

**BUDHA DAL PUBLIC SCHOOL PATIALA**  
**Second Term Examination (7 December 2024)**

**Subject – ENGLISH CORE**

**Class XII (Set – A)**

**Time: 3 hrs.**

**M.M.80**

**General Instructions:**

1. The question paper contains Three sections – Reading, Writing and Literature.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

**Section – A (Reading) (22 marks)**

**Q1. Read the passage carefully.**

**(12)**

1. According to the BBC website, the name 'Viking' comes from Old Norse language and means "a pirate raid." People who went off raiding in ships were said to be "going Viking."
2. The Vikings lived and ruled from about AD700 to 1100. During this period, they left their homelands in Scandinavia and travelled by longboats to other countries like Britain and Ireland.
3. When the friendly British noticed the Viking longboats arrive, they came to the shore to welcome them. They thought the Vikings were Danes, even though they came from Denmark, Norway and Sweden. That makes them Scandinavians. Alas, the Vikings fought the local people, stole from churches and burnt buildings to the ground. They fought with long swords and axes.
4. The first Viking raid recorded was in AD787. Attacking Christian monasteries in Britain was the easiest thing to do. The monks had no weapons; they were not warriors. And their buildings were filled with gold, jewels and books. There were stocks of food, drink, cattle, clothes and tools too – everything the Viking raiders wanted. In AD793, a monastery at Lindisfarne in Northumbria, north-east England was attacked. A fierce struggle started between the Anglo-Saxons and the Vikings.
5. In AD865 an army of Vikings came across the North Sea, to conquer areas, not just raid them. The army battled through northern England, taking control of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms of Northumbria, East Anglia and most of Mercia. By AD874, almost all the kingdoms had fallen under their control. The one they could not conquer was Wessex, which was ruled by Alfred the Great. King Alfred defeated the Viking army, but was not able to drive the Vikings out of Britain, the BBC's website says.
6. The Vikings were great explorers and travellers. Viking ships reached Britain, France, Spain, Italy and North Africa. A few daring explorers sailed to Iceland and beyond. They travelled across the Atlantic Ocean to North America.
7. The Vikings sailed close to the coast whenever possible. They memorised landmarks and followed them. In the open sea, they followed sunlight: west (towards the sunset) meant they were headed for England; east (towards the sunrise) meant home to Denmark or Norway.
8. The Vikings had invented a basic sun-compass to help find their way. At night they watched the skies. They understood the position of the stars and were able to determine in which direction they were heading. They could study winds and sea currents. By spotting birds or even a change in the colour of the water, an experienced sailor could tell when land was close.
9. Not all Vikings came to fight, but others came peacefully, to settle. They did not have large farmlands in their country. So some of the farmers came to Britain to raise animals and grow crops, says the BBC's website.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage.

(12 Marks)

- (i) Complete the sentence appropriately.

(1 Mark)

*The Viklings have been named so because .....*

- (ii) It was wrong on the part of the English to consider that all Vikings were Danes because (1 Mark)

- (a) not all Vikings were plunderers
- (b) many Vikings came from regions other than Denmark
- (c) the Danes were friendly people
- (d) the Vikings fought the local people

- (iii) Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words, to support the view that the Vikings were great seafarers? (2 Marks)

- (iv) King Alfred of Wessex could have made all of the following statements EXCEPT (1 Mark)

- (a) "The Vikings are not invincible!"
- (b) "We shall not meekly surrender to the Vikings!"
- (c) "Britain is now safe from Viking attacks! They are gone!"
- (d) "The enemy has superior seafaring capabilities!"

- (v) Infer one reason why the Vikings sailed as close to the shore as possible. (1 Mark)

- (vi) Explain, in about 40 words, why English churches and monasteries were the prime targets of the Vikings. (2 Marks)

- (vii) Given below are some sobriquets (titles) that may be given to the Vikings. Select two options for which there is no textual evidence. (1 Mark)

(I) INVADERS AND PLUNDERERS

(IV) ADVENTURERS AND VOYAGERS

(II) PREACHERS AND PEACEMAKERS

(V) SHREWD BUSINESSMEN AND TRADERS

(III) PIONEERS AND EXPLORERS

(a) I and II

(c) II and V

(b) II and IV

(d) III and V

- (viii) How does the following impact the reader, even though they know that not all Vikings were war mongers?

*"Not all Vikings came to fight, but others came peacefully, to settle."*

Answer in about 40 words.

(2 Marks)

- (ix) Choose the option that correctly matches the events with the dates when they happened.

(1 Mark)

DATE	EVENT
I. AD 787	A. The Period of the Viking Rule
II. AD 874	B. King Alfred defeated the Viking army
III. AD 793	C. The first recorded Viking raid
IV. AD 700 to 1100	D. The Vikings attacked the Lindisfarne monastery
	E. Almost all kingdoms came under the Viking control by this time

(a) I-B, II-D, III-E, IV-C

(c) I-B, II-E, III-D, IV-A

(b) I-C, II-B, III-D, IV-A

(d) I-C, II-E, III-D, IV-A

A-2



Read the following passage carefully.

(10 Marks)

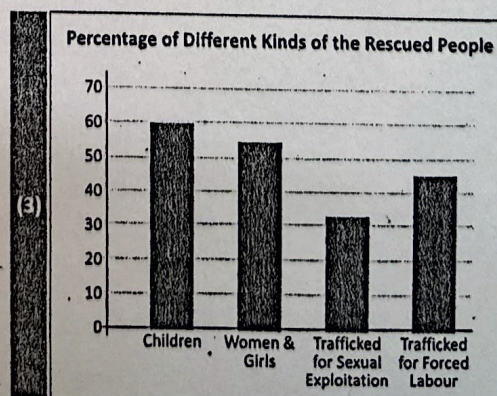
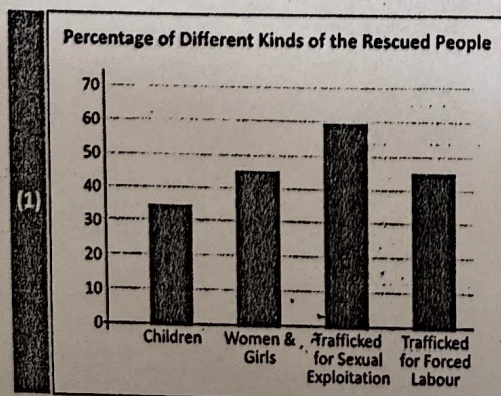
Human trafficking, defined as the illegal trade of humans most commonly for the purposes of sexual slavery and forced labour, currently claims an estimated 24.9 million victims worldwide, and the Global Slavery Index estimates that 8 million trafficking victims live within India's borders. In 2016, there were 8,132 human trafficking cases reported in India, a 20 per cent increase from 2015, and there were 23,117 people rescued from the human trafficking system.

2. Of the people rescued, 60 per cent were children, women and girls accounted for 55 per cent, 33 per cent were trafficked for sexual services, and 45 per cent were trafficked for forced labour. While much of the global pervasiveness of human trafficking can be explained only by extreme poverty, political instability and war, the causes of human trafficking in India are more nuanced.
3. Another cause of human trafficking in India is a lack of opportunity in India's poor communities, especially for uneducated women, to provide for their families. In 2012, only 43 per cent of women in India worked on regular wage or salaried positions. Victims of sex trafficking in India are predominantly young, illiterate girls from impoverished families in rural states. Although poverty is decreasing in India, 28 per cent of the population still lives below the poverty line.
4. Poor communities are especially vulnerable to human traffickers, as they often offer better job opportunities or debt relief to lure victims. With limited opportunities to make money, offers like these are hard to decline for young women. Sex trafficking victims average 10 to 14 years of age, down from its previous average of 14 to 16, because younger girls are thought to be less likely to carry sexually-transmitted diseases.

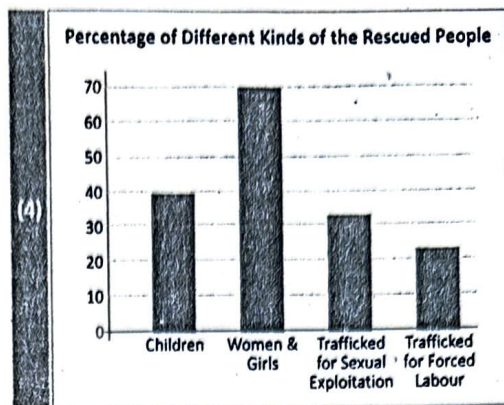
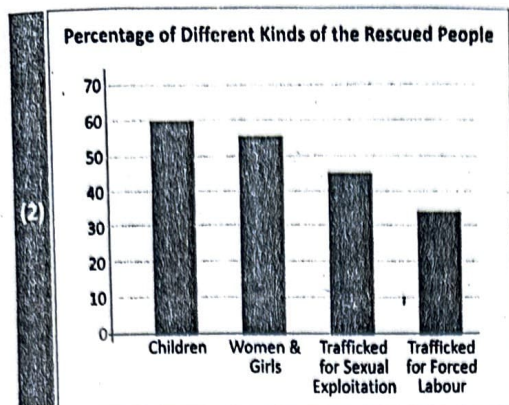
Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.

(10 Marks)

- (i) What is India's share of human trafficking victims? (1 Mark)
  - (a) Three times the annual increase in the word figures
  - (b) Close to two-thirds of the world figures
  - (c) Nearly one-third of the world figures
  - (d) Just under one fourth of the world figures
- (ii) Does the author have a bias against India in his discussion on human trafficking in the country? Answer in about 40 words. (2 Marks)
- (iii) Which of the following options correctly matches the figures of the percentage of the different categories of the rescued people? (1 Mark)







(a) Option 1

(b) Option 2

(c) Option 3

(d) Option 4

(iv) What does the author actually mean to say when he says, "The causes of human trafficking in India are more nuanced"? (1 Mark)

(v) Choose the option that correctly lists the causes of human trafficking in the world, as mentioned in paragraphs 1 to 3 of the passage. (1 Mark)

1. War

2. Underworld crime syndicates

3. Sexual exploitation

4. Political instability

5. Unemployment

6. Forced labour

7. Extreme poverty

8. Illiteracy

(a) All except 1

(b) All except 2

(c) All except 5

(d) All except 7

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1 Mark)

One positive point mentioned in paragraph 3 is .....

(vii) Select evidence from the text, in about 40 words, to support the view that the more illiterate and poor someone is, the more likely he/she is prone to becoming a victim of human trafficking. (2 Marks)

(viii) Say TRUE or FALSE. (1 Mark)

There has been a positive change in the average age of sex-trafficking victims.

### SECTION- B (Writing Skills) (18 marks)

Q3. Attempt any one of the following:

(4)

You are Aman/ Archana, President of the Drama Club of Oxford Public School, Bengaluru. On the occasion of Children's Day, your club is planning to conduct an inter-house one-act play competition. Draft a notice in about 50 words giving relevant details about the competition. Mention the date, day, time and venue.

OR

As the Secretary of the Sahar Group Housing Society, draft a notice in 50 words calling for Annual General Meeting to discuss issues of security and maintenance of public space. Specify the day, date, time and venue. Request the members to attend the meeting and give the benefit of their valuable suggestions on the issue in the given agenda. You are Razia/ Rashid.



Q4. Attempt any one of the following:

(4)

You are Suresh/ Surbhi Gupta, the Principal of Goodwill Public School, Akash Nagar. Your school is organizing an Inter-School Economics Seminar on Critical analysis of the Financial Budget, 2023-24. Send a formal letter of invitation to the Finance Secretary of your state to be the Chief Guest Invent necessary details.

OR

You are Mr. Kulkarni. You have recently received an invitation to the wedding of your friend, Mr. Sharma's son, Suraj. Write a reply in about 50 words expressing your inability to attend the wedding due to a prior family function.

Q5. Attempt any one of the following:

(5)

Write a letter to the Editor of a National Daily addressing the impact of rising urbanization on rural communities and suggest measures to protect rural livelihoods. You are Rohan/ Rohini of 20 Pritam Vihar, New Delhi.

OR

You are Niharika/ Nitish, a qualified software engineer. You saw the given advertisement in a newspaper and wish to apply for the position advertised. Draft a job application, along with your bio-data expressing your interest in the advertised post.

<b>TECH MAHINDRA</b>	
<b>Requires</b>	
<b>Software Engineer</b>	
<b>Qualification :</b>	<b>B.E. Computer Science</b>
<b>Experience :</b>	<b>Min. 2 yrs in the relevant field</b>
<b>Age :</b>	<b>Not more than 28 years</b>
<b>Skills :</b>	<b>Knowledge of HTML, Research skills, software building</b>
<b>Apply to the Manager, Tech Mahindra</b>	
<b>40 LG Road, Teenalipuram</b>	

Q6. Attempt any one of the following:

(5)

Write an article on the importance of skill education for today's youth. Discuss how skill-based education differs from traditional education, its benefits in terms of employability and its role in preparing students for the future.

OR

The mushrooming of fast food outlets is creating a health hazard for the youth. School – Going children are adopting unhealthy eating habits. Your school organized a 'Let's Eat Healthy Week'. As student editor of the school magazine, write a report on the event. You are Tripti/ Tushar.

### SECTION – C (Literature) (40 Marks)

Q7. Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:

(6)

A) *The little old house was out with a little new shed  
In front at the edge of the road where the traffic sped,  
A roadside stand that too pathetically pled,  
It would not be fair to say for a dole of bread,  
But for some of the money, the cash, whose flow supports,  
The flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.*

- i) Identify the figure of speech used in these lines, 'polished traffic'
- a) Metaphor   b) Simile   c) Transferred Epithet   d) Alliteration

(1)



- ii) 'The Flower of cities from sinking and withering faint.' (1)  
 'The flower of cities' refers to .....  
 a) the beauty of urban metro cities  
 b) the economic prosperity of cities dwellers  
 c) the cultural diverse people in urban cities  
 d) the beautiful and smart people of urban life
- iii) Robert Frost conveys the theme of societal indifference towards rural communities. Explain with reference to the given lines. (1)
- iv) The little old house was out with a little new shed. Discuss the imagery used in this line. (1)

OR

B) *"When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie,  
 Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.  
 The tigers in the panel that she made,  
 Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid;*

- i) Which of the following cannot be inferred from the given extract?  
 a) Aunt Jennifer's tigers will keep her alive in everyone's memory.  
 b) Aunt Jennifer feels oppressed and constricted in her marriage  
 c) Even in death, Aunt Jennifer cannot escape patriarchal subjugation.  
 d) Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance as a lasting symbol of her desires.
- ii) Which of the following can be said to be the theme associated with the extract?  
 a) With art lives the artist.  
 b) Women need to act while alive for liberation.  
 c) Male domination transcends centuries of struggle.  
 d) Both (a) and (b)
- iii) Will Aunt Jennifer be able to escape the oppressive society?
- iv) Aunt Jennifer's art will forever state her struggle. Elaborate with reference to the given extract.

**Q8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (4)**

(A) MR LAMB : You could lock yourself up in a room and never leave it. There was a man who did that. He was afraid, you see. Of everything. Everything in this world. A bus might run him over, or a man might breathe deadly germs into him, or a donkey might kick him to death, or lightning might strike him down, or he might love a girl and the girl would leave him, and he might slip on a banana skin and fall and people who saw him would laugh their heads off. So he went into this room, and locked the door, and got into his bed, and stayed there.

DERRY : For a while.

MR LAMB : For a while.

DERRY : Then what?

MR LAMB : A picture fell off the wall on to his head and killed him. (Derry laughs a lot)

MR LAMB : You see?

DERRY : But ..... you still say peculiar things.

MR LAMB : Peculiar to some

- i) How does Derry's laughter in response to Mr. Lamb's anecdote reveal about his character? (1)
- ii) What is the main reason Mr. Lamb shares the anecdote about the man who locked himself in a room? (1)  
 a) To entertain Derry  
 b) To emphasise the importance of taking risks.  
 c) To illustrate the dangers of isolation and paranoia  
 d) To demonstrate the unpredictability of life



Discuss the significance of Mr. Lamb's statement, 'Peculiar to some,' in the context of societal perceptions and individual perspectives. (1)

What is the moral of the story given by Mr. Lamb? (1)

- a) Live life king size b) Fear the fear itself c) Live in the moment d) Live and let live

OR

(B) "No, I will not submit! I will struggle first!" I answered. I watched my chance, and when no one noticed, I disappeared. I crept up the stairs as quietly as I could in my squeaking shoes, - my moccasins had been exchanged for shoes. Along the hall I passed, without knowing whither I was going. Turning aside to an open door, I found a large room with three white beds in it. The windows were covered with dark green curtains, which made the room very dim. Thankful that no one was there, I directed my steps toward the corner farthest from the door. On my hands and knees I crawled under the bed, and huddled myself in the dark corner."

i) Why did the narrator feel 'Thankful' on finding the room empty?

- a) Because it would make it easier to hide  
b) She wanted to sit alone for a while  
c) She did not want to get caught  
d) She wished to study in solitude

ii) From the extract, what can be inferred about the narrator's emotions? Comment.

iii) The given passage shows that the protagonist was

- I) resolve II) energy III) determination IV) indifference V) enthusiasm VI) will power  
a) I, II and VI b) II, IV and VI c) I, III and VI d) III, IV and VI

iv) How does the dim lighting in the room contribute to the narrator's sense of security?

**Q9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (6)**

(A) That's possible. But let me tell you another story, because I often tell stories like a Chinese wise man. My American publisher said while she loved my book, she didn't expect to sell more than 3,000 copies in a country where nobody has seen a cathedral or studies Latin. So I was given an advance for 3,000 copies, but in the end it sold two or three million in the U.S. A lot of books have been written about the medieval past far before mine. I think the success of the book is a mystery. Nobody can predict it. I think if I had written *The Name of the Rose* ten years earlier or ten years later, it wouldn't have been the same. Why it worked at that time is a mystery.

i) What does the extract suggest about cultural familiarity with cathedrals and Latin in the US? (1)

- a) It influenced the book's success.  
b) It had no impact on the book's success.  
c) It hindered the book's achievable sales.  
d) It increased the book's interest to American readers.

ii) What is the tone when the speaker discusses the unpredictability of the book's success? (1)

- a) Optimistic b) Pessimistic c) Melancholic d) Reflective

iii) What does Umberto Eco's unexpected success of a book? (1)

iv) 'I often tell stories like a Chinese wise man.' (1)

What does Umberto Eco's comparison to a Chinese man mean?

OR

(B) After dark she walked by the canal along a sheltered path lighted only by the glare of the lamps from the wharf across the water, and the unceasing drone of the city was muffled and distant. It was a place she had often played in when she was a child. There was a wooden bench beneath a solitary elm where lovers sometimes came. She sat down to wait for it to be the perfect place, she had always thought so for a meeting of this kind. For those who wished not to be observed. She knew he would approve.

i) What does the imagery of the canal and the sheltered path not symbolize in the passage?

- a) The reminiscence of childhood days.  
b) The bustling activity and vibrancy of urban life.



- c) The secrecy and privacy required for a clandestine meeting
- d) The loneliness and isolation experienced by the protagonist
- ii) What does the word 'solitary' suggest about the bench mentioned in the passage?  
 "...a wooden bench beneath a solitary elm where lovers sometimes came."  
 a) Exposed and crowded    b) Hidden and secluded    c) Busy and noisy    d) Open and welcoming
- iii) What is the setting depicted in this extract? How does it contribute to the mood?
- iv) What significance does the wooden bench have for the protagonist?

**Q10. Answer any five of the following questions in about 40-50 words each. (5×2=10)**

- a) Why did the 'boy' in the makeup department come to the author? Why was the author praying for crowd shooting all the time?
- b) Despite the drawbacks, the interview is a 'supremely serviceable medium of communication. Explain.
- c) Why did Sophie walk along the canal a disappointment for her? (Going places)
- d) What does the poet mean by 'Green Wars' in the poem 'Keeping Quiet'?
- e) Who is anguished at the plight of the stand-owners? Why?
- f) How do the tigers belong to Aunt Jennifer?

**Q11. Answer any two the following questions in about 40-50 words. (2×2=4)**

- a) How did Sado meet his wife? Which act of his shows that he belongs to a conservative family?
- b) How was Derry's scarred face the cause of his pessimism in life?
- c) What differences does Zitkala notice between herself and the other girls in the dining hall of her new school?
- d) When did Bama first become aware of untouchability prevailing in the society around her? How?

**Q12. Answer any one the following questions in about 120-150 words. (1×5=5)**

- a) Aunt Jennifer is the representative of exploited women in her society. She succumbs to tortures and ordeals. In the wake of the twenty first century, we boast of development but exploitation of women still exists. Thus, there is a need to women empowerment. Draft your answer in paragraph form on the same.

**OR**

- b) 'Poets and Pancakes' includes this telling, "What is an English poet doing in a film studio which makes Tamil films for the simplest sort of people?" Comment on Stephen Spender. In 'Keeping Quiet', we are told that; "It would be an exotic moment without rush, without engines, we should all be together in a sudden strangeness."  
 Imagine a conversation between you and Stephen Spender about your dream goals. Create this exchange with reference to the two extracts given above.

**Q13. Answer any one the following questions in about 120-150 words. (1×5=5)**

- a) Both Bama and Zitkala-Sa belonged to the marginalized communities. They both face discrimination in their childhood. What are the similarities in the lives of the two though they belong to different cultures?  
 Draft a diary entry and write your experiences faced by the two and their responses to these experiences.

**OR**

- b) Many teenagers go through a phase where they have a complex about their appearance and they do not like to be underestimated or pitied. In the lesson, On the Face of It, both Derry and Mr. Lamb suffered from handicaps, yet their outlook towards life is totally different. Both of them have different facet of living their lives. One hates people while other loves. Write a letter to your friend describing their nature of living life.  
 (Clue: include similarities and differences in the discrimination they faced-their feelings-determination to overcome-success)



**BUDHA DAL PUBLIC SCHOOL PATIALA**  
**Second Term Examination (7 December 2024)**  
**Subject – ENGLISH CORE**  
**Class XII (Set – B)**

Time: 3 hrs.

M.M.80

**General Instructions:**

1. The question paper contains Three sections – Reading, Writing and Literature.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

**Section – A (Reading) (22 marks)**

**Q1. Read the passage carefully.**

**(12)**

1. By 2025, two-thirds of the world's population may face acute water shortage, according to a 2018 data by the United Nations. The problem could be compounded in the face of climate change, which is altering patterns of weather around the world, causing shortages and droughts in some areas and floods in others.
2. Thanks to technology, countries worldwide have adopted some way or the other to meet their water needs. Desalination of sea and brackish water is one of them. A total of 177 countries run desalination plants to extract freshwater, with many entirely dependent on such plants to meet their everyday demands. However, the desalination process has its own shortcomings. The primary by-product of desalination process is brine, which is usually pumped back into the sea. The salty, toxic brine sinks to the seafloor and wreaks havoc on marine ecosystem, by reducing dissolved oxygen levels and spiking salt content.
3. A recent UN-backed study has found that global brine production is 50% higher than previous estimates. The study said that 16,000 desalination plants worldwide pump out 142 million cubic metres of salty brine every day, to produce 95 million cubic metres of freshwater. About 55% of the brine is produced by plants in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, according to the study.
4. Due to its energy consumption, desalination is a costly affair. Currently, approximately 1% of the world's population is dependent on desalinated water to meet daily needs. A number of small countries, such as the Maldives, Malta and the Bahamas, meet all their water needs through the desalination process. There's been a major expansion of desalination plants around the world over the last few years.
5. Brine has high salinity compared to the same amount of seawater. It also often includes chemicals such as chlorine and copper used in desalination, which, when let into the sea, proves toxic to marine life. Brine is denser than typical seawater and sinks to the seafloor. High salinity (coupled with high sea temperature) can cut levels of oxygen in seawater with profound impact on shellfish, crabs and other creatures on the seabed, leading to ecological effects observable throughout the food chain.
6. Instead of letting the brine into the sea, it could be used for some good purposes, say scientists. They believe that a large number of metals and salts in the effluent, including uranium, strontium, sodium and magnesium have the potential to be mined. Brine has also been successfully used to cultivate the dietary supplement spirulina (*a type of cyanobacteria that grows in both fresh and salt water and has many health benefits*). Salt from brine can be used for de-icing – removing ice and snow on the road. The salt dissolves into the liquid water in the ice and lowers its freezing point.



Answer the following questions, based on the above passage.

(12 Marks)

(i) Select the option that is the most appropriate in the context of the first paragraph. (1 Mark)

- (a) Climate change has already caused acute water shortage in the world.
- (b) Climate change may worsen the availability of fresh water in the world.
- (c) Climate change is triggered by the alternation of droughts and water shortages, and floods.
- (d) Climate changes may become unmanageable by the year 2025.

(ii) Complete the sentence appropriately.

(1 Mark)

*Pumping brine back into the sea is a very bad idea because .....*

(iii) Select the option that is similar in meaning to the expression 'wreaks havoc'.

(1 Mark)

- (a) greatly disturbs
- (b) poses a threat to
- (c) severely damages
- (d) slowly poisons

(iv) Which of the following options BEST completes the statement below?

(1 Mark)

*A rise in the number of desalination plants is indicative of .....*

- (a) mankind's growing dependence on technology
- (b) falling availability of potable freshwater worldwide
- (c) a rise in demand for packaged purified water worldwide
- (d) improved health awareness in the world

(v) Complete the sentence appropriately with suitable information from the passage.

(1 Mark)

*One major drawback of the desalination process is that it is detrimental to the sea eco-system. The other drawback is .....*

(vi) Explain, in about 40 words, how brine is different from the ordinary seawater.

(2 Marks)

(vii) Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words, to support the view that the problem of excessive brine from water desalination plants can be solved in an environment-friendly way.

(2 Marks)

(viii) How does the following, impact the reader, whose fresh water needs are fulfilled round the year through rivers, ponds and ground water? Answer in about 40 words.

(2 Marks)

(ix) Read the five titles (A) to (E) given below.

(1 Mark)

- (A) CHANGING CLIMATE AND WEATHER PATTERNS
- (B) DESALINATION AT WHAT COST?
- (C) DROUGHT AND FLOOD PRONE AREAS OF THE WORLD
- (D) THIRST COMES FIRST
- (E) WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE!

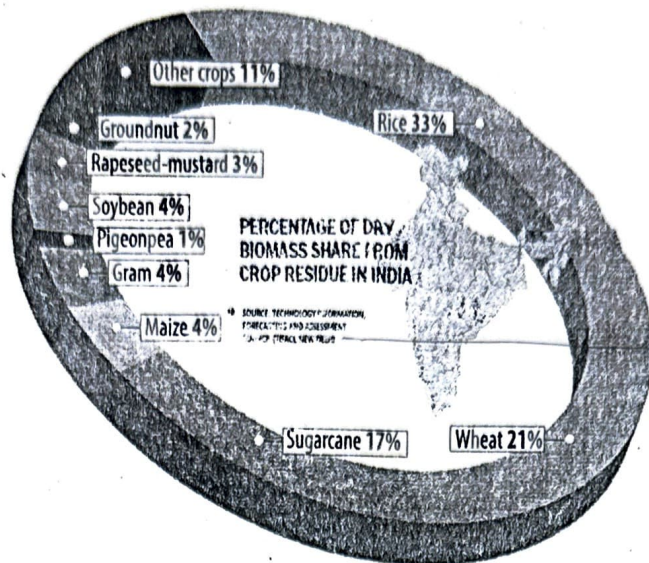
Identify the option that displays the title(s) that IS/ARE SUITABLE for the passage.

- (a) Only (A)
- (b) (B) and (D)
- (c) (C) and (D)
- (d) Only (E)



2. Read the following passage carefully.

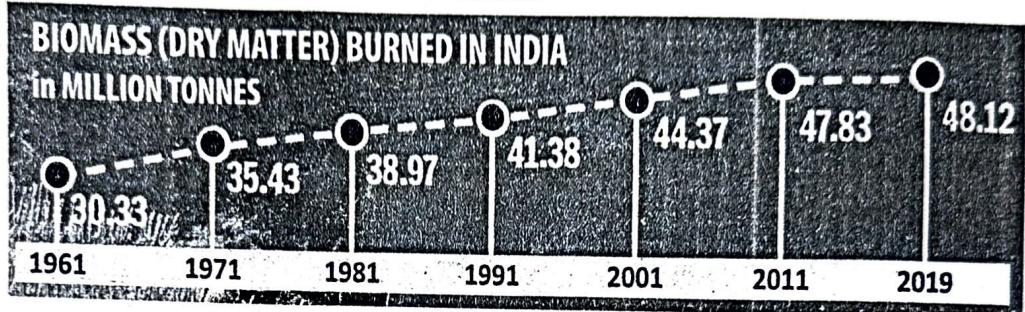
(10 Marks)



**VISUAL 1**

Source Technology information forecasting and assessment (TIFAC) New Delhi

**VISUAL 2**



- Every October-November stubble burning hits the headlines due to its link with air pollution in north-western India, especially Delhi. This practice poses a serious threat to the environment and human health. It leads to the loss of biodiversity of agricultural lands and the deterioration of soil fertility. Estimates show that burning 1 tonne of paddy straw can result in the loss of around 5.5-kg nitrogen, 2.3-kg phosphorus, 2.5-kg potassium and 1.2-kg sulphur (other than organic carbon) content from the soil, apart from the loss of beneficial micro-organisms that are essential to maintain soil fertility.
- Globally, residue burning is significantly higher in Asia compared to other continents. The rice-wheat growing belt of South Asian countries is a global hotspot of stubble burning and the same is true for India. The north-western states, especially Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, witness the burning of paddy straw by farmers.
- As per studies, over 500 million tonnes (MT) of crop residue is generated annually in India. The generation of crop residue is highest in Uttar Pradesh (60 MT), followed by Punjab (51 MT). Among various crops, cereals generate maximum residue (352 MT), followed by fibres (66 MT), oilseeds (29 MT), pulses (13 MT) and sugarcane (12 MT).
- Most of the farmers in the rice-wheat growing region of the country use expensive combine harvesters for planting and harvesting the crops. No doubt these bulky machines are very versatile in nature and extremely efficient, but they generate a huge amount of stubble (around 9 tonnes per hectare) consisting of tall stalks, up to 30 cm high, which are difficult to incorporate into the soil.

The Tribune (Abridged)



Answer the following questions, based on the above passage.

(10 Marks)

- (i) Infer two serious threats that stubble burning poses to the environment. Answer in about 40 words. (2 Marks)
- (ii) Complete the sentence appropriately. (1 Mark)  
According to paragraph 2, residue burning is significantly higher in Asia compared to other continents most probably because .....
- (iii) Choose the option that uses the word 'hotspot' in the same sense as it is used in paragraph 2 of the passage. (1 Mark)
- (a) Connaught Place is one of the best hotspots in Delhi.
- (b) You will find a free high-speed wi-fi hotspot in all good cafés.
- (c) The glacier has become a major hotspot between the two warring nations.
- (d) Fire engines were required to visit the scene again last night after hotspots appeared to be in danger of re-igniting.
- (iv) Identify the sugarcane growing farmer from the following statements. (1 Mark)
- (a) "I'm glad that my crop produces less than twenty per cent of the stubble produced by cereals."
- (b) "My crop produces only negligible amount of stubble."
- (c) "The amount of stubble my crop produces is only marginally higher than that of pulses."
- (d) "They say my crop produces the highest amount of stubble."
- (v) According to visual 1, one-third of all crop residue comes from ..... (1 Mark)
- (vi) Which of the following options BEST describes the trend in visual 2? (1 Mark)  
The burning of biomass in India has shown a ..... since 1961.
- (a) steady rise (c) steep rise
- (b) constant fall (d) sharp downfall
- (vii) Explain how using combine harvester is both beneficial and harmful. Answer in about 40 words. (2 Marks)
- (viii) On the basis of your understanding of the passage, infer one viable and long lasting solution to the problem of bio-mass residue (stubble) burning. (1 Mark)

### SECTION- B (Writing Skills) (18 marks)

Q3. Attempt any one of the following:

(4)

The Resident Welfare Association, New Delhi is organizing a two-hour workshop on Digital De-addiction and JOMO – The Joy of Mission Out. Draft a notice informing residents about it and requesting them to attend, along with their children. Invent necessary details. You are Kiran/ Karan, Secretary of RWA.

OR

Chennai Book Society is going to organize a week long book fair in the city during the coming autumn vacation. It has requested your school for volunteers to manage various counters. As Secretary, Cultural Club, Chennai Public School, write a notice in about 50 words inviting the names of those who want to help. You are Naveen/ Navita.



- (4)
- Q4. **Attempt any one of the following:**  
You are a student counsellor of N.J. Public School. You are invited by S.M. International School, Kalapuram to address Class XII students on 'Goal' setting and The Management. Write a formal letters of reply accepting the invitation and confirming your presence at the stated time, include relevant details.

OR

You are a student of Chandrayan Public School, Pune. The school is hosting its Annual Function on 8 December, 2024. The Education Minister of State Mr. Deepak Vasant has consented to be the Chief Guest. Design an invitation card to be sent to parents and other invitees. Mention necessary details of date, time & venue. Do not exceed 50 words.

- (5)
- Q5. **Attempt any one of the following:**  
You are Samar/ Samaira of 23 Vasant Kunj, New Delhi. Write a letter to the editor of National Daily addressing the issue of food waste in restaurants and households, suggesting ways to reduce waste and support sustainable practice.

OR

You are Deepak/ Diya of 14, J.P. Nagar, Bengaluru. You recently came across an advertisement for the post of a Librarian in Sahyog Public School, Bengaluru. Write an application in 120-150 words along with the bio-data to the Principal, submitting your candidature.

**POSITION SCHOOL LIBRARIAN**

**Job Responsibilities**

- Maintaining Digital catalogue
- Managing Library classes
- Document book
- Borrowing/ return
- Identify additions to Library books

**Qualification:** Graduate in Library Science

**Expected :** Competent in Computer Skills  
Good Interpersonal skills  
5 years experience

- (5)
- Q6. **Attempt any one of the following:**  
"How can vocational education bridge the gap between education and industry demands?" Write an article laying stress on the need for vocational training in schools and its impact on career readiness.

OR

Robotus Society of Father Angel School, Delhi organized competition – cum – exhibition to showcase some amazing new inventions. Schools from all over India had participated in it. As a reporter from the Education Times, write a brief report on the same, to be published in the newspaper.

### SECTION – C (Literature) (40 Marks)

- Q7. **Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow:** (6)

A) *It is in the news that all these pitiful kin  
Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in  
To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store,  
Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore,  
While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,  
Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits  
That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits.  
And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day,  
Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way.*



- i) What is the tone of the speaker in relocation of 'pitiful kin' mentioned in the extract? (1)  
a) Hopeful b) Cynical c) Optimistic d) Indifferent
- ii) The actions of the 'greedy good-doers' reflects ..... Attitude. (1)  
a) benevolent b) altruistic c) manipulative d) empathetic
- iii) The relocation of the 'pitiful kin' to places near theatres and stores highlight the issue faced by rural communities. Elucidate. (1)
- iv) What does the poet imply by 'beneficent beasts of prey'? (1)

**OR**

*B) Those who prepare green wars,  
wars with gas, wars with fire,  
victories with no survivors,  
would put on clean clothes  
and walk about with their brothers  
in the shade, doing nothing.  
what I want should not be confused  
with total inactivity.*

- i) What is the poet's attitude towards those who prepare for wars?  
a) Admiration b) Indifference c) Disapproval d) Support
- ii) What does the poet mean by not confusing it with "total inactivity"?  
I) Not engaging in physical labour.  
II) To participate in fun activities when staying quiet.  
III) Advocating for introspection in a moment of silence.  
IV) Not preparing for warfare and bloodshed.
- iii) Why does the poet present a contrast between "green wars, wars with gas, wars with fire" and "the individuals doing nothing"?
- iv) How does the poet contrast a moment of silence with total inactivity?

**Q8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (4)**

(A) DERRY : What have you changed the subject for? People always do that. Why don't you ask me? Why do you do what they all do and pretend it isn't true and isn't there? In case I see you looking and mind and get upset? I'll tell ..... you don't ask me because you're afraid to.  
MR LAMB : You want me to ask ..... Say so, then.  
DERRY : I don't like being with people. Any people.  
MR LAMB : I should say ..... to look at is .... I should say, you got burned in a fire.

- i) Based on the text, what does Derry primarily attribute his disfigurement to? (1)  
a) Fire accident b) Acid exposure c) Genetic condition d) Physical trauma
- ii) How does Derry's statement "And now it's like this and it won't ever be any different" reflect his internal struggle and acceptance of his condition? (1)
- iii) The primary reason behind Derry's reluctance to be around people is ..... (1)
- iv) Describe the impact of Derry's candid revelation about his disfigurement on the conversation with Mr. Lamb. (1)

**OR**

(B) "The performing monkey; the snake which the snake-charmer kept in its box and displayed from time to time; the cyclist who had not got off his bike for three days, and who kept pedalling as hard as he could from break of day; the rupee notes that were pinned on to his shirt to spur him on; the spinning wheels; the Maariyaata temple, the huge bell hanging there; the pongal offerings being cooked in



front of the temple; the dried fish stall by the statue of Gandhi; the sweet stall, the stall selling fried snacks, and all the other shops next to each other; the street light always demonstrating how it could change from blue to violet; the narikkuravan huntergypsy with his wild lemur in cages, selling needles, clay beads and instruments for cleaning out the ears Oh, I could go on and on. Each thing would pull me to a stand-still and not allow me to go any further."

- i) What does the phrase 'spur him on' mean here?
  - a) To criticise him
  - b) To motivate him
  - c) To encourage him to move faster
  - d) None of the options is correct
- ii) What does the mention of the changing street light signify in the passage?
- iii) The tone of the speaker in the given extract can be best summarized as .....
  - a) skeptical    b) excited    c) flabbergasted    d) humoured
- iv) What is the narrator's reaction to the various sights and sounds of street entertainment?

**Q9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (6)**

(A) Some might make quite extravagant claims for it as being, in its highest form, a source of truth, and, in its practice, an art. Others, usually celebrities who see themselves as its victims, might despise the interview as an unwarranted intrusion into their lives, or feel that it somehow diminishes them, just as in some primitive cultures it is believed that if one takes a photographic portrait of somebody then one is stealing that person's soul.

- i) The extract draws comparison regarding the perception of interviews to ..... (1)
  - a) a form of cultural theft
  - b) universally valued sources of truth
  - c) an art form respected by celebrities
  - d) other forms of artistic expression
- ii) Which of the following can be seen an example of unwarranted intrusion? (1)
  - a) Talking to someone about relationship
  - b) Creating a video for someone's birthday
  - c) Looking at someone's phone
  - d) Looking at someone's drawings
- iii) Explain the different views people have about interviews. (1)
- iv) That extract compares interviews to a belief of primitive culture. Explain. (1)

**OR**

(B) "She thinks money grows on trees, don't she, Dad?" said little Derek, hanging on the back of his father's chair. Their mother sighed. Sophie watched her back stooped over the sink and wondered at the incongruity of the delicate bow which fastened her apron strings. The delicate-seeming bow and the crooked back. The evening had already blacked in the windows and the small room was steamy from the stove and cluttered with the heavy-breathing man in his vest at the table and the dirty washing piled up in the corner.

- i) Which of the following does not mean the same as the underlined word in the given sentence? Sophie watched her back stooped over the sink and wondered at the incongruity of the delicate bow which fastened her apron strings.
  - a) Harmony    b) Inconsistency    c) Uniformity    d) Accord
- ii) The description of the mother's appearance and the setting of the room suggest .....
  - a) The family is financially stable and lives luxuriously
  - b) Family's financial struggles
  - c) The family prioritises cleanliness
  - d) A happy family atmosphere
- iii) How does the setting of the extract add to the mood of the narrative?
- iv) How does the mother's description reflect on the role of women?



Answer any five of the following questions in about 40-50 words each. (5×2=10)

- What was MRA and why it was welcomed at the Gemini studios?
- What is the belief in some Primitive Cultures about being photographed?
- What did Sophie's friend and family feel about her behaviour and how did they react to it?
- What are the different things in nature that gives us great pleasure?
- What is the news regarding the future of the shed owners?
- How have the tigers been described?

Answer any two the following questions in about 40-50 words. (2×2=4)

- a) How did harbouring the prisoner become a source of tension for Sado and Hana?
- b) How did Mr. Lamb convince Derry that one cannot live in fear?
- c) What importance did Zitkala Sa's mother have in her life? Do you think the most mother have similar importance in their children's life?
- d) But almost certainly there would be some entertainment or other going on says Bama. List the entertaining things that would take place from time to ..... in ..... area?

12. Answer any one the following questions in about 120-150 words. (1×5=5)

- a) Imagine you are roadside people, the people discussed in Robert Frost's 'A Roadside Stand'. What advice might you offer to Aunt Jennifer, in the context of her exploitation, as displayed in the given lines –  
When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie  
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by  
The tigers in the panel that she made  
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.  
Pen down your advice to her in a paragraph.  
You may begin like this:  
Since time immemorial, women have been regarded as the weaker sex....

OR

- b) The poet is anguished by the rural-urban divide as depicted through the plight of the owners of the roadside stand. Comment.

Q13. Answer any one the following questions in about 120-150 words. (1×5=5)

- a) On returning home, Bama narrated the funny stories to her elder brother Annan. Her brother explained her that it is not funny in anything she told to him, instead all these incidents shows caste discrimination. As she understood the events, she felt disgusted and sad. Imagine yourself to be BAMA and discuss what the Constitution of India does for this.

OR

- b) Both Derry and Mr. Lamb suffered from handicaps, yet their outlook towards life is totally different. Instead of letting it pull them down, they both found a way to overcome it in their own way. You wish to include a cameo of both in your upcoming blog post.  
(A cameo is a short description that neatly encapsulates someone or something)  
As a part of the research, compare and contrast the experiences faced by the two and their responses to these experiences, in about 120-150 words.  
(Clue: include similarities and differences in the discrimination they faced-their feelings-determination to overcome-success)



