

Class XII Session 2025-26

Subject - English Core

Sample Question Paper - 3

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper has **13** questions. **All** questions are **compulsory**.
2. This question paper contains **three** sections - Section A : **Reading Skills**, Section B : **Creative Writing Skills** and 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

1. Read the passage given below:

[12]

1. My father has always been a passionate man. He has always been passionate about the people of the Everest region - so much so that in 1960 he began the first of the many projects aimed at improving their lives. In 1975 he had begun building his second hospital in the Himalayas when tragedy struck our family. My mother and my youngest sister Belinda were flying into the mountains to join him when their small aeroplane crashed soon after take-off from Kathmandu.
2. I was in Assam when I first heard of the accident. I flew straight to Kathmandu and met my father and oldest sister Sarah on a narrow lane on the outskirts of the city. Any hope I had clung to, that my mother and sister were still alive, was extinguished the moment I saw father - bowed and broken. I knew then that Mum and Belinda would never return.
3. It was years before Dad fully came out of this period of darkness. Only by plunging himself into more adventures and ever more projects in Nepal, could he get through it. He has built 42 schools and hospitals there.
4. As I grew up, some of Dad's restlessness rubbed off on me. I know many people think there must be some compulsion for the son of Sir Edmund Hillary to climb mountains. They assume that there was some imperative etched in stone that says, "Thou shalt climb mountains" - and in particular Everest, whether you like it or not. But for me, it's simpler than that. I think families are like factories: the Hillary family is a limited production mountaineering establishment.
5. Today, at the age of 48, I am an inveterate mountain man. I have been on more than 30 mountaineering expeditions, from the Himalayas to the Antarctic. And yes, I have climbed Everest - twice.
6. I treasure the same things that drew my father to climbing - the tremendous camaraderie involved, the intensity and adrenaline buzz especially in dangerous places where your life depends upon making the right



call. I guess that I am luckier than most because I am able to fall back on all that my father has taught me.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

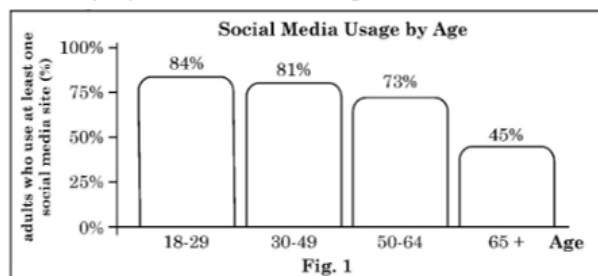
- i. Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option. **(1)**
The author's father was passionate about the people of the Everest region; so he _____.
 - i. Climbed mountains
 - ii. Worked on the improvement of their lives
 - iii. Built schools and hospitals everywhere
 - iv. Invited all the family to stay there
- ii. Comment on the effect of the plane crash in 1975 on the life Hillary family. **(1)**
- iii. List the two ways how author's father came out of the dark phase in his life **(2)**
(Clue: Think about the type his engagements)
- iv. Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'lethargy', from words used in paragraph six. **(1)**
 - i. treasure
 - ii. camaraderie
 - iii. intensity
 - iv. adrenaline
- v. How did the author prove to be the true son of his father? **(1)**
 - i. He proved to be an excellent mountaineer
 - ii. He involved himself in social service
 - iii. He scaled the Everest twice
 - iv. All of these
- vi. Based on your understanding of the last paragraph, list one major advantage that the author had which made him consider himself fortunate. **(2)**
- vii. Why did the author take up climbing like his father? **(1)**
- viii. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following: **(1)**
The phrase "Thou shalt climb mountains" means _____.
 - i. narrow
 - ii. outskirts
 - iii. extinguished
 - iv. broken
- ix. A word similar in meaning to "section" in paragraph two is **(1)**
 - i. narrow
 - ii. outskirts
 - iii. extinguished
 - iv. broken
- x. What tragedy struck the narrator's family in 1975? **(1)**

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

[10]

1. News - If you can't remember the last time, you saw a teenager reading a book, newspaper or magazine, you're not alone. In recent years, less than 20 percent of teens report reading a book, magazine or newspaper daily for pleasure. More than 80 percent say they use social media every day, according to research published by the World Psychological Association.
2. "Compared with previous generations, teens in the 2010s spent more time online and less time with traditional media, such as books, magazines and television," said lead author of the book yGen and professor of psychology at ABC University. "Time on digital media has displaced time once spent enjoying a book or watching TV."

3. Swaner and her colleagues analysed data concluded from an ongoing study of a nationally representative sample of approximately 50,000 eighth, tenth and twelfth grade students annually. They looked at survey results from 1976 to 2016, representing more than 1 million teenagers. While the study started with only twelfth-graders in the 1970s, eighth- and tenth-graders were added in 1991.
4. Use of digital media increased substantially from 2006 to 2016. Among twelfth-graders, internet use during leisure time doubled from one to two hours per day during that period. It also increased 75 percent for tenth-graders and 68 percent for eighth-graders.
5. "In the mid-2010s, the average twelfth-grader reported spending approximately two hours a day texting, just over two hours a day on the internet - which included gaming - and just under two hours a day on social media," said Swaner. That's a total of about six hours per day on just three digital media activities during their leisure time."
6. In comparison, tenth-graders reported a total of five hours per day and eighth-graders reported four hours per day on those three digital activities. Consequently the spent time in the digital world is seriously degrading the time they spend on more traditional media such as print book and newspapers.
7. The decline in reading print media was especially steep. In the early 1990s, 33 percent of tenth-graders said they read a newspaper almost every day. By 2016, that number was only 2 percent. In the late 1970s, 60 percent of twelfth-graders said they read a book or a magazine almost every day; by 2016, only 16 percent did. Twelfth-graders also reported reading fewer books each year in 2016 compared to how much they read in 1976, and approximately onethird did not read a book (including e-books) for pleasure in the year prior to the 2016 survey.
8. There's no lack of intelligence among young people. However due to over dependence on digital media they find it difficult to focus for long periods of time and to read long-form text. Subsequently they find it challenging to understand complex issues and develop critical thinking skills.



Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

- i. Does the following statement agree with the information given in paragraph 1? **(1)**
 The writer believes that very few teens indulge in reading as a pleasurable activity.
 Select from the following:
 True : if the statement agrees with the information.
 False : if the statement contradicts the information.
 Not given : if there is no information on this.
- ii. Select the option that displays the most likely reason for this research. **(1)**
 In order to find out _____.
 - a. reading choices of teenagers.
 - b. digital competency of teenagers.
 - c. speed of reading text.
 - d. the decline of time spent on traditional media.

iii. Complete the statement based on the following statement: **(1)**

Traditional media has been replaced by digital media, we can say this because _____.

iv. Do you think that the researchers of study added tenth and eighth graders to the survey deliberately?

Support your answer with reference to the text. **(2)**

v. Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option: **(1)**

The concluding sentence of the text makes a clear case for _____ by listing it as a core competency for analysis and application.

- a. following social media
- b. reading long texts
- c. building focus and concentration
- d. developing constructive habits

vi. Complete the sentence appropriately with one/two words: **(1)**

Teens today hardly read print media for _____.

vii. Based on the reading of the text, state points to challenge the given statement: **(2)**

“Time on digital media has displaced time once spent enjoying a book or watching T.V.”

viii. What does the author mean by **degrading the time** in para 6? **(1)**

- a. spending less time
- b. waste of time
- c. consuming more time
- d. saving time

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

3. As the Principal, National Public School, Ramnagar, write a notice in about 50 words informing the students that [4]
with effect from 20th of January the school shall start at 9 AM instead of 8 AM. Give reasons for the change.

OR

You are the Anuj/Anu, Secretary of Saket Kunj, Saket, Navi Mumbai, Resident Welfare Association. Write a notice in 50 words to be circulated to all the residents informing them that there will be no water supply in your colony for two days due to necessary repair and maintenance work. Mention dates, and the timings that tankers will be available in the R.W.A. premises.

4. You are Dr. B. L. Kapoor from Pratibha Kapoor Hospital, Patiala. You have been invited to speak on Health - a [4]
dietary journey, for Senior Secondary School students. Draft a reply accepting the invitation in not more than 50 words. Request for the time, date and venue where the meeting has been organised.

OR

You are Akshat/Ankita, living in Palghat. Your cousin from the same city has purchased a new house and he has invited you for a house warming party. Draft a letter of acceptance mentioning date, time, venue. Word limit 50 words.

5. You have realized the necessity of education and financial independence of women for their family, society and [5]
in turn for the nation. Write a letter to the Editor, **The National Times** highlighting your ideas on the importance of education of women leading to a better status for them. You are Tarun/Taruna, B-7/9, Mall Road, Delhi.

OR

You are Chetan Sharma, a commerce graduate from Delhi University. You are seeking for a suitable job. You came across an advertisement in 'The Times of India', inviting young and dynamic fresh graduates as sales executives in a



reputed company. Apply for the said job to Box No. 8365, C/o The Times of India, New Delhi.

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6. Rising pollution, fast and competitive lifestyle, lack of nutritious food etc., have caused health woes for a large section of our population. Providing healthcare used to be a charitable and ethical activity. Today it has become commercialised, a money spinning business. Write an article in 150-200 words on 'How to provide proper health care to the common man.' You are Karan/Karuna. [5]

OR

Your school celebrated the Diamond Jubilee year of India's independence. Write a report in 100-125 words for your school magazine, giving details of the celebrations. You are Amit/Anita of Maharani Laxmibai Senior Secondary School, Gwalior.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

7. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: [6]

I looked again at her, wan,
pale
as a late winter's moon and felt that
old
familiar ache, my childhood's fear,
but all I said was, see you soon,
Amma,
all I did was smile and smile and
smile ...

i. The poem My Mother at Sixty-Six captures the _____ of the narrator.

I. happiness

II. fear

III. dismay

IV. anxiety

Choose the most appropriate option:

a. Only I

b. I and IV

- c. II and IV
 - d. Only III
- ii. Identify the phrase from the extract that suggests the following:
She was overwhelmed with emotion and could not speak much.
- iii. The word **wan** in the given context most nearly means
- a. pale
 - b. old
 - c. unwell
 - d. anxious
- iv. Complete the following analogy correctly. Do not repeat from the example used.
Trees sprinting : personification : : _____ : simile
- v. On the basis of the extract, study the two statements, I and II given below:
I. The poet accepts the reality of her mother's declining health and old age.
II. She is nostalgic about her childhood days spent with her mother.
Choose the most appropriate option:
- a. I is true, but II is false
 - b. Both I and II are true
 - c. II is the reason for I
 - d. II cannot be inferred from the extract
- vi. Explain the following statement with reference to the above extract:
All I did was smile and smile and smile.

OR

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

"Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear
The thought of so much childish longing in vain,
The sadness that lurks near the open window there,
That waits all day in almost open prayer
For the squeal of brakes, the sound of a stopping car,"

- i. What can't the poet tolerate?
 - a. The farmers dashed hopes
 - b. The travellers not stopping at the stand
 - c. The poor condition of village
 - d. Attitude of the rich people
- ii. Complete the following analogy correctly.
lurk: creep :: _____: futile
- iii. Answer in ONE word.
When the poet says that 'squeal of brakes', he means the car to _____.
- iv. What is the prayer of the villager sitting at open window?
 - a. A generous traveller to stop at the stand
 - b. To sell something
 - c. A good amount to dwindle their distress
 - d. All of these

v. On the basis of the extract, choose the correct option with reference to (1) and (2) given below.

(1) The villagers pray for the vehicles to hear a car stop by.

(2) These shed owners want to sell their products.

- a. (1) is true but (2) is false.
- b. (2) is true but (1) is false.
- c. (2) is the reason for (1).
- d. Both (1) and (2) cannot be inferred from the extract.

vi. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following:

The rural folk dreamt of a better life with help from the city dwellers which was like a kiddish desire.

8. **Read the following text carefully and answer the questions that follow:**

[4]

I was walking home from school one day, an old bag hanging from my shoulder. It was actually possible to walk the distance in ten minutes. But usually it would take me thirty minutes at the very least to reach home. It would take me from half an hour to an hour to dawdle along, watching all the fun and games that were going on, all the entertaining novelties and oddities in the streets, the shops and the bazaar.

i. **The entertaining novelties** as stated in the passage include (1)

- a. A performing monkey
- b. Stunt performances
- c. Puppet shows
- d. All of these

ii. The word **dawdle** as used in the extract means (1)

- a. To Push
- b. To walk slowly
- c. To delay deliberately
- d. To put off

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract. (1)

The distance from the school to the speaker's house could be easily covered within _____ minutes.

iv. What nature of the speaker can be discerned from the given extract? (1)

OR

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

"You are to come to the palace," the man said. "The old General is in pain again."

"Oh," Hana breathed, "Is that all?"

"All ?" the messenger exclaimed. "Is it not enough?"

"Indeed it is," she replied, "I am very sorry."

When Sadao came to say goodbye, she was in the kitchen, but doing nothing. The children were asleep and she sat merely resting for a moment, more exhausted from her fright than from work. (The Enemy)

i. Seeing the messenger, Hana was apprehensive of _____.

ii. The summons for Dr. Sadao were because

- a. the servants had reported.
- b. there was a medical emergency.
- c. the General wanted to express his admiration.
- d. the prisoner of war had escaped.

iii. Which of the following summarizes Hana's reason for resting momentarily?

- a. Her physical exhaustion
- b. Her fear
- c. Her infirmity
- d. Her sadness

iv. Complete the analogy correctly with a word from the extract.

asleep : awake :: rejuvenated : _____.

9. **Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:**

[6]

"My children, this is the last lesson I shall give you. The order has come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. The new master comes tomorrow. This is your last French lesson. I want you to be very attentive."

What a thunderclap these words were to me!

Oh, the wretches; that was what they had put up at the town hall!

i. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract.

M Hamel wanted the students to be attentive because _____.

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

(1) M. Hamel wanted his students to pay attention as it was the last lesson.

(2) Nobody except Franz was able to realise the pain in M. Hamel's eyes.

- 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).

iii. How would you describe Franz's tone when he says- **What a thunderclap these words were to me?**

- a. Angry
- b. Gloomy
- c. Perplexed
- d. Irritated

iv. In which of the following options can the underlined words not be replaced with **wretche(s)**?

- a. That beggar has broken my car window.
- b. Items like a stick and grenadier are now variable.
- c. He is a lonely and miserable rogue.
- d. Before the poor knave had time to speak, he was shot.

v. Henceforth, only _____ would be taught in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine.

vi. Write another similar word for the underlined word that is used in the extract.

It was startling for Franz to know that he could not learn French any longer.

OR

Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:

"I will learn to drive a car," he answers, looking straight into my eyes. His dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets that fill his town Firozabad, famous for its bangles. Every other family in Firozabad is engaged in making bangles. It is the centre of India's glass-blowing industry where families have spent generations working around furnaces, wielding glass, making bangles for all the women in the land it seems.



Mukesh's family is among them. None of them know that it is illegal for children like him to work in the glass furnaces with high temperatures, in dingy cells without air and light; that the law, if enforced, could get him and all those 20,000 children out of the hot furnaces where they slog their daylight hours, often losing the brightness of their eyes. Mukesh's eyes beam as he volunteers to take me home, which he proudly says is being rebuilt.

- i. What big loss do the children face working there?
- ii. The line **dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets** indicates that his dream was:
 - a. a reality, yet seemed distant
 - b. lost in the sea of dust.
 - c. illusory and indistinct.
 - d. hanging in the dusty air.

iii. **I will learn to drive a car**, he answers, looking straight into my eyes. This sentence highlights Mukesh was:

- i. determined
- ii. fearless
- iii. hopeful
- iv. valiant
- v. ambitious
- vi. stern
- a. i and iv
- b. ii and iv
- c. ii and v
- d. iii and vi

iv. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE with reference to the extract?

- a. Children work in badly lit and poorly ventilated furnaces.
- b. The children are unaware that it is forbidden by law to work in the furnaces.
- c. Children toil in the furnaces for hours which affects their eyesight.
- d. Firozabad has emerged as a nascent producer of bangles in the country.

v. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that majority of the population in Firozabad is involved in bangle-making. (Clue: a sentence)

vi. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract.

_____ is the literary device employed in the line "His dream looms like a mirage amidst the dust of streets..."

10. **Answer any five of the following questions in 40-50 words each:** **[10]**
 - (a) How did Douglas' introduction to the YMCA pool revive his childhood fear of water? **[2]**
 - (b) There can be life under apparent stillness. Explain. (Keeping Quiet) **[2]**
 - (c) What do you understand by "massive weight of uncle's wedding band"? (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers) **[2]**
 - (d) Why didn't Sophie like to talk to Jansie about Danny Casey? **[2]**
 - (e) How did the people of Madras and those at Gemini Studios respond to the plays staged by the Moral Re-Armament Army? (**Poets and Pancakes**) **[2]**
 - (f) Umberto Eco is an academic as well as a famous novelist. Comment. **[2]**
11. **Answer any two of the following questions in 40-50 words each:** **[4]**
 - (a) Why was Tishani Doshi tilted with relief and wonder when he set foot on the Antarctic continent? **[2]**
 - (b) How was the hundredth tiger made available to the king? **[2]**



(c) What kind of indications do we get while visiting Antarctica to save Earth? (**Journey to the End of the Earth**) [2]

12. The author of the story The Lost Spring realizes later that she has made a hollow promise to Saheb. [5]
"Is your school ready?"

"It takes longer to build a school," I say, embarrassed at having made a promise that was not meant. But promises like mine abound in every corner of his bleak world.

While Edla in The Rattrap fulfills her promise to let the peddler leave freely.

She looked at him compassionately, with her heavy eyes, and then she noticed that the man was afraid. "Either he has stolen something or else he has escaped from jail", she thought, and added quickly, "You may be sure, Captain, that you will be allowed to leave us just as freely as you came. Only please stay with us over Christmas Eve."

Create a conversation between the author and Edla with reference to the above extracts.

You may begin the conversation like this:

Author: That day I had asked Saheb jokingly that if I opened a school would he attend it. I was unaware of the fact that I was unknowingly making a hollow promise to the boy. Has something like this happened to you Edla?

OR

Keats presents the idea of beauty as eternal that has a timeless lifelong attraction. According to him,

"...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."

In the same vein, Neruda manifests the beauty of quietness to obtaining inner clarity.

"Now I'll count up to twelve

and you keep quiet and I will go."

Pen down your thoughts in the form of a descriptive essay by exploring a common connection that runs into the phrases like "pass into nothingness", "quiet breathing" and "you keep quiet and I will go".

13. Derry who was always in search of secluded places, finds one in Mr. Lamb's garden. Although his seclusion did [5]
not last for long there as the owner turns up, he ends up being a frequent visitor of this place. Create a diary entry as Derry reflecting on the qualities of Mr. Lamb that attracted you towards him.

You may begin like this:

The moment I noticed that I was not alone as the old man could see me, I wanted to leave. But an interesting rather **peculiar** conversation kept me glued...

OR

Sadao shared a matured relation with his father. His father had gone through a lot of hardships to bring him up and he was concerned about his education. Therefore, Sadao was sent to America to study surgery and medicine at the young age of twenty-two.

Create a diary entry as a Sadao narrating your experiences in America.

You may begin this way:

I went to America because of my father as his prime concern was my education...



Solution

SECTION A – READING SKILLS

1.
 - i. (ii) Worked on the improvement of their lives
 - ii. The plane crash in 1975 led to the turning point in the author and his father's life. Author's mother and my youngest sister Belinda were flying on that plane to join his father in the Himalayas.
 - iii. The author's father came out of the dark phase in his life by engaging himself in social service.
 - iv. (iii) intensity
 - v. (i) He proved to be an excellent mountaineer
 - vi. The author considered himself to be lucky because he could learn from his father's experiences.
 - vii. Because he was born in a family of mountaineers.
 - viii. You shall climb mountains
 - ix. (ii) outskirts
 - x. In 1975, the narrator's mother and youngest sister, Belinda, were killed when their small airplane crashed shortly after take-off from Kathmandu while they were flying to join the narrator's father in the Himalayas.
2.
 - i. True : if the statement agrees with the information.
The statement aligns with the information provided in paragraph 1, which states that less than 20 percent of teens report reading a book, magazine, or newspaper daily for pleasure, while more than 80 percent say they use social media every day.
 - ii. (d) The research aims to investigate the significant shift in teenagers' media consumption habits, particularly the decline in time spent on traditional media like books, newspapers, and magazines, in favor of digital media.
 - iii. time on digital media has displaced time once spent on reading or watching TV. This indicates a significant shift in media consumption habits towards digital platforms.
 - iv. Yes, the researchers of the study added tenth and eighth graders to the survey deliberately in order to get a better and more comprehensive understanding of how teens are using digital media. By including younger teens in the survey, the researchers were able to get a more accurate picture of how digital media is impacting teens of all ages.
 - v. (b) The concluding sentence emphasizes the challenge young people face in focusing for long periods and engaging with long-form text due to their over-reliance on digital media. Therefore, the text underscores the importance of reading long texts as a core competency for analysis and application.
 - vi. pleasure
 - vii. Although it is true that digital media has become increasingly popular with teenagers, there is evidence that suggests that the amount of time spent reading books and watching TV has not decreased as drastically as suggested. A study published by the American Psychological Association in 2019 showed that, although digital media use has increased, the amount of time spent reading books and watching TV has remained relatively stable.
 - viii. (a) The statement in para 6 implies that the time spent on digital media is diminishing the time that could have been allocated to traditional media such as print books and newspapers.

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

NATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL, RAMNAGAR

NOTICE

Change in School Timings

4th January 20XX

Students are hereby informed that with effect from 20th of January, school shall start at 9 AM instead of 8 AM, due to certain contractual issues with the private buses plying for the school. Timings will remain as it is until these issues are completely resolved, . Any inconvenience caused is deeply regretted.

Principal

OR

Resident Welfare Association

Navi Mumbai

Notice

12 August 2023



Water Supply Disruption

In light of essential pipeline repair and maintenance, residents are informed of a temporary water service suspension from Friday, 18 August, 8:00 a.m., until Sunday, 20 August, 9:00 a.m. Water tankers will be available on R.W.A. premises from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. during these days.

Anuj/Anu

Secretary

Saket Kunj

Saket, Navi Mumbai

Pratibha Kapoor Hospital

Patiala

13 October 2023

St. Ann's Senior Secondary School

TVS Nagar

Chennai

Subject: Acceptance of invitation for giving a speech on health -A dietary journey.

Sir,

I sincerely thank you for giving me the supreme chance to educate the senior secondary students on the crucial topic like health. I request you to kindly share other details like the time, date, and venue where the event will be organised. I look forward to attending the event.

Best regards,

4. Dr. B.L Kapoor

OR

C/71, Azadpur

Palghat

29 April, 2023

AK- 91, Shalimar Bagh

New Delhi

Dear [Cousin's Name],

Thank you so much for inviting me to your housewarming party. I am thrilled to hear about your new home and can't wait to celebrate with you. I will be there on 27th May at 1 p.m. on the given address. Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Best regards,

[Akshat/Ankita]

5. B-7/9, Mall Road Delhi

14th March, 20XX

The Editor The National Times New Delhi

Subject: Importance of Women Education

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I would like to draw the attention of one and all towards the importance of women's education. Women are the pillars on which the growth and development of a family, society, and nation depend. But she is the victim of patriarchal outlook and conservative mindset in the society. She is not given much importance in the field of education. This is more so in rural India. People do not take into consideration that both genders have equal interests and are equally efficient in learning. Imparting education to women will make them financially independent. More opportunities for farming girl children should be introduced. I request you to publish this letter of mine so that people may think over it and start educating their girl child also. Initiatives should be taken to spread awareness regarding the education of females for their better tomorrow.

Thanking you

Yours sincerely

Taruna

OR



C-40, Ashok Vihar
New Delhi
1 April 2019
The Advertiser
Box. No. 8365
C/o The Times of India
New Delhi
Dear Sir,

Subject: Application for the post of sales assistant

In response to your advertisement published in 'The Times of India', dated 20 March 2019, stating the requirement of young and fresh graduates as sales assistants, I offer my candidature for the same.

I have passed my B. Com. (Hons) from S.R.C.C. Delhi, securing 75% marks. I am a zestful and potential student of 21 years. The challenges that the above-mentioned post offers me are big and I am excited to face them under the guidance of your expert team with full enthusiasm for my personal growth and the organisation as well. I enjoy sound health and pleasing personality. I have a reasonably good command over both Hindi and English and possess convincing power and good communication skills which, I hope, make me eligible for this position.

If selected, I shall certainly prove myself worthy of the post. If you find my profile worthy of it, please feel free to call me at any time suitable to you. I would be glad to come in for an interview.

Yours truly

Chetan Sharma

BIO-DATA

Name	Chetan Sharma
Father's Name	Sh. Mohan Lal Sharma
Address	C-40, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi
Date of Birth	15 September 1998
Educational Qualifications	(i) B.Com (Hons.) in the year 2019 (75%) (ii) CBSE (10+2) Passing year 2016 (83%)
Salary Expected	Rs.15,000pm + perks
Marital Status	Unmarried
Language Known	Hindi, English

6.

How to Provide Proper Healthcare to the Common Man

by Karuna

We all know that a common person faces many problems regarding health in India. Every day a common man is exposed to so many unhygienic places as well as contaminated air and food.

Health care has always remained farce in the government hospitals, where lack of common facilities and technology is often observed. The basic requirements needed for the patients are ignored let alone the inclusion of high technology. As health is a matter of serious concern, everyone has the right to get proper healthcare. It is ironical that not all of us are so fortunate as the infrastructure in the government and municipal hospitals are very poor, and doctors do not work with as much dedication as they do at their own personal clinics. Sanitation problems are also seen in public hospitals. The commercialisation of healthcare is good only for the people who can afford the best care, but we must be able to distinguish between mere advertising and marketing of few products done by companies for money making and their actual utility. Similarly, some provisions should be made in all private hospitals for the impoverished, common people and all those who need help and care. These provisions may be provided to BPL cardholders, persons having low annual salary, and similar other people. The government should also have some arrangement for the poor to subsidise costly medicines. They may do so by making pharmaceutical companies reduce their prices suitably. Such measures will definitely help in providing better healthcare to the common man.

OR

Diamond Jubilee of India's Independence

by Anita

Gwalior, 17th August, 20XX: This year our school celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of India's independence with great fervour and fanfare at the National Stadium. It was most heartening to see the zest and zeal of the students and the teachers to ensure the



success of the show. Dr Ashok Vetal, Minister of Education, was the chief guest. He initiated the programme by unfurling the national flag. Our chairman then, through his speech, welcomed all the distinguished guests and parents. After his speech, our students put up a colourful and extravagant display of dance, music and drama depicting the various cultures and traditions of the different states of India. Everyone present there appreciated and applauded the efforts taken by students to highlight India's 'Unity in Diversity'.

The chief guest gave away the prizes after the cultural show. He appreciated the commendable efforts taken by the teachers and students to host such a wonderful programme to celebrate the free spirit of independent India. The show concluded after our principal presented the vote of thanks.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

7. i. II and IV
ii. All I said was, see you soon, Amma
iii. pale
iv. pale as a late winter's moon
v. I is true, but II is false
vi. The poetess hides her fear, anxiety and worries about being separated from her mother behind her face and assures her mother with her smile.

OR

- i. The farmers dashed hopes
ii. vain
iii. stop
iv. All of these
v. c. (2) is the reason for (1).
vi. childish longing
8. i. All of these
ii. To walk slowly
iii. ten
iv. That the speaker could be easily distracted.

OR

- i. Seeing the messenger, Hana was apprehensive of Dr. Sadao's arrest.
ii. (b) there was a medical emergency
iii. (b) her fear
iv. exhausted
9. i. it is his last French lesson.
ii. a. (1) Can be inferred from the extract but (2) cannot.
iii. Perplexed
iv. Items like a stick and grenadier are now variable.
v. German,
vi. Thunderclap

OR

- i. The big loss the children face working there is the losing of the brightness of their eyes.
ii. illusory and indistinct.
iii. i and iv
iv. Firozabad has emerged as a nascent producer of bangles in the country.
v. Every other family in Firozabad is engaged in making bangles.
vi. Simile
10. Answer any five of the following questions in 40-50 words each:
- (i) Douglas' introduction to the YMCA pool revived his childhood fear of water. He recalled how he got frightened, knocked-down and buried under the water by powerful waves at the beach when he was four years old.
- (ii) In "Keeping Quiet," Pablo Neruda advocates for moments of stillness, asserting that during these pauses, destructive behaviours, wars, and self-misery can subside. The poem urges a reconnection with nature and the rediscovery of one's inner identity, fostering kindness and respect. Even in apparent silence, Neruda suggests, the potential for life persists, envisioning a world where even fishermen spare whales, and the entire planet thrives.



- (iii) Generally 'wedding band' is a symbol of joy and happiness. But in case of Aunt Jennifer, it has become a symbol of torture and oppression. Her marriage has become a painful burden to carry. Her 'wedding band' has brought her a world of pain, misery and torture. She has lost her freedom.
- (iv) Sophie didn't want to talk to Jansie about Danny Casey because she knew that Jansie was mostly interested in others affairs. She liked to spread the rumors about people in the neighborhood. Sophie knew that she could not hold anybody's secret and would reveal it to everyone.
- (v) The Moral Re-Armament Army presented two plays 'Jotham Valley' and 'The Forgotten Factor' in a very professional manner. The people at Gemini Studios saw the plays over and over again. Though the message was plain, the costumes and sets were the first rates. These plays ran several shows in Madras and left a great impact on the studios and on Madras in general. For some years almost all Tamil plays imitated the scenes of sunrise and sunset of 'Jotham Valley'.
- (vi) Despite getting famous as a novelist, Umberto Eco always associated himself with the academic community. He has written only five novels as compared to the forty scholarly works of non-fiction. He considers himself a university professor who writes novels on Sundays. When he presented his first Doctoral dissertation in Italy, one of the professors was impressed by the way he told the story of his research, including his trials and errors.

11. Answer any two of the following questions in 40-50 words each:

- (i) Trishani Doshi set foot on the Antarctic continent. He found it the most appropriate place to understand and study the earth's present, past and future. It is a giant supercontinent. It has no human population except ice-caves. Its receding glaciers and falling ice shelves filled him with relief.
- (ii) In The Tiger King by Kalki, the Dewan had brought a tiger from the People's Park in Madras and kept it hidden in his house. When the Maharaja threatened him with dire consequences, he understood that the only way to save himself was to 'plant' a tiger for the kill. So, he and his aged wife dragged the tiger to the forest where the king was hunting.
- (iii) Tishani Doshi's entire experience of visiting Antarctica was nothing short of a revelation. It made her wonder about the "beauty of balance in play on our planet". She hopes the new generation will understand their planet better and save it from annihilation. The planet's ecosystem and its balance that took millions of years to form can be soon destroyed. Scientists warn that a further depletion in the ozone layer will affect the activities of the phytoplankton.

12. **Author:** That day I had asked Saheb jokingly that if I opened a school, would he attend it? I was unaware of the fact that I was unknowingly making a hollow promise to the boy. Has something like this happened to you, Edla?

Edla: Yes, I remember a similar incident. Once a peddler came to our forge and I went to invite him for Christmas Eve. As I saw him, I could sense fear in his eyes forthwith. Yet, I promised him that he could leave freely after spending Christmas Eve with us. But I knew that the reason for his fear could either be a robbery or jailbreak, and I realized that I had made a promise that I might not be able to keep.

Author: What did you do then?

Edla: I fulfilled my promise. I could see that the peddler was a good man who had made some wrong choices in life. I wanted to give him a chance to start afresh. And I'm glad I did. He left us the next day, but he left behind a letter thanking us for our kindness. It was a small gesture, but it meant a lot to me.

Author: That's inspiring, Edla. I wish I could have done the same for Saheb. But the reality is that building a school takes time and resources, and I didn't have either. It's easy to make promises, but it's hard to keep them.

Edla: I understand. But sometimes, it's the small gestures that matter. You could have helped Saheb in other ways, like teaching him some basic skills or introducing him to someone who could help him. The important thing is, to be honest, and sincere in your intentions.

Author: You're right, Edla. I should have been more honest with Saheb and not made promises that I couldn't keep. I will try to do better in the future.

Edla: That's all we can do, my dear. Learn from our mistakes and try to do better. Life is a journey, and we're all learning as we go along.

Author: Thank you for your wise words, Edla. I will keep them in mind.

Edla: You're welcome, my dear. I'm always here if you need someone to talk to.

Author: Thank you, Edla. You're a true friend.

Edla: And so are you, my dear. Take care.

OR

Beauty, in its various forms, has long captivated the minds and hearts of poets and thinkers throughout history. John Keats and Pablo Neruda, two renowned poets, explore the concept of beauty in their works, drawing attention to the enduring nature of its allure and the tranquility it brings.

In Keats' poem, he presents the idea that beauty will never "pass into nothingness." It will always remain, providing a serene



refuge for us. This notion of eternal beauty resonates with the idea of a "bower quiet," a peaceful sanctuary where one can find solace and rest. Keats further describes this state as a sleep full of sweet dreams, health, and quiet breathing. It evokes a sense of tranquility and inner peace that beauty can bring.

Similarly, Neruda's poem emphasizes the beauty of quietness. He invites the reader to keep quiet while he counts up to twelve, suggesting that in moments of silence, one can attain inner clarity and a deeper understanding of oneself and the world. The act of keeping quiet allows for introspection and reflection, enabling one to find peace and stillness amidst the chaos of life.

The common connection that runs through these phrases is the idea of finding serenity and tranquility through beauty and quietness. Both Keats and Neruda highlight the importance of embracing moments of stillness and appreciating the enduring allure of beauty. They remind us of the value of finding solace in the simple pleasures of life and the significance of inner peace. In a world filled with noise and distractions, it is essential to pause, reflect, and appreciate the beauty that surrounds us. Whether it is the timeless beauty that Keats describes or the quietness that Neruda advocates, these moments of respite allow us to rejuvenate our souls and find balance in our lives.

In conclusion, the writings of Keats and Neruda offer profound insights into the enduring nature of beauty and the tranquility it brings. They remind us to cherish moments of stillness, appreciate the beauty that surrounds us, and seek inner clarity. By embracing these concepts, we can find solace, peace, and a deeper connection with ourselves and the world around us.

13. The moment I noticed that I was not alone as the old man could see me, I wanted to leave. But an interesting rather "peculiar" conversation kept me glued. I looked for secluded places as my self-confidence did not allow me to face the world. But I was surprised to see that Mr. Lamb did not find anything strange in me. He did not show any dislike or horror, which generally people expressed at first glance.

I noticed that like me, the old man also had a disfigured body part that attracted mockery. Yet, he did not give in and was living his life happily. Mr. Lamb spoke words of encouragement, hope, and zest for life, which no one had ever spoken to me. He made me aware of his physical strength and explained the importance of emotional well-being. This realization drew me closer to the old man.

OR

I went to America because of my father because his prime concern was my education, so I was sent to America at the age of 22. I was there to study surgery and medicine. I was there for eight years and returned to Japan when I was thirty. I became famous not only as a surgeon but also as a scientist before my father died. But my experience in America was not so good. I found that the Americans were full of prejudice, and it had been bitter to live in it, knowing himself to be superior to them. An ignorant and dirty old woman, at last, consented to house me in her miserable home. She was repulsive to me even in her kindness. The only kind people I found there were one of my American professors and his wife who were anxious to do something for their few foreign students. I am grateful to him for two reasons, first because he taught me well, and second because I met Hana, my wife, at their place.

