

CLASS-XI
ENGLISH CORE (301)
SAMPLE PAPER- 2024-25

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This paper comprises 3 sections- Reading Comprehension (26 marks), Writing Skills & Grammar (23 marks) and Literature (31 marks)
2. Attempt all questions.
3. Do not write anything on the question paper.
4. All the answers must be correctly numbered as in the question paper and written in the answer sheet provided.
5. Ensure that questions of each section are answered together.
6. Read each section carefully and follow the instructions.
7. Adhere to the word limit wherever prescribed.

Section –A (Reading Skills)

(26 Marks)

Typology	Reading Skills	Conceptual understanding, decoding, analysing, inferring, interpreting, appreciating literary conventions and vocabulary, summarising and using appropriate format/s
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I. Read the following passage very carefully:

(10)

1. In 2019, wildlife conservationists, especially those caring for bears, celebrated a very special anniversary — the 10th anniversary of the rescue of the last 'dancing' bear from India's streets. The sloth bear named Raju, who was eight years old at the time, was freed from Chikkaharavalli in Karnataka by Wildlife SOS, an organization dedicated to saving and rehabilitating abused wildlife.
2. This informal roadside entertainment, once rampant on Indian streets, came from a 400-year-old tradition of man's pursuit of divertissement. But the story behind the performances is far from pleasurable. Any service derived from animals is made possible only through training practices grounded in deep cruelty. The bears for instance, would be captured as cubs. Their muzzles would then be pierced with hot iron rods, and threaded with thick ropes that, when tugged, made the animals jump and prance in pain.
3. "Elephants in particular are social animals, and do very poorly in isolation," explains conservationist Puja Mitra. Global studies have long recorded high emotional intelligence in elephants. Extended periods of isolation from their peers and societies coupled with cruel training practices can induce post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSS) in wild elephants similar to humans like abnormal startle responses, depression, unpredictable social behaviour and aggression. Animals with PTSS require long-term skilled care and consistent medical aid to recuperate.
4. Provisions in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, enforced a ban on using wild and protected animals — bears, monkeys, panthers, lions, and tigers — for entertainment, such as in circuses. Sadly, elephants continue to be used in temples, for transportation and labour in the timber and the travel and tourism industries. Monkeys, eagles, owls and other animals are used by people for occult rituals, or

as pets, despite the fact that such animals are not suited for domestication or captivity. A 2016 study by the World Wildlife Fund examining how dolphins responded to human and vehicular presence found that 98 percent of the time the dolphins became highly stressed, and would deep dive to avoid the intrusion.

5. What can an individual do to help mitigate the needless suffering of wild animals? To start with, leave them alone. Wildlife SOS began the 'Refuse to Ride' campaign, by reaching out to tourists and raising awareness of the suffering underpinning their holiday fun. Terra Conscious, a social enterprise promotes sustainable travel through a community-partnership model to transform dolphin-watching, a popular tourist activity in coastal destinations. The solution to this issue hinges in large part on kindness, compassion and basic respect for the natural world.

(Source- Reader's Digest- Leave the Wild Things Be- By- Swati Sanyal Tarafdar)

I.A) On the basis of your reading the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given options: (1x5=5)

i. Choose an option which describes a situation similar to the dolphins which become highly stressed and deep dive to avoid human vehicular intrusion.

- a) Manatees are calm and peaceful and can manage human interaction in their natural habitat.
- b) Jumping spiders are fans of cameras, sometimes jumping at the users.
- c) Gropers greet snorkellers and follow them around.
- d) The red fox, shies away from its daytime activity, often exhibiting increased nocturnal activity.

ii. The option that best describes the central idea of the passage is-

- a) Helping to mitigate needless sufferings of aquatic animals.
- b) Boycotting street entertainment involving animals.
- c) Kindness, compassion and basic respect for the natural world.
- d) Suggesting long-term care and medical aid for abused wildlife.

iii. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 couldn't protect the elephants. Select an option that supports this statement.

- a) They continue to be used for labour in the timber and the travel and tourism industries.
- b) They are captured as cubs and threaded with thick ropes.
- c) They are used by people for occult rituals.
- d) They are domesticated in captivity.

iv. **Statement A:** Wild elephants display startle responses, depression and aggression.

Statement R: Extended periods of isolation from their peers coupled with cruel training practices are responsible factors.

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true but R is the incorrect explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) A is false but R is true.

v. According to the passage, which of the following can be considered as the reason for animals being threaded with thick ropes and their muzzles pierced with hot iron rods?

- a) Saving and rehabilitating abused animals.
- b) Subjecting animals to cruel training practices for entertainment business.
- c) Helping to lessen the sufferings of animals.
- d) Understanding the emotional intelligence of social animals.

I.B) Answer the following questions:

(1x5=5)

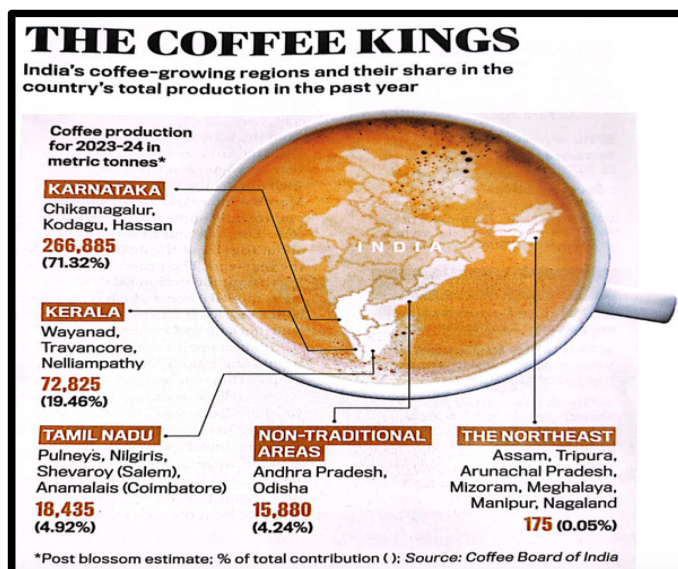
- vi. The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 is a blessing for the wild and protected animals. Elaborate.
- vii. In what way is the story behind the dancing bears' performances far from pleasurable?
- viii. List two measures to help mitigate the needless suffering of wild animals.
- ix. Comment on the analogy between human and animal responses to post-traumatic stress syndrome.
- x. Find a word from paragraph-2 which means the same as recreation.

II. Read the following passage carefully:

(8)

1. For those who start and end their day with a cup of coffee, the Americano, cappuccino or latte at Starbucks and Blue Tokai, or any of the other coffee aficionado's haunts in India like Third Wave and Tim Hortons, tasted just the same last year. But coffee planters in the country were served a bitter brew, as a dip in prices in the international market and factors like erratic weather and lower domestic yields made it difficult for them to even recover investments.

2. The current hike in coffee prices is driven by a supply shock in Robusta (a species of coffee plant), say industry insiders, owing to a dry spell in Vietnam. The country, along with Brazil, supplies nearly 60 percent of the global coffee production. The hike in Robusta prices has had a direct and welcome impact on planters in India, where nearly 70 percent of the country's projected coffee production of 374,200 tonnes for 2023-24 was Robusta, according to the Coffee Board of India. The increased prices took many by surprise. Robusta prices in Karnataka shot up even further, by as much as Rs 2,750- 3,100 per bag (depending on the processing of the beans). Nobody expected prices to gallop like this.



3. India's share in global coffee production was about 3.4 percent in 2021- 22, with the country producing 5.7 million bags (of 60 kg each) compared to the global figure of 167 million bags, shows a July 2023 analysis by the Coffee Board of India. Exports crossed the billion-dollar mark that year, at \$1.02 billion. Currently, India is the world's fifth largest exporter of coffee, with exports of \$1.28 billion in 2023- 24. The top destinations for Indian coffee include Italy, Germany, Belgium, the Russian Federation, Turkey, Poland, Jordan, Libya and the US.

4. Planters point out that costs of inputs and labour have been going up even as the weather patterns have affected yield. Growers need to increase productivity if the industry has to survive. Till then, the coffee planter can savour the cheer that the current trend of high prices has brought.

(Source- India Today, INDIAN COFFEE BLOSSOMS By- Ajay Sukumaran)

II.A) On the basis of your reading the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the givenoptions: (1x4=4)

i. Select the factor not responsible for coffee planters in India being served a bitter brew.

- a. lower domestic yield
- b. erratic weather
- c. hike in coffee prices
- d. dip in coffee prices

ii. Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'savour the cheer' in para-4.

- a. endure the gloom
- b. bask in the joy
- c. revel in the delight
- d. relish the moment

iii. Rank the Coffee Kings in order of their coffee production in the year 2023-24.

- a. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Non-Traditional Areas, The Northeast, Karnataka
- b. Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Non-Traditional Areas, The Northeast
- c. Non-Traditional Areas, The Northeast, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu
- d. The Northeast, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Non-Traditional Areas

iv. Statement-A: Robusta prices in Karnataka galloped.

Statement-R: A good yield in Vietnam led to a spike in prices.

- a. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b. Both A and R are true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- c. A is true but R is false.
- d. A is false but R is true.

II.B) Answer the following questions: (1x4=4)

v. India's share in global coffee production was about 3.4 percent in 2021- 22. Comment upon the status of India as an exporter in the year 2023-24.

vi. Along with natural intervention, human factors like _____ and _____ have affected coffee plantation yield.

vii. The only redeeming factor for the planters is_____.

viii. Find a word in para-1 which is similar in meaning to 'connoisseur'.

III. Read the following passage carefully: (8)

1. Let's Dance! It's good for your body, soul and even your brain. Evidence shows that dancing can boost brain health and help manage symptoms of neurocognitive and movement disorders, including Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis (MS), Alzheimer's, dementia and brain injury. A 2021 York University study showed that weekly dance training that targets balance, coordination, flexibility, creativity and memory work can improve Parkinson's symptoms.

2. What is it about dance that's different from a brisk walk or other aerobic exercises? Helena Blumen, a cognitive scientist says, the intricate mental multitasking that dance requires engages various parts of the brain at the same time, which can lead to the strengthening of neural connections across different regions. Basically, dancing requires more brain power than simpler repetitive exercises.

3. The effect extends beyond dance class to the real world. Studies have shown the benefits of dance for people with conditions ranging from MS and Huntington's disease to autism and depression. Dance

therapy might even help people with brain injuries. People with severe traumatic brain injury showed that dance-based rehabilitation might improve mobility, cognition and overall well-being.

4. In addition to the physical and neurological benefits, dance can also help people accept what their bodies can and can't do, making it easier to live with the diseases they have. Dancing with others makes people feel less different, and it helps combat the loneliness and isolation of living with a chronic illness. The ultimate aim is that people feel joyful, get more involved in their community and explore the limitless possibilities.

(Source- Reader's Digest- Let's Dance! By- Claire Sibonney)

III.A On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognisable abbreviations wherever necessary. Suggest a suitable title for the passage. (5)

III.B Write a summary of the above passage in not more than 50 words using the notes made by you. (3)

SECTION – B (GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS) (23 Marks)

Typology	Grammar & Creative Writing Skills	Conceptual understanding, application of rules, analysis, reasoning, appropriacy of style and tone, using appropriate format and fluency, inference, evaluation and creativity
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IV. GRAMMAR

(i) Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the words given in the brackets. Attempt ANY FOUR. (1X4=4 marks)

In 1984, Swiss couple Emil and Liliana a)_____ (would climb/ climbed/ had climbed/ were climbing) into their bright blue Toyota Land Cruiser and b)_____ (would begin/ had begun/ were beginning/ began)the world's longest road trip, which c)_____ (continues/ continued/ had been continuing/ will continue) to this day. In forty years, they d)_____ (would travel/ travelled/ had travelled/ have travelled) more than 7.41 lakh kilometres across 186 countries. Now in their 80s, the couple is currently on the road to Africa and e)_____ (holds/ are holding/ will hold/will be holding) the Guinness World Record for the longest driven journey.

(ii) Transform the following sentences as per the instructions given below: (1X3=3 marks)

- a) They considered me a rebel. (Change the voice)
- b) "I didn't eat breakfast", said Reena. (Change to reported speech)
- c) I have not been well, _____ (return, picnic) (Fill in the blank with an appropriate adverb clause using words in the bracket)

V.CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

(i).Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words. (3)

A. You are Neelanjana Mehta of 74, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. You run a PG accommodation for girls. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words for publication in The Indian Express under TO LET column. Include relevant details like location, type of accommodation, facilities, rent etc.

OR

B. Indian restaurant industry is driven by the growing eating out factor. This calls for quick services, variety in cuisine and value for money. Restaurants and eat outs are gearing for a massive expansion in seating capacity for the consumers. Being in the same business, you wish to open an eating point in DDA market, VikasPuri. Draft an advertisement in 50 words for publication in The Hindustan Times for purchase of a small space (10 ft × 12 ft) in the market under the Classified Column ‘Property’.

(ii). Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words.

(3)

A. According to a UNICEF study, at least 36% Indian students are subject to harassment and bullying in school campuses. That’s slightly higher than what UNICEF says is the global average. Children are subjected to name-calling, shaming, exclusion, online trolling, and even physical harm. There’s an immeasurable emotional and psychological toll on children, leading to anxiety and depression. Design a poster in 50 words expressing concern over the serious issue of bullying and its consequences.

OR

B. As per an article by Dabur Arogya, over the last few decades, there has been an upsurge in the prevalence of yoga. Medical professionals and celebrities are also adopting and recommending the regular practice of yoga due to its various benefits. Design a poster in 50 words highlighting the benefits of practising Yoga in our daily lives.

(iii). Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 120-150 words.

(5)

A. The year 2024 marks the 25th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly’s adoption of the ‘Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace’. As the Head Girl/Boy of your school, write a speech in about 120-150 words on the topic ‘World Peace: A Collective Responsibility’ highlighting the importance of individual and collective efforts in achieving and maintaining peace. Develop on the hints given below.

- Rising geopolitical tensions causing havoc
- Wars lead to human suffering, displacement, economic loss.
- Need for successful peace building initiatives
- Collective action needed — international cooperation, diplomacy, education, cultural exchange
- Need for disarmament and arms control

OR

B. Energy is at the heart of the climate challenge and a key to the solution. As Amita/Amit, the President of the Environment Club of your school, write a speech in about 120-150 words on the topic ‘Accelerating the transition to clean energy is the pathway to a healthy and livable life.’ You may take help from inputs given below.

- Fossil fuels are the largest contributors to global climate change.
- Current energy crisis has a great impact on the environment.
- Urgent need to end our reliance on fossil fuels and invest in alternative sources of energy that are clean, accessible, affordable, sustainable and reliable.
- Renewable energy sources (solar, wind, hydro) to be explored.
- Collective action — policy changes, community initiatives

(iv). Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 120-150 words.

(5)

A. While man's exploration of Space has opened up a universe of unlimited possibilities, it has also sparked a lively debate on Earth about the necessity and value of Space exploration. With issues like poverty, social injustices, climate change and other pressing concerns looming large in the present times, it may seem like exploring space is a misuse of our funding. While it is important to address these issues, solving these problems doesn't depend on defunding space programs. Write a debate in about 120-150 words either in favour or against the topic: 'Space exploration is a waste of money.' You may develop your case on the inputs given below.

Favour-

- Space exploration is costly, harsh and perilous.
- It gives us no direct benefit.
- Billions spent on running space stations can be used in the development of civilizations.
- Rather than exploring life on other planets, it would be better to make efforts to improve life on Earth.

Against-

- Scientific knowledge has value beyond the measurements of cost.
- Satellites and other space advancements have greatly benefited human life.
- Man must cater to his curiosity for constant development.
- It is important to know who we are and where we are in terms of the universe.

OR

B. Good academic achievement allows students to enhance and develop essential skills required for a successful life. But every person has a different vision for success in life. Can academic excellence alone define success. Write a debate in about 120-150 words either in favour or against the topic, 'Academic excellence is the only requirement for a successful career.' You may take help from the following inputs.

Favour-

- Excellent academic performance enhances the student learning landscape.
- It opens up gateways to various great opportunities in numerous sectors and organisations with good pay scales.
- Scoring well in an examination can help you get into your desired college or university.
- Good academic performance boosts self-esteem and confidence in students.
- Students get to develop important life skills such as leadership, time management, effective communication, logical thinking, problem-solving, and many more

Against-

- Every person has a different vision of success in life.
- Along with academics, having co-curricular knowledge and extra skills are required too.
- Success not only depends on student's calibre and potential but also determination.
- Several celebrities have a successful career without a sound academic background.
- One's attitude and willingness bring success in life.

SECTION – C (LITERATURE)

(31 Marks)

Typology	Literature	Recalling, reasoning, appreciating literary conventions, inference, analysis, creativity with fluency and critical thinking
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VI. Reference to the Context

(i) Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow: (1x3=3 marks)

A. Silence surrounds us. I would have
Him prodigal, returning to
His father's house, the home he knew,
Rather than see him make and move
His world. I would forgive him too,
Shaping from sorrow a new love

i. Identify the poetic device used in line-2 of the given extract.

- a. Alliteration
- b. Allusion
- c. Transferred Epithet
- d. Personification

ii. Explain the purpose of the speaker wishing for the prodigal to return to his father's house.

iii. The phrase "Silence surrounds us" refers to _____ .

OR

B. And forever, by day and night, I give back life to my
own origin,
And make pure and beautify it;
(For song, issuing from its birth-place, after fulfilment,
wandering
Reck'd or unreck'd, duly with love returns.)

i. Identify the poetic device used in 'I give back life....'

- a. Metaphor
- b. Simile
- c. Personification
- d. Alliteration

ii. The phrase "make pure and beautify it" can be interpreted as _____.

iii. The stanza compares the journey of a song to that of rain. Highlight any one point of this comparison.

(ii) Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow: (1x3=3 marks)

A. Water, Water, Everywhere. I could feel that the ship had water below, but I dared not abandon the wheel to investigate. Suddenly, the front hatch was thrown open and Mary appeared. "We're sinking!" she screamed. "The decks are smashed; we're full of water." "Take the wheel", I shouted as I scrambled for the hatch. Larry and Herb were pumping like madmen. Broken timbers hung at crazy angles, the whole starboard side bulged inwards; clothes, crockery, charts, tins and toys sashed about in deep water.

i. How does the tone in the description "Broken timbers hung at crazy angles" affect the reader's view of the situation?

- a) It lessens the perceived severity of the damage
- b) It highlights the chaotic and dire condition of the ship

- c) It gives a humorous impression of the situation
- d) It implies that the ship is being managed well

ii. The assertion “We’re sinking!” is based on the reasoning that:

- a) The speaker was occupied with steering the ship
- b) Larry and Herb were actively trying to pump out water
- c) The ship's structure was severely damaged and taking on water
- d) The ship's progress was significantly slowed down due to flooding

iii. The speaker's decision to not abandon the wheel suggests that they prioritised _____ over checking the damage below.

- a) Steering the ship to avert further damage
- b) Investigating the flooding
- c) Communicating with the crew
- d) Observing the surroundings

OR

B. The town had a couple of rudimentary general stores selling Chinese cigarettes, soap and other basic provisions, as well as the usual strings of prayer flags. In front of one, men gathered in the afternoon for a game of pool, the battered table looking supremely incongruous in the open air, while nearby women washed their long hair in the icy water of a narrow brook that babbled down past my guest house. Darchen felt relaxed and unhurried but, for me, it came with a significant drawback. There were no pilgrims.

i. The phrase “the battered table looking supremely incongruous in the open air” suggests that

- a) The table was new and out of place
- b) The table appeared strange and out of place
- c) The table fit perfectly in the environment
- d) The table was hardly noticeable in the surroundings

ii. The assertion “Darchen felt relaxed and unhurried” is based on the reasoning that

- a) There were many fast-paced activities in the town
- b) The town had a busy and bustling atmosphere
- c) The town had a laid-back and leisurely pace
- d) The town was crowded with tourists

iii. The town’s general stores selling Chinese cigarettes, soap, and other basic provisions indicate a _____ nature.

- a) Modern and well-stocked
- b) Basic and unpretentious
- c) Luxurious and abundant
- d) Diverse and exotic

(iii) Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow: (1x4=4 marks)

A. ‘Won’t you sit down?’ asked the girl. She held open the door of the living-room and I went inside past her. I stopped, horrified. I was in a room I knew and did not know. I found myself in the midst of things I did want to see again but which oppressed me in the strange atmosphere. Or because of the tasteless way everything was arranged, because of the ugly furniture or the muggy smell that hung there, I don’t know; but I scarcely dared to look around me. The girl moved a chair. I sat down and stared at the woollen tablecloth. I rubbed it. My fingers grew warm from rubbing. I followed the lines of the pattern. Somewhere on the edge there should be a burn mark that had never been repaired.

i) The tone of the passage can best be described as:

- a) Cheerful
- b) Reflective
- c) Distressing
- d) Apathetic

ii) Identify the specific detail on the table-cloth that the speaker recalls and its significance.

iii) Statement-A: The speaker felt a mixture of familiarity and alienation in the room.

Statement-R: The oppressive atmosphere and tasteless arrangement contributed to the speaker's discomfort.

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A
- b) Both A and R are true but R is the incorrect explanation of A
- c) A is true but R is false
- d) A is false but R is true

iv) Find a word from the extract which conveys a meaning similar to 'subdued'

OR

B. CYRIL: Now you shouldn't have told him that, Mum.

That's not fair. You've hurt his feelings. Mine, too.

MRS PEARSON: Sometimes it does people good to have their feelings hurt.

The truth oughtn't to hurt anybody for long.

If your father didn't go to the club so often,
perhaps they'd stop laughing at him.

CYRIL: [gloomily] I doubt it.

i. Based on the extract, draw an inference about the relationship dynamics in the family.

ii. Statement A: Mrs. Pearson believes that facing the truth can be beneficial in the long run.

Statement R: She thinks avoiding the truth leads to more harm.

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
- c) Both A and R are false.
- d) A is true but R is false.

iii. The tone of Mrs. Pearson's remark, "The truth oughtn't to hurt anybody for long," suggests:

- a) Cynicism
- b) Straightforward
- c) Sarcasm
- d) Pessimism

iv. State the 'truth' that Mrs. Pearson refers to in the above extract.

VII. Answer the following questions in about 40-50 words each:

(2X3=6marks)

a. Comment on how the poet uses the imagery of the laburnum tree to convey the theme of transformation and renewal in 'The Laburnum Top'.

OR

Analyse how the poet's realization about the difference between appearance and reality contributes to the theme of growing up in 'Childhood'.

b) Evaluate the role of Howard Carter in the discovery and initial examination of King Tut's tomb.

OR

Discuss the experiences of Professor Gaitonde that made him realise his transition into the parallel universe. (The Adventure)

VIII. Answer ANY ONE of the following question in about 40-50 words: (1x3=3 marks)

a) Examine Aram's conflicting emotions on encountering Mourad with the horse and how this incident reflects the values of the Garoghlanian family. (The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse)

OR

b) Analyze George's initial response to Mrs. Pearson's transformation and what it reveals about his personality. (Mother's Day)

IX. Answer ANY ONE of the following question in about 120-150 words: (1x6=6 marks)

a) "Acceptance and resilience are the hallmarks of a strong character." Discuss with reference to the grandmother in 'The Portrait of a Lady', highlighting how she adapted to changes and maintained her dignity throughout her life.

OR

b) "The sea holiday was her past, mine is her laughter." Discuss the significance of the photograph in the poem, 'A photograph' and how it serves as a bridge between the past and the present for the speaker.

X. Answer ANY ONE of the following question in about 120-150 words: (1x6=6 marks)

a) "A melon has been crowned." Explore the role of the public in 'The Tale of Melon City' and discuss how the citizens' decisions and reactions drive the plot and its conclusion.

OR

b) Examine the dynamics between Dr. Andrew Manson and the Morgan family during the birth crisis. How do specific incidents illustrate the development of trust and emotional bonds between them?