

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 1

English Language and Literature (184)

Class IX (2025-26)

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

1. This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. The question paper contains THREE sections -
 - Section - A : Reading Skills
 - Section - B : Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
 - Section - C : Literature Text Book
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section A Reading

1. **Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:**

[10]

"The great model of affection of love in human beings is the sentiment which subsists between parents and children." As time goes by, things change. What was popular, and normal, in the 70's has changed. The older generation always wonders what has gone wrong with the younger generation and the younger generation also wonders why parents can't understand their needs. They don't know how to deal with the differences between each other and that has led to a gap between parents and children. The interests, food, habits, slang, entertainment, and way of thinking of the younger generation differ from those of the older generation. These changes are indicative of progress. The difference in the ways of thinking and perception of the people of two different generations, which results in behavioural differences and sometimes, conflict among them is usually called the generation gap. The generation gap between parents and their children is generally seen in the family. It is not only because of the age gap but also because of the way parents react to a particular situation. Children being very young and immature do not understand the way of thinking of their parents. In many cases, the parents, even if they are mature, do not empathize with the changing values and thinking patterns of the modern world. This creates a communication gap between these two generations.

Parents themselves mostly cause a generation gap between parents and children. They do not talk openly to their children and take part in solving their problems. This behaviour gives the impression of parents being authoritative persons because they only dictate without understanding the problems faced by their children. As a result, the children become mentally isolated from their parents. Some parents become so busy with their work that they don't spend quality time with their family, which makes them completely unaware of how their children are growing, what kind of mentality is being developed in them, and so on. This ultimately creates a gap between them. They only realize it when it is too late.

Changes in technology have led to the generation gap in this modern world. Children tend to spend most of their time with their digital devices and are so busy with social media, that they do not discuss their problems



with their parents. The internet provides solutions to most of the worldly problems. So children, instead of contacting their own parents, use the help of the internet in case of any problem, thus again reducing communication, leading to a generation gap between them.

The generation gap has greatly increased these days because the time is changing fast and people find it difficult to cope with this change. To overcome this problem, parents should show interest in all matters of their children and deal with them positively instead of just scolding them and leaving them alone to deal with their problems. Giving time to the children, having open communication, and allowing the child to feel free and not under any kind of pressure, will eventually reduce the generation gap to a tolerable extent.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

- i. In paragraph 1, what does the phrase '*The interests, food, habits, slang, entertainment, and way of thinking of the younger generation differ from those of the older generation*' emphasise? **(1)**
- ii. Complete the following with the correct option from the two given. **(1)**
The generation gap is primarily caused because _____.
(a) the younger generation is immature and doesn't understand the older generation's thinking.
(b) the differences in values and perceptions of the two generations create conflicts. (paragraph 1)
- iii. Support the writer's idea that the generation gap is worsened by the lack of communication between parents and children. (paragraph 2) **(2)**
- iv. Select the option that best reflects the concept of '*technology's role in increasing the generation gap*'. (paragraph 3) **(1)**
- v. State whether the following statement is True or False. (paragraph 2)
"*Parents often unintentionally create a generation gap by neglecting to spend quality time with their children.*" **(1)**
- vi. The writer mentions '*coping with fast-changing times*' in paragraph 4.
Which of the following strategies can help bridge the generation gap? **(1)**
(a) Scolding children to ensure they conform to traditional values.
(b) Encouraging children to abandon modern technology completely.
(c) Engaging in open and positive communication with children.
(d) Avoiding involvement in the personal matters of children.
- vii. List any two causes of the generation gap as mentioned in the passage. (paragraphs 2 & 3) **(2)**
- viii. Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given. (paragraph 4)
In the phrase '*dealing with them positively*', the word '*positively*' refers to _____. **(1)**
(a) Approaching children's problems with understanding and empathy.
(b) Enforcing strict rules to guide children's behaviour.
(c) Ignoring modern influences on children.
(d) Giving children the freedom to make their own decisions without parental involvement.

2. Read the passage given below:

[10]

1. Starting Monday, the country's low-cost Mars mission with the red planet for an extended period will enter the "blackout" phase snapping communication with the satellite. From June 8 to 22 the Sun will block Mars from the Earth snapping communication with the satellite.
2. A senior Indian Space Research Organisation official said. "This will be for the first time that there will be a communication break for such a long period of about 15 days. During this period, there will be no communication with the satellite", he added.



3. Expressing confidence about regaining control over the satellite once the blackout phase is over, he said, "the scenario has been tested and the line of communication will be established." The spacecraft's life has been extended for another six months in March due to surplus fuel.
4. Stating that the spacecraft has been "configured" for the blackout, the ISRO official said, "we are not sending any commands to the spacecraft now, till 8th June few hours of signals will be sent by the spacecraft that will be for about two to three hours per day". In May next year, the mission will have to go through a similar phase once again, if there is another extension of mission life when the Earth will come between the Sun and Mars.
5. Scripting space history, India on September 24 last successfully placed its low-cost Mars spacecraft in orbit around the red planet in its very first attempt, breaking into an elite club of three countries.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below: (10)

i. What is the "blackout" phase in the context of the Mars mission, and how long will it last? **(2)**

ii. Choose the appropriate option to fill in the blank. **(1)**

From paragraph 1 & 2, we can infer that there will be _____.

1. no communication with the people.
2. blackout phase.
3. satellite will get no communication.
4. moon will block the earth.
5. the communication break will be for 15 days.

a. 1, 2 & 3

b. 1, 3 & 4

c. 2, 3 & 5

d. 3, 4 & 5

iii. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phase from paragraph 2: **(1)**

aroma: cooking:: _____: space research

(Clue - just like aroma is integral to cooking, similarly _____ is/are integral to Space Research.)

iv. According to ISRO official till 8th July, when Sun will block Mars, _____ signal/signals per day will be sent to the spacecraft. **(1)**

- a. no
- b. considerable
- c. indefinite
- d. only for few

v. Select the correct option to complete the following sentence: **(1)**

The ISRO officials are _____ about their control over the spacecraft after the blackout phase.

- a. doubtful
- b. apprehensive
- c. confident
- d. jittery

vi. How has the spacecraft's mission been managed to handle the blackout phase and what is planned for communication during this period? **(2)**

vii. Read the following sentences: **(1)**



- A. The blackout was a sudden development.
 B. Because of this, the officials are very nervous about the success of the spacecraft.
- a. Both (A) & (B) are true.
 b. Both (A) & (B) are false.
 c. (A) is true and (B) is false.
 d. (A) is false and (B) is true.

viii. Substitute the word 'nonpareil' with one word similar in meaning in the following sentence from paragraph

5. (1)

India managed to get into the nonpareil club of Mars spacecraft in orbit.

Section B Grammar

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

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

Dear Madam

This is with reference to posters _____ (bear) the message of 'crash diet' being posted around our school premises.

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

<p style="text-align: center;">VACCINATE YOURSELF TO COMBAT CORONA No prior appointment required, Walk-in & get your jab Facility are available for 18 years and above Health Department, Chandigarh Administration</p>	
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Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

(c) Read the conversation between a policeman and a driver. [1]

Complete the sentence by reporting the reply correctly.

Policeman: Do you need any help to reach your destination?

Driver: Yes, I am not sure which direction to take.

The policeman asked the driver whether he needed any help to reach his destination to which the driver replied _____.

(d) Before preparing a dish, the cook asked the children something. Report the cook's question. [1]

Who doesn't like cheese?

(e) He is an expert on languages, but he knows _____ about mathematics. [1]

a) few

b) Some

c) little

d) a lot of

(f) Identify the error and supply correction for the given sentence taken from a case study: [1]

"We specializes in arranging bespoke tours to exotic locations around the world."

Error	Correction

(g) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the words of Pablo Picasso. [1]

Inspiration does exist, but it _____ find you working.

a) can

b) must

- c) will d) may
- (h) Whoever ____ the cooking _____ a great deal of work to do. [1]
- a) has done / has b) do / has
- c) is doing / had d) does / had had
- (i) If I were rich, I _____ buy an airplane. [1]
- a) should b) must
- c) would d) could
- (j) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets: [1]
- Last week it _____ (rain) heavily and my house was flooded with water.
- (k) Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option. [1]
- The opportunity to volunteer at the local food bank made me _____ the challenges faced by underprivileged communities.
- a) realize b) realizing
- c) realized d) to realize
- (l) Complete the given narrative by filling in the blank with the correct option. [1]
- Summer is an ideal time to take a hike, especially if you _____ the opportunity to explore one of our country's many state and national parks.
- a) has b) have
- c) will have d) are having

Section B Writing

4. You recently visited the city of Jaipur, famous for its Hawa Mahal, the palace and forts. Shopping in Jaipur is also exciting as there are many things to buy. Write a description. [5]

OR

'Career Fair' was organised this year as well in your school. As many as 30 Institutes had put up their stalls. Some of the participants included NIFT, NID, IIPM, and Computer Academy, etc. The school had invited career counsellors as well. Write a description.

5. Write a Diary Entry about your experience of a concert which you attended. [5]

OR

I hit a six and the ball flew over the wall. It was an old derelict building. As I went to get the ball, I saw... Complete the story.

Section C Literature

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

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

"Look here, it seems to me I met you the day before yesterday in Sadovya Street," he said; "but you told me then that you were a student who had been expelled, and not a village school teacher. Do you remember?" "N-no, that can't be so," mumbled the beggar, taken aback. "I am a village school teacher, and if you like I can show you my papers." "Have done with lying! You called yourself a student and even told me what you had been expelled for. Don't you remember?" Sergei flushed and turned from the ragged creature with an expression of disgust. "This is dishonesty, my dear sir!" he cried angrily. "This is swindling — I shall send the police for you, damn you!" "Sir!" he said, laying



his hand on his heart, “the fact is I was lying! I am neither a student nor a school teacher. All that was fiction. Formerly I sang in a Russian choir and was sent away for drunkenness. But what else can I do? I can’t get along without lying. No one will give me anything when I tell the truth, what can I do?”

- i. State one inference about beggar from the given context **(1)**
- ii. What is Sergei's reaction to the beggar's confession, and what does it reveal about Sergei's character? Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract. **(2)**
- iii. State TRUE or FALSE. **(1)**

None of the options (a)-(d) below, can be applied to the question - What was the beggar's actual occupation?

- a. Student
 - b. Teacher
 - c. Advocate
 - d. Singer
- iv. Which phrase or word would correctly substitute "expelled" in the given sentence from the extract? **(1)**

“but you told me then that you were a student who had been expelled, and not a village school teacher.

(b) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

[5]

I took a close look at my face in the mirror, I made an important decision, I would shave daily and grow a thin mustache to look more handsome. I was after all a bachelor and a doctor! I looked into the mirror and smiled. It was an attractive smile. I made another earth-shaking decision. I would always keep that attractive smile on my face ... to look more handsome. I was after all a bachelor, and a doctor too on top of it! I was unmarried and I was a doctor. I felt I had to make my presence felt. I picked up the comb and ran it through my hair and adjusted the parting so that it looked straight and neat.

- a. Which of the following statements is NOT true about the protagonist in the given extract? **(1)**
 - i. The protagonist decided to shave daily.
 - ii. The protagonist wanted to grow a thin mustache.
 - iii. The protagonist was already married.
 - iv. The protagonist aimed to maintain an attractive smile
- b. What was the doctor's motivation for growing a thin mustache and maintaining an attractive smile? **(2)**
- c. How did the doctor decide to enhance his appearance? **(1)**
- d. Which word or phrase would correctly substitute 'earth-shaking' , in the given sentence from the extract? **(1)**

I was after all a bachelor and a doctor! I looked into the mirror and smiled. It was an attractive smile. **I made another earth-shaking decision.**

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

[5]

(a) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

[5]

Then took the other, just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,



Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
 Though as for that the passing there
 Had worn them really about the same.

- a. The road taken by the poet was _____ to the other road. (1)
- b. Explain the phrase, 'just as fair' in context to the given lines. Explain in 40 words. (2)
- c. The rhyming scheme of the given stanza is: (1)
 - i. abaab
 - ii. abbbba
 - iii. aaabb
 - iv. abab
- d. Which road did the poet opt for? (1)

(b) **Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.**

[5]

A slumber did my spirit seal-
 I had no human fears.
 She seemed a thing that could not feel
 The touch of earthly years.

- a. 'slumber' refers to _____. (1)
- b. What does she not possess now? Explain in 40 words. (2)
- c. What could she not feel? (1)
- d. Who composed the given lines? (1)
 - i. William Shakespeare
 - ii. Robert Frost
 - iii. William Wordsworth
 - iv. W.W.E Ross

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

[12]

- (a) Why did Einstein leave the school in Munich? [3]
- (b) What shows that the poet loved his mother? Write your answer in the context of the poem, 'Rain on the Roof'. [3]
- (c) What made Sivasubramania Iyer's wife change his mind? [3]
- (d) How does the author describe the fight that breaks out between the two monkeys around the temple of Pashupatinath? [3]
- (e) What kind of days and nights are there in the Northland? [3]

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

[6]

- (a) Describe the strange belief of Johnsy. Did it come out to be true? Write your answer in the context of **The Last Leaf**. [3]
- (b) Who brought out Zan's mother from the burning house? Why was an oxygen mask put on her? [3]
- (c) Describe Iswaran's 'amazing capacity to produce vegetables etc. [3]

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

[6]

- (a) There is always a teacher to bring out the latent potential of a pupil. Justify with reference to the role played by Ron Forbes and Ustad Faiyaz Khan in the lives of Evelyn Glennie and Bismillah Khan respectively. (100-120 words). [6]
- (b) Why was the holy man, who gave Santosh's mother his blessings, surprised? Write your answer in the [6]



context of Reach for the Top.

11. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.** [6]
- (a) Describe in brief the strange case brought to the king and the king's judgement in the kingdom of fools. [6]
- (b) The spring season is a festive season that brings people together: **The Lost Child**. Write about the qualities of the stranger who tried to soothe and help the lost child. [6]



Solution

Section A Reading

1. I. The phrase 'The interests, food, habits, slang, entertainment, and way of thinking of the younger generation differ from those of the older generation' emphasises the significant cultural and behavioural differences between the two generations, indicating that change is a natural part of progress.
II. **(b)** The differences in values and perceptions of the two generations create conflicts.
III. The writer supports this idea by explaining:
 1. Parents often fail to communicate openly with their children, which makes the children feel mentally isolated.
 2. When parents are too busy or authoritarian, it reduces the opportunity for meaningful conversations, deepening the generation gap.IV. The concept of 'technology's role in increasing the generation gap' is reflected by the idea that children spend most of their time on digital devices and social media, which prevents them from discussing their issues with parents and relying more on the internet for solutions.
V. **True.** The passage explains that when parents don't spend enough quality time with their children, they become unaware of how their children are growing or developing, which creates a generation gap.
VI. **(c)** Engaging in open and positive communication with children.
VII. Two causes of the generation gap mentioned in the passage:
 1. The age and cultural differences between parents and children, which lead to differing values and perceptions.
 2. The impact of technology, as children spend more time with digital devices and social media, reducing face-to-face communication with parents.VIII. **(a)** Approaching children's problems with understanding and empathy.
2. i. The "blackout" phase refers to the period when the Sun will block Mars from the Earth, causing a communication break with the satellite. This phase will last from June 8 to 22, approximately 15 days.
ii. 2, 3 & 5
iii. aroma : cooking :: satellite : space research
iv. According to ISRO official till 8th July, when Sun will block Mars, only for few signals per day will be sent to the spacecraft.
v. The ISRO officials are confident about their control over the spacecraft after the blackout phase.
vi. The spacecraft has been configured to handle the blackout phase, and no commands will be sent to it during this time.
However, the spacecraft will send signals for about two to three hours per day until June 8. After this, communication will be completely halted until the end of the blackout phase.
vii. (A) is true and (B) is false.
viii. elite

Section B Grammar

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

(i) bearing

(ii)	error	correction
	are	is

(iii) The driver replied (in affirmative) that he was not sure which direction to take.

(iv) The cook asked the children who didn't like cheese.

(v) **(c)** little

Explanation:

little

(vi)	Error	Correction
	specializes	specialize

(vii) **(b)** must

Explanation:



must

- (viii) **(a)** has done / has

Explanation:

has done / has

- (ix) **(c)** would

Explanation:

If I were rich, I **would** buy an aeroplane.

- (x) Last week it rained heavily and my house was flooded with water.

- (xi) **(a)** realize

Explanation:

realize

- (xii) **(b)** have

Explanation:

have

Section B Writing

4. Jaipur, also referred to as the Pink City. The Hawa Mahal here is made of Pink stone. It is the capital of Rajasthan. It is a colourful city with monuments, good food and lots of shopping. By road from Delhi it is about 4 hours drive. By air just about 45 minutes from Delhi. It is a hot place and the best time to visit is December to February. The rest of the months it will be hot. The palaces constructed by erstwhile kings are marvels of architecture. If one has to see all the monuments it will take no less than 3 days. Apart from forts, shopping in Jaipur is exciting. Things are reasonably priced, marble carvings and objects made out of stone are famous in Jaipur. The typical Rajasthani cuisine is elaborate and is served with lot of butter and ghee. Some of the dishes are dal, bati churma, kachori, etc. The art of tie and dye is very famous in Rajasthan. Fabric, dress material and sarees on which this technique is used are liked by women.

OR

Career Fair is an annual feature in our school. This event provides a platform for students upward of class-9 to meet career experts from various fields to know about the options available to them. Experts from medical, engineering, fashion, design, architecture and many other fields were invited. Also .career guidance was provided by counsellors such as Mr. Chawla, Ms. Prema. Bookstalls and eatables were other attractions. The event was open to parents as well. Parents got to interact with experts and collect information regarding various options. The fair was open to students of classes 9-12.

5. Tuesday

5 March 20XX

10:30 p.m.

Dear Diary,

Today was an unforgettable day as I attended a concert by my favourite singer, Kailash Kher. The atmosphere was electrifying as I joined thousands of fans in the crowd, all eager to witness the magic of live music at Mahalakshmi Race Course Ground.

As the concert began, I was swept away by his mesmerizing performances and powerful vocals. Their energy was infectious, and I found myself singing along to every song, lost in the moment.

The stage lights danced in sync with the music, creating a visual spectacle that added to the excitement. Each song resonated with me on a personal level, evoking a range of emotions that left me feeling uplifted and inspired.

Sharing this experience with fellow fans made it even more special, as we cheered and danced together, united by our love for the artist. As the final notes faded away, I couldn't help but feel grateful for the opportunity to witness such an incredible performance.

Attending Kher's concert was a dream come true, and it's a memory I will treasure forever. I also managed to get his autograph!

All this was only possible because of my dad. He had bought the tickets for this concert on my birthday and that was my birthday gift. I am so grateful to him.

Until Next Time!

Sujit

OR

A Shocking Encounter

I hit a six and the ball flew over the wall. It was an old derelict building. As I went to get the ball, I saw a room with a little rusted stove. When I was about to enter the room, I started to hear the footsteps in the hallway. Suddenly, a man appeared there. He did



not seem to notice me. He moved towards the room seeing the stove. He lit up the fire and started to dry himself up. He seemed to have seen me by my shadow. To build a conversation, I asked him about a ball. He did not reply. I asked him about how he got wet in the summer season. Again, he remained silent. "What's the matter, can't you reply?" I questioned him. With his bloodshot red eyes, he turned to face me before diving into the flames. He appeared to be completely unaffected by the fire. Screaming, I bolted out of there and into the night. It was an awful evening. I'm still not quite able to get over the shocking encounter. I promise to play in an open playground that isn't close to any structures.

Section C Literature

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

- (i)
 - i. One possible inference about the beggar from the given context is that he resorts to lying and dishonesty as a means of survival because he believes that people are more likely to help him when he makes a more sympathetic story, even though it may not be true.
 - ii. Sergei reacts angrily to the beggar's confession, expressing disgust and even threatening to send for the police. This reaction suggests that Sergei values honesty and despises dishonesty, indicating a sense of moral integrity in his character.
 - iii. False [Option d is correct. The beggar's actual previous profession was Singer before lying about being a student or a school teacher.]
 - iv. Dismissed/Ejected/Ousted/Banished [or any other possible meaning.]
- (ii)
 - a. The protagonist was already married
 - b. The doctor held a strong sense of self-importance when it came to both his appearance and his profession. He was acutely aware of his physical appearance and desired to enhance his attractiveness even further. He frequently gazed at his reflection in the mirror to appreciate his good looks. His goal was to be appealing to women, as he was a suitable bachelor.
 - c. The doctor's significant choice was to maintain a daily shaving routine and cultivate a slender mustache in order to enhance his appearance. The doctor's groundbreaking decision involved perpetually wearing that captivating smile on his face.
 - d. momentous/significant/groundbreaking/life-altering/major

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

- (i)
 - a. similar
 - b. By 'just as fair' the poet highlighted the fact that the road that he chose to tread on appeared to be just as inviting and as beautiful as the other road that was chosen by the majority.
 - c. (i) abaab
 - d. The poet chose the road that was grassy and less travelled upon.
- (ii)
 - a. deep sleep/death
 - b. She did not possess the motion, force and ability to hear and see as she was motionless and lifeless. She could not see or hear anything anymore for she was buried in the earth.
 - c. She could not feel the touch of earthly years.
 - d. iii. William Wordsworth

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

- (i)
 - He felt stifled there.
 - He hated the regimentation.
 - He wanted more freedom.
- (ii) The pattering sound of the rain mesmerized the poet with its soothing power and sent the poet in the flashback mode. The poet remembered his mother's face. She appeared as she were years ago. The poet could still witness the same fondness in her look. This shows that the poet loved his mother.
- (iii) His wife was horrified at the idea of a Muslim boy being invited to dine in her ritually pure kitchen. She refused to serve Kalam in her kitchen. Sivasubramania Iyer was not perturbed, nor did he get angry with his wife, but instead, served Kalam with his own hands and sat down beside him to eat his meal. His wife watched them from behind the kitchen door. Hence, she did not observe any difference in the way he ate his meal.
- (iv) When the author visits the Pashupatinath temple in Kathmandu, he observes two monkeys over there. He describes the fight that breaks out between those two monkeys in which one chases the other. The monkey being chased jumps onto a Shivalinga, then runs screaming around the temples and finally goes down to the holy river, Bagmati.
- (v) In the extremely cold climate of Northland, the days are very short and the nights are very long. Closeness to the North Pole makes the nights exceedingly cold and uncomfortable. The people in the Northland are not able to sleep throughout



the night because the nights are intensely cold and much longer than the days.

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

- (i) The strange belief of Johnsy was that she would die once the last leaf on the creeper would fall. Johnsy kept on counting the remaining leaves on the Ivy creeper outside her window. No, her strange belief did not come true as the last painted leaf did not fall from the ivy creeper.
- (ii) Zan's mother had rushed into the burning house to save some important documents and her husband's letters and pictures. A fireman brought Zan's mother out of the burning house. She had inhaled a little smoke and so he rushed her to the truck and put an oxygen mask on her to help her breathe better.
- (iii) Mahendra had a cook. His name was Iswaran. He was quite attached to Mahendra and went wherever Mahendra was transferred. Iswaran was a good cook. He had an amazing capacity to produce vegetables from nowhere and cook them. Even at a place where there were no shops visible for miles, he was able to cook vegetables. He would conjure up delicious dishes made with fresh vegetables.

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

- (i) Teachers craft us to become better individuals, both personally and professionally. Ron Forbes understood Evelyn's passion for music. He taught Evelyn the nuances of hearing music not through her ears but through her body. He taught her to feel the vibrations with her hands and parts of legs to get the pitch. So, he crafted her to be more musical and confident. Similarly, Bismillah Khan's teacher and mentor was his maternal uncle Ali Baksh. Bismillah used to be transfixed when Ali Baksh played Shehnai. Bismillah picked up the finer nuances of Shehnai and practised for hours on the banks of river Ganga. He attained perfection only because of his uncle and mentor. Ustad Faiyaz Khan patted and inspired the fourteen years old, Bismillah after his recital at the Allahabad Music Conference. His words had a magical effect on the young musician's mind and he worked harder to attain perfection.
- (ii) The holy man expected that like all other families in the villages, the family would be wishing for the birth of a son. Despite being a member of a conservative family, the grandmother wished to be blessed with a granddaughter because there were already five boys in the family. Hence, the family now wished for a daughter.

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

- (i) In the kingdom of fools, a thief broke into a rich merchant's house one day. He made a hole on a wall and sneaked in. While he was carrying out his loot, the wall of the old house collapsed on his head causing his death. His brother ran to the king and complained about the same. He blamed the owner of the house for his brother's death as he did not build a strong wall. The owner shifted the blame over to the bricklayer. The bricklayer held a dancing girl responsible for distracting him. The dancing girl safeguarded herself by blaming a goldsmith who made many excuses while making jewellery for her. The goldsmith blamed his client - the impatient rich merchant, who in turn blamed his dead father who had constructed the house. The king and his minister decided that since the rich man's father had died, he should be executed in his father's place. For this purpose, a new stake was ordered. But the rich merchant was too thin to fit the stake. So the disciple was arrested for execution as he could fit the stake properly.
- (ii) The stranger who tried to soothe and help the lost child was very compassionate towards the child's emotions. He not only rescued the child from being trampled but, also lifted him in his arms. He tried every possible way to soothe the desperate child. He was a generous human being. He took the child to the nearest roundabout swing; offered him a horse ride; tried to make him listen to the snake charmer's song; offered him balloons and sweets. Just out of empathy, he tried every possible method to console him. He hadn't done all that for any compensation or reward from the child's father but he really had respect for the feelings of the 'lost' child. The stranger went out of the way to divert the poor child's attention and also to unite him with his parents.

