

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately. You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

Attempt all five questions. The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [] You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering Question 1 and 20 minutes in answering Question 2

Q 1

(Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

Write a composition (300-350 words) on any one of the following: [20]

- (i) Write a short story in which a little girl, her twin brother and the school bully are the main characters.
- (ii) Elements of Western Culture have had a very influential role on cultures of the world. How are these elements different from those of Indian culture? What, according to you, should we as Indians adopt from the West to make life more meaningful?
- (iii) 'No other subject taught in school is as important as Moral Science.' Express your views either for or against the statement.
- (iv) A village fair is very different from a city one. It is usually held annually and is connected with a religious festival or harvest. The purpose of such fairs is usually trade and to exhibit and sell village handicrafts. Describe one such fair.
- (v) Study the picture given below. Write a story or a description or an account of what it suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it; however, there must be a clear connection between the picture and your composition.



Q 2

(Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.)

Select **any one** of the following:

[10]

- (i) Write a letter to a friend who was absent from school on a day when a really comical incident took place. Describe the incident; say what was so funny about it and what you learnt from it.
- (ii) Traffic jams in your city/town are getting worse day after day. Write a letter to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) complaining about the problem and offering suggestions for improvement.

Q 3.

(i) You are the secretary of the Debating Society of your school. Draft a notice giving all necessary details for the school noticeboard, asking the students of classes IX and X to submit their names for the Inter-school Debate Competition. The topic for the debate is: Should students be allowed to use social networking sites?5

(ii) Write an e-mail to the principals of neighbouring schools, inviting entries from their students for participating in the Inter-School Debate Competition, described in Q.3 (a). [5]

Q 4. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Sita went to her grandfather and sat down beside him.

'When you are hungry, tell me,' she said, 'and I will make the bread.'

'Is your grandmother asleep?'

'Yes. But she will wake soon. The pain is deep.'

The old man stared across the river, at the dark green of the forest, at the leaden sky, and said, 'If she is not better by morning, I will take her to the hospital in Shahganj. They will know how to make her well. You may be on your own for two or three days. You have been on your own before.'

Sita nodded *gravely*-she had been alone before; but not in the middle of the rains with the river so high. But she knew that someone must stay behind. She wanted Grandmother to get well and she knew that only Grandfather could take the small boat across the river when the current was so strong.

Sita was not afraid of being left alone but she did not like the look of the river.

That evening it began to rain again. Big pellets of rain were scarring the surface of the river. But it was warm rain and Sita could move about in it. She was not afraid of getting wet, she rather liked it. In the previous month, when the monsoon shower had arrived, washing the dusty leaves of the tree and bringing up the good smell of the earth, she had exulted in it, had run about shouting for joy.

She was used to it now, even a little tired of the rain, but she did not mind getting wet. It was *steamy* indoors and her thin dress would soon dry in the heat from the kitchen fire.

She walked about barefoot, barelegged. She was very sure on her feet. Her toes had grown accustomed to gripping all kinds of rocks, slippery or sharp, and though thin, she was surprisingly strong.

Black hair, streaming across her face. Black eyes. Slim brown arms. A scar on her thigh when she was small, visiting her mother's village, a hyena had entered the house where she was sleeping, fastened onto her leg and tried to drag her away but her screams had roused the villagers and the hyena had run off.

She had moved about in the pouring rain, chasing the hens into a shelter behind the hut. A harmless brown snake, flooded out of its hole, was moving across the open ground. Sita took a stick, picked the snake up with it, and dropped it behind a cluster of rocks. She had no quarrel with snakes. They kept down the rats and the frogs. She wondered how the rats had first come to the island-probably in someone's boat or in a sack of grain.

She disliked the huge black scorpions who left their waterlogged dwellings and tried to take shelter in the hut. It was so easy to step on one and the sting could be very painful. She had been bitten by a scorpion the previous monsoon and for a day and a night she had known fever and great pain. Sita had never a killed scorpion living creatures but now, whenever she found a scorpion, she crushed it with a rock! When, finally, she went indoors she was hungry.

She ate some *parched* gram and warmed up some gōat's milk.

Grandmother woke once and asked for water and Grandfather held the brass tumbler to her lips. The roof was leaking and a small puddle formed on the floor. Grandfather kept the kerosene lamps alight. They did not need the light but somehow it made them feel safer.

(i) For each word given below choose the correct meaning (as used in the passage) from the options provided. [3]

1. gravely (line 8)

(a) happily (b) seriously (c) angrily (d) with great fun

2. steamy (line 19)

(a) stinky (b) bright (c) wet (d) hot and humid

3. parched (line 37)

(a) dried (b) hollow (c) smooth (d) sat down

(ii) Answer the following questions briefly in your own words.

(a) Why did Sita have a scar on her thigh? [2]

(b) Why did she think snakes were useful? [1]

(c) What did Sita do with the snake? [2]

(d) The passage tells us that Sita never killed living creatures. Why did she crush scorpions with a rock? [2]

(e) Why did they keep the lamps alight? [2]

(iii) In not more than 50 words, describe what kind of a girl was Sita. [8]

Q 5.

(i) Fill in each of the numbered blanks with the correct form of the word given in brackets. Do not copy the passage, but write in correct serial order the word or phrase appropriate to the blank space. [4]

Example:

There (0) _____ (be) some confusion in the doorway.

Answer: was

A man (1) _____ (get) into the compartment (2) _____ (stammer) an apology. Then the door (3) _____ (bang) and the world was (4) _____ (shut) out again. I (5) _____ (return) to my berth. The guard (6) _____ (blow) his whistle and we (7) _____ (move) off. Once again I (8) _____ a game to play.

(ii) Fill in the blanks with an appropriate word : [4]

(a) The elderly man prepared himself for a life _____ retirement.

(b) Do you take his word _____ mine?

(c) Rohini is very concerned _____ her father's health.

(d) Altaf had many books and papers scattered all _____ the room.

(e) The Phoenix is a legendary bird that rises _____ its ashes.

(f) The police pulled the briefcase from _____ the table.

(g) The mob rushed onto the pavement, everyone seemed angry _____ everyone else.

(h) The old woman looked _____ the cupboard searching for the photograph.

(iii) Join the following sentences to make one complete sentence *without using and, but or so*. Choose the correct option. [4]

(a) The forest was dark and gloomy. Mr. Oliver travelled through it.

1. The forest by which Mr. Oliver travelled was dark and gloomy.

2. The forest through which Mr. Oliver travelled was dark and gloomy.