

SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 1
SUBJECT- English (L & L) (184)
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 THREE sections-READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section A Reading

1. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

[10]

1. Listening is the ability to accurately receive and interpret messages in the communication process. One of the greatest gifts any of us can ever receive is the gift of listening. It is also one of the greatest gifts we can ever give. Unfortunately, it appears to be a lost art. We live in a world where everyone is talking but few are listening. What often passes for listening is simply one person pausing to collect their thoughts for their next soliloquy.
2. Hearing refers to the sounds that you hear, whereas listening requires more than that it requires focus. Listening means paying attention not only to the story, but how it is told, the use of language and voice, and how the other person uses his or her body. In other words, it means being aware of both verbal and non-verbal messages. Your ability to listen effectively depends on the degree to which you perceive and understand these messages.
3. Listening is a difficult task. Like every skill the more you do it, the better you get up. Listening can be developed through practice, or lost if not used regularly. Good listeners focus on what they are hearing. They pause to think about what they've heard before responding. They ask questions because they want to know the answers. Not just to keep the conversation going.
4. So often, we are distracted by other things. We try to listen while continuing to work on the computer or watch television. To be fully present means we eliminate these distractions and focus exclusively on the other person. It takes great effort to be fully in the moment, leaning forward, eyes and heart open. Words are only part of communication. Sometimes we need to experience the other person's feelings to understand. We need to listen with our hearts as well as our mind. We must repeat back what the other person has said. When we do this and do it accurately-we communicate that we understand. It also allows us to re-calibrate our understanding if we have misunderstood something. Plenty of people are good talkers, few are good listeners. If you develop the latter skill, you will find yourself invited into amazing conversations that wouldn't otherwise happen.

- (i) According to the passage, listening appear to be a lost are because we live in a world where _____.
- (ii) Choose the options with the sentences that are NOT TRUE according to the passage.
- (I) Words are only the part of communication.
 - (II) Lots of people are good listeners.
 - (III) Listening refers to the voice that you hear.
 - (IV) Good listeners focus on what they hear.
 - (V) Listening is a tough task.
 - (VI) Hearing requires no focus.
- a. II, III, VI
 - b. III, V, VI
 - c. I, III, IV
 - d. I, IV, VI
- (iii) Fill in the blank with the correct option.
_____ focus on what they are hearing.
- a. good listeners
 - b. good orators
 - c. good understanding
 - d. good speakers
- (iv) Select the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the following.
- a. Do more listening than talking
 - b. Never stop listening
 - c. Learn by talking
 - d. Listening is talking
- (v) We need to experience the other person's feelings:
- a. to really understand
 - b. to be the part of the communication
 - c. to recalibrate our understanding
 - d. to keep the conversation going
- (vi) What our ability to listen effectively depends on?
- a. how the other person uses his or her body
 - b. use of language and voice
 - c. both (a) and (b)
 - d. degree to which we perceive and understand the messages

(vii) We need to _____ with our heart as well as our mind.

(viii) **hearing**, different from **listening** as:

- a. Hearing eliminates distraction; Listening gives us an opportunity to re-calibra our understanding
- b. Hearing is the ability to receive message; Listening is the ability to interpret message
- c. Hearing refers to the sounds that you hear; Listening means paying attention not only to the story, but how is it told
- d. Option (a), (b) and (c)

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

[10]

1. The North-East of India is a melting pot of variegated cultural mosaic of people and races, an ethnic tapestry of many hues and shades. Yet, these states are lesser explored as compared to the rest of the country. The new generations of travellers who are 'money rich and time poor' are increasingly looking for unique experiences - a phenomenon being called the emergence of the 'experience economy'. For this new and growing breed of tourists, the North-East with its variety and uniqueness holds immense attraction.
 2. A study conducted in 2020 by Dr. Sherap Bhutia, revealed that the foreign tourist arrival in the North-East increased from 37,380 persons in 2005 to 118,552 in 2014. The overall growth rate of tourist (both domestic and foreign) in the North-East was as high as 26.44% during 2005-06. A high and positive growth of 12.53% was registered in foreign tourist visits to North-East States of India during 2012 from 2011, which further rose to register a growth of 27.93% during 2013 from 2012. Foreign tourist arrivals in the North-East witnessed a growth of 39.77% during 2014 from 2013, according to data provided from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
 3. The study recommendations for tourism planners included the need to concentrate on some key areas like enhancement of tourist facilities, tourism financing, focus on community involvement and others for the formulation of a sustainable tourism strategy in the North-East States of India.
- (i) Infer one reason for the following, based on information in paragraph 1.
The rate of tourism in the North-East of India puzzles tourism officials.
- (ii) Select the appropriate option to fill in the blanks.
From paragraph 1, we can infer that the _____ and _____ of the North-Eastern states aid attracting the 'money rich and time poor' tourists.
- i. distinctiveness
 - ii. conventionality
 - iii. diversity
 - iv. uniformity

v. modernity

A. i & iii

B. ii & iv

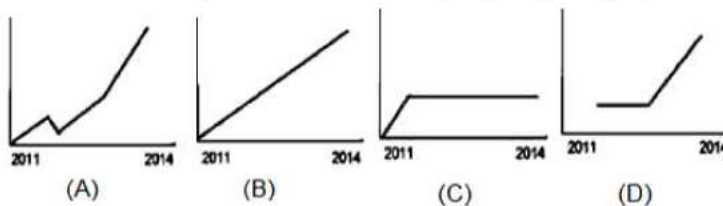
C. ii & v

D. i & iv

- (iii) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/ phrase from paragraph 1:
aroma : cooking :: _____ : painting
(Clue: Just like aroma is integral to cooking, similarly _____ is/are integral to painting)

- (iv) Select the correct option to complete the following sentence:
Travellers advocating the 'experience economy' seek a holiday package with
(Paragraph 1)
- A. grand facilities, expensive hotels and excellent services to pamper them.
B. a wholesome experience within the budget they have planned for.
C. places and cities to buy things from and opportunities spend money.
D. cost-effective services, affordable accommodation and many days of touring.

- (v) Select the chart that appropriately represents the trend of foreign tourist travels in the North-East, from 2011-2014, as per paragraph 2.



i. Option A

ii. Option B

iii. Option C

iv. Option D

- (vi) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option.
The study of tourist travel statistics in the North-East, from 2005 to 2014 showed _____ results.
- A. expected
B. encouraging
C. inconsistent
D. questionable

- (vii) Substitute the word 'witnessed' with ONE WORD similar in meaning, in the following, sentence from paragraph 2:
Foreign tourist arrivals in the North-East witnessed a growth of...

(viii) Select the option that titles paragraphs 1-3 appropriately, with reference to information in the text.

- A. (1) Full Speed Ahead!, (2) Ups and Downs, (3) Cause for Concern
- B. (1) Winds of Change, (2) Numbers Don't Lie, (3) Time for Action
- C. (1) Inspecting Trends, (2) Statistically Speaking, (3) Let's Investigate
- D. (1) Cause & Effect, (2) Dynamic Data, (3) Dependable Facts

Section B Grammar

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed [10]

(i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter: [1]
To ensure that this project gains strength, schools may _____ (organize) puppet shows and street plays.

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

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Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

(iii) Report the dialogue between a mother and her daughter, by completing the sentence: [1]

Mother: When will your exams start?

Daughter: Next month, Mother.

In response to the question about her exams, the daughter told her mother that _____.

(iv) Uncle Sam was looking for a pen to fill his form in the bank. The assistant from the help desk asked the following question to Uncle Sam. Report the assistant's question. [1]

Are you looking for something?

(v) Can you pass me _____ book please? [1]

a) A

b) The

c) Some

d) An

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

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

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

- (vii) He had such bad flu that he _____ breathe through his nose. [1]
a) didn't use to b) wouldn't
c) shouldn't d) couldn't
- (viii) By the time we _____ our preparations for the congress, most of the participants _____ at the hall. [1]
a) will have finished / arrive b) finished / had arrived
c) have finished / had arrived d) finished / have arrived
- (ix) _____ you hold this shelf here while I go and get my hammer? [1]
a) May b) Must
c) Will d) Should
- (x) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter: [1]
I _____ (entreat) you address this at your earliest convenience and issue the recommendation letters.
- (xi) 62 years _____ the minimum age of retirement. [1]
a) has b) are
c) is d) were
- (xii) If Joe _____ here, you'd be sorry. [1]
a) is b) was
c) were d) has

Section B Writing

4. Write a short paragraph on the following personality: Mahatma Gandhi - The Father of the Nation [5]

OR

Recently you visited the Taj Mahal in Agra. Write a descriptive paragraph on this famous monument.

5. Indian summers are really unbearable. One day the maximum temperature shot up to 47°C. It was most miserable day of the year for you. Record the experience in your diary. [5]

OR

Write a story in 150-200 words based on the points given below:

8 year old Sunil _____ alone at home _____ rich locality _____ three men _____
suspicious looking _____ boy, afraid _____ rang up 100 _____ 15 minutes
_____ police came _____ robbers arrested notorious _____ Sunil rewarded
_____ famous at school.

Section C Literature

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

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

"It is winter," answered the swallow, "and the snow will soon be here. In Egypt the sun is warm on the green palm trees, and the crocodiles lie in the mud and look lazily about them." "In the square below," said the Happy Prince, "there stands a little matchgirl. She has let her matches fall in the gutter, and they are all spoiled. Her father will beat her if she does not bring home some money, and she is crying. She has no shoes or stockings, and her little head is bare. Pluck out my other eye, and give it to her, and her father will not beat her." "I will stay with you one night longer," said the swallow, "but I cannot pluck out your eye. You would be quite blind then." "Swallow, Swallow, little Swallow," said the Prince, "do as I command you." So he plucked out the Prince's other eye, and darted down with it. He swooped past the matchgirl, and slipped the jewel into the palm of her hand. "What a lovely bit of glass!" cried the little girl; and she ran home, laughing. Then the swallow came back to the Prince. "You are blind now," he said, "so I will stay with you always."

- i. Which of the following is NOT a reason the swallow gave for staying with the Happy Prince?

- A. The approaching winter and the warmth of Egypt.
- B. The pitiful plight of the little matchgirl in the square.
- C. The Happy Prince's request to pluck out his eye for the matchgirl.
- D. The Happy Prince's blindness after losing both eyes.

- ii. . Why did the Happy Prince ask the swallow to pluck out his other eye, and what was the swallow's initial response? Answer in about 40 words.

- iii. Read the following descriptions (a) - (c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract:
 - a. The swallow refused to stay with the Happy Prince.
 - b. The swallow plucked out the Happy Prince's eye and gave it to a matchgirl.
 - c. The matchgirl had a father who was very kind to her.
- iv. As the matchgirl's father, how would you react and respond if your daughter were unable to sell any matchsticks and returned home without earning any money?

(ii) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow: [5]
 “But my mother says a teacher has to be adjusted to fit the mind of each boy and girl it teaches and that each kid has to be taught differently.” “Just the same they didn’t do it that way then. If you don’t like it, you don’t have to read the book.” “I didn’t say I didn’t like it,” Margie said quickly. She wanted to read about those funny schools.

- i. Which of the following is NOT a reason why a teacher had to be adjusted?
 - a. It was a machine.
 - b. It worked on command.
 - c. It could not adapt to the level on its own.
 - d. It had to teach each child one on one.
- ii. Why is it fair to say that Tommy’s tone, when he says, “Just the same they didn’t do it that way then”, is irritated? Answer in about 40 words.
- iii. Read the following descriptions (a)-(c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract.
 - a. For Margie school means individualised instruction.
 - b. Tommy is astonished at Margie’s innocence.
 - c. Margie and Tommy argue over the schools of the past and present.
- iv. identify the statement in which Tommy is giving a suggestion to Margie.

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

(i) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow. [5]
 I will arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
 And a small cabin build there, of clay and
 wattles made:
 Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for
 the honeybee,
 And live alone in the bee-loud glade.
 a. What is ‘Innisfree’?
 i. a snow-clad mountain

ii. a clean and fresh-water lake

iii. a quiet and peaceful island

iv. a simple and modest house

b. What kind of home would the poet like to build there?

c. Quote a phrase from the extract the BEST conveys the poet's eagerness and urgency to go to Innisfree.

d. It is clear that 'Alliteration' is the poetic device used in the last line because _____.

(ii) Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

[5]

Where they harness the swift reindeer

To the sledges, when it snows;

And the children look like bear's cubs

In their funny, furry clothes:

a. The children looked like _____ in their furry clothes.

b. In what ways does the stanza evoke a sense of winter wonder?

c. How did the people drive their sledges when it snowed?

d. What does the stanza describe?

i. A group of children playing in the snow

ii. The preparation of sledges for a snowy ride

iii. The appearance of children in warm winter clothing

iv. The behaviour of swift reindeer in the snow

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

[12]

(i) What is the impact of the music of the flute on Vikram Seth?

[3]

(ii) In one of the stanzas, the poet of poem "No Men Are Foreign" finds similarity in human hands. What is it?

[3]

(iii) Why does Kalam say he had a secure childhood, both materially and emotionally?

[3]

(iv) What two important and earthshaking decisions did the doctor take while he was looking into the mirror?

[3]

(v) Can a simple jab of the knife kill a tree? Why not? Write your answer in the context of Poem On Killing a Tree.

[3]

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

[6]

(i) How did Behrman react to Johnsy's fancy? What sacrifice did he make for her?

[3]

(ii) Lushkoff is earning thirty five roubles a month. How is he obliged to Sergei for this?

[3]

(iii) What do you think happens in the end? Does the child find his parents? [3]

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

(i) What message does the author wish to convey through Kezia's story? [6]

(ii) Was Gerrard really pleased to see the criminal? [6]

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

(i) How did Toto take bath?Where did he learn to do this? [6]

(ii) Why did the narrator say, I was suffering loss, big time? Write your answer in the context of A House is Not a Home. [6]

Answers

Section A Reading

1. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

1. Listening is the ability to accurately receive and interpret messages in the communication process. One of the greatest gifts any of us can ever receive is the gift of listening. It is also one of the greatest gifts we can ever give. Unfortunately, it appears to be a lost art. We live in a world where everyone is talking but few are listening. What often passes for listening is simply one person pausing to collect their thoughts for their next soliloquy.
2. Hearing refers to the sounds that you hear, whereas listening requires more than that it requires focus. Listening means paying attention not only to the story, but how it is told, the use of language and voice, and how the other person uses his or her body. In other words, it means being aware of both verbal and non-verbal messages. Your ability to listen effectively depends on the degree to which you perceive and understand these messages.
3. Listening is a difficult task. Like every skill the more you do it, the better you get up. Listening can be developed through practice, or lost if not used regularly. Good listeners focus on what they are hearing. They pause to think about what they've heard before responding. They ask questions because they want to know the answers. Not just to keep the conversation going.
4. So often, we are distracted by other things. We try to listen while continuing to work on the computer or watch television. To be fully present means we eliminate these distractions and focus exclusively on the other person. It takes great effort to be fully in the moment, leaning forward, eyes and heart open. Words are only part of communication. Sometimes we need to experience the other person's feelings to understand. We need to listen with our hearts as well as our mind. We must repeat back what the other person has said. When we do this and do it accurately-we communicate that we understand. It also allows us to re-calibrate our understanding if we have misunderstood something. Plenty of people are good talkers, few are good listeners. If you develop the latter skill, you will find yourself invited into amazing conversations that wouldn't otherwise happen.
 - (i) Everyone is talking but few are listening.
 - (ii) (a) II, III, IV
The context shows (I) negligence as the person will ignore the limits and (IV) recklessness as the person knows that he has reached his limit but still chooses to see how long can he get by with it. It doesn't show any of (II), (III) or (V) options. Hence, option (a) is the right answer
 - (iii)(a) good listeners
 - (iv)(a) Do more listening than talking

(v) (a) to really understand

In order to understand the other person completely, we need to listen to him through both our heart and mind. Hence (a) is the right answer.

(vi)(d) degree to which we perceive and understand the messages

(vii)listen

(viii)(c) Hearing refers to the sounds that you hear; Listening means paying attention not only to the story, but how it is told

2. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

1. The North-East of India is a melting pot of variegated cultural mosaic of people and races, an ethnic tapestry of many hues and shades. Yet, these states are lesser explored as compared to the rest of the country. The new generations of travellers who are 'money rich and time poor' are increasingly looking for unique experiences - a phenomenon being called the emergence of the 'experience economy'. For this new and growing breed of tourists, the North-East with its variety and uniqueness holds immense attraction.
 2. A study conducted in 2020 by Dr. Sherap Bhutia, revealed that the foreign tourist arrival in the North-East increased from 37,380 persons in 2005 to 118,552 in 2014. The overall growth rate of tourist (both domestic and foreign) in the North-East was as high as 26.44% during 2005-06. A high and positive growth of 12.53% was registered in foreign tourist visits to North-East States of India during 2012 from 2011, which further rose to register a growth of 27.93% during 2013 from 2012. Foreign tourist arrivals in the North-East witnessed a growth of 39.77% during 2014 from 2013, according to data provided from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.
 3. The study recommendations for tourism planners included the need to concentrate on some key areas like enhancement of tourist facilities, tourism financing, focus on community involvement and others for the formulation of a sustainable tourism strategy in the North-East States of India.
- (i) This is so because these states are lesser explored as compared to the rest of the country, in spite of having lots to offer.
- (ii) A. i & iii
- (iii) hues and shades
- (iv) B. a wholesome experience within the budget they have planned for.
- (v) B. Option B
- (vi) B. encouraging
- (vii) observed/recorded/showed/displayed (Any other similar relevant)
- (viii) B. (1) Winds of Change, (2) Numbers Don't Lie, (3) Time for Action

Section B Grammar

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

- (i) organize

(ii)	error	correction
	each	all the

(iii) that it/they would start in the following month.

(iv) The assistant asked if Uncle Sam was looking for something.

(v) **(b)** The

Explanation: The

(vi) **(B)** the - a

(vii) **(d)** couldn't

Explanation: couldn't

(viii) **(b)** finished / had arrived

Explanation: finished / had arrived

(ix) **(c)** Will

Explanation: Will

(x) entreat

(xi) **(c)** is

Explanation: 62 years **is** the minimum age of retirement.

(xii) **(c)** were

Explanation: If Joe **were** here, you'd be sorry.

Section B Writing

4. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (known as Mahatma Gandhi) was not only a great politician but also a great social and religious leader. He declared that the highest form of service of the great mother was social service. He gave the message of peace to the whole world and believed in humanity. He loved his countrymen very much. So, the nation called him Bapu-the Father of the Nation. Gandhiji's main principles were truth and non-violence. He believed in universal brotherhood and love. He was of the opinion that if we had conflict with Englishmen, let us not hate the Englishmen because both Englishmen and Indians are offspring of the same Divinity. He respected all religions equally because he said essence of all religions is Truth. He advocated universal brotherhood over and above wavering loyalties to nations and religions. On January 30, 1948, he was shot dead by Nathu Ram Vinayak Godse in a prayer assembly at Birla House, Delhi.

OR

Taj Mahal: Taj Mahal is the first of the seven wonders of the world. It is located on the banks of Yamuna in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India. It was made by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz. It took twenty years for twenty two thousand workers to complete it. It is purely made of white marble and hence is a symbol of love. It is a beautiful piece of architecture and creativity. Taj Mahal is an example of beauty and marvel. It has a beautiful view surrounded by gardens and river. Every year more than 20 lakh people pay visit to Taj Mahal. Taj Mahal is truly a piece of marvel in the world.

5. Delhi

20th July, 20XX

Friday, 8:00 pm

Dear Diary,

Indian summers can be really unbearable and who can live in peace and comfort when the heat waves, start blowing over the plains of north India. It was the 20th of July, 20XX, the most miserable day of my life. It was certainly the hottest day of the season. By noon the heat became unbearable. To avoid dehydration, we had already had several litres of cold water. I had to go to the market. I forgot to wear a cap. By the time I reached home, I was very miserable and started vomiting. To make things still worse, there was a breakdown of electric power during most part of the night. Without the working of fans and air-conditioners, we felt miserable. It was very uncomfortable with the dress I wore. I told my mom it was unbearable. She too felt hot. Then we both went to the hotel where there had airconditioning. We sat for at least an hour get cooled . We ordered an ice cream and went back home. We spent a sleepless and miserable night.

Govind

OR

LITTLE WARRIOR

Sunil, a little boy of just eight years, was alone at home His parents had gone to the hospital where one of their neighbours was admitted in an emergency. Sunil was not timid as the other children of his age might be. So he was left behind. His parents were confident of his wisdom. Their home was in a posh-locality where rich-gentry of the city dwelled. Sunil was busy in the preparation of his project work. Then he felt thirsty. He moved towards the kitchen to have a glass of water. Suddenly, he heard some strange noise there. Then he noticed from the kitchen window, three suspicious looking men around their house. On seeing them, Sunil got a little afraid but didn't lose his courage. Without making any noise, first of all, he checked whether all doors were tightly bolted or not. Then, he, at once remembered that once his father had told him of emergency numbers. He quietly dialled 100 number and talked to the police. He informed them about those three goons. He also called his parents. Meanwhile, he kept a glance at the activities of those men who were waiting for the right moment for any action. Actually, they were notorious robbers. They entered the house searching for valuable and precious things in the home. Within fifteen minutes of the phone call, the police arrived there. On seeing them, the robbers tried to escape but to no avail. They were caught by the police force. At that moment his parents also reached there. The Police patted on Sunil's back for his valuable call and bravery. His parents, too, praised him for showing courage in such moment. For a long time, the police had been searching for them. In a public function, Sunil was rewarded. He also became famous at school due to his bravery and quick-mindedness.

Section C Literature

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

(i) i. (A) The approaching winter and the warmth of Egypt.

- ii. The Happy Prince asked the swallow to pluck out his other eye to help a poor matchgirl in the square below who needed money to avoid being beaten by her father. The swallow's initial response was reluctance due to the Prince becoming completely blind.
- iii. (b) The swallow plucked out the Happy Prince's eye and gave it to a matchgirl.
- iv. As the match girl's father, I would feel concerned and worried for my daughter's well-being. Instead of beating her, I would first comfort her and inquire about the reasons behind her inability to sell the matchsticks.
- (ii) i. (d) It had to teach each child one on one. (Since it was a machine, it had to be provided with commands)
- ii. Tommy's tone was irritated because Margie was comparing the present-day school with the school of her ancestor's time. Her silly counter-arguments and questions annoyed him.
- iii. (a) For Margie school means individualised instruction.
- iv. In the line: "If you don't like it, you don't have to read the book." Tommy suggests to Margie that if she need not read the book.

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

- (i) a. (iii) a quiet and peaceful island
- b. The poet would like to build a small cottage made of clay and wattles.
- c. I will arise and go now
- d. repetition of 'l' sound which makes it musical.
- (ii) a. a bear's cubs.
- b. The stanza skillfully conveyed the severity of Northland's winter climate by depicting how its inhabitants harnessed fleet-footed reindeers to sledges whenever snowfall occurred. They subtly prompted the reader to envision the vivid imagery and emotions evoked by this scene, all while astutely emphasizing the children's appearances to establish a mood and ambience reminiscent of picturesque winters.
- c. The people of Northland harnessed the swift reindeers to the sledges, when it snowed.
- d. (iii) The appearance of children in warm winter clothing.

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

- (i) The music of the flute has a hypnotic effect on Vikram Seth. He finds it difficult to 'tear' himself away from the square where this music is being played by the flute seller. Although the place where the flute seller is playing his flute is noisy and chaotic, the author finds the sound of flute relaxing and soothing. He feels tranquil. The sound of the music of flute is clearly noticeable in the crowd also. It has the power to draw him into the commonality of all mankind and he is moved by its closeness to the human voice.
- (ii) The poet means that we all shall lie under the same earth. The poet feels that people of all countries have to work hard in a similar fashion to earn their livelihood. This is

done by them with the help of their hands. It is the hands that do all the work in the world and it is the hands that are a source of all creativity.

- (iii) Though not very well off, Kalam's father made sure that he provided his family with all the necessities in terms of food, medicine and clothes. Apart from this, Kalam got all the love and parental guidance from them during his childhood.
- (iv) The doctor made two decisions after looking at himself in the mirror. The first was that he would shave daily and grow a thin moustache in order to look more handsome as he was still unmarried and was in the reputed medical profession. The second decision was that he would marry a rich and fat lady-doctor.
- (v) Simple jab of a knife can certainly not kill a tree. It can merely injure it and cause its sap to ooze out like blood. The real life of a tree comes from the roots that provide it nourishment and firmly hold it. It is the roots that are the strength of the tree. Until the roots are not pulled out of the earth, a tree does not die.

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

- (i) Johnsy had a fancy that she would die the moment the last leaf on the ivy creeper fell. When Behrman heard it he found it totally absurd. But in order to save her life, he decided to paint a leaf on the wall. He succumbed to pneumonia and died soon while he succeeded in his motto.
- (ii) There had been no encounter with Sergei Lushkoff would have continued begging. It was because of Sergei that he could get an opportunity to be helped by Olga. The whole incident changes the way Lushkoff thinks about the future. Earlier he had no confidence in getting a job. His stint with Sergei and Olga gave him new confidence which helps him land a decent job.
- (iii) Nothing can be said for certain about the end of the story. The writer has not closed the plot. However, towards the end of the story, the writer introduced a man who asked the lost child about the reason for his fear. It can only be assumed that the man must have helped the child find his parents.

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

- (i) Kezia's story is very touching. The message of the story is that one should try to have a balance in life. One should not try to hide one's feelings. If one is loving and caring, these feelings should be realized by others clearly. Kezia misunderstands her father only because she never sees him behave affectionately at home. She thinks that her father does not love her. She concludes that he is rude and arrogant. He punishes her with a ruler. Moreover, he never plays with her and never spends time with her. But at the end of the story, he shows his love and affection towards Kezia when she is in dire need of her father's protection. He makes her feel comfortable and lies beside her so that she may enjoy sound sleep and she may not feel frightened due to a nightmare. The author intends to say that parents never do wrong to their children. They always think and act for the wellness of their children.
- (ii) One day an intruder enters his room. There is a gun in his hand and he threatens to kill Gerrard. But Gerrard does not panic. He is a clever man. He has understood that

the criminal has evil intentions. He knows that if he fights with the intruder, he will be killed. So his best chance is to talk with the intruder in a friendly manner. By talking pleasantly, Gerrard makes the intruder delay his plan of killing him. So, Gerrard tells him that he is pleased to see him. He was not really pleased to see the criminal. By engaging the intruder in talks, Gerrard comes to know that he is not an intelligent man and it is not difficult to fool him. Gerrard behavior shows that he is a sensible person. He knows how to behave in a crisis. In the end he is able to lock the intruder in a cupboard and calls the police. Gerrard is so amused by this incident that he decides to use it as the plot for his next play.

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

- (i) Toto was very cunning. He followed the proper procedure for a bath. Toto took bath in a large bowl of warm water. He cunningly tested the temperature of the water with his hand as human beings do. After this, he gradually stepped into the bath. He was so attentive that he stepped first one foot, then the other, until he was into the water up to his neck. He would take the soap and rub it all over himself in that bowl. Toto learnt to do so as he had seen the author doing the same. If he saw anyone laughing at him, he would feel hurt and refused to take a bath. When the bath was over he would run to the kitchen to dry himself. Once there was a large kettle of water on the fire to boil for tea. He got into the kettle because it was too cold outside and he wanted to enjoy a hot bath.
- (ii) The author felt that he was suffering loss, big time because he had a sudden realisation of all the things dear to him that he had lost. He had lost his old dear school and affectionate teachers, he had lost his house to the fire and he had also lost his cat whom he loved dearly.