

### Question 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 an original short story that ends with the line: 'I never did fit in, but maybe it wasn't a bad thing after all.'
- (ii) You were challenged to spend a weekend without TV, the Internet or any electronic gadget. Narrate your experiences.
- (iii) '*Books are always better than their movie adaptations*'. Give your views either **for** or **against** the statement.
- (iv) Describe an interesting evening at home during a power cut.
- (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.



### Question 2.

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

Select **any one** of the following:

[10]

- (i) Write a letter to the manager of a renowned bakery seeking permission to visit. Give reasons for your visit.
- (ii) You spent four months in a foreign country as part of a student exchange programme. Write a letter to your friend narrating your observations.

### Question 3.

- (i) You are the school captain. You, along with the student council, are organizing a thanksgiving party and lunch for the service staff of the school. Make a notice giving information about the same, to the high school students. [5]
- (ii) Write an e-mail to the Principal of your school seeking permission to display the notice and requesting the use of the auditorium, and the dining hall for the event. [5]

### Question 4.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Mother believed that food cooked over smoky firewood in the mud oven was healthful while a kerosene flame caused throat trouble. To prove it she blew her nose and sneezed when Charu lit her kerosene stove. Charu ignored these symptoms and said, 'Mother, a wood fire leads to cold and eye disease, that's what my mother used to say...' and she managed without going in for wood fuel but used only kerosene or charcoal, thus tactfully puncturing her mother-in-law's notions about the kerosene stove. If mother-in-law asked, 'What are you preparing?' Charu only **mumbled** without turning round, and if the mother-in-law repeated her question, she mumbled again persistently. After the first few days she ignored all **queries** and communicated only when it pleased her. 'This time of the year, carrots are in plenty,' Charu might deign to remark occasionally, facing the wall. At which the mother-in-law would feel so pleased that she would elaborate on the state of vegetables and try to stretch the conversation out. 'Well, go and tell Gopu that plates are laid and we are waiting.'

If her mood was right, Charu would fetch her husband from the room to join the family at the meal. His sitting plank would be placed beside the door and there he always sat, after throwing a word of greeting to his mother, which was enough to thrill her, seeing so little of him all day. His father sat as always at his allotted seat below the first window. Mother served them. Nagaraj had his position of vantage below the second window. Being the junior-most, he was served last, but being Mother's pet, she served vegetables and rice liberally until he protested and Father came to his rescue saying 'Just give him what he wants, he is old enough, don't overload his plate.' His brother ate in silence, he was not particularly friendly with his father, as he suspected that if he relented Father would **renew** his offer to find him a job, and it seemed to the observant Nag that he nipped Father's proposal in the bud while Charu kept a watch on his plate and served with measured caution. She took from her mother-in-law's preparations just a small quantity of some food and served her husband for the sake of appearances so that it might not seem as if she ignored completely the food meant for the family. The family ate in general silence, only Nagaraj trying to keep up a conversation, undeterred by the absence of response from the rest of the family. He laughed and cracked jokes and narrated his school incidents, unmindful of the indifference of the others. Only his mother pretended to listen and appreciate what he said, but always concluded, 'Eat, eat, don't keep talking...'

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

- |                  |               |                              |              |
|------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. mumbled       | (line 6)      | (b) spoke in a fearful voice |              |
| (a) spoke rudely |               | (d) spoke in a low voice     |              |
| (c) spoke loudly |               |                              |              |
| 2. queries       | (line 7)      | (c) investigation            | (d) research |
| (a) information  | (b) questions |                              |              |
| 3. renew         | (line 18)     | (c) new                      | (d) advanced |
| (a) repeat       | (b) again     |                              |              |

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

- (a) What was the mother's belief about the fuel used for cooking? [2]
- (b) What were Charu's views about fuel? Whose opinion did she quote in support of her views? [2]
- (c) What was the conflict between Gopu and his father? [1]
- (d) How did Charu prevent her husband from spending time with his family? How did the mother react? [2]



### Question 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:**

**Answer:** (0) was opening

Just before noon on the day of Christmas Eve, as the pastor (0) \_\_\_\_\_ (open) the church, he noticed a woman (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (stand) in the cold at the bus stop.

"The bus won't be here for forty minutes!" he called, and he (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (invite) her into the church to get warm. She told him that she (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (come) from the city that morning (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (interview) for a job as governess to the children of one of the wealthy families in town but she (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (turn down). A war refugee, she had imperfect English.

The woman (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (sit) down in a pew and chafed her hands and rested. After a while, she dropped her head and prayed. She (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (look up) as the pastor began (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (adjust) the great gold-and-ivory lace cloth across the hole. She rose suddenly and walked up the steps of the chancel.

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

- (a) \_\_\_\_\_ having a lot of health problems, Mr. Singh is very active.
- (b) The employer scoffed \_\_\_\_\_ the idea of declaring a holiday.
- (c) The team will take shelter in the pavilion \_\_\_\_\_ the rain stops.
- (d) What is the time now \_\_\_\_\_ your watch?
- (e) Everybody in this office is familiar \_\_\_\_\_ the use of a computer.
- (f) A glow emanated \_\_\_\_\_ the lamp by the bed.
- (g) Please be alive \_\_\_\_\_ the consequences of your actions.
- (h) When my father heard what had happened to his car he was \_\_\_\_\_ himself with anger.

\_\_\_\_\_ sentences to make one complete sentence without using *and*, *but* or *so*. Choose the correct

(iv) Rewrite the following sentences according to the instructions given after each. Make other changes that may be necessary, but do not change the meaning of each sentence. Choose the correct options.

[8]

(a) Ellen said, 'Were you doing your homework when I called last evening?'

(Begin: *Ellen asked me if.....*)

1. Ellen asked me if I was doing my homework when she had called the previous evening.
2. Ellen asked me if I had done my homework when she had called the previous evening.
3. Ellen asked me if I had been doing my homework when she had called the previous evening.
4. Ellen asked me if I had been doing my homework when she has called the previous evening.



(b) The cake was too cloyingly sweet to be relished.

(Use: so)

1. The cake was so cloyingly sweet that could not be relished.
2. The cake was so cloyingly sweet that it could not be relished.
3. The cake was so cloyingly sweet that it could be relished.
4. The cake was so cloyingly sweet that it can be relished.

(c) The citizens met their representative a month ago.

(Use: since)

1. It has been a month since the citizens met their representative.
2. It has been a month since the citizens meet their representative.
3. It had been a month since the citizens met their representative.
4. It was a month since the citizens met their representative.

(d) The executive will resign if he is not given a promotion.

(Begin: Unless.....)

1. Unless the executive is given a promotion, he would resign.
2. Unless the executive was given a promotion, he will resign.
3. Unless the executive is given a promotion, he will resign.
4. Unless the executive is given a promotion, he will not resign.

(e) People believe that laughter is the best medicine.

(Begin: Laughter.....)

1. Laughter is believed to the best medicine.
2. Laughter is believed to be the best medicine.
3. Laughter was believed to be the best medicine.
4. Laughter has been believed to be the best medicine.

(f) This is one of the best movies released this month.

(Use: good)

1. Very few movies released this month are good as this one.
2. Very few movies released this month are better than this one.
3. Few movies released this month are as good as this one.
4. Very few movies released this month are as good as this one.

(g) If there are many complaints, the road will be repaired soon.

(Begin: The more.....)

1. The more complaints, the sooner the road will be repaired.
2. The more complaints, the sooner the road is repaired.
3. The more complaints, the sooner the road are repaired.
4. The more complaints, sooner the road was repaired.

(h) How does Mr. Gupta put up with the noise caused by the loudspeakers?

(Use: tolerate)

1. How do Mr. Gupta tolerate the noise caused by the loudspeakers?
2. How does Mr. Gupta tolerate the noise caused by the loudspeakers?
3. How will Mr. Gupta tolerate the noise caused by the loudspeakers?
4. How did Mr. Gupta tolerate the noise caused by the loudspeakers?