

CLASS VII - ENGLISH

Annual Examination - Paper 2 (SOLVED)

Session: 2025-26 | Term-II

Math Love Institute | Excellence in Education

Maximum Marks	80
Time Allowed	3 Hours
Date	February 2026

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

1. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper is divided into Four Sections: A, B, C, and D.
3. Section A - Reading Comprehension (15 marks)
4. Section B - Writing Skills & Grammar (25 marks)
5. Section C - Literature (30 marks)
6. Section D - Long Answer Questions (10 marks)
7. Read each question carefully before answering.
8. Attempt all sections as per instructions.

SECTION A - READING COMPREHENSION (15 MARKS)

Q1.

[8 Marks]

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

PASSAGE - 1

Trees are the kindest things that ever grew. They give us shade in summer when the bright sunlight becomes unbearable. In winter, when we need warmth, they allow the sunlight to pass through their bare branches. Trees provide us with fruits, flowers, and wood. They are home to countless birds, insects, and small animals. Trees play a vital role in maintaining the ecological balance of our planet. They absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, which is essential for all living beings. The roots of trees hold the soil together and prevent erosion. During heavy rains, trees help in absorbing water and reducing floods. In cities, trees help reduce pollution by absorbing harmful gases. They also reduce noise pollution by acting as sound barriers. Trees have a calming effect on our minds and help reduce stress. Parks and gardens with plenty of trees are perfect places for recreation and relaxation. Unfortunately, we are cutting down forests at an alarming rate. Deforestation is causing serious environmental problems like climate change, loss of wildlife habitats, and soil erosion. We must realize the importance of trees and plant more of them. Every person should pledge to plant at least one tree every year. Only then can we ensure a healthy and sustainable future for the coming generations.

Answer the following questions:

- a. How do trees help us in different seasons? (2)
- b. Mention any three benefits that trees provide to the environment. (3)
- c. What problems are caused by deforestation? (2)
- d. Find words from the passage that mean: (1)
 - o (i) lasting or enduring (para 4)

Q2.

[7 Marks]

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

PASSAGE - 2

A tiger is a magnificent creature and the largest member of the cat family. Tigers are known for their beautiful orange coat with black stripes. Each tiger has a unique pattern of stripes, just like human fingerprints. These stripes help them camouflage in tall grass and forests. Tigers are excellent hunters and mainly hunt at night. They are carnivores and feed on deer, wild pigs, and other animals. A tiger can eat up to 40 kilograms of meat in one meal. Unlike most cats, tigers are good swimmers and often cool themselves in water during hot weather. Sadly, tigers are an endangered species. There are only about 3,900 tigers left in the wild. Habitat loss and poaching are the main threats to their survival. India has the largest population of tigers in the world, with various tiger reserves working to protect them.

Answer the following questions:

- a. What makes each tiger unique? (1)
- b. Why do tigers hunt mainly at night? What do they eat? (2)
- c. What are the main threats to tiger survival? (2)
- d. Write True or False: (2)
 - o (i) Tigers are poor swimmers.
 - o (ii) Each tiger has a unique pattern of stripes.

SECTION B - WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (25 MARKS)
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Q3.

[5 Marks]

Write a formal letter to the Principal of your school requesting permission to organize a tree plantation drive in the school campus. Mention the importance of trees and how students can participate.

Q4.

[5 Marks]

Write a paragraph on any ONE of the following topics (in about 100-120 words):

- a. My Favorite Season
- b. A Visit to a Garden
- c. Importance of Reading Books

Q5.

[10 Marks]

Grammar Section:

(a) Fill in the blanks with suitable adverbs: (2)

- i. She completed her homework _____. (quick/quickly)
- ii. The children played _____ in the park. (happy/happily)

(b) Identify the type of pronouns used in the following sentences: (2)

- i. She hurt herself while playing.
- ii. This is the book which I bought yesterday.

(c) Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions: (2)

- i. The cat is hiding _____ the table.
- ii. We will meet _____ 5 o'clock.

(d) Combine the following sentences using conjunctions: (2)

- i. She is talented. She is hardworking. (Use 'and')
- ii. He studied hard. He failed the exam. (Use 'but')

(e) Identify the types of sentences and clauses: (2)

- i. If it rains, we will stay at home. (Identify the clause)
- ii. Where are you going? (Identify the sentence type)

Q6.

[5 Marks]

Message Writing / Concept Map: Your friend called while you were out. He wanted to inform you about the change in timing for tomorrow's football practice from 4 PM to 5 PM at the school ground. Write a message for your parents informing them about this change.

SECTION C - LITERATURE (30 MARKS)

Q7.

[4 Marks]

Answer the following questions from "Quality" (Any TWO):

- a. Who was Mr. Gessler? What was special about his profession?
- b. Why did Mr. Gessler's business fail despite his excellent craftsmanship?
- c. What does the story "Quality" teach us about dedication and hard work?

Q8.

[6 Marks]

Read the extract and answer the questions:

"The Bear was brought up on a bottle by me and the old cook. He was a funny little creature, and when he was big enough, he would run after the dogs, and the dogs after him, and they all were the best of friends."

- a. Name the chapter and the author. (1)
- b. How was the bear cub brought up? (2)
- c. What was the relationship between the bear and the dogs? (2)
- d. Give an adjective from the passage that describes the bear. (1)

Q9.

[6 Marks]

Answer with reference to the poem "Trees":

*"Trees are for birds. Trees are for children. Trees are to make tree houses in.
Trees are to swing swings on."*

- a. Name the poet. (1)
- b. How are trees useful for birds and children? (2)
- c. Mention any two activities that children can do with trees. (2)
- d. What is the main message of this poem? (1)

Q10.

[8 Marks]

Short Answer Questions (Answer ANY FOUR): (2 marks each)

- a. What qualities made Mr. Gessler different from other bootmakers?
- b. Describe the relationship between the lady and the bear in "The Bear Story".
- c. What mistake did the lady make in the forest? How did she realize her error?
- d. Write the central idea of the poem "Mystery of the Talking Fan".
- e. What message does the poem "Garden Snake" convey to children?
- f. Why should we admire and respect our brave soldiers? (from "A Homage to Our Brave Soldiers")

Q11.

[6 Marks]

Match the following: (1 mark each)

Column A	Column B
(a) Expert Detectives	(i) Invention of Vita-Wonk
(b) Tiger	(ii) Nishad and Maya
(c) Oldest living things	(iii) A Tiger in the House
(d) Vita-Wonk	(iv) Trees
(e) Wiggles	(v) Dad and the Cat and the Tree
(f) Dad's funny adventure	(vi) Garden Snake

SECTION D - LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (10 MARKS)

Q12.

[5 Marks]

Answer ANY ONE of the following:

- Write a character sketch of the lady in "The Bear Story". What kind of person was she?
- Describe how Mr. Gessler's dedication to quality led to his downfall. What lesson do we learn from this story?

Q13.

[5 Marks]

Creative Writing - Answer ANY ONE:

- a. Write a story based on the theme "Courage overcomes fear" incorporating elements from the poems "Garden Snake" or "Meadow Surprises". (Word limit: 150-180 words)
- b. Imagine you are one of the children from the poem "Trees". Write a diary entry describing a day spent playing in and around your favorite tree, mentioning all the activities you enjoyed.

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ANSWER KEY WITH DETAILED SOLUTIONS

SECTION A - READING COMPREHENSION ANSWERS

Answer 1: Passage-1 (Trees)

Solutions:

(a) How do trees help us in different seasons? (2 marks)

Trees help us differently in different seasons:

- In summer, trees provide cool shade when the bright sunlight becomes unbearable. Their dense leaves create a canopy that protects us from the harsh sun.
- In winter, when we need warmth and sunlight, trees shed their leaves. The bare branches allow the sunlight to pass through, giving us the warmth we need during cold days.

(b) Three benefits that trees provide to the environment: (3 marks)

1. Trees absorb carbon dioxide and release oxygen, which is essential for all living beings to breathe and survive.
2. The roots of trees hold the soil together and prevent soil erosion. They also help absorb water

during heavy rains, reducing the risk of floods.

3. In cities, trees help reduce air pollution by absorbing harmful gases. They also reduce noise pollution by acting as sound barriers between roads and residential areas.

(c) Problems caused by deforestation: (2 marks)

Deforestation causes several serious environmental problems:

- Climate change - due to increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere
- Loss of wildlife habitats - many animals and birds lose their homes
- Soil erosion - without tree roots to hold the soil, it gets washed away
- Increased flooding - trees are not there to absorb rainwater

(d) Word meaning: (1 mark)

(i) sustainable (paragraph 4) - means lasting or enduring

Marking: (a) 2 marks, (b) 3 marks (1 mark each benefit), (c) 2 marks, (d) 1 mark

Answer 2: Passage-2 (Tigers)

Solutions:

(a) What makes each tiger unique? (1 mark)

Each tiger has a unique pattern of stripes, just like human fingerprints. No two tigers have exactly the same stripe pattern, making each tiger distinctive and identifiable.

(b) Why do tigers hunt at night? What do they eat? (2 marks)

Tigers mainly hunt at night because they are nocturnal predators. Their excellent night vision and the cover of darkness help them stalk and catch prey more effectively.

Tigers are carnivores and feed on deer, wild pigs, and other animals. A tiger can eat up to 40 kilograms of meat in one meal.

(c) Main threats to tiger survival: (2 marks)

The main threats to tiger survival are:

- Habitat loss - destruction of forests where tigers live
- Poaching - illegal hunting of tigers for their skin and body parts

These threats have reduced the tiger population to only about 3,900 tigers in the wild.

(d) True or False: (2 marks)

- (i) Tigers are poor swimmers. - FALSE

(Explanation: Unlike most cats, tigers are good swimmers and often cool themselves in water during hot weather.)

(ii) Each tiger has a unique pattern of stripes. -
TRUE

(Explanation: The passage clearly states that each tiger has a unique pattern of stripes, just like human fingerprints.)

Marking: (a) 1 mark, (b) 2 marks, (c) 2 marks, (d) 2 marks (1 mark each)

SECTION B - WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR ANSWERS

Answer 3: Formal Letter

Solution:

[Your Name]

Class VII - [Section]

Roll No: [Your Roll No.]

Date: [Current Date]

To,

The Principal,

[School Name]

[School Address]

Subject: Request for Permission to Organize Tree
Plantation Drive

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the students of Class VII to request your permission to organize a tree plantation drive in our school campus.

As we all know, trees are essential for our survival. They provide us with oxygen, reduce pollution, prevent soil erosion, and give us shade and fruits. Unfortunately, deforestation is causing serious environmental problems. We, as responsible students, want to contribute to protecting our environment.

We propose to organize this drive on [Date], during which students from all classes can participate. Each class can plant 5-10 saplings in designated areas of the school campus. Our science teacher, [Teacher's name], has agreed to guide us. We will arrange for saplings, tools, and watering equipment. Students will be divided into groups, and each group will be responsible for caring for their planted trees.

This activity will not only beautify our school but also teach us the importance of environmental conservation. It will be a practical lesson in taking responsibility for nature.

I request you to kindly grant us permission for this noble cause. We assure you that the drive will be conducted in an organized manner without disturbing school activities.

Thanking you,

Yours obediently,

[Your Name]

Class VII - [Section]

Marking: Format 2 marks (Sender's address, Date, Receiver's address, Subject, Salutation, Closing), Content 2 marks, Expression 1 mark = 5 marks

Answer 4: Paragraph Writing (Sample - A Visit to a Garden)

Solution:

A Visit to a Garden

Last Sunday, I visited a beautiful garden near my house with my family. As soon as we entered, we were greeted by the sweet fragrance of flowers and the chirping of birds. The garden was full of colorful flowers like roses, marigolds, sunflowers, and jasmine, arranged in neat rows. Butterflies of different colors were dancing from flower to flower, and bees were buzzing around collecting nectar.

We walked on the winding pathways surrounded by green grass. Under a large banyan tree, children

were playing and laughing. Some people were sitting on benches, reading newspapers or chatting with friends. In one corner, gardeners were watering plants and trimming bushes. The garden also had a small fountain where water sparkled in the sunlight.

I saw a squirrel running up a tree and birds making nests on the branches. My younger brother was excited to see a rabbit hopping near the bushes. We spent about two hours in the garden, enjoying the natural beauty and fresh air. The visit to the garden was refreshing and taught me to appreciate the simple joys of nature. I felt peaceful and promised myself to visit such places more often.

Marking: Content 2.5 marks, Expression and Vocabulary 1.5 marks, Coherence and Organization 1 mark = 5 marks

Answer 5: Grammar Section

Solutions:

(a) Fill in the blanks with suitable adverbs: (2 marks)

(i) She completed her homework quickly.

Explanation: 'Quickly' is an adverb that modifies the verb 'completed', telling us how she completed her homework.

(ii) The children played happily in the park.

Explanation: 'Happily' is an adverb that modifies

the verb 'played', describing the manner in which they played.

(b) Identify the type of pronouns: (2 marks)

(i) She hurt herself while playing.

Answer: Reflexive pronoun

Explanation: 'Herself' refers back to the subject 'she' and shows that she performed the action on herself.

(ii) This is the book which I bought yesterday.

Answer: Relative pronoun

Explanation: 'Which' is a relative pronoun that connects the clause 'I bought yesterday' to the noun 'book'.

(c) Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions: (2 marks)

(i) The cat is hiding under the table.

Explanation: 'Under' is a preposition of place showing the position of the cat.

(ii) We will meet at 5 o'clock.

Explanation: 'At' is a preposition of time used with specific times.

(d) Combine sentences using conjunctions: (2 marks)

(i) She is talented and hardworking.

Explanation: 'And' is a coordinating conjunction that joins two similar ideas.

(ii) He studied hard but failed the exam.

Explanation: 'But' is a coordinating conjunction showing contrast between two ideas.

(e) Identify types of sentences and clauses: (2 marks)

(i) If it rains, we will stay at home.

Answer: The clause "If it rains" is a subordinate clause (dependent clause/conditional clause).

Explanation: This clause depends on the main clause and expresses a condition.

(ii) Where are you going?

Answer: Interrogative sentence

Explanation: This sentence asks a question and ends with a question mark.

Marking: Each part carries 2 marks, Total = 10 marks

Answer 6: Message Writing

Solution:

MESSAGE

Date: [Current Date]

Time: 6:30 PM

Dear Mom and Dad,

Rahul called while I was out. He wanted to inform

me that tomorrow's football practice timing has been changed. Instead of 4 PM, the practice will now be held at 5 PM at the school ground. Please note this change so that you can pick me up at the right time.

Thank you.

[Your Name]

Marking: Format 2 marks (Date, Time, Receiver, Sender), Content 2 marks, Expression 1 mark = 5 marks

SECTION C - LITERATURE ANSWERS

Answer 7: Questions from "Quality" (Any TWO)

Solutions:

(a) Who was Mr. Gessler? What was special about his profession?

Mr. Gessler was a German bootmaker who owned a small shop in London. He was an excellent craftsman who made custom-made boots with great skill and dedication.

What was special about his profession:

- He believed in perfection and quality above everything else
- He made boots that lasted for years because of superior craftsmanship

- He personally selected the best leather and made each boot with care
- He never compromised on quality even when facing business difficulties
- His boots fit perfectly and were worth every penny paid for them

(b) Why did Mr. Gessler's business fail despite his excellent craftsmanship?

Despite his excellent craftsmanship, Mr. Gessler's business failed due to several reasons:

- Big firms started making boots using mass production methods, which were cheaper
- These big firms used heavy advertising to attract customers
- Mr. Gessler refused to advertise or compromise on quality
- He took too much time making each boot perfectly, so couldn't produce in large quantities
- Customers preferred cheaper, ready-made boots from big stores
- He couldn't adapt to modern business methods and competition
- He slowly lost customers and eventually died in poverty

(c) What does the story "Quality" teach us about dedication and hard work?

The story teaches us several important lessons:

- Quality and dedication are valuable virtues that should be cherished

- True craftsmen take pride in their work and never compromise on standards
- Hard work and honesty are more important than quick success
- However, we must also balance quality with practical business sense
- In the modern world, traditional skills alone are not enough; we need to adapt
- We should value quality over quantity, but also learn to survive in competitive times
- The story shows both the nobility of dedication and the tragic reality of not adapting to change

Marking: Each answer carries 2 marks, Total for ANY TWO = 4 marks

Answer 8: Extract from "The Bear Story"

Solutions:

(a) Name the chapter and the author: (1 mark)

Chapter: The Bear Story

Author: Alex Munthe (also known as Canning)

(b) How was the bear cub brought up? (2 marks)

The bear cub was brought up on a bottle (milk bottle) by the lady and the old cook. When the lady found the bear cub in the forest, it was half dead of hunger, very small and helpless. Since it was too young to eat solid food, the lady and her cook fed it milk from a bottle, just like a human baby. They took care of it with love and raised it as if

it were their own child.

(c) What was the relationship between the bear and the dogs? (2 marks)

The bear and the dogs had a very friendly and playful relationship. They were the best of friends. When the bear grew big enough, he would run after the dogs, and the dogs would chase him back. They played together and enjoyed each other's company. The bear did not harm the dogs despite being much stronger. They even ate food from the same plate sometimes, showing their close bond.

(d) Give an adjective from the passage that describes the bear: (1 mark)

Answer: funny

(Other acceptable answers could be: little, though "funny" is the most descriptive adjective used for the bear in this extract)

Marking: (a) 1 mark, (b) 2 marks, (c) 2 marks, (d) 1 mark = Total 6 marks

Answer 9: Poem "Trees"

Solutions:

(a) Name the poet: (1 mark)

Poet: Shirley Bauer (Some editions may credit it as Anonymous or Traditional)

(b) How are trees useful for birds and children? (2 marks)

Trees are useful for birds:

- Trees provide shelter and homes for birds where they can build their nests
- Birds can rest on the branches and find protection from predators
- Trees provide food in the form of fruits, seeds, and insects

Trees are useful for children:

- Trees provide shade where children can play and rest
- Children can build tree houses in trees
- Trees are used to swing on (children tie swings to branches)
- Trees create a fun playground for various games like hide and seek

(c) Two activities that children can do with trees: (2 marks)

1. Make tree houses - Children can build small houses or platforms in trees where they can sit and play
2. Swing on swings - Children can tie swings to strong branches and enjoy swinging

(Other acceptable answers: climbing trees, playing hide and seek around trees, sitting in the shade)

(d) What is the main message of this poem? (1 mark)

The main message of the poem is that trees are precious and useful for everyone - birds, children, animals, and humans. Trees serve many purposes in our lives and we should appreciate and protect them. The poem teaches us to value trees and understand their importance in nature and for recreation.

*Marking: (a) 1 mark, (b) 2 marks, (c) 2 marks (1 mark each), (d) 1 mark =
Total 6 marks*

Answer 10: Short Answer Questions (ANY FOUR)

Solutions:

(a) What qualities made Mr. Gessler different from other bootmakers?

Mr. Gessler possessed exceptional qualities that set him apart:

- Complete dedication to his craft and belief in perfection
- Uncompromising honesty and integrity in business dealings
- Superior skill and craftsmanship - he personally made each boot with care
- Pride in quality over profit - he valued his work more than money
- Humble nature despite being highly skilled - he lived simply and worked tirelessly
- Personal attention to each customer's needs and

preferences

(b) Describe the relationship between the lady and the bear in "The Bear Story".

The lady and the bear shared a special mother-child relationship:

- The lady found the bear cub half-dead in the forest and rescued him
- She brought him up like her own child, feeding him with a milk bottle
- She cared for him lovingly but also disciplined him when necessary
- She set rules for the bear (no apple-plucking, no attacking beehives)
- She chained him on Sundays for his safety when she visited her sister
- Despite her love, she punished him when she thought he disobeyed (hitting with umbrella)
- Their relationship showed both affection and firm discipline

(c) What mistake did the lady make in the forest? How did she realize her error?

The lady's mistake:

One Sunday, while walking through the forest to her sister's house, the lady heard a bear following her. Thinking it was her pet bear who had escaped from his chain, she became angry. She scolded the wild bear and even hit him hard on the nose with her parasol, breaking it into two pieces.

How she realized her error:

When the lady returned home in the evening, she found her own pet bear still chained up exactly where she had left him. He looked sad and the cook told her that the bear had been sitting there quietly all day. At that moment, she realized that the bear she had encountered in the forest was not her pet but a wild bear. She had mistaken a wild bear for her pet and was lucky that it didn't attack her.

(d) Central idea of the poem "Mystery of the Talking Fan".

The poem "Mystery of the Talking Fan" presents a child's imaginative perspective on everyday objects. The central idea is:

- The ceiling fan makes whirring sounds while rotating, which the child imagines as the fan trying to communicate or talk
- The child's creative imagination transforms ordinary sounds into mysterious messages
- The poem celebrates childhood curiosity and the ability to find wonder in simple things
- It shows how imagination can make mundane objects interesting and magical
- The poem encourages us to look at ordinary things from a creative and playful perspective

(e) What message does the poem "Garden Snake" convey to children?

The poem "Garden Snake" conveys important messages

to children:

- Not all creatures are dangerous - the garden snake is harmless and should not be feared
- We should not harm small creatures unnecessarily out of baseless fear
- Observation teaches us that the snake is thin, small, and wiggles away when it sees humans
- Fear is often created by our imagination rather than real danger
- We should respect all living creatures and not kill them without reason
- Nature has many harmless creatures that add beauty and balance to the environment
- Overcoming irrational fears helps us appreciate and coexist with nature

(f) Why should we admire and respect our brave soldiers?

We should admire and respect our brave soldiers because:

- They protect our country's borders and keep us safe from enemies
- They sacrifice their personal comfort and time with their families for the nation
- They face extreme weather conditions and danger to ensure our safety
- They show immense courage, dedication, and patriotism in their duty
- They are willing to risk and even sacrifice their lives for our peace and security
- Because of their vigilance, we can sleep peacefully and live without fear

- They deserve our gratitude for their selfless service to the motherland
- Their dedication inspires us to love and serve our country

Marking: 2 marks each × 4 = 8 marks (Any FOUR to be attempted)

Answer 11: Matching

Solution:

Correct Matches:

(a) Expert Detectives → (ii) Nishad and Maya

Explanation: The story "Expert Detectives" features Nishad and Maya who solve the mystery of Mr. Nath.

(b) Tiger → (iii) A Tiger in the House

Explanation: The story "A Tiger in the House" narrates the experience of keeping a tiger as a pet.

(c) Oldest living things → (iv) Trees

Explanation: Trees, especially ancient ones, are among the oldest living things on Earth.

(d) Vita-Wonk → (i) Invention of Vita-Wonk

Explanation: The story describes how Wonka-Vite made people younger, so Vita-Wonk was invented to make them older.

(e) Wiggles → (vi) Garden Snake

Explanation: The poem "Garden Snake" describes how

the thin green snake wiggles away.

(f) Dad's funny adventure → (v) Dad and the Cat and the Tree

Explanation: The poem humorously describes how Dad gets stuck in a tree while trying to rescue a cat.

Marking: 1 mark each = 6 marks

SECTION D - LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS ANSWERS

Answer 12: Option 1 - Character Sketch of the Lady

Solution:

Character Sketch of the Lady in "The Bear Story"

The lady in "The Bear Story" is a complex character who displays various traits throughout the narrative. She lived in an old manor house on the border of a big forest and was an animal lover with a kind heart.

Her most prominent quality was her compassion and kindness. When she found a helpless bear cub in the forest, half-dead of hunger, she didn't hesitate to bring him home. She and her old cook brought up the baby bear on a milk bottle, treating him like their own child. This shows her nurturing nature and ability to care for creatures in need.

However, the lady was also strict and believed in

discipline. She set clear rules for the bear - he was not allowed to pluck apples from trees or attack beehives. When the bear disobeyed, she punished him by chaining him for two days. She chained him regularly on Sundays when she went to visit her sister, showing her practical side and concern for both the bear's safety and the safety of others.

The lady was brave and confident. She fearlessly walked through the dense forest alone every Sunday to visit her sister. When she thought the bear had disobeyed her and followed her into the forest, she didn't run away in fear. Instead, she confronted what she believed to be her pet bear with anger and authority, hitting him with her parasol.

Yet, the lady also showed a hasty and impulsive side. She jumped to conclusions without verifying the facts. When she saw a bear in the forest, she immediately assumed it was her pet without checking properly. She punished the wild bear severely without realizing her mistake. This shows that despite her good qualities, she sometimes acted without thinking.

In conclusion, the lady was essentially a kind-hearted, brave, and caring person who loved animals and had the courage to raise an unusual pet.

However, her impulsive nature and tendency to act on assumptions sometimes led her into trouble. The story teaches us that love must be balanced with wisdom and careful judgment.

Marking: Content and Character Analysis 3 marks, Expression and Vocabulary 1.5 marks, Coherence and Conclusion 0.5 marks = 5 marks

Answer 12: Option 2 - Mr. Gessler's Dedication and Lesson

Solution:

How Mr. Gessler's Dedication to Quality Led to His Downfall

Mr. Gessler was a German bootmaker in London who represented the dying breed of traditional craftsmen. His story is both inspiring and tragic, showing how dedication to quality, while noble, can sometimes lead to practical difficulties in a changing world.

Mr. Gessler was completely devoted to his craft. He believed that bootmaking was not just a business but an art form that required perfection. He personally selected the finest leather, cut it with precision, and stitched every boot with exceptional care. His boots were known to last for years, and they fit perfectly because he made them specifically for each customer. He never compromised on quality, even when it meant losing business to cheaper competitors.

However, this very dedication became the cause of his downfall. The modern world was changing rapidly. Big firms started using mass production methods to make boots quickly and cheaply. They used heavy advertising to attract customers. In

contrast, Mr. Gessler refused to advertise or use modern business methods. He stuck to his traditional ways, taking weeks to make a single perfect pair of boots.

As a result, customers who wanted quick, affordable boots went to the big stores. Mr. Gessler's prices were higher because of the superior quality and time invested, but people preferred cheaper options. Slowly, he lost customers and business. He worked harder and longer, trying to maintain his standards, but financial difficulties increased.

The tragic irony is that while big firms prospered by making inferior products, this master craftsman struggled and eventually died in poverty. He literally worked himself to death, trying to maintain the quality he believed in, without enough business to sustain himself.

The Lesson We Learn:

This story teaches us several valuable lessons. First, quality, dedication, and honesty are virtues that should always be cherished and practiced in whatever we do. True craftsmen like Mr. Gessler deserve our respect and admiration.

However, the story also teaches us a practical lesson - excellence alone is not enough in the real world. We must learn to balance our ideals with practical wisdom. While we should never compromise on our core values, we must also adapt to changing

times and learn modern skills.

Mr. Gessler's failure was not in his craftsmanship but in his inability to market his skills, adapt to competition, and run his business effectively. The story reminds us that in today's world, we need both skill and smart business sense, both quality and the ability to communicate that quality to others.

In conclusion, we should strive for excellence like Mr. Gessler but also be wise enough to survive and succeed in a competitive world.

Marking: Content and Analysis 3 marks, Expression and Vocabulary 1.5 marks, Coherence and Conclusion 0.5 marks = 5 marks

Answer 13: Option 1 - Story: Courage Overcomes Fear

Solution:

The Day Fear Became a Friend

Riya was a cheerful 12-year-old girl who loved nature, but she had one deep fear - snakes. Even the thought of encountering one made her shiver. Her friends often teased her, saying, "Snakes are more afraid of you than you are of them!"

One sunny afternoon, Riya decided to explore a beautiful meadow near her home. The meadow was full of surprises - butterflies dancing on flowers, a rabbit's burrow, and birds singing melodiously. She

was enjoying the dandelions swaying in the breeze when suddenly, she saw something moving near a bush.

Her heart raced. It was a thin, green snake, wiggly and small, basking in the sun. Riya's first instinct was to run, but she remembered her teacher's words: "Most garden snakes are harmless. They wiggle away when they see humans."

Taking a deep breath, Riya stood still and observed the snake carefully from a safe distance. The snake seemed unaware of her presence, peacefully enjoying the warmth. As she watched, she noticed how graceful it was, moving in gentle waves. It wasn't scary at all - it was just a small creature trying to survive in nature.

Suddenly, a bird chirped loudly, and the snake noticed Riya. But instead of attacking, it quickly wiggled away into the bushes, just as the poem said. Riya stood there, amazed. The snake was more afraid of her than she was of it!

That day, Riya learned that courage doesn't mean having no fear - it means facing your fears with calmness and understanding. The meadow had given her a precious surprise: the realization that most fears are created by our imagination, not reality. From that day onwards, whenever fear tried to hold her back, Riya remembered the little green snake that taught her to be brave.

She returned home with a smile, knowing she had conquered something much bigger than her fear - she had conquered her mind.

Marking: Content and Creativity 3 marks, Expression and Vocabulary 1.5 marks, Coherence and Message 0.5 marks = 5 marks

Answer 13: Option 2 - Diary Entry

Solution:

Date: [Sunday, Date]

Time: 8:00 PM

Dear Diary,

Today was one of the most wonderful days of my life! I spent the entire afternoon with my favorite friend - the big old banyan tree in our neighborhood park.

I woke up early with excitement because I had planned a special day with my friends at our tree. We call it "Our Tree" because we've been playing there since we were little. After breakfast, I rushed to the park with my skipping rope and a book.

The first thing we did was climb up to our secret tree house. My friends and I built it last summer using old wooden planks. Sitting high up on the branches, we could see the whole park - children playing, birds flying, and even a squirrel carrying

nuts. It felt like we were kings and queens of our own kingdom!

Then, we tied a swing to one of the strong branches. Taking turns, we swung higher and higher, feeling the cool breeze on our faces. I felt like I was flying! The tree's leaves rustled as if laughing with us.

Later, we played hide and seek around the tree. Its huge trunk was the perfect hiding spot, and its spreading roots created many nooks and corners. We also sat in its cool shade during the hot afternoon, eating snacks and sharing stories.

What I love most about our tree is how it gives us everything - shade when the sun is too bright, a playground for our games, a home for birds and squirrels, and even delicious fruits sometimes. When I sat quietly on a branch, I could hear the birds singing and see a mother bird feeding her babies in a nest.

As the sun started setting, I didn't want to leave. I hugged the tree trunk and thanked it for such a perfect day. Trees are truly the kindest things that ever grew. They give us so much and ask for nothing in return.

Tomorrow, I'm going to water the tree and make sure no one harms it. It's not just a tree - it's my friend, my playground, and my classroom where I learn about nature.

Good night, dear diary. I can't wait for another day with my wonderful tree!

[Your Name]

Marking: Format and Content 3 marks, Expression and Creativity 1.5 marks, Personal Touch and Coherence 0.5 marks = 5 marks

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END OF QUESTION PAPER

Total Marks: 80

All Questions Solved with Detailed Explanations

Best wishes for your examination!