

Class X Session 2025-26

Subject - English Language and Literature

Sample Question Paper - 09

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 Skills

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 passage given below:**

[10]

1. Starting Monday, the country's low-cost Mars mission with the red planet for an extended period will enter the "blackout" phase snapping communication with the satellite. From June 8 to 22 the Sun will block Mars from the Earth snapping communication with the satellite.
2. A senior Indian Space Research Organisation official said. "This will be for the first time that there will be a communication break for such a long period of about 15 days. During this period, there will be no communication with the satellite", he added.
3. Expressing confidence about regaining control over the satellite once the blackout phase is over, he said, "the scenario has been tested and the line of communication will be established." The spacecraft's life has been extended for another six months in March due to surplus fuel.
4. Stating that the spacecraft has been "configured" for the blackout, the ISRO official said, "we are not sending any commands to the spacecraft now, till 8th June few hours of signals will be sent by the spacecraft that will be for about two to three hours per day". In May next year, the mission will have to go through a similar phase once again, if there is another extension of mission life when the Earth will come between the Sun and Mars.
5. Scripting space history, India on September 24 last successfully placed its low-cost Mars spacecraft in orbit around the red planet in its very first attempt, breaking into an elite club of three countries.



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

i. What is the "blackout" phase in the context of the Mars mission, and how long will it last? **(2)**

ii. Choose the appropriate option to fill in the blank. **(1)**

From paragraph 1 & 2, we can infer that there will be _____.

1. no communication with the people.
2. blackout phase.
3. satellite will get no communication.
4. moon will block the earth.
5. the communication break will be for 15 days.

- a. 1, 2 & 3
- b. 1, 3 & 4
- c. 2, 3 & 5
- d. 3, 4 & 5

iii. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/phase from paragraph 2: **(1)**

aroma: cooking:: _____: space research

(Clue - just like aroma is integral to cooking, similarly _____ is/are integral to Space Research.)

iv. According to ISRO official till 8th July, when Sun will block Mars, _____ signal/signals per day will be sent to the spacecraft. **(1)**

- a. no
- b. considerable
- c. indefinite
- d. only for few

v. Select the correct option to complete the following sentence: **(1)**

The ISRO officials are _____ about their control over the spacecraft after the blackout phase.

- a. doubtful
- b. apprehensive
- c. confident
- d. jittery

vi. How has the spacecraft's mission been managed to handle the blackout phase and what is planned for communication during this period? **(2)**

vii. Read the following sentences: **(1)**

A. The blackout was a sudden development.

B. Because of this, the officials are very nervous about the success of the spacecraft.

- a. Both (A) & (B) are true.
- b. Both (A) & (B) are false.
- c. (A) is true and (B) is false.
- d. (A) is false and (B) is true.

viii. Substitute the word 'nonpareil' with one word similar in meaning in the following sentence from paragraph 5. **(1)**

India managed to get into the nonpareil club of Mars spacecraft in orbit.

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 brackets, for the given portion of a letter. [1]
Please keep me _____ (apprise) of your next step to address this matter. Thanks for your time.
- (b) Identify the error and supply correction for the following sentence taken from a copyright's document. [1]
The information contained herein is subject to change without notice. Reproducing, adaptation, or translation without prior written permission is prohibited.
Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

- (c) Samar shared some information with Sameer about his recent visit to a wildlife sanctuary. Report Sameer's question. [1]
Did you spot a tiger during the safari?

- (d) The doctor says, "It is better you undergo surgery next week." [1]
Reported speech: _____

- a) The doctor says that it is better I undergo surgery the following week. b) The doctor advises that it is better I underwent surgery the following week.
- c) The doctor says that it was better I underwent surgery in the coming week. d) The doctor advised me to undergo surgery the following week.

- (e) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option. [1]
Give me _____ (some / many / little) advice on how to improve my writing skills.

- (f) Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction: [1]
The stage performance put up by the students were spectacular.
Use the given format for your response:

Error	Correction

- (g) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a news report: [1]
These exams open doors to higher education, improve employment opportunities and increase option.

Option no.	Error	Correction
A	these	this
B	open	opens
C	to	for
D	option	options

- (h) Until the tap water ____ back on yesterday evening, we ____ water back and forth for three days. [1]
a) came / had been carrying b) was coming / will have carried
c) had come / were carrying d) has come / have been carrying

- (i) **Read the conversation between a doctor and his patient. Complete the sentence by reporting the patient's reply correctly.** [1]
Doctor: How do you feel now? Did you take the medicines regularly?
Patient: Better. Yes, I took the medicines on time.



The doctor, while trying to figure out his patient's ailment, asked about his well-being and whether he had taken his medicines on time, to which, the patient affirmed that he felt better and that _____.

- (j) He said, "I shall get up early in the morning". [1]

Reported speech: _____

- a) He said that he would get up early in the morning. b) He said that he will get up early in the morning.
c) He said he would get up early in the morning. d) He asked that he would get up early in the morning.

- (k) **Complete the line from a self-awareness song, by filling the blank with the correct option.** [1]

Long, Long afterward in an oak

I _____ the arrow still unbroke,

- A. found
B. find
C. finds
D. am finding

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

Pragati Maidan, New Delhi	
28TH CONVERGENCE INDIA EXPO	
Network and interact with industry leaders live and on person.	

Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

SECTION B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

4. Today the ratio of car to house member is one is to one. This has led to parking issues in colonies. Cars are parked on the road which narrows road space leading to congestion. [5]

You have read about incidents of short-tempered brawls and physical violence in colonies because of lack of parking space.

Write a letter to the editor of **Times of India** in about 100-120 words, drawing attention to this problem and what measures can be taken to resolve the problem. You are Sharan/Sunita from Maya Nagar.

OR

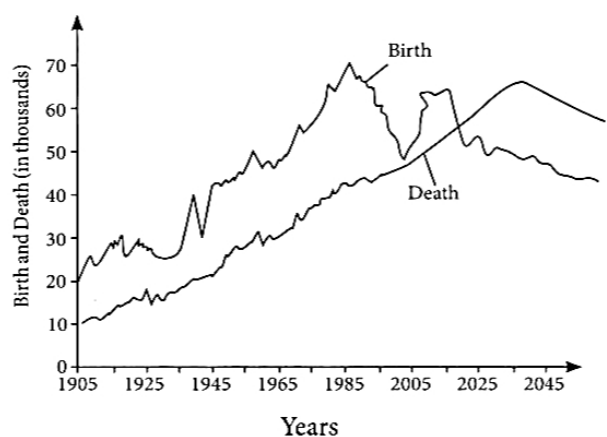
You are Aruna/Arjun C.C.A. incharge of St. Joseph's High School, Pune Cantt. You have read an advertisement by the National Tourist Corporation, offering excellent prices for group tours.

Write a letter to enquire about the following :

- Duration of tour
- Sight seeing itinerary
- Cost of package discount
- Mode of transport
- Destinations being offered

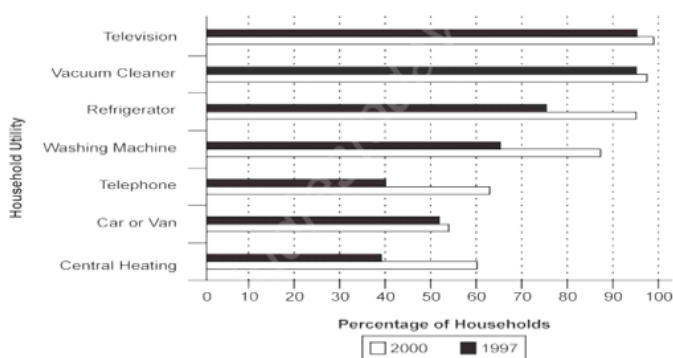
5. The line graph below shows changes in the birth and death rates in New Jersey since 1905 and forecast uptil 2045. Analyse the graph and write your observation in a paragraph. [5]





OR

A survey was conducted on the percentage of households using various household utility products and the result is evident in the bar-chart given below. Study the following bar chart and write the paragraph that was compiled after the survey.



SECTION C - LITERATURE

6. 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]

Ausable was, for one thing, fat. Very fat. And then there was his accent. Though he spoke French and German passably, he had never altogether lost the American accent he had brought to Paris from Boston twenty years ago.

“You are disappointed,” Ausable said wheezily over his shoulder.

i. Who is ‘you’ here? (1)

- Fowler
- Ausable
- Waiter
- Max

ii. How is Ausable different from other secret agents? (2)

iii. ‘You’ believed that Ausable was _____. (1)

iv. It can be inferred from the extract that a secret agent is expected to be (1)

- fit.
- compassionate.
- apologetic.
- suave.
- violent.

a. Option 1, 3 & 5

- b. Option 1 & 4
- c. Option 2 ,4 & 5
- d. Option 2 & 3

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

[5]

The house-the only one in the entire valley sat on the crest of a low hill. From this height, one could see the river and the field of ripe corn dotted with the flowers that always promised a good harvest. The only thing the earth needed was a downpour or at least a shower. Throughout the morning Lencho-who knew his fields intimately had done nothing else but see the sky towards the north-east, "Now we're really going to get some water, woman." The woman who was preparing supper, replied, "Yes, God willing"

- i. What is the significance of the location of Lencho's house? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- ii. Complete the sentence with the appropriate option. The field belonged to Lencho and he had the utmost confidence that the harvest would _____. (1)
 - A. not gain any profit
 - B. reap some profit
 - C. give moderate sale
 - D. reap great profits
- iii. Identify the word in the passage that means the same as "heavy fall of rain" (1)
- iv. State any one inference about Lencho from the given context: Throughout the morning Lencho-who knew his fields intimately had done nothing else but see the sky towards the north-east, "Now we're really going to get some water, woman." (1)

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

[5]

(a) Read the lines given below and answer the questions that follow:

[5]

I sit inside, doors open to the verandah
 Writing long letters
 In which I scarcely mention the departure
 of the forest from the house.
 The night is fresh, the whole moon shines
 in a sky still open
 the smell of leaves and lichen
 still reaches like a voice into the rooms.

- i. Fill in the blank with one word: (1)
 The poet talks about the house as a place of _____.
- ii. Find the figure of speech used in the lines above. (2)
- iii. The extract uses 'open' twice, suggesting different meanings. Write the correct meaning with reference to the extract. (1)
- iv. Choose the option that DOES NOT state the meaning of the underlined word. (1)
 'I scarcely mention...'
 - A. tactfully
 - B. hardly
 - C. barely
 - D. only just



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

Belinda still lives in her little white house,
With her little black kitten and her little gray mouse,
And her little yellow dog and her little red wagon,
And her realio, trulio, little pet dragon.

- i. With whom does Belinda live and where? (1)
- ii. How many characters and animals are introduced in this extract? (1)
 - a. 1, 4
 - b. 2, 5
 - c. 4, 1
 - d. 1, 5
- iii. Fill in the blank with one word. Bravest of all pets was _____. (1)
- iv. What effect do the words 'realio and trulio' have on the poem? (2)

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

- (a) How are the Coorgi people men of valour? [3]
- (b) What do you think the tiger would say to you, as a visitor? [3]

You may begin like this:

Please stop staring. You have no idea.....(continue).....

- (c) Why did Lomov go to the house of Chubukov? [3]
- (d) Why did Mr. Keesing stop punishing Anne? [3]
- (e) "But if it had to perish twice"; how will the world perish twice? Answer in the context of the poem Fire and Ice. [3]

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

- (a) **I was really worried about Tricky this time.** Comment on the writer's choice of beginning the story in this manner. What purpose does it serve? [3]
- (b) Bholi's heart was overflowing with a **new hope and a new life**. What does the phrase **the new hope and the new life** means to Bholi? [3]
- (c) Why does the writer say that Griffin had chosen a bad time to be in London without clothes? [3]

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

- (a) Read the extracts given below and comment on the difference in the nature of help both the characters, of these two stories, received. [6]

a. Suddenly I came out of the clouds and saw two straight lines of lights in front of me. It was a runway! An airport! I was safe! I turned to look for my friend in the black aeroplane but the sky was empty. **[The Black Aeroplane]**

b. All through the night Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of God...The following Sunday, at daybreak he began to write a letter...It was nothing less than a letter to God...The following Sunday Lencho came a bit earlier than usual to ask if there was a letter for him.... Lencho showed not the slightest surprise on seeing the money, such was his confidence. **[A Letter to God]**

- (b) Tiger in a zoo just overheard from the visitors that Nelson Mandela became the first black president fighting for freedom. He writes a letter to Nelson Mandela appealing Mandela to set the him free. You may begin like this. [6]



Dear Mandela,

I just heard from the visitors that you became the first black president fighting for freedom. I wanted to write to you to....

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

(a) Imagine you're one of the columnists in a magazine. People write to you about their issues, seeking your advice. [6]

Matilda writes to you about the guilt she feels for having lost a necklace and how it changed the course of her life and her husband's. What would be your advice to her?

(b) Education, love and sympathy can transform even a thief. How is it true in the case of Hari Singh? [6]



Solution

Section A - Reading Skills

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. The "blackout" phase refers to the period when the Sun will block Mars from the Earth, causing a communication break with the satellite. This phase will last from June 8 to 22, approximately 15 days.
- ii. 2, 3 & 5
- iii. aroma : cooking :: satellite : space research
- iv. According to ISRO official till 8th July, when Sun will block Mars, only for few signals per day will be sent to the spacecraft.
- v. The ISRO officials are confident about their control over the spacecraft after the blackout phase.
- vi. The spacecraft has been configured to handle the blackout phase, and no commands will be sent to it during this time. However, the spacecraft will send signals for about two to three hours per day until June 8. After this, communication will be completely halted until the end of the blackout phase.
- vii. (A) is true and (B) is false.
- viii. elite

SECTION B GRAMMAR

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

- (i) The correct form of the word is **"apprised"**.

(ii)	Error	Correction
	Reproducing adaptation	Reproduction, adaptation

- (iii) Sameer asked Samar whether/if he had spotted a tiger during the safari.

- (iv) (a) The doctor says that it is better I undergo surgery the following week.

Explanation:

The doctor says that it is better I undergo surgery the following week.

- (v) some

(vi)	Error	Correction
	were	was

- (vii) (D) option - options

- (viii) (a) came / had been carrying

Explanation:

came / had been carrying

- (ix) he had taken the medicines on time



- (x) (a) He said that he would get up early in the morning.

Explanation:

He said that he would get up early in the morning.

- (xi) A. found

The lines are starting with 'Long, Long ago' that obviously states that the verse is talking about the past.

(xii) error	correction
on	in

SECTION B CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

4. 12 B, Maya Nagar,
April 06, 20XX

The Editor
The Times of India
New Delhi

Subject: Urgent Need for Parking Solutions in Maya Nagar.

Sir/Madam,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Maya Nagar to shed light on a pressing issue plaguing our community – the severe shortage of parking space for vehicles. With the current car-to-household ratio at one-to-one, our colonies are facing a parking crisis that is exacerbating day by day. The c

The lack of parking facilities has led to unfortunate incidents of short-tempered brawls and even physical violence among residents. This not only disrupts the harmony of our neighbourhood but also poses serious safety concerns. Besides, most of the cars are parked on the road which narrows road space leading to congestion.

To resolve this issue, I urge the local authorities to consider implementing the following measures:

- The construction of designated parking lots within our colonies.
- Strict enforcement of no-parking zones on roads.
- Promoting carpooling and the use of public transportation.

It is imperative that immediate action is taken to alleviate this problem and maintain the peaceful coexistence of our community. We hope that our concerns will be heard, and steps will be taken promptly.

Yours Sincerely,
Sharan/Sunita

OR

St. Joseph's High School
Pune Cantt
28 August 2023

National Tourist Corporation
Ghorpadi, Pune
Subject: Inquiry about Group Tour Packages

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing as the C.C.A. Incharge of St. Joseph's High School, Pune Cantt, regarding the enticing group tour packages advertised by the National Tourist Corporation. Our school is interested in exploring these opportunities for our students.

Could you please provide detailed information on the following aspects of the tour package:

1. **Duration of the Tour:** We need to plan our schedule accordingly.
2. **Sightseeing Itinerary:** A list of places and attractions to be covered during the tour.
3. **Cost of the Package and Discounts:** We are keen to understand the pricing structure and available discounts for group bookings.
4. **Mode of Transport:** Information about the type of transportation being provided for the tour.
5. **Destinations Offered:** A comprehensive list of destinations included in the package.

Your prompt response with these details will greatly assist us in making an informed decision about the tour for our students.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Yours sincerely,
Aruna/Arjun

5. The line graph shows changes in the birth and death rates in New Jersey since 1905 and forecast upto 2045.

Between 1905 and the present day, the birth rate has been consistently higher than the death rate. It stood at 20,000 at the start of this period and increased to a high of 70,000. Since then the rate has varied between 63 to 50 thousand and it is expected to decline slowly to 40,000 births towards 2045.

On the contrary, the death rate started at 10,000 and increased steadily until the present time. This increase was higher between 1985 and 2025 around 66,000 before dropping slightly in 2045.

To conclude, these opposing trends mean that the death rate might overtake the birth rate around 2024 and the huge difference between the two levels may reverse after that.

OR

The bar-chart indicates various utilities being used by percentages of households, Surveyed in the year 1997 and 2000. The chart shows that the most popular household utility item in 1997 and 2000 is the television and about 98% of households have it. The fascination for TV remains steadfast since there are a number of channels to suit each temperament and taste. The increasing sales of vacuum cleaners and washing machines are clear pointers that doing such chores manually is becoming difficult. The fridge appears to have gained popularity even among the poor sections of society and has become a necessity today. The telephone also is becoming increasingly popular. However, the use of cars does not really show an upward trend despite the variety of brands launched in the market due to the cost factors. The concept of central Heating appears to remain limited to the rich sections of society, though it has improved from 1997 and now 50% of the households use it.

SECTION C - LITERATURE

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

- (i) i. (a) Fowler
ii. Secret Agents are expected to be tall, smart, agile, dashing, and alert people surrounded by darkness, pistols and drugs in the wine. On the contrary, Ausable was fat and sloppy with heavy American accent. He was not at all flashy or romantic like other agents.
iii. Ausable was not a secret agent
iv. Option (b) is correct
- (ii) i. Lencho, the farmer, lived on the only house that was there on the top of a hill. The hill was low-heighted. From there, a river and a ready-to-harvest corn field were visible.
ii. One could see from this height the river and the field of ripe corn.
iii. Downpour.
iv. He was a **hardworking farmer with minimum resources and worked like an ox in the field. He was a man of faith and hope.** Even after losing their only source of income, he did not lose his hope. He loved his family and was worried about it.

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

- (i) i. confinement, It is so because the houses today are congested, small and lack ventilation
ii. The second line uses alliteration-long letters whereas the last line uses a simile-like a voice into the rooms.
iii. The correct meaning of open twice is allowing access and vision-expanse of space.
iv. (A) tactfully
- (ii) i. Belinda lives with her pets - kitten, mouse, dog and dragon in a little white house.
ii. (a) 1, 4 (Character- Belinda, Animals/pets- black kitten, a little gray mouse, a little yellow dog and a little dragon)
iii. Custard, the dragon.
iv. The words 'realio and trulio' refer to really and truly respectively. They have been invented by the poet and repeated in different stanzas to enhance the rhythm and lyrical quality of the poem. This also adds the humour in the poem.

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

- (i) Coorgi homes have a tradition of hospitality, and they are more than willing to recount numerous tales of valour related to their sons and fathers. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army, and the first Chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa, was a Coorgi. Even now, Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a licence.
- (ii) Please stop staring. You have no idea how uncomfortable and restless your stare is to me. I'm trying to ignore each one of you as I consider you humans to be devoid of feelings. None had ever tried to help me out to make me free from this cage. My freedom has been curtailed by you humans. I'm forced to live in a cage which is so small. I'm just fed up of this situation and these visitors.
- (iii) Lomov was a rich bachelor. He went to the house of Chubukov to propose to his daughter, Natalya to marry him. He was not in love with her but felt that she was a good housekeeper, beautiful and well educated.



- (iv) Mr. Keesing gave Anne essays to write to keep her talkative nature in check. When Mr. Keesing gave her an essay to write on the topic "Quack, Quack, Quack, said Mistress Chatterbox" as a punishment, she decided to write something real this time. It was about a mother duck and a father swan with three baby ducklings who were bitten to death by the father because they quacked too much. Mr Keesing took the joke the right way. Thus, he stopped punishing her.
- (v) According to the poet, the world will end due to the 'fire', which symbolises 'desire' but if the world has to end twice then it will be due to the hatred which is symbolised by 'ice'. The poet feels that there is enough hatred spreading among the people in the world to perish the world twice because unlike fire, ice or hatred affects slowly and gradually and souls of people insensitive to anybody's pain.

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

- (i) The above line shows the narrator's concern about Tricky when the narrator saw the dog after a long time he was really in bad health. And when he asked Mrs. Pumphrey about his diet and exercises, she made excuses and was not following it.
- (ii) The phrase means Bholi's heart was overflowing with a new hope and a new life when she took a vow to serve her parents in their old age and to teach the students in the same school where she had learnt a lot.
- (iii) The writer H.G Wells, says that Griffin had chosen a bad time to be in London without clothes because it was mid-winter. The air was bitterly cold and he could not be without clothes in that weather.

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

- (i) Both Lencho and the pilot of the Dakola plane needed help and there is no doubt that both of them received the help too. But still there is a lot of difference between the help received by both of them.

In 'The Black Aeroplane' the pilot was caught in the storm and it was difficult to come out of it. But suddenly, out of nowhere, a black aeroplane appeared and helped him come out of the storm. The black aeroplane was without lights but it steered the pilot through the dark clouds. He landed at an airport. He was so happy. He decided to thank the pilot of that mysterious aeroplane but was told by the lady in the control room that there was no other aeroplane in the air other than his. It is a mystery which was not resolved. The only thing was that he received an unexpected help and was thankful for it.

On the other hand, in 'A letter to God', Lencho needed help in the form of pesos to look after his family. He wrote a letter to God and asked for hundred pesos. His conviction touched the postmaster who raised money from his staff and sent it to Lencho. In this case, Lencho received help as he had asked for it. The source of his aid has clearly been revealed whereas it was not revealed in the case of pilot unlike the pilot in 'The Black Aeroplane', Lencho is not happy and satisfied with the help that he had received.

- (ii) Dear Mr. Mandela,

I just heard from the visitors that you became the first black president fighting for freedom. I wanted to write to you to express my gratitude for your efforts in fighting for equality. I also wanted to let you know that I am still fighting for my own freedom. This news gave me hope that one day I, too, might be freed from my captivity.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask you to help set me free. I have been living in a small cage for many years where I am constantly watched by people. I long to be free in the wild. I know that you understand what it is like to be oppressed, and I hope that you will see fit to help me in my own fight for freedom. I know that you are a busy man, but I hope that you might be able to help me.

Please, Mr. Mandela, help me to be free.

Sincerely,

The Tiger in a Zoo

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

- (i) The Editor

Mr Jay,

It's a pleasure to write of my woes in your column. You are the best adviser to everybody's problems. You lent a patient ear to each of your guests. Now listen and be the best adviser to me.

I am into depression mode as I recently lost a diamond necklace of my best friend which I had borrowed for a party. No amount of pacifying from my husband M Loisel could bring me out of this feeling. Though I was cynosure of everybody's eyes in the party. The loss of necklace brought it all down. After losing it, I got so worried as how I will face my friend now. All through this my husband has been very supportive of me, his immense love and faith in me sailed me through this time. He did all in his capacity to get me out of it. To repay the necklace we borrowed her another necklace which has made our lives very difficult and we now live a life of penury with meager income to support us. How should I help myself to get out of this!



Mr. Jay: Well Matilda! Whatever happens, happens for the best. So put your worries across and think of your future ahead. You have suffered enough, now think of brighter side of life and learn from your mistakes. I am sure you will be out of it soon.

- (ii) For some people, deception is a way to lead life easily, i.e., by changing name, by making excuses, by making new way of making money etc. Anil was the most trusting person. Hari Singh had ever met. But he took undue advantage of his trust. He was a thief and couldn't be expected to be honest with Anil. He came to Anil with a false identity. Anil had a blind faith in human nature. He employed him just out of sympathy and compassion for him. He trusted him and ignored his misdeed. He handed over all the financial transactions without any verification. In a way, he gave him a chance to improve. Hari stole money and then came back with a change of mind. Anil knew even this fact also, but said nothing. It made Hari Singh to decide to leave the style of deception as a way of life. Living a simple and straight life over-powered Hari's deceptive life. Finally, he opted for the simple life by educating himself and becoming a clever, big and respectable man in future. It was very good decision of Hari Singh.

