

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 2

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 following passage carefully:

[10]

1. The words probiotics, prebiotics, and postbiotics may sound like variations of the same thing, but what a difference a prefix makes. The first is a category of health-promoting microbes. The latter two groups are types of beneficial molecules. But all three biotics are critical for supporting the community of microscopic organisms that live in the gastrointestinal tract, known as the gut microbiome. With both beneficial and harmful bacteria living in the human body, these diet-related factors - the biotics - help tip the balance in the positive direction. It is important to understand their differences, as you'll see, because each of these factors serves a distinct purpose, even as they work together.
2. Despite their importance for the gut microbiome, the health benefits of these 'biotics', which are present in certain foods or result from their metabolism, extend beyond the digestive tract. A growing body of scientific evidence has linked prebiotics, probiotics, and postbiotics, with improvements in metabolic diseases - including obesity and cholesterol abnormalities - depressive symptoms and poor sleep quality, among many other conditions.
3. Besides promoting general gut health, consuming food rich in probiotics can improve irritable bowel syndrome and antibiotic-related diarrhea, prevent traveller's diarrhea, produce vitamins and increase nutrient absorption, and decrease the risk of common infections. In fact, when consumed regularly, probiotics have been found to reduce the occurrence of upper respiratory tract infections (like the common cold).
4. Many different types of beneficial bacteria are considered probiotics. The most common ones include Lactobacillus and Bifidobacterium, of which there are dozens of strains. "You have to match what it is you're concerned about with the probiotic you should use," says Gregor Reid. Many different types of beneficial bacteria are considered probiotics.

5. Some foods, such as yogurt, kefir, kimchee, and fermented soybeans and kombucha naturally contain probiotics. But here's where things get complicated: not all fermented foods or yogurts contain probiotics, Reid says. As a consumer, a good starting point is to look for the phrase "contains live and active cultures" on the label; it's even better if specific strains of bacteria are listed, because then you'll know you're getting the right stuff.
6. Simply put, prebiotics are sources of food for those beneficial microbes - the probiotics. They are typically a form of carbohydrate or fiber that we don't have the enzymes to digest. As a result, they move through the digestive tract to the intestine, where beneficial bacteria (probiotics) can feast on them.
7. When you consume foods that are rich in probiotics and prebiotics, the microbes in your gut consume the undigestible prebiotic fiber and produce bioactive compounds called postbiotics. They are ultimately the endgame that we want - they affect how our gut operates and keeps the good bacteria there and the bad bacteria out.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage: (10)

- i. Which of the following statements best describes the author's attitude towards probiotics? **(1)**
 - A. Probiotics, prebiotics and postbiotics are variations of the same thing, with just a difference of a prefix.
 - B. All fermented foods or yogurts naturally contain probiotics.
 - C. All three biotics are equally important to support microscopic organisms that live in the gut microbiome.
 - D. Only probiotics are important as they can improve irritable bowel syndrome and antibiotic-related diarrhea.
- ii. According to the writer, health benefits of all the 'biotics' extend beyond the digestive tract. Rationalise your response in about 40 words. **(2)**
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. **(1)**

To get the right probiotic and to match it with your body's requirement, it is important to see the label for _____.
- iv. The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (A) - (E) below, identify two sets of antonyms. **(1)**
 - A. increase and decrease
 - B. probiotic and postbiotic
 - C. beneficial and harmful
 - D. feast and fermented
 - E. consuming and digestive
- v. Complete the sentence appropriately. **(1)**

The author wants to stress the fact that there is not just one type of beneficial bacteria considered as probiotic, in fact, some probiotics have _____.
- vi. Based on the reading of the passage, examine in about 40 words, the importance of prebiotics for the human gut and how they are related to probiotics. **(2)**
- vii. As a consumer, if you want to pick a probiotic product, what is the most important thing to keep in mind? Pick the best answer. **(1)**
 - A. Any fermented product that contains probiotics.
 - B. Checking the label for specific strains of bacteria.
 - C. All products under "probiotics" section in a grocery store are safe to pick.
 - D. Checking the label which clearly says "probiotics" is sufficient.



viii. "Despite their importance for the gut microbiome, the health benefits of these 'biotics', which are present in certain foods or result from their metabolism, extend beyond the digestive tract." (1)

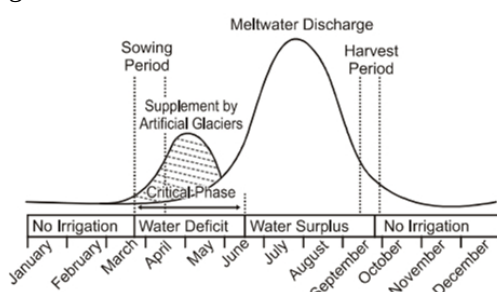
As per this statement from the passage, how relevant are the 'biotics' for humans? Pick the best answer.

- A. Their relevance has been proven by scientific evidence.
- B. Not very relevant as more study is needed.
- C. Their relevance cannot be generalised for everyone.
- D. Only probiotics are relevant for humans.

2. **Read the extract given below:**

[10]

1. Necessity is indeed the mother of invention. When areas in and around Leh began to experience water shortages, life didn't grind to a halt. Why? Because a retired civil engineer in the Jammu and Kashmir Government came up with the idea of artificial glaciers.
2. Ladakh, a cold desert at an altitude of 3,000-3,500 meters above sea level, has a low average annual rainfall rate of 50 mm . Glaciers have always been the only source of water. Agriculture is completely dependent on glacier melt, unlike the rest of river/monsoon-fed India. But over the years, with increasing effects of climate change, rainfall and snowfall patterns have been changing, resulting in severe shortage and drought situations. Given the extreme winter conditions, the window for farming is usually limited to one harvest season.
3. It is located between the natural glacier above and the village below. The one closer to the village and lowest in altitude melts first, providing water during April-May, the crucial sowing season. Further, layers of ice above melt with the increasing temperature, thus ensuring continuous supply to the fields. Therefore, farmers have been able to manage two crops instead of one. It costs about 1,50,000 and above to create a glacier.
4. Fondly called the glacier man, he has designed over 15 artificial glaciers in and around Leh since 1987. In recognition of his pioneering effort, he was conferred the Padma Shri by The President of India.
5. There are a few basic steps followed while creating an artificial glacier. River or stream water at high altitude is diverted to a shaded area of the hill, facing north, where the winter sun is blocked by a ridge or a mountain range. At the start of winter i.e., in November, the diverted water is made to flow on sloping hills facing distribution channels. Stone embankments are built at regular intervals which impede the flow of water, making shallow pools which freeze, forming a cascade of ice along the slope. Ice formation continues for 3-4 months resulting in a large accumulation of ice which is referred to as an 'artificial glacier'.



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

- i. Infer one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 1. (1)
Areas in and around Leh began to experience water shortage but life didn't grind to a halt.
- ii. Select from the passage the appropriate option to fill in the blanks: (1)
Agriculture is completely dependent on _____ unlike the rest of river/monsoon-fed India.



- a. rainfall pattern
 - b. climate change
 - c. glaciers melt
 - d. extreme winter conditions
- iii. Write any two steps followed while creating the glaciers. (2)
- iv. List two reason why artificial glaciers seem the best option. (2)
- v. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 3: (1)
- icing: cake:: layers: _____
- vi. Select the correct option to complete the following sentence: At the start of winter the diverted water is made to flow _____. (1)
- a. on sloping hills facing distribution channels.
 - b. on high altitude.
 - c. on ice-cold water level.
 - d. on mountain range.
- vii. **Assertion (A):** Artificial glaciers have helped farmers in Ladakh to manage two crops instead of one.
Reason (R): Artificial glaciers melt in a controlled manner, ensuring water availability during the crucial sowing season.
- A. Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
 - B. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
 - C. (A) is true, but (R) is false.
 - D. (A) is false, but (R) is true.
- viii. The word 'located' in paragraph 3 means _____. (1)

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]

These students ensured that the beggars were _____ (rehabilitate) at Seva Sadan.

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

<p style="text-align: right;">Delhi Haat, INA, New Delhi</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ENCHANTING LADAKH 2021</p> <p>The exhibition-cum-sale showcasing the arts, crafts and looms of Ladakh by the artisans and craftspeople of Kargil and Leh.</p>	
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Use the given format for your response.

error	correction
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- (c) **Report the dialogue between Jitu and Nitu, by completing the sentence:** [1]

Jitu: My crash-course batch is full as only a month is left for the final exams.

Nitu: A drowning man will catch a straw.

Jitu said that his crash-course batch was full as only a month was left for the final exams, to which

Nitu said that _____.

- (d) Ritu bumped into an ex-colleague (Gautam) at a party. They discussed their current job profile. [1]

Report what Gautam asked Ritu.

Do you work from home?



c) is

d) be

Section B Writing

4. Today we see a number of students with cell phones in school. Do you think that they should have cell phones at school? Write a paragraph expressing your opinion about it. [5]

OR

The land of Goddesses is not safe for its own female citizens. This excerpt is taken from a newspaper article. Write a paragraph on the safety of women in India in about 100-200 words to analyse the given argument. You could think about what alternative explanations that might weaken the given conclusion and include rationale/evidence that would strengthen/counter the given argument.

5. You recently participated in the **All India CBSE National Quiz Competition** and reached the finals. The final round was telecast over the national channel where you and your team won the quiz. Describe your feelings through a diary entry. [5]

OR

Develop a story with the following beginning. Also give a suitable title.

An old couple was living in Shobit's adjacent flat. One day, he saw some commotion in their house. He went there and found.

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]

"It is winter," answered the swallow, "and the snow will soon be here. In Egypt the sun is warm on the green palm trees, and the crocodiles lie in the mud and look lazily about them." "In the square below," said the Happy Prince, "there stands a little matchgirl. She has let her matches fall in the gutter, and they are all spoiled. Her father will beat her if she does not bring home some money, and she is crying. She has no shoes or stockings, and her little head is bare. Pluck out my other eye, and give it to her, and her father will not beat her." "I will stay with you one night longer," said the swallow, "but I cannot pluck out your eye. You would be quite blind then." "Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow," said the Prince, "do as I command you." So he plucked out the Prince's other eye, and darted down with it. He swooped past the matchgirl, and slipped the jewel into the palm of her hand. "What a lovely bit of glass!" cried the little girl; and she ran home, laughing. Then the swallow came back to the Prince. "You are blind now," he said, "so I will stay with you always."

- i. Which of the following is NOT a reason the swallow gave for staying with the Happy Prince? (1)
 - A. The approaching winter and the warmth of Egypt.
 - B. The pitiful plight of the little matchgirl in the square.
 - C. The Happy Prince's request to pluck out his eye for the matchgirl.
 - D. The Happy Prince's blindness after losing both eyes.
- ii. . Why did the Happy Prince ask the swallow to pluck out his other eye, and what was the swallow's initial response? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- iii. Read the following descriptions (a) - (c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract: (1)
 - a. The swallow refused to stay with the Happy Prince.
 - b. The swallow plucked out the Happy Prince's eye and gave it to a matchgirl.
 - c. The matchgirl had a father who was very kind to her.



iv. As the matchgirl's father, how would you react and respond if your daughter were unable to sell any matchsticks and returned home without earning any money? (1)

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

[5]

Margie did so with a sigh. She was thinking about the old schools they had when her grandfather's grandfather was a little boy. All the kids from the whole neighborhood came, laughing and shouting in the schoolyard, sitting together in the schoolroom, going home together at the end of the day. They learned the same things, so they could help one another with the homework and talk about it.

- i. What did Margie do with a sigh? What does it indicate? (1)
- ii. Why is it fair to say that Asimov encourages and rever the simplified ways of learning? Answer in about 40 words with reference to the extract. (2)
- iii. Read the following descriptions (a)-(c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract. (1)
 - a. Margie was thinking about the fractions.
 - b. Margie is brooding over the fun of old schools.
 - c. Tommy is enthused by the social interactions at school.
- iv. Highlight the contrasting features of ancient schools and Margie's school, based on the last line of the given extract. (1)

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]

And I shall have some peace there, for peace comes dropping slow,
Dropping from the veils of the morning to
Where the cricket sings;

- a. Which place is indicated by 'there' and what does the poet hope to get there? (1)
- b. The 'veils of the morning' that the poet refers to here are (1)
 - i. heat and dust
 - ii. brightness and sunshine
 - iii. fog, mist and dew drops
 - iv. rain and humidity
- c. How does the peace descend on the place described there? (2)
- d. It is clear that 'Personification' is the poetic device used for 'veils of the morning' because _____. (1)

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

[5]

And he said, you are far too selfish
To dwell in a human form,
To have both food and shelter,
And fire to keep you warm.
Now, you shall build as the birds do,
And shall get your scanty food
By boring, and boring and boring.

- a. Fill in the blank with one word. (1)
He punished the old woman and turned her into a _____ bird.



- b. What does the speaker's alignment with those who are greedy, suggest? **(1)**
- c. Which of the following best describes the speaker's attitude in the given stanza? **(1)**
- Indifferent
 - Fearful
 - Enraged
 - Respectful
- d. Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines. **(2)**

8. **Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words** **[12]**
- Describe how the flute seller sells his wares? Write your answer in the context of the Kathmandu. **[3]**
 - What message does the poet want to convey? Write your answer in the context of the poem 'No Men are Foreign'. **[3]**
 - What did the new teacher in the elementary school do? **[3]**
 - What made the doctor narrate his encounter with a snake? **[3]**
 - What will happen if the miniature boughs are left unchecked? Write your answer in the context of Poem On Killing a Tree. **[3]**
9. **Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.** **[6]**
- Why did Sue become worried when Johnsy fell ill? **[3]**
 - Describe how the beggar appeared when Sergei met him. **[3]**
 - What were the things which fascinated the child as he entered the fair? Write your answer in the context of **The Lost Child**. **[3]**
10. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words** **[6]**
- Why was Kezia scared of her father and how did she get over her fear? **[6]**
 - Why did the intruder find Gerrard's cooked up the story of his criminal background convincing? **[6]**
11. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.** **[6]**
- Give a character sketch of Grandfather. Write your answer in the context of **The Adventures of Toto**. **[6]**
 - Describe the author's love for his cat. Write your answer in the context of the A House is Not a Home. **[6]**

Solution

Section A Reading

1.
 - i. (C) All three biotics are equally important to support microscopic organisms that live in the gut microbiome.
 - ii. The writer emphasizes that prebiotics, probiotics, and postbiotics not only promote gut health but also have broader health benefits. Scientific evidence links them to improvements in metabolic diseases, depressive symptoms, sleep quality, and reduction in upper respiratory infections.
 - iii. contains live and active cultures
 - iv. (A) increase and decrease
(C) beneficial and harmful
 - v. dozens of strains
 - vi. Prebiotics are crucial for gut health as they serve as food for beneficial microbes (probiotics). These undigestible fibers ensure the growth and activity of probiotics, which in turn maintain a balanced gut microbiome and overall health.
 - vii. (B) Checking the label for specific strains of bacteria.
 - viii. (A) Their relevance has been proven by scientific evidence.
2.
 - i. because the idea of artificial glaciers was proposed by a retired civil engineer in the Jammu and Kashmir government.
 - ii. Agriculture is completely dependent on glaciers melt unlike the rest of river/monsoon-fed India.
 - iii. Any two steps taken while creating glaciers include diverting stream water to a shaded area of a north-facing hill. At the start of winter, this water is made to flow on sloping hills facing distribution channels.
 - iv. **Water Supply During Dry Seasons:** Artificial glaciers store water during the winter months, which can then be gradually released during the dry season, providing a consistent water supply to communities in arid regions.
Low-Cost and Sustainable Solution: Creating artificial glaciers is a relatively low-cost and environmentally friendly method compared to other water storage solutions, making it a sustainable option for regions with limited resources.
 - v. Icing : cake :: layers : Ice.
 - vi. At the start of winter the diverted water is made to flow on sloping hills facing distribution channels.
 - vii. A. Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
 - viii. situated

Section B Grammar

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

(i) rehabilitated

(ii) error	correction
the	an

(iii) a drowning man will catch a straw.

(iv) Gautam asked Ritu if/whether she worked from home.

(v) (a) neither

Explanation:

neither

(vi) (B) the - a

(vii) (a) mustn't

Explanation:

mustn't

(viii) (d) has been living

Explanation:

has been living

(ix) (c) must, may

Explanation:

must, may

(x) C. is led

As per the stanza, the situation occurs in present tense.

(xi) (b) comes, will be able to

Explanation:

comes, will be able to

(xii) (b) are

Explanation:

are

Section B Writing

4.

Should Students be Allowed Cell Phones at School

There is no doubt that cell phones are regarded as one of the most common means of communication. Young generation nowadays uses cell phones like an indispensable commodity that goes along with them at any pace of life, even at schools or in classrooms. Although cell phones bring everyone many benefits and conveniences, in my opinion, the use of cell phones at school is unacceptable for some following reasons. Firstly, the use of cell phones in class can make students lazy in brainstorming and making use of creativity in the case they deal with difficult problems. Secondly, it impacts detrimentally on student's process of attention. Sometimes due to small problems, students easily take action without thinking carefully, such as fighting, gathering into small gangs, bullying each other. Students often use cell phones to call the assistance of outsiders which leads to the serious effects later. Kids are always under pressure to do well in school. As a result, the occasional student may cheat on a test. Mobile phones are capable of more than just calling and texting. Students can easily gain Internet access through their phones during an exam. Additionally, they can listen to recorded information. Allowing cell phones in schools invites the risk of theft. Many cell phones, and especially smartphones, can be particularly appealing targets to criminals who can remove or extract user data and then resell the phones. Keeping students' phones out of the school eliminates the risk of theft, and prevents the need for costly replacement of the phones.

OR

India is known to be one of the most unsafe places for a woman to live in. The statistics alone is staggering. Crime against women especially sexual violence is quite high and frequent.

Concerns about safety restrict the mobility and activity of women and leave them with no choice but to strategise everything from timings to travel, how to walk, how to dress or commute. When we talk about women's safety, the biggest question is how do we keep our mothers, sisters and daughters safe against violence outside the house. Women are often stared at, molested and discriminated against. Not only outside the house, they are even discriminated against at the workplace and in their homes. It is surely the responsibility of the government and each one of us strives for a safer world for women.

Effective implementation of strict laws protecting women's rights is the need of the hour. Offenders must be socially boycotted and severely punished to deter future crimes against women. Another imperative step is teaching self-defense techniques to women and girls at schools, colleges, offices and residential colonies.

As long as the mindset of people will not change, women can never be safe. All we need to do is to be alert and considerate. We have to develop basic morality and nurture a value system that teaches respect for women. Women are not safe anywhere in the globe until the thinking towards women changes. So the actual need of the hour is a revolutionary change in the mindsets and conscience of men so that they view women with regard and respect.

5. 12 May, 20XX

10:00 pm

Friday

Dear Diary,

Today was such an exciting day! You know what? My team won the first prize in the 'All India CBSE National Quiz Competition'. Not only this, but the cherry on the cake was that the final round was telecast over the national channel. My parents were very happy, and so were my teachers and friends. The quiz was on biodiversity. The preliminary rounds were not so easy, but I had very wise team members. We were the leading team in the oral round as well. It was so much fun, with applause and praises. We had a cutthroat competition with two other schools. We came first, which was unexpected. I was very elated. We received a trophy and a certificate. It was a very proud moment for me. It was one of the unforgettable days of my life.

Pankaj

OR

CUT



An old couple was living in Shobit's adjacent flat. One day he saw some commotion in their house. He went there and found that there were some masked people who were threatening the old couple and they were trying to escape from their grip. Meanwhile, there was a sound of hooter and people saw three cars coming towards their house. Now, the robbers were trying to free themselves but they were in the control of the couple. People were surprised how the old couple could be able to handle the young robbers. By now, police had also reached the spot and arrested all the robbers. Suddenly, there was a 'Cut' sound as people were showing their respect for the cops. They were shocked to see that everyone was laughing, even the police, criminals, and an elderly couple. When Shobit realised that all of this was only TV serial filming, he was astounded. Now all the people came to know that the old man was director of TV films. Shobit took a sigh of relief and decided to approach the old man to introduce him on the silver screen.

Section C Literature

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

- (i)
 - i. (A) The approaching winter and the warmth of Egypt.
 - ii. The Happy Prince asked the swallow to pluck out his other eye to help a poor matchgirl in the square below who needed money to avoid being beaten by her father. The swallow's initial response was reluctance due to the Prince becoming completely blind.
 - iii. (b) The swallow plucked out the Happy Prince's eye and gave it to a matchgirl.
 - iv. As the match girl's father, I would feel concerned and worried for my daughter's well-being. Instead of beating her, I would first comfort her and inquire about the reasons behind her inability to sell the matchsticks.
- (ii)
 - i. Margie inserted the homework of the previous day following the instruction of her Mechanical Teacher. Her doing it with a sigh indicates that her life is very mechanical just like a machine. It is very dull and boring.
 - ii. In the extract, we see how Margie finds herself pining for the kinds of schools that used to exist, where she could learn from human instructors, and, more importantly, be with her friends. Rather than having a critical view of the traditional education system, Asimov encourages reverence and gratitude toward more simplified ways of learning and preserving the past.
 - iii. (b) Margie is brooding over the fun of old schools
 - iv. Unlike old schools, Margie had her solitary time spent in front of the automated teacher. While ancient school appeared like 'fun' where the teachers were real people and all students learned the same thing and helped each other with their homework.

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

- (i)
 - a. 'There' refers to the Isle of Innisfree- a place where the poet longs to go to.
 - b. (iii) fog, mist and dew drops
 - c. Peace dawns upon the island of Innisfree early in the morning as there is the melodious music of the crickets.
 - d. 'veil' is worn by a woman and using 'veils' the poet presented the morning as a woman wearing the veil of the hues of the light.
- (ii)
 - i. woodpecker
 - ii. The speaker's alignment with those who are greedy suggests that he viewed the person he was addressing as self-centered and believed that such people should face hardship and work for their basic necessities like birds and animals do.
 - iii. (iii). Enraged
 - iv. In these lines, the poet employs language effectively to convey a sense of criticism and punishment. He implements alliteration in the last line by repetition of the word "boring", it highlights the monotony and difficulty of the task. The poet uses imagery to describe the subject's new way of life, comparing it to how birds build nests and find food by "boring." Overall, the poet's use of language in these lines effectively conveys a sense of judgment and retribution, painting a vivid picture of the subject's transformation and the difficulty of their new existence.

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

- (i) The flute seller carries a pole. It has an attachment with many holes at its top. There are fifty to sixty flutes protruding out of the holes in the attachment. The author has compared it with the quills of a Porcupine. He says that the flute seller does not shout out his wares. From time to time, he selects a flute and plays on it. He plays slowly and thoughtfully. Sometimes, he makes a sale. But his attitude is carefree.
- (ii) The poet wants to say that there should be no discrimination between men on the basis of their appearance, religion or region. This is a peace poem and gives a strong message to stop all wars and look upon humanity as a unified entity.
- (iii) When APJ was in class five, a new teacher came to their class. Kalam used to sit with his friend Ramanadha Sastry who was a Hindu Brahmin boy. The teacher could not tolerate that a Hindu priest's son was sitting next to a Muslim boy. He



told APJ to go and sit on the last bench as he belonged to a lower rank of society. Both the children felt very bad.

- (iv) The doctor and some of his friends happened to discuss snakes. The topic reminded the doctor of his own encounter with a deadly snake and he narrated the incident to his friends. The doctor was frightened when the snake coiled around his body with its taut hood barely three or four inches away from his face.
- (v) 'Unchecked' here means left free to grow without any harm or danger. If left 'unchecked', the new, green, delicate mini branches from the stump of a tree will expand again and get back to their normal and formal size as they earlier used to be.

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

- (i) Sue became very worried as Johnsy would lie in her bed without moving, just gazing out of the window. Johnsy had pneumonia. She was getting depressed day by day and the doctor told Sue that medicines would not help her unless she had the desire to live.
- (ii) When Sergei met the beggar, he was in rags, had dull, sunken cheeks and red spots on either cheek. He had worn one high shoe and one low shoe.
- (iii) As the child entered the fair, he was fascinated by the sweetmeat seller selling burfi, the flower seller selling garlands of gulmohar, a balloon seller, snake-charmer's enchanting music and people riding on the roundabout.

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

- (i) Kezia's father was projected to have a huge built-in, like a giant in the plot. He was portrayed as a disciplinarian and his attitude towards Kezia was quite strict. He punished Kezia when she tore his important speech. It was only when Kezia's mother fell ill and both her mother and grandmother went to the hospital that Kezia realised that her father too had a generous and caring attitude. Kezia was left alone with her father at home, she had a nightmare and screamed with fright. Her father then carried her in his arms to comfort and provide solace to her. That bond with her father during those days made her forget all her fears and gradually she began to like and appreciate her father.
- (ii) Far from being gullible, the intruder suspected every move of Gerrard. He snubbed him when Gerrard tried to begin a conversation regarding the intruder's identity and curtly told him to answer only what was asked. However, he unsuspectingly walked into Gerrard's trap because the latter did not lose his cool and employed his presence of mind to cook up the story that he too was wanted by the police. Gerrard instantly cooked up a story about his criminal background. Convincing the intruder that the police would arrive any minute to nab them, he impressed upon the intruder that they would have to escape immediately. He believed that Gerrard was actually trying to evade the police. Hence, the unsuspecting intruder walked into Gerrard's trap. Although he claimed himself to be the smartest person around, In fact, he was not very intelligent.

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

- (i) The narrator's grandfather was extremely fond of animals. He was so fond of animals that he had a private zoo. He did not mind spending money to purchase animals and birds even though this practice involved the risk of annoying his wife. He had an appreciative eye toward animals, that is the reason he believed that a tail added to anyone's good looks. He was a smart man, as he devised various ways of hiding Toto. He was annoyed with foolish behaviour, like that of the ticket collector who called Toto a dog and charged a fare for it. He was both witty and sarcastic because he asked the ticket collector to charge him even for a tortoise that he had carried in his pocket. He had a good sense of humor.
- (ii) The author loved his cat very much. Author's love for a cat can be seen when his house was on fire. He didn't cry to see his house on fire but very thought that he had lost his cat made him cry. He searched for his cat and made all possible effort to find it but couldn't find it. He couldn't imagine his life without the cat. He never considered her far from him. He had rescued her when she was a kitten. She kept sitting beside him when he did his homework and other household works. His life seemed to have ruined. But he could not find her. He kept visiting the remains of his burnt house with the hope that he would find his cat there. He missed his cat all the time. When the wonderful lady brought the cat back to him, his happiness knew no limits. He grabbed her quickly and felt relieved. Author's reunion with his cat diminished all the overwhelming feelings of loss and tragedy.

