

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 7

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. Happiness is like the sun; it is often hidden by the clouds of thoughts, worries and desires. We have to scatter and dissolve these clouds to experience happiness. You don't have to create it, all you have to do is calm your mind, because when there is a quiet mind and inner peace, there is happiness. It is not something far away and unattainable and does not depend on circumstances, objects or events. Happiness is an inseparable part of our consciousness, of our essence, but hidden and covered from sight by our thoughts, desires, and worries.
2. The mind is always in a constant race from one thought to another, from one worry to another. It constantly moves from one object or task to another. This restlessness hides the happiness that is within you. It is like a choppy sea that hides the bottom. When the sea gets calm, you can see the bottom. In the same way, when the mind gets quiet, you sense the happiness that is within you.
3. You cannot see a treasure at the bottom of a stormy and muddy lake although it is there. However, when the wind stops, the water becomes still and the mud sinks, you can see the treasure. The treasure is there, whether you see it or not. So is happiness. It is always here, only hidden by thoughts, desires and worries.
4. You can experience more happiness in your life. Only your thoughts stand in your way of experiencing it. Next time you feel happy, stop for a moment and watch the state of your mind. You will be surprised to discover that it is calm, and there are almost no thoughts in your mind. Since the mind is not accustomed to stay in this peaceful state for long, it soon becomes active again, and the sense of happiness disappears.
5. Many people connect happiness to achievement of certain goals. This makes happiness a reward and not an emotion that must be felt. We forget that it is something that comes by looking inward rather than waiting for an external trigger. Once you start looking inwards, you will have to treat yourself as you would treat a valued friend. This will lead to happiness. Take time to appreciate yourself, your work and your



accomplishments. Surround yourself with happy people and recall positive memories. It is important to recognise that you have the power to feel happy within you and with practice, it will be felt frequently.

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

Here are questions similar to the sample questions provided, based on the new paragraph:

(i) Based on the reading and understanding of the above passage, list 2 points to describe the nature of happiness according to the passage. (1)

(a) _____

(b) _____

(ii) Select the option that corresponds to the meaning of the following sentence from para 3:

"You cannot see a treasure at the bottom of a stormy and muddy lake although it is there." (1)

(a) The treasure is visible only when the water is clear

(b) The treasure is hidden due to the storm and mud

(c) The treasure is always visible despite the storm and mud

(d) The storm and mud make the treasure unimportant

(iii) Based on your reading of the passage, examine in about 40 words how one can experience more happiness.

(2)

(iv) What is the tone of the writer in the given line from paragraph 5? Rationalise your response in about 40 words:

"Many people connect happiness to achievement of certain goals." (2)

(v) The phrase 'hidden by the clouds' in paragraph (1) refers to: (1)

(a) The obscuring of happiness by thoughts and worries

(b) The physical obstruction of happiness by objects

(c) The deliberate hiding of happiness by others

(d) The intentional creation of barriers to happiness

(vi) In sets a-e below, identify two sets of synonyms. (1)

a. restlessness and calmness

b. treasure and object

c. dissatisfaction and contentment

d. essence and nature

e. trigger and cause

Options:

(a) a and c

(b) b and e

(c) d and e

(d) a and d

(vii) Complete the sentence appropriately: (1)

Happiness is not something far away and unattainable and does not depend on _____.

(viii) Complete the following sentence: (1)

To experience more happiness, one must look _____ rather than waiting for external triggers.

2. Read the passage given below:

[10]

1. Increasing traffic congestion every year is causing increasing air pollution, wasting time and productivity and diverse respiratory diseases. Moreover, the cost of solving or reducing traffic congestion is enormous.



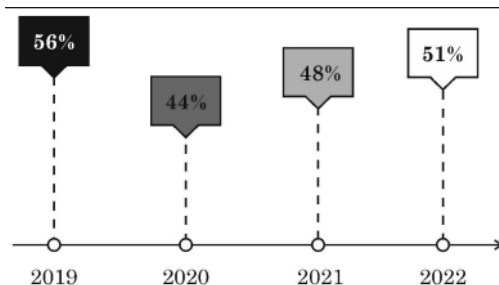
However, neglecting the traffic jam problem would increase the social problems among citizens.

2. The number of vehicles has increased considerably in the city in the past five years. Due to this increase, the city roads witness frequent traffic congestions, but above all, the vehicles emitting pollutants are affecting the environment adversely.
3. The Capital's vehicular population saw an addition of more than five lakh vehicles last year, registering an increase of over 4%, according to the Delhi Economic Survey 2020-21.
4. In spite of the largest road network, through metro and bus services in major cities the transport system is not being able to keep pace with the growing demand. Consequently, more and more people use their private vehicles, leading to increased congestion on the roads. In spite of these challenges people in India prefer road travel over air and other means of travel. Citizens of Delhi/NCR have, time and again, pondered over the possibilities of how to reduce the traffic congestion in the city, especially during the peak hours. People should use public transport, the government must increase the facilities of public transport, people should avoid the unnecessary collection of vehicles and should use carpool and vehicle sharing.
5. What is required is proper implementation of corrective measures by citizens to get an organized traffic management system.

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

- i. Infer one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 1. Reducing traffic congestion is not easy. **(1)**
- ii. Select the appropriate option to complete the following sentence. The reasons for increased traffic congestion are _____. **(1)**
 1. use of private vehicles
 2. increase in demand for cars
 3. inability to keep pace with population control
 4. travelling by public transport
 5. emission of pollutants
 - a. 4, 5
 - b. 1, 5
 - c. 1, 2
 - d. 2, 3

- iii. Analyze the status of traffic between the years 2019-2022. **(2)**



What is required to get an organized traffic management system?

- iv. Give the reasons for increase in vehicular congestion. **(2)**
- v. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word / phrase from the paragraph 5. organized : chaotic :: lowest : _____. Clue : Just as organized is an antonym of chaotic, lowest is an antonym of _____. **(1)**
- vi. The vehicles emit pollutants which affect _____ badly **(1)**
- vii. Complete the following sentence. Use of public transport will reduce _____. **(1)**

viii. **Assertion (A):** Increasing traffic congestion in cities is causing severe air pollution and social problems.

Reason (R): People prefer private vehicles over public transport due to inadequate facilities, leading to worsening road congestion.

- 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, therefore, request you to _____ (issue) a letter of recommendation for these students to be nominated for 'Serving Citizens' Award' organised by the local Municipal Corporation.

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

Surat

HI LIFE EXHIBITION
You're last chance to make a fashion statement
LAST DAY TODAY

Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

- (c) **Report the dialogue between a mother and her son, by completing the sentence:** [1]

Mother: Did you hurt yourself?

Amit: I got a bad bruise on my left knee.

In response to the question about being hurt, Amit says that _____.

- (d) The mayor of the city visited our locality where the irate residents posed a few questions to him. [1]

Report resident's query.

Are you going to have our roads repaired, mayor?

- (e) You can buy these maps at _____ station. They all have them. [1]

- a) any
- b) few
- c) several
- d) a lot of

- (f) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a [1]

news report:

Education plays a important role in building an individual's identity and personality.

Option no.	Error	Correction
A	plays	play
B	a	an
C	in	for
D	an	the

- (g) He said that he _____ walk twenty km at a stretch. [1]



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]

You spoke finely then, and I shall be indebted to you to my dying day; but, strictly speaking, it was your cook, Olga, who saved me.” “How is that?” “When I used to come to your house to chop wood she used to begin: ‘Oh, you sot, you! Oh, you miserable creature! There’s nothing for you but ruin.’ And then she would sit down opposite me and grow sad, look into my face and weep. ‘Oh, you unlucky man! There is no pleasure for you in this world and there will be none in the world to come. You drunkard! You will burn in hell. Oh, you unhappy one!’ And so she would carry on, you know, in that strain. I can’t tell you how much misery she suffered, how many tears she shed for my sake. But the chief thing was - she used to chop the wood for me. Do you know, sir, that I did not chop one single stick of wood for you? She did it all. Why this saved me, why I changed, why I stopped drinking at the sight of her I cannot explain. I only know that, owing to her words and noble deeds, a change took place in my heart; she set me right and I shall never forget it.

- i. State one inference about Olga from the given extract. (1)
- ii. What was the beggar's previous lifestyle, and how did Olga's actions and words contribute to his decision to stop drinking? Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract. (2)
- iii. State TRUE or FALSE. (1)
None of the terms (a)-(d) below, can be applied to the question - What was the beggar's initial state of mind before Olga's intervention?
 - a. Content
 - b. Energetic
 - c. Alcoholic
 - d. Successful
- iv. Which phrase or word would correctly substitute "misery", in the given sentence from the extract? (1)

I can’t tell you how much misery she suffered, how many tears she shed for my sake.

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

[5]

I took off my black coat, white shin, 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 closer 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.

- a. What inference would you draw from the doctor's description of his surroundings? (1)
- b. Which celestial entity appeared to be absent when the narrator sought some fresh air in the veranda? (1)
 - i. The Sun
 - ii. The Moon
 - iii. The Wind
 - iv. The Rain
- c. The doctor's approach towards describing his surroundings was highly effective and had slight humour. Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract (2)



d. Which phrase would correctly substitute 'taken time off.', in the given sentence from the extract?

(1)

I got up and went out to the veranda for a little air, but the Wind God seemed to have taken time off.

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 both that morning equally lay
In leaves, no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

a. 'Both' refers to _____. (1)

b. What is the centric idea of the given stanza? (1)

c. What is the emotion that the poet expresses in the given lines? (1)

i. remorse

ii. anger

iii. content

iv. sorrow

d. Why does the poet doubt his coming back? Explain in 40 words. (2)

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

No motion has she now, no force
She neither hears nor sees,
Rolled round in earth's diurnal course
With rocks and stones and trees.

a. She has become motionless and without force for she is _____. (1)

b. How would you describe the emotional state of the poet? Explain in 40 words. (2)

c. Explain, 'she neither hears nor sees'? (1)

d. What is the literal meaning of the phrase, Earth's diurnal course? (1)

i. revolution

ii. high tides

iii. rotation

iv. earthquakes

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

(a) During his childhood, Einstein did not show any traces of becoming a genius one day. How? Write your answer in the context of A Truly Beautiful Mind. [3]

(b) Is the poet, Coates Kinney, able to enjoy the rain or he reminisces at the lost time? [3]

(c) Once you decide to change the system, such problems have to be confronted. Who spoke these sentences and to whom? Write your answer in the context of 'My Childhood'. [3]

(d) What does Vikram Seth compare to the quills of a porcupine? [3]

(e) What happened to the cake every time when the old lady tried to bake it? [3]

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

(a) How did Johnsy spend her day? Write your answer in the context of The Last Leaf. [3]



- (b) What did the narrator get from his new schoolmates? Write your answer in the context of A House is Not a Home. [3]
- (c) Describe Iswaran's capability to make even the simplest incident interesting. [3]
10. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words** [6]
- (a) Evelyn's determination to overcome her disability has made her a source of inspiration for deaf children. Comment. [6]
- (b) Santosh was not only a good mountaineer but also a genuinely good human being. Discuss. [6]
11. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.** [6]
- (a) The Disciple in the story didn't look into the depth of the matter and took a hasty decision of not leaving the kingdom of fools. What light does the story throw on the importance of good decision-making in one's life? [6]
- (b) Write a character sketch of the lost child. [6]



Solution

Section A Reading

1.
 - i. (a) Happiness is an inseparable part of our consciousness and essence, but it is hidden by thoughts, desires, and worries.
(b) Happiness is not dependent on circumstances, objects, or events; it is within us but often obscured by mental distractions.
 - ii. (b) The treasure is hidden due to the storm and mud
 - iii. To experience more happiness, one should calm their mind and look inward rather than seeking external triggers. By reducing mental distractions and appreciating oneself, happiness can be felt more frequently.
 - iv. The tone is reflective and critical. The writer is pointing out a common misconception that ties happiness to external achievements, emphasizing that true happiness comes from within rather than from fulfilling external goals.
 - v. (a) The obscuring of happiness by thoughts and worries
 - vi. (a) a and d
 - vii. Happiness is not something far away and unattainable and does not depend on circumstances, objects, or events.
 - viii. To experience more happiness, one must look inward rather than waiting for external triggers.
2.
 - i. The cost of solving or reducing traffic congestion is enormous.
 - ii. 1, 2
 - iii. Proper implementation of corrective measures by citizens.
 - iv. (1) People prefer to travel on roads
(2) Growth in demand of private vehicles
 - v. Peak
 - vi. environment
 - vii. traffic congestion
 - 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) issue

(ii) error	correction
You're	Your

(iii) he got a bad bruise on his left knee

(iv) The residents asked the mayor if he was going to have their roads repaired.

(v) (a) any

Explanation:

any

(vi) (B) a - an

(vii) (a) could

Explanation:

He said that he **could** walk twenty km at a stretch.

(viii) (b) will have been training / are

Explanation:

will have been training / are

(ix) (c) Should stop

Explanation:

Should stop

(x) C. vanished, led

The action started in the past and completed in the past itself. Thus the verb should be in Simple Past.

(xi) (b) is

Explanation:



is

(xii) (c) treating

Explanation:

treating

Section B Writing

4.

War on Black Money in India

More smoke than light has been generated by the current outcry on black money. People think that there is a lot of money out there in Swiss banks. Black money does not remain black, money forever. A lot of foreign funds and investments come back to India as white money. Income generated through illegal activities is the basis for generating black money. Global terror business, drugs, arms dealing, real estate, Hawala transactions, to name just a few, create black money. The G20 summit in London gave a clear message. The era of banking secrecy is over. India is a strong supporter of this move. The success in getting black money depends on international actions and cooperation among nations. Rather than looking for the foreign hand, the battle against black money must be waged at home. Unless black money is generated at home, unaccounted money can't be transferred abroad. Centre and states need to work on reforms. Tax rates need to be moderate. The laws must be simple. There should be no temptation to evade.

OR

The nuclear family or smaller family is usually preferred and recommended in today's modern lifestyle as it gives more freedom, financial stability and independence when compared to the joint family structure.

While less conflict and decreased family stress is an advantage of the nuclear family, it also puts the family at a disadvantage. Conflict is a part of life, and conflict resolution skills are beneficial in school, community and the workplace. Nuclear families can develop like-minded thinking, leading to fewer arguments within the family unit. While joint family is like a nursery to teach social virtues. It helps to develop social virtues like co-operation, sympathy, sacrifice, affection, spirit of selfless service, obedience and broad-mindedness. Feeling of loneliness is one of important drawbacks in nuclear family. At the time of emergency one can get any help and support from other members. Joint family acts as insurance for the members of the family at the time of crisis. It provides social security to its members especially to the old, the infirm, the unemployed persons, the orphans, the widowed daughters and sisters as well.

The choice to raise a family by the nuclear model does not guarantee success or happiness but can provide a basis for obtaining those ideals. Awareness of the possible advantages and disadvantages allows a big-picture view of this family structure. No family is perfect, but when you work together with family members, you ensure the best possible outcomes for everyone involved.

5. Monday

April 02, 20XX

10:30 PM

Jaipur

Dear Diary,

Today, I find myself grappling with a dilemma that has plagued me for some time now – my hesitation to speak in English. My initial phase of schooling was in the vernacular and transitioning to English as the primary medium of communication has proven to be quite daunting.

Whenever I am called upon to speak in English, I feel a sense of unease creeping over me. The fear of making mistakes or being judged by others often holds me back from expressing myself freely. It's frustrating because I know that improving my English speaking skills is crucial for my academic and personal growth.

Despite my reservations, I am determined to overcome this hurdle. I realise that the ability to communicate effectively in English opens up a world of opportunities, both academically and professionally. Therefore, I have committed myself to speaking in English more frequently, whether it's through conversations with friends, reading English books, or watching English movies with subtitles.

This won't be an easy journey, but I am willing to put in the effort and perseverance to get a command of English. I believe, with this zeal, I would be able to overcome my inhibitions and become a confident English speaker.

Anjali

OR

NOT JUST A TEACHER

Mithul was one of the intelligent students of the class. He was also the victim of insecurity of getting fewer marks in the Boards. Mr. Kamal, English teacher worked like a touchstone as his attitude was absolutely different from that of other professionals. In fact, he was a wonderful person with wonderful achievements. He has been admired by all. He believed in sharing his knowledge.



He loved being with kids but not just a profession for him rather he was passionate about his teaching. Since he was an acquaintance to Mithul since he was six years old. He was a very good friend of his father. So, he had seen him grow through each and every phase of life. Mr. Kamal knew very well that Mithul, though blessed with extraordinary brilliance, can't bear the pressure of giving good results. Mithul was all the more under pressure as to come up to the expectations of his parents. So, Mrs. Kamal's first job was to make him at ease. He also advised the parents to not to pressurize their kids for studies. He also took workshops of students as well as the parents. Once again, even out of school, he developed a good bond of friendship. Along with being a good tutor, he had a waggish and poetic side too. He made literature all the more interesting to Mithul. He was also computer friendly. So, he helped Mithul in the revision of subjects science, history, geography, etc., in a very amusing manner. He showed him documentaries on the relevant subjects on the computer. Being a very good counsellor, his dominating passion was his love for children. So, not only Mithul but also other children in his house waited for Mr. Kamal's arrival in the evening very eagerly. Very often, he organised a quiz competition for every subject. It made Mithul confident of his knowledge. All this practice showed a wonderful result. Mithul was brimming with confidence throughout his exams. He not only passed the Board exam but also topped the merit list of successful candidates of his state. All the credit went to the hard work of Mithul and wonderful techniques of his teacher, Mr. Kamal. A teacher can make the career of the child or can destroy it. Mr. Kamal was like a teacher who can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instil a love of learning.

Section C Literature

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

- (i)
 - i. From the context, it can be inferred that Olga is a compassionate and caring person who genuinely cared about the beggar's well-being and played a significant role in his transformation and recovery from alcoholism.
 - ii. The beggar's previous lifestyle involved heavy drinking and a lack of responsibility. Olga's constant scolding and her willingness to chop wood for him created a sense of guilt and remorse in him. This guilt, along with her caring words, prompted him to stop drinking.
 - iii. False [Option c is correct.]
 - iv. Suffering/Distress [or any other possible meaning.]
- (ii)
 - a. One possible inference that the reader draws from the given context is that the doctor was in an uncomfortable or unpleasant environment. The description of the room projected a lack of comfort or tranquility in his surroundings.
 - b. (iii) The wind
 - c. The doctor's description of his surroundings in the passage was effective due to his use of humor. He humorously noted how the "Wind God seemed to have taken time off," highlighting the lack of breeze. His dry wit continued as he described his clothing and the room. The mention of rats added a touch of absurdity, emphasizing the unconventional and uncomfortable nature of his environment. This blend of effective description and subtle humor created a vivid and memorable image for the reader.
 - d. The phrase "but the Wind God seemed to have gone on a break" could correctly substitute "taken time off" in the given sentence.

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

- (i)
 - a. the two roads that lay in front of the poet.
 - b. The poet craftily focused on the fact that in real life once we choose an option we ought to move ahead with that option and we never get a chance to come back. So, the entire stanza revolves around the fear of missing out on opportunities.
 - c. (i) remorse
 - d. The poet harboured uncertainty about his return, as he was aware that embarking upon his selected path would eventually guide him towards different crossroads. This would take him to a distance so great from the initial road that a return would be unattainable.
- (ii)
 - a. dead.
 - b. The poet was in deep grief. He was portrayed to be extremely depressed and dejected. The poet was aghast at the death of his loved one and he was not able to come out of it. He was so shocked and sad that he could feel the numbness in his body and he was not able to move. He became numb to all his sensations and also became void of all human fears.
 - c. In the given line, the poet highlighted the fact that there was no motion left in his beloved's body as death had come over. She could not exhibit any motion or force in her body due to death. She was unable to hear and see.
 - d. (iii) rotation

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



- (i) Einstein had a much large head and did not start to speak until he was two-and-a-half years old. Finally, when he did speak, he used to utter everything twice. He could not interact freely with his playmates either. When he was sent to school, his headmaster too had a very poor opinion about his success. All this showed the absence of any traces in him of becoming a genius one day.
- (ii) The general atmosphere of the poem is very somber. There is darkness all around but rain compensates it with the spirit of peace for the lonely night at hand. The rain provides him with sound effects to get lost in the reminiscence. The poet realizes how much joy and pleasure of sleep he can attain when his head presses against his pillow.
- (iii) The science teacher, Sivasubramania Iyer, uttered these words to Abdul Kalam. He invited Kalam for dinner. He had an orthodox wife who was not comfortable with Kalam's presence as he was a Muslim boy. His teacher sat next to him and ate his meal. Observing Kalam's hesitation, his teacher told him not to get upset and then, he spoke these words.
- (iv) Vikram Seth compares the quills of a porcupine to the pole of the flute seller with fifty or sixty bansuris protruding in all directions.
- (v) The old lady first made a small cake but when she laid it to bake, it seemed much too big to be given away. So she kneaded a still smaller cake but it too seemed as big as the earlier one. Then she took a small bit of dough and rolled it as thin as a wafer but could not part even with that. She was surprised that her cakes seemed very small when she ate them herself but appeared too large for charity.

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

- (i) Johnsy spent her day lying on her bed. She kept looking out of the window and counted the leaves that were remaining on the ivy creeper. At times, she also slept.
- (ii) At school the narrator found everyone acting strangely. They seemed to be pushing him towards the gym where a big table had been piled up with all kinds of things. His schoolmates had heard about the fire and had taken up a collection. They had bought for him school supplies, books, notebooks and even all kinds of clothes- jeans, tops and sweatsuits. The narrator was deeply touched by their sympathy.
- (iii) Iswaran was a master storyteller. He was fond of reading popular Tamil thrillers. The stories that he narrated were greatly influenced by these novels. He narrated even the smallest of incidents by creating a loss of suspense. In order to make stories interesting, Iswaran added dramatic gestures to it. He would give the stories a surprise ending. Sometimes he would not end the story in order to heighten his master's curiosity. Often he was excited while telling a story. Then he would jump and stamp his feet in excitement.

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

- (i) In spite of becoming deaf, Evelyn was determined to lead a normal life. She was a fighter and due to her determination and hard work, she managed to defeat her physical disability. She was encouraged by Ron Forbes, a percussionist, who spotted her potential. She learnt to sense music through different parts of the body and opened her mind and body to vibrations. She could feel higher drums from waist up and xylophone music through her fingertips. She used to remove her shoes on the wooden floors. She was the master of a thousand instruments and was most sought after as a multi-percussionist.
- (ii) Santosh Yadav proved her mountaineering skills quite early in her career. She displayed an unflinching will and a fearless mind that fought a rigid, orthodox society to rise to the top. But the stern will and bold decisions did not smother her qualities of co-operation and concern for others. Santosh was endowed with a caring heart is obvious from the fact that she took great care of a climber at the South Col. Though, the climber could not be saved, Santosh's concern for him was really commendable. In another incident, she saved the life of a fellow climber, Mohan Singh by sharing her own oxygen with him. This sense of sacrifice and team-spirit won for her the esteem of her team-mates. Moreover, Santosh's heart overflowed with patriotism when she unfurled the national flag on the top of Mt. Everest.

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

- (i) The Disciple in the story didn't look into the depth of the matter and took a hasty decision of not leaving the kingdom of fools. The Disciple was waylaid by the prices of the commodities. Anything could be bought with a 'Duddu'. Either it could be a mass of rice or a bunch of bananas. So, the disciple decided to stay back not listening to his Guru who advised his disciple that it was dangerous to stay back in the kingdom of fools, as there was no justice prevalent in such a kingdom. The disciple did not adhere to his Guru's advice and ultimately had to suffer. It was only when the disciple was chosen as the suitable person for execution, that he realized his mistake. He regretted his decision of staying back. Had the Guru not saved him, this small decision could have costed him his life.
- (ii) The child in the chapter had a very restless nature. He went to the fair with his parents and liked almost everything as any child would showing his innocence. The child knew that his parents would not accept his request. He kept following his parents quietly. He wanted to enjoy the roundabout. So he stood near it. But when he moved back, he found his



parents nowhere. He became panic-stricken and cried for them. A man from the crowd tried to help him by offering him different things. The sole desire of the child was to see his parents. Although the child was very understanding. He did wanted to buy all the things he saw but knew it was a very irrelevant demand to make so accepted the denial to all his requests. By the end of the story we learn how the child loved his parents so much as he denied all the other things he wanted earlier just because he couldn't find his parents around him.

