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Medical | IIT-JEE | Foundations

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SET-3

CODE 2/8/3

Time: 3 Hours

ENGLISH

Max. Marks: 80

(LANGUAGE & LITERATURE)

CBSE Class-X (2026) Phase-2

Answers & Solutions

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

Read the instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

- (i) This question paper comprises **11** questions. **All** questions are compulsory.
- (ii) The question paper contains **THREE** sections -
Section A – Reading Skills
Section B – Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
Section C – Literature Text Book
- (iii) Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION-A (20 Marks)

(READING SKILLS)

1. **Read the passage given below:** [10]

- (1) People have worn hats throughout history for practical reasons like protection from the elements, as well as social and cultural ones, such as displaying status, expressing individuality, and for religious or ceremonial purposes. Early headwear was for survival against the weather and injury, while later, hats became symbols of wealth, profession, and social rank. Today, reasons for wearing hats often include fashion, personal expression, and safety or comfort, with many of the old social pressures for wearing hats having faded.
- (2) I do not remember how I came to like wearing a hat. Friends view it as an odd habit of mine, since few people wear hats today. I think my fondness for hats comes down to the desire to announce what type of person I am. Telling the world what kind of person resides below its brim is one of the principal jobs of any hat worth its name.
- (3) Even if we are not supposed to judge a book by its cover, we very often judge a person by his or her hat. In a narrow sense, a top hat indicates to all that you are a magician, just as a mortarboard and tassel tells the world you just graduated. More generally a cowboy hat may say you are the strong silent type, while a beret suggests you are artistic and creative. We even use hats as a kind of code for moral character, letting 'white hats' and 'black hats' serve as metaphors for 'good guys' and 'bad guys'. Hats show up in our figures of speech as well. Home is where you hang your hat, while declaring your desire to win a position is throwing your hat into the ring. How could anyone not want to wear a hat, when it can do so much?
- (4) A hat can do even more in everyday life. When people deserve congratulations, I say that my hat is off to them - and then I can literally do exactly that. When someone has exciting news for me, he can tell me to hold onto my hat. If the news must be kept secret, I can promise to keep it under my hat. He can even tell me to remain calm and not be a mad hatter.
- (5) Maybe the real reason I like wearing a hat, however, has to do with getting away from everyday life. What I find so interesting is the possibility of using a hat to make myself more like someone very different from my everyday self. A fedora helps me to think of myself as more of a street-smart tough-guy private eye. Another hat, appropriately battered, makes me feel like a daring adventurer whose search for fabulous treasures will succeed against all odds.
- (6) On my last birthday my family gave me a Napoleon hat. I wonder what are they trying to tell me.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

- (i) Support the writer's view how wearing a hat has been a journey of change over the years? (paragraph 1)

[2]

Sol. Wearing hats has changed over time because earlier people wore hats mainly for protection from weather and injury. Later, hats became symbols of wealth, profession, and social rank. Today, hats are mostly worn for fashion, personal expression, comfort, and safety.

- (ii) In paragraph 2, why does the author refer to his habit as 'odd' with reference to context? [1]

Sol. The author calls his habit "odd" because very few people wear hats nowadays, so his friends consider it unusual.

(iii) State whether the following statement is True or False :

Telling a person what lies beneath the brim means motivations, and experiences that shape who we are.
(paragraph 2) [1]

Sol. True

(iv) Complete the following with the correct option from the given two : [1]

For people wearing a cowboy hat suggests that the person may be _____.

- (a) hard-working and independent
- (b) resilient and reserved (paragraph 3)

Sol. (b) resilient and reserved

(v) Select the option that best explains the code of moral character of white hats and black hats.
(paragraph 3) [1]

- (a) It is a symbolic representation of good and bad character.
- (b) It is a metaphor for wealth and poverty.

Sol. (a) It is a symbolic representation of good and bad character.

(vi) List any two points that illustrate how a hat is representative of everyday life. (paragraph 4) [2]

Sol. Saying “my hat is off to them” means giving congratulations or respect.

“Keep it under my hat” means keeping something secret.

(vii) The writer mentions that he likes wearing a hat to get away from everyday life. Based on the information given in the passage, which of the following illustrates this reason? He wears it _____. [1]

- (A) to protect himself from the summer heat
- (B) as it is part of his daily office attire
- (C) to portray a good moral character
- (D) as it makes him feel like a daring adventurer (paragraph 5)

Sol. (D) as it makes him feel like a daring adventurer

(viii) What does the phrase, 'succeed against all odds' mean? [1]

- (A) achieve success despite facing extremely difficult circumstances.
- (B) achieve success with the support of your adversities.
- (C) to give up in the face of challenges.
- (D) to collaborate with others for profit.

Sol. (A) achieve success despite facing extremely difficult circumstances.

2. Read the following passage carefully:

[10]

- (1) Woodsfield, a picturesque town surrounded by dense woods, is renowned for its rich wildlife biodiversity. Recent studies conducted in 2024 compared the variety of species in the Woodsfield region over the past two decades.
- (2) The results were indeed startling. In 2024, a total of 250 species of birds were endangered. However, this number had dwindled to 210. A silver lining was the rise in the population of a certain winged warbler, once on the endangered species list. The red winged warbler on the brink of extinction, saw a population increase from just 20 in 2004 to 150 in 2024. The mammalian population count displayed mammal decreased fluctuations. While the overall from 95 in 2004 to 86 in 2024, the population of the elusive Woodsfield fox, native to the e region, increased from 150 in 2004 to 400 in 2024.

- (3) In 2004, region's freshwater lakes experienced the most drastic decline. There were 50 species of freshwater fish, a staple for the local fishing industry, in 2004 but this dropped to 40 in 2024. The blue-scaled trout saw a sharp decline in numbers with a reduction of 60% from 1000 to 400 over two decades.
- (4) Deforestation and urbanization were identified as primary reasons for the decline in species count, while conservation efforts were credited for the resurgence of endangered species.

The data is summarized in the table below:

Species Category	2004	2024
Birds	250	210
Red-winged warbler	20	150
Mammals	95	86
Woodsfield fox	150	400
Freshwater fish	50	40
Blue-scaled trout	1000	400

The revelations from the study have prompted discussions on enhancing conservation measures in Woodfield to strike a balance between development and preserving its rich diversity.

Answer the following questions, based on the reading of the passage:

- (i) What does the use of the phrase "Silver lining" by the writer, in paragraph 2 imply? [1]
- (A) The overall decline in bird species is irreversible.
- (B) Despite the decline, there is a positive trend in the population of the red-winged warbler.
- (C) The Woodsfield fox is the only species that has increased.
- (D) Aquatic life has shown no signs of recovery.

Answer (B)

Sol. Despite the decline, there is a positive trend in the population of the red-winged warbler.

- (ii) Fill in the blanks with the appropriate options from those given in the brackets, based on your understanding of the paragraph 3. [1]

The statement that "the Woodsfield fox population increased from 150 in 2004 to 400 in 2024" is a/an _____ (fact/opinion) because it is a/an _____ (subjective judgment/objective detail)

Sol. Fact, objective detail

- (iii) Draw a comparative analysis of the bird species and mammal species count in Woodsfield between 2004 and 2024. [1]

Sol. Between 2004 and 2024, both bird and mammal species counts in Woodsfield experienced a general decline. The number of endangered bird species fell from 250 to 210, while the overall mammal species count decreased from 95 to 86.

- (iv) What are the factors that are mainly responsible for decline in species count? [2]

Sol. Deforestation and urbanization are identified as the primary factors responsible for the decline in the species count.

- (v) Select the option that is true for the Assertion and Reason given below: [1]

Assertion: The blue-scaled trout population saw a sharp decline over two decades.

Reason: It is a staple for the local fishing industry.

- (A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the Reason is the correct explanation of the Assertion.
 (B) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
 (C) The Assertion is true, but the Reason is false.
 (D) The Assertion is false, but the Reason is true.

Answer (B)

Sol. Both the Assertion and Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.

- (vi) Complete the sentence with a suitable reason: [1]

The red-winged warbler's population rose from 20 to 150 because _____.

Sol. Conservation efforts were credited for the resurgence of endangered species.

- (vii) Why were deforestation and urbanization identified as primary reasons for the decline in species count? [1]

Sol. Deforestation and urbanization lead to habitat destruction, fragmentation, and increased human encroachment, which directly strips wildlife of their natural environments, resources, and breeding grounds, causing their numbers to dwindle.

- (viii) What is the writer's view about the aquatic life in Woodsfield? [1]

Sol. The writer views the aquatic life in Woodsfield as experiencing a "drastic decline," particularly noting that freshwater fish varieties decreased and the blue-scaled trout population faced a sharp reduction of 60% over two decades.

- (ix) Identify the word in paragraph 4 that indicates the 'revival' of wildlife. [1]

Sol. Resurgence

SECTION-B (20 Marks)

CREATIVE (WRITING AND GRAMMAR) SKILLS

GRAMMAR

3. Complete any ten of the twelve tasks, as directed. Select the correct option to complete the given sentence from a recipe book : [10×1=10]

- (i) To learn how to make a new dish, someone _____ to teach you how to go about it. [1]

- (A) must (B) needs
 (C) will (D) would

Answer (B)

Sol. needs

- (ii) Fill in the blank by supplying the correct form of the verb given in the brackets.

She insisted that the documents be _____ (submit) without delay. [1]

Sol. submitted

- (iii) Complete the line from a 'Plant More Trees' rhyme by filling in the blank with the correct option. [1]

Green leaves dancing in the breeze,

Homes for birds in all these trees,

Let's plant more now, _____ tomorrow bright.

- (A) to make (B) for making
(C) make (D) for make

Answer (A)

Sol. to make

- (iv) Rahul and Sneha were discussing a school project. Report Rahul's question. [1]

Have you completed the Science model for tomorrow's exhibition?

Sol. Rahul asked Sneha if/whether she had completed the Science model for the next day's exhibition.

- (v) Fill in the blank with the correct article.

She is _____ university professor in London. [1]

Sol. a

- (vi) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the given sentence. [1]

Neither of the options are suitable for our needs at the present moment.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(A)	options	option
(B)	are	is
(C)	needs	need
(D)	moment	moments

Answer (B)

Sol. are → is

- (vii) Arun talked to a journalist about his experience at the World Cup. Report the journalist's question to Arun.

"How do you feel after winning the 'Man of the Match' award?"

The journalist asked Arun _____.

Sol. how he felt after winning the 'Man of the Match' award. [1]

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

_____ he ran at breakneck speed he did not manage to catch the bus. [1]

- (A) However (B) Although
(C) Whether (D) Because

Answer (B)

Sol. Although

(ix) Identify the error and supply the correction for the given sentence.

Access to quality learning and the development of skills is crucial for future jobs.

[1]

Use the given format for your response.

Error	Correction

Sol.

Error	Correction
Skills	skill

(x) Read the dialogue between two friends Rahul and Amit.

[1]

Rahul : I am going to the store. Do you want me to buy anything for you?

Amit : Yes, please buy some milk.

Report the dialogue between the two friends by completing the sentence.

Rahul told Amit that he was going to the store and asked if _____.

Amit requested him to buy some milk.

Sol. Rahul told Amit that he was going to the store and asked if he wanted him to buy anything for him.

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

[1]

You are requested to _____ the workshop on time.

(A) decline

(B) join

(C) approach

(D) arrive

Answer (B)

Sol. join

(xii) Select the correct option that reports the given sentence in indirect speech.

The teacher said, "The capital of France is Paris."

[1]

(A) The teacher said that the capital of France was Paris.

(B) The teacher said that the capital of France is Paris.

(C) The teacher said that the capital of France will be Paris.

(D) The teacher said that the capital of France is being Paris.

Answer (B)

Sol. The teacher said that the capital of France is Paris.

WRITING

4. Attempt any one from (a) and (b) given below :

[5]

(a) You are Reena/Vivek Sharma of 16 Sunrise Apartments, MG Road, Nagpur. You are concerned about the indiscriminate use of loudspeakers in the vicinity which is causing significant stress and health issues like headaches, sleep disruption, and lack of concentration.

Write a letter to the District Collector highlighting the need to help raise public awareness of the issue and stricter enforcement of existing guidelines.

Sol. Complaint Letter

Content:

Format: (Sender's address, Date, Receiver's address, salutation, Subject Heading, Body, Complimentary close)

Expression: (Grammatical accuracy, appropriate words, Coherence and relevance of ideas and style)

Suggested Value Points:

- Purpose of writing
- Describing the terrible condition of roads at peak hours
- Consequences of this condition of traffic congestion
- Suggested measures
- Request to take strong actions

Sample:

16 Sunrise Apartments, MG Road

Nagpur

16 May 2026

The District Collector

Nagpur

Subject: Request to Control Indiscriminate Use of Loudspeakers

Respected Sir/Madam

I am writing to draw your attention to the indiscriminate use of loudspeakers in our locality. The constant blaring of sound has become a serious nuisance, causing stress and health issues such as headaches, sleep disruption, and lack of concentration among residents.

Despite existing guidelines on permissible sound levels and timings, these are often ignored. The situation is particularly distressing for students preparing for examinations, senior citizens, and patients who require rest.

I kindly request your intervention to ensure stricter enforcement of noise-control regulations. Additionally, awareness campaigns could be organized to educate the public about the harmful effects of noise pollution and the importance of maintaining peace in residential areas. I hope you will take immediate steps to address this pressing issue and restore a healthy environment in our community.

Sincerely

Reena/Vivek Sharma

OR

- (b) You are Tanvi/Rohit, a student of Class X at Bright Future School. You noticed that many people use mobile phones and hands free devices while driving, leading to distracted driving and accidents.

Write a letter to the editor of a leading newspaper in about 120 words raising awareness and suggesting ways to use safer alternatives communicate in case of emergencies.

Sol. Letter to the Editor

Format: (Sender's address, Date, Receiver's address, salutation, Subject Heading, Body and Complimentary Close)

Expression: (Grammatical accuracy, appropriate words, correct spellings, coherence & relevance of ideas and style)

Content:

Suggested Value Points:

- Introduction to the event
- Highlighting why such an event is important
- Conclusion with a request made to the editor to write an article about the event

Sample:

Class X, Bright Future School

New Delhi

16 May 2026

The Editor

The Times of India

New Delhi

Subject: Dangers of Using Mobile Phones While Driving

Respected Sir/Madam

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to highlight the growing menace of mobile phone usage while driving. Many drivers are seen talking on phones or using hands-free devices, which distracts them and often leads to accidents.

This reckless habit endangers not only the driver but also innocent pedestrians and fellow commuters. Strict enforcement of traffic rules, awareness campaigns, and promotion of safer alternatives such as pulling over to make emergency calls can help reduce this risk.

I urge the public to act responsibly and prioritize safety over convenience.

Yours sincerely

Tanvi/Rohit

5. **Attempt any one from (a) and (b) given below :**

(a) Read the following statement:

[5]

“The promotion of sustainable agriculture practices is crucial for ensuring food security and mitigating the effects of climate change. Sustainable agriculture practices, such as crop rotation, organic farming and reduced use of chemical pesticides, can help maintain soil health, conserve water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This would lead to increased crop yields, improved food quality, and a reduced environmental impact.”

Write a paragraph in about 120 words analyzing this statement and providing evidence to support or refute it.

Sol. Suggested Value Points:

1. **Definition of sustainable agriculture:** Practices like crop rotation, organic farming, reduced chemical pesticides.
2. **Benefits claimed:** Soil health, water conservation, reduced greenhouse gases, increased crop yields, improved food quality, lower environmental impact.
3. **Evidence supporting the statement:**
 - Crop rotation improves soil fertility and breaks pest cycles, boosting yields.
 - Organic farming reduces chemical runoff, enhancing soil and water quality.
 - Less pesticide use lowers greenhouse gas emissions and protects ecosystems.
4. **Link to food security & climate change:** Sustainable practices ensure long-term food production and mitigate climate effects.
5. **Analytical approach:** Evaluate cause-effect relationships and environmental impacts.

The given statement asserts that promoting sustainable agriculture is essential for ensuring food security and mitigating climate change. Firstly, sustainable practices such as crop rotation and organic farming enhance soil health by replenishing nutrients and preventing erosion, consequently leading to higher crop yields. Moreover, reducing chemical pesticides conserves water quality and decreases greenhouse gas emissions, thus lowering the environmental impact. Subsequently, improved soil and water management contributes to better food quality and availability, securing food supplies. Evidence from agricultural studies shows that farms adopting these methods experience increased productivity and reduced carbon footprints. Therefore, the statement is valid because sustainable agriculture creates a positive chain of effects that address both food security and climate challenges. [5]

OR

(b) The table below shows the average temperature and rainfall in three different cities of India during the month of June: [5]

City	Average temperature (°C)	Average Rainfall (mm)
Delhi	35	60
Mumbai	30	200
Chennai	32	150

Based on the data given in the table, write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words comparing the climate of the three cities and highlighting any notable trends or patterns.

Sol. Suggested Value Points:

1. **Comparison of average temperatures:** Delhi has the highest temperature (35°C); Mumbai the lowest (30°C); Chennai is intermediate (32°C).
2. **Comparison of average rainfall:** Mumbai receives the maximum rainfall (200 mm); Chennai gets moderate rain (150 mm); Delhi has the least rain (60 mm). Chennai gets moderate rain (150 mm); Delhi has the least rain (60 mm).
3. **Trend identification:** An inverse relationship appears between temperature and rainfall – higher temperature correlates with lower rainfall, and vice versa.
4. **Climatic pattern:** The data shows Delhi has a hotter, drier June; Mumbai experiences a cooler, wetter June; Chennai lies in between, indicating a transitional climate.
5. **Implication:** The climate data can influence decisions on agriculture, water management, and urban planning in these cities.

The table reveals distinct climatic contrasts among Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai during June. Notably, Delhi exhibits the highest average temperature of 35°C, whereas it receives the lowest rainfall of 60 mm, indicative of a hot, arid summer. Conversely, Mumbai records the lowest temperature of 30°C and the highest rainfall of 200 mm, suggesting a cooler, wet monsoon phase. Chennai occupies an intermediate position with a temperature of 32°C and 150 mm of rain, thus displaying a transitional climate. Consequently, an inverse pattern emerges between temperature and precipitation: as temperature rises, rainfall decreases. Overall, the data illustrates regional climatic diversity in June, with Delhi being scorching and dry, Mumbai cool and wet, and Chennai moderately balanced. **[5]**

SECTION-C (40 Marks)

LITERATURE

6. **Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two (a) and (b) :** **[5]**

(a) It is from these comrades in the struggle that I learned the meaning of courage. Time and again I have seen men and women risk their lives for an idea. I have seen men stand up to attack and torture without breaking, showing a strength and resilience that defies the imagination. I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid but he who conquers that fear. *(Nelson Mandela : A Long Walk to Freedom)*

(i) Who taught the real meaning of courage to Nelson Mandela ? **[1]**

Sol. Nelson Mandela learned the real meaning of courage from his comrades in the struggle.

(ii) According to the speaker, the men and women risk and sacrifice their lives for _____. **[1]**

Sol. an idea

(iii) Choose the most suitable option. **[2]**

What does courage mean to Mandela ?

- (A) fearlessness
- (B) patriotism
- (C) strength
- (D) diligence

Answer (C)

Sol. strength

(iv) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket.

The use of the phrase 'stand up to attack' describes the _____ (resilience/resignation) of the people.

Sol. resilience

OR

(b) I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind. Anil made money by fits and starts. He would borrow one week, lend the next. He kept worrying about his next cheque, but as soon as it arrived, he would go out and celebrate. It seems he wrote for magazines - a queer way to make a living' !

One evening he came home with a small bundle of notes, saying he had just sold a book to a publisher. At night I saw him tuck the money under the mattress. I had been working for Anil for almost a month and apart from cheating on the shopping, had not done anything in my line of work. *(The Thief's Story)*

(i) Complete the following sentence. [1]

Anil made money by 'fits and starts' means that he _____.

- (A) deemed it fit to start investing money.
- (B) started earning money in the recent past.
- (C) received money intermittently.
- (D) put his money to use frequently.

Answer (C)

Sol. received money intermittently.

(ii) What does the information in the given extract tell us about Anil's character ? [2]

Sol. The extract reveals that Anil is carefree, generous, and easy-going. He does not worry excessively about financial stability, is unbothered by small losses, and likes to celebrate and spend generously as soon as he receives money.

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket.

The phrase 'in my line of work' in the given context implies _____. (robbing/publishing) [1]

Sol. robbing

(iv) What connotation does the phrase 'this way' have in relation to earning money ? [1]

Sol. The phrase 'this way' carries a connotation of dishonesty or minor trickery, referring specifically to how the narrator made a bit of extra money by cheating and keeping the profit daily while doing the grocery shopping for Anil.

7. **Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two (a) and (b) :** [5]

(a) He should be lurking in shadow

Sliding through long grass

Near the water hole

Where the plump deer pass.

(A Tiger in the Zoo)

(i) Complete the following suitably : [1]

The phrase 'lurking in shadow' implies that the tiger _____.

Sol. should be in the forest, hiding in the long grass while waiting for its prey.

- (ii) According to the extract, the poet wishes for the tiger to be 'sliding' through the foliage as this would:
- (A) assist in keeping the prey unsuspecting of the predators sound.
 - (B) aid in camouflaging the presence of the predator before it rushes in.
 - (C) help the predator pounce on the prey comfortably without getting tired.
 - (D) support the predator's vision as it eyes its prey.

Answer (B)

Sol. aid in camouflaging the presence of the predator before it rushes in.

- (iii) What would the tiger do in the forest ?

Sol. The tiger would be indulging in its natural predatory instinct in the forest. It would do so by hiding in the long grass waiting for its prey.

- (iv) Pick the phrase that suggests that the forest in the extract is lush

- (A) long grass
- (B) the water hole
- (C) plump deer
- (D) lurking in shadow

Answer (A)

Sol. long grass

OR

- (b) The leaves strain toward the glass
 small twigs stiff with exertion
 long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof
 like newly discharged patients
 half-dazed, moving
 to the clinic doors.

(The Trees)

- (i) Complete the following suitably :

The phrase that implies that moving out was tedious for the small twigs is _____ **[1]**

Sol. stiff with exertion

- (ii) What is the poet's attitude towards the tree's movement, as described in the extract ? **[1]**

Sol. The poet presents an impassioned observation of the trees' movement. She offers a sympathetic, sensitive and appreciative attitude towards their desire for freedom.

- (iii) Fill in the blank :

The boughs are likened to newly discharged patients, suggesting that the tree is recovering from a state of _____ **[1]**

Sol. long-term daze and confinement.

- (iv) How does the image of the clinic doors contribute to the overall meaning expressed by the poet? **[2]**

Sol. The clinic doors suggest healing, recovery and release after a period of suffering and confinement. The image reinforces the idea that the movement of the trees symbolize liberation and healing.

8. **Answer any four of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words each:** **[4×3=12]**

- (a) Why did the narrator go to the control room? *(Stories about Flying)*
- (b) How does the author establish that the pader is an important part of Goan Society? *(Glimpses of India)*
- (c) Besides Oxen Meadows, what is the other important cause of quarrel between Lomov and Natalya? *(The Proposal)*
- (d) Why doesn't the poet want to 'intrude on' the boy by offering him money to buy another ball? *(The Ball Poem)*
- (e) In the poem, 'Fire and Ice', the poet links fire and ice to human emotions. What are these emotions?

Sol. (a) Suggested Value Points:

- Initially the narrator was stuck in the storm clouds.
- He has lost communication with the control tower and had no means of rescue.
- He was rescued by a mysterious black aeroplane.
- He wanted to personally thank the pilot of the black aeroplane for selflessly bringing him back to safety through the violent storm.

(b) Suggested Value Points:

- The baker is referred to as the friend, companion and guide of children.
- They would wake up to the jingling thud of his bamboo and anxiously wait for his bread bangles or another special bread.
- Marriage gifts would be incomplete without the sweet bread 'bol'.
- Cakes and bolinhas are a must for Christmas and other festivals.

(c) Suggested Value Points:

- Lomov and Natalya argue over the superiority of their dogs.
- Both compare their dogs on various points and pedigree.
- Natalya calls Squeezer younger and cheaper while Lomov calls it overshoot while trying to establish Guess as an excellent hunting dog.

(d) Suggested Value Points:

- The boy was playing and suddenly the ball slipped and went into the water body.
- He was in utter shock as he was emotionally attached to the ball.
- Poet did not want to embarrass by intruding.
- The poet wants him to learn how to accept the loss and move on after learning the lesson.

(e) Suggested Value Points:

- Fire — Greed, Passion
- Ice — Hatred, Cruelty, Insensitiveness.
- Both can destroy the world as either of the two is capable of doing so.

9. **Answer any two of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words:** **[2×3=6]**

- (a) Why did the police arrest Horace Danby when he had not kept the jewels stolen from the Grange safe?
(A Question of Trust)
- (b) Compare and contrast the characters of Noodle and Think Tank.
(The Book That Save the Earth)
- (c) Richard Ebright's mother played a huge role in making him a great scientist. Elaborate.
(The Making of a Scientist)

Sol. (a) Suggested Value Points:

- Police found Horace at the crime scene with tools, linking him to the theft.
- Horace's claim of being elsewhere was disproved by witness testimony.
- His habit of stealing for personal gain raised doubts about his innocence.
- Police prioritised the most likely suspect based on forensic clues.
- Arrest was made to prevent evidence tampering and ensure interrogation.
- Horace's nervous behaviour made him appear guilty to investigators.
- The safe's owner trusted Horace, but his actions broke that trust, prompting scrutiny.
- Police inferred premeditated theft from Horace's planning.
- Arrest shows law punishes even attempted or incomplete thefts.
- Though he didn't keep the jewels, his arrest reveals moral downfall.
- Officers followed protocol to secure justice for the victim.
- The arrest teaches that dishonesty leads to legal repercussions.
- Horace's greed overpowered his cautious planning, exposing him.
- Arrest is the first step toward trial and possible conviction.
- The incident emphasises that betrayal of trust invites punishment.

(b) Suggested Value Points:

- Noodle is an intelligent Martian apprentice; Think Tank is the Martian commander.
- Noodle is humble, thoughtful, and cooperative.
- Think Tank is arrogant, egocentric, and misinterprets information; Noodle corrects mistakes and saves the mission with logic.
- Think Tank leads the invasion based on flawed assumptions.
- Noodle uses rational analysis; Think Tank relies on ego-driven guesses.
- Noodle inspires teamwork; Think Tank causes chaos with misjudgments.
- Noodle is open to learning; Think Tank rejects new ideas.
- Noodle makes prudent choices; Think Tank makes reckless decisions.
- Noodle represents wisdom; Think Tank represents ignorance in authority.
- Noodle respects Earth's culture; Think Tank misreads it.

- Noodle prevents disaster; Think Tank's actions lead to failure.
- Noodle shows adaptability; Think Tank remains static in arrogance.
- Noodle values truth; Think Tank values self-glory.
- Their contrast highlights intelligence versus ego in decision-making.

(c) **Suggested Value Points:**

- Mother inspired Richard to pursue curiosity and experiments at home.
- She supplied books, equipment, and materials for his projects.
- Mother created a nurturing space that fostered scientific inquiry.
- She guided him to observe nature and ask scientific questions.
- Her belief boosted Richard's confidence to compete in science fairs.
- Mother took him to museums, sparking interest in biology.
- She managed expenses for his experiments and competitions.
- Mother's own intellectual interests influenced Richard's aspirations.
- She identified his potential and channelised it wisely.
- Mother comforted him during failures, teaching perseverance.
- She helped with practical aspects of his scientific projects.
- Mother taught ethics and discipline in research.
- Her questions ignited Richard's love for investigation.
- Mother's encouragement shaped his path toward scientific excellence.
- Her role exemplifies parental impact on nurturing future scientists.

10. **Answer any one of the following two questions in 100-120 words:** **[6]**

- (a) Compare how the texts of 'A Letter of God' and 'Dust of Snow' use nature to either test or transform human emotion and belief.

OR

- (b) How does the tone and style of 'Mijbil the Otter' contrast with that of 'How to Tell Wild Animals' when it comes to depicting the human-animal relationship?

Sol. (a) Suggested Value Points: **[6]**

- Nature is both healing and regenerative.
- In 'A Letter to God' Lencho loses his crops to a violent act of nature i.e., hailstorm.
- His soul is crushed but he still doesn't lose his faith in God.
- He strikes up a correspondence with God and help arrives through the postmaster's intervention.
- Through 'Dust of Snow', the poet emphasizes the transformative effect of nature on humans.
- All one has to do is keep a positive outlook.
- The poet was in a miserable state before the dust of snow fell onto him.
- Thereafter his spirits were uplifted.

OR

(b) **Suggested Value Points:**

[6]

- The tone and style of narration adopted in the poem and the chapter are quite different.
- In 'Mijbil the Otter', the tone is affectionate, emotional and realistic.
- The author's description of his experiences with Mij is detailed and personal.
- It shows love companionship & understanding between humans & animals.
- The style is descriptive & autobiographical.
- 'How to Tell Wild Animals' has a humorous, playful & ironic tone.
- The poet uses absurd situations to describe encounters with wild animals.
- It exposes fatal situations to identify wild animals.
- The focus isn't emotional bond between humans & animals rather it emphasises the dangers animals pose.

11. **Answer any one of the following two questions in 100-120 words:**

[6]

(a) How did Ausable outsmart and outwit the crafty Max and get rid of him? (*The Midnight Visitor*)

OR

(b) In what way did Bholi's mother's attitude towards her make Bholi an introvert? How did her teacher help her to overcome her handicap? (*Bholi*)

Sol. (a) Suggested Value Points:

[6]

- Ausable was a secret agent known more for his intelligence than physical strength.
- When Max, a rival spy, entered his room with a pistol demanding important papers, Ausable remained calm.
- He cleverly fabricated a story about a balcony outside his window, claiming it was a common entry point for intruders. Believing this, Max tried to escape through the "balcony" when someone knocked at the door.
- In reality, there was no balcony at all. Max fell to his death, completely deceived by Ausable's quick wit and presence of mind.
- Thus, Ausable outsmarted Max without using force, proving brains can defeat brawn.

OR

Sol. (b) Suggested Value Points:

[6]

- Bholi was a simple, shy girl who had grown up facing neglect due to her looks and speech defect.
- Her parents arranged her marriage to Bishamber, a greedy old man.
- During the wedding, Bishamber demanded a dowry of five thousand rupees after noticing Bholi's pockmarks.
- This shocked everyone, but Bholi showed unexpected courage.
- She firmly refused to marry a man who was greedy, selfish, and disrespectful.
- Bholi declared she would not accept a marriage based on humiliation and money.
- She chose self-respect over compromise, proving her strength and independence.
- Her decision highlighted the theme of dignity, courage, and empowerment of women.

