

**SAMPLE QUESTION PAPER - 4**  
**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]**

The idea that coffee is bad for heart pops up periodically. It was found that regularly drinking very strong coffee could sharply increase cholesterol levels. Researchers even isolated fat-like chemicals, cafestol and kahweol responsible for the rise.

It turned out that in the European brewing method, boiling water sits on the coffee grounds for several minutes before straining; this produces a high concentration of cafestol and kahweol. By contrast, the filter and percolation methods remove all but, a trace of these chemicals. Moreover, the studies involved large amounts of coffee, i.e. five to six cups a day. Moderate coffee drinkers drink only two cups. Research has also shown that regular, moderate coffee drinking does not dangerously raise blood pressure. And studies have failed to substantiate fears that coffee might trigger abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmias) in healthy people.

"For heart disease, I think the issue is closed," says Meir Stampfer, an epidemiologist at Harvard who had studied many aspects of coffee and health.

"Coffee drinking at reasonable levels is unrelated to heart risk."

Evidence suggests that coffee may help fend off Parkinson's disease. A 30-year study of 8000 Japanese and American men found that coffee drinkers had one-fifth the risk of those who didn't drink the brew.

Scientists at Massachusetts General Hospital, USA, found indirect evidence that Caffeine - the habit-forming stimulant in coffee - may actually combat Parkinson's disease. The caffeine seemed to protect mice brain cells from depletion of the nerve chemical dopamine - the problem underlying Parkinson's in humans.

However, these are preliminary findings; human studies have not consistently supported caffeine's protective role.

The studies on coffee and cancer have focussed on three organs and are reassuring. You may remember a brief coffee scare in the early 1980s, when a single study linked coffee with pancreatic cancer. A false alarm: many studies since then have shown that the association is either extremely weak or non-existent.

If there's a connection between coffee and bladder cancer, it possibly applies just

to coffee junkies. A re-analysis of ten European studies found an increased risk only among people who drank ten or more cups a day. And studies show that coffee seems to have no adverse influence on the risk of colon cancer.

Caffeine is such a powerful stimulant that the International Olympic Committee and the National Collegiate Athletic Association have set limits on how much content can remain in the blood during competition. In addition to boosting physical endurance, caffeine increases alertness and improves mood. The buzz may come at a price though. People who drink more than they're used to, may become restless and unable to sleep. Moreover, it's possible to become physically dependent on caffeine in days.

The question now arises: how much to drink? Those with heartburn and anxiety may want to see, if cutting back on coffee improves their condition. For most people, however, there's virtually no risk in consuming up to three normal cups a day. Harvard's Stampfer tries to keep his coffee drinking irregular enough to avoid habituation: "That way, I can get a buzz when I feel like it."

- (i) Coffee increases \_\_\_\_\_ of these people who regularly drink very strong coffee.
  - a) fats
  - b) cholesterol
  - c) the amount of blood
  - d) tension
- (ii) A person should not drink coffee \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) more than ten cups a day
  - b) less than 10 cups a day
  - c) more than three cups a day
  - d) none of these
- (iii) It has been proven that coffee does not have any adverse effect on the risk of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) lung cancer
  - b) diabetes
  - c) colon cancer
  - d) none of the above
- (iv) Caffeine boosts
  - a) none of these
  - b) mental endurance
  - c) physical endurance
  - d) positive feelings
- (v) Find the word which conveys similar meaning as **separated**.
  - a) unite
  - b) link
  - c) isolated
  - d) mix
- (vi) In what respect does coffee harm the human heart? How?

- (vii) European brewing methods produce a high concentration of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- (viii) Depletion of the nerve chemical dopamine in nerve cells causes \_\_\_\_\_ disease.
- (ix) Name the three types of cancer listed in the passage.
- (x) Name the diseases mentioned in the passage:
  - i. associated with the heart
  - ii. associated with nerves

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

**[10]**

1. There is something humbling about nature. Even as the deep sea, or a towering mountain or even a complex rainforest forces humility upon you, nature manages to leave you with your ego intact. No one in their right mind can seriously contemplate being in 'competition', with anything so perfect and all-encompassing. In fact, I smile inwardly when I hear people talk of 'conquering' mountains. The mountain actually lets you climb it. If it was less 'benevolent' you would be dead.
  2. On the other hand, if you respect its power and tread lightly upon its earth, the Himalaya will protect you and deliver you the satisfaction of being cocooned in pure nature. Take my word for it. Almost anywhere you go, the traditional hospitality of the hill people will ensure that you obtain a hot meal, a friendly welcome and a place to rest a tired body for the night. All you need to pack is humility, essential trust and low-key demands along with a good pair of walking boots and a sleeping bag.
  3. It is surprisingly easy to visit untrodden trails without it costing an arm and a leg, provided one does not fall prey to the enticing promise of five-star facilities. These promise physical comfort at steep prices, but the cost paid by the environments in which such facilities are located is incalculable. Besides, the sanitized options available take most of the organic pleasure away from most destinations.
- (i) What virtue are the hill people known for?
  - (ii) Why does the author call nature to be humble?
  - (iii) What is ridiculous for the author?
  - (iv) How should we behave with mountains?
  - (v) What qualities does one should have to get friendly welcome by the hill people?
  - (vi) The remote regions in the Himalayas protect bulk of our:
    - a) old resources
    - b) food resources

- c) water resources                      d) mineral resources
- (vii) The men who seriously contemplate being in competition with nature are not in their:
- a) neither sound body nor sound mind                      b) both sound body & sound mind
- c) sound body                      d) sound mind
- (viii) The mountains are benevolent in the sense that they:
- a) allow us to climb them                      b) protect us from many problems
- c) they protect bulk of our water resources                      d) all of these
- (ix) Which word/phrase in para 2 means the same as not intended to attract lot of attend on?
- a) satisfaction                      b) low-key
- c) cocooned                      d) humility
- (x) When we go to a hill station, we should have humility and trust also.
- a) True                      b) False

### SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS (24 marks)

3. You are the Controller of Examinations of CBSE. The Central Government has declared 15<sup>th</sup> March a public holiday. CBSE has decided to shift all examinations scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> March to a later date. Draft a notice, announcing the change, in about 50 words for publication in a newspaper. [4]
4. Write a dialogue between Father and Son regarding the career of the son after passing his Sr. Secondary examination. The opening sentences have been given below. [5]  
**Father :** Splendid performance in the Board. What options have you for higher studies?  
**Son :** Thanks. With your blessings, I've got 98 percent.
5. You will soon have to make a decision about the subjects that you wish to study in classes XI and XII. Write a letter to your grandfather telling him about the subjects that you plan to take up. Be sure to explain the reason for your choice and how you think these subjects would help you in the future. [7]

OR

You are Ankush/Anita staying at Sunflower Hostel, Punjab University, Chandigarh. Write a letter to your mother describing to her about your hostel life. State your activities, the behavior of hostel inmates and food, etc.

6. Write a paragraph describing a journey, imaginary, or you have undertaken. You can follow the steps given below: [8]

1. Prepare an itinerary.

2. You can make use of the following expressions, phrases and proverbs frequently used by the travellers.

(Jet lag, itchy feet, hit the road, time table, on the home stretch, call it a day, book in advance, travel over, travel through, travel light, any port in a storm, stopover, etc.)

OR

Write a paragraph on The Postman of Your Area in about 100-150 words.

### 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]  
Thinking negatively will get negative results because your thoughts create a negative atmosphere which is hospitable (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (of/on/to) negative results. On the contrary, (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (at/by/on) thinking positively you can create a positive atmosphere which makes positive results a certainty. (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (at/to/about) cultivate positive thinking, you should speak hopefully about everything.

- (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
All living things to breathe	(a)	_____	_____	_____
to survive, each species has	(b)	_____	_____	_____
its peculiar way. Some	(c)	_____	_____	_____
breathe lungs while others through skin.	(d)	_____	_____	_____

- (iii) Do as directed.

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

The doctor first makes a diagnosis of an illness. Then he or she decides

what kind of treatment is needed. Many illnesses can be treated with a course of medicines.

may/the doctor/if/is serious/the case/operate

- ii. Read the conversation given below. Based on your reading, fill in the blanks appropriately. [2]
- Octopush is the name of an underwear hockey game. It (a) \_\_\_\_\_ a group of English divers. The game was aimed at keeping the local scuba club busy during the winter months. The original rules (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 that follow: [4]

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-  
I took the one less travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

- a. What does **I shall be telling with a sigh** show of the poet's mind?  
b. What do actually **two roads** stand here for?  
c. **That has made all the difference** actually means...

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

(Putting his hand on his shoulder). Always remember, my son, that this poor body is the Temple of the Living God.

- a. Who is speaking and to whom?  
b. Did the Convict still behave like a wild beast? What was the transformation?  
c. What final advice did the Bishop give to the Convict?  
d. Explain, **this poor body**...

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

"I looked at her face. It was unhappy and her eyes were filled with tears. She was a good looking lady who was usually always smiling."

- a. Who do **I** and **She** refer to?  
b. Why was **She** unhappy?  
c. Write the synonym of **unhappy**.

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

- (i) Why does the poet call the reaper **Solitary**? [2]



- (ii) Why does Shakespeare compare the world to a stage? [2]
  - (iii) What are the various functions performed by the rain in the poem **The Song of the Rain**? [2]
  - (iv) How did Harold feel about his mother's way of addressing him? [2]
  - (v) What, according to Pescud, should fiction or best sellers be like as said by the narrator? [2]
  - (vi) What was the reaction of the Sergeant when Private Quelch interrupted him during his first lesson in musketry? [2]
  - (vii) What were the flaws pointed out by Gaston in the villa put up for sale by Juliette? [2]
10. **Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 120 words** [6]
- (i) Opportunism and self-interest prompted Mr. Gaston to strike a deal with Juliette. Why was Mr. Gaston not interested in buying the villa in the beginning and why was he so prompt in making the deal with Juliette in the end? Support your answer by quoting from the text. [6]
  - (ii) Imagine you are Hooper. After coming home you feel depressed and write a diary page about your mental state. Write that diary page. [6]

## **Answers**

### **SECTION A : READING SKILLS (20 marks)**

#### **1. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:**

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It turned out that in the European brewing method, boiling water sits on the coffee grounds for several minutes before straining; this produces a high concentration of cafestol and kahweol. By contrast, the filter and percolation methods remove all but, a trace of these chemicals. Moreover, the studies involved large amounts of coffee, i.e. five to six cups a day. Moderate coffee drinkers drink only two cups.

Research has also shown that regular, moderate coffee drinking does not dangerously raise blood pressure. And studies have failed to substantiate fears that coffee might trigger abnormal heart rhythms (arrhythmias) in healthy people.

"For heart disease, I think the issue is closed," says Meir Stampfer, an epidemiologist at Harvard who had studied many aspects of coffee and health. "Coffee drinking at reasonable levels is unrelated to heart risk."

Evidence suggests that coffee may help fend off Parkinson's disease. A 30-year study of 8000 Japanese and American men found that coffee drinkers had one-fifth the risk of those who didn't drink the brew.

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The studies on coffee and cancer have focussed on three organs and are reassuring. You may remember a brief coffee scare in the early 1980s, when a single study linked coffee with pancreatic cancer. A false alarm: many studies since then have shown that the association is either extremely weak or non-existent.

If there's a connection between coffee and bladder cancer, it possibly applies just to coffee junkies. A re-analysis of ten European studies found an increased risk only among people who drank ten or more cups a day. And studies show that coffee seems to have no adverse influence on the risk of colon cancer.

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The question now arises: how much to drink? Those with heartburn and anxiety may



want to see, if cutting back on coffee improves their condition. For most people, however, there's virtually no risk in consuming up to three normal cups a day. Harvard's Stampfer tries to keep his coffee drinking irregular enough to avoid habituation: "That way, I can get a buzz when I feel like it."

(i) **(b)** cholesterol

**Explanation:** Coffee is known to increase cholesterol.

(ii) **(c)** more than three cups a day

**Explanation:** Drinking 3 cups or more of coffee causes increased cholesterol.

(iii) **(c)** colon cancer

**Explanation:** Coffee does not cause cancer. It does increase cholesterol.

(iv) **(c)** physical endurance

**Explanation:** Caffeine stimulates one physically.

(v) **(c)** isolated

**Explanation:** 'Isolated' means separated from everyone and made alone.

(vi) Drinking very strong coffee could sharply increase cholesterol levels. Fat-like chemicals - cafestol and kahweol are responsible for the rise.

(vii) i. cafestol and kahweol.

(viii) Parkinson's.

(ix) i. pancreatic cancer.

ii. bladder cancer.

iii. colon cancer.

(x) i. arrhythmias

ii. Parkinson's

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

1. There is something humbling about nature. Even as the deep sea, or a towering mountain or even a complex rainforest forces humility upon you, nature manages to leave you with your ego intact. No one in their right mind can seriously contemplate being in 'competition', with anything so perfect and all-encompassing. In fact, I smile inwardly when I hear people talk of 'conquering' mountains. The mountain actually lets you climb it. If it was less 'benevolent' you would be dead.
2. On the other hand, if you respect its power and tread lightly upon its earth, the Himalaya will protect you and deliver you the satisfaction of being cocooned in pure nature. Take my word for it. Almost anywhere you go, the traditional hospitality of the hill people will ensure that you obtain a hot meal, a friendly welcome and a place to rest a tired body for the night. All you need to pack is humility, essential trust and low-key demands along with a good pair of walking boots and a sleeping bag.
3. It is surprisingly easy to visit untrodden trails without it costing an arm and a leg, provided one does not fall prey to the enticing promise of five-star facilities. These promise physical comfort at steep prices, but the cost paid by the environments in which such facilities are located is incalculable. Besides, the sanitized options available take most of the organic pleasure away from most destinations.

(i) The hill people are known for their traditionally hospitality.

(ii) The author calls nature to be humble because nature does not try to defeat human beings.

(iii) The term 'conquering mountains' sounds ridiculous to the author.

(iv) We should respect the power of mountains.

(v) One should be humble with the hill people to get their well hospitality.

(vi) (c) water resources

**Explanation:** water resources

(vii) (d) sound mind

**Explanation:** sound mind

(viii) (a) allow us to climb them

**Explanation:** allow us to climb them

(ix) (b) low-key

**Explanation:** low-key

(x) (a) True

**Explanation:** True

### SECTION B : WRITING SKILLS (24 marks)

#### EXAMINATION NOTICE

CENTRAL BOARD OF SECONDARY EDUCATION, PREET VIHAR, NEW DELHI  
**CHANGE IN SCHEDULE**

Consequent on the Central Government's decision to observe 15<sup>th</sup> March as a public holiday, all the examinations of CBSE scheduled for 15<sup>th</sup> March have been shifted to 25<sup>th</sup> March and 28<sup>th</sup> March 20XX.

Candidates may contact the Principals of their examination centers for clarifications, if needed.

Controller of Examinations

CBSE, Preet Vihar, New Delhi

5 March 20XX

- 3.
4. **Father :** I know it is a splendid performance. I also know that engineering is your first choice. Isn't it?

**Son :** I'm happy that you know my choice.

**Father :** Your first choice should be to crack the IIT test.

**Son :** That's my dream. Your blessings are with me.

**Father :** God is great. He will reward your efforts.

**Son :** Let's hope so. But I have an alternative plan too.

**Father :** What's that son?

**Son :** I have applied for all the leading engineering colleges. Computer Science is my first choice.

**Father :** That's quite sensible. It will fetch you a good job in any MNCs.

**Son :** That's my dream, dad.

**Father :** God'll make your dreams come true.

**Son :** With your blessing, I hope to accomplish it.

5. B-19, Govind Heights

Govind Puri

Delhi

6<sup>th</sup> July 20XX

Dear Grandpa

I received your letter yesterday and was happy to know that you have recovered from your ailment and are back from the hospital.

I really admire your concern about my future, since, in your letter you have inquired about the stream and subjects I wish to take in XI and XII. You know quite well that I have always wanted to become a famous scientist, like you. You have always inspired me to come up in life. I want to take science stream in order to fulfill my aim of becoming a scientist.

The subjects that I wish to study are Math, Chemistry, Physics, along with Computer Science.

Moreover, you are always there to guide and assist me for my future endeavours. I am sure, I will do very well and fulfill my ambition soon.

Thanking you for always being there for me.

Your loving granddaughter

Rajnish

OR

Room No. 15,

Sunflower Hostel (For Men)

Punjab University

Chandigarh,

1st May, 20XX

Dear Mom

I hope this letter will provide a big relief to you and help in ending your anxiety regarding my hostel life. I can understand your deep concern as this is my first stay away from home. Let me tell you that I am really enjoying the exciting but interesting life at the hostel.

There is absolutely no problem during my stay here. Naturally, you must be worried about the introduction-session and the fear of ragging during those days. To tell you the truth, I myself, was a little worried in this regard. But my cultured and considerate seniors removed all my fears. They hosted a welcome-party for the freshers. Even now they try to help us in all the possible ways. The rooms here are airy and fairly spacious. They have adequate furniture and fixtures. Every room is shared by two students. My room-mate is Sarvesh, a South Indian from Kerala. He is quite cooperative. Washrooms are absolutely clean. I know you must be worried about food. Need not worry at all. We get quite a sumptuous and healthy breakfast that includes liberal servings of cornflakes, bread, butter eggs and seasonal fruits. We have lunch from 1 pm to 2 pm and dinner from 8 pm to 9 pm. No problem for vegetarians like me. In the evenings, we play badminton or volleyball. There is a cosy common-room where we can play indoor games or watch the T.V. To sum up, life here is quite comfortable, exciting and

interesting.

With Love,

Yours affectionately

Ankush/Anita

6. This summer, we planned a vacation in Singapore. My father's cousin lives there. They had been calling us since long. It was a planned vacation so tickets were booked in advance. The responsibility was given to mom as she searched for the best deals through various internet sites. We spend many nights planning and finalising the itinerary and finally a time table was approved by all just a week before. Our flight was in the morning at 8 am so we hit the road at 7 am in the morning to reach the airport by 6 am. On the way mom kept on enquiring about the lights, fridge, AC and door were locked or not. I and my brother were sleeping in the backside of the car. At the airport we clicked few photographs, posted them on our social media platforms and enjoyed the likes. The flight was on time and we boarded our plane and travelled through the Indian Ocean to reach Singapore in about seven hours. Uncle and aunt both were there at the airport to receive us. We travel over the roads of Singapore among skyscrapers and beautiful landscape to uncle's home. It was late evening and we all were tired due to jet lag. We had our dinner and slept off early. Our itchy feet woke us up very early and we all sat down with our coffee cups to plan the day ahead of us. We thought of going for scuba diving. We reached at the centre and we thought of travelling light as most of the required accessories were available. The diving spot was at the far south horn of the bay where there were huge steep rock faces and underwater caves. Half an hour later, while I was swimming around 60 meters from the shore, a calamity struck. As I was swimming next to a lone rock, suddenly a huge wave came and crashed on me, taking me by surprise. It completely rolled my body around and I totally lost my sense of direction. I was short of breath and I was squirming around, splashing and trying to find where the air was. I swam up fast, penetrated the surface, on the home stretch, I took a breath of air, and then, afraid of the next wave coming, looked around. Then like any port in a storm, my coach came looking for me with all sorts of help. This huge wave was like a stopover for me. We all came back as I had severe headache and dizziness. We continued with our plan for next few days and then finally we departed from Singapore to be back with memories forever.

OR

We can't imagine life without the services of the postman of our area. He delivers post going from home to home. Kanwar Paul is the postman of our area. Like all postmen, he wears a khaki uniform. He moves from house to house on a bike. He always carries a huge bag with him. It contains letters, parcels, other registered posts, etc. He goes to the General Post Office every morning. There 'the post' or 'the dak' is sorted out. He arranges the letters and parcels in serial orders. Be it rain or scorching heat, nothing stops him. He is very punctual. His usual time for delivery is about 11.30 am to 2.30 pm. He brings good as well as bad news. On festivals like Diwali and Holi, people reward him with gifts and money. Sometimes people offer him small tips for bringing good news. The postman thus plays a very important role in the lives of the people.

### SECTION C : GRAMMAR (10 marks)

7. Complete the tasks, as directed.

(i) (a) to, (b) by, (c) to

(ii)	Word Before	Missing Word	Word After
(a)	things	<u>have</u>	to
(b)	survive	<u>but</u>	each
(c)	its	<u>own</u>	peculiar
(d)	time	<u>when</u>	his

(iii) Do as directed.

- The doctor may operate if the case is serious.
- (a) was created, (b) required 8 players to battle for a lead puck with a pusher

### SECTION D : LITERATURE TEXTBOOK (26 marks)

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

- It shows that the poet is not very happy with the choice that he has made.
  - 'Two roads' actually mean two 'careers' of life.
  - The difference in life caused by the choice of the poet.
- The Bishop is speaking to the Convict.
  - No, the Convict was no more like a wild beast. He sobbed and behaved like a child.
  - The Bishop advised the Convict that the poor body of man is the Temple of the Living God. Man must keep it chaste and pure by his noble actions.
  - It means that human body is frail, ordinary and mortal.
- 'I' refers to the narrator and 'She' refers to her grand mother, Krishtakka.
  - 'She' was unhappy because she could not read her favourite story in her granddaughter's absence and she realised she was dependent on others as she was illiterate.
  - Synonym of 'unhappy' is 'sad'.

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

- The poet calls the reaper **Solitary** because she is all alone in the field, reaping the crop and singing a sad song all to herself.
- Shakespeare compares this world to a stage in a theatre. He compares all men and women to players or actors and actresses of the stage. Like the stage in a theatre, life too has its exits and entrances. Men and women take birth and enter the stage of life. They play their roles and after living through seven stages of life, depart from the world.
- Rain performs many functions, the most important being quenching the thirst of the fields. It also relieves the clouds of their burden. Rain brings life and joy for everyone. The gardens and fields get embellished after the rain.



- (iv) Harold's mother used to address herself as 'mother' and Harold with words like 'precocious' and 'dearie. This made Harold frown a little and had a jarring effect on him. This meant that she was still treating Harold as 'a baby', instead of a young man.
- (v) As said by the narrator, fiction or best sellers should be oriented to the realities of life. Fiction writers must be consistent with their scenes and characters. They must avoid letting socially or economically unequal persons fall in love and marry. Instead, they should dwell on the realities of life.
- (vi) The 'Professor' knew too much and used to badger the instructors with questions. During the first lesson in musketry, he publicly corrected a Sergeant. The Sergeant expressed that a bullet leaves the rifle at the speed of over 2000 feet per second. Immediately the Professor interrupted, "Two thousand four hundred and forty feet per second." The Sergeant didn't take it kindly. Perhaps in the hope of revenge, he turned with his questions to the Professor. But the Professor answered each of them. It only enhanced his glory.
- (vii) Gaston pointed out that the garden was merely a yard with a patch of grass in the middle. The salon was impossible and the one existing could not be called a salon. He felt that the 25 yards of cretonne and a desk of paint was no special offer at all.

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

- (i) Mr. Gaston initially wasn't interested in buying a villa for Jeanne, fearing she would invite her sister's children. This is clear when he says, "It's not for us ... it's for your parents...What's more, they would bring the whole tribe of your sister's children with them." Also, he found the price 'decidedly excessive' and negotiated with American film artist Mrs Al Smith, who mistook him to be the owner. She was interested in the palace as it was near the Paramount Studio. She mistakenly struck the deal of three hundred thousand with Gaston.

Being opportunistic, Gaston now assured his wife that he was ready to take care of her old parents. He was even not averse to keeping her sister's children in the villa. Gaston says, "While you were upstairs, I have been thinking a lot about your papa and mamma. You see, I am really unselfish, and then the rooms for your sister's children." Jeanne couldn't understand what was happening there. Gaston outsmarted and outwitted everyone and in the whole process, he pocketed one hundred thousand in the deal.

- (ii) Sunday, 1 November, 20xx

Dear Diary

I was really excited to return home when I was in the hospital. But after a couple of days of being discharged, I feel greatly depressed. I am hitting very low with the passage of time. After my wife goes out, I feel lonely and dispirited. Duke continues staring at me. He, perhaps, knows about my physical condition.

I feel physical weakness to the extent that my muscles seem to be absent. How athletic and physically agile I used to be before the accident! The silence and loneliness surrounding me in the house almost kill me. I neither can rise nor can I do anything if something unfortunate occurs to me. What kind of life it is when I lie



bedridden and staring into the vacuum! All this is proving too heavy to bear. My mind goes to my past when I used to work almost non-stop and never felt tired or weak. But let a curse fall on the accident that has made me a physical wreck. However, I have a little ray of hope that this sad condition will also disappear someday. I am slipping into depression. I can't do anything except bear all this. Hooper.