

CLASS: XII
POST MID TERM EXAMINATION 2025-26
SUBJECT: ENGLISH (CORE)-301
SET- A1/A2
MARKING SCHEME/SOLUTIONS

Time Allowed: 3 hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

1. This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. All the sections are **compulsory**.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them faithfully.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A – Reading

22

1. Read the passage given below:

12

1. I saw ‘*Jaws*’, the popular shark movie, the summer it came out, in 1975 and became paranoid about sharks. Though I kept swimming after *Jaws*, it was always with the vague fear that a shark’s teeth could tug on my leg at any moment. Never mind that there’d been only two shark bites since 1900 on the Connecticut coast, where I lived.

2. So, when I got this assignment for the National Geographic magazine, I decided to accept and do what I’d never wanted to do: swim with the sharks. I had to go to a place in the Bahamas known as Tiger Beach and dive with tiger sharks, the species responsible for more recorded attacks on humans than any shark except the great white. It was to be my first dive after getting certified—which meant it would be my first dive anywhere other than a swimming pool or a quarry—and without a diver’s cage. Most people who got wind of this plan thought I was either very brave or very stupid.

3. But I just wanted to puncture an illusion. The people who know sharks intimately tend to be the least afraid of them, and no one gets closer to sharks than divers. The divers who run operations at Tiger Beach speak lovingly of the tiger sharks the way people talk about their children or their pets. In their eyes, these sharks aren’t man-eaters any more than dogs are.

4. The business of puncturing illusions is never just black and white. My fellow divers had hundreds of dives under their belt and on the two-hour boat ride to the site in the

morning of our first dive, they kept saying things like, “Seriously, I really can’t believe this is your first dive.”

5. All this was okay with me until I reached the bottom and immediately had to fend off the first tiger shark, I had ever laid eyes on. However, when I watched the other divers feeding them fish and steering them gently, it became easy to see the sharks in a very benign light.

6. I think it would be unfair not to mention that though tiger sharks are apex predators, they act as a crucial balancing force in ocean ecosystems, constraining the numbers of animals like sea turtles and limiting their behaviour by preventing them from overgrazing the seagrass beds. Furthermore, tiger sharks love warm water, they eat almost anything, have a huge litter and are the hardest shark species. If the planet and its oceans continue to warm, some species will be winners and others will be losers, and tiger sharks are likely to be winners.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

(i) Which evidence, from the text, suggests that after watching ‘*Jaws*’, the writer's fear of sharks was not justified? **1**

Choose the most appropriate option:

- a) A shark’s teeth tugged on his leg twice.
- b) Sharks were responsible for the most recorded attacks on humans.
- c) There were only 2 shark attacks reported in 75 years.**
- d) These were always defensive when divers got closer to them.

(ii) Select the option that classifies the writer’s character trait, as evident from Para 2. **1**

- I. Adventurous
- II. Fearful
- III. Timid
- IV. Experimental

- a) II and IV
- b) I , II and III
- c) I and IV**
- d) III and IV

(iii) ‘-----and without a diver’s cage’

What does the writer want to convey through the above statement from Para 2? Explain in about 40 words. **2**

Ans: It indicated that, after getting certified as a diver, it was the writer’s first dive in open waters. A dive in an ocean with Tiger Sharks and without a diver’s cage may look like a stupid act.

(iv) Why does the writer say that people who know sharks intimately tend to be least afraid of them? 1

Ans: People who know sharks intimately find the sharks to be harmless. The sharks feed on the food they offer and seem as docile as pets.

(v) Rewrite the given sentence by replacing the underlined phrase with another one, from *Para 4*. 1

Some academicians think that reward, as a form of discipline, is an issue which is simply right or wrong.

Ans: Some academicians think that reward, as a form of discipline, is an issue which is **simply black and white**.

(vi) The phrase ‘*Benign light*’ in *Para 5*— is viewed as benevolent, gentle or friendly. What does the phrase suggest about the writer’s viewpoint regarding the tiger sharks? Answer in about 40 words. 2

Ans: The writer’s initial viewpoint about tiger sharks was that they are dangerous. But when he watched the other divers feeding the fish and steering them gently, his opinion changed. They seemed fairly docile and less dangerous than the other sharks.

(vii) Select a suitable phrase from *Para 4* to complete the following sentence appropriately. 1
I agree that the team will find this experience tough, but competing will be easier next time after they have this tournament _____

Ans: I agree that the team will find this experience tough, but competing will be easier next time after they have this tournament under the belt.

(viii) *Apex predators serve to keep prey numbers in check.*
How can we say that tigersharks are apex predators? Answer in about 40 words. 2

- (ix) Which of the following statements about Tiger Sharks is not true? 1
- a) They are the species responsible for more recorded attacks on humans than any shark.
 - b) They are apex predators and they rarely act as a crucial balancing force in ocean ecosystems.**
 - c) Having a large litter empowers tiger sharks to survive if global warming persists.
 - d) They limit turtles’ behaviour by preventing them from overgrazing the seagrass beds.

2. Read the passage given below.

10

1. ChatGPT has been gaining attention for how closely it mimics human-like responses. Created by OpenAI in 2022, it is a chatbot that has been trained to have knowledge of worldly events and phenomena up till September 2021 and to interpret the context of texts to produce meaningful responses. The tool can provide answers on many topics, and often states disclaimers if it cannot answer a prompt accurately. Unlike a search engine, it cannot browse the internet for information. It also does not collect any personal information of users.

2. A survey was administered to understand the uses of ChatGPT in the fields of education, healthcare and research. There were 420 participants in the study, of which 59 respondents were from the medical field, 118 respondents were students and faculty from the research field, 70 respondents identified as administrative staff, and 173 people marked 'other' as their occupation. Of the 420 respondents, only 40% had used ChatGPT before. More medical trainees and students, as well as research students, have used ChatGPT as compared to medical staff and research faculty.

3. The survey asked about the viability of ChatGPT for its use within the fields of education, research, and healthcare. The following table summarises the responses.

Question	Statement	Number of respondents
Should ChatGPT be used in Education?	No, it should be banned.	11
	I don't know; it is too early to make a statement.	226
	Yes, it should be actively incorporated.	183
Should ChatGPT be used in Research?	No, it should not be used at all.	6
	I don't know; it is too early to make a statement.	75
	Yes, but it should only be used to brainstorm.	68
	Yes, as long as its use is transparently disclosed.	259
	Yes, disclosure is NOT needed.	10
Should ChatGPT be used in Healthcare?	No, it should not be used at all.	15
	I don't know; it is too early to make a statement.	177
	Yes, it can be used for administrative purposes.	176
	Yes, it can be used for any purpose.	51

4. Based on the responses, there was a greater uncertainty around its use in healthcare and education, compared to using it in research. Regarding the use of ChatGPT in healthcare, a significant portion of respondents (42%) approved of using it for administrative purposes (for example, preparing patient profiles or reports) and a smaller population of respondents (12.2%) felt it could be used for any purpose.

5. The current application of ChatGPT and its future potential needs to be examined. It can help students understand texts and write more effectively, simplify medical information for patients and automate administrative tasks, and prepare a summary of information which otherwise would require hours of reading through various resources. However, its negative impact must also be considered before institutions approve its use.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

(i) State if the following statement is True or False. 1

Based on the summary table, very few think that ChatGPT should not be used at all.

Ans: True

(ii) A user of ChatGPT asked the following question: 'What's my name?'

Based on information from the passage, which of these is most likely to be ChatGPT's response? 1

- a. 'Error 404: page not found.'
- b. 'Your name is user 1000004.'
- c. 'Sorry, can you repeat the question?'
- d. 'Sorry, I don't have access to your data.'**

(iii) Why will ChatGPT not be very helpful for writing articles on topics or events that occurred after September 2021? Answer in about 40 words. 2

Ans: ChatGPT only has information till September 2021. Also, ChatGPT cannot browse the internet for information. Thus, ChatGPT is not very helpful for writing articles on topics or events that occurred after September 2021.

(iv) What percentage of 420 participants believe that ChatGPT can be used for administrative purposes in the health care system? 1

- a) More than 50% of the respondents
- b) 80 % of the respondents
- c) Less than 50% of respondents**
- d) None of the above

(v) Which of these is true about the respondents of the survey? 1

- a. It had 118 respondents who were employed in the field of education.
- b. It had 70 respondents who had administrative roles in educational institutions.
- c. It had 173 respondents who were working in the field of research, including students.
- d. It had 59 respondents who were from the medical field, including those who study medicine.**

(vi) How may the current application of ChatGPT be beneficial in education, health care and research sectors? State reasons in 40 words. 2

Ans: It can help students understand texts and write more effectively, simplify medical information for patients and automate administrative tasks, and prepare a summary of information which otherwise would require hours of reading through various resources.

(vii) Give any one evidence from para 5 to support that we still do not know enough about ChatGPT. Answer in one sentence. 1

Ans: According to Paragraph 5, the following statements support the fact that we still do not know enough about Chat GPT:

‘The current application of ChatGPT and its future potential needs to be examined’

OR

‘Its negative impact must also be considered before institutions approve its use.’

(viii) State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1

More than half of the respondents think it is okay to use ChatGPT in research if one clearly states its contribution.

Ans: True

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS 18

3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words. 4

A. The Avengers Club will conduct 2-Days trial classes of Aerobics, next weekend for young girls and women of City Apartments, Madhavpur, at their premises. As Shri Neel Rai, President, draft a notice in about 50 words, informing the young residents. Mention other relevant details required for the notice.

OR

B. An online course, ‘Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body ’, is being conducted by Covent of Mary School during the summer vacations, for students of Class XI and XII. As Sameer / Sameera Chug, Head Boy/Girl, draft a notice in about 50 words for the school notice board, urging students to sign up. Mention other relevant details required for the notice.

Ans- Notice –4 Marks

Format-1; Content-2; Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar-1

4. Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words. 4

A. Nayantara Vij is hosting her grandmother’s seventy-fifth birth anniversary in a grand manner and is extending an invitation to family and friends. Draft a formal invitation, in not more than 50 words.

OR

B. Dr. Pallavi Sharma, an eminent Neurosurgeon associated with Medanta Hospital, Sector 63, Noida, is to be invited to preside over a session on 'Brain Health and Wellness-Tips for students'. As Sana Khan, the President of the Activities Club of Meera Model Sr. Sec. School, K. G. Marg, New Delhi, draft a formal invitation, giving all necessary details.

SET A2

4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words.

4

A. Dr. Pallavi Sharma, an eminent Neurosurgeon associated with Medanta Hospital, Sector 63, Noida, is to be invited to preside over a session on 'Brain Health and Wellness-Tips for students'. As Sana Khan, the President of the Activities Club of Meera Model Sr. Sec. School, K. G. Marg, New Delhi, draft a formal invitation, giving all necessary details.

OR

B. Mrs. and Mr. Ajay Aggarwal are celebrating their grandson's first birthday with friends and family. Draft an informal invitation for Mr. Vinay Goel, in not more than 50 words.

Invitations–4 Marks

Format-1; Content-2; Accuracy of Spelling and Grammar-1

5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.

5

A. You've observed that during the tourist season, the beauty of the city's sightseeing places is marred by the insensitive disposal of waste. Food packets, water bottles, polybags, cigarette butts, etc, are strewn all around. Write a letter to the editor of The Times of India, highlighting the environmental and community impact of this littering problem and suggesting measures to address it. You are Raghav Mehra, resident of A-87, Amar Colony, New Delhi.

OR

B. You are Saloni Jain. You completed M.Sc. (Psychology) from the School of Special Sciences, last year. You came across the following advertisement in the Classifieds columns of a national daily. You think the job requirements are a good fit for your skills/personality. Write a letter to the Principal of Akanksha Public School, Pune, along with your biodata, expressing your interest in the advertised post.

AKANKSHA IS LOOKING FOR SCHOOL COUNSELLORS IN PUNE

The Akanksha Foundation is on a mission to build a network of high-performing and innovative schools to empower children & young adults from underserved communities.

Job Requirements

- Experience working directly with children
- Bachelor's degree with specialisation in psychology
- Master's degree with specialisation in clinical or counselling psychology OR post-grad diploma in psychology or counselling
- 2 years or more of relevant experience in the field of education working with children & parents (preferred).



POSITION:
School Counsellor

LOCATION:
Pune - PMC & PCMC

SET A2

5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.

5

A. You've observed that during the tourist season, the beauty of the city's sightseeing places is marred by the insensitive disposal of waste. Food packets, water bottles, polybags, cigarette butts, etc, are strewn all around. Write a letter to the editor of The Times of India, highlighting the environmental and community impact of this littering problem and suggesting measures to address it. You are Raghav Mehra, resident of A-87, Amar Colony, New Delhi.

OR

B. You are Maya Syiem from Shillong. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write this job application along with your bio-data.

Join our Creative Team! A renowned publishing house in Shillong –A NEW WORLD– is seeking a **talented illustrator** for children's books. Creative individuals with a passion for storytelling through art, welcome. Experience, not mandatory. Candidates with a degree/ diploma in Fine Arts/ Graphic Design may apply with 5 samples from portfolio illustrating a variety of work. Write to the Project Lead, 23-C Rosewood Lane, Shillong-793005

Letter to the Editor / Job Application - 5 Marks

Format-1; Content-2 ; Organisation of ideas-1 ; Accuracy-1

6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words.

5

A. Medical journals report that 53% of deaths in India are due to lifestyle diseases. Diseases like diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and heart disease have increased. Write an article for a medical journal on 'Lifestyle Diseases-Silent Killers' and your

understanding of the reasons behind the same. Offer suggestions on how one can reduce the risk of having such diseases and on ways to cope with them. You are Dr. Purohit Pal, a concerned citizen.

OR

B. Around 300 volunteers working with the NGO- 'Awaaz', were involved in the 'Each One Teach One' campaign, initiated by the district administration of Jharkhand, for more than a year. As Rajeev Chauhan, staff reporter of 'The Deccan Herald', write a report about this initiative covering all the details of the event.

ARTICLE /NEWS REPORT WRITING – 5 Marks

Format-1; Content-2 ; Organisation of ideas-1 ; Accuracy-1

SECTION C

LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT 40

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two extracts given. **1X6=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.* (A Roadside Stand)

- (i) The expression 'It is in the news' suggests
- it is good news for the roadside stand owners.
 - an important decision has been taken by the government.**
 - the roadside stand owners have protested against the government.
 - that the news was not there in the newspaper.

(ii) Read the Assertion and the Reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion : The poet complains that the rural people are exploited by the people in power.

Reason: The rural people reposed blind faith in the false promises of the people in power.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship.

- Both the Assertion and the Reason are true and the Reason is the correct explanation.**

- b) Both the Assertion and the 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.

(iii) Complete the following suitably:

In the line '*that are calculated to soothe them out of their wits*', the phrase "soothe them out of their wit" refers to _____

Ans: making the rural people so calm and passive that they stop thinking for themselves or questioning anything.

(iv) Bring out the irony in the expression 'they won't have to think for themselves'.

Ans: The irony in the expression 'they won't have to think for themselves' is that instead of helping the rural people become independent, the so-called help takes away their ability to make their own choices and decisions.

(v) Select the correct option from those given in brackets, to fill in the blanks:

The poet uses the expression 'greedy good-doers' to _____
(criticise/appreciate) the intention of the powerful people.

Ans: criticise

(vi) Complete the following suitably:

The tone of the poet in the above extract is _____

Ans: critical/sarcastic/ of disapproval—Any other suitable word

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.*

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

(i) 'Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand'. Through the above expression, the poet indicates:

- a) she sits comfortably; the burden is not serious.
- b) she sits under pressure, the weight falls heavily on her life.**
- c) she sits proudly; the tigers heavily impress the viewers.
- d) she sits idly; the embroidery heavily decorates the panel.

(ii) Select the option that has the same literary device as used in '*Still ringed with ordeals*'.

- a) Spotted leopards cannot hide in the jungle.

- b) Sun smiled happily on us.
- c) Her lovely voice was music to his ears.
- d) Life is like a box of chocolates.

(iii) Complete the following sentence with reference to the extract.

The tigers in the panel symbolise _____

Ans: strength, freedom and courage, which Aunt Jennifer herself lacked in her real life

(iv) State whether the statement given below is True or False:

"Find even the ivory needle hard to pull."

The above expression suggests that Aunt Jennifer is dying.

Ans: False

(v) Why has Aunt Jennifer created the tigers so different from her own character?

Ans. The tigers created by Aunt Jennifer are an expression of her desire to free herself from the constraints of her married life. She wants to be bold and fearless like her tigers.

(vi) The last line uses _____ to highlight courage and independence that survive beyond Aunt Jennifer's life.

- a) alliteration, personification, and symbolism
- b) personification, simile and alliteration
- c) metaphor, hyperbole and irony
- d) symbolism, alliteration and simile

Ans: a) alliteration, personification, and symbolism

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two extracts given. **1X4=4**

A.

Derry: What do you do all day?

Mr Lamb: Sit in the sun. Read books. Ah, you thought it was an empty house, but inside, it's full. Books and other things. Full.

Derry: But there aren't any curtains at the windows.

Mr Lamb: I'm not fond of curtains. Shutting things out, shutting things in. I like the light and the darkness, and the windows open, to hear the wind. (On the face of it)

i. How does Mr Lamb describe his house to Derry and what does it reveal about his personality?

Ans: He describes it as full of books and life, showing he is knowledgeable, thoughtful, and enjoys simplicity.

ii. Mr. Lamb: *I'm not fond of curtains. Shutting things out, shutting things in. I like the light and the darkness, and the windows open, to hear the wind.*

The above statement shows that Mr. Lamb was _____

1. open-minded
2. curious
3. reclusive
4. practical
5. observant
6. confined

a) 1, 2 and 5

b) 2, 3 and 6

c) 3, 4 and 6

d) 1, 4 and 5

Ans: a) 1, 2 and 5

iii. 'Confining' can be used to replace another word/phrase in the above extract without changing its meaning. The word/phrase is

Ans: shutting things in

iv. State if the following is True or False:

Mr. Lamb keeps curtains on the windows to shut out the outside world.

Ans: False

OR

B. *When I heard this, I didn't want to laugh any more, I felt terribly sad. How could they believe that it was disgusting if one of us held that package in his hands, even though the vadai had been wrapped first in a banana leaf, and then parcelled in paper? I felt so provoked and angry that I wanted to touch those wretched vadais myself straightaway. Why should we fetch and carry for these people, I wondered. Such an important elder of ours goes meekly to the shops to fetch snacks and hands them reverently, bowing and shrinking, to this fellow who just sits there and stiffs them into his mouth. The thought of it infuriated me. (Memories of Childhood)*

i. 'Such an important elder of ours goes meekly to the shops to fetch snacks and hands them.....'

The above statement shows that the person receiving them was _____

1. condescending.
2. unassuming.
3. submissive.
4. disdainful.
5. aggressive
6. domineering.

- a) 2, 3 and 6
- b) 1, 4 and 5
- c) 1, 4 and 6**
- d) 2, 3 and 4

ii. Identify any two words from the above extract that define the speaker's mood.

Ans: Terrible/ disgusted/ provoked/ wretched/ angry / infuriated
- or any other suitable word from the passage.

iii. 'Respectfully' can be used to replace another word in the above extract without changing its meaning. The word is

Ans: Reverently

iv. The given extract DOES NOT talk about

- a) author's realisation of her misconception.
- b) elders being treated well in her society.**
- c) the haughtiness of the 'fellow'.
- d) how the author was enraged.

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two extracts given. 1X6=6

A. Those were the days of mainly indoor shooting, and only five percent of the film was shot outdoors. I suppose the sets and studio lights needed the girls and boys to be made to look ugly in order to look presentable in the movie. A strict hierarchy was maintained in the make-up department. The chief make-up man made the chief actors and actresses ugly, his senior assistant 'second' hero and heroine, the junior assistant the main comedian and so forth. The players who played the crowd were the responsibility of the office boy. (Even the make-up department of the Gemini Studio had an 'office boy')

On the days when there was crowd-shooting, you could see him mixing his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players. The idea was to close every pore on the surface of the face in the process of applying make-up. (Poets and Pancakes)

i. What does the writer mean by the phrase 'indoor shooting' in the first line of the extract?

ii. Pick up one sentence from the first four lines that reflects the sarcastic tone of the writer.

iii. The hierarchy in the make-up department puts the 'office boy' in the _____ rung of the ladder. (lowest/top)

iv. Complete the following suitably.

On the days when there was a 'crowd-shooting' By the phrase *crowd-shooting*, the author refers to _____ -

v. Choose the correct option:

"..... mix his paint in a giant vessel and slapping it on the crowd players."

The choice of words like 'paint' and 'slapping' by the author reflects.

- a) the author's intention to degrade the office boy's role in the make-up department.
- b) the office boy's lack of seriousness
- c) the author's sarcastic and humorous writing style
- d) the author's dislike of the office boy

vi. Choose the correct option:

What does the following line from the extract showcase?

"A strict hierarchy was maintained in the make-up department."

- a) The office boy took all the decisions in the make-up department.
- b) A system of ranks according to importance of work was followed.
- c) Everyone was given an equal share of work in the department.
- d) Nepotism was prevalent in the make-up department.

Ans. i. 'Indoor shooting' means that most scenes of the film were shot inside the studio using artificial lighting, sets, instead of being filmed outside in natural surroundings.

ii "I suppose the sets and studio lights needed the girls and boys to be made to look ugly in order to presentable in the movie."

iii. lowest

iv. the scenes in which many background actors or extras were needed on set

v. c) author's sarcastic and humorous writing style

vi. b) A system of ranks according to importance of work was followed

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 how 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. Sophie felt a tightening in her throat, She went to look for her brother Geoff.*
(Going Places)

i. Sophie's mother lived a life of comfort and appreciation. (True/False)

Ans: False

ii. Choose the option that supports the contention coming through Derek's dialogue, 'She thinks money grows on trees, doesn't she. Dad?'

- a) Derek thought his sister to be unreasonable at times.
- b) Derek had no faith in Sophie's abilities to open a boutique.
- c) Derek thought of his sister as someone who was not realistic.**
- d) Derek was not at all happy about Sophie's habit of day dreaming.

iii. It could be inferred that Sophie's mother was fatigued and burdened. Choose the option listing the elements that form the basis of this inference.

- 1. Her sigh
- 2. Her delicate bow
- 3. Her apron's strings
- 4. Her crooked back

- a) (1), (2)
- b) (3), (4)
- c) (1), (4)**
- d) (2), (3)

iv. "Sophie felt a tightening in her throat." List any two feelings of Sophie in this context.

Ans: Sophie was feeling anxious and uneasy.

v. What impression does the reader get about Sophie's household and living conditions from the above extract?

Ans: Sophie's belonged to a humble background/house was dirty, cluttered, stinking, and clammy/ Mother was engaged in household jobs/ washing dishes, etc

vi. Which word from the following means the same as 'incompatible'?

- a) Incongruity**
- b) Fastened
- c) Cluttered
- d) Tightening

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 40 to 50 words:

2x5=10

(i) How does Kamala Das convey her feelings of love, concern, and fear of losing her mother in *My Mother at Sixty-Six*?

Ans: Kamala Das feels love and worry for her mother. Seeing her tired and pale makes her afraid of losing her. The poem shows the strong bond between mother and daughter and the fear of life's fragility. Her childhood fear of separation upsets her.

(ii) How does Keats describe the effect of beautiful things on human life in *A Thing of Beauty*?

Ans: Keats says that beautiful things, like nature and art, bring joy, peace and comfort to life. They uplift the mind, reduce sorrow, and provide endless happiness. They serve as a constant source of inspiration and delight for people in every situation.

(iii) How does Pablo Neruda show that staying quiet can help bring peace and self-reflection in *Keeping Quiet*?

Ans: Neruda says that being quiet and still helps people think about themselves, others, and the world. This pause encourages peace, understanding, and harmony. It reduces conflicts, and humans realise the importance of compassion, unity, and self-reflection.

(iv) Who does Anees Jung blame for the sorry plight of the bangle makers and why?

(Lost Spring)

Ans: Anees Jung blames the middlemen, the policemen, the lawmakers, the bureaucrats and the politicians for the sorry plight of the bangle makers. These people conspire against and exploit the poor bangle makers. They do not let them form co-operatives and compel them to join the same trade, blaming it on tradition.

(v) How did the Champaran movement highlight Gandhi's qualities as a true leader?

(Indigo)

Ans: Gandhi's willingness to endure personal risks and face arrest demonstrated the power of individual courage in challenging colonial oppression. As a true leader, he inspired thousands of peasants to overcome their fear of the British. He influenced the trajectory of the Indian independence movement and set a precedent for peaceful activism.

(vi) Write a short note on Umberto Eco's 'The Name of the Rose'. (The Interview II)

Ans: Umberto Eco's 'The Name of the Rose', is a serious novel, which delves into metaphysics, theology and medieval history. It enjoyed a mass audience. It dealt with the medieval past. He feels that the novel wouldn't have been so well received had it been written ten years earlier or later.

11. Answer **ANY TWO** of the following three questions in about 40 to 50 words:

2x2=4

(i) In *The Third Level*, why did the booking clerk refuse to accept the money?

Ans. The booking clerk refused to take Charley's money because it looked different from the currency used in 1894. The notes were smaller and not like the

old-style bills. The clerk thought Charley was trying to cheat him. He warned Charley not to try any tricks. This made Charley quickly leave the station.

(ii) What message does the story 'The Tiger King' give to the readers?

Ans. The story 'The Tiger King' gives the message that we cannot escape our fate, no matter how hard we try. The Tiger King tries to change his destiny by killing tigers, but he still meets his predicted end. The story teaches that pride and obsession can lead to unforeseen consequences.

(iii) What does Zitkala-Sa mean by 'eating by formula'? (Memories of Childhood)

Ans. By 'eating by formula', Zitkala-Sa means the strict and unfamiliar rules she had to follow during meals. She had to wait for bells and eat using a knife and fork, which was new and confusing for her. However, she says this was not the worst part because losing her hair and identity was much more painful and difficult to bear.

SET A2

(ii) 'They decided that the Maharaja must not come to know that he had missed the target'. Why did the hunters try to hide the truth from the Tiger king?

Ans. The hunters hid the truth because they were afraid of losing their jobs. The Maharaja rejoiced that he had killed the hundredth tiger. If he found out that the tiger only fainted and was not dead, he might get angry and punish the hunters. So, they shot the tiger secretly and kept the king's belief alive.

(iii) 'The words that Annan spoke to me that day made a deep impression on me.' What inference do you draw about the bond between Annan and Bama?

(Memories of Childhood)

Ans. This shows that Annan and Bama shared a close and caring bond. Annan treated Bama with love and respect. He took the time to explain the harsh truth about caste discrimination and guided her with good advice that only education can gain her respect.

12. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 120 to 150 words:5

A. How do *The Rattrap* and *Going Places* explore the theme of *reality versus expectation* and what lessons do they teach about handling life's surprises and ambitions?

Ans: Value Points:

- Both stories highlight the **gap between expectations and reality**- In *The Rattrap*, the peddler dreams of wealth but discovers that **money can change people** and bring unexpected consequences.

- In *Going Places*, Sophie imagines **fame, freedom, and an exciting life**, but reality brings **challenges, misunderstandings, and limitations** she had not anticipated.
- The rattrap seller dreams of **wealth and comfort**, but when he gets money, he discovers that **money can change people** and bring unexpected problems. He feels **disappointed** when he takes the bait and steals the crofter's money.
- Sophie in *Going Places* dreams of **freedom and fame**, imagining a glamorous life as a designer or actress or meeting Danny Casey. But in reality, she faces **rules at home, responsibilities, and challenges** she did not expect.
- They teach that **success and happiness come from balancing dreams with reality**, making **responsible and practical choices**.

OR

B. In *'The Last Lesson,'* the narrator regrets not learning properly due to a lack of guidance. Even today, school dropouts and illiteracy remain a serious problem in our country. What qualities should administration, teachers, parents and students possess to overcome this challenge and ensure education for all?

Ans: Value Points

- In *"My Last French Lesson,"* the narrator **regrets not learning French** properly, showing how missing guidance can affect a student.
- **Administration** should **provide good schools, trained teachers**, and facilities so children can continue learning and avoid dropouts.
- **Teachers**, like M. Hamel, **should be patient, encouraging, and inspiring, making learning interesting** and helping students understand its importance.
- **Students** need **curiosity, discipline, and determination** to study regularly, unlike the narrator who only realized the value of learning at the last moment.
- **Community and parents** should **support and motivate children to attend school regularly**.
- Together, these steps can reduce illiteracy, prevent dropouts, and ensure every child gets a chance to learn, so no one regrets missing education.

13. Answer **ANY ONE** of the following two questions, in about 120 to 150 words: **5**

A. *"If we sheltered a white man in our house we should be arrested and if we turned him over as a prisoner, he would certainly die," Sadao said*

How does the above statement reveal Dr. Sadao's moral dilemma and what lesson does it teach about duty and humanity?

(The Enemy)

Ans: Value Points

- The line reveals Dr. Sadao's **intense moral and emotional conflict** between **loyalty to his country** and his **duty as a doctor**.
- He realises **both choices have severe consequences** — **sheltering the enemy risks arrest, social condemnation; surrendering him means death**.

- • Highlights the **clash between patriotism and humanity**, showing difficulty in **balancing moral values** with **national duty**.
- • Sadao's **inner struggle** reflects **ethics, compassion**, choosing to **save a life** despite **personal risk**.
- • Shows how **humanity and duty can clash**, especially in **times of war**.
- • Teaches that **real courage** is **choosing kindness** and **saving a life**, even when **risky**.

OR

B. In “*Journey to the End of the Earth*,” the speaker faces the harsh realities of Antarctica. How does the text inspire us to show courage and responsibility in today’s world?

Ans : Value Points

- The lesson “*Journey to the End of the Earth*” shows the **extreme challenges of Antarctica** — bitter cold, isolation, and harsh winds — which constantly test the **courage and endurance** of the explorers.
- It highlights **human determination and curiosity**
- The speaker emphasises **respect for nature**, showing that despite human bravery, the natural environment is **powerful, unpredictable, and must be approached with care**.
- Daily precautions, teamwork, and careful planning demonstrate that **small, careful actions are essential** to achieve the larger goal of survival and exploration.
- It teaches that **adventure and courage come with responsibility**; real bravery is not reckless risk-taking but **balancing curiosity with mindfulness and respect for the environment**.