

Questions 7 - 10: Read the following lines from *The Seedling* and answer the questions that follow.
(4x1=4)

As a quiet little seedling
Lay within its darksome bed,
To itself it fell a-talking,
And this is what it said:
 "I am not so very robust,
 But I'll do the best I can;"
 And the seedling from that moment
 Its work of life began.
So it pushed a little leaflet
Up into the light of day,
To examine the surroundings
And show the rest the way.

7. Where was the little seedling lying?
8. Which of the following actions show the seedling's determination and growth?
i) It resolves to stay strong and work hard. (ii) It pushes a leaflet into the light.
iii) It refuses to grow. iv) It remains silent.

Choose the right option:

- A) i and iv B) i, ii and iii
C) i and ii D) ii and iii

9. Identify the poetic device used in the lines:

*"To examine the surroundings
And show the rest the way."*

- A. Personification B. Refrain
C. Simile D. Alliteration

10. What do you infer about the seedling's nature when it says, "I am not so very robust"?
A. It is quite arrogant and proud. B. It is quite lazy.
C. It is quite modest and humble. D. It is quite dismissive of others.

11. [A] Read the following lines from the song *Another Day in Paradise* and prepare an **appreciation** focussing on the theme, the poetic devices and the contemporary relevance of the song.

She calls out to the man on the street.
He can see she's been crying,
She's got blisters on the soles of her feet
She can't walk but she's trying
Oh, think twice, cause it's another day for
You and me in paradise.
Oh, think twice, it's just another day for you,
You and me in paradise.
Just think about it.

OR

Question 16 - 19: Answer either A or B.

16. [A] In *Shakuntalam*, Kalidasa sets up an ideal world, where all beings co-exist harmoniously. Write a **review** of Act I of the play focusing on its theme, plot and characterisation. (1x7=7)

[Hints: King Dushyanta follows a deer into the forest – comes to a peaceful hermitage – sees Shakuntala and friends – gets impressed by their harmonious co-existence with nature – contemporary relevance]

OR

16. [B] The story *War* presents a realistic picture of the misery and meaninglessness of war. The survivor testimony *In the Attic* depicts how humanity saves lives even amidst war. In the light of your reading of both the stories, prepare a **write-up** on the topic 'War Kills, Humanity Builds'.

[Hints: Passengers express their grief – the stout man gives a different perspective – sons belong to the country – pain from war is universal – Hosenfeld meets Szpilman in the attic – offers food and shelter – gives his uniform to protect him from cold – saves his life – kindness saves humanity]

17. [A] Hauchecome, the protagonist of *A Piece of String*, is a simple peasant whose repeated pleas of innocence fall on deaf ears. Prepare a **character sketch** of Hauchecome. (1x6=6)

OR

17. [B] As a member of the Nature Club, you are highly impressed by the excerpt from the famous bird watcher Salim Ali's autobiography *The Fall of a Sparrow*. Draft an **e-mail** to Salim Ali, appreciating his dedication and passion for ornithology, expressing how inspiring he is.

18. [A] Srikanth Bolla, in spite of his impairment and challenges, scored 90% in his 10th grade. However, he was not allowed to study science and this led to a legal battle. As a journalist, you published a news report on Bolla's legal battle and his final victory. Prepare the likely **news report**. (1x6=6)

OR

18. [B] A sleeper bus plying between Hyderabad and Bangalore collided with a bike and caught fire instantly, killing almost twenty people. The tragic incident was widely reported in the newspapers the next day. Prepare the likely **news report**.

[Hints: Accident happens in Kurnool - 44 passengers on board - hits a motor cycle - catches fire instantly trapping dozens of passengers - some smash open windows - leap to safety - others burned alive - officials offer condolences to bereaved families - Govt. announces two lakh rupees as interim relief]

19. [A] In order to promote the eco-friendly tourism project of your locality, you are asked to prepare two engaging, catchy and rhythmic sentences suitable for **advertisement jingles**. Write them. (1x4=4)

OR

19. [B] Maupassant masterfully uses a small, ordinary incident to show how misunderstanding, pride and societal mistrust can lead to tragedy. Prepare a short **paragraph** on the relevance of Hauchecome's story in today's society with supporting details from the story.

Questions 20 - 22: Answer all the questions.

20. Read the passage below and frame **three Wh-questions** and **one Yes/No question** based on it. (4x1=4)






The news spread through the neighbourhood. Hauchecome was informed of it. He immediately began to recount his story with its happy climax. He was in triumph. He talked of his adventure all day long. He told it on the highway to people who were passing by, in the wine shop to people who were drinking there and to persons coming out of church the following Sunday. He stopped strangers to tell them about it.

21. The Literary Club of your school wishes to encourage discussions about literature that promotes peace and empathy. Ms. Anita Nair, who is the author of the best selling and critically acclaimed novels such as *The Better Man*, *Ladies Coupe*, etc. has consented to lead the discussions. Draft an **event invitation** to the nearby schools to participate in the event. Include date, time, venue, other details of the event and the credentials of the chief guest. (1x4=4)

22. Prepare a short **profile** of Paul Laurence Dunbar using the hints given below. (1x6=6)

Birth : 27 June 1872, Dayton, Ohio, USA
 Known as : One of the first African American poets to gain national fame
 Education : Central High School, Dayton, Ohio
 Career : Poet, novelist, and short story writer
 Spouse : Alice Ruth Moore (writer and teacher)
 Writing Style : Black dialect and standard literary English
 Themes : Afro American experiences, racial identity
 Major works : *Oak and Ivy*, *Majors and Minors*, *Lyrics of Lowly Life*, *The Sport of the Gods*
 Death : 9 February 1906, Dayton, Ohio

Questions 23 - 26: Study the table regarding the leading run scorers in the Women's World Cup (ODI) 2025 and answer the questions that follow. (4x1=4)

	NAME	MATCHES	AVERAGE	RUNS	COUNTRY
	Laura Wolvaardt	9	71.37	571	SOUTH AFRICA
	Smriti Mandhana	9	54.25	434	INDIA
	A. Gardner	7	82.00	328	AUSTRALIA
	Pratika Rawal	7	51.33	308	INDIA
	P. Litchfield	7	50.66	304	AUSTRALIA

23. Which country's batter has the lowest batting average?
24. Who is the leading run-scorer in the Women's World Cup 2025?
25. How many matches did Smriti Mandhana play more when compared to her teammate?
26. Which of the following statements about the top five run-scorers are NOT TRUE?
- i) The player with the highest average also scored the most number of runs.
 - ii) Both Indian players have an average above 54.
 - iii) Australia has two players in the top five, both averaging above 50.
 - iv) Laura Wolvaardt and Smriti Mandhana have played the same number of matches with same averages.

Choose the correct option from the following:

- A) i, ii, and iv
- B) i, iii, and iv
- C) i and iii only
- D) ii, iii, and iv

27. Complete the following passage choosing the right words from the brackets. (6x 1/2=3)

While the field study of birds is a peaceful occupation, it is not entirely(a)..... hazards. In South India for instance,(b)..... there are elephant-ridden jungles, I have frequently found myself in disturbing situations. A wild elephant, suddenly come upon(c)..... close quarters – a situation(d)..... no means uncommon in parts of Karnataka and Kerala – can be an unnerving experience. In fact, there is little danger(e)..... a wild elephant unless it happens to be a rogue or a female(f)..... a small calf.

(at, without, from, with, for, where, by)

28. Complete the paragraph using appropriate forms of the phrasal verbs given in brackets. (4x1=4)

Srikanth Bolla returned to India(a)..... all the opportunities in America. His aim was to(b)..... to the differently abled by providing them employment opportunities. For that purpose, he(c)..... Bollant Industries. More than 150 differently abled are now employed in the firm, providing them a better way to(d)..... their life.

(set up, come across, deal with, reach out, give up)

29. Complete the passage choosing appropriate words from the brackets. (4x1/2=2)

The woman, bundled in the corner, is twisting and wriggling(a).....(until/because) she is in grief. She looks around for words of consolation(b).....(either/neither) from her husband(c).....(nor/or) from the other passengers, but in vain. She reaches a conclusion that neither the other passengers, nor her husband(d).....(understand/understands) the depth of her sorrow.

30. Report the following dialogue.

(2x1=2)

Mayor : Did you pick up a pocketbook from the road this morning?
Hauchecome : No. I just picked up a piece of string for myself.

a)

b)

31. Complete the conversation between the husband in the story *War* and one of his fellow passengers.

(4x1=4)

Passenger : You look so worried. Would you mind(a)..... ?

Husband : No, not at all. In fact, when we open up, our sorrow lightens.

Passenger : Absolutely! What's on your mind?

Husband : Our only son has been called to the war front.

Passenger : Oh! So, you are going to see him off,(b).....?

Husband : Yes. He values his love for the nation more than anything.

Passenger : That's admirable. But I can understand your feelings as a parent.

Husband : The danger is real. If he gets wounded in the war,(c).....

Passenger : Don't worry. You'd better(d).....

Husband : I wish I could stay positive on this.

32. Edit the passage. The errors are given in bold.

(6x 1/2 =3)

The next day all kinds of rumours **spreads** (a) over the small town. Unable to **bare** (b) the humiliation, Bablu's wife left him. She said she would **returned** (c) only when he gave up **their** (d) madness. His mother too **following** (e) suit. He had lost his wife, his family, his friends, and money that he could not afford to waste, all in pursuit of the **sanitary** (f) pad project.

33. Complete the passage using appropriate words from the brackets.

(4x 1/2 =2)

At the city hospital, several specialists work together to care for the patients. The(a)..... examines people with heart problems and suggests proper treatment. Those with skin allergies are referred to the(b)....., who carefully studies their condition. The(c)..... ensures that our vision remains clear and healthy. At the annex of the hospital, the(d)..... makes sure that everyone's teeth and gums are healthy.

(dentist, pharmacist, cardiologist, ophthalmologist, dermatologist)