



PRINCE ACADEMY

OF HIGHER EDUCATION

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BOARD SAMPLE PAPER - III (2025-26)

SUBJECT :- ENGLISH CORE (301)

Time : 03:00 Hours

CLASS - XII

M.M. 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

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

1. By 2025, two-thirds of the world's population may face acute water shortage, according to a 2018 data by the United Nations. The problem could be compounded in the face of climate change, which is altering patterns of weather around the world, causing shortages and droughts in some areas and floods in others.

2. Thanks to technology, countries worldwide have adopted some way or the other to meet their water needs. Desalination of sea and brackish water is one of them. A total of 177 countries run desalination plants to extract freshwater, with many entirely dependent on such plants to meet their everyday demands. However, the desalination process has its own shortcomings. The primary by-product of desalination process is brine, which is usually pumped back into the sea. The salty, toxic brine sinks to the seafloor and wreaks havoc on marine ecosystem, by reducing dissolved oxygen levels and spiking salt content.

3. A recent UN-backed study has found that global brine production is 50% higher than previous estimates. The study said that 16,000 desalination plants worldwide pump out 142 million cubic metres of salty brine every day, to produce 95 million cubic metres of freshwater. About 55% of the brine is produced by plants in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, according to the study.

4. Due to its energy consumption, desalination is a costly affair. Currently, approximately 1% of the world's population is dependent on desalinated water to meet daily needs. A number of small countries, such as the Maldives, Malta and the Bahamas, meet all their water needs through the desalination process. There's been a major expansion of desalination plants around the world over the last few years.

5. Brine has high salinity compared to the same amount of seawater. It also often includes chemicals such as chlorine and copper used in desalination, which, when let into the sea, proves toxic to marine life. Brine is denser than typical seawater and sinks to the seafloor. High salinity (coupled with high sea temperature) can cut levels of oxygen in seawater with profound impact on shellfish, crabs and other creatures on the seabed, leading to ecological effects observable throughout the food chain.

Instead of letting the brine into the sea, it could be used for some good purposes, say scientists. They believe that a large number of metals and salts in the effluent, including uranium, strontium, sodium and magnesium have the potential to be mined. Brine has also been successfully used to cultivate the dietary supplement spirulina (a type of cyanobacteria that grows in both fresh and salt water and has many health benefits). Salt from brine can be used for de-icing-removing ice and snow on the road. The salt dissolves into the liquid water in the ice and lowers its freezing point.

The Hindu in School (Edited)

Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.

(12 Marks)

(i) Select the option that is the most appropriate in the context of the first paragraph. (1 Mark)

- (a) Climate change has already caused acute water shortage in the world.
- (b) Climate change may worsen the availability of fresh water in the world.
- (c) Climate change is triggered by the alternation of droughts and water shortages, and floods
- (d) Climate changes may become unmanageable by the year 2025.

(ii) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1 Mark)

Pumping brine back into the sea is a very bad idea because

(iii) Select the option that is similar in meaning to the expression 'wreaks havoc'. (1 Mark)

- (a) greatly disturbs
- (b) poses a threat to
- (c) severely damages
- (d) slowly poisons

(iv) Which of the following options BEST completes the statement below? (1 Mark)

A rise in the number of desalination plants is indicative of

- (a) mankind's growing dependence on technology
- (b) falling availability of potable fresh water worldwide
- (c) a rise in demand for packaged purified water worldwide
- (d) improved health awareness in the world

(v) Complete the sentence appropriately with suitable information from the passage. (1 Mark)

One major drawback of the desalination process is that it is detrimental to the sea eco-system. The other drawback is

(vi) Explain, in about 40 words, how brine is different from the ordinary sea water. (2 Marks)

(vii) Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words, to support the view that the problem of excessive brine from water desalination plants can be solved in an environment-friendly way.

(2 Marks)

(viii) How does the following, impact the reader, whose fresh water needs are fulfilled round the year through rivers, ponds and ground water? Answer in about 40 words. (2 Marks)

(ix) Read the five titles (A) to (E) given below. (1 Mark)

(A) CHANGING CLIMATE AND WEATHER PATTERNS

(B) DESALINATION AT WHAT COST?

(C) DROUGHT AND FLOOD PRONE AREAS OF THE WORLD

(D) THIRST COMES FIRST

(E) WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE!

Identify the option that displays the title(s) that IS/ARE SUITABLE for the passage.

(a) Only (A) (b) (B) and (D) (c) (C) and (D) (d) Only (E)

2. Read the following text. (10 Marks)

1. Human trafficking, defined as the illegal trade of humans most commonly for the purposes of sexual slavery and forced labour, currently claims an estimated 24.9 million victims worldwide, and the Global Slavery Index estimates that 8 million trafficking victims live within India's borders. In 2016, there were 8,132 human trafficking cases reported in India, a 20 percent increase from 2015, and there were 23,117 people rescued from the human trafficking system.

2. Of the people rescued, 60 per cent were children, women and girls accounted for 55 per cent, 33 per cent were trafficked for sexual services, and 45 per cent were trafficked for forced labour. While much of the global pervasiveness of human trafficking can be explained only by extreme poverty, political instability and war, the causes of human trafficking in India are more nuanced.

3. Another cause of human trafficking in India is a lack of opportunity in India's poor communities, especially for uneducated women, to provide for their families. In 2012, only 43 per cent of women in India worked on regular wage or salaried positions. Victims of sex trafficking in India are predominantly young, illiterate girls from impoverished families in rural states. Although poverty is decreasing in India, 28 per cent of the population still lives below the poverty line.

4. Poor communities are especially vulnerable to human traffickers, as they often offer better job opportunities or debt relief to lure victims. With limited opportunities to make money, offers like these are hard to decline for young women. Sex trafficking victims average 10 to 14 years of age, down from its previous average of 14 to 16, because younger girls are thought to be less likely to carry sexually-transmitted diseases.

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

(i) What is India's share of human trafficking victims? (1 Marks)

(a) Three times the annual increase in the world figures

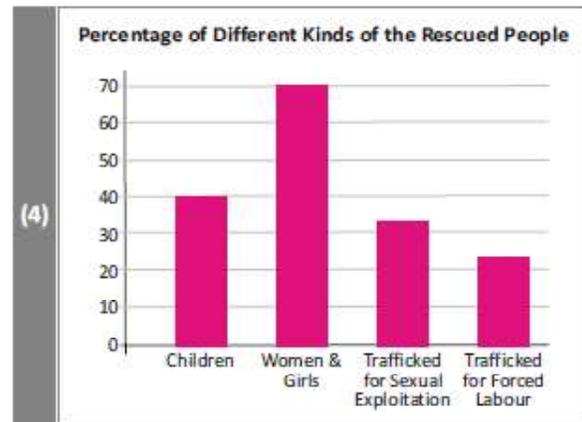
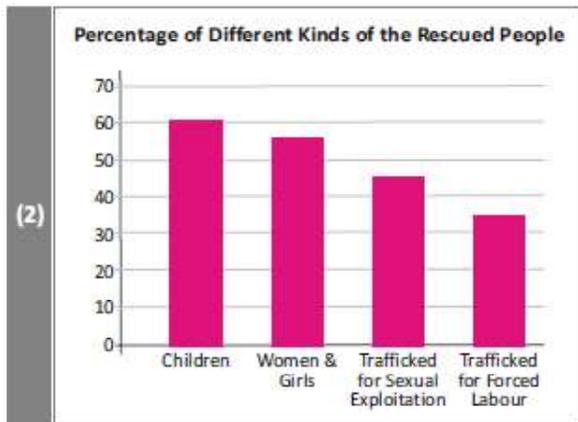
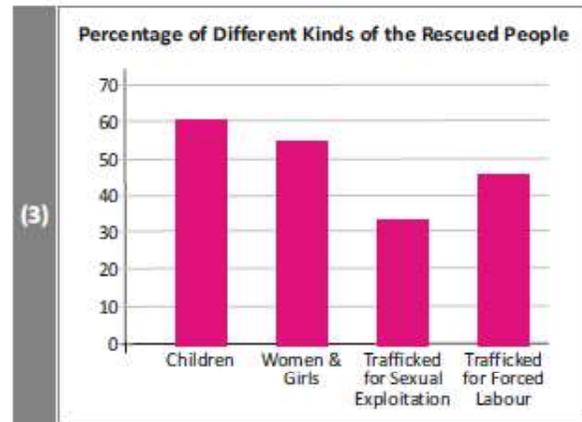
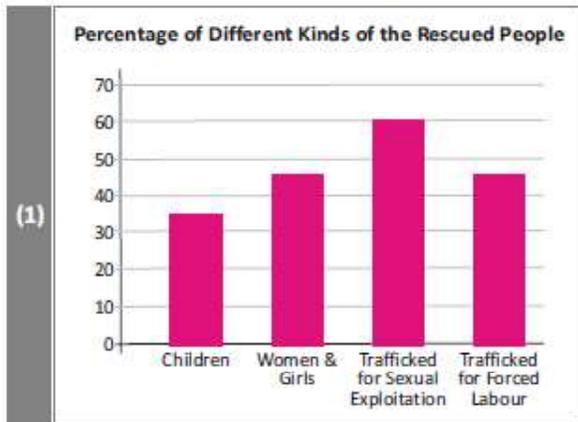
(b) Close to two-thirds of the world figures

(c) Nearly one-third of the world figures

(d) Just under one fourth of the world figures

(ii) Does the author have a bias against India in his discussion on human trafficking in the country? Answer in about 40 words. (2 Marks)

(iii) Which of the following options correctly matches the figures of the percentage of the different categories of the rescued people? (1 Mark)



(a) Option 1 (b) Option 2 (c) Option 3 (d) Option 4

(iv) What does the author actually mean to say when he says. “The causes of human trafficking in India are more nuanced”? (1 Mark)

(v) Choose the option correctly lists the causes of human trafficking in the world, as mentioned in paragraphs 1 to 3 of the passage. (1 Mark)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. War | 2. Underworld crime syndicates |
| 3. Sexual exploitation | 4. Political instability |
| 5. Unemployment | 6. Forced labour |
| 7. Extreme poverty | 8. Illiteracy |

(a) All except 1 (b) All except 5 (c) All except 2 (d) All except 7

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1 Mark)

One positive point mentioned in paragraph 3 is

(vii) Select evidence from the text, in about 40 words, to support the view that the more illiterate and poor someone is, the more likely he/she is prone to becoming a victim of human trafficking. (2 Marks)

(viii) Say TRUE or FALSE. (1 Mark)

There has been a positive change in the average age of sex-trafficking victims.

Section - B (Creative Writing Skills 18 Marks)

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

3. **Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. (4 Marks)**

A. You are Vani Limbu, the President of the Skiing Club of Sikkim Public School, Gangtok. Write a notice, in about 50 words, for the school notice board, informing the students of classes IX to XII about a skiing camp for beginners and inviting them to join it. Include details like the dates, time and venue of the camp and the applicable fee. Also mention where and when the interested candidates can register themselves.

OR

B. You are Rajat Nathaniel, the Principal of Palampur Senior Secondary School, Palampur, Himachal Pradesh. Write a notice for the student notice board, in about 50 words, informing the students of classes XI and XII about a tour to Tamil Nadu and Puducherry in the forthcoming winter break. Invite the students to join the tour and give details like the duration of the tours, some worth seeing places and tour charges. Say when, where and how students can register for the tour.

4. **Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. (4 Marks)**

A. Your cousin Manya Khandelwal is getting married to Pushkar Roy (son of Dr Christopher Roy and Mrs Sheila Roy of Chandigarh). On behalf of Manya's parents Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Khandelwal, draft a formal invitation to her wedding. Invent the necessary details like the date, time and venue of the wedding, hosts' address and RSVP.

OR

B. You are Angelina Crowley, a friend of Manya Khandelwal. You have received an invitation to her wedding. Write a formal reply to it expressing your acceptance in about 50 words.

5. **Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. (5 Marks)**

A. Write a letter to the Editor of The Hindu, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, ITO, New Delhi-110002, expressing your opinion on the issue of stubble burning by the farmers in North India and suggest some practical and eco-friendly ways of dealing with the problem.

Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter. You are Ranjit Singh, a concerned city resident.

Disadvantages of stubble burning

- * emits toxic pollutants.
- * affects soil fertility
- * destroys nutrients in the soil
- * increases soil erosion

Eco-friendly solutions

- * use of happy seeders that can uproot the stubble
- * use of bio-enzymes that decompose stubble and turn it into manure

OR

B. You wish to apply to one of the positions in the following employment notice. Write a cover letter and a CV for it.

In your cover letter, you should:

- * introduce yourself and express your interest in one of the positions
- * list some reasons why you should be hired
- * express your willingness to attend a phone interview, and training on selection
- * say your CV is attached to the cover letter

**WE ARE
HIRING
NOW!**

OPEN POSITIONS

Sales boys/girls to manage sales registers/machines, assistant chefs (wraps, pizzas, burgers, fries and soft drinks) and cleanliness assistants.

Young school boys and girls at least 16 years of age can apply for short time and part time jobs at our new chain of fast food restaurants **Food-Mood** in all the major cities of India.

The candidate should be at least a matriculate and should have basic knowledge of computers.

APPLY NOW!

Send the latest CV with a cover letter through e-mail to Manager HR at hiringsolutions@empex.com



In your CV, you should include the following:

- * Your name
- * Your address - postal address, e-mail, phone number
- * A statement of your current career objective
- * A description of any job experience
- * Some personal qualities and attributes that can get you selected
- * Educational qualifications
- * Information about your hobbies, interests and travel
- * Personal details like date of birth, family, health etc.

6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. (5 Marks)

A. Road Safety is one of the top priorities of the government, for accidents result in the incalculable loss of lives and property. Ensuring road safety is not just a government responsibility but also a sacred duty of road users pedestrians, commuters, motorists, transporters and drivers.

As a columnist for India's Road Safety e-zine, write an article in about 120-150 words on the theme "Road Safety Begins with Me".

Support your views with the cues given below:

- * Use bicycles and ride in bicycle lanes
- * Walk safely on the footpath-it's for pedestrians
- * Follow the traffic signals and rules
- * Reduce car use
- * Be alert and avoid distraction
- * Give way for emergency services
- * Walk as much as you can
- * Save fuel, save environment
- * Always keep vehicles road-worthy

OR

B. Road Safety is one of the top priorities of the government, for accidents result in the incalculable loss of lives and property. Your school recently observed a Road Safety Week in collaboration with the District Traffic Police.

As a student correspondent of your school magazine 'The Sentinel', write a report in 120-150 words reporting the various activities carried out by the school students during the week.

Including the following points in your report:

- * Inauguration by Nilesh Shrivastav, IPS, DCP, Traffic
- * Road Show
- * Poster Making Competition on Road Safety
- * A written Test of Road Signs
- * A Short Film on Road Safety
- * Road Safety Declamation Contest
- * Conclusion: Bicycle Rally flagged off by the Chief Guest
- * Vote of thanks by the Principal

Section - C Literature Textbook and Supplementary Reading Text (40 Marks)

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

A. 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 expression 'her face ashen like that of a corpse' is an example of literary device called (1 Mark)

(ii) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1 Mark)

The expression 'her face ashen like that of a corpse' is apt analogy for the poet's mother's face because

(iii) Bring out the element of contrast in the imagery in this extract. (1 Mark)

(iv) 'Put that thought away.' Which of the following options BEST describes the thought that the poet had? (1 Mark)

(a) "Is she too tired and fast asleep."

(b) "It's hard to believe she gave birth to me."

(c) "I think I should have spent more time with her."

(d) "At her age God knows when I may lose her."

(v) Select the word that will NOT complete the sentence appropriately. (1 Mark)

The description of the mother in this extract evokes a feeling of

(a) sadness

(b) hope

(c) worry

(d) fear

(vi) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE with reference to the extract. (1 Mark)

The expression "Trees sprinting" actually describes an optical illusion the poet has while driving her car.

OR

B. When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie

Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.

The tigers in the panel that she made
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

- (i) What is Aunt Jennifer's state of mind while she is still alive?
- (ii) Choose the option that displays the same poetic device as used in the first line of the extract.
 - (a) I bring fresh showers for the thirsting flowers.
 - (b) The fog comes on little cat feet.
 - (c) I felt butterflies in my stomach.
 - (d) The prisoner was transferred to the condemned cell.
- (iii) State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE.

There is an element of pity and regret in the poet's tone in this extract.

- (iv) Infer what the phrase 'ringed with ordeals' as used in the above extract means.
- (v) According to the second line, the relationship between Aunt Jennifer and her husband was more like the relationship between
 - (a) a pet animal and his/her loving owner
 - (b) a wild animal and a human
 - (c) a circus animal and a ring master
 - (d) an abandoned animal and his/her adoptive human
- (vi) Bring out the element of contrast in the extract.

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (4 Marks)

A. Annan told me all these things. And he added, "Because we are born into this community, we are never given any honour or dignity or respect; we are stripped of all that. But if we study and make progress, we can throw away these indignities. So study with care, learn all you can. If you are always ahead in your lessons, people will come to you of their own accord and attach themselves to you. Work hard and learn." The words that Annan spoke to me that day made a very deep impression on me. And I studied hard, with all my breath and being, in a frenzy almost. As Annan had urged, I stood first in my class. And because of that, many people became my friends.

(i) The extract deals with the practice of on the basis of as it has been practised in many parts of the country.

- (a) power, wealth
- (b) reservation; merit
- (c) bigotry; religion
- (d) discrimination; community

(ii) According to the narrator, what is the solution to all the ills of the society that people like her are subjected to?

(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately.

By following Annan's advice, the narrator was able to

(iv) List any two traits of the narrator's character as evident in the extract.

OR

B. DERRY I hate it here.

MOTHER: You can't help the things you say. I forgive you. It's bound to make you feel bad things...and say them. I don't blame you.

DERRY: It's got nothing to do with my face and what I look like. I don't care about that and it isn't Important it's what I think and feel and what I want to see and find out and hear And I am going back there. Only to help him with the crab apples. Only to look at things and listen. But I'm going.

MOTHER : You'll stop here.

DERRY : Oh no, oh no. Because if I don't go back there, I'll never go anywhere in this world again.

[The door slams. Derry runs, panting.]

And I want the world... I want it...I want it.....

[The sound of his panting fades.]

(i) According to this extract, what is most important to Derry to consider at the moment?

- (a) What others say about him
 - (b) How he looks with his scarred face
 - (c) What he needs to explore and experience in life
 - (d) How he can be of help to Mr. Lamb
- (ii) Complete the sentence appropriately.

When Derry remarks, "I'll never go anywhere in this world again", he means to say that

(iii) List one character trait each of Derry and his mother as evident in this extract.

(iv) What is Derry's state of mind in the last three or four lines of the extract?

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

A. My last French lesson! Why, I hardly knew how to write! I should never learn any more! I must stop there, then! Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons, for seeking birds' eggs, or going sliding on the Saar! My books, that had seemed such a nuisance a while ago, so heavy to carry, my grammar, and my history of the saints, were old friends now that I couldn't give up. And M. Hamel, too; the idea that he was going away, that I should never see him again, made me forget all about his ruler and how cranky he was.

(i) This extract reads like a/an

- (a) aside
- (b) monologue
- (c) soliloquy
- (d) apostrophe

(ii) Select the option that BEST describes the narrator's state of mind 'before' he realized that he was about to attend his last French lesson and 'after' the announcement made by M. Hamel, his teacher.

- (a) Pensive → Relieved
- (b) Thoughtful → Miserable
- (c) Ungrateful → Grateful
- (d) Careless → Remorseful

(iii) Identify the phrase in the extract that suggests that the teacher used to punish his student.

(iv) Which of the following brings out the message or the central idea of the extract?

- (a) "It's better to regret something you have done than to regret something you haven't done."
- (b) "We often value people and things when we have already lost them."
- (c) "Only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."
- (d) "It's no use to cry over the spilt milk."

(v) Why do you think the writer has compared his books to 'old friends' that he could not give up?

(vi) Why was M. Hamel going away?

OR

B. Early in the Champaran action, Charles Freer Andrews, the English pacifist who had become a devoted follower of the Mahatma, came to bid Gandhi farewell before going on a tour of duty to the Fiji Islands. Gandhi's lawyer friends thought it would be a good idea for Andrews to stay in Champaran and help them. Andrews was willing if Gandhi agreed. But Gandhi was vehemently opposed. He said, "You think that in this unequal fight it would be helpful if we have an Englishman on our side. This shows the weakness of your heart. The cause is just and you must rely upon yourselves to

win the battle. You should not seek a prop in Mr. Andrews because he happens to be an Englishman".

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately.

A 'pacifist' is someone who

(ii) Complete the following analogy with an appropriate word from the extract.

support : prop :: strongly :

(iii) Which of the following statements is MOST LIKELY to have been made by Charles Freer Andrews in his conversation with Gandhi Ji's lawyer friends?

(a) "Why should I stay here any longer?"

(b) "I may stay on if Mr Gandhi needs my help."

(c) I cannot postpone my departure for the Fiji Islands."

(d) "You need my help just because I'm an Englishman."

(iv) According to Gandhi Ji, how was the 'fight' unequal but the 'cause' just?

(v) Choose the option(s) that correctly list(s) the character traits of Gandhi as revealed in the extract.

1. Strong convictions

2. Self-dependence

3. Determination

4. Stubbornness

(a) 1 and 3

(b) 2 and 4

(c) Only 4

(d) All except 4

(vi) According to the extract, Gandhi Ji's associates learnt a valuable lesson in the incident involving Charles Freer Andrews? from

(a) shrewd politics

(b) ways of conducting agitations

(c) self-reliance

(d) being helpful to others

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions, in about 40-50 words each. (5×2=10 Marks)

(i) Kamala Das's fear about her aged mother is any son or daughter's fear about his/her aged parents. Comment. (My Mother at Sixty-six)

(ii) Summarise in your own words John Kent's views on beauty? (A Thing of Beauty)

(iii) Do you sympathise with the peddler after reading the story "The Rattrap"? Why/Why not?

(iv) What important lesson on time management can you learn from Profenser Umberto Eco.

(The Interview)

(v) "Our dreams and disappointments are all in our minds". Comment with reference to the chapter "Going Places"

(vi) There is an element of irony in Saheb-e-Alam's name. Explain.

(Lost Spring)

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words each. 2×2=4

(i) Which is more difficult to bear-physical impairment or the social alienation that it causes? Comment with reference to the play "On the Face of It".

(ii) Why do you think Charlie's Third Level was no better than his real world?

(iii) Sometimes boredom leads to news innovation. Do you agree? Support your view with textual evidence from the story "Journey to the End of the Earth"

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 1×5=5

A. Is it natural for teenagers to have unrealistic dreams? What would you think are the benefits and disadvantages of such fantasising? Discuss with reference to the story "Going Places".

OR

B. Suppose Miss Willmansson, the ironmaster's daughter, and Captain von Stahle, the rattrap pedlar,

meet after years and recognise each other. What kind of conversation do you think they will have? Use your imagination and write a short conversation between the two with reference to the story "The Rattrap"

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 1×5=5

(i) The story "The Tiger King" by Kalki seems to suggest that destiny is more powerful than human effort. As the Dewan of the Maharaja, write a diary entry expressing your views on the issue with reference to Maharaja's ultimate fate in the story.

You may begin this way:

Dear Diary

Alas! The Maharaja is no more! The royal surgeons did all that they could do but fate had something else in its store for His Royal Highness!

OR

(ii) Through Sadao's character in the story "The Enemy", Pearl S. Buck presents a very deep insight into a conflict between a person's moral and professional ethics and his deep sense of patriotism.

You have been asked to address your peers and share

- whether a doctor should refuse to treat a patient who he discovers is an anti-national element

(e.g. a dreaded criminal or a terrorist or someone from an enemy country)

- whether such a doctor should be considered a traitor

You may begin this way:

Good morning, Everyone

As I analysed Pearl S. Buck's story.....

You may end this way:

To conclude, I'd like to conclude by saying that.....