



Practice Paper 1

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. Everyday we're confronted with a barrage of choices. We make choices about the clothes we wear, the food we eat, the appointments we schedule, the people we meet, the time we turn up to work, which bus we catch, where we sit on the bus, what we do after work, and so on. Living a rich and satisfying life means making good choices on an ongoing basis.
2. What is a good choice? Good choices are decisions that keep you heading in the direction in which you want to go. Bad choices, on the other hand, end up being counterproductive and can quickly begin spiralling into stress, confusion, and despair.
3. Some of the trickiness of choice-making arises with options that may be joyous in the short-term but may incrementally steer us off course over the longer term. Just taking that one extra serving of dessert or staying in bed for only half an hour more can be choices like this. Conversely, some decisions can be a bit dreary or difficult at the time but lead to better directions down the track. Staying home and studying or completing another gruelling session at the gym are examples of short-term discomfort for longer-term benefits.
4. Perhaps the most fundamental consideration with choice-making is to ensure the choices you make are congruent with important goals you have. If you have a quiet, distant goal of being financially independent one day and building a successful career, then making decisions to party excessively with late nights will likely lead to later discontent and misery regardless of how good it all feels now. Perhaps the partying is related to an important goal of being accepted and liked by others but is at odds with career and financial goals.
5. Understanding the dynamics of choices can help improve the decisions that you make. Essentially, any choice involves at least two options, both of which have pros and cons associated with them. Taking a moment to reflect on your inclinations and wishes that made you hesitate or go ahead with the choice can help you understand the situation more clearly. From this perspective, you'll be able to make a more informed decision.
6. Whenever you find yourself pausing over a choice you're about to make, consider both options in some detail and find the important aspects of them. Pay attention to more highly valued goals

*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.*

(1 Mark)

2. Read the following text. (10 Marks)

1. A recent study by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has revealed that India registered 146 tiger deaths from January to September this year, marking the highest figure since 2012. The data is a worrying trend in India's efforts to protect its tiger population, as another source, www.tiger.net.nic.in stated there has also been surge in the seizure of tiger body parts with 14 cases recorded so far this year, the highest since 2017. These body parts are used as exotic trophies and as ingredients in some dubious traditional medicines.
2. The highest number of tiger deaths reported this year has been from Madhya Pradesh (34), followed closely by Maharashtra (32). Of the 146 tiger deaths, 24 were of cubs. This can directly impact the reproductive potential of the tiger population. Nearly 17 tiger deaths have been reported from Uttarakhand, 11 from Assam, 9 from Karnataka, 5 from Rajasthan, among others. Besides, 70 deaths have been reported inside various tiger reserves in the country during this period. The table below shows the tiger mortality statistics from 2012 to 2023.

TIGER MORTALITY IN INDIA

YEAR	TIGER DEATHS
2012	88
2013	68
2014	78
2015	82
2016	121
2017	117

YEAR	TIGER DEATHS
2018	101
2019	96
2020	106
2021	127
2022	121
2023	146

Source: NTCA

3. As per NTCA, the cause of tiger mortality could be natural or unnatural. Unnatural causes may include deaths due to accidents and tigers eliminated in conflicts. Poaching is a separate category of causes.
4. Joseph Hoover, former member State Board for Wildlife Karnataka and trustee, United Conservation Movement, told TOI, "We have witnessed an increase in poaching cases this year in general, with several reports of police apprehending tiger skins and claws for which tigers could even have been poisoned."
5. Sudhir Kudalkar, senior inspector of MHB police station, told TOI, "In a recent operation conducted in Borivali, three individuals were apprehended over illegal trafficking of tiger

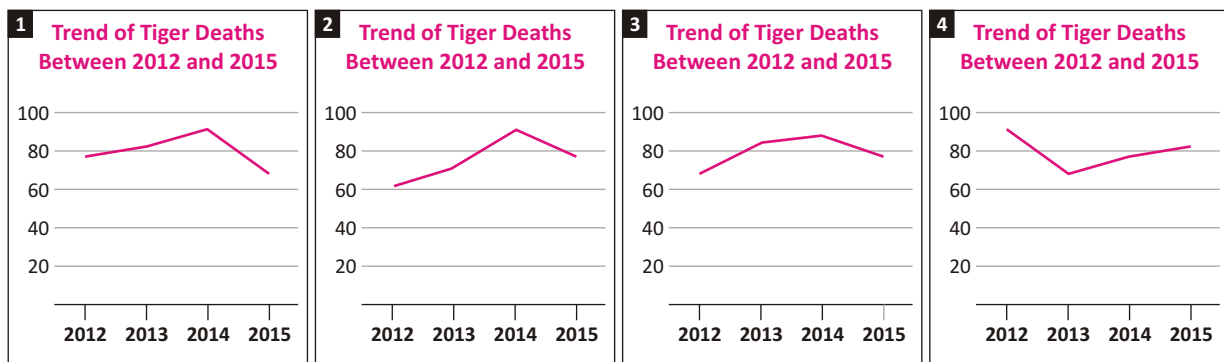
hides. Last week we arrested one more accused from Karnataka. Alongside the apprehensions, we seized tiger skins and tiger claws with an approximate valuation of Rupees 10.6 lakh."

6. Sarita Subramaniam, director of Earth Brigade Foundation, said, "If the funds earmarked for the introduction of African Cheetah had been redirected towards the strengthening the capacity of forest department, it could have potentially averted the rise in such mortality."

Neha Madaan (Source: Times of India)

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

- (i) Which of the following idioms best fits the situation described in the first paragraph? (1 Mark)
- (a) To fight tooth and nail (c) To be in the red
(b) Going from bad to worse (d) A light at the end of the tunnel
- (ii) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2. (1 Mark)
- The statement that "70 deaths have been reported inside various tiger reserves in the country during this period" is a matter of (*grave concern/immense relief*) because these reserves are supposed to provide (*sanctuary/territory*) to the tiger population.
- (iii) Infer how the deaths of tiger cubs may affect the reproductive potential of the tiger population in the years to come. (1 Mark)
- (iv) Select the option that correctly displays the trend of tiger deaths between 2012 and 2015 as shown in the table. (1 Mark)



- (a) Option 1 (c) Option 3
(b) Option 2 (d) Option 4
- (v) Justify the following, in about 40 words. (2 Marks)
- A sizeable number of tiger deaths can be attributed to illegal poaching and tiger body parts smuggling.
- (vi) The table shows that the number of tiger deaths between 2015 and 2016 experienced (1 Mark)
- (a) a sharp increase (c) a sharp decline
(b) a steady decrease (d) a gradual rise

- (v) *Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the following slogan from an inspirational book.*

"Old ways (mustn't/shouldn't/won't) open new doors!"

- (vi) *Identify the error and supply the correction for the given sentence from the signboard of a restaurant.*

Good buffet in the town!

Avail special early bird discount on our lunch and dinner buffets.

(Use the given format for your response.)

ERROR	CORRECTION

- (vii) *Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following sentence from a news bulletin.*

A passenger plane hit a fire truck on the runway and then had caught fire during takeoff from Lima's international airport in Peru on Friday.

OPTION NO.	ERROR	CORRECTION
(a)	hit	hits
(b)	and	but
(c)	had caught	caught
(d)	from	in

- (viii) *Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option.*

The woman had grey hair which neatly tied into a bun.

- (a) is
(b) are
(c) was
(d) were

- (ix) *Report the dialogue between a husband and his wife, by completing the sentence that follows the dialogue.*

WIFE : Now, where are you going at this hour?

HUSBAND : A friend of mine has met with an accident. I'm going to see him in the hospital.

A husband was getting ready to go somewhere and his wife wanted to know where he was going at that hour to which the husband replied to see him in the hospital.

- (x) *Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the given statement from a sports magazine.*

The Manchester United a golden chance to level the score when they missed a penalty in the crucial match against Liverpool yesterday.

- (a) blew up (c) have blown up
 (b) were blowing up (d) blow up

(xi) Complete the following line from a poem, by filling the blank with the correct option.

What ear me if I cried?
 What comrades rally to my side?
 What force have I to stem the tide?
 What right have I?

- (a) was hearing (c) had heard
 (b) hear (d) would hear

(xii) Choose the correct option to complete the following sentence from an article on global warming.

The need to check global warming be overemphasized; it is now or never situation.

- (a) will not (c) cannot
 (b) dare not (d) would not

WRITING (10 Marks)

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

4A. As Shresht Vats of 234 Urban Phase I, Anna Enclave, Annamalai, Tamil Nadu, you believe that an indiscriminate and unsupervised consumption of health supplements like 'whey proteins' may play a havoc with young people's health (e.g. kidney failure, hypertension, bloating, increased bowel movement etc.).

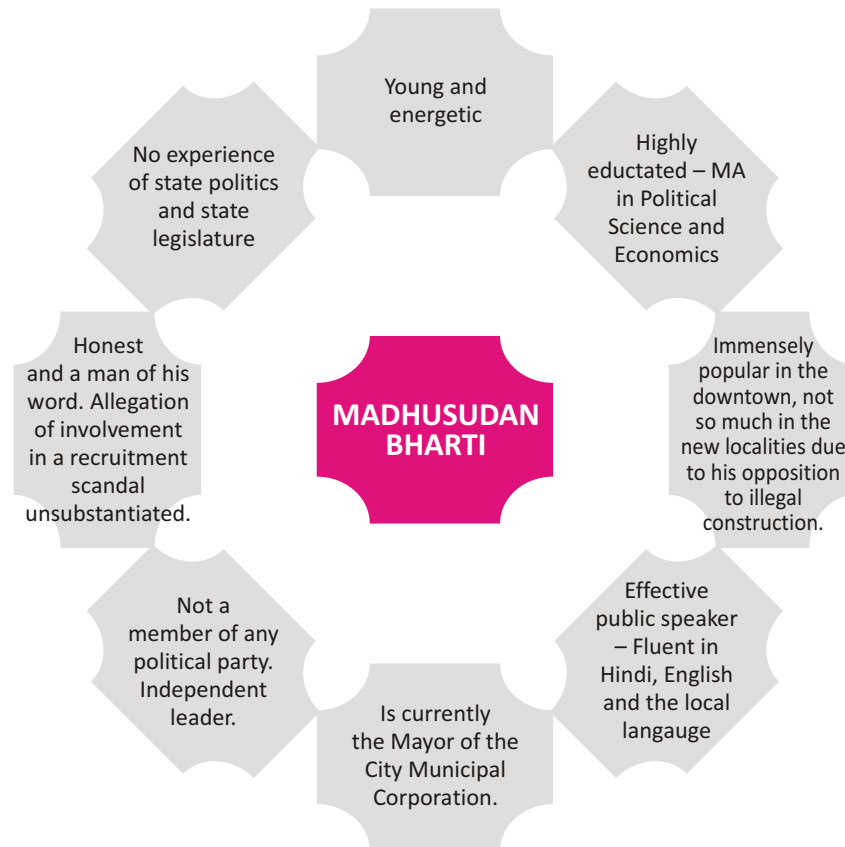
Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, highlighting the rising trend and its potential dangers. Suggest how a more healthy diet including salads, fruits, *paneer*, whole cereals, pulses, milk, as well as meat and eggs (for non-vegetarians) may be a better option for young people to build and maintain a healthy body. (5 Marks)

OR

4B. You are Tashen La, a resident of 42, Kohima Height Apartments, Kohima, Nagaland. Three children of your housing society have rescued a litter of puppies and their mother from a street nearby. You think that this act of kindness deserves to be acknowledged and appreciated.

Write a letter to the President of the Residents' Welfare Association, in about 120 words, recommending a public honour for these children. Also suggest how the residents can join hands to rescue and rehabilitate stray/street animals. (5 Marks)

5A. Madhusudan Bharti is an aspiring candidate for the forthcoming State Legislative Assembly Elections. The graphic given below lists his record and some character traits as a leader.



Write a paragraph in about 120 words, analysing the record and traits to either support or oppose his candidature as an MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly). (5 Marks)

OR

- 5B. You are on a tour of Kerala with your parents and a sibling. You have one spare day before your return journey, and your family wishes to make the best of it. You come across the following brochure of a day-long cruise. (5 Marks)

PRIVATE TOUR IDEAL FOR FAMILIES & SMALL GROUPS
(Backwater Cruise, Cloth Weaving, Coir Spinning & Kerala Lunch)

DESCRIPTION:

Come experience the pure bliss of a backwater cruise in the traditional Kerala Gondola (Shikari Boat) that slowly slides down the tranquil, crystal-clear backwaters, guided by a friendly boatman using long bamboo poles. There will be absolute silence around except for the calls of a Myna or Koal bird from the lush green and palm fringed banks!

As you pass by the virgin, innocent neighbourhoods of the rural Kerala, your friendly boatman will stop for tender coconut water brought down by the hardy and smiling coconut harvester who will climb up a coconut tree to bring you the fresh coconut. You may like to have a small conversation and click selfies with him!

After the back water cruise you will visit a village for watching women engaged in coir spinning and leaf weaving. Next, you will be guided to a Kerala weaving and handicrafts centre where you will interact with Malayali women making soap, incense sticks, and weaving ethnic cotton and silk *sarees*. Do buy some souvenirs for your family, friends and relatives and help the local economy. Photography with permission only, please.

At lunch, you will savour *Sadya* – the traditional, multicourse Kerala vegetable meal!

MORE DETAILS:

Free cancellation	:	Cancel up to 24 hours in advance for a full refund
Reserve now & pay later	:	Keep your travel plans flexible – book your spot and pay nothing today.
Duration 7 - 8 hours	:	Check availability to see starting times.
Live tour guide	:	English, Hindi, Malyalam
Pickup & drop included	:	You will be picked up from your hotel for the cruise and dropped back in the evening.
The Package Includes:	◆	To and fro transport in car or van
	◆	Hire charges of Gondola (Shikara)
	◆	Lunch (Vegetarian <i>Sadya</i>)
	◆	Guide Fee
	◆	All entrances and fees
	◆	Parking and Road tolls
	◆	Drinks (packaged water, coconut water, packaged fruit juice, carbonated drinks)

Price: From Rs. 3,500 per person

<https://www.getyourguide.com/kottayam-1151957/backwater-cruise-cloth-weaving-coir-spinning-kerala-lunch-t498064/>

Analyse the tour details and keeping in mind the available time, budget (the family can easily spend INR 10,000/-), health condition of parents and fatigue, and the promised cruise experience, write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words to either approve or reject the possibility of taking the cruise. Include the information that supports your view.

You may begin like this:

After a thorough analysis of the tour brief provided by the tour organising vendor, I would like to recommend that the plan of the tour should be accepted/rejected.

You may end like this:

In view of all the above, I propose that the tour may be approved/rejected.

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. It was a runway! An airport! I was safe! I turned to look for my friend in the black aeroplane, but the sky was empty. There was nothing there. The black aeroplane was gone. I could not see it anywhere.

I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota near the control tower. I went and asked a woman in the control centre where I was and who the other pilot was. I wanted to say 'Thank you'.

She looked at me very strangely, and then laughed.

"Another aeroplane? Up there in this storm? No other aeroplanes were flying tonight. Yours was the only one I could see on the radar."

(i) Choose the option that aptly describes the narrator's feeling in the context of the opening sentence of this extract. (1 Mark)

- (a) Shock
(b) Doubt
- (c) Optimism
(d) Relief

(ii) Elaborate in about 40 words why the lady at the control tower looked at the narrator 'very strangely' and then 'laughed'. (2 Marks)

(iii) Give ONE word that most appropriately describes the nature of the narrator's experience with the black aeroplane on a stormy night. (1 Mark)

(iv) Which phrase would correctly substitute 'look for', in the given sentence from the extract?
"I turned to look for my friend in the black aeroplane." (1 Mark)

OR

B. And Sulekha said in a voice that was calm and steady, "Don't you worry, *Pitaji!* In your old age I will serve you and Mother and I will teach in the same school where I learnt so much. Isn't that right, Ma'am?"

The teacher had all along stood in a corner, watching the drama. "Yes, Bholi, of course," she replied. And in her smiling eyes was the light of a deep satisfaction that an artist feels when contemplating the completion of her masterpiece.

(i) Why was Sulekha's father worried? (1 Mark)

(ii) Select the option that CORRECTLY captures the tone in which Bholi's teacher says, "Yes, Bholi, of course." (1 Mark)

- (a) Humour
(b) Sarcasm
- (c) Indifference
(d) Approval

(iii) "And in her smiling eyes was the light of a deep satisfaction" (1 Mark)

Which of the following words can BEST replace the word 'light' in the above line without changing the meaning?

- (a) Glare
(b) Stare
- (c) Gleam
(d) Splash

(iv) Why do you think the teacher's eyes had a light of deep satisfaction? Answer in about 40 words. (2 Marks)

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

A. The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree.

(i) It is clear that enjambment is the poetic device used in the above extract because (1 Mark)

(ii) Which of the following best describes the poet's mood in this extract? (1 Mark)

- (a) Happy (c) Indifferent
(b) Depressed (d) Angry

- (iii) Comment on the poet's use of symbols like 'snow', 'crow' and 'hemlock tree' in this extract? (2 Marks)
(iv) Identify the type of imagery used in the lines of the poem. (1 Mark)

OR

- B. (I am Rapunzel, I have not a care;
life in a tower is tranquil and rare;
I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!)

- (i) Fill in the blank with ONE word. (1 Mark)
The expression 'I am Rapunzel' is an example of the literary device called
- (ii) Comment on Amanda's reference to Rapunzel in the poem. What does it show about her state of mind? (2 Marks)
- (iii) Select the option that correctly captures the meaning of the phrase 'let down' as used in the last line of the extract. (1 Mark)
- (a) I wonder if my tailor could let this dress down a bit.
(b) I let down the entire cast of the play.
(c) I'll let down a rope ladder for you to climb up to the tree house.
(d) It would have been a good film, but the slow pace lets it down a bit.
- (iv) Complete the sentence with the appropriate option. (1 Mark)
The extract seems to suggest that the speaker prefers to lead a life of
- (a) care and worry (c) loneliness and listlessness
(b) excitement and cheerfulness (d) solitude and peace

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

- (i) Validate the given statement with reference to "A Letter to God".
"The story leaves the reader as much shocked and surprised as it does the postmaster."
- (ii) What do 'fire' and 'ice' respectively symbolize in Robert Frost's poem "Fire and Ice"?
- (iii) The tiger in Leslie Norris's poem "A Tiger in the Zoo" is in rage but helpless. Why?
- (iv) Explain why you think Natalya and Lomov make or do not make a good match. Give at least two reasons in support of your view. (The Proposal)
- (v) Justify that Kisa Gautami was 'selfish' in her grief. (The Sermon at Benares)

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

- (i) Griffin was rather a lawless person. Cite three examples in support of this view. (Footprints Without Feet)

- (ii) Validate the view that Richard Ebright became a collector of things by chance.
(*The Making of a Scientist*)
- (iii) Ambition and negligence often lead to disasters. Elaborate with reference to the story "The Necklace".

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 respective states of mind of the baby seagull and the pilot of the Dakota DS 088 before and after their safe landings. Write this presentation draft, including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing the states of mind of the both the protagonists.

OR

- B. You have been chosen to address a student gathering from neighbourhood school, to speak on dealing with pain and loss with special reference to "The Ball Poem" by John Berryman and the account "The Sermon at Benares" by Betty Renshaw. Prepare the speech draft in not more than 120 words.

You may begin this way:

Good morning, Everyone.

Today, I'd like to discuss two pieces of literature that offer a powerful insight into how human beings understand and cope with loss and pain in their lives.

You may end this way:

To conclude, I'd like to say that...

Thank you.

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

- A. A character arc is the transformation or inner journey of a character over the course of a story. The character begins as one sort of person and gradually transforms into a different sort of person in response to changing developments in the story.

In the light of the above, trace the character arc of Madame Matilda Loisel in Guy De Maupassant's story "The Necklace", in about 120 words.

OR

- B. Imagine that Hari Singh, the thief in the story "The Thief's Story" by Ruskin Bond writes a diary entry to describe his feelings when he finds no change in Anil's behaviour in the morning after the night the former had first stolen and then returned the latter's money.

Write this diary entry, as Hari Singh, in about 120 words.

ANSWERS

SECTION A – READING

1. (i) (d) Option 4
- (ii) (b) Bad choices hinder the attainment of desired goals.
- (iii) choices seemingly good in the short term may have long terms adverse effects
- (iv)
- | Against | For |
|---|---|
| Partying may interfere with one's goal of acquiring success and wealth in life. | It is an act of social behaviour to seek acceptance and approval from others. |
- (v) (a) and (d)
- (vi) He advises readers to pay attention to more highly valued goals because they make people aware of what is more important for them in life to accomplish.
- (vii) The author's tone in the passage is rather 'matter-of-fact'. He makes a few statements about making choices and advises what people could do to make the best out of the choices they make. Nowhere in the passage has he adopted a sarcastic, provocative or condemnatory tone.
- (viii) Yes, they are in agreement with the author's view on tricky choices.
2. (i) (b) Going from bad to worse
- (ii) grave concern; sanctuary
- (iii) Had these cubs survived they would have in the years to come turned into adults who would have mated to add to the tiger population in a significant way, but in the present situation many cubs may not survive till adulthood.
- (iv) (d) Option 4
- (v) It is a well-known fact that tiger body parts are used in some traditional medicines, and tiger skins, claws and teeth fetch huge prices in the illegal trade across the border. The seizure of tiger skins is a proof that tigers continue to be poached for their body parts. It also partly explains the rise in tiger deaths over the years.

- (vi) (a) a sharp increase
- (vii) One, it must ensure that tiger reserves are safe habitats for tigers to thrive by strengthening the capacity of the Forest Department.
Two, it must take stringent measures, including allocation of more funds to the Forest Department, to prevent the poaching of tigers and the smuggling of their body parts.
- (viii) (b) If police forces are proactive, they can very effectively curb the illegal trade of tiger body parts.

SECTION B – WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR

GRAMMAR

3. (i) have made
- (ii)
- | ERROR | CORRECTION |
|-------|------------|
| which | who |
- (iii) Rajan asked Mamta how much the vacation had cost her.
- (iv) (c) that they both were her favourites
- (v) won't
- (vi)
- | ERROR | CORRECTION |
|-------|------------|
| Good | Best |
- (vii) (c) had caught – caught
- (viii) (c) was
- (ix) that a friend of his had met with an accident and that he was going
- (x) (a) blew up
- (xi) (d) would hear
- (xii) (c) cannot

SECTION C – LITERATURE

- 6A. (i) (d) Relief
- (ii) She found it strange that the pilot should talk about the pilot of another plane, whereas she knew that on that stormy night there was no other plane in flight at the same time as the narrator's aeroplane was about to land. She laughed perhaps at the silliness of the pilot's question.

- (iii) Mystery
- (iv) search for/find out
- 6B.** (i) He was worried because Sulekha's wedding had been called off and now it would be difficult to marry her off because of the stigma of a failed marriage.
- (ii) (d) Approval
- (iii) (c) Gleam
- (iv) Bholi's teacher's eyes had a light of deep satisfaction for her pupil had been truly enlightened and empowered by the education provided by the teacher. Thus, as a teacher, she felt fulfilled and relieved, which the light in her eyes truly depicts.
- 7A.** (i) each line runs on to the next without using any kind of punctuation mark to indicate a pause and the full stop comes only at the end of the last line
- (ii) (b) Depressed
- (iii) The 'crow', the 'snow', and the 'hemlock tree' represent the world of nature. All the three symbols are associated with harsh aspects of nature and symbolize death. The crowing of a crow is regarded as a bad omen and the hemlock tree, being poisonous, stands for 'death'. Similarly, snow symbolizes barrenness and lack of life. The poet uses these symbols to emphasize his sad and depressed mood.
- (iv) The visual imagery used in the stanza is that of a winter landscape with a hemlock tree laden with snow, a crow perched on its branches and a lonely traveller (the poet himself) passing by.
- 7B.** (i) allusion
- (ii) The allusion to Rapunzel, a golden-haired young girl in German fairytale brings out Amanda's peaceful and carefree state of her inner being. She does not wish to allow anyone to disturb that state.
- (iii) (c) I'll let down a rope ladder for you to climb up to the tree house.
- (iv) solitude and peace