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 following extracts and answer the questions:

The postmaster — a fat, amiable fellow — also broke out laughing, but almost immediately he turned serious and, tapping the letter to his desk, commented, “What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man

who wrote this letter." So, in order not to shake the writer's faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea: answer the letter. (A Letter to God)

(1)

Justify the following statement:

What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The postmaster admired the faith of the man who wrote the letter because despite difficulties, the man trusted God completely and even wrote a letter to Him. The postmaster wished he had such strong faith as shown in the case when he said, "What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter." This shows the writer's great belief in God.

Key Points: The man had strong faith in God - He wrote a letter to God for help - Postmaster admired this great faith

(2)

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

The postmaster turned serious on seeing the letter addressed to God because he realized that the writer had _____ (immense/limited) faith in God.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The postmaster turned serious because he realized that the writer had **immense** faith in God. The letter was addressed to God himself and showed great trust, as mentioned in the case passage where the postmaster said, "What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter." This shows the writer believed strongly in God.

Key Points: Postmaster's reaction - Letter addressed to God - Immense faith of the writer

(3) Examine the portrayal of the postmaster in the given extract.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The postmaster is shown as a kind and thoughtful person. He laughs at first on seeing the unusual letter but soon admires the strong faith of the writer.
He respects the writer's feelings and decides to answer the letter to keep his faith intact.
This shows the postmaster's good nature and his desire to do a kind act, reflecting his amiable personality as given in the extract.

Key Points: Postmaster is amiable and kind - He admires the writer's faith - He decides to answer the letter to not shake the writer's faith

(4)

Why did the postmaster initially laugh on seeing the letter?

(A) It was a blank sheet of paper.

(B) He lacked faith in God.

(C) He had received such letters earlier.

(D) He had never known such an address.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: The postmaster initially laughed because he had never seen such an address in his career. The letter was addressed to God, which was unusual and surprising. This made the postmaster laugh, but then he admired the writer's faith and decided to answer the letter.

Key Points: Postmaster laughed because of unusual address - Letter was addressed to God - He had never seen such an address before - Admired the writer’s faith

Question 2.

OMEGA: Yes, sir. (She reads with great seriousness.)

Mistress Mary, quite contrary. How does your garden grow? With cockle shells and silver bells And pretty maids all in a row.

OOP: Ha, ha, ha. Imagine that. Pretty maids growing in a garden.

THINK-TANK: (alarmed) Stop! This is no time for levity. Don’t you realise the seriousness of this discovery? The Earthlings have discovered how to combine agriculture and mining. They can actually grow crops of rare metals such as silver. And cockle shells. They can grow high explosives, too. Noodle, contact our invasion fleet.

NOODLE: They are ready to go down and take over Earth, sir.

(The Book that Saved the Earth)

(1) What can we infer from the given statement, 'This is no time for levity'?

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: The statement 'This is no time for levity' means that it is a serious matter and not a time to laugh or joke. In the passage, THINK-TANK says this because Earthlings have made a serious discovery that can be dangerous, like growing rare metals and explosives. So, they must take it seriously and prepare for action. It shows the urgency and importance of the situation as per the passage.

Key Points: levity means not joking - discovery is serious - must focus on the threat from Earthlings

(2) Think-Tank thinks that Earthlings have reached a high level of civilisation. Why does he think so?

[2 Marks]

Answer: Think-Tank thinks Earthlings have reached a high level of civilisation because, according to the case passage, they have discovered how to combine agriculture and mining. They can grow rare metals like silver and even cockle shells, which is very advanced. This ability to grow crops of metals and high explosives shows their technological progress and sophistication, which alarms Think-Tank.

Key Points: Earthlings combine agriculture and mining - They can grow rare metals like silver - They can grow high explosives which shows advancement

(3)

Complete the sentence appropriately:

The piece of information that Noodle provides to Think-Tank is _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The piece of information that Noodle provides to Think-Tank is that the invasion fleet is ready to go down and take over Earth, as mentioned in the passage. This shows that the aliens are prepared to act immediately upon the new discovery about Earth's unique agriculture and mining.

> **Key Points: Noodle informs Think-Tank about the invasion fleet readiness - The fleet is prepared to take over Earth - Information is based on the discovery of Earth's rare metal crops**

(4)

What is the tone of Omega while reading the rhyme?

1. happy 2. optimistic 3. serious 4. pessimistic 5. sarcastic

Select the correct option:

(A) Only 1

(B) 4 and 5

(C) Only 3

(D) 1 and 2

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: Omega reads the rhyme with great seriousness, showing that her tone is serious. This is clear from the line '(She reads with great seriousness.)' in the case passage.

Correct option: (C) Only 3

> **Key Points: Omega reads with great seriousness - Tone is serious - Option C is correct**

Question 3.

But he's locked in a concrete cell,

His strength behind bars,

Stalking the length of his cage,

Ignoring visitors.

(A Tiger in the Zoo)

(1)

Complete the sentence suitably :

The tiger ignores the visitors because _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The tiger ignores the visitors because he is locked in a concrete cell and his strength is confined behind bars, which makes him restless and unwilling to pay attention to the visitors, as described in the passage.

Key Points: Tiger locked in concrete cell - Strength confined behind bars - Tiger restless and ignores visitors

(2) The above lines juxtapose the tiger's natural instincts with its caged existence. Justify.

[2 Marks]

Answer: The lines show the contrast between the tiger's wild nature and its life in captivity. Though the tiger is locked in a concrete cell and behind bars, its natural strength and instinct to stalk remain. This shows the tiger's wild behaviour is still there despite being confined, highlighting the struggle between its freedom and captivity, as mentioned in the passage.

Key Points: Tiger is locked in a concrete cell - Tiger's strength and instinct remain - Contrast between wild nature and captivity

(3)

What mood is created by the poet in the above lines?

(A) sympathetic and thoughtful

(B) angry and violent

(C) cheerful and happy

(D) exciting and fun

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: The mood created by the poet in these lines is sympathetic and thoughtful. The poet describes the tiger locked in a concrete cell, which shows the animal's power is confined. This makes the reader feel empathy for the tiger and think deeply about the effects of captivity on wild animals.

Key Points: sympathetic mood - thoughtful mood - tiger confined in a cage

(4)

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

The length of his cage highlights the _____ (vast space/limited space/free space) in which the tiger is confined.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The length of his cage highlights the **limited space** in which the tiger is confined. The phrase 'locked in a concrete cell' and 'his strength behind bars' from the passage show that the tiger is kept in a small enclosed cage, not a vast or free space.

Key Points: Locked in a concrete cell - Strength behind bars - Limited space confinement

Question 4.

The fog comes

on little cat feet.

It sits looking

over harbour and city

on silent haunches

and then moves on.

(Fog)

(1) Examine the strategic use of imagery in the above lines.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The poet uses the image of a cat to describe the fog. The fog comes softly and quietly like a cat on little cat feet. It sits silently on haunches, just as a cat would, watching the harbour and city before moving on. This imagery helps us imagine the fog as gentle, quiet, and mysterious.

Key Points: fog described as cat - moves softly and quietly - sits silently on haunches

(2) How does the poet portray the relationship between nature and the urban environment?

[2 Marks]

Answer: The poet compares the fog to a cat by saying it comes quietly on little cat feet, sits silently like a cat on haunches, and then moves on gently. This shows the fog interacts with the urban environment softly and peacefully without disturbing it. The poem reflects a calm and gentle relationship between nature and the city, as the fog quietly watches over the harbour and city before leaving.

Key Points: Fog comes quietly on little cat feet - Fog sits silently on haunches like a cat - Fog moves on gently like a cat moving away

(3)

On the basis of the extract, select the correct option. The image of a cat moving “on little cat feet” evokes:

(A) softness

(B) roughness

(C) wilderness

(D) hardness

[1 Marks]

Answer: The image of the fog moving "on little cat feet" suggests that the fog moves softly and quietly just like a cat. This shows the fog comes gently without making any noise, so the correct option is (A) softness.

Key Points: fog moves quietly - compared to a cat - evokes softness

(4)

Fill in the blank with the appropriate option from the brackets :

In the given extract, the tone of the poet is _____ (playful and mysterious/cold and rough/pessimistic and aggressive).

[1 Marks]

Answer: In the given extract from the poem "Fog," the tone of the poet is **playful and mysterious**. The poem compares fog to a cat, describing it coming quietly on little cat feet and sitting silently before moving on. This creates a mysterious and gentle feeling rather than anything cold, rough, pessimistic, or aggressive.

Key Points: tone is playful and mysterious - fog compared to a cat - quiet and gentle movement described

Section B

Question 5.

Read the following passage carefully :

(1) In the contemporary digital era, personal information has become both a resource and a vulnerability. One of the most alarming practices exploiting this sensitivity is doxing, the deliberate act of publicly revealing private or sensitive information about an individual without their consent. It typically blurs the boundaries between online and offline privacy by disclosing personal details such as phone numbers, home addresses, workplace details or financial records on public platforms, making the digital and physical worlds collide.

(2) In the complex landscape of digital communication, doxing emerges as a controversial phenomenon which is often weaponized to frighten, harass, or harm the targeted individual. This leads to anxiety, stress, fear or paranoia as their sense of personal safety and control over their life is severely compromised. A determined doxer might scrape information from various social networking profiles, domain name records or exploit security lapses like weak passwords. Once gathered, this information is shared on public forums, social media, or ‘dox sites’, expanding the victim’s exposure to harassment, stalking, or even physical threats.

(3) This darker side of doxing reveals its true dangers. What makes it particularly treacherous is that once the information is released online, it is almost impossible to erase, making the harm sometimes lifelong. Legally, it occupies a grey area. In some jurisdictions it may violate privacy, cyberstalking or harassment laws, but global differences and the Internet’s borderless nature complicate enforcement. Ethically, doxing is a clear violation of personal autonomy. It disproportionately harms marginalized groups, who often face accelerated real-world risks from such exposures.

(4) Proponents of doxing sometimes claim it promotes justice by exposing individuals who might otherwise escape accountability. For instance, in some cases of online scams or criminal behaviour, Internet users have identified and revealed the real identities of offenders. Moreover, when individuals misuse their anonymity to harm others, exposing them may serve justice and discourage similar behaviour in future.

(5) Defending against doxing demands proactive, preventive and corrective measures like locking down social media privacy settings, using pseudonyms, enabling two-factor authentication, and minimizing shared personal data. However, individual efforts are often insufficient against determined attackers, though certain systematic solutions such as stricter data protection regulations, robust platform moderation and criminalizing doxing explicitly may play a vital role to curb its spread. In addition to this, public awareness campaigns on digital safety are equally important to educate users about risks. Victims should have access to legal aid, counselling and helplines for immediate support. A united effort may ensure better protection against this growing online threat.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(1)

In the phrase ‘personal information has become both a resource and a vulnerability’, the word ‘vulnerability’ refers to : Paragraph (1)

(A) a person’s information being monitored.

(B) the potential to misuse or compromise a person’s data.

(C) the sharing of information supports career contacts.

(D) all personal information is freely available for sanctioning of loans.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: The word 'vulnerability' means the possibility that a person’s personal information can be misused or exposed without consent, as explained in paragraph 1 where it talks about doxing revealing sensitive details causing harm.
Hence, the correct meaning is (B) the potential to misuse or compromise a person’s data.

Key Points: vulnerability means risk of misuse of personal data - doxing reveals sensitive information without consent - personal data can be exposed causing harm

(2)

Complete the following with the correct option from the two given below :

Doxing results in the collision between digital and physical worlds because _____.

(A) it discloses a person’s personal information on an online platform

(B) it has led to many boxing bouts between individuals

Paragraph (1)

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: Doxing causes a collision between digital and physical worlds because it discloses a person’s personal information like phone numbers and addresses on online platforms, mixing online privacy with real life as explained in paragraph 1.

Key Points: Doxing exposes personal details online - Discloses sensitive information without consent - Digital and physical privacy boundaries blur

(3) Support the writer's view that doxing may have a psychological impact on the targeted individual. Paragraph (2)

[2 Marks]

Answer: Answer: Doxing causes serious psychological effects like anxiety, stress, fear and paranoia in the targeted person. As explained in paragraph 2, when personal information is exposed online without consent, it compromises the individual's sense of personal safety and control, making them feel threatened.
Moreover, the widespread sharing of their data on public sites increases risks like harassment and stalking, which further worsens their mental state. Thus, doxing deeply harms the emotional and psychological well-being of victims, causing long-lasting fear and insecurity.

Key Points: Doxing leads to anxiety and stress - Loss of personal safety and control - Increased exposure to harassment and stalking

(4) Mention any two preventive steps that individuals can take to safeguard their online identity and reduce the risk of being doxed. Paragraph (5)

[2 Marks]

Answer: Two important preventive steps individuals can take to protect their online identity are locking down social media privacy settings and using pseudonyms instead of real names. These help limit the amount of personal data visible publicly. Additionally, enabling two-factor authentication adds an extra layer of security. As stated in paragraph (5), these actions reduce the risk of personal information being exposed and help prevent doxing.

Key Points: locking down social media privacy settings - using pseudonyms - enabling two-factor authentication

(5)

State whether the statement is True or False :

The strength of a password is not connected to the privacy of their information.

Paragraph (2)

[1 Marks]

Answer: False. The strength of a password is connected to the privacy of information because, as mentioned in paragraph (2), doxers often exploit security lapses like weak passwords to gather private data. Therefore, a strong password helps protect personal information from being accessed and misused by attackers.

Key Points: Password strength affects privacy - Weak passwords exploited by doxers - Strong passwords protect personal information

(6)

Complete the following suitably :

Doxing is ethically wrong because _____. Paragraph (3)

[1 Marks]

Answer: Doxing is ethically wrong because it violates personal autonomy and privacy without consent, causing harm especially to marginalized groups who face increased real-world risks. Once information is online, it is almost impossible to erase, which can cause lifelong damage and distress.

Key Points: violates personal autonomy - harms marginalized groups - information is almost impossible to erase

(7)

The negative and dangerous aspect of doxing is : Paragraph (3)

(A) It is easy to delete the information once posted online.

(B) It is impossible to erase the information once released online.

(C) It is easily deleted and edited by the targeted individual.

(D) It is not possible for a doxer to leak information online.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The dangerous aspect of doxing is that once private information is released online, it is almost impossible to erase it. This means the harm to the victim can last for a very long time and they may face ongoing risks and violations of their privacy.

Key Points: doxing harms privacy - information is hard to erase once online - victims face lifelong risks

(8) Cite one example to support the claim that doxing can promote justice with reference to Paragraph (4).

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: Paragraph (4) states that doxing can promote justice by revealing the real identities of people involved in online scams or criminal behaviour. For example, when Internet users identify and expose offenders hiding behind anonymity, it helps to hold them accountable and stop similar harmful actions in future.
This shows doxing can help in punishing wrongdoers and protecting others.

Key Points: Doxing exposes offenders - Helps hold scammers accountable - Discourages future wrongdoing

Question 6.

Read the following passage carefully :

(1) Fascination of glassware has captivated people all over the world for its blending utility, artistry and cultural significance. The invention of glassblowing, a technique that involves inflating molten glass

into a bubble with the help of a blowpipe, revolutionized the craft, making glassware more accessible, affordable and versatile. This allowed the mass production of glass vessels.

(2) In India, the craze for glassware has made this industry a significant segment of the manufacturing sector which is notably contributing to both — domestic consumption and exports. India's glass industry comprises a diverse range of products such as container glass, flat glass, and fibreglass. As of 2024, the Indian glass industry was valued at approximately ₹ 40,338 crore. The growth is fuelled by increasing sustainability and the rising demand for decorative items. The flat glass segment, essential for the construction and automotive sectors, contributes around 55% of the total industry revenue. Due to rising demand for energy-efficient buildings, toughened glass is extensively employed. It is also used in automotive windows, doors, facades, and shower screens. Actually, it is a type of processed flat glass, made specifically to be stronger and safer than ordinary flat glass, also called tempered glass. In packaging, container glass is used especially for beverages and pharmaceuticals, which makes up around 25% of the market.

(3) Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh is the heart of the Indian glass industry and is often referred to as the "City of Glass". Firozabad specializes in decorative glassware, chandeliers, bangles and domestic glass products. More than 400 glassware manufacturing units provide employment to over 1,50,000 workers. Artisans of this place have made it a leading contributor to India's glassware export, preserving tradition while supporting the local economy.

(4) The Indian handmade glassware products including artistic and decorative items continue to thrive in the domestic market and in exports. The blend of traditional craftsmanship and modern technology has made the Indian glass industry distinctive in comparison to global leaders like China and the USA.

(5) However, the industry faces many challenges like dependence on imported raw material, energy-intensive manufacturing processes and environmental regulations, but it still holds a vital position in the national economy. In current times, it is focusing on sustainability, as manufacturers are adopting recycled glass or cullet in production in order to reduce energy consumption and carbon emission, as they require lower melting temperatures. Economically, it decreases the cost of raw material and supports circular economy models, making the industry both profitable and environmentally responsible. Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(1)

Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below. Paragraph (1)

Assertion : The invention of glassblowing has expanded the glass industry all over the world. Reason : Glassblowing allowed craftsmen to produce complex glass objects faster and in large quantities.

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

(B) Both the Assertion and the 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: Correct Option: (A)

The invention of glassblowing revolutionized the craft by allowing craftsmen to inflate molten glass into bubbles using blowpipes. This made production faster, more affordable, and allowed mass production of complex glass vessels. Hence, both assertion and reason are true, and reason correctly explains the assertion as mentioned in paragraph (1).

Key Points: Glassblowing revolutionized glass craft - Mass production of glass vessels possible - Reason explains assertion correctly

(2) Support with evidence from the passage that India's glass industry has a 'diverse range'. Paragraph (2)

[2 Marks]

Answer: India's glass industry has a diverse range of products, including container glass, flat glass, and fibreglass, as mentioned in paragraph (2). These products serve various sectors such as packaging, construction, automotive, and decorative items. For example, flat glass is used in buildings and vehicles, while container glass is used for beverages and pharmaceuticals. This diversity highlights the industry's wide applications and strong market presence.

Key Points: Diverse products - container glass, flat glass, fibreglass - Various applications in packaging, construction, automotive, decorative items

(3)

Complete the sentence appropriately :

India's glass industry is unique as compared to global leaders like China and the USA because _____. Paragraph (4)

[1 Marks]

Answer: India's glass industry is unique compared to global leaders like China and the USA because it combines traditional craftsmanship with modern technology. This blend helps Indian glassware stand out and thrive both in the domestic market and exports. It preserves cultural heritage while adopting innovative methods, making the industry distinctive and competitive globally, as mentioned in paragraph 4.

Key Points: blend of traditional craftsmanship and modern technology - distinctive Indian glass industry - thrives in domestic and export markets

(4) How does using recycled glass benefit the glassware industry environmentally ? Paragraph (5)

[1 Marks]

Answer: Using recycled glass benefits the glassware industry environmentally by reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions, as recycled glass requires lower melting temperatures. This helps decrease pollution and supports sustainability, making the industry more environmentally responsible as mentioned in paragraph 5.

Key Points: Reduces energy consumption - Lowers carbon emissions - Supports sustainability

(5)

Complete the following with a suitable reason.

The Indian glass industry is facing many challenges because _____. Paragraph (5)

[1 Marks]

Answer: The Indian glass industry is facing many challenges because it depends on imported raw materials, uses energy-intensive processes, and has to comply with strict environmental regulations. These difficulties affect its production and costs but the industry is working on sustainability by using recycled glass to reduce energy use and environmental impact (Paragraph 5).

Key Points: dependence on imported raw material - energy-intensive manufacturing processes - strict environmental regulations

(6) In paragraph (2), identify the word that indicates people's fascination for glassware.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: Working in the glass bangles industry involves several hazards such as exposure to high heat from furnaces, risk of burns while handling molten glass, inhalation of harmful fumes, and eye injuries due to flying glass particles. These risks affect the safety and health of the workers involved in the manufacturing process, as implied in the context of Firozabad's glass industry.

Key Points: exposure to high heat - risk of burns from molten glass - inhalation of harmful fumes - eye injuries from glass particles

(7)

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

The percentage of container glass used in pharmaceuticals and packaging is _____. (23%, 25%, 28%) Paragraph (2)

[1 Marks]

Answer: The percentage of container glass used in pharmaceuticals and packaging is **25%** as mentioned in paragraph 2. Container glass, especially for beverages and pharmaceuticals, makes up around 25% of the market in the Indian glass industry.

Key Points: Percentage of container glass used - 25% - Mentioned in paragraph 2

(8) Why is Firozabad referred to as the “City of Glass” ? Paragraph (3)

[1 Marks]

Answer: Firozabad is called the “City of Glass” because it is the heart of the Indian glass industry. It specializes in decorative glassware, chandeliers, bangles and domestic glass products. The city has more than 400 glassware units employing over 1,50,000 workers. This makes Firozabad a leading contributor to India’s glassware exports and supports the local economy. (Paragraph 3)

Key Points: Firozabad is the heart of Indian glass industry - Specializes in decorative glassware, chandeliers, bangles - Over 400 manufacturing units employ 1,50,000 workers - Leading contributor to India’s glassware export - Supports local economy

(9) What does the number of workers in the glassware industry emphasize about the employability of Firozabad ? Paragraph (3)

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: The fact that Firozabad has more than 1,50,000 workers employed in over 400 glassware units shows that the city provides significant employment opportunities. It highlights how Firozabad is an important center for jobs in the glassware industry, supporting many families and contributing to the local economy.

Reference: Paragraph (3) explains this by calling Firozabad the "City of Glass" because of its strong role in the glass industry and high employability.

Key Points: Firozabad employs over 1,50,000 workers - More than 400 manufacturing units exist - City is a major employment hub in glassware industry

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Section C

Question 7. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets, for the given portion of a report: The auto driver did not sustain injuries, though the passenger who was _____ (sit) in the auto was injured.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct form of the word in the blank is "sitting". So, the complete sentence will be: The auto driver did not sustain injuries, though the passenger who was **sitting** in the auto was injured.

Explanation: The word "sit" is a verb. To describe the passenger who was in the auto at that time, we

use the present participle "sitting" as it shows the action happening at that moment. Present participles are formed by adding "-ing" to the base verb. Here, "sitting" acts as a participial clause describing the passenger.

> **Key Points: Use of present participle - Form of verb with -ing - Describes ongoing action in the past**

Question 8.

Read the given sentence from a story. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence:

The fisherman requested the guards to let him go to meet the king, but they demands half of the profit from his reward.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Answer: Error Identification: The error is in the phrase "they demands". The verb "demands" does not agree with the plural subject "they".
Correction: The correct form should be "they demand" so that the verb agrees in number with the subject.
Corrected Sentence: The fisherman requested the guards to let him go to meet the king, but they demand half of the profit from his reward.

> **Key Points: Subject-verb agreement - Plural subject with plural verb - Correction of demands to demand**

Question 9.

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option given in the brackets:

_____ (All/Many/Each) girl in the class must have her/their own book.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct option is **Each**. The sentence should be: Each girl in the class must have **her** own book.

Explanation:
1. 'Each' is used with singular countable nouns, like 'girl'. It means every single one separately.
2. 'All' and 'Many' are used with plural nouns, but here 'girl' is singular.
3. Since 'Each girl' is singular, we use the singular pronoun 'her' instead of 'their'.

Therefore, the correct sentence is: *Each girl in the class must have her own book.*

Key Points: Each is used with singular countable nouns - Use singular pronoun 'her' with 'Each girl' - 'All' and 'Many' are for plural nouns

Question 10.

Report the dialogue between a mother and her son by completing the sentence:

Mother: What have you bought from the store?

Son: A soft toy, mother.

Mother: How much did you pay for it?

Son: All the money father gave me yesterday.

The mother asked her son what he had bought from the store. He replied that he had bought a soft toy. Then his mother enquired how much he had paid for that. Upon this he said that _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The mother asked her son what he had bought from the store. He replied that he had bought a soft toy. Then his mother enquired how much he had paid for that. Upon this, he said that he had paid all the money that father had given him yesterday. This shows that the son spent all his money on buying the soft toy to make himself happy, and the mother was understanding of his innocent gesture.

Key Points: Reported speech - Use of past tense in reporting - Expressing complete information in indirect speech

Question 11.

Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the line given below:

Mohini attend every concert in the city because she loves classical music.

[1 Marks]

Option No.	*Error*	*Correction*
(A)	attend	attends
(B)	in	to
(C)	because	but
(D)	loves	have love

Answer: The error in the sentence is the verb "attend". Since the subject "Mohini" is singular, the verb should also be in singular form to match the subject-verb agreement rule. The correct verb form is "attends". Therefore, the corrected sentence is: **Mohini attends every concert in the city because she loves classical music.**

Explanation: In English grammar, when the subject is singular and third person (he, she, it), the verb takes an "s" or "es" in the present tense. Here, Mohini is a singular noun, so "attend" should be changed to "attends" for correct subject-verb agreement.

> **Key Points: Error in verb form - Subject-verb agreement rule - Correction: attend to attends**

Question 12.

Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the dialogue given below:

My sister said to me, “I have washed my new dress.”

(A) My sister told me that she had washed her new dress.

(B) My sister asked me that she was washing her new dress.

(C) My sister told me that she has being washed her new dress.

(D) My sister replied me that she have been washed her new dress.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Correct option: (A) My sister told me that she had washed her new dress.

Explanation: When reporting someone\'s words, we change the direct speech into reported speech. Here, the direct speech is "I have washed my new dress." In reported speech, we change "have washed" (present perfect) into "had washed" (past perfect) because the reporting verb "said" is in past tense. So, the correct sentence becomes "My sister told me that she had washed her new dress."

Other options are incorrect because:
- (B) uses "asked" without question format and wrong tense.
- (C) uses incorrect tense "has being washed" which is not correct English.
- (D) has grammatical errors like "replied me" (should be "replied to me") and wrong tense "have been washed".

> **Key Points: Direct speech to reported speech - Change present perfect to past perfect with past tense reporting verb - Use correct reporting verbs and sentence structure**

Question 13.

Complete the given sentence with the correct form of verb:

It was a challenge to meet the expectations of the committee _____ the given time period.

(A) along

(B) within

(C) between

(D) into

[1 Marks]

Answer: Answer: The correct option is (B) within.

Explanation: The word 'within' is used to indicate something happening inside a particular period of time or limit. In the sentence, it means meeting the expectations inside the given time period.

The other options do not fit appropriately:
(A) along means moving beside or next to something.
(C) between is used for specifying two separate points or things.
(D) into indicates movement toward the inside of something.

Therefore, the complete sentence is: "It was a challenge to meet the expectations of the committee **within** the given time period."

> **Key Points: Understand the meaning of prepositions - 'within' shows a limit inside a time frame - 'along', 'between', 'into' have different meanings**

Question 14.

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option given in the brackets:

Heena has worked hard the last six months. She surely _____ (must/would/may) pass this year.

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct option to fill in the blank is **must**. The sentence becomes: Heena has worked hard the last six months. She surely **must** pass this year.
Explanation: We use "must" to express a logical conclusion or certainty about something. Since Heena has worked hard, it is certain or very likely that she will pass this year, so "must" is the right choice. "Would" and "may" do not fit well here because "would" is used for hypothetical situations and "may" expresses possibility but not certainty.

Key Points: Use of "must" for logical certainty - "would" indicates hypothetical situations - "may" indicates possibility but not certainty

Question 15.

Identify the error and supply the correction for the following note in an air purifier's instruction manual:

If the humidity level in the room is very high, condensation may developed on the air quality sensor.

Use the given format for your response.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Answer: The error in the sentence is the use of the past tense "developed" instead of the correct verb form "develop" after "may" which requires the base form of the verb. The corrected sentence should be:
If the humidity level in the room is very high, condensation may develop on the air quality sensor.

Key Points: Identify verb form error - Correct use of modal verb + base verb - Corrected sentence provided

Question 16.

Mona and Tina plan a visit to the National Museum. Report the question asked by Mona to Tina:

Which is the shortest route to reach the museum?

Mona asked Tina _____.

[1 Marks]

Answer: Mona asked Tina which was the shortest route to reach the museum.

Key Points: Change of question into reported speech - Use of 'asked' to report a question - Maintaining the original meaning in indirect form

Question 17.

Replace the underlined word used in the sentence with the best option given below:

If Hemant take the earlier train, he would not have been late for the meeting.

(A) had taken

(B) had been taking

(C) have taken

(D) have been taking

[1 Marks]

Answer: The correct option to replace the underlined word "take" is (A) had taken.
Explanation: The sentence is a conditional sentence talking about a past hypothetical situation. In the third conditional format, the structure used is "If + past perfect, would have + past participle". Here, "had taken" is the past perfect form of "take" and fits well in the sentence.
So, the sentence will become: "If Hemant had taken the earlier train, he would not have been late for the meeting."
Why other options are incorrect?
(B) had been taking is past perfect continuous tense which is not suitable here because the action is simple and completed.
(C) have taken and (D) have been taking are present perfect forms which do not fit the past hypothetical condition expressed in the sentence.

Key Points: Third conditional sentence - Use of past perfect tense in 'if' clause - Correct use of 'had taken' in past hypothetical situations

Question 18.

Identify the error and supply the correction for the following sentence:

A bird in the hand are worth two in the bush.

Use the given format for your response.

[1 Marks]

Error	*Correction*

Answer: The error in the sentence is the use of the verb "are" which does not agree with the singular subject "A bird". The correct verb should be "is" to maintain subject-verb agreement. The corrected sentence is: **A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.** This is a common English proverb meaning it is better to have a sure thing than the possibility of something greater which may come to nothing.

Key Points: Subject-verb agreement - Use of singular verb "is" with singular subject "A bird" - Corrected proverb meaning

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Section D

Question 19.

Why does Mandela mention that he was prevented from fulfilling his obligations as a son, a brother, a father, and a husband? (Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Nelson Mandela mentions that he was prevented from fulfilling his obligations as a son, a brother, a father, and a husband because his commitment to the struggle against apartheid forced him to spend long years in prison and away from his family. His dedication to fighting racial injustice took precedence over his personal life, causing him to sacrifice time with his loved ones. Mandela believed that the larger cause of freedom and equality demanded such sacrifices, and although it was hard, he accepted that his responsibilities to his nation came first. This shows his deep sense of duty towards his country which sometimes conflicted with his personal roles in the family.

Key Points: Mandela's imprisonment prevented family duties - Sacrificed personal life for national freedom - Prioritized struggle against apartheid over personal obligations

Question 20.

How does the line ‘people will take balls, balls will be lost always’ justify that material losses are necessary for emotional growth and to understand the harsh realities of life? (The Ball Poem)

[3 Marks]

Answer: The line 'people will take balls, balls will be lost always' means that losing things is a natural and unavoidable part of life. Material things like the ball may seem small and replaceable, but their loss teaches important lessons. It helps us understand that life includes both gains and losses. This line shows that emotional growth comes from accepting losses and learning to cope with them. Losing the ball makes the boy realize that some things cannot be regained, and through this experience, he starts understanding the harsh realities of life such as pain, sadness, and impermanence. Therefore, material losses are necessary because they prepare us emotionally for future challenges and help us grow mature and resilient.

Key Points: Losses are natural and unavoidable - Material losses teach important life lessons - Emotional growth comes from accepting and learning from losses - Helps

understand harsh realities of life - Makes one mature and resilient

Question 21.

Why did Kisa Gotami, despite her desperate efforts to find a solution for her grief, ultimately become weary and hopeless? (The Sermon at Benares)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Kisa Gotami became weary and hopeless because she realized that no household was free from death and grief. Despite going from house to house asking for mustard seeds to make medicine for her dead son, she was told that she could only take mustard seeds from a house where no one had died. Since every family had experienced the death of a loved one, she understood that death and suffering are common to all. This realization made her see that her grief was not unique and that suffering is a universal experience, which was the lesson the Buddha wanted her to learn.

Key Points: Kisa Gotami sought medicine for her dead son - No house was free from death or grief - She realized suffering is universal and not unique to her

Question 22.

What was Chubukov's reaction when he discovered the actual purpose behind Lomov's visit? (The Proposal)

[3 Marks]

Answer: When Chubukov realized that Lomov had come to propose marriage to his daughter Natalya, he was very pleased and emotional. (a) At first, Chubukov thought Lomov came to discuss some matter of neighborly importance. (b) On learning the true purpose, he became affectionate and expressed his joy by embracing and kissing Lomov, showing that he had hoped for this proposal for a long time. (c) When Chubukov says, "And I've always loved you, my angel, as if you were my own son," he is sincere. This shows his fondness for Lomov and his desire to accept him as part of the family. His emotional reaction reveals his happiness and approval of the marriage proposal.

Key Points: Chubukov initially suspects a neighborly discussion - Becomes emotional and happy on hearing about the proposal - Sincere affection expressed towards Lomov as if a son

Question 23. The religious man's perspective in 'For Anne Gregory' reinforces the concept of divine love. Illustrate.

[3 Marks]

Answer: In the poem 'For Anne Gregory,' the religious man's viewpoint highlights the idea of divine love by emphasizing inner beauty over outward appearance. He believes true love comes from seeing the soul and virtues within a person, not just physical beauty. This reflects divine love because it is

unconditional and beyond superficial judgments. The poem suggests that real love is rooted in spiritual connection and kindness, which aligns with religious beliefs that divine love is pure, selfless, and eternal. Thus, the religious man's perspective reinforces that love inspired by divine qualities is more meaningful and lasting than esthetic attraction.

Key Points: Religious man values inner beauty over outer appearance - True love is spiritual and unconditional - Divine love is pure, selfless, and eternal - Love reflects virtues and soul rather than physical traits - The poem promotes deeper, meaningful love aligned with religious beliefs

Question 24.

Considering the emotional attachment of Mrs. Pumphrey with Tricki, state the impact of the word 'convalescing' on her. (A Triumph of Surgery)

[3 Marks]

Answer: (a) Mrs. Pumphrey was deeply worried about Tricki because she loved him very much and feared for his life.
(b) She pampered him excessively by feeding him rich food and giving him too many treats, which was not wise as it affected his health.
(c) The word "convalescing" had a calming and reassuring effect on Mrs. Pumphrey. Upon hearing that Tricki was "convalescing rapidly," she felt hopeful and relieved, understanding that her beloved pet was recovering well.
(d) In the story, the "I" refers to the veterinary surgeon. Mrs. Pumphrey was proud but did not fully understand the medical aspect, so she did not realize the recovery was mainly due to proper care and not just the surgery. Hence, she regarded the dog's recovery as a "triumph of surgery."
(e) The dog did recover fully after the veterinary treatment, which included proper care and regulation of his diet rather than just the operation.

Key Points: Mrs Pumphrey's worry due to emotional attachment - Excessive pampering was unwise - The word 'convalescing' reassured her and gave hope for Tricki's recovery

Question 25.

Ausable displayed a remarkable presence of mind combined with a good sense of humour to handle Max. Justify. (The Midnight Visitor)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Ausable showed great presence of mind by quickly understanding Max's intentions and calmly making a clever plan to catch him. He did not panic, instead, he used humour to confuse and control Max. For example, he described a non-existent balcony in detail, which made Max believe there was a sharp man ready to attack if Max tried to come out. This story was so convincing that Max

was scared and trapped. Ausable's quick wit and humour helped turn a dangerous situation in his favour without any violence.

Key Points: presence of mind - clever plan - use of humour - detailed fake balcony - calming under pressure - turning danger into advantage

Question 26.

What makes Bholi believe that the place where she was taken was better than her home ? (Bholi)

[3 Marks]

Answer: Bholi believed that the place she was taken to was better than her home because the people there treated her with kindness and respect. Unlike at home, where she was neglected and called names, the school gave her a chance to learn and grow. She felt hopeful because at that place, she was valued and cared for, which made her feel safe and confident. This new environment gave her a sense of belonging and a hope for a better future.

Key Points: Bholi was treated kindly at school - She felt valued and respected - School gave her hope for a better future

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Section E

Question 27.

Read the given details about sleep patterns and their effects.

- restores energy
- enhances immunity
- promotes emotional well-being
- benefits concentration and productivity
- oversleep leads to fatigue, weight gain and irritability

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph on the importance of sleep in maintaining physical health, mental well-being, and academic performance.

[5 Marks]

Answer: Sleep is essential for maintaining good physical health, mental well-being, and academic performance. Adequate sleep helps restore energy, which is vital for the body to function properly and fight diseases by enhancing immunity. It also contributes to emotional well-being by

reducing stress and improving mood stability. Moreover, proper sleep improves concentration and productivity, which greatly benefits students in their academic work. However, oversleeping can have negative effects such as fatigue, weight gain, and irritability. Therefore, maintaining a balanced sleep schedule is very important for overall health and effective learning.

Key Points: restores energy - enhances immunity - improves concentration and productivity

Question 28.

Read the given details:

Kharif and Rabi crops play a pivotal role in agriculture in India. Analyze the data given below and write an analytical paragraph by drawing a comparison between the two.

[5 Marks]

Aspect	Kharif crop	Rabi crop
Sowing season	June to July	October to November
Harvesting season	September to October	March to April
Major crops	Rice, Maize, Cotton, Groundnut, Soybean	Wheat, Barley, Soybean, Mustard, Peas, Gram
Rainfall required	High	Low to moderate
Regions dominated	East and South India	Northwest and Central India
Irrigation dependency	Less, as it is monsoon-based	High, as it requires irrigation
Temperature required	Warm and humid	Cool and dry

Answer: Kharif and **Rabi** are two major cropping seasons in India with distinct characteristics.
Kharif crops are sown with the beginning of the monsoon in June and harvested in September or October. They require more water and thrive in warm and wet climate. Common Kharif crops include rice, maize, cotton, and sugarcane. These crops depend largely on monsoon rains for irrigation.
Rabi crops are sown after the monsoon, around October to December, and harvested in spring, usually in March or April. They require cooler and drier weather and less water compared to Kharif crops. Wheat, barley, peas, and mustard are typical Rabi crops. These crops rely mainly on irrigation as monsoon rains are over.
The key difference lies in their growing seasons, water requirements, and climate preferences. Kharif depends on rainfed agriculture while Rabi depends on irrigated fields. Together, they ensure year-round agricultural productivity in India, supporting food security and farmers' livelihoods.

Key Points: Kharif crops sown in monsoon and need more water - Rabi crops sown after monsoon requiring cooler and drier climate - Kharif crops include rice, maize; Rabi crops include wheat, mustard - Kharif depends on rainfall; Rabi depends on irrigation

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Section F

Question 29. You are Vaishali/Vishal, a student of Class X of PQS Public School, Lancer Road, Coldtown. You travel by the school bus every day. The seating capacity of the bus is 35 students but there is overcrowding and many students remain standing through most of the journey. Write a letter to the Principal, drawing attention to this inconvenience, the dangers, and requesting for a resolution to the situation.

[5 Marks]

Answer: PQS Public School,
Lancer Road,
Coldtown.
Date: 10-06-2024
To
The Principal,
PQS Public School,
Lancer Road,
Coldtown.
Subject: Request to address overcrowding in the school bus
Respected Sir/Madam,
I am Vaishali, a student of Class X. I travel by the school bus daily. I want to bring to your kind notice that the bus has a seating capacity of 35 students, but due to overcrowding many students have to remain standing throughout the journey. This causes a lot of discomfort and is unsafe, especially when the bus is moving as standing students are at risk of falling and getting injured.
Moreover, overcrowding violates safety norms and increases the chance of accidents inside the bus. It is also very tiring to stand in the bus for the entire journey.
I respectfully request you to look into this matter and take necessary action like arranging an additional bus or increasing the capacity to ensure that all students get proper seats and travel safely and comfortably.
Thank you for your attention.
Yours sincerely,
Vaishali/Vishal
Class X.

Key Points: Mention seating capacity - highlight inconvenience and safety risks - request

for increased bus capacity or additional bus

Question 30. You are Vaidehi/Vishal, a gym trainer. You want to volunteer an hour every weekend to provide free yoga classes to the residents of your colony in the community park. Write a letter to the President of the RWA, Purv Colony, Vrikshbagh, telling him about your plan and its advantages and requesting him to grant you permission to do so.

[5 Marks]

Answer: Purv Colony
Vrikshbagh
Date: 15/06/2024

The President,
Residents' Welfare Association,
Purv Colony,
Vrikshbagh.

Subject: Request for permission to conduct free yoga classes in the community park

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am Vaidehi, a gym trainer residing in Purv Colony. I wish to volunteer my time every weekend for one hour to conduct free yoga classes for the residents of our colony in the community park. Yoga has many health benefits such as improving flexibility, reducing stress, and enhancing overall fitness. By conducting these classes, I hope to encourage a healthier lifestyle among our community members.

I kindly request you to grant me permission to use the community park for this purpose. I assure you that all necessary precautions and safety measures will be taken during the sessions.

Thank you for considering my request. I look forward to your positive response.

Yours sincerely,
Vaidehi
Contact No: 9876543210

Key Points: Introduction of self as gym trainer - Plan to conduct free yoga classes every weekend - Advantages of yoga for residents - Request for permission to use community park

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Section G

Question 31.

How does the method of the seagull's mother to teach her child to be independent contrast with Amanda's mother's constant nagging? Examine how this affects the emotional responses of the seagull and Amanda. ('Two Stories about Flying' and 'Amanda!')

[6 Marks]

Answer: The seagull's mother teaches her child to be independent by encouraging gently and giving enough freedom to try flying on his own. She neither forces nor scolds him but supports him with patience and trust. This approach helps the young seagull to overcome his fear and gradually develop confidence to fly. On the other hand, Amanda's mother constantly nags and worries about her, which makes Amanda feel upset and rebellious. The nagging creates a sense of pressure and frustration in Amanda, causing her to feel emotionally distant and misunderstood. Thus, while the seagull feels motivated and supportive emotions, Amanda feels irritated and emotionally hurt because of her mother's constant reminder and scolding. The contrasting methods show that gentle encouragement builds confidence and independence, whereas nagging may cause resistance and emotional strain.

Key Points: Seagull's mother encourages independence - Amanda's mother constantly nags - Seagull develops confidence and overcomes fear - Amanda feels upset and rebellious - Gentle support motivates - Nagging creates frustration and emotional distance

Question 32. Both, Rajvir in 'Tea from Assam' and Valli in 'Madam Rides the Bus' are motivated by a strong desire to experience the world beyond their everyday life. How do their respective journeys reflect their curiosity, enthusiasm for discovering new things and shape their understanding of the world around them?

[6 Marks]

Answer: Both Rajvir in "Tea from Assam" and Valli in "Madam Rides the Bus" are driven by a strong eagerness to explore and understand the world beyond their everyday experiences. (a) Rajvir's journey to Assam reflects his deep curiosity about tea and its origin. Despite having lived in Delhi, he is excited to visit the tea gardens of Assam, which he has read about. His enthusiasm is shown when he talks about tea plantations and its legends with his friend Pranjol. Through his journey, Rajvir gains firsthand experience of the tea country, learns about the vastness of tea plantations, and develops a deeper appreciation for the culture and landscape of Assam. (b) Valli's journey is motivated by her wish to travel alone on a bus, something she has dreamed of. She carefully plans her ride by saving money and learning details about the bus route and schedule. Her enthusiasm is evident in her excitement during the ride as she watches the sights of the town and interacts with other passengers. This journey broadens Valli's understanding of the town's environment and people and fulfills her desire for independence and adventure. (c) Both characters showcase a passionate desire to discover new things beyond their comfort zones. Their experiences teach them about the diversity of the world around them and help in shaping their perspectives. Rajvir learns about tea culture and the environment of Assam, while Valli gains confidence and joy from an independent experience. These

journeys symbolize the curiosity and eagerness of young minds to explore new places and knowledge.

Key Points: Rajvir's curiosity about tea and Assam - Valli's desire to travel alone on a bus - Both gain new understanding through their journeys - Enthusiasm for discovering new places - Shaping of perspectives through experience

Question 33.

Anil's love, trust and compassion influenced Hari Singh's inner conflict and played a crucial role in transforming him. Elucidate. (The Thief's Story)

[6 Marks]

Answer: Anil's love, trust and compassion had a deep impact on Hari Singh, the young thief. When Hari Singh was caught stealing by Anil, instead of punishing or handing him over to the police, Anil treated him with kindness and respect. This was unexpected for Hari Singh, who was used to being judged and rejected. Anil's trust showed Hari Singh that he was valued as a human being, not just a thief. The love and care Anil showed helped Hari Singh feel guilty for his past actions and question his life choices. Anil's tolerance and understanding created an environment where Hari Singh's inner conflict grew, making him desire to change. Ultimately, it was Anil's humane treatment that transformed Hari Singh's heart and thoughts, motivating him to seek honesty and a better life. Thus, Anil's compassion played a crucial role in Hari Singh's transformation from a thief to a reformed person.

Key Points: Anil's kindness and trust towards Hari Singh - Hari Singh's inner conflict due to Anil's compassion - Transformation of Hari Singh inspired by Anil's humane treatment

Question 34. Analyze, how the theme of appearance versus reality is developed in 'The Necklace' through Matilda's life choices and their consequences.

[6 Marks]

Answer: (a) The theme of appearance versus reality is central in 'The Necklace' and is developed vividly through Matilda's life choices. Matilda desires a luxurious lifestyle and appearance beyond her means because she believes that outward beauty and wealth will bring her happiness and social acceptance. She borrows a necklace to appear wealthy at the ball, presenting a false image of herself.

(b) However, the reality is harsh. Losing the necklace leads Matilda and her husband to face severe consequences: they spend ten years in poverty to replace the necklace, unaware that the original was a fake. This irony highlights the gap between appearance and reality.

(c) Matilda's obsession with superficial appearances blinds her to the truth and causes unnecessary suffering. If she had been honest about losing the necklace, her life could have been very different. Thus, the story shows how valuing appearance over reality can lead to ruin and tragedy.

Key Points: Theme of appearance versus reality - Matilda’s desire for wealth and status - Consequences of borrowing and losing the necklace - Irony of the fake necklace - Moral lesson on honesty and acceptance