

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 05

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]

Evelyn Glennie was born in 1965 and grew up on a farm near Aberdeen in Scotland. She loved playing music, and her ambition was to become a solo percussionist. She started having problems with her ears and began to lose her hearing. By the time she was twelve, she was deaf. She couldn't hear at all. Evelyn became very angry; it seemed to her that she would never fulfil her dream of being a great musician.

After a while Evelyn stopped being angry and instead found ways of adapting her playing to suit her deafness. At the age of sixteen, she became the first deaf student at the Royal Academy in London. She went on to make lots of CDs and is now famous for being the world's only full time solo percussionist. Evelyn likes to play unusual instruments and has over a thousand instruments some of which she has made herself. She likes to play with musicians from all over the world and requests composers to create music especially for her. An example of this is a piece, which was composed for her by the jazz composer Diango Bates, for which kitchen pots and pans were used as instruments. Her sixteen solo albums (including twelve on the RCA/BMG label) have reached a remarkably diverse public, as have her numerous collaborations with musicians from the non-classical world.

Glennie contends that hearing is a form of touch and that everyone, whether "deaf" or not, processes sound in an individual way. When Evelyn performs, she doesn't wear shoes or socks. This is to enable her to feel the music through the floor and her body. Usually, percussionists play at the back of the Orchestra, and Evelyn plays at the front so that she can lip-read signals from the conductor. Glennie has said that she doesn't want an operation to cure her deafness; she likes being who she is and doesn't want to change the way she works. Like many other courageous people, she tries hard to help others. She has helped many deaf children by allowing them to learn a musical instrument.

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.



(I) In paragraph 1, what does the phrase ‘it seemed to her that she would never fulfil her dream of being a great musician’ emphasise? (1)

(II) Complete the following with the correct option from the two given. (1)

Evelyn Glennie became the world's only full-time solo percussionist because _____.

(a) she was determined to adapt and innovate despite her deafness.

(b) she wanted to prove to others that she could overcome her disability. (paragraph 2)

(III) Support the writer’s idea that Evelyn Glennie’s achievements are remarkable despite her challenges. (paragraph 2) (2)

(IV) Select the option that best reflects the concept of ‘hearing is a form of touch’ in Evelyn’s context. (paragraph 3) (1)

(V) State whether the following statement is True or False. (paragraph 3)

“Evelyn Glennie performs barefoot to better feel the music through her body.” (1)

(VI) The writer mentions Evelyn’s love for unusual instruments in paragraph 2. Which of the following is an example of her creativity with instruments? (1)

(a) Composing pieces on traditional pianos.

(b) Playing music using kitchen pots and pans.

(c) Only using instruments made by renowned manufacturers.

(d) Always using standard percussion instruments.

(VII) List any two ways Evelyn has helped others despite her own challenges. (paragraph 3) (2)

(VIII) Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given. (paragraph 3)

In the phrase ‘doesn’t want to change the way she works,’ Evelyn’s attitude reflects _____. (1)

(a) Pride in her unique approach to music.

(b) A refusal to try new techniques.

(c) A desire to conform to traditional expectations.

(d) A need to remain distant from mainstream musicians.

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

[10]

1. After more than two years of halted travel, India's tourism and hospitality industry is now cautiously hopeful. Tourism constituted almost 3% of India's GDP and generated around 100 million jobs in 2019. But the sector was severely hit in India - like in other countries - in the past two years.
2. Indians are now travelling with a vengeance - 'revenge travel', as the phenomenon is called. And many, experts say, now prefer to travel within the country instead of flying to more expensive destinations abroad. The industry is also benefitting from new trends borne of the pandemic such as micro-holidays and workcations.
3. According to a survey, 51 percent of Indian travellers believed that international travel remained an important means of expanding their horizons and connecting with other cultures. Over two years, the survey said, Indian travellers are now dreaming about their next international trip and more than 70 percent of Indians are excited about being able to travel internationally.
4. There has also been an increase in the number of students going abroad to study. The increasing desire to study overseas is credited to the pent-up demand from the pandemic's two-year duration. This has got further pronounced because of growing aspirations and affordability among the middle-class students from Tier II and Tier III cities.

The table below shows foreign travel by Indians for different purposes from 2019 to 2022.

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Purpose	2019	2020	2021	2022
Business	14.7 L	2.6 L	1.2 L	4.6 L
Job	25.2 L	7.1 L	8.3 L	21.4 L
Residency	89.5 L	28.9 L	34.6 L	72.5 L
Education	5.8 L	2.6 L	4.4 L	6.5 L
Tourists	63.8 L	13.1 L	12.8 L	30.8 L
Visit	42.1 L	10.1 L	15.1 L	40.9 L
Medical	1,448	390	545	1,253
Pilgrimage	8.8 L	1.1 L	4,139	4.6 L
Others	2.6 L	54,775	58,767	1.6 L
Total	2.5 Crore	66.2 L	77.2 L	1.8 Crore

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

- Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraphs 1 and 2. **(1)**
We can say that the situation when people were travelling with a vengeance is comparable to people going out to dine in hordes, because _____.
- Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 1. **(1)**
The statement that, 'Tourism constituted almost 3% of India's GDP and generated around 100 million jobs in 2019', is a/an _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____ (subjective judgement/objective detail).
- Justify the following in about 40 words. **(2)**
After being cooped up inside their houses for more than two years, Indians are now excited about being able to travel internationally.
- Based on the given table, for which 'purpose' did Indian foreign travel increase in 2022 as compared to 2019? **(1)**
- 'The industry is also benefitting from new trends borne of the pandemic such as micro-holidays and workcations.' Which 'industry' is being talked about here? **(1)**
- As per the given table, for which purpose did maximum number of Indians undertake foreign travel in 2019 and in 2022? **(1)**
State any one inference that can be drawn from this.
- Why are students today choosing to go abroad to study? (Answer in about 40 words.) **(2)**
- Assertion (A):** The tourism and hospitality industry in India is experiencing a recovery due to domestic travel and new trends like micro-holidays and workcations.
Reason (R): The pandemic has created pent-up demand, with Indians eager for both domestic and international travel opportunities, along with an increased interest in studying abroad.
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]
To ensure that this project gains strength, schools may _____ (organize) puppet shows and street plays.

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

VACCINATE YOURSELF TO COMBAT CORONA
Get a shot of COVID vaccination as soon as possible.
Health Department, Chandigarh Administration

Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

- (c) Report the dialogue between a student and his teacher, by completing the sentence: [1]

Student: Please explain it again.

Teacher: Acid reacts with a base to form salt.

In response to a student's request to explain that again, the teacher said that _____.

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

Have you ever worked with groups from abroad?

- (e) The river had crept _____ the banks and spread across the flat plains. [1]

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| a) into | b) over |
| c) under | d) below |

- (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 CHILD DIE AFTER MASSIVE FIRE BREAKS OUT IN TIRUPATI

Option no.	Error	Correction
A	child	children
B	die	dies
C	breaks	break
D	in	at

- (g) _____ your future be bright! [1]

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| a) Could | b) Might |
| c) May | d) Can |

- (h) I bought a new computer last week, but it _____ so I took it back to the shop. [1]

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| a) don't work | b) didn't work |
| c) hasn't worked | d) worked not |

- (i) I _____ move the table. It was too heavy. [1]

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| a) shouldn't | b) wouldn't |
|--------------|-------------|



d) couldn't

- "I _____ an arrow into the air,
It fell to earth, I knew not where;
For, so swiftly it _____, the sight
Could not follow it in its flight."

- A. has shot, flew
B. shot, flown
C. have shot, has flown
D. shot, flew

- a) have been b) is
c) are d) was

- a) were given b) has been given
c) had been given d) have been given

4. Recently you visited the Taj Mahal in Agra. Write a descriptive paragraph on this famous monument. [5]

You recently visited the Children's Park, a favourite place for all children, in your city. Write a description.

- OR

Maresh wrote only a few lines and couldn't complete the story he wanted to write. Taking help from the beginning Maresh made, develop the story.

A woodcutter was chopping down trees on the bank of a river. His hands were so much wet with his sweat that he lost his grip.....

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

- Next he saw the pseudo-teacher seat himself on a log and become lost in thought with his red cheeks resting on his fists. The woman flung down an axe at his feet, spat angrily, and, judging from the expression of her lips, began to scold him. The beggar irresolutely pulled a billet of wood towards him, set it up between his feet, and tapped it feebly with the axe. The billet wavered and fell down. The beggar again pulled it to him, blew on his freezing hands, and tapped it with his axe cautiously, as if afraid of hitting his overshoe or of cutting off his finger; the stick of wood again fell to the ground.

- i. Which of the following is NOT a description of the beggar's actions in the story? (1)
- A. The beggar becomes lost in thought with his red cheeks resting on his fists.
 - B. The beggar pulls a billet of wood towards him and sets it up between his feet.
 - C. The beggar taps the billet of wood with the axe cautiously.
 - D. The beggar angrily flung axe at women's feet and scolded the woman.

- ii. How does the beggar attempt to chop wood, and what does his approach reveal about his skill and confidence in doing the task? (2)
- iii. Read the following descriptions (a)-(c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract: (1)
 - a. The beggar skillfully and confidently chopped the wood, impressing the woman with his efficiency.
 - b. The beggar struggled to cut the wood properly, displaying hesitancy and caution in his actions.
 - c. The beggar refused to help the woman with the wood, leading to an argument between them.
- iv. As the advocate Sergei, observing this scene from a distance, what assumptions could you make about the beggar's woodworking abilities and the interaction with the woman? (1)

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

[5]

Has a snake ever coiled itself round any part of your body? A full-blooded cobra? All of us fell silent. The question came from the homeopath. The topic came up when we were discussing snakes. We listened attentively as the doctor continued with his tale.

It was a hot summer night; about ten o'clock. I had my meal at the restaurant and returned to my room. I heard a noise from above as I opened the door. The sound was a familiar one. One could say that the rats and I shared the room. I took out my box of matches and lighted the kerosene lamp on the table.

The house was not electrified; it was a small rented room. I had just set up a medical practice and my earnings were meagre. I had about sixty rupees in my suitcase. Along with some shirts and dhotis, I also possessed one solitary black coat which I was then wearing.

- a. Which item from the doctor's possessions was particularly limited during that time, as mentioned in the paragraph? (1)
 - i. Money
 - ii. Shirts and dhotis
 - iii. Black coat
 - iv. Kerosene lamp
- b. What inference can you draw from the homeopath's way of narrating the incident? (1)
- c. Why is it fair to say that the doctor's house was not electrified possibly due to his financial conditions? (2)
- d. Which phrase would correctly substitute 'just set up' in the given sentence from the extract? (1)
I had just set up a medical practice and my earnings were meagre.

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]

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

- a. What is the tone of the poet in the given stanza? (1)
- b. Name the poet: (1)



- i. William Wordsworth
- ii. Robert Frost
- iii. William Shakespeare
- iv. W.W.E. Ross

- c. _____ the word from the stanza opposite in meaning to 'converged'. (1)
- d. What is the significance of the two roads? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

(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. What has sealed the poet's spirit? (1)
- b. What is the reason for the absence of typical human fears in the poet's mind? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- c. How does the poet feel in the given lines? (1)
 - i. cheerful
 - ii. depressed
 - iii. enraged
 - iv. petrified
- d. The rhyming scheme used in the given stanza is _____. (1)

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

- (a) Why did Einstein write a letter to Franklin Roosevelt? [3]
- (b) What does the poet like to do when it rains? [3]
- (c) Who was Sivasubramania Iyer? What did he say to Abdul? [3]
- (d) What is the impact of the music of the flute on Vikram Seth? [3]
- (e) What did Saint Peter ask the old lady for? What was the lady's reaction? [3]

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

- (a) What is Johnsy's illness? What can cure her, the medicine or the willingness to live? [3]
- (b) In what condition did the author go to school after the fire incident? [3]
- (c) When did Mahendra expect Iswaran to be bad-tempered? Did it really happen? [3]

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

- (a) Ustad Bismillah Khan's life is a perfect example of the rich cultural heritage of India. A devout Muslim like him had no qualms about playing Shehnai every morning at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple. Elucidate it in about 100-120 words. [6]
- (b) Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. What values made Santosh serve the society? [6]

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

- (a) **Guru was a wise man** - how does the story, 'In the Kingdom of fools' reflect it? [6]
- (b) Difficult situations mark the development of certain qualities in us. Explain with reference to the story **The Lost Child**. [6]



Solution

Section A Reading

1. (I) The phrase 'it seemed to her that she would never fulfil her dream of being a great musician' emphasises Evelyn's initial feelings of despair and hopelessness when faced with the challenge of losing her hearing.
- (II) (a) She was determined to adapt and innovate despite her deafness.
- (III) The writer supports this idea by explaining:
1. Evelyn became the first deaf student at the Royal Academy in London, a significant milestone.
 2. She went on to become the world's only full-time solo percussionist, releasing numerous solo albums and collaborating with musicians globally.
- (IV) 'Hearing is a form of touch' reflects Evelyn's ability to process sound through vibrations felt in her body, allowing her to perform music without relying on traditional auditory hearing.
- (V) **True.** Evelyn performs barefoot to feel the music through vibrations in the floor and her body.
- (VI) (b) Playing music using kitchen pots and pans.
- (VII) Two ways Evelyn has helped others:
1. She has enabled many deaf children to learn musical instruments, showing them that music is accessible despite their challenges.
 2. She has inspired people globally by demonstrating that disability doesn't have to limit one's dreams.
- (VIII) (a) Pride in her unique approach to music.
2. i. We can say that the situation when people were travelling with a vengeance is comparable to people going out to dine in hordes, because both scenarios reflect pent-up demand being released after restrictions.
- ii. The statement that "Tourism constituted almost 3% of India's GDP and generated around 100 million jobs in 2019" is a/an fact because it is a/an objective detail.
- iii. Indians, confined by pandemic restrictions for over two years, are eager to explore new destinations, embrace diverse cultures, and enjoy the freedom of international travel, reflecting a strong desire to break free from prolonged isolation.
- iv. Without the table, I can infer from the passage that Indian foreign travel increased primarily for educational purposes due to pent-up demand and growing aspirations among middle-class students from Tier II and Tier III cities.
- v. The 'industry' being referred to here is the tourism and hospitality industry.
- vi. Students are opting to study abroad due to pent-up demand from the pandemic's two-year duration, along with growing aspirations and increased affordability among middle-class students, particularly from Tier II and Tier III cities.
- vii. In 2019, the maximum number of Indians undertook foreign travel for the purpose of 'Business'. In 2022, the maximum was for 'Visit'.
- One inference that can be drawn from this trend is the shift in travel purposes from primarily business-related in 2019 to more visit-oriented in 2022, indicating a broadening of travel motivations possibly influenced by post-pandemic trends.
- viii. B. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).

Section B Grammar

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

(i) organize

(ii)	error	correction
	short	shot

(iii) acid reacts with a base to form salt

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

(v) (b) over

Explanation:

The word "over" is used to indicate movement or position at a higher level than something else. In this context, the river is described as having exceeded its normal boundaries and flowing above the banks, resulting in the water spreading across the flat plains.

(vi) (A) child - children



(vii) (c) May

Explanation:

May your future be bright!

(viii) (b) didn't work

Explanation:

didn't work

(ix) (d) couldn't

Explanation:

couldn't

(x) D. shot, flew

The verse of the poem are presenting a past situation.

(xi) (b) is

Explanation:

is

(xii) (c) had been given

Explanation:

had been given

Section B Writing

4. Taj Mahal: Taj Mahal is the first of the seven wonders of the world. It is located on the banks of Yamuna in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India. It was made by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz. It took twenty years for twenty two thousand workers to complete it. It is purely made of white marble and hence is a symbol of love. It is a beautiful piece of architecture and creativity. Taj Mahal is an example of beauty and marvel. It has a beautiful view surrounded by gardens and river. Every year more than 20 lakh people pay visit to Taj Mahal. Taj Mahal is truly a piece of marvel in the world.

OR

Children's Park is the place all children love to go. The park in our city of Delhi is huge. There are about 4 play areas with different types of playthings. The area for small children has swings, see-saw and slides. Then there is a ground where children can play games like badminton, volleyball etc. There is a football court as well. Facing the India Gate is a Tennis court. Apart from all these there are green areas for parents to play with their children. Families come here for outdoor activities and enjoy picnics especially during winters. There is a provision for cooking as well. There are many trees. As a result during summers, this park remains cool in the day. A park, which, all children should definitely visit.

5. Dammaiguda

May 12, 20xx

Thursday

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

Dorababu

OR

Honesty Pays in the Long Run

A woodcutter was chopping down trees on the bank of a river. His hands were so much wet with his sweat that he lost his grip over the axe. It slipped away from his hands and fell down into the river. The poor man couldn't even swim. He thought that his axe was lost forever. He was very sad at his misfortune and started sobbing and weeping. Suddenly there was a flash of light. The God of the Forests appeared before him. The woodcutter explained what had happened. He consoled him. "Don't you worry. I'll get back your axe for you", said the God of Forests. Having said these words, he dived into the river. After a few moments, he came out with an axe. It was made of gold. Is this yours? he asked. The woodcutter only said **No**. A few seconds later he came out



of the river with another axe. It was made of silver. No, no, sir, this is not mine, said the woodcutter. He dived again and came out with the third axe. The woodcutter cried loudly looking at the axe **Yes**, yes, it's mine-the woodcutter's axe with an iron blade. The God of Forests was impressed with the woodcutter's honesty."Keep all these axes as a present from me. " The God uttered these words and disappeared. In the end, woodcutter has all three axes because of this honest act. The woodcutter felt glad that he found his axe and a reward too. He finished his work and went home. He then told his wife and children the whole story what happened. If he would have lied to the God of the forest then he would have taken all the axes from him. but because of his honesty, he got all the axes. otherwise, he would have only one of the axes or have nothing. that is why it is said that honesty pays in the long run.

Section C Literature

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

- (i)
 - i. (D) The beggar angrily flung axe at women's feet and scolded the woman.
 - ii. The beggar attempts to chop wood by pulling a billet towards him and tapping it with an axe. However, his actions are hesitant, and he handles the axe cautiously, as if afraid of injuring himself or damaging his footwear. This suggests a lack of skill and confidence in performing the task.
 - iii. (b) The beggar struggled to cut the wood properly, displaying hesitancy and caution in his actions.
 - iv. From a distance, I could assume that the beggar lacks woodworking skills, struggles with the task, and experiences tension in his interaction with the woman.
- (ii)
 - a. (iii) black coat
 - b. The doctor's style of narration was informal, personal, and descriptive. It provided insight into his financial situation, his comfort with his living conditions, and his attention to detail in describing the scene. The homeopath provided vivid and specific details about the time, setting, and his actions (lighting the kerosene lamp). This attention to detail helps the reader visualize the scene and feel more immersed in the narrative.
 - c. The doctor had just started his practice. His earnings were, therefore, meagre, so, he lived in a small rented room, which was not electrified. It projected his not so good economic condition. Therefore it can be one of the reasons for his room being not electrified.
 - d. recently established/recently opened/just founded (any other similar answer)

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

- (i)
 - a. The poet adopted a reflective tone in the given stanza.
 - b. (ii) Robert Frost
 - c. 'diverged'
 - d. "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost is a poem told through the perspective of a solitary voyager who encounters a divergence in their path, serving as a profound metaphor for the voyage of life and the pivotal choices we encounter along this journey. These two divergent roads symbolize the challenging decisions that present themselves in our lives.
- (ii)
 - a. The death of his beloved one has sealed the poet's spirit.
 - b. The poet's spirit had descended into a profound slumber, oblivious to unfolding events. He had never contemplated that a time would come when death would separate him from Lucy. Devoid of apprehensions, he remained impervious to sensations, his emotions numbed.
 - c. (ii) depressed
 - d. abab

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

- (i) In order to warn the United States that Germany had the capability to develop and use the atomic bomb, which if exploded in a port would completely destroy the port as well as some of the surrounding land, Einstein addressed a letter to Franklin Roosevelt.
- (ii) The poet experiences an extreme feeling of joy and pleasure as he lies on the cottage-chamber bed pressing a pillow. Consequently, listening to the pitter-patter of the soft rain takes him to the seventh heaven.
- (iii) Sivasubramania Iyer was Abdul Kalam's science teacher. He invited him to have food at his house though his wife was an orthodox Brahmin. Despite his wife's beliefs, his teacher sat beside Kalam to eat his meal. He observed Kalam's hesitation but told him that such problems had to be faced once but now we have decided to change the belief system of society.
- (iv) The music of the flute has a hypnotic effect on Vikram Seth. He finds it difficult to 'tear' himself away from the square where this music is being played by the flute seller. Although the place where the flute seller is playing his flute is noisy and chaotic, the author finds the sound of flute relaxing and soothing. He feels tranquil. The sound of the music of flute



is clearly noticeable in the crowd also. It has the power to draw him into the commonality of all mankind and he is moved by its closeness to the human voice.

- (v) Saint Peter asked the old lady for a piece of cake. The lady behaved miserly and kept changing the size of the cake. At last, she did not give him anything to eat.

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

- (i) Johnsy, a young artist, was ill. She was suffering from pneumonia. But later on, she suffered from a misconception that she would die as soon as the last leaf on the creeper would fall down. The medicine had no effect on her. Her willingness to live could cure her.
- (ii) After the fire incident, the author went to school wearing the dress that he had worn to church on that fateful Sunday morning. As he had not been wearing his shoes when the fire broke out he had to wear a pair of tennis shoes that he had borrowed from his aunt. His shoes, clothes, books, homework, and backpack had all been destroyed in the fire.
- (iii) Mahendra expected Iswaran to be bad-tempered after Mahendra had scolded him for believing in ghosts and spirits. However, next morning, Mahendra found Iswaran as cheerful and talkative as ever. Iswaran never minded the rebukes of his master and remained devoted to him.

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

- (i) Ustad Bismillah Khan's life projected a perfect example of the rich cultural heritage of India. When he was just five years old, he used to visit the Bihariji temple and sing Bhojpuri '*Chaita*'. During his childhood, Bismillah used to accompany his maternal uncle, Ali Bux, to the Vishnu temple of Benaras, where his uncle was employed to play Shehnai. He practiced for hours on the banks of the river Ganga. The holy waters of Ganga inspired and helped him to improvise his music. Thus, he was a living legend of national integration and intercultural harmony. His acceptance of differences of opinion among people and his sense of freedom, and cooperation were praiseworthy. He was a living testimony of appreciation and mutual respect.
- (ii) Santosh Yadav is the only woman in the world who has climbed Mount Everest twice. Her iron will, physical endurance and mental toughness aided her to set a world record of being the only woman to reach the Everest top twice. Santosh was adventurous, hard-working, and always willing to accept challenges. Being an ardent lover of nature, she worked towards its betterment. She was a true patriot who felt very proud to unfurl the Indian tricolour on the map of the world. She always felt that we should never ask or expect about what our country has done or given us rather we ought to introspect about what we have or could do for our country. She proved this by getting 500 kilograms of rubbish from Himalayas.

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

- (i) The plot, 'In the Kingdom of Fools' clearly reflects that the Guru was a wise man. He was wise enough to judge the future of the kingdom and advised his disciple not to stay there. However, the disciple thought that the future was uncertain and did not pay any heed to his Guru's advice and stayed on. When he was imprisoned by the King's men, he realized the significance of his Guru's words and repented on his decision to stay back as the Guru's prediction proved to be correct. The Guru was his only hope and the disciple remembered him for rescue. It was because of the Guru's wisdom and presence of mind that he not only managed to save his disciple's life but both of them became king and prime minister of the kingdom respectively.
- (ii) Difficult situations indeed mark the development of certain qualities in us. We need to inculcate values like courage, trust, and tolerance in ourselves. Before separation, the child was very happy and excited at the fair. He was fascinated with all the things that were displayed at the stalls. He wanted to have all the things like toys, sweets, flowers, etc., but after separation, the boy just wanted to be with his parents. When another man offered to buy him sweets he denied it and said that he needed only his parents. He offered him almost everything that the child had desired before getting lost but the child was not interested and wanted only his parents. Therefore, we can see how certain qualities develop in difficult situations. The child lost interest in all materialistic things and valued the presence of his parents.

