

Sample Question Paper 3

English Language & Literature 10th

Time : 3 Hrs.

Max. 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 Textbook.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section A Reading Skills (20 Marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully. (10)

1. Social media has revolutionised the way we communicate, transforming it from a predominantly face-to-face interaction into a digital exchange that spans the globe. Platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and TikTok have become integral parts of our daily lives, offering new and diverse ways to connect with others. However, while these platforms provide numerous benefits, they also pose significant challenges that affect how we interact, share information and form relationships.

2. One of the primary benefits of social media is its ability to connect people regardless of geographical boundaries. Friends and family members who live miles apart can easily keep in touch, sharing photos, videos and messages in real-time. This connectivity extends beyond personal relationships, enabling individuals to join online communities and discuss shared interests from hobbies to professional networking. For instance, LinkedIn has become a crucial tool for career development, allowing professionals to connect with potential employers and colleagues globally.

3. Moreover, social media platforms have become powerful tools for information dissemination. News spreads rapidly through these channels, often faster than traditional media outlets. This immediacy has democratised the flow of information, giving a voice to those who might otherwise be unheard of.

4. Despite these advantages, the impact of social media on communication is not entirely positive. One of the significant drawbacks is the potential for misinformation and fake news. The rapid spread of unverified information can lead to misunderstandings, panic and even harm. Social media algorithms often prioritise sensational content which can distort public perception and create echo chambers where users are only exposed to information that reinforces their existing beliefs.

5. Another issue is the effect of social media on interpersonal relationships. The convenience of digital communication can sometimes undermine the depth and quality of interactions. Online exchanges often need more nuances of face-to-face conversations such as body

Stage II: Proficiency Level

language and tone of voice, which are essential for effective communication. This can lead to misinterpretations and conflicts. Additionally, the curated nature of social media profiles can create unrealistic expectations and feelings of inadequacy as individuals compare their lives to the seemingly perfect lives portrayed by others.

6. Furthermore, the addictive nature of social media can have adverse effects on mental health. Constant notifications and the pressure to stay connected can lead to stress, anxiety and decreased productivity. Studies have shown that excessive use of social media is linked to issues such as depression and loneliness, particularly among teenagers and young adults.
7. In conclusion, social media has undeniably transformed modern communication offering remarkable benefits and significant challenges. While it enhances connectivity and information sharing, it also presents risks such as misinformation, superficial interactions and mental health concerns. As social media continues to evolve, it is crucial to find a balance that maximises its positive impacts while mitigating its negative effects. Responsible usage and critical thinking are essential in navigating the complex landscape of digital communication.

Answer the following questions based on the above passage.

- (i) Why is social media said to have 'revolutionised' communication in paragraph? (1)
- (ii) According to paragraph 2, social media helps people in all the following ways EXCEPT (1)

(a) Staying connected with loved ones	(b) Building professional networks
(c) Discovering local places	(d) Joining global communities
- (iii) Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets. (2)

Social media has (democratised/delayed) the flow of information by allowing voices from all backgrounds to be heard. (Paragraph 3)
- (iv) Select the option that is True from (a)-(c) given below for what the phrase 'echo chambers' suggests in paragraph 4. (1)

(a) Platforms that promote diverse viewpoints equally.	(b) Environments where users encounter only views that match their own.
(c) Places where people go to physically shout their opinions.	
- (v) Complete the analogy by selecting one of the two correct options (a), (b) notifications : distraction :: : (Paragraph 6). (1)

(a) comparison : inadequacy	(b) scrolling : verification
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- (vi) How can social media negatively affect the quality of interpersonal communication? (Paragraph 5) (1)
- (vii) Choose the correct pair of main ideas for paragraphs 5 and 6. (2)

I. Social media supports meaningful face-to-face relationships.	II. Social media may weaken real-world communication and cause self-doubt.
III. The addictive nature of social media can negatively affect mental health.	IV. Social media improves mental health by reducing loneliness and anxiety.

Options	Main Idea of Paragraph 5	Main Idea of Paragraph 6
(a)	II	III
(b)	I	IV
(c)	III	II
(d)	IV	I

- (viii) According to paragraph 7, what is essential for using social media effectively and responsibly? (1)

2. Read the following passage carefully.

(10)

'The Effects of Plastic Pollution on Marine Life'

- Plastic pollution is a growing environmental concern with significant impacts on marine life. Every year, an estimated 8 million tons of plastic waste enter the oceans, affecting countless marine species. One notable case involves sea turtles which often mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, their primary food source. Studies show that over 50% of sea turtles have consumed plastic, leading to intestinal blockages, malnutrition and even death.
- Another alarming example is the plight of seabirds. According to research published in the journal 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences', nearly 90% of seabirds have ingested plastic. Birds such as albatrosses and petrels often eat small plastic pieces mistaking them for fish or other prey. This ingestion can cause physical harm, reduce the birds' ability to absorb nutrients and decrease their reproductive success. It is estimated that by 2050, 99% of all seabird species will have ingested plastic.
- Moreover, plastic pollution affects smaller marine organisms, such as plankton, which are crucial to the oceanic food web. Microplastics, tiny plastic particles resulting from the breakdown of larger debris, are ingested by plankton. Studies indicate that microplastics are found in 73% of fish caught at mid-ocean depths. This ingestion not only harms the plankton but also introduces toxins into the food chain, affecting larger animals like fish, dolphins and even humans who consume seafood.
- Efforts to combat plastic pollution include initiatives like beach cleanups, bans on single-use plastics and the development of biodegradable materials. Countries such as Canada and the UK have committed to banning single-use plastics by 2021. Addressing plastic pollution is essential to protect marine ecosystems and ensure the health of our planet's oceans.

Fact/Figure	Statistic
Annual plastic waste entering oceans	8 million tons
Sea turtles consuming plastic	Over 50%
Seabirds ingesting plastic	Nearly 90%
Projected seabirds ingesting plastic by 2050	99%
Microplastic found in fish at mid-ocean depths	73%
Countries committed to banning single-use plastics	Canada, UK

Answer the following questions based on your reading of the above passage.

- Why do sea turtles often consume plastic in the oceans? (1)
 - They naturally prefer plastic over real food
 - Plastic is the easiest material to catch
 - They mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, their primary food source
 - They use plastic for nesting
- According to the table, name any three statistics that highlight the impact of plastic pollution on marine organisms. (1)
- Complete the following by selecting the correct option from those given in brackets. (1)

By 2050, almost all seabird species will have ingested plastic. Based on the passage and data, the projected percentage is expected to reach (90% / 99%), which reflects this trend.
- What does the phrase 'reduce the birds' ability to absorb nutrients' in paragraph 2 most likely mean? (1)
- Complete the following with the correct option. (Paragraph 3) (1)

The statement 'microplastics are found in 73% of fish caught at mid-ocean depths' implies that

(a) only deep-sea creatures are exposed to pollution
 (b) microplastics don't affect the food chain
 (c) plastic pollution has reached widespread levels in the ocean
 (d) only fish in shallow waters are safe

(vi) Complete the following appropriately. (1)

One likely reason why microplastics pose a threat to the oceanic food web is
 (Paragraph 3).

(vii) How might banning single-use plastics contribute to reducing the impact of plastic pollution on marine ecosystems? (1)

(viii) Do you think public awareness campaigns and cleanups alone are sufficient to address plastic pollution? Support your answer with evidence from paragraph 4. (2)

(ix) Fill in the blank with ONE appropriate word. (1)

Addressing plastic pollution is essential to protect marine ecosystems and ensure the of our planet's oceans.

Section B Grammar and Creative Writing Skills (20 Marks)

Grammar

3. Complete ANY TEN of the following twelve tasks as directed. (10 × 1 = 10)

(i) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the following sentence. (1)

Shadow puppets in China.

(a) are originating (b) originate (c) originated (d) will have originated

(ii) Read the given sentence from an article. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence. (1)

Today, we are living in a society where information is everything and different forms of media has becoming the strapping tool of communication and connectivity.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

(iii) Mayank has seen a drama which he was narrating to his friend. Report the statement from the drama. (1)

The mother said to her son, "Change your shoes."

(iv) Complete the sentence keeping the meaning of the statement intact. (1)

The boss said to him, "Please tell me what the old man said today."

The boss requested him

(a) to tell him what the old man had said today. (b) to tell him what the old man said that day.
 (c) to tell him what the old man said today. (d) to tell him what the old man had said that day.

(v) Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line. (1)

You have a university degree to take part in this competition.
 (need/mustn't/needn't)

(vi) Fill in the blank with the correct form of verb given in the brackets. (1)

If they (inform) me earlier, I would have joined the meeting.

(vii) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line. (1)

I can speak Arabic fluently when I was a child and we lived in Morocco.

Options	Error	Correction
(a)	can	could
(b)	was	were
(c)	lived	live
(d)	in	at

(viii) Complete the given sentence by filling the blank with the correct option. (1)

The plane in two hours.

(a) will have taken off (b) will be took off (c) will take off (d) will be take off

(ix) Complete the narration of the dialogue between Gautami and Simran. (1)

Gautami Wow! Your new dress is very beautiful.

Simran Thank you. My mother gifted it to me on my last birthday.

Gautami exclaimed cheerfully and told Simran

(x) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option. (1)

..... students succeeded in passing than last year.

(a) Few (b) Fewer (c) Little (d) Much

(xi) Complete the line from a self-awareness song by filling the blank with the correct option. (1)

I'm busy;

but not in the way

..... people accept.

I'm busy calming my fear
and finding my courage.

I'm busy listening to my kids.

I'm busy getting in touch
with what is real.

(a) most (b) much (c) many (d) must

(xii) Fill in the blank to complete the sentence in a teacher's diary by choosing the correct option. (1)

There aren't chairs in the classroom for the guests.

(a) much (b) any (c) many (d) some

Writing

(10)

Note: All details presented in the questions in writing are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

4. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (5)

A. Read the following advertisement for products using solar energy.

Solar Power Systems for A Greener India

- Excellent Offers • Solar Cookers
- Solar Lanterns • Solar Heating/Cooking Systems • Solar Water Heater

Raj Solar Sales and Service 45-Panchkuan Road New Delhi

Write a letter to the editor of an English daily making a plea to the common people to switch over to solar energy to conserve electricity and limit electricity bills.

Or

B. You are Karan Malik, the coordinator of the ABC Public School. You want to place a bulk order for school winter jackets to M/S Sinha Garments. Write a letter in about 120 words regarding the same. Remember to include all the necessary information about quality and quantity of products, school discount, delivery date and mode of payment.

5. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (5)

A. Your school is hosting an Inter-school Tech Fest. Two tech experts have been shortlisted to conduct the keynote session.

Excerpt 1

...I'm a coding instructor who mentors high schoolers in AI and robotics. My workshops blend coding basics with fun experiments, ensuring participation even from beginners. I have conducted over 100 student-focused sessions across schools, aiming to simplify complex concepts through storytelling and games. I also design interactive activities like build-your-own-bot challenges to encourage hands-on learning and team collaboration.

BEST REGARDS

Ms. Tanya Kaul

Excerpt 2

...I'm a tech entrepreneur working on AI startups. I've given TEDx talks and mentor college students in innovation and app development. My sessions are rooted in real-world trends, exposing students to how technology is transforming industries. I encourage learners to think independently and build solutions that solve global problems using innovation.

BEST REGARDS

Mr. Rohan Pillai

Analyse both profiles and write an analytical paragraph justifying which speaker would better connect with and benefit school students at a tech fest.

Or

B. Nikhil is working on a documentary project for the school's Social Science exhibition. He is great at scriptwriting and generating impactful content. However, he lacks experience in handling technical equipment and managing field interviews. He has to choose a teammate from Nisha, Viren and Fatima.

Nisha Nisha is confident with filming and editing software. She can shoot and assemble videos quickly but prefers to work independently.

Viren Viren is friendly, outgoing and great at conducting interviews. He is not skilled in editing but ensures smooth interaction with participants.

Fatima Fatima is focused and reliable. She has some experience with documentary projects and is open to feedback, though she's slightly camera-shy.

Write an analytical paragraph analysing the strengths of each candidate and recommending who would be the best partner for Nikhil. Justify your choice based on the project's requirements. (You can think of alternative explanations that might support or validate the above statement.)

Section C Literature (40 Marks)

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the given two, (A) or (B). (5)

A. I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind. Anil made money by fits and starts. He would borrow one week, lend the next. He kept worrying about his next cheque but as soon as it arrived, he would go out and celebrate. It seems he wrote for magazines—a queer way to make a living! *(The Thief's Story)*

(i) What does the following information suggest about Anil's profession? (1)

He kept worrying about his next cheque but as soon as it arrived, he would go out and celebrate. It seems he wrote for magazines—a queer way to make a living!

Choose the most suitable option.

(a) He was a writer	(b) He was an actor
(c) He was an artist	(d) He did not have a job

(ii) Why did 'I' feel that writing for magazines was a queer way to make a living?

Answer in about 40 words. (2)

(iii) Categorise the following words from the extract into those related to income sources and spending habits. (1)

I. borrow	II. cheque
III. celebrate	IV. wrote for magazines
V. lend	

No.	Income Sources	Spending Habits
(a)	II, IV and V	I and III
(b)	I, II, and IV	III and V
(c)	I and III	II, IV and V
(d)	II and III	I, IV and V

(iv) What did the narrator mean by 'I made a little money this way'? (1)

Or

B. When I returned, there was an appalling spectacle. There was complete silence from the box, but from its air holes and chinks around the lid, blood had trickled and dried. I whipped off the lock and tore open the lid and Mij, exhausted and blood-spattered, whimpered and caught at my leg. He had torn the lining of the box to shreds; when I removed the last of it so that there were no cutting edges left, it was just ten minutes until the time of the flight and the airport was five miles distant. I put the miserable Mij back into the box, holding down the lid with my hand. I sat in the back of the car with the box beside me as the driver tore through the streets of Basra like a ricocheting bullet. *(Mijbil the Otter)*

(i) Which of the following options correctly states Maxwell's likely feelings in the situation below? (1)

"..... I put the miserable Mij back into the box, holding down the lid with my hand."

(a) Anxious	(b) Disappointed
(c) Guilty	(d) Both (a) and (c)

(ii) Where had 'I' gone? What is the appalling spectacle as mentioned in the extract? Answers in about 40 words. (2)

(iii) Select the option that correctly fills the following blank (1)

Mijbil was extremely miserable because

- (a) he didn't like outsiders
- (b) he was uncomfortable inside the box

(iv) Why did the author put Mij back into the box? (1)

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of given two. (5)

A.

"Ink trickled down to the bottom of the
household and little mouse Blink
strategically mouseholed. But up jumped
Custard, snorting like an engine, Clashed
his tail like irons in a dungeon, With a clatter
and a clank and a jangling squirm, He went
at the pirate like a robin at a worm." (*The Tale of Custard the Dragon*)

(i) "He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm." Why has the comparison been used here? Answer in 40 words. (2)

(ii) Fill in the blank with ONE WORD. (1)

The figure of speech used in 'with a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm' is

(iii) The extract mentions 'irons' in dungeons. (1)

According to this extract, what does the word 'irons' refer to?

(iv) What is the poet's purpose in using the onomatopoeic words given in the extract? (1)

(a) To emphasise the boldness of Custard	(b) To introduce the character
(c) To impress upon the readers	(d) To make Custard bold enough

Or

B.

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

He should be lurking in shadow,
Sliding through long grass
Near the water hole
Where plump deer pass.

(*A Tiger in the Zoo*)

(i) Why does a tiger express his rage quietly? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

(ii) Complete the following suitably. (1)

The tiger in a 'quiet rage' because

(iii) How does the tiger show his presence? (1)

(iv) The meaning of the line 'in his quiet rage' is that (1)

1. the tiger is hungry	2. the tiger is sleepy
3. the tiger is unhappy and controlling his anger	4. the tiger is lazy

Select the correct option.

(a) Both 1 and 2	(b) Both 1 and 3	(c) Only 3	(d) Only 4
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8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions in about 40-50 words. $(4 \times 3 = 12)$

- (i) What is Lomov's reaction when Chubukov says that he is not used to facing misbehaviour by a young man like Lomov? (*The Proposal*)
- (ii) Where should the tiger have been according to the poet? (*A Tiger in the Zoo*)
- (iii) According to the poet, what do 'fire and ice' represent? Do you agree with him? (*Fire and Ice*)
- (iv) What tells you that Anne loved her grandmother? (*From the Diary of the Anne Frank*)
- (v) What was the basic idea of the Buddha's preaching? (*The Sermons at Benares*)

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in about 40-50 words. $(2 \times 3 = 6)$

- (i) Why do you think the narrator used to feel that 'friends were more trouble than help'? What could have led him to believe this? (*The Thief's Story*)
- (ii) Do you think Richard's mother was too indulgent when she bought him things like cameras, telescopes and microscopes? Give two reasons to support your answer. (*The Making of a Scientist*)
- (iii) How do you know that Tricki had an affluent life? (*A Triumph of Surgery*)

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 100-120 words. $(1 \times 6 = 6)$

A. Blind superstition can prevent people from seeing the realities of life. How far is this statement true with respect to The 'Sermon at Benares' and 'A Letter To God'?

Or

B. You have been chosen to address a podcast on the topic 'Nature has many wonders that many people take for granted and never pay attention to it.' Prepare the draft of the podcast in not more than 120 words with reference to the poem 'Fog'.

You may begin this way

Good Afternoon, everyone!

Today, I'd like to focus my talk on Nature. (.....)

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 100-120 words. $(1 \times 6 = 6)$

A. Do you think parents like Mrs. Pumphrey exist? If yes, is it a good thing to pamper children? Why or why not? Answer with reference to 'The Triumph of Surgery'.

Or

B. Discuss the role of Ebright's mother in making him a scientist. *(The Making of a Scientist)*

Answers

1. (i) Social media is said to have 'revolutionised' communication because it transformed communication from face-to-face interactions to global digital exchanges.
(ii) (c) Discovering local places
(iii) democratised
(iv) (b) Environments where users encounter only views that match their own.
(v) (a) comparison : inadequacy
(vi) Social media weakens interpersonal communication by removing tone, gestures and facial expressions essential for understanding. It encourages superficial interactions and unrealistic self-presentation, often leading to misunderstandings, reduced emotional depth in relationships and feelings of inadequacy through constant comparison.
(vii) (a) II, III
(viii) To use social media effectively and responsibly, individuals must practise critical thinking, self-awareness and balanced usage. Being mindful of screen time and content consumed helps users benefit from connectivity while avoiding misinformation, emotional strain or unhealthy digital habits.

2. (i) (c) They mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, their primary food source
(ii) The three statistics that highlight the impact of plastic pollution on marine organisms are
(a) Annual plastic waste entering oceans: 8 million tons
(b) Sea turtles consuming plastic: Over 50%
(c) Seabirds ingesting plastic: Nearly 90%
(d) Projected seabirds ingesting plastic by 2050: 99%
(e) Microplastic found in fish at mid-ocean depths: 73% (Any three)
(iii) 99%
(iv) It means the ingestion of plastic causes physical harm that limits their ability to process real nutrients.
(v) (c) plastic pollution has reached widespread levels in the ocean
(vi) they introduce toxins into the food chain and harm organisms at the base level like plankton
(vii) Banning single-use plastics can significantly reduce the amount of plastic waste entering oceans, which in turn lowers the risk to marine animals and ecosystems.
(viii) No, while awareness and cleanups help, broader systemic changes like plastic bans and development of biodegradable alternatives are essential for long-term impact. Paragraph 4 supports this by citing international policy action.
(ix) health

3. (i) (c) originated
(ii)

Error	Correction
has becoming	have become

(iii) The mother ordered her son to change his shoes.
(iv) (d) to tell him what the old man had said that day.
(v) needn't
(vi) had informed
(vii) (a)

Error	Correction
can	could

(viii) (c) will take off
(ix) that her dress was very beautiful
(x) (b) Fewer

Mistake Alert

Don't make mistakes by failing to use 'fewer' when comparing countable nouns (like 'students') in two different groups or time periods. e.g. Fewer students succeeded.

(xi) (a) most
 (xii) (c) many

4. A. 147, Mayur Vihar
 New Delhi-5001XX
 11th September, 20XX
 The Editor
 The Hindustan Times
 K.G. Marg
 New Delhi-110001

Subject Creating Awareness towards Solar Energy

Sir/Ma'am

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to make the people aware of the growing need and demand for solar power. We all know that our Earth is facing threat from climate change. We also know that such a condition is a result of the excessive use of non-renewable sources of energy by humans. They don't realise that its overuse would exhaust the natural resources so fast that our future will be in jeopardy. We must conserve electricity which is the need of the hour.

However, this conservation can only be done if we harness solar energy. Various kinds of solar power systems like solar cookers, solar lanterns, solar heating and cooking systems, solar water-heater etc. are available in the market. These solar systems are non-polluting and economical and are available in different sizes. By using these in place of our regular equipments, we can save money and energy while saving the environment from depletion.

I, would therefore, request you to highlight this issue in your esteemed newspaper so that the concerned authorities can take urgent action and ensure that awareness is created among the public for the conservation of energy by making use of solar energy.

Thanking You

Yours sincerely

Karan Malik

A. Mistake Alert

Don't commit mistakes by turning the letter into an advertisement by copying phrases from the ad instead of writing a formal appeal in your own words.

Or

B. ABC Public School
 12, Pandava Road
 New Delhi
 6th February, 20XX
 M/s Sinha Garments
 Ashok Vihar
 New Delhi-2011XX

Subject Order for Winter Jackets

Sir/Ma'am

With reference to our previous correspondence, we are delighted to inform you that our school has decided to go ahead with the purchase of the school winter jackets for our students from your store. Our requirement is as follows

SIZE	QUANTITY
SMALL	80
MEDIUM	75
LARGE	45

Please make sure that the colour of the fabric matches the colour profile shared with you earlier and the logo of the school should be placed on the left side of the jacket.

Please note that the entire payment will be made only after the delivery and quality inspection of the material. Kindly make the delivery on or before 2nd March, 20XX. We request you to offer us a discount on the order and send us the official bill along with the product. Please review the order and if you have any queries, then kindly contact the undersigned.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

Karan Malik

(Coordinator)

Mob. No. 9811XXXXXX

5. A. After evaluating the profiles of Ms. Tanya Kaul and Mr. Rohan Pillai, it is evident that both bring valuable expertise in the field of technology. However, Ms. Tanya Kaul appears to be the more suitable choice for delivering the keynote session at a school-level tech fest. Her experience as a coding instructor who regularly mentors high school students demonstrates her familiarity with the learning needs and pace of school-age participants. The fact that she uses fun experiments, interactive games and hands-on challenges like build-your-own-bot activities shows that her sessions are both engaging and accessible to beginners. In contrast, Mr. Rohan Pillai's profile is more suited to advanced learners, as he works primarily with college students and startups, focusing on innovation and industry transformation. While his real-world insights are valuable, they may be too complex or abstract for younger students. Therefore, Ms. Kaul's student-friendly approach and relevant experience make her the ideal speaker for the event.

Or

B. Nikhil is proficient in scriptwriting and content creation but requires support in technical filming and field interviews for the school's documentary project. Among the three candidates, Nisha, Viren and Fatima, each brings distinct strengths. Nisha is highly skilled in filming and editing, which directly complements Nikhil's lack of technical expertise. However, her preference to work independently may hinder smooth collaboration. Viren excels in conducting field interviews due to his friendly and outgoing nature. He could effectively manage participant interaction-something Nikhil finds challenging-but lacks the technical skills needed for editing. Fatima, on the other hand, is focused, dependable and has some prior experience with similar projects. She is open to feedback, which would foster teamwork, though her camera-shyness may limit her contribution to interviews. Considering all aspects, Viren appears to be the best fit for Nikhil. His strength in managing interviews complements Nikhil's content expertise and together they can form a balanced team, provided they seek additional help for technical editing.

6. A. (i) (a) He was a writer

(ii) 'I' here refers to Hari Singh. Hari Singh was not an educated person so he could not understand what Anil wrote for a living. He was surprised to know that writing for magazines could be a profession and that people paid Anil for writing in magazines.

(iii) (a) II, IV and V, I and III

(iv) The narrator meant that he used to earn money by keeping the change left from buying daily supplies.

Or

B. (i) (d) Both (a) and (c)

(ii) 'T *i.e.*, Max had gone for a meal. The appalling spectacle was that Mij had shredded the lining of the box and blood from airholes and chinks had come out and dried. Also, there was complete silence from the box.

(iii) (b) He was uncomfortable inside the box.

(iv) The author put Mij back into the box because he was getting late for his flight.

7. A. (i) The poet has made the comparison in order to show that Custard was very careful while he was planning to attack the pirate. He walked slowly as a worm to avoid any detection and to ensure that he executed his plan with precision.

(ii) onomatopoeia

(iii) In the given extract, the word 'irons' refers to iron chains that hold the prisoners captive.

(iv) (a) To emphasise the boldness of Custard

Or

B. (i) The tiger expresses his rage quietly because he is bound inside the cage and all his powers are curtailed.

He cannot show his fierce disposition because he is no longer as free and independent as he was in the jungle.

(ii) his freedom has been curtailed

(iii) The tiger shows his presence by baring teeth and claws and by growling.
 (iv) (c) Only 3

8. (i) Lomov reacts by saying that Chubukov thinks he is a fool. He says that he cannot behave calmly and politely with Chubukov as he is making a false claim to his property. He further accuses Chubukov of being a grabber.
 (ii) According to the poet, the tiger should have been in the jungle hiding in the shadow and quietly moving in the long grass near the water hole to prey on the deer. He should also be on the outskirts of the jungle growling around houses and terrifying the villagers.
 (iii) According to the poet, 'fire' represents 'desire' and 'ice' represents 'hatred'. I agree with the poet as both have the capability of destroying life. Desire spreads like fire and hatred fills one's whole life with poison, ultimately leading to death and destruction.
 (iv) Anne's statement that no one could understand her intensity of love for her grandma shows that she loved her grandmother a lot. Moreover, the touching gesture of lighting one candle for her grandmother during her birthday is also a touching reminder of Anne's love for her grandmother.
 (v) The basic idea of the Buddha's preaching was that death is the ultimate truth of life. No living being on earth is mortal. Death and decay is the inevitable part of one's life and having realised this inescapable truth, one must not grieve over a relative or a friend's demise.

9. (i) In 'The Thief's Story', the narrator was a young and successful thief as he never got caught. Consequently, he did not want to share his secrets and whereabouts with anyone. In his profession, even minor dishonesty might put him behind the bars. Moreover, he used to take a new name every month to hide from the police and his previous employers. Thus, for him having friends meant having a liability and a constant fear of identification and being caught by the police. So, for him, friends were more trouble than help.
 (ii) No, I don't think that Richard's mother was too indulgent when she bought him things like cameras, telescopes, etc. because she knew that Richard was highly curious and had a bright mind. Richard's mother motivated him by buying him new books on Science and nurturing his talent for the same. She encouraged his talent by taking him on occasional trips too.
 (iii) We know that Tricki had an affluent life because he was a loved and pampered pet of a wealthy owner, Mrs. Pumphrey. She made sure that her pet had everything he may need or require. He not only had a complete wardrobe of coats but also separate bowls for food. He also had many toys, cushions and rubber rings. All these luxury items show that he lived a well-off life.

10. A. It is true that blind superstitious beliefs can hinder people from accepting the bare truths of life. In 'The Sermon at Benares', Kisa Gotami goes to Gautam Buddha asking him to revive his dead child. She believes that Buddha possesses miraculous powers that will bring her child back. Similarly, in the story 'A Letter to God', Lencho firmly believes that writing a letter to God asking for money would allay his misery. His belief in God prevails over his sense of reason and he ends up accusing the clerks in the post office of stealing the money God had sent generously.
 Hence, these two stories show that superstitious beliefs of them can prevent them from accepting or realising the bare realities of life.

★ Value Points

- Blind faith prevents acceptance of harsh realities.
- Kisa Gotami eventually understands the truth of death.
- Lencho clings to belief, expecting divine help.
- Superstition clouds rational thinking.

B. Good Afternoon everyone!

Today, I would like to focus my talk on nature. We all have heard about the wonders of nature. In our busy lives, do we spare a minute or two to observe these wonders? I believe most of you will answer in the negative. It is a fact that we take these small wonders for granted and pay the least attention to them.

I recently read a poem titled 'Fog' by Carl Sandburg. Carl differs in his perspective about nature. He is a person who is amazed at the wonders of nature and takes utmost pleasure in observing these phenomena. Once such phenomena that catches his attention is that of the fog. He is so amazed by the phenomenon of the fog that he not only wrote a poem about it but compared it to a cat. He describes the cat-like nature of the fog in a very vivid manner.

The fact that such a resemblance was found by Carl shows how observant he is of the minute things in nature. His poem acts as a motivation for all who fail to notice these wonderful beauties in nature.

I hope we get inspired by Carl and take some time out of our busy schedule to notice these small wonders of nature. It would come as no surprise if we find interesting similarities in everyday life.

Thanks for listening to me!

11. A. Yes, parents like Mrs. Pumphrey definitely exist. Such people spoil their children by making sure that all their demands are met. They not only feed them junk but also spoil their social habits in the name of giving them love and care. This kind of behaviour is very harmful for children. Such overprotective parental behaviour also hinders their growth as adults. In fact, it develops greed and dependency in them. They become stubborn and do not learn to value anything. For them, hard work is a myth as they get everything easily.

Over pampered children often fail to face the hardships of life later as for them life has been simple. So, pampering children in moderation is healthy but excess of it is harmful. It is not just bad for humans but also for animals as we see in the story 'A Triumph of Surgery'.

Or

B. Richard's mother played a huge role in making him a great scientist. She would take him on trips to encourage learning. He was a single child therefore, after his father died, his mother made him the focus of her life. She would buy him all kinds of microscopes, telescopes and other equipments. After dinner, she gave him problems to solve which helped Richard to learn a lot.

She was his only companion for a long time. She always tried to give him work that required no physical labour but that which enhanced his learning skills. It was his mother who got him the book 'The Travels of Monarch X' which opened the world of Science for Richard. She also wrote to Dr. Urquhart to guide her son. The scientist helped Richard and guided him. Thus, his mother shaped him into an extraordinary scientist.

My Reflection & Problem Points

Write down any difficulties, doubts, or mistakes you faced in this paper.

Discuss these points with your teacher and sort them out.

Concept (s) I got stuck on

Question (s) I couldn't complete

What confused me most

Time issue faced in