

*Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.  
You will **not** be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.  
This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.  
The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.*

*Attempt **all five** questions.  
The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [ ].  
You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering **Question 1** and 20 minutes in answering **Question 2**.*

## Question 1

*(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)*

Write a composition (300 – 350 words) on *any one* of the following:

[20]

- (a) The Coronavirus pandemic has made us realise the most basic life skills. The importance of hygiene, maintaining social distancing, trusting and respecting the frontline workers and the power of community-led initiatives to help people in need. Describe in detail how the pandemic has changed our lives forever and the lessons learnt from it.
- (b) Weddings are good places to have social interactions. Narrate such a wedding that you had attended.
- (c) Write an original short story entitled '**My sanity was restored.**'
- (d) "**Children should take care of their ageing parents.**" Express your views either for or against this statement.
- (e) Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



## Question 2

*(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)*

Select *any one* of the following:

[10]

- (a) Write a letter to your friend congratulating him/her on his/her outstanding achievement in the field of education.
- (b) Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper drawing attention to the constant bandhs and protests that disrupt the social life in your city.

## Question 3

- (a) You are the Cultural Secretary of your school. The school is organising a career counselling seminar for the students of class X & XII. Draft a notice to be put up on your school notice board giving students all the details of the event.

[05]

- (b) Write an email to the CEO of an MNC inviting him / her to give a talk to the students on how to make a career choice.

[05]

## Question 4

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

One September night a family had gathered round their *hearth*, and piled it high with the driftwood of mountain streams, the dry cones of the pine, and the splintered ruins of great trees that had come crashing down the precipice. Up the chimney roared the fire, and brightened the room with its broad blaze. The faces of the father and mother had a sober gladness; the children laughed; the eldest daughter was the image of Happiness at seventeen; and the aged grandmother, who sat knitting in the warmest place, was the image of Happiness grown old. They had found the "herb, heart's-ease," in the bleakest spot of all New England. This family were situated in the Notch of the White Hills, where the wind was sharp throughout the year, and pitilessly cold in the winter—giving their cottage all its fresh inclemency before it descended on the valley of the Saco. They dwelt in a cold spot and a dangerous one; for a mountain towered above their heads, so steep, that the stones would often rumble down its sides and startle them at midnight.

The daughter had just uttered some simple jest that filled them all with mirth, when the wind came through the Notch and seemed to pause before their cottage – rattling the door, with a sound of wailing and lamentation, before it passed into the valley. For a moment it saddened them, though there was nothing unusual in the tones. But the family were glad again when they perceived that the latch was lifted by some traveller, whose footsteps had been unheard amid the dreary blast which heralded his approach, and wailed as he was entering, and went moaning away from the door.

Though they dwelt in such a solitude, these people held daily converse with the world. The romantic pass of the Notch is a great artery, through which the life-blood of internal commerce is continually throbbing between Maine, on one side, and the Green Mountains and the shores of the St. Lawrence, on the other. The state-coach always drew up before the door of the cottage. The way-farer, with no companion but his staff, paused here to exchange a word, that the sense of loneliness might not utterly overcome him ere he could pass through the cleft of the mountain, or reach the first house in the valley. And here the teamster, on his way to Portland market, would put up for the night; and, if a bachelor, might sit an hour beyond the usual bedtime, and steal a kiss from the mountain maid at parting; It was one of those primitive taverns where he traveller pays only for food and lodging, but meets with a homely kindness beyond all price. When the footsteps were heard, therefore, between the outer door and the inner one, the whole family rose up, grandmother, children, and all, as if about to welcome someone who belonged to them, and whose fate was linked with theirs.

The door was opened by a young man. His face at first wore the melancholy expression, almost despondency, of one who travels a wild and bleak road, at nightfall and alone, but soon brightened up when he saw the kindly warmth of his reception. He felt his heart spring forward to meet them all, from the old

woman, who wiped a chair with her apron, to the little child that held out its arms to him. One glance and smile placed the stranger on a footing of innocent familiarity with the eldest daughter.

"Ah, this fire is the right thing!" cried he," especially when there is such a pleasant circle round it. I am quite benumbed; for the Notch is just like the pipe of a great pair of bellows; it has blown a terrible blast in my face all the way from Bartleft.

"Then you are going towards Vermont?" Said the master of the house, as he helped to take a light knapsack off the young man's shoulders.

"Yes; to Burlington, and far enough beyond," replied he. "I meant to have been at Ethan Crawford's tonight; but a pedestrian lingers along such a road as this. It is no matter; for, when I saw this good fire, and all your cheerful faces, I felt as if you had kindled it on purpose for me, and were waiting my arrival. So I shall sit down among you, and make myself at home."

The frank-hearted stranger had just drawn his chair to the fire when something like a heavy footstep was heard without, rushing down the steep side of the mountain, as with long and rapid strides, and taking such a leap in passing the cottage as to strike the opposite precipice. The family held their breath, because they knew the sound, and their guest held his by *instinct*.

"The old mountain has thrown a stone at us, for fear we should forget him," said the landlord, recovering himself. "He sometimes nods his head and threatens to come down; but we are old neighbours, and agree together pretty well upon the whole. Besides we have a sure place of refuge hard by if he should be coming in good earnest."

(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided: [2]

1. hearth (*line 1*)

- (a) foreign
- (b) urban area
- (c) the floor of a fireplace
- (d) fire

2. instinct (*line 46*)

- (a) reason
- (b) an innate, typically fixed pattern of behaviour in response to certain stimuli
- (c) knowledge
- (d) reaction

(ii) Which word in the passage means the opposite of the word *merriment*? [1]

- (a) jest
- (b) precipice
- (c) lamentation
- (d) solitude

(iii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words:

- (a) Why was the place where the family dwelt a dangerous one? [2]
- (b) From which trees were the dry woods collected for making a fire? [1]
- (c) What does the phrase "herb, heart's ease" mean in the given passage? [2]
- (d) Why did the way-farer paused to exchange a word with the family on the notch? [2]
- (e) What qualities of the family made the young traveler brighten up? [2]

(iv) In not more than 50 words, describe how the family held a 'daily converse' with the world. [8]

### Question 5

(a) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage, but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. [04]

Example: (0) has changed

Information technology (0) \_\_\_\_\_ (change) the way we access information. Since its introduction in the 1980's, the internet (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (become) cheap and commonplace. Some people (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (see) this as an opportunity to deal with problems like unemployment. They (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (argue) that the government should provide free internet access to people (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (look) for a job. I don't agree with this point of view for several reasons. Lack of skills (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) the main reason that prevents jobless people from (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (find) employment. Instead of offering free internet to the jobless, the government (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (organize) training programs for them. Giving free internet is unlikely to be of any help. In the first place, it is nearly impossible to control how these technologies (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (use). Instead of this, the government should use public money to provide subsidized or free bus tickets for the unemployed who need to travel for a job interview.

**(b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words:**

**[04]**

- (i) Please make sure that you're \_\_\_\_ time for the train.
- (ii) I was walking to the park and \_\_\_\_ chance saw the poster with the job listing.
- (iii) The shop is just a few meters away. Why don't you go \_\_\_\_ foot ?
- (iv) I think the wall is \_\_\_\_ danger of falling down.
- (v) She has an aptitude \_\_\_\_\_ Mathematics.
- (vi) Avail yourself \_\_\_\_\_ this opportunity to visit Kashmir.
- (vii) Please bear \_\_\_\_\_ me until I finish this job.
- (viii) I was amazed \_\_\_\_\_ her brilliant performance.

**(c) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence without using and, but or so. Choose the correct option.**

**[04]**

- (i) Smriti listened to my request. She took action immediately.
  - 1. As soon as Smriti listened to my request, she took action immediately.
  - 2. Smriti listened to my request and she took action immediately.
  - 3. Though Smriti listened to my request, she took action immediately.
  - 4. No sooner did Smriti listened to my request, she took action immediately.
- (ii) Sonia asked a riddle. I was unable to solve it.
  - 1. I was unable to solve it as Sonia asked a riddle.
  - 2. Sonia asked a riddle which I was unable to solve.
  - 3. Sonia asked a riddle but I was unable to solve it.
  - 4. Both 2 and 3
- (iii) Their parents died. Their aunt took care of them.
  - 1. Though their parents died, their aunt took care of them.
  - 2. Their parents died and their aunt took care of them.
  - 3. Hardly had their parents died than their aunt took care of them.
  - 4. After their parents died, their aunt took care of them.
- (iv) Rahul went to post his letters. The postman was collecting the letters from the box.
  - 1. When Rahul went to post his letters, the postman was collecting the letters from the box.
  - 2. Where Rahul went to post his letters, the postman was collecting the letters from the box.
  - 3. Rahul went to post his letters but the postman was collecting the letters from the box.
  - 4. None of the above

**(d) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary but do not change the meaning of the sentence. Choose the correct option.**

**[08]**

**(i) He didn't eat his breakfast as he was getting very late. (Use: so)**

1. He was getting so late that he couldn't eat his breakfast.
2. He was getting so late that he didn't eat his breakfast.
3. He didn't eat his breakfast so he was getting very late.
4. He didn't eat his breakfast so he got late.

**(ii) As soon as the teacher sat, he called the names of the selected students. (Begin: No sooner.....)**

1. No sooner did the teacher sit than he called the names of the selected students.
2. No sooner does the teacher sit than he called the names of the selected students.
3. No sooner did the teacher sit than he calls the names of the selected students.
4. No sooner the teacher sat he called the names of the selected students.

**(iii) He said to her, "Please come with me to the cafeteria." (Begin: He requested her....)**

1. He request her to come to the cafeteria with him.
2. He requested to her to come to the cafeteria with him.
3. He requested her to come with him to the cafeteria.
4. He requested her to come to the cafeteria together.

**(iv) He reached the station on time. He would have lost the train. (Begin: Had.....)**

1. Had he not reached the station on time, he would have lost the train.
2. Had he reached the station on time, he would have not lost the train.
3. Had he would have lost the train if not reached on time.
4. Had he reached on time he would have lost the train.

**(v) Rohit offered prayers in the temple before going abroad. (Begin: Rohit did not.....)**

1. Rohit did not offer prayers in the temple before going abroad.
2. Rohit did not go to temple to offer prayers before going abroad.
3. Rohit did not go abroad without offering prayers in the temple.
4. Rohit did not go to pray without going abroad.

**(vi) The earthquake had caused lot of destruction before the people were rescued. (Begin: The people.....)**

1. The people were rescued after the earthquake had caused lot of destruction.
2. The people were rescued before the earthquake had caused lot of destruction.
3. The people were rescued while the earthquake had caused lot of destruction.
4. The people were rescued before the earthquake could cause destruction.

**(vii) Stay away from the seashore, you may drown. (Use: lest)**

1. Stay away from the seashore lest you may not drown.
2. Stay away from the seashore lest you should drown.
3. Stay away, from the seashore lest you may not drown.
4. Stay away from the seashore lest before you drown.

**(viii) I would buy a car. I get a good job. (Use: If)**

1. If I get a good job, I would buy a car.
2. If I get a good job then only I would buy a car.
3. If I would buy a car, I get a good job.
4. If I would get a job, I would buy a car.