

**DAV BR PUBLIC SCHOOL  
SAMPLE PAPER  
HALF YEARLY**

**ENGLISH L & L  
TIME: 3 HRS.**

**CLASS- X  
MAX. MARKS: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. This paper is divided into three sections: A, B and C. 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 and answer the questions that follow.

- (1) We are learning more every day about the answers to this question, which has moved closer to the forefront of our collective psyche as new environmental challenges emerge. Biodiversity is the incredible and dizzying variety of life that surrounds us, including all of the earth's plants, animals, their habitats, and the natural processes that they are a part of. It has become clear that biodiversity is the cornerstone of our existence on Earth. It is also important to conserve biodiversity for the sake of our own curiosity and aesthetic appreciation. Colorado's mountains are spectacular, but what would they be without our splendid variety of wildlife and wildflowers? Colorado is full of biodiversity wonders, many of which are unique to our state.
- (2) Medicines originating from wild species, including penicillin, aspirin, taxol and quinine, have saved millions of lives and alleviated tremendous suffering. Forty per cent of all prescriptions are for medicines that originated from plants and animals. No one knows how many more cures await discovery, hidden in Earth's poorly studied species.
- (3) There are 80000 species of edible plants known on Earth, but 90 per cent of the world's food comes from a mere 20 of these species. Edible plant species, both those we know of and those we don't, offer a tremendous resource of possibilities that could greatly add to the security of our food. How many of these have high potential for commercial exploitation and for feeding the hungry? Certainly a great many. Breeding cultivars with their wild counterparts can also confer

resistance to diseases and increase crop yield.

- (4) Biodiversity is the life support system of our planet. We depend on it for the air we breathe, the food we eat, and the water we drink. Wetlands filter pollutants from water, trees and plants, reduce global warming by absorbing carbon, and bacteria and fungi break down organic material and fertilize the soil. It has been empirically shown that native species richness is linked to the health of ecosystems, as is the quality of life for humans. The connections between biodiversity and our sustainable future appear closer and closer the more we look. We literally need to conserve biodiversity like our lives depend on it.

**On the basis of your reading, answer any ten of the following questions. (1 × 10 = 10)**

- (a) What is biodiversity?
- (1) The limited and visible variety of life that surrounds
  - (2) The unlimited variety of plastic that surrounds us
  - (3) The unlimited variety of life that surrounds us
  - (4) The unlimited variety of plants that surround us
- (b) The given passage seeks to
- (1) highlight the need to conserve biodiversity.
  - (2) how less we know about our planet.
  - (3) the medicinal richness of our biodiversity.
  - (4) All of these
- (c) Which of the following statement is NOT TRUE according to the given passage?
- (1) Flora and fauna comprising the biodiversity is at huge risk.
  - (2) Our future inherently depends on the biodiversity.
- (1) (1) and (2)                      (2) (3) and (4)                      (3) Only (1)                      (4) Only (5)
- (d) Why it is important to conserve biodiversity?
- (1) For the sake of our own curiosity                      (2) For aesthetic appreciation
  - (3) It is vital for economic growth                      (4) Both (1) and (2)
- (e) Biodiversity is a life support system of our planet because.....
- (1) it reduces global warming                      (2) our lives are dependent on it
  - (3) it helps in fertilizing the soil                      (4) All of these
- (f) What can make wild plants resistant to disease and increase crop yield?

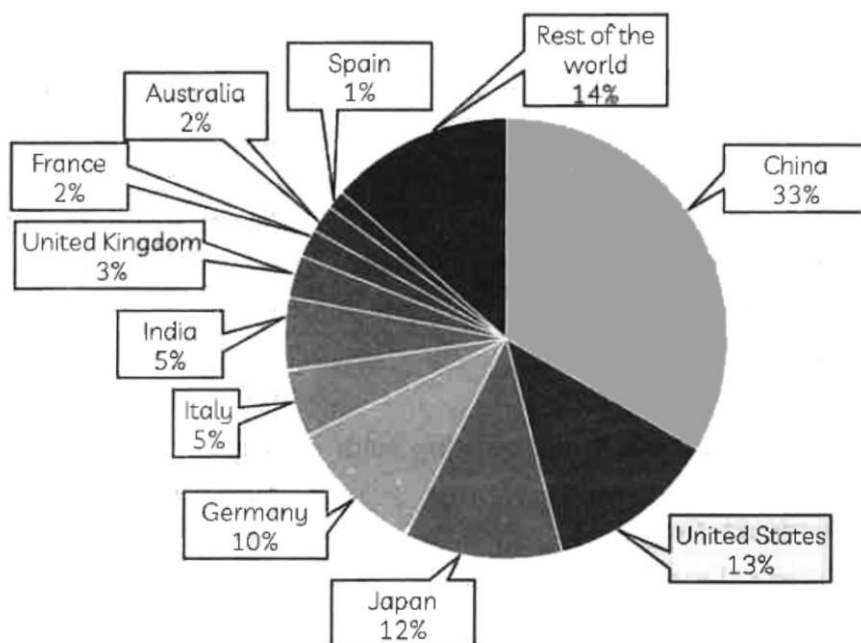
- (1) Treating them with insecticides                      (2) Cultivating them at our homes  
 (3) Giving them water and manure                      (4) Breeding cultivators with them
- (g) We depend on.....for the air we breathe, the food we eat and the water we .....
- (1) diversity, eat    (2) biodiversity, drink  
 (3) diversity, drink    (4) bio diversities, drink
- (h) Which word in para 1 means 'amazing'?
- (1) forefront                      (2) psyche                      (3) dizzying                      (4) natural
- (i) Which of the following will be the most appropriate title for the passage?
- (1) Conserving for Life    (2) Medicinal Bounty  
 (3) Need for Change    (4) Living for Earth
- (j) Select the option that makes the correct use of 'forefront' as used in the passage, to fill in the space.
- (1) The answer he wanted to give lingered at the.....of his tongue.  
 (2) An image appeared.....the images swirled and began to play a disjointed movie.  
 (3) As a publicist he stood in the.....of reform.  
 (4) The two visions that haunted her since she was a child.    in her mind.
- (k) Choose the option that incorrectly states the meaning of 'confer', as used in the passage.
1. Grant                      2. Speak                      3. Permit                      4. Negotiate  
 5. Exchange                      6. Trap
- (1) 1 and 2                      (2) 3 and 4                      (3) 5 and 6                      (4) 2 and 6
- (l) Which of the following is NOT a function performed by Wetlands?
- (1) Filter pollutant from water, trees and plants, (2) Prevents erosion of soil,  
 (3) Reduces global warming.    (4) Fertilizes the soil.

**2. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.**

- (1) Of all the inventions of science, solar rickshaw is perhaps the most useful on the practical side of life. It is not just any rickshaw but an optimally designed, pedal-operated, and motor-assisted three-wheeler. This zero carbon, urban transport vehicle or 'pedicab' was designed and developed by a team of engineers from the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute, Durgapur, West Bengal.
- (2) Like a solar rickshaw, the gorgeous green phone is another wonderful invention of

the scientific mind. We all know that mobile phones are must-haves these days. In fact, according to statistics, six out of ten people in this world own a cell phone. So, imagine the energy consumed and the e-waste generated by these devices. With this in mind, many handset manufacturers are going green, while some are even going solar.

- (3) Samsung, for instance, has unveiled a solar-powered phone - "Blue Earth". It is a touch phone that has a full solar panel on its back which can generate enough power to charge the phone. It is made from recycled plastic from water bottles and has a built-in pedometer to keep a tab on your carbon dioxide emissions. It is also small enough to fit into your pocket.
- (4) Like solar-powered homes, solar cars harness energy from the sun by converting it into electricity. This electricity fuels the battery that runs the car's motor. Instead of using a battery, some solar cars direct the power straight to an electric motor. Great examples of the latest solar-powered cars are the University of Michigan solar car, the MIT solar car, and the Berkeley solar car.
- (5) Solar cars use photovoltaic cells to convert sunlight into energy. Photovoltaic cells are the components in solar panels that convert the Sun's energy to electricity. They're made up of semiconductors, usually silicon, that absorb the light. The sun's energy frees electrons in the semiconductors, creating a flow of electrons. This flow generates electricity that powers the battery and the specialized motor in solar cars.



The History of Solar Power	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crocks used passive solar to heat buildings (400 BC).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1941: American Russell Ohl invented a silicon solar cell.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roman improved by using glass to trap heat in the buildings and green houses (100 AD).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1954: Bell Labs researchers Pearson, Chapin, and Fuller reported their discovery of 4.5% efficient silicon solar cells.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1700: Antoine La Voisier builds a solar heater.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1950's: Solar cells developed for satellites.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1839: French physicist Antoine-Cesar Becquerel observed that shining light on an electrode submerged in a conductive solution would create an electric current.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1960: Hoffman Electronics achieved 14% efficient PV cells</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1860: The first solar motor, heated water used to drive a steam motor, Auguste Mouchout.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1973: OPEC energy crisis causes US to reexamine use of renewable energy sources; federal and state tax credits result in rapid growth for a new solar industry.</li> </ul>

**On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer any ten of the following questions. (1 × 10 = 10)**

- (a) One of the wonderful inventions of science as discussed by the writer
- (1) solar rickshaw      (2) green phone      (3) both (1) and (2)      (4) none of these
- (b) Why is a solar rickshaw eco-friendly?

- (1) takes energy from the Sun (2) is a zero carbon vehicle  
 (3) is hand operated (4) all of these
- (c) What is "Blue Earth"?  
 (1) a whale (2) a mobile phone  
 (3) an island (4) a lake
- (d) What eco-friendly devices are handset manufacturers producing?  
 (1) red phones (2) orange phones  
 (3) green phones (4) all of these
- (e) Some solar cars do not use battery because:  
 (1) they run on electricity  
 (2) they direct the solar power to an electronic motor  
 (3) they charge a solar motor they have  
 (4) they are manually operated
- (f) What is a pedicab?  
 (1) two-wheeler (2) pedal-operated vehicle  
 (3) car (4) vehicle running on petrol
- (g) What does a pedometer do?  
 (1) keep track of the engine (2) keep track of fuel  
 (3) keep track of harmful gas emissions (4) keep track of carbon emissions
- (h) How does India fare in solar energy development?  
 (1) good (2) abysmal (3) fairly decent degree  
 (4) excellent
- (i) What are the various ways of using solar energy?  
 (1) household work only (2) power generation  
 (3) transportation (4) every sphere of life
- (j) What was solar power first used for?  
 (1) cooking (2) heating food  
 (3) keeping houses warm (4) preserving food
- (k) When was the US forced to reexamine its energy policy?  
 (1) 1973 (2) 1953 (3) 1972 (4) 1872
- (l) How does the Sun help create electricity?

(1) by creating flow of electrons  
semiconductors

(2) by releasing electrons from

(3) both (1) and (2)

(4) none of these

### **GRAMMAR -**

**(10 MARKS)**

**3. Complete the paragraph given below by choosing the correct option. (3 marks)**

From the coffee houses to the sixteenth century to the modern-day cafes, coffee (a) \_\_\_\_\_ a significant impact on the lifestyles of people from all walks of life. Coffee (b) \_\_\_\_\_ an important role in many societies around the world today. It (c) \_\_\_\_\_ a long way to become the most popular beverage in the world today.

(a) (1) has

(2) having

(3) had

(4) did

(b) (1) playing

(2) playing

(3) play

(4) plays

(c) (1) came

(2) has come

(3) is coming

(4) will come

**6. Choose the correct options to fill in the blanks to complete the narration.**



**(3 marks)**

Varun saw his old father talking to Sunil. He (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Sunil that his wife was angry at him. When Sunil asked him about the reason, he (b) \_\_\_\_\_ he has no idea. He further added that she

(c) \_\_\_\_\_ she was angry and just gave him silent treatment. He also said that earlier it bothered him but now he found it funny like a mini vacation.

(a) (1) hear him say  
him saying

(2) listened to him say

(3) heard him telling

(4) noticed

(b) (1) refused that  
that

(2) questioned that

(3) ordered that

(4) replied

(c) (1) never told him why

(2) often tell him

(3) seldom say that

(4) never asked him

**7. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct option for ANY FOUR of the six sentences given (4 marks)**

- (a) This poem is generally supposed \_\_\_\_ in the fifteenth century, but some people date it even earlier.  
 (1) being composed (2) to be composed  
 (3) to have been composed (4) having been composed
- (b) \_\_\_\_\_ I was a child; I have been afraid of the dark.  
 (1) The minute (2) As long as (3) Whenever (4) Ever since
- (c) \_\_\_\_\_ elder people's pulse rate is less than 2 beats per second  
 (1) A few of (2) Most (3) The whole (4) Every
- (d) He \_\_\_\_\_ that the forests \_\_\_\_\_ to their natural inhabitants, that is, to all varieties of living things.  
 (1) suggests, be returned (2) suggested, to be returned  
 (3) has suggested, to have been returned (4) had suggested, are being returned
- (e) \_\_\_\_\_ these tools are cheap in price; they do stand the test of time.  
 (1) Because (2) In order that (3) Although (4) As soon as
- (f) The place was spacious with \_\_\_\_\_ rooms for relaxation surrounded by restaurants.  
 (1) no (2) a (3) the (4) lots of

**WRITING (10 MARKS)**

**8. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 100 to 120 words. (5 marks)**

Social networking sites have become the latest fad among school-going children. The craze has a very bad impact on youngsters. Considering its gravity, you want to express your concern by writing a letter to the editor of Hindustan Times of about 100-120 words. You are Nitin/Nutan of H. No. 123/8, Sant Nagar, New Delhi - 110065.

**OR**

You are the manager of Fit & Fine Fitness Club, Gandhi Road, Ernakulam. Write a letter in 100-120 words to Messrs. Pioneer Sports Co., Kochi, placing an order for a minimum of 4 fitness equipments with details.

**9.(A) Answer ANY ONE of the following in 100 to 120 words. (5 marks)**

With the help of the given picture and verbal input, write an analytical paragraph in about 100-120 words on 'Rising Prices'.

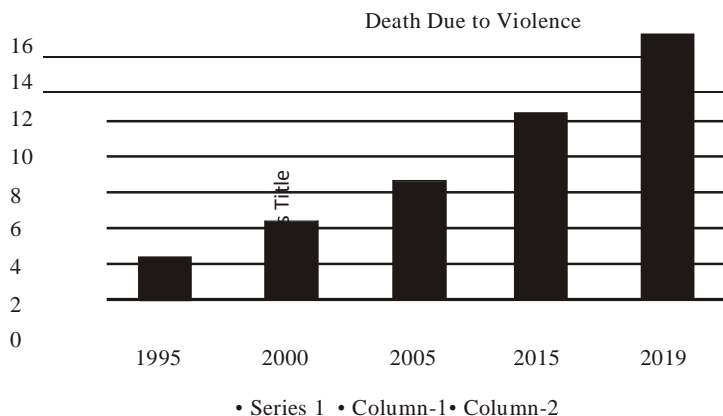
	Feb '18	Feb '19	Feb '20	Mar '20
Mustard oil (₹/Litre)	46	59	69	85
Groundnut oil (₹/Litre)	65	101	121	121
Rice (₹/Kg)	20	25	28	30
Flour (₹/Kg)	18	25	28	35
Toor dal (₹/Kg)	45	56	69	75



Prices as per wholesale

**OR**

**(B)** The given histogram shows the alarming increase in the cases of death due to violence in the recent years. Write an analytical paragraph in 100-120 words on the role of education and youth in establishing peace in society.



## **LITERATURE SECTION**

**40 MARKS**

**I.** Answer *one* of the following extracts from Prose:

**1x5=5**

(A) I was safe! I turned to look for my friend in the black aeroplane, but the sky was empty. There was nothing there. The black aeroplane was gone. I could not see it anywhere. I landed and was not sorry to walk away from the old Dakota near the control tower. I went and asked a woman in the control centre where I was and who the other pilot was. I wanted to say 'Thank you'. She looked at me very strangely and then laughed. "Another aeroplane? Up there in this storm? No other aeroplanes were flying tonight. Yours was the only one I could see on the radar." So, who helped me...

**Qi** Select the option that correctly tracks the progression of emotions experienced by the narrator in the given extract.

- a) excited – surprised – relieved – grateful – perplexed
- b) relieved – confused – curious – dejected – panic-stricken
- c) optimistic – lonely – calm – elated – appreciative
- d) triumphant – reassured – inquisitive – thankful – uncertain

**Qii** Why do you think the woman in the control centre laughed?

- a) She found the narrator funny.
- b) She thought his question preposterous.
- c) She thought he was teasing her.
- d) She was relieved the narrator was safe.

**Qiii Filled with questions, the narrator decides to place an advertisement in the local newspaper to look for his “friend”. Read the advertisement given below and select the option that includes the most appropriate solutions for the blanks:**

*Looking for a pilot of a black aeroplane who (i)\_\_\_\_\_ an old Dakota out of storm clouds late last night, but (ii)\_\_\_\_\_ before the Dakota pilot could express his gratitude after landing. Though control centre and radar did not (iii)\_\_\_\_\_ its presence, the Dakota pilot would really appreciate if his friend reached out. Please contact the Dakota pilot at 5200100110. In deep gratitude and eager (iv) \_\_\_\_\_, XXX*

- a) (i) guided;(ii) disappeared;(iii) register;(iv) anticipation
- b) (i) took;(ii) landed;(iii) acknowledge;(iv) appreciation
- c) (i) brought;(ii) went away;(iii) confirm;(iv) expectation
- d) (i) helped;(ii) vanish;(iii) make note;(iv) excitement

**Qiv The narrator exclaimed that he was “safe”. Which of the following represented the most immediate threat to the narrator’s safety?**

- a) The black mountain-like storm cloud
- b) The depletion of fuel in the last fuel tank
- c) Being lost due to non-functioning equipment
- d) The old rattling Dakota aeroplane

**Qv Choose the option that correctly matches the idioms in ColumnA to the story’s events in column B:**

Column A – Idioms	Column B – Story Events
1. Every cloud has a silver lining.	(i) The narrator really wanted to have a hearty English breakfast, even though he really ought to have turned back.
2. To be on cloud nine.	(ii) the man in the other plane waved at the narrator and asked him to follow, closely drawing him out.
3. To have your head in the clouds.	(iii) The compass and other instruments stopped working. The radio was dead too.
4. gathering clouds.	And there it was – the well-lit runway. An airport. The narrator could safely land.

- a) 1-(iv); 2-(iii); 3-(ii); 4-(i)
- b) 1-(iii); 2-(i); 3-(iv); 4-(ii)
- c) 1-(i); 2-(ii); 3-(iii); 4-(iv)
- d) 1-(ii); 2-(iv); 3-(i); 4-(iii)

**OR**

(B) “Mr Keesing had a good laugh at my arguments, but when I proceeded to talk my way through the next lesson, he assigned me a second essay. This time it was supposed to be on ‘An Incurable Chatterbox’. I handed it in, and Mr Keesing had nothing to complain about

for two whole lessons. However, during the third lesson, he'd finally had enough. "Anne Frank, as a punishment for talking in class, write an essay entitled-'Quack, Quack, Quack, said Mistress Chatterbox'."

**i What convincing argument was made by Anne?**

- a) She was talkative just like any other student in the class.
- b) She had the right to be talkative, as it was a classroom and not a prison.
- c) She had inherited the trait from her mother, so couldn't stop being talkative.
- d) She found it impossible to be quiet like the others as she couldn't change herself.

**ii What does 'had a good laugh' imply, in the context of Mr Keesing? It means that he**

- a) celebrated his ability to make Anne write the essay.
- b) ridiculed Anne in front of the whole class.
- c) pulled up Anne for her arguments in the essay.
- d) realised the humour in it and was amused.

**iii Based on this extract, pick the option with the list of words that best describe Mr Keesing.**

- a) jovial and creative
- b) strict and innovative
- c) tolerant and strict
- d) innovative and jovial

**iv Why do you think Mr Keesing chose the title – 'An Incurable Chatterbox' – for Anne, to write on? This was so because he expected**

- a) Anne to express her inability to elaborate on such a topic.
- b) that this would embarrass Anne and would check her indiscipline.
- c) her to apologise and not repeat her talkative behaviour.
- d) Anne to explore her creative writing skills.

**v How did Anne feel when she was punished the third time by Mr Keesing? She**

- a) was happy as she had to write three essays on the same topic.
- b) enjoyed making fun of Mr Keesing in her own way.
- c) was worried as she had run out of original ideas for her essay.
- d) was thrilled at another opportunity to showcase her writing abilities.

**II. Answer *one* of the following extracts from Poetry: 1x5=5**

(A) What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,  
What, what is he to do? I saw it go  
Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then  
Merrily over-there it is in the water!

**i The extract suggests that the poet is**

- a) an onlooker observing
- b) a parent recounting the incident

- c) the boy talking about himself
- d) imagining the incident

**ii The poet seems to have indicated the merry bouncing of the ball to**

- a) create a sense of rhythm in these lines.
- b) support the happiness of the experience of playing.
- c) contrast with the dejected feeling of the boy.
- d) indicate the cheerful mood of the boy.

**iii Choose the situation that corresponds to the emotion behind the exclamation mark in the poem.**

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
Hey ! Hey! That's no way to dispose off the garbage. Have you no community sense? Please but it in the bin.	I knew it! I knew he'll fare well in his auditions for 'Young Chef'. Now, we prepare for the semi-finals.	I dont know where I've placed my ID-card. Let me check the bag once more. Ah, finally!	I've been trying to call mom for the past 20 minutes and can't get through. I don't know how...Aarrgh! Again!

- a) option 1
- b) option 2
- c) option 3
- d) option 4

**iv The poem begins with a question. Based on your reading of the poem, the speaker**

- a) wants the boy to answer the question.
- b) expects the passers-by to respond.
- c) is looking for answers in a self-help book.
- d) is thinking to himself.

**v Alliteration is a literary device that occurs with the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words. Pick the option that showcases an example of alliteration from the extract.**

- a) What is the boy now
- b) who has lost his ball
- c) I saw it go
- d) and then/ Merrily over

**OR**

(B) Don't bite your nails, Amanda!  
 Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!  
 Stop that slouching and sit up straight, Amanda!  
 What's the difference between Hunch and Slouching

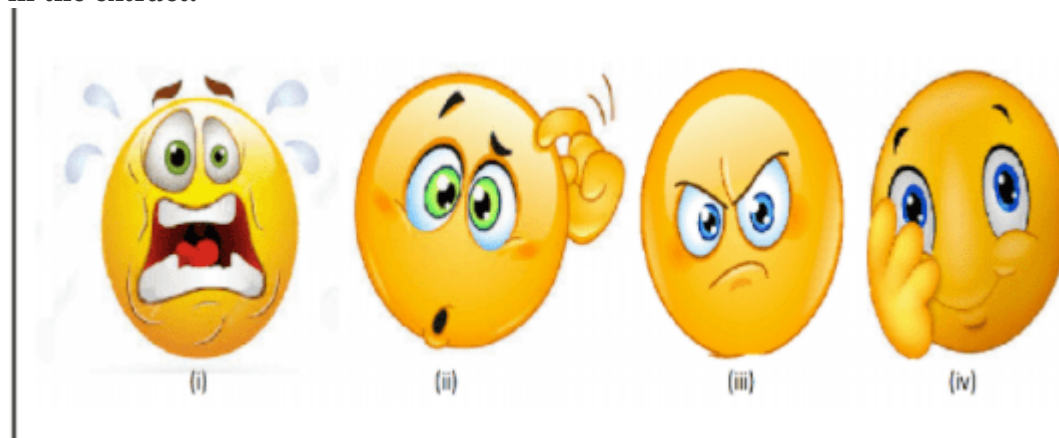
**I The purpose of the speaker's words in the given extract is to**

- a) show the speaker's power over the listener.
- b) make the listener a better human being.

c) advise the listener as an elder.

d) improve the listener's posture and habits.

ii **Pick the option that lists the image which correctly corresponds to the speaker's mood in the extract.**



a) Image (i)

b) Image (ii)

c) Image (iii)

d) Image (iv)

iii **Alliteration is a literary device used in the extract. Which of the following options DOES NOT include examples of this literary device?**

a) The moon and the shimmering stars watched over us

b) With that charming chat, Catherine chose comfort

c) Away ran the pathetic pooch pouting like a princess

d) Dee dee was driving down day after day

iv **What does the repetition of "Amanda!" at the end of each line reflect?**

a) It describes who the speaker is talking to.

b) It represents the absent-mindedness of the listener.

c) It shows the frustration of the speaker.

d) It helps create a rhyme scheme.

v **Select the option that fits with the following: slouching: straight: \_: \_**

a) transparent: translucent

b) lazy: agile

c) forgetful: lively

d) generous: liberal

**III. Answer ANY TWO questions in 20-30 words each from (A) and (B) respectively. (2 × 4 = 8)**

(A) (a) What was the effect of the storm on Lencho's farm?

(b) What is Mandela's opinion regarding the oppressor and the oppressed?

(c) What is the underlying message for us in our busy life with reference to the poem 'Dust of Snow'?

(B) (a) What had Hari Singh learned in his life as a thief?

(b) What is the meaning of the phrase 'honour among thieves'? Who lacked it?

- (c) What other interests, besides science, did Richard Ebright pursue? What opinion did Mr. Weiherer, his social studies teacher, have about Ebright?

(d)

**IV. Answer ANY TWO questions in 40-50 words each from (A) and (B) respectively. (3 × 4 = 12)**

**(A)** (a) According to the poet, what do 'fire and ice' represent? Do you agree with him?

(b) What tells you that Anne loved her grandmother?

(c) Do you sympathize with the young seagull? Give reasons.

**(B)** (a) Why does Pumphrey think that the dog's recovery is 'a triumph of surgery'?

(b) Was there a balcony outside the window? Give instances to prove your view.

(c) Describe the curious episode which took place in the clergyman's study.

**V. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 100-120 words. (5)**

(Man is a social

**OR**

Describe the character of Lencho in the light of his faith and attitude towards God and man.

**VI. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in 100-120 words. (5)**

Give a detailed character sketch of Ebright's mother.

**OR**

"Money can't make a man as much as education can" Elaborate the line with reference to 'The thief's story'.

**ALL THE BEST!**