



BK BIRLA CENTRE FOR EDUCATION
SARALA BIRLA GROUP OF SCHOOLS
SENIOR SECONDARY CO-ED DAY CUM BOYS' RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL



Pre – Board II (2024-25)
ENGLISH CORE (301)
Marking Scheme

Class: XII
Date: 18.12.24
Name:

Duration: 3 hrs.
Max Marks: 80
Exam No. :

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

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.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

12

I. According to paragraph 1, how do smartphones affect the dynamics of human interaction in the café?

Smartphones distract people from face-to-face interactions, as most individuals are focused on their screens rather than engaging with others. The digital world, through messages, updates, and notifications, pulls attention away from the physical presence of others.

II. How does the author use the metaphor of "the digital space has become an extension of ourselves" to describe the relationship people have with their devices?

The metaphor suggests that people's devices and the digital world have become so integral to their identity and daily life that they feel inseparable from them. Devices reflect one's worth, making it feel as though one's digital presence is just as important, if not more, than their real-life existence.

III. Complete the following sentence suitably.

The phrase 'tethered to our devices' suggests that individuals feel a sense of dependence on their digital devices, making it difficult for them to disconnect even when it's not necessary.

The concern this analogy points towards is about _____.

A. the overwhelming connection to technology that disrupts real-life experiences.

IV. Complete the following suitably with ONE advantage, with reference to paragraph 2.

Designating specific periods each day to avoid digital devices can help reduce the pressure to be constantly available and promote a healthier relationship with technology.

V. Why does the writer refer to the bonds formed online as “shallow” in paragraph 3?

A. Online interactions lack the depth and authenticity of face-to-face conversations.

VI. Provide ONE textual evidence with reference to paragraph 3 to prove the following: The impact of digital interactions on genuine human connections is negative.

"The desire for validation through digital interaction seems to drain the joy of spontaneous, genuine connections." This shows that digital interactions take away from the authenticity and joy of real, in-person relationships.

VII. In the line, “The desire for validation through digital interaction seems to drain the joy of spontaneous, genuine connections,” what does the phrase "drain the joy" refer to? (Paragraph 3)

The phrase "drain the joy" refers to how the pursuit of digital validation (likes, comments, shares) diminishes the genuine, unforced happiness that comes from real, spontaneous, in-person interactions.

VIII. Complete the analogy with ONE word from paragraph 4.

whisper: quietly: _____: loudly

D. rush

IX. Why is it fair to say that the statement "The art of being present... is becoming a lost skill" from paragraph 4 employs irony?

A. People are more connected digitally but less connected personally.

X. Assess the potential challenges OR benefits of unplugging from digital devices, as outlined in paragraph 5.

Benefit:

Unplugging from digital devices allows people to reconnect with real life, building meaningful, undistracted relationships and finding joy in genuine human connection. It helps reduce the distractions of constant notifications and increases the quality of personal interactions.

Challenge:

Disconnecting might be difficult for people who feel the need to stay connected for work or social obligations, potentially causing anxiety or a sense of missing out (FOMO).

2. Read the following carefully.

10

I. According to the introduction, what is the main focus of the study?

The main focus of the study is to explore the preference for sugary drinks versus water and fruit juices among different age groups and to understand the factors influencing these choices.

II. What would the following statement be classified as?

To explore beverage preferences across different age groups and understand the reasons behind them.

A. Primary purpose

III. Provide two reasons why sugary drinks were included as an option in the survey about beverage preferences.

1. Sugary drinks are a popular choice among certain age groups, particularly children and teenagers.
2. The study aims to understand the reasons behind the preference for sugary drinks, such as taste, convenience, and social influence.

IV. Classify the following sentences as 'influence' or 'motivation':

Sentence 1: Peer pressure encourages teenagers to opt for sugary drinks rather than healthier alternatives.

Influence

Sentence 2: Health awareness motivates adults to choose water over sugary drinks.

Motivation

V. Read the following:

Nina prefers having a cola while hanging out with friends. Ravi enjoys a glass of fresh orange juice with his breakfast every morning. Amit often chooses a cup of tea or water after a workout.

D. Nina – teenager; Ravi – young adult; Amit – elderly

VI. Why do seniors prefer water more than any other age group, according to the survey results?

Seniors prefer water due to health benefits, ease of digestion, and the importance of staying hydrated.

VII. How can understanding the diverse beverage preferences of different age groups lead to more effective health interventions?

Understanding beverage preferences across age groups allows health professionals to tailor educational campaigns and interventions that are more effective. For example, focusing on limiting sugary drinks for children and promoting healthier options like water and fruit juices for young adults and adults can lead to better long-term health outcomes.

VIII. What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders based on the insights from this study?

B. Promote healthier beverage choices

SECTION-B

CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 MARKS)

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

4

Option A: Guest Lecture on Climate Change

GREEN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL, DELHI

NOTICE

Date:

Guest Lecture on Climate Change

This is to inform all students that a guest lecture by the renowned environmentalist, [Name of the Environmentalist], will be held at Green Valley High School to raise awareness about climate change and its impact on our planet. The lecture aims to educate students about the urgency of combating climate change and the role we all play in protecting the environment.

Details of the Event:

Speaker: [Name of the Environmentalist]

Topic: Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

Date: [Insert Date]

Time: [Insert Time]

Venue: [Insert Venue]

Audience: Students of Green Valley High School

We encourage all students to attend the lecture and actively participate in the discussions that will follow. This is an excellent opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and insights on climate change and the environmental challenges we face today.

Arjun/Meera

Event Coordinator

OR

Option B: Workshop on Digital Safety and Online Etiquette

SUNRISE PUBLIC SCHOOL, HYDERABAD

NOTICE

Date: [Insert Date]

Workshop on Digital Safety and Online Etiquette

This is to inform all students that a workshop on "Digital Safety and Online Etiquette" will be conducted at Sunrise Public School. The objective of this workshop is to educate students about the importance of responsible online behavior, protecting their privacy, and practicing good online manners. The workshop will also cover the potential risks of the digital world and how to navigate them safely.

Details of the Event:

Trainer: [Insert Name of the Trainer]

Topic: Digital Safety and Online Etiquette

Date: [Insert Date]

Time: [Insert Time]

Venue: [Insert Venue]

Audience: Students of Sunrise Public School

We request all students to attend the workshop and gain valuable knowledge on how to stay safe online and practice responsible digital behavior.

Aniket/Priya

Event Coordinator

4. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words.

4

Option A: Invitation to Local Community Leaders for Annual Day Celebration

Blue Ridge School, Pune

Invitation to Local Community Leaders for Annual Day Celebration

Date: [Insert Date]

Dear [Name of the Community Leader],

On behalf of the Headmaster, staff, and students of Blue Ridge School, Pune, I am pleased to invite you to our Annual Day Celebration, which will be held on [Insert Date] at [Insert Time]. The event promises to be an exciting and memorable occasion, showcasing the talents and achievements of our students throughout the year.

Key Highlights of the Celebration:

Cultural Performances: A series of dance, drama, and music performances by our students.

Prize Distribution: Acknowledging the hard work and dedication of students in academics, sports, and extracurricular activities.

Special Guests: Distinguished individuals from various fields will grace the occasion.

As our esteemed community leaders, your presence would add great value to the event and inspire both our students and teachers. Your support and encouragement mean a great deal to us, and we would be honored to have you with us on this important day.

Please RSVP by [Insert Date] to confirm your attendance. We look forward to celebrating this joyous occasion with you.

Warm regards,

[Your Name]

Head of the PTA, Blue Ridge School

Pune

[Contact Details]

OR

Option B: Formal Reply Declining Invitation to Speak at Conference

[Your Address]

[City, Date]

Dear [Organizer's Name],

I hope this message finds you well. Thank you for your kind invitation to speak at the upcoming conference on "Innovations in Education." I truly appreciate the opportunity to contribute to such a significant event.

However, due to prior commitments that require my attention during the dates of the conference, I regret to inform you that I will not be able to participate as a speaker. I understand the importance of the topics to be discussed, and I wish you and the organizers every success in making the event a great success.

I hope there will be other opportunities in the future for us to collaborate, and I wish you all the best with your ongoing efforts to promote advancements in education.

Warm regards,

Prof. Rajesh Khanna

Expert in Educational Technology

5. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 120-150 words.

5

Option A: Letter to the Commissioner of Police Regarding Rising Incidents of Theft

45, Green Park, Mumbai

[Date]

The Commissioner of Police,

Mumbai Police Headquarters,

Mumbai

Subject: Request for Increased Patrolling Due to Rising Incidents of Theft in Green Park Area

Dear Sir,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am Rohan/Radhika, a resident of Green Park, Mumbai, and I would like to bring to your attention a concerning issue regarding the rising incidents of theft in our locality.

Over the past few weeks, there has been a noticeable increase in thefts, especially during the night. Many of our neighbours have reported stolen items, including bikes, electronics, and personal belongings. These incidents have created an atmosphere of fear and insecurity among the residents, especially considering that the area is relatively calm and peaceful during the day.

Despite our efforts to remain vigilant, the frequency of these thefts is alarming. Therefore, I would like to kindly request that the Mumbai Police increase patrolling in the Green Park area, particularly at night, to deter criminal activity and ensure the safety of the residents. Additionally, any measures to increase awareness or surveillance would be greatly appreciated.

I trust that the police department will take prompt action to address this issue and restore a sense of security in our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Rohan/Radhika

45, Green Park

Mumbai

Option B: Application for Software Developer Position at XYZ Tech Solutions

78, Dadar West, Mumbai

[Date]

The HR Manager,

XYZ Tech Solutions,

50, Andheri East, Mumbai

Subject: Application for the Position of Software Developer

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this letter finds you in good health. I am writing to apply for the position of Software Developer at XYZ Tech Solutions, as advertised. With a degree in Computer Science and extensive experience in software development, I am confident in my ability to contribute to your team.

I have completed my Bachelor's in Computer Science from [University Name] and have worked as a Software Developer at [Current/Previous Company Name], where I was responsible for developing and maintaining web applications, troubleshooting issues, and collaborating with cross-functional teams. My skills include proficiency in programming languages such as Java, Python, and JavaScript, and experience with frameworks like React and Angular. I am also well-versed in working with databases like MySQL and MongoDB.

Enclosed with this letter is my detailed resume, which provides further information on my qualifications and work experience. I am very enthusiastic about the opportunity to join XYZ Tech Solutions and believe my technical expertise, problem-solving skills, and dedication to innovation will allow me to make a valuable contribution to your organization.

I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss how my skills and experiences align with the needs of your company. Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Arjun/Aarushi

78, Dadar West

Mumbai

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in 120-150 words.

5

Option A: Article on the Importance of Sustainable Living and How Individuals Can Contribute

The Importance of Sustainable Living and How Individuals Can Contribute

Sustainable living is a lifestyle that seeks to reduce the environmental impact of human activities. In the face of rapid climate change, environmental degradation, and the depletion of natural resources, adopting a sustainable lifestyle has become more crucial than ever. Sustainable living not only conserves resources but also ensures the well-being of future generations.

One of the most significant ways individuals can contribute to sustainable living is by reducing their carbon footprint. Simple actions like using public transport, carpooling, walking, or cycling instead of driving can significantly lower emissions. Additionally, choosing renewable energy sources, such as solar power, reduces dependence on fossil fuels, thereby combating global warming.

Another important aspect is reducing waste. By practicing recycling, reusing products, and composting organic waste, individuals can significantly cut down on the amount of waste that ends up in landfills. Moreover, adopting a plant-based diet or reducing meat consumption can help lower the environmental strain caused by factory farming and deforestation.

Buying locally-produced goods, supporting eco-friendly brands, and opting for minimal packaging also play a vital role in reducing environmental harm. Furthermore, making informed choices when it comes to water and energy usage — such as fixing leaks and using energy-efficient appliances — can lead to more sustainable living.

In conclusion, sustainable living is not just a responsibility but a necessity for preserving the planet. By making small yet impactful changes in our daily habits, we can all contribute to a greener, healthier future.

Option B: Report on Illegal Trade of Rare Animals on Websites

Illegal Trade of Rare Animals Flourishes on the Web

Reporter: [Your Name]

India Today

Mumbai, [Date]: A disturbing trend has surfaced as several websites are found to be involved in the illegal trade of rare and endangered animals, often in violation of wildlife protection laws. These websites, operating in the shadows of the internet, are selling exotic animals, including tigers, leopards, and various species of birds, for high prices.

The process is often hidden under the guise of legitimate pet sales, with minimal regulation or checks. Many sellers exploit loopholes in digital platforms to offer these animals to buyers across the country. Experts warn that this illegal trade is not only harming biodiversity but also putting these species at further risk of extinction.

Authorities are increasingly concerned about the growing trend, urging stricter monitoring and regulation of online sales platforms. Efforts to crack down on these illegal transactions are being ramped up, but experts agree that awareness and public vigilance are key to stopping this illicit trade. The public is urged to report suspicious activities and support the conservation of wildlife by refraining from participating in these illegal markets.

SECTION C

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two-A or B

Option A: "Now we will count to twelve"

i. Why is the poet asking the people not to speak?

The poet asks people not to speak in order to create a moment of stillness and silence. This silence is meant to encourage reflection, a break from the constant noise and activities, providing a chance to pause and consider the world and human actions.

ii. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion: The poet urges people to pause and embrace silence and stillness for a moment.

Reason: The poet believes that by stopping all activity and speech, even for a short time, humanity can reflect on its actions.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship:

(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

iii. Complete the following suitably.

“Not move our arms” in the given extract refers to avoiding unnecessary physical movement, staying still, and being fully present in the moment.

iv. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.

During counting to twelve, the poet wants us to remain quiet.

v. Which poetic form has been used in the given extract?

The poetic form used in this extract is free verse, as it does not follow a consistent meter or rhyme scheme.

vi. Select the option that is NOT true.

(D) We should always remain lazy.

This statement is NOT true. The poet encourages stillness for reflection, not laziness.

OR

Option B: "When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie"

i. Identify the figure of speech in ‘terrified hands’.

(A) Transferred epithet – The word “terrified” is typically used for a person, but it is transferred to describe Aunt Jennifer’s hands, which represent her emotional state.

ii. Which issue is the poet addressing through this poem?

The poet addresses the issue of oppression of women and how Aunt Jennifer's life was constrained by the patriarchal society. The poem reflects the struggle faced by women under male dominance.

iii. Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blank.

The rhyming scheme of the poem is (aabb).

iv. Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion: Even after Aunt Jennifer's death, the tigers she created will continue to symbolize freedom and fearlessness.

Reason: The tigers represent Aunt Jennifer's inner strength and confidence, which she displayed in her life through her actions.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship:

(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

v. Aunt Jennifer's life is ringed with ordeals. 'Ringed' has a significant meaning here. What is it?

The word "ringed" suggests that Aunt Jennifer's life was surrounded or constrained by her struggles and challenges, particularly those imposed by societal expectations and patriarchy.

vi. Aunt Jennifer faced ordeals from the oppressive male _____ society.

patriarchal society.

8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (A) or (B)

Option A: "On the Face of It"

i. Why does Mr. Lamb always keep the gate of his garden open?

Mr. Lamb keeps the gate of his garden open to welcome anyone who wants to come in, offering hospitality and a sense of openness. It reflects his inclusive and friendly nature.

ii. What does the phrase 'gate's always open' show about the speaker?

The phrase "gate's always open" shows that the speaker, Mr. Lamb, is genial and open-minded. He is welcoming and enjoys having people around, emphasizing his friendly and approachable nature.

iii. The extract shows the speaker to be _____.

(B) genial – Mr. Lamb is friendly, kind-hearted, and welcoming to everyone.

iv. Name the writer of the given extract.

The writer of the given extract is Susan Hill.

OR

Option B: "The Third Level"

i. Why did the narrator go to a psychiatrist?

The narrator, Charley, went to a psychiatrist because he was trying to make sense of his experience with the third level at Grand Central Station. He wanted an explanation for the strange and seemingly unreal event.

ii. What is 'waking dream wish fulfillment' according to the psychiatrist in the lesson?

(B) Charley's realization of his wish to visit Galesburg, Illinois.

The psychiatrist explained that the third level was a manifestation of Charley's subconscious wish to escape to a peaceful and simpler life in Galesburg, Illinois, through a "waking dream" state.

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The third level, according to Charley, was a mysterious, magical, and hidden gateway to the past, specifically to a peaceful, more ideal time in Galesburg.

iv. What does the psychiatrist explain to Charley?

The psychiatrist explains that the third level at Grand Central Station is a waking dream wish fulfillment, meaning that Charley is subconsciously seeking an escape from the modern world's insecurities, worries, and chaos.

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, A or B.

Option A: "Deep Water"

i. Why did the nine feet deep pool seem ninety to Douglas?

The nine feet deep pool seemed like ninety feet to Douglas because he was overwhelmed with fear and panic. His perception of the depth was distorted due to his fear, making it feel much deeper than it actually was.

ii. The expression "I imagined I would bob to the surface like a cork" implies that:

(C) Though Douglas was frightened he was not out of his wits.

The expression shows that despite his fear, Douglas still thought logically, expecting to rise to the surface easily, like a cork does in water.

iii. Pick the word from the given extract which means to 'make a quick, short movement up and down.

The word is "bob." It means to move quickly up and down, like a cork in water.

iv. What does the speaker mean by "I summoned all my strength"?

(D) All of these.

"Summoned all my strength" means that Douglas called up, accumulated, and gathered all of his strength in an attempt to rise from the water.

v. Where did the given event take place?

The event took place in a pool.

vi. 'It seemed a long way down. What was the author referring to?

The author was referring to the depth of the pool and how it felt much deeper than it actually was due to his fear.

Option B: "Gandhiji's Conflict of Duties"

i. List any two details about Gandhiji discussed in the extract.

Gandhiji was involved in a 'conflict of duties'—not wanting to set a bad example as a lawbreaker, but also feeling compelled to fulfill his humanitarian and national service.

Gandhiji disobeyed the order to leave not out of disrespect for lawful authority, but in obedience to a higher moral law, his conscience.

ii. Why did Gandhiji call fighting for the rights of the poor farmers ‘national service’?

(B) Because the plight of the sharecroppers was the same throughout the country.

Gandhiji saw it as a national service because the issues faced by the sharecroppers were not isolated to Champaran but represented a widespread problem in the country.

iii. What was the consequence of the court proceeding?

The consequence of the court proceeding was that Gandhiji was found guilty of disobeying the law, but he was also acknowledged for his moral stance in support of the farmers' rights.

iv. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that Gandhiji disobeyed the authority.

The evidence is in the line: “He disregarded the order to leave, not ‘for want of respect for lawful authority, but in obedience to the higher law of our being, the voice of conscience.’”

This shows Gandhiji disobeyed the authority due to his personal conscience, not disrespect for the law.

v. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract?

(B) Gandhiji – a humanitarian and nationalist

The extract highlights Gandhiji's role in fighting for the rights of farmers and following his conscience, which makes him a humanitarian and nationalist.

vi. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The ‘conflict of duties’ refers to the dilemma Gandhiji faced between respecting the law and acting in accordance with his moral conscience to fight for the rights of the farmers.

10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40 50 words each: 5 X 2 = 10

i. Why did the author appear to be doing nothing at the studios?

The author seemed to be doing nothing at the studio because he was deeply absorbed in his thoughts and was not actively participating in any visible work. He was possibly reflecting on something or dealing with a personal dilemma that made him appear inactive, though in reality, he was engaged mentally.

ii. Why was Edla happy to see the gift left by the peddler?

Edla was happy to see the gift left by the peddler because it showed that he had a sense of gratitude and respect for her kindness. The gift, which was a gift of value (a worn-out, but meaningful one), demonstrated that the peddler appreciated the hospitality and care she had shown him, especially after he had been treated with suspicion by others.

iii. Why are the young trees described as ‘sprinting’?

The young trees are described as ‘sprinting’ to convey their rapid growth and lively nature. The metaphor suggests that the trees are growing quickly, symbolizing the energy and vitality of youth, almost as if they are racing or moving with vigor, full of life and promise.

iv. Describe the endless fountain of immortal drink.

The "endless fountain of immortal drink" refers to the life-giving, ever-flowing source of nature's vitality. In this context, it can symbolize the continuous and eternal nourishment that nature provides, like water from a never-ending fountain. It could also represent the joy and beauty of life that sustains and enriches the human spirit.

v. Why did Aunt Jennifer choose to embroider tigers on the panel?

Aunt Jennifer chose to embroider tigers on the panel because they symbolized strength, fearlessness, and freedom. The tigers represented the qualities that Aunt Jennifer longed for in her own life but could not attain due to the constraints and struggles she faced, particularly from an oppressive male-dominated society.

vi. What does the title 'Lost Spring' convey?

The title "Lost Spring" conveys the loss of childhood and innocence, especially for children who are forced to work instead of experiencing the carefree and joyous moments of youth. It reflects the plight of children who are deprived of their right to education and a happy, healthy childhood, as they are made to work in difficult conditions. The title captures the essence of these children's lost opportunities to enjoy a spring-like phase of their life.

11. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40 50 words each: 2 X 2 = 4

i. "But this eating by formula was not the hardest trial in that first day", says Zitkala-Sa. What does she mean by 'eating by formula'?

In this context, 'eating by formula' refers to a rigid, unfamiliar, and mechanical way of eating that was imposed on Zitkala-Sa in the boarding school. She describes how the food was served in a prescribed manner, with rules and strict protocols to follow, such as the way it had to be eaten, and the unappetizing quality of the food. This was a stark contrast to the natural way she ate in her own Native American culture. The phrase reflects the oppressive and foreign nature of the school's rules, which were imposed on the students without regard for their individual cultural backgrounds.

ii. Why did the booking clerk refuse to accept the money from Charley?

The booking clerk refused to accept the money from Charley because Charley was trying to buy a ticket for the third-level at Grand Central Station, a place that was not part of the current, real-world version of the station. The clerk believed Charley was making a mistake, as he was trying to pay for something that didn't exist in the present time. The third-level was part of Charley's imagination or a kind of time-traveling escape, and it was not a recognized or legitimate destination for train tickets in the modern world.

iii. How did the Maharaja devote himself to realizing his ambition? How far did he succeed?

In "The Tiger King", the Maharaja is obsessed with killing 100 tigers to secure his rule. He devotes all his efforts to this goal, using his power to hunt and manipulate others. He succeeds in killing 99 tigers but is eventually killed by a stuffed tiger, fulfilling a prophecy. His obsession with achieving a number leads to his downfall, showing that unchecked ambition can bring ruin instead of success.

12. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 1 X 5 = 5

A. Address to High School Students on Exploitation and Gandhiji's Campaign

Good morning, students!

Exploitation has been a universal issue throughout history. In the past, we saw the British landlords exploit the poor indigo farmers in India, and Gandhiji led a powerful campaign against this injustice. He taught us that true strength lies in non-violent resistance and the power of unity. His campaigns not only aimed to end physical exploitation but also raised awareness about the mental and social effects of injustice.

Even today, exploitation continues in various forms, especially among unorganized laborers who suffer from unfair wages, lack of rights, and poor working conditions. The values Gandhiji instilled—courage, equality, and non-violence—remain relevant today. By standing together and voicing against such exploitation, we can create a society where justice prevails. So, let us all adopt Gandhiji's principles of fairness and fight for a world free of exploitation.

Thank you.

OR

B. Article on the Harmful Effects of Dreaming and Unrealistic Aspirations

In today's fast-paced world, dreaming big is often seen as the key to success. Sophie, from "Going Places," is a perfect example of how young minds live in their fantasies, dreaming of a glamorous future. While dreaming is important for motivation and setting goals, it can sometimes lead to harm if it detaches us from reality.

Sophie's dreams of becoming famous are unrealistic, and she fails to understand the hard work and struggle required to achieve success. Similarly, many of today's youth get caught up in fantasies without considering the reality of their situation. They dream of becoming rich or famous without putting in the necessary effort, which can lead to frustration and disappointment.

While it is important to have dreams, we must balance them with practicality. Dreams should inspire action, not create unrealistic expectations. The key is to dream big, but also work hard and stay grounded in reality.

Thank you.

13. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words

1 X 5 = 5

A. Knowing too much of your future is never a good thing - In the context of "The Tiger King"

In The Tiger King, the king's obsession with the prediction made by the royal astrologer about his death at the hands of a tiger ultimately leads to his downfall. The quote "Knowing too much of your future is never a good thing" reflects how the king's foreknowledge of his future influenced his decisions in harmful ways. Once the king learns that he would die due to a tiger, his obsession with avoiding this fate drives him to kill as many tigers as possible, believing that eliminating all tigers would somehow outsmart fate.

Ironically, his relentless pursuit of this goal ultimately results in his death. It is not a tiger, but a tiger's claw, embedded in a stuffed tiger, that causes his demise when he is injured while handling the taxidermy. This tragic end shows that knowing too much about the future can limit one's actions and prevent them from living freely. It makes one overly cautious, sometimes leading them to act irrationally, as seen in the king's case. His fate was sealed by his obsession with escaping what he already knew was inevitable, proving that sometimes ignorance of the future might actually be a blessing.

OR

B. "Eating by formula" in Cutting of my Long Hair by Zitkala-Sa

In the chapter Cutting of My Long Hair from Zitkala-Sa's autobiographical work, "eating by formula" refers to the regimented and mechanical manner in which the young Zitkala-Sa was forced to eat during her first day at the boarding school. The term "formula" implies a set routine or system imposed on her, where the individuality of the experience was stripped away.

For Zitkala-Sa, this experience was a hard trial because it symbolized the loss of her freedom and cultural identity. She was used to eating at home in a natural, comforting way, but at the school, everything, including eating, was regimented and controlled. The food was bland and tasteless, and the rules surrounding the act of eating were foreign and dehumanizing to her. This process of being forced into a uniform way of eating became a metaphor for the larger cultural assimilation and loss of identity that she had to endure at the boarding school. For Zitkala-Sa, the emotional pain of being forced into this "formula" was worse than the physical discomfort it caused. It represented the systematic suppression of her individuality and culture.