

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Lucknow Region

Pre-board Examination –II, 2020-21

ENGLISH CORE-301

CLASS- XII

Time allowed- 3 Hrs.

Maximum Marks- 80

General Instructions:

1. This paper is divided into two sections: A & B. Both 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 subjective questions.

Part -A (40 Marks)

READING

(20 marks)

1. Read the passage given below.

(1x10=10)

1. There were hundreds of us in the lecture hall, watching the descent of the Vikram Lander, with the Pragyan rover descending on the lunar surface, its thrusters in full force, slowing down the free fall of the delicate component of the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft, all 1498 kg of it hurtling down, pulled by the gravity of Moon. It had separated from the rest of the spacecraft four days ago, leaving the orbiter in its path about 100 km above the lunar surface, where it is going to spend at least 7 years, with its eight excellent instruments sending back crucial scientific information about the Moon, its environment and even the Sun.

2. We were applauding as the green dot on the plot of the landing trajectory, showing the altitude and the range of the lander, reached about two km above the surface, at which point its speed was about 50 m/s. Far too high still, we thought- it had to come well below 5 m/s for a soft landing as it reached the ground. Then our spirits fell as it deviated from the expected course, and got stuck, indicating that we had lost communication. This is the phase, which the ISRO Chairperson Dr K Sivan had described as the, "15 minutes of terror". We still haven't recovered communication, but thermal imaging from the orbiter's cameras has located the site of the landing on Sunday. The extent of the damage to Vikram is still being assessed. If things had gone according to plan, India would have joined an elite club of three other nations that have landed in one piece on an extra-terrestrial surface—the Moon, Mars or an asteroid. If the Rover had been out on its 14 days prowl. We would have learnt about the traces of gaseous elements near the surface of the Moon and also about the low level Moonquakes from the embedded seismometer.

3.Chandrayaan-2 was launched in July on the GSLV-3, taking a complicated, fuel efficient path to the Moon lasting over 40 days. In contrast with the Apollo missions being launched on the more powerful Saturn-V launchers in the 1960s, this mission was kept affordable, but sent the mission on a long journey fraught with possible pitfalls. Till the last minute the entire manoeuvre had worked like clockwork, showing the high level of sophistication that ISRO is capable of in its planning, design, fabrication and execution. This, in my mind, is the major success story of ISRO so far in this mission.

4.We are now hopeful that we will gain contact with Vikram, lovingly named after the founder of ISRO in its birth centenary year. Even if some of the instruments can be made to work, we would have valuable information and images close to the lunar surface and learn more about what to do and what not to in our next attempt. It is also time to look beyond the landing event. Chandrayaan-2 is so much more than the landing event which seemed to have caught most of the attention of the public and the media. On the rest of the vehicle in orbit, we have two very sophisticated imagers. The high-resolution Orbiter Camera photographs the lunar surface to a resolution of 0.3 m, the best in any Moon mission so far, by any nation. Another terrain-mapping camera takes photos in multiple colours. Since all previous missions have concentrated on the equatorial region and northern hemisphere of the Moon, Chandrayaan-2's work in the southern polar region will be unique.

5.The CLASS instrument on the orbiter will quantify the amount of calcium, magnesium, sodium and other useful elements on or below the lunar surface through X-ray fluorescence. The HRS instrument, also on the orbiter will tell us about water and minerals under the surface. In addition to detecting them, it can also help us quantify and tell us about how hard they would be to extract. Why do we need this information? It is inevitable that one day humans will have to go out into the solar system to look for resources, and even for habitation India as the most populous nation of the earth will have to play a leading role.

6.Even if we choose not to live on the Moon, we need a Moon base, as a refueling station, or as an assembly or service we have to know what resources are available on the Moon. What is a small part of this mission not successful? In my mind, the journey of ISRO team that has brought the mission to where it is now is more important than the task that will be performed. Similarly, the complicated journey of the spacecraft from the Earth to and around the Moon has adequately demonstrated what Indian technology can achieve.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer any ten of the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option:

(a) How many days ago was the Vikram Lander separated from the spacecraft?

- (i) one day (ii) two days
(iii) three days (iv) four days

(b) For how long was it supposed to remain upon the lunar surface?

- (i) 5 years (ii) 6 years

(iii) 7 years (iv) 8 years

(c) Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that lists the CORRECT order of the sentences.

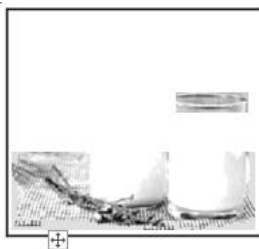
1. The extent of the damage to Vikram is still being assessed.
2. The HRS instrument, also on the orbiter, will tell us about water and minerals under the surface.
3. Vikram Lander deviated from the expected course, and got stuck, indicating that we had lost communication.
4. Chandrayaan-2 was launched in July on the GSLV-3.

(i) 1, 2, 4, (ii) 3, 1, 4, 2
(iii) 3, 2, 4, 1 (iv) 2, 3, 4, 1

(d) Chandrayaan-2 was supposed to land on.....

(i) Southern Pole (ii) Northern Pole
(iii) Lunar surface (iv) Equatorial region

(e) The CLASS instrument on the orbiter will quantify the amount of which of the following element?



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

- (i) Image 1
(iii) Image 3
(ii) Image 2
(iv) Image 4

(f) Chandrayaan-2 was launched in July on the.....

(i) ALSV-5 (ii) GSLV-3
(iii) HRS (iv) GSLV-4 1.2

(g) Why were the scientists happy when they saw the green dot on the trajectory?

- (i) Because it told about water and minerals under the surface.
(ii) Because it indicated the altitude and the range of the Lander

- (iii) Because it told about the presence of gaseous elements
- (iv) Because it reached in expected course of time

(h) What is the function of CLASS instrument on the orbiter?

- (i) It gives information about the moon
- (ii) it shows images of the moon
- (iii) It quantifies the amount of calcium, magnesium, iron, sodium and other useful elements on or below the lunar surface.
- (iv) It measures the air pressure on the moon

(i) Which things are required on the moon even if we don't make it our habitat?

- (i) A moon base (ii) A refuelling station
- (iii) A service station (iv) All of these

(j) Which word in the passage means same as 'distinctive'? (Para 4)

- (i) Concentrated (ii) unique
- (iii) Valuable (iv) sophisticated

(k) Pick the option that tells the feeling of the writer when the Lander deviated from expected course, and got stuck, indicating that it had lost communication.

- (i) Frustrating (ii) provoking
- (iii) Disheartening (iv) hostile

2. Read the passage carefully: (10 marks)

1. Education in India is primarily provided by public schools (controlled and funded by the government at three levels: central, state and local) and private schools. Under various articles of the Indian Constitution, free and compulsory education is provided as a fundamental right to children aged 6 to 14. The approximate ratio of public schools to private schools in India is 7:5.

2 India has made progress in increasing the attainment rate of primary education. In 2011, approximately 75% of the population, aged between 7 and 10 years, was literate India's improved education system is often cited as one of the main contributors to its economic development Much of the progress, especially in higher education and scientific research, has been credited to various public institutions.

3. At the primary and secondary level, India has a large private school system complementing the government run schools, with 29% of students receiving private education in the 6 to 14 age group. Certain post-secondary technical schools are also private. The private education market in India had revenue of US\$450 million in 2008 but is projected to be a US \$40 billion market.

Education in Republic of India

Ministry of Education

Minister of Education: Ramesh Pokhriyal

National education budget

Budget 4.1% of GDP

General details

Primary languages Indian languages, English

System type Federal, State or Private

Established 1 April 2010

Compulsory
Education

Literacy (2011)

Total 74%

Male 82.2%

Female 69.5%

Enrolment

Total (N/A)

Primary 95%

Secondary 69%

Post-Secondary 25%

4. As per the Annual Status of Education Report (ASEH) 2012, 96.5% of all rural children between the ages of 6-14 were enrolled in school. This is the fourth annual survey to report enrolment above 96%. India has maintained an average enrolment ratio of 95% for students in this age group from year 2007 to 2014. As an outcome the number of students in the age group 6-14 who are not enrolled in school has come down to 2.8% in the year academic year 2018 (ASER 2018). Another report from 2013 stated that there were 229 million students enrolled in different accredited urban and rural schools of India, from Class 1 to XII, representing an increase of 23 lakh students over 2002 total enrolment, and a 19% increase in girl's enrolment.

5. While quantitatively India is inching closer to universal education, the quality of its education has been questioned particularly in its government run school system. While more than 93 percent of children attend primary school, just 40 percent of Indian adolescents attend secondary school (Grades 9-12). Since 2000, the World Bank has committed over \$2 billion to education in India. Some of the reasons for the poor quality include absence of around 25% of teachers every day, States of India have introduced tests and education assessment system to identify and improve such schools.

6 Although there are private schools in India, they are highly regulated in terms of what they can teach, in what form they can operate (must be a non-profit to run any accredited educational institution) and all other aspects of operation. Hence, the differentiation of government schools and private schools can be misleading.

7. In January 2019, India had over 900 universities and 40,000 colleges. In India's higher education system, a significant number of seats are reserved under affirmative action policies for the historically disadvantaged Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes. In universities, colleges, and similar

institutions affiliated to the federal government, there is a maximum 50% of reservations applicable to these disadvantaged groups, at the state level it can vary. Maharashtra had 73% reservation in 2014, which is the highest percentage of reservations in India.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer any ten of the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option:

(a) The approximate ratio of public schools to private schools in India is.....

(i) 5:7 (ii) 1:9

(iii) 7:5 (iv) 9:7

(b) Pick the option that lists statements that are NOT TRUE according to the passage.

1 India's improved education system is often cited as one of the main contributors to its economic development.

2. At the primary and secondary level, India has a large private school system

3. Report from 2013 stated that there were 329 million students enrolled in different accredited urban and rural schools of India.

4. Maharashtra had 33% reservation in 2014, which is the lowest percentage of reservations in India.

(i) 3 and 4 (ii) 2 and 4

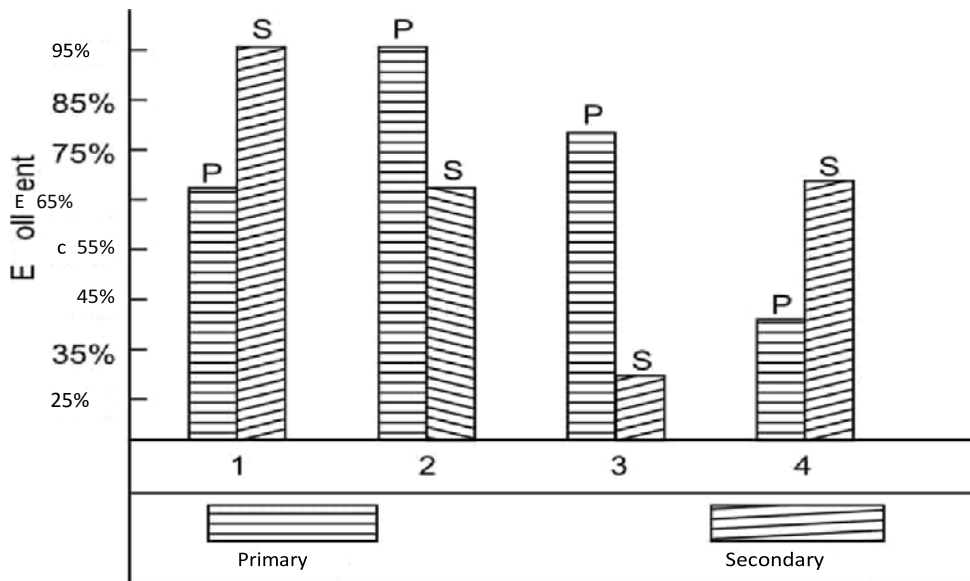
(iii) I and 2 (iv) 1 and 3

(c) India's improved education system is often cited as one of the main contributors to its

(i) Overall development (ii) Social development

(iii) Economic development (iv) Political development

(d) Based on the Statistical data in the passage, which option represents the correct graphical representation of enrolment rate in Primary and Secondary schools?



- (i) Image 1 (ii) Image 2
 (iii) Image 3 (iv) Image 4

e) According to table, what was the literacy rate of females in the year 2011?

- (i) 74% (ii) 82.2%
 (iii) 69.5% (iv) 69%

f) Based on the given statistical data in the passage, choose the option that lists the Statements that are TRUE with respect to the education policy-

- 1 Enrolment in Secondary Schools was 69%.
 1. National Education Budget passed by the ministry is 3.1%
 3. The literacy rate of women was 69.5% in 2011
 4. As per 2011 census; total literacy rate was 82.2%

- (i) 1 and 4 (ii) 2 and 4
 (iii) 3 and 4 (iv) 1 and 3

(g) Much of the progress, especially in higher education and scientific research, has been attributed to.....

- (i) Private institutions (ii) Public institutions
 (iii) Government institutions (iv) Semi government institution

(h) One of the reasons for the poor quality of education in Government-run schools in India is.....

- (i) Poor infrastructure (ii) Absence of around 25% of teachers every day
 (iii) Low enrolment of girls (iv) No aid given by the government

(i) Mark the state of India with the highest percentage of reservation in colleges and universities?

- (i) Maharashtra (ii) Odisha
(iii) Bihar (iv) Uttar Pradesh

(j) Which word in the passage means same as 'registered'? (Para 4)

- (i) Survey (ii) Accredited
(iii) Enrolled (iv) Representing

(k) Arrange the given sentences in the sequence in which they appeared in the passage.

- i. In universities, colleges, and similar institutions, there are a maximum 50% of reservations applicable to the disadvantaged groups.
2. Certain post-secondary technical schools are also private.
3. The approximate ratio of public schools to private schools in India is 7:5
4. While more than 93 percent of children attend primary school, just 40 percent of Indian adolescents attend secondary school.

- (i) 1, 2, 4, 3 (ii) 4, 1, 2, 3
(iii) 3, 2, 4, 1 (iv) 3, 1, 4, 2

LITERATURE

(20 marks)

2. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY TWO of the three given, by answering the questions that follow. (4+4=8 marks)

A) "I will learn to drive a car", he answers, looking straight into my eyes. His dream looms like a Mirage amidst the dust of streets that fill his town Firozabad, famous for its bangles. Every other family in Firozabad is engaged in making bangles. It is the centre of India's glass- blowing industry where families have spent generations working around furnaces, welding glass, making bangles for all the women in the land it seems.

1. Name the lesson and the author of this passage.

- a) Last Lesson, Alphonse Daudet
- b) The Lost Spring, Anees Jung
- c) Lost Spring, Anees Jung
- d) Stories of Stolen Childhood, Anees Jung

2. Who does 'I' refer to in the first line?

- a) Saheb

- b) Frariz
- c) Mukesh
- d) Anees Jung

3 What is the dream of 'I'?

- a) He wants to become a pilot.
- b) He wants to become a Motor Mechanic.
- c) He wants to become an Engineer
- d) He wants to become a bangle maker

4. What is Firozabad famous for?

- a) Industries
- b) Glass blowing industries
- c) Rag Picking
- d) All of these

B) The old man was just as generous with his confidence as with his porridge and tobacco. The guest was informed at once that in his days of prosperity his host had been a crofter at Ramsjo iron works and had worked on the land. Now that he was no longer able to do day labour, it was his cow which supported him. Yes, that bossy was extraordinary. She could give milk for the creamery every day, and last month he had received all of 30 Kronor in payment.

1. Who is the guest mentioned in the passage?

- a) The iron master
- b) The crofter
- c) The daughter of the ironmaster
- d) The Peddler

2. What did the host do in his days of prosperity?

- a) Sold milk
- b) Worked in the iron mill
- c) Was a crofter
- d) Worked as a blacksmith

3. Why was the old man trying to be generous to the guest?

- a) He was showing etiquettes

- b) He wanted to impress him
- c) He was showing off
- d) He wanted the guest to feel at home

4. The meaning of the word crofter is.....

- a) One who takes something on rent?
- b) One who works on a rented farm?
- c) One who gives a farm on rent?
- d) None of these.

C) “That young master is so proud of his skill to save life that he saves any life,” the cook said contemptuously. She split a fowl’s neck skilfully and held the fluttering bird and let its blood flow into the roots of a wistaria vine. Blood is the best of fertilisers, and the old gardener would not let her waste a drop of it. “It is the children of whom we must think,” Yumi said sadly. “What will be their fate if their father is condemned as a traitor?”

1. Who is “that young master” referred to in the first line?

- a) The General
- b) The American
- c) Dr Sadao
- d) None of these

2. “She split a fowl’s neck skilfully and held the fluttering bird”. What does this reflect?

- a) She was very skilled in splitting hens
- b) She was in a hurry to cook food
- c) Her disrespect and anger towards her master
- d) Her dislike for the American

3. What information does this paragraph give us about the servants?

- a) They like Sadao and his wife very much
- b) They dislike Sadao and his wife
- c) They are bothered about their own safety
- d) They are unable to understand Dr Sadao’s concern for humanity

4. Which of the following is a synonym of ‘condemn’?

- a) Praise

- b) Acquit
- c) Sentence
- d) Please

4. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE of the two given by answering the questions that follow- (1 x 4 =4)

**A) Those who prepare green wars,
Wars with gas, wars with fire,
Victory with no survivors,
Would put on clean clothes and
Walk about with their brothers in the shade, doing nothing.**

1. What sort of wars is mentioned in the above lines?

- a) World Wars.
- b) Green wars, wars with poisonous gases and wars with the fire.
- c) Civil Wars
- d) Cold Wars

2. What kind of victory will it be?

- a) Worth celebration
- b) Victory will be meaningless.
- c) Victory never seen before.
- d) None of the above.

3. How should the supporters of war behave?

- a) Put on clean clothes.
- b) Walk with their brothers
- c) Walk leisurely doing nothing.
- d) All of the above.

4. Name the poetic device used in 'Put on clean clothes' and ' in the shade'

- a) Pun
- b) Imagery
- c) Metaphor
- d) Simile

B) A thing of beauty is a joy forever

**Its loveliness increases, it will never pass into nothingness;
But will keep a bower quiet for us,
And a sleep full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.**

1. Name the poem and the poet of these lines-

- a) A Thing of Beauty, John Keats
- b) Thing of Beauty, John Keats
- c) The Thing of Beauty, John Keats
- d) None of the Above

2. How is a thing of beauty a joy forever?

- a) A thing of beauty is the source of constant joy
- b) Its beauty goes on increasing.
- c) It will never pass into nothingness.
- d) All of the Above

3. What do you understand about a 'bower'?

- a) A pleasant place in the shade on a tree.
- b) A pleasant place in the shade under a tree.
- c) A pleasant place in the shade on an Island.
- d) All of the Above.

4. 'Sleep full of sweet dreams' Name the figure of Speech.

- a) Alliteration
- b) Metaphor
- c) Simile
- d) Comparison

5. Attempt ANY EIGHT questions from the TEN given below. (1x 8 = 8)

a) The story "The Last Lesson" highlights which human tendency?

- A) Linguistic Chauvinism
- B) Procrastination
- C) Courage
- D) Cowardice

b) What forces the children to live a life of exploitation?

- A) Greed
- B) Extreme Poverty
- C) Peers
- D) Parents

c) What lesson did Douglas learn from his experience of drowning?

- A) Learnt swimming
- B) Love for swimming
- C) Swimming is not difficult
- D) Face the fear

d) What made the Peddler finally change his ways?

- A) Edla's beauty
- B) His mistaken identity
- C) His greed
- D) Kindness and care

e) Why did the ticket clerk accuse Charley of cheating and threatened to hand him over to the police?

- A) Because Charley gave the clerk the modern currency which was not applicable.
- B) Because Charley had stolen the old currency from the window.
- C) Because Charley had picked up the tickets without paying money.
- D) The money Charley paid to the clerk was fake.

f) Which literary device is used by the poet in “An endless fountain of immortal drink, pouring unto us from the heaven’s brink”?

- A) Personification
- B) Allegory
- C) Imagery
- D) Metaphor

g) ‘Keeping Quiet’ uses fishermen to symbolize man’s

- A) Persistent pollution of the natural environment
- B) Rapid degradation of human values.
- C) Limitless exploitation of natural resources.

D) Constant participation in acts of terror.

h) Why was Louisa, Charley's wife worried?

A) Knowing the incident of the Third Level

B) For not getting tickets

C) Trains were delayed

D) Sam was scared

i) Why did the General not pass orders to arrest Dr.Sadao for giving shelter to a white man?

A) Because he trusted him

B) Because he needed him

C) General was not in good health and needed his services

D) None

j) In the poem, My mother at Sixty-six, all that the poet did was smile and smile and smile..., her smile is

A) Sudden, In response to her mother's.

B) Meaningful and loaded with love.

C) Accompanied with tears of farewell.

D) To cheer her mother

Part B (40 marks)

WRITING

(16 marks)

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

(1x 3)

A) You are Harsh/Harsha of 101, Nirala Nagar, Lucknow. You want to sell your flat as you are shifting to another city. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in The Times of India under the classified columns.

OR

B) You are Rahul/Ragini, President of the Mental Wellness Club of your school. You decide to organize an online workshop to raise awareness regarding Covid- 19. This workshop will be conducted by the school counsellor. Write a notice in about 50 words, informing the students of class XI-XII about the workshop.

7. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

(1x 3)

A) You are Anmol/ Amolika of M-22, Kalyanpur, Kanpur You have just purchased a new house. You decide to have a house-warming ceremony and invite your friends. Write an informal invitation in 50 words giving all necessary details.

OR

B) You are Dr Amrit, an eminent educationist. You have been invited to preside over an Inter-Regional Declamation Contest by Neelmani/Neelam, the president of English Literary Club of K V Raebareli. Write a reply accepting the invitation in not more than 50 words.

8. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

(1x 5)

You are Aditya of 14, Tagore Sadan, Barabanki. You have seen an advertisement in The Hindu for the post of Programme Coordinator in All India Radio, Barabanki. Apply for the post with complete bio- data. (120- 150 words)

All India Radio, Barabanki
Male/Female, Experienced, Expert in Indian folk culture and music, age 25-35 years, fluent in English and Hindi, free travel cab, salary Rs 70,000/month Apply within a week of the notification of the advertisement to the Director, All India Radio, Gomti Nagar, Barabanki.

OR

You are an educated and well-informed person. You feel upset about the menace of the sub-standard online Coaching /Tutorial sites. Often, they misguide the parents and charge huge amount of money. This is adversely affecting the future of the students. Write a letter to the Editor of a National Daily highlighting this corrupt practice. Sign the letter as Abhishek/Akanksha. (120-150 words)

Commercialization of education, conducting so many tests and charging a hefty amount as various funds, lack of individual attention, adversely affects the academic standards, difficult for a common parent to afford, curriculum is 'covered' in a poor manner, sole factor that governs the online coaching business is the money etc

9. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

(1x 5)

You are Raj/Rekha. You are concerned about the stressed behaviour of both parents and students during pandemic Covid-19. Write an article in 120-150 words to be published in a local daily on 'How to combat stress during the pandemic' giving ideas to enhance mental strength and meaningful PARENT- WARD rapport for making the atmosphere relaxed and encouraging during this trying time. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas.

- Most of the students and their parents are under constant pressure especially during this pandemic
- students should not be left alone to struggle in the most difficult and significant period of their life
- parents can help to solve various problems amicably
- meaningful parent-ward rapport can help a student overcome stress
- supportive environment, developing a range of coping strategies

OR

You are Neeraj/Natasha, President of your school's EK BHARAT SHRESHTH BHARAT (EBSB) Club. Members of the EBSB Club of your school recently visited an orphanage run by a well-known NGO, KOSHISH. They were greatly impressed with the atmosphere in the orphanage. Write a report in 120-150 words describing their visit and experience. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas.

- Clean surroundings
- Nice and caring staff
- Well-fed children with glowing faces
- Toys and games for kids. etc.

LITERATURE

(24 marks)

10. Attempt ANY FIVE out of the six questions given below. (30-40 words each)

(2x.5=10)

1. Kamala Das speaks of 'an old familiar ache'. What do you think is the reason of this feeling?
2. Comment on the significance of the villagers sitting at the back in M. Hamel's classroom.
3. 'Little has moved with time, it seems, in Firozabad.' State any one reason why the writer says so?
4. What does Stephen Spender want for the children of the slum?
5. How does the near-drowning experience affect Douglas?
6. What is the theme of the poem 'A Thing of Beauty'?

11. Attempt ANY TWO out of the three questions given below. (30-40 Words)

(2x2=4)

- i. Why does Mr. Lamb say. "So, you are not lost, are you" Not altogether?"
- ii. Why did Jo think Roger Skunk was better off with the new smell?
- iii. What was the chief concern of Dr Sadao's father?

12. Attempt ANY ONE of the following questions in 120-150 words. (1x5=5)

Firozabad presents a strange paradox. Contrast the beauty of the glass bangles of Firozabad with the misery of the people who make them.

OR

What impression do you form of Mr. Hamel on the basis of your study of the story 'The Last Lesson'?

13. Attempt ANY ONE out of the following questions in 120-150 words. (1x5=5)

Different generations can have different views. Such differences should be respected. What is the difference between Jo's and Jack's views on Roger Skunk's story?

OR

'The modern world is full of insecurity, fear, war, worry, and stress.' What are the ways in which we attempt to overcome them?
