

**CBSE Class 10th English Language and Literature  
Sample Paper - 05**

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**Maximum Marks: 80**

**Time Allowed: 3 hours**

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**General Instructions:**

- This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All questions are compulsory.
  - Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
  - Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.
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**Section A**

1. **Read the passage given below and answer the questions / complete the sentences that follow: (8)**

In India, as perhaps in many other countries of the world, trees have been held in veneration since ancient times. Our rishis of yore retired to forests to meditate and to do penance amidst trees and "far from the madding crowd" Our forbears loved trees and forests so much so that, they even deified and worshipped them as abodes of Vrikshadevata and Vanadevata. Many of them were not cut without good reason. In ancient India, groves of trees and flower gardens were reared with loving care. In ancient Sanskrit literature, there are many references of young maidens kicking the Ashoka tree to make it flower. But in fact, the kick can be administered by anyone. The method seems to work, though nobody really knows why? Some say the kick interrupts the flow of water upwards, triggering a defence mechanism which causes the tree to flower.

In Western countries people beat their walnut trees to encourage them to bear fruit. It is believed that a good beating ensures a good crop of walnuts. Like the Ashoka, the Walnut too is a tall tree. Perhaps all tall trees benefit occasionally from a beating sound.

In parts of Uttar Pradesh, they resort to another stratagem to get mango trees to

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flower. If a tree has not given fruit in a particular year, the owner, accompanied by three or four friends, walks menacingly towards it with an axe and loudly announces his intention of cutting down the tree. His friends persuade him not to do so. When he has gone they berate the tree for not giving fruit and advise it to give plenty of fruit the next time if it wants to live. The method is said to give good results.

**Answer the following questions briefly :**

- a. Our rishis retired to forests to \_\_\_\_\_ and to do penance.
- b. Who are referred to Vrikshadevata and Vanadevata in the passage?
- c. In western countries, walnut trees are beaten to encourage them to bear fruits (True/False)
- d. In ancient times young maidens used to kick the Ashoka tree when it \_\_\_\_\_.
- e. In Uttar Pradesh mango trees are caused to flower by \_\_\_\_\_.
- f. The Ashoka is a \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) tall tree (b) short tree (c) type of grass (d) type of herb
- g. The word 'menacingly' means \_\_\_\_\_.  
(a) destroying (b) helpfully (c) joyfully (d) threateningly

**2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow : (12)**

Once upon a time, there was a 92-year old lady. She was fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with perfect makeup, even though she was blind, had moved to an old age home. Her husband recently passed away making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby, she smiled sweetly when she was told that her room was ready.

She was escorted there by one of the attendants and she proceeded along with a great deal of alacrity. Her room was a simple one, comprising of the basic elements with a small window, overlooking the backyard of the building. The arrangement was vividly described to her, citing every little detail, for her convenience.

Her response, to the attendant, was the most unexpected and considering the conditions under which she had to shift there. "I love it," she stated with the enthusiasm of an eight-year-old who had just been presented with a new puppy.

"But....but Mrs. Jones, you hadn't seen the room," stammered the astonished attendant. "That doesn't have anything to do with it, she replied. "Happiness is something you decide. I have already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every

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morning when I wake up. I can spend the day in bed, recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body, that does not work, or get out of the bed, and be thankful for the ones that do. Each day is a gift, and as long as I am alive, I'll focus on a new day and on all the happy memories, that I've stored away, just for this time of my life."

The attendant was greatly touched by the elderly woman's, sense of cheer and boundless enthusiasm. Such a positive attitude towards life and the difficulties that form a part and parcel of it represents a philosophy called 'The art of living'. It is a survival instinct that enables the individual to sail smoothly through the sea of despair and through the turbulence, created in the times of sorrow. Such an outlook is a source of strength to the learner, as well as an inspiration for others to follow it.

**On the basis of your reading of the above passage, answer any four of the following questions :**

- a. Why was her response to the attendant, unexpected?
- b. The attendant's description of the room cited every detail for her convenience'. What do you think is the significance of 'for her convenience'?
- c. How do you interpret the philosophy, 'The art of living'?
- d. What was the attendant greatly touched by?
- e. What is your opinion for being optimistic?

**Answer the following questions:**

- a. Which word in the first paragraph represents 'eager quickness'?
  - i. alacrity
  - ii. turbulence
  - iii. escorted
  - iv. proceeded
- b. The attendant stammered in astonishment, at the reaction of the old lady. Here the word 'stammered' reflect which state of his mind?
  - i. shock
  - ii. confusion
  - iii. joy
  - iv. sorrow
- c. Find another word in the passage that is a synonym for dumbfound.

- i. attitude
  - ii. inspiration
  - iii. enthusiasm
  - iv. astonishment
- d. Which word in the first paragraph represents 'eager quickness'?
- i. inspiration
  - ii. happiness
  - iii. despair
  - iv. violent disruption

### Section B

3. You are Sachin / Ravina. You bought a pair of shoes from M/s Shoe line, Halwasiya Market, Rakabganj, Lucknow. On unpacking them you found to your surprise, that both the shoes are meant for your right foot. Write a letter of complaint to the Manager of M/s Shoe line, asking for a replacement at their cost. **(8)**

**OR**

You are to participate in a competition. You are asked to write an article on the topic "Significance of Humility". Write it in not more than 100-150 words.

4. Expand the following outlines into a complete story in about 150-200 words. **(10)**

Outline: A little boy..... saying to his mother.....a boy in the forest.....making fun of him.....mocks at the boy .....utters after each statement.....gets exasperated.....jumped over the fence.....searches into the forest.....could not be found..... mother tells him.....only an echo voice.....a dog's similar story.....mirrors in the room.....dies of exhaustion.....wagging their tails in friendship.

**OR**

**Expand the following outlines into a complete story in about 150-200 words.**

Outline: A wolf drinking water.....a young lamb also drinking water.....wolf hungry..... wants to eat the lamb.....accuses him of abusing, of making the water

muddy.....kills the lamb.

5. Complete the following conversation with the help of given options. Write your answers in your answer sheet against the correct blank numbers: (4)

**Mohit:** When (a) \_\_\_\_\_ from Bangalore ?

**Mudit:** Yesterday evening.

**Mohit:** How was the weather there? (b) \_\_\_\_\_ very warm?

**Mudit:** Well, the weather was very pleasant, (c) How many places \_\_\_\_\_

(d) \_\_\_\_\_ visit Ooty?

- a. (i) have you returned (ii) did you return (iii) will you return (iv) may you return
- b. (i) could it be (ii) would it be (iii) was it (iv) won't it be
- c. (i) did you visit (ii) have you visited (iii) can you visit (iv) will you be visiting
- d. (i) Did you not (ii) Can you not (iii) Should you not (iv) Could you not.

6. The following passage has not been edited. There is an error in each line against which a blank has been given. Write the incorrect word and the correction in your answer-sheet against the correct blank number. Remember to underline the word that you have supplied. (4)

		Error	Correction
Tenali Ram was a naughty boy which lived	(a)	.....	.....
in the village of Tenali. Her mother	(b)	.....	.....
did not know what to do of him	(c)	.....	.....
since he refused to study or did any work.	(d)	.....	.....

7. Look at the words and phrases given below. Rearrange them to form meaningful sentences as shown in the example. (4)

**Example:** kids / chocolate / like / it / because / is / sweet and tasty

Kids like chocolate because it is sweet and tasty.

- a. favourite / my / leisuretime / to / play / cricket / is / activity
- b. noone / play / to / when / I / there / was / was / twelve / But / with
- c. a very / had / I / peculiar/ experience /

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d. without / bat / an / I / ball / and / to / used / escort / even

### Section C

8. **Read the following extracts and answer the question/complete the sentences that follow: (4)**

He stalks in his vivid stripes  
The few steps of his cage  
On pads of velvet quiet,  
In his quiet rage.

- a. What are the two qualities of the animal under reference?
- b. Why does he move only a few steps?
- c. Pick out the word from the stanza that means the same as 'clear'.
- d. Who has written the above lines?

**OR**

**Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow it: (4 marks)**

But he was tired and weak with hunger and he could not rise, exhausted by the strange exercise.

His feet sank into the green sea, and then his belly touched it and he sank no farther. He was floating on it, and around him, his family was screaming, praising him and their beaks were offering him scraps of dog-fish.

He had made his first flight.

- a. What was the condition of the seagull at the time of landing on the sea?
  - b. How did he land?
  - c. Find a word in the passage similar in meaning to 'extremely tired'.
  - d. How did his family react on his first flight?
9. Answer any five of the following questions in 30-40 words each: **(10)**

- i. What does Mandela think about the Patriots? Can they be repaid?
- ii. How can you say that Maddie was different from Peggy?
- iii. What was Buddha's remedy for curing Kisa Gotami's son? Was she able to

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fulfill it?

- iv. How did Tricky become an accepted member of the gang and start enjoying the company of other dogs?
- v. What great qualities made Ausable a successful secret agent?
- vi. What did Griffin, the scientist, do to escape after setting the fire to his landlord's house?

10. Anne Frank says that she is not all alone in the world. Why? **(8)**

**OR**

"Never mind", she said, "I can get on by myself." "You don't have to help me," said Valli to the conductor. She shows extraordinary courage in making the bus journey all alone. Taking inspiration from Valli's character, write how the ability and courage to take risk are essential to fulfil one's dream.

11. What happened at the ball? Was Matilda's dream fulfilled? **(8)**

**OR**

What changes do we find in the behaviour of Bholi at the end of the story? Explain.

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**Answer**

**Section A**

1.
  - a. meditate
  - b. The trees
  - c. True
  - d. didn't flower.
  - e. advising it to give plenty of fruits the next time if it wants to live
  - f. tall tree
  - g. threateningly
2.
  - a. Her response that she loved the room allotted to her, was quite unexpected because being deprived of visual abilities it was difficult to form an opinion without actually seeing it. Moreover, the sorrow of bereavement did not reflect on her attitude.
  - b. Visually challenged people are somewhat compensated by nature by increased sharpness of the sense of hearing as well as the sense of touch. The attendant's detailed description of the room would enable her to carry out her chores independently.
  - c. The philosophy, 'The art of living' signifies that the kind of life one leads depends largely on the individual's attitude towards it. Optimism in life and acceptance of both joys and sorrows with a smile is a way of life that one should adopt. It is an art that should be perfected with practice.
  - d. The attendant was greatly touched by the elderly woman's, sense of cheer and boundless enthusiasm.
  - e. I think we should see the positive aspect of everything to remain optimistic.

**Part -II**

- a. alacrity
- b. confusion
- c. astonishment

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d. violent disruption.

### **Section B**

3. E-14, Manglapuri,  
Palam Colony,  
New Delhi, 110045  
7 May, 20XX  
The Manager  
M/s Shoe line,  
Halwasiya Market,  
Rakabganj, Lucknow.  
Sir,

**Subject: Complaint about Defective Pair of shoes.**

I purchased a pair of shoes on the receipt no. 10579 from your shop on 5<sup>th</sup> May 20XX. It is of XYZ brand and the item no. is S15. On unpacking the box at home I found that both the shoes are of the right foot. I was shocked at that time, Obviously, I cannot use right foot shoe for my left foot, therefore, I am requesting you to kindly replace the pair of shoes with a new one or refund the money in my account. I will be thankful if the matter can be attended to at the earliest.

Thanking you  
Yours faithfully,  
Sachin

**OR**

### **Significance of Humility**

**(By XYZ)**

Humility is something that costs nothing but yields handsome returns. One can influence strangers and can change the attitude of violent people with politeness. It is a divine quality and those who possess it to earn goodwill. A humble and polite man never hurts the feelings of others. He always says "thanks" to those who do him a favour. He says 'please' when he needs others' services. This habit makes a being a thorough gentleman. A humble man is helped by everybody. But an arrogant and ill-

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mannered person is abused and sometimes thrashed. The popularity of a boss depends largely on his polite speech and polished manners. It is not desirable to order somebody when you can get the work done by a formal request. An officer can be firm without being rude. Those who follow these principles please everybody. Humility doesn't mean lack of self-respect or self-esteem but respect for others and putting others first.

4.

#### Life is Like an Echo

A little boy got angry with his mother and shouted at her and told her never to talk again. He ran at the top of the hill because of the fear of being scolded by his mother. He returned after a few hours with joy forgetting about what he said earlier before he left. He excitedly said to his mother, "Mom, there is a boy out there in the forest who is making fun of me. He imitates and mocks me. Everything I speak, he utters after me. If I say: 'Hello.' he says: 'Hello'. When do I say Who are you? He says: Who are you? So I got exasperated and jumped over the fence and went into the forest to find him. But he was nowhere to be seen. So I cried, 'I punch you in the nose.' And he said the very same thing, exactly as I had said it. The boy's mother told him, "That is only an echo answering you Billy. If you had said: 'I love you,' it would have said the same to you." There is a similar story about a dog that went into a room full of mirrors. He eventually died of exhaustion trying to fight his mirrored 'enemies'. If he had only wagged his tail once, he would have had all of them wagging their tails in friendship. Life always gives you back what you give out. Your life is not a coincidence, but a mirror of your own doing.

Moral: Life is like an echo or a mirror: we get out of it what we put in.

**OR**

#### **Might is Right**

Once there was a wolf. It was very clever and mean. It was a hot summer day. The wolf felt thirsty. It went to a stream to quench his thirst. A lamb was also drinking water at the downstream. The wolf saw a young lamb also drinking water at a short distance. It thought that it would make him a nice meal. Its mouth watered. He wanted to eat it. It went near the lamb. It said to the young lamb, "You notorious

lamb, you abused me last year. For this, I am going to eat you.” The lamb politely replied, "Sir, I was not even born last year. I am only seven months old. How could I insult your excellence?" The wolf just wanted an excuse to eat it. The wolf spoke angrily, "Sir! You are putting a false allegation on me. How can I do that? The stream is flowing from you to me and not from me to you. You are intelligent and can easily understand. Is it possible that a poor and tiny creature like me can make the water dirty? The wolf became answerless. It got annoyed at his blunt reply. It took it to its insult. It could not bear any more. It got angrier. It sprang upon the innocent lamb saying, "You foolish lamb? You don't know how to behave." It tore the lamb into pieces and satisfied its ego and abdomen.

Moral: Any excuse is good enough for a wicked person.

5. a. did you return
- b. was it
- c. did you visit
- d. Did you not

6.

	<b>Error</b>	<b>Correction</b>
(a)	which	who
(b)	Her	His
(c)	of	with
(d)	did	do

7. a. My favourite leisure time activity is to play cricket.
- b. But there was no one to play with when I was twelve.
- c. I had a very peculiar experience.
- d. I used to bat and even ball without an escort.

### Section C

8. a. The two qualities of the animal are that he walks with a stride and looks majestic.
- b. He moves only a few steps because he is in a cage.
- c. Vivid.
- d. Leslie Norris has written the above lines.

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**OR**

- a. He was tired, and weak with hunger. He was exhausted by the strange exercise of flying.
- b. At first his feet sank into the green sea and then his belly touched it.
- c. A word in the passage similar in meaning to 'extremely tired' is 'exhausted'.
- d. His family was screaming, praising him and their beaks were offering him scraps of dog-fish.

9. Answer any five of the following questions in 30-40 words each:

- i. Nelson Mandela thinks that he can identify with the unimaginable sacrifices of all those noble and courageous men who fought for the collective freedom of the African people. He feels that he can not thank them and they can't be repaid. He thinks himself the sum of all those who had sacrificed their lives. According to Mandela, the policy of apartheid greatly wounded the people. These great patriots were Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Luthuli, Dadoo, Fischer, Sobukwe etc.
- ii. Maddie and Peggy were the classmates of Wanda Patrosanki. Maddie was different from Peggy as she had sympathy for Wanda. Although she supported Peggy in making fun of Wanda, later she felt guilty for not having said anything when Wanda was being made fun of. She realised her mistake where as Peggy didn't. Peggy was selfish and a bully, despite being the most popular girl in the school.
- iii. Kisa Gotami went to the Buddha to get medicine which could cure her dead son. The Buddha asked her to obtain a handful of mustard seeds from a house where no one had ever died. Kisa Gotami went from house to house but could not find a single such house. Thus, she was unable to fulfil what Buddha had asked her to do.
- iv. On the third day in the hospital, Tricki started out to walk. Joe, the greyhound and other dogs surrounded him. Tricki followed the other dogs to the garden. He discovered the joys of being bowled over, tramped on and squashed every few minutes. It was quite a different life for Tricki. Thus, he became an

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accepted member of the gang.

- v. Ausable was an intelligent person. He could speak French and German passably. He had a great presence of mind. He was an alert, resourceful and cool-hearted person (he did not lose heart in a difficult situation when he faced a man with a pistol in his hand). These qualities made Ausable a successful secret agent.
- vi. Griffin, the scientist removed his clothes, became invisible and got away without being seen. He became homeless wanderer without clothes, without money and he was quite invisible, until he happened to step into mud and left footprints behind.

10. This statement shows her inner feelings of loneliness. In fact, she has about thirty people around her, yet she needs a true friend with whom she can share her ideas. She admits that she has no real friend in life. But it doesn't mean that she is all alone in her life. She has loving parents and a sixteen-year old sister. She has a family, loving aunts and a good home. All she thinks about when she is with friends is having a good time, but she only talks about ordinary everyday things. She doesn't seem to get any closer to her friends, and that's the problem. This is why she chooses her diary as her friend. To enhance the image of this long-awaited friend in Anne's imagination, she calls the diary 'Kitty'. She writes about her experiences at school in the diary.

**OR**

Valli made detailed plans about her bus ride. She gathered information about the distance the bus travelled, the time it took and the fare by listening to the conversations of others and asking discreet questions. She saved money for the trip by not buying peppermints and sweets and also by not going to the fare. She had the ability to plan and the courage to ride the bus alone. This shows that ability and courage to take risk are essential to fulfill one's dream. Thus, these are the traits which need to be consciously developed so that a person can do what he dreams or wishes to do. Courage to take a risk and the ability to plan accordingly can make a person achieve great heights in life.

11. Madame Loisel was a great success at the ball. She was prettier than any other

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woman present there. All the men were greatly impressed by her beauty, grace and personality. She stood taller than all the other women at the party by her sheer elegance. All those present there, kept looking at her and they asked her, her name. They wanted to be introduced to her as they thought that she belonged to the upper class of society. All the attaches of the cabinet wanted to dance with her. She got a lot of attention from everyone. Yes, Matilda's dream was fulfilled at the ball. She became a great success because of her husband's support.

**OR**

We find great changes in the behaviour of Bholi at the end of the story. All these changes occur in Bholi after going to school. Bholi was a simpleton as she was a backward child. She was frightened at first when her father wanted to take her to school. Bholi did not know what exactly a school was and what happened there. She hoped that some of the girls would become her friend. In the class when her teacher asked her name, she cried and kept her head down throughout the class. When her teacher called out her name softly after the class was over, she was very touched because no one had ever spoken to her in such a soft voice. The teacher was very encouraging and friendly to her and this made her gain confidence to speak. She started seeing a ray of hope for a new life. Bholi turned into a confident girl. She no longer stammered and could speak properly. She even had the courage to refuse marrying the lame old man.