

Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, Lucknow Region

Pre-board Examination, 2020-21

English (Core) (Code-301)

Class XII

Time Allowed: 3 Hours

Maximum Marks: 80

General Instructions:

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

Part A (40 Marks)

READING

(20 marks)

1. Read the passage given below.

(1x10 = 10)

In a disarmingly frank talk at the Indian Merchants Chamber in Mumbai, the Japanese Ambassador in India dwelt at length on issues that exercise the minds of Japanese investors when they consider investment proposals in India. Raising the question —What comparative advantages does India offer as an investment market?, he said though labour in India is inexpensive, wage levels are offset by productivity level to a large extent. Acknowledging that the vastness of the Indian market is a great inducement for investment in manufacturing industry, he wondered if it was justifiable to provide that overseas remittance of profit in foreign exchange be fully covered by exchange earnings as had been done.

Significantly, on the eve of the Prime Minister's visit to Japan, the government delinked profits repatriation from exports, meeting this demand. The Ambassador said foreign investors needed to be assured of the continuity and consistency of the liberalisation policy and the fact that new measures had been put into force by means of administrative notifications without amending government laws acted as a damper. The Ambassador pleaded for speedy formulation of the exit policy and pointed to the highly restrictive control by the government on disinvestment by foreign partners in joint ventures in India.

While it is all too easy to dismiss critical comment on conditions in India contemptuously, there can be little doubt that if foreign investment is to be wooed assiduously, we will have to meet exacting international standards and cater at least partially to what we may consider the idiosyncrasies of our foreign collaborators. The Japanese too have passed through a stage in the fifties when their products were

derided as sub-standard and shoddy. That they have come out of that ordeal of fire to emerge as an economic superpower speaks as much of their doggedness to pursue goals against all odds as of their ability to improvise and adapt to internationally acceptable standards.

There is no gainsaying that the past record Japanese investment is a poor benchmark for future expectations. For attaining a level field for equal play, India will have to accelerate reforms in all fields. Economic reforms embarked on in early 1990s have almost reached their saturation and new areas for reforms will not only have to be identified, but also be implemented in an expedite manner. Stability in implementing laws will definitely pave the path of reforms, as we all know what havoc the retrospective implementation of some laws produced in India. To reap the demographic dividends, India will have to cater to the needs of the aspiring young population.

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven that follow.

i. The author has appreciated the Japanese for their

- a) quality of products manufactured in the fifties.
- b) passing through an ordeal.
- c) perseverance in raising quality of products.
- d) future expectations.

ii. According to the Japanese Ambassador, which of the following motivates the foreign investors to invest in Indian manufacturing industry?

- a) very large scope of Indian market
- b) overseas remittance of profit in foreign exchange
- c) assurance of continuity of the liberalization policy
- d) high productivity levels

iii. The purpose of the author in writing this passage seems to be to

- a) discourage foreign investment in India.
- b) critically examine Indian investment environment.
- c) paint a rosy picture of India's trade and commerce.
- d) criticize government's liberalization policy.

iv. Which of the following suggestions were expected by the Japanese Ambassador?

- (A) speedy formulation of the exit policy
 - (B) imposing restrictions of disinvestment by foreign partners in joint ventures in India
 - (C) continuity and consistency of the liberalization policy
- a) All the three
 - b) A and B only

- c) B and C only
- d) A and C only

v. According to the Japanese Ambassador, India offers a comparative advantage to foreign investors in terms of

- a) inexpensive labour
- b) abysmally low wage levels
- c) higher productivity
- d) None of these

vi. For seeking more and more foreign investment, the author suggests that we should

- a) satisfy fully the whims of our foreign collaborators.
- b) dismiss all critical comments on Indian conditions.
- c) link profit repatriations to exports.
- d) raise the quality of product to match international standards.

vii. From the passage it can be inferred that the author is

- a) a political commentator.
- b) a secretary of the Japanese Ambassador.
- c) a Japanese investor.
- d) an Indian investor.

viii. The author attributes Japan's emergence as an economic superpower to

- (A) their ability to overcome any ordeal.
- (B) their tenacity and perseverance despite unfavourable circumstances.
- (C) their ability to improvise and adapt to globally acceptable quality levels.

- a) A and B only
- b) B and C only
- c) A and C only
- d) All the three

ix. Which of the following statement(s) is/are true about the critical comments on investment conditions in India?

- (A) These comments are difficult to be countered.
- (B) These comments are received from various international quarters.
- (C) These comments are based more on biases than on facts.

- a) Only C
- b) Only B
- c) Only A
- d) A and B only

x. Choose the most appropriate synonym of the word “ASSIDUOUSLY”.

- a) persistently
- b) hastily
- c) feebly
- d) deliberately

xi. Choose the most appropriate antonym of the word “JUSTIFIABLE”.

- a) unreasonable
- b) formidable
- c) irrecoverable
- d) unscrupulous

2. Read the passage given below.

With no concept of Open Defecation Free (ODF) and solid waste processing at just 18% in the urban areas, it was clear that an accelerated approach was necessary to achieve the Prime Minister’s vision of Swachh India within the time frame of five years. A framework was, therefore, needed to bring about rigour in progress monitoring and a spirit of healthy competition amongst cities and States to improve their performance in key cleanliness parameters. It was this underlying thought that led to the conceptualization and implementation of Swachh Survekshan, the annual cleanliness survey conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) that has today taken shape of the largest urban sanitization survey in the world.

The journey that started in 2016 with only 73 cities with million plus population has grown manifold today with 4,242 cities in 2020. Hence, the Survekshan’s scale of coverage has gone up by nearly 60 times covering the entire urban India.

Till date, five rounds of Swachh Survekshan have been conducted and the Protocol for the 6th edition has been launched on July 3, 2020. While the first three rounds adopted a mix of paper-based evaluation methodology, the survey from 2019 onwards have been completely digital and paperless.

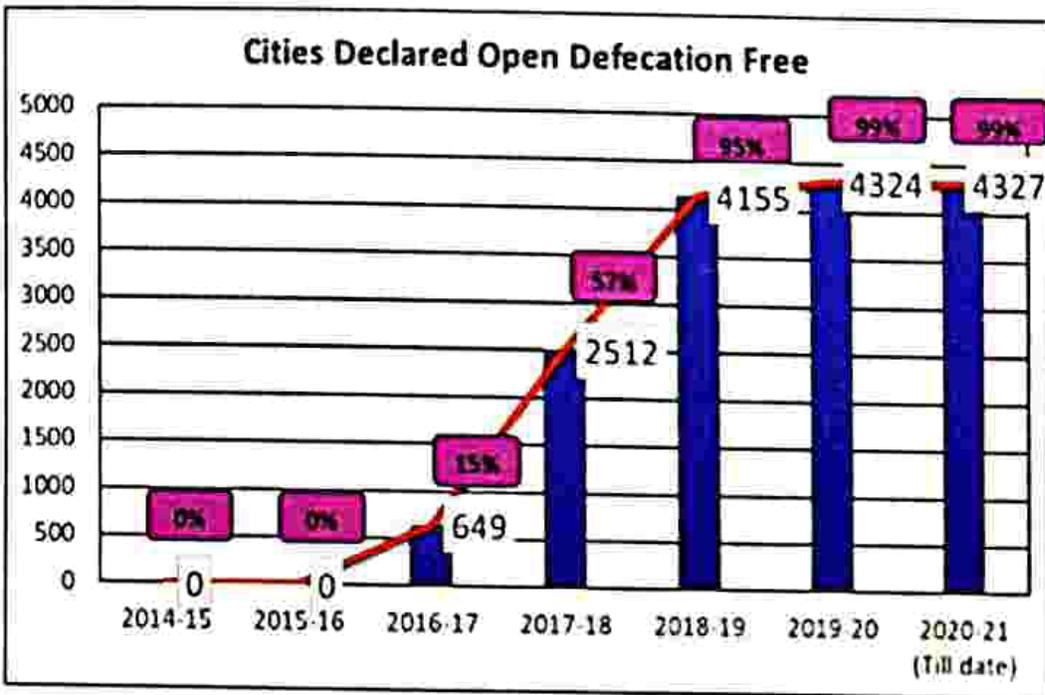
The design of Swachh Survekshan is based on three key pillars as follows:

1. Service Level progress: evaluating ODF status, waste collection and disposal of solid waste
2. Citizens’ voice: Direct feedback from citizens
3. Certification: Ministry’s certification protocols, viz, star rating for garbage free cities and ODF/ODF+/ODF++/Water+

While the actual assessment is conducted every year, between January 4th – 31st across all ULBs, it is preceded with Swachh Survekshan League with the objective of

sustaining the on-ground performance of cities along with continuous monitoring of service level performance.

Today, urban India has not just become ODF but has moved beyond the Mission mandate to focus on maintaining hygiene and cleanliness of community/public toilets, wastewater treatment and faecal sludge management through ODF+ and ODF++ Protocols. As on date, 1319 cities have been certified ODF+ and 489 cities have been certified ODF++, which may be largely attributed to the Swachh Survekshan framework which has built in these indicators for promoting sustainability.

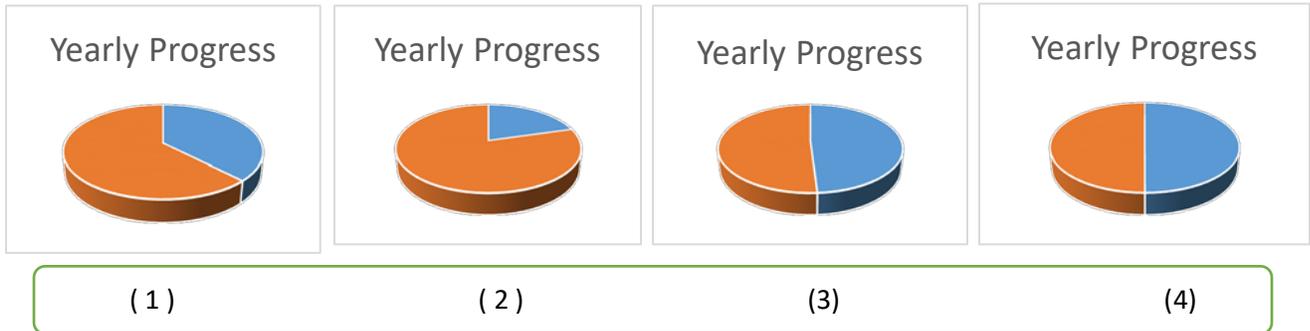


Graph 1: Progressing in achieving ODF

On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the eleven that follow.

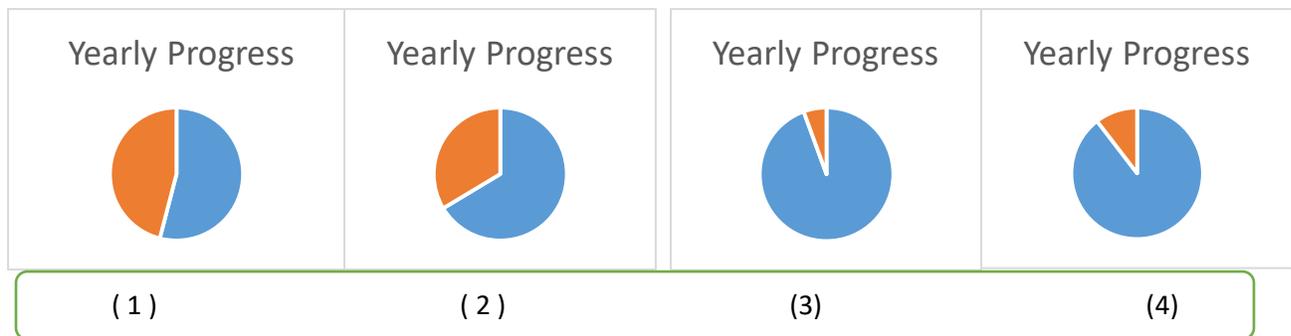
- i. According to the passage, what led to the conceptualization of Swachh Survekshan?
 - I. Achieving Swachh India with in a period of five years
 - II. To Promote competition among cities to maintain cleanliness parameters
 - III. To assess the progress of cities only
- a. Only I
- b. Only II and III
- c. Only I and II
- d. All of the above

- ii. Since its commencement in the year 2016, the annual cleanliness survey has grown by:
- 5800%
 - 6000%
 - 5500%
 - 5000%
- iii. Before conducting the actual assessment, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA)
- Conducts evaluation of ODF++
 - Conducts a Swachh Servekshan League
 - Both of the above
 - None of the above
- iv. According to the graph, which of the following depicts the progress of the years 2016-17 and 2017-18?



- Option (1)
 - Option (2)
 - Option (3)
 - Option (4)
- v. Annual Cleanliness Survey built in indicators like ODF+ and ODF++ to
- To sustain cleanliness
 - To Promote competition for achieving goals of the state
 - To promote sustainability
- Only I
 - Only II and III
 - Only I and III
 - All of the above
- vi. According to the graph outlining the progress in achieving ODF, which two sets of the year depict the maximum progress?
- 2015-2017
 - 2016-2018
 - 2017-2019

- d. 2018-2020
- vii. **Based on the given graphical representation of data, which of the following statement(s) are TRUE?**
- I. No city has been declared as ODF city in the year 2015-16
 - II. The rate of progress in achieving ODF is constant
 - III. Number of cities declared as ODF cities constantly grew
- a. Only I and III
 - b. Only II and III
 - c. Only I and II
 - d. All of the above
- viii. **Which of the following graphical representation depicts gap between the number of cities yet to be declared as Open Defecation Free of the years 2016-17 and 2018-19?**



- a. Option (1)
 - b. Option (2)
 - c. Option (3)
 - d. Option (4)
- ix. **According to the passage, which of the following may be termed as TRUE?**
- I. It is easier to get ODF status than ODF+
 - II. The number of cities attaining ODF++ status is more than ODF+ status
 - III. Real assessment of various protocols is conducted in the month of January every year.
- a. Only I, II and III
 - b. Only II and III
 - c. Only II and III
 - d. Only I and III
- x. **Citizens' Voice is one of the key pillars of Annual Cleanliness Survey. How is it conducted?**
- a. By evaluating the progress of cities only on ODF status
 - b. By asking them to assess the ODF++ status only
 - c. By collecting direct feedback on cleanliness issues of their city
 - d. All of the above

- xi. In January 2021, which round of the Annual Cleanliness Survey is going to be conducted?
- 5th round
 - 6th round
 - 7th round
 - 8th round

LITERATURE

(20 marks)

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

(A)

While I was wondering about it all, M. Hamel mounted his chair, and, in the same grave and gentle tone which he had used to me, said, "My children, this is the last lesson I shall give you. The order has come from Berlin to teach only German in the schools of Alsace and Lorraine. The new master comes tomorrow. This is your last French lesson. I want you to be very attentive."

What a thunderclap these words were to me!

i. Who is 'I' in the given extract?

- The Narrator
 - Franz
 - Mr. M. Hamel
- Only I and II
 - Only II and III
 - Only II
 - Only I and III

ii. The grave and gentle tone of Mr. M. Hamel is a testimony of his

- Realization of sense of loss
 - Self-realization how he neglected his duties
 - Greatness as a teacher.
- Only I
 - Only II
 - Only II and III
 - Only I and II

iii. "What a thunderclap these words were to me!" In the given words the mood of the speaker is:

- somber
- joyous
- melancholic
- astonished

iv. Mr. M Hamel tells everyone to be 'very attentive' because

- I. His pupils often postponed their learning
- II. His pupils lacked attentiveness
- III. He himself was self-conscious of his mistakes

- a. Only I
- b. Only II
- c. Only I and II
- d. Only II and III

(B)

The world had, of course, never been very kind to him, so it gave him unwonted joy to think ill of it in this way. It became a cherished pastime of his, during many dreary ploddings, to think of people he knew who had let themselves be caught in the dangerous snare, and of others who were still circling around the bait.

i. Who is 'he/him' in the above extract?

- a. The author
- b. The Crofter
- c. The Iron-master
- d. The Peddler

ii. What 'ill' did he think of the world?

- a. That the people of the world be caught in the snare
- b. That the whole world is a rattrap
- c. Both a and b
- d. Neither a. nor b.

iii. He thought of the people circling around 'the bait'. What according to him was the bait?

- a. The cheese and the pork hung in the rattrap
- b. Joys and sorrows of the people
- c. Joys and riches that people yearn for
- d. None of the above

iv. Why did thinking 'ill' about the world become his 'cherished pastime'?

- I. Because he was a sadist.
- II. It was his way of paying the world back what the world gave him.
- III. Because the world had never been kind to him and thinking ill about it gave him a sense of relief.

- a. Only I and II
- b. Only II and III
- c. Only I and III
- d. Only III

(C)

At the stamp and coin store I go to, I found out that Sam bought eight hundred dollars' worth of old-style currency. That ought to set him up in a nice little hay, feed and grain business; he always said that's what he really wished he could do, and he certainly can't go back to his old business. Not in Galesburg, Illinois, in 1894. His old business? Why, Sam was my psychiatrist.

- i. Who is 'I' in the given lines?**
 - a. Jack Finny
 - b. Sam
 - c. Charley
 - d. Charley's Grandfather
- ii. Why did Sam buy "eight hundred dollars' worth of old currency"?**
 - a. To go and settle in old 'Illinois'
 - b. To consolidate his stamps and coins collection
 - c. To open his institute to carry on his old business
 - d. None of the above
- iii. Name the story and its author that the extract is taken from?**

a. Should Wizard Hit Mommy?	by	John Updike
b. The Enemy	by	Pearl S. Buck
c. On the Face of It	by	Susan Hill
d. The Third Level	by	Jack Finney
- iv. Why can't Sam go back to his 'old business'?**
 - a. Because it was not logical to open such a business in Galesburg
 - b. Because opening his business was not profitable in a world of easy going people
 - c. Since he travelled in the past, he was not trained for his old business
 - d. None of the above.

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)

Far far from gusty waves these children's faces.
Like rootless weeds, the hair torn round their pallor:
The tall girl with her weighed-down head. The paper seeming
boy, with rat's eyes.

- i. **What does the expression 'far from gusty waves' allude to?**
- I. Deprived of the energy and vitality
 - II. Too far away from all the development that other children enjoy
 - III. Too far away from leading a normal life
- a. Only II
b. Only II and III
c. Only I and II
d. All of the above
- ii. **What does the comparison 'like rootless weeds' signify?**
- I. That these children are unwanted
 - II. That these children don't belong to the society
 - III. That these children are a blot on the landscape of the rich world
- a. Only II
b. Only II and III
c. Only I and II
d. All of the above
- iii. **What has possibly weighed down the tall girl's head?**
- a. The girl is carrying a heavy weight too burdensome for her to carry
 - b. The girl is carrying the misery and struggle of poverty-stricken life.
 - c. Both a and b
 - d. Neither a nor b
- iv. **Identify the poetic device used in the lines.**
- I. Alliteration
 - II. Simile
 - III. Metaphor
- a. Only I and II
b. Only II and III
c. Only I and III
d. Only I, II and III

(B)

Aunt Jennifer's tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.

- i. **Why did 'Aunt Jennifer' embroider tigers on the screen?**
- I. To decorate the wall of her house
 - II. To give vent to her suppressed feeling of freedom
 - III. Because she wanted to become as brave and fearless as the tigers in the panel.
- a. I and II only
 - b. II and III only
 - c. I and III only
 - d. All of the above
- ii. **Why do the tigers not fear the men beneath the trees?**
- I. Because they are not real
 - II. Because 'Aunt Jennifer' want them to be fearless
 - III. Because they are symbol of Aunt's suppressed feeling of fearlessness.
- a. I and II only
 - b. II and III only
 - c. I and III only
 - d. All of the above
- iii. **The tigers are described as chivalric. What qualities do they possess?**
- I. they are brave and courageous
 - II. they are courteous
 - III. they are kind and honest
- a. I and II only
 - b. II and III only
 - c. I and III only
 - d. All of the above
- iv. **The lines are written in**
- I. Stanzaic form
 - II. Rhymed couplet form
 - III. Rhyme scheme of aabb
- a. I and II only
 - b. II and III only
 - c. I and III only
 - d. All of the above

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

- i. **Which style, from those given below, is being used by the author, when he says, "Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors."?**
- a. humorous
 - b. dramatic
 - c. sarcastic
 - d. persuasive

- ii. **“Joe was starting to fuss with her hands.” This means that Jo was**
- feeling anxious
 - getting restless
 - feeling lazy
 - fighting sleep
- iii. **The map of the world in the classroom symbolizes**
- hopes and aspirations of the children.
 - how big the world is
 - a world that is unconnected to the children.
 - interconnectivity within the world.
- iv. **When Franz hurried past the town hall, the village blacksmith, Wachter, called after him, “Don’t go so fast, bub; you’ll get to your school in plenty of time”. Which of the following best describes their feelings?**
- Anger and embarrassment
 - Submission and discomfiture
 - Fun and shame
 - Humiliation and fun
- v. **Identify the literary device in ‘not move our arms so much’.**
- Pun
 - Metaphor
 - Simile
 - Personification
- vi. **Concluding his last lesson by writing ‘Vive la France!’ on the blackboard shows that M. Hamel**
- was overwhelmed with emotions.
 - wanted to distract all attending class that day.
 - was keen on not leaving the country.
 - wanted to teach French participles through it.
- vii. **The British officials summoned Gandhiji to appear before the court. Gandhiji’s polite and friendly behaviour and the large crowd made them feel**
- Belligerent
 - irritated
 - embarrassed
 - Weak and helpless
- viii. **‘Rag-picking has acquired the proportion of fine art’. The tone of the author is that of**
- Humour
 - Irony
 - Tragedy
 - Persuasion

- ix. In the story “Should Wizard hit Mommy”, Mommy says, ‘Well, of all the nerve.’ This reveals her
- a. approval, surprise and pleasure.
 - b. pleasure, hope and approval
 - c. betrayal, disapproval and hurt
 - d. shock, anger and disapproval.
- x. Indigo and Lost Spring are _____ in nature.
- a. Autobiographical
 - b. Biographical
 - c. Fictional
 - d. All of the above

PART B (40 marks)

WRITING

(16 marks)

6. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

(1X3)

- (A) An NGO has approached your school to offer book grants to the needy students. As Head girl of Sunshine Public School, Aram Bagh, write a notice in about 50 words asking students who are in need to put their requests into the box kept outside the Principal's office. You are Shobhit/Shobhita.
- (B) You are General Manager of Ivy Software Solutions, Agra Cantt, Agra. You need a software engineer for your organisation. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in ‘The Times of India’ under the classified columns.

7. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

(1x 3)

- (A) On 30th January, your school is going to hold its Annual Sports Day. You want Mr. Dhanraj Pillai, a noted hockey player to give away the prizes to the budding sportspersons of the school. Write a formal invitation in about 50 words requesting him to grace the occasion. You are Karuna/Karan, Sports Secretary, Sunrise Global School, Agra.
- (B) Your friend, P.V. Sathish, has invited you to attend the wedding of his sister, Jaya. You find that you have an important paper of Pre-board Examination on the day of the wedding. Thus, you cannot attend the event. Write in about 50 words a formal reply to the invitation expressing your regret. You are Puneet Vij / Puneeta Vij, M 114, Fort Road, Chennai.

8. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

(1x 5)

(A.) India still faces a long road ahead in its quest to achieve Zero Hunger. Over 25 years since India ushered in its economic reforms, the country's has undergone significant structural transformations, encouraging planners to turn their focus away from agriculture and instead towards the service and manufacturing sector. Keeping the priority to providing food security, reducing poverty and generating employment under COVID-19 into consideration, write a letter to the Editor of a National Daily highlighting the issue. You are Tarun/Taruna, B – 7/9, Mall Road, Delhi. (120 – 150 words)

(B.) You are Suresh/Smita. You come across the following advertisement in a national daily. You consider yourself suitable and eligible for the post. Write an application in response to the advertisement.

Applications are invited for the post of a Nursery Teacher in a reputed school of Delhi. The candidate must have at least 5 years' experience of teaching tiny-tots. The applicant must have a pleasant personality. He/she should be creative and innovative. Attractive salary. Interested candidates should apply to The Principal, AKS International, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad within 10 days with a detailed resume.

9. Attempt ANY ONE of the following.

(1x 5)

(A) Today, the whole world is going through a crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which has had a severe impact on India as well, and it has affected the marginal communities the most. Write an article in about 120-150 words on "Welfare of Marginalised Communities" highlighting their woes and efforts put in by the government. Suggest at least two measures to alleviate their misery. You are Sreeja/Thomas.

(B) Recently your school held a Seminar on Conservation of Water as a part of World Water Day Celebrations. As the School Pupil Leader of Maryland School, Gurgaon, write a report in 120-150 words for a local daily. Sign as Pritham/Preeti.

LITERATURE

(24 marks)

10. Attempt **ANY FIVE** out of the six questions given below, in 30-40 words each.

(2x5=10)

- i. Is it possible for Mukesh to realize his dream? Justify your answer?
- ii. Why did Douglas prefer to go to YMCA swimming pool to learn swimming?
- iii. Why did Gandhiji agree to the planters' offer of a 25% refund to the farmers?
- iv. What do "the poet's parting words to her mother" signify?
- v. Explain the metaphor of "Lost Spring" in context of the narration by Anees Jung.
- vi. Why is Pablo Neruda against 'total inactivity'?

11. Attempt **ANY TWO** out of the three questions given below in 30-40 words each.

(2 x2=4)

- i. It was important that the recaptured Evans keep up the façade till the very last moment of his interaction with the Governor. Support this statement with a rationale.
- ii. How did Roger Skunk pay the wizard?
- iii. What is the significance of the third level?

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

(A) 'Lost Spring' explains the grinding poverty and traditions that condemn thousands of people to a life of abject poverty. Do you agree? Why/Why not?

(B) How was the Champaran incident a turning point in Gandhiji's life?

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

(A) Describe the difficulties faced by Dr. Sadao when he decided to help the enemy soldier.

(B) Mr. Lamb calls Derek his friend while Derek refuses his affirmation. Would you consider their relationship with each other as friendship? Support your answer with reference to the instance(s) from the text.