CBSE 2024 English — Set 2 — Answer Key

English Medium

Time Allowed: 3 Hours | Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. This question paper contains 45 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. Section A — Reading Skills (20 marks).
3. Section B — Creative Writing Skills (16 marks).
4. Section C — Grammar (8 marks).
5. Section D — Literature (36 marks).

Section A — Reading Skills

Comprehension (1-2 marks each)

Q.1 [1 mark]

Which of the following statements best describes the difference between renewable energy sources and alternate energy sources?

(a) Alternative energy sources are more expensive than renewable energy sources.

(b) Renewable energy sources are inexhaustible whereas alternate energy sources could be exhaustible. <<

(c) Alternative energy sources are as renewable as renewable energy sources.

(d) Renewable energy sources are exhaustible but alternative energy sources are inexhaustible.

Explanation:

The passage explains that renewable energy sources are derived from naturally replenished sources and are inexhaustible, while alternative energy sources is a broader category that also includes sources that may be exhaustible.
The key distinction is inexhaustibility.

Q.2 [1 mark]

What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from para (4)? Rationalise your response in about 40 words.

'However, thanks to increased demand, more experienced energy developers, competitive supply chains, improved renewable technologies, and enhanced energy efficiency capabilities, that’s no longer the case.'

Answer: The tone of the writer is optimistic and encouraging. The writer highlights positive developments such as increased demand, experienced developers, improved technologies, and enhanced efficiency to convey that renewable energy has become practical and affordable, unlike in the past when it was too expensive

for consumer use.

Explanation:

The writer uses positive language ('thanks to', listing improvements) to show an optimistic tone about the progress in renewable energy adoption and affordability.

Q.3 [1 mark]

Complete the sentence appropriately:

In the past, alternative energy sources were not used much by the consumers because _____.

Answer: In the past, alternative energy sources were not used much by the consumers because the equipment necessary to harness energy from alternative sources used to be so expensive that it wasn't practical for consumer use.

Explanation:

Para 4 states that the equipment was too expensive for practical consumer use before the recent improvements in technology and supply chains.

Q.4 [1 mark]

The passage includes some words that are opposite of each other. From the sets (a) to (e) below, identify two sets of antonyms:

(a) generate and produce

(b) exhaustible and inexhaustible

(c) subtle and renewable

(d) power and energy

(e) sustainable and exhaustible

Answer: The two sets of antonyms are (b) exhaustible and inexhaustible, and (e) sustainable and exhaustible. 'Exhaustible' means capable of being used up, while 'inexhaustible' means cannot be used up. 'Sustainable' means able to be maintained, while 'exhaustible' means capable of being depleted.

Explanation:

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings.

'Exhaustible and inexhaustible' are direct antonyms (prefix 'in-' negates the word).

'Sustainable and exhaustible' are also antonyms as sustainable implies continuity while exhaustible implies depletion.

Q.5 [1 mark]

Who is the leader of the renewable energy pack and why?

Answer: Wind energy is the leader of the renewable energy pack. When it comes to energy efficiency, the leader of the renewable energy pack is wind energy. Behind wind comes geothermal energy, hydropower, nuclear energy, and then solar power.

Explanation:

Para 5 explicitly states that when it comes to energy efficiency, the leader of the renewable energy pack is wind energy.

Q.6 [1 mark]

Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, the difference between geothermal electricity and hydroelectricity.

Answer: Geothermal electricity is generated by tapping into underground reservoirs of hot water and steam to directly heat and cool buildings. Hydroelectricity (hydropower) is generated from the energy of moving water, where water behind a dam causes turbine blades to move as it flows through an intake, rotating turbines to produce electricity.

Explanation:

Para 6 describes geothermal power (underground hot water/steam) and hydroelectricity (moving water through dam turbines).

The key difference is the source: underground heat vs.

moving water.

Q.7 [1 mark]

What is the message conveyed by the passage?

(a) Only those energy sources should be used which are renewable.
(b) Wind energy is a renewable as well as inexhaustible source of energy.
(c) There are plenty of renewable energy sources that can be used to replace traditional energy sources. <<
(d) Alternative energy sources are the emerging energy trends and are still evolving.

Explanation:

The overall message of the passage is that there are plenty of renewable energy sources available (wind, geothermal, hydro, nuclear, solar) that can replace traditional fossil fuels, and they have become practical and affordable.

Q.8 [1 mark]

State whether the following statement is True or False with reference to the given extract:

Hydroelectricity as a renewable energy source is used for residential as well as commercial purposes.

Answer: False. The passage states that hydroelectricity is produced when water behind a dam causes turbine blades to move, and the turbines rotate a generator to produce electricity that is sent to power homes. It does not specifically mention commercial purposes. It is wind power that serves both individuals and entire communities, and can be produced from small-scale windmills on residential properties.

Explanation:

The passage mentions wind power serving both individuals and communities (residential), and being produced from small-scale windmills to large offshore wind farms.

Hydroelectricity is described as producing electricity sent to power homes, but the

passage does not explicitly state it is used for commercial purposes.

Q.9 [1 mark]

Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of Para (1):

We can say that for becoming the king of jungle, Lion has to be the strongest, bravest and the fiercest. Similarly, Mango is known as the king of fruits because _____.

Answer: Mango is known as the king of fruits because it has many good qualities thus making it to be called as 'King of Fruits'. It has long been a component of culture and religion as a useful and tasty fruit, and it has gained popularity around the world as Asia's most popular fruit.

Explanation:

Para 1 states that mango has many good qualities making it the 'King of Fruits' and has long been a component of culture and religion.

Q.10 [1 mark]

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of Para (2):

The statement that, India is the largest producer of Mangoes with 45.88 percent of the total world production can be attributed to Indian orchardists, is also _____ (subjective/objective) because it is also _____ (subjective judgement/objective detail).

Answer: The statement is objective because it is a fact and it is an objective detail. The statement presents specific numerical data (45.88 percent) which is a verifiable fact, not a personal opinion or subjective judgement.

Explanation:

The statement includes specific statistical data (45.88%), making it an objective,

factual statement rather than a subjective opinion.

Section B — Creative Writing Skills

Writing (3-5 marks each)

Q.11 [5 marks]

Justify the following in about 40 words:

India being the major shareholder in terms of mango production, exports only 0.52% of its total production.

Answer: Despite being the largest producer with 45.88% of world production, India exports only 0.52% because efforts are needed to evolve cheap transportation mechanisms, increase trade agreements with major importing countries, and enhance productivity. The huge gap in exporting of mangoes indicates challenges in logistics and trade infrastructure.

Explanation:

Para 2 highlights that despite being the largest producer, India's export percentage is very low (0.52%), indicating the need for better transportation, trade agreements, and productivity enhancement.

Q.12 [5 marks]

Based on the table, which three countries were at par with each other in terms of mango imports from India in 2019-20?

Answer: U.S.A., Kuwait, and Bahrain were at par with each other, each accounting for 2% of Indian mango exports in 2019-20.

Explanation:

From the table of Major Export Destination of Indian Mangoes in 2019-20, U.S.A. (2%), Kuwait (2%), and Bahrain (2%) all had the same percentage of mango imports from India.

Q.13 [5 marks]

The top mango importing country is the U.S.A., however, India exports only two percent of its total exports to the U.S.A. State any one inference that can be drawn from this.

Answer: One inference is that the critical issue for exporting to the USA is transportation cost (due to sea route distance) and limited shelf life of mango, which makes it difficult for India to export more mangoes to the USA despite it being the top importing country. India needs to develop better cold chain logistics and transportation mechanisms.

Explanation:

Para 3 explains that the critical issues for exporting to the USA are transportation cost due to sea route distance and limited shelf life of mango.

Q.14 [5 marks]

In the given sentence taken from para 2, select the option that correctly replaces the underlined word, with its most likely antonym.

'These countries are the bigger challenges for Indian mango exports.'

(a) enigmas
(b) solutions <<
(c) provocations
(d) disputes

Explanation:

'Challenges' means difficulties or problems.

The antonym would be 'solutions' -- answers to problems rather than problems themselves.

Q.15 [5 marks]

Why is India described as the largest producer of mangoes in the world? (Answer in about 40 words.)

Answer: India is described as the largest producer of mangoes because it grows mangoes in an area of 3.58 million hectares, producing 45.88 percent of the total world area and production respectively. Major mango-growing states include Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Gujarat, and Tamil Nadu.

Explanation:

Para 1 and 2 establish India's position as the largest mango producer with 45.88% of world production across 3.58 million hectares.

Section C — Grammar

Grammar (1-3 marks each)

Q.16 [1 mark]

Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage about Indian mangoes?

(a) India needs to produce more mangoes so that more can be exported.
(b) The UAE imported most mangoes from India in 2019-20.
(c) India is the largest producer of mangoes and by putting in more efforts, has the potential to be the largest exporter too. <<
(d) More study is needed to find ways to increase the export of mangoes from India.

Explanation:

The main takeaway is that India, being the world's largest producer, has immense potential to also become the largest exporter if it addresses challenges like transportation costs, trade agreements, and infrastructure.

Q.17 [1 mark]

(Section B — Grammar) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter:

Therefore, I request you to please consider this request of _____ (construct) a park in our society so that each and every person can benefit

and we can enjoy a healthy environment amidst the concrete jungle.

Answer: constructing

Explanation:
'Request of' is followed by a gerund (verb + ing form).
The correct form of 'construct' here is 'constructing'.

Q.18 [1 mark]

(Section B — Grammar) Read the given sentence from an article on Yoga. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence:

Yoga should help lower blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar, all of which are not good for your heart and blood vessels.

Use the given format for your response: Error | Correction

Answer: Error: are not | Correction: are. The sentence should read 'all of which are good for your heart and blood vessels' since lowering blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar is beneficial. Alternatively, the error is 'not' which should be removed.

Explanation:
The sentence has a logical error.
Lowering blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar IS good for your heart.
So 'are not good' should be 'are good' (remove 'not').

Q.19 [1 mark]

(Section B — Grammar) Manthan and Sonalika had a conversation about Sonalika's job interview.

Report Manthan's question:
How are you preparing for the interview?

Answer: Manthan asked Sonalika how she was preparing for the interview.

Explanation:

In reported speech, 'How are you preparing' becomes 'how she was preparing' (present continuous changes to past continuous, 'you' changes to 'she').

Q.20 [1 mark]

(Section B — Grammar) Read the dialogue between Meher and her mother, regarding Meher's dance classes:

Mother: Are you enjoying your dance classes?
Meher: Oh Yes! I am loving it. It is so refreshing to attend them after a long day.

Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the above dialogue:
Meher's mother asked her _____. In response, Meher exclaimed and said that she was loving it. She added that it was very refreshing to attend them after a long day.

(a) whether the dance classes were being enjoyed by her
(b) whether she is enjoying her dance classes
(c) whether she was enjoying her dance classes <<
(d) whether the dance classes are being enjoyed by her

Explanation:

In reported speech, 'Are you enjoying' becomes 'whether she was enjoying' — the tense shifts from present continuous to past continuous, and 'you' changes to 'she'.

Q.21 [1 mark]

(Section B — Grammar) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the line of a circular issued by an organisation, to its stakeholders:

In order to enable the stakeholders to _____ (access/assess/ascent) all the applicable circulars at one place, the provisions of the circulars issued till January 6, 2024, are incorporated in this master circular.

Answer: access. 'Access' means to reach or obtain, which fits the context of stakeholders being able to reach/view all applicable circulars in one place.

Explanation:
'Access' means to be able to reach or use something.
'Assess' means to evaluate.
'Ascent' means upward movement.
In context, stakeholders need to 'access' (reach/view) the circulars.

Q.22 [1 mark]

(Section B — Grammar) Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence from a company's orientation programme:

A founder's goal, during the first phase, is to learn how to obtain feedback on low prospective and real customers are experience the product.

Use the given format: Error | Correction

Answer: Error: prospective and real customers are experience | Correction: prospective and real customers who experience. The word 'are' should be replaced with 'who' to form a proper relative clause.

Explanation:
The sentence has a grammatical error where 'are experience' should be 'who experience' to correctly form a relative clause describing the customers.

Q.23 [1 mark]

(Section B — Grammar) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for a line from a Research Report:

'In many low and middle income countries, health coverage has improved dramatically in the last two decades, but health outcomes may not.'

Which Option No. correctly identifies the Error and its Correction?

A: has → have
B: improved → improve
C: may → have
D: but → thus

(a) Option A: has → have
(b) Option B: improved → improve
(c) Option C: may → have <<
(d) Option D: but → thus

Explanation:
The sentence uses 'may not' which is incorrect in this context.
The sentence should parallel the structure: 'health coverage has improved...
but health outcomes have not.' So 'may' should be replaced with 'have' (Option C).

Q.24 [1 mark]

(Section B — Grammar) Complete the given narrative by filling in the blank with the correct option:

Excited about his newly earned powers, Midas started touching all kinds of things, _____ each item into pure gold.

(a) to turning
(b) turning <<
(c) turned
(d) turns

Explanation:
'Turning' is the correct present participle form used as a participial phrase to describe the simultaneous action of touching things and them becoming gold.

Q.25 [1 mark]

(Section B — Grammar) Report a dialogue between two friends, Nidhi and

Neha, by completing the sentence:

Nidhi – Have you mastered the art of cooking Chinese food?
Neha – Yes, indeed! I have been cooking Chinese food for a month.
Nidhi asked Neha if she had mastered the art of cooking Chinese food. Neha answered in the affirmative and explained that _____.

Answer: she had indeed been cooking Chinese food for a month.

Explanation:
In reported speech, 'I have been cooking' (present perfect continuous) becomes 'she had been cooking' (past perfect continuous), and 'for a month' remains the same.

Q.26 [1 mark]

(Section B — Grammar) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the part of the disclaimer given in a textbook:

The authors of the book _____ all reasonable care to ensure that the contents of the book do not violate any copyright or other intellectual property rights of any person in any manner.

(a) has been taking
(b) have taken <<
(c) has taken
(d) have been took

Explanation:
'Authors' is plural, so it requires 'have' (not 'has').
'Have taken' is the correct present perfect form.
'Have been took' is grammatically incorrect (should be 'taken').

Q.27 [1 mark]

(Section B — Grammar) Complete the slogan, by filling in the blank with the correct option:

Planting a tree is a very noble deed and _____ the earth from global warming!

(a) saves <<
(b) saving
(c) had saved
(d) should save

Explanation:
'Planting a tree is a very noble deed and saves the earth from global warming.' The subject is 'Planting a tree' (singular gerund phrase), which takes 'saves' to maintain parallel structure with 'is'.

Section D — Literature

Textbook Questions (2-5 marks each)

Q.28 [2 marks]

(Section B — Grammar) Identify the error and supply correction for the following note in a toaster's instruction manual:

'Use this appliance only for its intentional use as described in this manual. Do not use attachments that are not recommended by the manufacturer.'

Use the given format: Error | Correction

Answer: Error: intentional | Correction: intended. 'Intended use' is the correct phrase meaning the purpose for which something is designed, not 'intentional use'.

Explanation:
'Intentional' means done on purpose/deliberately.
'Intended' means designed for a particular purpose.
The correct phrase is 'intended use' not 'intentional use'.

Q.0 [0 mark]

(Section B — Creative Writing) As Nalini Sharma of 409, Surya Apartments, Gopalpur, you believe that pedestrian safety is very important. Footpaths on both sides of the main roads of your city need major repairs and on some stretches they need to be constructed.

Write a letter to the MLA of your city area, in about 120 words, stressing the need for footpaths for pedestrian safety. Share your concern for maintenance of existing footpaths and the need to construct new ones where they are required. (1 x 5 = 5)

Answer: 409, Surya Apartments
Gopalpur
[Date]

To
The MLA
[City Area]

Subject: Need for Footpath Repair and Construction for Pedestrian Safety

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am writing to draw your kind attention to the deplorable condition of footpaths in our city area. Pedestrian safety is of utmost importance, yet the footpaths on both sides of the main roads are in dire need of repair. On several stretches, footpaths are completely absent, forcing pedestrians to walk on busy roads.

The existing footpaths have developed cracks and potholes, making them hazardous, especially for elderly citizens and children. I request you to kindly arrange for: (1) immediate repair of damaged footpaths, (2) construction of new

footpaths where none exist, and (3) regular maintenance schedules.

I hope you will take prompt action to ensure the safety of pedestrians in our area.

Yours sincerely,
Nalini Sharma

Explanation:
This is a formal letter to the MLA following the proper format: sender's address, date, receiver's designation, subject, body (with concern and request), and closing.

Q.0 [0 mark]

(Section B — Creative Writing) As Sohail Khan, the sports captain of Pinnacle Public School, you believe that fitness as a lifestyle should be promoted. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, suggesting the introduction of 'Cycle to School' campaigns for school going students. The programme aims to develop the habit of exercising through cycling to maintain fitness and keeping children active. Share the importance and credibility of such a programme and suggest a feasible way to execute it along with possible activities.

Answer: Pinnacle Public School
[Address]
[Date]

The Editor
[National Daily Name]
[Address]

Subject: Promoting 'Cycle to School' Campaigns for Student Fitness

Respected Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to highlight the importance of promoting fitness as a lifestyle among school-going students through a 'Cycle to School' campaign.

In today's sedentary lifestyle, children spend excessive time on screens and lack physical activity. A 'Cycle to School' programme would develop healthy exercise habits, reduce carbon footprint, and keep children active and energetic.

The programme can be executed by designating specific cycling days, creating safe cycling lanes near schools, organizing inter-school cycling events, and providing cycle stands at schools. Activities like cycling rallies, fitness tracking competitions, and awareness workshops can make it engaging.

I urge schools and authorities to adopt this initiative for healthier future generations.

Yours sincerely,
Sohail Khan
Sports Captain

Explanation:
This is a letter to the Editor suggesting a 'Cycle to School' campaign, covering its importance, credibility, execution plan, and possible activities.

Q.0 [0 mark]

(Section B — Creative Writing) An area is believed to be water stressed when annual water supplies drop below 1700 cubic metres per person per year. As per an analysis, we are already surviving with around 1700-1800 cubic metres per year. As our demand for water has increased drastically over the years, per capita water availability has taken a beating.

Based on the given table, write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, analysing the possible causes of water scarcity in the future.

Table on water availability:

Year	Population (Millions)	Per capita water availability (m^3/year)
1951	361	5177
1955	395	4732
1991	846	2209
2001	1027	1820
2025	1394	1341
2050	1640	1140

(1 x 5 = 5)

Answer: The table presents alarming data on India's declining per capita water availability alongside its growing population. In 1951, with a population of 361 million, per capita water availability was 5177 m^3/year. By 2001, as the population nearly tripled to 1027 million, water availability dropped to 1820 m^3/year. Projections for 2025 (1394 million, 1341 m^3) and 2050 (1640 million, 1140 m^3) indicate severe water stress ahead.

The primary cause is rapid population growth outpacing water resource development. Contributing factors include urbanization, industrialization, agricultural demands, climate change affecting rainfall patterns, and groundwater depletion. By 2050, India will be well below the water stress threshold of 1700 m^3, necessitating urgent conservation measures, rainwater harvesting, and efficient water management policies.

Explanation:

This analytical paragraph examines the table data showing the inverse relationship between population growth and per capita water availability, analyzing causes and

implications of future water scarcity.

Q.0 [0 mark]

(Section B — Creative Writing) There are many types of bottles available in the market. This chart compares the disadvantages and advantages of various types of bottles. Based on the chart, write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, analyzing the pros and cons of each and selecting a suitable one.

Chart comparing bottles:

Feature	Glass Bottles	Silicone Bottles	Stainless Steel Bottles	Plastic Bottles
Chemical Free	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Eco-friendly	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Reusable	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Lightweight	Yes	–	Yes	–
No odour	Yes	Yes	Yes	–
Easy to clean	Yes	–	Yes	–
Affordable	No	No	No	Yes
Durable	–	–	Yes	–

Answer: The chart compares four types of bottles across eight features. Glass bottles score highly on being chemical-free, eco-friendly, reusable, lightweight, odour-free, and easy to clean, but lack affordability and durability. Silicone bottles are chemical-free, eco-friendly, and reusable with no odour, but are neither lightweight, easy to clean, affordable, nor durable.

Stainless steel bottles emerge as the best option, excelling in seven out of eight categories — chemical-free, eco-friendly, reusable, lightweight, odour-free, easy to clean, and durable. Their only drawback is higher cost. Plastic bottles, while affordable and reusable, fail on critical parameters: they are not chemical-free, not eco-friendly, and may retain odours.

Considering health, environment, and longevity, stainless steel bottles are the most suitable choice despite their higher price.

Explanation:

This analytical paragraph systematically compares all four bottle types across the given features, arriving at stainless steel as the best overall choice based on the data.

Q.31(a) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) State any one inference about Rajvir from the given context:

'Rajvir too was an ardent fan of detective stories, but at the moment he was keen on looking at the beautiful scenery.'

Answer: One inference about Rajvir is that he was a curious and observant person who appreciated nature and new experiences. Despite being a fan of detective stories, he chose to look at the scenery instead of reading, showing that he was open to experiencing new things and was fascinated by the beauty of Assam's landscape, which he was seeing for the first time.

Explanation:

Rajvir's choice to look at scenery over reading his favourite genre shows he is observant, curious, and appreciative of nature and new experiences.

Q.31(b) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) State True or False:

The reason Rajvir was interested in looking at the beautiful scenery was that the detective book he was reading, was not interesting.

Answer: False. Rajvir was an ardent fan of detective stories, so the book was not uninteresting to him. He was keener on looking at the scenery because he had never seen so much greenery before and was fascinated by the new landscape of Assam.

Explanation:

The passage states Rajvir 'too was an ardent fan of detective stories' — he liked detective books but was simply more interested in the novel, beautiful scenery he had never seen before.

Q.31(c) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) People who live in big cities are always fascinated by the natural beauty and abundant greenery. Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract.

Answer: Rajvir, likely from a city, had never seen so much greenery before. The vast paddy fields, tea bushes stretching to the horizon, and densely wooded hills captivated him. This shows how city dwellers, surrounded by concrete, find natural landscapes extraordinarily beautiful and refreshing when they encounter them.

Explanation:

Rajvir's amazement at the greenery ('had never seen so much greenery before') and his preference for scenery over his book demonstrates how city people are fascinated by natural beauty.

Q.31(d) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) Which phrase would correctly substitute 'doll-like figures', in the given sentence from the extract?

'Dwarfing the tiny tea plants were tall sturdy shade-trees and amidst the orderly rows of bushes busily moved doll-like figures.'

Answer: The phrase 'doll-like figures' refers to the tea pluckers/workers who appeared tiny and doll-like from a distance due to the vast expanse of the tea gardens. A correct substitute would be 'miniature human forms' or 'tiny tea-garden workers'.

Explanation:

'Doll-like figures' is a metaphor for the tea garden workers who looked small and doll-like from a distance against the vast tea plantation landscape.

OR

Q.31 [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) OR: Read the extract from 'The Thief's Story' and answer the following sub-questions (i) to (iv).

Answer: This is the OR extract for Q6. See sub-questions q032a_or_a through q032a_or_d for individual answers.

Explanation:

This is the OR alternative extract-based question set for Q6 of Section C.

Q.0 [0 mark]

(Section C — Literature) Which of the following is NOT a reason why Hari Singh thinks he would not be able to write whole sentences?

(a) Anil would not be there to teach him.

(b) He had robbed Anil and run off.

(c) He would not go back to Anil to learn.

(d) He had no money to take admission in school. <<

Explanation:

The passage mentions Hari Singh would lose Anil's teaching, companionship, and daily life.

Having no money for school admission is NOT mentioned — Anil was teaching him informally, not through a school.

Q.0 [0 mark]

(Section C — Literature) Why is it fair to say that Hari Singh's tone, when he says 'I couldn't cook his meals, run to the bazaar or learn to write whole sentences any more', is filled with remorse and regret? Answer in about 40 words.

Answer: It is fair to say Hari Singh's tone is filled with remorse and regret because he realizes he has lost not just a job but a caring mentor. By listing the things he 'couldn't' do anymore — cooking, running errands, learning to write — he shows he valued these daily activities and the relationship with Anil, making the theft feel

like a much bigger loss than just leaving an employer.

Explanation:

Hari Singh's listing of lost opportunities (meals, errands, education) reveals deep regret.

He recognizes that stealing the money means losing Anil's trust, mentorship, and the chance at self-improvement.

Q.0 [0 mark]

(Section C — Literature) What do you infer about Hari Singh from this statement?

'Whole sentences, I knew, could one day bring me more than a few hundred rupees.'

Answer: This statement reveals that Hari Singh was intelligent and understood the long-term value of education. Despite being a thief, he recognized that literacy and education would bring him far greater rewards in the future than the money he could steal. He saw learning as an investment that would yield much more than petty theft, showing his aspiration for a better life.

Explanation:

Hari Singh's realization shows intelligence, foresight, and an understanding that education is more valuable than stolen money — revealing his desire for self-improvement and a legitimate life.

Q.0 [0 mark]

(Section C — Literature) State True or False with reference to the given extract from 'The Thief's Story':

The reason Hari Singh was filled with a feeling of guilt was because Anil trusted him.

Answer: True. Anil had placed complete trust in Hari Singh by keeping money

under the mattress without hiding it, teaching him to read and write, and giving him a home. This trust made Hari Singh feel guilty about stealing the money, which is why he eventually returned it.

Explanation:

Anil's unconditional trust in Hari Singh — giving him access to money, teaching him, caring for him — was the primary reason for Hari Singh's guilt after stealing.

Q.33(a) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) Fill in the blank with one word:

When the speaker says 'If there is nothing on the tree, 'Tis the Chameleon you see', he refers to _____ as characteristic trait of a true Chameleon.

Answer: camouflage. The chameleon's ability to blend with its surroundings (camouflage) makes it appear as if 'there is nothing on the tree' even when it is there.

Explanation:

The poem humorously points out that a chameleon is so well camouflaged that you see 'nothing' on the tree — its key trait is camouflage/blending with surroundings.

Q.33(b) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) What does the speaker mean when he says, 'A lizard sort of thing'?

Answer: The speaker means that the chameleon resembles a lizard in appearance. It is a small reptile that looks like a lizard, being similar in body shape and size. The casual phrase 'sort of thing' adds a humorous, informal tone to the description.

Explanation:

The poet describes the chameleon as lizard-like in appearance, using colloquial language ('sort of thing') to maintain the poem's light, humorous tone.

Q.33(c) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) Which of the following best describes the speaker's disposition while describing the Chameleon?

(a) indifferent
(b) playful <<
(c) dismissive
(d) prayerful

Explanation:
The speaker uses a light, humorous, and playful tone throughout the poem, using witty descriptions and amusing observations about wild animals.

Q.33(d) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines from 'How to Tell Wild Animals'. Answer in about 40 words.

Answer: The poet uses simple, conversational language with a humorous and witty tone. Phrases like 'a lizard sort of thing' and 'hasn't any ears at all' are deliberately casual and amusing. The rhyming scheme (small/all, thing/wing, tree/see) creates a light, playful rhythm. The poet uses irony and understatement to make the scientific description of the chameleon entertaining.

Explanation:
The poet employs humor, simplicity, rhyme, and colloquial expressions to make the description of wild animals entertaining rather than purely informational.

OR

Q.33 [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) OR: Read the extract from 'The Trees' by Adrienne Rich and answer the following sub-questions (i) to (iv).

Answer: This is the OR extract for Q7. See sub-questions q034a through q034d for individual answers.

Explanation:

This is the OR alternative extract-based question set for Q7 of Section C.

Q.34(a) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) Identify the figure of speech used in the line: 'The Trees are stumbling forward into the night'.

Answer: The figure of speech used is Personification. The trees are given the human quality of 'stumbling forward', as if they are walking or moving like humans. Trees cannot actually stumble; this is a human action attributed to them.

Explanation:

Personification gives human attributes to non-human things.

'Stumbling forward' is a human action attributed to trees, making it personification.

Q.34(b) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) Explain the significance of the line from 'The Trees':

'The moon is broken like a mirror; its pieces flash now in the crown of the tallest Oak.' Answer in about 40 words.

Answer: The line uses a simile comparing the moon to a broken mirror. As the trees move into the open, their branches break the moonlight into fragments that flash among the leaves of the tallest Oak. This signifies the trees' liberation — they have finally moved outdoors where the moonlight filters through their crowns, creating a beautiful, fragmented light effect. It symbolizes the restoration of nature to its rightful place.

Explanation:

The simile 'broken like a mirror' creates vivid imagery of moonlight scattered through oak branches, symbolizing the trees' freedom and return to their natural outdoor setting.

Q.34(c) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) Complete the sentence with the appropriate option.

In the third line, the word 'Listen' is used to _____.

(a) serve no purpose but to complete the sentence.

(b) emphasize listening carefully to the sound of glass breaking.

(c) emphasize listening carefully as a change is about to take place. <<

(d) make the reader more attentive.

Explanation:

The word 'Listen' is an imperative that serves to draw the reader's attention to the significant change that is about to happen — the trees breaking free and moving out into the night.

Q.34(d) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) What does the line 'My head is full of whispers which tomorrow will be silent' tell us about the poet's state of mind?

Answer: The line reveals the poet's contemplative and anticipatory state of mind. The 'whispers' represent the restless sounds of the trees as they prepare to leave the confines of the house. The poet is aware that these sounds will cease once the trees have moved out by tomorrow, leaving silence behind. It reflects a bittersweet awareness of change — the poet recognizes and accepts the inevitable departure of nature from human spaces.

Explanation:

The 'whispers' symbolize the trees' restlessness before their departure.

The poet contemplatively acknowledges the impending silence after the trees leave.

Q.35(a) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) Answer any four of the following five questions, in 40-50 words each (4 x 3 = 12):

(i) What idea does the Postmaster come up with? What did he do to stick to his resolution? (A Letter to God)

Answer: The postmaster came up with the idea of answering Lencho's letter to

God himself. He decided to collect money from his employees and friends, contributing part of his salary too. He wanted to maintain Lencho's faith in God. He managed to collect a little more than half of the amount Lencho had requested and sent it to Lencho in an envelope signed 'God', sticking to his resolution of keeping Lencho's faith alive.

Explanation:

The postmaster's resolution was to help Lencho by collecting money and sending it as if from God, to preserve Lencho's unwavering faith.

Q.35(b) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) (ii) Briefly bring out the contrast between the young seagull's initial attempts to fly and his first successful flight. (His First Flight)

Answer: The young seagull's initial attempts were marked by fear and hesitation. He stood at the edge of the ledge, afraid to fly, while his siblings had already taken flight. He was too scared to attempt flying despite his parents' encouragement and threats of starvation. In contrast, his first successful flight was unplanned — driven by extreme hunger, he dived at the fish his mother held out and suddenly found himself flying. The fear vanished as his wings spread naturally, and he soared with newfound confidence and joy.

Explanation:

The contrast lies between the paralysing fear during initial attempts and the instinctive, hunger-driven first successful flight where fear was replaced by exhilaration.

Q.35(c) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) (iii) Explain why Amanda wants to be an orphan. Refer to the given lines, from the text — 'I am an orphan, roaming the street. I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet. The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.' (Amanda)

Answer: Amanda wants to be an orphan because she craves freedom from the constant nagging and instructions given by her mother. As an orphan roaming the

streets, she imagines a life without anyone telling her what to do. The 'silence is golden' represents freedom from her mother's constant commands, and 'freedom is sweet' expresses her desire for independence. She romanticizes the orphan's life as one of peace, quietness, and liberty — the exact opposite of her reality where she is perpetually corrected and controlled.

Explanation:

Amanda fantasizes about being an orphan as an escape from her mother's relentless nagging.

The imagery of dust, bare feet, silence, and freedom contrasts with her restricted real life.

Q.35(d) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) (iv) Mijbil turned out to be a playful pet. Elaborate. (Mijbil the Otter)

Answer: Mijbil was an extremely playful otter. He invented games with various objects, especially enjoying playing with a rubber ball, rolling it around the room and chasing it. He loved playing in water, spending hours in the bathtub splashing and swimming. He would juggle small objects between his paws like a human playing table tennis. He also discovered that he could slide on the smooth floor, which became one of his favourite games. His playfulness extended to inventing new games independently, showing intelligence and a joyful nature that made him a delightful pet.

Explanation:

Mijbil's playfulness is shown through his ball games, water play, sliding on floors, and juggling objects — demonstrating intelligence and an endearing, playful personality.

Q.35(e) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) (v) Ogden Nash uses vivid imagery in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' to appeal to the senses. Elaborate the imagery used for the Pirate.

Answer: Ogden Nash creates vivid, fearsome imagery for the pirate. The pirate is described with a wooden leg, pistols in both hands, and a bright black beard. His teeth are described as filed to a point, and he carries a cutlass. The pirate climbs in through the window with his weapons, looking menacing and dangerous. Nash uses visual imagery (black beard, wooden leg, pistols) and creates a sense of threat and danger through these detailed physical descriptions. This vivid portrayal makes the pirate appear terrifying, which contrasts humorously with the reactions of the supposedly brave pets who all flee in fear.

Explanation:

Nash uses rich visual imagery for the pirate — wooden leg, pistols, black beard, filed teeth, cutlass — creating a fearsome figure that ironically only the 'cowardly' Custard dares to face.

Q.36(a) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) Answer any two of the following three questions, in 40-50 words each (2 x 3 = 6):

(i) What does Mr. Herriot mean by 'happy period' for himself and his partners? Explain. (A Triumph of Surgery)

Answer: Mr. Herriot refers to the period when Tricki was staying at his surgery as the 'happy period' for himself and his partners. During Tricki's stay, Mrs. Pumphrey kept sending luxurious food items — eggs, wine, and brandy — meant for Tricki's recovery. However, Herriot and his partners enjoyed these delicacies themselves, having extra-nourishing breakfasts with eggs, wine during lunch, and brandy after dinner. This period of indulgence at Mrs. Pumphrey's expense was the 'happy period' for the veterinary staff.

Explanation:

The 'happy period' was when Herriot and partners enjoyed the luxury food (eggs, wine, brandy) that Mrs.

Pumphrey sent for Tricki, while Tricki recovered on a simple, healthy diet.

Q.36(b) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) (ii) Justify how Ebright's mother played an important part in his becoming a scientist. (The Making of a Scientist)

Answer: Ebright's mother played a crucial role in his development as a scientist. She encouraged his curiosity from an early age, taking him on nature trips and buying him books and equipment. She was the one who got him a children's book about butterflies that sparked his lifelong interest. When he had no friends, she became his companion in collecting butterflies, rocks, fossils, and coins. She also arranged for him to participate in the county science fair and supported his research projects. Her constant encouragement and intellectual stimulation nurtured the scientific temperament that made Ebright a successful scientist.

Explanation:

Ebright's mother was his primary supporter — she provided resources, companionship, encouragement, and opportunities that shaped his scientific curiosity and career.

Q.36(c) [2 marks]

(Section C — Literature) (iii) A well known book of nursery rhymes saved the world from a Martian invasion. Comment with reference to 'The Book that Saved the Earth'.

Answer: In 'The Book that Saved the Earth', the Martians planned to invade Earth in 2040. Their leader Think-Tank ordered his crew to decode Earth books. They found a book of nursery rhymes in a library. The Martians misinterpreted 'Humpty Dumpty' as a warning that Earthlings had weapons to destroy Martians. They misread 'Hey Diddle Diddle' (the cow jumped over the moon) as evidence that Earth had advanced space technology. Terrified by these misinterpretations, Think-Tank called off the invasion and the Martians fled to Alpha Centauri. Thus, a simple book of Mother Goose nursery rhymes inadvertently saved Earth from Martian invasion.

Explanation:

The Martians' literal and fearful misinterpretation of nursery rhymes — seeing them as evidence of Earth's military might — caused them to abandon their invasion plan.

Q.0 [0 mark]

(Section C — Literature) Answer any one of the following two questions, in 100-120 words (1 x 6 = 6):

(a) A desire is more personal whereas a vision has broader connotations. You have been asked to present an analysis of Valli's desire and Mandela's vision and how they are respectively fulfilled. Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing the approaches of both Valli and Mandela.

One acknowledges that both Valli and Mandela _____, however,
(Reference — Nelson Mandela: A Long Walk to Freedom & Madam Rides a Bus)

Answer: One acknowledges that both Valli and Mandela had strong determination to achieve their goals, however, their objectives differed vastly in scope.

Valli's desire was deeply personal — she wanted to ride the bus to the nearby town and back. She planned meticulously, saving every coin, gathering information about bus timings and fares, and resisting temptations like peppermints and toys. Her desire was fulfilled through personal effort, patience, and clever planning. It was a private achievement that brought her immense personal satisfaction.

Mandela's vision, in contrast, was broader and selfless — he envisioned a free, democratic South Africa where all people enjoyed equal rights regardless of race. His vision required decades of struggle, imprisonment, sacrifice, and collective effort of thousands. His approach was public, political, and inclusive.

While Valli's desire affected only herself, Mandela's vision transformed an entire nation. Both showed extraordinary determination, but Valli's was an innocent childhood dream fulfilled through personal resourcefulness, while Mandela's was a revolutionary vision fulfilled through collective sacrifice and unwavering commitment to justice.

Explanation:

The comparison highlights the contrast between personal desire (Valli's bus ride) and broader vision (Mandela's freedom struggle), while noting their shared trait of determination.

Q.0 [0 mark]

(Section C — Literature) (b) You have been chosen to address the student gathering from the nearby schools, to speak on 'How to Deal with Loss — Personal or Material'. Prepare the speech draft in not more than 120 words, with reference to the commonality of themes in John Berryman's 'The Ball Poem' and 'A Sermon at Benares'.

You may begin this way:
Good Morning everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss two pieces of literature that offer a powerful insight into how we can learn to deal with loss.

You may end this way —
To conclude, I'd like to say that —
Thank you.

Answer: Good Morning everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss two pieces of literature that offer a powerful insight into how we can learn to deal with loss.

In 'The Ball Poem' by John Berryman, a young boy loses his ball, which represents his first encounter with personal loss. The ball symbolizes his

childhood innocence and cherished memories. Through this seemingly small loss, the boy learns that some things cannot be replaced, and he must learn to stand up and move on. The poet emphasizes that everyone must learn to cope with loss independently.

Similarly, in 'A Sermon at Benares', Gautama Buddha teaches Kisa Gotami that death and loss are universal and inevitable. When she loses her son, Buddha asks her to find mustard seeds from a house untouched by death — an impossible task that helps her understand that suffering is part of human existence.

Both texts share the common theme that loss is an inevitable part of life. Whether it is the loss of a beloved possession or a loved one, we must accept it with grace, learn from it, and grow stronger.

To conclude, I'd like to say that — loss teaches us resilience, and acceptance is the first step toward healing.
Thank you.

Explanation:

Both 'The Ball Poem' and 'A Sermon at Benares' deal with loss and acceptance — the ball poem with personal/material loss, and the sermon with the universality of death and suffering.

Q.0 [0 mark]

(Section C — Literature) Answer any one of the following two questions, in 100-120 words (1 x 6 = 6):

(a) Imagine that Griffin's conscience pricks him and he decides to write a diary entry, about misusing science and endangering society, in the context of his own experiences.

Write this diary entry, as Griffin, in about 120 words.
(Reference — Footprints without Feet by H.G. Wells)

Answer: Dear Diary,

Today, as I sit alone in this cold, dark room, my conscience weighs heavily upon me. I, Griffin, a brilliant scientist, discovered the formula for invisibility — a groundbreaking achievement that could have benefited humanity. But what did I do with this extraordinary power?

I set my landlord's house on fire out of revenge. I stole from shops and theatres to survive. I terrified innocent people at the inn in Iping. I attacked Mrs. Hall and the villagers. I robbed the clergyman's home. My invisibility, which should have been a gift to science, became a weapon of destruction and self-interest.

I realize now that science without conscience is dangerous. I used my knowledge not to help society but to harm and frighten people. My actions have made me a fugitive, feared and hunted. The power of invisibility corrupted me because I lacked moral values.

I deeply regret misusing my scientific discovery. If I could start over, I would use my brilliance for the betterment of mankind, not its destruction.

Regretfully,
Griffin

Explanation:

The diary entry captures Griffin's reflection on misusing his scientific discovery of invisibility for personal gain and harming society, showing remorse and the lesson that science must be guided by ethics.

Q.0 [0 mark]

(Section C — Literature) (b) A character arc is the transformation or development of a character throughout a story and refers to the changes a character undergoes as a result of their experiences, challenges, and interactions with other characters.

In the light of the above information, trace the character arc of Matilda in Guy De Maupassant's 'The Necklace', in about 120 words.

Answer: Matilda Loisel's character arc in 'The Necklace' is a dramatic transformation shaped by vanity, misfortune, and ultimately, resilience.

Initially, Matilda is a beautiful, discontented woman who dreams of luxury and high society despite her modest middle-class life. She is vain, constantly lamenting her lack of fine clothes, jewellery, and social status. When invited to a ball, she borrows what she believes is a diamond necklace from her wealthy friend Madame Forestier.

The turning point comes when she loses the necklace. Rather than confessing, she and her husband borrow heavily to replace it. This decision transforms her completely. Over ten years of gruelling labour to repay the debt, Matilda changes from a vain dreamer into a hardworking, coarse-handed, practical woman. She loses her beauty and youth but gains strength, perseverance, and humility.

The final irony — learning the necklace was fake — completes her arc, revealing how her initial vanity and dishonesty cost her everything she once had, while teaching her the true value of honesty and contentment.

Explanation:

Matilda's arc traces her transformation from a vain, discontented dreamer to a hardworking, humble woman through the consequences of losing a borrowed necklace that turned out to be fake.