Series : KLNM4 **SET~3**

Q.P. Code 2/4/3

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

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

ENGLISH
(Language and Literature)

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

NOTE :

(I) Please check that this question paper contains **15** 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 **11** 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 instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

*(i) This question paper comprises **11** questions. **All** questions are compulsory.*

*(ii) The question paper contains **THREE** sections :*

***Section – A :** Reading Skills*

***Section – B :** Grammar and Creative Writing Skills*

***Section – C :** Literature Textbook*

(iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section – A (20 Marks)

Reading Skills

1. Read the following text : **10 M**

(1) Every year, countless flocks of birds take to the skies in one of nature's most remarkable spectacles – migration. This incredible phenomenon involves the regular, long-distance movement of birds between their breeding and wintering grounds. Some species fly only a few hundred kilometers, while others travel across continents and oceans, covering tens of thousands of kilometers each year.

(2) Migration is primarily driven by changes in seasons. When food becomes scarce during harsh winters, birds travel to warmer regions where they can find abundant insects, seeds, or fish. The Siberian crane, for instance, travels thousands of kilometers from the cold wetlands of Siberia to India's warmer lakes such as Keoladeo National Park in Bharatpur and Chilika Lake in Odisha. The Bar-headed goose, another amazing traveler, is known to fly over the towering Himalayas at heights where oxygen levels are dangerously low – a feat that astonishes even scientists.

(3) How these small creatures navigate such long distances remains a fascinating mystery. Studies suggest that migratory birds use multiple cues : the position of the sun by day, the stars at night, and even the Earth's magnetic field. Some, like homing pigeons, possess a memory-based instinct that helps them return to the same spot year after year with stunning accuracy.

(4) Unfortunately, migration today is becoming more difficult. Expanding cities, pollution, and deforestation have destroyed vital wetlands and resting areas. Climate change has disrupted the timing of migration, confusing birds about when to travel or breed. Many species arrive too early or too late, missing the right conditions for nesting or feeding.

(5) Conservationists worldwide are working to protect these travellers. International cooperation is essential since migratory routes cross national borders. Protected wetland sites, bird sanctuaries, and awareness programs encourage people to appreciate and safeguard these winged wanderers.

(6) Migratory birds are not just symbols of endurance and freedom; they are vital to nature's balance. They help in pollination, seed dispersal, and pest control. The survival of these birds is linked to the survival of ecosystems everywhere. Watching them reminds humanity of a powerful truth – the planet is shared, and the harmony of life depends on care, cooperation, and respect for nature's rhythms.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

(i) In paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'one of nature's most remarkable spectacles' refer to ? **1**

(ii) Complete the following with the correct option from the two given :

Migration is primarily driven by changes in seasons as _____.

(a) they move to colder areas to hibernate

(b) they move to warmer places for food (paragraph 2) **1**

(iii) What is unique about the Bar-headed goose ? (paragraph 2) **2**

(iv) Select the option that best explains the phrase 'navigate such long distances remains a fascinating mystery'. (paragraph 3) **1**

(a) travelling to unknown destinations without getting lost is truly amazing

(b) travelling plans are predictable and well marked out by the leader of the pack

(v) State whether the following statement is True or False : **1**

Because of rapid urbanization and clear direction, it has become easier for migratory birds to find their way. (paragraph 4)

(vi) The writer mentions that conservationists worldwide are working to find solutions to give migratory birds safe travel. Based on the information given in the passage, which of the following will protect these travellers ? **1**

(A) creation of more wetland sites.

(B) making people aware about the eating habits of migratory birds.

(C) work in cooperation with other countries.

(D) create eating spots along the way.

(vii) List any two points according to the passage that illustrate that migratory birds play an important role in maintaining nature's balance. (paragraph 6) **2**

(viii) What message does the passage convey about life on Earth ? (paragraph 6) **1**

(A) Man must provide cues to clear traffic routes for migratory birds.

(B) Deforestation is essential to stop uncontrolled growth.

(C) Harmony between man and nature is essential.

(D) Climate change can be controlled only by technological intervention.

2. Read the following text : **10 M**

(1) A detailed study conducted across various industries and research sectors has shed light on the evolving landscape of artificial intelligence (AI). It revealed that nearly 70% of AI applications are developed by private tech companies, driven by innovation and market competition. About 20% stem from collaborations between academic institutions and industry leaders, fostering advancements in fields such as healthcare, finance, and transportation.

(2) Interestingly, around 10% of AI initiatives are spearheaded by governmental or non-governmental organisations, often focussing on social welfare. These projects aim to address issues like disaster prediction, agricultural efficiency, and public health monitoring.

(3) Among the AI applications, approximately 45% focus on automation, improving productivity and reducing operational cost. Around 30% cater to predictive analytics, aiding in decision-making processes in domains such as finance and weather forecasting. The remaining 25% revolve around interactive AI, such as chatbots and virtual assistants, enhancing user engagement and accessibility.

(4) Further analysis indicates that about 60% of AI implementations are found in urban areas, particularly in tech hubs and metropolitan cities. Around 30% are applied in industrial zones, enhancing manufacturing and logistics. The remaining 10% serve rural and underserved regions, supporting initiatives like digital literacy, healthcare access and agricultural support.

(5) Comparisons across parameters such as ethical concerns, accessibility, industry-specific applications, and societal impact reveal AI's potential for transformative change. This analysis not only highlights the widespread adoption of AI but also underscores the need for inclusive and sustainable development in the field.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

(i) What does the use of the phrase "evolving landscape of artificial intelligence" in paragraph 1 suggest ? **1**

(A) disinterest

(B) progress and development

(C) frustration

(D) confusion

(ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below : **1**

Assertion : Governmental and non-governmental organisations often use AI for social welfare.

Reason : These organisations focus on disaster prediction, agricultural efficiency, and public health monitoring.

(A) Both the assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

(B) Both the assertion and reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.

(C) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.

(D) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

(iii) Identify the word or phrase that indicates supervision as one of the areas of AI applications. (paragraph 2) **1**

(iv) How do AI applications contribute to societal development, especially in rural and underserved regions ? **1**

(v) Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank. **1**

In a remote village, an AI powered system is used to monitor crop health and provide timely updates to farmers. The percentage of AI initiatives in this segment would be categorized under is _____. (10% / 30% / 45%)

(vi) What does the high percentage of AI implementations in urban areas suggest about the development and adoption of technology ? **1**

(vii) Complete the sentence suitably : **1**

The collaboration between academic institutions and industry leaders in developing AI applications demonstrates _____.

(viii) Complete the following with a suitable reason : **1**

The most likely reason the passage mentions "interactive AI" as a key focus area is because it enhances _____.

(ix) In the context of the last paragraph, describe the significance of comparing various parameters such as ethical concerns, accessibility, industry-specific applications, and societal impact in understanding the evolving AI landscape. **2**

Section – B (20 Marks)

Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

Grammar 10 M

3. Complete any **ten** of twelve of the following tasks, as directed : **10 × 1 = 10**

(i) Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete a corporate communication letter from a company to its employee. **1**

Dear Sumit

This July, you _____ in Japan for three years. In six months the company will transfer you to Bengaluru at a senior position.

(A) will be have been living

(B) will have been living

(C) would have lived

(D) would have been living

(ii) Read the given sentence from a self help book. Identify the error and supply the correction in the given format. **1**

Each one of the candidates have submitted the documents before the deadline.

Error	Correction

(iii) Pratima asked the following question to her friend, Shifa – **1**

Do you like the painting, I gifted you yesterday.

Report Pratima's question correctly.

(iv) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the concluding line from a school magazine report on a community outreach programme. **1**

_____ (Each / All) community member was given a different set of equipment.

(v) Read Robert's reply to his swimming coach –

Thank you sir for the opportunity. I will make sure I do you proud.

Robert thanked his coach for the opportunity and said _____. **1**

(vi) Identify and correct the error in the given line. **1**

I prefer the chocolate pudding than the vanilla truffle anyday.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(A)	prefer	preferred
(B)	the	an
(C)	than	to
(D)	anyday	everyday

(vii) Rishaan's parents asked him how he had fared in the speaking test in school that day. **1**

He excitedly told them that before the teacher could finish the question, he _____ the correct answer.

Fill in the blank to complete the sentence.

(A) gave (B) has given

(C) would have given (D) will give

(viii) Detect the error and supply the correction for an advice by a grandparent. **1**

You should respect your parent and elders.

Error	**Correction**

(ix) Report the dialogue between a customer and a worker at a grocery store. **1**

Customer : Did you pack all the items ?

Worker : Yes sir, I did.

The customer asked the worker _____.

(x) Select the correct option to complete the given line. **1**

Earlier money _____ buy much more than it can today.

(A) could (B) will

(C) can (D) shall

(xi) Complete the given poster displayed on a banner. **1**

Drinking and smoking _____ (is /are) injurious to health.

(xii) Read the conversation between a student and a school counsellor. **1**

Counsellor : How do you feel after sharing your fears with your parents ?

Student : I believe they understand me better as they now know all my fears.

Report the student's response by completing the following :

The student replied that _____.

Creative Writing Skills

10 M

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

4. (a) You are Kavita / Kuvam, a retired teacher. **5**

The rich experience of teaching young minds across the country has taught you the significance of inter-state student exchange programmes. You believe they not only enrich and sensitize children but also help in unifying the country. Write a letter, in about 120 words, to the Editor of The Indian Express expressing the need for such programmes. Also, highlight how these programmes would promote cultural understanding, instil independence and give exposure to diverse lifestyles and learning environments.

OR

(b) You are Rahima / Rahim a parent of a school-going child. You were invited to attend a 2 day festival organized by the school. You were amazed to see how from food stalls to performances were all organized by the students themselves. **5**

Write a letter to the Principal expressing your views on how these programmes help in building confidence and self-esteem among children. Also draw attention to their organizational skills, sense of responsibility, and commitment in their tasks.

5. (a) Read the given details of a fun zone designed for kids in a mall : **5**

- A multi-level jungle themed play area with climbing walls, tunnels, and slides.
- A ball pit and trampoline section for younger kids.
- A gaming zone with arcade machines and interactive screens.
- Safety padding on all surfaces and trained staff for monitoring of activities.
- A dedicated toddler zone with soft toys, mini slides, and sensory play stations.
- A small cafeteria for parents with a view of the play area.

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about **120** words on the suitability of this fun zone for kids in a mall.

Focus on aspects such as safety, variety of activities, age – appropriateness, convenience for parents and overall experience.

OR

(b) Read the given details of a pre-school designed for young children : **5**

- Brightly coloured classrooms with themed decorations.
- An outdoor grassy play area with slides, swings, and sand pits.
- A sensory activity zone with toys for touch, sound, and visual stimulation.
- Dedicated nap rooms with cozy beds and calming lights.
- A library with picture books, story-telling corners, and interactive learning tools.
- CCTV monitoring for safety and a nurse available for emergencies.

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about **120** words about the suitability of this pre-school for young children.

Focus on aspects such as safety, learning opportunities, comfort, inclusivity and overall environment.

Section – C (40 Marks)

Literature

6. Read the given extract and answer any **one** of the following questions given below : **5**

(a) It was a new bus, its outside painted a gleaming white with some green stripes along the sides. Inside, the overhead bars shone like silver. Directly in front of Valli, above the windshield, there was a beautiful clock. The seats were soft and luxurious.

Valli devoured everything with her eyes. But when she started to look outside, she found her view cut off by a canvas blind that covered the lower part of her window. So she stood up on the seat and peered over the blind. *(Madam Rides a Bus)*

(i) The effect on Valli as she describes the bus reveals that she is _____.

Choose the most suitable option. **1**

(A) awed (B) scared

(C) disgusted (D) repulsed

(ii) How does the author's use of descriptive language enhance the narrative technique in the passage ? **2**

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. **1**

The use of the word 'devoured' adds to a sense of _____ (fascination / hunger) in the extract.

(iv) Which action of Valli shows that she did not want to miss out on any part of the experience ? **1**

OR

(b) Mme Loisel was a great success. She was the prettiest of all – elegant, gracious, smiling, and full of joy. All the men noticed her, asked her name and wanted to be presented. She danced with enthusiasm, intoxicated with pleasure, thinking of nothing but all this admiration, this victory so complete and sweet to her heart.

(The Necklace)

(i) How is "success" perceived by Matilda ? **1**

(ii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket. **2**

'All the men noticed her, asked her name and wanted to be presented' indicates that the men wanted to be formally _____ (introduced / withholden) to her.

(iii) Which of the following best describe Matilda's state of mind in the context ? **1**

(A) overwhelmed (B) anxious

(C) confused (D) sad

(iv) Explain the phrase "this victory so complete and sweet to her heart". **1**

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any **ONE** of the two given. **5**

(a) I sit inside, doors open to the veranda
writing long letters
in which I scarcely mention the departure
of the forest from the house.
The night is fresh, the whole moon shines
in a sky still open
the smell of leaves and lichen
still reaches like a voice into the rooms. *(Trees)*

(i) Comment on the portrayal of the narrator in the given extract. **2**

(ii) Complete the following suitably : **1**

The trees' movement from the house to the forest, reflect the broader theme of _____.

(iii) What has the poet hardly mentioned in her letter ? **1**

(iv) What kind of atmosphere is created through the given extract ? **1**

Select the correct option(s) :

1. nostalgia 2. serenity 3. detachment 4. loss 5. joy

(A) 1 and 4 (B) Only 2

(C) 1, 2 and 3 (D) 2 and 5

OR

(b) A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now
He senses first responsibility
In a world of possessions. People will take
Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.
And no one buys a ball back. Money is external
He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,
The epistemology of loss, how to stand up
Knowing what every man must one day know
And most know many days, how to stand up. *(The Ball Poem)*

(i) Comment on the portrayal of the character of the boy in the given extract. **2**

(ii) Complete the following suitably : **1**

"Money is external" implies that the boy _____

(A) values material possessions.

(B) learns the money cannot restore what is lost.

(C) believes money is the solution to all problems.

(D) is indifferent to material wealth.

(iii) What does the poet mean by the phrase, 'epistemology of loss' ? **1**

(iv) What kind of atmosphere is created through these lines ? **1**

Select the correct option.

1. reflection
2. intrigue
3. acceptance
4. anger
5. fear

(A) 1, 4 and 5 (B) Only 2

(C) 1 and 3 (D) 4 and 5

8. Answer any **four** of the following five questions, in about **40-50** words :

4 × 3 = 12

(i) The people of Coorg are said to be descendants of the Arabs. Elaborate. *(Glimpses of India)* **3**

(ii) Valli made careful and painstaking plans for her first bus journey. What were her plans ? *(Madam Rides a Bus)* **3**

(iii) Explain the contention of the families of Lomovs and Chubukov's over the ownership of Oxen Meadows. *(The Proposal)* **3**

(iv) How are the daydreams that Amanda has different from her reality ? *(Amanda)* **3**

(v) After achieving political emancipation, what does Mandela want to do in South Africa ? *(Nelson Mandela : Long Walk to Freedom)* **3**

9. Answer any **two** of the following three questions, in about **40-50** words : **2 × 3 = 6**

(i) How does Noodle deal with Think Tank mistakes without openly contradicting him ?

(The Book that Saved the Earth) **3**

(ii) Bholi had many apprehensions about going to school yet she knew that she was going to a better place than her home. Explain.

(Bholi) **3**

(iii) Why was Dr. Herriot really worried about Tricki ?

(A Triumph of Surgery) **3**

10. Answer any **one** of the following two questions, in about **100-120** words :

(a) Compare the two stories, 'Letter to God' and 'The Black Aeroplane' from 'Stories About Flying'. Examine how both these stories illustrate that help can come in unexpected forms. **6**

OR

(b) Evaluate the similarities and differences between the tiger in "A Tiger in the Zoo" and the dragon in "The Tale of Custard the Dragon". **6**

11. Answer any **one** of the following two questions, in about **100-120** words :

(a) Evaluate the elements of humour and endearment in "A Triumph of Surgery". **6**

OR

(b) Discuss how the play "The Book that Saved the Earth" depicts how misunderstanding of cultural differences and lack of awareness about other races cause confusion and conflict. **6**





Marking Scheme **Strictly Confidential** **(For Internal and Restricted use only)** **Secondary School Examination, 2026 (X^{th})** **SUBJECT NAME: English (Language & Lit.) (Q.P. CODE /Set No 2/4/3)**	
General Instructions: -	
1	You are aware that evaluation is the most important process in the actual and correct assessment of the candidates. A small mistake in evaluation may lead to serious problems which may affect the future of the candidates, education system and teaching profession. To avoid mistakes, it is requested that before starting evaluation, you must read and understand the spot evaluation guidelines carefully.
2	**"Evaluation policy is a confidential policy as it is related to the confidentiality of the examinations conducted, evaluation done and several other aspects. Its leakage to public in any manner could lead to derailment of the examination system and affect the life and future of millions of candidates. Sharing this policy/document to anyone, publishing in any magazine and printing in Newspaper/Website, etc. may invite action under various rules of the Board and IPC."**
3	Evaluation is to be done as per instructions provided in the Marking Scheme. It should not be done according to one's own interpretation or any other consideration. Marking Scheme should be strictly adhered to and religiously followed. **However, while evaluating, answers which are based on latest information or knowledge and/or are innovative, they may be assessed for their correctness otherwise and due marks be awarded to them. In Class-X, while evaluating two competency-based questions, please try to understand given answer and even if reply is not from marking scheme but correct competency is enumerated by the candidate, due marks should be awarded.**
4	The Marking scheme carries only suggested value points for the answers. These are in the nature of Guidelines only and do not constitute the complete answer. The students can have their own expression and if the expression is correct, the due marks should be awarded accordingly.
5	The Head-Examiner must go through the first five answer books evaluated by each evaluator on the first day, to ensure that evaluation has been carried out as per the instructions given in the Marking Scheme. If there is any variation, the same should be zero after deliberation and discussion. The remaining answer books meant for evaluation shall be given only after ensuring that there is no significant variation in the marking of individual evaluators.
6	Evaluators will mark (√) wherever answer is correct. For wrong answer CROSS 'X' be marked. Evaluators will not put right (**✓**) while evaluating which gives an impression that answer is correct and no marks are awarded. **This is most common mistake which evaluators are committing.**
7	If a question has parts, please award marks on the right-hand side for each part. Marks awarded for different parts of the question should then be totaled up and written in the left-hand margin and encircled. This may be followed strictly.
8	If a question does not have any parts, marks must be awarded in the left-hand margin and encircled. This may also be followed strictly.
9	If a student has attempted an extra question, answer of the question deserving more marks should be retained and the other answer scored out with a note **"Extra**

	Question".
10	No marks to be deducted for the cumulative effect of an error. It should be penalized only once.
11	A full scale of marks _____ (example 0 to 80/70/60/50/40/30 marks as given in Question Paper) has to be used. Please do not hesitate to award full marks if the answer deserves it.
12	Every examiner has to necessarily do evaluation work for full working hours i.e., 8 hours every day and evaluate 20 answer books per day in main subjects and 25 answer books per day in other subjects (Details are given in Spot Guidelines).This is in view of the reduced syllabus and number of questions in question paper.
13	Ensure that you do not make the following common types of errors committed by the Examiner in the past :- ● Leaving answer or part thereof unassessed in an answer book. ● Giving more marks for an answer than assigned to it. ● Wrong totaling of marks awarded on an answer. ● Wrong transfer of marks from the inside pages of the answer book to the title page. ● Wrong question wise totaling on the title page. ● Wrong totaling of marks of the two columns on the title page. ● Wrong grand total. ● Marks in words and figures not tallying/not same. ● Wrong transfer of marks from the answer book to online award list. ● Answers marked as correct, but marks not awarded. (Ensure that the right tick mark is correctly and clearly indicated. It should merely be a line. Same is with the X for incorrect answer.) ● Half or a part of answer marked correct and the rest as wrong, but no marks awarded.
14	While evaluating the answer books if the answer is found to be totally incorrect, it should be marked as cross (X) and awarded zero (0) Marks.
15	Any unassessed portion, non-carrying over of marks to the title page, or totaling error detected by the candidate shall damage the prestige of all the personnel engaged in the evaluation work as also of the Board. Hence, in order to uphold the prestige of all concerned, it is again reiterated that the instructions be followed meticulously and judiciously.
16	The Examiners should acquaint themselves with the guidelines given in the "**Guidelines for Spot Evaluation**" before starting the actual evaluation.
17	Every Examiner shall also ensure that all the answers are evaluated, marks carried over to the title page, correctly totaled and written in figures and words.
18	The candidates are entitled to obtain photocopy of the Answer Book on request on payment of the prescribed processing fee. All Examiners/Additional Head Examiners/Head Examiners are once again reminded that they must ensure that evaluation is carried out strictly as per value points for each answer as given in the Marking Scheme.

MARKING SCHEME
ENGLISH (Language & Literature) (Subject Code-184)
(PAPER CODE: 2/4/3) (10-04-184K)

SECTION – A
READING SKILLS (20 marks)

1 UNSEEN PASSAGE 1 10 marks

i. The regular, long-distance movement of birds between their breeding and wintering grounds / Migration of birds 1

ii. (b) They move to warmer places for food. 1

iii. - Flies over the towering Himalayas
- At heights where oxygen levels are dangerously low 2

iv. (a) travelling to unknown destinations without getting lost is truly amazing 1

v. False 1

vi. (C) work in cooperation with other countries. 1

vii. **(any two)** 2
- Pollination
- seed control
- seed dispersal
- survival of ecosystems

viii. (C) harmony between man and nature. 1

2 UNSEEN PASSAGE 2 10 marks

i. (B) progress and development. 1

ii. (A) Both the assertion and reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion. 1

iii. monitoring 1

iv. Improve living standards / address pressing social issues / support initiatives – digital literacy, health care access, agricultural support. 1

v. 10% 1

vi. **(Any One)** 1
- Better infrastructure / investment
- skilled professionals enable faster adoption of AI.
- 60 % AI implementation concentrated in urban areas
- Urban regions / metropolitans lead in technological development
- Cities act as innovation and testing hubs
- 30% AI implementation in industrial zones

vii advancement in fields such as health care, finance, and transportation 1

viii User engagement / accessibility / efficiency of communication with technology 1

ix **(Any Two)** 2
- provides a comprehensive understanding of AI's implications

- highlights potential challenges such as ethical dilemmas and unequal access
- helps in designing strategies to ensure inclusive and sustainable technological growth.

SECTION B (20 MARKS)
GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS
GRAMMAR (10 MARKS)

3 Complete **ANY TEN** of twelve of the following tasks, as directed: (10X1=10)

i.	(B) will have been living.	1
ii.	has	1
iii.	if / whether she liked the painting she had gifted her the day before / the previous day.	1
iv.	Each	1
v.	that he would make sure he did him proud.	1
vi.	(C) than -- to	1
vii.	(A) gave	1
viii.	parent – parents	1
ix.	if / whether he had packed all the items	1
x.	(A) could	1
xi.	are	1
xii.	he believed they understood him better as they then knew all his fears.	1

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (10 MARKS)

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

4. Letter Writing – Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below 5 marks

Content - 2
Format – 1

- No mark for format alone if content is irrelevant or missing
- Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects included.
- Partial credit of ½ mark if one or two aspects are missing.
- No credit if more than two aspects are missing

Organisation of Ideas -1 [effective style, orderly sequence, paragraphed structure and formal tone and vocabulary]
Accuracy -1 (spelling, punctuation, grammar)

- Half a mark deducted if there are three or more spelling errors

4 (a) Value Points (Problems / Issues / Situation)
(At least four points- two from each aspect)

Current Situation

- not enough interaction between students of different states / culture
- logistical challenges in coordination between schools
- disruption of regular academic schedule
- language barriers causing communication difficulty

Suggestions:

- promote national integration and unity in diversity
- develop cultural understanding and respect for different traditions
- exposure to different languages, food, lifestyles and customs
- break stereotypes and misconceptions among students
- instil Independence and self-confidence
- learning through real-life experiences
- develop leadership qualities

(Any other relevant point)

OR

4 (b) Value Points (Problems / Issues / Situation)
(At least four points- two from each aspect)

Current Situation

- important to expose students to practical life-skills
- break from monotonous pen-paper routine
- essential for students to demonstrate responsible behavior
- important to develop their inter-personal skills

Suggestions:

- food stalls, performances, management handled by students
- students demonstrating confidence, teamwork and discipline
- builds confidence and self-esteem
- enhances organizational and leadership skills
- develops sense of responsibility and accountability
- prepares students for real-world challenges
- improves communication and social skills

(Any other relevant point)

5. **Analytical Paragraph – Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below (5 marks)**
Content – 2

- Full credit of two marks will be awarded if a minimum of four trends duly analysed and synthesized, given in the question are included.
- Partial credit of one mark will be awarded if only two value points are included.

Organisation of ideas – 2

- effective style, orderly sequence, single paragraph structure, formal tone and functional vocabulary
- Linking words and phrases / cohesive devices such as however, in addition to, in contrast to, therefore, etc. should be used.

Accuracy -1 (spelling, punctuation, grammar)

- Half a mark deducted if there are three or more spelling errors

5 (a) Value Points

- A multi-level jungle-themed play area with climbing walls, rope tunnels, and slides.
- A ball pit and trampoline section for younger kids.
- A gaming zone with arcade machines and interactive screens.
- Safety padding on all surfaces and trained staff for monitoring activities.
- A dedicated toddler zone with soft toys, mini slides, and sensory play stations.
- A small cafeteria for parents with a clear view of the play area.

(Any other relevant point)

OR

5 (b) Value Points

- Brightly coloured classrooms with themed decorations.
- An outdoor grassy play area with slides, swings, and sand pits.
- A sensory activity zone with toys for touch, sound, and visual stimulation.
- Dedicated nap rooms with cozy beds and calming lights.
- A library with picture books, story-telling corners, and interactive learning tools.
- CCTV monitoring for safety and a nurse available for emergencies.

(Any other relevant point)

SECTION – C : LITERATURE (40 marks)

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

6 (a)

i. (A) awed 1

ii. **(Any Two points)** 2

- Readers experience Valli's fascination and excitement
- Creates a vivid picture of her surroundings
- Immerses us in her perspective and experience.

iii. fascination 1

iv. (**Any one point**) 1

- Devoured everything with her eyes
- Stood up on the seat
- Peered over the blind

OR

6 (b)

i. **(Any one point)** 1

- her beauty, dress, ornaments gained admiration and attention of all men.

- prettiest of all
- danced with enthusiasm / intoxicated with pleasure
- elevated her social status at the ball

ii. Introduced. 2

iii. (A) overwhelmed 1

iv. **(Any one point)** 1

- fulfilling her desire to feel admired and envied
- becomes the centre of attention
- satisfying her longing for social validation.

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

7 (a)

i. **(Any Two points)** 2

- Introspective and hopeful
- Connected with surroundings through sensory experiences, like the smell of leaves and lichen
- Immersed in peaceful contemplation
- Calm, reflective, observant
- Shows heightened awareness of the trees movement

ii. Liberation from patriarchy, regressiveness / desire for independence / self-discovery and exploration / conflict between man and nature. 1

iii. The departure of the forest from the house. 1

iv. (D) 2 and 5. 1

OR

7 (b)

i. **(Any Two points)** 2

- Transfixed by the experience
- Dejected at losing the ball
- Gradual emotional transformation
- Movement from innocence to awareness

ii. (B) Learns the money cannot restore what is lost. 1

iii. Understand the nature of loss / losses are inevitable and universal / suffering is human fate / reconciliation to one's fate. 1

iv. (C) 1 and 3 1

Q8) Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions in about 40-50 words. (4x3=12)

Content-2 marks (at least 2 value points)
Expression-1 mark (effective style, coherence & cohesion)

i) (Any Two Points) 2+1

- Arab traders settled in the region and married local women
- Their dress resembles traditional Arab attire – esp. long, black coats called 'Kuppia'

- Culture and customs reflect foreign influence

(Any other relevant point)

ii) (Any Two Points) 2+1

- she listened to conversation discretely of her neighbours / who used the bus
- collected details about timings, fare and distance
- saved money / 60 paise secretly for the both ways fares
- did not buy peppermints, toys and go on the merry go-round.
- planned the trip when her mother would be asleep.
- decided not to get off the bus at the town

(Any other relevant point)

iii) (Any Two points) 2+1

- Both families claimed ownership of Oxen Meadows
- Lomov argued – land belonged to his family / had document to prove it
- Chubukov insisted- meadows belonged to them / using land for generations
- Dispute arises due to misunderstanding / pride and stubbornness
- Highlights the pettiness / ego and foolishness of the characters

(Any other relevant point)

iv) (Any Two points- one from each aspect) 2+1

Reality

- Amanda – under constant instructions and restrictions / controlled and irritated / misunderstood and lonely
    - Eg – "Don't bite your nails, Amanda" etc.

(Any other relevant point)

Daydream

- Imagines freedom and independence / a sole mermaid in the sea / an orphan – wandering peacefully / Rapunzel – living alone and free from restrictions
- Imagination acts as escape from her pressured life

(Any other relevant point)

v) (Any Two points) 2+1

Mandela wants -

- freedom from racial oppression and apartheid
- equality for all — Black and White alike
- right to dignity, justice, and human rights
- end of all kinds of discrimination
- freedom not only from bondage but from fear, poverty, and deprivation
- opportunity to live with self-respect
- harmony and peaceful coexistence among communities
- liberation of both the oppressed and the oppressor

(Any other relevant point)

Q9) Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in about 40-50 words. (2x3=6)

Content-2 marks (at least 2 value points)
Expression-1 mark (effective style, coherence & cohesion)

i) (Any Two points) 2+1

- Agrees respectfully with Think Tank's statements.
- Uses flattery to protect Think Tank's ego.
- Suggests corrections indirectly and diplomatically like "might I suggest…"
- Avoids open disagreement to safeguard his position.
- Shows intelligence, tact, and political wisdom.

(Any other relevant point)

ii) (Any Two points) 2+1

- Afraid due to stammer and past humiliation.
- Feared being mocked at school.
- At home she was neglected and treated as inferior.
- She was bathed/ hair was oiled/ was given a clean dress to wear.

(Any other relevant point)

iii) (Any Two points) 2+1

- Tricki was extremely overweight/ like a bloated sausage.
- Overfed rich food by Mrs. Pumphrey.
- No exercise; became lethargic and listless/ rheumy eyes
- Vomiting and lack of appetite signalled illness/ tongue lolled from his jaws
- Risk of serious health complications.

(Any other relevant point)

Q10) Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 100-120 words. (6 marks)

Content-3 marks (at least 3 value points duly supported by relevant textual evidence)
Expression-2 marks (effective style, coherence & cohesion)
Accuracy-1 mark (spelling, punctuation, grammar)

a) (3 value points- At Least one from each aspect) 3+2+1

A Letter to God

- Lencho receives money after praying to God.
- The help actually comes from the postmaster and his employees, not directly from God.
- Lencho remains unaware of the true source of help.

The Black Aeroplane

- The pilot is lost in a storm with no fuel left.
- A mysterious black aeroplane appears and guides him safely to the runway.
- The pilot later discovers that no such plane appeared on the radar.

Synthesis of Ideas

- Both stories highlight that help arrives at the moment of extreme crisis/help appears almost miraculous.

- The helpers remain hidden or unidentified.
- The protagonists are saved through unexpected intervention.
- The identity of the rescuer remains unknown and mysterious

(Any other relevant point)

OR

b) (3 value points- At Least one from each aspect) 3+2+1

Similarities

- Both the tiger and the dragon are powerful wild creatures / symbolize strength and danger.
- Both are confined or controlled by humans.
- Both evoke fear — the tiger through silence and rage, the dragon through appearance.

Differences

- The tiger is caged and helpless vs Custard the dragon lives safely with Belinda.
- The tiger is quiet, angry, and full of suppressed energy vs Custard appears timid and cowardly at first.
- The tiger's strength is wasted in captivity vs Custard proves his bravery by killing the pirate.
- The tiger represents the tragedy of captivity vs the dragon highlights the theme that true courage is shown in action.

Synthesis of Ideas

- The tiger evokes sympathy and reflects loss of freedom.
- The dragon shows that appearances can be deceptive and bravery may be hidden

Q11) Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 100-120 words. (6 marks)

Content-3 marks (at least 3 value points duly supported by relevant textual evidence)
Expression-2 marks (effective style, coherence & cohesion)
Accuracy-1 mark (spelling, punctuation, grammar)

a) (3 value points- At Least one from each aspect) 3+2+1

Elements of Humour

- The exaggerated description of Tricki's obesity creates comic effect.
- Mrs. Pumphrey's overindulgence and dramatic behaviour add situational humour.
- Use of playful names like "Horlicks", "Malt", "cod-liver oil" for a dog is amusing.
- Contrast between Mrs. Pumphrey's panic and the simple solution (diet and exercise).
- Irony: The "serious illness" is only overfeeding.
- Mr. Herriot's practical approach versus Mrs. Pumphrey's emotional reactions.

(Any other relevant point)

Elements of Endearment

- Mrs. Pumphrey's deep love and affection for Tricki.
- Her constant concern and anxiety for his well-being.
- Tricki's transformation from lazy and sick to active and healthy.

- The bond between pet and owner.
- Mr. Herriot's gentle handling and genuine care for the dog.
- The story blends gentle satire with warmth.
- Humour makes the narrative light and engaging.
- Endearment creates emotional connection with characters.

(Any other relevant point)

OR

b) (3 value points) **3+2+1**

- The Martians misinterpret ordinary nursery rhymes as coded messages.
- "Mistress Mary" and "Humpty Dumpty" are taken as military threats.
- Simple Earth words are seen as secret weapons.
- Lack of proper understanding creates unnecessary fear.
- Martians fail to understand human humour and poetry.
- They judge Earth based on incomplete and childish material.
- Differences in customs, thinking, and expression lead to confusion.
- Martians have no real knowledge of human society.
- They rely on limited information from a single book.
- Overconfidence and ignorance make them draw wrong conclusions.
- Mars plans to attack Earth due to misunderstanding.
- Panic and suspicion arise from false assumptions.

(Any other relevant point)