

1. i. was the daughter of a lighthouse keeper and lived in various sea conditions
 - ii. Grace stood by the lighthouse window that night and watched the sea nervously since she was familiar with the nature of the sea and could read the signs and predict what mood it was in, so she sensed something sinister was brewing inside it.
 - iii. On that night, William went into the water to attempt to pull as many survivors into their boat as possible while Grace rowed frantically backwards and forwards just so she could stay in the same position and not crash into the reef. They both saved nine victims that night and brought them back to safety.
 - iv. C. They rowed with determination towards almost certain death.
 - v. C. Maxwell road is _____ for its deathly traffic accidents.
 - vi. Valiant and tenacious can describe Grace.
 - vii. fame and paparazzi
 - viii. D. She was unable to live a normal life any more.
2. i. to guarantee that the greatest data and statistics available to support decision-making during and after the crisis
 - ii. a lack of, disruption
 - iii. Children will find themselves even more vulnerable because they are already at risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse, and because of the pandemic, their education and many other aspects of their basic needs are disrupted. Education, health services, etc. have become out of reach for such children. The only thing—education—that will bring them on par with others has also become inaccessible to them.

- iv. As many as 3 billion people lack handwashing facilities with soap and water available: 1.6 billion have facilities lacking soap or water, and 1.4 billion have no facilities at all.
- v. March 19
- vi. D. Both the Statements I and II are incorrect.
- vii. C. Dispensable
- viii. During the pandemic, all schools and colleges shifted to an online mode of learning, which required access to the internet, but less than half of households around the world have access to the internet.
- ix. handwashing facilities

3. i. highlights

Error	Correction
must	will

- iii. Radha wished her daughter Simran that she might crack that entrance exam in first attempt.
- iv. C. about her choice to participate
- v. D. gone

Error	Correction
aimed	aims

Options No.	Error	Correction
C	among	between

- viii. A. feeling
- ix. unlike the previous month, he had been away for quite some time that month
- x. D. dealt
- xi. B. call

Error	Correction
will	should

4. A. C/5, West Bengal

15 April 20XX

The Manager

Globe Travel Agency

The Mall Road, Shimla

Subject : Hotel accommodation and other facilities

Dear Sir,

I am planning to visit Shimla during the summer vacation. I intend to reach there on 16 May by the IC 308 flight and stay there for a week. You are requested to book a deluxe double bedroom in a five star hotel, as I will be accompanied by my friend. I shall also need a chauffeur-driven car to take us in and around Shimla.

Please make these facilities available for a week, i.e., from 16 May to 22 May 20XX. A bank draft for ₹ 5000 is enclosed as advance. Please confirm the bookings so that the remaining amount may be sent to you.

Yours faithfully,

Sonam

OR

4. B.

15, Navkunj Apartments

Delhi

7 March 20XX

The Editor

The Times of India

New Delhi

Subject : Traffic Congestion caused by Roadside Vendors

Sir,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I would like to draw the attention of the concerned authorities to the appalling condition of the roads leading to the main market.

The entire stretch is full of people. All sorts of traffic can be seen here. Roadside vendors occupy most of the space on roads. They cover the pavements and leave no room for parking. What is worse, they occupy at least one-third of the road and disturb the flow of traffic. The worst hit are the pedestrians. They are virtually caught between the devil and the deep sea. Moving on the road has become a nightmare for them.

We have already brought this problem to the notice of municipal authorities, but no tangible action has been taken so far. I think that certain steps are essential. The vendors must be issued licence and allotted specific space. Those who break the rules must be fined.

Prompt action on the part of the authorities will curb this problem and make the flow of traffic free and safe for the citizens.

Thank you

Yours faithfully

Rosie

5.A. Based on the letters of Mr. Anuj Bhatia and Ms. Ramaya Sen, Ms. Ramaya Sen emerges as the keynote speaker for the upcoming literary fest. With around 10 years of experience, Mr. Bhatia possesses strong skills in creative writing and mentoring young writers to polish their narrative style, his focus is more towards the internal craft side. Ms. Sen however displays a complementary and broader perspective. She links literature with social change, encourages students to see writing as advocacy, and has experience in international forums. Owing to our Literary Society's aim to not only nurture technical skill but also awaken critical thinking, social awareness and a definite purpose in writing, Ms. Sen's asset in connecting literature to real life challenges align more directly with the goals of the society. Her ability to inspire students to use writing as a tool for good will likely add starts to our fest in a way that transcends mere storytelling and nurtures meaningful expression.

OR

5.B. Laveena would be the most suitable partner for Omar in the creation of the Literacy Club as her qualities balance Omar's. While Omar excels in literature and motivational abilities, his struggles with scheduling, authors' liaising and consistence can be dealt with Laveena's confidence, leadership and excellent organizational skills. Laveena's forte in observing the right balance between administrative competence and inspirational presence, would let Omar lead on vision while she helps make it practical. Her ability to step into both motivational and structural roles, without overshadowing Omar's literary passion would enhance

the overall efficiency of the club. Her struggles with follow through on fine details, would be compensated with Omar's dedication and enthusiasm that can provide the drive to stay on task. Anju, while excellent at scheduling and logistics, her diffidence to drive reading discussions may diminish the dynamic environment required for a literacy club. Trehan, though brilliant at inspiring younger readers, his administrative inefficiencies might hamper club sustainability.

6. A. i. Huge mountains of clouds are expected and can be seen approaching in the north-eastern region.
ii. While having his meals, big drops of rain began to fall as Lencho had predicted. The huge mountains of cloud could be seen approaching and the air was fresh and sweet. Therefore, he went out to enjoy the feeling of rain falling on his body.
iii. D. Approaching
iv. dark and large clouds.

OR

- B. i. He had put on much weight.
ii. A. overlook
iii. D. The gardener who took him for the walk was down with body-ache.
iv. When Dr. Harriot saw Tricki, he was really worried. He was shocked at his appearance. The dog had become extremely fat. His eyes were bloodshot and rheumy.
7. A. i. C. 2 and 3
ii. A. It is to emphasize the might and boldness of Custard.
iii. D. (1) petrified (2) shocked

iv. Custard is being compared to a robin in the given extract because when the pirate entered the house, everyone was scared of him, but just like the robin catches the worm, Custard attacked him without delay, hit him hard with its tail, and gobbled him up.

OR

B. i. A. 1 and 2

ii. B. Option (2)

iii. C. 2, 3 and 5

iv. The phrase “newly discharged patients” in the extract suggests that the trees were once unwell or unhappy and in need of medical help or remedy, but now they are cured and ready to venture out and live their lives.

8. i. Baking was a profitable profession to be in the older days. Bread used to be (and still is) an integral part of every Goan tradition and festivals. Therefore, the fire in the baker’s furnace never extinguished. As a result, the baker and his family never had to face the situation where they had to starve. Instead, the baker, his family and even the servants looked happy and prosperous.

ii. Fable is a fictitious narrative usually with animals, birds, etc. as characters. It also conveys a strong message. On the other hand, a ballad is a narrative verse that can be silly or heroic. ‘The Tale of Custard the Dragon’ is a humorous and fictitious story of a dragon named Custard and how he bravely saved everyone from a pirate. The poem may have all the qualities of a ballad but it is a parody. Thus, it qualifies more as a fable than a ballad.

iii. Before he had come across the sick man, the aged man, the funeral procession and the monk begging for alms, during his hunting expedition, Prince Siddhartha Gautama lived a life of comfort, unaware of the sufferings of the world. After he chanced upon those sufferings, Siddhartha Gautama left his comfortable life at the palace and wandered off into the world seeking enlightenment, concerning the sorrows he had witnessed.

iv. At first, Chubukov suspected that Lomov had come to borrow money. He was not sincere when he told Lomov that he had always loved him and that he was like his own son. He had decided that he would not give Lomov any money if he tried borrowing from him. If he truly meant what he had said, then he would not have thought of not giving him money. He said so only because Lomov had come with the proposal to marry his daughter.

v. Valli did not want to go to the stall and have a drink because she did not have any money for that. Even when the conductor offered her a cold drink free of charge, she refused firmly and said that she only wanted her ticket. This shows that Valli had a lot of self-will and pride.

9. i. Bholi was quite a neglected child at home. No new clothes were made for her; she was always passed on dresses of her elder sisters. She remained unbathed and her hair was unwashed. Bholi’s parents were willing to get her married

off to an old, lame widower because of her disadvantageous looks and handicaps.

ii. In the twenty-fifth century, the relations between the Martians and the humans are quite cordial. Noodle is no more an apprentice. He has replaced Think-Tank as the Commander-in-Chief of Mars. A model library has been established in Marsopolis, the capital city of Mars. The Earthlings have taught the Martians to read. This has enabled the latter to differentiate between books and sandwiches.

iii. The significance of the balcony in the story ‘The Midnight Visitor’, is quite inevitable to the essence of the story. There was no balcony there in reality. Ausable creates a story to deceive Max. Max had the gun pointed at Ausable and he had to create a story to outwit Max while keeping calm. He also tells Max that there is police at his door when there was a knocking. The whole incident proved Ausable to be an alert and smart detective.

10. A. Valli was an eight-year-old girl who was born in a small village. She liked gazing at the hustle and bustle of the street and her most favourite part was the sight of a bus arriving and departing every hour. Valli was curious about the bus rides and used to listen to other people talking about their bus ride and dreamt of riding on bus herself. She asked those people questions about their experience of the ride so that she could gather information regarding the bus journey.

When Valli got on the bus she acted confidently and behaved maturely. She tried to carry herself as an adult and refused to take help from others. When the bus reached the town, she was observant and explored the town. Later she learned about the death of a cow and got sad. She handled it with maturity and accepted death as a part of life.

OR

B. Life is full of trials and tribulations. Kisa Gotami also passes through a period of grief in her life when her son, her only child, dies. Like any mother grieving the loss of her child, Kisa Gotami too goes mad with sorrow and carries her son’s corpse to her neighbours asking them for medicine. This continues until someone take pity on her and tells her to meet Sakyamuni the Buddha. On meeting the Buddha and on being asked by him to bring a handful of mustard seeds, from a house where the family has never lost a loved one, Kisa Gotami joyfully sets out in search of such a house. But, soon she realises that death and suffering is a common phenomenon and that she is being blind and selfish in her grief. The lesson to be learned from the story of Kisa Gotami’s life is that peace of mind cannot be obtained by grieving and acting selfishly. I would overcome my sorrows and surrender all selfishness. I would accept the fact that human life is mortal and that all of us have to suffer equally.

11. A. Life is a great mystery. For every individual, this mystery of life comes wrapped in a unique package. For some, it is all riches, comfort, name and fame. For some it is nothing but sheer hunger, poverty, anguish and an everyday quest for bare survival. One, however, must learn to live within one's means and be content with what one has. Contentment in one's life is very important to lead a happy and peaceful life. In the light of the story 'The Necklace', we find that Matilda suffered a lot in her life as she was not content. She is of a humble background but dreams of riches and comforts. She is proud of her beauty and wants to be admired. She lost the necklace, worn in the ball, that was borrowed from her old friend. She had to buy a similar one, for that she and her husband had to take a loan. Then it took Loisels a decade to pay back the money they borrowed to buy the necklace. In this way, their life changed. Now, Matilda was no longer pretty and beautiful. Her hollow desires led to her disaster.

OR

B. Mrs Pumphrey was a rich woman who loved her dog very much. She loved to live a comfortable and lavish life and also wanted her dog to spend a similar one. She had maintained a wardrobe full of fancy fur coats, dresses, beds, etc. for Tricki. Apart from this, she used to overfeed Tricki out of her love and concern. She used to serve him cod-liver oil and malt between the main meals and Horlicks after dinner to give him strength. She never realised that Tricki was a greedy dog and this would spoil his health. She could not even refuse to answer Tricki drooling for cream cakes and chocolates. Her overfeeding worsened Tricki's condition. This made the dog lazy, inactive and obese. He used to lie on his rug and pant all day long. Mrs Pumphrey fed him excessively, spoiling Tricki's health to such an extent that he had to be hospitalised. Even in the hospital she continued to convey Tricki her love through eggs, wine and brandy. Her fondness and care for Tricki proved that excess of everything made him fall sick.

