

## SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 2

English Core (301)

Class XI (2024-25)

**Time Allowed: 3 hours**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

### General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

1. This question paper has 15 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper contains three sections -  
Section A : Reading Skills,  
Section B : Grammar and Creative Writing Skills  
Section C : Literature.
3. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
4. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
5. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

### SECTION A : READING SKILLS (26 marks)

#### 1. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

[10]

Read the passage given below:

1. I know many friends of mine who drink coffee regularly but do not know that coffee exists in different forms other than instant coffee. There are many who swear by Flora café classic or Coco gold, which they consider premium coffee. I may sound offensive but instant coffee is not the only way; in fact it's a very bad way of making coffee! Instant coffee cannot match up to brewed coffee's flavour nor does it have Arabica beans. It uses Robusta beans that are lower in flavour. Don't know the difference?! Read on ...
2. That plant might be a genius! It created a chemical that would keep pests away. Fortunately for us and unfortunately for the plant - that plan did not work the way it was intended to. The chemical might have averted a few pest attacks, but attracted a far greater threat human beings. The plant I am talking about is coffee and the chemical is caffeine.
3. To begin from the beginning - coffee is from a more mature part of the tree - the seed - unlike other stimulants. The ripe berry is picked and de-pulped leaving us with a seed called 'green bean' or 'green coffee'. Green bean is



uncharacteristically bland with a taste nowhere close to that of coffee, but it is valued for its higher antioxidant levels.

4. It's an interesting phenomenon to see how this bland green bean turns to a flavourful coffee bean. Coffee bean is a seed and like any other seed is rich in proteins, fats and all necessary ingredients for giving birth to a new plant. When exposed to heat, the fats and carbohydrates in the bean turn into essential oils, which give the characteristic taste and aroma to the coffee bean. The degree of roasting depends on the need or purpose of use.
5. These beans are ground so that the surface area of the bean is increased, which makes extraction easier. The bean can be ground or crushed but making the particles uniform will ensure equal extraction, or else the smaller particle will get over extracted and the larger one under extracted. Hence, the burr grinder is used to ensure that the coffee bean gets ground in a uniform way in which all particles are of similar sizes.
6. Does under extraction give a lighter coffee and over extraction a stronger one? No. For a lighter or stronger coffee less or more coffee powder has to be used. Why? Under extraction will not get all the flavours of the coffee as the water runs too quickly. It will not get what you want - it will taste sour. Over-extraction will bring out all unnecessary flavours rendering the taste bitter.

(i) Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option.

The author complained that his friends \_\_\_\_\_.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| a) were severely addicted to drinking coffee.   | b) consumed only Flora classics.           |
| c) were not aware of different forms of coffee. | d) considered Coco gold as premium coffee. |

(ii) Comment on the writer's reference to the unique feature of coffee plant. (paragraph 2)

(iii) List the reason why the author refers to humans as **great threat to coffee** plants.

(iv) Select an option that conveys the same meaning as **energiser** from words used in paragraph 3.

- |                |               |
|----------------|---------------|
| a) antioxidant | b) stimulants |
| c) bland       | d) mature     |

- (v) Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference with respect to the following:  
Fats and carbohydrates turn into essential oils leading to \_\_\_\_\_.
- (vi) Comment on the writer's reference to the interesting phenomenon in paragraph 4.
- (vii) Over extraction does not give a stronger coffee. Based on your understanding of paragraph 6, list one method to get stronger coffee.
- (viii) The writer would not agree with the given statements based on paragraph five EXCEPT
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| a) The burr grinder grinds coffee beans uniformly.       | b) Grinding gives stronger aroma.             |
| c) Good coffee is a mix of smaller and bigger particles. | d) Less surface area makes extraction easier. |
- (ix) Why is it fair to say that the right degree of extraction of coffee is important?
- (x) Select the most suitable title of the above passage.
- |                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| a) The Coffee Addict            | b) The Art of Coffee Making               |
| c) Benefits of Consuming Coffee | d) Green Coffee – The perfect antioxidant |

2. **Read the text carefully and answer the questions:**

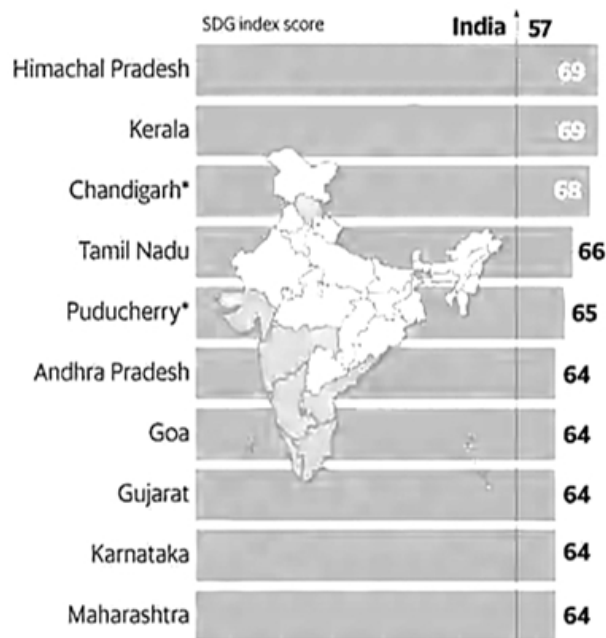
[8]

**India's SDG Scores**

India has crossed the halfway mark in achieving the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 and to be achieved by 2030, according to the SDG India Index released on Friday by think tank NITI Aayog and the UN Here are the



10 best-performing states and Union territories according to the index.



1. Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu have emerged as the front runners in the race to achieve key sustainable development goals (SDG) like removal of poverty inequality. While Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are the laggards in ranking of states.
2. According to the SDG India Index, the nation as a whole has a score of 57, showing the country has reached a little beyond the halfway mark in meeting the sustainable development goals adopted by India and 192 other nations in 2015. The index covers 13 of the 17 sustainable development goals, including healthcare, gender equality, clean energy, infrastructure, education, peace and building strong, accountable institutions.
3. For goals, including climate action and sustainable use of marine resources, were left out because of lack of data at the state level. Kerala's overall top rank (69) is attributed to its strong performance in providing good health, reducing hunger, achieving gender equality and providing quality education. The rank shows the distance each state has to cover to reach 100 - the point at which it fully meets the sustainable development goal.
4. Himachal Pradesh ranks high with a similar overall score in providing clean water and sanitation, reducing inequalities and preserving the mountain ecosystem. Tamil Nadu has a score of 66. Among Union territories, Chandigarh takes the lead with a score of 68 on account of its track record in providing clean water and sanitation. Performance in providing quality education has also helped Chandigarh achieve high score.

5. Tamil Nadu topped the states in poverty reduction, while Kerala topped in providing quality education, closely followed by Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh.
6. Kerala and Tamil Nadu also topped in facilitating good health and well-being. Gender equality, however, is an area all states and the nation as a whole need to improve upon. The toppers in gender equality. Sikkim and Union territories . Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Chandigarh, have crossed the halfway mark in reaching the goals.
7. The scores represent the current status of achievement in meeting the goals.
- (i) The other remaining goals left out from SDG India Index because:
- of lack of data of the state level
  - they have already crossed halfway mark in reaching the goals
  - countries have not taken care of the remaining goals
  - those goals have not yet officially accepted by the companies
- (ii) Among Union Territories \_\_\_\_\_ takes the lead with a score of 68 on account of its track record in providing clean water and sanitation.
- (iii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option.  
According to the survey, \_\_\_\_\_ topped in providing quality education.
- Kerala
  - Tamil Nadu
  - Chandigarh
  - Andhra Pradesh
- (iv) How many sustainable goals does index cover?
- (v) What do 100 points mean as per SDG Index?
- It means the index has covered 13 goals including healthcare, gender equality clean energy. infrastructure, education, peace and building strong. accountable institutions.
  - It means the point at which it fully meets the sustainable development goal.
  - It means the removal of poverty and equality.
  - It means India has reached a little beyond the halfway mark to meet sustainable development goals.

- (vi) Which state has the least SDG score according to the graph?
- (vii) The SDG score represents the current status of achievements by the states in meeting the goals. True/false.
- (viii) Which state ranks the best in total SDG scores?

3. **Read the following passage carefully:**

[8]

Remember all of the things you were scared of as a kid? As adults, some of our childhood fears tell us that many of the things that terrified us in our youth did so supposedly because of our own imaginations — but it turns out that there's a little more to it than that. A recent Ask Reddit thread asked users what they were scared of most as kids, and I couldn't help but notice one thing about it: A lot of us had similar fears. Just take a look at the list of things that scared you as a kid — the monster under bed or in the closet, the dark, something chasing you up the stairs... the list goes on. You're not alone. Why did so many of us experience these specific fears? Was it simply a matter of an active imagination running wild, or does it go deeper than that?

I remember my childhood as being generally happy and can recall experiencing some of the most carefree times of my life. But I can also remember, even more vividly, moments of being deeply frightened. As a child, I was truly terrified of the dark and getting lost. These fears were very real and caused me some extremely uncomfortable moments.

Maybe it was the strange way things looked and sounded in my familiar room at night that scared me so much. There was never total darkness, but a street light or passing car lights made clothes hung over a chair take on the shape of an unknown beast. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw curtains move when there was no breeze. A tiny creak in the floor would sound a hundred times louder than in the daylight and my imagination would take over, creating burglars and monsters. Darkness always made me feel helpless. My heart would pound and I would lie very still so that 'the enemy' wouldn't discover me.

Another childhood fear of mine was that I would get lost, especially on the way home from school. Every morning, I got on the school bus right near my home - that was no problem. After school, though, when all the buses were lined up along the curve, I was terrified that I would get on the wrong one and be taken to some unfamiliar neighbourhood. I would scan the bus for the faces of my friends, make sure that the bus driver was the same one that had been there in the morning, and even then ask the others over and over again to be sure I was in the right bus. On a

school or family trips to an amusement park or a museum, I wouldn't let the leaders out of my sight. And of course, I was never very adventurous when it came to taking walks or hikes because I would go only where I was sure I would never get lost.

Perhaps, one of the worst fears I had as a child was that of not being liked or accepted by others. First of all, I was quite shy. Secondly, I worried constantly about my looks, thinking people wouldn't like me because I was too fat or wore braces. I tried to wear 'the right clothes' and had intense arguments with my mother over the importance of wearing flats instead of saddled shoes to school. Being popular was very important to me then and the fear of not being liked was a powerful one.

While it's true that what scares one person doesn't necessarily scare another, it appears that many of the fears we all have in common are universal for a reason: They go back to our shared experiences, either culturally or evolutionarily (or both). Even as adults, we're all scared of something. And there's usually a reason why, right? For example, after a freaky experience in my childhood, I refuse to this day to pass a mirror in the dark. I also won't have any mirrors in my bedroom. Look at your own fears, and I'd be willing to bet that something you experienced caused them to manifest. Similar to how our dreams can have meanings, so can our fears. We tend to dismiss the fears of children as nonsensical and irrational; but kids have a mind of their own, just like adults, and it turns out there's an explanation behind some of their most common fears. Whether it's science or folklore, these common childhood fears all exist for a reason. One of the processes of evolving from a child to an adult is being able to recognize and overcome our fears. I have learned that darkness does not have to take on a life of its own, that others can help me when I am lost and that friendliness and sincerity will encourage people to like me. Understanding the things that scared us as children help to cope with our lives as adults.

1. On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, make notes on it using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum four) and a format you consider suitable. Also supply an appropriate title to it.
2. Write a summary of the passage in about 80 words.

### Section B : Grammar (7 Marks)

4. Answer any SEVEN of the following questions:

[7]





- (i) Raju \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to market yesterday. (Fill tense correctly) [1]
- (ii) Did the child \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) from the chair? (Fill tense correctly) [1]
- (iii) I didn't know \_\_\_\_\_ train to board so I went to the clerk. [1]  
(where/when/whose/which)
- (iv) This is the book \_\_\_\_\_ she gave me. (who/what/which/where) [1]
- (v) A new car was purchased by my mother. (Active voice) [1]
- (vi) It was cloudy, therefore we went by car. (use since) [1]
- (vii) The/on/forests/the/industry/oil/depends (reorder correctly) [1]
- (viii) was/the/them/house/broken/restored/by. (reorder correctly) [1]

### Section - B Creative Writing Skills (16 Marks)

5. You are Keshav/Karuna, interested in purchasing a house in Bengaluru. Draft in not more than 50 words an advertisement to be published in the classified column of a local daily giving the details of your requirement. [3]

OR

You have lost an expensive watch probably in the market. Write an advertisement for the 'Lost and Found' column of a local newspaper giving all the relevant details. Offer a reward also. Write the advertisement in about 50 words. You are Gopal/Gopa, Manav Road, Kanpur.

6. You are the Secretary, Social Service League of your school. Design a poster to be displayed in your colony and in a local hospital premises inspiring people to make a pledge to donate eyes and other organs of their bodies. [3]

OR

Prepare a poster highlighting the dangers of drunk driving advising motorists to abstain from alcohol before taking the wheel.

7. Write a speech in 150-200 words on the topic, 'A student must know how to manage his time'. It is to be delivered in the morning assembly. You are Karan/Karuna, Head Boy/ Head Girl of the school. [5]

OR



Today's children are not yet aware of many opportunities awaiting them after they complete their school education. As an academic counsellor give a talk to the students of St Antony's School on the need for career guidance and how knowledge of the available careers can benefit the youth. Write the speech in 150-200 words.

8. **Only managing waste is enough for the health of our citizens.** Write a debate in 150 – 200 words either for or against the motion. You are Sarita/Sachin. [5]

OR

Write a debate in 150 - 200 words either for or against the motion: Money is the only thing that matters in today's life.

### Section C : Literature (31 Marks)

9. **Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.** [3]

- (i) **Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:** [3]

I do not understand this child  
Though we have lived together now  
In the same house for years, I know  
Nothing of him, so try to build  
Up a relationship from how  
He was when small

- i. What does the father reveal?
- ii. What efforts does he make to be able to understand him?
- iii. What is the speaker's intention here?

- (ii) **Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:** [3]

Eternal I rise impalpable out of the land and the bottomless sea,  
Upwards to heaven, whence, vaguely formed altogether changed, and yet the same.

I descend to lave the droughts, atomies, dust-layers of the globe,  
And all that in them without me were seeds only, latent, unborn.

- i. From where does the rain originate?
- ii. What poetic device does the poet use here?
- iii. How does the rain help the seed?

10. **Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.** [3]

(i) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: [3]

The turns became sharper and the ride bumpier, Tsetan now in third gear as we continued to climb. The track moved away from the icy river, labouring through steeper slopes that sported big rocks daubed with patches of bright orange lichen. Beneath the rocks, hunks of snow clung on in the near permanent shade. I felt the pressure building up in my ears, held my nose, snorted and cleared them.

We struggled round another tight bend and Tsetan stopped. He had opened his door and jumped out of his seat before I realised what was going on. "Snow," said Daniel as he too exited the vehicle, letting in a breath of cold air as he did so.

A swathe of the white stuff lay across the track in front of us, stretching for maybe fifteen metres before it petered out and the dirt trail reappeared. The snow continued on either side of us, smoothing the abrupt bank on the upslope side. The bank was too steep for our vehicle to scale, so there was no way round the snow patch. I joined Daniel as Tsetan stepped on to the encrusted snow and began to slither and slide forward, stamping his foot from time to time to ascertain how sturdy it was. I looked at my wristwatch. We were at 5,210 metres above sea level.

- i. What did the protagonist do to alleviate the pressure in their ears caused by the ascent, and why did they do it?
- ii. Explain one possible inference that can be drawn from the mention of the "swathe of the white stuff" in the passage.
- iii. Identify the sentence in the extract that reveals the altitude at which the travelers find themselves during their journey.

(ii) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: [3]

My grandmother always went to school with me because the school was attached to the temple. The priest taught us the alphabet and morning prayer. While the children sat in rows on either side of the verandah singing the alphabet or the prayer in a chorus, my grandmother sat inside reading the scriptures. When we had both finished, we would walk back together. This time the village dogs would meet us at the temple door. They followed us to our home growling and fighting with each other for the chapattis we threw to them. When my parents were comfortably settled in the city, they sent for us. That

was a turning-point in our friendship. Although we shared the same room, my grandmother no longer came to school with me. I used to go to an English school in a motor bus. There were no dogs in the streets and she took to feeding sparrows in the courtyard of our city house.

- i. What role did the temple dogs play in the speaker's childhood, and how did this change when they moved to the city?
- ii. What significant event marked a turning point in the narrator's friendship with their grandmother?
- iii. Pick evidence from the passage that suggests there was a significant change in the protagonist's daily routine and environment when they moved to the city.

11. **Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.** [4]

(i) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: [4]

As he gazed at the still form a shiver of horror passed over Andrew. After all that he had promised! His face, heated with his own exertions, chilled suddenly. He hesitated, torn between his desire to attempt to resuscitate the child, and his obligation towards the mother, who was herself in a desperate state. The dilemma was so urgent he did not solve it consciously. Blindly, instinctively, he gave the child to the nurse and turned his attention to Susan Morgan who now lay collapsed, almost pulseless, and not yet out of the ether, upon her side. His haste was desperate, a frantic race against her ebbing strength. It took him only an instant to smash a glass ampule and inject the medicine. Then he flung down the hypodermic syringe and worked unsparingly to restore the flaccid woman. After a few minutes of feverish effort, her heart strengthened; he saw that he might safely leave her. He swung round, in his shirt sleeves, his hair sticking to his damp brow.

- i. What is the “still form” referred to in the extract? Why did ‘a shiver of horror’ pass through Andrew?
- ii. Based on your understanding of the given extract, select the option that is NOT true about the doctor.
  - a. He was confused.
  - b. He was devastated.
  - c. His face turned cold.

d. He couldn't make a conscious decision.

iii. The analogy of Robert Frost's 'Road Not Taken' is an appropriate analogy for Andrew's state of mind because \_\_\_\_\_.

iv. Give one reason why the doctor chose to attend mother first instead of the lifeless child.

(ii) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

[4]

This was the wonderful part.

In the second place, we were poor.

This was the part that wouldn't permit me to believe what I saw.

We were poor. We had no money. Our whole tribe was poverty-stricken. Every branch of the Garoghlanian family was living in the most amazing and comical poverty in the world. Nobody could understand where we ever got money enough to keep us with food in our bellies, not even the old men of the family.

i. List any one sensory details present in this extract.  
ii. What is the main reason behind the family's financial situation as described in the extract?

A. A lack of understanding among family members about managing money.

B. The comical and amazing poverty experienced by every branch of the family.

C. A mysterious source of money that no one in the family could comprehend.

D. The unwillingness of the old men in the family to share their wealth.

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The phrase "living in the most amazing and comical poverty in the world." suggests \_\_\_\_\_.

iv. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that the speaker was proud of his entity/tribe.

12. Answer the questions from either (a) or (b) in 40-50 words:

[6]

(i) i. What snag did the million dollar scanner develop? How was it set right?  
Answer in the context of Discovering Tut.

[3]

ii. 'She launches away, towards the infinite'. Explain the given line. (The Laburnum Top)

[3]

- (ii) i. What was the purpose of the writer's voyage?[We are Not Afraid to Die] [3]
- ii. Why does the poet suspect science in connection with his losing his childhood? Answer in context of Childhood. [3]
13. **Answer ANY ONE of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words** [3]
- (i) What reason did Mrs. Dorling give for taking away the precious belongings of the narrator's mother? Answer in the context of The Address. [3]
- (ii) What changes in the behaviour of Mrs. Pearson startle Doris and Cyril? What possible reasons do they suggest? [3]
14. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.** [6]
- (i) How did Rajendra try to explain the mystery of reality? [6]
- (ii) **Both wry with the laboured ease of loss.** The poet **Shirley Toulson** is missing her mother. What is the role of the mother in forming the personality of a child? [6]
15. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words.** [6]
- (i) Suggest a few instances in **The Tale of Melon** which highlights humour and irony. [6]
- (ii) Husbands, sons, daughters should be taking notice of wives and mothers, not giving them orders and treating them like dirt. What do you think about it? [6]

## Solution

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##### 1. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

Read the passage given below:

1. I know many friends of mine who drink coffee regularly but do not know that coffee exists in different forms other than instant coffee. There are many who swear by Flora café classic or Coco gold, which they consider premium coffee. I may sound offensive but instant coffee is not the only way; in fact it's a very bad way of making coffee! Instant coffee cannot match up to brewed coffee's flavour nor does it have Arabica beans. It uses Robusta beans that are lower in flavour. Don't know the difference?! Read on ...
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3. To begin from the beginning - coffee is from a more mature part of the tree - the seed - unlike other stimulants. The ripe berry is picked and de-pulped leaving us with a seed called 'green bean' or 'green coffee'. Green bean is uncharacteristically bland with a taste nowhere close to that of coffee, but it is valued for its higher antioxidant levels.
4. It's an interesting phenomenon to see how this bland green bean turns to a flavourful coffee bean. Coffee bean is a seed and like any other seed is rich in proteins, fats and all necessary ingredients for giving birth to a new plant. When exposed to heat, the fats and carbohydrates in the bean turn into essential oils, which give the characteristic taste and aroma to the coffee bean. The degree of roasting depends on the need or purpose of use.
5. These beans are ground so that the surface area of the bean is increased, which makes extraction easier. The bean can be ground or crushed but making the particles uniform will ensure equal extraction, or else the smaller particle will get over extracted and the larger one under extracted. Hence, the burr grinder is used to ensure that the coffee bean gets ground in a uniform way in which all particles are of similar sizes.
6. Does under extraction give a lighter coffee and over extraction a stronger one? No. For a lighter or stronger coffee less or more coffee powder has to be used. Why? Under extraction will not get all the flavours of the coffee as the water runs too quickly. It will not get what you want - it will taste sour. Over-extraction will bring out all unnecessary flavours rendering the taste bitter.



(i) **(c)** were not aware of different forms of coffee.

**Explanation:**

were not aware of different forms of coffee.

(ii) The writer's reference to the coffee plant is simultaneously hilarious and sarcastic. By referring to plants as organisms with thought and showing coffee-drinkers as "pests", the author has successfully gained a few laughs from the audience.

(iii) The author refers humans as a great threat to coffee plants because the chemical that the plants had originally produced to ward off pests, is the same chemical that humans call coffee and chug happily. So, in the end, the real "threat" to the plants came not from the pests, but from humans, who mass-manufactured plants for coffee.

(iv) **(b)** stimulants

**Explanation:**

stimulants

(v) the characteristic taste and aroma of the coffee bean

(vi) The writer does an excellent job of describing the interesting phenomenon of the green bean turning into a flavorful coffee bean. They explain that when the bean is exposed to heat, the fats and carbohydrates turn into essential oils, which give the characteristic flavor and aroma to the coffee bean. They also touch on the importance of uniform grinding so that all particles are of similar sizes in order to ensure equal extraction. This is a great explanation and well-referenced to the process of making coffee.

(vii) One method to get stronger coffee is to use more coffee powder. This will ensure that the water has enough time to extract all the flavours from the coffee beans, giving you a stronger cup of coffee.

(viii) **(d)** Less surface area makes extraction easier.

**Explanation:**

Less surface area makes extraction easier.

(ix) The right degree of extraction of coffee is important because it will determine the flavor, aroma and overall taste of the coffee. If the extraction is done incorrectly, the coffee will either taste sour and under-extracted or bitter and over-extracted. The right degree of extraction requires precise control over the amount of coffee and the time it is exposed to water. Only then can you create the perfectly balanced cup of coffee.

(x) **(b)** The Art of Coffee Making

**Explanation:**

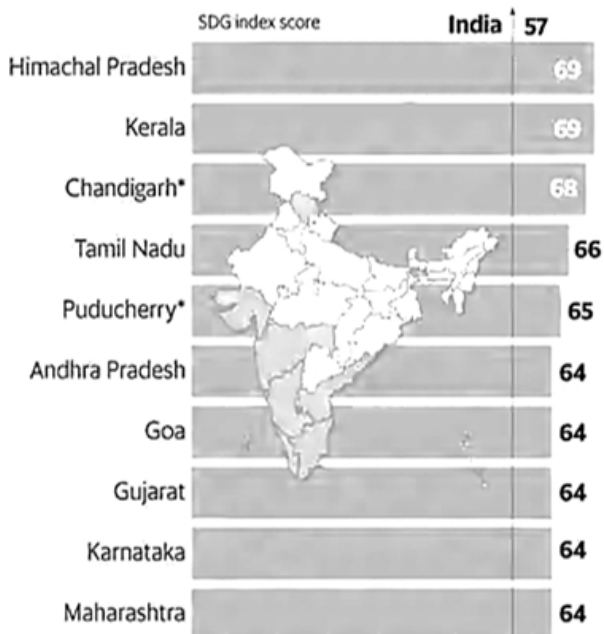
The Art of Coffee Making

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2. According to the SDG India Index, the nation as a whole has a score of 57, showing the country has reached a little beyond the halfway mark in meeting the sustainable development goals adopted by India and 192 other nations in 2015. The index covers 13 of the 17 sustainable development goals, including healthcare, gender equality, clean energy, infrastructure, education, peace and building strong, accountable institution.
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7. The scores represent the current status of achievement in meeting the goals.

(i) (a) of lack of data of the state level

(ii) Chandigarh

(iii)(a) Kerala

(iv) 13

(v) (b) It means the point at which it fully meets the sustainable development goal.

(vi) Magarashtra

(vii) True

(viii) Himachal Pradesh

### 3. Title: Childhood Fears

#### I. Childhood Fears

- i. our own imag.
- ii. similar fears
- iii. deeper than just imag.
- iv. active imagination running wild
- v. real fears
- vi. uncomfortable moments

#### II. My childhood fears

- i. terrified of dark
  - made me feel helpless
  - a creek on the floor
  - moving curtains because of breeze outside
  - clothes kept on chair taking different shapes in dark
  - heart would pound
  - would lie very still so 'enemy' wouldn't discover me
- ii. fear of getting lost
  - especially on way home from school
  - would scan bus several times & ask others repeatedly
  - fear of getting down the bus in unfamiliar locality
  - never took adventurous trips or went to hiking
  - wouldn't let leaders out of my sight on trips

iii. fear of not being liked or accepted by others

- shy
- worried constantly about looks
- wear 'right clothes'
- being popular was very imp.

iv. caused extreme uncomf. moments

### III. Reasons behind childhood fears

i. common fears—universal

ii. shared exp. either culturally or evolutionarily or both

iii. even adults scared of something or the other

iv. some past experience causes it to manifest

v. dismiss childhood fear as irrational

vi. fears exist for a reason

vii. science, folklore

viii. recog. & overcome our fears

o **Abbreviations used:** -

imag.- imagination

& - and

imp. - important

uncomf. - uncomfortable

exp. - experiences

recog. - recognize

#### Summary:-

Childhood fears are deeper than just imagination. Every child has more or less similar fears like fear of being alone in dark or getting lost especially on the way back home from school in the bus. I had three main childhood fears. Maybe it is just active imagination running wild or some real fears giving uncomfortable moments Fear makes you helpless. Another fear is of not being accepted by others, maybe because of your looks, your clothes, shoes or maybe anything. So children tend to be worried constantly about looks, wearing 'the right clothes' and being popular. Other common fears are universal due to shared experiences either culturally or evolutionarily or both (science or folklore). It is important to recognize and overcome our fears.

#### Section B : Grammar (7 Marks)

4. Answer any SEVEN of the following questions:

(i) went

(ii) fall

(iii) which

- (iv) which  
(v) My mother purchased a new car.  
(vi) Since it was cloudy, we went by car.  
(vii) The oil industry depends on the forest.  
(viii) The broken house was restored by them.

**Section - B Creative Writing Skills (16 Marks)**

**ACCOMMODATION WANTED**

Required a 500 square yards, vastu compliant, newly built house in prime location of Bengaluru for immediate purchase. The house must have at least three bedrooms with attached bathrooms, drawing room, dining space, study and servant quarter. Preferably in close vicinity to shopping centre.

Contact Mr Keshav

Mobile 85270753XX

5.

OR

**LOST AND FOUND**

Lost a Titan watch with black dial and white leather strap, on Bus Route No.107 on 10th March, 20XX around 11 00 AM. Anyone who finds it please contact Gopal, 4 Manav Road, Kanpur. 98743XXXXX. Finder will be suitably rewarded.



## Donate eyes and other organs

ABC Group of Hospitals in Collaboration with National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO) is providing all of you and opportunity to pledge your organs and eyes for donation

*GIVE.....*

*A 2ND CHANCE*

*TO THOSE WHO NEEDS ONE*

*A 2ND LIFE*

*TO THOSE WHO ARE UNLUCKY*

*MORE TIME*

*TO SOMEONE'S LOVED ONES*

*GIVE THE GREATEST GIFT*

*DONATE YOUR ORGANS.....*

Venue: Ravi Mahal

Date: 25 September 2024

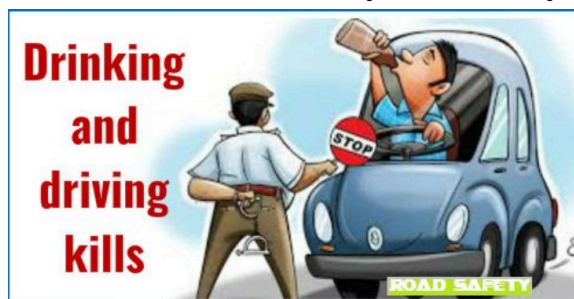
Time: 7.00 am - 8.00 pm

*FOLLOWED BY.....*

6. A talk on organ donation and awareness will be given by Dr. Akash Bhansal, MD, ABC Group of Hospitals, and Ms. Nisha Narain, Senior Coordinator, NOTTO

OR

**"Don't drink and drive and you will stay alive."**



Driving right after drinking can be very dangerous. It can put yours as well as other's life at risk.

Drinking makes you lose your conscious therefore it can be very dangerous and risky to drive unconsciously.

Moreover, you violate traffic rules and laws.

Violating the traffic rules can charge you with a heavy fine.

## 7. **Importance of Time Management for Students**

Good morning everyone. Respected Principal Sir, honourable teachers and all my dear friends! Today I, Karan, of class XII A, stand before you to speak on the topic 'A student



must know how to manage his time.

Time management plays a very important role in the life of every individual, and more so, in the life of a student. It is very essential for a student to use his time wisely, plan things, prepare schedules and work accordingly.

A student should have his priorities set in his life. Anything that interferes with the student's school and his overall growth should be given up or replaced by some alternative. It is crucial to have a balance in life. Only setting priorities and goals cannot provide success, but a well-planned use of time can definitely guarantee success and happiness. A student should find a balance in time that he spends with family, friends and having fun. He should make sure that his personal life must not come in the way of meeting educational obligations.

Each and every minute counts for a student. Therefore, it is very important to develop a sense of responsibility. Unnecessary activities and an idle, careless behaviour kill time. Time once passed never returns. There are times in our lives when everything seems to be going out of control. In such critical times, time management can go a long way in bringing things back in place.

Hence, a student must know how to manage his time in order to live a fuller and balanced life.

Thank you!

OR

### **The Need for Career Guidance**

Good morning everyone. The honourable Principal, teachers, staff members and dear students, I, Sushant, an academic counsellor, stand before all of you to talk about the need for career guidance.

The first and the foremost thing that all of you should realise, if you haven't already, is that the decision regarding your career should be your own. You should and have to decide what you want to do in life and how you want to do that. Do not succumb to peer and parental pressure. At the end of the day, you are going to bear the results of your decision; so the decision should also be yours. Choosing a career is not a serious affair until your high school. However, once you are done with high school, it becomes imperative to choose a definite career goal. At this time you can seek the help of a qualified career counsellor who can assist you in discovering your potential and aptitude and accordingly suggest the right course.

It is really unfortunate that despite the many opportunities that are awaiting you after you complete your school education, many of you are yet not aware about them. Sometimes, in spite of having a clear idea of what you aspire to achieve in life, you are not sure about the career path that you need to follow i.e. you lack guidance. A career counsellor is an expert



in his work and can help you clear the doubts that you have regarding the requisite academic qualifications/path for a particular course/job. So students, I would like to reiterate that career guidance provides essential support and boosts the morale of students by helping them to overcome preconceived notions about certain fields.

I would like to conclude on the note that the crux of career guidance is to provide the necessary counselling that is bound to help students in making the right choice about their career. It's your life. So only you should choose and choose wisely.

Thank you!

8. Every time a ton of paper is recycled, 17 trees, 79 gallons of oil, 7,000 gallons of water, 41,000 kilowatts of energy, and 3 cubic yards of landfill space are saved (Fullerton, 2007). Every living creature on this planet depends on raw materials extracted from the earth. If we continue to take resources from the earth at a faster rate than they can be produced naturally, we will not survive. It is necessary that we conserve the earth's resources by recycling our waste so that we can provide a healthy environment for our offspring to inhabit. Recycling turns materials that would otherwise become waste into valuable resources. It yields environmental, financial, and social returns in natural resource conservation, energy conservation, pollution prevention, and economic expansion and competitiveness.

As a nation, we produce an unthinkable amount of municipal trash. Our current rate of 250 million tons per year could fill a convoy of 10-ton trash trucks nearly 90,000 miles long—enough to circle the equator nearly eight times! (Glenn, 1998). In 2010, the average American generated 4.3 pounds of municipal solid waste every day (epa.gov, 2013). To make matters worse, the amount of refuse generated in the United States is projected to increase by about 16% by the year 2016 (Glenn, 1998). There are environmental concerns associated with excessive waste generation including large scale greenhouse gas emissions and the poisoning of groundwater.

OR

For the Motion: ***Money is the Only Thing that Matters in Today's Life***

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I stand before you to argue in favour of the motion that "Money is the only thing that matters in today's life." In our modern society, money has become the cornerstone of survival and success.

Firstly, money provides access to basic necessities such as food, shelter, and healthcare. Without financial resources, it is nearly impossible to secure these essentials, which are fundamental to our well-being.

Secondly, money enables opportunities. It allows individuals to pursue education, travel, and engage in activities that enhance personal growth and happiness. Financial stability



also provides a sense of security and freedom, reducing stress and anxiety. Moreover, in a consumer-driven world, social status and success are often measured by wealth. People with more money have greater influence and power, which can open doors to further opportunities and advantages.

In conclusion, while other aspects of life are important, money undeniably plays a crucial role in determining the quality and opportunities available in today's world. It is the driving force behind many of our decisions and aspirations.

Thank you.

### Against the Motion: *Money is the Only Thing that Matters in Today's Life*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I stand before you to argue against the motion that "Money is the only thing that matters in today's life." While money is important, it is not the sole determinant of a fulfilling and meaningful life.

Firstly, relationships and emotional well-being are paramount. Love, friendship, and family provide support and happiness that money cannot buy. These connections are essential for mental and emotional health.

Secondly, personal fulfilment and purpose are crucial. Engaging in activities that bring joy, such as hobbies, volunteering, and pursuing passions, contributes significantly to our overall happiness and satisfaction.

Moreover, ethical values and integrity matter. Living a life guided by principles and contributing positively to society can bring a sense of accomplishment and inner peace that money alone cannot provide.

In conclusion, while money is necessary for certain aspects of life, it is not the only thing that matters. True fulfilment comes from a balance of financial stability, meaningful relationships, personal growth, and ethical living.

Thank you.

### Section C : Literature (31 Marks)

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.
- (i) i. The father reveals his inability in understanding his son.
  - ii. He tries to recollect his childhood and recalls how he behaved as a child.
  - iii. Speaker's intention here is to build up relationship with his son.
  - (ii) i. The rain originates for the vast land and the deep sea.
  - ii. The poet has made use of personification to converse with rain to know about it.
  - iii. The rain helps the seed to grow into plants by stirring life into dormant seed.
10. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.



- (i) i. The protagonist held their nose and snorted to clear the pressure in their ears, which is a common technique used to equalize pressure when ascending to higher altitudes.
- ii. The mention of the "swathe of the white stuff" indicates a challenging obstacle, likely snow, in their path. Tsetan responded by cautiously testing the snow's stability by stepping on it and sliding forward, as there was no way around it due to steep terrain.
- iii. The sentence "I looked at my wristwatch. We were at 5,210 meters above sea level" reveals the altitude at which the travelers find themselves during their journey.
- (ii) i. In the speaker's childhood, the temple dogs followed them home and were fed chapattis. However, in the city, there were no street dogs, and their grandmother started feeding sparrows instead.
- ii. The turning point was when the narrator's parents settled in the city and they were sent for. At that point, the grandmother no longer accompanied the narrator to school.
- iii. The evidence shows a shift in the protagonist's routine when they moved to the city: he attended an English school, used a motor bus, and fed sparrows instead of village dogs.

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

- (i) i. The "still form" is referred to in the lifeless child. When Susan gave birth to the child, it looked lifeless, and she was in devastating condition. That made a shiver of horror pass through Andrew as he couldn't decide whom to assist first.
- ii. (c) His face turned cold. [His face was heated because of the efforts he put in.]
- iii. ... like Frost, Andrew too was in a state of dilemma. The doctor was torn between his two obligations, whether to resuscitate the child or to save the failing mother.
- iv. The doctor's moral dilemma did not allow him to solve this problem with a conscious decision. With blind instinct, he first gave the child into the nurse's custody and went on to tend to Susan whose health was deteriorating fast. There was no specific reason for this.
- (ii) i. In the provided extract, sensory details that can be identified are: (any one)
  - I. **Visual Imagery:** The passage describes the poverty of the Garoghlanian family, creating a visual image of their living conditions and financial struggles.
  - II. **Gustatory Imagery:** The mention of "food in our bellies" invokes a sense of taste, even though it's about the scarcity of food. This detail relates to the sense of taste and hunger, adding depth to the description of their poverty.
- ii. (C) A mysterious source of money that no one in the family could comprehend.  
[Explanation: The extract mentions that despite being poor, the family somehow



managed to have food in their bellies, and even the old men couldn't understand where the money came from, suggesting a mysterious source.]

- iii. The phrase "living in the most amazing and comical poverty in the world" suggests that despite their extreme poverty, the Garoghlanian family's circumstances were so unusual and absurd that it was almost unbelievable.
- iv. The evidence from the extract that suggests the speaker was proud of his entity/tribe is the description of their poverty as "amazing and comical." Despite their financial hardships, the speaker seems to take pride in the resilience and resourcefulness of their tribe in finding ways to survive and maintain their unity.

12. Answer the questions from either (a) or (b) in 40-50 words:

- (i) i. The million dollar scanner had developed a snag because of sand in a cooler fan. Eventually substitute fans worked well enough to finish the procedure.
- ii. 'She' stands for the goldfinch whose arrival on the tree has suddenly transformed it into a noisy place. After having fed her young ones and having made the tree active and full of life, the goldfinch flies away towards the infinitely vast sky.
- (ii) i. The narrator wanted to go on a voyage round-the-world. He wanted to follow the same route which had been followed by Captain James Cook 200 years ago.
- ii. The poet blames science for his losing his childhood. As a child, he had strong belief in God and Heaven, all that he had learnt in his catechism/moral training classes but when he attended school, teachers told him that Heaven was not found in Geography so he concluded that Heaven and God were just lies.

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words

- (i) Mrs. Dorling suggested to the narrator's mother that she should store her belongings at a safer place. She wanted to save all her nice things. She explained that they would lose everything if they had to leave the place.
- (ii) Doris couldn't believe her eyes when she saw her mother smoking and playing cards. Cyril too noted the change and asked her if she was feeling ill. She looks just the same but her behavior is suddenly different. Cyril asks if she has gone slightly mad. Doris thinks that she has a concussion as a result of her head hitting something.

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

- (i) We normally experience reality directly with our senses. But what we see is not the whole truth. That is proved if we take the example of an electron. Fired from a source, it can go in any direction, breaking all laws of physics. This is called lack of determination in quantum theory. The professor, said Rajendra, had made a transition

from one world that he knew to another that could have been. The observer can experience one reality, but alternative realities also exist. The professor had also experienced a different world without any physical movement when he became unconscious after being hit by a truck.

- (ii) A mother's role in shaping the personality of a child is of paramount importance. The child watches his/her mother intently and learns about the world and how to react to it at the initial stages. The mother can play an important role by making the child deal constructively with mistakes, forgive others, handle frustration, show kindness and share love.

When a mother is nurturing and caring the child, it develops a healthy bond with not only the mother but will be willing to form new relationships with others.

Children and adults both want a sense of independence and autonomy. It is very important on a mother's part to offer choices to the child. This makes the child feel that he/she is smart enough to make choices.

The mother's thoughts nourish a child's mind and soul as her personal attention nourishes a child's body. She is a child's first teacher. She tries to imbibe such values that may help a child lifelong.

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

- (i) The poem is full of humour and irony from the beginning to the end. There is a king who has a triumphal arch built on the major road of his city. But the same triumphal arch bangs his crown off. The king wants to punish the guilty but in the end, gets himself hanged. The king is dead but the ministers make proclamations in the name of the king. All of these are examples of irony. And there is humour in the description of each character. The king, the ministers, the wisest man of the city, the councillor and 'melon idiot' are all fools. In fact, it is a kingdom of fools. Nothing could be more humorous than a melon being crowned and carried to the throne reverently.
- (ii) The problem of wives and mothers have been universal. Husbands, sons, and daughters have always treated them like dirt. They order them about as if they were their servants. Husbands, sons and daughters would go out to enjoy with their friends, leaving the poor mothers and wives alone at home. They think to have done much work during the day while neglecting the hard work of their mothers and wives. Moreover, they want to be served like kings and princes when they come home. It is very unfortunate how husbands and children alike hardly consider the labour that their wives and mothers. All husbands, sons, and daughters must think that poor wives and mothers are also human beings and have the same feelings and desires as they do. They should learn to treat



their mothers and wives with love, care and respect which has been nicely revealed in the play.