

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 3

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. Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues, as rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them. Plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations, where garbage collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent. But the developed world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, also has trouble properly collecting discarded plastics. Plastic trash has become so ubiquitous that it has prompted efforts to write a global treaty negotiated by the United Nations.
2. Plastics made from fossil fuels are just over a century old. Production and development of thousands of new plastic products accelerated after World War II. It transformed the modern age so much that life without plastics is unrecognizable today. Plastics revolutionized medicine with life-saving devices, made space travel possible, lightened cars and jets - saving fuel and pollution - and saved lives with helmets, incubators, and equipment for clean drinking water.
3. The conveniences plastics offer, however, led to a throw-away culture that reveals the material's dark side: today, single-use plastics account for 40 percent of the plastic produced every year. Many of these products, such as plastic bags and food wrappers, have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.
4. Most of the plastic trash in the oceans, Earth's last sink, flows from land. Trash is also carried to sea by major rivers, which act as conveyor belts, picking up more and more trash as they move downstream. Once at sea, much of the plastic trash remains in coastal waters. But once caught up in ocean currents, it can be transported around the world.
5. Millions of animals are killed by plastics every year, from birds to fish to other marine organisms. Nearly 700 species, including endangered ones, are known to have been affected by plastics. Nearly every species



of seabirds eats plastics. Most of the deaths of animals are caused by entanglement or starvation. Seals, whales, turtles, and other animals are strangled by abandoned fishing gear or discarded six-pack rings.

6. The solution is to prevent plastic waste from entering rivers and seas in the first place, many scientists and conservationists - including the National Geographic Society - say. This could be accomplished with improved waste management systems and recycling, better product design that takes into account the short life of disposable packaging, and reduction in manufacturing of unnecessary single-use plastics.

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

- i. Which of the following statements best describes the reason why plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues? **(1)**
 - A. Plastic trash collection systems have become inefficient or nonexistent.
 - B. Rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them.
 - C. Some plastics have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.
 - D. The developed world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, has trouble properly collecting plastics.
- ii. What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph 2? Rationalise your response in about 40 words. It transformed the modern age so much that life without plastics is unrecognizable today. **(2)**
- iii. The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (A) - (E) below, identify two sets of synonyms. **(1)**
 - A. garbage and trash
 - B. starvation and strangled
 - C. disposable and reduction
 - D. persist and downstream
 - E. transformed and revolutionized
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately: **(1)**

The writer says that most of the plastic trash is found in the Earth's last sink and the reason it is transported around the world is _____.
- v. Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, the downside of the convenience that plastic offers. **(2)**
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately: **(1)**

According to conservationists, the two ways in which most of the deaths of animals are caused are _____.
- vii. Based on the passage, how can we contribute to the reduction of plastic waste? **(1)**
 - A. by internationalising the waste management system
 - B. by minimizing the use of single-use plastics
 - C. by not abandoning fishing gear
 - D. by not using helmets made of plastic
- viii. State one reason why plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations. **(1)**

2. **Read the following text, an excerpt from a case study titled**

"Scouts and Guides Around the World."

[10]



1. Many young people aged between 6 and 25 belong to the Scout movement. It is a worldwide organization, which was set up to help young people achieve their full potential as they grow up.
2. The organization was established in 1907 by a British general called Robert Baden-Powell. While in the army, he wrote a publication about scouting (which means searching and keeping watch) and how to survive in the wild, called 'Aids to Scouting'. He realized how popular this was, and the result was another book, 'Scouting for Boys', which had less emphasis on the military. To test his ideas, he held a week-long camp for 21 boys from various schools in London, Poole and Bournemouth. This took place in August 1907, on Brownsea Island, in Southern England. These boys had the chance to enjoy outdoors, which became another of the movement's objectives.
3. The Scout Movement quickly got established in Europe. It then spread throughout the world, starting in Chile in 1909. To begin with, the focus was on boys aged 11 to 18. However, as the movement grew, it was clear that younger boys, older boys and girls all wanted to be involved. Baden-Powell's sister set up the Girl Guides in 1910, and in 1914 she started Rosebuds, later renamed Brownies, for younger girls. The movement's intention to help young people play useful roles in society applies equally to girls and boys. By 2010, there were 32 million scouts, and by 2006, there were 10 million guides around the world, from a total of 216 different countries.
4. 2007 marked 100 years of the Scout Movement, and events took place around the world to celebrate this centenary. To mark the occasion, a colourful badge was produced for scouts to sew onto their uniforms or bags. The design included the official scout emblem, as well as the phrase, 'one world one promise', and images of doves and the globe.
5. 2007 was also the 150th anniversary of Baden-Powell's birth. To honour both occasions, a flame was lit at Baden-Powell's grave in Nyeri. This is the place in Kenya where he spent the last few years of his life. The flame was then carried through several countries until it reached the UK.

Country	Membership	Population participation	Scouting introduced	Guiding introduced
India	41500000	0.3%	1909	1911
Indonesia	17100000	7.2%	1912	1912
Philippines	21500000	2.2%	1910	1918
Thailand	1300000	1.9%	1911	1957
United States	7500000	2.4%	1910	1912

Answer the following questions based on your reading of the above passage: (10)

- i. Infer one reason for the following, based on the information given in paragraph 4:
'Colourful badge was sewn on to the uniform and bags of the Scouts'. **(1)**
- ii. From paragraph 1, we can infer that Scout Movement was set up _____.
- iii. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phrase from paragraph 4.
10 years: decade:: 100 years: _____
- iv. After reading the passage, bring a contrast between the books 'Aids to Scouting' and 'Scouting for Boys'. **(1)**
- v. What does the writer mean by the following phrase?
'One world one promise.'
- vi. According to the chart, which country took maximum time to introduce 'Guiding' after 'Scouting'? Choose your answer from the options given below: **(1)**



- A. India
- B. Indonesia
- C. Thailand
- D. Philippines

vii. List two reasons why a flame was lit at Baden-Powell's grave in 2007. (2)

- a. _____
- b. _____

viii. **Assertion (A):** The Scout Movement was established to help young people achieve their full potential and play useful roles in society.

Reason (R): The movement was started in 1907 by Robert Baden-Powell after the success of his book 'Aids to Scouting' and a camp held on Brownsea Island.

- 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.

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]
I would like to _____ (propose) the idea of implementing 'Wholesome Lunch Month' for all school students.

(b) Read the given sentence from a medical journal. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence: [1]

A flu vaccine's most common side effects are soreness, redness and swelling at the injection site.

These ought begin six to twelve hours after vaccination and can last upto two days.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

(c) Report the following dialogue between a doctor and his patient, by completing the sentence. [1]

Doctor: Do you still have any pain in your lower back?

Patient: No, there is no pain in the lower back, but I feel a numbing sensation in my left leg.

The doctor asked the patient if he still had any pain in his lower back. The patient answered in the negative and explained that _____.

(d) It was a cease-fire, and the commander was checking a few things before sending a troop. Report the commander's question. [1]

Do our soldiers have enough weapons?

(e) Can you pass me _____ book please? [1]

- a) The
- b) A
- c) Some
- d) An

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

TWO CHILDREN DIES AFTER MASSIVE FIRE BREAKS OUT IN TIRUPATI

--	--	--

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

- i. Which of the following is NOT a reason why the beggar agreed to go and chop wood in the woodshed? **(1)**
 - A. He was hungry and wanted work.
 - B. He was physically fit and eager for toil.
 - C. He had been trapped by his own words.
 - D. He was motivated by pride and shame
- ii. What were the physical and emotional conditions of the beggar that became apparent as he headed to the woodshed? **(1)**
- iii. Read the following descriptions (a)-(c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract: **(1)**
 - a. The beggar willingly went to the woodshed, eager to find work.
 - b. The beggar reluctantly went to the woodshed due to pride and shame.
 - c. Sergei observed the scene from a window, detached from the situation.
- iv. Put yourself in Olga's shoes. How would you handle the situation with the reluctant beggar who has been asked to chop wood? Explain your approach. **(2)**

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

[5]

I took off my black coat, white shirt and not-so-white vest and hung them up. I opened the two windows in the room. It was an outer room with one wall facing the open yard. It had a tiled roof with long supporting gables that rested on the beam over the wall. There was no ceiling. There was regular traffic of rats to and from the beam. I made my bed and pulled it close to the wall. I lay down but I could not sleep. I got up and went out to the veranda for a little air, but the wind god seemed to have taken time off. I went back into the room and sat down on the chair. I opened the box beneath the table and took out a book, the *Materia Medica*. I opened it at the table on which stood the lamp and a large mirror; a small comb lay beside the mirror.

- a. What item from the room does the narrator NOT interact/engage with during this passage? **(1)**
 - a. The lamp
 - b. The mirror
 - c. The book (*Materia Medica*)
 - d. The veranda
- b. Why does the narrator describe the wind god as having "taken time off" when he goes out to the veranda for air? Answer in about 40 words. **(2)**



- c. If an actor were to enact this extract, what aspects of his performance should he pay attention to while modulating his voice to convey the character's feelings and surroundings effectively? (1)
- d. Which phrase would correctly substitute 'made my bed', in the given sentence from the extract. I made my bed and pulled it close to the wall. (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]

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. **Other** refers to _____ in the given lines. (1)
- b. Identify the poetic device used in the line, **Because it was grassy and wanted wear.** (1)
- Metaphor
 - Simile
 - Irony
 - Alliteration
- c. Why did the second road present a better claim than the first? Describe in 40 words. (2)
- d. What does the phrase **wanted wear** suggest about the second path? (1)

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

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

- a. _____ composed the poem. (1)
- b. What does 'the slumber' refer to in the first line? (1)
- c. What can she "not feel"? Explain in 40 words. (2)
- d. What is the rhyming meter implemented by the poet? (1)
- abdc abdc
 - abcd abcd
 - abab cdcd
 - free verse

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

- (a) Why did Einstein leave school for good? [3]
- (b) Who all does the poet remember while listening to the rain? Write your answer in the context of poem Rain on the Roof. [3]
- (c) Why is Sivasubramania Iyer referred to as **something of a rebel**? [3]
- (d) Describing the streets around the Baudhnath Stupa, why does the narrator say this is a haven of [3]



quietness in the busy streets around?

(e) What happened to the old lady when Saint Peter cursed her? [3]

9. **Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.** [6]

(a) How did Sue inform Johnsy about Behrman's death? [3]

(b) What actions of the schoolmates change the author's understanding of life and people, and comfort him emotionally? How does his loneliness vanish and how does he start participating in life? [3]

(c) How does Iswaran describe the uprooted tree on the highway? What effect does he want to create in his listeners? [3]

10. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words** [6]

(a) How is Evelyn Glennie helping others with her popularity and skill? [6]

(b) How did Maria's loneliness prove to be a boon for her? [6]

11. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.** [6]

(a) How did the Guru and his disciple become the king and the minister of the kingdom? [6]

(b) How do you know that the lost child was a nature-lover? [6]

Solution

Section A Reading

1.
 - i. (B) Rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them.
 - ii. The tone of the writer in the given lines is appreciative and positive. They highlight the transformative impact of plastics on modern life, emphasizing its indispensable role in various innovations and life-saving applications, indicating a positive view towards the advancements enabled by plastics.
 - iii. (A) garbage and trash
(E) transformed and revolutionized
 - iv. The writer says that most of the plastic trash is found in the Earth's last sink and the reason it is transported around the world is that it gets caught up in ocean currents.
 - v. The downside of the convenience that plastic offers lies in its contribution to a throw-away culture, leading to significant environmental pollution. Single-use plastics, which account for 40 percent of annual plastic production, have very short lifespans yet can persist in the environment for hundreds of years, causing widespread damage to ecosystems and wildlife.
 - vi. According to conservationists, the two ways in which most of the deaths of animals are caused entanglement or starvation.
 - vii. (B) by minimizing the use of single-use plastics.
 - viii. One reason why plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations is that garbage collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent in these regions, leading to higher visibility of discarded plastics in the environment.
2.
 - i. One reason for sewing the colourful badge onto the uniforms and bags of the Scouts could be to commemorate the 100 years of the Scout Movement and to create a sense of unity and belonging among the members.
 - ii. From paragraph 1, we can infer that the Scout Movement was set up to help young people achieve their full potential as they grow up.
 - iii. 10 years: decade :: 100 years: century
 - iv. 'Aids to Scouting' focused more on survival skills and military aspects, while 'Scouting for Boys' had less emphasis on the military and aimed to provide a broader set of skills and activities for young boys.
 - v. The phrase "One world one promise" signifies the unity and solidarity among Scouts worldwide, emphasizing their commitment to a shared set of values and ideals regardless of geographical or cultural differences.
 - vi. Thailand
 - vii.
 - a. To honor the 150th anniversary of Baden-Powell's birth.
 - b. To commemorate the 100 years of the Scout Movement.
 - viii. A. Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

Section B Grammar

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

(i) propose

(ii)	Error	Correction
	Ought begin	Ought to begin

(iii) There was no pain in the lower back but he **felt a numbing sensation in his left leg**.

(iv) The commander wanted to know if their/his soldiers had enough weapons.

(v) **(a)** The

Explanation:

The

(vi) (B) dies - die

(vii) **(c)** should have fixed

Explanation:

should have fixed

(viii) **(a)** used to be / was

Explanation:

used to be / was



- (ix) **(d)** are allowed to

Explanation:

are allowed to

- (x) entreat

- (xi) **(b)** has asked, is

Explanation:

has asked, is

- (xii) **(d)** is

Explanation:

is

Section B Writing

4. Sports Day.

The eighth annual sport meet of our school was held on 7th and 12th November this year. The playground was cleaned and a big canopy was set up on one side for visitors and on the other side for participants. The students participated with full zeal and zest in more than fifty events which included races, shot put throws, long jump, gymnastics etc. There were some mock events also like sack race, spoon & chair race etc. The function was presided over by the District Magistrate. He gave away prizes to the winners. The titles of Best Boy and Best Girl were given to Rahul Sharma of XI B and Kavya of XII A respectively. The sports day ended with a note of thanks from our principal. The next day was declared a holiday.

OR

Books - Our Best Companions

Man is a social animal. He can't live in isolation. Our human friends, relatives, and companions can prove unreliable and treacherous. However, books are our real companions, friends, and guides. They enrich humanity. They have educative as well as informative value and importance. They will never betray or deceive us. We can look towards them for guidance, learning, and entertainment. Shakespeare's dramas have a universal appeal. Homer, Balmiki and Ved Vyamortal works. **Ramayana** and **The Mahabharat** are read by millions of people. Tagore's **Gitanjali** transports us to a highly spiritual and philosophical world. Prem Chand's **Godan** unfolds rustic life and its problems. Books are our best companions. The biographies of great men like Lincoln and Gandhi can be a source of inspiration. It is never too late to enter the world of books. The books inspire us to work hard with hope and courage. They remove ignorance and add to our knowledge. Books and rich experience and sharpen our intellect.

5. New Delhi.

26th November, 20XX

Sunday, 7:00 pm

Dear Diary,

I recently attended the 32nd Edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) held at Pragati Maidan that witnessed a participation of more than 7,000 exhibitors, including participation from 28 countries. The fair included stores from various sectors such as Cosmetics, Healthcare products, Consumer Electronics, Home & Kitchen Appliances, Fitness equipment, Leather Goods, Footwear & Travel Goods. But the footwear section was very attracting. I got to see various types of footwear from which I had bought a shoe pair. I am planning to wear it in the upcoming function. Anyway, it was a very pleasant and rewarding experience. Vinod

OR

A Night of Unexpected Adventures

I had gone to my tuition class in the evening. The weather was pleasant. When I came out of the class to go home, suddenly it became dark, and thick clouds covered the once-clear sky. A gentle breeze turned into a gusty wind, making the atmosphere eerie. As I started my journey home, raindrops began to fall, transforming the ordinary evening into a mysterious adventure. I quickened my pace, seeking refuge under the trees lining the deserted street. The sound of raindrops hitting the leaves created a soothing melody that echoed in the quiet surroundings.

Suddenly, a flicker of lightning illuminated the darkened sky, followed by the distant rumble of thunder. Concerned about reaching home safely, I decided to take a shortcut through a nearby park. The rain intensified, and I found myself drenched but exhilarated.

In the park, I stumbled upon a group of friends gathered around a bonfire, sharing stories and laughter. Invited to join them, I discovered the warmth of new friendships amidst the cold rain. The unexpected turn of events made me realize that even a stormy night could bring unforeseen joys and connections.

That night, as I finally reached home with a heart full of stories, I couldn't help but smile at the magical evening that began with a simple walk home from tuition.



Section C Literature

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

- (i) i. (B) He was physically fit and eager for toil.
ii. The beggar's physical condition was unhealthy and weakened due to alcohol consumption, and he showed no inclination for labour. Emotionally, he felt trapped and reluctant due to his pride and shame.
iii. (b) The beggar reluctantly went to the woodshed due to pride and shame.
iv. I would approach the reluctant beggar with empathy, acknowledging his condition, offering support, and suggesting alternatives, prioritizing compassion over anger.
- (ii) a. (iv) The veranda
Explanation: In the provided passage, the narrator mentions various interactions with items in the room, such as removing clothing, opening windows, making the bed, sitting on a chair, and opening a box to take out a book. However, there is no mention of the narrator interacting directly with the veranda. Therefore, the correct answer is (iv).
b. The narrator described the wind God as having "taken time off" to convey a sense of disappointment or frustration because he expected to find a refreshing breeze in the veranda, but it was unusually still, leaving him unsatisfied with the lack of fresh air.
c. The actor should focus on conveying a sense of discomfort, restlessness, and the grim living conditions in his tone while modulating his voice for this extract.
d. arranged my bed/ prepared my bed/ straightened my bed.

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

- (i) a. The road that was grassy and less travelled upon.
b. (iv) Alliteration
c. The second road presented a better claim because it was (still) grassy and had not worn off due to the walking of the travellers. It held a stronger appeal because it remained covered in lush grass and had not been eroded by the passage of travellers. When it came to the wear caused by the footsteps of these travellers, both roads had experienced an equal degree of deterioration.
d. The phrase highlighted the fact that the road taken by the poet had not been travelled as much as the first path.
- (ii) a. William Wordsworth
b. In the first line of the poem, slumber refers to deep sleep.
c. She does not feel the earthly time and earthly years have become timeless for her. She could not feel the touch of the time spent on this earth now for she was dead. The poet highlighted the fact that his beloved has now become a non-living thing that cannot feel the touch of anything on the earth.
d. (iii) abab cdcd

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

- (i) Einstein was not bad at studies. He went to high school in Munich. He scored good marks in almost every subject. But he didn't like the strict disciplinary order which led him to clash with his teachers. He felt so suffocated there that he left school forever at the age of 15.
- (ii) While listening to the rain, the poet remembers his mother who used to put him to bed every night and then used to look at him lovingly while he slept. He also remembers his siblings.
- (iii) ■ He did his best to break social barriers so that people from varying backgrounds could mingle easily.
■ He was willing to allow a Muslim boy to eat at his house.
- (iv) When the narrator visits Nepal, he finds it no different from his own country, India. He says that Nepal also has streets rushing with people and noise of every kind. The temples there are no different from those found in India. The narrator observes a sense of stillness at the Buddhist shrine, the Boudhanath Stupa. Its immense white dome is ringed by a road with small shops selling items like felt bags, Tibetan prints, and silver jewellery. The quietness of the stupa stands out amidst the busy business activities that go around it. Thus, the narrator regards this place as a haven of quietness in the busy streets around.
- (v) Saint Peter became angry at her greed because she did not give a piece of cake to Saint Peter. When he cursed the lady, she turned to a bird. She flew through the chimney. Finally, she became a woodpecker. Now she had to keep boring the trees for her little food.

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

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



- (ii) The schoolmates showed genuine concern for the author despite not knowing him well. They helped him by collecting supplies, books and clothes for him. People whom he had never spoken to before started coming to him and befriending him. They also called him to their houses. The author made new friends. He was overwhelmed by their love and cooperation. He realized that his new school and the new people around him were good. He stopped focusing on his feelings of fear and insecurity and became confident that everything would be alright.
- (iii) Iswaran was greatly influenced by the Tamil authors. He was in the habit of creating suspense. He had the quality of narrating even the smallest incident in an impressive way. He presented the incident related to the uprooted tree on the highway in a dramatic way. He was alone and the road was deserted. He saw something that looked like an enormous beast lying across the road. But as soon as he came closer, he found there nothing but a fallen tree. His main purpose was to create suspense and surprise.

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

- (i) In spite of her deafness, Evelyn joined the prestigious Royal Academy of Music and won the "Soloist of the Year" award. Evelyn used to practice for hours learning languages such as Japanese and French. She earned a lot but was kind at heart. In spite of being successful in her performances, she was never rude. She was generous and courteous. She used to give free performances in prisons and hospitals and also proved to be a perfect example of tireless hard work and firm determination. Her charitable outlook made her dear to all. She is truly an inspiration for many who are differently abled apart from being an entertainer for the masses.
- (ii) Maria was born in Russia. She was sent to the US for getting trained in tennis when she was only nine years old. Her mother could not accompany her due to visa restrictions. She missed her terribly and had to bear two years of separation. Her father too was working hard to earn money and could not spare time for her. Unfortunately, she was humiliated by some of her seniors. All this couldn't demotivate her and on the contrary, she became more determined and mentally tough. She became more hungry for success and proved herself by acing the game and becoming a champion in tennis. Thus, staying away from her family proved to be a blessing in disguise for her.

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

- (i) The Guru knew that the king and his ministers were fools. To save his disciple, Guru hatched a plan. He said that the first one to be executed at the state, would become the king in the next life and the second to be executed would be the king's minister. The king and his ministers were so naive that they got themselves executed in order to be in the power forever. As the kingdom was without a king, the guru and his disciple were made the king and the minister. Thus, the guru was able to save the life of his disciple with his utmost skill and wisdom and also got the opportunity to become the king and the minister of the kingdom.
- (ii) The child was attracted to nature's little aspects because of his innocence. When his mother diverted his attention towards the mustard field, he observed and admired the flowers which were in the nascent stage and flowering. The flowers appeared to be pale like melting gold. He then saw a group of dragonflies that were bustling about on their gaudy purple wings, intercepting the flight of a lone black bee or butterfly in search of sweetness from the flowers. The child wanted to catch those dragon flies but they went away fluttering and flapping. He also got attracted to the little insects and worms along the footpath that were teeming out from their hiding places to enjoy the sunshine. A shower of young flowers fell upon the child as he entered the fair. He forgot about his parents and began to gather the raining petals in his hands. Again, when he heard the cooing of doves, he ran towards his parents shouting in excitement. His eyes sparkled on seeing the beauty of nature around him. He was undoubtedly a nature-lover.

