



# Practice Paper 2

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE – X

(2023-24)

Time allowed: 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks: 80

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains THREE sections – READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

## SECTION A – READING SKILLS (20 Marks)

### READING COMPREHENSION THROUGH UNSEEN PASSAGES

**1. Read the following text. (10 Marks)**

1. In a major breakthrough, scientists have created an entirely new material with plastic and metal properties that 'can't be explained'. Though the material can be made like plastic, it conducts electricity like a metal. The discovery goes against what scientists would expect to see, and could lead to new kinds of breakthroughs, researchers say.
2. In the past, scientists have created conductive materials of all kinds, and the differences between them have allowed us to create a variety of electronic devices that work across conditions.
3. "In principle, this opens up the design of a whole new class of materials that conduct electricity, are easy to shape, and are very robust in everyday conditions," said John Anderson, an associate professor of chemistry at the University of Chicago and the senior author on the study, in a statement.
4. But across all of those dissimilarities, the conductive materials share similarities. They are made up of atoms or molecules that run in straight, densely packed lines, which scientists thought was required to make sure they could effectively conduct electricity.
5. In the new study, however, scientists say they have created a new kind of material in which those fragments are messed up, and not in order. It is still able to conduct electricity very well, however.
6. "From a fundamental picture, that should not be able to be a metal," said Professor Anderson. "There isn't a solid theory to explain this."
7. The material can withstand being bent around, squashed and formed into a variety of different formations, researchers say. Its creators liken it to "conductive Play-Doh", in that it can be shaped in various ways and will still continue to allow electricity to flow through it.
8. The discovery should allow for electronics to be made in new ways, its creators say. For instance, current chip or device design is limited by the fact that metal must be melted into the right shape, which can cause problems for other components – but the new material can be made at room temperatures, and so poses less risk.

9. Similarly, the material's ability to withstand heat, humidity or extreme acidity or alkalinity means that it could be used to create devices that can work in conditions where traditional materials would be destroyed.
10. The finding is reported in a new article, 'Intrinsic glassy-metallic transport in an amorphous coordination polymer', published in Nature recently.

Andrew Griffin (Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/techandsciencel/scientists-create-entirely-new-material-with-plastic-and-metal-properties-that-can-t-be-explained/ar-AA13qprL?ocid=msedgntp&cvid=daea2d64d78549328ac3900370d5e1e5>)

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above. (10 Marks)**

- (i) Which of the following statements best explains what a "breakthrough" is? (1 Mark)
- (a) It involves a lot of undoing and destruction.
- (b) It is a sudden, dramatic and important development.
- (c) It totally defies all principles of science.
- (d) It is an explanation of an established theory.

- (ii) What is Professor Anderson's tone in the following line from paragraph 6? Rationalise your response in about 40 words. (2 Marks)

*"From a fundamental picture, that should not be able to be a metal," said Professor Anderson, "There isn't a solid theory to explain this."*

- (iii) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1 Mark)

An assumption about conductive materials that the new material has proved wrong is that...

- (iv) The passage includes some words that are synonymous. From the sets (a) – (e) below, identify two sets of synonyms. (1 Mark)

- |                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (a) robust and conductive   | (d) squashed and shaped             |
| (b) withstand and resist    | (e) differences and dissimilarities |
| (c) densely and effectively |                                     |

- (v) Based on the reading of the passage, examine in about 40 words, the two ways in which the new material promises to revolutionise electronics. (2 Marks)

- (vi) What message does the paragraph convey regarding the traditional materials hitherto used in manufacturing products? (1 Mark)

- (vii) 'Play-Doh' is a brand name of clay that children use to create things with. The author has used the expression 'conductive Play-Doh' in paragraph 7 to emphasize which of the following qualities of the new invention? (1 Mark)

- |                 |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|
| (a) Playfulness | (c) Elasticity   |
| (b) Strength    | (d) Conductivity |

(viii) State whether the following lines from a poem display some qualities of the new material being described in the passage? (1 Mark)

*I bend but do not break*

*I may fall hard but get up again.*

*I may be close to destruction but I will rebuild.*

*I may come close to breaking; I'll just continue to bend.*

**2. Read the following text. (10 Marks)**

1. According to a recent report by the United Nations Population Fund, the population of citizens over 60 years of age in India will double from 10.5% in 2022 to 20.8% in 2050. The report “Caring for Our Elders Institutional Responses India Ageing Report 2023” has projected that by 2046, the elderly population in the country will pass the population of children aged between 0 and 14. This means that one in every five persons will be elderly in India by 2050, the report said.
2. It said that the ageing population in the country poses three significant challenges – feminisation which is when women live longer than men resulting in higher levels of widowhood and further resulting in economic deprivations and dependencies, high proportion of rural population among the elderly also known as ruralisation and the ageing of the old persons.
3. Between 2000 and 2022, the total population of the country grew by 34%, while the population of people aged over 60 grew by 103%, the report said. During this period, the growth in the population of older persons more than 80 years has been even higher at 128%. The report projected that between 2022 and 2050, the overall population of India will grow by 18% while the older population will grow by 134%.
4. The study said that 71% of older persons live in rural areas. This is marked by significant interregional variation ranging from 62% to 63% in the West and South to 78% to 80% in the East, North and Northeast.
5. However, across the country, income insecurity was one of the major causes of vulnerability in old age, according to the report. It said that ageing had a direct relation with economic dependency due to loss of income and increased healthcare expenditure. Nearly 33% of the older females have never worked and do not have any income.
6. The report also focused on the lack of formal welfare systems for old people. It noted that over the years, Indian family systems that are traditionally expected to take care of the old people have also undergone a change.
7. Drop in fertility rate, increased life expectancy at old ages, migration of younger generation to urban areas for employment and better economic achievements have contributed to this change, the report said.

Source: <https://scroll.in/latest/1056724/indias-ageing-population-to-double-by-2050-says-un-report>

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(10 Marks)

- (i) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2. (1 Mark)
- In paragraph 2, the author has ..... (*defined/concluded*) what 'feminisation' and 'ruralisation' respectively mean in terms of ..... (*growing/declining*) population of women and the elderly in India.
- (ii) In the given sentence taken from paragraph 2, select the option that correctly replaces the underlined word, with its most likely antonym. (1 Mark)
- Women live longer than men resulting in higher levels of widowhood and further resulting in economic deprivations and dependencies.....*
- (a) reforms (c) projections  
(b) gains (d) shortcomings
- (iii) Which of the following can be inferred from Paragraph 3? (1 Mark)
- (a) The rate of the growth of the overall population fell between 2000 and 2022.  
(b) The rate of the growth of the overall population is expected to fall in the future.  
(c) The rate of the growth of the elderly population will see a three-fold increase by the mid of the twenty-first century.  
(d) The rate of the growth of the elderly population will see a huge fall by the middle of twenty-first century.
- (iv) Justify the following, in about 40 words. (2 Marks)
- The projected growth in the population of the aged in India by the mid of the twenty-first century is not a good sign for the country.*
- (v) Which of the following is valid in the context of paragraph 4 of the passage? (1 Mark)
- (a) Only 29% of the older population live in rural areas of India.  
(b) The ratio of the elderly population across all the regions of India varies only marginally.  
(c) East, North and Northeast have higher ratio of the older population compared to other regions of India.  
(d) The number of older people in the population of the West and the South regions of India is greater than that in any other region.
- (vi) Infer from the passage why the elderly women are the most vulnerable group in the context of the adverse effect of the rapid rise in the population of the elderly people in India. Answer in about 40 words. (2 Marks)
- (vii) Infer how the information in paragraph 7 is related to the information in paragraph 6. (1 Mark)

- (viii) Which of the following is the main takeaway from the report mentioned in the passage? (1 Mark)
- (a) By 2050 there will be fewer children in India than old people and there is an urgent need to increase the average family size in the country.
  - (b) By 2050, there will be two-fold increase in the population of elders if the mortality rate of this age group is brought down considerably through better medical care, a nutritional diet and fitness regime.
  - (c) By 2050 the population of the old people will outnumber the population of younger people and it will pose certain problems both for the government and the general public.
  - (d) By 2050, there will be more women than men in the elderly population of India and that will result in a gender imbalance in this segment of the population.

**SECTION B – WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (20 Marks)**

**GRAMMAR (10 Marks)**

3. Attempt ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. (1 × 10 = 10 Marks)

- (i) Given below is an extract from a letter. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket.

**Subject: Your Application for the Post of Associate Technician**

Dear Sir

Thank you for your interest in working for Indigo, India's topmost airline. You .....  
(request) to give us your availability for a phone interview on any working day in the coming week.

- (ii) Identify the error in the given sentence taken from a school report and supply the correction in the sentence.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest praise the performance of the students and announced a cash prize of Rupees 50,000/-.

(Use the given format for your response.)

ERROR	CORRECTION

- (iii) Ahmad talked to a journalist about his experience at the T-20 World Cup. Report the journalist's question to Ahmad in indirect speech.

"How do you feel about winning the Player of the Match Award?"

- (iv) Read the dialogue between Kitty and her father.

KITTY : Daddy, will you still be there for me when I grow up?

DAD : Of course, Kitty. I'll be there for you forever and forever.

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

Kitty asked her dad ..... and her dad reassured her by saying that he would be there for her forever and forever.

- (a) if you will still be there for me when I grow up
- (b) whether he will still be there for her when she grew up
- (c) if he would still be there for her when she grew up
- (d) if he would still be there for her when she has grown up

(v) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the following slogan.

You ..... surely choke, if you take pollution as a joke!

- (a) may
- (b) should
- (c) will
- (d) must

(vi) Identify the error on the hoarding of a medicine shop and supply the correction.

### Gupta and Daughters Chemists

Bindraban Road, Mathura

15% discount on MRP of selected medicines for every customers who have any health insurance policy.

(Use the given format for your response.)

ERROR	CORRECTION

(vii) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a newspaper.

Virat Kohli has bounce back to good form.

OPTION NO.	ERROR	CORRECTION
(a)	has	had
(b)	bounce	bounced
(c)	to	from
(d)	good	better

(viii) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option.

I ..... this word in the dictionary but unfortunately it is not there. You must have invented it.

- (a) looked up
- (b) have looked up
- (c) look up
- (d) am looking up

(ix) Report the dialogue between a girl and her father, by completing the sentence.

DAUGHTER : Dad, who is your favourite sportsperson?

DAD : I like Lionel Messi the most because he is a great player and a noble human being.

In response to his daughter's question about his favourite sportsperson, Dad replied .....  
..... and a noble human being.

(x) *Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the given narrative.*

I had a feeling that I had overcome all my grief but I .....

(a) am mistaken

(c) was mistaken

(b) had mistaken

(d) will be mistaken

(xi) *Select the correct option to fill in the blank in the sentence below:*

We have already got your application in our database. You ..... apply again. It's not necessary.

(a) need not

(c) must not

(b) will not

(d) dare not

(xii) *Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the following sentence from a circular issued by a company to its managers.*

It has been noticed that ..... (*little / some / any*) employees do not comply with the safety guidelines mandatory for any onsite work.

### **WRITING (10 Marks)**

**Note :** All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

4A. As Bindyu Motwani, a resident of Rameshwaram Apartments, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, write a letter to the President of the Residents' Welfare Association (RWA), in about 120 words, requesting for 24×7 security guards at the society's gates. Give reasons in support of your recommendation. OR (5 Marks)

4B. You are Prakash Jacob, the School Pupil Leader of Gauravshali Vidyalaya, Guwahati, Assam. You have recently noticed several posters in the vicinity of your school conveying an alarming message.

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Write a letter to the Editor of The Eastern Express, Guwahati, in about 120 words, drawing his/her attention to the dangers of such advertisements. Demand a strict ban on such institutions and call for a strict action against schools that accept 'dummy' admissions to classes XI and XII. Support your views with reasons. (5 Marks)

5A. Animesh is a promising student who is interested in Robotics and Artificial Intelligence. He is in a fix whether to continue his studies in India or go abroad for higher studies.

He is a brilliant student and the only child of his parents. However, the financial condition of his family is not very strong although his father has a regular government job and his mother runs a boutique of her own.

Analyze his SWOT notes below and write a paragraph in about 120 words to recommend whether he should choose to study in India or he should decide to go abroad for his further studies. (5 Marks)

#### STRENGTHS

- ◆ Brilliant student
- ◆ Better quality of education abroad
- ◆ Latest curriculum/courses
- ◆ World renowned faculty
- ◆ College-Industry tie-ups
- ◆ Student work-permit
- ◆ Scholarships available

#### WEAKNESSES

- ◆ Family's financial condition not affluent enough to afford foreign education expenses
- ◆ Competition in India too tough
- ◆ Admission to Government/Government-funded institutions extremely difficult

#### OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ Employment in MNCs
- ◆ Better remuneration in Foreign exchange
- ◆ Research projects
- ◆ Own enterprise (later on)
- ◆ Government jobs
- ◆ Defence jobs
- ◆ Better lifestyle
- ◆ Employment opportunities in India likely to increase manifold soon

#### THREATS

- ◆ Separation from parents (*in case of foreign education*)
- ◆ Job opportunities inadequate
- ◆ Lower salaries in India
- ◆ Loss of cultural/family values
- ◆ Racism/discrimination

OR

5B. Read the following excerpt from an online post of a website of a parenting consultancy.

Money management is perhaps one of the most critical skills you can pass on to your children. By teaching them how to handle and work with money from a young age, you'll be setting them up for financial success in every stage of their life.

(Source: <https://www.24cash.ca/blog/helping-kids-understand-the-value-of-money/>)



Write a paragraph in about 120 words to analyze the given argument.

You could think about what alternative explanations might weaken the given conclusion and include rationale/evidence that would strengthen/counter the given argument. (5 Marks)

### SECTION C – LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 Marks)

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (5 Marks)

- A. IOTA : I can't figure it out, Captain. (*holding up a book*) I've counted two thousand of these peculiar items. This place must be some sort of storage barn. What do you think, Sergeant Oop?
- OOP : I haven't a clue. I've been to seven galaxies, but I've never seen anything like this. Maybe they're hats. (*He opens a book and puts it on his head.*) Say, maybe this is a haberdashery!
- OMEGA : (*bowing low*) Perhaps the Great and Mighty ThinkTank will give us the benefit of his thought on the matter.

(i) State one inference about the level of advancement of the Martian civilization, as is evident from the given extract. (1 Mark)

(ii) State TRUE or FALSE. (1 Mark)

None of the terms (a) – (d) can be applied to the statement – "Say, maybe this is a haberdashery."

(a) A PROOF – evidence or argument establishing a fact or the truth of a statement

(b) A CONJECTURE – an opinion or conclusion formed on the basis of incomplete information

(c) A PREMISE – a proposition that forms the basis of an argument

(d) A THEORY – a well-substantiated explanation for some phenomenon

(iii) The Great and Mighty ThinkTank holds a very important position in the Martian race. Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract. (2 Marks)

(iv) Which word or phrase would correctly substitute the word 'peculiar' in the given sentence from the extract? (1 Mark)

*I've counted two thousand of these peculiar items.*

OR

- B. During our childhood in Goa, the baker used to be our friend, companion and guide. He used to come at least twice a day. Once, when he set out in the morning on his selling round, and then again, when he returned after emptying his huge basket. The jingling thud of his bamboo woke us up from sleep and we ran to meet and greet him. Why was it so? Was it for the love of the loaf? Not at all. The loaves were bought by some Paskine or Bastine, the maid-servant of the house! What we longed for were those bread-bangles which we chose carefully. Sometimes it was sweet bread of special make.

(i) Select the option that correctly captures the feeling that the baker's arrival evoked in children's mind. (1 Mark)

- (a) irritation (c) fascination  
(b) optimism (d) indifference

- (ii) Why is it fair to say that the narrator belonged to a well-to-do family? (1 Mark)
- (iii) Read the following descriptions (a) – (d) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract. (1 Mark)
- (a) A FANTASY – a story that is imaginary, unlikely to happen or a wishful account of something.
- (b) A MEMOIR – a piece of writing that is based on the writer's personal knowledge of famous people, places, or events
- (c) A FABLE – a short story that often has animal characters and tells a general truth, fact or moral lesson.
- (d) A PARABLE – a short, simple story that teaches or explains an idea, especially a moral or religious idea
- (iv) If an actor were to enact the role of the baker in this extract, what would he be required to focus on, in terms of his manner of speech and other mannerisms? (2 Marks)

**7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (5 Marks)**

A. He stalks in his vivid stripes  
The few steps of his cage,  
On pads of velvet quiet,  
In his quiet rage.

- (i) Fill in the blank with ONE word. (1 Mark)

*In this extract the chief reason of the tiger's anger is his .....*

- (ii) The expression 'the few steps' is suggestive of the tiger's condition as depicted in the extract. Elaborate. (1 Mark)

- (iii) Which of the following literary devices have been used in the expression 'quiet rage'? (Choose two correct answers.) (1 Mark)

- (a) Oxymoron (c) Analogy  
(b) Transferred epithet (d) Metaphor

- (iv) Comment on the use of the word 'quiet' in this extract. (2 Marks)

OR

B. But presently up spoke little dog Mustard,  
I'd have been twice as brave if I hadn't been flustered.  
And up spoke Ink and up spoke Blink,  
We'd have been three times as brave, we think,

And Custard said, I quite agree  
That everybody is braver than me.

(i) Comment on the significance of the repetition of the inverted phrase 'up spoke' in this extract. Answer in about 40 words. (2 Marks)

(ii) Complete the sentence with the appropriate option. (1 Mark)

*The extract reveals the trait of..... in the characters of Mustard, Ink and Blink.*

(a) loyalty

(c) boastfulness

(b) bravery

(d) toughness

(iii) What is ironical about Custard's comment, "I quite agree/That everybody is braver than me"? (1 Mark)

(iv) Apart from the use of the inverted phrase 'up spoke' and the element of drama, what else makes the extract poetic? (1 Mark)

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words each. (4 × 3 = 12 Marks)

(i) Why do you think the poet Carolyn Wells has used words like 'dyin', 'lept', 'lep' and 'nonplus' in her poem "How to Tell Wild Animals"? What effect do they create in the poem?

(ii) Justify whether Kisa Gautami was 'selfish' in her grief? (The Sermon at Benares)

(iii) Validate the statement that the action in the play "The Proposal" comprises of a string of episodes that follow a pattern of conflict and resolution.

(iv) If the poet so wanted, he could have easily compensated the boy for the loss of his ball in the poem called "The Ball Poem". Why do you think he does not do so?

(v) Mijbil was a slave of his habits. Comment. Support your answer with reasons.

(Mijbil the Otter)

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words each. (2 × 3 = 6 Marks)

(i) Do you think that more than Tricky it was Mrs Pumphery who needed medical treatment? Why/Why not? (The Triumph of Surgery)

(ii) Do you think the midnight visitor to Ausable's room would have survived the fall from the window? Say 'Yes' or 'No' and give reasons in support of your view.

(iii) Validate the statement that Griffin was a lawless person.

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1 × 6 = 6 Marks)

A. You have been asked to present an evaluation of the statement "This is not an age to think of helping others out of kindness and generosity" in the context of the story 'A Letter to God' Write this presentation draft including your views on the importance of helping the people in need, in about 120 words.

*You may begin like this:*

The moral of the story 'A Letter to God' apparent is that this is not an age to think of helping others out of kindness and generosity but...

OR

- B. You have been chosen to address a gathering of students on the topic 'The Importance of Freedom as a Fundamental Human Right'. Prepare the speech draft, in not more than 120 words, especially with reference to the account "Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom".

*You may begin this way:*

My dear Brothers and Sisters

Freedom is an inalienable human right that must be granted to all at all times.

*You may end this way:*

In the end, I would like to reiterate that...

Thank you.

- 11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1 × 6 = 6 Marks)**

- A. Imagine you are one of the residents of Bholi's village. Write a diary entry, in about 120 words, briefly describing how Bholi has paved the way for the emancipation of women and girl children in the village through education.

OR

- B. A noodle is a 'a stupid or silly person'. Cite at least four pieces of evidence from the play "The Book that Saved the Earth" to prove that Noodle is a contradiction of this definition.

**SECTION A – READING**

1. (i) (b) It is a sudden, dramatic and important development.
  - (ii) Professor Anderson's tone here is one of disbelief and surprise. It is difficult for him to believe that the molecules of the new materials do not run in straight, densely packed lines but are messed up and yet, quite surprisingly, conduct electricity remarkably well.
  - (iii) a conductive material has to have atoms or molecules that run in straight and densely packed lines
  - (iv) (b) and (e)
  - (v) One, the new materials can facilitate the manufacture of electronic components in a variety of shapes and sizes at room temperatures. Two, components made from this material will be much more durable as they will be able to withstand much more heat, humidity, acidity and alkalinity.
  - (vi) Traditional materials may soon become obsolete or redundant because unlike the new materials they are unable to withstand heat, humidity or extreme acidity or alkalinity.
  - (vii) (c) Elasticity
  - (viii) These lines suggest the quality of elasticity and resilience that the new materials have.
2. (i) defined; growing
  - (ii) (b) gains
  - (iii) (b) The rate of the growth of the overall population is expected to fall in the future.
  - (iv) This growth will result in greater expenditure on the healthcare of the elderly population and economic deprivation (loss of income and dependence) of the old people, especially women.
  - (v) (c) East, North and Northeast have higher ratio of the older population compared to other regions of India.
  - (vi) It is because at least one third of women in this age group have never engaged in an income generating work and are therefore totally dependent on their families for economic support, which may not always be available to them.

(vii) While paragraph 6 talks about the change in the traditional Indian family system and how it affects the elderly population, paragraph 7 lists some reasons for that change.

(viii) (c) By 2050, the population of the old people will outnumber the population of younger people and it will pose certain problems both for the government and the general public.

**SECTION B – GRAMMAR**

3. (i) are requested
- (ii)

ERROR	CORRECTION
praise	praised
- (iii) The journalist asked Ahmad how he felt about winning the Player of the Match Award.
- (iv) (c) if he would still be there for her when she grew up
- (v) (c) will
- (vi)

ERROR	CORRECTION
every	all
- (vii) (b) bounce – bounced
- (viii) (b) have looked up
- (ix) that he liked Lionel Messi the most because the latter was a great player
- (x) (c) was mistaken
- (xi) (a) need not
- (xii) some

**SECTION C – LITERATURE**

- 6A. (i) Although the Martian civilization has advanced a lot in inter-planetary travel, they are ignorant about printed books and libraries, which happened to be the earthlings' way of preserving and disseminating knowledge.
- (ii) (b) A CONJECTURE – an opinion or conclusion formed on the basis of incomplete information
- (iii) It is true that the Great and Mighty Think Tank holds a very eminent position in the Martian race. It is evident from the way Omega bows before him and addresses him reverentially. The very name suggests that

the Great and Mighty ThinkTank is an omnipotent and omniscient individual of power and eminence in the Martian race.

(iv) unique/unusual/strange (*or any other suitable substitute*)

**B.** (i) (c) fascination

(ii) The extract seems to suggest that the narrator's family was affluent as is evident from presence of servants in the house.

(iii) (b) A MEMOIR – a piece of writing that is based on the writer's personal knowledge of famous people, places, or events

(iv) First of all he would dress in the style of typical Goan baker or pader. Next, he will develop and perfect a 'cry' as seller of bakery products. Next, he will learn to walk in a peculiar way and produce the jingling thud of his bamboo stick. He will also have to develop an affectionate way of talking to children.

**7A.** (i) confinement/captivity

(ii) The expression hints at the cramped space in the cage in which the tiger is kept. This space

is in utter contrast with the wide expanse of the night sky, and the jungle where the tiger in reality should be living freely.

(iii) (a) and (b)

(iv) The first 'quiet' emphasizes the stealth and the silence with which a tiger walks, and the second 'quiet' underscores his 'helplessness' with regards to his confinement in the zoo cage.

**B.** (i) The inverted phrase 'up spoke' brings out the spiritedness with which Mustard, Ink and Blink boast about their supposed bravery and courage. Their boastfulness contrasts with and highlights the simplicity, naivety and humility of Custard, the dragon.

(ii) (c) boastfulness

(iii) While all others are cowards, Custard is truly brave but unlike others he does not boast about it.

(iv) The unique rhythm of the lines and the rhyming pairs – Mustard–flustered, Blink–think, and agree–me.

## SECTION B – WRITING

1. 29 Rameshwaram Apartmentss,  
Madurai  
Tamil Nadu

17.10.2023

The President  
Residents' Welfare Association  
Rameshwaram Apartments  
Madurai  
Tamil Nadu

Dear Madam

### **Subject: Request for 24x7 Security Guardes at the Society's Gates**

My name is Bindyun Motwani, a resident of flat number 29 of the society. I am writing to request the RWA to consider deploying security guards at all the three gates round the clock. At present guards are available only during night at gate number 1 only.

Round the clock security is now absolutely necessary in view of the recent incidents of chain snatching, and unrestricted entry of unauthorised vendors and workers, which can be a potential security risk to the residents, especially women and children.

Can I request you to please call an emergency meeting of the RWA and pass a resolution for an immediate allocation of funds for the enhanced security measures?

Thank you.

Sincerely yours

Bindyu Motwani

*(Resident)*

8. (i) In her poem "How to Tell Wild Animals" Carolyn Wells has used words 'dyin' and 'nonplus' to force rhyme them with 'Lion' and 'thus' respectively. He has changed the spelling of 'leapt' and 'leaped' and 'leap' to 'lep' just for the sake of changing the spelling. These changes help create humour, rhyme and rhythm in the poem.
- (ii) Kisa Gautami was 'selfish' in that she could not bear her grief and wanted her son to be

brought back to life. She and could not accept that death is the ultimate reality and comes to all sooner or later. She should have her son's death a will of God and should not have grieved too much.

- (iii) It is true that the script of the play 'The Proposal' is nothing but a sequence of heated exchanges between the main characters 'Lomov' and 'Natalya' and 'Lomov and 'Chubokov'. One time it a quarrel over their respective claims to the property 'Oxen Meadows', another time it is about who owns a better dog the Chubolovs or Lomov. In each of the episodes, the spat seems to take a nasty turn but then better sense prevails and there is reconciliation, which, however, remains short lived.
- (iv) It it true that the poet of 'The Ball Poem' could have easily compensated the boy for the loss of his ball by gifting him another, but he does not do so simply for the reason that he wanted the boy to experience and understand what 'loss' and 'grief' mean in human life. Thus by not compensating the boy, the poem ensures that the boy learns an important lesson for life.
- (v) There is no doubt that Mijbil, like most animal pets, was a slave of his habits. For example he could not sit still he was always up to some mischief or the other, which put him and his owner in a spot of bother. He was very fond of playing, bathing and going on long walks regularly and he hated to be confined.
9. (i) Yes, I do believe that more than Tricky, it was his owner who needed medical intervention, for she indulges Tricky to the extent of a mania. For example when Tricky was at the surgery she sent generous supplies of fresh eggs, wine and brand to tone up his health, whereas the pet needed none of these. Clearly the way she fussed over Tricky, there was something wrong with the owner, not the pet, for which she needs some kind of psychiatric counselling.
- (ii) No, I don't think the visitor would have survived the fall from the 'supposed' balcony. He must have fallen on the ground floor with a thud and died of trauma and haemorrhage.



Even if he survived the fall, it would have inflicted fatal injuries to him which would have left him paralysed for life.

(iii) Griffin was, indeed, a lawless person. He breaks laws on many occasions and gets away with it. For example, he burns down his landlady's house and steals food from the store. Then, he attacks a shopkeeper selling costumes and steals a false nose, bandages, glasses and whiskers. At Iping, he steals cash from the vicar's cash box and even attacks the village constable Mr. Jaffers. These instances are enough to prove that Griffin was a lawless person.

10. A. The moral of the story 'A Letter to God' apparently is that this is not an age to think of helping others out kindness and generosity but an age of being weary of being good Samaritans. This is the lesson that the Postmaster and his colleagues learnt the hard way. They raised 70 pesos to help farmer Lencho but he accuses them of stealing 30 pesos from the 100 he had requested God to send.

The situation in the modern times is no different. Philanthropy and kindness are lofty virtues but people often view any act of kindness and generosity with suspicion. They are so thankless that they don't even acknowledge kind gestures of others.

However, I'm of the view selfless service is the greatest human virtue and we must continue to help others as best as we can without expecting anything in return.

*Or*

B. My dear Brothers and Sisters

Freedom is an inalienable human right that must be granted to all at all times without any prejudice and partiality. No country or race or nation now has the right to rule over another under any pretext. This is the message that the freedom of nations like India and South Africa has given us and freedom is the very basis of universal human rights that the UN Charter of Human Rights upholds.

Only the slave knows the value of freedom and countless people in many parts of the world, especially in Africa and Asia have sacrificed their lives so that their descendents could live free and equal in the eyes of the law.

In the end, I would like to reiterate that freedom is a fundamental human right and no race, nation or country should squander it come what may! That is the message of Mahatama Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thank you.

11. A. Dear Diary

Did you know the so called dumb cow, the youngest daughter of Numberdar Ram Lal, today created history in the village by bluntly refusing to marry greedy groom Bishamber Nath because he had dared to demand of five thousand rupees to marry the 'pock-marked' girl. Although her parents and all the onlookers were shocked to hear of her announcement, I think she did the right thing. In fact she has paved the way for the emancipation of other girls and women in the village. She has become a champion of their rights, especially their right to education and dignity. What is more, she declared her aspiration of becoming a teacher and promised to take of her parents in their old age.

Now this is what becomes possible by educating girls!

Well done, Bholi!

OR

B. According to the Webster's Dictionary, a 'noodle' is someone who is stupid or a simpleton. However, it is ironical that the most intelligent and wise Martian in the play 'The Book that Saved the World' should be called a noodle. There are enough instances in the play to prove his intelligence. One, he keeps his calm and cool and never invalidates his boss The Great and Might Think Tank. Rather he uses his intelligence to bring the truth to light. Two, it is Noodle who arrives at the conclusion that the sandwich like thing is actually a communication device used the Earthlings. Three, it is he who suggests that Iota and Omega be asked to take their vitamins so that they could decipher what the code of the message that the book contained. Fourth, he succeeds the Great and Might Think Tank as the wise ruler of Martian civilization.

(ix) *Read the conversation between a teacher and her student. Complete the sentence by reporting the student's reply correctly.*

TEACHER : Have you submitted your notebook, Nilanjana?

NILANJANA : Yes, Madam, I've already submitted it.

When the teacher asked Nilanjana if she had submitted her notebook, Nilanjana confirmed ....