D.A.V. Public Schools, Jharkhand Zone - G & C

Half Yearly Examination - 2023-24

Sub. : ENGLISH
Std. : XII

Marks - 80
Time - 3 Hrs.

General Instructions:

1. The question paper contains THREE sections- READING, WRITING and LITERATURE.
2. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)

1. Read the passage given below: 12 m

Ghost snakes aren't supernatural, but they are legitimately scary. A ghost net is a fishing net that's been lost or abandoned in the ocean. They are one particularly appalling part of the global ghost fishing problem, which includes fishing gear abandoned in the water. Any net or line left in the ocean can pose a threat to marine life. Just because a net is no longer used by fishers doesn't mean it stops working. These nets continue to trap everything in their path, presenting a major problem for the health of our oceans and marine life.

Ghost nets entangle sea turtles, dolphins and porpoises, birds, sharks, seals and more, apart from catching fish. The nets keep animals from moving freely, cause injuries and keep mammals and birds from rising to the surface for air. Since hundreds of animals can be caught in a single net, this threat is monumental. The ghost nets harm coral reef too - breaking corals, exposing them to disease and even blocking the reef from needed sunlight.

Ghost nets are also a major contributor to the ocean plastics' crisis. Most modern nets are made of nylon or other plastic compounds that can last for centuries. According to a 2018 study in Scientific Reports, ghost nets makeup at least 46% of the great Pacific garbage patch. Those abandoned fishing lines and nets that do breakdown never go away; they just become smaller pieces of plastic. Marine animals mistake this micro plastic for food and eat it, which can harm internal organs, keep them from eating and expose them to toxic chemicals.

Exorcising ghost nets from our oceans will require commitment, cooperation and innovation Many groups are working to remove ghost nets from the sea and are collaborating with local fishers and governments around the world to identify target areas and remove as many nets as possible. In 2015, a single World Wildlife Fund for nature (WWF)- led mission in the Baltic sea hauled up 268tons of nets, ropes and other material.

To stop these nets from becoming ghosts in the first place, conservation organisations advocate for fishing gear that can be traced to its owner so anyone dumping nets can be fined and refundable deposits on nets to encourage returning or recycling rather than littering. Tools like Sonar reflectors

that can make ghost nets easier to find and working with small-scale fisheries to develop more sustainable fishing gear and practices are other suggestions. It is only by attacking this problem from all sides, together with conservation partners, fishers and supporters, can we banish ghost nets and protect our oceans.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

a. Complete the sentence by choosing an appropriate option. 1

Ghost nets have been named so because they----

A. Cause much harm to the marine life.

B. Are functional though not in use by fishers.

C. Are not owned by anyone.

D. Act as a snare for all animals in oceans.

b. Comment on the writer's reference to the ghost nets in paragraph one, as a health problem for the oceans. 2

c. List the two ways being entangled in a ghost net is likely to impact a walrus. 2

d. Select the option that conveys the opposite of 'negligible', from words used in paragraph two. 1

A. Unimpressive.

B. Monumental.

C. Exposing.

D. Threat.

e. The writer would agree with the given statements based on paragraph three, EXCEPT: 1

A. Most ghost nets take a few years to completely disintegrate.

B. Ghost nets contribute to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

C. Most ghost nets provide nutrition to marine animals, upon disintegration.

D. Ghost nets can curtail freedom of marine animals.

f. Some records share that fishing nets used to be made of common rope using natural fibres, prior to the 1960s. Based on your understanding of paragraph three, list one major advantage that these had over the fishing nets being used in present times. 1

g. Why is it fair to say that commitment and innovation have to go hand-in-hand to rid the oceans of ghost nets? 1

h. Complete the given sentence with an appropriate inference, with respect to the following: 1

The writer quotes the example of the WWF-led mission in the Baltic Sea(Paragraph 4), in order to.....

i. How can the solutions, suggested in paragraph 5, best be described? 1

A. Practical.

B. Presentable.

C. Popular.

D. Prejudiced.

j. Select the most suitable title for the above passage. 1

A. The Scary Side of Ghost Nets.

B. Ghost Nets -- A Result of Human Dominance.

C. Ghost Nets - A Menace to Marine Life.

D. Ways to Tackle the Problem of Ghost Nets.

2. Read the following passage:- 10

In recent years, there has been a surge in both group and solo travel among young adults in India. A survey conducted among young adults aged 18-25 aimed to explore the reasons behind their travel preferences and recorded the percentage variation for 10 common points that influence travel choices.

Among those who prefer solo travel, the most common reason cited was the desire for independence and freedom (58%), followed closely by the opportunity for introspection and self-discovery (52%). Additionally, solo travellers appreciated the ability to customize their itinerary to their preferences (44%) and the chance to meet new people on their own terms (36%).

On the other hand, those who prefer group travel often cited the desire for socializing and making new friends (61%) as their primary reason. Group travel also provided sense of security and safety in unfamiliar places (52%) and allowed for shared experiences and memories with others (48%). Additionally, group travellers enjoyed the convenience of having pre-planned itineraries and organised transportation (38%).

Interestingly, both groups had similar levels of interest in exploring new cultures and trying new experiences (40% for solo travellers, 36% for group travellers). Similarly, both groups valued the opportunity to relax and escape from the stresses of everyday life (36% for solo travellers, 32% for group travellers).

However , there were also some notable differences between the two groups. For example, solo travellers placed a higher priority on budget-friendly travel options (38%) compared to group travel (24%). Conversely, group travellers were more likely to prioritize luxury and comfort during their travels (28%) compared to solo travellers (12%).

Overall, the survey results suggest that both group and solo travel have their own unique advantages and appeal to different individuals, based on their preferences and priorities.

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

a. Infer two possible ways that the survey, mentioned in paragraph (1) could be beneficial. 2

b. Which travel choice point of the survey would influence tour operators to incorporate group dinners, social events and shared accommodations in their itinerary? 1

A. Freedom to customize itinerary.

B. Luxury and comfort.

C. Security and safety.

D. Desire for making new friends.

c. What do the top choices in the survey, for travelling solo and in a group suggest about young adults. 1

d. Identify the solo traveller from the following three travellers: 1

A. Reshma- I don't want to keep hunting for rickshaws or taxis. A pre-booked vehicle is perfect.

B. Nawaz-I'm happy sharing a room in a hostel. I don't need hotel accommodation.

C. Deepak- I 'm not worried about my well-being, even while exploring remote areas.

e. Which of the following is an example of an opportunity for self-discovery, as mentioned in paragraph 2? 1

A. Trying new cuisine.

B. Hiring a tour guide.

C. Purchasing a local artefacts.

D. Advance booking travel tickets.

f. How might the difference in budget priorities between solo and group travellers impact the types of accommodations and activities offered by the travel industry in India? 2

g. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1

The similarities in the percentage of both solo and group travellers who are interested in exploring new cultures and trying new experiences may be due to.....

h. State True or False. 1

The title, "Wanderlust: The Solo Travel Trend Among Young Adults in India ", is appropriate for this passage.

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

3. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4

Manohar is the Head boy of J.M. Modern School, Pune. He is asked to put up a notice informing students of Board classes about the enrichment classes to be conducted by the school. Draft the notice for the same giving all the required details.

OR

You are Andrew Johnson, the President of the public library. The library is organizing a drive for promoting reuse of study materials and books. Draft a notice in about 50 words, for this public library, addressing the public about this drive and urging them to contribute to the endeavour. Mention how the donated books would benefit a charitable cause.

4. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 50 words. 4

You are Rahul/Neha. You have been invited by the Youth Club of your locality to act as one of the judges for an Inter-school Group Song Competition organised by the Club. But unfortunately you cannot accept the invitation due to a previous engagement. Write a letter to the Secretary of the Club regretting your inability to accept the invitation.

OR

Write an informal invitation to your friend inviting him/her to the Silver Wedding Anniversary of your parents giving details of the date, time and venue. You are Preeti Malik.

5. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5

Despite being an essential component of road safety infrastructure, many people do not respect zebra crossings and fail to follow traffic rules , which results in hazardous situations on the roads. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, sharing your concern and examining the reasons for such behaviour. Provide suggestions for spreading awareness of rules and etiquettes involved and ways to ensure adherence. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter. You are Soma, a concerned city resident.

For awareness -

- General public/educational institutions
- How ? - in person/social media

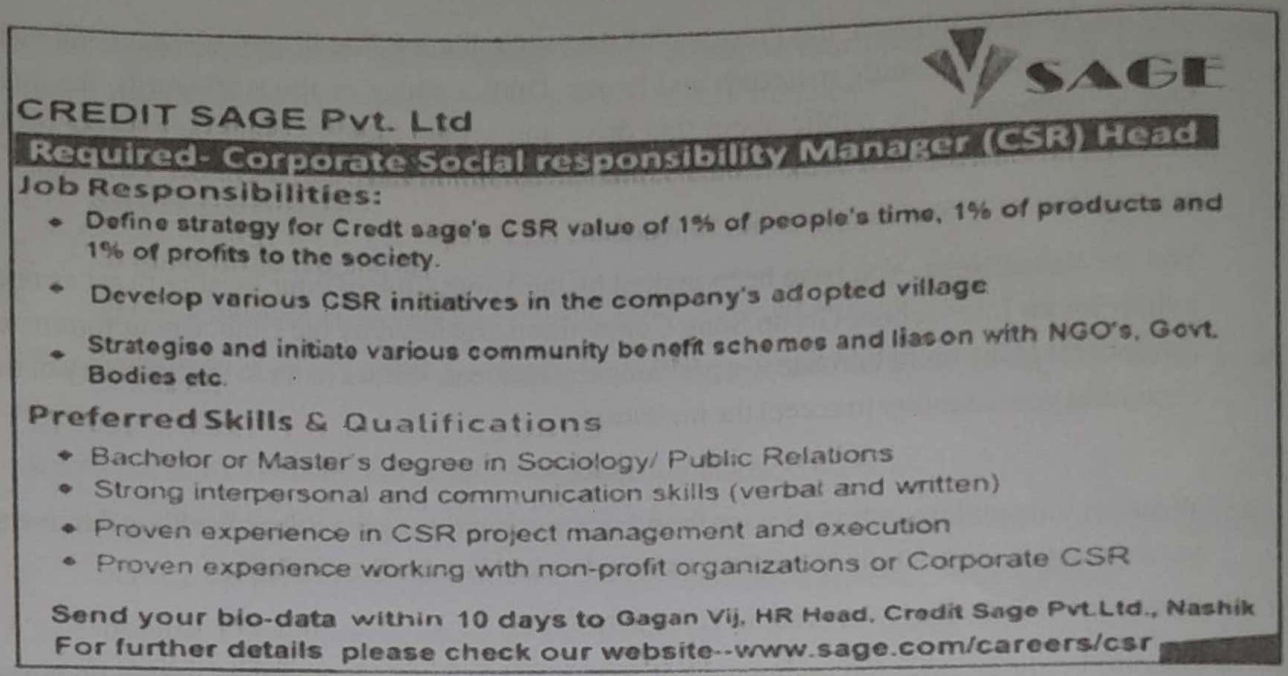
Dire consequences - self and others

Adherence -

- fines & penalties
- revoking driving licenses
- strengthening traffic police force-monitoring resources and technology

OR

You are Minu Sen, employed as an Asst. Manager for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in your current company in Hyderabad. You saw the given advertisement in the newspaper and wish to apply for the position advertised. Write a letter to Credit Sage Pvt. Ltd. along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the situation vacant.



CREDIT SAGE Pvt. Ltd

Required- Corporate Social responsibility Manager (CSR) Head

Job Responsibilities:

- Define strategy for Credt sage's CSR value of 1% of people's time, 1% of products and 1% of profits to the society.
- Develop various CSR initiatives in the company's adopted village
- Strategise and initiate various community benefit schemes and liason with NGO's, Govt. Bodies etc.

Preferred Skills & Qualifications

- Bachelor or Master's degree in Sociology/ Public Relations
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills (verbal and written)
- Proven experience in CSR project management and execution
- Proven experience working with non-profit organizations or Corporate CSR

Send your bio-data within 10 days to Gagan Vij, HR Head, Credit Sage Pvt.Ltd., Nashik
For further details please check our website--www.sage.com/careers/csr

6. Attempt ANY ONE of two, in about 120-150 words. 5

Vijay is a member of his school Eco Club. As part of Earth Day celebrations, he wishes to contribute an article for his school magazine, advocating the use of solar power as a step to mitigate the energy crisis. So compose this article using the given cues.

Man's dependence on energy resources - excessive use of energy by people-leading to crisis - the need to switch over - benefits of solar power- cleaner atmosphere, less expenditure - presenting a conclusive outlook.

OR

Your school recently conducted an inter-school Heritage Quiz Contest. As a student reporter, write a report of the event in about 120-150 words to be published in your school. You are Amit/Archana. Mention day, date and venue.

Cues - Know your Heritage

An Inter-School Quiz Contest

- History
- Mythology
- Culture
- Monuments
- Handicraft

-- Attractive prizes for audience question

-- Friday 14 March, St. Marks School

SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT (40 marks)

7. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6

I saw my mother beside me
doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that
of a corpse and realized with pain
that she was as old as she looked but soon
put that thought away, and looked out at Young
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes.

a. Which amongst the following options has used the same poetic device in its underlined phrase as used in the expression 'ashen like that of a corpse'? 1

i. He **was a lion** in the battle.
ii. The **flood swallowed** more than a dozen villages.
iii. He walked **as slow as a snail**.
iv. The tree blocks the **free flow** of water.

b. Choose the correct option that best explains the reason for the poet 'to put that thought away.' 1

i. The mother's face was pale and ugly.
ii. It was unbearable for her to see her mother sleeping.
iii. She was troubled by the thought of her mother's perpetual state of exhaustion.
iv. She was deeply pained by the thought of the mother's imminent death.

c. What do the expressions 'doze', 'open-mouthed' describe about the poet's mother? 1

i. She is sleeping and relaxing.
ii. She is aged and exhausted.
iii. She is tired of travelling.
iv. She is not in a mood to talk to her daughter.

d. What mood does the expression 'merry children spilling' bring in? 1

i. Happiness and enthusiasm.
ii. Innocence and playfulness.
iii. Laziness.
iv. Joy.

e. Select the correct option to fill in the blank. 1

The poet uses the image of sprinting trees to emphasize the..... to the ageing mother.

i. Comparison.

ii. Difference.

iii. Contrast.

iv. Similarity.

f. "and realized with pain". Why was there pain in the poet's realization? 1

OR

Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;
And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

a. Pick the quote that matches best with- 1

'And such too is the grandeur of the dooms we have imagined for the mighty dead.'

i. In the night of death, hope sees a star and listening love can hear the rustle of a wing.

ii. When a great man dies, for years the light he leaves behind him, lies on the paths of men.

iii. Endings are not always bad, most times they're just beginnings in disguise.

iv. Cowards die many times before their death; the valiant never taste of death but once.

b. Pick the option that refers to what 'an endless fountain of immortal drink' suggests. 1

A. Inspirational deeds of great men

B. A ceaseless series of dreams

C. An infinite source of strength.

D. An elixir of life for upliftment of the soul.

E. An elixir source of delight.

F. A boundless gift of love.

i. A, D and E

ii. B, C and E

iii. A, B and F

iv. B, D and F

c. Pick the option that pairs the TRUE statements based on the extract, from the list below. 1

A. The bushes with fragment flowers lift the human spirit and bring joy.

B. Death is inevitable and everyone faces it no matter how powerful.

C. Immortality is achieved by man when he drinks the nectar of joy.

D. Legendary heroes and their heroic deeds instil inspiration in us.

i. A and B

ii. B and D

iii. A and D

iv. B and C

d. Pick the option that uses the same poetic device as the 'mighty dead'. 1

i. Sleepless nights.

ii. Deafening silence.

iii. Glaring lights.

iv. Time is a thief.

e. 'Grandeur of the dooms' does not mean the same as: 1

i. The glory and magnificence that the dead are entitled to on the Doom's Day following their death.

ii. Glorified stories celebrating the life of our powerful ancestors on Doom's Day.

iii. The magnificence that we imagine for our mighty dead forefathers on the Doom's Day.

iv. An account of the fact that the great people died for giving unhappiness to the rest of the world.

f. Why is the fountain endless? 1

i. It is given to us by nature and is immortal.

ii. Great people are dying every day.

iii. Man is the greatest living animal.

iv. It is in nature but is controlled by generations of man.

8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two given. 4

"Your Majesty, this is an extremely rare example of craftsmanship. A bargain at three hundred rupees!"

"Very good. Let this be your offering to the crown prince on his birthday", said the King and took it away with him. On that day father and son played with that tiny little wooden tiger. It had been carved by an unskilled carpenter. Its surface was rough; tiny slivers of wood stood up like quills all over it. One of those slivers pierced the Maharaja's right hand. He pulled it out with his left hand and continued to play with the prince. The next day, infection flared in the Maharaja's right hand. In four days, it developed into a suppurating sore which spread all over the arm. The three surgeons were brought in from Madras. After holding a consultation, they decided to operate. The operation took place.

The three surgeons who performed it came out of the theatre and announced, "The operation was successful. The Maharaja is dead."

a. The tiny slivers of wood on the wooden tiger stood up like quills all over resulted in: 1

i. Great celebration in the state on the occasion of the Maharaja's son's birthday.

ii. Maharaja's unfortunate and unprecedented demise.

iii. The craftsman suspension.

iv. Extreme misery and disgust for the astrologer.

b. Choose the proverb from the following justifying the extract. 1

i. Penny wise and pound foolish.

ii. A man is known by the company he keeps.

iii. A priest goes no further from his church.

iv. Too many cooks spoil the broth.

c. The word 'suppurating', here means the same as: 1

i. Saturating. ii. Blowing up

iii. Rampaging iv. Swelling up

d. What would you NOT choose from the following if you are to justify the ending of the story "The Tiger King"? 1

A. Tame. B. Spontaneous

C. Unconstrained D. Unpremeditated

E. Contrived F. Gratuitous

G. Unconvincing

i. A, B, D, G ii. B, C, E, F

iii. A, C, D, G iv. B, C, D,F

OR

Sadao knew that his education was his father's chief concern. For this reason he had been sent at twenty-two to America to learn all that could be learned of surgery and medicine. He had come back at thirty and before his father died he had seen Sadao become famous not only as a surgeon but as a scientist. Because he was perfecting a discovery which would render wounds entirely clean, he had not been sent abroad with the troops. Also, he knew, there was some slight danger that the old general might need an operation for a condition for which he was now being treated medically and for this possibility Sadao was being kept in Japan.

a Choose the best option that best defines the role of Sadao's father in his life. 1

i. He was very concerned about his education.

ii. He sent Sadao to America to learn medicine and surgery.

iii. He made Dr.Sadao famous before his death.

iv. He motivated Sadao to become a scientist.

b. Dr.Sadao was not sent abroad with the troops because _____ 1

c. Choose the correct option that best describes Sadao as a perfect son. 1

i. Sadao went to America as desired by his father.

ii. Sadao returned to Japan before his father's death.

iii. Sadao gained fame as a doctor as well as scientist while his father was alive.

iv. Sadao stayed with his father and did not go abroad with the troops.

d. Select the best option which you consider as the most influential factor in Sadao's life. 1

i. The years he spent in America.

ii. The general whom he was treating.

iii. The war between America and Japan.

iv. His father's support and motivation.

9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the two, given. 6

Maybe I give the impression of doing many things. But in the end, I am convinced I am always doing the same thing...And then I have a secret, Did you know what will happen if you eliminate the empty spaces from the universe, eliminate the empty spaces is in all the atoms? The universe will become as big as my fist. Similarly, we have a lot of empty spaces in our lives. I call them interstices. Say you are coming over to my place. You are in an elevator and while you are coming up, I am waiting for you. This is an interstice, an empty. I work in empty spaces.

a. Read the question given below. Imagine they were interjections raised by the interviewer based on the above extract. Choose the option that correctly describes the given questions. 1

A. If you are "always doing the same thing ", isn't your work lacking in originality?

B. Could you elaborate on these larger ethical, philosophical interests that inform your work?

C. All writing happens in empty spaces. In fact, why don't I tell you all about my experiences?

i. A is not relevant; B is appropriate; C is unnecessary.

ii. A is appropriate; B is repetitive; C is useful information.

iii. A is inappropriate; B is relevant; C is not relevant.

iv. A is unnecessary; B is intrusive; C is extrapolatory.

b. Based on your reading of Part I of "The Interview", which one of the following may NOT be an appropriate title to the above extract? 1

i. The Empty Spaces of Umberto Eco.

ii. Big Expose: Eco's Secret Revealed!

iii. "I am always doing the same thing ": Eco's Echoes

iv. Umberto Eco, Mr. Prolific !

c. "I work in empty spaces." Choose the option that most accurately captures Eco's idea of empty spaces. 1

i. Management of time. ii. Organization of space.

iii. Philosophical inclination. iv. Command of thought.

d. Umberto Eco states that 'empty spaces ' actually fill spaces and without them the universe would be the size of the human fist. He also says that it is in an interstice such as waiting, which the dictionary defines as a time for pause that he works. That is, passive waiting is essentially active writing time.

Choose the literary device that best describes what Eco does with the concepts of 'empty spaces' and 'waiting.' 1

i. Juxtaposition ii. Irony.

iii. Oxymoron iv. Symbolism

e. 'Interstices' means the same as: 1

i. Continuity ii. Continuation

iii. Hiatus iv. Progression

f "Maybe I give the impression of doing many things." To whom does Eco says these words and why ? 1

OR

"It takes longer to build a school", I say, embarrassed at having made a promise that was not meant. But promises like mine abound in every corner of his bleak world. After months of knowing him. I ask his name,"Saheb-e-Alam", he announces. He does not know what it means. If he knew its meaning- lord of the universe- he would have a hard time believing it. Unaware of what his name represents, he roams the streets with his friends, an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon. Over the months, I have come to recognise each of them.

a. Select the option that explains the appropriate reason for the narrator's embarrassment. 1

i. She was not able to build the school in time.

ii. She does not know the name of the boys.

iii. She is guilty of giving a false hope to the boy.

iv. She is not aware of his bleak world.

b. Of the four meanings of 'embarrassed' select the option that matches in meaning with its usage in the extract. 1

i. Concerned ii. Uncomfortable

iii. Sorry iv. Sympathetic

c. What does the author mean by 'his bleak world'? 1

d. The author's view on hearing the name "Saheb-e-Alam" is..... 1

e. The literary device used in the expression 'an army of barefoot boys who appear like morning birds' is..... 1

f. Explain the relevant inference of the line "But promises like mine abound in every corner of his bleak world." 1

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in about 40-50 words. 5X2=10

a. If someone else had narrated Douglas' experience, how it would have differed from this account? Comment from the point of view of narration.

b. Which respective qualities of Gandhi led farmers, lawyers and Britishers to bow before him?

c. What does the expression 'polished traffic' refer to? What does it reveal about city people?

d. There are diverse ways to inspire, transform and touch millions of lives. Justify it with reference to "The Rattrap".

e. Why was the office boy frustrated? Who did he show his anger on?

f. What does the story of Subbu's success in the film industry reveal about the importance of loyalty , creativity and versatility in this field?

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in about 40-50 words. 2X2=4

i. What does the play "On the face of it" suggest about the importance of empathy in overcoming prejudice and stereotypes?

ii. "You are a good man," the General murmured and closed his eyes." "You will be rewarded." Compare the basis of rewarding system with the current paradigm of political order.

iii. "Man proposes God disposes" - ultimately destiny has final say. Justify the same with reference to "Tiger King".

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5

Sounds and sights around are great comforters and keep ignited the flame of living life in spite of gloomy spirit. Examine this statement in wake of "Keeping Quiet" and "My Mother at Sixty-six".

OR

The fear of losing a person and a thing fills one with quite admiration of them. Comment on this statement with appropriate example from the chapter "The Last Lesson", "My mother at Sixty-six" and "Deep Water".

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions, in about 120-150 words. 5

On returning home, Tishani Doshi writes her thoughts reflecting on how her decision to enrol for the students on Ice programme has been the single most important decision of her life that has

completely transformed her. Imagine yourself to be the Tishani and express these thoughts.

[You may begin like this: I can't thank my stars enough for having cashed in on the opportunity of.....]

OR

In the story, "The Third level" by Jack Finney, Charley is obsessed with finding the third level. In an attempt to thrash out whether this obsession is a good quality or a harmful one, Charley's wife expresses her thoughts in a diary entry. As Louisa, Charley's wife, write this diary entry. Support your response with reference to the story.

[You may begin this way: I have been married to Charley for a few years now and I have always known him to be an intelligent man with an imaginative mind. However, his recent obsession with finding the third level has.....]