



Candidates must write the Q.P. Code on the title page of the answer-book.



- Please check that this question paper contains 19 printed pages.
- Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
- Please check that this question paper contains 13 questions.
- **Please write down the serial number of the question in the answer-book before attempting it.**
- 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the students will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.

## ENGLISH (Core)

Time allowed : 3 hours

Maximum Marks : 80

### General Instructions :

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them :

- (i) This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are **compulsory**.
- (ii) This question paper contains **three** sections – Section A : **Reading Skills**, Section B : **Creative Writing Skills** and Section C : **Literature**.
- (iii) Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
- (iv) Separate instructions are given with each question / part, wherever necessary.
- (v) Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

P.T.O.



**SECTION A**  
**Reading Skills**

**(20 marks)**

1. Read the passage given below :

- 1 As a form of expression, graffiti is famously characterized by outlaw values; the creation and display of graffiti countered societal rules and was considered by some as vandalism. Not only was it symbolic of rebel values but was also linked to destruction of property. These links between graffiti culture and rebellion were age-old and some say, were popularized by hip-hop culture.
- 2 Imagine waking up one morning, to see your walls smeared with black paint — names, symbols, messages. The most interesting bit is that these wall artists were never caught red-handed. It was all done stealthily. It was almost as though people were marking their territory using painted symbols and slogans. The change was creeping in. Mobile numbers and captivating phrases gradually became marketing tools for free advertising. Catchy phrases tickled the curiosity and calls were made to those numbers.
- 3 Over a period of time, there was a shift in perception. Blank walls beckoned invitingly and artists saw whitewashed walls as an opportunity to display their work in free and open settings. The city became one large canvas; the illegal 'gang activity' became an art form on display in walking galleries. Graffiti was gradually being replaced and the stigma of illegality was being dropped. There was a move to embrace rather than condemn.



- 4 The colours, shapes, and subjects became cultural themes. What was once rebellious expression is artistic talent at its vibrant best, rich in images of plants, animals and unspoiled landscapes. The painted walls encouraged by residents and governments have created their own ecosystem — a reconciliation of nature with man-made forces.
- 5 The monotony and uniformity of urban life is today infused with human vitality and beauty. Cities speak proudly about the painted walls and clamour to be the first to preserve culture and history through these. Graphic displays of social awareness issues effectively and economically reach out to the common man. Silent art speaks volumes. Be it hygiene, conservation, education, or rights and duties — the message is conveyed in an animated, colourful manner without being an imposition.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below :

10×1=10

- (i) Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option.  
Graffiti in the earlier years was
- (a) considered a valuable legacy.
  - (b) done by prominent artists.
  - (c) an expression of rebellion.
  - (d) supported by society.
- (ii) Comment on the writer's statement, 'It was all done stealthily'.
- (iii) List two reasons why graffiti was not popular among people.
- (iv) Select the word from para 2 of the passage that conveys the opposite of 'boring'.

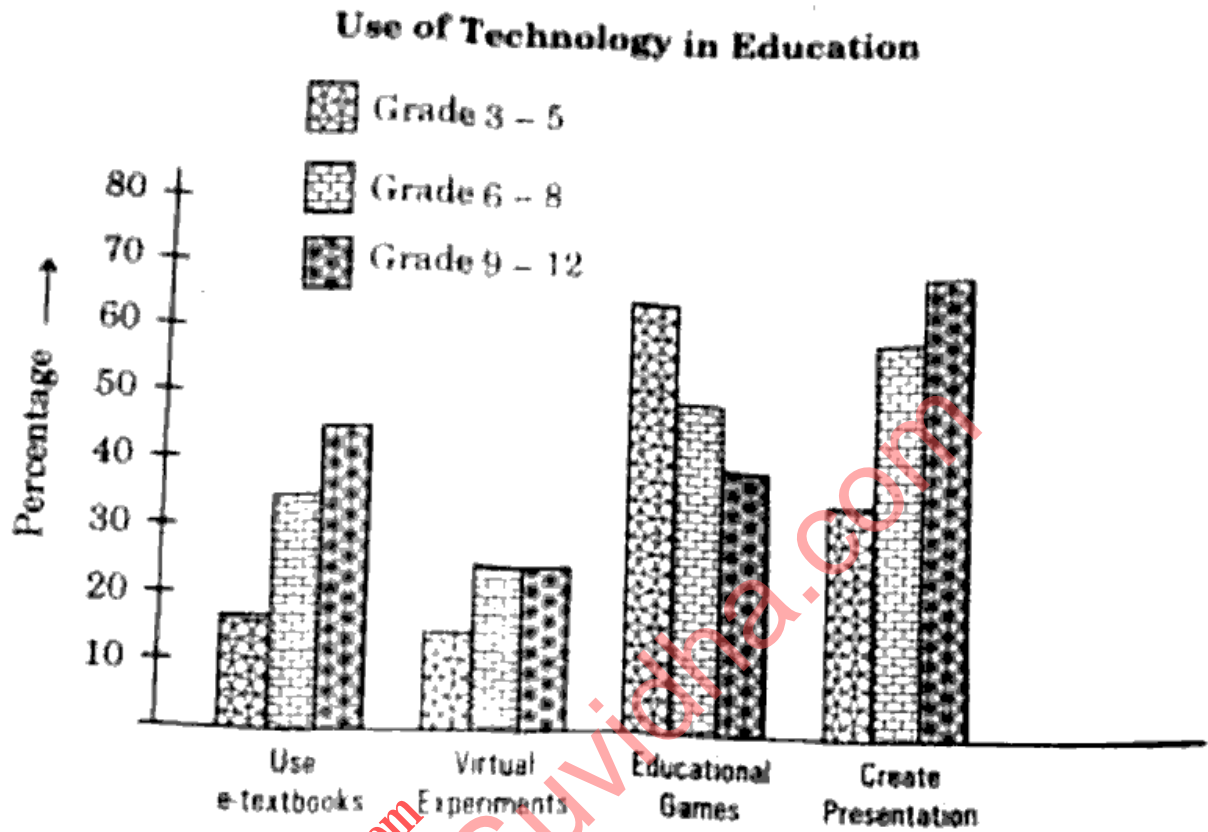


- (v) The writer would agree with all of the following **EXCEPT** :
- (a) Graffiti art was a paid activity.
  - (b) Wall art was an age-old tradition
  - (c) Graffiti became popular as a marketing tool.
  - (d) People were curious by what was scribbled on walls.
- (vi) Which word from the following most nearly means 'reconciliation' with reference to the given context ? (para 4)
- (a) cease fire
  - (b) resolution
  - (c) combination
  - (d) reunion
- (vii) Why does the writer say that the stigma of 'illegality' was dropped ?
- (viii) Complete the following sentence with reference to the passage :  
The city became the large canvas because \_\_\_\_\_.
- (ix) The passage states a shift in attitude. Identify the best option that indicates this shift.
- (a) rejection to dismissal
  - (b) confusion to clarity
  - (c) imposition to acceptance
  - (d) dislike to acceptance
- (x) List two ways in which wall art is beneficial to society.

2. Read the passage given below :

- 1 Educational technology is the combined use of computer hardware, software, educational theory, and practice to facilitate learning. When referred to with its abbreviation EdTech, it points to the industry of companies that create educational technology. With education growing online, India's EdTech market size is expected to grow 3.7 times in the next five years.
- 2 Education in both rural and urban India is expected to be supported by technology in the near future.
- 3 As per a 2019 - 2020 report, only 22.3 percent of schools had an internet connection. Moreover, 61 percent of schools in the country didn't even have computers.
- 4 With the internet rate estimated to reach above 55 percent by the end of 2025 in India, digitisation of education will impact the country's development and become one of the topmost priorities for the government.
- 5 Budget 2021 - 22 allocated ₹ 93,224.31 crore to the Ministry of Education. It was an increase of over ₹ 8,100 crore from the revised estimates for the current fiscal year and the Department of Higher Education was allocated ₹ 38,350.65 crore.
- 6 The role of technology in education is more critical now than ever in addressing educational disparity. It has already made learning affordable and accessible. In particular, the use of technology in education in rural India is one of the biggest boons of recent times.
- 7 With help from apps and software, teachers can enhance their teaching ability and provide information about the most recent developments. Students can enjoy an interactive learning experience. Teachers can employ animation, powerpoint slides and graphs to catch the interest of their pupils. Gamification lends interest in the subject.

8 The online education system is a sector in which growth and development will work for the betterment of many sectors which include educating learners and increasing job opportunities for educators and technical teams.



**TABLE I.**

**REASONS FOR BOOM IN EDTECH**

1. Lower cost involved in the dissemination of online education
2. Convenient, flexible and affordable
3. Initiatives by the Government which include programmes like SWAYAM and DIKSHA
4. Increasing number of education-based startups
5. Increment in the internet user base
6. Increasing penetration of mobile devices
7. Inflow of investments and acquisitions in this sector
8. It overcomes the geographical barriers



Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below :

10 × 1 = 10

- (i) Does the following statement agree with the information given in para 1 ?

Education technology is the practice of introducing information and communication technology tools into the classroom.

Select from the following :

True - If the statement agrees with the information

False - If the statement contradicts the information

Not Given - If there is no information on this

- (ii) What are the two essentials for digitisation of education ?

- (iii) Select the option which displays that use of technology in education in rural India is one of the biggest boons of recent times.

(a) Frees up the teacher to be able to concentrate on farming.

(b) Teachers can enhance their teaching ability and provide more value to the students.

(c) It understands what is needed and technology is subsequently developed effectively.

(d) Simplifies assignment management with user-friendly methods.

- (iv) Complete the sentence based on the following statement :

The role of EdTech is more critical now \_\_\_\_\_.

- (v) The word 'critical' in para 6 most nearly means

(a) difficult

(b) crucial

(c) complementary

(d) causative

- (vi) Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option : <https://www.cbseboardonline.com>

Technology in education works for the betterment of many sectors such as \_\_\_\_\_.

(a) farmers, educators and businessmen

(b) educating learners, job opportunities for educators and technical teams

(c) doctors, engineers and technocrats

(d) banking, construction workers and software technicians

- (vii) Digital education will become a top priority for the government because \_\_\_\_\_.

- (viii) Complete the given sentence by selecting the most appropriate option :

The concluding sentence of the passage makes a clear case that

- (a) the growth of educational technology and online education will take some time
  - (b) nobody imagined a growth as exponential as in the last two years
  - (c) development of EdTech will work for the betterment of many other sectors as well
  - (d) the private sector has to play a decisive role
- (ix) Based on the graph, state the items which have the highest percentage of technology used by students of grades 9 - 12 and by students of grades 3 - 5.

OR

*For the Visually Impaired Candidates only in lieu of Q.No. 2 (ix) :*

- (ix) Complete the sentence approximately in two-three words.  
With the help of technology, students enjoy \_\_\_\_\_.
- (x) Based on the reading of the passage, state a point to challenge the given statement -  
India's EdTech market size is expected to double in the next five years.

## SECTION B

### Creative Writing Skills

(20 marks)

3. Attempt any **one** from (A) and (B) given below :

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(A) Under the mission "Each One Teach One", your school has been requested to send volunteers to participate in this programme. Draft a notice in 50 words for the senior class students to offer themselves as volunteers. State the details of the task expected to be undertaken by the volunteers. Mention relevant details of day, date, time and venue. You are Rashi/Rishi, President, Social Service Club.

OR

(B) Your school was celebrating its Annual Day function on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> March. Due to heavy rains, schools have been closed for a week. Draft a notice in 50 words about the postponement of the function, giving the next likely date and apologizing for the inconvenience caused due to the cancellation. You are Dr. Shetty, Principal.



4. Attempt any **one** from (A) and (B) given below

(A) You are a Dr. Shah. The Health Department has invited you to deliver a lecture on 'Prevention of Malaria and Dengue'. Due to an illness in the family, you are unable to attend the programme. Draft a letter in 50 words, stating your inability to attend the event. Mention day, date, time and venue.

OR

(B) You are Dr. Das, a renowned environmentalist and scholar. You have been invited by the Nature India Book Society, to launch a new series of books – Flora and Fauna of India. Write a formal letter in 50 words accepting the invitation. Mention day, date, time and venue.

6

5. Attempt any **one** from (A) and (B) given below :

(A) The Resident Welfare Association of your colony identified the super senior citizens in the colony. A team was set up to visit the seniors once a month and offer any kind of help they would require. This effort was greatly appreciated by the residents. Write a letter in 120 – 150 words to the editor of 'The Indian Express' expressing your views on the increasing loneliness of the elderly and suggesting ways to support them. You are Rahul/Robina.

You may use the cues given below :

Causes

- Smaller families
- Children abroad
- Modern, hectic lifestyles

Suggestions

- Helplines
- Support groups, RWA activities
- Sensitization of younger generation

OR

5

- (B) You are Shristi/Saurabh Kundra. You saw the given advertisement and wish to apply for the position advertised. Write a letter of application in 120 – 150 words along with your biodata

**Fair Fax Pvt. Ltd.**

**Required** Assistant Manager, Digital Marketing

**Job Responsibilities**

- Maintain Digital Dashboard
- Monitor Online Marketing

**Preferred Skills & Qualifications**

- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing or Business
- Minimum 2 years experience in Digital Marketing
- Knowledge of Picture/Video Editing Software

Send your biodata within 10 days to the Director HR, Fair Fax Pvt. Ltd.

6. Attempt any **one** from (A) and (B) given below

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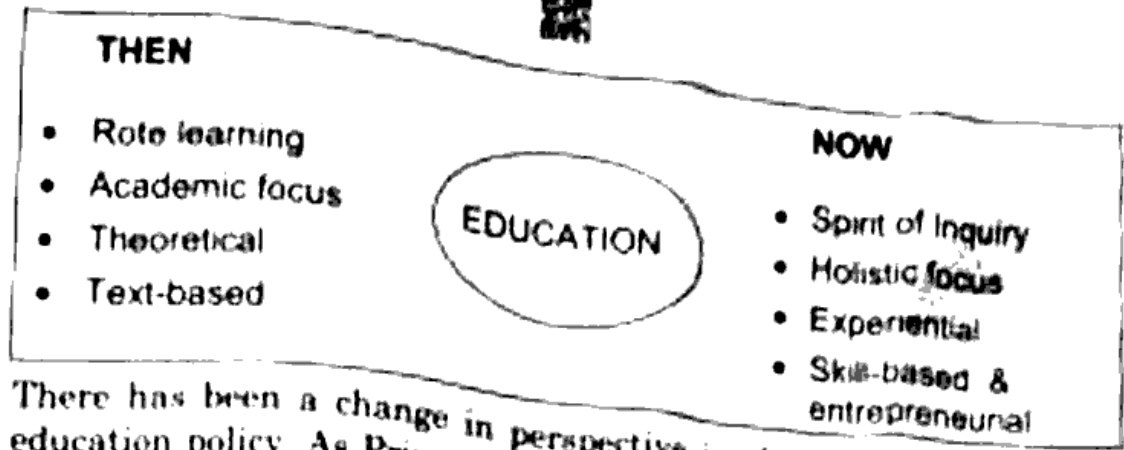
- (A) **CREATE A SAFE, NON-VIOLENT, AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN**



Your school had organized a seminar on cyber bullying and online safety. It was attended by counsellors and students from ten different schools. The symposium included a panel discussion, student viewpoints and short skits highlighting the negative effects of cyber bullying on students. As a student reporter, write a report on the event in 120 – 150 words to be published in the school weekly. You are Rajshri/Rishi. Mention day, date, time and venue. You may use the above given cues.

**OR**

(B)



There has been a change in perspective in the recently announced education policy. As Priyanka/Pranam, a columnist of 'Youth Times', write an article in 120 - 150 words on 'Education - A Paradigm Shift'. You may use the cues given above.

### SECTION C

#### Literature

(40 marks)

7. Attempt any **one** of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below :

(A) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :  $6 \times 1 = 6$

Now we will count to twelve  
and we will all keep still.

For once on the face of the Earth  
let's not speak in any language,  
let's stop for one second,  
and not move our arms so much.

It would be an exotic moment  
without rush, without engines,  
we would all be together  
in a sudden strangeness.

(Keeping Quiet)

- (i) Significance of counting up to twelve is
- (a) it is time to start the race
  - (b) it is symbolic of life.
  - (c) it is a measure of time.
  - (d) that time does not wait for anyone.

- ❏
- (ii) The word \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means unusual and exciting.
- (iii) Excessive activity would create an atmosphere of
- productivity.
  - mechanisation.
  - confusion.
  - competition.
- (iv) The poet would want to create all of the following *EXCEPT*
- a peaceful environment.
  - a harmonious world.
  - an atmosphere for introspection.
  - a world full of hustle and bustle.
- (v) Complete the following analogy correctly :
- face of the Earth : \_\_\_\_\_ :: sudden strangeness : alliteration
- (vi) On the basis of the extract, study the two statements, I and II given below :
- People must keep silent at twelve everyday.
  - Introspection will lead to peaceful coexistence.
- Choose the most appropriate option :
- I is false, but II is true
  - Both I and II are false
  - Both I and II are true
  - I is true, but II is false

(B) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow : 6×1=6

Driving from my parent's  
home to Cochin last Friday  
morning, I saw my mother,  
beside me,  
doze, open mouthed, her face  
ashen like that  
of a corpse, and realised with  
pain  
that she was as old as she  
looked but soon  
put that thought away, and  
looked out at Young  
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling  
out of their homes .....



- (i) **The poet's mother looks**
- I. exhausted
  - II. healthy
  - III. rejuvenated
  - IV. pale
  - V. relaxed
- Choose the most appropriate option :
- (a) Only V
  - (b) I, III and V
  - (c) I, II and IV
  - (d) I and IV
- (ii) The poet looks out of the car because \_\_\_\_\_
- (iii) Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as 'her face ashen like that of a corpse'.
- (a) stars winked in the midnight sky
  - (b) a bitter sweet experience
  - (c) as cold as ice
  - (d) grey geese in the green field
- (iv) The phrase 'she realized with pain' indicates the poet's
- (a) anxiety of missing the flight.
  - (b) fear of losing her mother.
  - (c) fear of illness.
  - (d) anxiety of taking her mother on the flight.
- (v) On the basis of the extract, study the two statements, I and II given below :
- I. The poet was in a hurry to reach the airport.
  - II. The poet did not want to think about her mother growing old and infirm.
- Choose the most appropriate option :
- (a) I is correct, but II is incorrect
  - (b) Both I and II are correct
  - (c) Both I and II are incorrect
  - (d) II is correct, but I is incorrect



- (vi) What does the phrase 'sprinting trees' symbolize ?
- (a) youthfulness and forgetfulness
  - (b) vitality and youthfulness
  - (c) energy and casualness
  - (d) pallor and exuberance

8. Attempt any **one** of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below :

(A) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :  $4 \times 1 = 4$

"You are to come to the palace," the man said. "The old General is in pain again."

"Oh," Hana breathed, "Is that all ?"

"All ?" the messenger exclaimed. "Is it not enough ?"

"Indeed it is," she replied, "I am very sorry."

When Sadao came to say goodbye, she was in the kitchen, but doing nothing. The children were asleep and she sat merely resting for a moment, more exhausted from her fright than from work. (*The Enemy*)

- (i) Seeing the messenger, Hana was apprehensive of \_\_\_\_\_.
- (ii) The summons for Dr. Sadao were because
  - (a) the servants had reported.
  - (b) there was a medical emergency.
  - (c) the General wanted to express his admiration.
  - (d) the prisoner of war had escaped.
- (iii) Which of the following summarizes Hana's reason for resting momentarily ?
  - (a) Her physical exhaustion
  - (b) Her fear
  - (c) Her infirmity
  - (d) Her sadness
- (iv) Complete the analogy correctly with a word from the extract.  
asleep : awake :: rejuvenated : \_\_\_\_\_

OR



(B) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow.  $4 \times 1 = 4$

Mr. Lamb : Look, boy, look ... what do you see ?

Derry : Just ... grass and stuff. Weeds

Mr. Lamb : Some call them weeds. If you like, then ... a weed garden, that. There's fruit and there are flowers, and trees and herbs. All sorts. But over there ... weeds. I grow weeds there. Why is one green, growing plant called a weed and another 'flower' ? Where's the difference ? It's all life ... growing. Same as you and me.

Derry : We're not the same.

- (i) In the above extract, what best summarizes Mr. Lamb's attitude towards growing weeds ?
- (a) a celebration of life
  - (b) an acceptance of his poverty
  - (c) a manifestation of his loneliness
  - (d) an example of his gardening skills
- (ii) Which of the following best describes Derry's tone when he says "We're not the same" ?
- (a) bitter
  - (b) confused
  - (c) defiant
  - (d) snobbish
- (iii) Mr. Lamb brings out the contrast between flowers and weeds in order to
- (a) explain weeds are important in a garden.
  - (b) demonstrate that weeds have medicinal values.
  - (c) emphasize the specific purpose of each.
  - (d) illustrate that there should be no distinction.
- (iv) What word from the above extract most nearly means the opposite of 'difference' ?

8. Attempt any **one** of the two extracts (A) and (B) given below

(A) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow : 6×1=6

Rudyard Kipling expressed an even more condemnatory attitude towards the interviewer. His wife, Caroline, writes in her diary for 14 October, 1892 that their day was 'wrecked by two reporters from Boston'. She reports her husband as saying to the reporters, "Why do I refuse to be interviewed? Because it is immoral! It is a crime, just as much of a crime as an offence against my person, as an assault, and just as much merits punishment. It is cowardly and vile. No respectable man would ask it, much less give it." Yet Kipling had himself perpetrated such an 'assault' on Mark Twain only a few years before. H.G Wells in an interview in 1894 referred to the 'interviewing ordeal', but was a fairly frequent interviewee and forty years later found himself interviewing Joseph Stalin.

(The Interview)

- (i) Kipling viewed interviews with
- compassion.
  - condemnation.
  - reconciliation.
  - gratitude.
- (ii) Kipling assaulted \_\_\_\_\_ with an interview.
- H.G. Wells
  - Joseph Stalin
  - T.S. Eliot
  - Mark Twain
- (iii) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract :  
attack : assault :: committed : \_\_\_\_\_
- (iv) The word 'wrecked' in the extract most nearly means
- ravaged.
  - annihilated.
  - killed.
  - ruined.



- ❏
- (v) Rudyard Kipling uses the phrase 'it is a crime' because he feels it is
- (a) illegal.
  - (b) an offence against his person.
  - (c) an act of espionage
  - (d) a waste of time.
- (vi) Kipling violated his own observation on interviewing by \_\_\_\_\_

OR

- (B) Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow :  $6 \times 1 = 6$

Then the poet spoke. He couldn't have addressed a more dazed and silent audience — no one knew what he was talking about and his accent defeated any attempt to understand what he was saying. The whole thing lasted about an hour; then the poet left and we all dispersed in utter bafflement — what are we doing ? What is an English poet doing in a film studio which makes Tamil films for the simplest sort of people ? People whose lives least afforded them the possibility of cultivating a taste for English poetry ? The poet looked pretty baffled too, for he too must have felt the sheer incongruity of his talk about the thrills and travails of an English poet. His visit remained an unexplained mystery.

- (i) Choose the appropriate option with reference to the extract. 'The audience were dazed' because
- (a) they were not accustomed to listening to poetry.
  - (b) they had never before seen an Englishman.
  - (c) they failed to comprehend what the poet was speaking.
  - (d) they were already bored.
- (ii) Complete the sentence with reference to the extract :
- The English poet was \_\_\_\_\_ when he was addressing the dazed audience.



(iii) Where did the talk take place ?

Choose the correct option.

- (a) The Main Mall
- (b) Story Writing Department
- (c) Film studio
- (d) Subbu's office

(iv) The English poet's visit is an 'unexplained mystery' because \_\_\_\_\_.

(v) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract :  
noisy : silent :: assembled : \_\_\_\_\_

(vi) Explain the following phrase with reference to the extract :  
The poet felt 'the sheer incongruity of his talk'.

10. Answer any **five** of the following in about 40 - 50 words each :

5×2=10

- (a) Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of twenty-five percent refund to the peasants ? (Indigo) <https://www.cbseboardonline.com>
- (b) What made the ironmaster invite the peddler to his house ?
- (c) What was the expectation of the people who had set up the roadside stand ?
- (d) Why did Aunt Jennifer create tigers so different from her own character ?
- (e) Why can the bangle-makers not organise themselves into a cooperative ? (Lost Spring)
- (f) Why did Douglas decide to go to the YMCA pool to learn swimming ?  
(Deep Water)

11. Answer any **two** of the following in about 40 – 50 words each :

2×2=4

- (a) Who was the Tiger King? How did he get the name Tiger King?
- (b) What makes the author say, "The world's geological history is trapped in Antarctica"? (A Journey to the End of the Earth)
- (c) How does Mr. Lamb react when children call him Lamey-Lamb?  
(On the Face of It)

12. Answer any **one** of the following in about 120 – 150 words :

5

- (a) Fantasising and unrealistic dreams sometimes lead to disappointment and disillusionment. Discuss this with reference to the story 'Going Places'.

OR

- (b) Firozabad presents a strange paradox — the beauty of the glass bangles and the misery of the people who make bangles. Discuss.

13. Answer any **one** of the following in about 120 – 150 words :

5

- (a) Describe briefly the Third Level. How did it differ from the Second Level?

OR

- (b) What was the Maharaja's mission? How did he resolve to overcome the obstacles in the fulfilment of his mission? (The Tiger King)