

**SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 5**  
**English Language and Literature (184)**  
**Class IX (2024-25)**

**Time Allowed: 3 hours**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

1. This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. The question paper contains THREE sections -
  - Section - A : Reading Skills
  - Section - B : Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
  - Section - C : Literature Text Book
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

**Section A Reading**

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

**[10]**

1. Organic food is very popular these days. It can also be very expensive. Some organic food costs twice as much as non-organic food. Parents of young children and even some pet owners, will pay high prices for organic food if they think it is healthier. But many others think organic food is just a waste of money.
2. There is one main difference between organic and non-organic food. Organic farms do not use agricultural chemicals such as pesticides that stop insects from damaging crops. In many countries, foods that claim to be organic must have special labels that guarantee they're grown organically.
3. Some people think organic also means 'locally grown' and originally it was indeed true. But over a period of time organic farming has become a big business, with many organic foods now being grown by large agricultural companies that sell their products far from where they're grown. Processed food made with organic ingredients has also become more popular. At first, only small companies produced these products. But as demand overtook supply, big food companies that had been selling non-organic products for many years also began selling organic products.
4. Is organic food safer and more nutritious? This is an important part of the debate. Many farmers and consumers believe it is safer and more nutritious.

They think agricultural chemicals can cause serious illnesses such as cancer, but there isn't much evidence proving this is true. However, recent studies have shown that eating organically-grown produce reduces your chances of developing heart diseases. Many doctors think it is more important to stop dangerous bacteria from contaminating foods. These bacteria can contaminate both organic and non-organic fruits and vegetables, and doctors recommend washing produce carefully before eating it. Meat, fish and chicken can also become contaminated so washing your hands before handling these foods is also very important.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below: (10)**

i. People are willing to pay high prices for organic food because (1)

- a. it is not easily available.
- b. it helps in weight loss.
- c. it is produced by small companies.
- d. it does not contain agricultural chemicals.

ii. Select the option that displays what the writer projects with reference to the following: (1)

Is organic food safer and more nutritious? This is an important part of the debate.

- a. denial
- b. confirmation
- c. caution
- d. acceptance

iii. The writer contrasts organic food to non-organic food. State one point of comparison between the two. (2)

iv. Based on your reading of the text, list two benefits of eating organic food. (2)

v. Complete the following with a phrase from paragraph 3. (1)

Opinion	Reason
Big food companies have started selling organic food products	

vi. What connect does the writer draw between contamination of food and washing hands? (1)

vii. The writer says that people believe that it is safer and more nutritious to eat organic food. Select the reason for his sceptical view. (1)

- a. the price decides the popularity
- b. there is no confirmed evidence
- c. it is tastier
- d. it is marketed by big food companies

viii. Supply one point to justify the following: Some people think organic also means 'locally grown'. (1)

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

[10]

1. Mango (*Mangifera indica*) is Asia's most popular fruit, and it has gained popularity around the world. It has long been a component of culture and religion as a useful and tasty fruit. In addition to taste, it has many good qualities thus making it to be called as "King of Fruits". Major mango-growing states in India include Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu. Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are the leading states in mango production.
2. Mango is grown in an area of 5.58 million hectares of area in the world. India is the largest producer of mangoes with 46.02 and 45.88 percent of the total world area and production, respectively. However, India being the major shareholder in terms of mango production, exports only 0.52% of its total production indicating the huge gap in exporting of mangoes. Peru exports about 46%, Thailand 24%, Mexico 18% and Brazil 11% of their total mango production. These countries are the bigger challenges for Indian mango exports. Hence, efforts are needed to evolve cheap transportation mechanism, increase the trade agreements with major importing countries and enhance the productivity.
3. The top importing country is United States of America, however, India exports only two percent of its total exports to the USA. The USA, European countries, the UK, Malaysia and Russia can be the other hotspots where India can target to export the mangoes. The critical issue for exporting to the USA is transportation cost (due to sea route distance) and limited shelf life of mango, while for Europe transportation costs as well as competition by African countries are the major hurdles.

The following chart shows the major export destinations of Indian mangoes in 2019-20:

Table:

Major Export Destination of Indian Mangoes in 2019-20:

S. No.	Country	Percentage
1.	U.S.A.	2
2.	Kuwait	2
3.	Saudi Arabia	3
4.	Qatar	6
5.	Bangladesh	6
6.	Oman	7
7.	U.K.	9
8.	Nepal	24
9.	United Arab Emirates	33
10.	Bahrain	2
11.	Others	6

(Adapted for academic usage.)

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above:**

- i. Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of Para 1: (1)  
We can say that for becoming the king of jungle, Lion has to be the strongest, bravest and the fiercest. Similarly, Mango is known as the king of fruits because \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of Para 2: (1)  
The statement that, India is the largest producer of Mangoes with 45.88 percent of the total world production can be attributed to Indian orchardists, is a/an \_\_\_\_\_ (fact/opinion) because it is a/an \_\_\_\_\_ (subjective judgement/objective detail)
- iii. Justify the following in about 40 words: (2)  
India being the major shareholder in terms of mango production, exports only 0.52% of its total production.
- iv. Based on the table, which three countries were at par with each other in terms of mango import from India in 2019-20? (1)
- v. The top mango importing country is the U.S.A., however, India exports only two percent of its total exports to the U.S.A. State any one inference that can be drawn from this. (1)

vi. In the given sentence taken from para-2, select the option that correctly replaces the underlined word, with its most likely antonym. (1)

These countries are the bigger **challenges** for Indian mango exports.

1. enigmas
2. solutions
3. provocations
4. disputes

vii. Why is India described as the largest producer of mangoes in the world? (Answer in about 40 words.) (2)

viii. Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage? (1)

1. India needs to produce more mangoes so that more can be exported.
2. The UAE imported most mangoes from India in 2019-20.
3. India is the largest producer of mangoes and by putting in more efforts, has the potential to be the largest exporter too.
4. More study is needed to find ways to increase the export of mangoes from India.

### Section B Grammar

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed [10]

(i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter: [1]

This selfless initiative \_\_\_\_\_ (carry) out with dedication and responsibility, deserves due recognition.

(ii) Identify the error and supply the correction, for the following: [1]

<p><a href="http://www.subharti.org">www.subharti.org</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>GOT THE TALENT?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Win Exciting Prizes &amp; Scholarships!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OPEN FOR EACH 10<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> STUDENTS</p>
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Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

(iii) Report the dialogue between two friends, by completing the sentence: [1]

**Rohit:** When do you wake up usually?

**Mohit:** I always wake up early.

In response to the question about when he usually wakes up, Mohit says that \_\_\_\_\_.

(iv) Before preparing a dish, the cook asked the children something. Report the cook's question. [1]

Who doesn't like cheese?

(v) You can buy these maps at \_\_\_\_\_ station. They all have them. [1]

- a) a lot of
- b) several
- c) few
- d) any

(vi) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a news report: [1]

Education play an important role in building an individual's identity and personality.

Option no.	Error	Correction
A	play	plays
B	an	the
C	in	for
D	an	a

(vii) I am sure we \_\_\_\_\_ cross the forest easily. [1]

- a) would
- b) will
- c) could
- d) shall

(viii) When we \_\_\_\_\_ the forest, it \_\_\_\_\_ darker. [1]

- a) arrived / was getting
- b) have arrived / has been getting
- c) arrive / is getting
- d) arrive / has been getting

(ix) I really \_\_\_\_\_ try to get fit. [1]

- a) must
- b) would

c) could

d) may

- (x) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter: [1]

Subject: Need for \_\_\_\_\_ (promote) Healthy Eating Routines

Dear Madam

This is with reference to ....

- (xi) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option. [1]

Economics \_\_\_\_\_ difficult for the students of grade nine.

a) are

b) has

c) is

d) were

- (xii) The price of the apples \_\_\_\_\_ very high. [1]

a) is

b) was

c) were

d) have

### Section B Writing

4. The International Women's Day was celebrated in all parts of the world with great gusto. As part of the celebrations, women achievers were given awards by the Rotary Club of your city. Among those honoured included the famous Police Officer Kiran Bedi, Sharmila Tagore and Shabana Azmi. Write a short description of this event. [5]

OR

Write a short paragraph on the following personality: Rani Laxmi Bai of Jhansi

5. Your uncle lives in Malaysia. So in the last summer vacations, he took you to Malaysia. You enjoyed your visit to Malaysia a lot. Write your experiences in Malaysia as a diary entry after returning home, Write a diary entry. [5]

OR

Write a story in 150-200 words based on the points given below:

a rich man \_\_\_\_\_ spend whole life to earn wealth \_\_\_\_\_ angel of death came \_\_\_\_\_ requested for life \_\_\_\_\_ asked for one hour \_\_\_\_\_ angel denied every request \_\_\_\_\_ got one minute \_\_\_\_\_ he wrote a note \_\_\_\_\_ money can't buy you anything \_\_\_\_\_ .

## Section C Literature

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. [5]

(i) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: [5]

You spoke finely then, and I shall be indebted to you to my dying day; but, strictly speaking, it was your cook, Olga, who saved me.” “How is that?” “When I used to come to your house to chop wood she used to begin: ‘Oh, you sot, you! Oh, you miserable creature! There’s nothing for you but ruin.’ And then she would sit down opposite me and grow sad, look into my face and weep. ‘Oh, you unlucky man! There is no pleasure for you in this world and there will be none in the world to come. You drunkard! You will burn in hell. Oh, you unhappy one!’ And so she would carry on, you know, in that strain. I can’t tell you how much misery she suffered, how many tears she shed for my sake. But the chief thing was - she used to chop the wood for me. Do you know, sir, that I did not chop one single stick of wood for you? She did it all. Why this saved me, why I changed, why I stopped drinking at the sight of her I cannot explain. I only know that, owing to her words and noble deeds, a change took place in my heart; she set me right and I shall never forget it.

- i. State one inference about Olga from the given extract. (1)
- ii. What was the beggar's previous lifestyle, and how did Olga's actions and words contribute to his decision to stop drinking? Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract. (2)
- iii. State TRUE or FALSE. (1)  
None of the terms (a)-(d) below, can be applied to the question - What was the beggar's initial state of mind before Olga's intervention?
  - a. Content
  - b. Energetic
  - c. Alcoholic
  - d. Successful
- iv. Which phrase or word would correctly substitute "misery", in the given sentence from the extract? (1)

I can’t tell you how much misery she suffered, how many tears she shed for my sake.

(ii) **Read the following extracts and answer the questions that follow:**

**[5]**

I got up and paced up and down the room. Then another lovely thought struck me. I would marry. I would get married to a woman doctor who had plenty of money and good medical practice. She had to be fat; for a valid reason. If I made some silly mistake and needed to run away she should not be able to run after me and catch me! With such thoughts in my mind, I resumed my seat in the chair in front of the table. There were no more sounds from above.

Suddenly there came a dull thud as if a rubber tube had fallen to the ground ... surely nothing to worry about. Even so, I thought I would turn around and take a look. No sooner had I turned than a fat snake wriggled over the back of the chair and landed on my shoulder. The snake's landing on me and my turning were simultaneous.

- a. What did the protagonist NOT want in his potential spouse according to his thoughts in the passage? **(1)**
  - i. A woman who was practicing medicine.
  - ii. Someone who was wealthy.
  - iii. A woman who was agile and athletic.
  - iv. Someone who was professionally doing well
- b. What does the speaker's tone in the passage suggest about his state of mind and emotions as he contemplates the idea of marriage and then experiences the unexpected encounter with the snake? **(2)**
- c. Read the following descriptions (i)-(iii) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract. **(1)**
  - i. A debate is a formal discussion on a particular topic, usually with two or more people presenting different viewpoints and arguments.
  - ii. A soliloquy is a speech given by a character alone on stage, which reveals their innermost thoughts and feelings to the audience.
  - iii. An aside is a brief comment or remark made by a character directly to the audience which is not intended to be heard by other characters on stage.
- d. Which phrase would correctly substitute 'a valid', in the given sentence from the extract **(1)**

She had to be fat; for a **valid** reason. If I made some silly mistake and needed to run away she should not be able to run after me and catch me!

7. **Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.** [5]

(i) **Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.** [5]

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence;  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-  
I took the one less travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

- a. What is the tone of the poet in the given stanza? (1)
- b. Name the poet: (1)
  - i. William Wordsworth
  - ii. Robert Frost
  - iii. William Shakespeare
  - iv. W.W.E. Ross
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ the word from the stanza opposite in meaning to 'converged'. (1)
- d. What is the significance of the two roads? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

(ii) **Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.** [5]

A slumber did my spirit seal  
I had no human fears  
She seemed a thing that could not feel.  
The touch of earthly years.

- a. What has sealed the poet's spirit? (1)
- b. What is the reason for the absence of typical human fears in the poet's mind?  
Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- c. How does the poet feel in the given lines? (1)
  - i. cheerful
  - ii. depressed
  - iii. enraged
  - iv. petrified
- d. The rhyming scheme used in the given stanza is \_\_\_\_\_. (1)

8. **Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words** [12]

(i) **Why did Einstein hate school?** [3]

- (ii) When does the 'thousand dream fancies' begin to weave in the poet's mind? [3]  
Write your answer in the context of the poem, 'Rain on the Roof'.
- (iii) How did Abdul Kalam earn his first wages? [3]
- (iv) What is the impact of the music of the flute on Vikram Seth? [3]
- (v) What did the little woman feel about the cakes when she ate them herself? [3]
9. **Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.** [6]
- (i) What kind of friend was Sue to Johnsy? [3]
- (ii) What happened to the narrator's mother when she had run into the burning house? [3]
- (iii) How does Ishwaran describe the story of the elephant? Does it appear to be possible? [3]
10. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words** [6]
- (i) Which traits of Evelyn's personality enabled her to overcome the challenge of deafness? [6]
- (ii) When did Santosh leave home for Delhi, and why? [6]
11. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.** [6]
- (i) Give examples to prove that the king and the minister both were idiots. Write your answer in the context of **In the Kingdom of Fools**. [6]
- (ii) Give a description of the festival of spring. Write your answer in the context of **The Lost Child**. [6]

**Solution**  
**SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 5**  
**English Language and Literature (184)**  
**Class IX (2024-25)**

**Section A Reading**

1.
  - i. it does not contain agricultural chemicals.
  - ii. confirmation
  - iii. Organic food is safer as it is produced without using agricultural chemicals
  - iv. Two benefits of eating organic food are:  
**Reduced Exposure to Pesticides:** Organic foods are grown without synthetic pesticides and herbicides, reducing the risk of consuming harmful chemical residues.  
**Higher Nutritional Value:** Some studies suggest that organic foods may have higher levels of certain nutrients, such as antioxidants, compared to conventionally grown foods.
  - v. Because demand overtook supply
  - vi. Washing hands can prevent contamination of food by bacteria.
  - vii. there is no confirmed evidence
  - viii. As initially it was produced by small companies only.
2.
  - i. of its widespread popularity, cultural significance, and numerous beneficial qualities that make it highly valued across different cultures and regions.
  - ii. fact, objective detail
  - iii. India's low export percentage despite high production is because of the challenges such as transportation costs, limited shelf life, and competition from other exporting countries, which hinder its ability to export a larger share of mangoes.
  - iv. According to the given table, the three countries Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Bangladesh were at par with each other, each importing 6% of Indian mango exports in 2019-20.
  - v. One inference that can be drawn is that despite the U.S.A. being a major importer of mangoes, India faces significant challenges or constraints that limit its mango exports to the U.S.A., such as high transportation costs or strict quality standards.
  - vi. Option (B) solutions
  - vii. conducive to growing mangoes / climate suitable for mango production / more land dedicated to mango production
  - viii. Option (C) India is the largest producer of mangoes and by putting in more efforts, has the potential to be the largest exporter too.

**Section B Grammar**

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed
  - (i) carried

(ii) <b>error</b>	<b>correction</b>
each	all the

(iii) he always wakes up early.

(iv) The cook asked the children who didn't like cheese.

(v) **(d)** any

**Explanation:** {

any

(vi) (A) play - plays

(vii) **(d)** shall

**Explanation:** {

I am sure we shall cross the forest easily.

(viii) **(a)** arrived / was getting

**Explanation:** {

arrived / was getting

(ix) **(a)** must

**Explanation:** {

must

(x) promoting

(xi) **(c)** is

**Explanation:** {

is

(xii) **(b)** was

**Explanation:** {

The price of the apples **was** very high.

### Section B Writing

4. March 8th is celebrated every year as International Women's day. The reason we celebrate this day is to honour women and to recognise their contribution to the. family, society and nation.

Rotary Club of our city organized a celebration to honour some women achievers. Those honoured included Kiran Bedi, the Magsaysay award winner, Sharmila Tagore, the Chairperson of the Censor Board and Shabana Azmi, a woman activist and a great actor. Ms Bedi exhorted the young girls to repel any untoward advances to them. She further said that the whole state machinery is with them. Ms Tagore asked the girls to study hard, because it is education that will give them confidence. Ms Azmi advised the ladies to

come forward and join the mainstream of the society.

All these women pledged to work for the upliftment of women of this country.

OR

Indian history is full of the heroic deeds of great heroes and heroines. Rani Laxmi Bai is one of them. She was a great freedom fighter. She was the first woman to sacrifice her life for the freedom of the country. She sacrificed her life but did not bow down before the English rulers. This star of heroism was born on November 1, 1835 in a noble family in Banaras. Her father was Moropant Tambe and her mother was Bhagirathi Sapre. Her parents named her Manikarnika after the river Ganga. In her childhood, she was called Manu. She was fond of horse riding and shooting. Once she jumped from her own horse and saved the life of Nana Sahib. She was married to Gangadhar Rao, the ruler of Jhansi, and became Maharani Laxmi Bai of Jhansi. She gave birth to a baby boy who died after three months. During her married life, she took keen interest in military training. When Raja Gangadhar Rao died, the English rulers wanted to capture Jhansi but Rani ruined their plans to capture Jhansi. She fought bravely and defended her state from the Britishers. She was a great patriot, fearless and brave. She took an active part in the struggle for freedom in 1857 and sacrificed her life in the battle. She was only twenty-three then. No doubt, Rani Lakshmi Bai is one of the most famous Indian woman.

5. Delhi

2nd June, 20XX

Wednesday, 10:00 pm

Dear Diary,

I am pleased to put the record of my destination to Malaysia. I rode an aeroplane for the first time. It was a thrilling experience. In Malaysia, my uncle took me to many beautiful places such as Petronas Towers, Kuala Lumpur Bird Park and Batu Caves. The people of Malaysia speak in the Malay language. So I talked in English to communicate with them. The people of Malaysia are dedicated to cleanliness. Malaysia has a very vast diversity in respect of culture. I felt escalated when I got a taste the Malaysian food which appealed to my senses. I can't forget that experience in my entire life. The capital city Kuala Lumpur is very clean and beautiful. Also, I went to Langkawi and Kualalumpur. I stayed for 7 days at Langkawi and 2 days for Kualalumpur. I wish to visit Malaysia again. I enjoyed so much and this day will be remarkable for me.

Ramudu

OR

### **WEALTH CAN'T BUY YOU TIME**

Once upon a time, there was a rich man. He worked hard whole his life. He never gave time to anyone including his family. He never enjoyed his life and the beauty of nature

around him. He just wanted to earn more so that he can enjoy gleefully without worrying about a single penny. He thought he would enjoy after earning a massive wealth. Now after many years, he was planning to take retirement so that he could enjoy his life. But then, an angel of death came to him. He had worked long and hard to acquire massive wealth and retire in luxury, and could not believe that his time was up. Being a very wealthy person, he decided to buy some more time from the angel of death at any cost. He bargained for a long time but the angel was unmoved. Desperate, the rich man made the last proposal to the angel, " Give me just one hour of my life, so that I could admire the beauty of this earth for the last time and spend some time with my family and friends whom I haven't seen for a long time and I will give you all of my wealth." But the angel refused again. Finally, the man asked if the angel could give him at least one minute so that he could write a goodbye note. His wish was granted and he wrote a note "Spend your time, which was given to you, in the right way. I couldn't buy even an hour of life with all of my wealth. Listen to your heart and check if the things surrounding you have a true value. Cherish every minute of your life."

### Section C Literature

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

- (i) i. From the context, it can be inferred that Olga is a compassionate and caring person who genuinely cared about the beggar's well-being and played a significant role in his transformation and recovery from alcoholism.
- ii. The beggar's previous lifestyle involved heavy drinking and a lack of responsibility. Olga's constant scolding and her willingness to chop wood for him created a sense of guilt and remorse in him. This guilt, along with her caring words, prompted him to stop drinking.
- iii. False [Option c is correct.]
- iv. Suffering/Distress [or any other possible meaning.]
- (ii) a. (iii) A woman who was agile and athletic. Explanation: In the passage, the protagonist clearly states that he wanted his potential spouse to be fat for a specific reason. Therefore, the correct answer is " A woman who was agile and athletic. " (option iii).
- b. The speaker's tone in the passage suggests a mix of humour and whimsy when contemplating marriage, with a touch of practicality regarding the potential spouse's physical attributes. However, the sudden encounter with the snake changes his tone to one of surprise and shock, as he is taken by the unexpected event.
- c. (ii) A soliloquy The passage describes the protagonist's inner thoughts and feelings as he contemplates getting married to a specific type of woman and his reaction to the

sudden appearance of a snake. This inner monologue reflects the character's thoughts and feelings, making it a soliloquy.

d. "a practical".

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

(i) a. The poet adopted a reflective tone in the given stanza.

b. (ii) Robert Frost

c. 'diverged'

d. "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost is a poem told through the perspective of a solitary voyager who encounters a divergence in their path, serving as a profound metaphor for the voyage of life and the pivotal choices we encounter along this journey. These two divergent roads symbolize the challenging decisions that present themselves in our lives.

(ii) a. The death of his beloved one has sealed the poet's spirit.

b. The poet's spirit had descended into a profound slumber, oblivious to unfolding events. He had never contemplated that a time would come when death would separate him from Lucy. Devoid of apprehensions, he remained impervious to sensations, his emotions numbed.

c. (ii) depressed

d. abab

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words

(i) Einstein hated school regimentation because of its extreme sense of discipline. He felt tired and suffocated with this atmosphere. He often clashed with his teacher.

(ii) When the poet is in his cottage and lies in his cosy bed listening to the soft music of rain on the roof, his mind is flooded with memories of his mother. He recalls his childhood. This is when a thousand dream fancies begin to weave in the poet's mind.

(iii) Abdul Kalam earned his first wages by catching bundles of newspapers from moving trains for his cousin Shamsuddin who used to distribute newspapers in Rameshwaram. During the Second World War, the train halt at Rameshwaram station was suspended, so bundles of newspapers were thrown off moving trains and had to be collected. That is how he earned his first wages. Half a century later, he could still feel the surge of pride in earning his own money for the first time.

(iv) The music of the flute has a hypnotic effect on Vikram Seth. He finds it difficult to 'tear' himself away from the square where this music is being played by the flute seller. Although the place where the flute seller is playing his flute is noisy and chaotic, the author finds the sound of flute relaxing and soothing. He feels tranquil. The sound of

the music of flute is clearly noticeable in the crowd also. It has the power to draw him into the commonality of all mankind and he is moved by its closeness to the human voice.

- (v) The woman made a small cake for the Saint but when she laid it to bake, it seemed too big to her to be given for free. So she kneaded a smaller cake but it too seemed as big as the earlier one. Then she took a small bit of dough and rolled it as thin as a wafer but could not part even with that because of her greed. She was surprised that her cakes seemed very small when she ate them but appeared too large for charity.

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.

- (i) Sue and Johnsy were fast friends. They loved each other. In a state of illness, Sue helped her as a mother. She tried her best and left no stone unturned to take her friend out of depression. She worked for extra hours for the money to support Johnsy's medical expenses and prepared soup for her. She seemed the happiest person on her friend's recovery from illness.
- (ii) The author's mother had inhaled some smoke when she ran into the burning house to save her husband's pictures and letters. She was rescued by the firemen who put an oxygen mask on her after bringing her out. They assured the author that she would soon be fine.
- (iii) One day, an elephant went mad, stamping on bushes, breaking fences, smashing fruit stalls, mud pots and clothes. He even entered a school ground breaking through the brick wall. Ishwaran, who was in the junior class, whacked its third toe nail with a rod and it collapsed. No, the story does not appear to be possible.

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words

- (i) Evelyn's firm determination, her industrious nature and her clarity of aim are well revealed in her statement, 'If you work hard and know where you're going, you'll get there.' Her strength of character enabled her to overcome her handicap bravely. The encouragement and training provided by Ron Forbes paved the way for her advancement and she stuck to the path with unstaggering confidence. It was this confidence and faith in herself that made her dare to audition for the Royal Academy of Music, London where she scored one of the highest marks in the history of the academy and then went on to receive most of the topmost awards. Evelyn was a workaholic. With her earnest efforts, she moved from orchestra to solo performances and eventually became an internationally renowned multi-percussionist. According to James Blades, Evelyn expressed music so beautifully because she could feel the music rather than just

hear it. Her firm decisions, her sincere efforts, her passionate labour and her untiring devotion to music are a source of inspiration for people with challenges.

- (ii) Santosh left home for Delhi when she turned sixteen because her parents had begun to pressurize her to get married in keeping with tradition. She decided that it was the right moment to rebel and she quietly got herself enrolled in a school in Delhi to continue her studies. Santosh's parents agreed to pay for her schooling in Delhi because she told them that she planned to work part-time in order to pay her fees. They realized that their daughter was independent, had a strong will-power and firm self-belief. She could take her decisions and also stand by them.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.

- (i) In the story **In the Kingdom of Fools**, the king and the ministers both were idiots. Some examples that prove it are mentioned below:
- i. They ordered the night to be treated as day and day as night so that everybody slept during the day and worked at night.
  - ii. They called the disciple for execution even though he was not involved in the case of robbery.
  - iii. Both the king and the minister did not understand the guru's plan and foolishly accepted his arguments. Eventually, both of them got executed and it was the guru and his disciple who were made the next king and his minister.
- (ii) It was the festival of spring. A large number of men, women and children were going to the fair. A child was also going with his parents to the fair. He was very happy. He was attracted by various things. His parents called him to come along. The child wished to buy a toy from a toy shop. But his father stared at him with his red eyes. There was a mustard field on the way. The boy saw a beautiful butterfly in the field. He tried to catch it. His parents again called him. At last, they reached the fair. The child saw a sweet-seller. He desired to have some Burfi. But he knew that his father would not buy it for him. He then wished to enjoy a juggler's tricks. He also wanted to have balloons and flowers. But he knew that his parents would not agree to his demands. Then the child saw a 'roundabout'. He wished to enjoy a ride on that roundabout. He called his parents. But there was no reply. He turned back. His parents were nowhere to be seen. His heart was filled with fear. He started weeping.