



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (Code No. 184)**

**CLASS-X**

**Time allowed: 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

- 1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.**
- 2. The Question Paper contains THREE sections-READING, GRAMMAR & WRITING and LITERATURE.**
- 3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.**

**SECTION A. READING SKILLS - 20 MARKS**

**I Read the passage given below.**

**10**

Nature is our mother, our first teacher. The greatest lesson that she teaches us is to maintain an equilibrium in life. We learn to maintain composure through our joys, sorrows and fears. In fact, there are a thousand lessons that nature can teach us, provided we look for them.

With time, a sapling grows into a full-grown tree; something so tiny and delicate develops into a strong tree capable of supporting others. No matter how tall it grows, how much it may flourish, or how many animals and birds it may support, its roots are firmly buried from where it once rose. That's a lesson - to keep ourselves grounded, respect and embrace our roots, and give something back to those humble beginnings that nurtured us into who we are.

Then there is the message of peaceful coexistence. 'I am because we are.' Nature provides every creature a chance to exist. However, the existence of one creature or being depends on the existence of the other. The tiger eats the antelope; without the antelope, the tiger wouldn't survive. Likewise, without tigers, the over-abundance of antelopes would cause them to starve to death.

I wonder if you have noticed that when birds or squirrels see a predator, they give out an alarm call to their fellow creatures, of the lurking danger. They put themselves in danger to save the lives of others. Many animals, like the salmon, usually die after they spawn, but this doesn't stop them. One life extinguished for the betterment of others is a small price to pay.

The snow melts in the warmth of spring to give birth to fresh green leaves. In autumn these leaves age into shades of gold only to be buried in the cold grave of winter. Change is inevitable; the sooner we embrace this, the better it is for us. We must also understand that even in pain there is growth. If you cut a hole in the tree, it will grow around it. No matter what may come in its way, a river will continue to flow. Similarly, no matter what grief may break your heart, nature teaches us that life goes on.

Keep in mind life isn't about making lists and trying to be one step ahead of others. Life is to live. Take a break-stop being a workaholic, and smell the roses, do whatever makes you feel happy and most of all spend some time with nature to pick up invaluable lessons.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below. (1x10)**

1. According to the author, what, from the following, is the greatest lesson being taught by nature?

- (a) balanced in our emotions.
- (b) partial to joys in life.
- (c) afraid of unhappiness.
- (d) indifferent to fears.

2. Select the option that suitably completes the dialogue with reference to paragraph

Jai: I've done well for myself in this school. I'm the best they have. I can get admission anywhere. This is my moment!

Sid: Congratulations! Just remember, we should .....

- (a) become strong despite our weakness.
- (b) be kind and supportive towards everyone.
- (c) respect the origins from where we have grown.
- (d) nurture ourselves well from the beginning.

3. Choose the option that best conveys the message in – 'I am because we are.'

- (a) Tigers are dependent on antelope
- (b) Antelope are dependent on tigers
- (c) Humans are dependent on animals
- (d) Everyone is dependent on each other

4. What qualities do the birds and squirrels display when they warn others of possible danger? Choose one option from the following:

- (a) Observation skills and alertness.
- (b) Tendency to get easily frightened.
- (c) Selfless assistance to help others
- (d) Determination to protect themselves.

5. Select the option with the underlined words that can suitably replace lurking (paragraph 4).

- (a) The policeman pulled up the person who was wandering aimlessly through the city.
- (b) The thief knew that remaining hidden was the best strategy to avoid being caught.
- (c) The policeman was caught on camera while pouncing with force, to grab the fleeing culprit.
- (d) The thief was walking boldly into the house thinking it was devoid of residents.

6. A Portmanteau words like smog (smoke + fog), is a blend of words in which parts of multiple words are combined into a new word. From the options given below, select a Portmanteau word that appears in the para 6.

- (a) coexistence
- (b) workaholic
- (c) full-grown
- (d) flourish

7. Select the qualities from paragraph 3, that the author wants us to imbibe. Being-

- (1) acceptive      (2) passionate      (3) emotional      (4) resilient      (5)perceptive  
(a) (2), (4) and (5)      (b) (1), (3) and (4)      (c) (1), (4) and (5)      (d) (3), (4) and (5)

8. Which of the following is shown by the changing of seasons?

- (a) The beauty of nature (b) Nature’s creativity (c) All seasons are equal (d) Nothing lasts forever

9. What does the writer advise, in paragraph 6 ?

- (a) Indulging in competition with others      (b) Making priority lists  
(c) Taking life seriously      (d) Having free time for ourselves

10. Choose the option that lists the quote best expressing the central idea of the passage.

- (a) Nature: She pardons no mistakes. Her yea is yea, and her nay, nay. –Ralph Waldo Emerson  
(b) Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better. - A. Einstein  
(c) Nature never deceives us; it is we who deceive ourselves. -Jean Jacques Rousseau  
(d) All the ugliness of the world can best be forgotten in the beauty of nature! -Mehmet Murat

**II. Read the passage given below.**

**(1x10=10)**

Overpowering prey is a challenge for creatures that do not have limbs. Some species like Russell’s viper inject poison. Some others opt for an alternative non-chemical method – rat snakes, for instance, catch and push their prey against the ground, while pythons use their muscle power to crush their prey to death. But snakes can’t be neatly divided into poisonous and non-poisonous categories.

Even species listed as non-poisonous aren’t completely free of poison. The common Sand Boa, for instance, produces secretions particularly poisonous to birds. So the species doesn’t take any chance—it crushes its prey and injects poison as an extra step.

Do vipers need poison powerful enough to kill hundreds of rats with just one drop? After all, they eat only one or two at a time.

While hunting animals try their worst to kill most efficiently, their prey uses any trick to avoid becoming a meal, such as developing immunity to poison. For instance, Californian ground squirrels are resistant to Northern Pacific rattlesnake poison.

Competition with prey is not the only thing driving snakes to evolve more and more deadly poison. Snakes also struggle to avoid becoming prey themselves.

Some snake killers have partial immunity to poison. Famously, mongooses are highly resistant to cobra poison and with their speed and agility, kill snakes fearlessly. It would be the death of cobras as a species if they didn’t evolve a more deadly poison to stop mongooses.

Venom has another important role. It's an extreme meat softener, specific enzymes break up the insides of the prey. Normally, a reptile depends on the sun's warm rays to aid digestion. Venomous snakes have an advantage: enzymes in venom digest the meal from the inside before it rots in their guts.

But I wonder if we cannot use venom in our favour. In remote parts of India, local hospitality often involves leather-tough meat. I chew and chew until my jaw ache. If I spit it out or refuse, our hosts would be offended, I swallow like a python stuffing a deer down its throat and hope I don't choke. If only I had poison.

i. Infer one reason for the following based on the passage.

Snakes can't be neatly divided into venomous and non-venomous categories.

ii. What is termed as a challenge for a limbless creature?

a. Overcoming competition b. overcoming race c. overpowering enemy d. overpowering prey

iii. Which of these opts for an alternative non-chemical?

a. buffalo                      b. rat snake                      c. deer                      d. dog

iv. Choose the correct option to fill in the blanks in the given sentence.

Some snake ..... have partial..... to venom.

1. Predators      2. Challenges      3. Pythons      4. Rattlesnake      5. Immunity

a. 1 and 5      b. 2 and 3      c. 3 and 4      d. 4 and 5

v. Which of the following lines does not acknowledge the passage?

a. After all, vipers eat only one or two rats at a time.

b. I chew and chew until my jaws ache.

c. Snakes also struggle to avoid becoming prey themselves.

d. Venom has no other important role.

vi. Which word from the passage is the antonym of rudeness

a. disrespect                      b. hospitality                      c. impoliteness                      d. discourtesy

vii. Choose the correct option to fill in the blanks in the given passage.

But I..... If we, cannot use .....in our favour .

1. surprise      2. Swallow      3. Wonder      4. Venom      5. Nectar

a. 1 and 2                      b. 2 and 3                      c. 3 and 4                      d. 4 and 5

viii. The antonym of the word resistant is .....

a. Opposing                      b. defiant                      c. susceptible                      d. unyielding

- ix. The sand Boa attacks its prey by .....
- a. injecting poison      b. crushing its prey      c. Both a and b      d. Only a
- x. The writer wished he had poison because.....
- a. He wanted to hurt someone      b. He wanted to know how the poison works.
- c. He wanted to make the meat soft      d. None of these

**III SECTION B - GRAMMAR**

Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions. 10

**i. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the sentence by PM Narendra Modi.**

Prime Minister said single- use plastic .....grave threat to the environment.

- A. Posed      B. had posed      C. posing      D. poses

**ii. Read the conversation between a mother and son. Complete the sentence by reporting the son’s reply correctly.**

Rose: Did you see my new umbrella? Isn’t it fine?

Roy: Yes, it is! Did you buy it from the mall?

Rose asked her son Roy if he had seen her new umbrella and she wanted to know whether it was a fine one. Roy agreed and asked his mother .....

**iii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line, from Science Exhibition guidelines.**

It .....ensured that the exhibits are not crude and hazardous.

- A. Could be      B. Should be      C. May be      D. Might be

**iv. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following sentence.**

Spending time with your kids bring immediate as well as long term gain to the parents.

Option	Error	Correction
A	with	in
B	bring	Brings
C	to	For

**v. Complete the given sentence, by filling in the blank with the correct option:**

The police..... the matter.

- A. is investigating      B. are investigating      C. had investigating      D. will investigated

**vi. Which option displays the correct change of the following to reported speech?**

Sunitha asked Venkat, -How much is the rent for your flat?

- A. Sunitha asked Venkat how much was his rent for flat.
- B. Sunitha asked Venkat how much the rent for his flat was.
- C. Sunita enquires from Venkat that how much rent he pays.
- D. Sunita told Venkat how much the rent for his flat was.

**vii. Select the correct option to fill in the blank for given sentence.**

The dog .....under the chair before the children arrived.

- (A) has been hiding              (B) was hid              (C) have hid              (D) had hidden

**Viii. Report the dialogue between Headmaster and Student, by completing the sentence:**

Student: Sir, I had to collect my transfer certificate.

Headmaster: It is with the head clerk.

The student told headmaster that he had to collect his transfer certificate. The headmaster said that .....

- A.It is with the head clerk                              B. It will be with the head clerk
- C.It was with the head clerk                              D. It is being with the head clerk

**ix. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following sentence**

A teacher was teaching an important lesson on the class.

Option	Error	Correction
A	was	Is
B	an	A
C	in	On

**x. Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the following question.**

Will you get..... orange in the market?

- A. Any              B. one              C. some              D. many

**xi. Choose the correct form of verb to fill the gap.**

At this time tomorrow we .... our project details to madam.

- A. are presenting    B. shall be presenting    C. have been presenting    D. will have been presenting.

**xii. Fill in the blank space with correct option.**

I don't think there is ..... hope that Sarla is going to pass this year.

- (a) less                      (b) few                      (c) any                      (d) none of these

**IV                      SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS                      10**

**1. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.                      5**

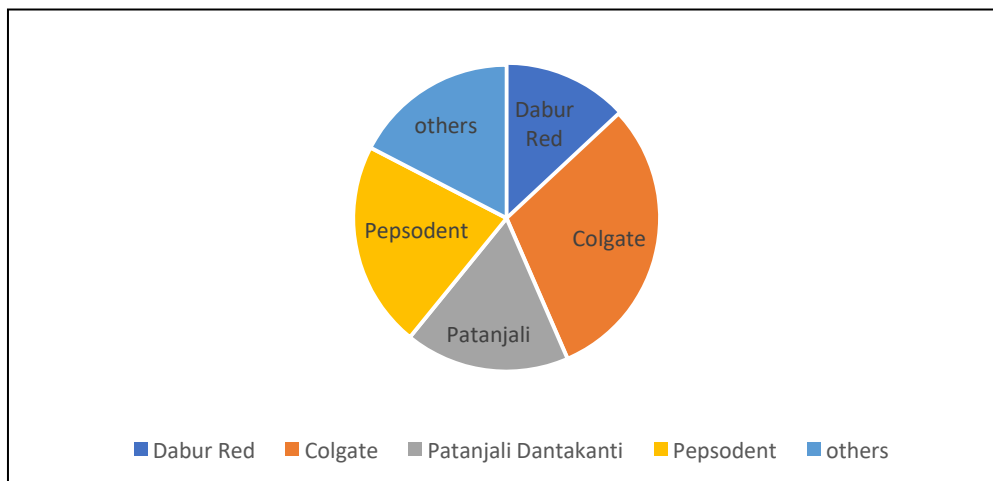
A. You are Vineet/ Tanisha, Manager of Perfect Appliances Store, 312, Raja Garden, New Delhi. You wish to purchase various electrical appliances from M/s Jain Electricals, 25, Bhagirath Palace, Delhi to update your stock. Write a letter of to the sales manager asking for the relevant details about the same in about 100-120 words.

**OR**

B. You had bought a mobile phone from a reputable showroom in Mumbai but after a month it developed a serious fault. Write a complaint letter to the manager asking for immediate repair or replacement of the same. You are Raju/Radha, 123, TT Nagar Bhopal.

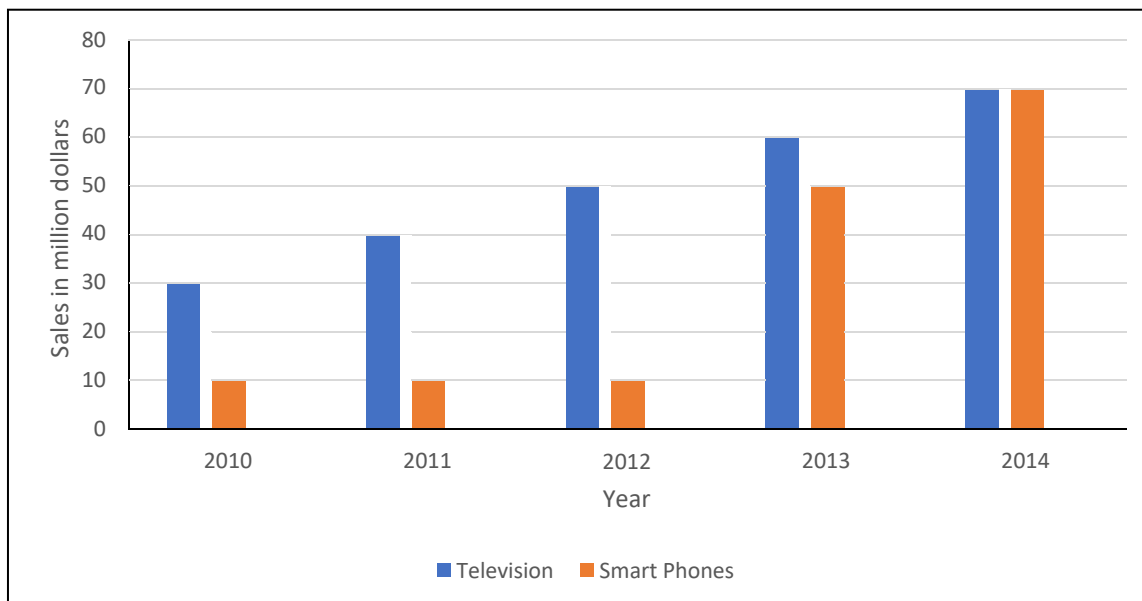
**2. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.                      5**

A. The below given pie chart represents the sales of leading brands of toothpaste in India in the year 2020. Write an analytical paragraph showing the general trends and the necessary details. Compare the segments where relevant.



**OR**

B. The bar chart given below shows the amount of money spent on two types of electronic items in India. Write an analytical paragraph based on it in 100-120 words



## SECTION C- LITERATURE

40

### V Reference to the context.

10

#### 1. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

5

1.A He just felt a bit dizzy. Then he flapped his wings once and he soared upwards. –Ga, ga, ga, Ga, ga, ga, Gaw-col-ah, his mother swooped past him, her wings making a loud noise. He answered her with another scream. Then his father flew over him screaming. He saw his two brothers and his sister flying around him curveting and banking and soaring and diving. Then he completely forgot that he had not always been able to fly, and commended himself to dive and soar and curve, shrieking shrilly. (First Flight)

1. Pick the most appropriate reason why the young gull felt dizzy.

- a) He hadn't eaten anything for a day      b) He was dizzy with excitement.  
 c) He was wary of heights      d) He was flying for the first time.

2. How would you describe the screams of the gulls in the given extract?

- a) elation      b) bewilderment      c) shock      d) protection

3. The line –he completely forgot that he had not always been able to fly implies the

- a) great confidence the young gull had in his skills  
 b) naturalness of the act of flying for the young gull.  
 c) satisfaction and joy of flying together as a family.  
 d) desire of the young gull to leave his fears behind.



4. The extract refers to the many movements of the young gull's brothers and sister. Choose the option that correctly sequences these movements.

a) The young gull's brothers and sister flew by tilting their wings, rose high, made darting movements and plunged headfirst.

b) The young gull's brothers and sister flew by plunging headfirst, making darting movements, tilted their wings and rose high.

c) The young gull's brothers and sister flew with darting movements, tilted their wings, rose high and plunged headfirst.

d) The young gull's brothers and sister flew by rising high, plunging headfirst, making darting movements and tilting their wings.

5. Which of the following mirrors the use of the literary device in –shrieking shrillyll?

a) sparkling saga            b) singing soft            c) slippery sloppily            d) sneeze silently

**OR**

**1.B**

OOP: I haven't a clue. I've been to seven galaxies, but I've never seen anything like this. Maybe they're hats. (He opens a book and puts it on his head.) Say, maybe this is a haberdashery!

OMEGA: (bowing low) Perhaps the Great and Mighty Think-Tank will give us the benefit of his thought on the matter.

THINK-TANK: Elementary, my dear Omega. Hold one of the items up so that I may view it closely. (Omega holds a book on the palm of her hand.) Yes, yes, I understand now. Since Earth creatures are always eating, the place in which you find yourselves is undoubtedly a crude refreshment stand.

OMEGA: (to Iota and Oop) He says we're in a refreshment stand.

OOP: Well, the Earthlings certainly have a strange diet.            (The book that saved the Earth)

i Why did Omega bow low before Think-Tank?

- a) As a mark of respect and recognition of supremacy.
- b) To flatter and appease the character.
- c) As a sign of submission and understanding of his strength.
- d) To curry favour and goodwill from the character.

ii Choose the option that associates the person to a haberdashery.

- a) Jagdeep is a primary school teacher who teaches English.
- b) Tanishq is a tailor who makes garments for men only.
- c) Falguni is a chemist who manufactures her own medicine.

d) Asma is an engineer who works on designing space stations.

iii. Choose the option that explains what Think-Tank meant by saying- Elementary, my dear Omega.

a) -It's simple general knowledge, Omega.

b) -It's something that a primary school person won't understand, Omega.

c) -It's quite obviously deducible, Omega

d) -It's a little more than complicated, Omega.

iv. The quality of being crude has been allotted to the refreshment stand because

a) Earthlings have bad eating habits according to Think-Tank.

b) the temperature of the refreshment stand was too high.

c) the refreshment stands are responsible for poor health of the Earthlings.

d) it produces food that is unrefined and unprocessed in nature.

v. Inhabitants of Earth are Earthlings and those from Mars are Martians, what are the inhabitants of Venus addressed as in most science-fiction stories?

a) Venusites

b) Venatians

c) Venings

d) Venusians

## 2. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given

2A . What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,

What, what is he to do? I saw it go

Merrily bouncing, down the street, and then

Merrily over- there it is in the water!

(The Ball Poem)

i The extract suggests that the poet is

a) an onlooker observing

b) a parent recounting the incident

c) the boy talking about himself

d) imagining the incident

ii The poet seems to have indicated the merry bouncing of the ball to

a) create a sense of rhythm in these lines.

b) support the happiness of the experience of playing.

c) contrast with the dejected feeling of the boy.

d) indicate the cheerful mood of the boy.

iii Choose the situation that corresponds to the emotion behind the exclamation mark in the poem.

Hey! Hey! That's  
noway to dispose  
off the garbage.  
Have you no  
community  
sense?Please put  
it in the bin

1

I knew it! I  
knew he'll  
perform well in  
his auditions  
for 'Young  
Shef'.Now we  
prepare for the  
semi-finals

2

I don't know  
where I've  
placed my ID  
card. Let me  
check the bag  
once more .  
Ah,finally I  
got it!

3

I've been trying  
to call mom for  
the past 20  
minutes and  
can't get  
through. I don't  
know  
how.....Again!

4

- a) option 1                      b) option 2                      c) option 3                      d) option 4

iv. The poem begins with a question. Based on your reading of the poem, the speaker

- a) wants the boy to answer the question.                      b) expects the passers-by to respond.  
c) is looking for answers in a self-help book.                      d) is thinking to himself.

v. Alliteration is a literary device that occurs with the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.

Pick the option that showcases an example of alliteration from the extract.

- a) What is the boy now    b) who has lost his ball    c) I saw it go    d) and then/ Merrily over

**OR**

2.B                      -Ink trickled down to the bottom of the household,  
                                    And little mouse Blink strategically mouseholed.  
                                    But up jumped Custard, snorting like an engine,  
                                    Clashed his tail like irons in a dungeon,  
                                    With a clatter and a clank and a jangling squirm,  
                                    He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm!    (The tale of Custard the dragon)

i Which option lists the quotes that support the ideas in the extract?

- 1) Fear makes strangers of people who would be friends.  
2) If you're brave enough to start, you're strong enough to finish.

3) Courage doesn't mean you don't get afraid. Courage means you don't let fear stop you.

4) You get in life what you have the courage to ask for

5) Fear has a large shadow, but he himself is strong.

a) 1 and 5                      b) 2, 3 and 4                      c) 2 and 3                      d) 1,3 and 5

ii What is the poet's purpose of using the onomatopoeic words given in the extract?

a) It is to emphasize on the might and boldness of Custard.

b) It is to introduce the character Custard to the readers.

c) It is to impress upon the readers that Custard was ready.

d) It is to make Custard bold enough to face the situation.

iii Pick an option that best fits the usage of the word 'trickled' as used in the extract.

a) The water trickled down the tap and filled the trough.

b) Students trickled into the classroom as the teacher entered.

c) Tears trickled down her cheeks as she heard the sad news.

d) His enthusiasm for the task slowly trickled away.

iv Select the option that fits with the reaction of the characters in the context of the extract.

Ink: terrified :    Blink : i) \_\_\_\_\_

Pirate: ii) \_\_\_\_\_    Custard: undaunted

a) i) shocked ii) displeased    b) i) petrified ii) wondered

c) i) upset ii) dazed    d) i) petrified ii) shocked

v \_He went at the pirate like a robin at a worm. Why has this comparison been used here?

Just like the robin catches the worm,

a) Custard attacked the pirate after careful observation.

b) Custard attacked the pirate without delay.

c) Custard attacked the pirate valorously.

d) Custard attacked the pirate stealthily.

**VI. Answer ANY FOUR of the following in about 40-50 words each.                      (4x3=12)**

i. Based on your reading, would you call the narrator a family man? Justify your stance.

(First Flight – The Black Aeroplane)

ii. Comment on the teacher-student relationship shared between Anne and Mr. Keesing.

(From the Diary of Anne Frank)

iii. Coorgis belong to a valorous and hospitable race. Comment on this statement with reference to the text. (Glimpses of India)

iv. Peculiar behaviours are a characteristic of Otters. Discuss with respect to -Mijbil the Otter. (Mijbil the Otter)

v. Valli didn't like the way adults treated her during her bus journey. Describe how did she react. (Madame Rides the Bus)

**VII. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words. 2x3=6**

i. It's not easy to be mean to people who are very nice to you. Do you think that the young thief had to work on giving himself valid reasons to be able to commit the theft?

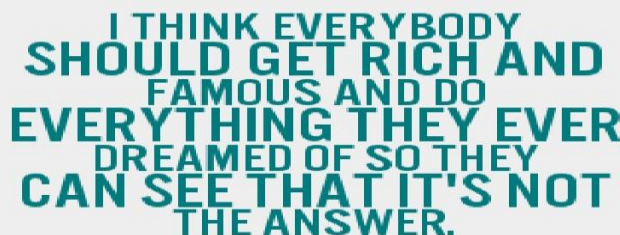
(The Thief's Story)

ii. Scientists contribute to make the world a better place. Griffin is an antithesis to this statement. Justify (Footprints without Feet)

iii. Mention two things you would have done, other than what M Loisel did, to help resolve the problem of the lost necklace. (The Necklace)

**VIII. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100 – 120 words. 1x6=6**

i. Read the given quote by actor Jim Carrey



I THINK EVERYBODY  
SHOULD GET RICH AND  
FAMOUS AND DO  
EVERYTHING THEY EVER  
DREAMED OF SO THEY  
CAN SEE THAT IT'S NOT  
THE ANSWER.

Can you relate this to the Buddha's life before and after he attained enlightenment?

Provide examples from the text to support your answer.

ii. Do you think Chubukov is a good father? Justify your opinion based on your reading of the text.

**ix. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 100 – 120 words. 1x6=6**

i. Albert Einstein said, "The important thing is to never stop questioning." Richard was a genius who proved this quote true. Justify.

ii. You've read the quote: "A teacher affects eternity. He can never tell where his influence stops."

In the context of this statement, comment on the role of Bholi's teacher in her life.