

Std: X

Time: 2½ hrs
Total Score: 80

INSTRUCTIONS:

- ♦ The cool off time of 15 minutes is to be used for reading the question paper.
- ♦ You are not supposed to write anything during the cool off time.
- ♦ Attempt the questions according to the instructions.

Questions 1- 5: Read the excerpt from *In the Attic* and answer the questions that follow. (5x1=5)

On 14 January unusual noises in the building and the street outside woke me. Soldiers ran up and down the stairs, and I heard agitated, nervous voices. Early in the morning of 15 January, the sound of artillery from the previously silent front was heard. The ground and the walls of the building shook under the constant dull thunder. Three hours later the heavy artillery fire died down again, but I was as nervous as ever. I did not sleep at all that night. The street fighting would begin at any moment, and I could be killed.

The night passed peacefully. Around one o'clock I heard the remaining Germans leaving the building. Silence fell. I could not even hear the steps of the guards outside the building.

Not until the early hours of the next day was the silence broken by a loud and resonant noise, the last sound I had expected. Radio loudspeakers set up somewhere nearby were broadcasting announcements in Polish of the defeat of Germany and the liberation of Warsaw.

1. What was the announcement broadcast in Polish?
2. How long did the artillery fire continue?
3. The sentence 'The ground and the walls of the building shook under the constant dull thunder' suggests that:
 - A. A storm was approaching Warsaw.
 - B. Heavy artillery fire was taking place nearby.
 - C. The building was collapsing.
 - D. The narrator was imagining sounds.
4. What was the effect of the artillery fire on Szpilman?
 - i. He couldn't sleep at all that night.
 - ii. He was heavily wounded.
 - iii. He feared that he could be killed any moment.
 - iv. He was excited about the war.

Choose the correct option:

- A. i and iv are correct
- B. ii and iii are correct
- C. i and iii are correct
- D. iii and iv are correct

5. Identify the **Noun Phrase** in the subject position and the **Verb Phrase** from the sentence given below:
Radio loudspeakers set up somewhere nearby were broadcasting announcements in Polish.

Questions 6 - 9: Read the extract from the dramatic speech "*Friends, Romans, Countrymen...*" and answer the questions that follow. (4x1=4)

You all did see that on the Lupercal
I thrice presented him a kingly crown,
Which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition?
Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;
And, sure, he is an honourable man.
I speak not to disprove what Brutus spoke,
But here I am to speak what I do know.

You all did love him once, not without cause:
What cause withholds you, then, to mourn for him?
O judgement, thou art fled to brutish beasts,
And men have lost their reason! - Bear with me;
My heart is in the coffin there with Caesar,
And I must pause till it come back to me.

6. When was the kingly crown presented to Caesar?
7. What does the refusal of the crown suggest about Caesar's character?
- A. Caesar was irresponsible.
 - B. Caesar was enthusiastic.
 - C. Caesar was not ambitious.
 - D. Caesar was a coward.
8. What was Antony's real purpose in giving the speech?
- i. To show that Caesar was a good leader.
 - ii. To make the people aware that Caesar was not ambitious.
 - iii. To make the crowd rethink about Brutus' words.
 - iv. To turn the crowd against the conspirators.

Choose the correct option:

- A. i only
- B. i and ii only
- C. iii and iv only
- D. All the statements

9. Identify the poetic device used in the line, 'Which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition?'.

10. [A] Read the lines from the dramatic speech "*Friends, Romans, Countrymen...*" and write a **critical appreciation** of the extract, focusing on the theme, poetic devices, tone, and persuasive techniques. (1x4=4)

He was my friend, faithful and just to me:
But Brutus says he was ambitious;
And Brutus is an honourable man.
He hath brought many captives home to Rome,
Whose ransoms did the general coffers fill:

Did this in Caesar seem ambitious?
 When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept:
 Ambition should be made of sterner stuff:
 Yet Brutus says he was ambitious;
 And Brutus is an honourable man.

OR

[B] In his famous speech *I Have a Dream*, Martin Luther King Jr. envisions a future where people of different races live together harmoniously. Mark Antony, in *Julius Caesar*, uses persuasive language to influence public opinion and defend Caesar's legacy. Although the two speeches are delivered in different contexts and for different purposes, both speakers effectively use emotion, repetition, and powerful imagery to connect with their audiences.

Mark Antony:	Martin Luther King Jr.: (Simplified)
When that the poor have cried, Caesar hath wept: Ambition should be made of sterner stuff: Yet Brutus says he was ambitious; And Brutus is an honourable man. You all did see that on the Lupercal I thrice presented him a kingly crown, Which he did thrice refuse: was this ambition? Yet Brutus says he was ambitious; And, sure, he is an honourable man.	I have a dream, I have a dream that one day Alabama will be free from racism and unfair treatment. I hope that its leaders and people will believe in equality and respect for everyone. One day right there in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

Based on the extracts given above, write a **paragraph** comparing and contrasting the speeches of Martin Luther King Jr. and Mark Antony.

Questions 11 - 14: Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. (4x1=4)

After Japan's defeat to Belgium in the 2018 FIFA World Cup, many people expected the Japanese fans to leave the stadium disappointed. Instead, they did something that surprised the world. Long after the match had ended, groups of Japanese supporters remained in the stands, collecting litter and placing it in garbage bags.

The fans did not do this because they were asked to do so. Cleaning public places is a habit deeply rooted in Japanese culture. Even school children in Japan are taught to clean their classrooms and surroundings. Videos of the fans cleaning the stadium quickly spread across social media and earned praise from people around the world.

Many football supporters admired their discipline and sense of responsibility. The incident showed that true sportsmanship is not only about how a team plays on the field but also about how people behave off it. It became a powerful example of respect for public spaces and consideration for others.

11. What did the Japanese fans do after the match?

12. Why did their actions surprise people around the world?

13. Which of the following statements are TRUE?

- i. The Japanese fans cleaned the stadium after the match.
- ii. The Japanese fans were instructed by officials to collect the litter.
- iii. Cleanliness is deeply rooted in Japanese culture.
- iv. The incident received appreciation from people across the globe.

Choose the correct option:

- A. i and ii
- B. ii and iii
- C. i, iii and iv
- D. All the statements

14. The incident became memorable mainly because the Japanese fans:

- A. celebrated their team's defeat.
- B. showed utmost civic sense.
- C. demanded better facilities in the stadium.
- D. organised another football match.

Questions 15 - 18: Answer either A or B.

15. [A] The story *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* belongs to the genre of magical realism, where the real world is depicted with a blend of fantasy. Prepare a review analysing the theme, setting and characters. (1x7=7)

(Hints:— old man with wings - locked in a chicken coop - suffers silently- improves the life style of Pelayo and Elisenda- old man flies away - magical elements within a real-world setting)

OR

[B] The story *In the Attic* emphasizes the value of human kindness and mutual support whereas *A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings* portrays human callousness and indifference to the marginalised. Prepare a write-up on the topic "Kindness sustains, cruelty destroys."

(Hints: Wladyslaw Szpilman- World War II - hides in an attic - danger of discovery - courage to face hardships – kindness and humanity shown by Wilm Hosenfeld - support and compassion – Old man with wings- faces exploitation- treated as a circus animal- met with indifference and negligence]

16. [A] Elisenda is portrayed as a woman who exploits the old man for financial gains. Prepare the character sketch of Elisenda highlighting her personality traits and her attitude towards the old man. (1x6=6)

OR

[B] Inspired by Srikanth Bolla's life story, you have decided to invite him to inaugurate the newly formed Entrepreneur Club in your school. Being the convenor of the club, you are asked to deliver a speech on this occasion, highlighting the challenges Bolla faced and the achievements he earned in his life. Prepare the script of the speech.

17. [A] Deeply disturbed by the old man's pathetic condition, one of the visitors decides to send an email to the District Collector detailing the negligence and cruelty inflicted upon him. Prepare the **email**. (1x6=6)

OR

- [B] The Government of Kerala launched **Operation Toofan: The Narco Hunt** in June 2026 to combat the growing drug menace and dismantle the inter-state supply chains. The District level inauguration was conducted at your school. The District Collector and other dignitaries were present at the inaugural ceremony. Prepare a **news report** of the function highlighting the inaugural event.

18. [A] The Nature Club of your school has produced reusable cloth bags to be marketed in the locality. Prepare a **product description** for its launch. (1x4=4)

OR

- [B] Read the picture carefully. Which of the following proverb best matches the picture? Justify your choice in a **paragraph**.

- a) A stitch in time saves nine.
- b) Too many cooks spoil the broth.
- c) A rolling stone gathers no moss.
- d) Don't bite the hand that feeds you.



Questions 19 - 21: Answer all the questions.

19. Prepare a **biographical sketch** of Twinkle Khanna using the details given below. 1x6=6

Title	:	-----
Early life	:	Birth (29 December 1973, Maharashtra) – parents (Dimple Kapadia and Rajesh Khanna - <i>Hindi film actors</i>)
Education	:	New Era High School in Panchgani - NarseeMonjee College of Commerce and Economics (University of Mumbai) - Master of Arts (University of London)
Career	:	Actress- debut movie(<i>Barsaat</i>), writer
Spouse	:	Akshay Kumar (<i>Hindi film actor</i>)
Current status	:	Columnist(<i>The Times of India</i>)
Famous books	:	<i>Mrs Funnybones, The Legend of Lakshmi Prasad, Pyjamas Are Forgiving</i>
Social activism	:	Advocates the need for menstrual hygiene
Major		
Accomplishments	:	Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut, co-produced the film <i>PadMan</i> (National Film Award for Best Film on Other Social Issues in 2018)

20. The Student Police Cadet Unit of your school plans to conduct an exhibition-cum-sale of Kudumbasree products. Prepare an **event invitation** to ensure the participation of the students, parents and the nearby schools. Include necessary details such as the purpose of the event, date, time and venue. (1x4=4)

21. Read the passage given below and frame **three Wh- questions** and **one Yes/No question**. The questions should be based on the theme and content of the passage. (1x4=4)

It so happened that during those days there arrived in the town a travelling show. The main attraction was a woman who had been changed into a spider by a burst of thunder and lightning. The admission fee to see her was less than the fee to see the angel. So, the people flocked to see her. They were also permitted to ask her all manner of questions about her absurd state.

Questions 22-25. Some interesting facts about Michael Jackson are given below. Study the table and answer the questions that follow. (4x1=4)

Album	Year of Release	Humanitarian / Environmental Contribution	Significance
<i>Off the Wall</i>	1979	Promotes mental well-being	Established Michael Jackson as a successful solo artist and showcased his unique musical style.
<i>Thriller</i>	1982	Promoted racial integration	Best-selling album in music history.
<i>Bad</i>	1987	Included <i>Man in the Mirror</i> , encouraging social responsibility.	Produced multiple chart-topping hits and strengthened Jackson's global popularity.
<i>Dangerous</i>	1991	Included <i>Heal the World</i> and <i>Black or White</i> , promoting peace, equality and global unity.	Redefined pop entertainment.
<i>History: Past, Present and Future, Book I</i>	1995	Included <i>Earth Song</i> , raising awareness about environmental destruction and animal welfare.	Combined greatest hits with new songs, highlighting his artistic evolution and activism.

22. Which album established Michael Jackson as a successful solo artist?

- A. Thriller
- B. Off the Wall
- C. Dangerous
- D. Bad

23. How does the song *Man in the Mirror* contribute to the development of the world?

24. When was Jackson's best-selling album released?

25. Study the following statements and identify the ones that do NOT reflect the facts presented in the table.

- i) Michael Jackson used music as a platform to promote important social messages.
- ii) *Dangerous* raised awareness about environmental destruction and animal welfare.
- iii) All the albums listed deal mainly with environmental issues.
- iv) Michael Jackson's best-selling album raised awareness about racial integration.

Choose the correct option:

- A. i and ii only
- B. i, ii and iv only
- C. iii only
- D. ii and iii only

26. Complete the passage given below choosing appropriate words from those given in the brackets. (6x½=3)

They decided to put the angel(a)..... a raft with fresh water and provisions(b)..... three days, and leave him to his fate on the high seas. But when they went out(c)..... the courtyard at the first light(d)..... dawn, they found the whole neighbourhood in front of the chicken coop having fun(e)..... the angel. The visitors were tossing him things to eat (f)..... the openings in the coop.

(for, with, through, from, of, on, into)

27. Edit the passage below. The errors are given in bold. (6x½=3)

Bablu knew that most **woman(a)** used unclean rags instead of sanitary napkins **who(b)** made them prone to disease. No one else appeared to **been(c)** bothered by this. He looked at the little girls running around the **neighbourhood(d)**. They couldn't even buy a good pair of **slipper(e)**—how could they ever **afforded(f)** to buy sanitary pads month after month?

28. Complete the paragraph using appropriate forms of the phrasal verbs/expressions given in brackets. (5x1=5)

When Srikanth was born without eyes, many people(a)..... him and saw him as a burden. Some people even(b)..... a suggestion to his parents that he should be smothered. However, his parents never(c)..... on him and showered him with love and care. At first, his father could not(d)..... how his son would fit into the traditional farming model. Later, he(e)..... to educate his son and help him build a better future.

(put forward, make up one's mind, go on, give up, look down on, figure out)

29. Complete the conversation between Srikanth and his mentor. (5x1=5)

- Teacher :(a).....?
- Srikanth : Yes. They have rejected my application to IIT because of my blindness.
- Teacher : You feel disappointed,(b).....?
- Srikanth : Of course. But if IIT doesn't want me, I don't want it either.

Teacher :(c).....?

Srikanth : My next plan is to apply to some top universities abroad.

Teacher : You had better(d).....

Srikanth : Sure. I am planning to apply to MIT, Stanford, Berkeley, and Carnegie Mellon.

Teacher : Good. If you work hard and stay determined,(e).....

Srikanth : Thank you, ma'am. Your encouragement means a lot to me.

30. Report the following dialogue. (2x1=2)

German officer : Why don't you hide in this loft above the attic?

Szpilman : I have never noticed such a thing till now.

..... (a)

..... (b)

31. Complete the passage choosing appropriate idioms from those given in the brackets. (2x1=2)

Rahul was selected to represent his school in a state-level quiz competition. He had to(a)..... to remember important facts and dates. During the competition, Rahul found most of the questions(b)..... and answered them confidently.

(a piece of cake, the icing on the cake, rack his brains)

32. Provide suitable captions for the following pictures. (2x1=2)



a.



b.
