

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 9

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.

[10]

It is an indisputable fact that the world has gone too far with the innovation of new technologies such as mobile phones, the internet and so on, due to which people can tour the cosmos virtually while sitting in one place using their smart devices or other technological gadgets. Though mobile internet access is often hurried and short, it can still provide common internet features like alerts, other data, emails, search engines, instant messages, and game and music downloading.

Due to the easy access to smartphones, communication has been very effective and instant. People can convey their message all around the globe to their loved ones without spending hefty sums of money. Adults are always fond of such gadgets and they always welcome and adopt such new technology readily. Further, young people have been able to broaden their minds and improve their skills by researching on the Internet. For instance, they use smartphones to look up any new word they come across. As we know most of universities have online teaching provisions and smartphones assist students in completing their assignments on time. The mobile phone has been a lifesaver for a lot of people in case of an emergency. Likewise, the use of smartphones can be of vital importance in preventing crimes in society by providing information to the security forces in time.

Nonetheless, for the young, the use of a mobile phone can be like an addiction and they can misuse it. Young people are also prone to getting involved in undesirable activities on the Internet. This might have an adverse effect on their academic performance. Therefore, young people should always be monitored and made aware of their bad outcomes.

Also, a major contributor to its popularity is the availability of prepaid or pay-as-you-go services from a phone shop or an online store. This allows subscribers to load text or airtime credits to their handsets by the use of their credit cards, debit cards or by buying a prepaid card from the network they subscribe to. This plan also



doesn't commit a particular customer to a contract. If prepaid card is not that appealing to you, then you can opt to subscribe using the pay-by-month plan.

(I) In paragraph 1, what does the phrase 'people can tour the cosmos virtually while sitting in one place' suggest about technology? (1)

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

Mobile phones have made communication _____.

- (a) complicated and expensive
- (b) efficient and cost-effective (paragraph 2)

(III) Support the writer's idea that mobile phones have a positive impact on students' academic performance. (paragraph 2) (2)

(IV) Select the option that best reflects the importance of mobile phones during emergencies. (paragraph 3) (1)

- (a) They help in saving lives by enabling quick communication.
- (b) They provide entertainment in stressful situations.

(V) State whether the following statement is True or False. (paragraph 4)

Young people are prone to misusing mobile phones, which can negatively affect their academics. (1)

(VI) The writer mentions the popularity of prepaid services. Which of the following is a key reason for their popularity? (1)

- (a) They bind users to long-term contracts.
- (b) They allow flexibility without a contract.
- (c) They are limited to text messaging.
- (d) They are only available in physical stores.

(VII) List any two ways in which mobile phones help in improving communication globally. (paragraph 2) (2)

(VIII) Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given. (paragraph 5)

The phrase "pay-as-you-go" refers to _____. (1)

- (a) A contract-free payment plan allowing users to recharge as needed
- (b) A credit-based system for long-term phone subscriptions
- (c) A method for subscribing to monthly payment plans
- (d) A limited service restricted to text and calls

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.

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:

- i. 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 _____.

- ii. 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).

- iii. 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.

- iv. Based on the given table, for which 'purpose' did Indian foreign travel increase in 2022 as compared to 2019? **(1)**

- v. '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)**

- vi. 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.

- vii. Why are students today choosing to go abroad to study? (Answer in about 40 words.) **(2)**

viii. **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]

This selfless initiative carried out with dedication and responsibility, _____ (deserve) due recognition.

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

Delhi Government	
COVID-19 FAMILY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME	
An assistance of ₹2,500/- per month will be given to family residing in Delhi where earning members died due to COVID-19.	

Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

- (c) Read the conversation between two friends Ravi and Reena. Complete the sentence by reporting Reena's reply correctly. [1]

Ravi: "Reena, lend me hundred rupees".

Reena: "I don't have it right now, but I will arrange it for you".

Ravi asked Reena to lend him hundred rupees, to which Reena replied that _____.

- (d) The boss asked the new joiner Aisha a few questions on her first day. Report the question the boss asked. [1]

Do you like working in sales?

- (e) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the slogan. [1]

_____ ONLY WEAPON TO FIGHT INJUSTICE IS EDUCATION

a) THIS

b) A

c) THE

d) AN

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

A doctor and his two children died in the fire accident that took place in Tamil Nadu's Tirupati district on Sunday.

Option no.	Error	Correction
A	died	dies
B	the	a
C	took	takes
D	in	at

- (g) I _____ not budge an inch from the righteous path. [1]

a) may

b) must



- c) could d) will
- (h) How bad that game is! I'm sure our team_____ in this match. [1]
a) is being beaten b) is going to be beaten
c) will have been beaten d) is beaten
- (i) She _____ work a little harder. [1]
a) ought to b) might
c) may d) could
- (j) Fill in the blank by using that correct form of the word given in the bracket. [1]
The film with its exciting soundtrack and classical music _____ (appeal) to the general audiences.
- (k) Nobody in the classroom _____ able to answer the question about subject-verb agreement [1]
yesterday.
a) was b) is
c) can d) were
- (l) The police _____ to be careful since the criminal was dangerous. [1]
a) were told b) was telling
c) was saying d) was told

Section B Writing

4. Our country has different cultures, religions and languages. But when our motherland faces any crisis, all people [5]
deal with it unitedly. Write a paragraph on the topic of Unity in Diversity.

OR

Man is basically a social animal. He depends on others for his survival and existence. He has to work with others and must know how to get the best out of a team. Taking these ideas, write a paragraph on How to Get the Best out of a Team.

5. Write a diary entry of the day when you became the proud winner of Flower Arrangement Competition [5]
organised in the school.

OR

Sneha wanted to write a story but could not go beyond a line or two. Taking help from, the information given below along with the lines Sneha wrote a complete story.

Mr. Aggarwal was a very wealthy businessman. One day he was alone sitting at his dining table when...

Section C Literature

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

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

"Kind sir, have pity; turn your attention to a poor, hungry man! For three days I have had nothing to eat; I haven't five copecks for a lodging, I swear it before God. For eight years I was a village school teacher and then I lost my place through intrigues. I fell a victim to calumny. It is a year now since I have had anything to do." The advocate, Sergei, looked at the ragged, fawn-coloured overcoat of the suppliant, at his dull, drunken eyes, at the red spot on either cheek, and it seemed to him as if he had seen this man somewhere before. "I have now had an offer of a position in the province of Kaluga," the mendicant went on, "but I haven't the money to get there. Help me kindly; I am ashamed to ask, but - I am obliged to by circumstances."



- i. Which of the following is NOT a reason the mendicant gives for seeking help from the advocate, Sergei? **(1)**
 - A. He is starving and hasn't eaten for three days.
 - B. He is a renowned scholar with a successful career.
 - C. He has a job offer in the province of Kaluga but lacks the funds to get there.
 - D. He has lost his place as a village school teacher due to scheming and lies.
- ii. How does the man explain his request for assistance to Sergei, and what emotions does he express in making this plea? **(2)**
- iii. Read the following descriptions (a)-(c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract: **(1)**
 - a. A drunken individual seeking legal advice from advocate Sergei
 - b. A poor and hungry man who has lost his job and needs financial assistance.
 - c. An advocate named Sergei who is contemplating a career change.
- iv. What does the speaker expect from the listener? **(1)**

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

[5]

I got up and paced up and down the room. Then another lovely thought struck me. I would marry. I would get married to a woman doctor who had plenty of money and good medical practice. She had to be fat; for a valid reason. If I made some silly mistake and needed to run away she should not be able to run after me and catch me! With such thoughts in my mind, I resumed my seat in the chair in front of the table. There were no more sounds from above.

Suddenly there came a dull thud as if a rubber tube had fallen to the ground ... surely nothing to worry about. Even so, I thought I would turn around and take a look. No sooner had I turned than a fat snake wriggled over the back of the chair and landed on my shoulder. The snake's landing on me and my turning were simultaneous.

- a. What did the protagonist NOT want in his potential spouse according to his thoughts in the passage? **(1)**
 - i. A woman who was practicing medicine.
 - ii. Someone who was wealthy.
 - iii. A woman who was agile and athletic.
 - iv. Someone who was professionally doing well
- b. What does the speaker's tone in the passage suggest about his state of mind and emotions as he contemplates the idea of marriage and then experiences the unexpected encounter with the snake? **(2)**
- c. Read the following descriptions (i)-(iii) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract. **(1)**
 - i. A debate is a formal discussion on a particular topic, usually with two or more people presenting different viewpoints and arguments.
 - ii. A soliloquy is a speech given by a character alone on stage, which reveals their innermost thoughts and feelings to the audience.
 - iii. An aside is a brief comment or remark made by a character directly to the audience which is not intended to be heard by other characters on stage.



d. Which phrase would correctly substitute 'a valid', in the given sentence from the extract (1)

She had to be fat; for **a valid** reason. If I made some silly mistake and needed to run away she should not be able to run after me and catch me!

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]

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,

And sorry I could not travel both

And be one traveler, long I stood

And looked down one as far as I could

To where it bent in the undergrowth;

a. The color yellow symbolizes the _____ season. (1)

b. What is the cause of the poet's feelings of sorrow? (2)

c. What was the emotional state of the poet in the provided lines? (1)

i. he was confused

ii. he was indifferent

iii. he was agitated

iv. he was excited

d. What does the phrase 'long I stood' reflect about the poet? (1)

(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. '**Rolled round in earth's diurnal course**' What does the poet intend to say in the given line? (1)

b. She can't see and hear because she is _____. (1)

c. What is she incapable of doing? (2)

d. Which part of speech is represented by **diurnal**? (1)

i. adjective

ii. adverb

iii. verb

iv. pronoun

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

(a) Why did Einstein have a special interest in Mileva Marie? [3]

(b) What is the cloud's birthplace? How does it go upward to heaven? Write your answer in the context of poem Rain on the Roof. [3]

(c) Where was Abdul Kalam's house situated? Write your answer in the context of the lesson "My Childhood". [3]

(d) Where did the writer stay in Kathmandu? Which two different places of worship did he visit and with whom? Write your answer in the context of the Kathmandu. [3]

(e) Who was Saint Peter? [3]

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

(a) Describe the things Sue did to make Johnsy interested. [3]



- (b) Why did the narrator's mother rush back into the house again? Write your answer in the context of the lesson A House is Not a Home. [3]
- (c) What were Iswaran's duties in Mahendra's house? [3]
10. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words** [6]
- (a) How did Evelyn succeed in pursuing her interest in music? [6]
- (b) Write in short Maria Sharapova's journey to the top. [6]
11. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.** [6]
- (a) Sometimes wisdom lies in being tactful. It was the guru's wisdom and knowledge that led him to become the king of the kingdom. Elaborate with reference to **In the Kingdom of Fools**. [6]
- (b) What did the child do when he realised that he had got separated from his parents? Write your answer in the context of The Lost Child. [6]



Solution

Section A Reading

1. (I) It suggests that technology allows people to explore and learn about the world without needing to physically travel.
(II) (b) efficient and cost-effective
(III) Mobile phones help students by enabling them to:
1. Research new concepts, such as unfamiliar words, using the internet.
 2. Access online teaching resources and complete assignments on time.
- (IV) (a) They help in saving lives by enabling quick communication.
(V) True
(VI) (b) They allow flexibility without a contract.
(VII) Answer is
1. Mobile phones enable instant communication with loved ones worldwide.
 2. They allow users to convey messages efficiently without incurring high costs.
- (VIII) (a) A contract-free payment plan allowing users to recharge as needed
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) deserves

(ii) error	correction
family	families

(iii) Ravi asked Reena to lend him hundred rupees, to which Reena replied that she didn't have it right then but she would arrange it for him.

(iv) The boss asked Aisha if she liked working in sales.

(v) (c) THE

Explanation:

THE

(vi) (B) the - a

(vii) (d) will

Explanation:

I will not budge an inch from the righteous path.

(viii) (b) is going to be beaten

Explanation:



is going to be beaten

(ix) (a) ought to

Explanation:

She **ought to** work a little harder.

(x) appeals

(xi) (a) was

Explanation:

was

(xii) (a) were told

Explanation:

were told

Section B Writing

4.

Unity in diversity

"Unity in diversity" - these are not just words, but something that is highly applicable to a country like India that is incredibly rich in culture and heritage. A few quotations or statements cannot describe the pedestal that India holds on to the world map because of its colourful and unique culture. From the times of Mauryas, Cholas and Mughals to the period of the British Empire, India has always been famous for its traditions and hospitality. India is a synthesis of diverse social and cultural elements. There is diversity not only in regard to racial compositions, religious and linguistic distinctions but also in patterns of living, lifestyles, occupational pursuits, inheritance and succession of law and practices and rites related to birth, marriage, death etc. But when the need is, national unity and integrity have always been maintained even though sharp economic and social inequalities have obstructed the emergence of equalitarian social relations. The idea of unity of India is inherent in all its historical and socio-cultural facts as well as in its cultural heritage. The distinctive feature of India in its unity and diversity is also reflected in the social ethos. We should always maintain this unity to make our country more powerful.

OR

How to Get the Best out of a Team

Man is a social animal. He can't live in a vacuum. He has to depend on others to make a living. He has to bond with others and be a part of a team. Working in a team is quite a challenge. A team is said to a group of people who work together while depending on each other together. This is done with cooperating each other in order to satisfy to accomplish a common objective or goal. One has to adjust himself to the requirements of his team. A team must work like a well-oiled machine. Only then it can produce great results. All the members of a team must work together selflessly to achieve a common aim or goal. Working in a team is generally everyone agreed that would benefit everyone whether its participant and company. The strong leadership controls the individuals and goad them to achieve the common goal. Conflicts are avoided. The focus is on unity and cooperation. Mutual jealousy and conflict of interests have no place in a team. Negative attitudes should be discouraged. Each member should have deep respect and appreciation of others' abilities and skills.

5. 18 Jan. 20XX

8:00 p.m.

Saturday

Dear Diary,

I have exciting news to share with you today. We had a Flower Arrangement Competition at our school, and I participated as I do every year. However, this time, something extraordinary happened—I won the first prize! Despite participating in the past without any success, my efforts finally paid off this year. The reason behind my victory was the meticulous planning and designing I put into the arrangement over the last two days. Notably, I utilized biodegradable materials, adding an eco-friendly touch to my creation.

The competition commenced at 9 a.m. with twelve schools participating, with ages ranging from 13 to 15 years. Our task was to create arrangements using fresh and dried flowers. The display showcased numerous stunning entries, including my bouquet composed of roses, marigolds, and lilies. All the arrangements garnered praise from visitors and judges alike. When my name was announced as the recipient of the first prize, I could hardly believe my ears. It was undeniably a memorable and rewarding day. Good Night!

OR

The Return Gift



Mr. Aggarwal was a very wealthy businessman. One day he was alone sitting at his dining table. It was his birthday. He heard the footsteps of a man behind the curtains. He knew there was a thief there. **Come on! Thank you for coming to my house on my birthday. I'm alone, give me your company.** The thief was starving. He had good food and drinks. Mr. Aggarwal gave him a big purse. It had silver coins. Years rolled by. His fortunes changed. Mr. Aggarwal was a very poor man now. His business was ruined. Today was his 50th birthday. But he had become a pauper now. He was alone reflecting over his good old days. It was at 9 pm. The bell rang. "Who can be at such a time to visit a poor man?" thought Aggarwal. He saw a man in a new suit with a lovely bouquet of red roses. He had many packets of gifts, fruits, sweets, and a few bottles. He tried to recognize the man. "I'm your old thief," replied the man. With the money, you gave me I did some business. I earned a lot of money within these years. Now I am a rich businessman. **Let's celebrate your birthday,** he said. **It is for you, a little return-gift.** He gave a bag to Mr. Aggarwal. Mr. Aggarwal opened the bag. It was full of new currency notes. Mr. Agarwal was surprised and refused the gift at first. Then the thief convinced him to take it as a token of gratitude since he is the reason behind him turning into a rich businessman from a thief. Mr. Agarwal accepted the gift and started his own business and lead his life ever like before. Agarwal accepted the request but on one condition he said he would use this money to start his business and share 50% share of his profit to the thief.

Section C Literature

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

- (i)
 - i. (B) He is a renowned scholar with a successful career.
 - ii. The man explains that he has an offer for a job in Kaluga but lacks the money to get there. He expresses feelings of shame and reluctance in asking for help but acknowledges that circumstances have forced him to seek assistance.
 - iii. (b) A poor and hungry man who has lost his job and needs financial assistance.
 - iv. The speaker appeals to the listener's kindness and sympathy in order to get words of kindness and monetary help.
- (ii)
 - a. (iii) A woman who was agile and athletic. Explanation: In the passage, the protagonist clearly states that he wanted his potential spouse to be fat for a specific reason. Therefore, the correct answer is " A woman who was agile and athletic. " (option iii).
 - b. The speaker's tone in the passage suggests a mix of humour and whimsy when contemplating marriage, with a touch of practicality regarding the potential spouse's physical attributes. However, the sudden encounter with the snake changes his tone to one of surprise and shock, as he is taken by the unexpected event.
 - c. (ii) A soliloquy The passage describes the protagonist's inner thoughts and feelings as he contemplates getting married to a specific type of woman and his reaction to the sudden appearance of a snake. This inner monologue reflects the character's thoughts and feelings, making it a soliloquy.
 - d. "a practical".

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

- (i)
 - a. autumn
 - b. The poet repents being unable to take up both the roads as he had an ardent desire to explore both of them.
 - c. (i) he was confused
 - d. The speaker deeply desired to explore both paths, contemplating his decision with great intensity. He fixed his gaze upon one road, attempting to discern its destination. The phrase, '**long I stood**' projected that the poet was in a dilemma. He pondered for a while and eventually was forced to make a choice.
- (ii)
 - a. The poet reflected the fact that his lover has now become a part of earth's diurnal course which implied that now that she has been buried after death, she and earth have unified in the eternal process of day and night. This merger implied a perpetual unity, wherein she and the Earth coexisted in an unchanging progression of alternating light and darkness.
 - b. dead
 - c. She was unable to exhibit any motion and failed to hear, see and express.
 - d. (i) adjective.

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

- (i) Einstein found Mileva Marie a "clever creature". This young Serb had come to Switzerland because the university in Zurich was one of the few in Europe where women could get degrees. Einstein saw an ally in her because both shared a common interest in art, music and literature which was not considered to be good in those days. Therefore he felt a special interest in his fellow student.
- (ii) The cloud's birthplace is the water bodies on the Earth. Water evaporates and rises to the sky. It condenses there to form clouds and take on strange shapes. Yet essentially, it remains the same old water.
- (iii) Kalam and his family lived in their ancestral house, which was built in the middle of the nineteenth century. It was a fairly large Pucca house, made of limestone and brick, on the Mosque Street in Rameshwaram.



(iv) The writer, Vikram Seth, stayed in a cheap room in the centre of Kathmandu town. He visited the Pashupatinath temple, sacred to the Hindus, and the Boudhanath Stupa, the holy shrine of the Buddhists. He found both the places to be very different from one another. The Pashupatinath temple was full of chaos whereas the Buddhist shrine was a symbol of tranquillity. He went with his acquaintances Mr Shah's son and nephew.

(v) Saint Peter was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ. In fact, he was the head of the apostles and the first Christian Pope. Saint Peter was a holy man. He used to preach to people. For his preaching, he often made a long journey.

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

(i) Sue tried her best to make Johnsy take an interest in things. She talked about clothes and fashions. She started painting in Johnsy's room so that she notices her and even whistled while painting to divert her mind from illness.

(ii) The narrator's mother was in a 'crazed state' when she saw the house engulfed in fire. Without caring for her life she ran into the house to salvage what was important to her. The narrator's father had died when he was very young. He knew that she would want to collect the letters and pictures of her dead husband. She did not want to lose all these reminders of her husband. So, she rushed back into the burning house again.

(iii) Iswaran was Mahendra's cook who used to carry out all domestic works for him. He cooked delicious dishes for him, also washed his clothes and kept his house clean. Besides, he would entertain Mahendra with his endless stories.

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

(i) Evelyn decided not to give up. She defeated her physical disability due to her sheer determination and hard work. It was Ron Forbes, a percussionist who recognised her potential and supported her. He advised her not to listen through her ears, but to open her body and mind to the vibrations. She mastered the art of interpreting different vibrations of sound in her body. She could feel the higher drum from the waist up and the lower one from the waist down. She discovered that she could sense certain notes in different parts of her body. After the practice, she could sense music in different parts of her body. So, through this peculiar manner, Evelyn succeeded in pursuing her interest in music.

(ii) Maria Sharapova was born in Siberia, Russia. At the age of nine years, she left Russia for Florida in the U.S.A. She went there with her father Yuri. She had to spend two hard years in the tennis training camp. It was a heart wrenching two-years separation from her mother. Maria Sharapova learnt an important lesson that tennis excellence would only come at a price. The seniors in the training camp treated her badly. To bully her, they would return to the room late at night, wake her up and make her tidy up the room. All these problems made her life during her training in U.S. miserable and desolate. Maria Sharapova bagged the ladies single crown at Wimbledon in 2004. She attained the world's number one position on Monday, 22nd August 2005. Maria's talent, determination, her hunger for success and her sacrifices had lifted her to the top of the world.

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

(i) It is often said that wise people are sincere and believe in being honest and truthful. But there are circumstances when even the wise may be forced to tell a lie to attain a positive end. In the plot 'In the Kingdom of Fools', the guru was portrayed as an extremely witty man who at once realized that the place, he along with his disciple was in, was the kingdom of fools. Upon the realization, he decided to leave the place instantly as he knew nothing good would happen in that kingdom and he could sense the danger.

However, the guru returned to save his disciple and lied for the same. He recognised the greed of the idiot king and his minister and played a tactful trick on them. As a consequence of his lie, not just the disciple but the people of the kingdom were also saved. Realising the wisdom and intelligence possessed by the guru, the people of the kingdom requested the guru to become their king. Therefore, it can be rightly said that "sometimes wisdom lies in being tactful." It was the guru's wisdom and intelligence that led him to become the king.

(ii) When the child realized that he had got separated from his parents, he was panic-stricken. He got worried and started crying. He started running here and there, in all directions with the hope of finding his parents. His yellow turban came untied and his clothes were all dirty. He frantically searched for his parents but failed. He looked through the patches of yellow but his parents were not there. Ultimately, he ran towards the shrine where a huge crowd had gathered. He entered the crowd, crying loudly for his parents. He struggled to move forward in the crowd and would have been trampled if a kind man had not saved him. The fear of loss and separation had affected him so deeply that he only cried inconsolably. Even when the kind man offered him all the things at the fair, his only concern was to get back to his parents.

