

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 4
SUBJECT- English (L & L) (184)
CLASS IX (2023-24)

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section A Reading

1. **Read the text carefully and answer the questions:** **[10]**

Read the passage given below:

1. Hiking is a great source of pleasure to us besides being beneficial for health. Once we leave the crowded streets of a city and go out for a walking tour away from the mad world, we really feel free. The open air has a bracing effect on the mind. The congestion of the city, the uproar and tumult, the intolerable noise of traffic, the hectic daily routine, all these are forgotten and the mind is at ease. We then feel like running, leaping, singing and laughing. We travel merrily mile after mile in the company of friends and associates.
2. Hiking takes us in the midst of nature. The sight of waterfalls, flowers, streams, trees and bushes is pleasing. A connect is established between us and nature. Various sounds of nature, like the murmur of a brook or the song of a bird, acquire a new meaning and significance to us.
3. You enjoy the beauty of nature. Minute observations like a snake casting its slough, a mouse peeping out of its hole, a squirrel leaping about on the branches of a tree, a bird flying past us, all these are noticed and they arouse our interest. We have no business worries, no fear of the examination, no anxiety about the home. We have leisure to stand, to walk and talk. It is more thrilling and pleasurable to hike in a mountainous region than in the plains. The excitement of climbing up to the top of a hill, the adventure of coming down a slope, the grandeur of sunset behind a mountain - All these sights lend a rare charm and interest to our journey.
4. We walk along a zigzag motor road or cut across a mountain path in search of adventure. We may have bright sunny weather or might get caught in a shower of rain. We may look below us into the yawning chasm or up at the mountain peak. The feeling of unlimited freedom makes our hearts leap with joy.
5. Hiking is one of the healthiest sports. It ensures a complete escape from the urgent and busy activities of life and therefore gives solace to our brain. It regains its lost energy and is able to do twice as much work as before.

6. The fresh air, beautiful mountains, majestic trees, chirping sound of birds make one's mind and soul at peace with nature.

(i) To go out for a walking tour is

a) to ramble.

b) to hike.

c) to saunter.

d) to stroll.

(ii) Why does the writer say that the mind is at ease when you hike?

a) because hiking is an inexpensive activity.

b) because of intolerable noise of traffic.

c) because the depressing daily routine is forgotten.

d) because it brings families together.

(iii) Complete the following with a phrase:

The various sounds of nature acquire _____.

(iv) Infer one reason for the following based on information in paragraph 2.

A contact is established between us and nature.

(v) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word from paragraph 2.

aroma : cooking ; fragrance : _____.

(vi) Give one reason why it is a pleasure to hike in the mountains than in the plains.

a) because observation is sharpened.

b) because it is leisure to stand, to walk.

c) because there are no worries.

d) because of the excitement of climbing up and adventure of coming down.

(vii) Hiking gives the brain, the rest it needs because

a) it is a short time activity.

b) it makes us sleep peacefully.

c) it is one of the healthiest sports.

d) it is an escape from our busy schedule.

(viii) List any two examples of minute observations you make while on a hike.

2. **Read the text carefully and answer the questions:**

[10]

1. Necessity is indeed the mother of invention. When areas in and around Leh began to experience water shortages, life didn't grind to a halt. Why? Because Chewang Norphel, a retired civil engineer in the Jammu and Kashmir government came up with the idea of artificial glaciers.

2. Ladakh, a cold desert at an altitude of 3,000-3,500 metres above sea level, has a low average annual rainfall rate of 50 mm. Glaciers have always been the only source of water. Agriculture is completely dependent on glacier melt unlike the rest of river/monsoon fed India. But over the years with increasing effects of climate change, rainfall and snowfall patterns have been changing, resulting in severe shortage and drought situations. Given the severe winter conditions, the window for farming is usually limited to one harvest season.
3. It is located between the natural glacier above and the village below. The one closer to the village and lowest in altitude melts first, providing water during April/May, the crucial sowing season. Further layers of ice above melt with increasing temperature thus ensuring continuous supply to the fields. Thus, farmers have been able to manage two crops instead of one. It costs about ₹ 1,50,000 and above to create one.
4. Fondly called the "glacier man", Mr. Norphel has designed over 15 artificial glaciers in and around Leh since 1987. In recognition of his pioneering effort, he was conferred the Padma Shri by President Pranab Mukherjee, in 2015.
5. There are a few basic steps followed in creating the artificial glacier.
6. River or stream water at higher altitude is diverted to a shaded area of the hill, facing north, where the winter sun is blocked by a ridge or a mountain range. At the start of winter/November, the diverted water is made to flow onto sloping hill face through distribution channels. Stone embankments are built at regular intervals which impede the flow of water, making shallow pools and freeze, forming a cascade of ice along the slope. Ice formation continues for 3-4 months resulting in a large accumulation of ice which is referred to as an "artificial glacier".

Number of Tourists who visited Leh

Month/Year	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.
2010	3410	16518	22889	22415	5575	3041
2011	3001	26310	33908	46843	37756	20833

- (i) Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraph 2.
We can say that the situation of farming being limited to one harvest in Ladakh is comparable with having only thorny bushes in the desert area because _____.
- (ii) Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2.
The statement that, agriculture in Ladakh depends on glacier melt, is a _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a _____ (subjective judgement/objective detail).
- (iii) Justify the following, in about 40 words.

- (iv) Based on the tabular graph, identify the months when Leh had the most and least number of tourists.
- (v) Study the number of visitors for the month of July and state any one inference that can be drawn from this.
- (vi) Select the option that correctly displays what ‘cascade’ signifies. (Reference- Paragraph 6)



- A. (i), (iv) and (v)
 - B. Only (ii)
 - C. Only (iii)
 - D. (ii) and (v)
- (vii) Give a brief introduction of the **Glacier Man**. (Answer in about 40 words)
 - (viii) Which of the following is NOT a correct statement about the process involved in creating an artificial glacier as mentioned in the passage?
 - A. River or stream water at higher altitudes is diverted to a shaded area of the hill.
 - B. At the onset of summer, the diverted water is made to flow onto a sloping hill face through distribution channels.
 - C. Stone embankments are built at regular intervals which impede the flow of water.
 - D. Ice formation continues for 3-4 months resulting in a large accumulation of ice.

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]

I, therefore, request you to _____ (issue) a letter of recommendation for these students to be nominated for 'Serving Citizens' Award' organised by the local Municipal Corporation.

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

Delhi Government
COVID-19 FAMILY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME
An assistance of ₹2,500/- per month will be given to family residing in Delhi where earning members died due to COVID-19.

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) The mayor of the city visited our locality where the irate residents posed a few questions to him. Report resident's query. [1]

Are you going to have our roads repaired, mayor?

(v) _____ of the tourists could see _____ tiger in the reserve. [1]

a) Some; any

b) None; any

c) None; some

d) Some; none

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

An initial investigation of the matter has revealed that the fire might have been caused by a short circuit.

Option no.	Error	Correction
A	an	the
B	of	into
C	has	have
D	might	may

- (vii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the conversation between Jim to Della. [1]

_____ you prepare a cup of tea for me, please?

- a) Will
b) Could
c) Can
d) Would

- (viii) Environmental pollution ____ ever since people ____ to congregate in towns and cities. [1]

- a) exist / have begun
b) will have existed / are beginning
c) has existed / began
d) had existed / were beginning

- (ix) People _____ walk on grass. [1]

- a) couldn't
b) mustn't
c) may not
d) needn't

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

I have just _____ (appear) for my senior secondary board examination and am interested in pursuing a course in Visual Communication.

- (xi) He and I _____ good friends but now we _____ anymore. [1]

- a) were, aren't talking
b) were, won't talk
c) are, weren't talking
d) am, don't talking

- (xii) Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option: [1]
Each of the boys _____ rewarded.

a) have been

b) are being

c) were

d) was

Section B Writing

4. Most of the students are worried about their performance in examinations. So they don't participate in games. This affects their physical health and even mental health. Write a paragraph in 100-120 words on the importance of sports in the life of students. [5]

OR

Write a paragraph describing a journey, imaginary, or you have undertaken. You can follow the steps given below:

1. Prepare an itinerary.
 2. You can make use of the following expressions, phrases and proverbs frequently used by the travellers.
(Jet lag, itchy feet, hit the road, time table, on the home stretch, call it a day, book in advance, travel over, travel through, travel light, any port in a storm, stopover, etc.)
5. Yesterday you celebrated your 13th birthday party with great enthusiasm. Your uncle gifted you a laptop. You are overjoyed and want to register your feeling as a diary entry. Write a diary entry. [5]

OR

Write a story from the outline given below. Give a suitable title to the story.

A bee falls into a stream-a dove flies past-drops a leaf into the river-the bee climbs on it-escapes-a hunter aims at the dove-the bee stings the hunter-misses the aim-the dove is saved-Moral.

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]
- “Look here, it seems to me I met you the day before yesterday in Sadovya Street,” he said; “but you told me then that you were a student who had been expelled, and not a village school teacher. Do you remember?” “N-no, that can't be so,” mumbled the beggar, taken aback. “I am a village school teacher, and if you like I can show you my papers.” “Have done with lying! You called yourself a student and even told me what you had been expelled for. Don't you remember?” Sergei flushed and turned from the ragged creature with an expression of disgust. “This is dishonesty, my dear sir!” he cried angrily. “This is swindling — I shall send the police for you, damn you!” “Sir!” he said, laying his hand on his heart, “the fact is I was lying! I am neither a student nor a school teacher. All that was fiction. Formerly I sang in a Russian choir and was

sent away for drunkenness. But what else can I do? I can't get along without lying. No one will give me anything when I tell the truth, what can I do?"

- i. State one inference about beggar from the given context
- ii. What is Sergei's reaction to the beggar's confession, and what does it reveal about Sergei's character? Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract.
- iii. State TRUE or FALSE.
None of the options (a)-(d) below, can be applied to the question - What was the beggar's actual occupation?
 - a. Student
 - b. Teacher
 - c. Advocate
 - d. Singer
- iv. Which phrase or word would correctly substitute "expelled" in the given sentence from the extract?
"but you told me then that you were a student who had been expelled, and not a village school teacher.

(ii) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

[5]

I took off my black coat, white shin, and not-so-white vest and hung them up. I opened the two windows in the room. It was an outer room with one wall facing the open yard. It had a tiled roof with long supporting gables that rested on the beam over the wall. There was no ceiling. There was regular traffic of rats to and from the beam. I made my bed and pulled it closer to the wall. I lay down but I could not sleep. I got up and went out to the veranda for a little air, but the Wind God seemed to have taken time off.

- a. What inference would you draw from the doctor's description of his surroundings?
- b. Which celestial entity appeared to be absent when the narrator sought some fresh air in the veranda?
 - i. The Sun
 - ii. The Moon
 - iii. The Wind
 - iv. The Rain
- c. The doctor's approach towards describing his surroundings was highly effective and had slight humour. Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract
- d. Which phrase would correctly substitute ' taken time off.', in the given sentence from the extract?
I got up and went out to the veranda for a little air, but the Wind God seemed to have taken time off.

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]

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves, no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

- a. **'Both'** refers to _____.
- b. What is the centric idea of the given stanza?
- c. What is the emotion that the poet expresses in the given lines?
 - i. remorse
 - ii. anger
 - iii. content
 - iv. sorrow
- d. Why does the poet doubt his coming back? Explain in 40 words.

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

No motion has she now, no force
She neither hears nor sees,
Rolled round in earth's diurnal course
With rocks and stones and trees.

- a. She has become motionless and without force for she is _____.
- b. How would you describe the emotional state of the poet? Explain in 40 words.
- c. Explain, **'she neither hears nor sees'**?
- d. What is the literal meaning of the phrase, **Earth's diurnal course**?
 - i. revolution
 - ii. high tides
 - iii. rotation
 - iv. earthquakes

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

(i) Why does the world remember Einstein as a world citizen? [3]

(ii) What shows that the poet loved his mother? Write your answer in the context of the poem, 'Rain on the Roof'. [3]

(iii) Where was Abdul Kalam's house situated? Write your answer in the context of the lesson "My Childhood". [3]

- (iv) What is the belief at Pashupatinath about the end of Kaliyug? [3]
- (v) Is this a true story? Which part of this poem do you feel is the most important? [3]
(A Legend of the Northland)
9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. [6]
- (i) What did the doctor tell Sue? [3]
- (ii) What were the author and his cat doing when the fire broke out? Write your answer in the context of **A House is Not a Home**. [3]
- (iii) Why did Mahendra enjoy his stories? Write your answer in the context of Iswaran the Storyteller. [3]
10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words [6]
- (i) "Music has no religion." How did Bismillah Khan's Shehani prove it? [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) Sometimes wisdom lies in being tactful. It was the guru's wisdom and knowledge that led him to become the king of the kingdom. Elaborate with reference to **In the Kingdom of Fools**. [6]
- (ii) Write a character sketch of the lost child. [6]

Answers

Section A Reading

1. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

Read the passage given below:

1. Hiking is a great source of pleasure to us besides being beneficial for health. Once we leave the crowded streets of a city and go out for a walking tour away from the mad world, we really feel free. The open air has a bracing effect on the mind. The congestion of the city, the uproar and tumult, the intolerable noise of traffic, the hectic daily routine, all these are forgotten and the mind is at ease. We then feel like running, leaping, singing and laughing. We travel merrily mile after mile in the company of friends and associates.
2. Hiking takes us in the midst of nature. The sight of waterfalls, flowers, streams, trees and bushes is pleasing. A connect is established between us and nature. Various sounds of nature, like the murmur of a brook or the song of a bird, acquire a new meaning and significance to us.
3. You enjoy the beauty of nature. Minute observations like a snake casting its slough, a mouse peeping out of its hole, a squirrel leaping about on the branches of a tree, a bird flying past us, all these are noticed and they arouse our interest. We have no business worries, no fear of the examination, no anxiety about the home. We have leisure to stand, to walk and talk. It is more thrilling and pleasurable to hike in a mountainous region than in the plains. The excitement of climbing up to the top of a hill, the adventure of coming down a slope, the grandeur of sunset behind a mountain - All these sights lend a rare charm and interest to our journey.
4. We walk along a zigzag motor road or cut across a mountain path in search of adventure. We may have bright sunny weather or might get caught in a shower of rain. We may look below us into the yawning chasm or up at the mountain peak. The feeling of unlimited freedom makes our hearts leap with joy.
5. Hiking is one of the healthiest sports. It ensures a complete escape from the urgent and busy activities of life and therefore gives solace to our brain. It regains its lost energy and is able to do twice as much work as before.
6. The fresh air, beautiful mountains, majestic trees, chirping sound of birds make one's mind and soul at peace with nature.
 - (i) **(b)** to hike.
Explanation: to hike.
 - (ii) **(c)** because the depressing daily routine is forgotten.
Explanation: because the depressing daily routine is forgotten.
 - (iii) The various sounds of nature acquire a new meaning and significance to us.
 - (iv) One reason for the contact being established between us and nature is that
 - (i) hiking takes us into the midst of nature,
 - (ii) where we can observe and appreciate its beauty and various natural elements, like

waterfalls, flowers, streams, trees, and bushes.

(iii) sounds of nature like the murmur of the brook or the song of a bird acquire a new meaning and significance for us. (any ONE)

This immersion in nature creates a connection and enhances our appreciation for the natural world.

(v) aroma : cooking ; fragrance : flowers.

(vi)(d) because of the excitement of climbing up and adventure of coming down.

Explanation: because of the excitement of climbing up and adventure of coming down.

(vii)(d) it is an escape from our busy schedule.

Explanation: Hiking ensures a complete escape from the urgent and busy activities of life and therefore gives solace (rest/peace) to our brain.

(viii) two examples of minute observations you can make while on a hike, as mentioned in the passage, are:

i. Observing a snake casting its slough.

ii. Noticing a mouse peeping out of its hole.

iii. Squirrel leaping on branches.

iv. Birds flying past us.

(any TWO)

2. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

1. Necessity is indeed the mother of invention. When areas in and around Leh began to experience water shortages, life didn't grind to a halt. Why? Because Chewang Norphel, a retired civil engineer in the Jammu and Kashmir government came up with the idea of artificial glaciers.
2. Ladakh, a cold desert at an altitude of 3,000-3,500 metres above sea level, has a low average annual rainfall rate of 50 mm. Glaciers have always been the only source of water. Agriculture is completely dependent on glacier melt unlike the rest of river/monsoon fed India. But over the years with increasing effects of climate change, rainfall and snowfall patterns have been changing, resulting in severe shortage and drought situations. Given the severe winter conditions, the window for farming is usually limited to one harvest season.
3. It is located between the natural glacier above and the village below. The one closer to the village and lowest in altitude melts first, providing water during April/May, the crucial sowing season. Further layers of ice above melt with increasing temperature thus ensuring continuous supply to the fields. Thus, farmers have been able to manage two crops instead of one. It costs about ₹ 1,50,000 and above to create one.
4. Fondly called the "glacier man", Mr. Norphel has designed over 15 artificial glaciers in and around Leh since 1987. In recognition of his pioneering effort, he was conferred the Padma Shri by President Pranab Mukherjee, in 2015.
5. There are a few basic steps followed in creating the artificial glacier.
6. River or stream water at higher altitude is diverted to a shaded area of the hill, facing north, where the winter sun is blocked by a ridge or a mountain range. At the start of

winter/November, the diverted water is made to flow onto sloping hill face through distribution channels. Stone embankments are built at regular intervals which impede the flow of water, making shallow pools and freeze, forming a cascade of ice along the slope. Ice formation continues for 3-4 months resulting in a large accumulation of ice which is referred to as an "artificial glacier".

Number of Tourists who visited Leh

Month/Year	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.
2010	3410	16518	22889	22415	5575	3041
2011	3001	26310	33908	46843	37756	20833

- (i) because of the given climatic conditions. Since deserts have scanty rainfall therefore to survive in a dry environment, plants have thorns instead of leaves. Similarly, in Ladakh, the severe winter conditions usually limit the scope of farming and so it has only one harvest season only.
- (ii) The statement that agriculture in Ladakh depends on glacier melt is a fact because it is an objective factor that influences agriculture there.
- (iii) While the survey results suggest that vertical gardens may be effective in improving the quality of life in urban areas, further research and evaluation may be necessary to fully understand their effectiveness and potential drawbacks.
- (iv) The tabular graph shows that Leh had the maximum number of tourists in July 2011 (46843). The lowest number of tourists who visited Leh was in the month of April 2011 (3001).
- (v) The number of visitors to Leh in July 2011 was more than double that of those who visited in July 2010.
- (vi) D. (ii) and (v)
Cascade: Noun - (of water) pour downwards rapidly and in large quantities. Verb - to fall quickly and in large amounts.
- (vii) Fondly called 'glacier man' Chewang Norphel, a retired civil engineer is the father of the idea of artificial glaciers. He has designed over 15 artificial glaciers in and around Leh since 1987. He was honoured with Padma Shri in 2015 by Hon'ble President Pranab Mukherjee for his efforts.
- (viii) B. At the onset of **summer**, the diverted water is made to flow onto a sloping hill face through distribution channels.

Section B Grammar

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

(i) issue

(ii)	error	correction
	family	families

(iii) he always wakes up early.

(iv) The residents asked the mayor if he was going to have their roads repaired.

(v) **(b)** None; any

Explanation: None; any

(vi)(B) of - into

(vii)**(b)** Could

Explanation: Could

(viii)**(c)** has existed / began

Explanation: has existed / began

(ix)**(b)** mustn't

Explanation: mustn't

(x) appeared

(xi)**(a)** were, aren't talking

Explanation: were, aren't talking

(xii)**(d)** was

Explanation: was

Section B Writing

4.

Value of Sports in Students' Life

Sports play a crucial role in the lives of students, offering benefits that extend far beyond physical well-being. While many students may be preoccupied with their academic performance and choose not to forgo sports, they may be unaware of the negative consequences that accompany this decision. Engaging in sports activities not only enhances physical fitness but also contributes to mental and emotional well-being. Regular participation in sports helps students relieve stress, develop discipline, and improve concentration, ultimately leading to better academic performance. Moreover, sports foster teamwork, leadership skills, and a sense of camaraderie among students, instilling important values that can be applied in various aspects of life. Additionally, sports provide a platform for students to build self-confidence, overcome challenges, and learn the importance of resilience. Therefore, it is crucial for students to recognize and prioritize the importance of sports in their lives, as it positively influences both their physical health and mental well-being.

OR

This summer, we planned a vacation in Singapore. My father's cousin lives there. They had been calling us since long. It was a planned vacation so tickets were booked in advance. The responsibility was given to mom as she searched for the best deals through various internet sites. We spend many nights planning and finalising the itinerary and finally a time table was approved by all just a week before. Our flight was in the morning at 8 am so we hit the road at 7 am in the morning to reach the airport by 6 am. On the way mom kept on enquiring about the lights, fridge, AC and door were locked or not. I and my brother were sleeping in the backside of the car. At the airport we clicked few photographs, posted them on our social media platforms and enjoyed the likes. The flight was on time and we boarded our plane and travelled through the Indian Ocean to reach Singapore in about seven hours. Uncle and aunt both were there at the airport to receive us. We travel over the roads of Singapore among skyscrapers and beautiful

landscape to uncle's home. It was late evening and we all were tired due to jet lag. We had our dinner and slept off early. Our itchy feet woke us up very early and we all sat down with our coffee cups to plan the day ahead of us. We thought of going for scuba diving. We reached at the centre and we thought of travelling light as most of the required accessories were available. The diving spot was at the far south horn of the bay where there were huge steep rock faces and underwater caves. Half an hour later, while I was swimming around 60 meters from the shore, a calamity struck. As I was swimming next to a lone rock, suddenly a huge wave came and crashed on me, taking me by surprise. It completely rolled my body around and I totally lost my sense of direction. I was short of breath and I was squirming around, splashing and trying to find where the air was. I swam up fast, penetrated the surface, on the home stretch, I took a breath of air, and then, afraid of the next wave coming, looked around. Then like any port in a storm, my coach came looking for me with all sorts of help. This huge wave was like a stopover for me. We all came back as I had severe headache and dizziness. We continued with our plan for next few days and then finally we departed from Singapore to be back with memories forever.

5. Sarita Vihar

20th March, 20XX

Monday, 7:00 am

Dear Diary,

Today was such an exciting and joyful day! Since it was my birthday! I turned 13. Today I had a huge and amazing birthday bash! With all my near and dear cousins and besties! It was such a great and mesmerising time when I was cutting the cake. It seemed like my golden hour. With all the people reciting the birthday song to me with a huge smile on their faces! The kids looking at the cake in anticipation with drooling mouths. Leaving all the decorum aside, there was a natural aura of happiness in the room. It was worth anything in this world to me! And all the gifts, of course, who wouldn't love them! I got many gifts but the most precious one was from my uncle which was a laptop! I always longed for a laptop! And when I was gifted that by my uncle, my joy had no bounds! I guess he read my mind.

Having such fascinating people around you, you feel special naturally. Anyways, I am too tired to write anymore. Good night.

Alisha

OR

The Bee and the Dove

"Kindness never goes unrewarded" is an often-quoted proverb. It means if we help others in their difficulties, they will help us in our difficulties. If we do good to others, they will do good for us. There is a famous story to illustrate the truth of this proverb. It was a pleasant morning, though the sky was overcast with clouds. A bee was busy flying flower to flower, collecting nectar to take back to the hive, where the young babies, as well as, the queen bee was waiting to be fed. Though it would have preferred sunny weather, summertime is supposed to be a period of hectic activity and the cloudy sky was no deterrent for a bee to take an off from work. Enough nectar had to be

collected and stored as honey to last them throughout the long winter. Suddenly, there was such a gust of wind that dropped it (the bee) into the stream below. A dove was sitting in her nest, who had noticed the event. It was compassionate and helpful by nature. It dropped a leaf that floated close enough to bee, so as to be convenient for the insect to climb on to it. The bee was grateful and flapped its wings vigorously to dry them. The bee thanked the dove for saving its life. They became friends. After a few days, the dove was sitting on the branch of a tree. A little distance away, the bee noticed a hunter, taking an aim in the sky. He loaded his gun to shoot her down. And lo and behold ! the hunter was aiming at the dove that had saved it just a while ago. The bee that was flying here and there happened to see all that. At once, the bee darted towards the hunter and stung him on the hand just in time that he missed his mark. The dove flew away with the bang of the gun and saved her life. Thus she received the reward of her noble deed done to the bee.

Moral: A well-done returns in the form of good fortune in a numerable way.

Section C Literature

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.
- (i) i. One possible inference about the beggar from the given context is that he resorts to lying and dishonesty as a means of survival because he believes that people are more likely to help him when he makes a more sympathetic story, even though it may not be true.
 - ii. Sergei reacts angrily to the beggar's confession, expressing disgust and even threatening to send for the police. This reaction suggests that Sergei values honesty and despises dishonesty, indicating a sense of moral integrity in his character.
 - iii. False [Option d is correct. The beggar's actual previous profession was Singer before lying about being a student or a school teacher.]
 - iv. Dismissed/Ejected/Ousted/Banished [or any other possible meaning.]
- (ii) a. One possible inference that the reader draws from the given context is that the doctor was in an uncomfortable or unpleasant environment. The description of the room projected a lack of comfort or tranquility in his surroundings.
- b. (iii) The wind
 - c. The doctor's description of his surroundings in the passage was effective due to his use of humor. He humorously noted how the "Wind God seemed to have taken time off," highlighting the lack of breeze. His dry wit continued as he described his clothing and the room. The mention of rats added a touch of absurdity, emphasizing the unconventional and uncomfortable nature of his environment. This blend of effective description and subtle humor created a vivid and memorable image for the reader.
 - d. The phrase "but the Wind God seemed to have gone on a break" could correctly substitute "taken time off" in the given sentence.
7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.
- (i) a. the two roads that lay in front of the poet.

b. The poet craftily focused on the fact that in real life once we choose an option we ought to move ahead with that option and we never get a chance to come back. So, the entire stanza revolves around the fear of missing out on opportunities.

c. (i) remorse

d. The poet harboured uncertainty about his return, as he was aware that embarking upon his selected path would eventually guide him towards different crossroads. This would take him to a distance so great from the initial road that a return would be unattainable.

(ii) a. dead.

b. The poet was in deep grief. He was portrayed to be extremely depressed and dejected. The poet was aghast at the death of his loved one and he was not able to come out of it. He was so shocked and sad that he could feel the numbness in his body and he was not able to move. He became numb to all his sensations and also became void of all human fears.

c. In the given line, the poet highlighted the fact that there was no motion left in his beloved's body as death had come over. She could not exhibit any motion or force in her body due to death. She was unable to hear and see.

d. (iii) rotation

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

(i) Einstein was really worried about the nuclear development which was taking place in different part of the world. When his words fell flat, he himself got involved in politics and started campaigning for peace and democracy. For his selfless contribution, the world remembers him as a world citizen.

(ii) The pattering sound of the rain mesmerized the poet with its soothing power and sent the poet in the flashback mode. The poet remembered his mother's face. She appeared as she were years ago. The poet could still witness the same fondness in her look. This shows that the poet loved his mother.

(iii) Kalam and his family lived in their ancestral house, which was built in the middle of the nineteenth century. It was a fairly large Pucca house, made of limestone and brick, on the Mosque Street in Rameshwaram.

(iv) There is a small shrine on the banks of the holy Bagmati in the Pashupatinath temple. Half part of this shrine protrudes from a stone platform. It is believed that when the shrine will emerge completely from the platform, the Goddess in the shrine will escape and that will mark the end of the Kaliyug. In other words, people there believe that once the shrine completely emerges out of the river, the goddess will be free and this incident will mark the end of Kaliyug, the calamitous era.

(v) I don't think it is a true story. It is a folk tale of a legend that has been told by one generation after the other with the twin purpose of entertaining the readers and teaching the moral lesson of being kind, generous and charitable, especially to the poor and the needy. The most important part of the poem is when the greedy woman is turned into a woodpecker because it contains an important message that selfish and stingy people get severely punished.

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

- (i) The doctor told Sue that Johnsy had made up her mind that she was going to die. If she didn't want to live, medicines would not help her. Her will to live and fight the problem was more important than medicines.
- (ii) The author was sitting on his dining room table doing his homework when the fire broke out. His cat was lying on top of his papers, (vibratory sound) loudly and playing with his pen.
- (iii) Every day Iswaran would narrate one or the other story full of adventure, horror and thrill. Sometimes Mahendra felt that the story was fiction but still, he enjoyed listening to it because of the unique way in which it was narrated by Iswaran. As there was no television set at the place where they lived, these stories were a source of entertainment for Mahendra.

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

- (i) Music is the voice of the soul. It is sacred beyond the religions. It is eternal and acts as a source of inspiration for everyone. A musician never plays music for any particular religion. Bismillah Khan belonged to the Muslim community. Despite being a devout Muslim, he played Shehnai in temples. He was deeply attached to the holy city of Benaras and the holy river Ganga. The river Ganga and its flowing water were the main source of inspiration for him. Inspired by the music of the flowing waters of the Ganga, he created new ragas which were earlier considered beyond the scope of the shehnai. He could never think of leaving Benaras and the holy river Ganga. Since his childhood, he was fond of music. As a five-year-old child, he used to visit the Bihariji temple at Dumraon to sing the Bhojpuri Chaita. He was rewarded with a big laddu for his melodious singing by the Maharaja. His love for music was so deeply influenced by Benaras and the river Ganga that he declined the offer to settle in the USA. Once a student of his from the USA wanted him to head a Shehnai school there. He promised to recreate the atmosphere of Benaras in the USA by replicating the temples. But Bismillah Khan refused it saying that he couldn't bring the Ganga there.
- (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) It is often said that wise people are sincere and believe in being honest and truthful. But there are circumstances when even the wise may be forced to tell a lie to attain a positive end. In the plot 'In the Kingdom of Fools', the guru was portrayed as an

extremely witty man who at once realized that the place, he along with his disciple was in, was the kingdom of fools. Upon the realization, he decided to leave the place instantly as he knew nothing good would happen in that kingdom and he could sense the danger.

However, the guru returned to save his disciple and lied for the same. He recognised the greed of the idiot king and his minister and played a tactful trick on them. As a consequence of his lie, not just the disciple but the people of the kingdom were also saved. Realising the wisdom and intelligence possessed by the guru, the people of the kingdom requested the guru to become their king. Therefore, it can be rightly said that “sometimes wisdom lies in being tactful.” It was the guru’s wisdom and intelligence that led him to become the king.

- (ii) The child in the chapter had a very restless nature. He went to the fair with his parents and liked almost everything as any child would showing his innocence. The child knew that his parents would not accept his request. He kept following his parents quietly. He wanted to enjoy the roundabout. So he stood near it. But when he moved back, he found his parents nowhere. He became panic-stricken and cried for them. A man from the crowd tried to help him by offering him different things. The sole desire of the child was to see his parents. Although the child was very understanding. He did not want to buy all the things he saw but knew it was a very irrelevant demand to make so he accepted the denial to all his requests. By the end of the story we learn how the child loved his parents so much as he denied all the other things he wanted earlier just because he couldn't find his parents around him.