



INDIAN SCHOOL SOHAR
PRE-BOARD I EXAMINATION (2023 - 2024)
ENGLISH CORE (301)

No. of Printed Pages: 11
SET B

CLASS: XII

MAX. MARKS: 80

DATE: 25-11-2023

TIME: 3 Hours

General Instructions:

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

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (22 marks)

Reading Comprehension Through Unseen Passages

1. Read the following text.

12

1. During his recent visit to India, the world golf champion Tiger Woods was all praise for the players at the Delhi Golf Club. As golf gains ground as a corporate sport in India, many top-level Indian corporates will be heading for a game with professionals, such as Tiger Woods. Participating in these events, where amateurs play with professionals, comes for a hefty fee.

2. The long-term advantages of these fleeting interactions on the golf course with professionals are debatable. But for corporates playing besides a powerhouse of talent can definitely up their game. This was the general opinion even among the spectators who had watched Tiger Woods in Delhi. Munjal, the amateur player along with him, was also impressed with his game. "Quite a swing, right?", he commented.

3. But even those who cannot afford the hefty charges of a top professional, investing in their game by hiring a professional coach has benefits. According to other golf consultants, several Indians are also attending 'golf clinics' abroad for specific programmes to improve their game. According to Butch Harmon, the professional, who has worked with Tiger Woods, a short course generates more power in the swing and in aligning shots. These changes though minor have long-term benefits. In golf, marginal improvements are subtle and small changes like tweaking the position of the hand on the club or learning how to aim your body before swinging the club, can be mastered during these short-term interactions, yield results.

4. Another way for Indian golfers to keep connected internationally is through the online golf community. According to Sandeep Sarkar, his experience at the British coach David Leadbetter's academy was most fruitful. 'They showed me a video of my game and I saw how bad I was in some positions.'

5. As golf is a technical game, unlike football or other sports, playing every day will not necessarily improve one's game. Hence, amateur golfers are also travelling to Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, and Dubai, for sessions that combine a three-day course play with a one-day clinic with a professional golfer. This is a huge improvement from the standard of coaching available in India. As most Indian trainers are caddies turned coaches, they teach by trial and error.

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

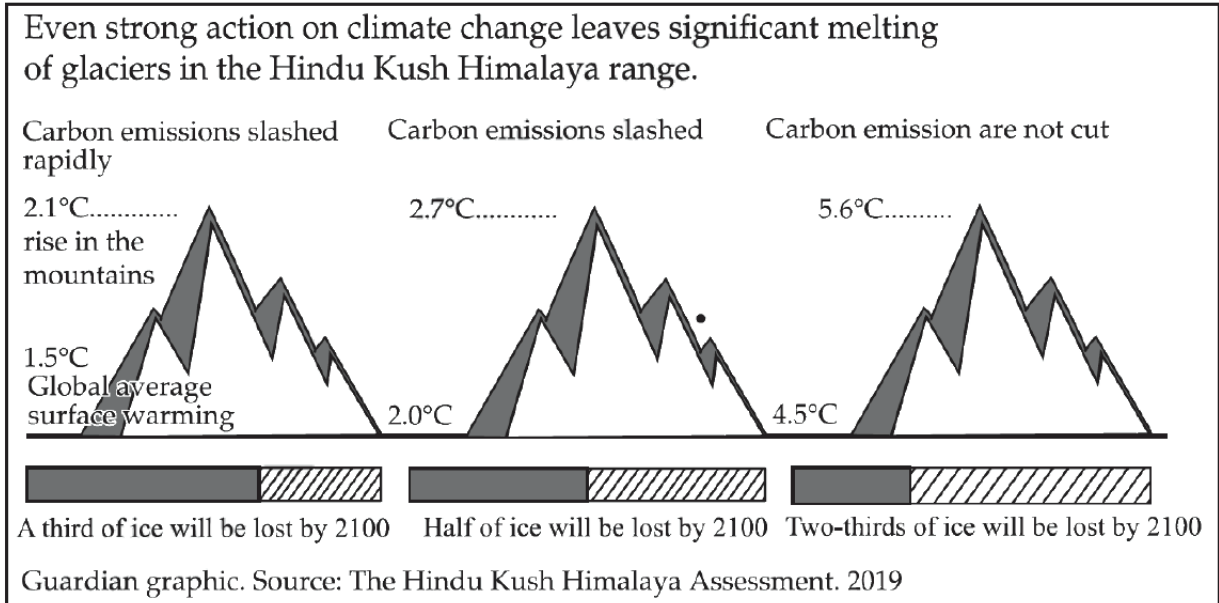
- i. Based on the passage, provide evidence, in about 40 words, to support the view that the writer's writing style is analytical and detailed. Highlight specific instances where the writer provides in-depth analysis or detailed descriptions. 2
- ii. With which statement given below would the readers of the passage agree? 1
- A. Golf being a technical game like football, will not improve the players.
 - B. As golf is a technical game, playing every day, will not improve the game.
 - C. Golf is a game with many technicalities, unlike football.
 - D. Golf is a technician's game, unlike football.
- iii. Based on your understanding of the text, what are the various advantages of small changes in the game of golf? 2
- iv. Select the antonym for the word 'hefty' as used in para 3 of the text. 1
- A. loathe
 - B. lithe
 - C. light
 - D. sparse
- v. Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or its description. 1
One can infer that the golfers who are seeking professional training are _____. (any two)
- vi. '...amateur golfers are also travelling to Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore and Dubai, for sessions that ...'. Based on the passage what does the term 'sessions' refer to? 1
- vii. Based on the passage, choose the option that is similar in meaning to the golfer's expression, "Quite a swing, right?". 1
- A. Simple, isn't it?
 - B. Could be better, no?
 - C. Impressive, yes?
 - D. Too challenging for you?
- viii. What similarities and differences exist between Sandeep Sarkar and Butch? 2
- ix. Which of the titles suggested below is a worthy one for this passage? 1
- A. The Tiger's Visit
 - B. Amateur Players and Professional Golf Trainers
 - C. Golf, A Learning Curve for Amateurs
 - D. The Impact of Tiger Woods' Visit on Indian Golf

2. Read the passage carefully:

10

1. At least a third of the huge ice fields in Asia's towering mountain chain are doomed to melt due to climate change, according to a report, with serious consequences for almost two billion people. Even if carbon emissions are dramatically and rapidly cut and succeed in limiting global warming to 1.5°C, 36% of the glaciers along the Hindu Kush and Himalaya range will have gone by 2100. If emissions are not cut, the loss soars to two-thirds, the report found.

2. The glaciers are a critical water store for the 250 million people who live in the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region, and 1.65 billion people rely on the great rivers that flow from the peaks into India, Pakistan, China and other nations. "This is the climate crisis you haven't heard of," said Philippus Wester of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), who led the report. pot for climate change impacts."



3. The new report, requested by the eight nations, on the mountains span, is intended to change that. More than 200 scientists worked on the report over five years. Until recently the impact of climate change on the ice in the HKH region was uncertain, said Wester. "But we really do know enough now to take action, and action is urgently needed," he added. The HKH region runs from Afghanistan to Myanmar and is the planet's "third pole", harbouring more ice than anywhere outside Arctic and Antarctica. Limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels requires cutting emissions to zero by 2050. This is felt to be extremely optimistic by many but still sees a third of the ice lost, according to the report. If the global rise is 2°C, half of the glaciers will be projected to melt away by 2100.

4. Since the 1970s, about 15% of the ice in the HKH region has disappeared as temperatures have risen. But the HKH range is 3,500 km long and the impact of warming is variable. Some glaciers in Afghanistan and Pakistan are stable and a few are even gaining ice, most probably due to increased cloud cover that shields the sun and changed winds that bring more snow. But even these will start melting with future warming, Wester said.

5. The melting glaciers will increase river flows through to 2050 to 2060, he said, pushing up the risk of high-altitude lakes bursting their banks and engulfing communities. But from the 2060s, river flows will go into decline. The Indus and central Asian rivers will be most affected. But the changes to spring melting already appear to be causing the pre-monsoon river flow to fall just when farmers are planting their crops. "Worse, the monsoon is also becoming more erratic and prone to extreme downpours." said Wester. (Created for academic usage.)

Answer the following questions, based on given passage.

i. Based on the information given in the passage, how might the predicted decline in river flows from the 2060s impact the water management strategies of the countries that rely on these rivers? Consider the effects on agriculture sector. 2

ii. Based on the report about the melting of glaciers in the Hindu Kush and Himalaya range mentioned in paragraph (1 &2), what are two potential benefits that could be derived from this study? Answer in approximately 40 words. 2

- viii Which word in the passage means the same as 'promptly'? (para 1) 1
- A. Rapidly B. emissions
C. dramatically D. soars

SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS (18 marks)

Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

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

(A) As the House Captain of A.B.M Public School, Telangana, draft a notice for the school notice board, informing House members from IX-XII about the change in topic and submission dates for Round 1 of 'Discovery' – the upcoming Inter-House Research-based Paper Presentation Competition. Do not forget to issue an apology for the above. You are Kruthika Reddy.

OR

(B) You are Josely Mathew, the President of the School Book Club. The club is organising a drive for promoting the reuse of study materials and books. Draft a notice for the school notice board, addressing students of classes IX-XII, informing them 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 the two, in about 50 words. 4

(A) Sunita has cleared the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET). Her parents, Seema, and Rahul Pandey are hosting a dinner party to celebrate her success. Draft a formal invitation card giving details of date, time, venue etc.

OR

(B) You are Dr Shailesh Gupta, an eminent educationist. You have been invited to preside over an Inter Zonal Declamation Competition by Neha, the President of English Literary Club of Government Model Sr. Sec. School Sector19, Chandigarh. Write a letter accepting the invitation.

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

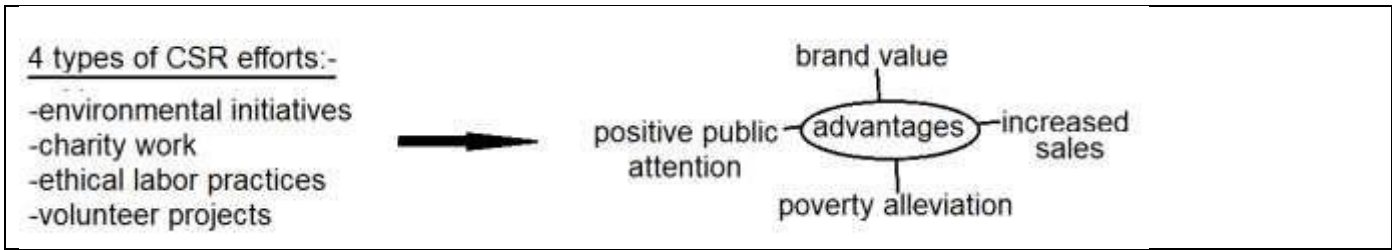
(A) You are Arvind/Aarti Sinha, residing at Marine Vihar, Mumbai. You have come across the following advertisement in 'The Times Today' for the position of School Counsellor at 'New Dawn Public School', Mumbai. Write a letter expressing your interest and provide a detailed resume for the post. Invent the necessary details.

SITUATION VACANT

School Counsellor needed at New Dawn Public School, Mumbai. Relevant degree, good communication skills etc. Should have at least 5 years' experience. Contact HR Manager Arvind/Aarti Sinha, Marine Vihar, Mumbai.

OR

(B) You are Minu Sen, an intern in a software company in Hyderabad. You feel that the growing relationship of companies with non-profit organisations have made Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) the buzzword today. Your own involvement in one such project for your company has convinced you that CSR looks beyond the company profits and focuses on benefiting the greater community. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily sharing your opinion about CSR and its advantages and provide suggestions to make it an integral part of every organisation. Use the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter.



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

(A) The construction sector is believed to be quite hazardous and has the maximum number of fatal work injuries because apart from other causes, stakeholders in this sector tend to ignore safety regulations. As a columnist for an e-magazine, draft an article on the theme of the importance of worker safety in construction zones. Explore possible reasons for the prevailing situation and include suggestions for addressing it. Support your ideas with cues given below.

Headlines

- * CONSTRUCTION WORKERS: RISK OF ACCIDENT DUE TO FATIGUE
- * CONSTRUCTION WORKFORCE HEALTH CHALLENGES IN EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS
- * CONSTRUCTION WORKER FATALITY: BURIED UNDER SOIL HEAP
- * ARE CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS FROM MARS AND WORKERS FROM VENUS?
- * WILL TRAINING PROGRAMMES REVAMP THE SAFETY STANDARDS?

OR

(B) Health Mela was organized by the ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The theme of the Mela was 'Child Obesity- a Growing Concern'. The day long activities consisted of a free BMI check-up, poster making and a talk on healthy eating habits. The Mela was inaugurated by the local MLA Mr. Lal. You are Sandhya/Sohan Ahuja, Staff Correspondent of 'The Star'. Write a report covering this event. Mention date, time, venue, details about the inauguration, events, the impact of the Mela, and response of participants.

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

(A) *It is in the news that all these pitiful kin
 Are to be bought out and mercifully gathered in
 To live in villages, next to the theatre and the store,
 Where they won't have to think for themselves anymore,
 While greedy good-doers, beneficent beasts of prey,
 Swarm over their lives enforcing benefits
 That are calculated to soothe them out of their wits,
 And by teaching them how to sleep they sleep all day,
 Destroy their sleeping at night the ancient way.
 (A Roadside Stand)*

i. Identify the phrase from the extract, that suggests the following: 1
 No one bothers to take 'their' consent before pushing the promise of a better life, their way.

ii. Complete the following analogy correctly. Do NOT repeat from used example. 1
 greedy good doers: alliteration :: oxymoron

iii. What quality of the villagers can be inferred through these lines? 1
A. gullible B. passive
C. hypocritical D. indifferent

iv. What is the tone of the poet in the above lines? 1
(i) aggressive (ii) tolerant (iii) sarcastic
(iv) resigned (v) sentimental
Choose the most appropriate option.
A. Only (i) B. (ii) and (iii)
C. (i), (iv) and (v) D. Only (iii)

v. Fill the blank with an appropriate word, with reference to the extract. 1
'... calculated to soothe them out of their wits' implies that 'them' are being _____.

vi. Based on the extract, choose the correct option with reference to (1) and (2) given below. 1
(1) The villagers are content with their current lifestyle.
(2) The city dwellers impose their own ideas of progress on the villagers.
A. Only (1) is true. B. Only (2) is true.
C. Both (1) and (2) are true. D. Neither (1) nor (2) is true.

OR

(B) *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.*

i. The expression 'mighty dead' in the poem indicates _____.

ii. Pick the option that refers to what 'an endless fountain of immortal drink suggests'. 1
1. Inspirational deeds of great men 2. A ceaseless series of dreams
3. An infinite source of strength 4. An elixir of life for upliftment of the soul
5. An eternal source of delight 6. A boundless gift of love
A. 1, 4 and 5 B. 2, 3 and 5 C. 1, 2 and 6 D. 2, 4 and 6

iii. Which phrase in the extract uses the same literary device as 'deafening silence'. 1

iv. Based on the given extract, state whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE. 1
"Legendary heroes and their heroic deeds instil inspiration in us."

v. Pick the quote that matches best with 1
"And such too is the grandeur of the dooms we have imagined for the mighty dead."
A. In the night of death, hope sees a star and listening love can hear the rustle of a wing.
B. When a great man dies, for years the light he leaves behind him, lies on the paths of men.
C. Endings are not always bad, most times they're just beginnings in disguise.
D. Cowards die many times before their death; the valiant never tastes of death but once.

- vi. Complete the sentence appropriately. 1
 “The grandeur of the dooms we have imagined for the mighty dead” relates to _____.
8. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two given. 4
- (A) *“If we sheltered a white man in our house, we should be arrested and if we turned him over a prisoner, he would certainly die,” Sadao said.*
“The kindest thing would be to put him back into the sea,” Hana said. But neither of them moved. They were staring with a curious repulsion upon the inert figure. “What is he?” Hana whispered.
“There is something about him that looked American,” Sadao said
(The Enemy)
- i. Give one reason why the writing style of the extract can be called a narrative. 1
- ii. Discuss the significance of the statement “If we sheltered a white man in our house, we should be arrested and if we turned him over a prisoner, he would certainly die”. How does it reflect the socio-political context of the time? 1
- iii. What is the tone of the speaker in the first line? 1
 A. Fearful B. Concerned
 C. Sarcastic D. Intrigued
- iv. Based on the excerpt, how would you interpret the relationship between Sadao and Hana? 1
- OR**
- (B) *DERRY: You’re ... peculiar. You say peculiar things. You ask questions I don’t understand.*
MR LAMB: I like to talk. Have company. You don’t have to answer questions. You don’t have to stop here at all. The gate’s open.
DERRY: Yes, but...
MR LAMB: I’ve a hive of bees behind those trees over there. Some hear bees and they say, bees buzz. But when you listen to bees for a long while, they humm. ... and hum means ‘sing’. I hear them singing, my bees.
DERRY: But....I like it here. I came in because I liked it when I looked over the wall.
MR LAMB: If you’d seen me, you’d not have come in.
DERRY: No.
(On the Face of It)
- i. Which of the following best summarises Mr. Lamb’s attitude towards the bees? 1
 A. Beauty is being true to yourself.
 B. There is a kind of beauty in imperfection.
 C. Beauty is the promise of happiness.
 D. The beauty of the world lies in the details.
- ii. List the playwright’s purpose of using ellipses (...) in this extract. 1
- iii. Derry says, “I came in here because I liked it” What was the one significant thing Derry might have liked about the place, as per the extract? 1

- iv. Select the option that best describes Derry and Mr. Lamb in the extract. 1
- A. Derry: introvert; Mr. Lamb: friendly
 B. Derry: fearful; Mr. Lamb: domineering
 C. Derry: friendly; Mr. Lamb: weird
 D. Derry: open minded; Mr. Lamb: charming
9. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for **ANY ONE** of the two given. 6
- (A) *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 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 space. I work in empty spaces.*
 (The Interview)
- i. 'Doing many things' here, refers to _____ . 1
- ii. Find the word from the extract which means the opposite of 'obtain'. 1
- iii. Which one of the following may NOT be an appropriate title to the above extract? 1
- A. "The Empty Spaces of Umberto Eco"
 B. "I am Always Doing Many Things"
 C. "Eco's Echoes"
 D. "Umberto Eco–Mr. Prolific!"
- iv. "I work in empty spaces". Choose the option that most accurately captures Eco's idea of empty spaces. 1
- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. management of time | 2. organisation of space |
| 3. philosophical inclination | 4. command of thought |
| A. Options (1) and (2) | B. Options (3) and (4) |
| C. Options (1) and (3) | D. Options (2) and (4) |
- (v) How does the narrator's 'secret' reveal his unique approach to life and work? 1
- (vi) Read the questions 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
- (1) If you are 'always doing the same thing', isn't your work lacking in originality?
 (2) Could you elaborate in these larger ethical, philosophical interests that give us information about your work?
 (3) All writing happens in empty spaces. In fact, why don't you tell all about your experiences?
- A. (1) is not relevant; (2) is appropriate; and (3) is unnecessary
 B. (1) is appropriate; (2) is repetitive; and (3) is useful information
 C. (1) is inappropriate; (2) is relevant; and (3) is not relevant
 D. (1) is unnecessary; (2) is intrusive; and (3) is extrapolatory

OR

(B) *A girl from the countryside, she hadn't gone through all the stages of worldly experience that generally precede a position of importance and sophistication that she had found herself catapulted into. She never quite recovered from the terror she felt that day. That was the end of a brief and brilliant acting career — the legal adviser, who was also a member of the Story Department, had unwittingly brought about that sad end. While every other member of the Department wore a kind of uniform — khadi dhoti with a slightly oversized and clumsily tailored white khadi shirt — the legal adviser wore pants and a tie and sometimes a coat that looked like a coat of mail. Often, he looked alone and helpless ...*

(Poets and Pancakes)

- i. Select the option that completes the given sentence appropriately. 1
'Stages of worldly experience' in the given context would refer to _____.
A. good education to gain knowledge.
B. situations that require one to be street smart.
C. smaller, not so important roles in acting.
D. training in soft skills.
- ii. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that the writer is sympathetic towards the professional fate of the actor. *(Clue: a phrase)* 1
- iii. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is **TRUE** for the legal adviser. 1
A. He disliked the actress from the countryside.
B. He acted after thinking through things carefully.
C. He did not gel well with others in the Department.
D. He was always dressed smartly.
- iv. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract. 1
The writer uses the word 'uniform' to refer to the outfits of the Department members because just like a uniform _____.
- v. Select the correct option to fill in the blank. 1
The harm done to the actress was a/an _____.
A. well-planned act.
B. unintentional act.
C. act of jealousy.
D. act of male dominance.
- vi. Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy: 1
sealed: closed:: propelled: _____.

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following in about 40-50 words each:

5×2=10

- i. The allure of the unknown is a common human trait. In the context of Sophie from the story "Going Places", how does this fascination manifest itself, particularly in her interactions and perceptions of her surroundings?
- ii. In what ways does the isolated forest setting in 'The Rattrap' enhance the overall atmosphere and sentiment of the narrative?
- iii. What is the significance of the similes 'her face ashen like that of a corpse' and 'as a late winter's moon' in Kamala Das's poem "My Mother at Sixty-Six"?

- iv. How does Pablo Neruda use imagery in “Keeping Quiet” to convey his message about the importance of introspection and unity?
- v. Why do you think Christopher Silvester describes the viewpoints of other writers and authors when discussing the concept of an interview? Support your opinion with reference to any one writer cited.
(Hint- source of truth, supremely serviceable, medium of communication, interviewer has position of power, it is an intrusion, etc.)
- vi. In Deep Water, which qualities of the swimming instructor played a role in helping Douglas overcome his fear?

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each. 2×2=4

- i. How did the narrator end up at the ‘third level’ and what indications assured him that he was not in his present time?
- ii. Identify Tishani Doshi's writing style in Journey to the End of the Earth and state two aspects that characterise it using examples from the text.
- iii. *The essence of a person is not determined by their physical appearance, but by their inner character and values.* Discuss this with reference to this statement from ‘On the Face of It “It’s not what you look like that matters but it’s what you are inside”’.

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

- i. In what ways do the depictions of Mukesh’s family in “Lost Spring” and Aunt Jennifer in “Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers” provide insights into the gender roles in their respective societies? Write a speech that discusses examples from both texts to shed light on the gender roles in these societies and emphasizes on the importance of women’s empowerment.

OR

- ii. The prose lessons, ‘Deep Water’ and ‘Indigo’ bring out the importance of overcoming fear, to be able to lead our lives successfully. Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write this address elaborating on occurrences from the two texts to inspire your audience and to convince them about the importance of overcoming fear.

You may begin like this ...

Good morning, students!

We all know what it’s like to be afraid. Fear is our body’s natural response to a perceived threat or danger. But when ...

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

- i. How does the Tiger King’s belief in the prophecy of his future lead to his downfall, and how does this compare to the influence of superstition in “The Enemy”? Write an article with reference to the quotes, “Let tigers beware!” from “The Tiger King” and “The master ought not to heal the wound of this white man” from “The Enemy”.

OR

- ii. Both Bama and Zitkala Sa experienced the harsh reality of discrimination in their childhood. Instead of letting it pull them down, they both found a way to overcome it. You wish to include a cameo of both in your upcoming blog post. As a part of the research, compare the experiences faced by the two and their response/s to these experiences, in 120-150 words.

[Clue: Include the similarities and differences in the discrimination they faced - their feelings - determination to overcome – success]

Cameo - a short description that neatly encapsulates someone or something.