

**SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 5**  
**SUBJECT- English (L & L) (184)**  
**CLASS IX (2023-24)**

**Time Allowed: 3 hours**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

**Section A Reading**

**1. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:** **[10]**

1. As the family finally sets off from home after many arguments, there is a moment of lull as the car takes off. "Alright, so where are we going for dinner now?" asks the one at the driving wheel. What follows is chaos, as multiple voices make as many suggestions.
  2. By the time, the order is restored and a decision is arrived at, tempers have risen, feelings injured and at least one person is grumbling.
  3. Twenty years ago, you would step out of home, the decision of meal and venue already made with no arguments or opposition, and everybody looked forward to the meal with equal enthusiasm. The decision was made by the head of the family and the others fell in line. Today every member of the family has a say in every decision which also promotes a sense of togetherness and bonding.
  4. We empower our kids to take their own decisions from a very early age. We ask them about the cuisine they prefer, the movie they want to see, the holiday they wish to go on, and the subjects they wish to study.
  5. It's a closely connected world out there, where children consult and guide each other. A parent's well-meaning advice can sound like nothing more than unnecessary preaching. How then do we reach our children through all the conflicting views and make the voice of reason be heard? Children today question choices and prefer to go with the flow.
  6. What then is the best path to take? I would say the most important thing one can do is to listen. Listen to your children and their silences. Ensure that you keep some time aside for them, and insist that they share their stories with you. Step into their world. It is not as complicated as it sounds; just a daily half an hour of quality time would do the trick.
- (i) According to the passage, who said, "so, where are we going for dinner now?"
- a. narrator
  - b. one at the steering



- c. one of the passengers
  - d. one of the guests
- (ii) Twenty years ago, according to the passage, decisions were \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. unanimous, with no argument
  - b. made by the children
  - c. taken by the head of the family
  - d. not taken by elders
- (iii) The passage concludes that in modern times, children are \_\_\_\_\_ to take their own decision from a very early age.
- a. forbidden
  - b. trained
  - c. not given permission
  - d. allowed

(iv) Choose the antonym as given in para 6 of this passage.

Word	Antonym
Simple	_____

- (v) Twenty years ago, the decision was made by the head of the family and the others fell in line. How the decision are taken now a days?
- (vi) What is the message conveyed by this passage? Write any two points.
1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
- (vii) After arriving at a decision almost everyone is \_\_\_\_\_ in the family mentioned above.
- a. happy
  - b. excited
  - c. hurt
  - d. elated
- (viii) In modern times, the say each family member in decision making points towards \_\_\_\_\_ in the family.
- a. grudges
  - b. perfect bonding
  - c. individual opinions
  - d. none of these



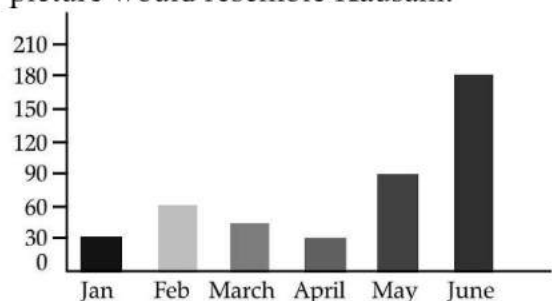
2. **Read the text carefully and answer the questions:**

[10]

Kausani is situated at a height of 6,075 feet in the central Himalayas. It is an unusually attractive little town. It covers just about 5.2 sq. km. It lies to the north of Almora in Uttarakhand's picturesque Kumaon region. Kausani provides the 300 km. wide breath-taking view of the Himalayas. It is the most striking aspect of this place. Snow-capped peaks are spread in a stately row. They stare at you in silvery-white majesty. The most famous peak on view is Nanda Devi, the second highest mountain in India. It is situated at a height of 25,645 feet and is 36 miles away as the crow flies. The other famous peaks on view are Choukhamba (23,420 feet) and Trishul (23,360 feet). Then there are also Neelkanth, Nandaghunti, Nandaghat and Nandakot. On a clear day, the blue of the sky makes a splendid background to these peaks. At sunrise and at sunset, when the colour of the sky changes to a golden orange, the scene gets etched in your memory.

When Gandhi Ji visited this place in 1929, its scenic beauty held him spellbound. He named it the 'Switzerland of India'. He prolonged his two day stay to fourteen days, making time to write a book, 'Anashakti Yoga'. The place where he was staying was originally a guest house of a tea estate. It was renamed 'Anashakti Ashram' after the book.

Kausani is the birthplace of Sumitra Nandan Pant, India's poet laureate. Its natural surroundings inspired many of his poems. Its tea gardens mingle with dense pine forests and fruit orchards. The area is also host to many fairs and religious ceremonies. If Uttarakhand is the abode of Gods, Kausani is God's own backyard. There is no traffic, no one is in a hurry. If serenity could be put on a canvas, the picture would resemble Kausani.



Average Rainfall in mm in Kausani (2000-2009)

- (i) Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of the passage.  
The statement that, On a clear day, the blue of the sky makes a splendid background to these peaks, is a \_\_\_\_\_ (fact/ opinion) because it is a \_\_\_\_\_ (subjective judgement/ objective detail).
- (ii) Justify the following, in about 40 words.  
If Uttarakhand is the abode of Gods, Kausani is God's own backyard.
- (iii) Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraph 2.



We can say that the situation of Gandhiji when he visited this place in 1929 is comparable with an audience that keeps on applauding for a long after getting completely mesmerized by an artist's performance because \_\_\_\_\_.

- (iv) Based on the rainfall graph, address the comparison in context with the minimum and maximum amount of rainfall in Kausani.
- (v) Study the graph and draw an inference of what could have been the possibility of witnessing a blue sky in the month of May.
- (vi) Infer the impact of the scenic beauty of Kausani on two people from the given passage.  
(Answer in about 40 words)
- (vii) Select the option that correctly displays 'Anashakti Ashram'.

i.



ii.



iii.



iv.



- A. OPTION (I)
- B. OPTION (II)
- C. OPTION (III)
- D. OPTION (IV)

- (viii) Which of the following peaks are not found in the Kausani region?
  - A. Trishul
  - B. Trikuta
  - C. Neelkanth

D. Nandakot

**Section B Grammar**

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed [10]

(i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter: [1]

I \_\_\_\_\_ (request) you to have this faulty lot replaced by a new one, with the best quality at the earliest and would appreciate if you initiated action in this matter fast.

(ii) Identify the error and supply the correction, for the following: [1]

<b>Delhi Government</b>
<b>COVID-19 FAMILY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME</b>
An assistance of ₹50,000/- will be given to all family living in Delhi on each death of any family member due to COVID-19, whether or not they were earning members.

Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

(iii) Report the dialogue between a father and son, by completing the sentence: [1]

**Son:** Are you not excited about the trip, dad?

**Father:** I have been to Australia before.

In response to the question about being excited about the trip, the father says that \_\_\_\_\_.

(iv) The instructor asked Raghav the following question during his training. Report the instructor's question. [1]

Have you ever worked with groups from abroad?

(v) Rita had been hit on \_\_\_\_\_ nose by \_\_\_\_\_ ball. [1]

a) a; a

b) the; the

c) the; a

d) a; the

(vi) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a news report: [1]

These exams open doors to higher education, improve employment opportunities and increase option.

Option no.	Error	Correction
A	these	this
B	open	opens



Option no.	Error	Correction
C	to	for
D	option	options

(vii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete an inspirational quote. [1]

Dreams \_\_\_\_\_ work unless you do.

- a) don't                                      b) will  
c) can't                                        d) needn't

(viii) She invited me to dinner. But it \_\_\_\_\_ two years since I \_\_\_\_\_ to her house. So I lost my way. [1]

- a) was, had gone                            b) is, went  
c) had been, went                            d) is, have been

(ix) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option. [1]

If you had worked hard you \_\_\_\_\_ have passed.

- a) would                                        b) may  
c) might                                         d) will

(x) **Complete the line from a self-awareness song, by filling the blank with the correct option.** [1]

My Mother is not the sort of Mum  
Who'll \_\_\_\_\_ and faint and shiver,  
Darkness doesn't scare her,  
When it thunders, she won't \_\_\_\_\_!

- A. be squealing, quiver  
B. squeal, be quiver  
C. squeal, quiver  
D. be squealing, have been quivered

(xi) Most of the milk \_\_\_\_\_ gone. [1]

- a) are    b) is  
c) have    d) were

(xii) The books borrowed from the library \_\_\_\_\_ on my desk. [1]

- a) has    b) have

c) is

d) are

### Section B Writing

4. Write a paragraph on **War on Black Money in India.** [5]

OR

One day you were commuting in a DTC bus. Unfortunately, your wallet was left at home. The conductor gave you the ticket for free. You are moved by his gesture. Describe.

5. Write a diary entry expressing your views on child labour. Write this diary entry. [5]

OR

Ajay wanted to participate in a story writing competition. He started a story, but could not complete the story. Complete the story for him in about 150-200 words.

Mr. Raghav got a promotion and transferred to a new city with his family. He shifted to the new city and new home happily, but soon his family started feeling that something wrong was going on with them in their new home.....

### Section C Literature

6. **Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.** [5]

- (i) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: [5]

“Here, Olga,” he said, “take this gentleman into the wood-shed and let him chop wood.” The scarecrow of a beggar shrugged his shoulders, as if in perplexity, and went irresolutely after the cook. It was obvious from his gait that he had not consented to go and chop wood because he was hungry and wanted work, but simply from pride and shame and because he had been trapped by his own words. It was obvious, too, that his strength had been undermined by vodka and that he was unhealthy and did not feel the slightest inclination for toil. Sergei hurried into the dining-room. From its windows one could see the wood-shed and everything that went on in the yard. Standing at the window, Sergei saw the cook and the beggar come out into the yard by the back door and make their way across the dirty snow to the shed. Olga glared wrathfully at her companion, shoved him aside with her elbow, unlocked the shed, and angrily banged the door.

- i. Which of the following is NOT a reason why the beggar agreed to go and chop wood in the woodshed?

- A. He was hungry and wanted work.
- B. He was physically fit and eager for toil.
- C. He had been trapped by his own words.
- D. He was motivated by pride and shame



- ii. What were the physical and emotional conditions of the beggar that became apparent as he headed to the woodshed?
- iii. Read the following descriptions (a)-(c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract:
  - a. The beggar willingly went to the woodshed, eager to find work.
  - b. The beggar reluctantly went to the woodshed due to pride and shame.
  - c. Sergei observed the scene from a window, detached from the situation.
- iv. Put yourself in Olga's shoes. How would you handle the situation with the reluctant beggar who has been asked to chop wood? Explain your approach.

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

[5]

I got up and paced up and down the room. Then another lovely thought struck me. I would marry. I would get married to a woman doctor who had plenty of money and good medical practice. She had to be fat; for a valid reason. If I made some silly mistake and needed to run away she should not be able to run after me and catch me! With such thoughts in my mind, I resumed my seat in the chair in front of the table. There were no more sounds from above. Suddenly there came a dull thud as if a rubber tube had fallen to the ground ... surely nothing to worry about. Even so, I thought I would turn around and take a look. No sooner had I turned than a fat snake wriggled over the back of the chair and landed on my shoulder. The snake's landing on me and my turning were simultaneous.

- a. What did the protagonist NOT want in his potential spouse according to his thoughts in the passage?
  - i. A woman who was practicing medicine.
  - ii. Someone who was wealthy.
  - iii. A woman who was agile and athletic.
  - iv. Someone who was professionally doing well
- b. What does the speaker's tone in the passage suggest about his state of mind and emotions as he contemplates the idea of marriage and then experiences the unexpected encounter with the snake?
- c. Read the following descriptions (i)-(iii) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract.
  - i. A debate is a formal discussion on a particular topic, usually with two or more people presenting different viewpoints and arguments.
  - ii. A soliloquy is a speech given by a character alone on stage, which reveals their innermost thoughts and feelings to the audience.
  - iii. An aside is a brief comment or remark made by a character directly to the audience which is not intended to be heard by other characters on stage.
- d. Which phrase would correctly substitute 'a valid', in the given sentence from the extract





She had to be fat; for a **valid** reason. If I made some silly mistake and needed to run away she should not be able to run after me and catch me!

7. **Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.** [5]

(i) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow. [5]

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence;  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-  
I took the one less travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

- a. What is the tone of the poet in the given stanza?
- b. Name the poet:
  - i. William Wordsworth
  - ii. Robert Frost
  - iii. William Shakespeare
  - iv. W.W.E. Ross
- c. \_\_\_\_\_ the word from the stanza opposite in meaning to 'converged'.
- d. What is the significance of the two roads? Answer in about 40 words.

(ii) Read the extract and answer the questions that follow. [5]

A slumber did my spirit seal-  
I had no human fears.  
She scented a thing that could not feel  
The touch of earthly years.  
No notion has she now, no force-  
She neither hears nor sees,  
Rolled round in earth's diurnal course  
With rocks and stones and trees

- a. \_\_\_\_\_ composed the poem.
- b. What does 'the slumber' refer to in the first line?
- c. What can she "not feel"? Explain in 40 words.
- d. What is the rhyming meter implemented by the poet?
  - i. abdc abdc
  - ii. abcd abcd
  - iii. abab cdcd
  - iv. free verse

8. **Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words** [12]

(i) What was Einstein's Theory of Relativity? [3]

- (ii) Write the central theme of the poem Rain on the Roof. [3]
- (iii) How does the author describe his father and his mother? Write your answer in the context of 'My Childhood'. [3]
- (iv) Why does the author call Baudhnath stupa a haven of quietness? [3]
- (v) Why was Saint Peter tired and hungry? [3]
9. **Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.** [6]
- (i) How did Sue inform Johnsy about Behrman's death? [3]
- (ii) When did the author realise that his cat was missing? Write your answer in the context of A House is Not a Home. [3]
- (iii) Why Mahendra had to keep moving from one place to another? Write your answer in the context of **Iswaran the Storyteller**. [3]
10. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words** [6]
- (i) How did young Bismillah develop his interest in Shehnai? [6]
- (ii) Santosh was not only a good mountaineer but also a genuinely good human being. Discuss. [6]
11. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.** [6]
- (i) **Greed is a deadly vice.** Elaborate with reference to **In the Kingdom of fools**. [6]
- (ii) Difficult situations mark the development of certain qualities in us. Explain with reference to the story **The Lost Child**. [6]



## Answers

### Section A Reading

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

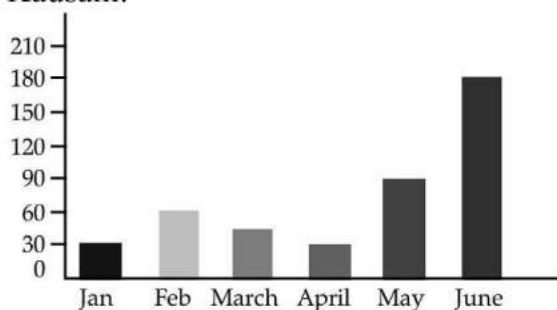
1. As the family finally sets off from home after many arguments, there is a moment of lull as the car takes off. "Alright, so where are we going for dinner now?" asks the one at the driving wheel. What follows is chaos, as multiple voices make as many suggestions.
2. By the time, the order is restored and a decision is arrived at, tempers have risen, feelings injured and at least one person is grumbling.
3. Twenty years ago, you would step out of home, the decision of meal and venue already made with no arguments or opposition, and everybody looked forward to the meal with equal enthusiasm. The decision was made by the head of the family and the others fell in line. Today every member of the family has a say in every decision which also promotes a sense of togetherness and bonding.
4. We empower our kids to take their own decisions from a very early age. We ask them about the cuisine they prefer, the movie they want to see, the holiday they wish to go on, and the subjects they wish to study.
5. It's a closely connected world out there, where children consult and guide each other. A parent's well-meaning advice can sound like nothing more than unnecessary preaching. How then do we reach our children through all the conflicting views and make the voice of reason be heard? Children today question choices and prefer to go with the flow.
6. What then is the best path to take? I would say the most important thing one can do is to listen. Listen to your children and their silences. Ensure that you keep some time aside for them, and insist that they share their stories with you. Step into their world. It is not as complicated as it sounds; just a daily half an hour of quality time would do the trick.
  - (i) (b) one at the steering
  - (ii) (c) taken by the head of the family
  - (iii) (d) allowed
  - (iv) complicated
  - (v) Today every member of the family has a say in every decision which also promotes a sense of togetherness and bonding.
  - (vi) Parents should:
    1. give children some space
    2. listen to each need of theirs
    3. let them solve their problems by helping them from the back
  - (vii) (c) hurt
  - (viii) (b) perfect bonding

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

Kausani is situated at a height of 6,075 feet in the central Himalayas. It is an unusually attractive little town. It covers just about 5.2 sq. km. It lies to the north of Almora in Uttarakhand's picturesque Kumaon region. Kausani provides the 300 km. wide breathtaking view of the Himalayas. It is the most striking aspect of this place. Snow-capped peaks are spread in a stately row. They stare at you in silvery-white majesty. The most famous peak on view is Nanda Devi, the second highest mountain in India. It is situated at a height of 25,645 feet and is 36 miles away as the crow flies. The other famous peaks on view are Choukhamba (23,420 feet) and Trishul (23,360 feet). Then there are also Neelkanth, Nandaghunti, Nandaghat and Nandakot. On a clear day, the blue of the sky makes a splendid background to these peaks. At sunrise and at sunset, when the colour of the sky changes to a golden orange, the scene gets etched in your memory.

When Gandhi Ji visited this place in 1929, its scenic beauty held him spellbound. He named it the 'Switzerland of India'. He prolonged his two day stay to fourteen days, making time to write a book, 'Anashakti Yoga'. The place where he was staying was originally a guest house of a tea estate. It was renamed 'Anashakti Ashram' after the book.

Kausani is the birthplace of Sumitra Nandan Pant, India's poet laureate. Its natural surroundings inspired many of his poems. Its tea gardens mingle with dense pine forests and fruit orchards. The area is also host to many fairs and religious ceremonies. If Uttarakhand is the abode of Gods, Kausani is God's own backyard. There is no traffic, no one is in a hurry. If serenity could be put on a canvas, the picture would resemble Kausani.



Average Rainfall in mm in Kausani (2000-2009)

- (i) The statement, On a clear day, the blue of the sky makes a splendid background to these peaks, is a **fact** because it presents the **objective detail** that anyone can experience when they visit this place.
- (ii) The state of Uttarakhand is called to be the abode of Gods and Kausani located in its Kumaon region can be called God's own backyard because of its scenic wide breathtaking view of the Himalayas. The area is free from traffic and also hosts many fairs and religious ceremonies.
- (iii) because the scenic beauty of this place held him spellbound and he prolonged his two-day stay to fourteen days.
- (iv) According to the rainfall graph, Kausani received the least rainfall in the month of January and April while the maximum rainfall was experienced in June.



- (v) In the month of May, Kausani received 90 mm which means it received a reasonable amount of rainfall. To witness the blue of the sky it needs to be a clear day. So, there could have been a fifty percent chance of witnessing a clear blue sky.
- (vi)
  - India's poet laureate Sumitranandan Pant's poems were inspired by the natural surroundings of this place.
  - Gandhiji was mesmerized by the scenic beauty of this place and called it as 'Switzerland of India'.
- (vii) A. OPTION (I)
- (viii) rikuta

### Section B Grammar

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed

(i) would request

error	correction
all	every

(iii) he has been to Australia before

(iv) The instructor asked Raghav if/whether he had ever worked with groups from aboard.

(v) (c) the; a

**Explanation:** the; a

(vi) (D) option - options

(vii) (a) don't

**Explanation:** don't

(viii) (c) had been, went

**Explanation:** She invited me to dinner. But it **had been** two years since I **went** to her house. So I lost my way.

- "had been" indicates that two years had passed since the last time the speaker went to her house.

- "went" is the past simple tense of the verb "go" and indicates an action that happened in the past.

(ix) (a) would

**Explanation:** would

(x) A. squeal, quiver

Following the sentence structure, 'will' always follow the base form of verb.

(xi) (b) is

**Explanation:** Most of the milk **is** gone.

(xii) (d) are

**Explanation:** are

### Section B Writing

4. **War on Black Money in India**

More smoke than light has been generated by the current outcry on black money. People think that there is a lot of money out there in Swiss banks. Black money does not remain

black, money forever. A lot of foreign funds and investments come back to India as white money. Income generated through illegal activities is the basis for generating black money. Global terror business, drugs, arms dealing, real estate, Hawala transactions, to name just a few, create black money. The G20 summit in London gave a clear message. The era of banking secrecy is over. India is a strong supporter of this move. The success in getting black money depends on international actions and cooperation among nations. Rather than looking for the foreign hand, the battle against black money must be waged at home. Unless black money is generated at home, unaccounted money can't be transferred abroad. Centre and states need to work on reforms. Tax rates need to be moderate. The laws must be simple. There should be no temptation to evade.

OR

One day I was commuting on a DTC bus. Unfortunately, my wallet was left at home. I had no money to buy the ticket and it was useless to plead before the conductor. Every moment was adding to my anxiety, lest I should be caught by the ticket checker and further consequences. The conductor asked me to take the ticket but after knowing the truth he offered me the ticket. I looked at him as if I was asking the reason and he just smiled.

The conductor was a conscientious and kind-hearted person. He understood my problem and so did not fine. I deboarded the bus thanking him from the deep of my heart. I was moved by the behaviour of the conductor and it had been an unforgettable experience of my life.

5. Dammaiguda

May 12 , 20xx

Thursday

I am writing to you in a very sad mood today as I saw a child quite younger to me working in a restaurant where we went for dinner. He served us the food while we ate! I felt so bad! How sad he won't get the opportunity to go to school like me! Will he remain trapped in the vicious circle of poverty? My father has told me the problem of child labour is quite rampant in all parts of India. Not only millions of children below the age of 14 are working in factories, shops, glass-blowing industry, workshops, etc, they are forced to work in the most unhygienic work conditions. How shameful it is for our country that we cannot guarantee happy childhood for our children! How can our country become prosperous when her children are enslaved in the shackles of child labour? Why does the Government do anything? Why are there not anti-child-labour laws? If they are there, why are they so poorly implemented? I think the first and foremost priority should be eradication of this national problem. Each child forced to work means darker future of India! Unless each child in India is educated and highly skilled, India cannot achieve any prosperity. Dear diary, I pledge I will strive to root out this evil from our country with my thoughts, words, and deeds.

Dorababu

OR

**A HUNGRY GHOST**



Mr. Raghav got a promotion and transferred to a new city with his family. He shifted to the new city and new home happily, but soon his family started feeling that something wrong was going on with them in their new home. Soon they found out that there was a spirit of an old lady roaming in the house. The family members could see an old lady at midnight. She used to enter the kitchen, eat whatever she found and left the house silently. The neighbours told Mr. Raghav that once there was an old lady who lived a happy life with her husband and her son. But after the death of her husband, her son did not care for her and he stopped giving her food to eat. Soon she died of hunger. They felt bad for that old lady. So they decided to do something about it. They, finally, planned to call her son to their home and asked him to apologize to his mother so that she stopped hovering around their home. They investigated papers and interrogated their neighbours to locate him. They also tried to take help from police. Finally, they got to know that her son left this country long ago and no one had his any contact number. They did everything to help her but to no avail.

Mr. Raghav and his family could not stay in that house with that spirit. Finally, he decided to leave the house out of terror. Mr. Raghav's family also was of the view to leave the house, so that they could live their lives fearlessly. But Mr. Raghav and his family were very sad while leaving the house because after all their efforts they could not help that lady in finding her peace.

#### Section C Literature

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

- (i) i. (B) He was physically fit and eager for toil.  
ii. The beggar's physical condition was unhealthy and weakened due to alcohol consumption, and he showed no inclination for labour. Emotionally, he felt trapped and reluctant due to his pride and shame.  
iii. (b) The beggar reluctantly went to the woodshed due to pride and shame.  
iv. I would approach the reluctant beggar with empathy, acknowledging his condition, offering support, and suggesting alternatives, prioritizing compassion over anger.
- (ii) a. (iii) A woman who was agile and athletic. Explanation: In the passage, the protagonist clearly states that he wanted his potential spouse to be fat for a specific reason. Therefore, the correct answer is "A woman who was agile and athletic." (option iii).  
b. The speaker's tone in the passage suggests a mix of humour and whimsy when contemplating marriage, with a touch of practicality regarding the potential spouse's physical attributes. However, the sudden encounter with the snake changes his tone to one of surprise and shock, as he is taken by the unexpected event.  
c. (ii) A soliloquy The passage describes the protagonist's inner thoughts and feelings as he contemplates getting married to a specific type of woman and his reaction to the sudden appearance of a snake. This inner monologue reflects the character's thoughts and feelings, making it a soliloquy.  
d. "a practical".



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

- (i) a. The poet adopted a reflective tone in the given stanza.  
b. (ii) Robert Frost  
c. 'diverged'  
d. "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost is a poem told through the perspective of a solitary voyager who encounters a divergence in their path, serving as a profound metaphor for the voyage of life and the pivotal choices we encounter along this journey. These two divergent roads symbolize the challenging decisions that present themselves in our lives.
- (ii) a. William Wordsworth  
b. In the first line of the poem, slumber refers to deep sleep.  
c. She does not feel the earthly time and earthly years have become timeless for her. She could not feel the touch of the time spent on this earth now for she was dead. The poet highlighted the fact that his beloved has now become a non-living thing that cannot feel the touch of anything on the earth.  
d. (iii) abab cdcd

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words

- (i) In 1905, in his first published letter on 'Special Theory of Relativity' Einstein wrote that time and distance are not accurate. In fact, two perfectly accurate clocks will not show the same time if they come together again after a journey if one of them had been moving faster than the other.
- (ii) The poet explores several themes in the poem. Firstly, he highlights the soothing and healing power of nature. So many fancies go on revolving in his mind. He loves the pattering of soft rain. Secondly, he also highlights the comforts and happiness offered by the past memories. Thirdly, he explores the immortal stage of childhood.
- (iii) The author describes his father as a wise and generous person. He felt happy when he helped others. He didn't have much formal education and riches. He was a man of confidence. He avoided inessential comforts and luxuries. The author's father had an ideal helpmate in his wife, Ashiama. The author's mother was a noble and kind-hearted woman. She used to feed a large number of people.
- (iv) The author finds the Boudhanath Stupa in sharp contrast with the Hindu temple. It has a sense of stillness and peacefulness. It is not crowded. People don't make a hue and cry there. The hawkers don't disturb the peaceful atmosphere of the temple. So, the author calls it a haven of quietness.
- (v) Saint Peter was a holy man. He used to preach people. For his preaching, he often made a long journey. St. Peter had fasted for the whole day. Hence, he was tired and hungry. He asked the woman to give him a cake from her store of cakes.

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

- (i) Sue came to Johnsy's bed the next morning after Behrman had died. Then she broke the news of Behrman's death to her that he died of pneumonia as he had been out in



the stormy night.

(ii) The author's house was on fire. The fire raged for five hours and burnt down the author's house almost completely. It was then that he suddenly realised that his cat was missing. He had not seen it all this while and realised to his horror that it was nowhere to be found.

(iii) Mahendra was a junior supervisor in a firm which provided supervisors for various types of construction sites. His job was to keep an eye on the activities at the work site.

As one site's work was over, he moved to another site. Thus, he had to keep moving from place to place.

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words

(i) Bismillah was fascinated watching his uncles practice the Shehnai when he was only three years old. He was deeply fascinated by the music of Shehnai. Soon Bismillah started accompanying his uncle Ali Baksh, to the Vishnu Temple of Benaras where Baksh was employed to play Shehnai. Bismillah picked up the finer nuances of Shehnai and practiced for hours on the banks of river Ganga. The flowing waters of the holy river inspired him to improvise and invent new ragas. At the age of 14, Bismillah accompanied his uncle to Allahabad Music Conference where Ustad Fayaz Khan patted his shoulder which inspired and encouraged him to work harder.

(ii) Santosh Yadav proved her mountaineering skills quite early in her career. She displayed an unflinching will and a fearless mind that fought a rigid, orthodox society to rise to the top. But the stern will and bold decisions did not smother her qualities of co-operation and concern for others. Santosh was endowed with a caring heart is obvious from the fact that she took great care of a climber at the South Col. Though, the climber could not be saved, Santosh's concern for him was really commendable. In another incident, she saved the life of a fellow climber, Mohan Singh by sharing her own oxygen with him. This sense of sacrifice and team-spirit won for her the esteem of her team-mates. Moreover, Santosh's heart overflowed with patriotism when she unfurled the national flag on the top of Mt. Everest.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.

(i) A greedy person can never be happy and tends to constantly suffer. In the chapter, In the Kingdom of Fools, greed brought trouble to many people. The disciple suffered because of his greed for food. Even though his guru advised him to not stay in the strange kingdom, the disciple preferred to stay there because of the availability of cheap food. Consequently, he grew fat and was found to be a perfect fit for the new stake. Ultimately he was badly trapped as the king ordered to execute him. He repented later for not adhering to his Guru's advice. Besides the disciple, the king and the minister also met their ends because of their greed. Both of them wanted power and luxury at their next birth. Hence, they believed the lie told by the guru who played upon their weakness, i.e. greed. As a result, both of them decided to die to become the king and minister even at their next birth. Therefore, it can be justified



that greed is a deadly vice that can create innumerable problems and should be surely avoided.

- (ii) Difficult situations indeed mark the development of certain qualities in us. We need to inculcate values like courage, trust, and tolerance in ourselves. Before separation, the child was very happy and excited at the fair. He was fascinated with all the things that were displayed at the stalls. He wanted to have all the things like toys, sweets, flowers, etc., but after separation, the boy just wanted to be with his parents. When another man offered to buy him sweets he denied it and said that he needed only his parents. He offered him almost everything that the child had desired before getting lost but the child was not interested and wanted only his parents. Therefore, we can see how certain qualities develop in difficult situations. The child lost interest in all materialistic things and valued the presence of his parents.

