

**Maharashtra State Board**  
**Class X English**  
**Board Paper – 2017**

**Time: 3 hours**

**Max. Marks: 80**

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**(ACTIVITY SHEET)**  
**(Section I: Reading Skill, Vocabulary and Grammar)**

**Q.1 (A) Read the following passage and do the activities:**

**A1. True or false**

**(2)**

State whether the following statements are true or false :

- (i) Gilson asked the writer to buy a tie of red colour with an initial 'G' on it.
- (ii) The writer could not buy the tie on Sunday because he had no time.
- (iii) The driver refused to wait as parking was prohibited
- (iv) The writer promised to double the fare.

What Gilson asked me to buy was, in fact, a little thing: a tie. But not just any tie. He wanted a tie with a small embroidered G. Any color would do, as long as it had his initial. Look, this is a special flight, I explained. We are only staying Saturday through Tuesday. On the day we arrived I didn't have time to think about the tie, but strolling around on Sunday. I did see ties bearing various letters in more than one shop window. They were cheap, just a dollar, but all the shops were closed.

**Frantic Search:** On Monday, lunch lasted the whole afternoon. Then it was Tuesday morning, time to leave. It was only when I saw our airport bus waiting outside the hotel that I remembered the tie.

I told the group to go on. I would get a taxi to the airport. And so I went in search of a nearby shop where I had seen ties.

But I couldn't find it. I walked further down the street—one, two, three blocks—all in vain. Back at the hotel, a bit anxious now, I took my Suitcase, got a taxi and asked the driver to rush to the street where I had seen them.

The driver stopped at each shop we passed so I could look from the taxi window. The stores had all sorts of ties, but not the kind I was looking for.

When I finally thought I had located the right shop, I decided to go in and check. The driver refused to wait. Parking was prohibited, he said. I promised to double the fare, jumped out and ran into the shop. Was I going to miss the plane just for a damned tie?

**A2. Order****Put the following sentences in proper order :****(2)**

- (i) On the very first day the writer had no time to buy a tie.
- (ii) The writer walked down on Sunday and saw shops with variety of ties.
- (iii) Gilson, the writer friend wanted him to buy a tie.
- (iv) The writer left the place on Tuesday morning.

**A3 : Matching :****(2)****Match the following words with their meanings :**

- | ‘A’              | ‘B’                             |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| (i) strolling    | (a) done in a very urgent way   |
| (ii) anxious     | (b) to walk without hurrying    |
| (iii) prohibited | (c) wanting something very much |
| (iv) frantic     | (d) to stop something           |

**A4: Language study: Begin your sentence with.....****(2)**

- (i) I had located the right shop.  
(Rewrite the sentence beginning with ‘The right shop.....’)
- (ii) All the shops were closed.  
(Begin with ‘None of the .....’)

**A5. Personal Response :****(2)**

Narrate any one funny/humorous incident that took place in your life.

**(B) Read the following passage and do the activities:****(10)****B1. Complete:****Fill in the blanks to complete the following sentences:****(2)**

- (i) I was able to read..... by the time I was ten.
- (ii) It was Mr. A.N. Patil my..... teacher who made a huge impression on me.
- (iii) Every lesson that Mr. Patil took was spiced with half a dozen or more .....
- (iv) One of the greatest gifts any teacher can give a student is to inculcate .....

In a way, one of the greatest gifts any teacher can give a student, I think, is to inculcate a curiosity to learn.

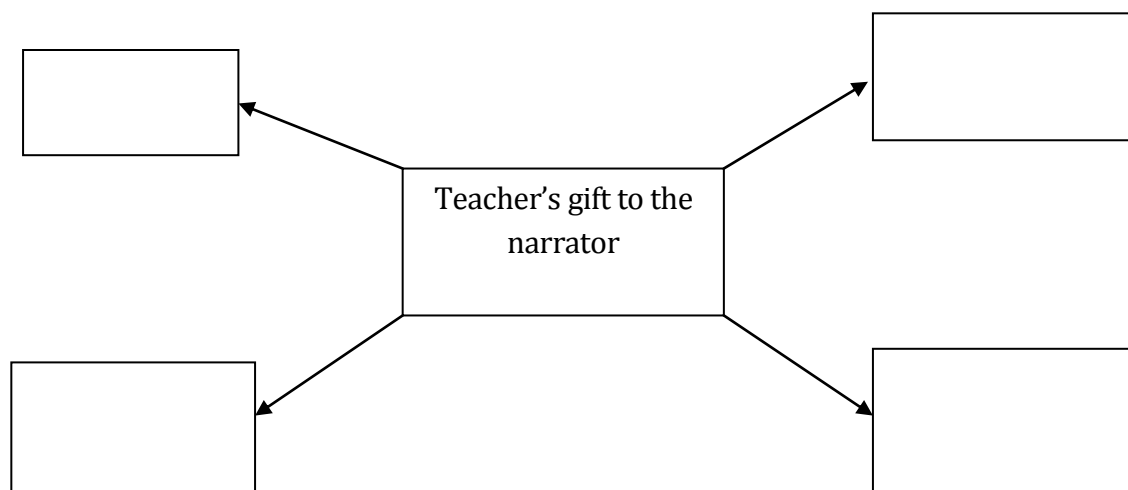
I've been incredibly lucky to have at least one such teacher at every stage in my life. The first was Mrs. Rowland's who taught me in primary school. She taught me to read without ever pushing me. She made me want to read more by giving me some of the most interesting children's books available. And although I still love to go back to those books from time to time, it was only because of her that I was able to read Shakespeare by the time I was ten, and Chaucer a year later.

In later years, it was Mr. A.N. Patil, my Marathi and Hindi teacher who made a huge impression on me. Every lesson he took, was spiced with half a dozen or more anecdotes from a wide variety of subjects, among them history, politics, religion and sociology. I was, and still am in awe of his knowledge, which despite rather desperate attempts; I doubt I'll ever be able to match.

There have also been other teachers who helped me to try to become independent : to think and act for myself using my own judgement, which to my mind has been just as, if not more important, than actually learning anything. After all, it's much too easy to become a completely useless repository of facts and little else.

## B.2 Web

Complete the following web:



## B.3 Match

Match the words given in column A with their meaning given in columns B: (2)

'A'	'B'
(i) inculcate	(a) very sad and upset because of loss of hope
(ii) incredibly	(b) a person with lot of information
(iii) desperate	(c) extremely good, great
(iv) repository	(d) to teach and impress by frequent repetition

**B.4 Frame questions :**

**Frame Wh-questions for the following statements with the help of the 'Wh' word given in the brackets :**

**(2)**

- (i) She taught me to read. (What)
- (ii) I read Chaucer a year later. (When)

**B5. Personal Response**

'Teachers are responsible to mould the character of students.' Elaborate, giving your opinion.

**(2)**

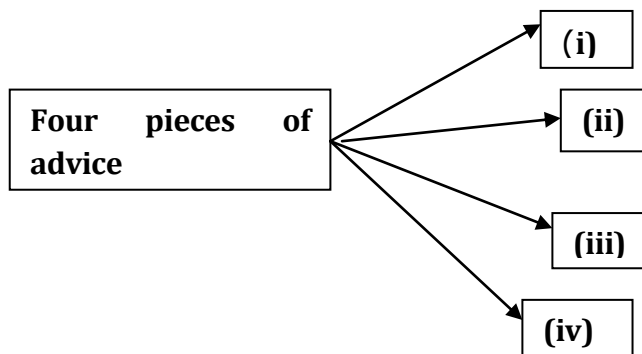
**Q.2 (A) Read the following passage carefully and do the activities.**

**(10)****A1. Chart :**

**Select the correct alternatives from the boxes :**

**(2)**

Write down four pieces of advice given by the writer :



Exercise makes you focus on your body, providing relief from difficult feelings and thoughts. If you work out hard enough, it releases chemicals called endorphins, which may act in the brain to help lift your mood.

If you haven't taken exercise, start simply with a brisk half-hour walk at least three times a week. Once in the habit of exercising, consider something more strenuous, such as aerobic dance. Activities that you share with other people, such as tennis or team games, may be preferable to solitary forms of exercise, such as swimming, which leaves your mind free to dwell on negative thoughts. Vary the type of exercise you do, and don't choose something you don't enjoy at all. Be careful not to overdo exercise, or you will merely feel exhaustion instead of increased energy and improved well being.

## BEFORE YOU JOIN A GYM

Potentially, the world is your work-out facility. But if you want access to high-quality resistance machines, aerobic-classes, and trained staff, a gym may be worth the money—especially if it helps you stick with an exercise programme.

### A2. Effects:

Look at the activities given in column A. Write their effects in Column B:

	'A'	'B'
(i)	Regular exercise	-
(ii)	Hard work out	-
(iii)	Swimming	-
(iv)	Over-straining exercise	-

**A3. Complete the following table and frame a sentence of your own by choosing any word from the table:** (2)

Verb	Noun	Adjective
Pay	Payment	
Consider		Considerable

**A4. Language Study:** (2)

**Select the proper tag and rewrite the sentence:**

- (i) It helps you to stick with an exercise.  
(1. do it? 2. does it? 3. doesn't it?)
- (ii) Be careful not to overdo exercise.  
(1. won't you? 2. will you? 3 be you?)

**A5. My opinion :** (2)

It is necessary to take exercise regularly.

Write your opinion in support of the above statement

**(B) Read the following passage and do the activities.**

### B1. MCQ

**Complete the following sentences by choosing from the multiple choices given:** (2)

- (i) The luxury cars have largely gone ..... from its roads.
- (1) missing
  - (2) disappointing
  - (3) hiding
  - (4) dislocating

(ii) A few luxury car owners have..... their other not so premium cars.

- (1) switched off
- (2) switched to
- (3) switched away
- (4) switched

(iii) The car owners get the started ..... of a company.

- (1) guarantee
- (2) certainty
- (3) warranty
- (4) insurance

(iv) Many owners..... their decision to buy the premium car due to the pitiable condition of roads.

- (1) regretted
- (2) favoured
- (3) accepted
- (4) expected

### **Potholes Keep Luxury Cars Indoors (Newspaper Reporter)**

Three years after the city vroomed to global fame when it picked up 150 luxury cars in a record bulk deal, the cars have largely gone missing from roads, parked as they are in the safety of their owners' garages. Fearing damage and dents to their dream drives, the owners said they cannot risk them on the city potholed roads.

Many owners said they regretted their decision to buy these premium buys as the pitiable condition of roads has ensured they cannot take their cars out for their commute to work or simply a spin around town. A few owners have switched to their other not-so-so premium cars in their fleet for their daily commute, while a couple of them have already sold their high end luxury cruisers. Some owners are negotiating an extended warranty period with the auto giant.

As per the star agreement, the cars get a free service once a year or 15,000 kms, for three years. They also get the standard warranty of a company that covers most of the car's maintenance, but parts like tyres are not covered, like is the case with most auto brands.

A car owner said that he carefully picks the road he would drive his car on, even if it means taking a longer route to reach the destination.

**B2. Give reasons :** (2)

**Give reasons for the following.**

- (i) The luxury car owners have parked their vehicles in a garage because.....
- (ii) The luxury car owners regret for their decision of buying luxury cars because.....
- (iii) Many luxury car owners have sold out their cars because.....
- (iv) The car owners take longer routes because.....

**B3. Word register:**

Prepare a word register relating register automobile industry: (2)

**B4. Language study:**

**Change the following into direct speech:** (2)

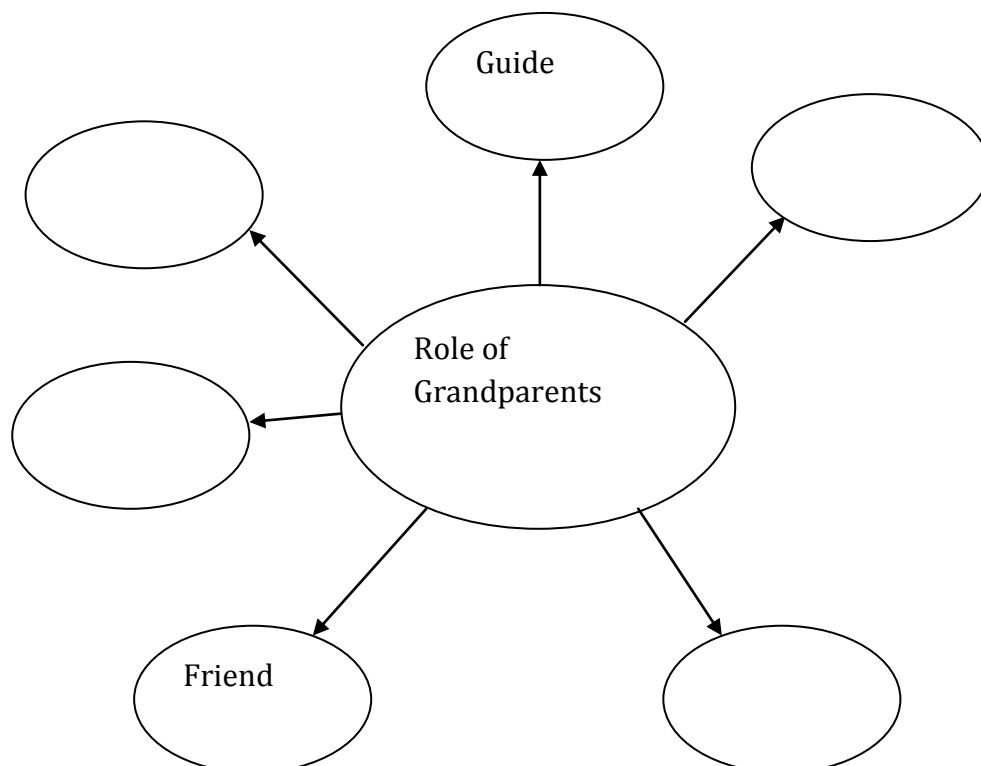
Many owners said they regretted their decision to buy the premium buys.

<b>B 5. Personal Response</b> (2) Comment on the bad condition of roads in your locality
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**(Section II: Poetry)**

**Q.3 (A) Read the following extract and complete the activities:** (5)

**A1. Complete the following web .** (2)



"Oh the value of the elderly! How could anyone not know?  
 They hold so many keys, so many things they can show.  
 We all will read the other side this I firmly believe  
 And the elderly are closest oh what clues we could retrieve.  
 For their characters are closest to how we'll be on high.  
 They are the ones most developed, you can see it if you try.  
 They've let go of the frivolous and kept things that are dear.  
 The memories of so sweet, of loved ones that were near.  
 As a nation we are missing our greatest true resource,  
 To get to know our elders and let them guide our course."

**A2. Message:**

In what way can the elders guide us? (2)

**A3. Match the pairs of rhyming words as they appear in the poem: (1)**

	<b>'A'</b>		<b>'B'</b>
(1)	believe	(a)	try
(2)	high	(b)	resource
		(c)	retrieve

**(B) Read the following lines and complete the activities: (5)**

**B.1. True or False:**

**Read the following statements and state whether they are true or false.**

- (1) Deforestation is common in our world.
- (2) Environmental pollution is not the silent feature of the world today.
- (3) Wildlife is endangered.
- (4) Number of rivers are pollution free.

There lie abundant rivers with pollution  
 There fly multiple clouds with contamination  
 And when good food goes to waste  
 The valleys of the earth bury their paste

Our world is an institution  
 Of environmental pollution  
 We choose not to care  
 For our future generations.

And I for one am guilty  
 For buying the hundreds of electronic gadgets  
 That attracts the industries to produce like maggots  
 Environmental pollution is at the heart of our planet.

The forests are dying  
 Wildlife is crying  
 Millions of fish are dying



Mother earth is sighing

**B2. Message:**

(2)

Glance through the extract and complete the following table:

<b>Dos To save our earth</b>	<b>Dont's To save our earth</b>
(1)	(1)
(2)	(2)

**B3. Matching:**

**Match the lines given in Column A with the figures of speech given in Column B:**

<b>'A'</b>	<b>'B'</b>
(1) For buying the hundreds of electronic gadgets	(a) Repetition
(2) The forests are dying	(b) Metaphor
	(c) Hyperbole
	(d) Personification

(Section III: Rapid Reading)

**Q.4 Read the following extract and complete the activities given below:**

**(5)**

**A1: Complete:**

**Choose the correct alternatives and complete the following:**

(1) Gerrard expects to remain in the cottages for.....

- (a) the rest of the evening
- (b) about another ten minutes
- (c) fifteen minutes

(2) Gerrard finds the situation very.....

- (a) Frightening
- (b) Original
- (c) Melodramatic

**Gerrard:** Well, tell him to phone up directly. I must know. Yes, I expect I'll still be here, but you mustn't count on that ..... in about ten minutes time. Right-ho.  
Good bye

[He puts down the phone and goes to the divan on the left, where there is travelling bag and starts packing. Whilst he is thus engaged, another man, similar in build to Gerrard enters from the right silently-revolver in hand. He is flashily dressed in an overcoat and soft hat. He bumps accidentally against the table and at the sound Gerrard turns quickly]

**Gerrard:** (Pleasantly). Why, this is surprise,  
Mr. – er –

**Intruder:** I'm glad you pleased for long. Put those paws up!

**Gerrard:** This is all very melodramatic not very original, perhaps, but –

**Intruder:** Trying to be calm and – er –

**Gerrard:** "Nonchalant" is your word, I think

**Intruder:** Thanks a lot. You'll soon stop being smart. I'll make you crawl  
I want to know a few things, see.

**Gerrard:** Anything you like. I know, all the answers, but before we begin I should like to  
Change my position: you may be comfortable, but I am not.

**Intruder:** Sit down, there and no funny business. (Motions to chair and seats himself on the  
divan by the bag)  
Now then, we'll have a nice little talk about yourself!

**A2. Gerrard and Intruder are different in nature – Elaborate.**

**(2)**

**A3. Write from the extract sentence/phrases that indicate the Intruder's threatening manner.**

**(SECTION IV: Writing Skill)**

**Q.5 (A) A1 or A2 Do any one of the following activities:**

**(5)**

**A1. Look at the news heading and write a letter to congratulate Anjana.**

“Nasik’s Anjana wins 800 m Asian Youth Gold.”

**OR**

**A2. Concession for students :**

Students commuting daily to their schools by bus (S.T or local) may apply to

The controller/stationmaster

Documents required :

(i) bonafide certificate

(ii) latest photograph

(iii) address proof

Write an application in response to the above advertisement, addressing the controllers/Stationmaster of your area.

**(B) Do any one of the following:**

**(5)**

**B1. Report:**

**Look at the following news and prepare a report on the same:**

**Masti ki Pathshala on IIM – A Footpath**

Ahmadabad : Every morning some kids gather around a young man as he greets them with sweets and starts his class near Indian Institute of Management (IIM-A) wall. This class has no blackboard. The man hands over a chalk and charcoal and starts explaining alphabets and soon break into song as kids to join in. This is Masti ki Pathshala run by Ashish Vyas a 30 years old from Naranpura.

**OR**

**B2. Preparing questions:**

Referring to the given news item frame ten questions to interview Ashish Vyas.

**Q.6 (A) Information Transfer/Non-verbal to verbal:**

**(5)**

**A1.** Prepare a paragraph on ‘Problems in conservation of Wildlife and solutions’ using the points given in the following table:

Problems in Wildlife Conservation and Solution		
Man – Made Problems	Natural Problems	Solutions
• Population explosion	• Outbreak forest fires	• Provision of strict laws and -
• Ever growing need for agricultural land	• drought	• proper execution of the laws
• Over-exploitation of forests like wood etc.	• floods	• providing proper security to protect wildlife
• Poaching to meet ever increasing international demand for animal hides		• arranging for check-posts to detect poaching etc.

**A2. Read the following passage and draw a tree diagram to cover the main points:**

The Indian Judiciary is made up of courts at three levels. The Supreme Court is the apex court of India and it is for the whole Union of India. There are High Courts for each state. In each state, at the district level, there are Sessions Courts.

The Sessions Court Judge has under his jurisdiction the Assistant Sessions Judge, the chief Metropolitan Magistrate or the chief Judicial Magistrate. The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate has under his jurisdiction the Metropolitan Magistrate and the special Metropolitan Magistrate.

<b>(B) Complete any <i>one</i> of the following : B-1 or B-2 :</b>		(5)
B1. Write your views supporting. "The need for Cashless Transactions Today" using the points given in the view column :		
<b>View</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• convenience</li> <li>• curbing black money</li> <li>• preventing tax evasion</li> <li>• no risk of carrying cash</li> <li>• saving paper</li> <li>• preventing illegal transactions</li> <li>• add your own points</li> </ul>		

**B2. Speech:**

Prepare a speech on the issue 'Advantages of Cashless Transaction', raised in the class assembly.

**Q.7 Develop a paragraph of about 100 words expanding any one of the following expression:**

(5)

(1) Books our best friends.

(2) Child labour – A curse.

(3) ..... That's how we saved the animals during drought time.

**Maharashtra State Board**  
**Class X English**  
**Board Paper – 2017 Solution**

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**(SECTION I: Reading Skills, Vocabulary and Grammar)**

**1 (A)**

**A1. True or False.**

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. True

**A2. Order:**

1. (i) The writer's friend wanted him to buy a tie.
2. (ii) On the very first day the writer had no time to buy a tie.
3. (iii) The writer walked down on Sunday and saw shops with variety of ties.
4. (iv) The writer left the place on Tuesday morning.

**A3. Matching:**

- i. strolling - to walk without hurrying
- ii. anxious- wanting something very much
- iii. prohibited- to stop something
- iv. frantic- done in a very urgent way

**A4. Language study**

- i. The right shop was located by me.
- ii. None of the shops were open.

**A 5. Personal Response:**

One day, as I was eating watermelon and I accidentally swallowed the seeds. My sister told me that now its tree will grow inside my stomach. I cried really very hard and was frightened even when my parents told me nothing like that would happen. It was only after they gave me a fake medicine, I stopped crying. After that I never ate watermelon until I was 9 years old, fearing that it might happen again.

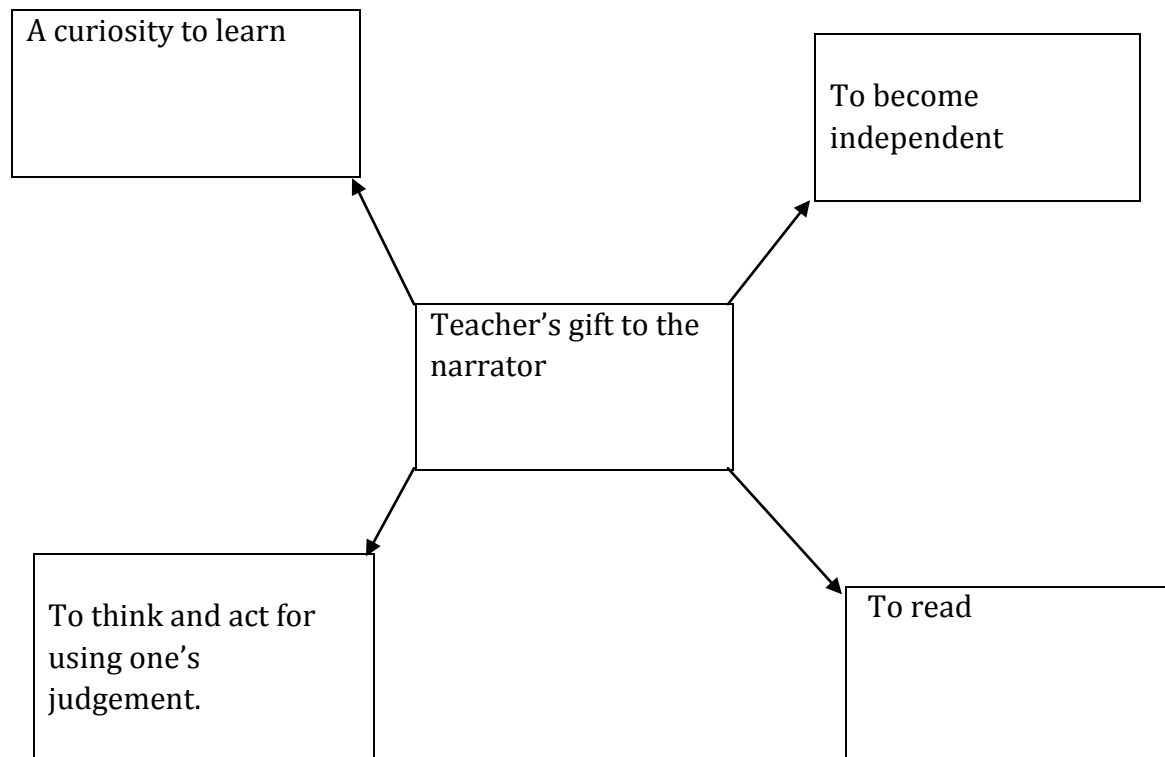
**B.**

**B.1 Complete:**

- I. I was able to read Shakespeare by the time I was ten.

- II. It was Mr. A.N. Patil my Marathi and Hindi teacher who made a huge impression on me.
- III. Every lesson that Mr. Patil took was spiced with half a dozen or more anecdotes from a wide variety of subjects.
- IV. One of the greatest gifts any teacher can give a student is to inculcate a curiosity to learn.

**B2. Web:**



**B3. Match:**

**'A'**

- i. inculcate - to teach and impress by frequent repetition
- ii. incredibly- extremely good, great
- iii. desperate- very sad and upset because of loss of hope
- iv. repository- a person with a lot of information

**B4. Frame questions:**

- i. What did she teach you?
- ii. When did you read Chaucer?

**B5. Personal Response:**

Teachers are the ones who influence every student. They are like beacons of light, who guide students in the formative years of their life. Teachers mould students like a potter mould his clay carefully, and in the process shape their future. What students learn from their teachers, sticks with them forever.

### Q.2.A: Chart

- i. Do the exercise
- ii. Have a brisk half-hour walk at least thrice a week
- iii. Vary the types of exercise
- iv. Do not overdo the exercise

### A2. Effects:

- |      | ‘A’                       | ‘B’  |
|------|---------------------------|--|
| i.   | Regular exercise –        | relief from difficult feelings and thoughts        |
| ii.  | Hard work out -           | releases chemicals called endorphins               |
| iii. | Swimming -                | leaves the mind free to dwell on negative thoughts |
| iv.  | Over-straining exercise – | a feeling of exhaustion                            |

### A3.

Verb	Noun	Adjective
Pay	Payment	Paid/ Payable
Consider	Consideration	Considerable

1. We won a **paid** holiday to Dubai as a lucky-draw prize last week.

### A.4.Language study:

- i. It helps you to stick with an exercise, doesn't it?
- ii. Be careful not to overdo exercise, will you?

### A5. My opinion:

Exercising makes the produce endorphins, which are chemicals that can help us feel more peaceful and happy. Exercise can improve a person's sleep cycle. It can also help people suffering from mild depression and low self-esteem. Exercise gives a real sense of accomplishment and pride at having achieved a certain goal — like beating an old time in the 100-meter dash. Exercising to maintain a healthy weight decreases a person's risk of developing certain diseases, including type 2 diabetes and

high blood pressure. These diseases, which used to be found mostly in adults, are becoming more common in teens. So, exercise helps people overcome these.

### **B1. MCQ**

- i. The luxury cars have largely gone missing from its roads,
- ii. A few luxury car owner have switched to their other not so premium cars.
- iii. The car owners get the standard warranty of a company.
- iv. Many owners regretted their decision to buy the premium car due to the pitiable condition of road.

### **B2. Give reasons:**

- i. The luxury car owners have parked their vehicles in a garage because the owners cannot take the risk them on the city of potholes.
- ii. The luxury car owners regret for their decision of buying luxury cars because of the pitiable condition of the roads.
- iii. Many luxury car owners have sold out their cars because they cannot take their fleet for their daily commute or simply a spin around the town.
- iv. The car owners take longer routes because the company covers most of its car's maintenance but parts like tyres are not covered.

### **B3. Word Register:**

1. Garage
2. Fuel
3. Capacity
4. Mileage
5. Torque
6. Engine
7. Gearbox
8. Suspension
9. Alloy wheel
10. Cylinders

### **B4: Language study:**

Many owners said, "We regret our decision to buy the premium buys."

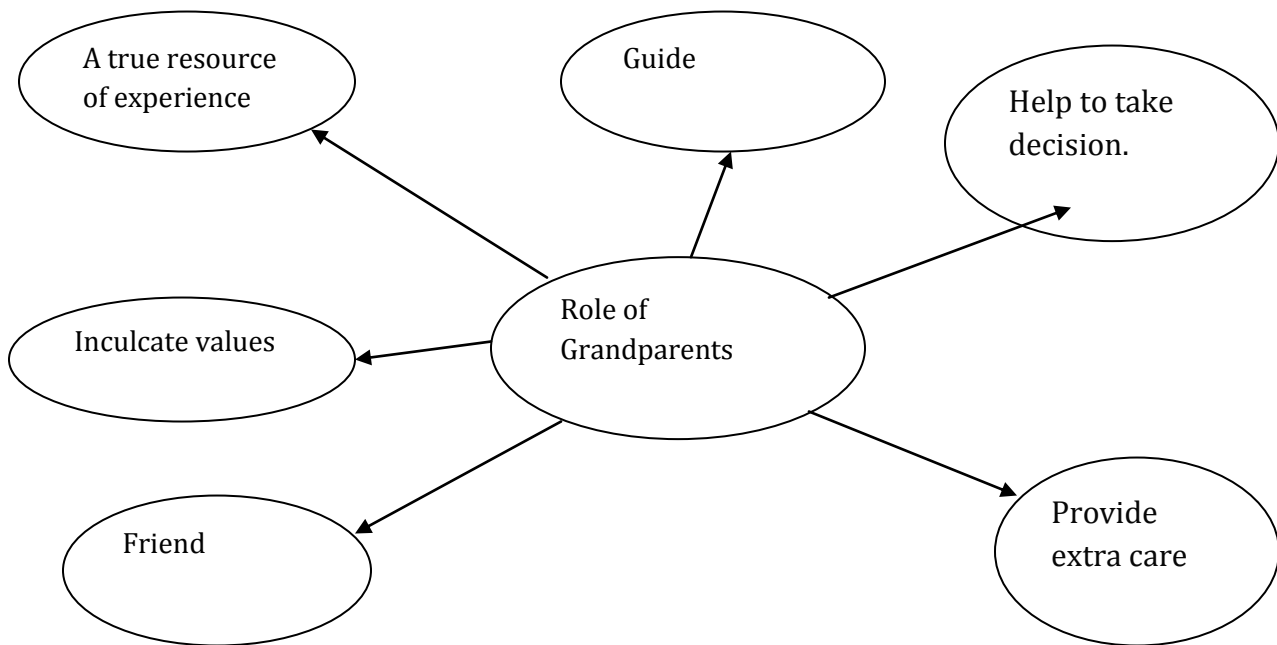
### **B5: Personal Response:**

Roads in India are a popular means of both passenger and goods movement. Travel by road provides a lot of flexibility, convenience, speed and reliability, particularly at short distances in cities and towns. Therefore, it is the most preferred medium of transport. But roads in Indian cities, towns and those connecting them have been in a very poor condition. Their development and maintenance have not kept pace with the growth in vehicular population. Consequently, there are accidents, serious injuries and deaths all around. Indian roads are red with human blood. The rate of road accidents and resulting loss in man and material in India is one of the highest.



## Section II: Poetry

Q.3.



A2:

The elders guide the children in many ways. They are like trees under which the children rest. They help children learn values and ethics of the family. Many times they assist children in taking correct decisions. Children get encouraged by the elders. The elders play very important role in children's lives.

A3.

'A'

1. believe- retrieve
2. high- try

(B)

### B.1 True or False

1. True
2. False
3. True

4. False

**B2: Message**

Dos To save our earth	Don'ts To save our earth
1. Clean the rivers 2. Plant more trees	1. More use of electronic gadgets 2. Not to release the contaminated water in rivers.

**B3: Matching**

'A'

1. For buying the hundreds of - Hyperbole  
Electronic gadgets
2. The forest are dying – Personification

Q.4.

**A.1 Complete:**

1. Gerrard expects to remain in the cottage for about another ten minutes.
2. Gerrard finds the situation very melodramatic.

**A2.** Gerrard is more realistic whereas the intruder is a melodramatic person. Gerrard is realistic but the intruder likes to live the way he wants.

**A3.** The intruder wanted to scare Gerrard. In one incident he threatens Gerrard and says I'll make you crawl. He says he wants to know a few things and asks him to sit down. He asks him not to do the funny business.

#### **Section IV: Writing Skill**

**Q.5:A.1.**

Ravina Gupta,

Delhi,

12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2012

Dear Anjana,

I would like to congratulate you on your gold in the 800m race at the Asian Youth Games. Everybody here is proud of you. Your hard work has paid you off. When I came to know about your success, I was absolutely delighted. Many people from around here are happy about your achievement and they have sent you good wishes through various platforms. Many more girls will be encouraged by your win and will also want to make a mark in different sports. I want you to work harder and win Gold in Olympics.

Once again many congratulations. All the best for your future!

Yours affectionately,

Ravina Gupta

**A.2:**

Ravi Kumar Sharma,

Saras Baug, Mumbai

21th Jan. 2015

To,

The Controller,

MHRTC,

Mumbai-40010

Subject: Requesting Student Concession

Respected Sir,

I, Ravi Kumar, want to avail the concession facility provided by the MHRTC. I am a student of SVE School. I have to spend a considerable amount of money as I travel to school by MHRTC on a daily basis. This concession will be a real help for my parents as they are daily wage workers.

I have attached the following documents as mentioned in the advertisement.

1. Bonafide certificate
2. Latest photograph
3. Address proof

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours Faithfully,

Ravi Kumar Sharma

## **B1. Report writing**

### **A School on Footpath**

Ravi M

Naranpura, 23 March 2017: Ashish Vyas is a 30-year-old man from Naranpura who is a favourite among some street children near IIM – Ahmedabad. His initiative, called Masti ki Pathshala, is a school for underprivileged children. Every morning, some kids gather around him outside the IIM and after he has greeted them with sweets, class begins. There is no blackboard but just chalk and charcoal, and children seem to love Ashish's way of teaching.

As the students learn from him in an absolute disciplined and manner, passersby are often seen halting right in their tracks in astonishment and awe. The students answer all the questions asked by him and are generally dressed appropriately. The class usually begins with morning prayers in different languages. Ashish hopes that his relatives and friends join him in this initiative to make education accessible to all and in turn make India a better place.

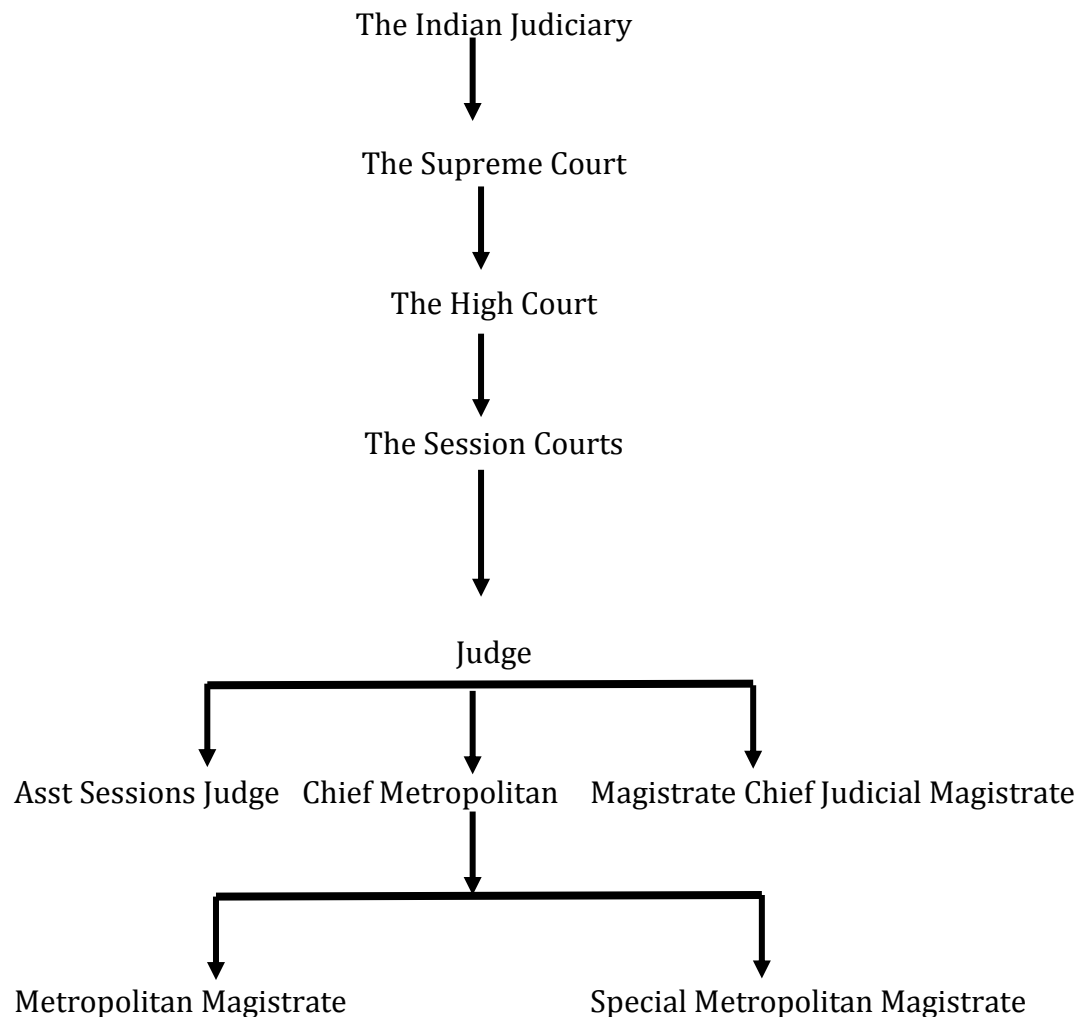
**B.2.**

1. What inspired you to start Masti ki Pathshala?
2. Whose assistance do you take in times of difficulties?
3. How do you manage the financial needs of the school?
4. How did the government respond to your idea?
5. What are the challenges you face while conducting the classes?
6. Where do you Masti ki Pathshala see after 2 years?
7. Why did you choose the place near IIM?
8. How do the students get enrolled?
9. How did the community react to this?
10. What are your future plans?

**Q.6. (A)**

There was an advertisement on saving wildlife in a daily newspaper. I was wondering, why this has happened? Are we all responsible for it? The situation is not so good and it is getting worse day by day. Mahatma Gandhi once said that there is enough on earth for everybody's need but not for everybody's greed. Population of India has exploded over the past few years. This has added the burden on agricultural land. Trees are being cut indiscriminately for selfish motives and due to this, many animals and birds have lost their habitats. Many species which were important to run different natural cycles are now endangered. In addition to that, some people smuggle animal to different countries for commercial purposes. Deforestation causes forest fires, droughts, and floods. These disasters are man-made, and are capable of destroying civilisations. The government needs to make strict rules to curb indiscriminate hunting of animals. Strict laws should not only be made but properly executed. Check posts should be built in sensitive areas that are prone to illegal poaching activities. Security should be provided to wildlife just as humans are given police protection.

A.2.



(B)

B.1.

### **The Need for Cashless Transactions**

Ever since the Government of India took the bold move to demonetise Rs 1000 and 500 currency notes, we have often been hearing the word “cashless”. The word ‘cashless’ means to use online transaction mediums to as much as possible. It simply means paying bills and cost of goods by debit or credit cards. People can also use net banking or mobile apps that facilitate online transactions. The Government has also introduced an app for the same purpose. But quite a few people still ask the question, why should one switch to cashless transactions?

There are many benefits of cashless transactions. People can stop carrying cash while buying anything as they can pay through phone-banking. Bills can be auto-debited through your bank

accounts by giving standing instructions to your bank. The amount is always deposited in the account of the beneficiary so it becomes easy for the Government to track transactions and reduce corruption. Customers can trace their history of expenses as all of them are digitally recorded. People can also deposit or transfer any amount whenever they want. They need not stand in long queues at the bank or outside to pay their bill payments. This saves a lot of time.

Cashless transactions also help in saving trees as the reduction in cash transactions will lead to less manufacturing of paper and decrease in cutting down of trees.

Thus, as we can see, there are many significant positive effects of cashless transactions. Everybody has to accept the change willingly. The responsibility of the young generation increases here as they have to teach to the elderly people and help them adapt to a cashless lifestyle.

## **B2. Speech**

Respected Principal, Teachers, and my dear friends, I am going to talk today about cashless transactions. Cashless India is the latest move by the Indian government to encourage the use of technology to handle and monitor cash flow. When people start using e-banking and e-commerce methods to solve their payment issues, the flow of black money will automatically be controlled. The main intention is to make people put all their earnings into the bank and pay their taxes diligently so that the nation's economy is systematized and does not suffer. This is the most effective way and the fastest method to stop the spread of black money.

Government encourages cashless transaction and as a result, customers can avail the benefits in taxes. The government transfers the amounts directly in the accounts of the beneficiaries resulting in fewer chances of fraudulent transactions. As people shift to cashless transactions, the government will not need to print more currency notes. This will help the government to stop the flow of fake currency and also save trees.

Cashless transaction is the need of the hour, and everybody should adapt to this change at the earliest. Once we take this change in a positive manner, India will move a step forward to be a better nation globally.



## Q.7

### **Books are our best friends**

Man cannot live alone. He needs friends or something he loves the most. Therefore, he likes to live in the company of fellow humans, or animals which he calls pets. There are some who love the company of nature. But there are also those who love the company of books. A book is a map of someone's life. Every page of a great book is a storehouse of man's best and noblest thoughts. In a library, you meet all these mighty minds who have lived around the world during different eras. The moment you choose to read a book, you choose to enter the life of the author and dive deep into a world carefully created by them. Books make us laugh and cry with the characters and the lives they lead, and they also teach us values that we would love to preserve and pass on. Books, therefore, are indeed our best friends.

### **Child Labour- A curse**

We often see children below 14 year of age labouring in hotel or on streets. Child labour is a very common practice in India. Many attempts have been made by the government to stop child labour. However, children working as domestic helps, nannies, waiters, and even daily wage workers in a very common sight. This deprives children of education and affects their mental, social and physical development. The government will always be the forerunner in eliminating this curse. But it is also our duty as responsible citizens to report about places that encourage child labour. If you see an adolescent working in a hotel or with a contractor, report it to the authorities immediately. Do not encourage families to get young girls as domestic help and nannies from rural areas. Lend a helping hand in pulling them out of this circle and if you can, help them with their education. These children of today, if better educated, will become the successful and proud professionals and represent the country globally tomorrow. Each one, should therefore, enrich one.

### **.....That's how we saved animals during drought time.**

When we looked around the forest, we couldn't see any source of water. It was difficult for the animals to live with no reservoir of water. All my friends decided to rescue them. There were rabbits, deer, monkeys etc. All my friends decided to look around the water resource. After searching for almost a week, we found a waterhole 20 kilometers away from the forest. Now, there was another challenge; bringing the water to the forest. So we took help from the farmers to get the water to the forest. We arranged big pipes and connected them with the motor. We arranged the fuel needed to run the motor. And after a lot of efforts, we filled the lake in the forest. Finally, all our efforts worked very well; when we saw the animals drinking water from the lake, it was an overwhelming experience. We went back to our village content and happy. That's how we saved animals during the drought time.

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