



**General Instructions:**

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

**SECTION A – READING SKILLS (20 marks)**

**Read the passage given below.**

- 1) Located about 60 miles south of Baghdad in modern-day Iraq, the ancient city of Babylon served for nearly two millennia as a centre of Mesopotamian civilization.
- 2) One of its early rulers, Hammurabi, created a harsh system of laws, while in later times, the Babylonian language would be used across the Middle East as a way of communicating across borders. Another great accomplishment, if the ancient stories are true, is the construction of the Hanging Gardens, a wonder of the ancient world, which some believe was built by the Biblical king Nebuchadnezzar II.
- 3) The ancient scientists who lived in the city made important discoveries in Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy. Among their many accomplishments, they developed trigonometry, used mathematical models to track the planet Jupiter and developed methods of tracking time that is still used today. Ancient Babylonian records are still used by modern-day astronomers to study how the rotation of the earth has changed.
- 4) Archaeologically, little is known about the early history of Babylon. Ancient records suggest that more than 4,000 years ago, at a time when the city of Ur was the centre of an empire, Babylon appears to have been a provincial administration centre. "Babylon had not been an independent city," writes researcher Gwendolyn Leick in her book "The Babylonians".
- 5) She notes that in 1894 B.C. after the Ur-based empire had collapsed, the city was conquered by a man named Samu-abum. He was an Amorite, a Semitic-speaking people from the area around modern-day Syria. He proceeded to turn Babylon into a petty kingdom made up of the city and a small amount of nearby territory. Babylon would remain this way until, six kings later, a man named Hammurabi (1792–1750 B.C.) ascended the throne. He was the ruler who would go on to turn this once small kingdom into a great empire.
- 6) While the Law code of Hammurabi (now in the Louvre) is well known for its "eye for an eye" style of lawmaking, it also sets out the nature of the relationship between Hammurabi, the gods and the people he ruled. Ultimately, Hammurabi's empire was not to last, falling into decline after his death. In 1595 B.C., the Hittite ruler Mursili I captured Babylon, bringing the rule of Hammurabi's successors to a close.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the questions that follow:

(i) Choose the option that best captures the central idea of the passage from the given quotes. 1

- A. "Civilization is a limitless multiplication of unnecessary necessities."
- B. "The liberty of the individual is no gift of civilization. It was the greatest before there was any civilization."
- C. "The gross heathenism of civilization has generally destroyed nature, and poetry, and all that is spiritual."
- D. "Each civilization dies from indifference to the unique values which created it."

(ii) Select the option that corresponds to the following relation below: 1

He was the ruler who would go on to turn this once small kingdom into a great empire.

- A. The government assisted in transforming micro scale kingdom into a great empire.
- B. Some people think that it's better to eat less than the appetite.
- C. The vase had a very small neck, and spread out at the top like a bowl.
- D. The little girl has a miniature garden in her house.

(iii) Select the option with reference to the following:

Which of the following options presents the correct order of the events? 1

- 1. Hammurabi, created a harsh system of laws.
  - 2. The Babylonian language would be used across the Middle East as a way of communicating across borders.
  - 3. The collapse of the Ur-based empire.
  - 4. Babylon becomes a petty kingdom made up of the city and a small amount of nearby territory.
- A. 1, 2, 3, 4      B. 3, 1, 4, 2      C. 3, 4, 1, 2      D. 3, 2, 4, 1

(iv) Complete the following with a phrase or an idiom from Paragraph 6. 1

Opinion	Reason
-----	Someone should be harmed as they harmed someone else

(v) The writer uses two contrasting words in the line– Ancient Babylonian records are still used by modern day astronomers to study how the rotation of the Earth has changed.

State one point of difference between ancient and modern astronomers. 1

(vi) Based on your reading of the text, list two reasons why the writer says that: "The ancient scientists who lived in the city made important discoveries". 2

(vii) The writer says, "Babylon would remain this way until, six kings later, a man named Hammurabi (1792–1750 B.C.) ascended the throne".

Select the reason of change of Babylon after the throne was ascended by Hammurabi. 1

- A. He transformed a small kingdom into a great empire.

- B. He was a ruthless leader.
- C. He transformed a great empire into a small kingdom.
- D. He was a fighter.

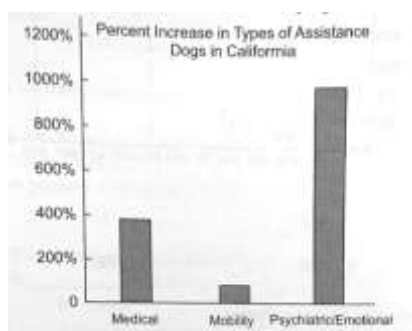
(viii) Supply one point to justify the following:

2

One of its early rulers, Hammurabi, created a harsh system of laws.

**Read the passage given below.**

- 1) Sniffer dog, Tucker uses his nose to help researchers find out why a killer whale population off the northwest coast of the United States is on the decline. He searches for whale faeces floating on the surface of the water, which are then collected for examination. He is one of the elite team of detection dogs used by scientists several species including right whales and killer whales.
- 2) Conservation canines are fast becoming indispensable tools for biologists according to Aimee Hurt, associate director and co-founder of Working Dogs for Conservation, based in Three Forks, Montana.
- 3) Over the last years, though, so many new conservation dog projects have sprung up that Hurt can no longer keep track of them all. Her organisation's dogs and their handlers are fully booked to assist field researchers in 2012.
- 4) "Dogs have such a phenomenal sense of smell", explained Sam Wasser, director of the Centre for Conservation Biology at the University of Washington in Seattle. He has worked with scat-detection dogs since 1997. Scientists have been using Conservation Canines in their research since 1997. These dogs have enabled them to non-invasively access a vast amount of genetic and physiological information which is used to tackle conservation problems around the world. Such information has proved vital for determining the causes and consequences of human disturbances on wildlife as well as the actions needed to mitigate such impacts.
- 5) The ideal detection dog is extremely energetic with an excessive play drive. These dogs will happily work all day long, motivated by the expectation of a ball game as a reward for sample detection. The obsessive high energy personalities of detection dogs also make them difficult to maintain as pets. As a result, they frequently find themselves abandoned to animal shelters, facing euthanasia. The programme rescues these dogs and offers them a satisfying career in conservation research.



On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the questions that follow:

(i) Infer one reason for the following, based on information in Paragraph 1:

1

Sniffer dog Tucker is one of the elite team of detection dogs used by scientists studying several species.

(ii) Select the appropriate option to fill in the blank. 1

These dogs cannot be kept as pets because .....

- A. They are obsessed with high energy personality of detection
- B. They are possessive
- C. They are aggressive
- D. They are lazy with no personality

(iii) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word from paragraph 2. 1

contradictory: similar: ..... : trivial

(iv) Choose the option that lists the CORRECT answers for the following: 1

- 1. Scarf, since she was a pup of five, helped tracking poachers even beyond the neighbourhood. The anti-poaching team loves Scarf so much that they put her safety above theirs.
- 2. Once they reach age 10, we have to retire them. No matter how close they are to us, at that age they cannot continue to do their jobs. There is no law that states what to do with these dogs once they retire.
- A. (1) Scarf gets love (2) but retired dog cannot be loved.
- B. (1) The handler places priority on Scarf (2) No one might know what can be done once the dog retires.
- C. (1) Scarf is very special (2) After she retires, she will still be special.
- D. (1) Scarf's talent was beyond expectation (2) So was the talent of all other sniffer dogs.

(v) Substitute the word 'abandoned' with ONE WORD similar in meaning, in the following sentence from Paragraph 5: 1

As a result, they frequently find themselves abandoned to animal shelters, facing euthanasia.

(vi) List two types of information that detection dogs can give to tackle conservation problems around the world. 2

(vii) List one reason why the writer says "The ideal detection dog is extremely energetic with an excessive play drive". 1

(viii) Select the option that titles the detection dogs under Paragraph 5 appropriately, with reference to information in the text. 2

- A. 1. The ideal detection dog is extremely energetic.  
2. Excessive play drive  
3. Abandoned to animal shelters
- B. 1. Indispensable tools for biologists  
2. Excessive play drive  
3. Human disturbances on wildlife
- C. 1. Searches for whale faeces  
2. Abandoned to animal shelters  
3. Conservation Canines
- D. 1. Field researchers  
2. Human disturbances on wildlife

**SECTION B – GRAMMAR (10 marks)**

**III. Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions.**

(i) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence.

The boys \_\_\_\_\_ to my lecture since 8 o'clock this morning.

- (A) were listening (B) had been listening  
(C) have been listening (D) None of these

(ii) Read the conversation between a mother and her daughter. Complete the sentence by reporting the daughter's reply correctly.

Mother: Why are you looking so worried?

Daughter: My exams are approaching.

Mother asked her daughter why she was looking very worried. The daughter replied \_\_\_\_\_.

(iii) Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line.

I \_\_\_\_\_ rather die than join the gang of terrorists.

- (A) could (B) should (C) would (D) can

(iv) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line:

A little political thinkers think that liberty and equality can't go together.

Option	Error	Correction
(A)	can't	couldn't
(B)	think	thinks
(C)	A little	Some
(D)	go	goes

(v) Complete the given sentence, by filling in the blank with the correct option:

They met you at night after you \_\_\_\_\_ your work.

- (A) had finished (B) have finished (C) finished (D) will finish

(vi) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket.

Chris, in addition to his brother Zack, \_\_\_\_\_ (play) hockey on Saturday.

(vii) Report the dialogue between a doctor and a patient by completing the sentence:

Doctor: You should take this medicine every day.

Patient: Should I take it before dinner or after dinner?

Doctor: No, you should take it after breakfast.

The Doctor advised the patient that he should take that medicine every day. The patient further asked if he should take it before dinner or after dinner. The doctor replied negatively and then said \_\_\_\_\_.

(viii) Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.

Some guys like to fights on even playing grounds, and some guys like to cheat.

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

(ix) Transform the following direct speech into reported speech:

He said to me, "Will you be coming?"

(x) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence.

My class teacher told me that I \_\_\_\_\_ work hard.

(A) shall                      (B) could                      (C) can                      (D) should

(xi) Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Radha and Shikha.

Radha: Do you know how to swim?

Shikha: Yes, I know. I have learnt it during this summer vacation.

Radha asked Shikha whether she knew how to swim. Then Shikha replied in affirmative and also added that \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) she had learnt it during that summer vacation  
(B) she has learnt it during this summer vacation  
(C) she have learnt it during that summer vacation  
(D) she had learnt it during this summer vacation

(xii) Identify the error and supply the correction, for the following sentence:

Every people went to welcome the Indian cricket team.

Error	Correction

## SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (10 marks)

IV.

3. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

(5)

4. Write a formal letter in 100–120 words to the editor of a newspaper regarding the nuisance created by stray animals.

OR

5. Media creates awareness but it is also responsible for exaggerating unimportant news and diverting the attention of the people from important news segments. Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper giving inputs about the pros and cons of media.

2. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

(5)

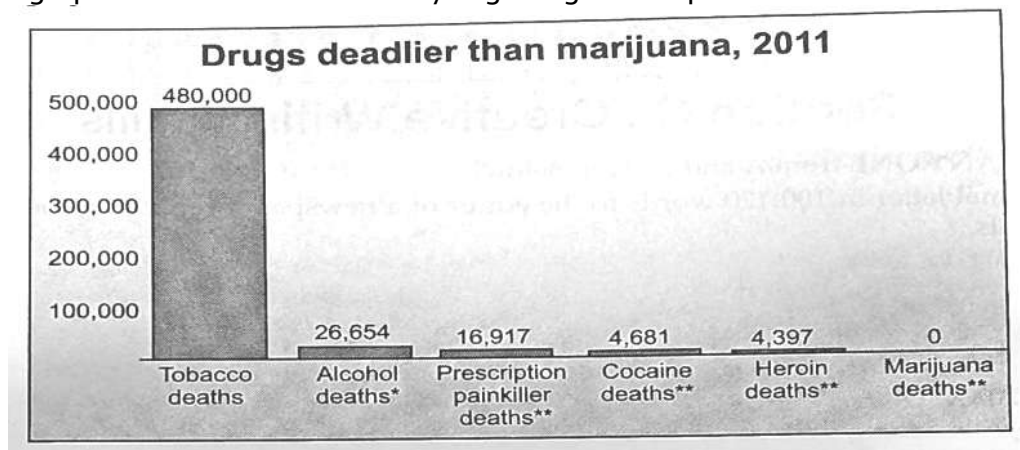
Read the following excerpt from a speech by Malala Yousafzai in her address to the United Nations, July 2013.

The wise saying, "A pen is mightier than a word" was true. The extremists are afraid of books and pens. The power of education frightens them. They are afraid of women. The power of the voice of women.

Write a paragraph to analyse the given argument. You could think about what alternative explanations might weaken the given conclusion and include rationale / evidence that would strengthen / counter the given argument.

OR

B. Write a paragraph in 100–120 words analysing the given map:



### SECTION C – LITERATURE (40 marks)

V. Reference to the Context. (10)

1. Attempt ANY ONE of the two extracts given. (5)

1.A. LOMOV: Never mind about my people! The Lomovs have all been honourable people, and not one has ever been tried for embezzlement, like your grandfather!

CHUBUKOV: You Lomovs have had lunacy in your family, all of you!

NATALYA: All, all, all!

CHUBUKOV: Your grandfather was a drunkard, and your younger aunt, Nastasya Mihailovna, ran away with an architect, and so on...

LOMOV: And your mother was hump-backed. [Clutches at his heart] Something pulling in my side... My head.... Help! Water!

CHUBUKOV: Your father was a guzzling gambler!

1. Choose the option that correctly identifies the tone of the characters in the given extract. 1

1) antagonism 2) humour 3) contempt 4) irony

a) (1) and (2) b) (2) and (4) c) (1) and (3) d) (3) and (4)

2. The playwright's intention in the given extract is to: 1

- a) throw light upon the weaknesses of the rich in any society.
- b) emphasize that family history is important in a marriage proposal.
- c) satirise the superficiality of the upper class in Russian society.
- d) send a message that ego is not healthy in any relationship.

3. If according to Chubukov and Natalya, the Lomovs are not "honourable people", why do they still consider Lomov's proposal? 2

4. Imagine you found the playwright's notes for each scene in the play and noticed that some of the words were missing. Choose the option that fills the missing words most appropriately. 1

A conversation that starts pleasantly quickly turns into a (i) \_\_\_\_\_ argument. With (ii) \_\_\_\_\_ of Oxen Meadows at the heart of the matter, Lomov and Natalya quarrel and are later joined by Chubukov. Thus, begins a (iii) \_\_\_\_ of insults, accusations and name-calling. All (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ disappears. Eventually, Lomov leaves clutching at his heart, his foot numb.

- a) (i) petty ; (ii) history ; (iii) series; (iv) politeness
- b) (i) vicious ; (ii) ownership ; (iii) circus ; (iv) civility
- c) (i) curious ; (ii) land ; (iii) outpouring ; (iv) laughter
- d) (i) ugly ; (ii) neighbourhood ; (iii) barrage; (iv) goodness

**OR**

- 1.B. He discovered the joys of being bowled over, tramped on and squashed every few minutes. He became an accepted member of the gang, an unlikely, silky little object among the shaggy crew, fighting like a tiger for his share at mealtimes and hunting rats in the old henhouse at night. He had never had such a time in his life. All the while, Mrs Pumphrey hovered anxiously in the background, ringing a dozen times a day for the latest bulletins.

1. Read the following statements, each of which describes the gist of the given extract. Select the option that captures the essence of the extract correctly. 1

Statement I – It highlights the kind of comforts and luxuries that Tricki was used to at home.

Statement II – It brings out a contrast between Tricki and Mrs. Pumphrey's state of being.

Statement III – It reflects that Tricki was happier at the surgery, and loved being with other dogs.

Statement IV – It shows Tricki's journey with his peers at the surgery, and documents his recovery.

- a) Statements I and II
- b) Statements III and IV
- c) Statements I and III
- d) Statements II and IV

2. What does the reference to Tricki as a "silky little object" signify? 1

- a) Tricki was a very small and rather pampered dog.
- b) Tricki was comfortably attired in fine silks and warm coats.
- c) Unlike the other dogs, Tricki had lived in the lap of luxury with care and grooming.
- d) The narrator's mockery of Tricki's life and treatment with Mrs. Pumphrey.

3. "All the while, Mrs Pumphrey hovered anxiously in the background". Given below are different types of pet parenting styles described in Country Living, an e-magazine. Choose the option that best reflects the kind of pet owner Mrs. Pumphrey was. 1

- (i) Traffic Light pet owners have a healthy balance of rules and freedom and give clear and consistent signals for 'yes' and 'no'.
- (ii) Entranced pet owners have the best intentions, but as soon as their pet looks eyes with them and gives their command, they are at their pet's beck and call.
- (iii) The Goose pet owners go all-out in protecting their pet. They often limit their time away from their pet, especially puppies.
- (iv) The Baggage Handler pet owners love being close to their pets and going on adventures together. They are always mindful of the pet's comfort and security.

- a) Option (i)
- b) Option (ii)
- c) Option (iii)
- d) Option (iv)





**VI. Answer ANY FOUR of the following in about 40–50 words each.**

**(4×3=12)**

7. Justify the poet's allusion to Rapunzel in 'Amanda'.
8. Mention the values of the post master which you would like to emulate. Give reasons for your answer.
9. How can you say that the conductor was a good-natured jolly fellow? Support your answer with examples.
4. Evaluate the poem 'For Anne Gregory' in the context of the given quote.  
"If only our eyes saw souls instead of bodies, how very different our ideals of beauty would be."  
You may begin like this: The poet shares that God loves us unconditionally, for who we are and not our appearance. This quote.....(continue).....
5. Mijbil caused a sensation in London. Expound with reference to the chapter "Mijbil the Otter".

**VII. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40–50 words each.**

**(2×3=6)**

10. Why did Anil not hand over Hari Singh to the police?
11. Why was Matilda unhappy in her early married life?
12. Griffin's brilliance as a man of science fades before his darker traits. Comment.

**VIII. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100–120 words.**

**(1×6=6)**

**(A)** The narrator shares, "Baking was indeed a profitable profession in the old days."

- a) What do you feel has changed now? Why?
- b) State any one way, you feel, the paders can regain their lost glory.

**OR**

13. If the Buddha were to summarise the life lesson of "The Ball Poem", what would that sermon be?

Think and create this address for people of your age.

**IX. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100–120 words.**

**(1×6=6)**

14. Imagine that the young lady thief writes a letter to Horace Danby while he is in prison. Write the letter imaging yourself to be that young lady with respect to the story.

**OR**

15. Imagine you are Bholi and you have been invited by a girl's secondary school in another village to address a group of students about being independent, fearless and breaking stereotypes. Write that speech.