

Class XII | Session 2026-27
Subject - English Core
Sample Question Paper - Set 7

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper has **13** questions. **All** questions are **compulsory**.
2. This question paper contains **three** sections - Section A : **Reading Skills**, Section B : **Creative Writing Skills** and Section C : **Literature**.
3. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
4. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
5. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A – READING SKILLS

1. **Read the passage given below:**

[12]

Punctuality is a necessary habit in public affairs of a civilized society. Without it nothing could ever be brought to a conclusion, everything would be in a state of chaos. Only in a sparsely populated rural community is it possible to disregard it. In the ordinary living there can be some tolerance of unpunctuality. The intellectual, who is working on some abstruse problem, has everything coordinated and organized for the matter in hand. He is therefore forgiven, if late for the dinner party. But people are often reproached for unpunctuality when their only fault is cutting fine. It is hard for energetic, quick-minded people to waste time, so they are often tempted to finish a job before setting out to keep an appointment. If no accidents occur on the way, like punctured tires, diversion of traffic, sudden descent of fog, they will be on time. They are often more industrious, useful citizens than those who are never late. The over-punctual can as much be a trial to others as the unpunctual. The guest who arrives half an hour too soon is the greatest nuisance. Some friends of my family had this irritating habit. The only thing to do was to ask them to come half an hour later than the other guests. Then they arrived just when we wanted them. If you are catching a train, it is always better to be comfortably early than even a fraction of a minute too late. Although being early may mean wasting a little time, this will be less than if you miss the train and have to wait an hour or so for the next one. And you avoid the frustration of arriving at the very moment when the train is drawing out of the station and being unable to get on it. An even harder situation is to be on the platform in a good time for a train and still to see it go off without you. Such an experience befell a certain young girl the first time she was travelling alone. She entered the station twenty minutes before the train was due since her parents had impressed upon her that it would be unforgivable to miss it and cause the friends with whom she was going to stay to meet her. She gave her luggage to a porter and showed him her ticket. To her horror, he said that she was two hours too soon. She felt in her handbag, for the piece of paper on which her father had written down all the details of the journey and gave it to the porter. He

agreed that a train did come into the station at the time on the paper and that it did stop, but only to take on water, not passengers. The girl asked to see a timetable, feeling sure that her father could not have made such a mistake. The porter went to fetch one and arrived back with the station master, who produced it with a flourish and pointed out a microscope 'o' beside the time of the arrival of the train at his station. This little 'o' indicated that the train only stopped for water. Just at that moment, the train came into the station. The girl, tears streaming down her face, begged to be allowed to slip into the guard's van. But the station master was adamant: rules could not be broken. And she had to watch that train disappear towards her destination while she was left behind.

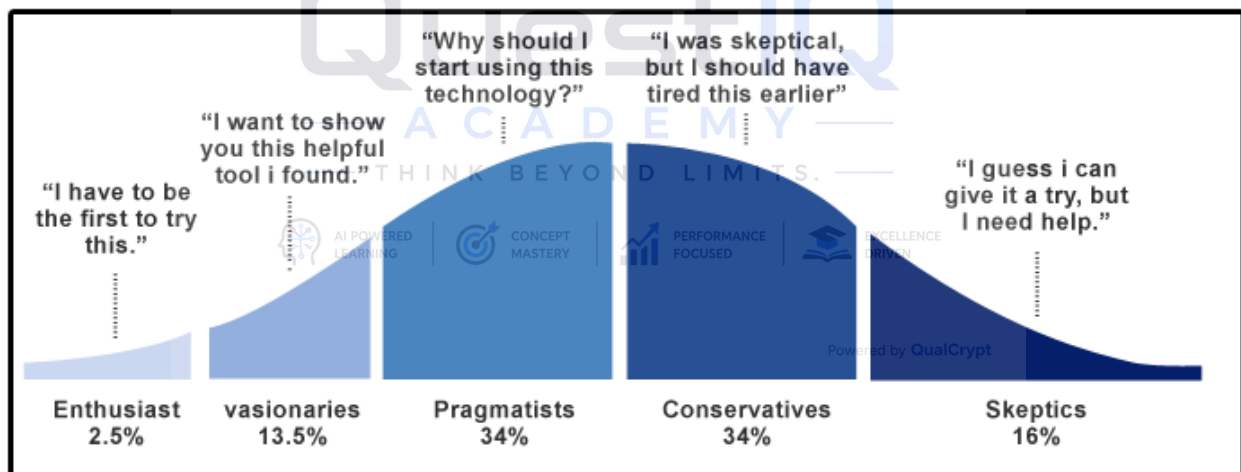
Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

- i. Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option. **(1)**
It is better to reach the platform before the train arrives because _____.
 - i. You will have time to relax at the station
 - ii. It's good to waste some time in life
 - iii. It can help you avoid frustrations of work
 - iv. It's better than watching the train leave in front of your eyes
- ii. Comment on the writer's reference to the features of energetic and quick-minded people. **(1)**
- iii. List the two ways which can hinder a punctual person from reaching a place on time. **(2)**
(Clue: Think about the obstruction one may face)
- iv. Select the option that conveys a similar meaning of 'inflexible', in the passage. **(1)**
 - i. Over-punctual
 - ii. Energetic
 - iii. Adamant
 - iv. Abstruse
- v. Find a word opposite in meaning to **clear/obvious** in the passage: **(1)**
 - i. community
 - ii. abstruse
 - iii. diversion
 - iv. industrious
- vi. Reaching early may mean wasting a little time. Based on your understanding of the given passage, justify how reaching early does not always mean wasting time. **(2)**
- vii. Why is it fair to say that punctuality necessary in a civilized society? **(1)**
- viii. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following: **(1)**
Some friends of my family has this irritating habit of arriving half an hour too soon. We can deal with them by _____.
- ix. The over-punctual can be as much a trial to others as the unpunctual **(1)**
 - i. He has everything coordinated and organized
 - ii. He believes that the early bird gets the worm
 - iii. He is wasting as much time as the unpunctual ones
 - iv. There is hardly any difference between the unpunctual and over punctual
- x. Why are some people, who may be unpunctual, often considered more industrious or useful? **(1)**

2. **Read the following passage carefully :**

The rapid transition to online learning, as a consequence of COVID-19, has highlighted the risks of student disengagement, and the subsequent impact on lower student achievement across multiple courses.

1. The recent pandemic has changed how millions around the globe are educated. New solutions and innovations in the education system are the need of the hour. Looking at the new digital split, the approach may increase the equality gaps. More than 500 million students across the globe had to pause their on-going studies at various levels. These changes have and will create a degree of inconvenience, but at the same time would promote innovations and future transformations within the education system.
2. The 'pile-on effect' of the coronavirus is that, during the global COVID-19 pandemic, interruptions to education can have long term implications — especially for the most vulnerable. There is a real risk of regression for children whose basic, foundational learning (reading, math, languages, etc.) was not strong, to begin with. And millions of children who have already been deprived of their right to education, particularly girls, are being more exposed to health and well-being risks (both psychosocial and physical) during COVID-19.
3. Girls: Young and adolescent girls are twice as likely to be out of school in crisis situations and face greater barriers to education and vulnerabilities such as domestic/gender-based violence when not in school.
4. Refugees, displaced and migrant children: These populations often fall between the cracks as national policies might not necessarily include these vulnerable groups and they must be included and catered for in any global responses to this crisis if this has not already occurred.
5. Children and youth with disabilities: Along with other marginalized populations, including children from minority groups, are neglected in the best of times and have lower educational outcomes than their peers.
6. Young people affected by trauma or mental health issues: Schools and learning centers are places for communities to address health related issues, including mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), which the most vulnerable students rely on for their wellbeing and development in order to learn.

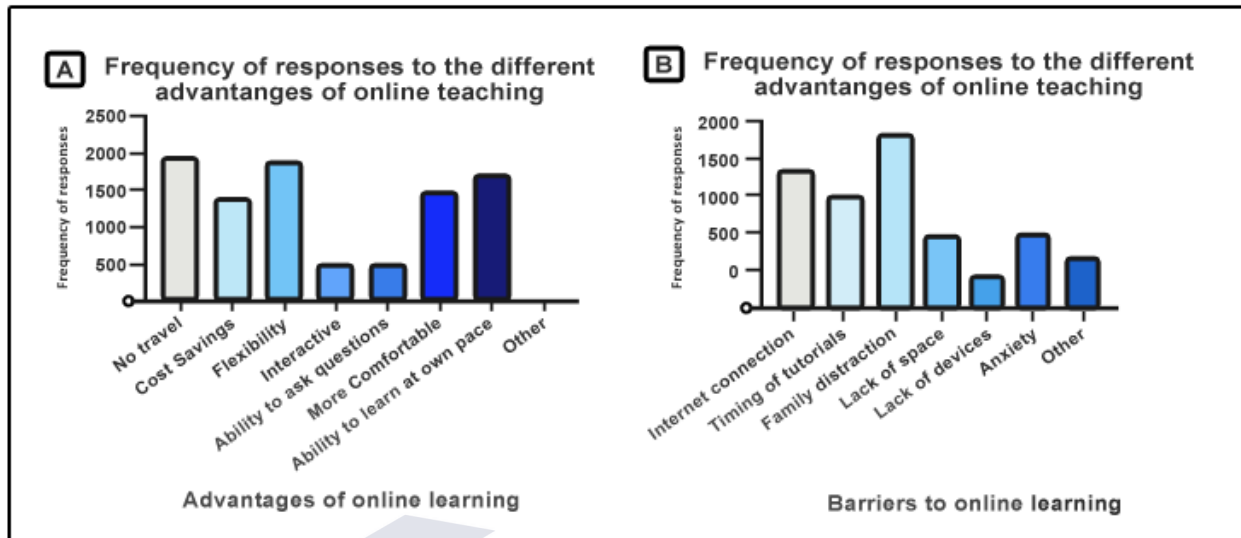


The graphic above, made by the consulting firm CB&A, shows how the adaption curve typically impacts in the online learning method users:

- Before the COVID-19, **only a few educational institutions were implementing online or blended learning methods**. Little by little, more schools, universities and ministries of education started enforcing them, but at a very slow rate. Only early adopters, the enthusiasts and visionaries, were willing to give it a try.
- When the pandemic hit, everyone had to switch from offline to online classes; in fact, according to UNESCO, 191 countries in the world (98% of the global student population) switched to online lessons. Some popular sites used were Google Classrooms, Zoom and Microsoft Teams. This time, even the

pragmatists and conservatives decided to switch to online learning methods, as they were unable to offer on-site lessons.

- When the pandemic vanishes, the majority of people will go back to on-site lessons, but there will still be a percentage that will remain to assist to class from their homes. It will also be eye-opening for many people, and even skeptics will be open to implement them in their learning.



Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

- Does the following statement agree with the information given in paragraph 1? (1)

With the recent shift to online education, the world saw a decreasing trend in student accomplishments.

Select from the following:

True - if the statement agrees with the information

False - if the statement contradicts the information

Not Given - if there is no information on this

- Do you think the 'Pile-on effect' has affected the children with weak basic foundations the most? Support your answer with reference to the text. (2)

- The new digital split will _____. (1)

- Dampen spirits
- Decrease innovations
- Divulge inconvenience
- Diminish equal opportunities

- Complete the sentence based on the following statement. (1)

A sizable portion of students around the world switched to online lessons. We can say this because_____.

- Which of the following is a synonym of 'aggravation'- (para 2) (1)

- Innovation
- Achievement
- Inconvenience
- Pandemic

- When the pandemic hit, everyone had to switch from offline to online classes. Give reasons why pragmatists and conservatives decided to switch to online learning methods. (2)

vii. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option. (1)

Online classes were advantageous for some learners due to

- i. Self-paced courses
- ii. Family interactions
- iii. Cost efficiency
- iv. Reduced commuting

- a. i, ii, iii
- b. ii, iii, iv
- c. i, ii, iv
- d. i, iii, iv

viii. Complete the sentence appropriately with one/two words. (1)

According to the adaption curve, the people fastest to adjust were the _____.

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

3. You are Nitin/Nalini, Cultural Secretary, S.V.A. Public School, Jaipur. Your school is staging the play, **Shakuntalam**. Write a notice, to be displayed on your school notice board, mentioning time, date and the city theatre where the play will be staged. Invite the students and their parents to come and watch the play. [4]

OR

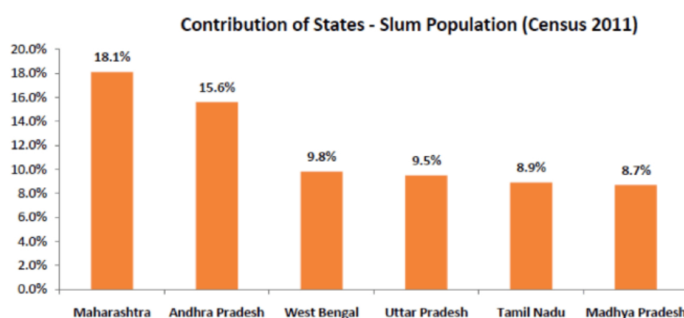
An International Book Fair is being held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 7th to 14th February 2020. As Librarian, Goodwill Public School, Maurice Nagar, Delhi, write a notice informing the students about the fair. Give all the other necessary details.

4. You are Mrs. Krishnamurthi. Your son is getting married. You are throwing a party to celebrate the occasion. On behalf of your husband and yourself draft a formal invitation in not more than 50 words inviting friends and relatives to attend the function. [4]

OR

Your old friend, Suresh Upreti has invited you to join him on his 10th marriage anniversary. Unfortunately, you are not able to attend the function. Write a message in about 50 words expressing your inability to be present on the occasion. You are Gitika/Ganesh, 10, Pandit Nagar, Nashik.

5. Lack of job opportunities in the rural areas is forcing people to migrate to cities. Every big city thus has a number of slums in it. Life in these slums is miserable. Write a letter in 120-150 words to the Editor of a national newspaper on how we can improve the living conditions in these slums. You are Aditi/Aditya, F112, Mall Road, Delhi. [5]



OR

You have read an advertisement in The National Times for the post of Chartered Accountant in Happy Times Industry, Kanpur. You believe you possess the requisite qualifications and experience and would prove to be an asset

to the company. Apply for the post giving your complete biodata stressing your suitability. You are Amrendra Singh of 2, Kailash Puri, Delhi. (120-150 words)

6. You travel to office by the metro rail everyday. You are delighted to observe how well maintained it is even after ten years. Write an article in 120-150 words expressing your views on the sense of civic responsibility among citizens today. You are Tanmay/Tanisha. Support your ideas with cues given below. [5]

METRO – OUR PRIDE

- Keep it clean – No smoking, No littering
- Disciplined Travel
- Our Responsibility
- It takes us Home

OR

As you were travelling by train you happened to witness an accident at an unmanned level crossing. As the reporter of a newspaper, write a report on the accident, including details of the number of people injured and the extent of damage caused.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

7. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: [6]

.....I saw my mother,
beside me,
doze, open-mouthed, her face
ashen like that
of a corpse and realised with
pain.....

i. Where was the poet driving to?

- a. Home to the Cochin airport
- b. To Home
- c. Cochin airport to home
- d. None of these

ii. Who is I?

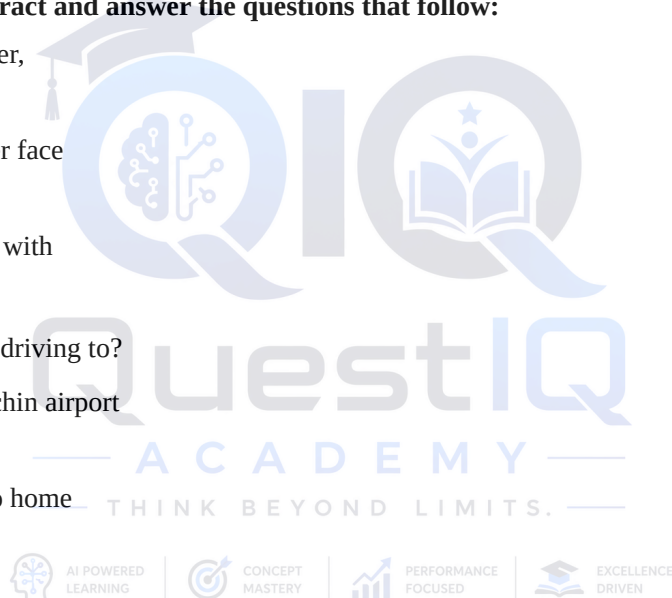
- a. The poetess
- b. A little girl
- c. A young boy
- d. A doctor

iii. What did she realise with pain?

- a. She had lost their bag
- b. She suffered from an injury
- c. She had to leave her house
- d. Her mother had grown very old

iv. How did the poetess feel on this realization?

- a. Enraged
- b. Delighted
- c. Sad



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- d. Enthusiastic
- v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.
- (1) Mother's face is pale and pallid.
- (2) The daughter is struck with the horror and pain of losing her.
- a. (1) can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot.
- b. (2) can be inferred from the extract but (1) cannot.
- c. Both (1) and (2) can be inferred from the extract.
- d. (2) is the reason for (1) and can be inferred from the extract.
- vi. _____ is the poetic device used in the extract.

OR

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

"A roadside stand that too pathetically pled,
It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread,
But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports
The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint."

- i. Why is it unfair to say that these people are begging for a **dole of bread**?
- a. Because they are unreasonably begging for money
- b. Because they have something to sell
- c. Because they don't have anything to sell
- d. As they shamelessly beg for bread
- ii. Identify the phrase that suggests the following:
- They plead to the rich city dwellers to buy something.
- iii. The poor people look at the city money for their
- a. survival and betterment
- b. sorrow and misery
- c. growth and opportunity
- d. well being
- iv. Complete the following analogy correctly. Do NOT repeat from used example.
- A roadside stand that too pathetically pled : personification :: Flower of Cities : _____
- v. Fill the blank with an appropriate word, with reference to the extract.
- The word which signifies the poor condition of the owner of the stand _____.
- vi. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to (1) and (2) given below.
- (1) The poor people are expecting passersby to buy goods from them.
- (2) They want to earn money for their betterment.
- a. (1) is true but (2) is false.
- b. (2) is true but (1) is false.
- c. (2) is the reason for (1).
- d. Both (1) and (2) cannot be inferred from the extract.

8. **Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

[4]

I cried aloud, shaking my head all the while until I felt the cold blades of the scissors against my neck, and heard them gnaw off one of my thick braids. Then I lost my spirit. Since the day I was taken from my mother I had

suffered extreme indignities. People had stared at me. I had been tossed about in the air like a wooden puppet. And now my long hair was shingled like a coward's! In my anguish I moaned for my mother, but no one came to comfort me. Not a soul reasoned quietly with me, as my own mother used to do; for now I was only one of many little animals driven by a herder.

i. **Then I lost my spirit.** Choose the option that DOES NOT refer to **spirit**. (1)

1. resolve
 2. energy
 3. determination
 4. indifference
 5. enthusiasm
 6. will power
- a. 1, 2 and 5
 - b. 2, 4 and 6
 - c. 1, 3 and 6
 - d. 3, 4 and 6

ii. Choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below. (1)

Statement 1 The author had been subjected to humiliation when she was separated from her mother.

Statement 2 Nobody was able to ease her distress and empathise with her.

- a. Statement 1 is true but Statement 2 is false.
- b. Statement 1 is false but Statement 2 is true.
- c. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 cannot be inferred from the passage.
- d. Both Statement 1 and Statement 2 can be inferred from the passage.

iii. What is the tone of the given extract?

iv. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract. (1)

In her community, _____ hair was worn by mourners and cowards wore _____. (1)

OR

Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:

The man moaned with pain in his stupor but he did not awaken.

"The best thing that we could do would be to put him back in the sea," Sadao said, answering himself. Now that the bleeding was stopped for the moment he stood up and dusted the sand from his hands.

"Yes, undoubtedly that would be best," Hana said steadily. But she continued to stare down at the motionless man.

"If we sheltered a white man in our house we should be arrested and if we turned him over as a prisoner, he would certainly die," Sadao said.

"The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea," Hana said. But neither of them moved. They were staring with curious repulsion upon the inert figure.

i. Based on the conversation between Sadao and Hana in the given extract, write an idiom (related to water) that best describes the situation in which they were. (1)

ii. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract. (1)

Sadao and Hana cared about the soldier but were _____.

iii. In which of the following options can the underlined words NOT be replaced with **stupor**? (1)

- a. She hung up the phone feeling as though she had woken up from a slumber.

- b. The manager complained about the employee's sluggishness.
 - c. He seemed to be in a trance when the doctor called upon him last week.
 - d. Seeing him in a daze, the lawyer decided not to place him in the witness box.
- iv. In which of the following options can the underlined words NOT be replaced with **stupor**? (1)
- a. She hung up the phone feeling as though she had woken up from a slumber.
 - b. The manager complained about the employee's sluggishness.
 - c. He seemed to be in a trance when the doctor called upon him last week.
 - d. Seeing him in a daze, the lawyer decided not to place him in the witness box.

9. **Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:**

[6]

Then, as I hurried by as fast as I could go, the blacksmith, Watcher, who was there, with his apprentice, reading the bulletin, called after me, "Don't go so fast, bub; you'll get to your school in plenty of time!"

- i. What does the phrasal verb **Call after** imply?
 - a. Call someone by his name
 - b. Call someone by his gender
 - c. Call someone by his surname
 - d. None of these
- ii. Who was reading the bulletin?
 - a. M. Hamel
 - b. Franz
 - c. Blacksmith
 - d. Soldier
- iii. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is the TRUE reason for the boy being in a hurry.
 - a. Because he was late for school.
 - b. Because an order came from Berlin.
 - c. Because he was not prepared for the test.
 - d. Both (i) and (ii)
- iv. What was Blacksmith's intention when he said: "Don't go so fast, bub; you will get to your school in plenty of time!"
- v. Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy:
Hurried: Hasty :: _____ : Amateur
- vi. Complete the sentence with the appropriate information, as per the extract.
There was a crowd in front of the _____ in the town hall.

OR

Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:

They have lived here for more than thirty years without an identity, without permits but with ration cards that get their names on voters lists and enable them to buy grain. Food is more important for survival than identity. If at the end of the day we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that gave us no grain, say a group of women in tattered saris when I asked them why they left their beautiful land of green fields and rivers. Wherever they find food, they pitch their tents. (Lost Spring)

- i. The ragpickers have been living there for _____ decades. (1)
- A. three

- B. four
- C. two
- D. five

ii. Why do these people have ration cards? (1)

iii. What do you infer about their lifestyle from the phrase **pitch their tents**? (1)

iv. In spite of the hardships, they are not willing to go back to their homeland because _____. (1)

v. The women had a/an _____ approach towards life. (1)

- A. idealistic
- B. passive
- C. indifferent
- D. practical

vi. What does the term **go to bed without an aching stomach** indicate? (1)

10. **Answer any five of the following questions in 40-50 words each:** [10]

- (a) What happened when 'a big bruiser' tossed Douglas into the YMCA pool? How did Douglas plan to come out? [2]
- (b) How will 'keeping quiet' protect our environment? [2]
- (c) Aunt Jennifer deserves our sympathy? Elaborate. [2]
- (d) Why did Sophie go to a lonely arcade at night? [2]
- (e) Why was the office boy frustrated? Who did he show his anger on? [2]
- (f) What made the American publisher think that the novel **The Name of the Rose** won't sell in America? What actually happened? (**The Interview**) [2]

11. **Answer any two of the following questions in 40-50 words each:** [4]

- (a) How can burning of fossil fuel affect our environment? (Journey to the End of the Earth) [2]
- (b) What confusion does the Dewan have when the Tiger King broaches the topic of his marriage? (The Tiger King) [2]
- (c) The world's geological history is trapped in Antarctica. How is the study of this region useful to us? [2]

12. The tramp had a dream while asleep in deep slumber. [5]

In his dream, **Robert Frost** (poet of A Roadside Stand') seconds his philosophy of the world being a rattrap citing the miserable condition of the poor people of the countryside.

But **Pablo Neruda** (poet of Keeping Quiet) disagrees with him and emphasizes the significance of mindfulness, introspection, and retrospection which leads to unity and brotherhood.

While **Gandhi** (Indigo) dissuades him from making wrong choices and explains to him the value of self-reliance even during tough times.

Write a personal account in the form of a diary entry as the peddler and explain the value that he derives from this dream.

You may begin this way:

In a strange dream, I encounter several individuals who enlighten me on...

OR

Sophie, in Going Places, wanted to live that beautiful life that was full of colours and happiness that Geoff lived but she could not. She ignores her reality and believes her own fantasies to be true.

While Keats in his poem **A Thing of Beauty** says our attachments to the Earthly things are like a flowery wreath.

Evaluate the relationship between dreams, reality, and happiness in an analytical paragraph.

13. Mr. Lamb kept on telling Derry to think of the positive things. You as a grown-up Derry, recount the story narrated by Mr. Lamb to convince him to think positively. [5]

You may begin like this:

My childhood days were surrounded by negativity until I met Mr. Lamb who became my inspiration. I remember once he narrated to me a story of a man who locked himself up in his room...

OR

In the story, **The Enemy**, Dr. Sadao faced a dilemma. In an attempt to delineate how he was both a patriotic Japanese as well as a dedicated surgeon, Hana, his wife expresses her thoughts in a diary entry. Create this diary entry as Hana. You may begin:

I have been married to Sadao for many years now after falling in love with him in America and I have always known him to be a man of great intelligence with a complex emotional character. However, the state of dilemma that he faced because of the enemy American POW...



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