

Class XII Session 2023-24
Subject - English Core
Sample Question Paper - 6

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION-A
READING SKILLS (22 MARKS)

1. Read the following text.

(1) Though the U.S. prides itself on being a leader in the world community, a recent report shows that it lags far behind other industrialised countries in meeting the needs of its youngest and most vulnerable citizens. The U.S. has a higher infant mortality rate, a higher proportion of low birth weight babies, a smaller proportion of babies immunised against childhood diseases and a much higher rate of adolescent pregnancies. These findings, described as a “quiet crisis” requiring immediate and far-reaching action, appeared in a report prepared by a task force of educators, doctors, politicians and business people. According to the report, a fourth of the nation's 12 million infants and toddlers live in poverty.

(2) As many as half confront risk factors that could harm their ability to develop intellectually, physically and socially. Child immunisations are too low, more children are born into poverty, more are in substandard care while their parents work and more are being raised by single parents. When taken together, these and other risk factors can lead to educational and health problems that are much harder and more costly to reverse. The crisis begins in the womb with unplanned parenthood. Women with unplanned pregnancies are less likely to seek pre-natal care.

(3) The problems continue after birth where unplanned pregnancies and unstable partnerships often go hand in hand. Since 1950, the number of single parent families has nearly tripled. More than 25 percent of all births today are to unmarried mothers. As the number of single parent families grows and more women enter the work force, infants and toddlers are increasing in the care of people other than their parents. Most disturbingly, recent statistics show that American parents are increasingly neglecting or abusing their children. In only four years from 1987-1991, the number of children in foster care increased by over 50 percent.



(4) Babies under the age of one are the fastest growing category of children entering foster care. The crisis affects children under the age of three most severely, the report says. Yet, it is this period-from infancy through preschool years-that sets the stage for a child's future. Answer the following questions, based on the above passage.

i. Where is the US lagging behind in the global picture?

ii. "infant mortality rate" means _____

- A. the number of infants that died before birth
- B. the number of infant deaths for every 1000 live births
- C. the age at which an infant dies
- D. the rate at which infants are born

iii. What type of women do not seek pre-natal care?

iv. "unstable partnerships" means. _____

- A. biological parents separating and not having a stable relationship
- B. changing sexual partners
- C. changing living conditions constantly
- D. changing priorities of the biological parents

v. Which of these statements is false based on the passage?

- A. In only four years from 1987-1991, the number of children in foster care increased by over 50 percent.
- B. According to the report, a fourth of the nation's 12 million infants and toddlers live in poverty.
- C. The US has the lowest infant mortality rate in all over the world.
- D. The crisis affects children under the age of one most severely.

vi. Synonym of 'severely' is _

- A. slowly
- B. rapidly
- C. acutely
- D. largely

vii. Based on the passage, define "quiet crisis"?

viii. How is the quiet crisis directly related to the increase in children under foster care system?

2. Read the following text.

(1) What an amazing news for the new generation of students - Maths to be optional - is the new mantra from government that will potentially revolutionise the lives of students in grade 10 and upwards. I remember never enjoying Maths and to a degree I blame my poor understanding for many of my trials and tribulations at school and college. The horrors of long division and the dread of algebra. However, are we really going to now 'educate' innumerate kids or is there

enough practical maths given to survive in the world before grade 10?

(2) I was an above-average kid in school. There used to be a ranking system, where I always competed to be in the top five. To be there, I've had many sleepless nights, long hours of tuition and this never-ending struggle with my least favourite subject that used to always obstruct me from being the first name on the blackboard on the open-house day. I tell you though from these trials and tribulations I got my sense of competitiveness with myself and this is where my drive comes from. Nobody told me to take it easy, that's how our education system works. The world of sin, cos, tan was making me sad, however, there was no solution to escape from it. I struggled on until graduation. However, I am all too aware of the negative impact that this can and is having on children.

(3) The prospect of failing through no fault of your own terrifies most adults and can have serious implication for youngsters. The real danger in sticking with the old system I went through is that kids get a sense of being ostracised from their peers and this can impact how they interact with group later. This move by Bombay HC may prove a blessing to so many mathematically challenged students, thanks in part to the psychiatrist who brought it to the court's attention. Allowing them to drop maths in grade 10 is sensible because of the huge pressure felt by the students, who fail to progress due to this single subject being impossible for them to comprehend.

(4) Dropping maths as one of the compulsory subjects for matriculation -an idea that was first introduced in the 1960's and is clearly now considered not the best way forward for all. The effect will be felt from 2017 but unfortunately as yet there is no system to retrospectively activate it for kids passing through grade 10 from 2015-2017. Will this create a two tier university entrance system or will it be a fairer way of allowing more students to enter subjects such as the arts or languages? It's hard to say but there's no doubt that at the root of the decision is student welfare and rights. This can only be a good thing and having passed through until grade ten everyday maths won't be a problem for most - the problem is that the more academic subject of maths is not attainable for everyone. One option put forward is the study of Sanskrit. This has raised some eyebrows but there is no doubt as time goes on people will settle to the idea or there will be more elective subjects put forward. This however may look like a different system so much so that rather than a rigid set of 7 or 8 subjects, students will have the choice from a broader range allowing them to choose whatever they want and drop whatever they want.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.

- i. What came in the way for the narrator topping the class?
- ii. The idea of dropping maths as the compulsory subject for passing matriculation was first discussed in _____

A. 2015



B. 2016

C. 2017

D. the 1960s

iii. "This has raised some eyebrows" meaning

A. the suggestion was accepted happily

B. the suggestion was received with doubts and disapproval

C. the suggestion was totally discarded

D. the suggestion was paid attention to

iv. "that kids get a sense of being ostracised from their peers" the word 'ostracised' here means

A. being demonised

B. being blackmailed

C. being shunned

D. being pitied

V. Antonym of rigid is _____

A. definite

B. tough

C. indulgent

D. stern

vi. Based on the passage, state TRUE or FALSE.

The narrator believes that the removal of Maths in the education system will be a good thing for all students.

vii. The author supports the idea of making Maths optional for students above 10 onwards.

Yes/No? Cite evidence from the passage to support your answer.

viii. Describe how the idea for Maths to be made optional came about?

ix. The author believes that removing Maths may bring about a change in students' interest in other subjects like the arts and languages. Elaborate in about 40 words.

SECTION-B

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 MARKS)

3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words.

A. You are the Secretary of your School Literary Association. Write a notice for your school notice board, giving details of the proposed inauguration of the Literary Association of your school. You are 'XYZ' of Jain Vidyashram, Cuddalore.

OR

B. Your school is organizing a SPICMACAY programme on the occasion of the World Dance Day wherein the renowned Bharatanatyam dancer, Geeta Chandran would be giving a lecture



demonstration. As the President, Cultural Society of your school, draft a notice informing the students about the same. You are Rakhsita/Rohit of MVN Public School.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words.

A. Write a formal reply accepting an invitation to be present in the birthday celebrations of your friend, Suresh's daughter, who lives at 1231, Chattarpur, Delhi. You are Abhishek Khanna.

OR

B. As Secretary of the Literary Club of St. Anne's School, Ahmedabad, draft a formal invitation for the inauguration of the club in your school.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 120-150 words.

A. Write a letter to the Editor, Deccan Times, Bangalore about the inadequate parking facilities in the Commercial Street, M.G. Road, which is causing a lot of inconvenience to the people. Offer your suggestions. You are Anoop/Ritu, 24 Hennis Road, Bangalore.

OR

You have seen an advertisement in a national newspaper for the post of Senior Teacher in English at Sunrise Global School, Noida. You are Karuna, M 114, Mall Road, Delhi. You are MA (English), B.Ed. from Delhi University and yet to have any teaching experience. Write a job application to the principal.

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in 120-150 words.

A. You are Mridul/Mridula, an HT correspondent. You witnessed a protest rally by a youth organisation. Mentioning the purpose of rally, places covered and reaction of public, write a report for your newspaper.

OR

B. It is very important to take significant actions to save our planet. Write an article for your school magazine on how can we save and protect our planet. You are Akshay/Akshita of Graham Public School, Indore.

SECTION-C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 MARKS)

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

A. A roadside stand that too pathetically pled,

It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread,
But for some of the money, the cash, whose
flow supports
The flower of cities from sinking and
withering faint.

i. It is unfair to say that these people are begging for a 'dole of bread. Why?

- A. Because they are unreasonably begging for money.
- B. Because they have something to sell.
- C. Because they are beggars.
- D. Because they shamelessly begging for bread.

ii. 'Pathetically pled' means. _____

- A. the plea of the owners to stop the passers-by
- B. to steal some money from the travellers
- C. they plead to the rich city dwellers to buy something
- D. to sell breads to the passers-by

iii. Why do the poor people look at the city money?

iv. Identify the figure of speech used in "pathetically pled".

- A. Alliteration
- B. Simile
- C. Personification
- D. Metaphor

V. Name the poem from which the given extract is taken.

vi. The tone of the poet in the given extract is _____

OR

B. Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness: but will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.

i. Whose loveliness will keep on increasing?

ii. Identify the phrase which says that 'it is immortal'?

- A. It will never pass into nothingness
- B. Its loveliness increases
- C. A bower quiet for us
- D. Full of sweet dreams

iii. Bower means,

- A. shower

- B. flower
- C. nice and shady place
- D. plants
- iv. What kind of sleep does the poet say we'll get?
 - A. A dreamless sleep
 - B. Sleep full of sweet dreams
 - C. Restless sleep
 - D. Noisy sleep
- v. Who wrote the above given lines of poetry?
- vi. The rhyme scheme of the given lines of poetry is

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

A. The young American, without a word, shook Sadao's hand warmly, and then walked quite well across the floor and down the step into the darkness of the garden. Once - twice... Sadao saw his light flash to find his way. But that would not be suspected. He waited until from the shore there was one more flash. Then he closed the partition. That night he slept.

- i. Why did the young American shake Sadao's hand?
 - A. To say goodbye
 - B. To express his gratitude
 - C. To show his dominance
 - D. Both (A) and (B)
- ii. What did Sadao observe about the American?
 - A. That he used his flashlight to find his way.
 - B. That he was walking straight into the dark.
 - C. That he was rushing to get away from him.
 - D. That he didn't need the flash light.
- iii. For how long did Sadao watch the American?
- iv. Which line/phrase implies Sadao was finally relieved?

OR

B. Mr. Lamb: If you'd seen me, you'd not have come in.

Derry: No.

Mr. Lamb: No.

Derry: It'd have been trespassing.

Mr. Lamb: Ah. That's not why.

Derry: I don't like being near people. When they stare.....when I see them being afraid of me.

- i. Why is Mr. Lamb so sure that Derry wouldn't have entered his garden if he had shown



himself?

ii. What makes Derry feel so scared to be near people?

iii. When Derry revealed "It would have been trespassing." What does this reveal about his character?

A. He is a good boy who knows what is right or wrong.

B. He wanted to see if he would be caught.

C. He was just trying to make up excuses.

D. He was testing Mr. Lamb.

iv. Assertion (A): Mr. Lamb loves questioning people who come to his garden.

Reason (R): He wanted to see who is good or bad.

A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

B. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

C. Both A and R are false.

D. A is true but R is false.

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

A. Here I sit, she said to herself, wishing Danny would come, wishing he would come and sensing the time passing. I feel the pangs of doubt stirring inside me. I watch for him but still there is no sign of him. I remember Geoff saying he would never come, and how none of them believed me when I told them. I wonder what will I do, what can I tell them now if he doesn't come? But we know how it was, Danny and me-that's the main thing. How can you help what people choose to believe? But all the same, it makes me despondent, this knowing I'll never be able to show them they are wrong to doubt me.

i. How was Sophie feeling waiting for Danny?

ii. What did Geoff say?

iii. What was Sophie wondering?

iv. Who all Sophie wants to prove wrong?

A. Geoff

B. Jansie

C. No one

D. Everyone

v. What does 'pangs of doubt' mean?

A. A feeling of sudden happiness

B. A sudden brief sharp feeling of doubt

C. A feeling of sudden anger

D. A feeling of sudden sadness

vi. Name the author of the given extract.

- A. A.R. Barton
- B. Asokamitran
- C. Anees Jung
- D. Alphonse Daudet

OR

B. Some might make quite extravagant claims for it as being, in its highest form, a source of truth, and, in its practice, an art. Others, usually celebrities who see themselves as its victims, might despise the interview as an unwarranted intrusion into their lives, or feel that it somehow diminishes them, just as in some primitive cultures it is believed that if one takes a photographic portrait of somebody then one is stealing that person's soul.

i. What is the most likely reason some people consider the practice of interview to be an art?

This could be because it requires _____

- A. fluency of words
- B. sensitive and careful handling
- C. creativity and imagination
- D. probing and focusing on details

ii. Rewrite the sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with its inference.

Celebrities feel that an interview diminishes them.

iii. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to the two statements given below.

- (1) Celebrities don't consent to be interviewed.
- (2) Interviews intrude the privacy of celebrities.
- A. (1) can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot.
- B. (1) cannot be inferred from the extract but (2) can.
- C. (1) is true but (2) is false.
- D. (2) is the reason for (1).

iv. Rationalise, to support the given opinion:

To say that an interview, in its highest form, is a source of truth, is an extravagant claim.

V. Replace the underlined word with its antonym from the extract.

Some celebrities hate the idea of having to give an interview because it makes them feel like supporters.

vi. The author's views on interview, in the extract, can best be described as statements based on

- A. facts
- B. hypothesis
- C. beliefs
- D. superstitions



10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words.

- i. What made the lieutenant-governor drop the case against Gandhiji?
- ii. Why did Edla still entertain the peddler even after she knew the truth about him?
- iii. What promise did the author make with Saheb? Why had she to feel small?
- iv. How does Kamala Das try to put away the thoughts of her ageing mother?
- v. How were the parents and M.Hamel responsible for the children's neglect of the French language?
- vi. Give two reasons why, according to Pablo Neruda, is 'keeping quiet' essential to attaining a better, more peaceful world.

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.

- i. Why did Derry insist that he would go back to Mr. Lamb?
- ii. What do you infer from Sam's letter to Charley?
- iii. Comment on any one aspect of the writing style of the author, Kalki in The Tiger King.

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in 120-150 words.

- A. Do the poor have the right to dream? Why does the author call Mukesh's dream 'a mirage'?

OR

B. The poet Kamala Das ends with a painful farewell. Do you agree? Explain giving your opinions based on the poem.

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in 120-150 words.

- A. The Tiger King's quest for tigers was full of hurdles and challenges. Justify the statement.

OR

B. Both Bama and Zitkala Sa experienced the harsh reality of discrimination in their childhood. Instead of letting it pull them down, they both found a way to overcome it. You wish to include a cameo of both in your upcoming blog post. As a part of the research, compare and contrast the experiences faced by the two and their response/s to these experiences.



SOLUTIONS

1.
 - i. US lags far behind other industrialised countries in meeting the needs of its youngest and most vulnerable citizens.
 - ii. B. the number of infant deaths for every 1000 live births.
 - iii. Women with unplanned pregnancy.
 - iv. A. biological parents separating and not having a stable relationship.
 - v. C. The US has the lowest infant mortality rate in all over the world.
 - vi. C. acutely
 - vii. The rising or increasing adolescent pregnancies, high infant mortality rate, higher proportion of low-birth-weight babies and lesser proportion of babies immunized against childhood diseases are known as 'quiet crisis'. This is a report created by a group of educators, doctors, politicians and business people.
 - viii. With the quiet crisis, there are a number of children born from unplanned pregnancies/single parent who are unable to fully care or provide for them. This then led to the child being taken by the social services and then sent to foster homes just to ensure they have a loving family to call home.
2.
 - i. Lack of affinity with the subject maths.
 - ii. D. the 1960s
 - iii. B. the suggestion was received with doubts and. disapproval
 - iv. C. being shunned
 - v. C. indulgent
 - vi. FALSE
 - vii. Yes, the author seems to support the idea of making Maths optional. At the very start of the passage, the narrator states that Maths being made optional is “an amazing news for the new generation of students”. He also went on to tell how he did not like the subject when he was a student.
 - viii. The idea of making Maths optional for students of 10th grade and above was first brought forward by a psychiatrist who brought it to the Bombay High Court's attention. This was done in order to provide some sort of relief for mathematically challenged students who may have difficulty in trying to score good marks in the subject.
 - ix. With maths as a mandatory subject, it is already hard enough for students to focus on other subjects as they will be trying their best to get enough marks in the subject. But with the hard subject out of the way (for most students who find maths a daunting task), it will lessen the pressure and enable them to focus on other paths.



3.

A.

JAIN VIDYASHRAM, CUDDALORE

NOTICE

1 March, 20xx

School Literary Association Inauguration

All students and staff are cordially invited to the inauguration of the school's Literary Association on Monday, 10 March 20xx in the school library, 11 a.m. onwards. Our Chief Guest, renowned writer, Ms. Arundhati Roy, shall speak to the students on the importance of reading and writing.

XYZ

(Secretary, Literary Association)

OR

B.

MVN PUBLIC SCHOOL

NOTICE

24 March, 20xx

SPICMACAY Presentation by Geeta Chandran

On the occasion of World Dance Day, our school is organising a SPICMACAY programme, where Geeta Chandran would be giving lecture demonstration. You all are hereby invited to attend the same and make the occasion memorable.

When : 27 March, 20xx

Where : School Auditorium

Rohit

(President, Cultural Society)



4. A.

1231, Aashirwad Apartment, Chattarpur,

Delhi.

15 Sept. 20xx

Dear Suresh

I have received your invitation for your daughter's birthday celebration on 30 Sept. 20xx at 7 p.m. at Hotel Treebo. I am extremely happy to know that all our old friends are likely to be there.

I would like to confirm my participation, looking forward to the momentous occasion.

With love

Abhishek

OR

B.

St. Anne's School, Ahmedabad

Invites the students, teachers, and staff members to the

Inauguration

of

Literary Club on

Monday, 18 March, 20xx

10:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

School Library

Famous writer and poet **Mr. Vikram Seth** shall grace the occasion with his presence.

Secretary, Literary Club

(Please be seated by 10:00 A.M.)



5. A.

24, Hennis Road
Bangalore-37
10 February, 20xx
The Editor,
Deccan Times
Bangalore -42
Subject: Inadequate Parking Facility
Sir,

With due respect, I wish to say that I Anoop, own an electronic shop in the Commercial Street, M.G. Road. There is a good number of shops on both sides of the street. Every day, huge crowds gather here for shopping. Many shopkeepers and people come by their car in the area. Many visitors also come by their car. But the main problem is that the parking facility is inadequate, space is less, the vehicles are more. This causes great inconvenience to the people. Shopping in this area has become very difficult, as the passages and by-lanes get jammed by vehicles. Besides, too many vehicles cause too much traffic, which further worsens the situation, sometimes causing accidents even. An open field adjacent to the commercial area, is lying vacant. This can be used as an authorised parking place, which will reduce the problem of parking in the area.

I hope the concerned authorities will take this matter into consideration without further delay and take immediate action.

Thank you
Yours faithfully
Anoop Jalota

B.

M-114,
Mall Road,
Delhi
1 March, 20xx
The Principal
Sunrise Global School
Noida
Subject : Job Application for English Teacher

This refers to your advertisement in the Hindustan Times, dated 28 February 20xx for the vacancy of Senior English Teacher post in your school. I wish to apply for the same. I have done M.A. (English) and B.Ed. from Delhi University. I have enclosed my detailed bio-data with this letter.

Although I do not have prior work experience, I assure you that I shall give my hundred percent to my profession and work to your full satisfaction.

I hope you shall consider my application for interview.

Thank you
Yours faithfully
Karuna Singh
Encl. Bio-data

BIO-DATA

Name : Karuna Singh
Gender : Female
Father's Name : Mr. Jayant Singh
Date of Birth : 20 March 19XX
Marital Status : Unmarried
Current Add. : M-114, Mall Road, Delhi
Contact No. : 919144xxxx

Academic Record:

Examination	Institution	Board/Uni.	Marks
B.Ed.	Miranda House	Delhi University	65%
M.A. (English)	L.S.R.	Delhi University	60%
B.A. (English)	L.S.R.	Delhi University	60%
XII (Hum.)	St. Joseph School	CBSE	96%
X	St. Joseph School	CBSE	90%

Scholarship Awarded – Have been a Scholarship holder in XII.

References : 1. Mrs. J.S. Sharma, Principal, Miranda House, Delhi, 981871xxxx

2. Dr. Sutapa Banerjee, (H.O.D.) English Literature L.S.R. Delhi, 991071xxxx

6. A. Protest Rally Against Rampant Corruption

- By Mridul Gupta, HT Reporter

New Delhi, 24 May, 20xx: Members of the Young Urban Volunteers Association (YUVA), a youth organisation, held a protest rally on 23 May, 20xx. Young boys and girls of YUVA organised the rally to raise their voice against rampant corruption in the society. The four hours long rally saw participants from various age groups who took to the road at 11:00 a.m. sharp. The rally started from Connaught Circus and moved further to Janpath. From there, the rally group walked to various iconic places of capital city, singing patriotic songs and shouting slogans on anti-corruption. The rally finally stopped at Qutub Minar where the youth representatives of YUVA performed a

street play on corruption and how to curb it. The attempt to spread the message of protest against corruption proved quite successful with general public joining in and vowing to fight against it.

B. Save the planet Earth

OR



- By Akshita

This is a cause of complete concern across the globe today. The global warming has accelerated the rise of temperature on Earth which is said to have risen by 40° C. The sea level is also rising. The glaciers are also melting away, resulting in massive floods causing huge losses. On the other hand, there has been very less rainfall in the recent years resulting in the scarcity of food around the world. The death rate due to starvation has increased immensely. We, human beings, are solely responsible for bringing this calamity upon us. We pollute our planet in many ways. Deforestation, industrial pollution, toxic wastes, vehicular pollution and lack of greenery are the chief causes of imbalance in the ecosystem. The urgent need of the hour is that each one of us take steps to save the planet in every possible way. We should protect our forests, save fuel, plant trees, take care of toxic pollutants, conserve water and change our lifestyle. Awareness programmes must be launched by the students and NGOs to make people aware of environmental problems. The public should avoid the use of polythene bags. All of us must strive hard to save our beautiful planet for the future generations.

7. A. i. B. Because they have something to sell.
- ii. C. they plead to the rich city dwellers to buy something
- iii. The poor people look at the city money for their survival and betterment.
- iv. A. Alliteration
- V. A Roadside Stand
- vi. Despairing

OR

- B. i. Things of beauty like nature.
 - ii. A. It will never pass into nothingness
 - iii. C. nice and shady place
 - iv. B. Sleep full of sweet dreams
 - V. John Keats
 - vi. Abbc
8. A. i. D. Both (A) and (B)
 - ii. B. That he was walking straight into the dark.
 - iii. He waited until from the shore there was one more flash.
 - iv. That night he slept.

OR

- B. i. He believes Derry wants to be alone.
- ii. He doesn't like to be stared at and being talked to.

- iii. A. He is a good boy who knows what is right or wrong.
- iv. C. Both A and R are false.

9. A. i. Sophie was feeling doubtful while waiting for Danny.
ii. Geoff said that Danny would never come and that no one believed her when she told them.
iii. Sophie wondered what she would do if Danny didn't show up.
iv. D. Everyone
- V. B. A sudden brief sharp feeling of doubt
- vi. A. A.R. Barton

OR

- B. i. C. creativity and imagination
ii. makes them feel ordinary
iii. D. (2) is the reason for (1).
iv. Because an interviewer can make false statements.
V. victims
vi. A. facts

10. i. Thousands of peasants came in support of Gandhiji. The authorities felt that they could not control them and the condition of law and order could deteriorate. The pressure of the peasants was increasing. On the other hand, Gandhiji refused to have any bail. Therefore, the lieutenant-general dropped the case against Gandhiji.
- ii. Edla did not think it proper on their part to chase away a human being whom they had asked to come to their house and had promised him Christmas cheer. She understood the reality of the peddler's life and wanted him to enjoy a day of peace with them. Hence, she still entertained the peddler even after knowing the truth about him.
- iii. Saheb used to roam here and there. The author advised him to go to school. But he said that there was no school in the neighbourhood. At this the author said that she would start school. But she had made this promise half-jokingly and was not at all serious about it. After a few days Saheb came to her to ask if her school was ready. She had to feel small. She never wanted to start a school. She said that promises like hers are frequently made but hardly ever kept.
- iv. When the poet sees her ageing mother, she becomes full of pain and agony. She thinks that her mother might not live long. To put away the thoughts of her ageing mother, the poet starts looking out of the car. She starts looking at the children rushing out of their homes and the trees that appear to be sprinting.
- v. Not only the children themselves but also their parents and M.Hamel were to some extent responsible for the children's neglect of the French language. The parents would send their children to work on a farm or at a mill so that they could get some extra money. M. Hamel

would often ask them to water his plants instead of teaching them. And when he wanted to go fishing, he would give them a holiday.

vi. Pablo Neruda in his poem "Keeping Quiet" says that 'keeping quiet' is essential to attain a better, more peaceful world. According to him, keeping quiet and introspecting will initiate peace and create brotherhood among men and it will put an end to damaging activities like waging wars which can destroy the environment. Therefore, the poem says that we should keep quiet.

11. i. Derry insisted that he would go back to Mr. Lamb because it was for the first time that Derry felt comfortable and happy in someone's presence. That someone was Mr. Lamb. While Derry was jovial with Mr. Lamb, Derry completely forgot about his burnt face. He felt that he too could live an independent life for he had all his faculty intact. Therefore, even though his mother forbade him from meeting Mr. Lamb, Derry insisted on going; he did not want to lose his new found companion.

ii. Sam's letter to Charley proves that Sam has found and reached the third level. He is staying there in Galesburg since last two weeks and watching various activities and explains to Charley. He invites both Charley and his wife Louisa and motivates them to continue their search of the third level. So, we can say that Sam was also a victim of worldly worries and seeking the escapement, like Charley.

iii. In the story "The Tiger King" by Kalki, the dramatic irony is used as a literary device whereby the words and actions have different meanings for both the characters and its readers. The author uses this literary device effectively throughout the story. For example, when Tiger King hunts the first tiger and displays it to the astrologer and he remarks "be very careful with the hundredth tiger". This is an example of dramatic irony.

12. A. Yes, the poor too have the right to dream. Mukesh, for instance, dreams of becoming a motor mechanic and he shows great determination and passion for his dream. He is willing to walk the long distance from home to garage every day in order to train as a mechanic. Yet there are some reasons which may create hindrances in his path towards his goal. Mukesh belongs to the marginalised section of the society, which is always caught in a vicious circle of poverty and exploitation by the sahuikars, the middle men, the policemen, the keepers of law, the bureaucrats and the politicians. His family is content in their present living condition, no matter how grim the situation be. On one hand Mukesh dislikes the profession of bangle making on the other, his family thinks it is his (and their) destiny to be born in the family of bangle makers. They have been making bangles generation after generation and have known or seen nothing other than bangles. There is no will or aspiration, let alone inspiration, left in the families living in Firozabad, to break free from their current situation. They cannot organise themselves in cooperatives in order to raise their issues because it is them who would have to face the



atrocities of the police. Moreover, there is the stigma related to their caste always lingering most in opportune time. Therefore, Mukesh neither has his family support nor does he have financial backing. Anees Jung calls Mukesh's dream a mirage because the baggage of his lineage has already been imposed on him. Although she is hopeful that since Mukesh has dared to dream something different he might achieve it, she also fears that his dream is too good to be true.

OR

B. The poet smiles as she bids farewell to her mother and assures her that they would meet again. As she looks at her mother, who looks pale and weak due to old age, her heart is pained to think that her mother might not live long. She smiles, but her smile is only an effort to cover up the hidden fear and pain in her heart. It is a smile put on deliberately to hide her tears. Her situation is quite ironical. Though she tells her mother that she'll see her soon, she doubts if she will ever see her alive again. The repetition of the word 'smile' shows that it is a long and cheerful one. The smile is also significant because it must have comforted both the mother and the daughter and kindled in them the hope that the mother would survive long enough for the two to meet again. It was indeed a painful farewell for the poet.

13. A. From the moment the Tiger King heard the prediction that a tiger would be the cause of his death, he made it the aim of his life not to lose to the tigers. The Tiger King vowed to kill hundred tigers and not rest until his vow was completed. While the Maharaja believed that he was fighting to change his destiny, it was the other way round. One may find it superstitious, but it was his destiny, which pushed him to act the way he did and eventually die because of a tiger. The Tiger King took lives of the innocent tigers, one after another, until it became an obsession of his. He was selfish, self-centred and to quite an extent, hot-headed, which influenced each of his actions. He banned tiger hunts in Pratibandapuram for others and threatened to confiscate wealth and property of anybody who dared to hurt the tigers. He gave up his royal duties only to fulfil his vow, without once thinking about the effects it would have on his kingdom. He bribed the high ranking British officer, whom he had denied permission to hunt tigers in Pratibandapuram, so that he, the Tiger King, did not lose his kingdom. The Maharaja even married into a royal family only on one condition, the forests of that kingdom had to have tigers. After killing ninety-nine tigers, the Tiger King's obsession grew. On his last hunting expedition, when the hundredth tiger was nowhere to be seen, the Tiger King became furious and asked Dewan to double the land tax of the village where he had gone to hunt. The Dewan feared that the king's decision would prove to be catastrophic, if the hundredth tiger was not found and killed quickly; the dewan's job was in jeopardy too. These chain of events paved way for the death of the Tiger King. The Dewan arranged for a senile tiger to be killed by the Maharaja. However, the King's bullet did not kill the beast; the old tiger merely fainted by the



sound of the gun shot. It was one of the king's hunters who finally killed the tiger, leaving the king content with the thought of killing hundred tigers.

OR

B. Two experiences of discrimination in childhood Zitkala-Sa's experience in 'Memories of Childhood' is that of a victim of the racial discrimination. Bama, on the other hand, experienced discrimination on the basis of her caste. Zitkala-Sa is a native American girl sent to a convent school, where she is treated badly at the hands of white people who consider themselves a superior race. Zitkala-Sa has to abide by many rules and regulations, which overwhelm her on the very first day of her school. She, along with others, is made to eat by formula' and it distresses her. It is the cutting of her long hair, which makes her hysterical. In her community, only mourners and cowards wear their hair short. So, when it is her turn to get her hair shingled, she decides, she is not going to submit without a struggle. When she is dragged out from under the bed and carried downstairs, she resists by kicking and scratching wildly. She fights getting her hair cut by shaking her head.

A slightly different, but equally disturbing struggle, Bama has had already seen, felt, experienced and been humiliated by what untouchability is/was. The discrimination, in the beginning, is not quite evident to Bama until she sees an elder member of her community carry a packet of eatables by a string for a man of upper caste. It is from her older brother that she comes to know about the ill-treatment meted out to the Dalits by the members of the upper castes. This information terribly saddened and infuriates Bama as she feels that such discrimination is unfair and unjustified. Even after facing discrimination in their respective lives, Bama and Zitkala-Sa both became powerful writers and used this power to voice their opinion and fight oppression by the so called superior caste or race.

