

CLASS-XI
ENGLISH CORE (301)
SAMPLE PAPER- 2026-27

TIME ALLOWED: 3 HOURS

MAXIMUM MARKS: 80

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This paper comprises 3 sections- Reading Comprehension (26 marks), Writing Skills & Grammar (23 marks) and Literature (31 marks)
2. Attempt all questions.
3. Do not write anything on the question paper.
4. All the answers must be correctly numbered as in the question paper and written in the answer sheet provided.
5. Ensure that questions of each section are answered together.
6. Read each section carefully and follow the instructions.
7. Adhere to the word limit wherever prescribed.

Section –A (Reading Skills)

(26 Marks)

Typology	Reading Skills	Conceptual understanding, decoding, analysing, inferring, interpreting, appreciating literary conventions and vocabulary, summarising and using appropriate format/s
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I. Reading Comprehension through Unseen Passages

1. Read the following passage very carefully:

(10)

1. In a little district west of Washington Square, the streets had run crazy and broken themselves into small strips called 'places'. These places made strange angles and curves. In one of these lived Sue and Johnsy, two young artists who shared a modest studio. They had come from different parts of the country, but their love for painting had brought them together. Their room overlooked the blank brick wall of a neighbouring house, over which an old ivy vine climbed. Autumn had stripped the vine almost bare, and only a few leaves clung stubbornly to its branches.

2. Johnsy had fallen seriously ill with pneumonia. Though the doctor treated her carefully, he admitted to Sue that medicines alone would not cure her. "The real battle," he said, "is in her mind. If she loses the desire to live, no treatment can help her." Johnsy lay silently in bed, gazing through the window at the ivy vine. She had become convinced that when the last leaf dropped from the vine, her own life would end as well. Sue tried to distract her with cheerful conversation and her sketches, but Johnsy continued to count the falling leaves with quiet determination.

3. Downstairs lived old Behrman, a painter who had spoken for years of creating a masterpiece but had never begun one. Beneath his rough appearance lay a generous heart. When Sue told him about Johnsy's strange belief, he dismissed it angrily, calling it foolishness. Yet that very night, while a fierce storm lashed the city with rain and icy winds, Behrman quietly left his room carrying a lantern, paints and a ladder.

4. The following morning, Johnsy looked towards the vine expecting to see it bare. But one solitary leaf still clung to the wall. Day after day it remained there despite the wind and rain. Gradually, hope returned to Johnsy's heart. She realised how selfish it had been to surrender to despair and resolved to recover. A few days later, the doctor declared that she would live. Only then did Sue reveal that the leaf had not been real. Behrman had painted it on the wall during the storm, sacrificing his own life after catching pneumonia. His masterpiece had not been displayed in a gallery; it had restored another person's faith in life.

(Source- Adapted from 'The Last Leaf' by O. Henry)

1.A) On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following by choosing the most appropriate option: **(1x5=5)**

i. Which statement best reflects the doctor's opinion about Johnsy's recovery?

- a) Medicines alone would certainly cure her.
- b) Her recovery depended greatly on her will to live.
- c) Painting would help her recover immediately.
- d) Changing her treatment pattern would cure her illness.

ii. The option that best describes the central idea of the passage is the _____.

- a) hardships faced by struggling artists
- b) healing power of selfless sacrifice and hope
- c) human resilience against the fury of nature
- d) importance of mastering the art of painting

iii. Complete the following analogy by choosing the correct option.

Behrman: Determination :: Johnsy : _____

- a) despondency
- b) apprehension
- c) dependence
- d) resignation

iv. Statement A: Johnsy believed her life would end with the fall of the last ivy leaf.

Statement R: She had not lost the desire to recover from her illness.

- a) Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true but R is false.
- d) A is false but R is true.

v. Select the option that implies a similar meaning as the word 'dismissed' as used in the passage.

"When Sue told him about Johnsy's strange belief, he dismissed it angrily, calling it foolishness."

- a) She dismissed the suggestion as unrealistic.
- b) The teacher dismissed the class before lunch.
- c) The guard dismissed the visitors from the hall.
- d) The judge dismissed the witness after questioning.

1.B) Answer the following questions:

(1x5=5)

vi. The doctor considers Johnsy's state of mind more significant than her physical illness. Justify.

vii. Explain the irony in Behrman's 'masterpiece'.

viii. Cite an example from the passage that reveals Sue's concern and devotion towards Johnsy.

ix. The passage suggests that hope can influence a person's recovery from adversity. Do you agree?

Validate with substantial evidence from the text.

- x. Although the story ends with Behrman's death, the dominant mood is one of _____ because his sacrifice saves Johnsy's life.

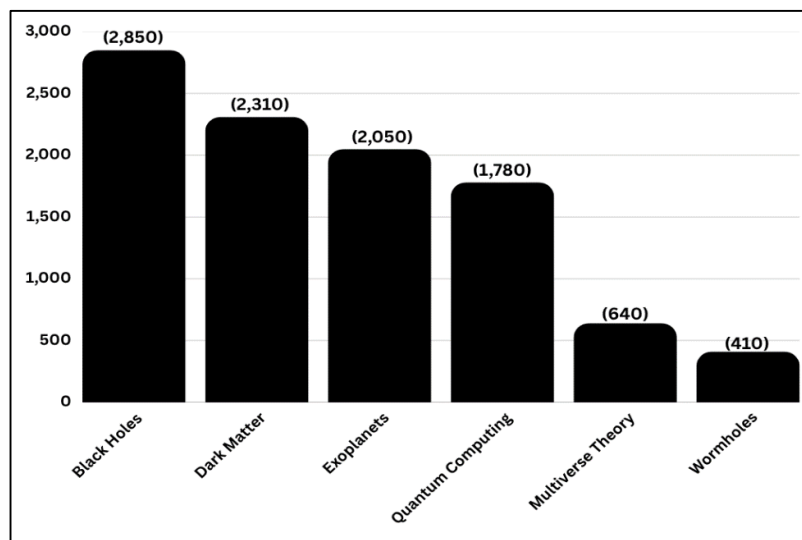
2. Read the following passage carefully:

(8)

1. A question that has fascinated scientists and philosophers for centuries is whether our universe is the only one that exists. The concept of the Multiverse suggests that our universe may be just one among countless others, each with its own Laws of Physics, history and possibilities. While this idea was once confined to science fiction, it is now being explored by theoretical physicists using advanced mathematical models.

2. One of the most popular theories associated with the Multiverse is the Many-Worlds Interpretation of quantum mechanics. According to this theory, every possible outcome of a quantum event actually occurs, but in separate, parallel universes. For example, if a person chooses to study medicine instead of engineering, another universe may exist where the opposite decision was made. Although fascinating, there is currently no experimental evidence to prove this theory.

The graph shows the number of research publications on selected space science topics (2024).



3. Another intriguing concept related to the Multiverse is the wormhole. A wormhole is a hypothetical tunnel through space-time that could connect two distant regions of the universe—or perhaps even two different universes. According to Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, such structures are mathematically possible. However, scientists believe that keeping a wormhole open would require an unknown form of matter with unusual properties, making practical travel through wormholes impossible with today's technology.

4. Despite the absence of direct proof, research into the Multiverse and wormholes has significantly expanded our understanding of cosmology and quantum physics. Powerful telescopes, particle accelerators and space missions continue to investigate the mysteries of the universe. These studies often inspire new scientific discoveries, even when the original theories remain unverified.

5. Critics argue that ideas like parallel universes cannot currently be tested and therefore lie outside the boundaries of experimental science. Others believe that today's impossible theories may become tomorrow's established facts, just as black holes and gravitational waves were once considered purely theoretical before being confirmed through observation.

6. Whether the Multiverse truly exists or not, the search for answers reflects humanity's endless curiosity. Scientific progress often begins with bold questions, and every new discovery brings us one step closer to understanding the remarkable universe we inhabit.

2.A) On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following with the most suitable option: (1x4=4)

- i. Choose the option which is NOT supported by the passage.
 - a. The Multiverse theory has been experimentally proven.
 - b. The Many-Worlds Interpretation is linked to quantum mechanics.
 - c. Scientists continue to investigate theories related to the Multiverse.
 - d. Wormholes are hypothetical structures connecting regions of space-time.
- ii. Select the idiom that conveys a similar meaning to the expression 'confined to science fiction' as used in paragraph 1.
 - a. out of this world
 - b. a figment of imagination
 - c. under the weather
 - d. at the drop of a hat
- iii. Statement-A: Theories such as the Multiverse and wormholes continue to attract scientific attention.
Statement-R: These theories have already been conclusively verified through experiments.
 - a. Both A and R are true and R is the correct explanation of A.
 - b. Both A and R are true but R is NOT the correct explanation of A.
 - c. A is true but R is false.
 - d. A is false but R is true.
- iv. The text describes the Multiverse as an 'intriguing' concept. The best illustration of this is that the idea is _____.
 - a. very boring and lacks any creative depth.
 - b. extremely simple and easily explained to all.
 - c. highly controversial and widely disliked.
 - d. fascinating and captures deep scientific interest.

2.B) Answer the following questions: (1x4=4)

- v. The author describes the Multiverse as a concept that lies between science and speculation. Explain.
- vi. The scientific concept that appears to be least explored as per the bar graph, has significantly contributed to human understanding. Justify.
- vii. According to the passage, the future acceptance of theories such as the Multiverse depends upon _____.
- viii. The passage implies that mathematical possibility and practical feasibility are not necessarily the same. (True/False)

3. Read the following passage carefully: (8)

1. Moringa oleifera, popularly known as the Miracle Tree or Drumstick Tree, is one of the most nutritious plants found in tropical and subtropical regions. Native to the foothills of the Himalayas in India, it is now cultivated in many countries across Asia, Africa and South America. Almost every part of the tree, including its leaves, flowers, pods and seeds, has nutritional or medicinal value.

2. Moringa thrives in warm climates and grows well in sandy or loamy soil with good drainage. It is highly drought-resistant and requires very little water once established, making it an environmentally sustainable crop. India is the world's largest producer of Moringa, with Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra being the major cultivating states. Its ability to grow rapidly under harsh conditions has earned it recognition as a 'tree for the future'.

3. Moringa leaves are exceptionally rich in vitamins A, C and E, calcium, iron, potassium and high-quality protein. They help strengthen immunity, improve digestion and support bone health. The leaves are dried into powder, consumed as herbal tea or added to soups, smoothies and salads. Moringa seed oil is widely used in skincare products because of its antioxidant and moisturising properties. The seeds are also capable of purifying contaminated water by removing impurities naturally.

4. Owing to its remarkable nutritional benefits and sustainable cultivation, Moringa has gained global popularity. Health experts recommend it as a natural supplement to combat malnutrition, while researchers continue to explore its potential in preventing lifestyle diseases. Its growing demand in the food, pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries has made Moringa an economically valuable crop for farmers.

(Source – Adapted from research published by the Food and Agriculture Organization and the National Institute of Nutrition, India)

3.A On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes using headings and sub-headings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Suggest a suitable title for the passage. (5)

3.B Write a summary of the above passage in not more than 50 words using the notes made by you. (3)

SECTION – B (GRAMMAR & CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)

(23 Marks)

Typology	Grammar & Creative Writing Skills	Conceptual understanding, application of rules, knowledge, reasoning, comprehension, grammatical accuracy, appropriacy of style and tone, using appropriate format and fluency, analysis, inference, evaluation, creativity and synthesis
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II. GRAMMAR

(4) A. Fill in the blanks using the correct form of the verbs given in the brackets. Attempt ANY TWO. (1X2=2 marks)

Last year, our school (a) _____ (organise) a campaign to promote environmental awareness. Since then, students (b) _____ (continue) to participate actively in various conservation activities. Experts believe that the initiative (c) _____ (inspire) many more schools to launch similar programmes in the coming years.

B. Complete the sentence using a suitable clause - (1X2=2 marks)

i) The young inventor continued modifying her prototype although _____.

ii) The school introduced a digital detox hour so that _____.

(5) Transform the following sentences as per the instructions given below: (1X3=3 marks)

i. Interviewer: How did you manage to remain calm during the emergency?

Volunteer: I focused on what needed to be done rather than on my fear.

The interviewer asked the volunteer how she had managed to remain calm during the emergency. The volunteer replied that _____. (Change to reported speech)

ii. An environmental report states:

Volunteers are restoring the wetland that was damaged by years of pollution.
(Rewrite the sentence in the passive voice)

iii. The documentary was too thought-provoking to be forgotten easily. (Rewrite using so...that.)

III. CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS

(6). Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words.

3

A. You are Dr. Alok Sharma, a university professor residing in New Delhi. As a conscious and eco-friendly citizen, you wish to sell your well-maintained petrol car to upgrade to an electric vehicle (EV). Draft a suitable advertisement to be published in the classified column of a local newspaper giving all necessary details.

3

OR

B. You are Raghav Malhotra, Secretary of the Green Meadows Residents' Welfare Association, Jaipur. The association is organizing a three-month free evening coaching programme for children from economically weaker sections. To run the programme successfully, you urgently require teacher volunteers for English, Mathematics, and Science. Draft a suitable advertisement to be published in the classified column of a local newspaper giving all necessary details.

3

(7). Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 50 words.

3

A. Large quantities of edible food are wasted every day at weddings, social gatherings, restaurants and even in homes, while millions of people continue to suffer from hunger. To address this issue, your NGO has launched the campaign 'Every Grain Counts'. As a volunteer with the NGO, design an attractive poster to create awareness about preventing food wastage. Include a catchy slogan and relevant details.

3

OR

B. In recent times, increasing academic pressure and prolonged screen exposure have been adversely affecting the mental well-being of students. As the Assistant to the School Counsellor, you have been entrusted with the responsibility of creating an awareness poster on this issue. Design a poster using catchy slogans, relevant visuals and a positive tone to make the message impactful.

3

(8). Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 120-150 words.

5

A. You are the Chief Speaker at a Youth Awareness Programme organised by your school. The theme of the programme is 'True Patriotism: Doing Our Duty for the Nation'. Deliver a speech highlighting how young citizens can demonstrate patriotism through responsible actions and everyday civic duties taking clues from the inputs given below.

5

- patriotism beyond words
- performing one's duties
- responsible citizenship
- serving society
- protecting the nation's future
- responsible digital citizenship

- role of youth

OR

B. Despite various municipal awareness drives, open dumping and improper waste disposal remain major urban hazards, leading to health risks and environmental degradation. Draft a speech to be delivered at a Youth Civic Forum on 'Smart Waste Management: Bridging the Gap Between Civic Infrastructure and Citizen Responsibility' based on the verbal input provided. **5**

- urban waste crisis, modern systems, poor outcomes
- open dumping & clogged drains
- no waste segregation, recycling rendered ineffective
- Three-bin segregation, smart waste technology
- GPS monitoring, rewards for zero-waste homes
- infrastructure & civic discipline
- youth as change-makers

(9). Attempt ANY ONE of the two, in about 120-150 words.

5

A. With easy access to health information on the internet, many people now search their symptoms online and try to diagnose illnesses or take medicines without consulting qualified healthcare professionals. Concerned about this growing trend among teenagers and the general public, the debating society of your school has decided to organise a debate to mark the National Health Awareness Month. As a student of the school, prepare a debate in favour or against the motion on the topic- 'Google-guided self-diagnosis and self-treatment are dangerous practices that must be discouraged'. You may take help from the following cues. **5**

Favour-

- risk of wrong diagnosis
- incorrect medication can be harmful
- health decisions require personalised care

Against-

- internet improves health awareness
- useful for minor health concerns
- encourages preventive care

OR

B. You are participating in an Inter-House Debate Competition organised by your school on the occasion of Digital Literacy Week. The motion for the debate is: 'Becoming a social media influencer is a sustainable and reliable long-term career choice for today's youth '. Prepare a debate either in favour or

against the motion based on the clues provided. Present logical arguments, relevant examples and conclude with a persuasive statement. 5

Favour-

- digital economy
- high income potential
- global opportunities
- positive impact

Against-

- income instability
- job insecurity
- mental health risks
- privacy concerns
- platform dependence

SECTION – C (LITERATURE)

(31 Marks)

Typology	Literature	Recalling, reasoning, appreciating literary conventions, inference, analysis, creativity with fluency and critical thinking
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IV. Reference to the Context

(10) Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow: (1x3=3 marks)

A. The sea holiday

Was her past, mine is her laughter. Both wry
With the laboured ease of loss.
Now she's been dead nearly as many years
As that girl lived. And of this circumstance
There is nothing to say at all.
Its silence silences."

- i. Select the option which uses the same poetic device as used by the poet in line-3.
- | | |
|---|---|
| a. Speech is silver, but silence is gold. | b. Many are called, but few are chosen. |
| c. To err is human; to forgive, divine. | d. Parting is a sweet sorrow. |

ii. Explain the phrase 'silence silences'.

- iii. The poet moves from _____.
- | |
|--|
| a. a joyful memory to the painful reality of loss |
| b. a painful memory to the comfort of the present |
| c. a personal memory to an appreciation of nature |
| d. remembering her mother to celebrating childhood |

OR

B. When did my childhood go?

Was it the time I realised that adults were not
All they seemed to be,
They talked of love and preached of love,
But did not act so lovingly,

Was that the day!

- i. The contrast between “talked of love” and “did not act so lovingly” highlights _____.
- ii. The poet’s tone in these lines is mainly:
 - a. celebratory
 - b. humorous
 - c. disappointed and thoughtful
 - d. angry and aggressive
- iii. Why is this realisation connected with the loss of childhood?
 - a. Children are forced to grow up.
 - b. Childhood ends only at a certain age.
 - c. Children dislike adults and what they preach.
 - d. Children usually see the world as perfect and innocent.

(11) Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow: (1x3=3 marks)

A. Professor Gaitonde told Rajendra Deshpande about his strange experience. Rajendra listened carefully and then explained the incident using scientific ideas related to catastrophe theory and the concept of parallel worlds. He suggested that the professor might have experienced a transition into a different reality where history had taken another path. However, Rajendra also admitted that science could not provide a complete explanation for everything that had happened.

- i) Why did Rajendra Deshpande explain the experience using scientific concepts?
 - a. to dismiss the professor’s experience
 - b. to provide a logical explanation
 - c. to prove history was false
 - d. to confuse Professor Gaitonde
- ii) The reference to catastrophe theory suggests that _____.
- iii). The ending of the chapter leaves the reader with the idea that _____.
 - a. human perception can completely alter the course of history
 - b. some experiences challenge our understanding of reality
 - c. scientific explanations can resolve all mysteries of the past
 - d. historical events can always be explained through reasoning

OR

B. When he finally reached the mummy, though, he ran into trouble. The ritual resins had hardened, cementing Tut to the bottom of his solid gold coffin. 'No amount of legitimate force could move them,' Carter wrote later. 'What was to be done?' The sun can beat down like a hammer this far south in Egypt, and Carter tried to use it to loosen the resins.

- i. Why does the author specifically use the word ‘legitimate’ in the phrase "no amount of legitimate force could move them"?
 - a. to suggest that Carter lacked the legal authority to move the pharaoh
 - b. to emphasize that all scientifically acceptable and careful methods had failed
 - c. to show that Carter was afraid of breaking Egyptian antique laws
 - d. to imply that the workers were not using enough physical strength
- ii. What does Carter’s initial decision to use the scorching desert sun to melt the resins reveal about his methodology?
 - a. He wanted to save time by avoiding manual labour.

- b. He lacked proper steel chisels needed to cut the hardened gold.
- c. He was superstitious and wanted nature to decide the mummy's fate.
- d. He preferred non-invasive solutions before resorting to destructive tools.

iii. Carter's primary objective in writing, "What was to be done?" in his defense was_____ .

(12) Read the given extract carefully and answer the questions that follow: (1x4=4 marks)

A. I looked at the woollen tablecloth. I followed the lines of the pattern. Somewhere on the edge there should be a burn mark that had never been repaired. My fingers grew warm with rubbing. I followed the lines of the pattern. The girl poured tea from a white pot. It had a gold border on the lid, I remembered. She opened a box and took some spoons out. 'That's a nice box.' I heard my own voice. It was a strange voice. As though each sound was different in this room. 'Oh, you know about them?' She turned round and brought me some tea. She laughed. 'My mother says it is an antique. We've got lots more.' She pointed round the room. 'See for yourself.' I had no need to follow her hand. I knew which objects she meant. I looked at the still life gallery with the tea-table. As a child I had always fancied the apple on the pewter plate.

i) The narrator does not need to follow the girl's hand because her identification of the objects relies entirely on her own _____ rather than the girl's guidance.

ii) State whether true or false:

Statement: The narrator confirms the identity of the woolen tablecloth by visually spotting the unrepaired burn mark right away.

iii) The contrast between the narrator's childhood fancy for the pewter plate and the girl's casual boast about 'antiques' highlights a shift from_____.

- a. pure emotional value to shallow material ownership
- b. high-class lifestyle to complete financial poverty
- c. artistic appreciation to historical research
- d. childhood ignorance to adult greed

iv) The narrator's physical action of rubbing the pattern until her 'fingers grew warm' represents her subconscious desire to:

- a. clean the dirty tablecloth out of habit.
- b. prove to the girl that the tablecloth belongs to her.
- c. check the quality and authenticity of the wool fabric.
- d. reconnect with the warmth of her past life and dead mother.

OR

B. Your King appears to be a melon.

How did this happen?', they say, 'Well, on Account of customary choice.

If His Majesty rejoice

In being a melon, that's OK

With us, for who are we to say

What he should be as long as he

Leaves us in Peace and Liberty?'

The principles of laissez faire

Seem to be well-established there.

i) The selection of a melon as king is an example of:

- a) realistic leadership b) logical decision-making
- c) absurdity and satire d) successful democracy

ii) 'customary choice' here refers to a choice made_____.

- a) through careful reasoning b) on established tradition
- c) through democratic voting d) to meet an immediate need

iii) The phrase "laissez faire" means _____.

iv) The citizens claiming to value liberty, yet accepting a completely meaningless ruler without questioning the situation is an example of Irony. True or False?

13. Answer the following questions in about 40-50 words each: (2X3=6 marks)

- a) Why does the poet describe the sea as 'terribly transient' while the photograph remains unchanged? What larger philosophical idea about life does this contrast convey? (A Photograph)

OR

The rain remains 'altogether changed, and yet the same'. Analyse this paradox and explain how it reflects the continuity of life despite constant transformation. (The Voice of the Rain)

- b) The grandmother never openly complains about the growing distance between herself and the narrator. How does her restraint make her character more poignant and powerful? (The Portrait of a Lady)

OR

How did Tutankhamun's name change serve as a calculated political and religious strategy rather than a mere personal preference? (Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues)

14. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 40-50 words: (1x3=3 marks)

- a) How does the narrator's visit to the house at 46 Marconi Street change her understanding of the relationship between material possessions and memories? (The Address)

OR

- b) Uncle Khosrove's repetitive catchphrase is often seen as comic relief. What does a deeper analysis reveal about his psychological state? (The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse)

15. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words: (1x6=6 marks)

- a) The chapter 'We Are Not Afraid to Die... If We Can All Be Together' and the poem 'Father to Son' explore family relationships in different situations. While one presents a family united in the face of danger, the other portrays emotional distance between a father and his son. Compare and contrast how the two texts highlight the importance of family bonds and communication. What message do they convey about nurturing relationships within a family? Support your answer with evidences from both the texts.

OR

- b) The poem 'The Laburnum Top' by Ted Hughes and the travelogue 'The Silk Road' present nature as a powerful and meaningful presence. While the poem celebrates the vitality and beauty of nature through the interaction between the goldfinch and the laburnum tree, the prose highlights the grandeur, serenity

and challenges of the natural landscape of the Himalayas and Tibet. Compare how nature is portrayed in the two texts. Substantiate with evidences from both texts.

16. Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 120-150 words: (1x6=6 marks)

a) Towards the end of the chapter 'Birth' Dr. Andrew says, "I have done something at last." Imagine you are Dr. Andrew. After returning home that night, you feel emotionally overwhelmed by the events of the day. Write a diary entry expressing your thoughts and feelings about the successful delivery of the baby, saving the newborn's life, and how the incident restored your confidence and renewed your faith in the medical profession.

OR

b) The children in J.B. Priestley's 'Mother's Day' are products of an urban, convenience-driven lifestyle that weakens emotional bonds within the family. Critically examine this statement by analyzing the attitudes and behaviour of Cyril and Doris. To what extent does Priestley's portrayal of metropolitan children remain relevant in the context of present-day urban society? Substantiate your answer with suitable textual references and contemporary examples.