



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

SET B

CLASS: XII

MAX. MARKS: 80

DATE: 4 .1.2024

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

**1 Read the following text:**

12

1. A dominance and hierarchy exist for everything, including space. A dominant animal controls the space around it. Even in grooming, hierarchy is reflected. Grooming is simply a cleaning mechanism, and it is highly effective, as one can see by comparing lions and baboons. Although lions are clean animals, the backs of their necks, where they cannot reach to clean, are thick with ticks, whereas the baboon's hair is totally free of them as the inferior baboons clean the dominant one's neck.
2. This 'dominant hierarchy' is a form of animal social structure in which a linear or nearly linear ranking exists, with each animal dominant over those below it and submissive to those above it. In most of the cases this hierarchy is relatively stable from day to day. Direct conflict is rare as the weaker animal itself steps aside when it sees the dominant or much stronger around in its path. These submissive displays and their calming effect on the dominant animal evolve because they avoid or prevent fighting as it may result in unnecessary injury to a social group dependent on one another for their welfare.
3. Japanese monkeys were intensely studied during the 1940s. Their discipline was surprising. In the morning, the group would set out from its sleeping sites to a feeding station established by Japanese zoologists. They walked always in the same order, the young males frolicking on ahead and at the sides, the dominant male walking in the centre, together with the females and the infants.
4. The meek ones lagged behind in submission. They fed always in similar order of ranks: the dominant monkeys first, then the others in descending gradation of status. And, while resting, the dominant males surrounded by females and infants, occupied the most attractive area in the middle of the feeding station, where no subordinates were allowed to encroach.
5. There is no mistaking a dominant male monkey. These are superbly muscled monkeys. Their hair is sleek and carefully groomed, their walk calm, assured and majestic. They move in an apparent disregard of lesser monkeys, who scatter at their approach. For to obstruct the path of a dominant male or even to venture, too near to him is an act of defiance, and monkeys learn from young that such a challenge will draw a heavy punishment.
6. The animal behaviour has always fascinated humans and extends back millions of years, perhaps even to times before the ancestors of the species became human in the modern sense. It was the demand as they need to observe the distinctive traits of animals before hunting them or domesticating them for personal or professional use.

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

- i. Explain, in about 40 words, what has been the finding about the behaviour of dominant animals towards the weaker ones. **2**
- ii. Complete the sentence appropriately with a characteristic or its description. **1**  
Dominant hierarchy exists in every sphere of animal life including \_\_\_\_\_.
- iii. Which of the following statements is relevant to the contents of paragraph 1? **1**  
A. There is a dominance that exists in the hierarchical structure of all animals.

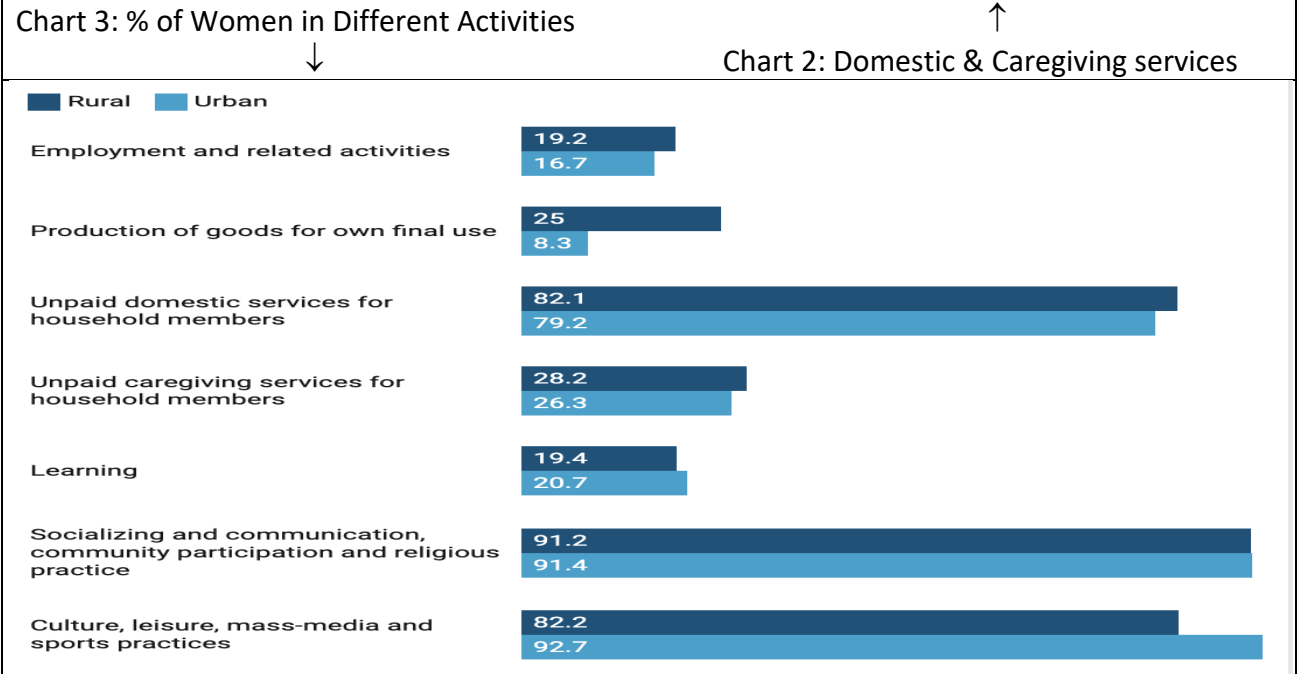
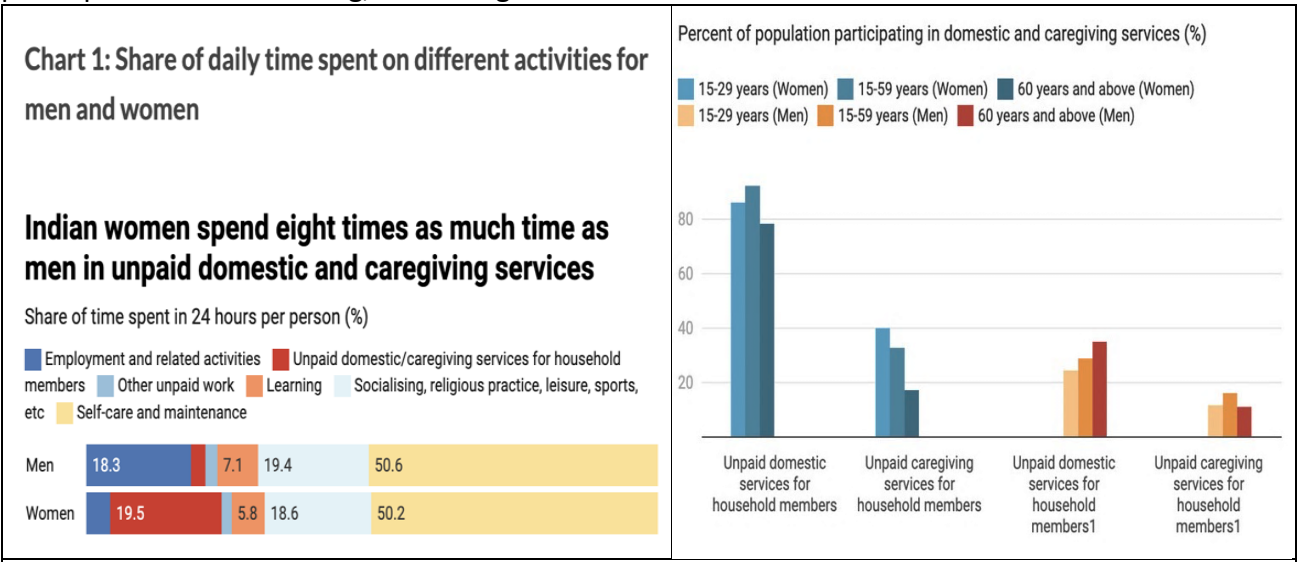
- B. The dominance of lions in the wild predominate the hierarchical wild structure.
- C. Baboons clean themselves hierarchically.
- D. Predominance of ticks in animals is an example of their hierarchical status.
- iv. How does the following line impact the reader? Answer in 40 words. 2  
 “A dominance and hierarchy exist for everything, including space?”
- v. In the line, “Even in grooming, hierarchy is reflected” what does ‘hierarchy’ mean? 1
- A. an order of submission
- B. dominance of the powerful
- C. a ranking, social stratum
- D. rule of powerful over the weak
- vi. The writer would agree with the given statements based on paragraph two, EXCEPT: 1
- A. A linear or nearly linear ranking exists in dominant hierarchy.
- B. Prevention of fighting never brings forth submissive behaviour or calms down the dominant animal.
- C. The hierarchy remain comparatively stable.
- D. They avoid fighting to prevent injury.
- vii. Based on your understanding of behaviour among monkeys as studied in the 1940s, state the prominent traits in about forty words. 2
- viii. Read the following five options (a) - (e) about dominant male monkeys: 1
- a. well-muscled creatures
- b. have carefully groomed hair
- c. Not much attractive
- d. Dependent on others
- e. Senior in ranking order
- Identify the option that correctly corresponds with the passage.
- A. Only a
- B. Both a and b
- C. Both c and d
- D. Both d and e
- ix. Which word in paragraph 6 can be similar in meaning to ‘submissive’? 1

**2 Read the passage given below.**

**10**

1. The average Indian woman spends 243 minutes, a little over four hours, on domestic activities, which is almost ten times the 25 minutes the average man does. Thanks to the greater burden of domestic work, men spend more time than women in every other activity—working, studying, even just taking care of themselves. “It has been widely known, and for long, that Indian women undertake a lot of unpaid domestic work. The Time Use survey only reveals the extent of the disproportionate burden on women. Interestingly, there seems to be an inverse relationship between age and the amount of time spent by women on household chores, but a direct one between age and the time spent by men on these. While women above the age of 60 see a sharp fall in their domestic work burden, men tend to devote a greater time to domestic work when they cross 60.
2. The report is based on a survey of 138,000 households in 2019 and looked at anyone over the age of six. While this may seem too young, it is a fact that, especially in poor households and in rural India, young boys, and more often, young girls, are asked to perform chores. An average Indian woman spends 19.5% of her time engaged in either unpaid domestic work or unpaid care-giving services, according to the survey conducted between January and December 2019. Men spend just 2.5% of a 24-hour period on these activities. In every other group of activities—from employment and learning to socializing, leisure, and self-care activities like sleeping and eating—men spend a higher share of their daily time than women.

3. In terms of participation, 81% women take on domestic chores, compared to just 26% of men. Even within domestic work, there is a gender-based division of responsibilities. It is only when they turn 60 that women seem to find a respite from domestic work. A broad age-group wise breakup suggests that above the age of 60, the participation of women in unpaid domestic and care-giving services reduces drastically.
4. “The fact that women do less unpaid work after 60 could be the result of the greater participation by men, and in joint families, it could be a reflection of the older women passing on the workload to their younger bahu,” (daughters-in-law), Khera said.
5. There are also differences in participation of women in daily activities depending on where they live. Rural women participate more on paid or unpaid work, whereas urban women participate more in learning, socializing or leisure activities.



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

- i. Complete the sentence based on inferences from the passage. 1  
 In every other group of activities, from employment and socialising, men spend \_\_\_\_.
- ii. Select the option that displays the most likely reason for including young children in the 2019 study. 1  
 This report is based on a survey of 138,000 households with members above the age of six because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. young girls in rural homes are asked to undertake domestic chores
  - B. boys and girls are asked to undertake chores in rural homes at a very young age
  - C. several boys are asked to undertake chores in rural homes, above the age of six
  - D. more often, families force young girls into domestic labour
- iii. Select the statement that CANNOT be true as per Chart 2: 1
- A. Women in the age group of 30-59 perform maximum unpaid domestic services.
  - B. Maximum unpaid domestic service is carried out by women of age group 15-29.
  - C. Participation of men is comparatively less in domestic and caregiving services.
  - D. Participation in caregiving services is less when compared to that of domestic services.
- iv. Infer two possible ways that the survey could be beneficial. Does it lighten the burden on women through this survey, either directly or indirectly? Answer in about 40 words. 2
- v. Complete the sentence as per your understanding of the passage: 1  
*The 'Time Use' survey reveals .....*
- vi. State TRUE or FALSE: 1  
 The title, "Indian Women Bear the Burden of Unpaid Work", is appropriate.
- vii. Analyse the participation of rural and urban women in the different activities as per Chart 3. Answer in 40 words. 2
- viii. Select the sentence that completes the following: 1  
 The fact that women do less unpaid work after sixty is because \_\_\_\_\_
- A. women are too old by the time they reach sixty.
  - B. men cannot do hard outdoor work and prefer domestic work
  - C. there is greater participation in work, by the men of the family
  - D. men begin to realise the joys of domestic work

**SECTION B: CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS**

**18**

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

**3 Attempt EITHER ONE from A and B given below: 4**

A. You are Niti Singhal, studying at Bright Future High School, Mysore and an active member of the school Sports club. Recently, your school had organized an Inter-School Cricket Championship. After the final match was over, you found an unclaimed cricket kit on your school playground and have been asked to draft a notice to locate its owner. Draft it in 50 words

**OR**

B. After the rains, cases of dengue and such diseases are on the rise in your city. As Principal, Sunshine Public School, Manu Vihar, you have decided to allow your students to wear full sleeve shirts in the school for a period of one month. You are Arun Verma/ Ankita Verma. Write the notice for the purpose in about 50 words.

**4 Attempt EITHER ONE from A and B given below: 4**

A. You are Sajal Raj, S/O Mr. Deepak Raj Mayur Vihar, New Delhi. Your father wants you to draft a formal invitation to be sent on the occasion of the marriage of your sister Anita Raj. Prepare the invitation in 50 words.

**OR**

B. You are David / Disha, the Secretary of the English Literary and Cultural Society of St. Joseph's Academy, Agra. You have to organize an Inter-zonal extempore competition at the +2 level. You wish to invite Dr. Hansa Bhogle, an eminent educationist, to preside over the function to be held on 15 October at 9:30 a.m. at Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Agra. Draft an invitation in about 50 words requesting her to come and grace the occasion.

5 Attempt EITHER ONE from A and B given below:

5

A. You recently went to your native village to visit your grandparents. You saw that some of the children in the age group 5-14 remained at home, were working in the fields or simply loitering in the streets. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily analysing the problem and its effects, and offering solutions to it. (120-150 words)

ILLITERACY is a Life Sentence.	CAUSE	EFFECT	SOLUTION
	✓ Illiteracy among parents	✓ Hinders economic and social progress	✓ Free education
	✓ Lack of family support	✓ Increasing poverty	✓ Awareness
	✓ Unemployment of the educated	✓ Social crimes	✓ Grants
	✓ Lack of awareness	✓ Intergenerational illiteracy	✓ Late night and evening classes
	✓ Social barriers and poverty	✓ underpayment	✓ Digitalization
			✓ Lower educational cost

OR

B. You are Bharat Sharma, B-120, Malviya Nagar, Delhi. Read the advertisement given below and write a **job application** to the Director. (120-150 words)

**JOB IN PUBLISHING**

A text book publisher is looking for an editor with excellent command over English and Science for its office at Delhi. Apply with a detailed resume and a recent passport size photograph within ten days to:

Post Box No. 52257  
The Hindustan Times  
New Delhi

6 Attempt EITHER ONE from A and B given below.

5

A. Travel is an important part of a man's education. It enables a person to learn manners, customs, languages and history of different people and places and also widens the circle of one's acquaintances. Write an **article in 120-150 words** on "Travel, an Important Source of Education".

What make tourism look like anti-earth monster?	Eco-Tourism for a Greener, Safer and Friendlier Earth!
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Profit-oriented tourism industry</li> <li>• Degradation of nature</li> <li>• Industry and urbanization playing havoc with eco-systems</li> <li>• World wide threat to animals</li> <li>• Deforestation</li> </ul>	<p><b>Following the Principles of Ecotourism:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Minimize impact.</li> <li>2) Build environmental and cultural awareness and respect.</li> <li>3) Provide positive experiences for both visitors and hosts.</li> <li>4) Provide direct financial benefits for conservation.</li> <li>5) Provide financial benefits and empowerment for local people.</li> <li>6) Raise sensitivity to host countries' political, environmental, and social climate.</li> </ol> <p><a href="http://www.ecotourism.org">www.ecotourism.org</a></p>

OR

- B. St. Luke's School, Solan organized a library week recently. Besides a book exhibition, a seminar on the importance of reading among students was also organised. Write a report on the event for a local newspaper in 120-150 words. You are Madhu/Maitri, Staff Reporter.



LIBRARY WEEK

Connect WITH YOUR LIBRARY

- Date , time, venue
- Inaugurated by Education Minister
- Exhibition, Seminar, Literary Quiz, Cleaning Library, Prize to Best Readers
- Concluding Programme: Short Cultural Show
- Appreciating Librarian and Student Assistants

**SECTION C: LITERATURE TEXTBOOK AND SUPPLEMENTARY READING TEXT**

40

7 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for EITHER ONE of the two, given. 1X6=6

- A. "When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie  
Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by  
The tigers in the panel that she made  
Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid."
- i. Read the statement given below:  
***Aunt Jennifer's plight is best explained by her hands, they hold both her freedom and the instrument of her imprisonment.***  
Choose the option that best explains the given statement, as per the stanza.
- A. Her hands are terrified, but when dead, her tigers will roam free.  
B. She knits her desires, but is overpowered by the wedding ring she wears.  
C. Her tigers are proud and unafraid, but she is mastered by ringed ordeals.  
D. She makes panels of tigers, when she has time from her responsibilities.
- ii. Which of the following CANNOT be inferred from the stanza?
- A. Aunt Jennifer's tigers will keep her alive in everyone's memory.  
B. Aunt Jennifer feels oppressed and constricted in her marriage.  
C. Even in death, she cannot escape patriarchal subjugation.  
D. Her tigers prance as a lasting symbol of her desires.
- iii. What make the tigers proud and unafraid?
- iv. Complete the given statement:  
'She was mastered by' is a reference made to.....
- v. Which word in the extract can be replaced by 'suppressed'?
- vi. The poet uses pun effectively through the word 'ringed'. Explain.

OR

B. '.....and felt that old familiar ache, and my childhood's fear, but all I said was, see you soon, Amma, all I did was smile and smile and smile'

- i. Which of the given themes is **best represented** in the given extract?
  - A. Long-lasting impact of childhood pain
  - B. Helplessness on facing the inevitable
  - C. Childhood fades away inducing sorrow
  - D. Smile removes all pain
- ii. State whether the given statement is TRUE or FALSE, with reference to the extract. *The phrase 'familiar ache' suggests that she often faced death of loved ones in the family.*
- iii. Complete the sentence appropriately.  
The parting words and the smile present a contrast to.....
- iv. Her continuous smile is a consolation and assurance to the old lady whose 'ashen face' looks like 'a corpse'. It is also an attempt to overcome her.....
- v. Select the option that is NOT true about the extract.
  - A. It was the attention she paid to the sprinting trees that enabled her to smile.
  - B. She has been haunted by the pain of separation from mother since her childhood
  - C. The last line portrays her helplessness very well.
  - D. Her parting words provide an assurance to the old mother.
- vi. The expression 'see you soon' is quite ironic as.....

8 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for EITHER ONE of the two, given.

1X4=4

- A. "DERRY: You needn't think they haven't all told me that fair, story before. 'It's not what you look like, it's what you are inside. Handsome is as handsome does. Beauty loved the monstrous beast for himself and when she kissed him, he changed into a handsome prince.' Only he wouldn't, he'd have stayed a monstrous beast. I won't change".
- i. What is the speaker's emotional state when he speak so?
  - ii. Which literary device has been used in 'handsome is as handsome does'?
  - iii. Which of the following is the best synonym for 'monstrous'?
    - A. horrendous
    - B. hilarious
    - C. magnificent
    - D. intolerable
  - iv. What kind of attitude does Derry have towards life as the extract points out?

OR

- B. "I saw that I was the only one seated, and all the rest at our table remained standing. Just as I began to rise, looking shyly around to see how chairs were to be used, a second bell was sounded. All were seated at last, and I had to crawl back to my chair again. I heard a man's voice at one end of the hall, and I looked around to see him. But all the others hung their heads over their plates. As I glanced at the long chain of tables, I caught the eyes of a paleface woman upon me. Immediately, I dropped my eyes."
- i. "I caught the eyes of a paleface woman upon me. Immediately, I dropped my eyes."  
What does the reaction of Zitkala Za tell us?
  - ii. Complete the sentence appropriately, with reference to the extract.  
The speaker felt the whole situation embarrassing because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - iii. Select the option that best describes the tone of the speaker in the extract.

- A. displeasure
- B. inquisitiveness
- C. anxiety
- D. contempt

iv. "looking shyly around to see how chairs were to be used" What caused doubt about the use of chairs in her mind?

**9 Read the given extracts and answer the questions for EITHER ONE of the two, given.**

**1X6=6**

**A.** *"They had merely heard that a Mahatma who wanted to help them was in trouble with the authorities. Their spontaneous demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British. The officials felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation. He helped them regulate the crowd. He was polite and friendly. He was giving them concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians. The government was baffled. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors.*

- i. Complete the sentence appropriately.  
The demonstration proved that the .....
- ii. Which style, from those given below, is being used by the author, when he says, "Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors."?  
A. humorous  
B. dramatic  
C. sarcastic  
D. persuasive
- iii. Gandhiji's behaviour towards the British prior to the proposal of postponement of the trial was .....
- iv. Pick evidence from the extract that helps one infer that the peasants protested together for the first time.
- v. What "concrete proof" did Gandhi provide?
- vi. The given extract DOES NOT talk about:  
A. Details of the daily problems faced by Champaran peasants  
B. Officials looked up to Gandhi for his co-operation  
C. Spontaneous demonstration of the common people  
D. Common people's support to Gandhi.

**OR**

**B.** *"Poor man! It was in honour of this last lesson that he had put on his fine Sunday clothes, and now I understood why the old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room. It was because they were sorry, too, that they had not gone to school more. It was their way of thanking our master for his forty years of faithful service and of showing their respect for the country that was theirs no more. While I was thinking of all this, I heard my name called. It was my turn to recite. What would I not have given to be able to say that dreadful rule for the participle all through, very loud and clear, and without one mistake? But I got mixed up on the first words and stood there, holding on to my desk, my heart beating, and not daring to look up.."*

- i. Select the suitable word from the extract to complete the following analogy.  
respect : country :: honour : \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. List any two sensory details present in this extract.
- iii. Based on the above extract, choose the statement that is TRUE for the narrator.  
A. He felt those who know nothing of foreign language, know nothing of their own.  
B. For him, their own language is the most beautiful, clearest and logical, but is quite foreign to them.  
C. He regretted his negligence and would do anything for a chance to learn it.



- D. German is a beautiful language and he should learn it well
- iv. Identify the textual clue that allows the reader to infer that what M. Hamel did his best in honour of the last lesson.
  - v. Which of the following headlines best suggests the central idea of the extract?
    - A. The Regret for the Neglect
    - B. The Importance of Punctuality
    - C. The Village Honour the Master
    - D. The Anxiety of a Young Student
  - vi. Complete the sentence with an appropriate explanation, as per the extract.  
The old men of the village were sitting there in the back of the room because \_\_\_\_\_.

**10 Answer ANY FIVE of the following in about 40-50 words each: 5X2=10**

- i. The roadside stand and the moving cars are a contrast around which the entire poem is woven. Expound.
- ii. "Human goodness can be brought out by understanding and love." How does Elda prove this in the Rattrap?"
- iii. Certain traditions and lineage, condemn thousands of children to a life of abject poverty and choke their aspirations. Explain with reference to *Lost Spring*.
- iv. The lesson, *Indigo*, points out how an effective leadership can overcome any problem. Explain.
- v. Every poem breaks a silence that had to be overcome. - Adrienne Rich.  
In your opinion, what silence does the poem 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' break?
- vi. "In the midst of terror came a touch of reason". How did the two forces work in opposite direction and how did Douglas fare?

**11 Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each: 2X2=4**

- i. In which section of the play does Mr Lamb display signs of loneliness and disappointment? What are the ways in which Mr Lamb tries to overcome these feelings?
- ii. "Humanity is the essence of our existence." How does Dr. Sadao illustrate it?
- iii. "Where there is oppression, there will be resistance." Comment on this statement with reference to *Memories of Childhood*.

**12 Answer EITHER ONE of the following in about 120-150 words. 1X5=5**

- i. What advice might you offer to Robert Frost, the poet of A Roadside Stand, in the context of his conflicted emotions, as displayed in the given lines?

*The requisite lift of spirit has never been found,  
Or so the voice of the country seems to complain,  
I can't help owning the great relief it would be  
To put these people at one stroke out of their pain.*

Pen down your advice, in a letter to Frost. You may begin this way:

*Dear Robert*

*I recently read your poem, "A Roadside Stand," and...*

You may end this way:

*I hope this advice is helpful to you. Please let me know if there is anything else I can do to support you.*

*Warmly,*

*Pablo Neruda*

**OR**

ii. *The prose sections, 'The Last Lesson' and 'Poets and Pancakes', bring out situational irony and gentle humour as well as satire to point out human foibles.*

Imagine yourself to be a motivational speaker who has to address high school students. Write the speech in about 120-150 words elaborating on occurrences from the two texts to inspire your audience and to convince them about the importance of humour in life.

**13 Answer EITHER ONE of the following in about 120-150 words.**

**1X5=5**

i. *The story 'Tiger King' is a satire which employs irony, sarcasm, ridicule, etc. in exposing and criticising follies and vices in men and in criticizing self-seeking Kings who wilfully exploit both nature and their subjects for selfish interests and by a twist of fate are also paid in the same coin.*

Can we relate this thought with instances in modern life too? Write your analysis in about 120-150 words with references to the lesson.

**OR**

ii. *'The Third Level' by Jack Finney interweave fantasy and reality. Does Sophie in 'Going Places' belong to the same category of people as Charley and Sam? How do they compare and contrast with each other?*

**\*\*\*\*\*THE END\*\*\*\*\***