**Section-A: Reading**

1. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. 5×2=10

**(**This is an extract from a short story. The narrator has murdered an old man and hidden his body under the floorboards)

**The Tell-Tale Heart: Edgar Allan Poe**

I then took up three planks from the flooring of the chamber, and deposited all between the scantlings. I then replaced the boards so cleverly, so cunningly, that no human eye – not even his – could have detected anything wrong. There was nothing to wash out – no stain of any kind – no blood-spot whatever. I had been too wary for that. A tub had caught all – ha! ha! When I had made an end of these labors, it was four o’clock – still dark as midnight. As the bell sounded the hour, there came a knocking at the street door. I went down to open it with a light heart, for what had I now to fear? There entered three men, who introduced themselves, with perfect suavity, as officers of the police. A shriek had been heard by a neighbor during the night; suspicion of foul play had been aroused; information had been lodged at the police office, and they (the officers) had been deputed to search the premises. I smiled, for what had I to fear? I bade the gentlemen welcome. The shriek, I said, was my own in a dream. The old man, I mentioned, was absent in the country. I took my visitors all over the house. I bade them search – search well. I led them, at length, to his chamber. I showed them his treasures, secure, undisturbed. In the enthusiasm of my confidence, I brought chairs into the room, and desired them here to rest from their fatigues, while I myself, in the wild audacity of my perfect triumph, placed my own seat upon the very spot beneath which reposed the corpse of the victim. The officers were satisfied. My manner had convinced them. I was singularly at ease. They sat, and while I answered cheerily, they chatted of familiar things. But, ere long, I felt myself getting pale and wished them gone. My head ached, and I fancied a ringing in my ears: but still they sat and still chatted. The ringing became more distinct: it continued and became more distinct: I talked more freely to get rid of the feeling: but it continued and gained definiteness – until, at length, I found that the noise was not within my ears. No doubt I now grew very pale; but I talked more fluently, and with a heightened voice. Yet the sound increased – and what could I do? It was a low, dull, quick sound – much such a sound as a watch makes when enveloped in cotton. I gasped for breath – and yet the officers heard it not. I talked more quickly – more vehemently; but the noise steadily increased. I arose and argued about trifles, in a high key and with violent gesticulations; but the noise steadily increased. Why would they not be gone? I paced the floor to and fro with heavy strides, as if excited to fury by the observations of the men – but the noise steadily increased. Oh God! What could I do? I foamed – I raved – I swore! I swung the chair upon which I had been sitting, and grated it upon the boards, but the noise arose over all and continually increased. It grew louder – louder – louder! And still the men chatted pleasantly, and smiled. Was it possible they heard not? Almighty God! – No, no! They heard! – They suspected! – They knew! – They were making a mockery of my horror! – This I thought, and this I think. But anything was better than this agony! Anything was more tolerable than this derision! I could bear those hypocritical smiles no longer! I felt that I must scream or die! and now – again! – hark! louder! louder! louder! louder! “Villains!” I shrieked, “Dissemble, no more! I admit the deed! – tear up the planks! here, here! – It is the beating of his hideous heart.

* 1. From lines 1 to 5, identify the phrase which explains why there is no blood on the floor?
  2. What were those two particular ways caused him to think that the officers were satisfied and he wouldn’t be caught?
  3. Why did the speaker become pale?
  4. What are the verbal expressions the writer uses to depict the agitation of the speaker’s mind due to sudden noise?
  5. How did he reveal the corpse of the old man and why?

1. Rephrase the following statements with the use of word in first bracket and make necessary changes to convey possible same meaning: 5×.5=2.5
2. I could have detected anything wrong ( something)
3. I had been too wary for that.( careful)
4. Yet the sound increased. (however)
5. I shrieked, “I admit the deed!” (acknowledge)
6. As the bell sounded the hour, there came a knocking at the street door. (when)
7. Answer the following question in your own words and support your views with reference to the text: 5×1=5
8. How does the writer use language and structure to show the change in the narrator’s mood?

Or

1. In this extract, there is an attempt to build tension. Evaluate how successfully this is achieved. Support your views with detailed reference to the text.
2. Change the following verbs into nouns: 5×.5=2.5

Dissemble, secure, fancied, grow, shrieked