



# PRINCE ACADEMY

**OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

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## **BOARD SAMPLE PAPER - II (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. Self-respect is very different than relying on one's ego or False Self persona that serves as a cover to show the world only "the good stuff" of a person's personality. It is the gift we give ourselves when we become less motivated to please others in order to get their approval and more motivated to live a life of authenticity and personal integrity despite whatever anyone else thinks about us.

2. The dismal fact is that self-respect has nothing to do with the approval of others who are, after all, deceived easily enough; has nothing to do with reputation which is something that people with courage can do without. It is to know the difference between the price of things and their value and the courage to own your mistakes.

3. In brief, people with self-respect exhibit a certain toughness, a kind of moral nerve; they display what was once called character, a quality which, although approved in the abstract, sometimes loses ground to other, more instantly negotiable virtues. Its slipping prestige is dismissed when one sees people coveting success or money or fame at all costs. Nonetheless, character-the willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life is the source from which self-respect springs.

4. To live without self-respect is to lie awake some night, beyond the reach of warm milk, phenobarbital, and the sleeping hand on the coverlet, counting up the sins of commission and

omission, the trusts betrayed, the promises subtly broken, the gifts irrevocably wasted through sloth or cowardice or carelessness. However long we postpone it, we eventually lie down alone in that notoriously uncomfortable bed, the one we make ourselves. Whether or not we sleep in it depends, of course, on whether or not we respect ourselves.

5. To have that sense of one's intrinsic worth which, for better or for worse, constitutes self-respect, is potentially to have everything: the ability to discriminate, to love and to remain indifferent. To lack it is to be locked within oneself, paradoxically incapable of either love or indifference. If we do not respect ourselves, we are on the one hand forced to despise those who have so few resources as to consort with us, so little perception as to remain blind to our fatal weaknesses. On the other, we are peculiarly in thrall to everyone we see, curiously determined to live out-since our self-image is untenable their false notions of us. We flatter ourselves by thinking this compulsion to please others an attractive trait: a gift for imaginative empathy, evidence of our willingness to give.

(426 Words)

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

(a) According to paragraph 1, comment on the writer's reference to self-respect as a gift we give to ourselves. (Answer in about 40 words.) 2

(b) Why is it fair to say that the intrinsic worth of a person and self-respect have to go hand-in-hand? (Answer in about 40 words.) 2

(c) Complete the following with a suitable reason. 1

People with self-respect do not rely on ego or false persona because .....

(d) What does the author imply about people who chase success or fame at all costs? 1

(e) Which one of the following options best explains the phrase "False self persona"? 1

(i) a deceptive image of oneself shown to others

(ii) a life of integrity

(iii) willingness to accept responsibility

(f) What is the dismal fact about self-respect? (Paragraph-2) 1

(g) Self-respect is primarily about 1

(i) building a good reputation

(ii) living a life of authenticity and personal integrity

(iii) seeking approval from others

(iv) showing the traits of one's personality

(h) Complete the following with the most suitable option. 1

The main idea of the text is .....

(i) pursuing fame and success at all costs

(ii) living authentically with moral courage and personal integrity

(iii) to face inner conflict

(iv) to become successful and wealthy

(i) The writer would not agree with the given statements based on paragraph three, EXCEPT ..... 1

(i) self-respect is a virtue not appreciated in modern times

(ii) it used to be a non-negotiable virtue

(iii) self-respect has stood its ground come what may

(iv) it is losing ground to more instantly negotiable virtues

(j) Based on your understanding of paragraph four, interpret the metaphor used by the author in the given statement. 1

'However long we postpone it, we eventually lie down alone in that notoriously uncomfortable bed, the one we make ourselves.'

2. Read the following passage carefully.

10

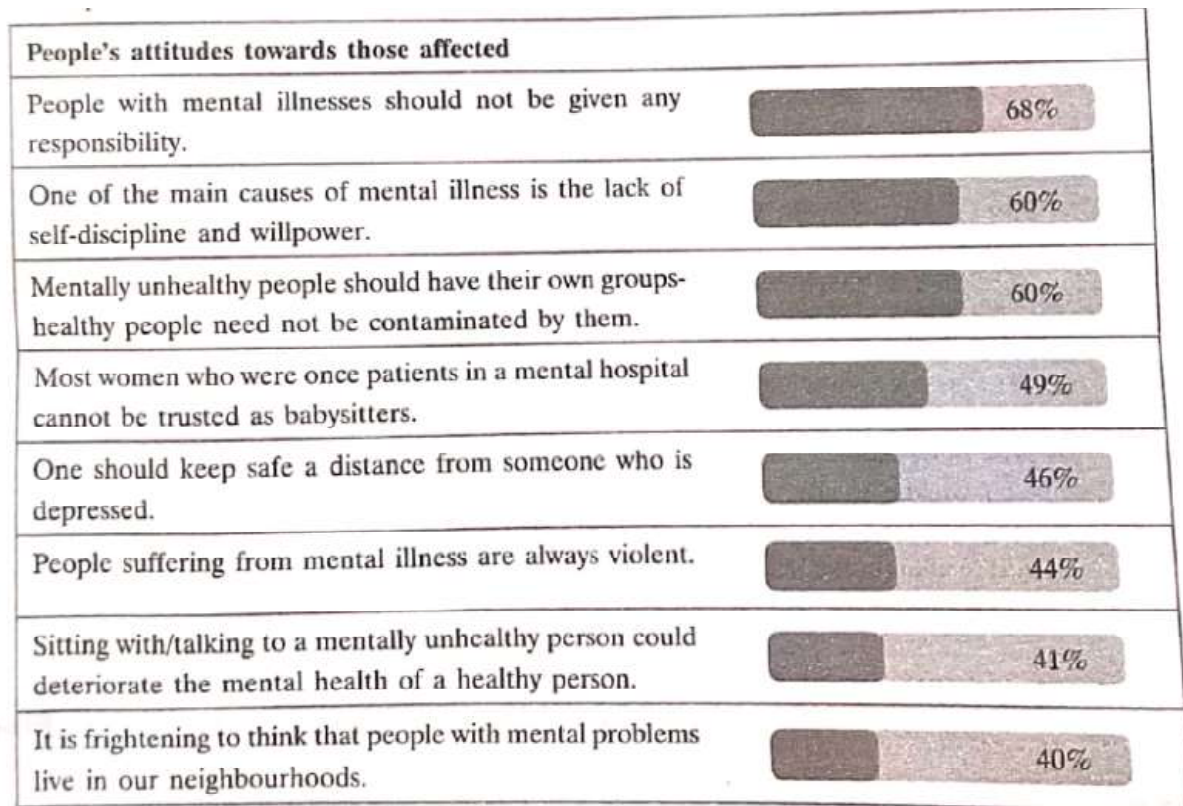
1. India is currently home to a population of over one billion citizens. A study conducted by the World Health Organization in 2015 shows that one in five Indians may suffer from depression in their lifetime, equivalent to 200 million people.

2. Due to the stigma associated with mental illness, a lack of awareness, and limited access to professional help, only 10-12% of these sufferers will seek help.

3. The Live Love Laugh Foundation (TLLLF) is a charity that aims to create awareness of mental illness and reduce the stigma associated with it, with a particular focus on stress, anxiety and depression.

4. The Foundation commissioned How India Perceives Mental Health: TLLLF National Survey Report 2018 to help gauge India's mental health landscape with the objective of exploring perceptions surrounding mental health and mental illness in India. The study further explores the level of sensitivity, attitudes towards mental health, and the level of stigma associated with it.

5. The study took place across eight cities in India over a span of five months and involved 3,556 respondents.



6. Respondents were asked about their feelings towards people with mental illness. While there exists widespread sympathy towards sufferers, with more than 75% of participants stating they would always feel sympathetic towards them, they also exhibit feelings of fear (14% would always be fearful), hatred (28% feel hatred sometimes or always), and anger (43% feel angry sometimes or always) towards people with mental illness. More than a quarter admitted that they would always be 'indifferent' towards people with mental illness. This admission of the general public to

their feelings towards people with mental illness again indicates the prevalent stigma in the society.

7. The need of the hour is to sensitise and educate individuals about the signs and symptoms of mental illness while normalising the idea of seeking support for themselves and their loved ones.

(421 Words)

**Answer the following questions, based on given passage.**

(a) Complete the following suitably. 1

Thought process shown by most of the Indians in the light of mental health issues is .....

(b) According to the passage, what can be one of the main causes of mental illness? 1

(i) Lack of self-discipline

(ii) Lack of willpower

(iii) Both (i) and (ii)

(iv) Illiteracy

(c) Give two points to suggest how this research study will be beneficial to the psychologists and counsellors. 2

(d) Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given in brackets. 1

Due to the stigma associated with mental illness, only (10-12%, 13-15%, 19-21%) of sufferers seek help.

(e) Read the following. 1

Ritu is eagerly awaiting for her class XII result. She has done well in her exams. Her friend, Maheep met with an accident and could not appear in exams. Raghav has also done well in exam and participated in extracurricular activities and eagerly awaiting for his class XII results.

Select the option that identifies the correct demographic Ritu, Maheep and Raghav belong to.

(i) Ritu - anxiety, Maheep depressed, Raghav anxiety

(ii) Ritu - depressed, Maheep depressed, Raghav anxiety

(iii) Ritu - anxiety, Maheep depressed, Raghav anxiety

(iv) Ritu - anxiety, Maheep anxiety, Raghav anxiety

(f) Which of the following mental health issues is NOT specifically focused on by The Live Love Laugh Foundation, according to the passage? 1

(i) Stress

(ii) Anxiety

(iii) Depression

(iv) Bipolar disorder

(g) The passage states the reasons as to why people do not feel responsibility towards other humans who are suffering due to depression, stress and anxiety. What are those reasons? 2

(h) The most suitable title of the passage could be: 1

(i) Mental Health: A Panacea

(ii) Mental Health: Pressing Need for Deliberations

(iii) Children and Teenagers in the clutches of Mental Health

(iv) Conflicts on Mental Health

### **SECTION- B : CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 Marks)**

All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.

3. **Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words.** 4

A. Spring Meadows Secondary School, Karnataka has recently launched the solar panel facility in the school. Seeing it as a proud moment, write a notice for all the students to be present for a special assembly to be conducted to celebrate the same. You are Rituja/Rituraj Bakshi, Student Head of Eco Club of your school.

**OR**

B. You are Amrish Chaudhary, Head Secretary of Mrinal Housing Society, Chennai. Write a notice for all the society members to inform them about the addition of the swimming pool facility in the society. Give all the necessary details regarding its subscription, timings, maintenance, etc.

4. **Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words.** **4**

A. You are Ms Renuka Das, a healthcare executive. You have received an invitation from St. Thomas Convent School, New Delhi to take a workshop with their medical students to apprise them of the progress made by the healthcare sector in India. Write a reply accepting the invitation.

**OR**

B. Imagine yourself as Reena Mehra. Your younger sister has just finalised her process of attaining the US visa for work purposes. You want to celebrate this moment and also arrange a farewell party for her. Write an invitation to Arundhati Kapoor, your best friend to ask her to join the party.

5. **Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words.** **5**

A. Media of any country has the power to influence the youth to a great extent. It is, therefore, necessary that it is unbiased and true to their work. Corrupted media will lead to misleading news and information reaching the youth. As Mihir Chandna of 50/G, Street no. 12, People's Park, Pune, write a letter to the editor of Hindustan Times discussing the need for media people to be honest and committed to their work. Take help of the given hints along with your own ideas to write the letter.

- \* How is media the backbone of any country?
- \* How do people, especially youth, rely on them for authentic information?
- \* How does it help in the generation of critical thought and opinions by the youth which will run the country in future?

**OR**

B. You are Meeta Rathi from Gurugram. You saw the given advertisement in The Times of India and wish to apply for the position advertised. Write a letter to the Director of LMES, New Delhi, along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post.

Join our Creative Team!  
A renowned coaching institute in New Delhi  
- LMES -  
is seeking a biology teacher for NEET aspirants.  
Subject expert with a passion for teaching, taking online classes for NEET aspirants,  
should prepare regular tests and worksheets for practising  
problems  
Experience 1 year, not mandatory  
M.Sc in Botany/Zoology  
Write to the Director, LMES  
H.No. 113, Sector-3, Rohini, New Delhi

6. **Attempt any one of the two, (A) or (B), in 120-150 words.** **5**

A. Failures are generally seen as pessimistic. People are constantly pressured to be victorious which disregards sincere efforts and also discredits the learnings that occur in the journey. As Ameen Faiz of class XII A, write an article expressing the significance of seeing failures as stepping stones to success. Take the help of the following cues along with your own opinion.

- \* Failures are normal. They mean that you are trying.
- \* Failures make us better equipped to face future challenges.
- \* Healthy competition during exams will always be a meaningful experience whether you score the highest marks or not.

**OR**

Recently, along with nine other Commerce students and your teacher, attended a 'Career Workshop' hosted by the Institute of Commerce, New Delhi. The workshop was organised to help Commerce students studying in various schools of Delhi, to choose a course that has bright career prospects. Write a report on the event for your school magazine. Support your ideas with the cues given below, to draft your report.

- \* purpose of the workshop
- \* Who all attended it ?
- \* How were students encouraged to feel confident about future?
- \* Feedback of students and teachers

**SECTION C: LITERATURE (40 Marks)**

**7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two-A or B. 6**

A. Perhaps the Earth can teach us  
as when everything seems dead  
and later proves to be alive.

Now I'll count up to twelve

and you keep quiet and I will go.

**[Flamingo, Page 91] (Keeping Quiet)**

(a) What message does the poet give in the above extract?

(b) Select the option why does the poet wish to leave the readers and go away?

(i) Because he leaves us to enjoy this exotic moment of introspection.

(ii) Because he wants us to enjoy.

(iii) Because he wants us to talk.

(iv) Because he wants us to run away.

(c) Complete the following suitably.

The poet uses a conversational style in the given extract because .....

(d) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.

The irony in 'everything seems dead' is ..... (the Earth/the sky/the river)

(e) All of the following are true for the extract EXCEPT

(i) Remain keep quiet

(ii) Wait patiently

(iii) Count up to twelve

(iv) Make interruptions

(f) What is the aim of introspection, contemplation and deep thinking?

**OR**

B. Sometimes I feel myself I can hardly bear

The thought of so much childish longing in vain,

The sadness that lurks near the open window there,

That waits all day in open prayer

For the squeal of brakes, the sound of a stopping car,

Of all the selfish cars that pass,

Just one to inquire what a farmer's prices are.

And one did stop, but only to plow up grass  
In using the yard to back and turn around,  
And another to ask the way to where it was bound;

(a) Select the phrase that suggests the following: [Flamingo, Page 96] (A Roadside Stand)

The people travelling in those cars are self-centred and have no concern for others.

(b) Which of the following words WILL NOT complete the sentence appropriately.

The roadside stand is a ..... symbol of past that is fading rapidly.

(i) sad (ii) happy (iii) quiet (iv) unhappy

(c) Complete the following suitably.

The prayers of the poor farmer family do not get answered because .....

(d) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.

The mood of the poet in the given extract is ..... (sympathetic/apprehensive).

(e) How does the speaker describe the cars passing by?

(i) Lost and confused (ii) Slow and noisy  
(ii) Selfish (iv) Caring and helpful

(f) What message does the lines, "And one did stop, but only to plow up grass, In using the yard to back and turn around' give?

**8. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (A) or (B).** **4**

A. From that day onwards it was celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram.

The state banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja. A proclamation was issued to the effect that if anyone dared to fling so much as a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be confiscated.

The Maharaja vowed he would attend to all other matters only after killing the hundred tigers. Initially the king seemed well set to realise his ambition.

Not that he faced no dangers. There were times when the bullet missed its mark, the tiger leapt upon him and he fought the beast with his bare hands. Each time it was the Maharaja who won.

[Vistas, Page 11] (The Tiger King)

(a) Complete the following suitably.

The tone of the author when he says, 'it was celebration time for all the tigers' is .....

(b) How would you explain the incongruity in the statements given below?

"There were times when the bullet missed its mark' ..... 'Each time it was the Maharaja who won."

(c) On the basis of the passage, pick up the best option that DOES NOT enumerate the characteristics of the king.

(i) conceited (ii) wilful (iii) disparaging (iv) pathetic

(d) What does the statement 'A proclamation was issued to the effect that if anyone dared to fling so much as a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be confiscated tell us about the plight of the citizens?

**OR**

B. You lose all earthly sense of perspective and time here. The visual scale ranges from the microscopic to the mighty: midges and mites to blue whales and icebergs as big as countries (the largest recorded was the size of Belgium). Days go on and on and on in surreal 24-hour austral summer

light, and a ubiquitous silence, interrupted only by the occasional avalanche or calving ice sheet, consecrates the place. It's an immersion that will force you to place yourself in the context of the earth's geological history. And for humans, the prognosis isn't good.

[Vistas, Page 19-20] (Journey to the End of the Earth)

(a) Complete the following suitably.

The range of the 'visual scale' in Antarctica as mentioned by the author is .....

(b) Which elements influence the earth's physicality?

(c) In the line, "You lose all earthly sense of perspective and time here". What could be the best synonym for the word 'perspective' in the context of the passage?

(i) awareness                      (ii) insight                      (iii) opinion                      (iv) outlook

(d) How does the narrator feel to see the grandeur of the icy region?

**9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, A or B. 6**

A. She still has bangles on her wrist, but no light in her eyes. "Ek waqt ser bhar khana bhi nahin khaya," she says, in a voice drained of joy. She has not enjoyed even one full meal in her entire lifetime-that's what she has reaped! Her husband, an old man with a flowing beard says, "I know nothing except bangles. All I have done is make a house for the family to live in."

Hearing him, one wonders if he has achieved what many have failed in their lifetime. He has a roof over his head!

The cry of not having money to do anything except carry on the business of making bangles, not even enough to eat, rings in every home. The young men echo the lament of the elders. Little has moved with time, it seems in Firozabad, years of mind-numbing toil have killed all initiative and the ability to dream.

[Flamingo, Page 181 (Lost Spring)]

(a) What does the line 'the young men echo the lament of their elders' refer to?

(b) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.

Poverty among bangle-makers is ..... (all-pervasive/insubstantial/nothing).

(c) Complete the following suitably.

The author's take on the lives of the bangle-makers as reflected in the words 'that's what she has reaped!' is .....

(d) List the details shown in the first line of the given extract.

(e) Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract?

(i) To put an end to child exploitation                      (ii) To show the importance of labour

(iii) To show the importance of punctuality                      (iv) The rigidity of the school system

(f) What effect has years of toil had on the people of Firozabad?

(1) Expansion of business                      (2) Proper education

(3) Too much wealth                      (4) Killed initiative

(5) Ability to dream

Select the correct option.

(i) (1) and (2)                      (ii) (4) and (5)                      (iii) (2), (3) and (4)                      (iv) (1), (2) and (3)

**OR**

B. Then I started down a third time. I sucked for air and got water. The yellowish light was going out. Then all effort ceased. I relaxed. Even my legs felt limp; and a blackness swept over my brain. It wiped out fear, it wiped out terror. There was no more panic. It was quiet and peaceful. Nothing



to be afraid of. This is nice... to be drowsy... to go to sleep... no need to jump... too tired to jump... it's nice to be carried gently... to float along in space... tender arms around me... tender arms like Mother's... now I must go to sleep...

I crossed to oblivion, and the curtain of life fell.

[Flamingo, Page 26-27] (Deep Water)

(a) The author ends the given paragraph about the seemingly long struggle of little Douglas with the words 'and the curtain of life fell. How does he involve the reader into it?

(b) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.

When the curtain of life fell, Douglas surrendered before death and with ..... (serenity/anxiety) crossed to oblivion.

(c) Complete the following suitably.

By 'terror', 'panic', and 'phobia', the author shows .....

(d) "There was no more panic. It was quiet and peaceful". What does it show?

(e) The author has used this figure of speech with this meaning in-'tender arms around me ... tender arms like Mother's....

(i) simile, comfort

(ii) metaphor, softness

(iii) repetition, anxiety

(iv) paradox, the arms don't belong to his mother

(f) What sensations or feelings does the narrator describe during this experience?

(1) Tender arms like Mother's

(2) Floating in space

(3) Enthusiasm

(4) Scarcity

(5) Being carried gently

Select the correct option.

(i) (3) and (4)

(ii) (4) and (5)

(iii) (1), (2) and (5)

(iv) (3), (4) and (5)

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

(a) Why did Sophie like her brother Geoff more than any other person? From her perspective, what did he symbolise? [Flamingo, Page 76-77] (Going Places)

(b) There is a saying 'Kindness pays, rudeness doesn't'. In the story, 'The Rattrap' Edla's attitude towards life differed from her father's. How do the values of kindness and compassion help the peddler? [Flamingo, Conceptual Question] (The Rattrap)

(c) We smile when we meet someone and do the same while saying goodbye. The poet also smiles as she bids farewell to her mother and assures her that they would meet again. But her smile is neither genuine, nor sincere. Bring out the significance and irony of the smile of the poet at the airport. [Flamingo, Page 89] (My Mother at Sixty-six)

(d) Prose writing is not and cannot be the true pursuit of a genius', says the author. Explain the statement with reference to the chapter 'Poets and Pancakes'. [Flamingo, Page 63]

(e) Why does Aunt Jennifer find 'the ivory needle hard to pull'?

[Flamingo, Page 98] (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

(f) What images does the poet use to describe the beautiful bounty of the Earth in 'A Thing of Beauty'? [Flamingo, Page 94]

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

(a) Do you agree with the statement and observation of the American professor, 'Ignorance of the human body is the surgeon's cardinal sin'? Which essential trait is he emphasizing?

[Vistas, Page 34] (The Enemy)

(b) People may profess love for plants but they have different attitudes towards weeds and ornamental flowering plants. Why is one green growing plant called a weed and another flower? What truth of life does Mr Lamb wish to highlight by this statement? [Vistas, Page 50] (On The Face of It)

(c) Answer the question in the context of the following line from 'The Tiger King'. 'You may kill even a cow in self-defence.' Do you agree with the given statement? Does it have any association with the killing of the tigers by the Tiger King? [Vistas, Page 10]

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

A. Child labour is illegal in our nation. Then why do some parents still send their children to work at their early stage? In Jung's Lost Spring, remember the following line from the lesson:

"None of them know that it is illegal for children like him to work in the glass furnaces with high temperatures, in dingy cells without air and light."

As citizens of India, what do you think is our duty? What steps can youngsters like you take to reduce the scourge of poverty?

Discussing this with your friend, write a conversation for the same.

[Flamingo, Conceptual Question]

**OR**

B. The lesson 'Indigo' records how Gandhi showed patriotism as not merely proclaiming love for the nation in slogans and songs; it entails respect for the values and laws of a nation and above all love for its people in deeds. Express your views regarding the need for inculcating patriotism in youth today and how it has changed in its essence. [Flamingo, Conceptual Question]

**13. Answer any one of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5**

A. "The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry and stress". And to overcome them, Charley, Sam and Louisa adopted their own ways they all wanted to escape to Galesburg which existed in 1894. What do you think of this human tendency to constantly desire to move between the past, the present and the future? [Vistas, Conceptual Question]

**OR**

B. "Although both the stories 'The Cutting of My Long Hair' and 'We Too Are Human Beings' in 'Memories of Childhood' are set in different parts of the world and in two distant cultures, they still have a similar theme. They show the hardships and sufferings of the marginal communities in different parts of the world". Comment. [Vistas, Conceptual Question]