

CBSE Class X English (Language and Literature) Set 2 (2/4/2)

Question paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :80	Total questions :11
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- (i) This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
- (ii) The question paper contains THREE sections -
 - Section-A:** Reading Skills
 - Section-B:** Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
 - Section-C:** Literature Text Book
- (iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part

Section A

Reading Skills

Read the following passage carefully:

(1) Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues, as rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them. Plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations, where garbage collection systems are often inefficient or nonexistent. But the developed world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, also has trouble properly collecting discarded plastics. Plastic trash has become so ubiquitous that it has prompted efforts to write a global treaty negotiated by the United Nations.

(2) Plastics made from fossil fuels are just over a century old. Production and development of thousands of new plastic products accelerated after World War II. It transformed the modern age so much that life without plastics is unrecognizable today. Plastics revolutionized medicine with life-saving devices, made space travel possible, lightened cars and jets—saving fuel and pollution—and saved lives with helmets, incubators, and equipment for clean drinking water.

(3) The conveniences plastics offer, however, led to a throw-away culture that reveals the material's dark side: today, single-use plastics account for 40 percent of the plastic produced every year. Many of these products, such as plastic bags and food wrappers, have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.

(4) Most of the plastic trash in the oceans, Earth's last sink, flows from land. Trash is also carried to sea by major rivers, which act as conveyor belts, picking up more and more trash as they move downstream. Once at sea, much of the plastic trash remains in coastal waters. But once caught up in ocean currents, it can be transported around the world.

(5) Millions of animals are killed by plastics every year, from birds to fish to other marine organisms. Nearly 700 species, including endangered ones, are known to have been affected by plastics. Nearly every species of seabirds eats plastics. Most of the deaths of animals are

caused by entanglement or starvation. Seals, whales, turtles, and other animals are strangled by abandoned fishing gear or discarded six-pack rings.

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

(i): Which of the following statements best describes the reason why plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues?

- (A) Plastic trash collection systems have become inefficient or nonexistent.
- (B) Rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them.
- (C) Some plastics have a lifespan of mere minutes to hours, yet they may persist in the environment for hundreds of years.
- (D) The developed world, especially in countries with low recycling rates, has trouble properly collecting plastics.

Correct Answer: (B) Rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them.

Solution:

The passage clearly states that the rapid increase in the production of disposable plastic products has overwhelmed the ability of waste management systems globally, which is why this issue is considered critical. This makes option (B) the correct answer.

Quick Tip

When identifying reasons in passages, focus on phrases like "one of the most pressing issues" or "overwhelms the system" for a clear answer.

(ii): What is the tone of the writer in the given lines from paragraph 2? Rationalize your response in about 40 words.

'It transformed the modern age so much that life without plastics is unrecognizable today.'

Correct Answer: Optimistic yet appreciative.

Solution:

The tone of the writer in paragraph 2 is optimistic and appreciative. The passage acknowledges the transformative power of plastics in modern life, highlighting their contributions to medicine, space travel, and other areas, without being overly critical.

Quick Tip

Identify the tone by observing positive or negative keywords in the passage and focus on the writer's perspective.

(iii): The passage includes some words that are opposites of each other. From the sets (A)–(E) below, identify two sets of synonyms.

- (A) garbage and trash
- (B) starvation and strangled
- (C) disposable and reduction
- (D) persist and downstream
- (E) transformed and revolutionized

Correct Answer: (A) garbage and trash, (E) transformed and revolutionized.

Solution:

The pairs (A) garbage and trash and (E) transformed and revolutionized are synonyms as they convey similar meanings. The other pairs either denote unrelated concepts or opposites, making these two the correct choices.

Quick Tip

Synonyms in passages often appear in contexts where they emphasize a single idea or aspect repeatedly.

(iv): Complete the sentence appropriately: The writer says that most of the plastic trash is found in the Earth's last sink and the reason it is transported around the world is

Correct Answer: ocean currents.

Solution:

The writer mentions that once plastic enters the oceans, it is carried away by ocean currents, which act as a transportation mechanism spreading trash worldwide.

Quick Tip

Focus on key terms like "transported" or "moved" in the passage for clues about the mechanism or reason.

(v): Based on the reading of the passage, examine, in about 40 words, the downside of the convenience that plastic offers.

Correct Answer: Plastics are non-biodegradable and persist in the environment for centuries.

Solution:

The downside of plastic convenience is its significant environmental impact. Many plastic products, despite their short lifespan, persist in the ecosystem for centuries, contributing to pollution and threatening wildlife due to entanglement or ingestion.

Quick Tip

In questions about downsides, locate negative consequences described in the passage for a precise answer.

(vi): Complete the sentence appropriately: According to conservationists, the two ways in which most of the deaths of animals are caused are

Correct Answer: entanglement and starvation.

Solution:

The passage explicitly mentions that entanglement and starvation are the two primary ways plastics contribute to animal deaths, as marine organisms either get trapped or are unable to consume food due to ingestion of plastics.

Quick Tip

Use keywords like "causes" or "ways" in the passage to identify multiple contributing factors.

(vii): Based on the passage, how can we contribute to the reduction of plastic waste?

- (A) By internationalising the waste management system
- (B) By minimizing the use of single-use plastics
- (C) By not abandoning fishing gear
- (D) By not using helmets made of plastic

Correct Answer: (B) By minimizing the use of single-use plastics.

Solution:

The passage highlights that one of the most effective ways to reduce plastic waste is by decreasing the production and usage of single-use plastics. This measure addresses the root cause of the waste problem.

Quick Tip

When answering reduction-based questions, look for actions directly targeting the core issue described in the passage.

(viii): State one reason why plastic pollution is most visible in developing Asian and African nations.

Correct Answer: Inefficient or nonexistent waste management systems.

Solution:

Plastic pollution is highly visible in these regions due to the lack of efficient waste management systems, making it difficult to properly collect, recycle, or dispose of plastic waste.

Quick Tip

For region-specific questions, focus on infrastructure or practices highlighted in the passage.

2. Read the following passage carefully:

(1) Rotation of crops is a universal phenomenon which is practised by most of the farmers of the tropical and temperate countries. The main objective of rotation of crops is to obtain higher agricultural returns on the one hand, and to maintain the soil fertility on the other. (2)

In other words, the rotation of crops helps in making agriculture more sustainable. The importance of crop rotation is more in the areas where farmers grow two, or more than two crops in the same field in a year. Irrigation facilities have also been appreciably developed in the country during the last three decades. The availability of water to the arable land has helped in the intensification of agriculture. (3) In the areas such as Punjab and Haryana,

where the Green Revolution is a big success, one soil exhaustive crop (rice) is followed by another soil exhaustive crop (wheat). Subsequently, the field vacated by wheat is devoted to either rice or maize or cotton. Thus, in one year, the farmers are harvesting three soil exhaustive crops from the same field. Such a rotation of crops may fetch more income to the farmers, but depletes the soil fertility at a faster pace.

(4) A number of field studies were conducted to assess the traditional crop rotation pattern. One such field study about the changes in the rotation of crops was conducted in the village Banhera (Tanda), Haridwar district. The main rotation of crops of the village is shown in the table below.

<i>Traditional Rotation of Crops (1960-65) in Banhera (Tanda)</i>				
<i>Year</i>	<i>Khariif (mid-June to mid-October)</i>	<i>Rabi (mid-October to mid-April)</i>	<i>Zaid (April to June)</i>	<i>No. of days land left fallow</i>
1960	Millet/fodder/rice	Gram	Fallow	90
1961	Fallow	Wheat	Fallow	210
1962	Millet/fodder/rice	Gram	Fallow	90
1963	Fallow	Wheat	Fallow	210
1964	Millet mixed with urad/fodder/rice	Gram	Fallow	90
1965	Fallow	Wheat	Fallow	210

(i): Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of para 2.

One of the reasons that there has been an intensification of agriculture in the country is the development of irrigation facilities is a/an _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____ (subjective judgement/objective detail).

Correct Answer: fact; objective detail.

Solution:

The development of irrigation facilities is presented as a fact supported by objective data, as seen in the improvements mentioned in the passage. Therefore, the correct answer is "fact; objective detail."

Quick Tip

Differentiate between facts and opinions by looking for measurable data or universally accepted details in the passage.

(ii): Based on your understanding of paras 1 and 2, state whether the following statement is true or false.

If proper irrigation facility is provided, higher agricultural returns can be obtained by making crop rotation more sustainable.

Correct Answer: True.

Solution:

The passage mentions that irrigation facilities improve the availability of water to arable land, which supports the intensification of agriculture. This aligns with the statement, making it true.

Quick Tip

For true/false questions, match the statement with explicitly mentioned facts in the passage.

(iii): Justify the following in about 40 words.

Crop rotation may fetch more income to the farmers, but depletes the soil fertility at a faster pace.

Correct Answer:

Intensive crop rotation, as practiced in areas like Punjab and Haryana, involves growing soil-exhaustive crops such as rice and wheat repeatedly. This approach increases farmer income but accelerates soil fertility depletion due to nutrient overuse.

Quick Tip

When justifying statements, summarize relevant sections of the passage that directly support the assertion.

(iv): Based on the table, mention the years when the land was left fallow for the maximum number of days.

Correct Answer: 1961, 1963, 1965.

Solution:

The table shows that the land was left fallow for 210 days in 1961, 1963, and 1965. This is the maximum number of fallow days recorded during the given years.

Quick Tip

For table-based questions, focus on numerical data and compare the relevant columns systematically.

v. The study conducted in village Banhera (Tanda) reflects that during the years 1960 to 1965, from April to June, the land was left fallow or uncultivated throughout. State any one inference that can be drawn from this.

Correct Answer: Land was left fallow to allow the soil to regain its fertility.

Solution:

Leaving the land fallow from April to June allowed nutrients in the soil to replenish naturally, ensuring better productivity for the next cropping cycle.

Quick Tip

Inference questions can be answered by identifying repeated patterns or practices and their implied outcomes.

vi. Select the option that correctly states the significance of crop rotation as given below:

- (1) Crop rotation is done to obtain higher agricultural returns.
- (2) Higher agricultural returns can be obtained by harvesting soil-exhaustive crops.
- (3) Crop rotation demands that land should be left fallow for a few months to increase the fertility of soil.
- (4) Better irrigation facility to the arable land has helped in the intensification of agriculture.
- (5) If crops to be harvested are chosen wisely, crop rotation can help in maintaining fertility of soil.

Options:

- (A) (1), (2), and (4)
- (B) (1) only

(C) (3) and (5)

(D) (1) and (5)

Correct Answer: (D) (1) and (5)

Solution:

The passage explains that crop rotation helps obtain higher agricultural returns (1) and maintain soil fertility if crops are chosen wisely (5). These two points align directly with the benefits of crop rotation.

Quick Tip

For multi-choice questions, cross-check each option with the key points highlighted in the passage.

vii. Crop rotation is helping in making agriculture more sustainable. Mention one benefit and one drawback of crop rotation. (Answer in about 40 words).

Correct Answer:

Benefit: Crop rotation increases agricultural returns and maintains soil fertility.

Drawback: Growing soil-exhaustive crops repeatedly depletes nutrients and accelerates soil degradation.

Solution:

Crop rotation diversifies crop production and reduces pests but depletes soil fertility when soil-exhaustive crops like rice and wheat are grown successively without adequate nutrient replenishment.

Quick Tip

For questions requiring benefits and drawbacks, identify both positive and negative aspects of the practice mentioned.

viii. Which of the following is the main takeaway from the study mentioned in the passage?

- (A) The study needs to include more valid data to support the practice of crop rotation.
- (B) Crop rotation is a sustainable practice that can transform the agricultural sector.
- (C) The impact of crop rotation on farmer’s upliftment has been thoroughly explained.
- (D) Crop rotation is independent of the type of crops harvested and availability of water for irrigation.

Correct Answer: (B) Crop rotation is a sustainable practice that can transform the agricultural sector.

Solution:

The study emphasizes that crop rotation enhances sustainability by improving soil fertility, increasing returns, and reducing environmental impacts. This aligns with option (B), which highlights its transformative potential.

Quick Tip

Focus on the conclusion or broader implication drawn in the passage to identify the main takeaway.

SECTION B: Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

GRAMMAR

3. Complete any ten of the following twelve tasks, as directed.

i. Read the given sentence from a sports journal. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.

In present times, physiologists would travel the world to conferences and meetings to present their findings to other scientists.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

Correct Answer: travel

Solution:

Error	Correction
would	can

The verb "would" indicates a hypothetical situation, which is inconsistent with "present times." The correct verb is "can," matching the present context.

Quick Tip

Check for tense consistency by matching verbs with the time period mentioned in the sentence.

ii. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets, for the given portion of a letter.

Dear Sir,

I am an account holder in your branch at Jayanagar. My current ATM card is _____ (damage) and I am unable to use it for any POS transaction.

Correct Answer: damaged

Solution:

The past participle "damaged" describes the condition of the ATM card, making it the correct form of the word.

Quick Tip

When describing conditions or states of objects, use the past participle form of the verb.

iii. Kevin and Rohan had a conversation about their college admissions. Report Rohan's question.

Would you be interested in studying arts or medicine?

Correct Answer: Rohan asked Kevin if he would be interested in studying arts or medicine.

Solution:

In reported speech, the question structure changes to a statement, and "would" is retained for consistency in tense.

Quick Tip

When reporting a yes/no question, use "if" or "whether" to introduce the reported speech.

iv. Read the dialogue between Yogita and Nandini, regarding the progress of a task.

Yogita: How long have you been working on this task?

Nandini: I've been working for two hours.

Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the above dialogue.

Yogita asked Nandini

Nandini replied that she had been working for two hours.

- (A) for how long was she working on the task
- (B) how long she had been working on that task
- (C) how long she was working on the task
- (D) had she been working on this task

Correct Answer: (B) how long she had been working on that task.

Solution:

In reported speech, the present perfect continuous tense "have been" changes to the past perfect continuous "had been."

Quick Tip

Ensure consistency between the verb tense in the dialogue and the reporting clause.

v. Identify the error and supply the correction for the given sentence from an Art Exhibition invitation.

Artisan Club invite you to 'Art and Soul': an art exhibition featuring artwork created by our budding artists.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

Correct Answer: invites

Solution:

Error	Correction
invite	invites

The subject "Artisan Club" is singular, so the verb must be "invites" to maintain subject-verb agreement.

Quick Tip

Ensure that singular subjects are matched with singular verbs for proper agreement.

vi. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the concluding line from an educational report.

However, such indicators are too crude a measure to _____ (access/assess/accept) quality in an educational setting.

Correct Answer: assess

Solution:

The word "assess" is correct here because it means to evaluate or judge, which fits the context of determining quality.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to the context of the sentence to select the most appropriate word.

vii. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for a privacy policy document.

We process this data to supply the goods as well as services you have purchased or to keep records of such transactions.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(A)	this	these
(B)	or	and
(C)	keep	keeping
(D)	have	has

Correct Answer: (B) or → and

Solution:

The word "or" incorrectly separates two related ideas: "goods" and "services." The correct conjunction is "and," which connects them logically to indicate both are supplied.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to conjunctions, as they often determine the logical relationship between elements in a sentence.

viii. Complete the given narrative by filling in the blank with the correct option.

I _____ watching that programme every week since it started.

- (A) has been
- (B) have been
- (C) were
- (D) was been

Correct Answer: (B) have been

Solution:

The sentence requires the present perfect continuous tense "have been," which indicates an ongoing action that started in the past and continues into the present.

Quick Tip

Use present perfect continuous tense for actions with "since" or "for" to indicate duration.

ix. Report the following dialogue between a food delivery executive and a customer, by completing the sentence.

Food delivery executive: Could you give me a 5 star rating?

Customer: I can only tell after I finish eating the food.

The food delivery executive asked the customer if he/she could give him a 5 star rating. The customer replied by saying that

Correct Answer: he/she could only tell after finishing eating the food.

Solution:

In reported speech, the modal "can" changes to "could," and the clause is adjusted to match the original speaker's perspective in the past tense.

Quick Tip

Convert modal verbs (like "can") to their past forms (like "could") when reporting past dialogues.

x. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the Disclaimer given by a news channel.

Except for the headline, this story edited by YTV staff and is published from a syndicated feed.

- (A) will be
- (B) has not been
- (C) has not
- (D) have not been

Correct Answer: (B) has not been

Solution:

The sentence uses the present perfect tense to indicate that the action (editing) has not been completed. "Has not been" fits the context of past and ongoing events.

Quick Tip

Use present perfect tense ("has/have not been") to describe actions that have not occurred but remain relevant to the present.

xi. Complete the slogan, by filling in the blank with the correct option.

Your plastic contribution _____ causing ocean pollution.

- (A) should be
- (B) won't be
- (C) is
- (D) ought to be

Correct Answer: (C) is

Solution:

The slogan conveys a factual and direct statement, making "is" the most appropriate choice to emphasize current responsibility.

Quick Tip

Slogans typically use simple present tense for direct and impactful communication.

xii. Identify the error and supply the correction for the following advertisement of a software.

This product handles the basics and then goes beyond that with a collection of additional security features that must take on many security breaches and win.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

Correct Answer: must - will

Solution:

Error	Correction
must	will

The modal verb "must" implies an obligation, which is inappropriate in this context. The correct modal is "will," indicating a future capability or action that aligns with the intended meaning of the sentence.

Quick Tip

Use modals such as "will," "can," or "may" appropriately based on the tone and intent of the statement.

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

4. Attempt any one from (a) and (b) given below:

(a) The street lights of your locality are not functioning properly, leaving stretches of dark/blind spots at night. Due to this problem, chain and mobile snatching incidents have increased.

Write a letter to the editor of a local daily, in about 120 words, expressing your concern at the situation and suggesting measures to resolve the problem and drawing attention of the concerned authorities. You are Tamay Saroha/Gauri Saroha of 709, Gold Apartments, Prem Vihar, Amar Nagar.

Solution:

709, Gold Apartments,
Prem Vihar, Amar Nagar,
29 June, 2024

The Editor,

Daily Bhaskar,
Delhi

Subject: Concern over Non-Functional Street Lights and Increased Incidents of Snatching

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to draw your attention to the dire condition of street lighting in our locality, leaving stretches of dark and blind spots at night. The lack of adequate lighting has created opportunities for chain and mobile snatching, instilling fear among residents.

I urge the concerned authorities to install new streetlights and repair the non-functional ones on priority to ensure the safety of the residents. Measures like increased patrolling by the police during late hours can further mitigate this issue.

Your assistance in highlighting this matter through your esteemed newspaper would greatly help in urging prompt action.

Yours sincerely,

Tamay Saroha/Gauri Saroha

Quick Tip

For formal letters, ensure the subject line clearly reflects the issue and proposed solution.

(b) As Sarla Mehta/Santosh Mehta of 983, Sterling Apartments, Vikas Nagar, you believe in the importance of staying fit and exercising. Your society does not have an open gym on the premises. Write a letter to the RWA of your society, in about 120 words, requesting them to set up an open gym in the garden area where residents can exercise, emphasizing upon the importance of staying fit and healthy.

Solution:

983, Sterling Apartments,
Vikas Nagar,
21 April, 2024

The Secretary,

Residents Welfare Association (RWA),
Sterling Apartments,
Vikas Nagar.

Subject: Request to Set Up an Open Gym for Residents

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to request the establishment of an open gym in the garden area of our society. Regular exercise is essential for maintaining physical and mental well-being. However, the absence of gym facilities in our society prevents residents from accessing a fitness-friendly environment.

An open gym equipped with basic exercise tools would encourage residents of all age groups to stay fit and healthy. This initiative would also foster community interaction and improve the overall quality of life in our society.

I kindly urge you to consider this proposal and take steps to implement the same at the earliest.

Yours sincerely,

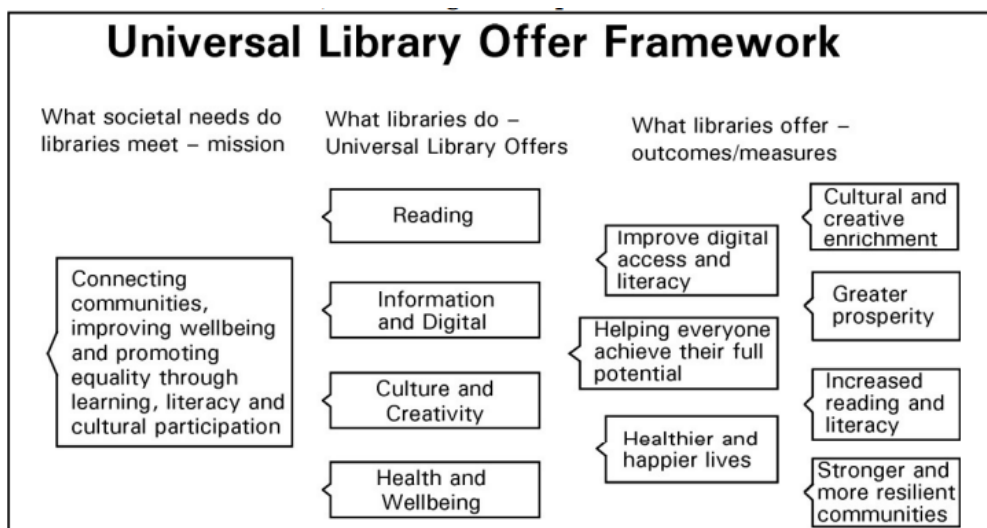
Sarla Mehta/Santosh Mehta

Quick Tip

Keep the tone polite and concise while emphasizing the benefits of the proposed solution.

5. Attempt any one from (a) and (b) given below:

(a) Libraries provide access to resources and materials that might not be available or affordable otherwise, allowing students to further their learning, understanding, and research. The following chart shows the library framework and the importance of libraries. Based on the given information, write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, assessing the importance of libraries for us.



Solution:

Libraries are essential institutions that cater to various societal needs, as illustrated by the Universal Library Offer Framework. They play a crucial role in connecting communities, fostering literacy, and promoting equality. Libraries provide access to diverse resources, including books, digital tools, and cultural programs, which bridge the gap in education and information. They not only improve literacy but also help individuals achieve their full potential by providing opportunities for self-development. For instance, digital access provided by libraries helps reduce the digital divide, ensuring that people from all socio-economic backgrounds can access technology. Furthermore, libraries contribute to cultural enrichment by offering spaces for creativity and innovation through art, literature, and music programs.

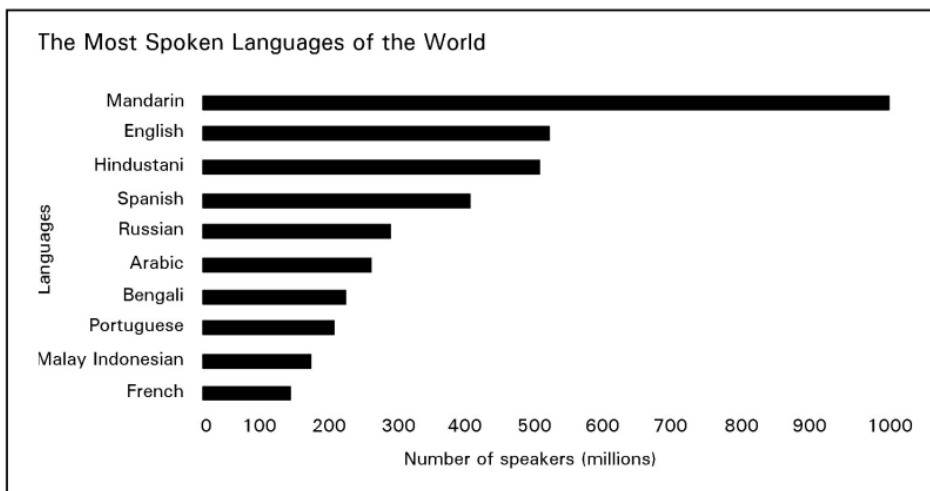
Health and well-being are also key areas supported by libraries. By providing information on physical and mental health, libraries empower individuals to lead healthier and happier lives. They strengthen communities by promoting inclusivity and cultural participation. Libraries also act as spaces for social interaction, where people can collaborate, share ideas, and build connections. Their role in fostering stronger and more resilient communities cannot be overstated, especially in today's digitally-driven world.

In conclusion, libraries are indispensable for personal growth, community building, and bridging societal gaps. Their contributions to literacy, culture, and well-being make them a cornerstone of an inclusive and progressive society.

Quick Tip

When writing analytical paragraphs, ensure to include key points from the chart or prompt while maintaining a logical flow.

(b) A survey was conducted to find out the number of speakers of various languages in the world. The chart below reflects the same. Analyze this chart and write an analytical paragraph, in about 120 words, by selecting features that support your analysis.



Solution:

The survey on the most spoken languages highlights the global diversity of communication. Mandarin, with nearly 1 billion speakers, dominates as the most widely spoken language, reflecting the vast population of China and its cultural influence. English, with over 500 million speakers, secures second place, showcasing its status as a global lingua franca used in international business, education, and diplomacy. Hindustani, which includes Hindi and Urdu, is the third most spoken language, emphasizing its widespread use across India and neighboring countries.

Spanish and Arabic, both with millions of speakers, signify the cultural and historical influence of their native regions. Spanish, spread through colonial history, is dominant in Latin America and Spain, while Arabic serves as the language of the Quran and connects the Islamic world. Bengali and Portuguese further highlight linguistic diversity, representing their respective regions' rich cultural heritage and population.

Interestingly, languages like Malay-Indonesian and French, despite their relatively smaller populations, maintain significant influence. French remains widely spoken due to its colonial history and its use in international organizations. Similarly, Malay-Indonesian reflects the growing importance of Southeast Asia in global affairs.

This data underscores the dominance of Asian and European languages in shaping global communication. It also reflects how population, history, and cultural spread determine a language's influence. Overall, the chart illustrates the profound role of language in connecting communities and shaping human interaction.

Quick Tip

When analyzing charts, focus on the highest and lowest values, trends, and notable comparisons to create a comprehensive paragraph.

Section C

Literature

6. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b):

(a) For the first twenty-four hours, Mijbil was neither hostile nor friendly; he was simply aloof and indifferent, choosing to sleep on the floor as far from my bed as possible. The second night Mijbil came on to my bed in the small hours and remained asleep in the crook of my knees until the servant brought tea in the morning, and during the day he began to lose his apathy and take a keen, much too keen, interest in his surroundings. I made a body-belt for him and took him on a lead to the bathroom, where for half an hour he went wild with joy in the water.

(i) Which of the following is *not* a reason why Mijbil came on to Maxwell's bed in the small hours?

(A) He had started taking interest in his surroundings.

- (B) He was becoming friendly with Maxwell.
- (C) He wanted to play with Maxwell on his bed.
- (D) He wanted to feel safe and not remain indifferent.

Correct Answer: (C) He wanted to play with Maxwell on his bed.

Solution:

Mijbil's behavior indicated a gradual adaptation to his new environment and an emerging bond with Maxwell. He sought comfort and safety rather than playful interaction, making option (C) incorrect as it does not align with the extract.

Quick Tip

While analyzing character behavior, focus on emotions and context rather than assumptions of actions.

(ii) Maxwell says that Mijbil was neither hostile nor friendly, he was simply aloof and indifferent for the first twenty-four hours. Give reasons in not more than 40 words.

Solution:

Mijbil was aloof and indifferent initially as he needed time to adjust to his new surroundings and feel secure. Being placed in an unfamiliar environment, his behavior reflected caution rather than hostility or friendliness.

Quick Tip

In questions requiring reasons, always connect the character's actions to their context or emotions.

(iii) Read the following descriptions (A)–(D) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract.

- (A) Owning a pet is tedious and needs commitment.
- (B) A pet needs his own space and time to get adjusted to his owner's environment.

(C) Maxwell decided to bring Mijbil because he was very sad to lose his dog.

(D) Maxwell and Mijbil loved travelling.

Correct Answer: (B) A pet needs his own space and time to get adjusted to his owner's environment.

Solution:

Mijbil's initial aloofness and gradual adaptation underscore that pets require time and space to adjust. This matches option (B), reflecting the otter's journey from indifference to attachment.

Quick Tip

When identifying the correct description, look for phrases that align directly with character development in the extract.

(iv) Which characteristic trait of otters is revealed when Mijbil is taken to the bathroom?

Correct Answer:

Otters are naturally playful and curious about water. When Mijbil is taken to the bathroom, he displays boundless energy and joy, showcasing his love for water and inquisitive nature.

Solution:

Mijbil's wild excitement and joy in the water reflect the inherent characteristics of otters—playfulness, curiosity, and an affinity for aquatic environments. This behavior reinforces their natural habitat and instincts.

Quick Tip

Traits of animals in literature often reflect their natural behavior; connect actions in the story to these traits for precise answers.

(b) The arrival of a stranger at an inn in winter was in any case an unusual event. A stranger of such uncommon appearance set all tongues wagging. Mrs. Hall, the

landlord's wife, made every effort to be friendly. But Griffin had no desire to talk, and told her, "My reason for coming to Iping is a desire for solitude. I do not wish to be disturbed in my work. Besides, an accident has affected my face." Satisfied that her guest was an eccentric scientist, and in view of the fact that he had paid her in advance, Mrs. Hall was prepared to excuse his strange habits and irritable temper.

(i) State any one inference about Griffin from the given context:

"My reason for coming to Iping is a desire for solitude. I do not wish to be disturbed in my work. Besides, an accident has affected my face."

Correct Answer: Griffin was secretive and preferred isolation.

Solution: Griffin valued his privacy and avoided interaction with others. His desire for solitude, coupled with his avoidance of conversations, suggests that he was not only secretive but also self-conscious about his appearance.

Quick Tip

When inferring traits, focus on the character's dialogue and behavior as described in the context.

(ii) State True or False:

Even though Mrs. Hall was satisfied with Griffin, she was skeptical to excuse his strange habits and irritable temper.

Correct Answer: False

Solution: Mrs. Hall was not skeptical. Instead, she excused Griffin's eccentric behavior because he had paid her in advance and she believed him to be an eccentric scientist.

Quick Tip

Carefully analyze the text to determine the character's perception and response to situations.

(iii) It was not difficult for Griffin to convince the landlord and his wife about his strange appearance and eccentric behaviour. Elaborate in about 40 words with reference to the context.

Correct Answer: Griffin convinced the landlord and his wife by paying them in advance.

Solution: Griffin's advance payment and his explanation of being an eccentric scientist ensured that the landlord and his wife, Mrs. Hall, overlooked his strange habits and appearance. Financial security made them more tolerant of his behavior.

Quick Tip

Characters' actions often reflect their priorities. Highlight these priorities in your answers.

(iv) Which phrase would correctly substitute "set all tongues wagging" in the given sentence from the extract?

A stranger of such uncommon appearance

Correct Answer: is a source of gossip **Solution:** The phrase "set all tongues wagging"

means causing people to talk or gossip. Griffin's uncommon appearance intrigued everyone at the inn, prompting conversations and speculation about him.

Quick Tip

Understanding idiomatic phrases requires interpreting their meaning in context rather than literal translation.

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b):

(a) Extract from "A Tiger in the Zoo":

But he's locked in a concrete cell,

His strength behind bars,

*Stalking the length of his cage,
Ignoring visitors.*

(i) Why is the tiger ‘stalking the length of his cage’?

Correct Answer: The tiger is frustrated and restless because of his confinement.

Solution:

The tiger’s repetitive movement, ‘stalking the length of his cage,’ reflects his anger and helplessness in captivity. Being a wild animal, he craves freedom but is confined to a small concrete space that restricts his natural instincts.

Quick Tip

In questions about actions, analyze the character’s feelings and circumstances to interpret the behavior.

(ii) What is the significance of the use of the word ‘locked’ to describe the concrete cell where the tiger is kept, and how does it contrast with the tiger’s presence in its natural habitat? Answer in about 40 words.

Correct Answer: The word ‘locked’ emphasizes the tiger’s loss of freedom in captivity.

Solution:

In the wild, the tiger roams freely and exudes power. The word ‘locked’ highlights his imprisonment in a lifeless, artificial environment, where his strength and spirit are suppressed. This starkly contrasts with his majestic presence in the jungle.

Quick Tip

To explain contrasts, compare specific elements like environment, behavior, or emotions for clarity.

(iii) Complete the sentence with the appropriate option:

The lines from the poem tell us that the tiger is

- (A) enjoying his time in the cell.
- (B) being indifferent to visitors because it is a daily routine for him.
- (C) not as strong as his counterpart in the jungle.
- (D) wanting to be free from the cage.

Correct Answer: (B) being indifferent to visitors because it is a daily routine for him.

Solution:

The tiger ignores the visitors because they are a part of his routine, and he has grown indifferent to their presence. His focus is on his confinement, not on entertaining or reacting to the people watching him.

Quick Tip

For multiple-choice questions, eliminate the options that contradict the emotional tone or context of the poem.

(iv) Identify the type of literary device used in the line:

‘But he’s locked in a concrete cell.’

Correct Answer: Alliteration

Solution:

The line uses the literary device of alliteration, as the repetition of the consonant sound ‘c’ in the words ‘concrete’ and ‘cell’ creates a rhythmic effect. This emphasizes the harshness and rigidity of the tiger’s confinement.

Quick Tip

Identify alliteration by looking for repeated initial consonant sounds in closely placed words.

(b) Extract from ”The Tale of Custard the Dragon”:

*Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,
And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,*

*Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,
But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.*

(i) Comment upon the contrast that is reflected in the last two lines of the extract.

Correct Answer: The contrast highlights Custard's timid nature compared to the bravery of the other characters.

Solution:

The poet creates a humorous contrast by portraying the dragon, Custard, as timid and cowardly despite being a creature associated with strength. While the others boast bravery, Custard seeks the safety of a cage, subverting expectations.

Quick Tip

When commenting on contrasts, focus on how the juxtaposition enhances the humor, irony, or deeper meaning in the text.

(ii) Fill in the blank with one word.

While describing Ink and Blink, the speaker says that they could chase lions down the stairs. By saying so, he is revealing the _____ characteristic of their personality.

Correct Answer: bold

Solution:

The description of Ink and Blink chasing lions emphasizes their boldness and courage. It contrasts their fearlessness with Custard's timidity, adding to the poem's humor.

Quick Tip

Choose words that directly align with the actions or traits emphasized in the text.

(iii) Comment on the poet's use of language in these lines in about 40 words.

Correct Answer: The poet uses playful and exaggerated language to create humor and irony.

Solution:

The poet employs alliteration, similes, and exaggeration to describe the bravery of Belinda and her pets. The contrast between the courageous characters and Custard's cowardice enhances the humor, making the poem entertaining and engaging for readers.

Quick Tip

Analyze how literary devices like alliteration, similes, and exaggeration contribute to the tone and humor of the poem.

(iv) Which of the following best describes the theme of the poem?

- (A) Bravery and heroism.
- (B) Humility leads to bravery.
- (C) Valour and diligence.
- (D) Crisis reveals character.

Correct Answer: (D) Crisis reveals character.

Solution:

The poem demonstrates that in moments of crisis, Custard, despite being perceived as cowardly, proves to be the bravest. The theme emphasizes how true character is revealed under challenging circumstances, subverting initial perceptions of the characters.

Quick Tip

Themes often reflect the deeper message of the text; relate the theme to the key actions and transformations of the characters.

8. Answer any *four* of the following five questions in 40–50 words each:

(i) Nelson Mandela in his inauguration speech says, “We, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil.”

What is the significance of this statement with reference to the political system that prevailed before this?

(Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom)

Solution:

Nelson Mandela's statement signifies South Africa's journey from the oppressive apartheid regime to a free democratic system. Under apartheid, racial discrimination was institutionalized, and the majority black population was denied basic rights. Mandela's speech celebrates the end of this injustice and marks a historic moment where South Africa regains dignity and equality. Hosting global nations on their soil symbolizes the nation's acceptance and unity, reinforcing the idea that freedom and democracy can heal deep-seated wounds.

Quick Tip

Relate key historical events to the moral and emotional significance of the speaker's message.

(ii) 'The Ball Poem' initially appears simple but it is actually quite impactful and intense. Comment upon the theme of 'The Ball Poem'.

Solution:

The Ball Poem by John Berryman portrays the universal experience of loss and its role in personal growth. The boy loses his ball, symbolizing the inevitable losses in life. Instead of comforting the boy, the poet reflects on how such moments teach resilience and acceptance. The poem conveys that grief is necessary to develop emotional maturity, and moving on from loss is a part of life's journey. Through a seemingly simple event, the poet delivers a profound message about coping with reality.

Quick Tip

Themes often connect emotional experiences to universal truths; focus on how specific events reflect broader lessons.

(iii) Coorg has been defined as a ‘piece of heaven’ by the writer. Justify.

(Glimpses of India)

Solution:

The writer describes Coorg as a ‘piece of heaven’ because of its enchanting landscapes, serene coffee plantations, and mist-covered hills. The region boasts lush greenery, sparkling streams, and a rich variety of flora and fauna, including elephants, birds, and wild animals. Coorg’s unique blend of natural beauty and cultural richness, including the warm hospitality of its people, creates an atmosphere of tranquility and wonder. This unparalleled charm makes Coorg a paradise for nature lovers and travelers alike.

Quick Tip

When justifying descriptions, include vivid imagery and specific cultural or natural features that support the claim.

(iv) What argument do Lomov and Natalya give over the superiority of their dogs,

Guess and Squeezer?

(The Proposal)

Solution:

In “The Proposal,” Lomov and Natalya engage in a heated argument over their dogs’ superiority. Lomov claims Guess is better due to its pure breed and hunting skills, while Natalya insists Squeezer is superior because it is young, energetic, and quick. Their disagreement is exaggerated and reflects their petty nature, as both characters prioritize winning the argument over actual logic. This humorous exchange underscores the absurdity of their pride and the triviality of their conflicts.

Quick Tip

Focus on how arguments reveal the personalities and relationships of the characters.

(v) In the poem ‘Amanda,’ why does the poet use the famous fairy tale character,

Rapunzel? Explain.

(Amanda)

Solution:

The poet uses Rapunzel as a metaphor for Amanda's yearning to escape her restrictive life. Amanda imagines herself as Rapunzel, living alone in a tower, away from the constant nagging and expectations of her parents. Unlike the fairy tale, Amanda does not desire rescue; instead, she cherishes the solitude and peace that Rapunzel's tower offers. This allusion reflects Amanda's longing for independence and her struggle to find her own identity in a controlling environment.

Quick Tip

Fairy tale references often symbolize broader ideas like freedom, innocence, or escape; connect these symbols to the character's emotions.

9. Answer any *two* of the following three questions in 40–50 words each:

(i) **“We are often over-indulgent towards people we care about.” Explain with reference to the story “A Triumph of Surgery”.**

Solution:

In “A Triumph of Surgery,” Mrs. Pumphrey demonstrates excessive care and indulgence towards her dog, Tricki. She feeds him an unbalanced diet of rich food, gives him unnecessary luxuries, and pampers him to an extreme degree. This behavior results in Tricki becoming overweight and lethargic. Dr. Herriot, upon seeing Tricki's condition, insists on taking him to his clinic. Through his disciplined care, Tricki recovers and regains his vitality. The story highlights how excessive love and pampering, without considering the actual needs of a loved one, can lead to harmful consequences. Mrs. Pumphrey's indulgence serves as a reminder to balance care with practicality.

Quick Tip

In questions asking for explanation, always connect actions, their consequences, and the lesson learned from the story.

(ii) How did Apprentice Noodle act smartly by suggesting something about the book without offending Think-Tank?

(The Book That Saved The Earth)

Solution:

In “The Book That Saved The Earth,” Apprentice Noodle displays intelligence and tact when dealing with Think-Tank’s ego. When the book ‘Mother Goose’ is discovered, Think-Tank initially views it as a threat. Noodle cleverly interprets the book as a means of Earthlings’ mental development. He frames his explanation to make Think-Tank feel superior, suggesting that Earthlings are inferior because they rely on nursery rhymes to grow intellectually. This approach not only preserves Think-Tank’s self-esteem but also prevents any unnecessary confrontation. Noodle’s diplomacy and strategic thinking demonstrate his ability to handle delicate situations with care and intelligence.

Quick Tip

To answer questions about character actions, focus on their strategies and the impact of their choices.

(iii) Despite his unusual appearance, Ausable’s presence of mind helped him get rid of Max.

Comment with reference to the story “The Midnight Visitor”.

Solution:

In “The Midnight Visitor,” Ausable, though not physically intimidating, uses his wit and intelligence to outsmart Max. Max, a rival spy, threatens Ausable at gunpoint to extract confidential information. However, Ausable cleverly fabricates a story about a balcony outside the window, supposedly used by hotel staff. This misinformation makes Max believe

he can escape through the balcony in case of danger. When there is a knock at the door, Max panics and attempts to use the non-existent balcony, ultimately meeting his downfall. Ausable's calm demeanor and ability to think on his feet highlight how intelligence and presence of mind can triumph over physical threats.

Quick Tip

For character analysis, focus on traits like wit, courage, and adaptability shown in critical moments.

10. Answer any *one* of the following two questions in 100–120 words:

(a) Grief or sadness is an emotion natural to all types of loss or significant change. You have been asked to present an analysis of the approaches of Lencho and Kisa Gotami in dealing with their respective losses. Write this presentation draft including your insights, and comparing the approaches of both.

You may begin like this : One acknowledges that Lencho had unwavering faith in God whereas Kisa Gotami in her grief, believed that her son however

(Reference – A Letter to God and The Sermon at Benares)

Solution:

Grief is a universal emotion, but the ways individuals cope with it vary greatly. In “A Letter to God,” Lencho loses his crops to a devastating hailstorm. Despite his despair, he exhibits unwavering faith in God’s mercy and writes a letter seeking divine help. His faith reflects simplicity and hope in the midst of adversity.

In contrast, Kisa Gotami’s response to grief is marked by denial and desperation. Upon losing her son, she seeks a remedy to bring him back to life. Her encounter with the Buddha teaches her that death is an inevitable part of life. Through her journey, she realizes that everyone experiences loss and learns to accept the impermanence of life.

While Lencho relies on external faith for solace, Kisa Gotami embarks on a journey of self-realization. Both approaches highlight the resilience of the human spirit in overcoming grief and finding meaning in suffering.

Quick Tip

When comparing two characters, emphasize their differences, similarities, and what their experiences teach about universal themes.

(b) You have been chosen to address the school assembly on the occasion of Women’s Day. You choose to speak on the resilience and indomitable spirit of the young girls: Anne Frank and Valli. Prepare the speech draft, with reference to the commonality and contrast in the situations and circumstances of both the girls.

You may begin like this : Good morning everyone. Today, Id like to express my insights on the resilience of two young girls You may end this way : To conclude d like to say that Thank you.

(Madam Rides the Bus and From the Diary of Anne Frank)

Solution:

Good morning everyone,

Today, on the occasion of Women’s Day, I’d like to talk about the resilience and strength of two young girls, Anne Frank and Valli, who inspire us with their determination and courage. Anne Frank, during one of the darkest periods in history, remained hopeful and courageous while hiding from Nazi persecution. Her diary reveals her emotional strength, maturity, and unbroken spirit despite the constant fear of discovery and death. Anne’s ability to express her thoughts beautifully in her diary shows her resilience and belief in humanity.

On the other hand, Valli, from ”Madam Rides the Bus,” exemplifies curiosity and independence. Despite being a young girl from a rural setting, she dreams of exploring the world beyond her village. By carefully saving money and planning her bus ride, she fulfills her dream with determination and resourcefulness. Valli’s journey reflects the adventurous and self-reliant spirit of young women.

Both Anne and Valli, though from vastly different circumstances, embody the essence of resilience. Anne teaches us to hold on to hope in the face of adversity, while Valli reminds us to pursue our dreams fearlessly. Together, they inspire us to overcome challenges with strength and determination.

Thank you.

Quick Tip

When writing speeches, maintain a formal tone, highlight key traits of the subjects, and conclude with an inspiring message.

11. Answer any *one* of the following two questions in 100–120 words:

(a) Imagine that Hari Singh from “The Thief’s Story” by Ruskin Bond, writes a diary entry, exploring the theme of human values and relations that are essential in life and can transform a person in the context of his own experience. Write this diary entry as Hari Singh.

(The Thief’s Story)

Solution:

Date: [Insert Date]

Today has been a day of reflection. I never thought I would experience the change I now see in myself. When I met Anil, my sole intention was to deceive him and rob him. I had always viewed people as opportunities to exploit, never as companions or mentors. Yet, Anil treated me with kindness. He trusted me despite knowing my background, gave me a roof over my head, and taught me to read and write—a gift I had never imagined receiving.

The night I stole his money was a turning point. Holding those notes, I felt a pang of guilt. Anil’s unwavering trust and my newfound understanding of values made me return the money. The next morning, when he silently handed me the money and continued teaching me, I realized that his act of forgiveness and belief in me were more valuable than any material wealth. It is this experience that has set me on a path toward honesty and respect for relationships. I am no longer just a thief; I am a person seeking redemption.

Quick Tip

When writing diary entries, incorporate personal emotions, key events, and realizations to make the narrative impactful and relatable.

(b) A character arc is the transformation or development of a character throughout a story and refers to the changes a character undergoes as a result of his/her experiences, challenges, and interactions with other characters.

In the light of the above information, trace the character arc of Bholi in K.A. Abbas’s “Bholi”.

(Bholi)

Solution:

Bholi, the youngest child in her family, begins as a timid, insecure girl who suffers from neglect and ridicule. Her pockmarked face and stammer make her the object of mockery, both within her family and society. Her parents, considering her to be worthless, show little affection and do not prioritize her well-being. She lives in fear, resigned to her perceived insignificance.

However, her journey takes a remarkable turn when she starts attending school. Her teacher’s encouragement and affection ignite a spark of self-confidence in Bholi. For the first time, she realizes her worth and begins to overcome her insecurities. The most transformative moment in her arc comes during her wedding to Bishamber. When he humiliates her family by demanding a dowry, Bholi boldly rejects him, standing up for herself and her dignity. This act marks her emergence as an empowered woman who values self-respect above societal norms.

Bholi’s arc demonstrates the transformative power of education, compassion, and inner strength. She evolves from a frightened, voiceless girl into a confident, self-assured individual who takes control of her life. Her story is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the importance of treating every individual with kindness and respect.

Quick Tip

When tracing a character arc, focus on the character’s initial state, key turning points, and final transformation to create a well-rounded narrative.