

FIRST PRE BOARD EXAMINATION (2020-21)

CLASS: X

Subject: ENGLISH

Date: 07.01.2021

Time allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. This paper is divided into two parts: A and B. **All** questions are **compulsory**.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
3. Please check that this question paper contains **22** printed pages & **13** questions only.
4. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

Part A (40 Marks)

READING (20 marks)

1. Read the passage given below:

1. Have you ever failed at something so miserably that the thought of attempting to do it again was the last thing you wanted to do?
2. If your answer is yes, then you are “not a robot.” Unlike robots, we human beings have feelings, emotions, and dreams. We are all meant to grow and stretch despite our circumstances and our limitations. Flourishing and trying to make our dreams come true is great when life is going our way. But what happens when it’s not? What happens when you fail despite all of your hard work? Do you stay down and accept the defeat or do you get up again and again until you are satisfied? If you have a tendency to persevere and keep going then you have what experts call, grit.

3. Falling down or failing is one of the most agonizing, embarrassing, and scariest human experiences. But it is also one of the most educational, empowering, and essential parts of living a successful and fulfilling life. Did you know that perseverance (grit) is one of the seven qualities that have been described as the keys to personal success and betterment in society? The other six are: curiosity, gratitude, optimism, self-control, social intelligence, and zest. Thomas Edison is a model for grit for trying 1,000 plus times to invent the light bulb. If you are reading this with the lights on in your room, you know well he succeeded. When asked why he kept going despite his hundreds of failures, he merely stated that what he had been not failures. They were hundreds of ways not to create a light bulb. This statement not only revealed his grit but also his optimism for looking at the bright side.

4. Grit can be learned to help you become more successful. One of the techniques that helps is mindfulness. Mindfulness is a practice that helps the individual stay in the moment by bringing awareness of his or her experience without judgement. This practice has been used to quiet the noise of their fears and doubts. Through this simple practice of mindfulness, individuals have the ability to stop the self-sabotaging downward spiral of hopelessness, despair, and frustration.

5. What did you do to overcome the negative and self-sabotaging feelings of failure? Reflect on what you did, and try to use those same powerful resources to help you today.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the twelve that follow. (1x10=10)

- i. According to the passage, which of the following is TRUE about robots?
- They have feelings, emotions, and dreams like humans
 - Even if they fail at something so miserably, they would attempt to do it again
 - When they fail at something so miserably, attempting to do it again will be the last thing they want to do
 - They are like humans in doing things
 - They say 'yes' to the questions they are asked

- ii. According to the passage, you are not a robot,
- a. If your answer is 'yes'
 - b. Because you would attempt to do it again, if you fail at something so miserably
 - c. As you have feelings, emotions, and dreams
 - d. Because you have feelings, intelligence, and brain
 - e. Because you are made of bones and flesh

- iii. If you have the quality called grit, you are most likely to:
- a. Have feelings, emotions, and dreams
 - b. Persevere and keep going
 - c. Become an expert to call it grit
 - d. Identify grit in others
 - e. Fail despite all of your hard work

iv. Which of the following are attributes of a human, according to the passage?

- a. Grit, curiosity and gratitude
- b. Optimism and self-control
- c. Social intelligence and zest
- d. All of the above
- e. None of the above

v. Which of the following is/are the answer/s to: How is 'failing' an educational and empowering part of human life?

(A) Failing teaches us how to be perseverant and keep going for one's goals.

(B) Each failure makes one understand what to do and what not to do.

(C) Failing is one of the most agonizing, embarrassing, and scariest human experiences

- a. Only (C)
- b. Only (B) and (C)
- c. Only (A) and (B)
- d. All (A), (B) and (C)
- e. Only (B)

vi. According to the passage, which of the following is/are the way/s to develop grit?

(A) We should practice curiosity, gratitude, optimism, self-control, social intelligence, and zest

(B) We should not accept defeat.

(C) We should make efforts to overcome our limitations, and not to stay down.

a. Only (C)

b. Only (B) and (C)

c. Only (A) and (B)

d. All (A), (B) and (C)

e. Only (B)

vii. The two important qualities of Thomas Edison, according to the passage are:

a. Grit and optimism

b. Grit and perseverance

c. Mindfulness and grit

d. Grit and curiosity

e. All of the above

viii. How does mindfulness help an individual?

a. It helps the individual stay in the moment

b. It brings awareness of his or her experience without judgement

c. It helps to quiet the noise of their fears and doubts

d. It helps him/her stop the self-sabotaging downward spiral of hopelessness, despair, and frustration.

e. All of the above

ix. The meaning of 'grit' (paragraph 2) is _____

a. determination

b. acceptance

c. lethargy

d. weariness

e. growth

x. The synonym of 'agonizing' (paragraph 3) is _____

a. essential

b. fulfilling

c. scariest

d. embarrassing

e. distressing

xi. The antonym of 'empowering' (para 3) is _____

- a. fulfilling
- b. agonizing
- c. forbidding
- d. looking
- e. embarrassing

xii. The antonym of 'heedlessness' as given in para 4 is _____

- a. mindfulness
- b. hopelessness
- c. despair
- d. frustration
- e. awareness

2. Read the passage given below:

The Battle of Chancellorsville, one of the most famous battles of the Civil War, took place in Virginia in the spring of 1863. For months, the two armies had been staked out on opposite banks of a narrow river. The Confederate troops were led by perhaps the most revered military tactician in American history, General Robert E. Lee. The Union soldiers were led by "Fighting" Joe Hooker.

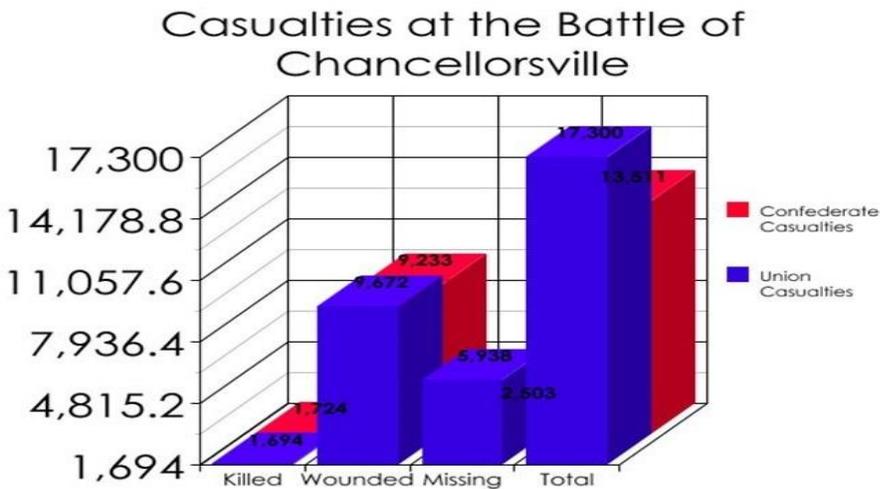
In appearance, personality, and lifestyle, these men were nearly perfect opposites. Lee, an older man in poor health with a gray beard, had a somber, measured demeanor. Hooker was a blond, strapping young man whose vanity over his appearance was but one aspect of his egotism. Whereas Lee was devout and principled, Hooker was known for his rollicking enjoyment.

Despite the fact that the Confederacy had won the last four major battles and the Union soldiers were famished, exhausted, and demoralized, Hooker proclaimed, "My plans are perfect. And when I start to carry them out, may God have mercy on Bobby Lee, for I shall have none." Why, aside from a propensity for narcissism, was Hooker so confident?

Hooker had used spies, analysts, and even hot air balloons to compile a vast amount of intelligence about Lee's army. He had discerned, for example, that Lee had only 61,000 men to Hooker's own 134,000. Buoyed by his superior numbers, Hooker covertly moved 70,000 of his men fifteen miles up and across the river, and then ordered them to sneak back down to position themselves behind Lee's army. In effect, Hooker had cut off the Confederate soldiers in front and behind. They were trapped. Satisfied with

his advantage, Hooker became convinced that Lee's only option was to retreat to Richmond, thus assuring a Union victory.

Yet Lee, despite his disadvantages of both numbers and position, did not retreat. Instead, he moved his troops into position to attack. Union soldiers who tried to warn Hooker that Lee was on the offensive were dismissed as cowards. Having become convinced that Lee had no choice but to retreat, Hooker began to ignore reality. When Lee's army attacked the Union soldiers at 5:00 p.m., they were eating supper, completely unprepared for battle. They abandoned their rifles and fled as Lee's troops came shrieking out of the brush, bayonets drawn. Against all odds, Lee won the Battle of Chancellorsville, and Hooker's forces withdrew in defeat.



On the basis of your understanding of the passage attempt ANY TEN questions from the twelve that follow. (1x10=10)

i. Based on the information in the passage, it can be concluded that Hooker lost the Battle of Chancellorsville mostly because of his

- a. vanity
- b. ignorance
- c. overconfidence
- d. faulty information
- e. vices

ii. The contrast drawn between Lee and Hooker in paragraph 2 is intended to

- a. showcase the different backgrounds and personal histories of these two enemy soldiers
 - b. provide support for the idea that Lee was a more virtuous person than Hooker, and therefore a better military commander
 - c. prove that two men with very different values could end up in similar positions of power
 - d. suggest that if Hooker had been more devout and principled, he might not have been outwitted by Lee
 - e. imply that these men fundamentally differed in their approaches to nearly everything, including battle
- iii. In paragraph 3, the author quotes Hooker as saying, “My plans are perfect. And when I start to carry them out, may God have mercy on Bobby Lee, for I shall have none.” The author most likely includes this quote in order to
- a. demonstrate Hooker’s belief in his own infallibility
 - b. provide an example of the way language has changed since 1863
 - c. reveal that Hooker was a deeply religious man in spite of his lifestyle
 - d. foreshadow Hooker’s defeat at the hands of Lee’s army
 - e. portray Hooker as a merciless general who was compelled by his hatred of Lee
- iv. Based on its use in paragraph 3, it can be inferred that the word propensity belongs to which of the following word groups?
- a. fondness, partiality, affection
 - b. flaw, fault, shortcoming
 - c. distaste, aversion, dissatisfaction
 - d. tendency, inclination, predisposition
 - e. confidence, self-assurance, certitude
- v. How many men did Hooker position behind Lee's army?
- a. 61,000
 - b. 70,000

- c. 73,000
 - d. 134,000
 - e. 158,000
- vi. As used in paragraph 4, 'buoyed' most nearly means
- a. strengthened
 - b. anchored
 - c. floated
 - d. sharpened
 - e. heartened
- vii. According to the author, Hooker's advantages going into the Battle of Chancellorsville included
- I. numbers
 - II. position
 - III. strategy
- a. I only
 - b. II only
 - c. I and II only
 - d. II and III only
 - e. I, II, and III
- viii. The author brings this historical account to life through the use of
- a. dialogue
 - b. specific examples
 - c. vivid details
 - d. sensory words
 - e. scenic descriptions
- ix) If this passage were to continue, which of the following would most likely be the first sentence of the next paragraph?
- a. His army routed, Hooker and his reduced forces hobbled south, back to the center of Confederate operations where he was harshly rebuked for having squandered his vast army.

- b. In all his days of fighting, Hooker had never been met with such surprise and opposition; he took to solemn contemplation of the events that had transpired as well as the lessons he might learn from them.
 - c. Wounded in both body and spirit, Hooker and his severely diminished forces retreated to higher ground where they proceeded to reload their weapons and prepare for a counter attack.
 - d. Upon returning to camp, the triumphant Lee immediately ordered for supplies to be brought up and provisions made for a raucous victory celebration.
 - e. Not one to gloat over his success, Lee remarked that the victory had been the product of valiant fighting and good luck, as he began to map out strategies for their next move.
- x. How many men of Lee's army lost their lives in the Battle of Chancellorsville?
- a. 17,300
 - b. 13,511
 - c. 1,724
 - d. 1,694
 - e. 2,503
- xi. Which of the following is the best title for this passage?
- a. Valiant Fighting Beats All Odds
 - b. Civil War
 - c. Casualty at the Battle of Chancellorsville
 - d. Military Power
 - e. Confederate vs. Union
- xii. Which word in the last paragraph means the same as "renounced"?
- a. Ignore
 - b. Dismissed
 - c. Abandoned
 - d. Withdrew

e. Unprepared

LITERATURE (10 marks)

3. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE, by answering the questions that follow. (5x1)

[A]

There's some demon of contradiction in you today, Ivan Vassilevitch. First you pretend that the Meadows are yours; now, that Guess is better than Squeezer. I don't like people who don't say what they mean, because you know perfectly well that Squeezer is a hundred times better than your silly Guess.

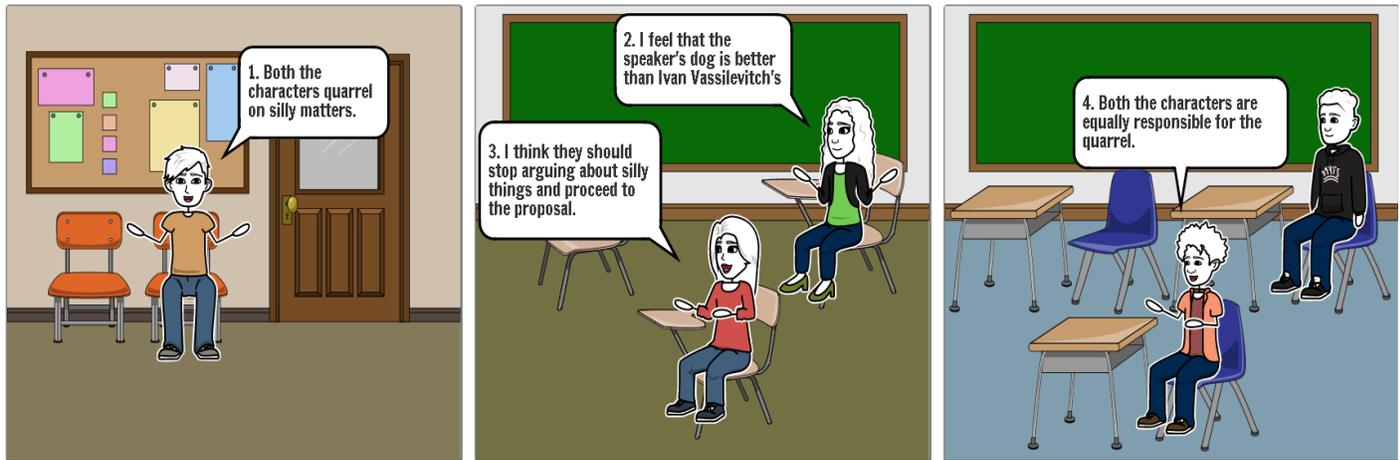
i. Who is the speaker of these lines?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. Stepan Stepanovitch Chubukov | b. Natalya Vassilevitch |
| c. Natalya Stepanovitch | d. Stepan Vassilevitch |

ii. Choose the option that lists the set of statements that are TRUE according to the given extract:

1. Ivan Vassilevitch had a quarrel with the speaker.
 2. Ivan Vassilevitch claims that the Oxen Meadows are his.
 3. Ivan Vassilevitch claims that Squeezer is a better dog
 4. The speaker's dog is Guess.
 5. Ivan Vassilevitch and the speaker quarrelled more than once.
 6. The speaker thinks Squeezer is a silly dog.
 7. Ivan Vassilevitch agrees with the speaker on the quality of the two dogs.
- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| a. 1,2,3 | b. 1,2,5 |
| c. 3,4,6,7 | d. all of them |

iii. Pick the option that correctly classifies fact/s (F) and opinion/s (O) of the students below.



- a. F - 2, 3 O - 1, 4
- b. F - 1, 2 O - 3, 4
- c. F - 3, 4 O - 1, 2
- d. F - 1, 4 O - 2, 3

iv. Which of the following is the meaning of the word 'contradiction':

- a. A combination of statements, ideas, or features which are opposed to one another.
- b. A situation in which inconsistent elements are present.
- c. The statement of a position opposite to one already made.
- d. All of the above

v. What are the two reasons for the quarrel between the speaker and Ivan Vassilevitch?

- a. Ivan Vassilevitch's grandfather and grandmother
- b. Guess and Squeezer
- c. Ownership of Oxen Meadows and the quality of their dogs
- d. The speaker and Squeezer

OR

[B]

Immediately, Lencho went up to the window to ask for paper and ink. 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 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. How much more money does Lencho expect from God?

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. |

- a. Option 1
- b. Option 2
- c. Option 3
- d. Option 4

ii. When Lencho says "the post office employees are a bunch of crooks", he means that

- a. Post office employees did not obey what God asked them to do
- b. Post office employees didn't collect the total amount he requested
- c. Post office employees were too selfish to share their money with him
- d. Post office employees have stolen some of the money that God had sent him

iii. Which of the following is TRUE about the central idea of the story?

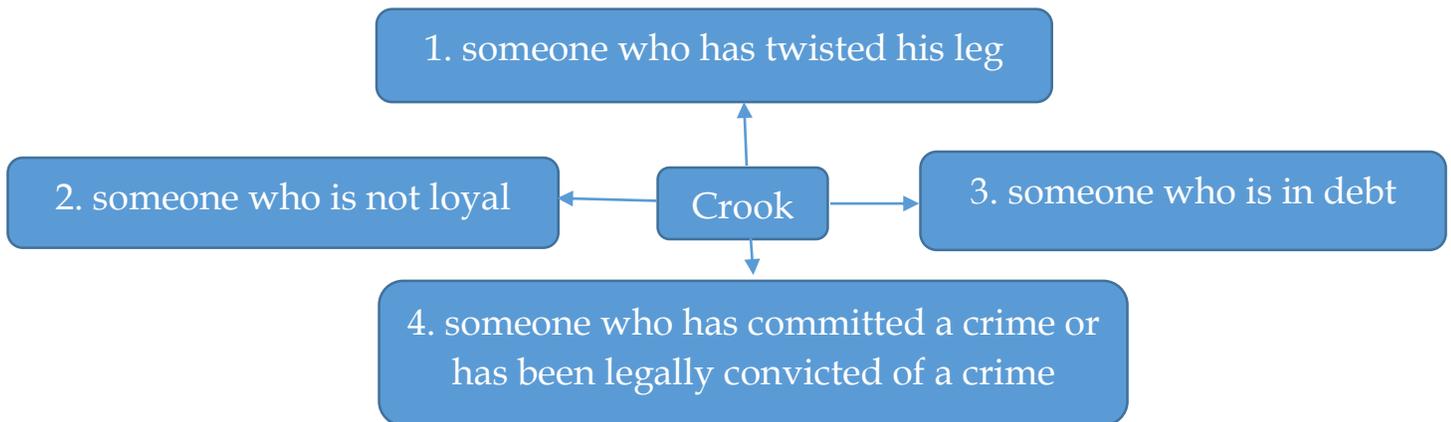
- a. Lencho was a selfish farmer
- b. Lencho had immense faith in God

- c. God sends money through the post office employees
- d. God loves Lencho a lot

iv. What caused “*the wrinkling of his brow*” when Lencho started writing the reply letter?

- a. the effort he had to make to express his ideas
- b. the thought that God had not consented his wish
- c. the resentment due to the thought of his fate
- d. the disappointment about not getting all the money

v. The extract uses the phrase ‘a bunch of crooks’. Which of the following expressions is correct with respect to the word ‘crook’?



- a. Option 1
- b. Option 2
- c. Option 3
- d. Option 4

4. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE, by answering the questions that follow. (5x1)

(A) Not one kneels to another, nor to his kind that
 lived thousands of years ago,
 Not one is respectable or unhappy over the whole earth.
 So they show their relations to me and I accept them,

They bring me tokens of myself, they evince
them plainly in their possession

- i. Who is writer of these lines?
 - a. Leslie Norris
 - b. John Berryman
 - c. Walt Whitman
 - d. Ogden Nash
- ii. These lines show the contrast between
 - a. Animals and human beings
 - b. Wild animals and domestic animals
 - c. Animals and the poet
 - d. Animals and God
- iii. "They bring me tokens of myself..." What is the poetic device here?
 - a. Simile
 - b. Metaphor
 - c. Transferred epithet
 - d. Irony
- iv. Which of the following is NOT true for the meaning of the phrase "nor to his kind that lived thousands of years ago"?
 - a. Animals do not worship their ancestors
 - b. Human beings worship religious leaders who lived long ago
 - c. Animals do not show devotion towards their ancestors and God
 - d. Animals worship and pray to other animals and their ancestors
- v. Which of the following phrases suggests that the animals still possess the virtues and qualities that human beings have lost?
 - a. Not one kneels to another
 - b. Not one is respectable
 - c. they evince them plainly in their possession
 - d. they show their relations to me

OR

- B** Don't eat that chocolate, Amanda!
Remember your acne, Amanda!
Will you please look at me when I'm speaking to you,
Amanda!

(I am Rapunzel, I have not a care;
life in a tower is tranquil and rare;
I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!)

- i. Why does the speaker tell Amanda not to eat chocolate?
 - a. Because she is diabetic
 - b. Because she is eating a lot of chocolate everyday
 - c. Because she has red pimples on her face skin
 - d. Because she is not looking at the speaker when she speaks to her
- ii. What is the poetic device used in the phrase "I am Rapunzel"
 - a. Simile
 - b. Allusion
 - c. Capitalization
 - d. Alliteration
- iii. The word 'tranquil' DOES NOT have a meaning similar to:
 - a. Peaceful
 - b. Safe
 - c. Serene
 - d. Placid
- iv. Which of the following does Amanda NOT want in her life?
 - a. Carefree life
 - b. Tranquillity
 - c. Unusual experience
 - d. Annoyance
- v. Why does Amanda say "I'll certainly never let down my bright hair"?
 - a. She prefers captivity by the witch to the annoyance of her mother
 - b. She likes the 'tranquil and rare' life in the tower
 - c. She enjoys the carefree life in the tower
 - d. All of the above

GRAMMAR (10 marks)

5. Choose the correct options to fill in the blanks to complete the note about the health scares of mobile phones. (3x1)

Think about it. Every time you use a mobile phone, (a) _____ head to electromagnetic emission. Manufacturers need to prove that there is no risk

(b) _____. Some evidence so far suggests that emissions from mobile phones (c) _____. These health scares are based on press reports.

- (a) i. he exposes his
 - ii. one exposes his
 - iii. one exposes one's
 - iv. you expose your
- (b) i. in brain cancer or memory loss
 - ii. from brain cancer or memory loss
 - iii. with brain cancer or memory loss
 - iv. of brain cancer or memory loss
- (c) i. are likely to cause illness
 - ii. are likely for causing illness
 - iii. is likely in causing illness
 - iv. is likely to cause illness

6. Choose the correct options to fill in the blanks to complete the report of the following conversation between the teacher and the student. (3x1)



Teacher: Why do you look so worried, Rhea?

Rhea: I have not prepared well for the Board exams.

Teacher: Don't worry, it's not too late. Make use of the remaining time wisely.

Rhea : Thank you, sir. I'll definitely do well in the exam.

The teacher asked Rhea i) _____. Rhea told with concern that ii) _____. The teacher told her not to worry as it was not too late, and iii) _____. Rhea thanked him and promised to do well in the exam.

i.

- a. why does she look so worried
- b. why she looks so worried
- c. why did she look so worried
- d. why she looked so worried

ii.

- a. she has not prepared well the Board exam
- b. she did not prepare well for the Board exam
- c. she had not prepared well for the Board exam
- d. she not prepared well for the Board exam

iii.

- a. advised her to make use of the remaining time wisely
- b. advised that she should make use of the remaining time wisely
- c. advised that she must make use of the remaining time wisely
- d. advised that she can make use of the remaining time wisely

7. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct options for ANY FOUR of the six sentences given below. (4x1)

i. You _____ wear a helmet while riding your motorbike.

- a. Must
- b. Should
- c. May
- d. Have to

ii. I don't have _____ information for you about flights to Paris.

- a. Many
- b. Some
- c. Any
- d. few

iii. _____ (you / ever / have) an argument with your parents about your clothing?

- a. Did you ever had
- b. You have ever had

- c. Did you ever have
 - d. Have you ever had
- iv. Four quarts of oil _____ required to get the car running.
- a. Were
 - b. Are
 - c. Was
 - d. Be
- v. _____ you please give me the doctor's telephone number?
- a. May
 - b. Might
 - c. Could
 - d. Should
- vi. I rang him up _____ times but there was no reply.
- a. Some
 - b. Many
 - c. Any
 - d. Much

Section B

WRITING (2x5= 10 marks)

8. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following in 100-120 words. (5 marks)

(A) Write a letter to M/s. Oxford Publishing House, London complaining that the books sent by them were not those you had ordered for. Ask for replacement. You are Varun Joshi, Sector-20, Chandigarh.

OR

(B) You are Suman Sinha of 13, Dilshad Garden, Delhi. You have observed that the subways in Delhi are seldom used by pedestrians. You have decided to write a letter to the editor of a national daily, highlighting the dire need of creating awareness about it. Based on the points given, write a letter in not more than 120 words.

- infrastructure unutilized
- pedestrians prone to accidents
- causes of apathy
 - (a) accumulation of filth and garbage
 - (b) stagnant water
- need improvement in regular cleanliness and proper supervision

9. Attempt **ANY ONE** of the following in 100-120 words. (5 marks)

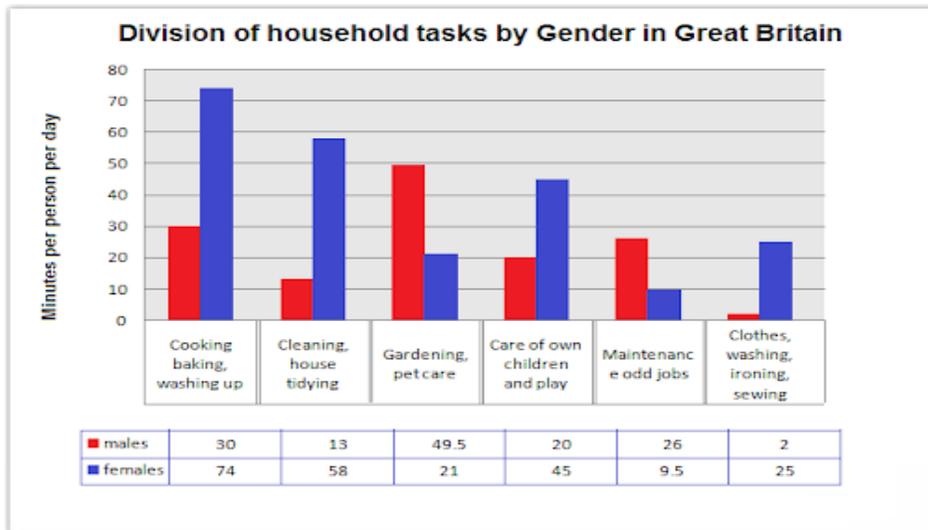
(A) The following table shows details about the internet activities for six categories for different age groups. Write an analytical paragraph based on the table in around 100-120 words.

Internet Activities by Age Group

| Activity% | Age group | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| | Teens | 20s | 30s | 40s | 50s | 60s | 70+ |
| Get News | 76 | 73 | 76 | 75 | 71 | 74 | 70 |
| Online games | 81 | 54 | 37 | 29 | 25 | 25 | 32 |
| Downloads | 52 | 46 | 27 | 15 | 13 | 8 | 6 |
| Product research | 0 | 79 | 80 | 83 | 79 | 74 | 70 |
| Buying a product | 43 | 68 | 69 | 68 | 67 | 65 | 41 |
| Searching for people | 5 | 31 | 23 | 23 | 24 | 29 | 27 |

OR

(B) The chart shows the division of household tasks by gender in Great Britain. Write an analytical paragraph describing the chart given in not more than 120 words.



LITERATURE (30 marks)

10. Answer ANY TWO questions in 20-30 words each, from (A) and (B) respectively. (2x4=8)

(A) (any two) (2x2=4)

- i. What shocked the narrator, in the story “Black Aeroplane”, after landing safely?
- ii. What do ‘Fire’ and ‘Ice’ symbolize in the poem ‘Fire’ and ‘Ice’?
- iii. What is called the “Kabai” and what did the bakers wear when the author of “A Baker from Goa” was young?

(B) (any two) (2x2=4)

- i. Why did Mrs Pumphery make a frantic call to Dr Herriot?
- ii. Why was Matilda Loisel always unhappy?
- iii. What does Bill say about Lutkin’s mother?

11. Answer ANY TWO questions in 40-50 words each, from (A) and (B) respectively. (3x4=12)

(A) (any two) (3x2=6)

- i. Why was Maddie upset after listening to the teacher's views on teasing the fellow students?
- ii. Give examples from the story 'Madam Rides the Bus' to show that Valli was a meticulous planner.
- iii. Why is it important for everyone to experience loss and to stand up after it?

(B) (any two)

(3x2=6)

- i. How did Richard's mother help him to become a scientist?
- ii. How does Bholi become her teacher's masterpiece?
- iii. Why was Matilda sad after the ball?

12. Answer ANY ONE the following in 100-120 words.

(5x1)

A Do you agree that the "depths of oppression" create "heights of character"? How does Mandela illustrate this? Can you illustrate this with some examples from Indian history of independence?

OR

(B) Personal losses are a part and parcel of life. Instead of wailing on them, we should move on in life. This message of Gautama Buddha has become more relevant in modern times. Do you agree? Why/ why not?

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 100-120 words.

(5x1)

A. Write a brief character-sketch of Hari Singh in the light of his honesty.

OR

B. Griffin is a talented scientist but he misused his invention. The lesson we learn from his example is that the misuse of a scientific discovery can cause havoc in the world. Explain.

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