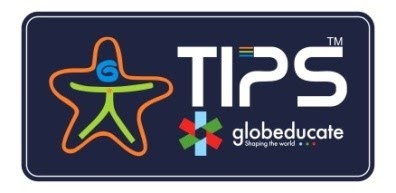
THE INDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL 

TOPIC- REPORT WRITING

**GRADE-X**

**WORK SHEET-2**

**Passage A**

*After an overnight stay in a lonely farmhouse, three friends set off on a walk that has a mysterious ending.*

**An Unexplained Disappearance**

Next morning, the three friends sat at the long table enjoying Mrs Grace’s farmhouse breakfast. Arthur Hilyer, the historian, joked about the loneliness of the location. Anita Myborg, the naturalist, hoped to watch rare birds of prey. Grant Frensham loved tramping across the moors. Mrs Grace glanced at their map. ‘I hope you wouldn’t be thinking of going into Malbrun. That’s a bad village. No one’s gone there since a young man got locked up overnight. They say that it’s full of dangerous animals. And around it, there’s what we call the wild forest – a terrible place, with sudden deep waters and paths that lead you nowhere and trap you. Just keep right and skirt the village and the forest.’

After breakfast, the three walkers set off in high spirits, marvelling at the view before them. Hilyer likened it to the work of a famous painter. The track they took wound up the hill like a shiny, yellow ribbon, tapering from their view until the forest finally swallowed it up. To their left, the land fell away suddenly, like a cliff face, with tiny sheep on the valley floor, resembling ‘white patches,’ Anita said. Beyond, stood lines of grey hills like uniformed guards.

Half way up the hill was a stone hut that figured on their map, and beyond was a small circle of trees that would serve as a bird-watching hide. Anita said, ‘Go on. I’ll catch up later. This is just the right place for eagles.’ She was holding a pair of powerful binoculars.

Ten minutes later, Frensham and Hilyer reached the summit and entered the woodland they had seen at the beginning of their walk. Soon the track divided into two, and a signpost pointed to Malbrun. Hilyer frowned, unsure of himself. Then he said, ‘I think we should investigate. As a historian, I’d like to set the record straight about this place’.

Frensham said, ‘You heard what Mrs Grace said, about those strangers that go up and down the track, and the lights in the sky at night. I think she believes in UFOs – but it’s dangerous nonetheless.’

Hilyer was a fiery man. In a moment he began to argue, and a fierce disagreement broke out between them. Frensham lost his temper too, and turned his back on Hilyer. He set off along the right-hand path, passing a high wire fence and hearing what he thought was the occasional gunshot. He walked far that day, meeting only one other rambler, and returned to the farmhouse late in the afternoon. There he found Anita, who had spent her time watching eagles and had not tried to rejoin the two men. Of Hilyer there was no sign. Eventually they called in the local police officer, who seemed unhelpful but who questioned Frensham closely for nearly an hour.

-------------------------

As Hilyer approached Malbrun village, he sensed something was wrong. There were the remains of barbed wire strewn on the ground, and at one point the path was virtually blocked. He had come so far he was disinclined to turn back, and curiosity got the better of him. He waited to see whether Frensham had relented and had followed him; then, impatient and wanting to get on, he entered the village.

His initial, shocked reaction was that there had been a catastrophic earthquake. The houses, where they remained intact, were nothing but shells. On closer inspection he saw that the walls were pockmarked with tiny bullet holes. Then he wondered whether the place had been created as a ruin, maybe a film set. Before him was what seemed to be a workshop, with a door that hung off its hinges and creaked in the wind as if in a ghost town. He entered cautiously, and immediately two grotesque figures with wild expressions and wearing army gear lunged at him. They rattled and roared, as hinges and levers swivelled, swinging backwards and forwards in a vast jangling of unrestrained metal. Hilyer, frightened, flung himself to the floor. Then, allowing himself to look on this terrible sight, he saw that they were nothing but mechanical figures, and it dawned on him that he had stumbled across some secret military installation.

He rushed outside, his face contorted with alarm, and collapsed onto a low stone wall. All was silence once more, but for a moment he seemed to see faces peering out of the windowless houses and what looked like an officer’s peaked cap.

Fear deprived him of his senses, and in blind panic he ran out of the village and into the terrible depths of the wild forest, watched by two silent men in uniform.

QUESTION 1

Imagine that you are a reporter. You hear that a man has been lost in mysterious circumstances

while walking in the countryside. You arrive early the next morning to investigate the disappearance and to interview people who may be able to add information and comments to your news report.

**Write your news report for your newspaper.**

In your news report you should:

**•** explain what is known about the situation and events leading up to Hilyer being reported

missing.

**•** suggest why it might have been dangerous for a visitor to walk alone in that area.

**•** explore some theories people you interviewed might have about what happened to Hilyer.

Base your news report on what you have read in Passage A. Address all three bullet points.

Be careful to use your own words.

Begin your news report with this headline: **Famous historian goes missing**

Write about 250 to 350 words.

**Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer, and up to 10 marks for**

**the quality of your writing.**