues.

Key Points: "Reflective and nostalgic tone, Sensitive to nature's presence, Feels subtle loss yet connected"

(2) Complete the following suitably: The trees' movement from the house to the forest reflects the broader theme of _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The trees' movement reflects the broader theme of change and loss, symbolizing how nature moves away from human habitation over time.

Key Points: "Change and loss, Passing of time, Separation from nature"

(3)

What kind of atmosphere is created through the given extract?

Select the correct option(s):

1. nostalgia

2. serenity

3. detachment

4. loss

5. joy

[1 Marks]

Answer: The extract creates an atmosphere of nostalgia and loss (options 1 and 4) with a calm, serene backdrop, balancing the melancholy with peaceful reflection.

> **Key Points: "Nostalgic tone, Feeling of loss, Calm and fresh atmosphere"**

(4) What has the poet hardly mentioned in her letter?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The poet barely mentions the departure of the forest in her letter, suggesting a reluctance to confront the loss directly.

> **Key Points: "The departure of the forest, Focused on other things, Avoids explicitly addressing loss"**

Question 3. Mme Loisel was a great success. She was the prettiest of all – elegant, gracious, smiling, and full of joy. All the men noticed her, asked her name and wanted to be presented. She danced with enthusiasm, intoxicated with pleasure, thinking of nothing but all this admiration, this victory so complete and sweet to her heart. (The Necklace)

(1) How is “success” perceived by Matilda ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Matilda perceives success as being admired and noticed by others. In the case, she is described as the prettiest, elegant, and full of joy, attracting all the men who want to meet her. Her success means winning admiration and feeling victorious, which makes her very happy during the ball.

Key Points: Success means admiration by others - Mme Loisel felt victorious and happy - She was noticed and praised by all men

(2) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. ‘All the men noticed her, asked her name and wanted to be presented’ indicates that the men wanted to be formally _____ (introduced / withholden) to her.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The phrase ‘All the men noticed her, asked her name and wanted to be presented’ means that the men wanted to be formally **introduced** to Mme Loisel. Being introduced means meeting someone officially for the first time. This shows that Mme Loisel was admired and noticed by many men at the event, as described in the case where she was the prettiest and full of joy, enjoying all the admiration.

Key Points: Men wanted formal introduction - 'Was presented' means introduced - Shows admiration towards Mme Loisel

(3) Explain the phrase “this victory so complete and sweet to her heart”.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The phrase 'this victory so complete and sweet to her heart' means that Mme Loisel felt very happy and proud because she was admired by everyone at the ball. She enjoyed the attention and praise, feeling successful and beautiful, which fulfilled her dream of being appreciated.
It was a moment of great joy and triumph for her, as described in the passage where all men noticed her and wanted to dance with her.

> **Key Points: Mme Loisel felt very happy and proud - She enjoyed admiration from everyone - It was a moment of success and joy for her**

(4) Which of the following best describe Matilda’s state of mind in the context ? (A) overwhelmed (B) anxious (C) confused (D) sad

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: Matilda's state of mind in the context is **overwhelmed**. She is full of joy and pleasure because she is admired and noticed by everyone at the ball. She is intoxicated with happiness and thinks only about the admiration she receives, which shows she feels overwhelmed by the success and attention. This is clear from the passage where it says she was smiling and full of joy and danced with enthusiasm.

> **Key Points: Matilda is full of joy - She is admired by all men - She is intoxicated with pleasure - She feels a complete and sweet victory**

Question 4. A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now He senses first responsibility In a world of possessions. People will take Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy. And no one buys a ball back. Money is external He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes, The epistemology of loss, how to stand up Knowing what every man must one day know And most know many days, how to stand up. (The Ball Poem)

(1) Comment on the portrayal of the character of the boy in the given extract.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The boy is portrayed as someone who is deeply upset over losing the ball, not because of its monetary value but because of the emotional loss. The poet shows that the boy is beginning to understand responsibility in a world full of possessions. The loss teaches him a valuable lesson that some things, once lost, cannot be bought back with money. This experience helps the boy learn how to face loss and stand up, a knowledge everyone must gain in life, as mentioned in the extract.

Key Points: Boy is upset due to emotional attachment - He learns responsibility in a material world - He understands that some losses cannot be compensated by money

(2) Complete the following suitably : “Money is external” implies that the boy _____ (A) values material possessions. (B) learns the money cannot restore what is lost. (C) believes money is the solution to all problems. (D) is indifferent to material wealth.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: "Money is external" implies that the boy learns that money cannot restore what is lost. Even though money can buy a new ball, it cannot bring back the lost ball or the feelings attached to it. The poem shows that loss is more than just material value and money has its limits. **Explanation:** The boy understands that loss is something deeper than what money can fix, as stated in the passage, "A dime, another ball, is worthless". So, the correct answer is (B).

Key Points: Money cannot replace loss - Loss has emotional value - Money is limited in solving emotional problems

(3) What kind of atmosphere is created through these lines ? Select the correct option. 1. reflection 2. intrigue 3. acceptance 4. anger 5. fear (A) 1, 4 and 5 (B) Only 2 (C) 1 and 3 (D) 4 and 5

[1 Marks]

Answer: The atmosphere created by these lines is one of reflection and acceptance. The poem shows the boy's understanding of loss and responsibility in a world of possessions. He learns how to face loss calmly without anger or fear. The tone is thoughtful, as the boy contemplates human experiences and how to stand up after losing something important, like the ball.

Key Points: Reflection atmosphere - Acceptance of loss - Learning responsibility

(4) What does the poet mean by the phrase, 'epistemology of loss' ?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer : The phrase 'epistemology of loss' means the boy is learning the knowledge and understanding of losing something important. Although a ball can be bought with money again, the boy feels the real loss and the responsibility that comes with it, as the poet says that 'no one buys a ball back'. This teaches him a life lesson beyond just losing a ball.

Key Points: epistemology of loss means knowledge of loss - boy learns responsibility - loss is more than just money - real understanding of standing up after loss

Section B

Question 5.

Read the following text :

(1) Every year, countless flocks of birds take to the skies in one of nature's most remarkable spectacles – migration. This incredible phenomenon involves the regular, long-distance movement of birds between their breeding and wintering grounds. Some species fly only a few hundred kilometers, while others travel across continents and oceans, covering tens of thousands of kilometers each year.

(2) Migration is primarily driven by changes in seasons. When food becomes scarce during harsh winters, birds travel to warmer regions where they can find abundant insects, seeds, or fish. The Siberian crane, for instance, travels thousands of kilometers from the cold wetlands of Siberia to India's warmer lakes such as Keoladeo National Park in Bharatpur and Chilika Lake in Odisha. The Bar headed goose, another amazing traveler, is known to fly over the towering Himalayas at heights where oxygen levels are dangerously low – a feat that astonishes even scientists.

(3) How these small creatures navigate such long distances remains a fascinating mystery. Studies suggest that migratory birds use multiple cues : the position of the sun by day, the stars at night, and even the Earth's magnetic field. Some, like homing pigeons, possess a memory-based instinct that helps them return to the same spot year after year with stunning accuracy.

(4) Unfortunately, migration today is becoming more difficult. Expanding cities, pollution, and deforestation have destroyed vital wetlands and resting areas. Climate change has disrupted the timing of migration, confusing birds about when to travel or breed. Many species arrive too early or too late, missing the right conditions for nesting or feeding.

(5) Conservationists worldwide are working to protect these travellers. International cooperation is essential since migratory routes cross national borders. Protected wetland sites, bird sanctuaries, and awareness programs encourage people to appreciate and safeguard these winged wanderers.

(6) Migratory birds are not just symbols of endurance and freedom; they are vital to nature's balance. They help in pollination, seed dispersal, and pest control. The survival of these birds is linked to the survival of ecosystems everywhere. Watching them reminds humanity of a powerful truth – the planet is shared, and the harmony of life depends on care, cooperation, and respect for nature's rhythms.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

(1)

Migration is primarily driven by changes in seasons as _____.

(a) they move to colder areas to hibernate

(b) they move to warmer places for food (paragraph 2)

[1 Marks]

Answer: Migration happens because food becomes scarce in cold winters, so birds move to warmer places where food is more available. This is explained in paragraph 2 where birds like the Siberian crane travel to warmer lakes in India to find food during winters.

Key Points: Migration driven by seasonal changes - Birds move to warmer places for food - Food scarcity in cold winters triggers migration

(2) In paragraph 1, what does the phrase ‘one of nature’s most remarkable spectacles’ refer to?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: The phrase 'one of nature’s most remarkable spectacles' in paragraph 1 refers to the amazing event of bird migration, where many birds travel long distances regularly between breeding and wintering places every year.
This shows how migration is a remarkable natural event involving huge movements of birds across regions.

Key Points: phrase refers to bird migration - involves regular long-distance movement - between breeding and wintering grounds

(3) What is unique about the Bar-headed goose? (paragraph 2)

[2 Marks]

Answer: Answer: The Bar-headed goose is unique because it can fly over the high Himalaya mountains at very high altitudes where oxygen levels are dangerously low. This remarkable ability makes it an amazing traveler and astonishes scientists. This special skill helps it migrate long distances during seasonal changes to find food and warmer places, as mentioned in paragraph 2.

Key Points: Flies over Himalayas at very high altitude - Survives low oxygen levels during flight - Astonishes scientists with this unique ability

(4)

Select the option that best explains the phrase ‘navigate such long distances remains a fascinating mystery’. (paragraph 3)

(a) travelling to unknown destinations without getting lost is truly amazing

(b) travelling plans are predictable and well marked out by the leader of the pack

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: The phrase means that birds traveling very long distances without getting lost is truly amazing. Scientists are still fascinated by how birds use signs like the sun, stars, and Earth's magnetic field to find their way. This shows that their navigation is a mystery and very special.
Reference: Paragraph 3 describes how birds use natural cues to navigate, which is why their travel is called a "fascinating mystery".

Key Points: Birds travel long distances without getting lost - Birds use natural cues like sun, stars, and magnetic field to navigate - How they navigate is not fully understood and is amazing

(5)

State whether the following statement is True or False:

Because of rapid urbanization and clear direction, it has become easier for migratory birds to find their way. (paragraph 4)

[1 Marks]

Answer: The statement is False. According to paragraph 4, rapid urbanization, pollution, and deforestation have made migration more difficult for birds by destroying important resting areas. So, it is not easier for migratory birds to find their way due to urbanization.

Key Points: Migration is becoming difficult - Urbanization and deforestation harm bird habitats - Statement is False

(6)

Based on the information given in the passage, which of the following will protect migratory birds?

(A) creation of more wetland sites.

(B) making people aware about the eating habits of migratory birds.

(C) work in cooperation with other countries.

(D) create eating spots along the way.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Based on the passage, both creating more wetland sites and working in cooperation with other countries help protect migratory birds. Wetlands serve as vital resting and feeding areas during migration, while international cooperation is necessary because migratory routes cross borders. Therefore, options (A) and (C) are correct according to the passage.

Key Points: creation of more wetland sites protects resting areas - international cooperation is essential as migration crosses borders - wetlands and sanctuaries safeguard migratory birds

(7)

What message does the passage convey about life on Earth? (paragraph 6)

(A) Man must provide cues to clear traffic routes for migratory birds.

(B) Deforestation is essential to stop uncontrolled growth.

(C) Harmony between man and nature is essential.

(D) Climate change can be controlled only by technological intervention.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Correct answer is (C) Harmony between man and nature is essential. The passage says that migratory birds help nature through pollination and pest control. Their survival is linked to the survival of ecosystems. It teaches us that life on Earth depends on care, cooperation, and respect between humans and nature, showing the importance of harmony for the planet's balance.

> **Key Points: Message about life on Earth - Importance of harmony between man and nature - Migratory birds' role in ecosystem balance**

(8) List any two points according to the passage that illustrate that migratory birds play an important role in maintaining nature's balance. (paragraph 6)

[2 Marks]

Answer: According to paragraph 6, migratory birds are important for nature's balance because they help in pollination, which allows plants to reproduce. They also assist in seed dispersal and control pests, contributing to healthy ecosystems. Their survival is linked to the survival of ecosystems everywhere, showing their vital role in maintaining nature's balance.

> **Key Points: Migratory birds help in pollination - They assist in seed dispersal - They contribute to pest control**

Question 6.

Read the following text :

(1) A detailed study conducted across various industries and research sectors has shed light on the evolving landscape of artificial intelligence (AI). It revealed that nearly 70% of AI applications are

developed by private tech companies, driven by innovation and market competition. About 20% stem from collaborations between academic institutions and industry leaders, fostering advancements in fields such as healthcare, finance, and transportation.

(2) Interestingly, around 10% of AI initiatives are spearheaded by governmental or non-governmental organisations, often focussing on social welfare. These projects aim to address issues like disaster prediction, agricultural efficiency, and public health monitoring.

(3) Among the AI applications, approximately 45% focus on automation, improving productivity and reducing operational cost. Around 30% cater to predictive analytics, aiding in decision-making processes in domains such as finance and weather forecasting. The remaining 25% revolve around interactive AI, such as chatbots and virtual assistants, enhancing user engagement and accessibility.

(4) Further analysis indicates that about 60% of AI implementations are found in urban areas, particularly in tech hubs and metropolitan cities. Around 30% are applied in industrial zones, enhancing manufacturing and logistics. The remaining 10% serve rural and underserved regions, supporting initiatives like digital literacy, healthcare access and agricultural support.

(5) Comparisons across parameters such as ethical concerns, accessibility, industry-specific applications, and societal impact reveal AI's potential for transformative change. This analysis not only highlights the widespread adoption of AI but also underscores the need for inclusive and sustainable development in the field.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

(1)

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

Assertion: Governmental and non-governmental organisations often use AI for social welfare. Reason: These organisations focus on disaster prediction, agricultural efficiency, and public health monitoring.

(A) Both true and reason explain assertion

(B) Both true but reason not correct explanation

(C) Assertion true but reason false

(D) Assertion false but reason true

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: Option (A) is correct because both the assertion and reason are true as per the passage. Governmental and non-governmental organisations use AI mainly for social welfare and focus on projects like disaster prediction, agricultural efficiency, and public health monitoring as explained in paragraph 2. Hence, the reason correctly explains the assertion.

Key Points: Assertion is true - Reason is true - Reason explains assertion

(2)

What does the use of the phrase “evolving landscape of artificial intelligence” in paragraph 1 suggest?

(A) disinterest

(B) progress and development

(C) frustration

(D) confusion

[1 Marks]

Answer: The phrase 'evolving landscape of artificial intelligence' in paragraph 1 suggests progress and development. It means that AI is constantly changing and improving with new innovations, as shown by the study which highlights ongoing advancements by private companies and collaborations in various fields.
This shows growth in the AI field over time.

Key Points: Evolving means changing/progressing - AI is developing and improving - Study shows innovation and growth in AI

(3) How do AI applications contribute to societal development, especially in rural and underserved regions?

[1 Marks]

Answer: AI applications help society by improving life in rural and underserved areas. About 10% of AI is used in these regions to support healthcare, agriculture, and digital learning, making important services more accessible as stated in paragraph 4 of the passage.
These AI initiatives help farmers with better farming methods, improve health monitoring, and teach people digital skills, which aids in overall development and inclusion.

Key Points: AI supports healthcare-agriculture and education in rural areas-AI makes services more accessible-10% of AI initiatives focus on rural and underserved regions

(4) Identify the word or phrase that indicates supervision as one of the areas of AI applications. (paragraph 2)

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: The phrase indicating supervision in AI applications from paragraph 2 is 'public health monitoring'. This shows AI is used to supervise and track health conditions to help social welfare projects. It highlights the role of AI in overseeing important societal issues such as health. This is clearly mentioned where governmental and non-governmental organisations focus on social welfare with AI.

Key Points: supervision indicated by 'public health monitoring' - AI used for social welfare - paragraph 2 focus on government and NGO AI projects

(5) In the context of the last paragraph, describe the significance of comparing various parameters such as ethical concerns, accessibility, industry-specific applications, and societal impact in understanding the evolving AI landscape.

[2 Marks]

Answer: Comparing parameters like ethical concerns, accessibility, industry-specific applications, and societal impact helps us understand both the benefits and challenges of AI. It shows how AI affects different areas and people, highlighting the need to use AI responsibly and fairly. This comparison from the passage also points out that AI needs to be developed in a way that supports everyone, making it inclusive and sustainable for the future.

Key Points: Understanding ethical concerns - Highlighting accessibility issues - Recognising societal impact

(6)

Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank.

In a remote village, an AI powered system is used to monitor crop health and provide timely updates to farmers. The percentage of AI initiatives in this segment would be categorized under is_____. (10% / 30% / 45%)

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct percentage of AI initiatives for rural and underserved areas like remote villages is 10%. According to the passage, 10% of AI projects by government or non-government organizations focus on social welfare, including agricultural support. So, AI systems monitoring crop health in villages fall under this 10% category.

Key Points: 10% AI initiatives focus on rural and underserved regions - AI projects in these areas support agriculture and social welfare - Crop health monitoring in remote villages is part of this 10% segment

(7) What does the high percentage of AI implementations in urban areas suggest about the development and adoption of technology?

[1 Marks]

Answer: The high percentage of AI implementations in urban areas shows that technology development is mainly focused in cities where there are more resources and opportunities.
As the passage says, 60% of AI is found in tech hubs and metropolitan cities.
This suggests cities have better infrastructure and accessibility to adopt new technologies faster.
It also means rural areas need more support to benefit equally from AI advancements.

Key Points: 60% of AI in urban areas - urban areas have better infrastructure and opportunities - rural areas less developed in AI use

(8)

Complete the sentence suitably:

The collaboration between academic institutions and industry leaders in developing AI applications demonstrates _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The collaboration between academic institutions and industry leaders in developing AI applications demonstrates how teamwork helps create important advancements in areas like healthcare and finance, as mentioned in the first paragraph of the passage.

Key Points: Collaboration between academia and industry - Advances in healthcare and finance - 20% AI applications from these partnerships

(9)

Complete the following with a suitable reason:

The most likely reason the passage mentions “interactive AI” as a key focus area is because it enhances _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The passage mentions interactive AI as a key focus area because it enhances user engagement and accessibility. Interactive AI includes chatbots and virtual assistants that help people interact with technology more easily, making digital services more user-friendly and accessible to everyone as stated in paragraph 3.

Key Points: Interactive AI enhances user engagement - Interactive AI improves accessibility - Includes chatbots and virtual assistants

Section C

Question 7.

Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete a corporate communication letter from a company to its employee:

Dear Sumit,

This July, you _____ in Japan for three years. In six months the company will transfer you to Bengaluru at a senior position.

(A) will be have been living

(B) will have been living

(C) would have lived

(D) would have been living

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct option is (B) will have been living.

Explanation:
"Will have been living" is the future perfect continuous tense which is used to describe an action that will continue up to a certain point in the future.
In the sentence, "This July, you will have been living in Japan for three years," means by July, Sumit's stay in Japan will complete three years.
It expresses the duration of an activity that will be in progress before a future time.
Other options are incorrect because:
(A) "will be have been living" is grammatically wrong.
(C) "would have lived" suggests a conditional perfect tense which does not fit the context.
(D) "would have been living" also expresses conditional perfect continuous which is not suitable here.
Therefore, the best choice to complete the letter correctly is (B) "will have been living".

Key Points: Use of future perfect continuous tense - "will have been living" expresses duration before a future point - Meaning of future perfect continuous tense - Incorrectness of other options

Question 8.

Read the given sentence from a self help book. Identify the error and supply the correction in the given format.

Each one of the candidates have submitted the documents before the deadline.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Answer: The error in the sentence is in the verb agreement with the subject. The subject "Each one of the candidates" is singular; therefore, the verb should also be singular. The incorrect verb is "have submitted." It should be replaced with the singular form "has submitted." The corrected sentence is: "Each one of the candidates has submitted the documents before the deadline."

Key Points: Subject-verb agreement - Each one is singular - Use singular verb 'has' instead of 'have'

Question 9.

Pratima asked the following question to her friend, Shifa –

Do you like the painting, I gifted you yesterday?

Report Pratima's question correctly.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Pratima asked her friend Shifa if she liked the painting she had gifted her the day before. In reported speech, the sentence becomes: Pratima asked Shifa whether she liked the painting she had gifted her the previous day. Here, the question is changed into a statement, the pronouns and time words are changed accordingly, and the interrogative form is replaced by "if" or "whether".

Key Points: Use of reported speech - Change of pronouns and tense - Use of "if" or "whether" in reporting questions

Question 10.

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the concluding line from a school magazine report on a community outreach programme.

_____ (Each / All) community member was given a different set of equipment.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct word to complete the sentence is "Each". So, the complete sentence is: **Each** community member was given a different set of equipment.
Explanation: We use "Each" when we mean every individual item or person considered separately. "All" refers to the whole group together. Here, since the sentence mentions that different sets were given to individual community members, "Each" is appropriate.

Key Points: Use of Each for individual members - Use of All for whole group - Importance of singular verb agreement with Each

Question 11.

Read Robert's reply to his swimming coach-

Thank you sir for the opportunity. I will make sure I do you proud. Robert thanked his coach for the opportunity and said _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Robert thanked his coach for giving him the opportunity to learn swimming. He promised his coach that he would work hard and do his best to make him proud. He showed gratitude for the coach's support and encouragement and expressed his determination to succeed in swimming.

Key Points: Robert thanked his coach for the opportunity - Promised to make the coach proud - Expressed gratitude and determination

Question 12.

Identify and correct the error in the given line:

I prefer the chocolate pudding than the vanilla truffle anyday.

[1 Marks]

Option No.	Error	Correction
(A)	prefer	preferred
(B)	the	an
(C)	than	to
(D)	anyday	everyday

Answer: Identification of Error: The incorrect word in the sentence is "than". It is wrongly used in a comparison where "to" should be used.
Correct Sentence: I prefer the chocolate pudding to the vanilla truffle anyday.
Explanation: The verb "prefer" is followed by "to" when comparing two things (prefer A to B), not "than". The word "than" is used with comparatives but not with "prefer". Also, "anyday" should be written as two words "any day" for correct usage.

Key Points: Error in use of "than" after "prefer" - Correct preposition is "to" after "prefer" - "anyday" should be corrected to "any day"

Question 13.

Rishaan's parents asked him how he had fared in the speaking test in school that day.

He excitedly told them that before the teacher could finish the question, he _____ the correct answer.

Fill in the blank to complete the sentence.

(A) gave

(B) has given

(C) would have given

(D) will give

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct option to fill in the blank is (C) would have given. This is because the sentence talks about an action that was possible but did not actually happen before another action (the teacher finishing the question). The structure 'would have' + past participle is used to express this conditional or unreal past action. So, the completed sentence is: He excitedly told them that before the teacher could finish the question, he **would have given** the correct answer.
This use of 'would have given' correctly shows that Rishaan was ready to give the answer before the question was finished, but the action depends on the condition of the question being finished. Other options like 'gave' (simple past), 'has given' (present perfect), or 'will give' (future) do not fit the meaning of the sentence here.
Hence, (C) would have given is the right choice.

Key Points: Use of conditional perfect tense - would have + past participle - expresses unreal or conditional past action - correct tense must match context of sentence

Question 14.

Detect the error and supply the correction for an advice by a grandparent.

You should respect your parent and elders.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Answer: Error: The sentence says "parent" instead of the correct plural form "parents" when referring to one's father and mother.
Correction: "You should respect your parents and elders."

Explanation: The word "parents" must be plural because it means both father and mother together.

Using "parent" refers to only one guardian, which is incorrect in this advice. Also, "elders" means older people such as grandparents and other senior family members. So the correct advice encourages respect towards both your parents and elders.

> **Key Points: Error in singular/plural form - Use of plural "parents" instead of singular "parent" - Meaning of elders as senior family members**

Question 15.

Report the dialogue between a customer and a worker at a grocery store:

Customer: Did you pack all the items?

Worker: Yes sir, I did.

The customer asked the worker _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The customer asked the worker if he had packed all the items. In reported speech, yes/no questions beginning with "Did" are changed by using "if" or "whether". So, "Did you pack all the items?" becomes "if you had packed all the items." The worker confirmed by saying that he had packed all the items. Therefore, the reported sentence is: "The customer asked the worker if he had packed all the items."

> **Key Points: Reported speech changes question form - Use of if/whether for yes/no questions - Convert past tense correctly in reported speech**

Question 16.

Select the correct option: Earlier money _____ buy much more than it can today.

(A) could

(B) will

(C) can

(D) shall

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct option is (A) could.
Explanation: The sentence talks about a past situation where money had more purchasing power than now. Hence, we use 'could' to express this past ability or possibility. The sentence will be: "Earlier money **could** buy much more than it can today."
Other options don't fit because:

(B) 'will' indicates future tense, which is incorrect here.
(C) 'can' is present tense, but the sentence compares the past with the present.
(D) 'shall' is not appropriate for this context.

Key Points: Correct option is 'could' - 'could' expresses past ability - Sentence compares past and present purchasing power

Question 17.

Complete the given sentence:

Drinking and smoking _____ (is / are) injurious to health.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct word to fill in the blank is "are". The sentence should be: Drinking and smoking **are** injurious to health.
Explanation:
1. "Drinking and smoking" consists of two activities connected by "and". When two nouns or pronouns are joined by "and", they form a plural subject.
2. A plural subject takes a plural verb.
3. Therefore, the plural verb "are" is used instead of the singular "is".
This sentence means both drinking and smoking cause harm to health, so we use the plural verb "are" to agree with the plural subject.

Key Points: Subject joined by 'and' is plural - Plural subject takes plural verb - Use 'are' with plural subjects

Question 18.

Read the conversation between a student and a school counsellor:

Counsellor: How do you feel after sharing your fears with your parents?

Student: I believe they understand me better as they now know all my fears.

Report the student's response by completing the following:

The student replied that _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The student replied that he/she felt that his/her parents understood him/her better because they now knew all his/her fears. Sharing his/her fears helped the parents to be more aware of what was troubling him/her, which made their relationship stronger and more understanding.

Key Points: Student felt understood - Parents knew the fears - Relationship became stronger

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Section D

Question 19.

How are the cultural and social fabric of Goa closely knit together with the traditional baker and his bread? (Glimpses of India)

[3 Marks]

Answer: The traditional baker, known as the "pader" in Goa, is deeply connected with the cultural and social life of Goan villages. (a) The baker's bread is not just food but a part of everyday life and tradition. Families recall how the baker was a friend and companion during childhood, visiting their homes twice a day, creating a close bond with the community.
(b) The pader has been important in preserving Portuguese-style bread, a part of Goa's heritage, even after the end of colonial rule. Despite modern changes, the pader continues to survive by adapting, such as delivering bread door-to-door.
(c) Therefore, the baker symbolizes the link between Goa's past and present, representing continuity in culture, family tradition, and social relationships through his craft of bread-making.

Key Points: Traditional baker known as pader - Bread as part of cultural and social life - Pader's role in preserving Portuguese bread and community ties

Question 20.

Bring out the literal and metaphorical meaning of the word “plunge” with reference to the young seagull who failed to muster up the courage to plunge. (Stories About Flying)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Literal meaning: The word "plunge" literally means to jump or dive quickly and energetically from a height into water or air. In the story, the young seagull was afraid to take a big jump or fall from the ledge to start flying, which is the literal sense of "plunge".
Metaphorical meaning: Metaphorically, "plunge" represents taking a bold step into the unknown or facing a challenge despite fear. For the young seagull, it means overcoming his fear of flying and taking the first brave step towards independence and growth. The word "plunge" symbolizes courage, risk-taking, and the willingness to try something new even when it seems scary.

Key Points: Literal meaning: to jump or dive from a height - Metaphorical meaning: to take a bold step or face fear - The young seagull's fear of flying and overcoming it

through courage

Question 21. What lesson does “For Anne Gregory” present for youthful love?

[3 Marks]

Answer: The poem "For Anne Gregory" by William Butler Yeats teaches a valuable lesson about youthful love. It shows that true love should not be based on physical beauty or superficial qualities. Instead, love should be founded on deeper qualities like character, soul, and kindness. Yeats highlights that beauty is temporary and fades with time, but true love is enduring when it values inner virtues. The lesson for young lovers is to look beyond appearances and cherish qualities that last forever.

Key Points: True love is beyond physical beauty - Love should be based on inner virtues - Beauty is temporary - True love is enduring

Question 22. “Dust of Snow” presents the polar opposites black and white in a colour palette. Justify, that ‘black’ and ‘white’ signify something deeper than the superficial meaning in the poem.

[3 Marks]

Answer: In the poem "Dust of Snow" by Robert Frost, the colours black and white symbolize more than just physical colours; they represent contrasting elements of life. Black signifies gloom, sadness, or negativity, as shown by the dark crow sitting on a snow-laden hemlock tree. White represents purity, hope, and positive change, demonstrated by the fresh snow that falls on the poet's shoulders. Together, these colours symbolize how an unexpected event from nature (white snow) can dispel darkness or sadness (black crow) and transform one’s mood from sorrow to joy. Thus, black and white stand for despair and hope respectively, reflecting the deeper theme of how nature can uplift human spirits.

Key Points: Black signifies gloom and negativity - White symbolizes purity and hope - Black and white together depict transformation of mood from sadness to happiness

Question 23. What is the vision of freedom that comes through the speech of Nelson Mandela?

[3 Marks]

Answer: Nelson Mandela's vision of freedom was not just personal liberty but a deeper, collective freedom for all people. (a) Mandela did not believe the oppressor is free because oppressors are trapped by hatred, injustice, and the need to control others. True freedom, he said, is when people live in equality and peace. (b) Mandela's understanding of freedom changed with age and experience. As a boy and student, he thought freedom was simply moving and acting freely. But with time, he realized that freedom is about the basic rights and dignity of every human being. (c) His vision was of a society where all are free politically, socially, and economically, not just the absence of chains but the presence of justice and human rights for everyone.

Key Points: Mandela's vision includes collective freedom - Oppressors are not truly free - Freedom means equality and justice for all - Freedom evolves from personal to social and political rights - Freedom includes dignity and basic human rights

Question 24.

Why was Fowler interested in meeting Ausable? (The Midnight Visitor)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Fowler was interested in meeting Ausable because he wanted to experience his first authentic thrill of the day and was curious about Ausable's role as a secret agent. Fowler found Ausable different from other secret agents because Ausable did not fit the usual description; he was fat, with a white face and a strange accent, which made Fowler doubt his identity. Despite Fowler's doubts, Ausable surprised him by being clever and calm. Fowler was interested in seeing how Ausable would handle the dangerous situation involving a man on the balcony, and whether he would outwit the spy trying to harm him.

Key Points: Fowler wanted his first authentic thrill - Curious about Ausable as a secret agent - Ausable looked different from typical agents

Question 25.

Based on your understanding of the story, how do you assess Bholi’s father? (Bholi)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Assessment of Bholi's Father:

Bholi's father can be seen as a typical parent who is worried about his daughter's future but he also reflects some societal attitudes prevalent at that time. Initially, he is concerned about Bholi because of her physical appearance and speech problem. He fears that she might not get a good match due to these issues. This shows his care and concern for her future.

However, he also agrees to an unequal and unfair marriage proposal for Bholi without considering her feelings, which indicates a lack of understanding about her self-worth and desires.

His acceptance of Bishamber's proposal may be influenced by social pressure and a desire to ensure she is married, but later when Bholi refuses to accept this unfair marriage, it shows that Bholi has grown confident to stand for herself, which contrasts with his earlier attitudes.

In conclusion, Bholi's father is worried for her but also bound by traditional and societal norms which influence his decisions. His character represents the typical mindset of parents who want security for their children but may overlook their emotional needs and individual happiness.

Key Points: Worried for Bholi's future - Reflects societal attitudes - Accepts unequal marriage proposal - Lacks understanding of Bholi's feelings - Influenced by social

pressure

Question 26.

What vision did Ebright have in raising a flock of butterflies? (The Making of a Scientist)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Richard Ebright's vision in raising a flock of butterflies was to study their entire life cycle in detail, from egg to caterpillar to pupa to adult butterfly. He aimed to understand their development and behavior by catching a female monarch, taking her eggs, and raising them in his basement. By tagging the butterflies' wings and releasing them, he could observe their growth and migration. This project helped him gain early scientific experience and inspired his lifelong interest in science.

Key Points: To study the butterfly life cycle - To tag and track butterflies - To gain early scientific experience

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Section E

Question 27.

Read the given details of a fun zone designed for kids in a mall:

● A multi-level jungle themed play area with climbing walls, tunnels, and slides.

● A ball pit and trampoline section for younger kids.

● A gaming zone with arcade machines and interactive screens.

● Safety padding on all surfaces and trained staff for monitoring of activities.

● A dedicated toddler zone with soft toys, mini slides, and sensory play stations.

● A small cafeteria for parents with a view of the play area.

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words on the suitability of this fun zone for kids in a mall. Focus on aspects such as safety, variety of activities, age – appropriateness, convenience for parents and overall experience.

[5 Marks]

Answer: The fun zone in the mall is very suitable for children due to its wide range of activities designed for different age groups. The multi-level jungle themed play area with climbing walls, tunnels, and slides provides adventurous fun for older kids, while the ball pit and trampoline section cater to younger children, ensuring age appropriateness. The toddler zone with soft toys, mini slides,

and sensory play stations is safe for the youngest kids. Safety is well addressed with padding on all surfaces and trained staff monitoring the activities, reducing the risk of injuries. The gaming zone with arcade machines and interactive screens offers varied entertainment options for children who enjoy video games. Additionally, the small cafeteria for parents overlooking the play area adds convenience as they can relax and keep an eye on their kids. Overall, this fun zone offers a safe, enjoyable, and comfortable experience for children and parents alike.

> **Key Points: Safety padding and trained staff - Variety of activities for all ages - Cafeteria convenience for parents**

Question 28.

Read the given details of a pre-school designed for young children:

● Brightly coloured classrooms with themed decorations.

● An outdoor grassy play area with slides, swings, and sand pits.

● A sensory activity zone with toys for touch, sound, and visual stimulation.

● Dedicated nap rooms with cozy beds and calming lights.

● A library with picture books, story-telling corners, and interactive learning tools.

● CCTV monitoring for safety and a nurse available for emergencies.

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words about the suitability of this pre-school for young children. Focus on aspects such as safety, learning opportunities, comfort, inclusivity and overall environment.

[5 Marks]

Answer: The pre-school described is highly suitable for young children as it provides a safe, comfortable, and stimulating environment. The brightly coloured classrooms and themed decorations create a welcoming and joyful atmosphere that can capture children\'s interest. The outdoor grassy play area with slides, swings, and sand pits encourages physical activity and social interaction, important for young kids\' development. The sensory activity zone with toys for touch, sound, and visual stimulation supports varied learning styles and inclusivity. Dedicated nap rooms with cozy beds and calming lights ensure children\'s comfort and rest. The library with picture books and interactive tools promotes early literacy and curiosity. CCTV monitoring and the presence of a nurse guarantee children\'s safety and quick response to emergencies. Overall, this pre-school balances safety, learning, comfort, and inclusivity effectively, making it an ideal place for young children to grow and learn.

Key Points: Safety ensured by CCTV and nurse - Learning opportunities through sensory zone and library - Comfort provided by cozy nap rooms and bright classrooms

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Section F

Question 29.

You are Toshani / Toshan Singh a resident of Bharatpura. You observed that on weekend afternoon a group of senior residents teach children free of cost. You are delighted to see their spirit of giving back to the community. Write a letter to the editor expressing your views on the need of volunteerism and senior participation in community engagement. Mention the benefits of such activities and how it would even reduce loneliness.

[5 Marks]

Answer: To The Editor,
The Daily Bharatpura
Subject: Importance of Volunteerism and Senior Participation in Community Engagement
Respected Sir,
I am Toshan Singh, a resident of Bharatpura. I am writing to express my appreciation for the senior residents who dedicate their weekend afternoons to teaching children free of cost. Their selfless service inspires our community.
Volunteerism, especially among seniors, plays a vital role in strengthening social bonds and enhancing communal harmony. Seniors possess a wealth of knowledge and life experience, and their participation benefits not only the learners but also themselves by giving them a sense of purpose and belonging.
Such activities help reduce loneliness among the elderly by keeping them engaged and connected with the younger generation. It also fosters intergenerational learning and respect. Moreover, children benefit academically and socially from this additional guidance.
I strongly believe more such initiatives should be encouraged to build a compassionate and united society.
Thank you.
Yours sincerely,
Toshan Singh
Resident of Bharatpura

Key Points: Volunteerism promotes community bonding - Senior participation provides valuable knowledge and experience - Reduces loneliness and builds intergenerational relationships

Question 30.

You are Shereen / Shivaji. There has been a lot of construction going on in your colony since the past few months. However the contractors do not follow any protocols of timings, blocking pavements with building material and dumping the rubble in the back lanes and sewage pipes. Write a letter to the President of your RWA drawing attention to these issues. Suggest a set of protocols to be followed by the builders to reduce any inconvenience being caused to the neighbouring residents.

[5 Marks]

Answer: Shivaji
12, Rose Apartment
Green Park Colony
New Delhi - 110016
Date: 20 June 2024
To
The President
Resident Welfare Association
Green Park Colony
New Delhi - 110016
Subject: Request to Implement Protocols for Construction Activities in Our Colony
Respected Sir,
I am Shivaji, a resident of Green Park Colony. I am writing to bring to your attention the increasing inconveniences caused by ongoing construction work in our locality. Contractors are not adhering to any set protocols, leading to blockage of pavements by construction materials and dumping of rubble in back lanes and sewage pipes. This not only hampers daily movement but also poses health hazards.
I kindly request the RWA to take immediate steps to ensure that contractors strictly follow these protocols:
1. Construction work should be carried out only between 8 AM and 6 PM to minimise noise disturbances.
2. Building materials must be stored in a designated area without blocking pavements or roads.
3. Rubble and waste must be removed daily and should never be dumped in sewage pipes or back lanes.
4. Proper safety measures and signages should be installed to alert residents.
5. Regular inspection by RWA officials to ensure compliance.
I believe that implementing these measures will greatly reduce inconvenience to residents and maintain cleanliness and safety in our colony.
Thank you for your attention to this matter.
Yours sincerely,
Shivaji

Key Points: Attention to construction issues - Request for timing protocols for construction work - Suggestion for safe storage and removal of materials - Prevention of blockage in pavements and sewage - Regular monitoring by RWA

Section G

Question 31. Compare the two stories, ‘Letter to God’ and ‘The Black Aeroplane’ from ‘Stories About Flying’. Examine how both these stories illustrate that help can come in unexpected forms.

[6 Marks]

Answer: Both ‘Letter to God’ by G.L. Fuentes and ‘The Black Aeroplane’ by Frederick Forsyth show that help can come in surprising ways.

Letter to God: This story is about a poor farmer named Lencho whose crops are destroyed by a storm. He writes a letter to God asking for money to sow his land again. Surprisingly, the postmaster and his co-workers help by collecting money to help Lencho even though they cannot give the full amount. Lencho believes the money came from God, showing that help can come through unexpected human kindness.

The Black Aeroplane: This story narrates how a pilot is lost in a dangerous storm. Just when he is about to lose hope, he sees a mysterious black aeroplane that guides him out of trouble. Help here comes in the form of an unknown aeroplane, symbolizing hope and protection in an unexpected manner.

Both stories highlight that sometimes help may not come directly as one expects but from unexpected sources - be it humans acting as angels in ‘Letter to God’ or an unknown plane in ‘The Black Aeroplane’. This teaches us to have faith and hope even in difficult situations.

Key Points: Lencho’s faith and human kindness - Unexpected help from colleagues in Letter to God - Mysterious black aeroplane as help in The Black Aeroplane - Theme of unexpected aid and faith in both stories

Question 32. Evaluate the similarities and differences between the tiger in “A Tiger in the Zoo” and the dragon in “The Tale of Custard the Dragon”.

[6 Marks]

Answer: (a) Similarities:

Both the tiger in "A Tiger in the Zoo" and the dragon in "The Tale of Custard the Dragon" are animals that symbolize strength and power. They are central figures in their poems and create a strong impression on readers. Both animals have contrasting lives; the tiger is confined to the zoo and the dragon is kept at home with a family. Both poems highlight the difference between the natural instincts of the animals and their situations.

(b) Differences:

The tiger in "A Tiger in the Zoo" is wild and majestic, but it suffers due to captivity. It is portrayed as being frustrated, pacing in a cage, unable to express its true nature. The poem reflects a conflict between man and nature, showing how the tiger is deprived of its natural freedom.
In contrast, the dragon in "The Tale of Custard the Dragon" is shown as cowardly and fearful, despite being named a dragon, which is usually symbolic of bravery and power. However, the dragon suddenly proves its true bravery by protecting the family from danger. This poem uses humour and irony to convey a different kind of strength.

(c) Conclusion:
While the tiger represents the loss of natural freedom and the conflict between man and wild animals, the dragon symbolizes hidden courage and the surprising strength found in unexpected beings. Both animals are important symbols in their poems, but they represent different themes and ideas about nature and bravery.

Key Points: Both symbolize strength and power - Tiger is wild but captive, Dragon is domestic and cowardly initially - Tiger shows conflict between man and nature, Dragon shows hidden courage and protection

Question 33.

Evaluate the elements of humour and endearment in “A Triumph of Surgery”.

[6 Marks]

Answer: Answer:
In "A Triumph of Surgery," James Herriot uses humour and endearment to make the story engaging and to highlight human and animal quirks gently. (a) Humour is evident in the way Tricki, the dog, is portrayed with exaggerated characteristics of stubbornness and gluttony. The author humorously describes Tricki’s refusal to exercise and his obsession with food, making readers smile at his spoiled behaviour like a fussy child. (b) The endearing aspect comes through the concern and affection shown by Tricki’s owner and the vet. Despite Tricki’s difficult behaviour, the vet’s patience and kindness create a warm tone. (c) The title itself is a play on words, as the "triumph of surgery" metaphorically refers to the vet's success in changing Tricki’s behaviour rather than a typical surgical operation. (d) Instances like Mrs. Pumphrey’s dramatic reactions and exaggerated praise add gentle humour, making the story delightful. This mix of humour and affection helps readers connect emotionally with the characters and makes the narrative lively and memorable.

Key Points: Humour in Tricki's behaviour - Endearment in vet and owner's care - Title as metaphor for behavioural change - Gentle, affectionate draughtsmanship of characters

Question 34.

Discuss how the play “The Book that Saved the Earth” depicts how misunderstanding of cultural differences and lack of awareness about other races cause confusion and conflict.

[6 Marks]

Answer: The play **The Book that Saved the Earth** shows how misunderstanding cultural differences and lack of awareness about other races lead to confusion and conflict. (a) The character Think-Tank, representing the Martians, misinterprets innocent nursery rhymes from Earth as threatening messages, which shows fear and suspicion based on ignorance. This misunderstanding causes unnecessary conflict and tension between humans and Martians. (b) The play focuses on an outcast girl, highlighting individual conflict against social realities, showing how society's reaction to differences causes injustice and alienation. (c) An example from real life could be when someone misinterprets a word or action due to cultural differences, leading to a misunderstanding which gets resolved by communication and trying to understand the other person’s perspective. (d) Although the aliens speak English, the play stresses that language alone cannot remove prejudices unless people become aware of and accept cultural differences. (e) If written today, issues like racism, xenophobia, or misunderstanding among different communities can be included as relevant social problems. (f) Lastly, drama is a powerful medium to convey social messages like these because it engages the audience emotionally and intellectually, encouraging them to reflect on societal issues and promote social reform. In summary, the play teaches us the importance of awareness and empathy to overcome cultural misunderstandings and build harmony.

Key Points: Misinterpretation of nursery rhymes by Think-Tank causes conflict - Focus on outcast girl highlights social injustice - Importance of communication to resolve misunderstandings - Language alone does not eliminate prejudice - Relevance of the play to modern social issues - Drama as an effective medium for social messages