Series 7DEFG

Set – 3

Q.P. Code **2/7/3**

Roll No.

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

- Please check that this question paper contains **19** printed pages.
- 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.
- Please check that this question paper contains **11** questions.
- **Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer-book at the given place before attempting it.**
- 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.

ENGLISH
(Language and Literature)

Time allowed : 3 hours *Maximum Marks : 80*

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*

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

SECTION A

Reading Skills *20 marks*

1. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) Traffic congestion is one of the most visible, pervasive and immediate transport problems plaguing not only cities of India, but also of the world on a daily basis. Traffic congestion on urban road networks has increased substantially since the 1950s.

(2) Traffic congestion occurs when vehicle volume exceeds the capacity of the road network, causing a slowdown in the overall traffic flow. Several key factors contribute to this issue, including rapid population growth, increasing urbanization, insufficient or poorly planned transport infrastructure, inadequate public transportation systems, and the rising use of private vehicles. Congestion has become a persistent challenge not only in large metropolitan areas, but also in medium and smaller cities, where infrastructure development often struggles to keep pace with growing demand.

(3) Traffic congestion has a wide range of negative effects on both individuals and the economy. It wastes time for motorists and passengers, leading to loss in productivity and harming regional economic performance. Delays can cause people to be late for work, school, or important meetings, resulting in lost business opportunities and personal setbacks. As travel times become unpredictable, drivers are forced to leave earlier than necessary, reducing time available for more productive or meaningful activities.

(4) Additionally, congestion contributes to environmental and mechanical issues. Idling and constant acceleration and braking waste fuel, increase carbon emissions, and cause wear and tear on vehicles, leading to more frequent repairs. Drivers often experience stress and frustration, which can negatively impact mental health and encourage road rage. Emergency vehicles may also be delayed, putting lives at risk. Furthermore, congestion can spill over into side streets as drivers seek alternative routes, disrupting local communities. The frequent stopping and close spacing between vehicles also raise the likelihood of traffic accidents.

(5) Traffic congestion can be solved by improving public transportation, optimising road networks, and encouraging alternative travel options like carpooling, cycling and walking. Additionally, the infrastructure needs to be modernised. Road networks must be expanded with roundabouts which reduce conflict points and accidents. Implementing smart traffic management systems offers benefits including reduced congestion and travel time, improved safety, fuel efficiency and better emergency response. These systems use real time data to dynamically adjust traffic signals, predict traffic patterns, and enable quicker incident detection, leading to smoother traffic flow and less pollution.

(6) Ultimately, tackling traffic congestion requires a combined effort from the government, businesses and individuals. By investing in smart infrastructure and public transit while also encouraging sustainable commuting habits, cities can move to enhanced mobility.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) Complete the following appropriately. *1*

In paragraph (1), the author uses the word 'plaguing' to emphasise _____.

(ii) Complete the following with the correct option from the given two : *1*

Traffic congestion arises when _____.

(1) the volume of vehicles on a roadway exceeds its designed capacity, leading to a significant reduction in the efficiency of traffic movement.

(2) the number of vehicles on the road remains within the network's capacity, allowing for efficient movement, minimal delays and consistent travel speeds.

Paragraph (2)

(iii) How does traffic congestion impact the economy ? Support with textual evidence. Paragraph (3) *2*

(iv) Considering the impact of traffic congestion on daily life and the economy, which of the following statements best reflects the challenges caused by unpredictable travel times and delays ? *1*

(A) Unpredictable travel times allow motorists to plan their trips more efficiently, increasing overall productivity and reducing stress.

(B) Due to delays and uncertainties, drivers often leave earlier than necessary, which decreases the time available for productive or personal activities and leads to lost business opportunities and personal setbacks.

(C) Traffic congestion generally improves regional economic performance by encouraging alternative modes of transport and reducing the number of vehicles on the road.

(D) Delays caused by congestion have minimal impact on individuals' punctuality or economic outcomes and rarely affect their daily schedules. Paragraph (3)

(v) Traffic congestion affects the condition of vehicles. Justify the statement by providing evidence from the text. *2*

Paragraph (4)

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

Roundabouts reduce traffic congestion by facilitating a continuous flow of vehicles which minimizes idling time and accidents. Paragraph (5)

(vii) In what ways can an individual adjust her/his habits to effectively cope with regular traffic congestion ? Choose the best option according to the text provided. *1*

(A) By ignoring congestion and assuming it will resolve itself over time.

(B) By choosing alternative transport methods like cycling or public transit and adjusting travel times to avoid peak hours.

(C) By avoiding travel altogether, even when necessary.

(D) By continuing to use the same route and travel time regardless of delays. Paragraph (5)

(viii) Which collaborative approach involving the government, businesses and individuals is necessary to effectively tackle urban traffic congestion ? Paragraph (6) *1*

2. Read the following passage carefully : *10*

(1) Research says that by 2050, 68% of the global population will live in cities, that's 2.5 billion more people than today. As our cities grow and more people move into already crowded spaces, researchers are working on plans of optimising the physical and organisational structures of urban areas to transform our urban areas into healthy places to live. Green spaces in cities mitigate the effects of pollution and can reduce a phenomenon known as the urban heat island effect. This refers to heat trapped in built-up areas.

(2) The urban heat island effect appears in towns and cities as a result of human activity. The heat generated by people, transport, shops and industry is trapped in the narrow roads and concrete structures, unable to escape to the atmosphere. This can bring the temperature in urban areas up 3 – 4°C higher than the surrounding countryside. With that comes a vicious cycle.

(3) Increased temperatures in summer lead to an increased demand for cooling. This expands our energy consumption, which in turn intensifies fossil fuel consumption, increasing pollutants in the air and harmful smog on our streets.

(4) Planning cities to include green spaces wherever possible is the first step in making our urban areas healthier. For example, adding a layer of vegetation to rooftops and creating green roofs has proven to reduce the urban heat island effect. Greenery also helps to sequester carbon (to trap and isolate it in a natural or artificial storage area) with one tree absorbing 25 kilograms of CO_2 each year.

(5) Simply having access to green spaces in cities can do wonders for our stress levels and concentration at work. People need to interact with nature whenever the opportunity arises. Something as simple as a five- to ten-minute break during the workday can improve well-being and boost productivity. Access to urban open green space encourages physical activity and reduces ambient air pollution, heat, traffic noise and emissions. All are factors which contribute to the risks of chronic disease and mental illness. Individuals and families who live closer to 'formal' parks or open space are more likely to achieve recommended amounts of physical activity.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) Which of the following factors is most likely to contribute to the transformation of urban areas into healthier living spaces by 2050 ? *1*

(A) Decreased population growth in urban centres

(B) Increased rural-to-urban migration

(C) Expansion of urban areas to accommodate more people

(D) Improved urban planning and infrastructure development

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

Assertion : Green spaces in cities help mitigate the urban heat island effect.

Reason : The urban heat island effect is caused by heat being trapped in built-up areas due to human activities.

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

(B) Both the assertion and the 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) What urban design feature contributes to the trapping of heat in cities, intensifying the urban heat island effect ? *1*

(iv) While talking about the urban heat island effect, the writer says, "with that comes a vicious cycle". Explain, what he means by 'vicious cycle'. *2*

(v) Why do we need to transform our urban areas into healthy places to live ? Give one reason. *1*

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately.

Integrating green spaces into urban planning is essential for _____. *1*

(vii) What is the significance of trees in reducing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere ? *1*

(viii) How can access to green spaces in urban environments influence workplace well-being and productivity ? *1*

(ix) Which of the following statements best summarizes the benefits of urban open green spaces ? *1*

(A) Urban green spaces solely provide aesthetic value and have no impact on public health.

(B) Access to urban open green spaces encourages physical activity and reduces environmental stressors, thereby mitigating risks of chronic diseases and mental illness.

(C) Living near urban open green spaces leads to increased exposure to environmental pollutants.

(D) Urban open green spaces are primarily beneficial for recreational purposes and do not influence physical activity levels.

SECTION B

Grammar and Creative Writing Skills *20 marks*

Grammar

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

(i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the verb in the brackets, for the given portion of a letter. *1*

I am eager to bring my expertise in 'research editing' to your organization and contribute to its _____ (continue) success.

(ii) Identify and correct the error in the given sentence from a travel journal. *1*

Travel provide the opportunity to build meaningful connections with new people and creates shared experiences with loved ones.

Use the given format for your response :

Error	*Correction*

(iii) Suman and Anaisha had a conversation about mobile phones. Report Suman's question. *1*

Are mobile phones allowed in the school ?

(iv) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence taken from an article about wildlife. *1*

The ancient forest served as a/an _____ (arbitrary/sanctuary/monastery) for endangered wildlife, offering them safety and peace away from human activity.

(v) Read the conversation between the manager and an applicant. *1*

Manager : Have you ever worked on a similar project before ?

Applicant : Yes, I have worked on numerous such projects.

Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the above dialogue.

The manager asked the applicant whether _____. The applicant replied in the affirmative and said that he had worked on numerous such projects.

(A) he has ever worked on a similar project before

(B) he had ever worked on a similar project before

(C) he would have ever worked on a similar project before

(D) he have had ever worked on a similar project before

(vi) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line taken from an aircraft's safety manual. *1*

Demonstrate use of seat belts and ensuring that all passengers have their seat belts fastened before take-off and landing.

Option No.	*Error*	*Correction*
(A)	use	uses
(B)	ensuring	ensure
(C)	are	will be
(D)	and	or

(vii) Identify and correct the error in the given sentence from an article about modern technology. *1*

Modern technology have made it possible to alter genetic material to create novel traits in plants, animals, bacteria and fungi.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	*Correction*

(viii) Complete the given narrative with the correct option to fill in the blank. *1*

Yesterday, Harshi baked a cake and _____ her friends over for dessert. Next weekend, she plans to try a new recipe.

(A) is inviting
(B) invited
(C) will invite
(D) did invited

(ix) Complete the given sentence about the reaction of some friends, by selecting the correct option. *1*

It's already 10 pm; they _____ have taken a different route if they're still not home.

(A) ought to
(B) should
(C) might
(D) can

(x) Report the dialogue between two friends, by completing the sentence. *1*

Ravi : I will join the gym next week.

Karan : That sounds like a good idea! Do you need help in choosing one ?

Ravi told Karan that _____. Karan replied that it sounded like a good idea and asked if he needed help in choosing one.

(xi) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the notice on a school notice board. *1*

All students of Class X are informed that an educational trip to the Science Museum is _____ (scheduled/completed) on 20th August, 2026. Interested students must submit the consent form by 10th August.

(xii) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line taken from an article about modern education. *1*

The use of tablets and educational apps are increasing rapidly in modern classrooms.

Option No.	*Error*	*Correction*
(A)	apps	app
(B)	are	is
(C)	rapidly	quick
(D)	in	for

Creative Writing Skills

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 : *5*

(a) You are Kritika / Kartikay, the class representative of Class X of Great Heights High School, Panipur. Many students of your class have expressed concerns about the poor conditions of the school library — lack of updated books, insufficient seating arrangements and limited working hours. Write a letter, in about 120 words, to the principal requesting improvement in the school library facilities. Highlight the importance of a well-equipped library for students and suggest specific changes that can be made.

OR

(b) You are Shobita / Shobit, a resident of Lakeview Colony, Chhaya Nagar. You have observed frequent water wastage in your locality due to leaking pipes, overflowing tanks, and careless usage by some residents. At the same time, many areas are facing water shortage. Write a letter, in about 120 words, to the editor of a local newspaper, highlighting the issue of water wastage in your area. Describe the causes and consequences of water shortage and suggest practical steps that individuals and authorities can take to promote water conservation.

5. Attempt any ***one*** from (a) and (b) given below : *5*

(a) The following table illustrates the distribution of students' preferences for various co-curricular activities.

Activity	**Percentage (%)**
Sports	30%
Music	20%
Art and Craft	15%
Drama	10%
Debate	15%
Dance	10%

Carefully examine the data and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words. Discuss the prominent trends reflected in students' choices, compare the popularity of different activities, and draw meaningful conclusions about their interests. You may also suggest how the school can use this information to organize future co-curricular programmes effectively. You are Jane/Joseph.

OR

(b) Study the product details on the label of Wireless Bluetooth Headphones.

* Wireless Bluetooth Headphones
* Superior sound quality with active noise cancellation
* Soft, adjustable, comfortable ear cushions for comfort
* Extended battery life lasting up to 20 hours
* Connecting with multiple devices
* Integrated microphone for hands-free calling
* Modern, stylish design available in a range of colours

Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, explaining why these headphones would be an excellent choice for students. Consider aspects such as audio performance, comfort, battery efficiency, ease of use and aesthetic appeal. You are Rani/Ramesh.

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*

(a) We, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil. We thank all of our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is, after all, a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity.

(Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom)

(i) Which one of the following is the main message conveyed by the speaker in the passage ? *1*

(A) The country is hosting a sporting event for the first time.

(B) Former outlaws have become international criminals.

(C) The transformation from oppression to freedom is a shared global victory.

(D) Justice has been achieved only for the people of one nation.

(ii) What does the phrase "were outlaws not so long ago", signify with reference to the given context ?

Answer in not more than 40 words. *2*

(iii) Complete the sentence by choosing the right phrase.

Today, we have been granted the _____ (regular obligation / extraordinary honour) of welcoming the nations of the world to our own land. *1*

(iv) What does the speaker mean by calling the event "a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity" ? *1*

OR

(b) And that is why it was so difficult to rob him. It's easy to rob a greedy man, because he can afford to be robbed; but it's difficult to rob a careless man — sometimes he doesn't even notice he's been robbed and that takes all the pleasure out of the work.

Well, it's time I did some real work, I told myself; I'm out of practice. And if I don't take the money, he'll only waste it on his friends. After all, he doesn't even pay me.

(The Thief's Story)

(i) Why does the narrator say that it is easier to deceive a greedy man ? *1*

(ii) What can we make out about the narrator's character from the given extract ? *2*

(iii) "Well, it's time I did some real work, I told myself;" — What is referred to as "real work" ? *1*

(iv) The narrator finds it difficult to rob a careless man because the lack of _____ (awareness / ignorance) removes the usual enjoyment of the act. *1*

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

(a) The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree

(Dust of Snow)

(i) In the given lines from the poem, what role does the crow play ? *2*

(ii) Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the lines of the given extract. *1*

(A) How good to lie a little while
And look up through the tree!
The sky is like a kind big smile
Bent sweetly over me.

(B) Upon a nice mid-spring day
Let's take a look at Nature's way
Breathe the scent of nice fresh air
Feel the breeze within your hair.

(C) The people along the sand
All turn and look one way
They look at the sea all day
They turn their back on the land

(D) This bird so small and
Sings aloud in the morn
Perched on a green branch
Singing its own melody

(iii) What images come to your mind when you think of a 'hemlock' tree ? *1*

(iv) What does the 'dust of snow' in the given extract represent ? *1*

OR

(b) Did you finish your homework, Amanda?

Did you tidy your room, Amanda?

I thought I told you to clean your shoes,

Amanda!

(I am an orphan, roaming the street.

I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.)

(Amanda!)

(i) How does the poet bring about the contrast between what the speaker wants and what Amanda desires ? *2*

(ii) Fill in the blank with one word. *1*

Amanda daydreams of being an orphan to _____ constant nagging and control.

(iii) What kind of picture is painted by the poet through the line 'I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet' ? *1*

(iv) What tone is conveyed through the repetition of Amanda's name in the given extract ? *1*

(A) loving (B) nagging

(C) appreciating (D) escaping

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

(i) What lesson on death and suffering did the Buddha teach Kisa Gotami ?

(The Sermon at Benares)

(ii) Explain how W.B. Yeats uses symbolism in the poem to contrast physical beauty with true love. (For Anne Gregory)

(iii) Faith can move mountains. Support briefly with reference to the chapter, "A Letter to God".

(iv) How does the poet use imagery and symbolism to show the movement of the trees in the poem "The Trees" ?

(v) How does Anne's sense of humour help her deal with difficult situations ? (From the Diary of Anne Frank)

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

(i) In what ways are Bholi's life and choices different from those of other girls in her village ? (Bholi)

(ii) How did Ausable demonstrate presence of mind and outwit Max ? (The Midnight Visitor)

(iii) The story highlights the power of books and imagination.

Justify the statement in the light of the chapter, "The Book That Saved the Earth".

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

(a) Compare how Valli in the story "Madam Rides the Bus", and Maxwell in "Mijbil the Otter" experience independence and adventure.

OR

(b) What distinguishes the portrayal of the tiger in the poem "A Tiger in the Zoo" from the depiction of the tiger in the poem, "How to Tell Wild Animals" ?

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

(a) In the story "Footprints Without Feet", the invisibility of the scientist reflects both the power he gains and the loneliness he suffers. Explain how this dual effect of invisibility shapes his actions and overall character in the story.

OR

(b) How were Richard Ebright's scientific achievements the result of a combination of personal qualities, external support, and opportunities ? Which factor do you think played the most important role and why ?

(The Making of a Scientist)

Marking Scheme
Strictly Confidential
(For Internal and Restricted use only)
Secondary School Examination, 2026 (2nd Board Examination)
SUBJECT NAME : English Language & Literature
(Q.P. CODE / Set No. 184/2-7-3)

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.
19	**If a candidate attempts both alternatives/options in a question where only one option/alternative is required to be attempted, the Evaluator shall award marks in both the options. The system will take the higher of two scores and disregard the other response.**
20	**In a question having two options/alternatives, if a candidate has attempted only one, then the evaluator shall mark "NA" (Not attempted) against the option that has not been attempted by the candidate.**

MARKING SCHEME
English Language & Literature (Subject Code - 184)
(PAPER CODE : 2/7/3)

Q. No.	EXPECTED OUTCOMES/VALUE POINTS	Marks
	SECTION - A (Reading)	**20 Marks**
1.	Passage - 1	**10 Marks**
(i)	• increasing traffic congestion • increasing vehicle volume on the road • rise in the overall traffic flow **(any one)**	**1**
(ii)	(1) the volume of vehicles on a roadway exceeds its designed capacity, leading to a significant reduction in the efficiency of traffic movement.	**1**
(iii)	• It wastes time for motorists and passengers, leading to loss in productivity and harming regional economic performance. • Delays can cause people to be late for work, school, or important meetings, resulting in lost business opportunities and personal setbacks. • As travel times become unpredictable, drivers are forced to leave earlier than necessary, reducing time available for more productive or meaningful activities. **(any two)**	**1+1 = 2**
(iv)	(B) Due to delays and uncertainties, drivers often leave earlier than necessary, which decreases the time available for productive or personal activities and leads to lost business opportunities and personal setbacks.	**1**
(v)	• wastes fuel • increases carbon emissions of the vehicle • causes wear and tear on vehicles • leads to more frequent repairs. **(any two)**	**1+1 = 2**
(vi)	True	**1**
(vii)	(B) By choosing alternative transport methods like cycling or public transit and adjusting travel times to avoid peak hours.	**1**
(viii)	• investing in smart infrastructure and public transit • encouraging sustainable commuting habits **(any one)**	**1**
2.	Passage - 2	**10 Marks**
(i)	(D) Improved urban planning and infrastructure development.	**1**
(ii)	(B) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.	**1**
(iii)	Narrow roads and concrete structures contribute to the trapping of heat in cities, intensifying the urban heat island effect.	**1**

(iv)	• Increased temperatures in summer lead to an increased demand for cooling. • This expands our energy consumption, which in turn intensifies fossil fuel consumption, increasing pollutants in the air and harmful smog on our streets.	**1+1 = 2**
(v)	• reduces stress levels • increases concentration at work • improves well-being • boosts productivity • encourages physical activity • reduces ambient air pollution/ heat/ traffic noise/ emissions • reduces the risks of chronic disease and mental illness **(any one)**	**1**
(vi)	• improving our health • reducing air pollution/ heat/ traffic noise/ emissions • increasing physical activity • reducing the risks of chronic disease and mental illness **(any one)** **(any other relevant point)**	**1**
(vii)	• greenery helps to sequester carbon (to trap and isolate it in a natural or artificial storage area) • one tree can absorb 25 kilograms of CO2 each year **(any one)**	**1**
(viii)	• reduce stress levels • increase concentration/ focus/ productivity at work • boost overall mental health **(any one)**	**1**
(ix)	(B) Access to urban open green spaces encourages physical activity and reduces environmental stressors, thereby mitigating risks of chronic diseases and mental illness.	**1**
	SECTION - B (Grammar & Writing Skills)	**20 Marks**
	Grammar	**10 Marks**
3.	Complete Any Ten of the following Twelve tasks, as directed :	**1x10=10**
(i)	continued / continuing	**1**
(ii)	Error – provide ; Correction - provides	**1**
(iii)	Suman asked Anaisha if/whether mobile phones were allowed in the school.	**1**
(iv)	sanctuary	**1**
(v)	(B) he had ever worked on a similar project before	**1**
(vi)	(B) Error – ensuring ; Correction - ensure	**1**
(vii)	Error – have ; Correction - has	**1**
(viii)	(B) invited	**1**
(ix)	(C) might	**1**
(x)	he would join the gym the next/following/coming week.	**1**
(xi)	scheduled	**1**
(xii)	(B) Error – are ; Correction - is	**1**
	Writing	**10 Marks**

4.	Attempt **Any One** from (a) and (b) given below **General Instructions for Q4 (a) and (b): Formal Letter Writing** • No mark to be awarded if only format is written without any relevant content • Format − 1 (Full credit of 1 mark if all aspects are included, partial credit of ½ mark if one or two aspects are missing, no credit if more than 2 aspects are missing) • Content − 2 marks • Organisation of ideas − 1 mark (effective style, orderly sequence, paragraphed structure and formal tone and vocabulary) • Accuracy − 1 mark (spelling, punctuation and grammar); ½ mark to be deducted if there are three or more spelling errors.	**5 Marks**
4(a)	**Value Points:** **Improvements:** • add updated books, magazines, and reference materials • increase seating capacity and improve library facilities • extend library working hours for students' convenience **Importance of Library:** • improves reading habits and knowledge • helps students in studies, research, and exam preparation. • peaceful study environment increases concentration and learning **(at least one from each aspect)** **(any other relevant point)**	**2+1+1+1**
4(b)	**Value Points** **Problem and Causes:** • frequent water wastage is occurring due to leaking pipes, overflowing tanks, and careless use of water by residents • many areas are facing serious water shortages/ people are facing difficulty in getting enough water for daily needs/ water scarcity is affecting hygiene, health, and overall quality of life/ severe future water crisis expected **Solutions:** • repair leaking pipes and prevent overflowing tanks immediately • people should use water carefully and avoid unnecessary wastage • authorities should spread awareness and implement strict water-saving measures • encouraging rainwater harvesting **(at least one from each aspect)** **(any other relevant point)**	**2+1+1+1**
5.	Attempt **Any One** from (a) and (b) given below. **General Instructions for Q5(a) and (b): Analytical Paragraph** • Organisation of ideas − 2 marks (inputs given in the question must be used along with linking words like however, in addition to, in comparison to, on the contrary etc., formal tone, functional vocabulary, paragraphed structure (one single paragraph), orderly sequence and effective style) • Accuracy − 1 mark (spelling, punctuation and grammar); ½ mark to be deducted if there are three or more spelling errors. • Content − 2 marks (full credit of 2 marks for all value points given in the question and partial credit of 1 mark if only two value points are given)	**5 Marks**
5(a)	**Value Points:** • The given data illustrates the distribution of students' preferences for various co-curricular activities.	**2+2+1**

	• Sports is the most preferred co-curricular activity with 30% students choosing it. • Music is the second most popular activity with 20%. • Art and Craft and Debate are equally preferred by 15% students each. • Drama and Dance are the least preferred activities with 10% each. • Students show greater interest in physical and creative activities like sports and music. • Debate and art activities also attract a fair number of students. • Lesser participation in drama and dance may be due to lack of confidence or opportunities. • School should organise more sports and music programmes based on students' interests. • Workshops and competitions can encourage participation in drama and dance. • Balanced co-curricular activities will help in overall personality development. **(any other relevant point)**	
5(b)	**Value Points** • The wireless Bluetooth headphones offer superior sound quality with active noise cancellation. • They have soft, adjustable ear cushions and a modern stylish design in various colours. • Excellent audio performance helps students focus on studies, online classes, and music. • Noise cancellation reduces distractions in noisy environments. • Long battery life of up to 20 hours ensures uninterrupted usage. • Easy connectivity with multiple devices adds convenience. • Built-in microphone supports hands-free calling for online learning. • The headphones are comfortable, efficient, and user-friendly. • Their features make them a practical and stylish choice for students. **(any other relevant point)**	**2+2+1**
	SECTION - C (Literature Textbook)	**40**
6.	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for **Any One** of the given two (a) and (b)	**5 Marks**
(a)(i)	(C) The transformation from oppression to freedom is a shared global victory.	**1**
(ii)	• highlights the dramatic transformation from being marginalized to becoming internationally recognized and respected • demonstrates how former 'outlaws' are now legitimate leaders shaping a new, inclusive future • the black African people who were forming the government on 10 May 1994 were once seen as outlaws/criminals • Many countries branded South Africa as an outlaw for practising apartheid and cut diplomatic ties with them. But that day they were all gathered there to celebrate their freedom from apartheid. **(any two)** **(any other relevant point)**	**1+1=2**
(iii)	extraordinary honour	**1**
(iv)	• Freedom from discrimination is an achievement that is shared by all humanity, not just one nation. • It celebrates the triumph of universal values like justice, peace and human dignity over oppression and injustice which are common to all. **(any one)**	**1**

	(any other relevant point)	
	OR	
(b) (i)	because he can afford to be robbed	**1**
(ii)	• The narrator does not show guilt, or remorse for stealing. • He calls stealing "real work" indicating a casual or even proud attitude. • He sees his actions as practical and deserved. • The narrator has a self-serving and unapologetic attitude towards his own wrong doing. • He has robbed many people before and enjoys doing it. (**any two**) **(any other relevant point)**	**1+1=2**
(iii)	act of theft / stealing / robbing **(any other relevant word/phrase)**	**1**
(iv)	awareness	**1**
7.	Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two - (A) or (B)	**5**
(a)(i)	• accidently shakes the branch • spills/drops snow on the speaker **(any other relevant point)**	**1+1=2**
(ii)	(A) How good to lie a little while And look up through the tree! The sky is like a kind big smile Bent sweetly over me	**1**
(iii)	• crow/ hemlock as bad omen/ harbinger of bad news • the image of crow moving and dropping the snow on the poet • the image of nature **(any other relevant point)**	**1**
(iv)	• healing power of nature • how minor/small/unexpected events/things can leave a lasting/big impact **(any one)** **(any other relevant point)**	**1**
	OR	
(b) (i)	• The speaker is strict/ authoritative/critical of Amanda's actions whereas Amanda is quiet and lost in her thoughts • The speaker's words are given without parenthesis/brackets whereas Amanda's thoughts are within parenthesis. • The mother wanted Amanda to be a disciplined child whereas Amanda just wanted to play and live carefree like a little child. **(any one)** **(any other relevant point)**	**2**
(ii)	escape / avoid / ignore **(any other relevant word)**	**1**
(iii)	• escape from the rules and nagging • her desire for freedom	**1**

	• imagines herself as free from all the nagging of her parent **(any one)** **(any other relevant point)**	
(iv)	(B) nagging	**1**
8.	Answer **Any Four** of the following five questions in **40 - 50** words each. Content - 2 marks (at least 2 value points) Expression - 1 mark (effective style, coherence and cohesion)	**4x3=12**
(i)	• Death is inevitable • Every man who has taken birth must die one day • No one is immortal • Death doesn't differentiate – comes to rich and poor, wise and fool, etc. (any one) • One must not lament over death as it is a natural process • A wise person never laments over death **(any two)** **(any other relevant point)**	**2+1**
(ii)	• W. B. Yeats uses "yellow hair" as a symbol of physical beauty or outward appearance. • The poet contrasts human love, which is often based on appearance, with divine love, which values the inner self. **(any other relevant point)**	**2+1**
(iii)	• Lencho had faith in God when his crops were ruined and asked for 100 pesos. • Lencho wrote a letter to God and was sure that God would reply and not disappoint him. • He eventually did get help of 70 pesos from the post office employees which he thought of as help from God. **(any two)** **(any other relevant point)**	**2+1**
(iv)	**Imagery:** • The poet describes trees pushing out of the house - "the glass is breaking" showing force and movement. • The image of trees creeping, straining, moving show change, action and a break from stillness. **Symbolism:** • The trees leaving the house symbolises breaking free from confinement. • The forest is "empty" but waiting, showing that nature wants to return to its place. • The house represents control and silence, the forest represents freedom and life. • The trees looking like newly discharged patients symbolise they have suffered lot and are still trying to acclimatise after breaking free from the confinement. **(at least one from each aspect)** **(any other relevant point)**	**2+1**
(v)	• When punished by Mr. Keesing, she wrote funny essay instead of getting upset.	**2+1**

	• Anne jokes about her teachers and school life, making tough times (declaration of result) feel easier. • Making fun of situations helped her manage fear, boredom and stress. **(any two)** **(any other relevant point)**	
9.	Answer **Any Two** of the following three questions in about **40-50** words each. Content - 2 marks (at least two value points) Expression -1 mark (effective style and coherence)	**2x3=6**
(i)	• She was discriminated in her house – never given new clothes, attention or love. • Most village girls accepted their fate without question. • Unlike others, she refused a greedy groom asking for dowry. • She stood up for herself and rejected an unfair marriage. • Bholi chose to live with dignity and independence. • Her story shows courage and change, unlike the usual silent acceptance. **(any two)** **(any other relevant point)**	**2+1**
(ii)	• Ausable tricked Max by inventing a story about a balcony. • He convinced Max that the door was knocked by the police whereas it was just the room service. • Max jumped out of the window and died. **(any two)** **(any other relevant point)**	**2+1**
(iii)	• The Martians misunderstood a simple Earth Book (Mother Goose) as a threat and cancelled the invasion of earth. • Think-tank believed the rhymes were secret Earth codes and cancelled the invasion of earth. • The Martians imagined Earth as dangerous just from reading a children's book as they took everything literally and cancelled their invasion of earth. • The invasion was cancelled because of misinterpretation of a book, saving Earth without any fight. • Martians after reading "Humpty Dumpty" thought that the earthlings had a plan to capture Mars Central Control and Think-Tank. • Martians after reading "Hey Diddle Diddle" thought that Earthlings had taught their domesticated animals musical culture and space techniques. Even their dogs had a sense of humour and they might be launching an interplanetary attack of millions of cows. • Martians after reading "Mistress Mary" thought that Earthlings had discovered how to combine agriculture and mining. They could actually grow crops of rare metals such as silver and cockle shells. They can grow high explosives, too. **(any two)** **(any other relevant point)**	**2+1**
10.	Answer **Any One** of the following two questions in about **100-120** words Content - 3 marks (at least three value points) Expression -2 marks (effective style and coherence)	**6 marks**

	Accuracy - 1 mark (spelling, punctuation and grammar)	
10. (a)	**Adventure:** • Valli rode the bus for the first time whereas Maxwell went on an airplane with an otter for the first time. • Valli enjoyed her bus ride and saw many visuals that she had never witnessed whereas Maxwell decided to get an otter which was quite an adventurous choice for a pet in Camusfearna. **Independence:** • Valli independently saved money for her bus journey and went for a solo adventure whereas Maxwell independently learned how to understand and care for the otter. • Valli explored the world outside her village independently whereas Maxwell acted independently and got an otter as a pet which was not a stereotypical pet. **(any three - at least one from each aspect)** **(any other relevant point)**	**3+2+1**
	OR	
(b)	**Portrayal of the tiger in *Tiger in the Zoo vs How to Tell Wild Animals*:** • the tiger is caged in the zoo whereas in the wild the tiger is free • his strength is behind the bars in the cage whereas he is a ferocious creature in its natural habitat • the tiger is just an object of gaze for the visitors in its cage whereas in the wild the tiger is depicted as a predator that can attack human • no one is scared of the tiger in a cage but in the wild people are terrified of him • the tiger is frustrated and longs for freedom because of its captivity whereas the tiger in the wild is free to do anything he likes **(any three)** **(any other relevant point)**	**3+2+1**
11.	Answer **Any One** of the following two questions in about **100-120** words. Content - 3 marks (at least three value points) Expression -2 marks (effective style and coherence) Accuracy - 1 mark (vocabulary, punctuation and grammar)	**6**
(a)	**Effect on his actions:** • He uses invisibility to steal, escape, and intimidate others. • His actions shift from scientific pursuit to unlawful activities. • He avoids society, relying on secrecy and deception. • His frustration leads him to aggression and destructive acts. **Effect on his character:** • Invisibility cuts him off from human connection, deepening his solitude. • He becomes suspicious and eccentric. • Ethical boundaries fade as he prioritises survival and dominance over morality, thus, becomes a lawless person **(any three - at least one from each aspect)** **(any other relevant point)**	**3+2+1**
	OR	

(b)	**Richard Ebright's success was a combination of personal qualities, external support, and opportunities:** Ebright showed strong curiosity, determination and hard work from a young age. His mother encouraged his interest, and mentors guided him at every stage. He had access to good education and research facilities that helped him develop his skills. **Which factor played the most important role? Why?** • **personal qualities** - Personal qualities are crucial because without curiosity and persistence, support and opportunities may not be fully utilised. • **external support** - Without the help of his mother and Dr Urquhart, he may have got stuck in his journey and might not have reached his true potential • **opportunities** - Got a chance to work in entomology laboratory of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research / army laboratory / laboratory of the U.S. Department of Agriculture – where he could get desired equipment to further his research on the gold spot hormone • **all factors combined shaped his success** – His curiosity, determination and hard work made him a great scientist. However, he needed resources and guidance to flourish that were given by his mother and his mentors respectively. Access to advanced labs allowed him to test and prove his ideas. **(any three - at least one from each aspect)** **(any other relevant point)**	**3+2+1**
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