Series : MNL2K **SET~4**

Q.P. Code 1

Roll No. | | | | | | | | |

Candidates must write the Q.P. Code on the title page of the answer-book.

ENGLISH
(Communicative)

*Time allowed : **3** hours* *Maximum Marks : **80***

NOTE :

(I) Please check that this question paper contains **11** printed pages.

(II) Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.

(III) Please check that this question paper contains **12** questions.

(IV) **Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book at the given place before attempting it.**

(V) 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

*(i) The question paper is divided into **four** sections – A, B, C and D.*

***Section A** — Reading Skills*	***22 marks***
***Section B** — Writing Skills*	***22 marks***
***Section C** — Grammar*	***10 marks***
***Section D** — Literature Textbook*	***26 marks***

*(ii) There are **12** questions in the question paper. **All** questions are **compulsory**.*

(iii) Answers should be brief and to the point.

(iv) You may attempt any section at a time.

(v) All questions of that particular section must be attempted in the correct order.

(vi) Instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.

SECTION A – (Reading Skills) *(22 marks)*

1. Read the following passage carefully : *12*

(1) Playing sports is a fun and effective way to boost your health and fitness. Instead of the grind of treadmills or weight machines, sports offer excitement and motivation, especially when invited by friends or teammates. Engaging in sports enhances heart health, lowers the risk of diabetes, improves blood sugar control and reduces tension and stress. Physical activity also builds muscle mass, refines coordination, and strengthens muscle memory.

(2) Life brings emotional ups and downs, and it can be tempting to cope through binge-watching or overeating. However, regular sports participation triggers positive changes in the brain. It increases serotonin and improves cardiovascular health — key for reducing anxiety and depression while the release of endorphins improves mood and provides natural pain relief. Any sport you enjoy can help you combat stress and boost overall happiness.

(3) Modern lifestyles entail long hours at desks, fatigue and convenience food which often lead to weight gain, hypertension and heart disease. Playing sports is an efficient and enjoyable way to burn calories, reduce body fat and manage weight. Combined with a healthy diet, it can outperform traditional gym workouts, which can feel exhausting or monotonous.

(4) Sports elevate heart rate and increase blood flow to the brain, stimulating growth-promoting hormones for brain cells. Physical exertion depletes energy and elevates body temperature, which improves sleep quality by making the body work harder to cool down at night. Studies show that exercising at least 150 minutes per week can enhance sleep quality by up to 65 percent.

(5) Sports activities like basketball, soccer, football, tennis and baseball engage multiple muscle groups simultaneously. Unlike routine gym sessions, they help to build lean muscle while burning fat. These sports are driven by fun and competition and don't feel like a chore in isolated gym training. They challenge the balance, reduce fall risk and test the limits of endurance, whether in victory or defeat.

(6) Sport isn't just physical — it is also emotional. It offers opportunities to face challenges, learn from failure, and celebrate victory. These experiences foster self-confidence, adaptability, and resilience, making you feel more capable and positive about life.

(7) Beyond the personal gains, playing sports fosters social bonds and community living. Joining a team or club brings you into a supportive network of teammates, coaches and friends. Shared goals, team camaraderie and cheering each other help strengthen relationships and build a sense of belonging. This social engagement not only enhances enjoyment but also encourages you to stay committed, making regular physical activity a sustainable part of your life.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

(i) Which one of the following is a health benefit of participating in sports, as stated in paragraph 1 ? *1*

(A) promotes more screen time
(B) reduces the likelihood of developing diabetes
(C) improves hearing abilities
(D) worsens sleeping patterns.

(ii) What underlying mechanism makes sports more effective than binge-watching or overeating for coping with emotional stress ? *1*

(A) activation of social bonding neuropeptides
(B) enhanced serotonin and natural chemical release in the brain
(C) increased caloric expenditure leading to mental clarity
(D) diversion of attention through physical exhaution

Paragraph (2)

(iii) Complete the following suitably : *1*

Modern lifestyles lead to weight gain because _____ .

(iv) Rectify the given ***false*** statement. *1*

Playing a sport and consuming a lot of convenience food balances weight gain and reduces body fat.

(v) How does physical exertion affect body temperature and sleep quality ? Paragraph (4) *1*

(vi) In what way are gym sessions different from sports activities ? *1*

Paragraph (5)

(vii) Mention one way in which playing a sport helps in emotional development. Paragraph (6) *2*

(viii) List one way in which playing a sport reduces the risk of falling. *2*

(ix) How does belonging to a team or community act as a positive feedback loop for continued engagement in physical activity ? *2*

2. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) Eco-tourism is a mindful and responsible way of travelling that emphasizes conserving natural environments, appreciating local cultures, and benefitting communities rather than exploiting them. It goes beyond simply visiting nature — it strives to protect fragile ecosystems, educate visitors, and uplift local people, both socially and economically.

(2) A vital part of eco-tourism is environmental conservation. Places like Costa Rica have used eco-tourism as a tool to preserve vast protected areas — over 21% of the nation's lands are now national parks and reserves, all thanks to eco-tourism-driven support. These efforts not only shield wildlife, but also inspire visitors with education about biodiversity and conservation.

(3) Eco-tourism also brings substantial economic and socio-cultural benefits to local communities. It not only offers visitors a chance to explore nature but also empowers local people to protect their own heritage. Tourists often spend on lodges, guides, food, and souvenirs, yielding jobs and income for locals in rural and otherwise underdeveloped areas. By hiring local guides, staying in community-run lodges, and buying handmade crafts, tourists directly support regional economies and preserve cultural traditions. Community-based models place locals at the centre, helping them manage and run tourism activities. This builds strong ownership and ensures that the benefits stay with the people.

(4) This approach has led to better income and infrastructure in rural areas. Moreover, involving the community in conservation efforts encourages responsible stewardship and strengthens the bond between people and their environment.

(5) However, eco-tourism is not without challenges. Not all operators practice what they preach. Some misuse the label to appear green without ethical conduct. It is a problem known as greenwashing. Moreover, too many tourists can strain ecosystems causing erosion, habitat disruption, and pollution even in the most well-meaning eco-tourism sites.

(6) To be truly effective, eco-tourism must abide by strict codes of conduct, control its environmental footprint, and ensure genuine benefit-sharing with local communities. With well-managed practices and respect for nature, eco-tourism can offer young learners a powerful lesson: it is possible to enjoy the beauty of our world while caring for it and the people who call it home.

Answer the following questions based on the passage above :

(i) Complete with a suitable reason. *1*

Eco-tourism is considered a responsible way of travelling because _____.

(ii) Fill in the blank with an appropriate word/phrase.

Costa Rica has _____ large expanses of land into national parks to preserve the areas. *1*

(iii) Eco-tourism offers an opportunity to the local people to preserve their heritage by : *1*

(A) converting parks into national reserves.

(B) selling handmade handicrafts as souvenirs.

(C) using modern technology to present their culture.

(D) improving their infrastructure.

(iv) Which of the following is/are economic benefit(s) of eco-tourism for local communities ? (Paragraph 3)

1. It increases government tax revenues only.
2. It creates jobs through spending on lodges, guides and food.
3. It primarily supports large international corporations.
4. It reduces the need for community involvement.
5. It increases income and infrastructure.
6. Locals adopt unethical methods to attract tourists.

Select the correct option. *1*

(A) Only 1 (B) 2 and 6

(C) 3 and 5 (D) 2 and 5

(v) List any two challenges faced by eco-tourism. *2*

(vi) How can eco-tourism be truly effective ? *1*

(vii) What ecological issues can result from too many tourists visiting eco-tourism sites ? *1*

(A) reduced carbon emissions and habitat restoration

(B) innovation and improved infrastructure

(C) erosion, habitat disruption and pollution

(D) cultural revival and increased bio-diversity

(viii) What, according to the passage, are some of the well-managed practices that can lead to effective eco-tourism ? Paragraph (6) *2*

SECTION B – (Writing Skills) *(22 marks)*

3. Write an application, in not more than 50 words, requesting permission to use a school resource – computer lab, to prepare for a presentation on benefits of social media. You are Lakshita/Lakshit Pandey, Class X-C, Head of Science Club. *3*

4. Write a factual description in not more than 100 words of your favourite place where you would like to relax, highlighting its atmosphere, location, and what makes it special for you. *4*

5. Answer any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 words : *7*

(a) The rising cost of healthcare and the lack of access to essential medical services in rural and underprivileged areas remain a critical issue in India. Many people suffer due to inadequate infrastructure, shortage of qualified doctors, and unaffordable treatments.

As Anita/Aman Verma, Regional Park, Hawapur, write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern about this issue. Highlight its impact on peoples' well-being and suggest practical solutions to improve access to healthcare and make medical services more affordable for all.

OR

(b) Climate change is one of the most pressing global issues today, with rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and environmental degradation affecting life across the planet. While governments and organisations take action, it is equally important for the youth to understand their role and act responsibly toward a sustainable future.

As Anu/Aarav Mehta, Sunrise Apartment, Paninagar, write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern about climate change, emphasizing the role of younger people in combating it, and suggesting practical steps the youth can take to make a positive impact.

6. (a) Answer any ***one*** of the two, (a) or (b), in 150 words : *8*

Write an article, as Sharvi/Sarvodaya Gautam, Class X-B, advocating for accelerated investment in space travel and exploration. Focus on the benefits for scientific advancement, inspiration to youth, and global collaboration. Share specific advantages and discuss the importance of nurturing a space-minded generation. Additionally, propose one recommendation for policymakers and educators to integrate space-learning into school curricula.

Use the given cues, along with your own ideas and those you may have gathered from the Unit : Science, to create this article.

- Scientific discovery
- STEM inspiration
- Technological, economic/geopolitical benefits

OR

(b) You are Tanu/Tariq, a student of Class X. Write an article for your school magazine on the topic "Empowering Futures : The Case of Girl Child Education". Highlight the importance of educating girls exploring how education benefits not just individuals, but families and society. Additionally, propose how schools and students can contribute by raising awareness, supporting peers, or advocating change to ensure every girl has access to quality education.

Use the given cues, along with your own ideas and those you may have gathered from the Unit-2 : Education, to create this article.

- Benefits
- Barriers – economic constraints, societal norms, safety concerns
- Government initiatives

SECTION C – (Grammar) *(10 marks)*

7. Fill in the blanks (i) – (iii) with the appropriate option from those given in the brackets. *3×1=3*

Renewable energy is essential to the world's efforts to (i) _____ (reduce/reducing/reduced) dependence on fossil fuels. Solar and wind power (ii) _____ (has emerged/emerge/are emerging) as the most promising alternatives. Many countries (iii) _____ (are invest/is investing/are investing) heavily in renewable infrastructure to ensure a sustainable future for the next generation.

8. In the following paragraph, one word has been omitted in each line. In your answer sheets, remember to write the missing word along with the word that comes before and after it, as shown below. The first one has been done as an example. *4×1=4*

S.No.	Text	Word before	Omission	Word after
e.g.	Greenhouse gases trap heat the earth's	heat	in	the
i.	atmosphere. They released mainly from			
ii.	burning fossil. An increase in greenhouse			
iii.	gases leads global warming and climate change.			
iv.	Melting glaciers and rising sea levels effects of climate change			

9. Do as directed : *1+2*

(i) Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence. *1*

Patient : Doctor, I've been having a severe headache for the past three days, what should I do ?

Doctor : and avoid stress / don't worry / I'll prescribe you / also advise you / it seems like / some medicine and / a case of migraine / to take proper rest

(ii) Report the conversation given below by filling in the blanks to complete the following paragraph : *1+1*

Teacher : Why didn't you submit your homework yesterday ?

Student : I am sorry ma'am. I wasn't feeling well.

The teacher asked the student _____. The student replied that he was _____.

SECTION D – (Literature Textbook) *(26 marks)*

10. Read the given extracts and answer the questions briefly, for any ***two*** extracts, of the given three, (a), (b), (c). *4+4=8*

(a) The great night duly arrived, moonlit and cloudless. A platform had been constructed in a comfortable and conveniently placed tree, and thereon crouched Mrs. Packletide and her paid companion, Miss Mebbin. A goat, gifted with a particularly persistent bleat, such as even a partially deaf tiger might be reasonably expected to hear on a still night, was tethered at the correct distance. With an accurately sighted rifle and a thumbnail pack of patience cards the sportswoman awaited the coming of the quarry.

(Mrs. Packletide's Tiger)

(i) On what kind of night did the event take place ? *1*

(ii) What does the writer mean when he says "such as even a partially deaf tiger might be reasonably expected to hear on a still night" ? *1*

(iii) Where was the platform constructed ? *1*

(iv) Which word in the passage is closest in meaning to the following phrase ?

A person or animal being hunted or looked for. *1*

(b) You would take a stick and break him now, and finish him off.
But must I confess how I liked him,
How glad I was he had come like a guest in quiet, to drink at my water-trough
And depart peaceful, pacified, and thankless,
Into the burning bowels of this earth ?

(Snake)

(i) How did the poet feel about the snake's visit ? *1*

(ii) Where did the snake depart after drinking at the water-trough ? *1*

(iii) What action is suggested to the narrator on how to deal with the snake ? *1*

(iv) What did the poet compare the snake's visit to ? *1*

(c) Mrs. Slater : Henry, why shouldn't we bring that bureau down here now ? We could do it before they come.

Henry *(stupefied)* : I wouldn't care to.

Mrs. Slater : Don't look so daft. Why not ?

Henry : It doesn't seem delicate, somehow.

Mrs. Slater : We could put that shabby old chest of drawers upstairs where the bureau is now. Elizabeth could have that and welcome. I've always wanted to get rid of it. *(She points to the drawers.)*

(The Dear Departed)

(i) Why does Mrs. Slater want to bring the bureau down ? *1*

(ii) How does Henry react to Mrs. Slater's suggestion ? *1*

(iii) What piece of furniture does Mrs. Slater want to move upstairs ? *1*

(iv) To whom does Mrs. Slater think the old chest of drawers can be given ? *1*

11. Answer any ***five*** of the following six questions in 30 – 40 words each : *5×2=10*

(i) Why did the narrator feel deeply moved by the boy's devotion ?

(Two Gentlemen of Verona) *2*

(ii) What role did the Ouija board play in the story ?

(A Shady Plot) *2*

(iii) Why did the nightingale lose her natural charm in singing ?

(The Frog and the Nightingale) *2*

(iv) How did Patol Babu's attitude change after rehearsing his scene ?

(Patol Babu, Film Star) *2*

(v) How does the poem highlight the theme of transience of glory and power ?

(Ozymandias) *2*

(vi) Why was Sebastian Shultz in a coma and how was it connected to the computer games ? (Virtually True) *2*

12. Answer any ***one*** of the following two questions, (a) or (b), in about 150 words : *8*

(a) Analyze how the two texts : 'Julius Caesar' and 'Patol Babu, Film Star' explore the idea of personal ambition.

OR

(b) Compare the role of patience and endurance in "The Letter" and "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner".

Marking Scheme
Strictly Confidential
(For Internal and Restricted use only)
Secondary School Examination, 2026 (X)

SUBJECT: ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE (Q.P. CODE 101/Set No 4)

EXPECTED OUTCOMES/VALUE POINTS

SECTION – A READING SKILLS (22 marks)

1. Answer the following questions based on the passage above. (12)

(i) (B) reduces the likelihood of developing diabetes 1

(ii) (B) enhanced serotonin and natural chemical release in brain 1

(iii) (any one) 1

- long hours at desk
- convenience food

(iv) Playing a sport and consuming a lot of healthy/nutritious/wholesome/nourishing food balances weight gain and reduces body fat. 1

(accept any other relevant answer)

(v)

- depletes energy (1/2+1/2=1)
- elevates body temperature which improves sleep quality by making the body work harder to cool down at night

(vi) (1/2+1/2=1)

- Gym sessions feel like a chore/ an activity that is performed in isolation
- Sports activities are fun/competitive in nature

(vii) (Any one) 2

- offers opportunities to face challenges
- learn from failure and celebrate wins
- fosters self-confidence / adaptability and resilience/ making one feel more capable and positive about life

(viii) (Any one) (1+1=2)

- help to build lean muscle while burning fat
- challenge balance thereby reducing risk of falling
- test the limits of endurance

(ix) (Any two) (1+1=2)

- playing sports fosters social bonds and community living.
- joining a team or club brings one into a supportive network of team mates, coaches and friends.
- shared goals, team camaraderie and cheering each other help strengthen relationships and build a sense of belonging.

- Social engagement not only enhances enjoyment but also encourages to stay committed, making regular physical activity a sustainable part of life.

2. Answer the following questions, based on the given passage: (10)

(i) (any one) 1

- conserves natural environment
- appreciates local culture/uplifts local people both socially and economically
- benefits communities rather than exploiting them
- strives to protect fragile ecosystem and educate visitors

(ii) (any one) 1

- used ecotourism as a tool to convert/turn/ transform
- converted/ turned/ transformed

(any other relevant word can be accepted)

(iii) (B) selling handmade handicrafts as souvenirs. 1

(iv) (D) 2 and 5 1

(v) (any two) 2

- not all operators practise what they preach.
- some misuse the label to appear green without ethical conduct / problem of greenwashing.
- many tourists strain ecosystems causing erosion / habitat disruption / pollution in the most well-meaning eco-tourism sites

(vi) (any one) 1

- must abide by strict code of conduct
- control its environmental footprint
- ensure genuine benefit –sharing with local communities
- respect for nature
- well managed practices

(vii) (C) erosion, habitat disruption and pollution. 1

(viii) (any two) 2

- must abide by strict code of conduct
- control its environmental footprint
- ensure genuine benefit –sharing with local communities
- respect for nature

SECTION B – (WRITING SKILLS) **(22)**

3. Application writing **(3)**

Format – 1 mark
Content – 1 mark
Accuracy – 1 mark (spelling, punctuation and grammar)

Value points

- Permission to use school resource/ computer lab
- To prepare a PPT on benefits/importance/ advantages of social media
  (any other relevant point can be accepted)

Note:
Sender's address is not mandatory.

4. Factual Description **(4)**

Content – 2 marks
Organisation – 1 mark (Cohesive devices and coherence of ideas)
Accuracy – 1 mark (spelling, punctuation and grammar)

Value Points:

- Specify the place / physical description (for eg. your home/room/classroom/library/ city/ country / park/ any other place)
- Describe the atmosphere
- Mention the location
- Reason/reasons: what makes it special for you?

Note:
Title/ Heading is not mandatory

5. Formal Letter to Editor **(7)**
(a)

Format – 1 mark (1/2 mark if more than 3 points are missing in the format)
Content – 3 marks
Organisation – 2 marks (Cohesive devices and coherence of ideas, formal tone and 2 or 3 structured paragraphs)
Accuracy – 1 mark (spelling, punctuation and grammar)

Value Points: (Minimum 2 value points)

- Increasing cost of healthcare/ Unaffordable treatment
- Lack of access to essential medical services in rural and underprivileged areas
- Inadequate infrastructure
- Shortage of qualified doctors
- Impact on peoples' well –being: physical disability/prolonged illness/losing loved-ones/losing one's own life

(any other relevant point)

Suggestions to address the problem: (Minimum 1 value point)

- Improve access to healthcare / Improve road connectivity for ambulance
- Make medical services affordable to all /Government subsidy for all/ Universal Health coverage
- Adequate work force/qualified doctors/nurses/ medical staff
- Establish more health and wellness centres in rural and underprivileged areas

(any other relevant point)

OR

(b)

Format	–	1 mark	(1/2 mark if more than 3 points are missing in the format)
Content	–	3 marks	
Organisation	–	2 marks	(Cohesive devices and coherence of ideas, formal tone and 2or 3 structured paragraphs)
Accuracy	–	1 mark	(spelling, punctuation and grammar)

Value Points: (Minimum 2 value points)

- Climate change – the most pressing global issue
- Rising temperature / extreme weather conditions/ events- natural calamities
- Global warming/ melting glaciers and ice- caps
- Environmental degradation / Impact on agriculture/ cropping cycles/ food production
- Affect life across planet/ bio diversity / Climate refugees

(any other relevant point)

Suggestions to combat the issue: (Minimum 1 value point)

- Youth to understand their role and act responsibly.
- Reduce carbon footprints- save electricity/ use public transport/ carpooling/ walk or cycle wherever possible / avoid single use plastic
- Recycling drive - E-waste/ plastic/clothes / plantation /any other
- Awareness campaigns/ street plays / poster making and slogan writing / composting/ waste segregation and disposal

(any other relevant point)

6. **Article Writing** **8**

(a)

Format	–	1 mark	(Title and byline)
Content	–	3 marks	
Organisation	–	3 marks	(Cohesive devices and coherence of ideas, formal tone and 2or 3 structured paragraphs)
Accuracy	–	1 mark	(spelling, punctuation and Grammar)

Value Points: (Minimum 2 value points)

- Importance of nurturing a space- minded generation / STEM Inspiration
- Inculcating/ developing interest in space – study / science and technology/ astronomy
- Benefits for scientific advancement
- Technological/ economic/ geopolitical benefits
- Inspiration to youth / Global collaboration

(any other relevant point)

Recommendations for policy makers and educators: (Minimum 1 value point)

- Integrate space learning into school curriculum
- Setting up of adequate infrastructure in schools and colleges for space learning
- Increase / accelerate investment in space travel and exploration
- Organise / conduct national/ state/ district level competitions/ exhibitions / conferences/ seminars to generate interest in space travel and exploration.

(any other relevant point)

OR

(b)

Format	–	1 mark	(Title and byline)
Content	–	3 marks	
Organisation	–	3 marks	(Cohesive devices and coherence of ideas, formal tone

and 2 or 3 structured paragraphs)

Accuracy – 1 mark (spelling, punctuation and Grammar)

Value Points:

Importance/ benefits of educating girl child (Minimum 1 value point)

- Educating girls helps uplift individuals, families and society.
- Improves literacy rates and overall national development.
- Leads to better health, nutrition, and hygiene for families and communities.
- Educated women participate more in the workforce, become financially independent and boost economic growth.
- Promotes gender equality, informed decision-making and reduces child marriage.

(any other relevant point)

Barriers to Girl Child Education (Minimum 1 value point)

- Poverty/ economic constraints for higher education
- Lack of neighbourhood schools, transport, or safe sanitation facilities.
- Social and cultural norms: discouraging girls' education / early marriage and household responsibilities.
- Safety concerns and inadequate infrastructure.

(any other relevant point)

Recommendations for Government, Schools and Students: (Minimum 1 value point)

- Promote survival, protection, and education of the girl child (Beti Bachao Beti Padhao)
- Aim for universal elementary education, with special focus on girls. (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan)
- Encourage school attendance by providing free nutritious food (Mid-Day Meal)
- Residential schools for girls from disadvantaged communities (Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya)
- Create a safe and inclusive environment where girls feel respected and protected from discrimination or harassment.
- Provide scholarships, free books, uniforms, and sanitary facilities to reduce financial and hygiene-related barriers / sensitize teachers and staff through training on gender sensitivity and child protection.

(any other relevant point)

SECTION – C (GRAMMAR) (10)

7. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option: (1x3=3)

(i) reduce

(ii) are emerging

(iii) are investing

8. Identify the missing word in each line. **(1x4=4)**

	Word before	omission	word after
For eg.	***heat***	***in***	***the***
i.	they	are	released
ii.	burning	of	fossil
		OR	
ii.	fossil	fuels	An
iii.	leads	to	global
iv.	levels	are	effects

Note:

- ½ for word before/after
- ½ for word missing
- No credit, if either word before or after is missing or these words are completely missing.

9. Do as Directed **(1)**

(i) Don't worry, it seems like a case of migraine. I'll prescribe you some medicines and also advise you to take proper rest and avoid stress.

Or

It seems like a case of migraine. Don't worry. I'll prescribe you some medicines and also advise you to take proper rest and avoid stress.

Or

It seems like a case of migraine. I'll prescribe you some medicines and also advise you to take proper rest and avoid stress. Don't worry.

(ii) **(1x2=2)**

(i) Why he hadn't submitted his homework the previous day/the day before/the last day

(ii) sorry and that/ added that / further added that /said that/ said he hadn't been/ was not feeling well

Or

was not feeling well.(sorry may be omitted)

SECTION – D (LITERATURE TEXT BOOK) (26)

10. Read the given extracts and answer the questions briefly, for any two extracts, of the given three, (a), (b), (c). (4+4=8)

(a)

(i) Moonlit and cloudless 1
(ii) The writer means that the goat's bleat is so persistent/continuous/irritating/repetitive that even a deaf/ very old tiger can hear it. 1

(iii) A platform had been constructed in a comfortable and conveniently placed tree. 1

Or

A platform had been constructed on a tree.

(iv) quarry 1

(b)

(i) The poet felt glad / honoured /happy as the snake had come like a guest/ liked him 1
(ii) The snake departed peacefully into the burning bowels of the earth/crack/ hole/fissure, underground/under the surface of the earth. 1

(iii) It is suggested to the narrator take a stick and break/attack/ finish him off/kill him. 1
(iv) He compared it to the visit of a guest 1

(c)

(i) Mrs Slater wants to shift/ get rid of her own chest of drawers before the others/ Jordans come. 1

Or

wants to bring the bureau down to show it as her own possession before the arrival of the Jordans

(ii) Henry reacts in a stupefied manner/is reluctant/ unwilling/thinks it is inappropriate / doesn't seem delicate to do so/ says he wouldn't care to (any one) 1

(iii) Mrs Slater wants to move the shabby old chest of drawers/ chest of drawers upstairs 1

(iv) She thinks her sister/ Elizabeth/ Mrs. Jordan can have it 1

11. Answer <u>any five</u> of the following six questions, in 30-40 words each. (2x5=10)

- Content – 1
- Expression – 1

(i) (any two) 2

- the boys sacrificed their childhood comforts
- endured hardships and worked relentlessly, not for themselves, but to support their sister's treatment
- did several odd jobs from dawn till late in the night
- spent nothing on themselves- had meagre food/ wore shabby clothes/ tangled hair
- strongly moved by their dark earnest eyes/ sincerity
- their silent struggle reflected love, responsibility and an inspiring sense of duty.

(ii) (any two) 2

- The Ouija board spelt out "TRAITOR"/ "ASK HIM", making Lavinia believe her husband was flirting with someone through the board.
- The Ouija board heightened the confusion/ created misunderstanding in their married life
- worsened Lavinia's suspicion, adding humour to the ghostly plot.
- Gave the bulliest / best plot to John Hallock for his next story.

(iii) (any two) 2

- followed the frog's constant instructions /harsh criticism blindly
- added trills and frills / practised continuously without any rest even in the harsh weather/exerted herself /damaged her voice/ strained her voice.
- sought/ had become used to praise and applause
- lost confidence /originality /spontaneous sweetness of her songs.

(iv) (any two) 2

- realized that even a single word (Oh!) could be expressed with depth, emotion and timing.
- treated it as a challenge/ infused sincerity into his performance / regained satisfaction
- valued inner satisfaction more than financial reward/ payment
- left the place without taking his payment.

(v) (any two) 2

- Ozymandias' once-great empire has crumbled
- only ruins of the statue in the desert/ sand all around
- boastful words (King of kings) contrast sharply with the desolation around
- Ozymandias, once the king of kings, is now a 'colossal wreck'.
- Power and glory will fade away; impact of good deeds last for ever

(vi) 2

- While playing computer game, Sebastian met with an accident and head banged against the computer and stored his memory/ trapped his consciousness in the computer disk, leaving him in a coma.
- Michael purchased/ played those computer games / helped Sebastian to regain consciousness/ to recover

12. Answer any one of the following two questions in about 150 words. (8)

Content - 4 marks
Organisation - 3 marks (coherence and cohesion, 2-3 structured paragraphs)
Accuracy - 1 mark (spelling, punctuation and grammar)

Answer can be woven along the following points

(a)

- In Julius Caesar ambition is seen as dangerous / intimidating
- Though he refuses crown thrice but has a hidden/ latent desire for power
- His ambition and pride makes him dismiss Soothsayer's warning/ Calpurnia's fears.
- Proceeds to senate house when Decius Brutus tells him that senators may change their mind of crowning him.
- Caesar embarks upon a policy of conquests and brings back captives to Rome / fills the Roman treasury with the loot and ransom collected
- Compares himself to the 'Northern Star'/ believes himself to be superior

Note:
Students may also describe the personal ambition of Antony or other conspirators and present a contrast with Patol Babu's ambition

- Patol Babu's artistic desire motivates him to rehearse with all his heart though he has to say a single word ("Oh!")
- Though away from the stage for years, longs to be an actor again.
- Performs with total dedication, feels satisfied, and does not even collect his payment.

Analysis of both the characters

- While Caesar's ambition makes him arrogant, and eventually leads to his assassination, Patol Babu's ambition brings out the best in him, gives him a sense of satisfaction and dignity.
- Patol's ambition is not for wealth or popularity whereas Caesar's longs to have power, authority and public dominance.
- While Caesar's ambition is outward and power-oriented, Patol's is inward and self-fulfilling.
- Both texts reveal that ambition can either corrupt or inspire, depending on whether it is guided by self- interest or sincerity

Note:
Any other well-reasoned point may be accepted.

Or

(b)

The Letter

- Ali waits patiently for five years to receive a letter from his only daughter, Miriam
- Visits the post office daily at 4 o' clock in the morning even in harsh weather
- endures loneliness of old age / routine humiliation / the post master's ridicule in the hope of receiving a letter
- suffers loss and separation
- His patience becomes a symbol of love and faith, even beyond death.
- He leaves a positive impact on the postmaster who eventually empathises with his situation when he anxiously waits for news about his own daughter

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

- Endurance and patience is seen in the Mariner's prolonged suffering
- Suffering with thirst, isolation and guilt as punishment for his reckless act.
- Patiently and hopefully/ optimistically waits for the weather to change and the wind to blow
- seeks redemption and feels impelled/ waits patiently to narrate his tale to take the weight off his chest/ to feel less guilty
- His endurance ultimately leads to repentance and wisdom.

Conclusion

- Ali understands the importance of love and separation and thus, gives up hunting.
- The Mariner realizes the value of life and moral responsibility when he kills the albatross.
- Both texts show that patience and endurance are essential for transformation.

Note:

Any other well-reasoned point may be accepted.