

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 5
SUBJECT- English Communicative (101)
CLASS IX (2023-24)

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains FOUR sections-READING SKILLS, WRITING SKILLS, GRAMMAR and LITERATURE TEXTBOOK.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (20 marks)

1. **Read the text carefully and answer the questions:** **[10]**

In spite of all the honours that were heaped upon him, Pasteur, as it has been said, remained simple at heart. Perhaps, the imagery of his boyhood days, when he drew the familiar scenes of his birthplace and his longing to be a great artist, never wholly left him.

In truth, he did become a great artist, although he abandoned the brush forever after the age of 16. Like every artist of worth, he put his whole soul and energy into his work, and it was this very energy that in the end wore him out. For him, each sufferer was something more than just a case that has to be cured. He looked upon the fight against hydrophobia as a battle, and he was absorbed in his determination to win.

The sight of injured children particularly moved him to an indescribable extent. He suffered with his patients, and yet he would not deny himself a share in their suffering. His greatest grief was when sheer physical exhaustion made him give up his active work. He retired to the estate at Villeneuve Etang, where he had his kennels for the study of rabies, and there he passed his last summer, as his great biographer, Vallery Radot, has said, "practicing the Gospel virtues." "He revered the faith of his fathers," says the same writer, "and wished without ostentation or mystery to receive its aid during his last period."

The attitude of this man to the science he had done so much to perfect can be best summed up in a sentence that he is reputed once to have uttered, concerning the materialism of many of his contemporaries in similar branches of learning to his own: "The more I contemplate the mysteries of Nature, the more my faith becomes like that of a peasant." But even then, in that pain, he loved to see his former pupils and it was then that he would reiterate his life's principles, that is 'never cease to work'. So well had he kept his precept, that he rapidly began to sink from exhaustion.

Finally, on September 27, 1895, when someone leaned over his bed to offer him a cup of milk, he said sadly, "I cannot". With a look of perfect resignation and peace, he seemed to have fallen asleep. He never again opened his eyes to the cares and

sufferings of the world, which he had done so much to relieve and to conquer. He was within three months of his seventy-third birthday. Thus passed, as simply as a child, the man whom the French people were to vote plebiscite as the greatest man that France had ever produced. Napoleon, who has always been considered the idol of France, was placed fifth. No greater tribute could have been paid to Louis Pasteur, the tanner's son, the scientist, the man of peace, the patient worker for humanity.

- (i) What advice did Pasteur always give to his pupils?
 - a) Never to stop working
 - b) Work and rest at the same time
 - c) To work according to one's health
 - d) Work to earn money
- (ii) Give one word for the phrase- Vote by the people of the country to decide a matter of National Importance.
 - a) Plebiscite
 - b) Election
 - c) Hydrophobia
 - d) Contemporaries
- (iii) Who was ranked fifth after the achievements of Louis Pasteur?
 - a) Napoleon
 - b) Thomas Addison
 - c) None of these
 - d) Hitler
- (iv) Find the word from the passage for the term **to give up**
 - a) imagery
 - b) grief
 - c) indescribable
 - d) abandoned
- (v) How did France, the country of Pasteur's birth, honour this great scientist?
 - a) He was awarded a ransom amount.
 - b) They held a seminar in his honour.
 - c) A book was published explaining his achievements.
 - d) He was voted as the greatest man France had ever produced.
- (vi) How did Pasteur view those who suffered from diseases?
- (vii) The fact that Pasteur never wholly forgot the imagery of his boyhood days, shows that he _____.
- (viii) Finally, on _____, 1895 when someone leaned over his bed to offer him a cup of milk, he said sadly, **I cannot**.

- (ix) What was his greatest grief?
- (x) What is meant by **whole soul and energy**?

2. **Read the text carefully and answer the questions:**

[10]

1. Finally the wrestler Sakshi Malik clinched the bronze medal in the 58 kg category, pulling off a sensational 8-5 victory over Aisuluu Tynybekova of Kyrgyzstan in the play-off bout and ended India's painful wait for a medal at the Rio Olympic Games. The 23-year-old from Rohtak became only the fourth woman athlete from India to win an Olympic medal as she earned the dramatic win after falling behind 0-5 in the do-or-die bout on day 12.
 2. Weightlifter Kamam Malleshwari (2000, Sydney), boxer MC Mary Kom (2012, London) and shuttler Saina Nehwal (2012, London) were the only other women athletes from India to have won a medal in Olympics. Like in three of the four other bouts earlier in the day, Sakshi won the crucial bout after coming from behind. She, in fact, had lost 2-9 in the quarter-finals to Russia's Valeriia Koblova in the fifth bout of the day before getting a second chance in repechage when her conqueror reached the final. Sakshi's victory brought cheers to the Indian contingent that had endured agonising 11 days without a medal.
 3. Sakshi turned the tables on the Kyrgyzstan wrestler in the dying seconds of the bout as Tynybekova was in complete command in most part of the clash. Tynybekova grabbed Sakshi's leg and quickly earned two points before adding one more for the Indian's passivity. She repeated her move and successfully bagged two more points to lead 5-0 at the break. Sakshi could open the scoring only in the second period and got two points after throwing her rival down and out of the mat. She then managed to earn two points again with a similar move to bring down the margin to 4-5. Thereafter, it was no looking back for the Indian girl and she took the opponent down to level the scores 5-5. But she did not stop there and gained three more points by pinning down the Kyrgyzstan wrestler in the dying moments of the match.
- (i) Who was the opponent of Sakshi Malik in the final wrestling at the Rio Olympic Games 2016?
 - (ii) How many points did Sakshi Malik score in all in the final wrestling at he Rio Olympic Games?
 - (iii) Before Sakshi Malik, who were the Indian women athletes to win medals at Olympic Games?
 - (iv) What do you mean by repechage?
 - (v) How did Tynybekova make Indian hopeless?
 - (vi) Sakshi could not score any point in the first period.

a) True

b) False

(vii) Sakshi got _____ points after throwing her rival down and out of the mat.

(viii) How many points did Sakshi score at the last moment of the match?

a) Three points

b) Five points

c) Two points

d) Four points

(ix) Sakshi Malik became the _____ woman athlete from India to win an Olympic medal.

a) second

b) fourth

c) first

d) third

(x) Find out the word in para 2 which means the same as **painful**.

a) agonising

b) contingent

c) bout

d) endured

SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS (24 marks)

3. You are Ankit/Anita. You have planned a 2-week course to be arranged to help the children of your group Housing Society at Patna acquire the communication skills. Prepare a notice for the society's notice board, stating the objectives of the course, giving necessary details of the course and requesting the children of the Society to join the course. [4]
4. Complete the dialogue given below Write your answers against the correct blank numbers. [5]
Ravina: Hello Nisha, (a) _____
you for ages. How are you?
Nisha: I'm fine. How about you?
(b) _____
Ravina: Yes, I'm very well thanks.
(c) _____ somewhere
Or (d) _____ somebody off a train?
Nisha: I have come to (e) _____.
5. You were taken by your school to visit a place of historical interest Write a letter to your classmate who was unable to go on the trip telling him/her about the trip. Why it was important and what you gained from the experience? [7]

OR

You are Manjunatha/Manglesh living at 220, GK Road, Bengaluru. Your uncle couldn't be a part of your birthday party but he sent you a book **Life and Ideas of Vivekananda**

on your birthday. Write a letter to your uncle telling him that you missed him badly but were more than compensated for getting this valuable gift.

6. You went on a vacation to Uttarakhand with your family and some friends. There you tried paragliding for the very first time. Describe your experience in the form of a paragraph. You may use the verbal cues given below. [8]

Hints: went for a vacation ... Bhimtal, Uttarakhand ... resting in the luxurious resort ... local informed us that we can try paragliding ... excited to try the adventure of flying ... able to see people enjoying their first flight ... instructor told us about the mechanism ... explained us the rules ... excited to fly like a bird ... pilot was sitting at my back ... ground disappeared ... weightless, moving freely ... pilot prepared the landing ... filled with immense pleasure

OR

You recently participated in a 'Robot Making' event in your school. Participants from as many as 30 schools in the city took part in the event. Write the event describing how many robots were made and who was awarded the best prize, etc.

SECTION C : GRAMMAR (10 marks)

7. Complete the tasks, as directed. [10]

- (i) Fill in the blanks (a)-(c) with the appropriate option from those in the brackets. [3]
Pleasure and pain are inseparable facets (a) _____ (in/on/of) human existence. While the experience of (b) _____ (our/your/one) well-being is rather vague and intangible, (c) _____ (experiencing/experience/experiences) of pain is real, and affects our body, mind and spirit, altering our lives in more ways than one.

- (ii) In the following passage, one word has been omitted in each line. Write the missing word along with the words before and after against the correct blank number: [4]

		Word Before	Missing Word	Word After
Man does not live food alone.	(a)	_____	_____	_____
Water is vital human health and fitness.	(b)	_____	_____	_____
Unfortunately, it is not considered to be nutrient.	(c)	_____	_____	_____
In reality, it is vital nutrient.	(d)	_____	_____	_____

- (iii) Do as directed.

- i. Rearrange the following jumbled words/phrases in the given dialogue to create a meaningful sentence. [1]

Deforestation can prove to be very damaging to Mother Earth. Every individual should plant a tree on his birthday. We must understand that we cannot live without trees.

if/we/to/encourage/we/must/afforestation/the/want/keep/Earth/green

- ii. Read the conversation given below. Based on your reading, fill in the blanks appropriately. [2]

Julie: When is the fancy dress competition in your school?

Mona: It is after two weeks.

Julie: Are you taking part in it?

Mona: Yes, I am taking part as an engine driver

Julie: Why have you chosen that?

Mona: So that I can reach late.

Julie asked Mona when the fancy dress competition in her school was. To that Mona replied that (a) _____ Julie enquired whether (b) _____.

SECTION D : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 marks)

8. Read the given excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for ANY TWO excerpts, of the three, given. [8]

- (i) Read the extract given below and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow: [4]

"Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth";

- What does the **yellow wood** mean?
- Why does the poet stand long?
- What is the rhyme scheme of the stanza?

- (ii) Read the extract given below and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow: [4]

Bishop: "Always remember, my son, that this poor body is the Temple of the living God."

- Why does the Bishop address the listener as **my son**?
- What does the Bishop mean by **this poor body is the Temple of the living God**?
- Give any one character trait of the Bishop?

- (iii) Read the following extract and answer the questions briefly: [4]

But I knew it was not possible. If only I was educated enough. I waited eagerly for you to return. I felt you would come early and read for me.

- Who is **I** here?

b. What was not possible?

c. Why didn't I ask somebody in the village to read the magazine for her?

9. **Answer ANY SIX of the following seven questions in about 30- 40 words each** [12]

(i) Why was the poet not able to understand the song of the solitary reaper? [2]

(ii) Describe the stage of a soldier. Answer to the context of the poem **The Seven Ages.** [2]

(iii) Why has the poet called the rain **messenger of mercy**? [2]

(iv) How was Harold Bramble at the age of ten ? [2]

(v) Describe John A. Pescud's meeting with Colonel Allyn. What was its outcome? [2]

(vi) What message does Alexander Baron want to give to the readers in **The Man Who Knew Too Much**? [2]

(vii) Why is Mrs. Al Smith in a hurry? [2]

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

(i) What does the sale of the villa reveal about Gaston? [6]

(ii) Charles Hooper's life is a source of much inspiration for normal people as it is for the physically challenged ones. Do you agree? What values can be learnt from his life? [6]

Answers

SECTION A : READING SKILLS (20 marks)

1. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

In spite of all the honours that were heaped upon him, Pasteur, as it has been said, remained simple at heart. Perhaps, the imagery of his boyhood days, when he drew the familiar scenes of his birthplace and his longing to be a great artist, never wholly left him.

In truth, he did become a great artist, although he abandoned the brush forever after the age of 16. Like every artist of worth, he put his whole soul and energy into his work, and it was this very energy that in the end wore him out. For him, each sufferer was something more than just a case that has to be cured. He looked upon the fight against hydrophobia as a battle, and he was absorbed in his determination to win.

The sight of injured children particularly moved him to an indescribable extent. He suffered with his patients, and yet he would not deny himself a share in their suffering. His greatest grief was when sheer physical exhaustion made him give up his active work. He retired to the estate at Villeneuve Etang, where he had his kennels for the study of rabies, and there he passed his last summer, as his great biographer, Vallery Radot, has said, "practicing the Gospel virtues." "He revered the faith of his fathers," says the same writer, "and wished without ostentation or mystery to receive its aid during his last period."

The attitude of this man to the science he had done so much to perfect can be best summed up in a sentence that he is reputed once to have uttered, concerning the materialism of many of his contemporaries in similar branches of learning to his own: "The more I contemplate the mysteries of Nature, the more my faith becomes like that of a peasant." But even then, in that pain, he loved to see his former pupils and it was then that he would reiterate his life's principles, that is 'never cease to work'. So well had he kept his precept, that he rapidly began to sink from exhaustion.

Finally, on September 27, 1895, when someone leaned over his bed to offer him a cup of milk, he said sadly, "I cannot". With a look of perfect resignation and peace, he seemed to have fallen asleep. He never again opened his eyes to the cares and sufferings of the world, which he had done so much to relieve and to conquer. He was within three months of his seventy-third birthday. Thus passed, as simply as a child, the man whom the French people were to vote plebiscite as the greatest man that France had ever produced. Napoleon, who has always been considered the idol of France, was placed fifth. No greater tribute could have been paid to Louis Pasteur, the tanner's son, the scientist, the man of peace, the patient worker for humanity.

- (i) (a) Never to stop working

Explanation: Pasteur always advised his pupils to keep working.

- (ii) (a) Plebiscite

Explanation: Plebiscite means vote by people to decide an important matter.

(iii)(a) Napoleon

Explanation: Napoleon was given the fifth position in the list of French achievers.

(iv)(d) abandoned

Explanation: 'Abandoned' means to leave a place or idea.

(v) (d) He was voted as the greatest man France had ever produced.

Explanation: Pasteur was voted as the greatest French man by plebiscite.

(vi) Pasteur did not view those who suffered from diseases just as cases that had to be cured but as something much more than that.

(vii) I. wanted to become an artist.

(viii) September 27

(ix) His greatest grief was when sheer physical exhaustion made him give up his active work.

(x) hard work/complete dedication.

2. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

1. Finally the wrestler Sakshi Malik clinched the bronze medal in the 58 kg category, pulling off a sensational 8-5 victory over Aisuluu Tynybekova of Kyrgyzstan in the play-off bout and ended India's painful wait for a medal at the Rio Olympic Games. The 23-year-old from Rohtak became only the fourth woman athlete from India to win an Olympic medal as she earned the dramatic win after falling behind 0-5 in the do-or-die bout on day 12.
2. Weightlifter Kamam Malleshwari (2000, Sydney), boxer MC Mary Kom (2012, London) and shuttler Saina Nehwal (2012, London) were the only other women athletes from India to have won a medal in Olympics. Like in three of the four other bouts earlier in the day, Sakshi won the crucial bout after coming from behind. She, in fact, had lost 2-9 in the quarter-finals to Russia's Valeriia Koblova in the fifth bout of the day before getting a second chance in repechage when her conqueror reached the final. Sakshi's victory brought cheers to the Indian contingent that had endured agonising 11 days without a medal.
3. Sakshi turned the tables on the Kyrgyzstan wrestler in the dying seconds of the bout as Tynybekova was in complete command in most part of the clash. Tynybekova grabbed Sakshi's leg and quickly earned two points before adding one more for the Indian's passivity. She repeated her move and successfully bagged two more points to lead 5-0 at the break. Sakshi could open the scoring only in the second period and got two points after throwing her rival down and out of the mat. She then managed to earn two points again with a similar move to bring down the margin to 4-5. Thereafter, it was no looking back for the Indian girl and she took the opponent down to level the scores 5-5. But she did not stop there and gained three more points by pinning down the Kyrgyzstan wrestler in the dying moments of the match.
 - (i) Aisuluu Tynybekova of Kyrgystan was her opponent in the final wrestling at the Rio Olympic Games 2016.
 - (ii) Sakshi Malik scored 8 points altogether in the final wrestling at the Rio Olympic Games.

- (iii) Before Sakshi Malik, the weightlifter Karnam Malleshwari, boxer MC Mary Kom and shuttler Saina Nehwal were the other Indian women athletes to win medals at Olympic Games.
- (iv) Repechage is a practice in series competitions that gives a chance to participants who failed to meet qualifying standards by a small margin to continue to the next round.
- (v) To begin with, Tynybekova scored 5 points whereas Sakshi Malik could score no point which made Indians hopeless.
- (vi) (a) True
Explanation: True
- (vii) 1. Two
2. 2
- (viii) (a) Three points
Explanation: Three points
- (ix) (b) fourth
Explanation: fourth
- (x) (a) agonising
Explanation: agonising

SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS (24 marks)

2 Oct. 20XX

NOTICE

IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS

A two-week course on communication skills is being organised for the children of our Group Housing Society as per details given below:

Date : 15 Oct. - 30 Oct. 20xx

Timings : 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Venue : Community Hall, Jyoti Group Housing Society, Patna

Fee : ₹ 599

The students interested in improving the communication skills may contact the undersigned for further details.

Ankit/Anita

Secretary

3. 68B, K.M.P. Society, Patna

4. a. I haven't seen
b. You look very well.
c. Are you going
d. are you seeing
e. receive my sister

5. Govind Nagar

Agra

2nd July 20XX

Dear Govind

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits. It is now over a week since

you had been ill. How is your health now? Do not worry about studies, for nothing much has happened since last week. It was last Sunday when our class teacher took us to Fatehpur Sikri, a town perched atop a rocky ridge just 28 kilometers from Agra. The one and half-hour drive in school bus was very entertaining, as we all sang and danced to the amusement of our teachers.

While on our way, the guide Mr. Salim informed that Fatehpur Sikri was built by Emperor Akbar in 1569. This was in gratitude to the sufi saint Shaikh Salim Chisti, who prophesied that Akbar would soon have an heir to the throne. As a mark of faith, he named the new city Fatehpur Sikri. The first enclosure of the palace was a vast courtyard called the Diwan-e-Aam, where the emperor attended the common people. Beyond this was a huge second enclosure, the Diwan-e-Khas, or the hall of private audience. Towards the east was Jodhabai's palace. It was the largest of all the palaces in the complex with traditional Hindu and Islamic carvings on the walls. Besides these monuments, there was the Mariam's palace, Panch Mahal and Buland Darwaza. The city and the palaces were marvellous and the beauty of it was quite appreciable. I wish you were also here, to visit such a beautiful city and know about powerful emperors like Akbar.

Wishing you a speedy recovery. Give my regards to Uncle and Aunt.

Yours affectionately

Rajnish

OR

220, GK Road

Bengaluru

28th May, 20XX

Dear Uncle

My eyes were searching for someone in the crowd of well-wishers celebrating my birthday. Really, I missed you on that auspicious occasion. However, when the courier brought a parcel, I felt relieved. You didn't forget my birthday. What a pleasant surprise! It was really a wonderful gift that I could have ever had on my birthday. 'Life and Ideas of Vivekananda' is a great book. You know that Swami Vivekananda is my ideal. That great saint and thinker of India gave the message of Vedantism to the USA and the Western world in the late 19th century. The book will be a source of inspiration for me in my life.

Thank you again for sending me this wonderful gift on my birthday. Pay my respect to Aunt and love to young Kushal.

With Love

Yours Affectionately

Manjunatha/Manglesh

6. Last week, I went for a vacation with my family and some friends to Bhimtal, Uttarakhand. It is a perfect place away from the loud, busy chores of the city life. On reaching the destination, we spent our first day resting in the luxurious resort and just enjoying the nearby market. Then, suddenly a local informed us that we can try paragliding too. That was the turning point for all of us and our joy had no limit. We got

really excited to try the adventure of flying.

The next morning we all got ready early to be prepared for paragliding. As we neared the camp, we were able to see people enjoying their first flight, shouting, laughing, clicking pictures and so on. As we reached the spot, the mountains looked even more beautiful from the height and the clouds seemed to be very near. The instructor told us about the mechanism behind paragliding and also explained us the rules.

After a long wait, my turn came. I was super excited to fly like a bird. Several ropes were tied to me, yet somehow it felt light. The pilot was sitting at my back, guiding me the way. After a short lapse of running on the mountains, the ground disappeared beneath my feet. In a span of some seconds, I was flying in the air.

I was above the clouds and it felt as if I was weightless, moving freely in the direction of the wind. After a span of 2-3 minutes, my pilot prepared the landing. Again, in a span of seconds, I was back on the ground. I was filled with immense pleasure, contentment and satisfaction.

OR

Our school organised a Robot Making Competition in which as many as 30 students from 30 schools of the city participated. As a member of the Robotic Club I represented my school in this activity. All the students were given the basic tools and units. All the groups were given 2 hours for assembling the robot together. Our group consisted of 4 of us, all members of the Robotic Club. We put together Harsh, a robot, which could play the music, do basic activities such as making bed, and washing vessels. One of the participating schools had made a running robot which could take part in running races. This robot was adjudged the best by the judges. Our robot got the second prize. The Chief Guest for the event was a Professor of Robotics from the University of Technology in the city.

SECTION C : GRAMMAR (10 marks)

7. Complete the tasks, as directed.

(i) (a) of, (b) our, (c) experience

(ii)	Word Before	Missing Word	Word After
(a)	live	<u>on</u>	food
(b)	vital	<u>to</u>	human
(c)	be	<u>a</u>	nutrient
(d)	is	<u>a</u>	vital.

(iii) Do as directed.

i. If we want to keep the Earth green we must encourage afforestation.

ii. (a) it was after two weeks. (b) whether/if she was taking part in it.

SECTION D : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 marks)

8. Read the given excerpts and answer the questions briefly, for ANY TWO excerpts, of the three, given.

(i) a. Yellow wood refers to the decomposing leaves and the autumn season.

- b. The poet was in a dilemma about which road to take. Both the roads were equally worn and were covered with leaves.
- c. abaab
- (ii) a. He says so out of affection and compassion.
- b. The human body is sacred because God dwells in it, hence one should lead a pious and virtuous life.
- c. He was very charitable and affectionate.
- (iii) a. I here is Krishtakka, the narrator's grandmother.
- b. Reading the magazine by Krishtakka was not possible because she was illiterate.
- c. She didn't ask somebody in the village to read the magazine for her. She was too embarrassed to ask somebody to do so for her.

9. Answer ANY SIX of the following seven questions in about 30- 40 words each

- (i) The poet was not able to understand the song of the solitary reaper because it was in Scottish language. He didn't know this language. However, he was able to guess from the melancholic strain of the song its subject. He guessed that the solitary reaper was singing a simple but deeply emotional song.
- (ii) In the fourth stage of life man plays the role of a soldier. He is full of strange oaths. He wears a beard like that of a leopard. He is jealous in honour and sudden and quick in quarrel. He is hungry for honour, name and fame. He is ready to enter the mouth of a cannon even for a momentary honour and reputation.
- (iii) The rain can be called a messenger of mercy as it brings relief to the parched earth by providing it water and at the same time it cures the ailment of the clouds.
- (iv) Harold was a 'young man' of ten. He was far more mature and intelligent than any other child of that age. He had already won the spelling and dictation prize. The spectacled child spoke with toneless rapidity, affected by youths of his age. Mrs. Bramble was proud of giving birth to such a prodigy. He was different from ordinary children, devoted to his books and an admirable model of behaviour. Defying the laws of heredity, Harold 'had run to intellect as his father had run to muscle.'
- (v) The next morning at eleven John A. Pescud rang the doorbell of the Colonel's mansion. For a few seconds John was nervous in the presence of the Colonel but soon got his nerve back. He told the old man everything, the purpose of his visit, his job and prospects and his little conduct of life. He clearly told that he wanted "to make a hit" with the young lady. The Colonel made him comfortable and they talked for two hours. The old man narrated anecdotes, humorous occurrences and a fox hunting story. John Pescud appeared to be satisfied with his meeting with the Colonel.
- (vi) The message that Alexander Baron wants to give is that it is not advisable to prove your intellectual superiority all the time even before your superiors or elders. It may lead to lack in grace. It may harm your own interest. It doesn't help to impress others. So, one should observe a proper code of conduct at one's field of training or workplace.
- (vii) Mrs. Al Smith was a film-maker. She did not waste time as she always had a lot of work to do. She did not have time for petty things. Hence, she was always in a hurry.

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

- (i) Jeanne desired the villa for the benefit of her parents and her sister's children, but Gaston displayed no enthusiasm due to this and criticized the villa, claiming that the asking price for the acquisition was excessive. Juliette, the owner of the villa offered two hundred thousand francs, while Mrs. Al Smith was ready to buy it for three hundred thousand francs. As Mr. Gaston was mistaken for the owner, he struck the deal in order to make money. Gaston was an opportunist. He was clever and hypocritical. He possessed the ability to leverage any situation to his benefit. With remarkable presence of mind and a deep understanding of Mrs. Al Smith's psychology, he had a knack for making the most out of every circumstance.
- (ii) Charles Hooper's life exemplifies dedication, courage, and an unwavering attitude. Despite a debilitating accident that left him paralyzed, he found the strength to adapt. Supported by his loyal dog Duke, Hooper displayed remarkable perseverance in his struggle for survival. Gradually, he progressed from taking a single step on his first day of effort to reaching the porch, then the fence post, the intersection, and finally the district office. Despite numerous setbacks and exhaustion, Hooper's endurance propelled him forward. His determination and self-belief shattered doubts that a paralyzed man couldn't succeed as a salesman, leading to a specially created desk job. Throughout his journey, Duke remained his faithful companion. Hooper's life teaches us the invaluable lessons of endurance and courage.