

**Class X Session 2025-26**  
**Subject - English (Lan & Lit) Sample**  
**Question Paper - 2**

*Time allowed : 3 hours*

*Maximum marks : 80*

**General Instructions :**

1. *The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, WRITING & GRAMMAR and LITERATURE.*
2. *Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.*

**SECTION-A**

**READING SKILLS (20 MARKS)**

1. **Read the following text.** (10 m)  
(1) There are many among us who, given the opportunity to leave India, are only too happy to go. But whenever I have had the chance to go away, I have held back. Or something has held me back. What is it that has such a hold on me, but leaves others free to where they will, sometimes never to come back? A few years ago, I was offered a well-paid job in a magazine in Hong Kong. I thought about it for weeks, worried myself to distraction, and finally, with a great sigh of relief, turned it down. My friends thought I was crazy. They still do. Most of them would have jumped at a comparable offer, even if it had meant spending the rest of their lives far from the palmfringed coasts or pine-clad mountains of this land. Many friends have indeed gone away, never to return, except perhaps to get married, very quickly, before they are off again! Don't they feel homesick, I wonder.  
(2) I am almost paranoid at the thought of going away and then being unable to come back. This almost happened to me when, as a boy, I went to England, longed to return to India, and did not have the money for the passage. For two years I worked and saved like a miser (something I have never done since) until I had enough to bring me home.  
And 'home' wasn't parents and brothers and sisters. They were no longer here. Home, for me, was India. So what is it that keeps me here? My birth? I take too closely after a Nordic grandparent to pass for a typical son of the soil. Hotel receptionists often ask me for my passport. 'Must I carry a passport to travel in my own country?' I ask. 'But you don't look like an Indian,' they protest. 'I'm a Red Indian,' I say.  
(3) India is where I was born and went to school and grew to manhood. India was where my father was born

and went to school and worked and died. India is where my grandfather lived and died. Surely that entitles me to a place in the Indian sun. If it doesn't, I can revert to my mother's family and go back to the time of Timur the Lame. How far back does one have to go in order to establish one's Indianness? It must be the land itself that holds me. But so many of my fellow Indians have been born (and reborn) here, and yet they think nothing of leaving the land. They will leave the mountains for the plains; the villages for the cities; their country for another country, and if other countries were a little more willing to open their doors, we would have no population problem-mass emigration would have solved it.

(4) But it's more than the land that holds me. For India is more than a land. India is an atmosphere. Over thousands of years, the races and religions of the world have mingled here and produced that unique, indefinable phenomenon, the Indian: so terrifying in a crowd, so beautiful in himself. And oddly enough, I'm one too. I know that I'm as Indian as the postman or the paanwala or your favorite MP. Race did not make me an Indian. Religion did not make me an Indian. But history did. And in the long run, it is history that counts.

*Ruskin Bond*

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage.**

- i. Why did the author work and save like a miser for two years? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- ii. "Don't they feel homesick, I wonder." By "they" the author meant: (1)  
A. Those who dreamt of getting a job in a foreign land.  
B. Those who wanted him to take the job at Hong Kong.  
C. Those who have taken a job in a foreign land and never returned home.  
D. Those who left India for England.
- iii. From the sets (1) - (5) below, identify two sets of antonyms. (1)  
1. Opportunity - Chance  
2. Revert - Retrograde  
3. Establish - Destroy  
4. Terrifying - Tranquilizing  
5. Indefinable - Inexpressible  
A. 2 and 3                    B. 3 and 4                    C. 1 and 5                    D. 4 and 5
- iv. Complete the sentence appropriately.  
The author having a Nordic grandparent gave him a \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
- v. What is the author trying to explain with the following line? Answer in about 40 words. (2)  
"It must be the land itself that holds me."
- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately.  
"We would have no population problem- mass emigration would have solved it." The tone of the author here is \_\_\_\_\_. (1)

vii. Choose the one sentence that has the incorrect usage of the word “typical”. (1)

- A. It's typical of the boss to criticise someone when they're down.
- B. Typical! I do all the work and she gets all the glory.
- C. On a typical day, our students go to classes from 7.30 am to 1pm.
- D. You can know typical of his daily routine.

viii. Which of these statements is false? (1)

- A. The author was afraid of leaving India and unable to return home.
- B. The job offer was to work in a magazine.
- C. Home for him meant his brothers and sisters—his family.
- D. He did not enjoy proving his Indianness.

**2. Read the following text. (10 m)**

(1) 'Vegetables' are important protective food and highly beneficial for the maintenance of health and prevention of disease. They contain valuable food ingredients which can be successfully utilized to build-up and repair the body.

(2) Vegetables are valuable in maintaining alkaline reserve in the body. They are valued mainly for their high vitamin and mineral contents. Vitamins A, B and C are contained in vegetables in fair amounts. Faulty cooking and prolonged careless storage can, however, destroy these valuable elements. There are different kinds of vegetables. They may be edible roots, stems, leaves, fruits and seeds. Each group contributes to diet in its own way. Roots are high in energy value and good sources of vitamin B group. Seeds are relatively high in carbohydrates and proteins.

(3) Leaves, stems and fruits are excellent sources of minerals, vitamins, water and roughage. It is not the green vegetables only that are useful. Farinaceous vegetables consisting of starchy roots such as potatoes, sweet potatoes, the tubers and legumes are also valuable. They are excellent sources of carbohydrates and provide energy to the body.

(4) To derive maximum benefits of their nutrients, vegetables should be consumed fresh as far as possible. Most vegetables are best consumed in their natural raw state in the form of salads. An important consideration in making salads is that the vegetables should be fresh, crisp and completely dry. If vegetables have to be cooked, it should be ensured that their nutritive value is preserved to the maximum extent possible. The following hints will be useful in achieving this:

- (i) The vegetables, after thorough wash, should be cut into as large pieces as possible.
- (ii) The cut pieces should be added to water which has been brought to boiling point and to which salt has been added. This is necessary to avoid loss of B-complex vitamins and vitamin C.
- (iii) Only bare minimum water necessary to cover vegetables should be used. Spinach and other tender greens need no water.
- (iv) Vegetables should not be exposed to atmospheric air. They should be covered tightly while cooking.
- (v) They should be cooked for as short a time as possible. They should be cooked till they are just soft to touch for easy digestion.

(vi) They should be served hot.

To prevent loss of nutrients in vegetables, it would be advisable to steam or boil vegetables in their own juices on a slow fire and the water or cooking liquid should not be drained off. If the vegetables are boiled hard and for a long time in a large quantity of water, they would lose their nutritive and medicinal values.

(5) No vegetable should be peeled unless it is so old that the peeling is tough and unpalatable. In most root vegetables the largest amount of minerals is directly under the skin and these are lost if vegetables are peeled. Soaking of vegetables should also be avoided if taste and nutritive value are to be preserved. Finally, vegetables should not be cooked in aluminium utensils. Aluminium is a soft metal and is acted upon by both food acids and alkalis. There is scientific evidence to show that tiny particles of aluminium from foods cooked in such utensils enter the stomach and that the powerful astringent properties of aluminium injure the sensitive lining of the stomach, leading to gastric irritation, digestive and intestinal ailments.

(6) An intake of about 280 grams of vegetables per person is considered essential for maintenance of good health. Of this, leafy vegetables should constitute 40 per cent, roots and tubers 30 per cent and the other vegetables like brinjals, ladies fingers the remaining 30 per cent.

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage.**

i. Vitamins present in vegetables can be destroyed due to \_\_\_\_\_. (1)  
A. faulty cooking and consumption      B. poor storage and exposure to rain  
C. faulty cooking and poor storage      D. poor storage and poor eating habits

ii. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)  
Carbohydrates and proteins are higher in \_\_\_\_\_.  
iii. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)  
The ideal way to eat vegetable is \_\_\_\_\_.  
iv. To avoid loss of B-complex vitamins and vitamin C while cooking, what are the two things we should follow? (1)  
1. Cut the vegetables in small pieces  
2. Cut the vegetables in large pieces  
3. The vegetables should be added to boiling salted water  
4. Bare minimum water to be used with no salt  
A. (1) and (4)      B. (2) and (4)      C. (2) and (3)      D. (1) and (3)

v. Justify the following, in about 40 words. (2)  
"Vegetables should not be cooked in aluminium utensils".

vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. (1)  
The correct percentage of vegetables to be consumed for good health is \_\_\_\_\_.  
vii. Infer how we can derive the maximum benefit from vegetables' nutrients. Answer in about 40 words. (2)  
viii. Which of these following statements is false? (1)  
A. Vegetables should be cooked for as short a time as possible.

- B. Vegetables should not be cooked in aluminium utensils.
- C. Roots are high in energy value and good sources of vitamin A group.
- D. An intake of about 280 grams of vegetables per person is considered essential for maintenance of good health.

## SECTION-B

### WRITING SKILLS AND GRAMMAR (20 MARKS)

#### GRAMMAR (10)

**3. Complete ANY TEN of twelve of the following tasks, as directed. (1 × 10)**

**i. Choose the correct option to complete the sentence. (1)**

It was believed that the Olympic Games \_\_\_\_\_ a Greek hero.

- A. were founded by B. was founded C. are found D. were found

**ii. Identify the error in the given sentence and supply its correction. (1)**

Children visiting the park are amused by the monkeys play in the cages.

Error	Correction

**iii. Choose the correct option to fill in the blank. (1)**

The principal has suddenly called for an assembly at the school auditorium. We \_\_\_\_\_ the junior classes from 5-7.

- A. was asked to inform B. were asked to inform
- C. were make to inform D. were enquired to inform

**iv. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line. (1)**

Neither India nor Pakistan have yet acquired the capability to produce nuclear weapons.

Option No.	Error	Correction
A.	nor	or
B.	have	has
C.	acquired	acquiring
D.	weapons	weapon

**v. Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option. (1)**

Alex and I went ahead to give the information. I knocked on the door and Alex \_\_\_\_\_ to come forward.

- A. said for the class monitor B. told the class monitor
- C. requested the class monitor D. ordered the class monitor

vi. Identify the error and supply its correction for the sentence given below. (1)

Twenty miles are a long way to walk.

Error	Correction

vii. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option. (1)

What have you \_\_\_\_\_ to discover?

A. been able      B. able      C. were able      D. had been

viii. Fill in the blank with the most suitable option. (1)

The train \_\_\_\_\_ by the time we reach the station.

A. was leaving      B. has left      C. will have left      D. had left

ix. Choose the correct option to fill in the blank. (1)

You \_\_\_\_\_ check with Kim if he's free this Friday.

A. would      B. should      C. could      D. will

x. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option. (1)

I didn't want to hand over my precious chocolate so I requested, “ \_\_\_\_\_ ?” She smiled and said keep it and have it afterwards.

A. I will eat it here      B. May I eat it here      C. Wouldn't I eat it here      D. Shouldn't I eat it here

xi. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the headline of a newspaper about global warming. (1)

Increasing global warming led to the death of \_\_\_\_\_ (much/more/many) Australians.

xii. Sunaina and Prateek had a conversation about the upcoming event at their college. Report Prateek's question. (1)

Do you have any idea how many of our classmates will be participating?

## WRITING (10)

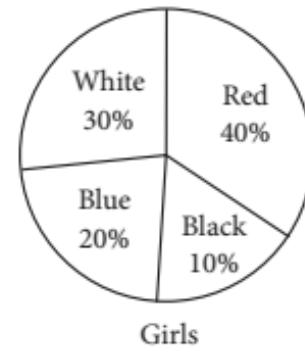
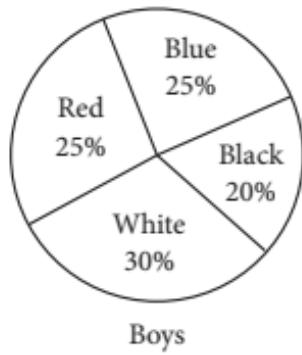
4. A. Roadside vendors occupy most of the space on roads disturbing the flow of traffic and causing difficulties even to the pedestrians. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, expressing your views and suggesting ways and means to curb this problem. You are Rosie, 15, Navkunj Apartments, Delhi. (5)

OR

4. B. You are Rakesh, member of NGO Prakirti. Write a letter to the Editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, for a public movement to clean the Yamuna river. (You must introduce yourself, describe how the people are to be blamed for polluting the river and suggest the need for installing water treatment plant to clean the river.) (5)

5. A. The given pie chart shows the favourite colors of students of a school. Study it carefully and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words. (5)

Total number of students = 1500 each boys and girls



OR

5. B. "Tourism in India means growth of India". (5)

Write a paragraph to analyse the given argument in about 120 words.

You could think about what alternative explanations might weaken the given conclusion and include rationale/evidence that would strengthen/counter the given argument.

## SECTION-C

### LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 MARKS)

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. (5)

A. The house—the only one in the entire valley—sat on the crest of a low hill. From this height one could see the river and the field of ripe corn dotted with the flowers that always promised a good harvest. The only thing

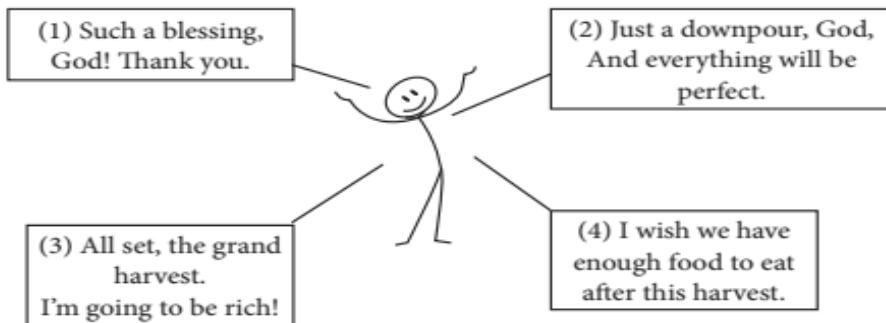
the earth needed was a good downpour or at least a shower. Throughout the morning Lench -who knew his fields intimately- had done nothing but see the sky towards the north-east.

i. The field of corn dotted with the flowers means that \_\_\_\_\_. (1)

ii. Lench wished for a downpour or shower. Pick the option that correctly lists the correct match for kinds of rain. (1)

1. heavy rain	p. light rain that falls in very fine drops
2. thunderstorm	q. very heavy tropical rain

iii. Based on the given extract, what is Lencho NOT likely to think while looking at his field? (1)



iv. Why was Lencho looking at the sky towards the north-east? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

OR

B. OOP: I haven't a clue. I've been to seven galaxies, but I've never seen anything like this. Maybe they're hats. (He opens a book and puts it on his head.) Say, maybe this is a haberdashery!

OMEGA: (bowing low) Perhaps the Great and Mighty Think-Tank will give us the benefit of his thoughts on the matter.

THINK-TANK: Elementary, my dear Omega. Hold one of the items up so that I may view it closely. (Omega holds a book on the palm of her hand.) Yes, yes, I understand now. Since Earth creatures are always eating, the place in which you find yourselves is undoubtedly a crude refreshment stand.

OMEGA: (to Iota and Oop) He says we're in a refreshment stand.

OOP: Well, the Earthlings certainly have a strange diet.

i. Choose the option that associates the person to a haberdashery. (1)

- A. Jagdeep is a primary school teacher who teaches English.
- B. Tanishq is a tailor who makes garments for men only.
- C. Falguni is a chemist who manufactures her own medicine.
- D. Asma is an engineer who works on designing space stations.

ii. Choose the option that explains what Think-Tank meant by saying-Elementary, my dear Omega. (1)

- A. "It's simple general knowledge, Omega."
- B. "It's something that a primary school person won't understand, Omega."

- C. "It's quite obviously deducible, Omega."
- D. "It's a little more than complicated, Omega."

iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.

The quality of being crude has been allotted to the refreshment stand because \_\_\_\_\_.

Why did Omega bow low before Think-Tank? Answer in about 40 words.

Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given.

## The way a crow

Shook down on me

## The dust of snow

From a hemlock tree

Has given my heart

## A change of mood

And saved some part

Of a day I had rued.

Choose the option that

Choose the option that lists the possible feelings of the poet prior to the experience shared in the poem. (1)

1. reassured	2. disappointed
3. curious	4. demotivated
5. thankful	6. disheartened
7. impulsive	
A. 1, 3 and 7	B. 2, 4 and 6
C. 5 and 7	D. 1 and 3

ii. Synecdoche is a poetic device that uses a part to represent the whole. E.g. That's a great set of wheels! (Set of wheels has been used for car.) (1)

Pick an example of synecdoche from the poem.

- A. Has given my heart/A change of mood
- B. The way a crow/Shook down on me
- C. The dust of snow/From a hemlock tree
- D. And saved some part/Of a day I had rued

iii. Choose the option showing the reason NOT corresponding with "... a crow / Shook down on me / The dust of snow". (1)

- A. The crow's landing on the branch of the tree.
- B. The shivering of the crow, due to the cold.

- C. The readjustment of position of the crow on the branch.
- D. The cawing of the crow hidden in the foliage.

iv. What does the presence of the hemlock tree signify in the poem? Justify your answer in about 40 words. (2)

OR

B. He should be lurking in shadow,  
Sliding through long grass  
Near the water hole  
Where plump deer pass.

i. Which fact DOES NOT connect with the significance of the water hole for the tiger? (1)  
A. Many tigers chase prey into the water and hold the victim's head under water until it drowns.  
B. Prey feeds in the water on water-lilies, and often wanders into the middle of the water hole, where it is vulnerable and easy for the tiger to kill.  
C. Prey that has quenched its thirst ensures consumption of hydrated meat for the tiger.  
D. Chasing the panicked prey from shallow to deep water where the tiger grabs it.

ii. Pick the option that DOES NOT use 'lurking' correctly to fill in the blank. (1)  
A. The thug was \_\_\_\_\_ in the alley late evening, for unsuspecting passers-by.  
B. The hyena was \_\_\_\_\_ in its den after a good meal.  
C. The detective cautioned her team about the \_\_\_\_\_ dangers likely to impact the case.  
D. The prejudices \_\_\_\_\_ beneath the surface create misunderstandings.

iii. 'shadow' here, refers to the shadow of \_\_\_\_\_. (1)

iv. What do the first two lines of the poem signify? Answer in about 40 words. (2)

8. Answer ANY FOUR of the following five questions, in about 40-50 words. (4 × 3 = 12)  
i. How does the tiger walk in the cage? (3)  
ii. Where did Buddha preach his first sermon? What was it all about? (3)  
iii. What risk did the narrator take while flying? Describe his feelings. (3)  
iv. What is the Chinese legend associated with the discovery of tea? (3)  
v. Describe the appearance of the dragon. (3)

9. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions, in about 40-50 words. (2 × 3 = 6)  
i. What did Horace Danby wonder about for a moment? What did he think and decide? (3)  
ii. Why is Sulekha called 'Bholi'? (3)

iii. What would have happened to Matilda if she had confessed to her friend that she had lost her necklace? (3)

10. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1 × 6 = 6)

A. You have learned and understood the poems, Fog and The Trees. You are aware of the main themes of the poem. Prepare a speech draft with reference to the central themes in both poems in not more than 120 words.

You may begin this way:

Good morning, everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss the central themes of the two pieces of literature 'Fog' and 'The Trees'...

You may end this way:

To conclude, I'd like to say that...

Thank you.

OR

B. 'Paper has more patience than people.' Justify. (From the Diary of Anne Frank)

11. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 100-120 words. (1 × 6 = 6)

A. People should always try to live within their limits. Elaborate on the basis of chapter, 'The Necklace'.

OR

B. School education turned Bholi from a dumb cow into a bold girl. How did she save her father from a huge expense and become his support in his old age?

1. i. The author remembered the time when, as a boy, he worked hard and saved like a miser for two years because he was longing to return to India, which he considered his home, and did not have enough money for the passage.  
 ii. C. Those who have taken a job in a foreign land and never returned home.  
 iii. B. 3 and 4  
 iv. reason for hotel receptionists asking for his passport  
 v. The author is trying to explain that India is his homeland, where he was born, and that it is a place with distinct landforms, people, and cultures. He cannot even think of leaving his country because of his love for and attachment to it.  
 vi. sarcastic  
 vii. D. You can know typical of his daily routine.  
 viii. C. Home for him meant his brothers and sisters—his family.

2. i. C. faulty cooking and poor storage  
 ii. seeds  
 iii. raw in salad  
 iv. C. (2) and (3)  
 v. Aluminium is a soft metal that is affected by both food acids and alkalis, so it should not be used to cook vegetables. There is scientific proof that dishes cooked in these utensils include minute particles of aluminium that enter the stomach, where their potent astringent properties harm the sensitive lining of the stomach and cause gastric irritation, digestive issues and intestinal disorders.  
 vi. 40% of leafy vegetables, 30% of tubers and roots and 30% of other vegetables

3. i. A. were founded by  
 ii. 

Error	Correction
play	playing

  
 iii. B. were asked to inform  
 iv. 

Option No.	Error	Correction
B.	have	has

  
 v. C. requested the class monitor  
 vi. 

Error	Correction
are	is

  
 vii. A. been able  
 viii. C. will have left  
 ix. B. should  
 x. B. May I eat it here  
 xi. many  
 xii. Prateek asked Sunaina if she had any idea how many of their classmates would be participating.

4. A.

15, Navkunj Apartments Delhi 7 March 20XX The Editor The Times of India New Delhi	<b>Subject :</b> Traffic Congestion caused by Roadside Vendors Sir, Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I would like to draw the attention of the concerned authorities to the appalling condition of the roads leading to the main market. The entire stretch is full of people. All sorts of traffic can be seen here. Roadside vendors occupy most of the space on roads. They cover the pavements and leave no room for parking. What is worse, they occupy at least one-third of the road and disturb the flow of traffic. The worst hit are the pedestrians. They are virtually caught between the devil and the deep sea. Moving on the road has become a nightmare for them. We have already brought this problem to the notice of municipal authorities, but no tangible action has been taken so far. I think that certain steps are essential. The vendors must be issued licence and allotted specific space. Those who break the rules must be fined. Prompt action on the part of the authorities will curb this problem and make the flow of traffic free and safe for the citizens. Thank you Yours faithfully Rosie
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OR

4. B.

Prakirti Delhi  
20 March 20xx  
The Editor  
Hindustan Times  
New Delhi  
**Subject :** Need for people's movement for a clean Yamuna  
Dear Editor  
I am Rakesh, member of NGO Prakriti. I am writing to you in order to highlight the deteriorating condition of river Yamuna.  
The city of Delhi is getting contaminated water from river Yamuna. The residents are to be blamed for this. They pollute the river with garbage, sewage and filth. The river water is full of bacteria, plastic, chemicals and other waste materials. It is unfit for consumption.  
The people have been demanding a Water Treatment plant. The authorities have not yet responded to the repeated requests.  
I request you to highlight the problem in your newspaper and arouse public interest. We all need to get together in order to get the plant set up in the area.  
Thank you  
Yours sincerely  
Rakesh  
(Member Prakirti)

5. A. The given pie charts show the colour preferences of students of a school. The preferred colours are blue, red, black, white and the total number of students participated in the survey is 1500.

The most preferred colour by boys is white which consists of 30% of the total data. Red and blue stand at position two of favourite colours levelling it off at 25% each. And according to the given data black is the least preferred colour choice with only 20% students preferring it.

If we look at the data of girls the majority preferred red colour which consists of 40% of total number. The next preferred colour is white which is chosen by 30% of girl. The least preferred choices are blue and black accounting for 20% and 10% respectively.

So to conclude the given data and draw comparison, it is evident that both the genders preferred different colours as their most favourite. The girls preferred red whereas the boys preferred white. However, the least preferred colour choice of both the genders is same which is colour black.

The given pie charts clearly show the colour choices of girl and boy students of a particular school and their specific data.

OR

5. B. The development of tourism industry will definitely lead to development of the country as a whole. India is a land of beautiful landscapes, rivers and places of religious, historical and cultural importance. We have innumerable tourist destinations which if used to their full potential can bring about a lot of development in the country. Tourism being one of the biggest and fastest-growing industries globally, affects the economic, socio-cultural, environmental and educational resources of nations.

Improving tourism industry in India would thus contribute to the development of the nation in many spheres. It will have many positive effects on our economy. It will help in the growth and development of various industries directly linked with the tourism industry such as those pertaining to transportation, accommodation, wildlife, arts and entertainment. It also helps in the creation of new jobs. A lot of revenue will also be generated through foreign exchange on payments received for goods and services provided. The development of tourism also enhances the living conditions of the local people.

6. A. i. a good crop can be expected  
ii. D. 1-r, 2-t, 3-p, 4-q, 5-s  
iii. D. Option (4)  
iv. Lenchu was an experienced farmer who was looking at the sky towards the north-east because, from his experience in farming, he could tell easily that the clouds from the side of the north-east would bring rain, so he was gazing at them waiting for the rain to come and flourish his harvest.

OR

B. i. B. Tanishq is a tailor who makes garments for men only.  
ii. C. "It's quite obviously deducible, Omega."  
iii. it produces food that is unrefined and unprocessed in nature  
iv. Omega bowed low before Think-Tank as a mark of recognition and supremacy. Omega thought since they were unable to understand what the place where they had landed was, the mighty and most intelligent Think-Tank could give them the benefit of his thoughts on the matter.

7. A. i. B. 2, 4 and 6  
ii. A. Has given my heart/A change of mood  
iii. D. The cawing of the crow hidden in the foliage.  
iv. A hemlock tree is a tree that signifies poison and toxicity because all parts of the tree are poisonous. The poet is in a bad mood, and the presence of the hemlock tree in the poem symbolises his depressed state of mind and negative mood.

**OR**

B. i. C. Prey that has quenched its thirst ensures consumption of hydrated meat for the tiger.  
ii. B. The hyena was \_\_\_\_\_ in its den after a good meal.  
iii. long grass  
iv. The first two lines of the poem signify that the tiger is hiding in the shadow of the long grass to catch its prey (a plump deer). It would wait there patiently, and when the deer came close enough, it would ambush it.

8. i. Even though the tiger is captive in a cage, he walks in a proud manner. He walks quietly. He ignores the visitors. But his eyes show that he is very angry on being imprisoned in confined concrete walls. But he is helpless.  
ii. Gautama Buddha preached his first sermon at the city of Benares, which is regarded as the holiest of the bathing places on the river Ganges. It was about the inscrutable suffering of the loss of a loved one and that death is undeniable. It is the most truthful aspect of human life.  
iii. The narrator decided to take the risk to fly through the stormy clouds because he wanted to enjoy his holiday with his family back in England. But when the narrator entered the clouds, the aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air and all the instruments like compass, etc. stopped working due to bad weather conditions.  
iv. There are two legends associated with the origin of tea. One of them tells us about the Chinese emperor who accidentally dropped a few leaves from the twigs used to light the fire under the pot in which he was boiling his drinking water. It made the water taste delicious. Those leaves were said to be tea leaves.  
v. Custard, the dragon had a formidable appearance, with sharp teeth, toes like daggers, spikes on back and scales on the belly. Its mouth was a fireplace and the nose was always fuming like a chimney. However, in sharp contrast to the appearance its temperament was extremely timid.

9. i. After entering the drawing room where the safe was, Horace Danby looked at the poor painting behind which the safe happened to be and thought for a moment about collecting the pictures instead of books. But instantly he thought that paintings would take up more space, so the books are good for his small house.  
ii. Sulekha is called 'Bholi' because she is a simpleton due to her suffering some brain damage after falling off a cot when she was ten months old. As a result, she is not as smart as children of her age.

iii. Truth and honesty would have saved Matilda from her doom. If only she has been courageous enough to confess to her friend the truth of the necklace, she would have come to know that it was a fake one that cost a mere five hundred francs. She would not have spent her husband's entire inheritance and borrowed eighteen thousand francs to pay for its replacement. In fact, she would have saved herself and her husband from ten long years of crushing poverty, misery and back breaking labour.

10. A. Good morning, everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss the central themes of the two pieces of literature, 'Fog' and 'The Trees'.

In the poem 'Fog', the poet uses an interesting metaphor to describe an element of nature. By suggesting that the movements of the fog are similar to those of a cat, he subtly equates the fog to the cat. Just like a cat, it moves stealthily and enters a city without anyone noticing it. Then it spreads over the entire city, just like a cat sits for a while in one place and observes its surroundings. Finally, the fog gradually dissipates from the city as well, like a cat.

In the poem 'The Trees', the poet supports the liberty of the trees from human control by using the themes of freedom and liberation. The poet claims that humans have destroyed the forest and snatched it from the trees, which they called their home. They are no longer in their natural environment. But now that there are so many powerful initiatives urging people to recognise the value of trees, they are returning to their original homes.

To conclude, I'd like to say we should understand nature and value its sacrifice for us.

Thank you.

**OR**

B. Anne believes that people are not interested in other's life as they are stuck with their own problems so it is really hard to get someone who can give importance to her diary. People feel bored and become impatient when we talk about our problems.

On the other hand when we write our feelings and thoughts on paper, we can write as long as we want without thinking of anyone's intention as it doesn't react. We can share our feelings, both sad and happy. It never gets bored or stops us to write. It behaves like a true friend who keeps your secret and listens to you patiently. So she thinks that paper has more patience than people.

11. A. Guy de Maupassant's short story 'The Necklace' is about a young woman, who daydreams about wealth, social status and a life of luxury. She is truly happy, when she is able to have that life for one night adorned with a beautiful dress and a borrowed necklace, which ultimately brings her doom. As the story begins we find her living in delusions of grandeur, imagining a better life. One can be ambitious in life and dream big. But it is very important to remain true to oneself.

Adorning that expensive dress and seemingly expensive necklace Matilda creates a make believe for herself that she belongs to high strata of the society. Lost in her imaginary world, she enjoys herself to the fullest on that night, only to realise later that her life was going to be changed forever. She falls into the trap of drudgery and grinding poverty. In order to return the necklace to Mme. Forestier they had to give up all their comforts, Matilda starts doing her household chores and in this whole process loses ten years of youth and carefree life. There is a lot that we can learn from Matilda's life but most importantly staying true to one's reality and trying to live within the means of one's life. Even though the aspirations of a human being have no limit but it is important to stick to ground reality.

**OR**

**B.** Owing to Bholi's handicaps and pock marked body, nobody was willing to marry Bholi. Finally when Bishamber Nath, a well-to-do grocer from another village agreed to marry Bholi, sans dowry, her parents' happiness knew no bounds. Bishamber Nath was about forty-five

to fifty years of age, limped and had grown-up children from his first marriage. Being from another village, he was unaware of Bholi's condition. Therefore, when he saw Bholi's face for the first time near the sacred fire, Bishamber Nath staggered. He demanded a dowry of five thousand rupees from Bholi's father and threatened to leave without marrying her. Ramlal wept and requested Bishamber Nath to take two thousand rupees instead of five and marry Bholi as their family honour was at stake. In spite of many pleadings, Bishamber Nath did not agree. Hence, a helpless Ramlal had to pay the former the hefty sum of money as dowry. However, Bholi, whom education had made a smart, courageous and confident girl, asked her father to take back the money from Bishamber Nath as she no longer wished to have such a 'greedy and contemptible coward' as her husband. Hearing Bholi speak her mind, sent Bishamber Nath and his wedding party packing. School education turned Bholi from a 'dumb cow' into a bold girl. This transformation is evident from the way she saved her father from a huge expense.