

Class 09 - English Lang & Lit. (184)  
Sample Paper - 01 (2023-24)

Maximum Marks: 80

Time Allowed: : 3 hours

General Instructions:

1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.
2. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

Section A Reading

1. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:

- i. The dancing girl belongs to
  - a. Mohenjodaro
  - b. Greek culture
  - c. Homosapiens
  - d. Tibet
- ii. In the museum she's kept among
  - a. dancing figures
  - b. bronze statues
  - c. terracotta animals
  - d. books
- iii. Select the option that displays the information not given in the passage.
  - a. The girl is caged behind glass.
  - b. She is a rare artefact.
  - c. School books communicate the wealth of our heritage.
  - d. She cannot be rediscovered as she's bronze.
- iv. Complete the following for the passage:

Option	Reason
Great Art has power	_____

- v. On the basis of your reading of the given passage, write any one interesting fact about the Dancing girl of Mohenjodaro.
- vi. What does the dancing girl remind us? Mention any two points from the last para of the passage.
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
- vii. The dancing girl is made of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. terracotta
  - b. glass
  - c. bronze
  - d. Both terracotta and bronze

viii. Which of these is FALSE:

- a. The dancing girls has no feet.
- b. She is small.
- c. She is little bigger than the human palm.
- d. She is a little over 10 cm tall.

1. Caged behind thick glass, the most famous dancer in the world can easily be missed in the National Museum, Delhi. The Dancing Girl of Mohenjodaro is a rare artifact that even schoolchildren are familiar with. Our school textbooks also communicate the wealth of our 5000-year heritage of art. You have to be alert to her existence there, amid terracotta animals to rediscover this bronze image.
2. Most of us have seen her only in photographs or sketches, therefore, the impact of actually holding her is magnified a million times over. One discovers that the dancing girl has no feet. She is small, a little over 10 cm tall - the length of a human palm - but she surprises us with the power of great art - the ability to communicate across centuries.
3. A series of bangles - of shell or ivory or thin metal - clothe her left upper way down to her fingers. A necklace with three pendants bunched together and a few bangles above the elbow and wrist on the right-hand display almost modern art.
4. She speaks of the undaunted ever hopeful human spirit. She reminds us that it is important to visit museums in our country to experience the impact that a work of art leaves on our senses, to find among all the riches one particular vision of beauty that speaks to us alone.

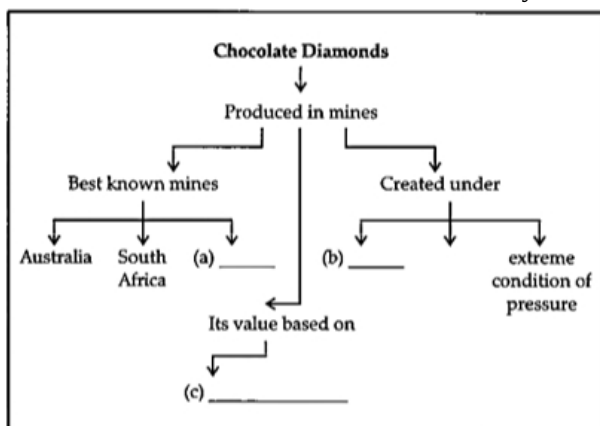
**2. Read the text carefully and answer the questions:**

Chocolate diamonds that are actually brown diamonds are compared to the well-known white diamond, which aren't of much worth. Diamonds are produced in mines. The best known diamond mines are in Australia, South Africa and Russia. The largest diamond mine was discovered in 1976 in the desert of Australia near a little creek named Lake Argyle. Diamonds are created under very extreme conditions of pressure and high temperature. It is a general misunderstanding that there exist only white colourless diamonds. Actually, diamonds exist in many different colours. Of all the diamond mines in the world, almost 80% of the diamonds produced are brownish in colour. Because these were found in such large quantities compared to the other coloured diamonds, these were considered as low-valued diamonds, only good for the industrial sector. But, a famous man called Le Vian came with a marketing campaign to increase the popularity of the chocolate diamond. Instead of calling it a brown diamond, he gave it popular names like caramel, chocolate, cinnamon and cognac. Since his marketing campaign, chocolate diamonds are becoming very popular.

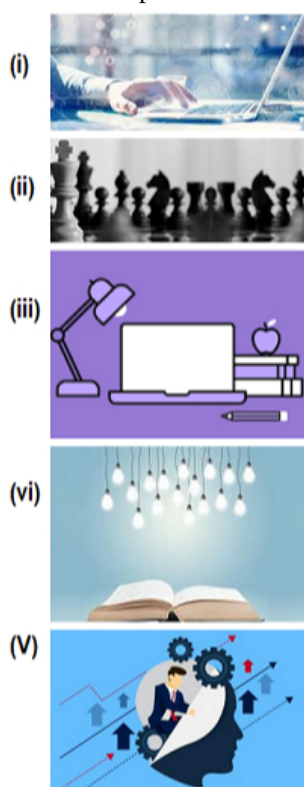
The value of a diamond is based on its shape, brightness and colour. Because white diamonds are rare, their value is based on the fact that there are not many white diamonds found around easily. But if you look at the shape and brightness, then the brightest diamond in this world known to men is the brown diamond. Before the development of the Argyle Diamond Mine in Australia in 1986, most brown diamonds were considered worthless for jewellery; they were not even assessed on the diamond colour scale, and were predominantly used for industrial purposes.

However, marketing strategies changed in the 1980s and brown diamonds have become popular gems. The change was mostly due to the supply: the Argyle mine, with its 35 million carats (7,000 kg) of diamonds per year, makes about one third of global production of natural diamonds; 80% of Argyle diamonds are brown. The percentage of brown diamonds is lower in other mines, but it is almost always a significant part of the total production. Consequently, scientific research

on causes of brown colour in diamond and ways to alter it has intensified.



- i. Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of paragraph 1. We can say that the misunderstanding that there exist only white colourless diamonds is comparable with the existence of the stars and other planets during the daytime because \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. Fill the blanks with the appropriate option from those given in brackets, based on your understanding of paragraph 2. The statement that, brown-coloured diamonds were considered low-valued diamonds, is a \_\_\_\_\_ (fact/ opinion) because it is a \_\_\_\_\_ (subjective judgement/ objective detail).
- iii. Justify the following, in about 40 words.  
Brown diamond transformed under Le Vian and became a popular gem.
- iv. Complete the given chart about the conditions under which the chocolate diamonds are created.
- v. State any one inference on which the value of a diamond depends.
- vi. Select the option that correctly relates to what **strategies** signifies. (Reference-Paragraph 4)



- A. (i), (iv) and (v)
  - B. Only (ii)
  - C. Only (iii)
  - D. (ii) and (v)
- vii. What inference do you draw about the role of Argyle Diamond Mine? (Answer in about 40 words)

- viii. Which of the following facts does one NOT get acquainted with from the study mentioned in the passage?
- Discovery of brown diamonds in Australia, South Africa and Russia.
  - Intensification of scientific research on the causes of brown colour in diamonds and ways to alter it.
  - Brown diamond has different names like caramel, chocolate, cinnamon and cognac.
  - Marketing strategies have made brown diamonds as valuable as white diamonds.

### Section B Grammar

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed

1. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter:

To ensure that this project gains strength, schools may \_\_\_\_\_ (organize) puppet shows and street plays.

2. Identify the error and supply the correction, for the following:

<b>VACCINATE YOURSELF TO COMBAT CORONA</b> No prior appointment required, Walk-in & get your jab Facility are available for 18 years and above <b>Health Department, Chandigarh Administration</b>	
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Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

3. Read the conversation between a doctor and his patient. Complete the sentence by reporting the patient's reply correctly.

**Doctor:** How do you feel now? Did you take the medicines regularly?

**Patient:** Better. Yes, I took the medicines on time.

The doctor, while trying to figure out his patient's ailment, asked about his well-being and whether he had taken his medicines on time, to which, the patient affirmed that he felt better and that \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Ritu bumped into an ex-colleague (Gautam) at a party. They discussed their current job profile. Report what Gautam asked Ritu.

Do you work from home?

5. The report concludes sadly that \_\_\_\_\_ students have \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge of nuclear physics.

- Very few/some
- every/no
- none/any
- Both/whole

6. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a news report:

A school has adopted safety measures like screening of everyone who enters school premises and special sanitization of the school as per WHO guidelines.

Option no.	Error	Correction
A	a	the
B	has	have
C	enters	enter
D	the	a

7. Stein spoke in a voice so low that the judge repeatedly \_\_\_\_\_ her to speak up.

- could ask
- had to ask
- used to ask
- would ask

8. He \_\_\_\_\_ his boss that he \_\_\_\_\_ back after his vacation.

- won't tell / won't have come
- isn't telling / doesn't come
- doesn't tell / hasn't come
- hasn't told / won't be coming

9. The money in our pocket \_\_\_\_\_ far less today than it \_\_\_\_\_ ten years ago.  
a) may buy, had to    b) should buy, had  
c) can buy, had       d) could buy, would
10. **Complete the line from a self-awareness song, by filling the blank with the correct option.**  
My Mother is not the sort of Mum  
Who'll \_\_\_\_\_ and faint and shiver,  
Darkness doesn't scare her,  
When it thunders, she won't \_\_\_\_\_!  
A. be squealing, quiver  
B. squeal, be quiver  
C. squeal, quiver  
D. be squealing, have been quivered
11. Giving a speech in front of such a big crowd who are made up of intellectuals \_\_\_\_\_ a very difficult action, I suppose.  
a) are    b) were  
c) is     d) was
12. The aim of the course \_\_\_\_\_ me willing to begin.  
a) making    b) had been made  
c) makes     d) make

### Section B Writing

4. Write a descriptive paragraph on 'The Annual Day of Your School'/'The Prize Distribution' in about the following cues:  
Input: preparations - on the Annual Day - arrangements - who was chief guest - welcome of guests - annual report by Principal - cultural prog. - prize distribution - speech by chief guest - a light refreshment - your feeling about function.

**OR**

Use the following cues to write a paragraph describing one of the security guards posted at the main gate of your apartments.

- Ganeshan - a retired soldier-working as security guard
  - Age-around 50
  - Build-tall and robust
  - Big moustache, intimidating looks Sincere, dutiful and conscientious worker-very alert-good presence of mind
  - Popular-helpful towards the old and children, caught a gang of robbers once
5. Indian summers are really unbearable. One day the maximum temperature shot up to 47°C. It was most miserable day of the year for you. Record the experience in your diary.

**OR**

**Complete the story in about 150-200 words, taking ideas from the given lines.**

Rohan was returning from the school. He was very happy as it was his result day and he stood first in his class. He wanted to share his happiness with his family and friends so he was in a hurry. His joy and happiness knew no bounds but suddenly all his happiness vanished when.....

### Section C Literature

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.
1. Read the following extract and answer the questions that follow:  
"Kind sir, have pity; turn your attention to a poor, hungry man! For three days I have had nothing to eat; I haven't five copecks for a lodging, I swear it before God. For eight years I was a village school teacher and then I lost my place through intrigues. I fell a victim to calumny. It is a year now since I have had anything to do." The advocate,

Sergei, looked at the ragged, fawn-coloured overcoat of the suppliant, at his dull, drunken eyes, at the red spot on either cheek, and it seemed to him as if he had seen this man somewhere before. "I have now had an offer of a position in the province of Kaluga," the mendicant went on, "but I haven't the money to get there. Help me kindly; I am ashamed to ask, but - I am obliged to by circumstances."

- i. Which of the following is NOT a reason the mendicant gives for seeking help from the advocate, Sergei?
  - A. He is starving and hasn't eaten for three days.
  - B. He is a renowned scholar with a successful career.
  - C. He has a job offer in the province of Kaluga but lacks the funds to get there.
  - D. He has lost his place as a village school teacher due to scheming and lies.
- ii. How does the man explain his request for assistance to Sergei, and what emotions does he express in making this plea?
- iii. Read the following descriptions (a)-(c) and identify which one correctly corresponds to the extract:
  - a. A drunken individual seeking legal advice from advocate Sergei
  - b. A poor and hungry man who has lost his job and needs financial assistance.
  - c. An advocate named Sergei who is contemplating a career change.
- iv. What does the speaker expect from the listener?

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

I took off my black coat, white shirt and not-so-white vest and hung them up. I opened the two windows in the room. It was an outer room with one wall facing the open yard. It had a tiled roof with long supporting gables that rested on the beam over the wall. There was no ceiling. There was regular traffic of rats to and from the beam. I made my bed and pulled it close to the wall. I lay down but I could not sleep. I got up and went out to the veranda for a little air, but the wind god seemed to have taken time off. I went back into the room and sat down on the chair. I opened the box beneath the table and took out a book, the *Materia Medica*. I opened it at the table on which stood the lamp and a large mirror; a small comb lay beside the mirror.

- a. What item from the room does the narrator NOT interact/engage with during this passage?
  - a. The lamp
  - b. The mirror
  - c. The book (*Materia Medica*)
  - d. The veranda
- b. Why does the narrator describe the wind god as having "taken time off" when he goes out to the veranda for air?  
Answer in about 40 words.
- c. If an actor were to enact this extract, what aspects of his performance should he pay attention to while modulating his voice to convey the character's feelings and surroundings effectively?
- d. Which phrase would correctly substitute 'made my bed', in the given sentence from the extract.  
I made my bed and pulled it close to the wall.

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

1. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence;  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-  
I took the one less travelled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

- a. What is the tone of the poet in the given stanza?
- b. Name the poet:
  - i. William Wordsworth
  - ii. Robert Frost

iii. William Shakespeare

iv. W.W.E. Ross

c. \_\_\_\_\_ the word from the stanza opposite in meaning to 'converged'.

d. What is the significance of the two roads? Answer in about 40 words.

2. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

A slumber did my spirit seal

I had no human fears

She seemed a thing that could not feel.

The touch of earthly years.

a. What has sealed the poet's spirit?

b. What is the reason for the absence of typical human fears in the poet's mind? Answer in about 40 words.

c. How does the poet feel in the given lines?

i. cheerful

ii. depressed

iii. enraged

iv. petrified

d. The rhyming scheme used in the given stanza is \_\_\_\_\_.

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words

1. What did Einstein call his desk drawer at the patent office? Why?

2. What is the single major memory that comes to the poet? Who are the **darling dreamers** he refers to? (**Rain on the Roof**)

3. Who was Sivasubramania Iyer? What did he say to Abdul?

4. Describing the streets around the Baudhnath Stupa, why does the narrator say this is a haven of quietness in the busy streets around?

5. Is this a true story? Which part of this poem do you feel is the most important? (**A Legend of the Northland**)

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.

1. Why was Johnsy's condition worrisome according to the doctor?

2. When did the author realise that his cat was missing? Write your answer in the context of A House is Not a Home.

3. How does Ishwaran describe the story of the elephant? Does it appear to be possible?

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words

1. Why did Emperor Aurangzeb ban the playing of the pungi and how it was improved upon and called the shehnai?

2. What mental qualities of Maria are revealed by her decision not to quit and pack up on being harassed by her fellow-trainees?

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.

1. Why did the people choose and crown the Guru and his disciple?

2. Compare the attitude of the child before and after his separation from his parents. Write your answer in the context of **The Lost Child**.

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Solution

Section A Reading

1.
  - i. (a) Mohenjodaro
  - ii. (c) terracotta animals
  - iii. (d) She cannot be rediscovered as she's bronze.
  - iv. it appeals to us despite the passage of time.
  - v. The dancing girl has no feet. She is small, a little over 10 cm tall - the length of a human palm - but she surprises us with the power of great art - the ability to communicate across centuries.
  - vi. She reminds us that
    - (1) it is important to visit museums in our country to experience the impact that a work of art leaves on our senses
    - (2) to find among all the riches one particular vision of beauty that speaks to us alone.
  - vii. (c) bronze
  - viii. (c) She is little bigger than the human palm.
2.
  - i. most of us are oblivious to the fact of their existence.
  - ii. Brown-coloured diamonds were considered low-valued diamonds, is a **fact** because it is an **objective reality** that 80% of the diamonds produced are brownish in colour and since these were found in such large quantities compared to the other coloured diamonds, these were considered as low-valued diamonds, only good for the industrial sector.
  - iii. A famous man called Le Vian came up with a marketing campaign to increase the popularity of the chocolate diamond. Instead of calling it a brown diamond, he gave it popular names like caramel, chocolate, cinnamon, and cognac. Since his marketing campaign chocolate diamonds are becoming very popular.
  - iv. Chocolate Diamonds are created under extreme conditions of pressure and high temperature.
  - v. The value of a diamond is based on shape, colour, and brightness.
  - vi. D. (ii) and (v)
  - vii. Argyle Diamond Mine is the largest diamond mine discovered in 1976 in Australia. Before its development in 1986, most brown diamonds were considered worthless for jewellery and were used for industrial purposes. It produces 35 million carats (7,000 kg) of diamonds per year, which is about one-third of the global production of natural diamonds, 80% of which are brown.
  - viii. D. Marketing strategies have made brown diamonds as valuable as white diamonds.

Section B Grammar

3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed

1. organize

2. <b>error</b>	<b>correction</b>
are	is

3. he had taken the medicines on time

4. Gautam asked Ritu if/whether she worked from home.

5. (a) Very few/some

**Explanation:** Very few/some

6. (A) a - the



7. (b) had to ask

**Explanation:** had to ask

8. (d) hasn't told / won't be coming

**Explanation:** hasn't told / won't be coming

9. (d) could buy, would

**Explanation:** could buy, would

10. A. squeal, quiver

Following the sentence structure, 'will' always follow the base form of verb.

11. (c) is

**Explanation:** is

12. (c) makes

**Explanation:** makes

### Section B Writing

4. The Prize Distribution or The Annual Day of Your School: The Annual function of our school was celebrated on the 21st September. Preparations started long before the due date. On the 21st September, the school gave a festive appearance with a big pandal, well arranged seats. It was tastefully decorated. Our Chief Guest, the Chief Minister of Delhi, arrived at exact 10 a.m. Our Principal and the other officers welcomed her. The band was played and the scouts saluted the guests. After 'Vande Matram', the lamp was lighted by the Chief Guest. 'Saraswati Vandana' followed. The Principal welcomed the guests with bouquets of flowers and with words.

Then, he read the annual report. It reflected the achievements of the school. A short cultural programme was staged. The prizes were given away by the Chief Guest. Then, the Chief Guest addressed the students and the teachers. She congratulated them on their achievements and excellent results. After a vote of thanks, the guests were given a light refreshment. The function ended at 1 p.m. It was a grand function memorable for me because I had also got four prizes.

OR

The Dutiful Security Gaurd: Ganeshan is a retired soldier, around 50 years old man, works as a security guard at the main gate of Saraswati apartments. He is a tall man and of robust built. Being a retired soldier he has a very good physique and stamina. He has intimidating looks with big moustache. He is sincere, dutiful and conscientious worker who works with alert and good presence of mind. Ganeshan is popular among the residents. He is helpful towards the old and children. Once he faught very bravely to catch a gang of robbers. He is a man of principles who is faithful to his duties.

5. Delhi

20th July, 20XX

Friday, 8:00 pm

Dear Diary,

Indian summers can be really unbearable and who can live in peace and comfort when the heat waves, start blowing over the plains of north India. It was the 20th of July, 20XX, the most miserable day of my life. It was certainly the hottest day of the season. By noon the heat became unbearable. To avoid dehydration, we had already had several litres of cold water. I had to go to the market. I forgot to wear a cap. By the time I reached home, I was very miserable and started vomiting. To make things still worse, there was a breakdown of electric power during most part of the night. Without the working of fans and air-conditioners, we felt miserable. It was very uncomfortable with the dress I wore. I told my mom it was unbearable. She too felt hot. Then we both went to the hotel where there had airconditioning. We sat for at least an hour get cooled . We ordered an ice cream and went back home. We spent a sleepless and miserable night.

Govind

OR

**A Good Deed** Rohan was returning from school. He was very happy as it was his result day and he stood first in his class. He wanted to share his happiness with his family and friends so he was in a hurry. His joy and happiness knew no bounds but suddenly all his happiness vanished when on the way he saw a child in the middle of the road. A car was coming at full speed. He shouted at the boy, “Hey, mind the car!” to his shock, the boy did not hear his warning. It was too late to give him another warning. He dashed to the middle of the road and pulled him. The boy had a narrow escape. He just looked at him astonishingly. He shouted at him, ‘Are you mad? You could have run over by a car!’ again the boy did not respond. He just kept staring at him. It then struck him that the boy could be suffering from hearing and speaking disabilities. He took him to the nearby police station and reported the matter to the inspector. As he was in the middle of this, a lady came running into the room and saw her child. She was overwhelmed with joy and hugged the boy with tears streaming down her eyes. The lady was the boy’s mother. She explained to the inspector how the boy had got lost in the crowd. The inspector also explained to the lady how Rohan had saved the boy from getting hurt on the road. The lady thanked him profusely. He went home feeling proud after doing the good deed. He told the whole story to his parents. He even forgot about his result because he was feeling good for helping that child. His parents praised him.

### Section C Literature

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

1. i. (B) He is a renowned scholar with a successful career.  
ii. The man explains that he has an offer for a job in Kaluga but lacks the money to get there. He expresses feelings of shame and reluctance in asking for help but acknowledges that circumstances have forced him to seek assistance.  
iii. (b) A poor and hungry man who has lost his job and needs financial assistance.  
iv. The speaker appeals to the listener’s kindness and sympathy in order to get words of kindness and monetary help.
2. a. (iv) The veranda  
Explanation: In the provided passage, the narrator mentions various interactions with items in the room, such as removing clothing, opening windows, making the bed, sitting on a chair, and opening a box to take out a book. However, there is no mention of the narrator interacting directly with the veranda. Therefore, the correct answer is (iv).  
b. The narrator described the wind God as having "taken time off" to convey a sense of disappointment or frustration because he expected to find a refreshing breeze in the veranda, but it was unusually still, leaving him unsatisfied with the lack of fresh air.  
c. The actor should focus on conveying a sense of discomfort, restlessness, and the grim living conditions in his tone while modulating his voice for this extract.  
d. arranged my bed/ prepared my bed/ straightened my bed.

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

1. a. The poet adopted a reflective tone in the given stanza.  
b. (ii) Robert Frost  
c. 'diverged'  
d. "The Road Not Taken" by Robert Frost is a poem told through the perspective of a solitary voyager who encounters a divergence in their path, serving as a profound metaphor for the voyage of life and the pivotal choices we encounter along this journey. These two divergent roads symbolize the challenging decisions that present themselves in our lives.
2. a. The death of his beloved one has sealed the poet's spirit.  
b. The poet's spirit had descended into a profound slumber, oblivious to unfolding events. He had never contemplated that a time would come when death would separate him from Lucy. Devoid of apprehensions, he remained impervious to sensations, his emotions numbed.  
c. (ii) depressed  
d. abab

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words

1. Einstein jokingly called his desk drawer as “Bureau of theoretical physics”. He did so because he was secretly developing his own ideas regarding his keen interest in Physics while his office job required him to assess the inventions of other people.
2. The single major memory that comes to the poet's mind is the memory of his mother.  
The 'darling dreamers' refers to are all lovely dreamers who remember their mothers in the same way as the poet does.
3. Sivasubramania Iyer was Abdul Kalam's science teacher. He invited him to have food at his house though his wife was an orthodox Brahmin. Despite his wife's beliefs, his teacher sat beside Kalam to eat his meal. He observed Kalam's hesitation but told him that such problems had to be faced once but now we have decided to change the belief system of society.
4. When the narrator visits Nepal, he finds it no different from his own country, India. He says that Nepal also has streets rushing with people and noise of every kind. The temples there are no different from those found in India. The narrator observes a sense of stillness at the Buddhist shrine, the Boudhanath Stupa. Its immense white dome is ringed by a road with small shops selling items like felt bags, Tibetan prints, and silver jewellery. The quietness of the stupa stands out amidst the busy business activities that go around it. Thus, the narrator regards this place as a haven of quietness in the busy streets around.
5. I don't think it is a true story. It is a folk tale of a legend that has been told by one generation after the other with the twin purpose of entertaining the readers and teaching the moral lesson of being kind, generous and charitable, especially to the poor and the needy. The most important part of the poem is when the greedy woman is turned into a woodpecker because it contains an important message that selfish and stingy people get severely punished.

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words.

1. Johnsy's condition was worrisome according to the doctor because she had not shown any signs of improvement despite good treatment. No medicines could help her in that negative state of mind as she had lost her will to live.
2. The author's house was on fire. The fire raged for five hours and burnt down the author's house almost completely. It was then that he suddenly realised that his cat was missing. He had not seen it all this while and realised to his horror that it was nowhere to be found.
3. One day, an elephant went mad, stamping on bushes, breaking fences, smashing fruit stalls, mud pots and clothes. He even entered a school ground breaking through the brick wall. Ishwaran, who was in the junior class, whacked its third toe nail with a rod and it collapsed. No, the story does not appear to be possible.

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words

1. Emperor Aurangzeb banned the playing of the Pungi in the royal residence because it had a shrill and unpleasant sound. A barber, who belonged to a professional family of musicians, was able to improve its tonal quality. He chose a pipe with a natural hollow stem that was longer and broader than the pungi. He made seven holes on the body of the pipe. When he played the instrument before the royalty by closing and opening its holes, soft musical sounds were produced. Everyone was impressed with this new version of the Pungi. This instrument was quite different from the pungi and needed to be given a new name. Since it was first played in the Shah's chambers and was played by a 'Nai' (barber), the instrument was named the 'shehnai'.
2. The torment and humiliation inflicted on Maria by her fellow trainees failed to demoralise her. This reveals that she had a firm determination and was strong-willed. She was much more mature than other girls of her age and knew the art of survival.

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words.

1. In the Kingdom of Fools, everything looked odd. The disciple was arrested instead of the rich merchant just because he could fit the stake. He recalled the words of his Guru and started praying. The Guru reached in time and prepared a plan to save the disciple's life. The king and his minister became the victims of his plan and got themselves executed. The throne became vacant. People wanted that a wise person should sit on the throne. After the death of the

king and the minister, the people were impressed by the wisdom and power of the Guru. They thought that if the Guru and his disciple became the king and the minister, there would be peace all around. So the people chose to crown the Guru and his disciple. Consequently, the laws changed and the people worked during the day and slept at night as per the instructions commanded by their new king.

2. Before his separation from his parents, the child was extremely happy. On the way to the fair, he was fascinated by different aspects of nature which provided him with abundant joy and pleasure. There were innumerable things that grabbed the little boy's attention. While roaming in the fair, the presence of his parents made him feel secure. Unfortunately, the innocent child got lost in the fair. His cheerful and playful mood was converted to anxiety and fear as soon as he realised that he was separated from his parents. A kind man rescued him and tried to comfort him. The child wept inconsolably and his only concern was to find his parents. All little things that he really wished to have like toys, sweets, and balloons lost value in his eyes in the absence of his parents. He did not wish to get anything that initially lured him. All he wanted was to unite with his parents.

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