Series : MLNK5 **SET~3**

Q.P. Code 2/5/3

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) Forests are often called the lungs of the Earth, and in India, they are an integral part of the country's ecological, economic, and cultural fabric. They regulate temperatures and help keep the air clean. Covering about 21.71% of India's geographical area, forests play a pivotal role in sustaining biodiversity, regulating climate, and supporting the livelihoods of millions of people. However, these verdant expanses face numerous challenges, raising important questions about conservation, sustainable development, and policy priorities.

(2) India's forests are incredibly diverse, ranging from the lush tropical rain forests to the alpine vegetation of the Himalayas. This diversity is home to a wide variety of flora and fauna, many of which are endemic or endangered, such as the Bengal tiger, Indian elephant, and Nilgiri Tahr. Forests also provide critical ecosystem services like water conservation, soil fertility, and carbon sequestration, which are essential in combating climate change.

(3) Economically, forests contribute significantly through timber, medicinal plants and Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) like honey and bamboo. They are also central to the lives of tribal communities who depend on them for sustenance and cultural practices. However, this dependence brings to light the complex relationship between human development and forest preservation.

(4) Is it possible to achieve economic growth without degrading forest resources ? The pressures on India's forests are immense. Rapid urbanization, industrial expansion, mining, and agricultural encroachment have led to significant deforestation. According to recent reports, India lost around 66,000 hectares of forest cover between 2019 and 2021. This loss not only threatens biodiversity but also exacerbates climate-related challenges such as rising temperatures and erratic rainfall.

(5) Policy measures like the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 and initiatives such as Compensatory Afforestation and Van Mahotsav (Forest Festival) reflect efforts to preserve and expand forest areas. However, critics argue that these measures often fail to address ground realities. For instance, afforestation projects may involve planting monoculture species that disrupt ecosystems rather than restore natural biodiversity. Similarly, conflicts arise when policies overlook the rights of indigenous communities, leading to displacement and social tensions. India's forests are a microcosm of the global struggle to balance development with conservation.

(6) Solutions lie in adopting sustainable practices, such as agroforestry, eco-tourism, and community-based conservation models. Empowering local communities to act as custodians of forests ensures both their livelihoods and the health of forest ecosystems. Moreover, raising awareness about the importance of forests can inspire collective action at all levels.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

(i) In paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'Lungs of the Earth' refer to with reference to the passage ? **1**

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

Forests play a significant role in sustaining biodiversity by _____

(a) balancing climate change and creating livelihoods for people.

(b) Providing wood for fuel and industries worldwide. (Para 1) **1**

(iii) Support the writer's idea that forests provide critical ecosystem services with textual evidence. (Para 2) **2**

(iv) What do the recent statistics on deforestation reveal about the state of India's forests ? **1**

(A) Deforestation has decreased significantly.

(B) Forest loss has been stabilized.

(C) Forest cover is rapidly declining.

(D) There is no significant impact on forest cover. (Para 4)

(v) Select the concept that best reflects the complex relationship between human development and preservation. (Para 3) **1**

(a) Rapid urbanization has led to widespread deforestation depriving flora and fauna of its natural habitat.

(b) The introduction of initiatives like Van Mahotsav serve as compensatory afforestation.

(vi) State whether the following statement is true or false : **1**

Deforestation is one of the reasons for erratic rainfall. (Para 4)

(vii) List one challenge that critics see in compensatory afforestation measures. (Para 5) **1**

(viii) How do community-based conservation models benefit both forests and local communities ? (Para 6) **2**

2. Read the following passage carefully : **10 M**

The Rise of Electric Vehicles in India :

(1) Electric Vehicles (EVs) are gaining significant traction globally. In India, the push for EVs is driven by concerns over air pollution, rising fuel costs and government's commitment to reducing carbon emissions. The Indian Government has set ambitious targets for EV adoption, aiming for 30% of private cars, 70% of commercial vehicles, and 80% of two wheelers and three-wheelers to be electric by 2030.

(2) The benefits of EVs extend beyond environmental impact :
Lower running cost due to cheaper electricity, reduces maintenance because of fewer moving parts, and lowers noise pollution in urban areas.

(3) Despite the promising outlook, the EV industry in India faces several challenges currently. While public charging stations are slowly increasing, their availability, especially in semi-urban and rural areas, remains a bottleneck. The initial high purchase cost of EVs and concerns about range or the fear of running out of charge are other causes of anxiety.

(4) To overcome these hurdles, the government is offering subsidies and tax benefits to make EVs more affordable. Private companies are investing in developing new EV models with improved battery technology for longer ranges and battery swapping technology is also being explored as a quick alternative to traditional charging.

(5) The Indian EV market is witnessing rapid growth, with sales figures steadily climbing. In 2023, India recorded sales of over 1.5 million EVs, a significant jump from previous years. Two-wheelers dominated the sales, followed by three-wheelers and then passenger cars. States like Maharashtra, Delhi, and Karnataka have emerged as leaders in EV adoption, largely due to supportive state policies and greater awareness among consumers.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) Electric vehicles offer multiple benefits in India.
Support the above statement in 40 words with evidence from the text. **2**

(ii) Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below : **1**
Assertion : EVs are gaining traction in India.
Reason : The Indian government is committed to reducing carbon emissions.

(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) Justify the following statement : **1**
Despite governmental support, the initial cost of EVs remains a challenge for consumers.

(iv) Complete the following with one suitable reason from the text : **1**
The silent operation of EVs contributes to better urban living because _____.

(v) "In 2023, India recorded sales of over 1.5 million EVs, a significant jump from previous years."
State any one inference that can be drawn from the above statement. **1**

(vi) According to the passage, what is 'range anxiety' in the context of electric vehicles ? **1**

(vii) Based on the given text, which type of EV dominated sales in India in 2023 ? **1**

(viii) Complete the sentence suitably : **1**
To address the challenge of charging infrastructure, various initiatives are being undertaken, such as _____.

(ix) Give one reason to support why the adoption of EVs is slow in some parts of India. **1**

Section – B (20 Marks)

Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

Grammar 10 M

3. Complete any **ten** of twelve of the following tasks, as directed :

(i) A manager wrote a report to his seniors about his team. Fill in the blank with the correct option to complete the report : **1**

By the end of this quarter, the assistant manager _____ on this campaign for eight months.

(A) will be working (B) will have been working

(C) will have working (D) would have been working

(ii) Read the given sentence from a sales report. Identify the error and supply the correction in the given format : **1**

Being checked all the figures twice, she was sure there were no errors.

Error	Correction

(iii) Read the conversation between the store supervisor and the salesman : **1**

Supervisor : "Did you switch off all the lights before leaving office yesterday ?"

Salesman – "Yes, I did and I also handed over the keys to the night supervisor."

A store supervisor asked the salesman whether he had switched off all the lights before leaving the office the day before.

The salesman confirmed _____.

Report the salesman's response.

(iv) A school Principal addressed Board aspirants and said : **1**

"_____ candidates must carry their identification proof."

Fill in the blank with the appropriate option :

(A) Each (B) All

(C) Every (D) One

(v) Isha said to her parents, "My mentor will always guide me, even after this programme ends." **1**

Report what Isha said to her parents.

(vi) Find the error in the following sentence and supply the correction : **1**

I was disappointed to see that in the library there was less books on the subject than expected.

Error	**Correction**

(vii) Fill in the blank with correct option : **1**

My friends _____ the movie tickets before we even reached the ticket counter.

(A) has collected (B) had collected

(C) collect (D) will collect

(viii) Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from a recipe book for students : **1**

After stirring the cocoa into the melted butter, you _____ add the eggs one at a time before adding the flour.

(A) would (B) might

(C) may (D) must

(ix) Report the following sentence by a customer : **1**

"Did you double-check the address before dispatching the washing machine ?"

(x) Complete the following sentence by choosing the correct option : **1**

If we had consulted the engineer, we _____ this mistake.

(A) would avoid (B) will avoid

(C) would have avoided (D) had avoided

(xi) Complete the following newspaper report by filling in the blank : **1**

The number of road accidents _____ increased this year.

(A) have (B) are

(C) has (D) were

(xii) The speaker in conversation with a group of ministers said, **1**

"I feel reassured after hearing your opinions."

What did the speaker say to the ministers ?

Creative Writing Skills **10 M**

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

4. Attempt any **one** from (A) and (B) given below :

(A) As a parent, you have observed a rise in the number of students feeling a sense of inadequacy and anxiety. According to you social media is impacting their self worth through constant social comparison and exposure to unrealistic standards. You are Divya / Dinesh Rana – write a letter to the Principal of Sunrise International School, suggesting the need to hold workshops and interactive sessions with students, teachers, and parents to explore the positive aspects of social media that will strengthen a sense of self identity. **5**

OR

(B) You are Sneha/Gursharan Singh an art teacher from a reputed public school. You have noticed that most students after class X opt for management or science streams and pursue careers as doctors, engineers, or management professionals : You believe that Art is crucial for students as it fosters creativity, critical thinking, and promotes emotional well-being. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily expressing your views on the importance of studying art in schools. **5**

5. Attempt any **one** from (A) and (B) given below :

(A) The data given below shows how teenagers spend their daily screen time across different digital activities. **5**

S. No.	Digital Activities	Percentage
1.	Social media	35
2.	Watching videos / streaming	30
3.	Gaming	20
4.	Online learning	10
5.	Others (browsing, reading news, etc.,)	5

Analyse the data provided and write a paragraph analyzing how teenagers allocate their daily screen time.

Focus on the activity that occupies the largest proportion of time and on other major and minor activities in descending order, and on the balance between entertainment and educational screen use. Conclude with an observation about the overall trend.

OR

(B) Read the given details of a community library designed for your neighbourhood : **5**

- A well lit and ventilated reading lounge.
- A digital section with computers, tablets and e-books.
- A dedicated children's corner with picture books and storytelling sessions.
- A quiet study area with desk lamps and soundproof partitions for students.
- Outdoor reading space under trees for senior citizens.
- Book-sharing stands where people can donate and borrow books freely.

Analyse the details and write an analytical paragraph in about **120** words about the suitability of this library.

Focus on factors such as accessibility, reading environment, suitability for different age groups, and community engagement.

Section – C

Literature (40 Marks)

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

(A) Ausable did not fit any description of a secret agent Fowler had ever read. Following him down the musty corridor of the gloomy French hotel where Ausable had a room, Fowler felt let down. It was a small room, on the sixth and top floor and scarcely a setting for a romantic adventure. Ausable was, for one thing, fat, very fat. And then there was his accent. Though he spoke French and German passably, he had never altogether lost the American accent he had brought to Paris from Boston twenty years ago. "You are disappointed," Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder. *(The Midnight Visitor)*

(i) Which of the following describes how Fowler felt on seeing Ausable for the first time ? **1**

(A) excited and happy

(B) indifferent and disgusted

(C) surprised and disappointed

(D) envious and in awe

(ii) How did the hotel's atmosphere influence Fowler's mood ? **2**

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

Ausable's reaction on seeing how Fowler felt shows that he was _____. (observant/ embarrassed)

(iv) In what way does Ausable defy the typical spy image ? **1**

OR

(B) "I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die".

(Nelson Mandela : Long Walk to Freedom)

(i) What is the main ideal Mandela is talking about ? **1**

(A) economic prosperity (B) representative and free society

(C) absolute power (D) finishing racism

(ii) How does the statement reflect Mandela's commitment to justice ? (Answer in about 40 words) **2**

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

Nelson's vision was not simply to reverse the oppression but to end it completely as he wishes to _____ (fight / appease) all forms of domination in which all persons live with equal opportunities.

(iv) The phrase "prepared to die" shows Mandela's : **1**

(A) anxiety (B) desperation

(C) passion (D) uprightness

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any **one** of the two (A) and (B) : **5**

(A) What, what is the boy now
who has lost his ball.
What, what is he to do.
I saw it go
Merrily bouncing, down the street and then Merrily over – there it is in the water !"
No use to say 'O there are other balls'.

(The Ball Poem by John Berryman)

(i) What does the repetition of the word "merrily" suggest in the context of the ball's movement ? **1**

(ii) How does this moment contrast the mood of the poem before and after the ball falls into the water ? (Answer in about 40 words) **2**

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

The poet uses the ball as a symbol of the boy's _____. (childhood/adventure)

(iv) The line, 'No use to say, oh there are other balls' signifies : **1**

(A) Words of consolation are inappropriate.

(B) The boy must be left alone and play with other toys.

(C) The boy should not be left alone.

(D) No ball will be as expensive as the one the boy has lost.

OR

(B) "All night the roots work
To disengage themselves from the cracks
in the veranda floor. The leaves strain towards the glass
small twigs stiff with exertion
long-cramped boughs shuffling
under the roof
like newly discharged patients
half dazed, moving to the clinic doors *(Trees)*

(i) What do the roots work upon all night ? **1**

(ii) Each part of the trees works to get itself free. Describe their struggle.

(answer in about 40 words) **2**

(iii) Fill the blank with one word. **1**

The long branches are compared to _____.

(iv) The phrase 'half-dazed' is used for the branches as they adjust from being indoors to being in the open. It highlights the branches' : **1**

(A) disorientation and fragility

(B) experience and privilege

(C) hurt and injury

(D) barrenness and pain

8. Answer any **four** of the following five questions, in about **40-50** words each : **4 × 3 = 12**

(i) In 'Two stories about Flying – Part II *(Black Aeroplane)*', what does the narrator's experience suggest about unexpected help and mystery ? **3**

(ii) In 'Dust of Snow', what role does the unexpected moment play in shifting the speaker's mood ? **3**

(iii) In 'From the Diary of Anne Frank', Anne's writing reflects her maturity despite her young age. Elaborate. **3**

(iv) In 'Glimpses of India – Part III *(Tea from Assam)*', how does the story connect tea with both culture and economic significance ? **3**

(v) In 'His First Flight', the reactions of the young seagull's family serve as both a challenge and a catalyst for his growth. How does this dual role reflect the complexities of support systems in real life ?

(Two Stories about Flying) **3**

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

(i) In what way was Richard Ebright's scientific journey enhanced by the support of his mother ? *(The Making of a Scientist)* **3**

(ii) How does the setting of the hotel room become a tool in Ausable's plan to defeat Max ? *(The Midnight Visitor)* **3**

(iii) What was the passion of Horace Danby and how did he satisfy it ?

(A Question of Trust) **3**

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

(A) How does Lencho's faith in God, as shown in 'A Letter to God' contrast with the skepticism of Kisa Gotami in 'Sermon at Benares'. Support your answer with details from the two texts. **6**

OR

(B) Analyse how Amanda in the poem 'Amanda' and the dragon in the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' yearn for acceptance and a life free from criticism. **6**

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

(A) In 'The Necklace', Madam Loisel spends years repaying a debt for a necklace that was never valuable. How does this irony expose the illusion of wealth and the consequences of chasing appearances ? **6**

OR

(B) In 'The Book That Saved the Earth', how does the play use humour and irony to comment on both futuristic technology and human assumptions ? What message do you think the author conveys through the Martians' misinterpretation of a nursery rhyme ? **6**





Marking Scheme
Strictly Confidential
(For Internal and Restricted use only)
Secondary School Examination, 2026 (X^{th})
SUBJECT NAME: ENGLISH (Language & Literature) (Q.P. CODE /Set No 2/5/3)

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 and Literature) (Subject Code-184)
(PAPER CODE: 2/5/3) (10-05-184K)
EXPECTED OUTCOMES/VALUE POINTS

SECTION – A
READING SKILLS (20 MARKS)

1. **Reading Passage I**

(i) **(any one)** **1**
- Forests
- maintain ecological balance
- help keep the air clean
- absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen
- regulate earth's temperature

(ii) **(A)** balancing climate change and creating livelihoods for people **1**

(iii) **(any two)** **2**
- home to a wide variety of flora and fauna
- home to endemic and endangered species
- provide critical ecosystem services
- help in water conservation
- increase soil fertility
- do carbon sequestration (or separation)
- regulates earth's temperature
- combats climate change

(iv) **(C)** forest cover is rapidly declining **1**

(v) **(B)**The introduction of initiatives like Van Mahotsav serve as compensatory afforestation **1**

(vi) True **1**

(vii) **(any one)** **1**
- planting monoculture disrupts ecosystem
- overlook rights or displacement of indigenous people

(viii) **(any two)** **2**
- empower local communities to act as custodians of the forest
- ensure the livelihood of local communities
- ensure health of the forest
- raising awareness about the importance of forest can inspire collective action

2. **Reading Passage II**

(i) **(any two)** **2**
- electric vehicles offer lower running costs due to cheaper electricity
- reduced maintenance needs due to fewer moving parts
- contribute to reduced noise pollution

- contribute to reduced air pollution

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

(iii) **(any one)** **1**
- governmental support through subsidies and tax benefits
- lack of public charging stations

(iv) it reduces noise pollution **1**

(v) **(any one)** **1**
- EV market is growing or increasing
- growing consumer acceptance
- EV market is gaining traction
- people have realised its benefits
- supportive state policies
- people have become environment conscious or concerns over air pollution

(vi) **(any one)** **1**
- fear of running out of charge while driving
- lack of availability of charging stations in semi-urban and rural areas

(vii) two-wheelers **1**

(viii) **(any one)** **1**
- private companies investing in developing robust charging networks
- exploring battery swapping technology

(ix) **(any one)** **1**
- the limited charging infrastructure, esp. in semi-urban and rural areas
- higher initial cost
- lack of supportive state policies
- lack of awareness among consumers

SECTION - B
20 MARKS
GRAMMAR AND WRITING SKILLS

3. **Grammar (attempt any ten)** **10**

(i) (B) will have been working

(ii) **Error** – Being
Correction – Having

(iii) that he had done and he had also handed over the keys to the night supervisor.

(iv) (B) All

(v) Isha said/told that her mentor would always guide her even after that programme ended.

(vi) **(any one)**
Error – was ; **Correction** – were
Error- was less; **Correction**-were fewer

(vii) (B) had collected
(viii) (D) must
(ix) The customer asked if / whether they / he / she had double-checked the address before dispatching the washing machine.
(x) (C) would have avoided
(xi) (C) has
(xii) The speaker said to/told the ministers that he felt reassured after hearing their opinions.

4. Letter Writing - Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

- **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, formal tone and relevant vocabulary)**
- **Accuracy – 1 (spelling, punctuation and grammar)**
  - **½ mark to be deducted if there are three or more spelling errors.**

4A. (**at least four points, two from each aspect)**

Problems - (any two) **5**

- Rise in the number of students feeling a sense inadequacy
- Rise of anxiety amongst students
- Social media negatively impacting self-worth
- Constant comparison on social media harms students mentally
- Students are exposed to unrealistic standards

(any other relevant point)

Solutions (any two)

- Need to hold workshops and interactive sessions with students, teachers and parents
- Need to explore positive aspects of social media
- Strengthening of self-identity
- Teaching students that comparison is the enemy of joy

(any other relevant point)

OR

4 B. **Current Situation (any two)** **5**

- Most student opt for management or science streams
- Doctors, engineers and management professionals are considered superior
- Art/humanities is often seen as inferior

(any other relevant point)

Value of Art (any two)

- Art is crucial for students' holistic development
- Art fosters creativity
- Art promotes emotional well-being
- Art inculcates creativity

(any other relevant point)

5. Analytical Paragraph - Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. **5**

- **Content - 2**
  - **Full credit of two marks will be awarded if a minimum of four trends/points, which are included in the question, are duly analysed and synthesised.**
  - **Partial credit of one mark will be awarded if only two value points are included.**
- **Organisation - 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 and grammar)**
  - **½ mark to be deducted if there are three or more spelling errors.**

5A. **5**

- largest time allocation – social media (35%) - indicates a strong preference for online social interaction
- second largest time allocation – watching videos/streaming (30%) - highlights content consumption as a major screen activity
- gaming (20%) - suggests that many teenagers use screen time for recreation and online gaming
- online learning (10%) - educational screen use is relatively limited
- others (browsing, reading news, etc) 5% - minimal time spent on general knowledge or miscellaneous activities
- total entertainment use (social media + streaming + gaming) = 85% - overwhelming dominance of entertainment
- educational and productive purpose gets only a small share (online learning + others) = 15%
- low screen time devoted to informative or productive tasks - raises concerns about digital habits
- need for balanced screen time habits
- increase awareness of digital literacy in academic domain and screen time regulation

OR

5B. **5**

- digital library: e-books / tablets / computers for tech-savvy readers
- child-friendly zone: dedicated space for children/ storytelling / puppet shows / encourages early literacy
- quiet study area: sound proof spaces / individual desks / place for competitive exam preparers

- nature-integrated design: outdoor reading spaces / peaceful and refreshing reading environments / study in nature / fresh air
- book sharing: community involvement / book sharing stands / encourage book donations / free borrowing of books / promoting shared learning
- inclusivity and accessibility: books for all age groups / diverse reading zones / sitting zones / accessibility features, ramps, etc.

SECTION - C
LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (40 MARKS)

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

6A. (i) (C) surprised and disappointed **1**

(ii) Hotel's atmosphere: **1+1**

- The French hotel was gloomy/ musty/ small

Impact on Fowler's mood:

- Fowler felt let down / disappointed/disillusioned/upset **(any other relevant word)**

(iii) observant **1**

(iv) **(any one)** **1**

- fat / lethargic
- unimpressive in appearance
- could not speak French and German properly / had not lost the American accent
- lived in a small and gloomy hotel
- did not look like a stereotypical spy

(any other relevant point)

OR

6B. (i) (B) representative and free society **1**

(ii) **(any two)** **2**

- willing to live and even die for equality and justice
- dedication to end oppression
- establish a fair society
- live in harmony
- give equal opportunities
- democratic and free society

(iii) fight **1**

(iv) (C) passion **1**

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

7A. (i) **(any one)** **1**

- merrily shows bouncing of the ball
- playful childhood
- happiness of childhood

(any other relevant point)

(ii) Mood before the ball falls into the water - happy / playful **(any other relevant word)**
Mood after the ball falls into the water – sad /gloomy **(any other relevant word)** **1+1**

(iii) childhood **1**

(iv) (A) words of consolation are inappropriate **1**

OR

7B. (i) roots try to disengage themselves from the cracks / try to break free **1**

(ii) **(any two)** **2**

- roots work to disengage or uproot themselves from the cracks
- leaves move toward the glass
- small twigs or branches force themselves out of the glass
- long branches shuffle or move under the roof

(iii) patients / newly discharged patients **1**

(iv) (A) disorientation and fragility **1**

8. Answer any *four* of the following five questions in 40 – 50 words each. **4× 3=12**

- **Content – 2 (at least two value points with relevant textual evidence)**
- **Expression – 1 (effective style, coherence and cohesion)**

(i) **(at least one point from each aspect of the question)** **2+1**

Unexpected help:

- The pilot was lost in storm with no visibility/radio not working
- Black aeroplane appeared out of nowhere
- Black aeroplane guided him to safety
- Suggest help can arrive unasked in tough times

(any other relevant point)

Mystery about the Black Aeroplane:

- No record of the plane at the control tower
- Emphasises wonder, mystery and faith in the unknown

(any other relevant point)

(ii) **(any two)** **2+1**

- A sudden, simple event transforms his mood.
- Nature's unpredictability brings emotional renewal.
- Replaces regret with a sense of relief and hope
- Small moments can uplift mood.

(any other relevant point)

(iii) **(any two)** **2+1**

- Self-aware and observant of human behaviour.
- Uses writing as emotional outlet, shows introspection
- Trying to balance teenage emotions with maturity
- Shows resilience and a thoughtful, evolving mind
- The level of writing was way mature for a thirteen year old
- Able to tackle her teacher's tricky essays - smartly defended her talkative nature

(any other relevant point)

(iv) **(at least one point for each aspect of the question)** **2+1**

The cultural significance of tea:

- Tea as everyday cultural habit across the world
- Tea as a symbol of hospitality and social interaction
- Tea carries its cultural origin in China and India – the two legends of its origin
- Words like chai chini adopted in many languages come from Chinese culture

(any other relevant point)

The economic significance of tea:

- Source of income – jobs as tea planters, tea pluckers, tea-sellers, etc.
- Crores of cups of tea are consumed everyday generating a massive revenue.
- Tea is exported all over the world from India.

(any other relevant point)

(v) **(at least one point for each aspect of the question)** **2+1**

Challenges posed by the family:

- Family initially ignores him, creating pressure.
- They starve him
- They scold and taunt him
- They isolate him by leaving him alone on the ledge

(any other relevant point)

Positive impacts of the challenges posed:

- Their apparent coldness challenges his comfort zone
- Mother's temptation with food becomes the final push
- Family's silence is strategic, not cruel – it fosters independence
- Mirrors real life-support isn't always comforting, but growth focused

(any other relevant point)

9. Answer any *two* of the following three questions in 40 – 50 words each. **2× 3=6**

- **Content – 2 (at least two value points with relevant textual evidence)**
- **Expression – 1 (effective style, coherence and cohesion)**

(i) **(any two)** **2+1**

- His mother's support encouraged his interest in learning
- Was his pillar of support after his father's early demise
- Gifted him the book, *The Travels of Monarch X*
- Never let him sit idle – always found some productive work for him
- Bought him telescope, microscope, camera, etc.
- Wrote the letter to Dr Urquhart – helped him get new insights into the world of butterflies

(any other relevant point)

(ii) **(any two)** **2+1**

- Ausable uses the dull, ordinary hotel room to invent a believable story.
- Mentions a fake balcony to trap Max-shows improvisation
- Uses the knock at the door to increase Max's fear
- Gets rid of max when he jumps out of the balcony and dies
- Demonstrates how intelligence involves manipulating surroundings, not just facts

(any other relevant point)

(ii) **(at least one point for each aspect of the question)** **2+1**

Passion of Horace Danby:

- Collect and rare and expensive books

Satisfying his desire:

- Used to rob a safe every year and bought book from it

10. Answer any one of the following two questions in 100-120 words. **6**

- **Content – 3 (any three points duly supported by relevant textual evidence)**
- **Expression – 2 (effective style, coherence and cohesion)**
- **Accuracy -1 (spelling, punctuation, grammar)**

A. **(any three)** **3+2+1**

- Lencho approached God in crisis whereas Kisa Gotami tried to find solution on her own
- Lencho did not trust humans whereas Kisa Gotami put her faith in Buddha and the other people in her village
- Lencho believed in divine miracle whereas Kisa Gotami believed in putting in real efforts
- Lencho wrote a letter to God whereas Kisa Gotami carried her dead son around finding a cure
- Lencho's faith got stronger after he received money from God whereas Kisa Gotami realises the truth/wisdom about life and death

(any other relevant point)

OR

B. **(Total three points - At least one point from each aspect of the question)** **3+2+1**

Amanda:

- Retreats into fantasies (mermaid, orphan, Rapunzel) to find the peace denied to her in reality
- Desires to run away from constant nagging
- Views silence as "golden" and freedom as "sweet," preferring total isolation
  (any other relevant point)

Custard the Dragon:

- Yearns for a "nice safe cage" to escape the burden of being a "brave" dragon
- Seeks refuge from the verbal bullying and teasing of his household peers
- Craves acceptance for his true, "cowardly" nature rather than being forced into a persona of fierce glory
  (any other relevant point)

11. Answer any one of the following two questions in 100-120 words. **6**

Content – 3 (any three points duly supported by relevant textual evidence)
Expression – 2 (effective style, coherence and cohesion)
Accuracy - 1 (spelling, punctuation, grammar)

A. **(any three)** **3+2+1**

- Loisel's obsession with appearances causes her downfall
- Borrows necklace to fit in, loses it, repays for years
- Necklace was fake but suffering was real
- Exposes how pride and superficiality lead to misery
- True worth lies in contentment and honesty
- Moves from a comfortable to a life of necessity
  (any other relevant point)

OR

B. **(Total three points - at least one point from each aspect of the question)** **3+2+1**

Use of humour and irony:

- Powerful race gets defeated by innocent nursery rhymes
- Martians misread children's rhymes as Earth's military code
- They thought earthlings had learnt how to mix mining and agriculture/ had planned and attack of cows on a Mars/ were aware of Think-Tank's presence and the rhyme Humpty Dumpty showed the assassination of Think-Tank
- Martians illogical assumptions lead to wrong conclusions – books are sandwiches, telephones, hat, etc.
  (any other relevant point)

Message conveyed:

- Comments on blind dependence on technology and cultural ignorance
- Suggests knowledge must be understood, not assumed
- Overconfidence can cloud judgement
- Over-reliance on technology is not good
- Knowledge and humility are more important than assumptions and pride respectively
  (any other relevant point)