

**A Letter of God**

1. The house—the only one in the entire valley—sat on the crest of a low hill. From this height one could see the river and the field of ripe corn dotted with the flowers that always promised a good harvest. The only thing the Earth needed was a downpour or at least a shower. Throughout the morning Lencho who knew his fields intimately had done nothing else but see the sky towards the North- East. “Now we’re really going to get some water, woman”.  
“The woman who was preparing supper, replied, “Yes, God willing”.
- i. **Where was Lencho’s house located?**
    - a) On the crest of low hill
    - b) In the entire valley
    - c) In the field of ripe corn
    - d) Towards the North- East
  - ii. **What was Lencho’s wife preparing?**
    - a) Good harvest
    - b) Supper
    - c) Clothes
    - d) Coffee
  - iii. **Find the word from the extract which means ‘very closely’.**
    - a) Promisingly
    - b) Entire
    - c) Intimately
    - d) Towards
  - iv. **What does ‘crest’ mean?**
    - a) Surface of the hill
    - b) Centre of the hill
    - c) Bottom of the hill
    - d) Top of the hill
2. It was during the meal that, just as Lencho had predicted, big drops of rain began to fall. In the North- East huge mountains of clouds could be seen approaching. The air was fresh and sweet. The man went out for no other reason than to have the pleasure of feeling the rain on his body.
- i. **What could be seen approaching in the North-East?**
    - a) The fresh air
    - b) Huge mountains of clouds
    - c) Big drops of rain
    - d) Herd of stray animals
  - ii. **Why did Lencho go out?**
    - a) To protect his ripe crops
    - b) To shoo away the stray animals
    - c) To irrigate his fields
    - d) To have the pleasure of feeling the rain on his body
  - iii. **Find the word from the extract which means ‘forecasted’.**
    - a) Predicted
    - b) Dotted
    - c) Approached
    - d) Seen
  - iv. **What do you mean by huge mountains of clouds?**
    - a) Very high clouds
    - b) Very dark clouds
    - c) Clouds promising heavy rains
    - d) Clouds making hilly pattern
3. With a satisfied expression he regarded the field of ripe corn with its flowers, draped in a curtain of rain. But suddenly a strong wind began to blow and along with the rain very large hailstones began to fall. These truly did resemble new silver coins. The boys, exposing themselves to the rain, ran out to collect the frozen pearls.
- i. **What happened to the rains suddenly?**
    - a) It stopped
    - b) It turned into acid rain
    - c) It changed into hailstones
    - d) It started raining more heavily
  - ii. **What did hailstones resemble in the extract?**
    - a) Silver coins

- b) Ice-creams
    - c) Flowers snow peaks
  - iii. Find a word in the given extract which means the same as 'contented'.
    - a) Regarded
    - b) Draped
    - c) Exposed
    - d) Satisfied
  - iv. What does the word 'exposing' mean in the extract?
    - a) Hiding
    - b) Coming out in open
    - c) Preventing
    - d) Influencing
4. Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons, "A plague of locusts would have left more than this. The hail has left nothing".
- i. What happened to the crop when the storm had passed?
    - a) It blossomed
    - b) It remained as it was
    - c) It grew to produce more seeds
    - d) The corn was totally destroyed
  - ii. What was the status of leaves after the storm?
    - a) They turned green
    - b) They turned pale
    - c) They were detached from the trees
    - d) They dried up
  - iii. Describe Lencho's feelings as shown in the extract.
    - a) He was elated
    - b) He was very sad
    - c) He was angry
    - d) He was charged up
  - iv. Find the opposite of 'destroyed' from the passage.
    - a) Restored
    - b) Lost
    - c) Grown
    - d) Passed
5. "That's what they say: no one dies of hunger." All through the night, Lencho thought only of his one hope: the help of God, whose eyes, as he had been instructed, see everything, even what is deep in one's conscience. Lencho was an ox of a man, working like an animal in the fields, but still he knew how to write.
- i. What was Lencho's only hope?
    - a) The help of God
    - b) The help of the government
    - c) Flourishing of his another crop
    - d) His family's support
  - ii. Despite being a farmer what did Lencho's know? How did Lencho work in the field?
    - a) How to please God
    - b) How to write
    - c) How to talk
    - d) How to die
  - iii. How did Lencho work in the field?
    - a) Like a farmer
    - b) Like a businessman
    - c) As hard as an animal
    - d) As comfortably as the rich
  - iv. What does that word 'conscience' in the extract mean?
    - a) Knowledge
    - b) Awareness
    - c) Interest
    - d) Moral sense
6. The postmaster—a fat, amiable fellow—also broke out laughing, but almost immediately he turned serious and trapping the letter on his desk, commented, "What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter. Starting up a correspondence with God!"
- So, in order not to shake the writer's faith in God, the postmaster came up with an idea: answer the letter. But when he opened it, it was evident that to answer it he needed something more than goodwill, ink and paper. But he stuck to his resolution: he asked for money from his employees, he himself gave part of his salary and several friends of his were obliged to give something 'for an act of charity'.
- i. What kind of a person the post master was?

- a) A cunning fellow
    - b) A shrewd person
    - c) A lazy person
    - d) An amiable fellow
  - ii. Why did the postmaster break out laughing?
    - a) On sitting a chair that was broken
    - b) On seeing the pathetic condition of Lencho
    - c) On seeing a letter addressed to the God
    - d) On foolishness of the farmer
  - iii. How did the postmaster help Lencho?
    - a) By replying to his letter
    - b) By collecting money from co-workers and sending to Lencho
    - c) By sending Lencho's letter to the God
    - d) By employing Lencho in the post-office
  - iv. What does the word 'resolution' in the extract mean
    - a) Determination
    - b) Attachment
    - c) Sympathy
    - d) Kindness
7. The following Sunday, Lencho came a bit earlier than usual to ask if there was a letter for him. It was the postman himself who handed the letter to him while the postmaster, experiencing the contentment of a man who has performed a good deed, looked on from his office.
- Lencho showed not the slightest surprise on seeing the money; such was his confidence, but he became angry when he counted the money. God could not have made a mistake, nor could He have denied Lencho what he had requested.
- i. Why did Lencho come earlier to the post-office on Sunday?
    - a) To collect his money
    - b) To enquire about any letter for him
    - c) To meet the postmaster
    - d) To post another letter
  - ii. Why was Lencho angry when he counted the money?
    - a) The postmaster asked him for commission
    - b) The letter was already open
    - c) A few notes were of old currency.
    - d) The amount received was not equivalent to the money demanded
  - iii. Which word in the extract is opposite of 'permitted'?
    - a) Denied
    - b) Accepted
    - c) Stopped
    - d) Deferred
  - iv. What does the word 'confidence' in the extract mean?
    - a) Courage
    - b) Pride
    - c) Faith
    - d) Desire
8. When he finished, he went to the window to buy a stamp which he licked and then affixed to the envelope with a blow of his fist. The moment the letter fell into the mailbox the postmaster went to open it. It said: "God: Of the money that I asked for, only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since I need it very much. But don't send it to me through the mail because the post office employees are a 'bunch of crooks'. Lencho."
- i. What did Lencho do with the stamp?
    - a) Put a seal on it
    - b) Marked it across
    - c) Licked and affixed it to the envelope
    - d) Tore it into pieces
  - ii. What did the postmaster do when the letter fell into the mailbox and why?
    - a) He opened the letter to comprehend Lencho's reaction on receiving the money
    - b) He opened it to reply immediately
    - c) He posted it quickly to the God to help Lencho
    - d) He tore it into pieces to satisfy his ego
  - iii. Why didn't Lencho want God to send him rest of the amount through mail?
    - a) Because it caused delay
    - b) Because it was not safe in a paper envelope
    - c) Because his wife wanted to see the God on this pretext
    - d) Because the post-office employees were a bunch of crooks in this

opinion

- iv. What does the phrase 'bunch of crooks' in the extract mean?
- a) A group of powerful people
  - b) A group of businessmen
  - c) A group of dishonest people
  - d) A group of bankrupt people
9. One of the employee, who was a postman and also helped at the post office, went to his boss laughing heartily and showed him the letter to God. Never in his career as a postman had he known that address. The postmaster—a fat, amiable fellow—also broke out laughing, but almost immediately he turned serious and, tapping the letter on his desk, commented, "What faith! I wish I had the faith of the man who wrote this letter. Starting up a correspondence with God."
- i. Why was the postman laughing?
- a) On foolishness of the farmer
  - b) On cunningness of the farmer
  - c) On smartness of the farmer
  - d) On innocence of the farmer
- ii. Why did the postmaster turn serious?
- a) Faith of Lencho towards God turned him serious
  - b) Circumstances of Lencho turned him serious
  - c) Foolishness of Lencho turned him serious
  - d) Cruelty of God towards Lencho turned him serious
- iii. What does correspondence mean?
- a) Transfer
  - b) Exchange
  - c) Communication
  - d) Travelling
- iv. Pick out a word from the extract which means 'agreeable'.
- a) Heartily
  - b) Amiable
  - c) Correspondence
  - d) Faith
10. On the public writing- table, he started to write, with much wrinkling of his brow, caused by the effort he had to make to express his ideas. When he finished, he went to the window to buy a stamp which he licked and then affixed to the envelope with a blow of his fist. The moment the letter fell into mailbox, the postmaster went to open it. It said, "God of the money that i asked for ,only seventy pesos reached me. Send me the rest, since, I need it very much. But don't send it to me through the mail, because the post office employees are a bunch of crooks. Lencho."
- i. Why was Lencho having wrinkle?
- a) Because of trying to express his ideas on paper.
  - b) Because of loss of crops
  - c) Because of the postmaster's indifferent approach
  - d) Because of staying hungry
- ii. To whom was the letter addressed?
- a) The government
  - b) The God
  - c) The post-office
  - d) Lencho himself
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_ means the hairy line over eye.
- a) Wrinkling
  - b) Blow
  - c) Brow
  - d) Retina
- iv. Why did not Lencho want rest of money through mail?
- a) Because he had to pay bribe to the postman
  - b) Mail took a lot of time to deliver
  - c) Lencho might change his address in the meantime
  - d) Post-office employees were a bunch of crooks in his view

#### **Nelson Mandela: Long Walk To Freedom**

1. 10th May dawned bright and clear. For the past few days I had been pleasantly besieged by dignitaries and world leaders who were coming to pay their respects before the inauguration. The inauguration would be the largest gathering ever of international leaders on South African soil.
- The ceremonies took place in the lovely sandstone amphitheatre formed by the Union Buildings in Pretoria. For decades this had been the seat of white supremacy, and now it was the site of a rainbow gathering of different colours and nations for the installation of South Africa's first democratic, non-racial government.
- i. Who were coming and for what before the inauguration?
- a) Dignitaries and world leaders to pay their respect to Mandela
  - b) British Queen to declare freedom

- c) Nelson Mandela to achieve freedom
    - d) Indian President to welcome Mandela
  - ii. What happened on the inauguration?
    - a) South Africa was freed
    - b) Mandela was imprisoned
    - c) First ever democracy, a non-racial government was installed in South Africa
    - d) India was welcomed as a major ally
  - iii. Which word in the extract means the same as 'commencement'?
    - a) Dawned
    - b) Inauguration
    - c) Ceremonies
    - d) Installation
  - iv. Why was it called South Africa's first non-racial government?
    - a) It was free from racial bias
    - b) It was a Non-British Government
    - c) It was South Africa's first government
    - d) A black was swearing in as the President of the country
- 2. On that lovely autumn day, I was accompanied by my daughter Zenani. On the podium, Mr de Klerk was first sworn in as second Deputy President. Then Thabo Mbeki was sworn in as first Deputy President. When it was my turn, I pledged to obey and uphold the Constitution and to devote myself to the well-being of the republic and its people.
  - i. Who accompanied Nelson Mandela on the inauguration?
    - a) Zenani, daughter of Nelson Mandela
    - b) Narsimha Rao, Indian Prime Minister
    - c) British Queen
    - d) President of UNO
  - ii. Who took oath before Mandela?
    - a) de Klerk as Prime Minister
    - b) Mr de Klerk and Mr Thabo Mbeki as second and first Deputy President
    - c) Thabo Mbeki as Prime Minister
    - d) Zenani as Home Minister
  - iii. Which word in the extract means 'maintain'?
    - a) Accompanied
    - b) Podium
    - c) Uphold
    - d) Devote
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ is a small platform for delivering speech.
    - a) Autums
    - b) Stage
    - c) Republic
    - d) Podium
- 3. We, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil. We thank all of our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is after all a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity.  
 We have, at last, achieved our political emancipation. We pledge ourselves to liberate all our people from the continuing bondage of poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender and other discrimination.
  - i. What does 'we' refer to in the first line of the extract?
    - a) Britain
    - b) South Africa
    - c) UNO
    - d) Africa
  - ii. What did the people of South Africa achieve at last?
    - a) Freedom
    - b) Equality
    - c) The government
    - d) Political emancipation
  - iii. The word 'bondage' means \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract.
    - a) Freedom
    - b) Comfort
    - c) Suffering
    - d) Slavery
  - iv. Who quoted the above lines in a ceremony?
    - a) Zenani
    - b) Nelson Mandela
    - c) Thabo Mbeki
    - d) de Klerk
- 4. A few moments later we all lifted our eyes in awe as a spectacular array of South African jets, helicopters and troop carriers roared in perfect formation over the Union Buildings. It was not only a display of pinpoint precision and military force, but a demonstration of military's loyalty to democracy, to a new government that

had been freely and fairly elected. Only moments before, the highest generals of South African defence force and police, their chests bedecked with ribbons and medals from days gone by, saluted me and pledged their loyalty. I was not unmindful of the fact that not so many years before they would not have saluted but arrested me. Finally a chevron of Impala jets left a smoke Trail of the black, red, green, blue and gold of the new South African flag.

- i. **What did the highest Generals do in the event?**
    - a) Saluted and pledged their loyalty to Mandela
    - b) Controlled the crowd
    - c) Awarded Nelson Mandela
    - d) Surrendered themselves in front of Mandela
  - ii. **What did the smoke trail of Impala symbolise?**
    - a) The national animal of South Africa
    - b) The new national flag of South Africa
    - c) The national anthem of South Africa
    - d) The mark of end of slavery
  - iii. **Which word in the extract means the same as 'adorned'?**
    - a) Array
    - b) Precision
    - c) Bedecked
    - d) Pledged
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ is a line or pattern in the shape of 'V' signifying victory.
    - a) Loyalty
    - b) Ribbons
    - c) Chests
    - d) Chevron
5. On the day of the inauguration, I was overwhelmed with a sense of history. In the first decade of the 20th century, a few years after the bitter Anglo-Boer war and before my own birth, the white-skinned people of South Africa patched up their differences and created a system of racial domination against the dark-skinned people of their own land. The structure they created formed the basis of one of the harshest, most inhumane societies the world has ever known. Now, in the last decade of the 20th century, and my own eighth decade as a man, that system had been overturned for ever and replaced by one that recognised the rights and freedoms of all peoples, regardless of the colour of their skin. That day had come about through the unimaginable sacrifices of thousands of my people, people whose suffering and courage can never be counted or repaid.
- i. **What happened after Anglo-Boer War?**
    - a) System of racial discrimination erected
    - b) Slavery was uprooted
    - c) Freedom was limited
    - d) Private ownership was suspended
  - ii. **On what basis was the structure of new government created?**
    - a) As communist code of conduct
    - b) As capitalist code of conduct
    - c) As recognition of rights and freedom of people
    - d) As recognition of rights of black people
  - iii. **Which word in the extract means the same as 'astounded'?**
    - a) Patched
    - b) Overwhelmed
    - c) Formed
    - d) Overturned
  - iv. **What is the meaning of the phrase 'to patch up the differences'?**
    - a) To set right
    - b) To win the argument
    - c) To make friendship
    - d) To settle some dispute
6. The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in my country and my people. All of us will spend many years, if not generations, recovering from that profound hurt. But the decades of oppression and brutality had another unintended effect, and that was that it produced the Oliver Tambos, the Walter Sisulus, the Chief Luthulis, the Yusuf Dadoos, the Bram Fischers, the Robert Sobukwes of our time-men of such extraordinary courage, wisdom and generosity that their like may never be known again. Perhaps it requires such depths of oppression to create such heights of character. My country is rich in the minerals and gems that lie beneath its soil, but I have always known that its greatest wealth is its people, finer and truer than the purest diamonds.
- i. **What did the policy of Apartheid create?**
    - a) Great understanding among the people
    - b) A deep and lasting wound in the country

- c) Hatred and terrorism in the country
    - d) Smooth functioning of the government
  - ii. What is the greatest wealth according to Mandela?
    - a) Gems of the nation
    - b) Political leaders of the nation
    - c) Agriculture of the nation
    - d) People of the nation
  - iii. Who is considered finer than the purest diamonds?
    - a) The people of South Africa
    - b) The cricketers of South Africa
    - c) The workers of South Africa
    - d) The women of South Africa
  - iv. Which word in the extract means 'to treat someone / something cruelly and unfairly'?
 

a) Apartheid	b) Profound
c) To oppress	d) Effect
7. "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, both he who conquers that fear. No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin or his background or his religion. People must learn to hate and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than it's opposite. Even in the grimmest times in prison, when my comrades and I were pushed to our limits, I would see a glimmer of humanity in one of the guards, perhaps just for a second, but it was enough to reassure me and keep me going. Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished.
- i. How does Mandela define the brave?
    - a) One having courage to conquer fear
    - b) One having power to beat the enemy
    - c) One having moral to stay true
    - d) One having firm faith in oneself
  - ii. Which was the grimmest time for Mandela?
    - a) When he was facing starvation
    - b) When the nation was facing slavery
    - c) When he and his comrades were pushed behind the bars
    - d) When he became the President of South Africa
  - iii. Find a word in the extract meaning 'victory'.
 

a) Courage	b) Triumph
c) Conquers	d) Guards
  - iv. With what has man's goodness been compared?
    - a) Courage
    - b) Learning
    - c) Glimmer
    - d) Flame that can be diminished but not extinguished
8. In life, every man has twin obligations—obligations to his family, to his parents, to his wife and children; and he has an obligation to his people, his community, his country. In a civil and humane society, each man is able to fulfil those obligations according to his own inclinations and abilities. But in a country like South Africa, it was almost impossible for a man of my birth and colour to fulfil both of those obligations. In South Africa, a man of colour who attempted to live as a human being was punished and isolated.
- i. What are the obligations that every man has in life?
    - a) Family, community and country
    - b) Job and survival
    - c) Economic status and society
    - d) Earning for livelihood
  - ii. Why was it impossible for a coloured man to discharge his obligations?
    - a) Due to slavery
    - b) Due to fear of punishment and isolation
    - c) Due to lack of awareness
    - d) Due to stringent laws
  - iii. Find a word in the extract which means the same as 'duty'?
 

a) Community	b) Inclinations
c) Obligations	d) Isolated
  - iv. What does the word 'inclinations' used in the extract mean?

- a) Desires
- c) Values

- b) Principles
- d) Intentions

9. "I was not born with a hungry to be free. I was born free—free in every way that I could know. Free to run in the fields near my mother's hut, free to swim in the clear stream that ran through my village, free to roast mealies under the stars and ride the broad backs of slow-moving bulls. As long as I obeyed my father and abided by the customs of my tribe, I was not troubled by the laws of man or God. It was only when I began to learn that my boyhood freedom was an illusion, when I discovered as a young man that my freedom had already been taken from me, that I began to hunger for it. At first, as a student, I wanted freedom only for myself, the transitory freedoms of being able to stay out at night, read what I pleased and go where I chose. Later, as a young man in Johannesburg, I yearned for the basic and honourable freedoms of achieving my potential, of earning my keep, of marrying and having a family—the freedom not to be obstructed in a lawful life."

i. **Mandela was not troubled by the laws of man or God as long as**

- a) He obeyed his father and abided by the customs of his tribe
- b) He studied and completed his home work
- c) The earned and supported his family
- d) His nation was not enslaved

ii. **What kind of freedom did Mandela yearn for as a man?**

- a) Freedom to live his life on his own terms
- b) Freedom to earn to his potential, marry and have family
- c) Freedom to lead his country the way he wished
- d) Freedom to swim in clear

iii. **What does the word 'illusion' used in the extract mean?**

- a) Advantage
- b) Dishonour
- c) A deceptive appearance or impression
- d) A true idea or belief

iv. **What is transitory freedom?**

- a) Long-lasting freedom
- b) Borrowed freedom
- c) Eternal freedom
- d) Momentary or temporary freedom

10. "But then I slowly saw that not only was I not free, but my brothers and sisters were not free. I saw that it was not just my freedom that was curtailed, but the freedom of everyone who looked like I did. That is when I joined the African National Congress and that is when the hunger for my own freedom became the greater hunger for the freedom of my people. It was this desire for the freedom of my people to live their lives with dignity and self-respect that animated my life, that transformed a frightened young man into a bold one, that drove a law-abiding attorney to become a criminal, that turned a family-loving husband into a man without a home, that forced a life-loving man to live like a monk. I am more virtuous or self-sacrificing than the next man, but I found that I could not even enjoy the poof and limited freedoms I was allowed when I knew my people were not free. Freedom is indivisible; the chains on anyone of my people were the chains on all of them, the chains on all of my people were the chains on me."

i. **Why did Mandela join African National Congress?**

- a) To become the President of the country
- b) To fight for the freedom of his people
- c) To earn fame across the globe
- d) To let the elections be conducted fair and free

ii. **What transformed a frightened young man into a bold one?**

- a) Joy of being famous
- b) Starvation of his family
- c) Death of the innocent black people
- d) Desire for the freedom of people of his nation

iii. **Which word in the extract means the same as 'worthy'?**

- a) Virtuous
- b) Curtailed
- c) Animated
- d) Transformed

iv. **What does the word 'animated' mean in the extract?**

- a) Killed
- b) Discouraged
- c) Inspired
- d) Glorified



11. That day had come about through the unimaginable sacrifices of thousands of my people, people whose suffering and courage can never be counted or repaid. I felt that day, as I have on so many other days that I was simply the sum of all those African patriots who had gone before me. That long and noble line ended and now began again with me. I was pained that I was not able to thank them and that they were not able to see what their sacrifices had brought.

- i. Which occasion is the speaker talking about?
  - a) The day of South Africa's loss of freedom
  - b) The day of his imprisonment
  - c) The day of South Africa's independence
  - d) The day of his being born
- ii. What did the people of South Africa suffer from?
  - a) Racial dominance of the white
  - b) Illegal mining in the nation
  - c) Trafficking of the children
  - d) Gender discrimination
- iii. Which word is opposite of 'patriots' in meaning?
 

a) Nationalists	b) Loyalists
c) Jingoists	d) Traitors
- iv. Which word in the extract means 'oblation'?
 

a) Unimaginable	b) Sacrifices
c) Suffering	d) Noble

12. My country is rich in the minerals and gems that lie beneath its soil, but I have always known that its greatest wealth is its people, finer and truer than the purest diamonds. It is from those comrades in the struggle that I learned the meaning of courage. Time and again I have seen men and women risk and give their lives for an idea. I have seen men stand up to attacks and torture without breaking, showing a strength and resilience that defies the imagination.

- i. What opinion does the author have about the people of South Africa?
  - a) They are patriots
  - b) They are traitors
  - c) They are indifferent
  - d) They are the greatest wealth of the nation
- ii. When do the people risk their life, according to the passage?
  - a) For being rich and prosperous
  - b) For achieving successful career
  - c) For the freedom of their nation and people
  - d) For the sake of their religion
- iii. Which word in the extract means 'the ability to recuperate quickly after a shock or injury'?
 

a) Comrades	b) Resilience
c) Courage	d) Strength
- iv. Which word in the extract means 'to refuse to obey'?
 

a) Defy	b) Attack
c) Break	d) Show

#### Two Stories About Flying:- His First Flight

1. The young seagull was alone on his ledge. His two brothers and his sister had already flown away the day before. He had been afraid to fly with them. Somehow when he had taken a little run forward to the brink of the ledge and attempted to flap his wings he became afraid. The great expanse of sea stretched down beneath, and it was such a long way down – miles down. He felt certain that his wings would never support him; so he bent his head and ran away back to the little hole under the ledge where he slept at night.

- i. What was the young seagull afraid of?
 

a) Flying	b) Swimming
c) Running	d) Hiding
- ii. What did the young seagull feel about his wings?
  - a) They are too heavy
  - b) They are too light
  - c) They would never support him
  - d) They are perfect
- iii. Pick out the word in the extract that means the same as 'verge'.
 

a) Ledge	b) Brink
c) Flap	d) Bent

- iv. What does the phrase 'on his ledge' signify the extract?
  - a) That the seagull is the owner of the ledge
  - b) That the ledge is his prized possession
  - c) That the seagull wants to own the ledge
  - d) That the seagull lives on a narrow flat piece of rock, termed as ledge
2. That was twenty-four hour ago. Since then nobody had come near him. The day before, all day long, he had watched his parents flying about with his brothers and sister, perfecting them in the art of flight, teaching them how to skim the waves and how to drive for fish. He had in fact, seen his elder brother catch his first herring and devour it, standing on a rock, while his parents circled around raising a proud cackle. And all the morning the whole family had walked about on the big plateau mid-way down the opposite cliff taunting him for his cowardice.
  - i. For how much time has the young seagull been alone?
    - a) For 45 minutes
    - b) For twenty four hours
    - c) For three days
    - d) For one week
  - ii. Why was the whole family taunting the young seagull?
    - a) For his foolish act
    - b) For his lying
    - c) For his bravery
    - d) For his cowardice
  - iii. Which word in the extract means the same as 'consume'?
 

a) Devour	b) Horrifying
c) Cackle	d) Cliff
  - iv. What does 'his cowardice' in the extract signify?
    - a) Courage of flight
    - b) Weakness of wings
    - c) Fear of flying
    - d) Act of taunting
3. He stepped slowly out to the brink of the ledge, and standing on one leg with the other leg hidden under his wing, he closed one eye, then the other, and pretended to be falling asleep. Still they took no notice of him. He saw his two brothers and his sister lying on the plateau dozing with their heads sunk into their necks. His father was preening the feathers on his white back. Only his mother was looking at him. She was standing on a little high hump on the plateau, her white breast thrust forward. Now and again, she tore at a piece of fish that lay at her feet and then scrapped each side of her beak on the rock.
  - i. What did the young seagull do out of his ledge?
    - a) Pretended to be falling asleep
    - b) Caught a fish
    - c) Dozed with his head sunk into his neck
    - d) Played with his siblings
  - ii. What was seagull's father doing?
    - a) Watching the activities of his children
    - b) Helping his wife
    - c) Preening the feathers on his white back
    - d) Sleeping on the plateau
  - iii. Find out the word in the extract which means the same as 'to sharpen'?
 

a) Dozing	b) Standing
c) Stepped	d) Preening
  - iv. What does plateau mean in this passage?
    - a) An area of land in the shape of 'V'
    - b) An area of land that is higher than the land around it
    - c) A low lying area
    - d) A vally shaped pit
4. Then a monstrous terror seized him and his heart stood still. He could hear nothing. But it only lasted a minute. The next moment he felt his wings spread outwards. The wind rushed against his breast feathers, then under his stomach, and against his wings. He could feel the tips of his wings cutting through the air. He was not falling headlong now. He was soaring gradually downwards and outwards. He was no longer afraid. He just felt a bit dizzy. Then he flapped his wings once and he soared upwards. "Ga, ga, ga, Ga, ga, ga, Gaw-col-ah," his mother swooped past

him, her wings making a loud noise. He answered her with another scream. Then his father flew over him screaming. He saw his two brothers and his sister flying around him curving and banking and soaring and diving.

- i. **What did the young seagull feel the next moment?**
    - a) Spreading out of his wings
    - b) Falling down in the valley
    - c) Rising towards sky
    - d) Freezing of wings
  - ii. **What did the young seagull's mother do?**
    - a) Protected him
    - b) Pushed him
    - c) Swooped past him by making a loud noise
    - d) Caught hold of him
  - iii. **Which word in the extract means the same as 'fly high in the air'?**
    - a) Seized
    - b) Spread
    - c) Soaring
    - d) Cutting
  - iv. **Why could the young seagull hear nothing?**
    - a) Because of flying
    - b) A monstrous terror seized him to make his heart stand still
    - c) Because of failing down
    - d) Because of screams
5. His parents and his brothers and sister had landed on this green flooring ahead of him. They were beckoning to him, calling shrilly. He dropped his legs to stand on the green sea. His legs sank into it. He screamed with fright and attempted to rise again flapping his wings. But he was tired and weak with hunger and he could not rise, exhausted by the strange exercise. His feet sank into the green sea, and then his belly touched it and he sank no father. He was floating on it, and around him his family was screaming, praising him and their beaks were offering him scraps of dog-fish.
- i. **What made the young seagull tired?**
    - a) His first flight
    - b) Over-eating
    - c) Standing on one leg for long
    - d) Fear of falling
  - ii. **What happened when seagull tried to stand on green flooring?**
    - a) He succeeded
    - b) His legs sank into it
    - c) He jumped unusually high
    - d) He slipped over it
  - iii. **Which word in the extract means the same as 'inviting'?**
    - a) Landed
    - b) Flooring
    - c) Beckoning
    - d) Flapping
  - iv. **The word \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means a small piece / amount of something.**
    - a) Dog-fish
    - b) Wings
    - c) Belly
    - d) Scraps
6. He waited a moment in surprise, wondering why she did not come nearer, and then maddened by hunger, he dived at the fish. With a loud scream he fell outwards and downwards into space. Then a monstrous terror seized him and his heart stood still. He could hear nothing. But it only lasted a minute. The next moment he felt his wings spread outwards.
- i. **What made the young seagull feel surprised for a moment?**
    - a) His mother's not coming towards him
    - b) His diving at the fish
    - c) His land screaming
    - d) Freezing of his wings
  - ii. **Why was the young seagull terrified?**
    - a) The fish attacked him
    - b) He fell outwards and downwards into space
    - c) His mother had slipped away
    - d) A monster had attacked his mother
  - iii. **Find the word in the extract which means the same as 'clutched'.**
    - a) Maddened
    - b) Dived
    - c) Seized
    - d) Lasted

- iv. What is the synonym of the word 'scream' used in the extract?
- |         |           |
|---------|-----------|
| a) Weep | b) Shout  |
| c) Loud | d) Shriek |

### The Black Aeroplane

1. The moon was coming up in the east, behind me, and stars were shining in the clear sky above me. There wasn't a cloud in the sky. I was happy to be alone high up above the sleeping countryside. I was flying my old Dakota aeroplane over France back to England. I was dreaming of my holiday and looking forward to being with my family. I looked at my watch at one thirty in the morning. I should call Paris Control soon. I thought. As I looked down past the nose of the aeroplane, I saw the lights of a big city in front of me.
  - i. How was the weather when the pilot started flying his aeroplane?
 

a) Cloudy	b) Clear
c) Stormy	d) Foggy
  - ii. Why was the pilot flying his old Dakota?
 

a) Because he had to report back to head quarter
b) Because he had to monitor the weather conditions
c) Because he was on a secret vigil against enemy
d) Because he wished to have morning breakfast with family
  - iii. Which word in the extract means the same as 'land outside towns or cities'?
 

a) Countryside	b) Behind
c) Dreaming	d) High
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'hoping with pleasure'.
 

a) Coming up	b) Shining in
c) Looking forward to	d) Look at
2. Paris was about 150 kilometres behind me when I saw the clouds. Storm clouds. They were huge. They looked like black mountains standing in front of me across the sky—I knew I could not fly up and over them, and I did not have enough fuel to fly around them to the north or south.
  - i. What happened when the pilot was about 150 kilometres away from Paris?
 

a) He saw storm clouds
b) It started raining
c) He noticed a spy jet at a close distance
d) The level of fuel fell below the danger mark
  - ii. What does the author compare clouds to?
 

a) A monster	b) Black mountains
c) Dragon	d) Angel
  - iii. Find out the word in the extract which is similar in meaning to 'sufficient'.
 

a) Huge	b) Over
c) Enough	d) Across
  - iv. What does 'storm clouds' mean in the extract?
 

a) Colourful clouds
b) Foggy clouds
c) Yellow and red clouds
d) Huge and dark clouds
3. "He knows that I am lost", I thought he's trying to help me. He turned his aeroplane slowly to the north, in front of my Dakota, so that it would be easier of me to follow him. I was very happy to go behind the strange aeroplane like an obedient child. After half an hour the strange black aeroplane was still there in front of me in the clouds. Now, there was only enough fuel in the old Dakota's last tank to fly for five or ten minutes more. I was starting to feel frightened again. But then he started to go down and I followed through the storm.
  - i. Why was the pilot happy to find his aeroplane behind another aeroplane in the black clouds?
 

a) As the other pilot was helping him come out of the storm clouds
b) As he was not willing to win the race
c) As the other pilot had warned him not to overtake
d) As he would get more time to fly in the sky
  - ii. Why was the pilot frightened again?

- a) Another plane chased him from behind
    - b) The aeroplane, flying in front of him, had vanished
    - c) The fuel was not sufficient to reach the destination
    - d) The clouds had disappeared completely
  - iii. Find the opposite of 'fearless' from the extract.
    - a) Follow
    - b) Frightened
    - c) Strange
    - d) Enough
  - iv. What is the significance of the strange aeroplane in the passage?
    - a) It was black
    - b) It could fly anywhere
    - c) It was a super aircraft
    - d) It helped the Dakota pilot in safe landing during storm
4. I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota near the control tower. I went and asked a woman in the control tower. I went and asked a woman in the control centre where I was and who the other pilot was. I wanted to say 'Thank you'.
- She looked at me very strangely, and then laughed.
- "Another aeroplane? Up there in this storm? No other aeroplanes were flying tonight. Yours was the only one I could see on the radar."
- So who helped me to arrive there safely without a compass or a radio, and without any more fuel in my tanks? Who was the pilot on the strange black aeroplane, fling in the storm, without lights?
- i. Why did the pilot go to control centre immediately?
    - a) To ask about the black aeroplane so as to thank the pilot for saving his life
    - b) To report about the dust storm
    - c) To get his leave sanctioned
    - d) To get the pilot of the black aeroplane arrested
  - ii. Why was the pilot shocked after hearing the woman's word?
    - a) Because she scolded him for nothing
    - b) Because she could not be seen
    - c) Because no other aeroplane was flying that night, according to her radar report
    - d) Because she only was flying the other aeroplane
  - iii. Find out the word in the extract that means the same as 'peculiar'.
    - a) Centre
    - b) Strange
    - c) Compass
    - d) Tanks
  - iv. Which part of speech does the word 'tonight' belong to?
    - a) Preposition
    - b) Noun
    - c) Adjective
    - d) Adverb
5. Suddenly I came out of the clouds and saw two long straight lines of lights in front of me. It was a runway! An airport! I was safe! I turned to look for my friend in the black aeroplane, but the sky was empty. There was nothing there. The black aeroplane was gone. I could not see it anywhere. I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota near the control tower. I went and asked a woman in the control centre where I was and who the other pilot was. I wanted to say, "Thank you".
- i. What did the narrator see when he came out of the clouds?
    - a) Two long straight lines of light i.e. a runway
    - b) A spy jet
    - c) Two other aeroplanes
    - d) Woman pilot of the black aeroplane
  - ii. Why did he ask about the other aeroplane to the woman in the control centre?
    - a) To report about the fallen part of that aeroplane
    - b) To complain to that pilot about rash flying
    - c) To convey his thanks to him for his safe landing
    - d) To inform him about the adverse weather conditions
  - iii. Find out the word in the extract that means the same as 'vacant'.
    - a) Black
    - b) Empty
    - c) Nothing
    - d) Sorry
  - iv. Who is a pilot?
    - a) One who operates control centre
    - b) One who mends radars

- c) One who looks after the maintenance of the aeroplane
- d) One who flies the aeroplane

**From the Diary of Anne Frank**

1. Writing in a diary is really strange experience for someone like me. Not only because I have never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor anyone else will be interested in the musing of a thirteen year old school girl. Oh well, it doesn't matter. I feel like writing and I have an even greater need to get all kind of things off my chest.  
'Paper has more patience than people.' I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out.
  - i. To whom does 'I' refer in the extract?
 

a) Anne Frank	b) Margot Frank
c) Mr. Van Daan	d) M Keesing
  - ii. 'Paper has more patience than people' why did Anne Frank say that?
    - a) Paper does not offend
    - b) Paper is more mature and serious
    - c) One can rely on paper to confide
    - d) Paper can be hidden easily
  - iii. Find a word in the extract that means 'deep thought'.
 

a) Diary	b) Musing
c) Strange	d) Chin
  - iv. What does the word 'listless' used in the extract mean?
 

a) Uncountable	b) Many
c) Numberless	d) Lethargic
2. Let me put it more clearly, since no one will believe that a thirteen-year-old girl is completely alone in the world. And I'm not. I have loving parents and a sixteen-year-old sister, and there are about thirty people I can call friends. I have a family loving aunts and a good home. No, on the surface I seem to have everything, except my one true friend. All I think about when I'm with friends is having a good time. I can't bring myself to talk about anything but ordinary everyday things. We don't seem to be able to get any closer, and that's the problem. Maybe it's my fault that we don't confide in each other. In any case, that's just how things are, and unfortunately they're not liable to change. This is why I've started the diary.
  - i. Why was Anne Frank disturbed even when she had loving parents, relatives and friends?
    - a) Due to being listless
    - b) Due to lack of a true friend
    - c) Due to her hostile nature
    - d) Due to her teacher
  - ii. Why did Anne decide to write a diary?
    - a) To keep track of her day-to-day activities
    - b) To write poetry
    - c) To become an authoress
    - d) To share her secrets with a trusted source
  - iii. Which word in the extract means 'unluckily'?
 

a) Unfortunately	b) Clearly
c) Completely	d) Liable
  - iv. To confide in somebody is to \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a) To be inspired by someone
    - b) To encourage someone
    - c) Tell someone your secrets or personal information
    - d) To explore secret information from others
3. To enhance the image of this long awaited friend in my imagination, I don't want to jot down the facts in this dairy the way most people would do, but I want the dairy to be my friend, and I'm going to call this friend 'Kitty'.  
Since no one would understand a word of my stories to Kitty if I were to plunge right in, I'd better provide a brief sketch of my life, much as I dislike doing so.
  - i. Who was the long awaited friend of Anne?
 

a) Kitty, the Diary	b) Otto Frank
c) Margot Frank	d) Mr. Van Daan
  - ii. What did she provide in her diary?
    - a) Her teacher's secrets
    - b) A brief sketch of her life and family

- c) Confidential information related to the country
    - d) Her creative compositions
  - iii. Find a word from the extract which means the same as 'submerge'.
    - a) Enhance
    - b) Await
    - c) Plunge
    - d) Sketch
  - iv. To write down the thought as and when it occurs in mind is called \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a) Sketch
    - b) Diary
    - c) Plunge
    - d) To jot down
4. My father the most adorable father I've ever seen, didn't marry my mother until he was 36 and she was 25. My sister Marot was born in Frankfurt in Germany in 1926. I was born on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 1929. I lived in Frankfurt until I was four. My father emigrated to Holland and 1933. My mother, Edith Hollander Frank, went with him to Holland in September, while Margot and I were sent to Aachen to stay with our grandmother.
- i. When and where was Anne Frank born?
    - a) 12th June, 1929, Germany
    - b) 19th June, 1929, Germany
    - c) 29th June, 1912, France
    - d) 12th June, 1929, France
  - ii. With whom did Anne and her sister Margot stay in Aachen?
    - a) With their teacher
    - b) With Mr. Van Daan
    - c) With their grandmother
    - d) In the school hostel
  - iii. Find the opposite of the word 'emigrated' used in the extract?
    - a) Move to a new country
    - b) Stay
    - c) Settle permanently in a new country
    - d) Roam
  - iv. Is there any word in the extract which means 'to dote on'? If yes, write it.
    - a) Yes, marry
    - b) Yes, emigrate
    - c) Yes, born
    - d) Yes, adore
5. That evening, after I'd finished the rest of my homework, the note about the essay caught my eye. I began thinking about the subject while chewing the tip of my fountain pen. Anyone could ramble on and leave big spaces between the words, but the trick was to come up with convincing arguments to prove the necessity of talking. I thought and thought, and suddenly I had an idea: I wrote the three pages Mr Keesing had assigned me and was satisfied. I argued that talking is a student's trait and that I would do my best to keep it under control, but that I would never be able to cure myself of the habit since my mother talked as much as I did if not more, and that there's not much you can do about inherited traits.
- i. What is the main feature of an essay according to Anne?
    - a) To give convincing arguments in support of the necessity to talk
    - b) To create a story according to time
    - c) To summarise a situation
    - d) To conclude an event
  - ii. What did Anne argue in the essay?
    - a) That an essay is the best medium to describe
    - b) That talking is a student's trait
    - c) That arguing with elders is wrong
    - d) That students should not argue with teachers
  - iii. What does the idiom 'caught my eye' mean?
    - a) Pay attention
    - b) Focus
    - c) Attract attention
    - d) Divert attention
  - iv. What do you understand by inherited traits?
    - a) Owning traits
    - b) Creating traits
    - c) Benefit from traits
    - d) Copying of features from family
6. However, during the third lesson he'd finally had enough. "Anne Frank, as punishment for talking in class, write an essay entitled -----'Quack, Quack, Quack, Said Mistress Chatterbox'." The class roared. I had to laugh too, thought I'd nearly exhausted my ingenuity on the topic of Chatterboxes. It was time to come up with

something else, something original. My friend, Sanne, who's good at poetry, offered to help me write the essay from beginning to end in verse and I jumped for joy. Mr Keesing was trying to play a joke on me with this ridiculous subject, but I'd made sure the joke was on him.

- i. **Why did Mr Keesing, her teacher, ask her to write another essay?**
    - a) As reward
    - b) As punishment
    - c) As appreciation
    - d) As project work
  - ii. **Why did Anne want to write the essay with the help of her friends Sanne?**
    - a) To guide her friend
    - b) To copy the same essay
    - c) To co-operate with each other
    - d) To write something original, as Sanne had suggested to write the essay in verse
  - iii. **Find out the word in the extract which means 'deserving or inviting mockery'?**
    - a) Ridiculous
    - b) Exhausted
    - c) Ingenuity
    - d) Verse
  - iv. **The word \_\_\_\_\_ means the ability to invent things and solve problems in the clever and new way.**
    - a) Verse
    - b) Chatter box
    - c) Ingenuity
    - d) Original
7. I finished ray poem, and it was beautiful! It was about a mother duck and a father swan with three baby ducklings who were bitten to death by the father because they quacked too much. Luckily, Mr Keesing took the joke the right way. He read the poem to the class, adding his own comments, and to several other classes as well. Since then I've been allowed to talk and haven't been assigned any extra homework. On the contrary, Mr Keesing's always making jokes these days.
- i. **Why did father duck kill the baby ducklings?**
    - a) To satisfy his hunger
    - b) To teach their mother a lesson
    - c) Because they quacked too much
    - d) Because they were not growing
  - ii. **What happened when Mr Keesing read the essay?**
    - a) He understood Anne's feelings and allowed her to talk
    - b) He began to laugh uncontrollably
    - c) He scolded Anne
    - d) All the students made a joke of Anne
  - iii. **Find out the word in the extract which means 'given'.**
    - a) Finished
    - b) Assigned
    - c) Bitten
    - d) Allowed
  - iv. **The phrase 'on the contrary' used in the extract, signifies \_\_\_\_\_.**
    - a) In line with
    - b) On the advice of
    - c) On the back of
    - d) Inversely opposite
8. I get along pretty well with all my teachers. There are nine of them, seven men and two women. Mr Keesing, the old fogey who teaches Maths, was annoyed with me for ages because I talked so much. After several warnings, he assigned me extra homework. An essay on the subject, 'A Chatterbox'. A chatterbox—what can you write about that? I'd worry about that later, I decided. I jotted down the title in my notebook, tucked it in my bag and tried to keep quiet.
- i. **Why was Mr Keesing, Anne's, Maths teacher, annoyed with her?**
    - a) Anne talked too much
    - b) She did not pay attention on maths
    - c) She was very careless
    - d) She kept complaining all the time
  - ii. **What did Anne do when she was given an essay to write?**
    - a) She refused to do so
    - b) She jotted down the title to write later and tried to be quiet.
    - c) She wrote a very funny essay
    - d) She rather wrote a diary entry
  - iii. **Which word in the extract means 'wrote'?**
    - a) Annoyed
    - b) Assigned
    - c) Jotted down
    - d) Decided



- ## The Hundred Dresses—I

- 5

- d) Dishonest and cruel
  - ii. What made Peggy and Maddie late for the school?
    - a) Traffic on the way
    - b) Delay in their breakfast
    - c) Completing their homework
    - d) Long wait for Wanda to arrive
  - iii. Find a word which is opposite of the word 'absence' used in the extract.
    - a) Time
    - b) Lack
    - c) Presence
    - d) Availability
  - iv. Who noticed Wanda's absence in the class finally on Wednesday?
    - a) Peggy and Maddie
    - b) Miss Mason
    - c) Back seat boys
    - d) The principal
3. Wanda didn't have any friends. She came to school alone and went home alone. She came to school alone and went home alone. She always wore a faded blue dress that didn't hang right. It was clean, but it looked as though it had never been ironed properly. She didn't have any friends, but a lot of girls talked to her. Sometimes, they surrounded her in the school yard as she stood watching the little girls play hopscotch on the worn hard ground. "Wanda," Peggy would say in a most courteous manner as though she were talking to Miss Mason. "Wanda," she'd say, giving one of her friends a nudge, "Tell us. How many dresses did you say had hanging up in your closer?" "A hundred," Wanda would say. "A hundred!" exclaimed all the little girls incredulously, and the little ones would stop playing hopscotch and listen.
- i. Which dress did Wanda always wear?
    - a) A faded blue dress
    - b) A green velvet dress
    - c) A red velvet dress
    - d) A glowing yellow dress
  - ii. How did girls make fun of Wanda?
    - a) By tying her shoe-laces together
    - b) By asking questions about her hundred dresses
    - c) By pulling her hair
    - d) By calling her various funny names
  - iii. How many dresses did Wanda claim, she had?
    - a) Ten
    - b) Eighty seven
    - c) Hundred
    - d) Seven hundred
  - iv. Find the word from the extract which means 'unwilling to accept'?
    - a) Ironed
    - b) Hopscotch
    - c) Courteous
    - d) Incredulously
4. Peggy was not really cruel. She protected small children from bullies. And she cried for hours if she saw an animal mistreated. If anybody had said to her, "Don't you think that is a cruel way to treat Wanda?" She would have been very surprised. Cruel? Why did the girl say she had a hundred dresses? Anybody could tell that was a lie. Why did she want to lie? And she wasn't just an ordinary person, else why did she have a name like that? Anyway, they never made her cry.
- i. Peggy was not cruel. Justify.
    - a) She protected small children from bullies and felt pain on ill treatment with animals
    - b) She distributed sweets in the class
    - c) She was very popular in the class
    - d) She created fun and humour in the class
  - ii. Why did Peggy tease Wanda?
    - a) Wanda was a poor girl
    - b) Wanda was a shy girl
    - c) Wanda lied about having hundred dresses
    - d) Wanda was cruel and dishonest
  - iii. Which word in the extract means the same as 'ill-treated'?
    - a) Protected
    - b) Mistreated
    - c) Cruel
    - d) Ordinary
  - iv. Why did Wanda lie about having hundred dresses?
    - a) To rule over the class
    - b) To make Peggy feel inferior
    - c) To attract the boys, the back-benchers

- d) To avoid being teased for her poverty**
5. Sometimes, when Peggy was asking Wanda those questions in that mocking polite voice, Maddie felt embarrassed and studied the marbles in the palm of her hand, rolling them around and saying nothing herself. Not that she felt sorry for Wanda, exactly. She would never have paid any attention to Wanda if Peggy hadn't invented the dresses game. But suppose Peggy and all the others started in on her next? She wasn't as poor as Wanda, perhaps, but she was poor. Of course, she would have more sense than to say she had a hundred dresses. Still she would not like for them to begin on her. She wished Peggy would stop teasing Wanda Petronski.
- i. **Why did Maddie feel embarrassed when Peggy teased Wanda?**
    - a) She herself was poor
    - b) She had once borrowed a dress from Miss Mason
    - c) She wore a dress of Wanda
    - d) She had recently become rich
  - ii. **What did Maddie want Peggy to do?**
    - a) To give her some new dresses
    - b) To stop teasing Wanda
    - c) To complete her homework
    - d) To let her win the drawing competition
  - iii. **Which game had Peggy invented?**
    - a) Wanda game
    - b) Maddie game
    - c) Dresses game
    - d) Petronski game
  - iv. **Find the word in the extract which means the same as 'ashamed or humiliated'.**
    - a) Mocking
    - b) Rolling
    - c) Invented
    - d) Embarrassed
6. She wished she had the nerve to write Peggy a note, because she knew she never would have the courage to speak right out to Peggy, to say, "Hey, Peg, let's stop asking Wanda how many dresses she has." When she finished her arithmetic she did start a note to Peggy. Suddenly she paused and shuddered. She pictured herself in the school yard, a new target for Peggy and the girls. Peggy might ask her where she got the dress that she had on, and Maddie would have to say it was one of Peggy's old ones that Maddie's mother had tried to disguise with new trimmings so no one in Room Thirteen would recognise it.
- i. **Why was Maddie afraid of speaking to Peggy to stop teasing Wanda?**
    - a) Losing her friendship with Peggy
    - b) Revealing of her real status by Peggy
    - c) Missing the fun in the class
    - d) Wanda dictating her
  - ii. **Where did Maddie get her dresses from?**
    - a) Wanda's family
    - b) Rich families including Peggy's
    - c) The asylum
    - d) The market
  - iii. **What had Maddie's mother done with the old dresses of Peggy?**
    - a) Sold them in the market
    - b) Used them as duster
    - c) Disguised them with new trimmings
    - d) Joined them to make blankets
  - iv. **Find the word from the extract from the extract which means 'decoration'.**
    - a) Arithmetic
    - b) Shuddered
    - c) Disguise
    - d) Trimmings
7. As for Wanda, she was just some girl who lived up on Boggins Heights and stood alone in the school yard. She scarcely ever said anything to anybody. The only time she talked was in the school yard about her hundred dresses. Maddie remembered her telling about one of her dresses, pale blue with coloured trimmings. And she remembered another that was brilliant jungle green with a red sash. "You'd look like a Christmas tree in that," the girls had said in pretended admiration.
- i. **Where did Wanda live?**
    - a) Boggins Heights
    - b) Damsel Greens
    - c) Boggins Greens
    - d) Damsel Heights
  - ii. **How did Wanda reply to Peggy's mocking her?**

- a) By showing her hundred dresses
  - b) By standing first in the annual examination
  - c) By drawing sketches of a hundred dresses in the drawing competition
  - d) By donating Peggy a hundred dresses
- iii. What had the girls said to Wanda in pretended admiration for her imaginary jungle green dress?
- a) Green forest
  - b) Parrot
  - c) Christmas tree
  - d) Green grass
- iv. Find the word that can be replaced by 'hardly' as used in the passage.
- a) Some
  - b) Trimmings
  - c) Pretended
  - d) Scarcely
8. "As for the girls" she said," although just one or two sketches were submitted by most. One girl and Room Thirteen should be proud of her-this one girl actually drew one hundred designs all different and all beautiful. In the opinion of the judges, any one of the drawings is worthy of winning the prize. I am very happy to say that Wanda Petronski is the winner of the girls' medal."
- i. Who does 'one girl' refer to in the passage?
- a) Peggy
  - b) Maddie
  - c) Wanda Petronski
  - d) Miss Mason
- ii. What was the result of drawing competition?
- a) Wanda for her hundred dresses' sketch won
  - b) Maddie for her jungle green dress won
  - c) Peggy for her red velvet dress won
  - d) The trophy was shared by entire class
- iii. What was the opinion of the judges about Wanda's drawing?
- a) It was good
  - b) Each of her drawing was worthy of winning
  - c) Peggy's drawing was equivalent to Wanda's
  - d) Only one of the Wanda's drawings was the best
- iv. Find out the word in the extract opposite in meaning to 'unreliable'.
- a) Most
  - b) Proud
  - c) Opinion
  - d) Worthy
9. If Peggy hadn't invented the dresses game. But suppose Peggy and all the others started in on her next? She wasn't as poor as Wanda, perhaps but she was poor. Of course she would have more sense than to say she had a hundred dresses. Still she would not like them to begin on her. She wished Peggy would stop teasing Wanda Petronski.
- i. Who had invented the dress game and why?
- a) Peggy, to tease Wanda
  - b) Miss Mason, to entertain class
  - c) Maddie, to please Peggy
  - d) Wanda, to keep back-benchers engaged
- ii. Who was marginally well off in the class in compassion to Wanda's?
- a) Peggy
  - b) Maddie
  - c) Miss Mason
  - d) Wanda herself
- iii. \_\_\_\_\_ is similar to the word 'created'.
- a) Started
  - b) Wished
  - c) Invented
  - d) Teased
- iv. What did Maddie wish?
- a) To be as rich as Peggy
  - b) To become an actress
  - c) To be as popular as Peggy
  - d) Peggy to stop teasing Wanda
10. Peggy was the most popular girl in school. She was pretty, she had many pretty clothes and her hair was curly. Maddie was her closest friend. The reason Peggy and Maddie noticed Wanda's absence was because Wanda had made them late to school. They had waited and waited for Wanda, to have some fun with her and she just hadn't come.
- i. Who was the most popular girl in school?
- a) Wanda
  - b) Peggy
  - c) Maddie
  - d) Miss Mason
- ii. Whom does 'she' refer to in the last line of the passage?
- a) Peggy
  - b) Maddie

- c) Miss Mason
  - d) Wanda
- iii. Why had Peggy and Maddie waited for Wanda?
  - a) To have some fun by teasing her
  - b) To get their work done by her
  - c) To donate her a new dress
  - d) To prevent her from participating in the competition
- iv. Which word in the extract stands opposite to 'ugly' in meaning?
  - a) Popular
  - b) Curly
  - c) Pretty
  - d) Fun

#### **The Hundred Dresses—II**

1. While the class was circling the room, the monitor from the principal's office brought Miss Mason a note. Miss Mason read it several times and studied it thoughtfully for a while. Then she clapped her hands. "Attention, class. Everyone back to their seat." When the shuffling of feet had stopped and the room was still and quiet, Miss Mason said, "I have a letter from Wanda's father that I want to read to you." Miss Mason stood there a moment and the silence in the room grew tense and expectant. The teacher adjusted her glasses slowly and deliberately.
  - i. What was in the note that Miss Mason got from the principal's office?
    - a) Monetary prize for Wanda
    - b) A letter from Wanda's father
    - c) Wanda's confession of lying
    - d) Expression of sorry from Peggy
  - ii. What did Miss Mason do before reading the note?
    - a) Warned the class to be silent
    - b) Had a glass of water
    - c) Kept the book on the table
    - d) Adjusted her glasses slowly and deliberately
  - iii. Who wrote the note to Miss Mason?
    - a) Wanda's father
    - b) Wanda herself
    - c) Peggy
    - d) The principal
  - iv. What does the word 'deliberately' used in the extract mean?
    - a) Mistakenly
    - b) Politely
    - c) Knowingly
    - d) Clearly
2. A deep silence met the reading of this letter. Miss Mason took off her glasses, blew on them and wiped them on her soft white handkerchief. Then she put them on again and looked at the class. When she spoke, her voice was very low. "I am sure that none of the boys and girls in Room Thirteen would purposely and deliberately hurt anyone's feelings because his or her name happened to be a long, unfamiliar one. I prefer to think that what was said was said in thoughtlessness. I know that all of you feel the way I do, that this is a very unfortunate thing to have happened—unfortunate and sad, both. And I want you all to think about it."
  - i. How did Miss Mason feel when she finished reading the letter of Wanda's father?
    - a) Low in voice and at heart
    - b) Confident
    - c) Proud
    - d) Frightened
  - ii. What did Miss Mason say to the class?
    - a) That you deserve punishment
    - b) That you should introspect and think twice before uttering something from your mouth
    - c) That you should be awarded
    - d) That I do not want to see your face
  - iii. What was the reaction of Miss Mason after reading the letter?
    - a) Happy and relived
    - b) Stressed and angry
    - c) Unhappy and disappointed
    - d) Confident and victorious
  - iv. Find out the word in the extract which means 'inappropriate'.
    - a) Silence
    - b) Purposely
    - c) Unfamiliar
    - d) Unfortunate
3. Goodness! Wasn't there anything she could do? If only she could tell Wanda she hadn't meant to hurt her feelings. She turned around and stole a glance at Peggy, but Peggy did not look up. She seemed to be studying hard. Well, whether Peggy

felt badly or not, she, Maddie, had to do something. She had to find Wanda Petronski. Maybe she had not yet moved away.

- i. **Who does 'she' refer to in the passage?**
    - a) Peggy
    - b) Maddy
    - c) Wanda
    - d) Miss Mason
  - ii. **What does Maddie decide to do?**
    - a) To find Wanda
    - b) To help Wanda
    - c) To admit her mistake
    - d) To teach a lesson to Miss Mason
  - iii. **What was Peggy doing when Maddie looked at her?**
    - a) She was weeping
    - b) She seemed to be studying
    - c) She was sleeping
    - d) She was talking to Miss Mason
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract is similar to 'glance' in the meaning.
    - a) Meant
    - b) Turned
    - c) Find
    - d) Look up
4. "I think that's where the Petronski live," said Maddie, pointing to a little white house. Wisps of old grass stuck up here and there along the pathway like thin kittens. The house and its sparse little yard looked shabby but clean. It reminded Maddie of Wanda's one dress, her faded blue cotton dress, shabby but clean. There was not a sign of life about the house. Peggy knocked firmly on the door, but there was no answer. She and Maddie went around to the back-yard and knocked there. Still there was no answer.
- i. **What does the house of Petronski remind to Maddie?**
    - a) Wanda's green velvet dress
    - b) Wanda's red velvet dress
    - c) Wanda's glowing yellow dress
    - d) Wanda's blue cotton dress
  - ii. **Why did they knock at the door of the house?**
    - a) To burgle the house
    - b) To get the house renovated
    - c) In the hope of Wanda still being there
    - d) To meet Wanda's father
  - iii. **How did Wanda's House look?**
    - a) Like a palace
    - b) Shabby but clean
    - c) Haunted and fearful
    - d) Pleasing and lively
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means the same as 'dirty and of low quality'.
    - a) Shabby
    - b) Wisps
    - c) Firm
    - d) Backyard
5. At last Maddie sat up in bed and pressed her forehead tight in her hands and really thought. This was the hardest thinking she had ever done. After a long, long time, she reached an important conclusion. She was never going to stand by and say nothing again. If she ever heard anybody picking on someone because they were funny looking or because they had strange names, she'd speak up. Even if it meant losing Peggy's friendship. She had no way of making things right with Wanda, but from now on she would never make anybody else that unhappy again.
- i. **What decision did Maddie take after a long-time?**
    - a) Raise herself to a level of prosperity
    - b) Keep quiet and stop others from mocking anyone
    - c) Unfriend Peggy
    - d) Befriend Wanda
  - ii. **Why was it difficult for Maddie to make things right with Wanda?**
    - a) Wanda was not talking to her
    - b) Peggy was preventing her from doing so
    - c) Maddie herself was nit in a very sound state
    - d) Wanda had shifted to another city
  - iii. **At what cost was Maddie committed to reform herself?**
    - a) Losing her friendship with Peggy
    - b) Leaving the school
    - c) Changing the city

- d) Leaving her family**

- ### **Glimpses of India:- Part-I: A Baker from Goa**

- 7



- i. Who are 'we' in the extract?
    - a) Narrat and friends
    - b) The bakers
    - c) The elders
    - d) Women
  - ii. Why were the children pushed aside?
    - a) To bake the bread for them
    - b) To deliver the bread to the servant
    - c) To prevent them from eating the bread
    - d) To teach them discipline
  - iii. What was there in the basket?
    - a) Fruits for all
    - b) Bangles for elders and loaves for the children
    - c) Loaves for the elders and bangles for the children
    - d) Kites for all
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means the same as 'an expression of disapproval/ a scolding'.
    - a) Loaves
    - b) Parapet
    - c) Peep
    - d) Rebuke
2. Marriage gifts are meaningless without the sweet bread known as the *bol*, just as a party or a feast loses its charm without bread. Not enough can be said to show how important a baker can be for a village. The lady of the house must prepare sandwiches on the occasion of her daughter's engagement. Cakes and *bolinhas* are a must for Christmas as well as other festivals. Thus, the presence of the baker's furnace in the village is absolutely essential.
  - i. What are compulsorily prepared during Christmas in Goa?
    - a) Cakes and bolinhas
    - b) Wine and bear
    - c) Fish and chicken
    - d) Balloons and Christmas tree
  - ii. Why is a baker necessary in a village?
    - a) To celebrate Christmas
    - b) To prepare wine during festivals
    - c) To bake different kinds of breads during special occasions
    - d) To dance during festivals
  - iii. What is compulsory to be prepared on a daughter's engagement by lady of the house?
    - a) Cake
    - b) Sandwiches
    - c) Wine
    - d) Bread
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'celebration meal'.
    - a) Bolinhas
    - b) Cake
    - c) Festival
    - d) Feast
3. The baker usually collected his bills at the end of the month. Monthly accounts used to be recorded on some wall in pencil. Baking was indeed a profitable profession in the old days. The baker and his family never starved. He, his family and his servants always looked happy and prosperous. Their plump physique was an open testimony to this. Even today any person with a jackfruit-like physical appearance is easily compared to a baker.
  - i. Where did the baker record his account?
    - a) In the diary
    - b) On a wall of the house
    - c) In a ledger
    - d) On the white cloth
  - ii. Why did the baker and his family never starve?
    - a) Because they were religious
    - b) Because Christ blessed them for serving him
    - c) Because they cheated people during festivals
    - d) Because baking was a profitable profession
  - iii. How can a baker be identified in Goa?
    - a) By his clothes
    - b) By a jack fruit like physical appearance
    - c) By his luxury cars
    - d) By his gold jewellery
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means the same as 'build'.
    - a) Baker
    - b) Plump
    - c) Physique
    - d) Testimony

## Part-II: Coorg

1. Midway between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore sits a piece of heaven that must have drifted from the kingdom of God. This land of rolling hills is inhabited by a proud race of martial men, beautiful women and wild creatures. Coorg, or Kodagu, the smallest district of Karnataka, is home to evergreen rainforests, spices and coffee plantations.
  - i. Which kind of animals are we likely to see in Coorg?
    - a) Goats
    - b) Mouse
    - c) Cows
    - d) Wild animals
  - ii. What is Coorg known for?
    - a) War techniques
    - b) Fishing
    - c) Evergreen forests, spices and coffee plantation
    - d) Baking industry
  - iii. Where is Coorg situated?
    - a) Near Chennai
    - b) Between Mysore and Mangalore
    - c) In Himachal Pradesh
    - d) Adjacent to Magadh
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'having to do with war'.
    - a) Martial
    - b) Proud
    - c) Coastal
    - d) Drifted
2. The fiercely independent people of Coorg are possibly of Greek or Arabic descent. As one story goes, a part of Alexander's army moved south along the coast and settled here when return became impractical. These people married amongst the locals and their culture is apparent in the martial traditions. Marriage and religious rites, which are distinct from the Hindu mainstream.
  - i. Where can we find the culture of Coorg most apparently?
    - a) In schooling and sports
    - b) In martial traditions, religious rites and marriage
    - c) In clothing and dress material
    - d) In none of the above
  - ii. The people of Coorg belong to \_\_\_\_\_ descent.
    - a) Arabic and French
    - b) French and Latin
    - c) Greek or Arabic
    - d) Greek or Latin
  - iii. Which story is famous about the people of Coorg?
    - a) Descendents of the Lord 'Brahma'
    - b) Descendants of Alexander's army
    - c) Descendants of 'Ravan'
    - d) Protector of the nature
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'an act that is part of a religious ceremony'.
    - a) Fiercely
    - b) Coast
    - c) Traditions
    - d) Rites
3. Corgi homes have a tradition of hospitality, and they are more than willing to recount numerous tales of valour related to their sons and fathers. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army, and the first Chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa, was a Coorgi. Even now, Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a licence.
  - i. What kind of stories are the Coorg people always ready to tell?
    - a) Tales of horror
    - b) Tales of love
    - c) Tales of valour
    - d) Tales of suspense
  - ii. What is the special favour granted to Coorg people only even now?
    - a) Carry fire-arms without a licence
    - b) Carry drugs without licence
    - c) Carry dogs without prior permission
    - d) Carry wine without permission
  - iii. The First chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa was a \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a) Marathi
    - b) Corgi
    - c) Punjabi
    - d) Bengali
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means the same as 'courage and bravery'.

- ### Part-III: Tea From Assam

- c) Around 1500 BC in Japan  
d) Around 2700 BC in China
- iii. When did the tea reach Europe?  
a) In 19th century                      b) In 16th century  
c) In 18th century                      d) In 17th century
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means the same as 'drink'.  
a) Ascetic                                  b) Tea  
c) Beverage                              d) Medicine
3. Pranjol's father slowed down to allow a tractor, pulling a trailer-load of tea leaves, to pass. "This is the second-flush or sprouting period, isn't it, Mr Barua?" Rajvir asked.  
"It lasts from May to July and yields the best tea."  
"You seem to have done your homework before coming", Pranjol's father said in surprise.  
"Yes, Mr Barua", Rajvir admitted. "But I hope to learn much more while I'm here."
- i. Why did Pranjol's father slow down?  
a) To allow a tractor to pass  
b) To enjoy tea  
c) To converse with Rajvir  
d) To relax a bit
- ii. What made Mr Barua surprised?  
a) Sudden rain in the plantation  
b) Rajvir's knowledge about tea  
c) Bitterness of tea leaves  
d) Dealy in passing of the tractor
- iii. What is second sprouting period of tea?  
a) January to March                      b) April to June  
c) May to July                              d) August to October
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'agreed'.  
a) Slowed                                  b) Yields  
c) Surprised                              d) Admitted
4. "Do you know that over eighty crore cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world?" Rajvir said.  
"Whew!" exclaimed Pranjol. "Tea really is very popular."  
The train pulled out of the station. Pranjol buried his nose in his detective book again. Rajvir too was an ardent fan of detective stories, but at the moment he was keener on looking at the beautiful scenery.
- i. What indicate that tea is very popular throughout the world?  
a) Consumption of eighty crore cups of tea daily  
b) Constantly rising prices of the tea  
c) Expansion of tea plantations in the world  
d) People's love for the beverage
- ii. What was Rajvir, too, an ardent fan of?  
a) Tea    b) Train travel  
c) Detective stories                      d) Sports
- iii. Where was Rajvir busy when the train pulled out of the station?  
a) In reading detective stories  
b) In relishing the tasty tea  
c) In talking to Pranjol  
d) In looking at the beautiful scenery outside the train
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means the same as 'well liked'.  
a) Whew                                      b) Popular  
c) Ardent                                      d) Keener
5. The baker or bread-seller of those days had a peculiar dress known as the *kabai*. It was a single-piece long frock reaching down to the knees. In our childhood we saw bakers wearing a shirt and trousers which were shorted than full-length ones and longer than half pants. Even today, anyone who wears a half pant which reaches just below the knees invites the comment that he is dressed like a *pader*!
- i. What is the dress of baker known as?  
a) Apron                                      b) Uniform  
c) Khaki                                      d) Kabai
- ii. Who is a pader?  
a) One who produces bread  
b) One who sells bread

- c) One who wears half pant reaching just below the knees
  - d) One who grows tea
  - iii. What is kabai?
    - a) A dress used in dance
    - b) A single piece long frock reaching down to the knees
    - c) A baking cloth used by bakers
    - d) A backing device used by bakers
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'an expression of opinion'.
    - a) Comment
    - b) Peculiar
    - c) Pader
    - d) Kabai
6. Corgi homes have a tradition of hospitality, and they are more than willing to recount numerous tales of valour related to their sons and fathers. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army, and the first Chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa, was a Coorgi. Even now, Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a licence.
- i. What is a popular tradition of Coorg?
    - a) Hospitality
    - b) Weaving
    - c) Singing
    - d) Nature worship
  - ii. Who was the first chief of Indian Army?
    - a) SFJ Manekshaw
    - b) KM Cariappa
    - c) NC Vij
    - d) Deepak Kapoor
  - iii. \_\_\_\_\_ are the only people in India permitted to carry fire-arms without a licence.
    - a) Politicians
    - b) Police
    - c) Army
    - d) Kodavus
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means the same as 'bravery'.
    - a) Hospitality
    - b) Tales
    - c) Valour
    - d) Fire-arms

#### Mijbil the Otter

1. When I casually mentioned this to a friend, he as casually replied that I had better get one in the Tigris marshes, for there they were as common as mosquitoes, and were often tamed by the Arabs. We were going to Basra to the Consulate—General to collect and answer our mail from Europe. At the Consulate—General we found that my friend's mail had arrived but that mine had not.
  - i. What does 'they' refer to in the extract?
    - a) The otters
    - b) Basa
    - c) Consulate General
    - d) Arabs
  - ii. Where were they going to get the otter?
    - a) Forest
    - b) Tigris Marshes
    - c) Arab
    - d) Europe
  - iii. What did the author find at the Consulate General?
    - a) That they were often tamed by Arabs
    - b) That his friend's mail had not arrived
    - c) That his mail had not arrived
    - d) That they were as common as mosquitoes
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'domesticated'.
    - a) Mentioned
    - b) Found
    - c) The otters
    - d) Tamed
2. Mijbil, as I called the otter, was, in fact, of a race previously unknown to science, and was at length christened by zoologists *Lutrongale Perspicillata Maxwelli*, or Maxwell's otter. For the first twenty-four hours Mijbil was neither hostile nor friendly; he was simply aloof and indifferent, choosing to sleep on the floor as far from my bed as possible.
  - i. Who was Mijbil?
    - a) Name of the otter brought by Maxwell
    - b) A zoologist
    - c) A hostile creature
    - d) A friend of Maxwell
  - ii. How did the author behave for the first twenty four hours?
    - a) Friendly
    - b) Hostile
    - c) Neither hostile nor friendly
    - d) Both hostile and friendly
  - iii. Why is often called Maxwell's otter?

- a) Maxwell had designed it
  - b) He was christened by zoologist LP Maxwell
  - c) Maxwell had produced it
  - d) Maxwell had created it
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'having no particular interest'.
- a) Christened
  - b) Aloof
  - c) Hostile
  - d) Indifferent
3. I made a body-belt for him and took him on a lead to the bathroom, where for half an hour he went wild with joy in the water, plunging and rolling in it, shooting up and down the length of the bathtub underwater, and making enough slosh and splash for a hippo. This, I was to learn, is a characteristic of otters.
- i. What is a particular characteristic of otters?
    - a) Playing with water
    - b) Playing with fire
    - c) Staying away from water
    - d) Staying away from wire
  - ii. What does 'him' refer to in the first line?
    - a) The narrator
    - b) The otter
    - c) Zookeeper
    - d) Veterinary
  - iii. Why did the author make a body-belt for the otter?
    - a) To keep him under control
    - b) To limit his movement
    - c) To take him to bathroom
    - d) To take him to doctor
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'moving irregularly with splash 'round'?
    - a) Plunge
    - b) Roll
    - c) Hippo
    - d) Slosh
4. Very soon Mij would follow me without a lead and come to me when I called his name. He spent most of his time in play. He spent hours shuffling a rubber ball round the room like a four-footed soccer player using all four feet to dribble the ball, and he could also throw it, with a powerful flick of the neck, to a surprising height and distance.
- i. What was the favourite time pass of Mijbil?
    - a) To jump on the ball
    - b) To shuffle the ball using all four feet
    - c) To sleep most of the time
    - d) To annoy Maxwell
  - ii. What did the otter do when the narrator called his name?
    - a) Imitated him
    - b) Ran away from him
    - c) Pretended to sleep
    - d) Used to follow the narrator
  - iii. What has been referred as four footed soccer player?
    - a) The otter
    - b) The narrator
    - c) Maxwell
    - d) The insect
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'strike'.
    - a) Follow
    - b) Lead
    - c) Dribble
    - d) Shuffling
5. The British airline to London would not fly animals, so I booked a flight to Paris on another airline and from there to London. The airline insisted that Mij should be packed into a box not more than eighteen inches square, to be carried on the floor at my feet.
- i. Where was Mij being taken?
    - a) Paris
    - b) Tokyo
    - c) New York
    - d) London
  - ii. How was Mij being taken?
    - a) In a ball
    - b) In a net
    - c) By being packed in a box
    - d) By trying with a rope
  - iii. What did the airline insist upon?
    - a) Trying with a rope
    - b) Packing in a box
    - c) Wrapping a cloth

- d) Chaining with iron bars
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means ‘to demand something forcefully’.
- a) Insisted    b) Booked  
c) Packed    d) Carried
6. When I returned, there was an appalling spectacle. There was complete silence from the box, but from its air holes and chinks around the lid, blood had trickled and dried. I whipped off the lock and tore open the lid, and Mij, exhausted and blood spattered, whimpered and caught at my leg.
- i. What was inside the box?
- a) Mij    b) Ball  
c) Chains    d) Blood
- ii. What was the condition of the box when the narrator returned?
- a) Roaring noise coming out of it  
b) Complete silence with blood oozing out of it  
c) Broken from the edges  
d) Crushed completely
- iii. Why did the narrator open the box?
- a) To check his jewellery  
b) To check his documents  
c) To check the condition of Mij
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means ‘quickly took off’.
- a) Returned    b) Appalling  
c) Trickled    d) Whipped off
7. It was just ten minutes until the time of the flight, and the airport was five miles distant. I put the miserable Mij back into the box, holding down the lid with my hand.
- i. How far was the airport?
- a) Fifteen miles    b) Ten miles  
c) Five miles    d) Two miles
- ii. How much time was left for the flight to take off?
- a) Ten minutes  
b) Fifteen minutes  
c) Twenty minutes  
d) Five minutes
- iii. What forced the narrator to put Mij back into the box?
- a) Instructions of the airline  
b) Government orders  
c) Laws of the nation  
d) Lack of time to catch the flight
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means ‘at a distance’.
- a) Miles    b) Distant  
c) Miserable    d) Flight
8. I was rushed through to it by infuriated officials. Luckily, the seat booked for me was at the extreme front. I covered the floor around my feet with newspapers, rang for the airhostess, and gave her a parcel of fish (for Mij) to keep in a cool place. I took her into my confidence about the events of the last half hour.
- i. Why were the airport officials infuriated?
- a) Due to delayed reporting of the narrator  
b) Due to opening of the box  
c) Due to blood stains on the box  
d) Due to otter
- ii. Why did the narrator feel lucky?
- a) He was not late  
b) The flight had not taken off  
c) The seat booked for him was at the extreme front  
d) He was not prevented to board the flight
- iii. Why did the narrator give fish to the air hostess?
- a) As reward    b) As indicator  
c) As bribe    d) As food for Mij
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means ‘extremely angry and impatient’.
- a) Rushed    b) Infuriated  
c) Booked    d) Gave
9. Mij was out of the box in a flash. He disappeared at high speed down the aircraft. There were squawks and shrieks, and a woman stood up on her seat screaming

out, "A rat! A rat!"

- i. **Why did the woman scream?**
    - a) On being scratched by a pin
    - b) On sensing a rat in the plane
    - c) On seeing a cockroach
    - d) On the pretext of fire in the plane
  - ii. **What did Mij do?**
    - a) Hid behind the narrator
    - b) Jumped on the seat
    - c) Got into the seat
    - d) Came out and disappeared
  - iii. **What has Mij been compared with in the extract?**
    - a) A rat
    - b) A snake
    - c) A dinosaur
    - d) A fish
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'make a loud noise'.
    - a) Flash
    - b) Speed
    - c) Squawk
    - d) Seat
10. Mij and I remained in London for nearly a month. He would play for hours with a selection of toys, ping-pong balls, marbles, rubber fruit, and a terrapin shell that I had brought back from his native marshes. With the ping-pong ball he invented a game of his own which could keep him engrossed for up to half an hour at a time. A suitcase that I had taken to Iraq had become damaged on the journey home, so that the lid, when closed, remained at a slope from one end to the other.
- i. **How long did Mij remain in London?**
    - a) A week
    - b) A fortnight
    - c) A month
    - d) A year
  - ii. **What game was invented by Mij?**
    - a) Ball and suitcase game
    - b) The clothings game
    - c) The window game
    - d) The motor game
  - iii. **What sort of creature was Mij?**
    - a) Bore
    - b) Serious
    - c) Funny
    - d) Playful
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'absorb all the attention'.
    - a) Remained
    - b) Engrossed
    - c) Marshes
    - d) Terrapin
11. I cabled to England, and when, three days later, nothing had happened, I tried to telephone. The call had to be booked twenty-four hours in advance. On the first day, the line was out of order; on the second the exchange was closed for a religious holiday. On the third day, there was another breakdown. My friend left and I arranged to meet him in a week's time. Five days later, my mail arrived.
- i. **How much time in advance had the call to be booked?**
    - a) Twenty four hours
    - b) Seventy two hours
    - c) A week
    - d) A month
  - ii. **When did the author receive his mail?**
    - a) Three days later
    - b) Five days later
    - c) A week later
    - d) A month later
  - iii. **Why was the author unable to make call in second day?**
    - a) The line was out of order
    - b) He was left with no money
    - c) Exchange was closed for a religious holiday
    - d) He got late to reach there
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'sending a message via telegraph'.
    - a) Telephone
    - b) Exchange
    - c) Breakdown
    - d) Mail
12. The creature that emerged from this sack on to the spacious tiled floor of the Consulate bedroom resembled most of all a very small, mediievally-conceived, dragon. From the head to the tip of the tail he was coated with symmetrical pointed scales of mud armour, between whose tips was visible a soft velvet fur like that of a chocolate-brown mole.
- i. **How has the author described the otter?**
    - a) A mediievally-conceived, dragon
    - b) Dark and monstrous



- c) Huge and clam
- d) Fat but agile
- ii. What was the otter coated with?
  - a) Pink scales
  - b) Symmetrical pointed scales of mud armour
  - c) Thin and long lines of yellow
  - d) Spherical patched of brown
- iii. From where did the creature emerge on the spacious tiled floor?
  - a) From the aeroplane
  - b) From the train
  - c) From the sack
  - d) From the box
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'look like'.
  - a) Appeared
  - b) Resembled
  - c) Conceived
  - d) Coated

#### Madam Rides the Bus

1. But for Valli, standing at the front door was every bit as enjoyable as any of the elaborate games other children played. Watching the street gave her many new unusual experiences.
  - i. Why did Valli keep on standing at the doorway?
    - a) To watch happenings on the street outside
    - b) To have a glimpse of her lover
    - c) To see the polic taking bribe
    - d) To wait for the clouds to bring rain
  - ii. How did Valli feel while standing on the doorway?
    - a) Bored
    - b) Tortured
    - c) Joyous
    - d) Sad
  - iii. What did watching the street provide her?
    - a) Bangles for free
    - b) New unusual experiences
    - c) Food for free
    - d) Matter for the gossip
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ is a word in the extract meaning opposite of 'very common'.
    - a) Bit
    - b) Elaborate
    - c) Enjoyable
    - d) Unusual
2. The most fascinating thing of all was the bus that travelled between her village and the nearest town. It passed through her street each hour, once going to the town and once coming back. The sight of the bus, filled each time with a new set of passengers, was a source of unending joy for Valli.
  - i. How many times did the bus pass?
    - a) Once in half an hour
    - b) Once in an hour
    - c) Once in four hours
    - d) Once a day
  - ii. What was the source of unending joy for Valli?
    - a) Call of the ice-cream vendor
    - b) Smell of mouth watering sweets
    - c) Fight of the children
    - d) Sight of the bus with a new set of passengers
  - iii. What was the most fascinating thing for Valli?
    - a) Watching the bus
    - b) Dancing in the rain
    - c) Gossiping with children
    - d) Cooking new recipes
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'never ending'.
    - a) Fascinating
    - b) Set
    - c) Unending
    - d) Source
3. The town was six miles from her village. The fare was thirty paise one way ---"which is almost nothing at all," she heard one weel-dressed man say, but to Valli, who scarcely saw that much money from one month to the next, it seemed a fortune. The trip to the town took forty-five minutes.
  - i. How much was the fare of the bus?
    - a) One rupee per side
    - b) 50 paise per side
    - c) 30 paise per side
    - d) 10 paise per side

- ii. How long would it take to complete her journey to reach back home?
    - a) Thirty minutes
    - b) One hour
    - c) One and half hour
    - d) Forty five minutes
  - iii. What has been called 'fortune' for Valli?
    - a) The meagre sum of thirty paise
    - b) The bus ride
    - c) The town
    - d) Well dressed man
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'luck'.
 

a) Miles	b) Fortune
c) Scarcely	d) Seemed
4. "Okay, okay, but first you must get on the bus," said the conductor, and he stretched out a hand to help her up.  
 "Never mind," she said, "I can get on by myself. You don't have to help me."
  - i. Why did the conductor give Valli a hand of help?
    - a) To let her climb the bus
    - b) To let her find her luggage
    - c) To let her visit the town
    - d) To let her enjoy delicious jalebis
  - ii. How did Valli react to the conductor?
    - a) Sought his help
    - b) Refused his help
    - c) Rebuked him for his act
    - d) Thanked him for his help
  - iii. What trait of Valli's character has been shown in the extract?
 

a) Arrogant	b) Humble
c) Self-dependent	d) Helpless
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'extended'.
 

a) Get	b) Help
c) Mind	d) Stretched
5. There was a girl named Valliammai who was called Valli for short. She was eight years old and very curious about things. Her favourite pastime was standing in the front doorway of her house, watching what was happening in the street outside.
  - i. Who was Valliammai?
    - a) Main protagonist of 'Madam Rides the Bus'
    - b) Daughter of the bus conductor
    - c) A ten year old girl
    - d) Owner of the bus
  - ii. What was Valli's favourite pastime?
    - a) Riding the bus
    - b) Riding the bicycle
    - c) Watching the happenings of the street outside
    - d) Quarrelling with the street children
  - iii. How old was Valli and how was her nature?
    - a) Ten year old, quarrelsome
    - b) Eight year old, curious
    - c) Fourteen year old, cunning
    - d) Six year old, indifferent
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'eager to know or learn something'.
 

a) Favourite	b) Pastime
c) Happening	d) Curious
6. Over many days and months Valli listened carefully to conversations between her neighbours and people who regularly used the bus, and she also asked a few discreet questions here and there. This way she picked up various small details about the bus journey.
  - i. Whom did Valli listen carefully?
    - a) Her parents who loved her
    - b) The people who regularly used the bus
    - c) The teacher who taught her
    - d) The conductor who ferried the bus
  - ii. Why did Valli listen to conversations between his neighbours and bus users carefully?

- a) To tease them later
  - b) To pass the same to other street children
  - c) To trouble the conductor
  - d) To gather information about the bus and its ride
- iii. What did Valli do while listening to the people?
- a) Entertained them
  - b) Offered them water
  - c) Asked a few discreet questions
  - d) Disturbed them
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'on a continuous basis'.
- a) Regularly
  - b) Discreet
  - c) Various
  - d) Carefully

#### The Sermon at Benares

1. GAUTAMA Buddha (563 BC – 483 BC) began life as a prince named Siddhartha Gautama, in Northern India. At twelve, he was sent away for schooling in the Hindu sacred scriptures and four years later he returned home to marry a princess. They had a son and lived for ten years as befitted royalty.
  - i. Who was Gautama Buddha?
    - a) A prince
    - b) A peasant
    - c) A trader
    - d) A robber
  - ii. What did Gautama Buddha study?
    - a) The Bible
    - b) The Quran
    - c) The Hindu sacred scriptures
    - d) Buddhism
  - iii. When did Gautama Buddha marry?
    - a) At the age of twelve years
    - b) At the age of sixteen years
    - c) At the age of eighteen years
    - d) At the age of twenty years
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'people of the royal family'.
    - a) Prince
    - b) Sacred
    - c) Befitted
    - d) Royalty
2. At about the age of twenty-five, the Prince, heretofore shielded from the sufferings of the world, while out hunting chanced upon a sick man, then an aged man, then a funeral procession, and finally a monk begging for alms. These sights so moved him that he at once went out into the world to seek enlightenment concerning the sorrows he had witnessed.
  - i. What did Gautama Buddha witness while hunting?
    - a) Sufferings of the people in various forms
    - b) Joy of the life outside palace
    - c) Beauty of nature
    - d) The pleasure of hunting
  - ii. What did Buddha finally see?
    - a) A sick man
    - b) An aged man
    - c) A funeral procession
    - d) A monk begging for alms
  - iii. What impact did all these sights had on Buddha?
    - a) He went to seek enlightenment
    - b) He renounced the life
    - c) He became very indifferent
    - d) He conquered the world
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'a state of high spiritual knowledge'.
    - a) Shielded
    - b) Sufferings
    - c) Enlightenment
    - d) Procession
3. He wandered for seven years and finally sat down under a *peepal* tree, where he vowed to stay until enlightenment came. Enlightened after seven days, he renamed the tree the *Bodhi* Tree and began to teach and to share his new understandings. At that point he became known as the Buddha.
  - i. What was the name of the peepal tree under which Buddha sat?
    - a) Bodhi
    - b) Lodhi
    - c) Ashok
    - d) Prakash
  - ii. How many days did it take Buddha to get enlightened?

- a) Three                      b) Five  
c) Seven                     d) Eleven

- ii. What effect does the weeping or grieving have on us?
    - a) Relieves us of the pain
    - b) Makes our pain greater than before
    - c) Does not make any difference
    - d) Infuriates the God
  - iii. Weeping or grieving can lead one to \_\_\_\_\_.
    - a) Grabbing sympathy of others
    - b) Inviting trouble
    - c) Failing sick and pale
    - d) Being firm and determined
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'to express sadness about something'.
    - a) Contrary
    - b) Pain
    - c) Pale
    - d) Lamentation
7. Kisa Gotami had an only son, and he died. In her grief, she carried the dead child to all her neighbours, asking them for medicine, and the people said, "She has lost her senses. The boy is dead." At length, Kisa Gotami met a man who replied to her request, "I cannot give the medicine for thy child, but I know a physician who can." And the girl said, "Pray tell me, sir; who is it?" And the man replied, "Go to Sakyamuni, the Buddha."
- i. What was Kisa Gotami's grief?
    - a) Her only son had died
    - b) She had no food to feed her son
    - c) Her son had deserted her
    - d) She wanted no son
  - ii. What did Kisa do in her grief?
    - a) She killed her own child
    - b) She offered her child to the God
    - c) She carried her dead child to all her neighbours for medicine
    - d) She injured herself physically
  - iii. What did the man suggest to Kisa?
    - a) To worship Lord Shiva
    - b) To go to Sakyamuni, the Buddha
    - c) To arrange for animal sacrifice
    - d) To renounce the world
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'last'.
    - a) An only
    - b) The dead
    - c) They child
    - d) At length
8. At about the age of twenty-five, the Prince, heretofore shielded from the sufferings of the world, while out hunting chanced upon a sick man, then an aged man, then a funeral procession, and finally a monk begging for alms.
- i. At what age did the prince come face to face with sufferings of the world?
    - a) Twelve
    - b) Sixteen
    - c) Twenty five
    - d) Thirty
  - ii. While out on hunting, what did the prince first of all chance upon?
    - a) A sick man
    - b) An aged man
    - c) A funeral procession
    - d) A monk begging for alms
  - iii. What had so far shielded him from the sufferings of the world?
    - a) His wife, Yoshodhara
    - b) His children
    - c) His blindness
    - d) His princely status within the grand palace
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'prevented from being seen'?
    - a) Hunting
    - b) Shielded
    - c) Funeral
    - d) Procession

### The Proposal

1. What are you talking about? Oxen Meadows are ours, not yours!
  - i. Who is the speaker in the given extract?
    - a) Stevan Chubukov
    - b) Natalya
    - c) Ivan Lomov
    - d) Anton Chekov

- ii. 'Who' is being referred to by 'yours'?
    - a) Anton Chekov
    - b) Stevan Chubukov
    - c) Ivan Lomov
    - d) Natalya
  - iii. What does Natalya claim to own?
    - a) Oxen meadows
    - b) Chubukov's house
    - c) Birchwoods
    - d) Burnt Marsh
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'a piece of grassland'.
    - a) Oxen
    - b) Birchwood
    - c) Burnt Marsh
    - d) Meadows
2. Hear me out, I implore you! The peasants of your father's grandfather, as I have already had the honour of explaining to you, used to bake bricks for my aunt's grandmother. Now my aunt's grandmother, wishing to make them a peasant.....
  - i. Who is the speaker in the above extract?
    - a) Natalya
    - b) Chubukov
    - c) Lomov
    - d) Chekov
  - ii. What did the peasants do?
    - a) Baked bricks for grandmother of Lomov's Aunt
    - b) Cooked food for Natalya
    - c) Did farming for Chubukov
    - d) Grew tea for Lomov
  - iii. Which word in the extract can be replaced by 'high respect'?
    - a) Implore
    - b) Peasants
    - c) Bake
    - d) Honour
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'to ask something in a very serious way'.
    - a) Honour
    - b) Implore
    - c) Bricks
    - d) Bake
3. You may take it that I know whether I the right or not. Because, young man, I'm not used to being spoken to in that tone of voice, and so on. I, young man, am twice your age, and ask you to speak to me without agitating yourself, and all that.
  - i. Who is the speaker in the above lines?
    - a) Lomov
    - b) Chubukov
    - c) Natalya
    - d) Chekov
  - ii. How did the speaker want Lomov to talk to him?
    - a) Lovingly
    - b) Excitedly
    - c) Kindly
    - d) Calmly without agitating himself
  - iii. What kind of tone did Lomov use in the said conversation?
    - a) Aggressive
    - b) Soft
    - c) Abusive
    - d) Unconstitutional
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'to disturb, incite or offend someone'.
    - a) Right
    - b) Voice
    - c) Agitating
    - d) Spoken
4. Never mind about my people! The Lomovs have all been honourable people, and not one has ever been tried for embezzlement, like your grandfather!
  - i. To whom are the above lines being spoken to?
    - a) Chubukov
    - b) Lomov
    - c) Natalya
    - d) Chekov
  - ii. How did Lomov describe his people?
    - a) As rude
    - b) As honourable
    - c) As dishonest
    - d) As trust worthy
  - iii. What have the people of Lomvo never been tried for?
    - a) Treachery
    - b) Crime
    - c) Embezzlement
    - d) Drugs
  - iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'theft of funds'.
    - a) Honour
    - b) Trial
    - c) People
    - d) Embezzlement
5. NATALYA: What proposal?  
 CHUBUKOV: Why, he came here to propose to you.  
 NATALYA: To propose? To me? Why didn't you tell me so before?  
 CHUBUKOV: So he dresses up in evening clothes. The stuffed sausage! The wizen-faced frump!
  - i. Who is being referred to as 'he' here?

- a) Chekov  
b) Natalya  
c) Chubukov  
d) Lomov
- ii. Why did 'he' meet Chubukov?  
a) To ask for his property  
b) To take back Oxen meadows  
c) To ask for Natalya's hand  
d) To propose him partnership in business
- iii. Who was dressed up as a stuffed sausage?  
a) Chubukov  
b) Lomov  
c) Natalya  
d) Chekov
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'make an offer of marriage to someone'.  
a) Propose  
b) Frump  
c) Wisen  
d) Sausase
6. "But, please, Stephen Stepanovitch, how can they be yours? Do be a reasonable man! My aunt's grandmother gave the Meadows for the temporary and free use of your grandfather's peasants. The peasants used the land for forty years and got accustomed to it as if it was their own, when it happened that.....
- i. Who is the speaker of the above lines?  
a) Natalya  
b) Lomov  
c) Chubukov  
d) None of these
- ii. Why did his aunt's grandmother give the meadows?  
a) To be used by farmers  
b) Grandfather requested  
c) It was not her property  
d) It was taken away forcibly
- iii. Why did the peasants treat the land as their own?  
a) They had used the land for centuries  
b) They had used the land for last forty years  
c) It was never claimed by anyone else  
d) As the land was donated by aunt's grandmother
- iv. What light do these lines throw on the speaker's character?  
a) He is very quarrelsome  
b) He is very argumentation  
c) He is very docile character  
d) He is very soft hearted
7. Well, you see, it's like this. [Takes his arm] I've come to you, honoured Stephen Stepanovitch, to trouble you with a request. Not once or twice have I already had the privilege of applying to you for help, and you have always, so to speak..... I must ask your pardon, I am getting excited. I shall drink some water, honoured Stephen Stepanovitch.
- i. Why did Lomov meet Stepan?  
a) To ask for Stepan's daughter, Natalya's hand  
b) To get his property back  
c) To begin as partners in a new business  
d) To invite him at the occasion of his marriage
- ii. For what does Lomov beg Stephan's pardon?  
a) For being abusive  
b) For being harsh  
c) For getting excited to ask for Natalya's hand  
d) For not inviting him on his marriage
- iii. What is the antonym of the word 'pardon' used in the extract?  
a) Forgive  
b) Blame  
c) Reprieve  
d) Anchor
- iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'special right'.
8. My dear fellow... I'm so glad, and so on... Yes, indeed, and all that sort of thing. [Embraces and kisses Lomov] I've been hoping for it for a long time. It's been my continual desire. [Sheds a tear] And I've always loved you, my angel, as if you were my own son. May God give you both—His help and His love and so on, and so much hope?
- i. Why is Chubukov glad?  
ii. What was Chubukov's continual desire?  
iii. What is the antonym of the word 'angel' used in the extract?

iv. \_\_\_\_\_ in the extract means 'happening again and again'?