

# CLASS VII - ENGLISH

Annual Examination - Paper 3 (SOLVED)

Session: 2025-26 | Term-II

Math Love Institute | Excellence in Education

<b>Maximum Marks</b>	80
<b>Time Allowed</b>	3 Hours
<b>Date</b>	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**

Soldiers are the true heroes of our nation. They stand guard at our borders, protecting us from external threats. Whether it is scorching heat, freezing cold, or heavy rain, our brave soldiers remain alert 24/7 to ensure our safety and security. Life at the border is extremely challenging. Soldiers have to stay away from their families for months and sometimes years. They miss important family occasions like birthdays, anniversaries, and festivals. Despite these hardships, they perform their duty with dedication and courage. Our soldiers face many dangers every day. They have to deal with enemy attacks, harsh weather conditions, and difficult terrain. In high-altitude areas like Siachen, temperatures can drop to minus 50 degrees Celsius. In desert areas, soldiers have to endure extreme heat and sandstorms. Despite all these challenges, they never complain. We owe our peaceful life to these brave men and women. While we sleep comfortably in our homes, soldiers stand guard at the borders. They sacrifice their comfort, their time with loved ones, and sometimes even their lives for our safety. We must always remember their sacrifices and pay homage to our brave soldiers.

**Answer the following questions:**

- a. What do soldiers protect us from? (1)
- b. Why is life at the border challenging for soldiers? Give any two reasons. (2)
- c. Describe the difficulties soldiers face in extreme weather conditions. (2)
- d. Why should we be grateful to our soldiers? (2)
- e. Find a word from the passage that means 'tribute' (para 4). (1)

Q2.

[7 Marks]

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

### **PASSAGE - 2**

Gopal was known throughout the kingdom for his intelligence and wit. The king trusted him completely and often tested his cleverness. One day, during the season of Hilsa fish, everyone in the kingdom was talking about nothing but Hilsa fish. The king became annoyed with this constant talk about fish. The king challenged Gopal to buy a Hilsa fish from the market and bring it to the palace without anyone talking about the fish. Gopal accepted the challenge. He came up with a clever plan. He shaved half of his face, smeared ash all over his body, and wore torn rags. When he went to the market looking so strange, everyone was shocked by his appearance. Nobody talked about the fish he was carrying because they were all talking about how crazy he looked! When Gopal reached the palace, even the guards were amazed by his appearance and let him in. The king was surprised to see Gopal in such a condition but was impressed when he realized that Gopal had successfully completed the challenge. No one had talked about the Hilsa fish because everyone was too busy discussing Gopal's strange appearance!

**Answer the following questions:**

- a. Why was the king annoyed? (1)
- b. What challenge did the king give to Gopal? (2)
- c. How did Gopal dress himself before going to the market? (2)
- d. Why didn't anyone talk about the Hilsa fish? (2)

**SECTION B - WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR (25 MARKS)**

**Q3.**

**[5 Marks]**

**Write a letter** to your friend describing a funny incident that happened in your school. Tell him/her what happened and how everyone reacted to it.

**Q4.**

**[5 Marks]**

**Write a short story** (in about 100-120 words) based on the following beginning:

*"One day, while walking in my garden, I saw something moving in the bushes. I went closer and was surprised to see..."*

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**Q5.**

**[10 Marks]**

**Grammar Section:**

**(a)** Change the following sentences from Direct to Indirect Speech: (2)

- i. "I will visit my grandmother tomorrow," said Ravi.
- ii. The teacher said to the students, "Complete your homework on time."

**(b)** Identify and underline the Main Clause and Subordinate Clause: (2)

- i. Although it was raining heavily, we went to school.
- ii. The book which I borrowed from the library is very interesting.

**(c)** Fill in the blanks with correct forms of verbs (Tenses): (2)

- i. She \_\_\_\_\_ (study) for two hours every day.
- ii. They \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the market when I met them yesterday.

**(d)** Change the Voice (Active to Passive or vice versa): (2)

- i. The children are flying kites. (Change to Passive)
- ii. A letter was written by him. (Change to Active)

**(e)** Combine the following sentences using appropriate conjunctions: (2)

- i. He is rich. He is not happy. (Use: although)
- ii. Work hard. You will succeed. (Use: and)

**Q6.**

**[5 Marks]**

**Notice Writing:** You are the Head Boy/Girl of your school. Your school is organizing a "Cleanliness Drive" on Sunday. Write a notice informing students about the event, including date, time, venue, and what they should bring.

**SECTION C - LITERATURE (30 MARKS)**

Q7.

[4 Marks]

Answer the following questions from "Gopal and the Hilsa Fish" (Any TWO):

- a. Why did the king want no more talk about Hilsa fish?
- b. How did Gopal prove his cleverness by winning the king's challenge?
- c. What qualities of Gopal are highlighted in this story?

Q8.

[6 Marks]

Read the extract and answer the questions:

*"Timothy had clean habits, and would scrub his face with his paws exactly like a cat. He slept at night in the cook's quarters, and was very fond of the cook, and would rub against his legs with a deep rumbling sound."*

- a. Name the chapter and its author. (1)
- b. Who is Timothy? What were his clean habits? (2)
- c. Where did Timothy sleep at night? (1)
- d. How did Timothy show his affection for the cook? (2)

Q9.

[6 Marks]

Answer with reference to the poem "The Shed":

*"There's a shed at the bottom of our garden  
With a spider's web hanging across  
the door,  
The hinges are rusty and creak in the wind,  
When I'm in bed I lie and I  
listen."*

- a. Name the poet. (1)
- b. Describe the condition of the shed. (2)
- c. What does the child do when he is in bed? (1)
- d. Why is the child afraid of going to the shed? (2)

**Q10.**

**[8 Marks]**

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

- a. Why did Gopal's wife think he had gone mad? (from "Gopal and the Hilsa Fish")
- b. How did Timothy behave with the other animals in the house? (from "A Tiger in the House")
- c. What message does the poem "Chivvy" give to grown-ups?
- d. Describe the humorous situation in the poem "Dad and the Cat and the Tree".
- e. What did the bear learn from the lady? (from "The Bear Story")
- f. How does the poet describe the garden snake in the poem "Garden Snake"?

**Q11.**

**[6 Marks]**

**Match the following:** (1 mark each)

<b>Column A</b>	<b>Column B</b>
(a) Hilsa fish challenge	(i) A Tiger in the House
(b) Timothy	(ii) The Shed
(c) Spider's web	(iii) Gopal and the Hilsa Fish
(d) Nagging adults	(iv) Chivvy
(e) Dad's rescue mission	(v) Dad and the Cat and the Tree
(f) Thin green snake	(vi) Garden Snake

**SECTION D - LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS (10 MARKS)**

**Q12.**

**[5 Marks]**

**Answer ANY ONE of the following:**

- a. How did Gopal use his intelligence and wit to prove that he was cleverer than anyone in the kingdom? Explain with reference to the story "Gopal and the Hilsa Fish".
- b. Write a character sketch of Timothy from the story "A Tiger in the House". How was he different from other wild animals?

**Q13.**

**[5 Marks]**

**Creative Writing - Answer ANY ONE:**

- a. Imagine you are a soldier posted at the border. Write a letter to your younger brother/sister telling them about your life at the border, the challenges you face, and why you are proud to serve the nation. (Word limit: 150-180 words)
- b. Write a humorous story about a pet animal that created a funny situation in your house, similar to the incidents in "A Tiger in the House" or "The Bear Story". (Word limit: 150-180 words)



## ANSWER KEY WITH DETAILED SOLUTIONS

### SECTION A - READING COMPREHENSION ANSWERS

#### Answer 1: Passage-1 (Brave Soldiers)

##### Solutions:

**(a) What do soldiers protect us from? (1 mark)**

Soldiers protect us from external threats and enemies. They guard our borders to ensure our safety and security from any attacks or invasions.

**(b) Why is life at the border challenging for soldiers? Give any two reasons. (2 marks)**

Life at the border is challenging for soldiers because of two main reasons:

1. Soldiers have to stay away from their families for months and sometimes years. They miss important family occasions like birthdays, anniversaries, and festivals.

2. They have to face harsh weather conditions like extreme cold, scorching heat, and heavy rain while remaining alert 24/7.

**(c) Describe the difficulties soldiers face in**

**extreme weather conditions. (2 marks)**

Soldiers face severe difficulties in extreme weather conditions:

- In high-altitude areas like Siachen, temperatures can drop to minus 50 degrees Celsius, where they have to endure freezing cold that can be life-threatening.
- In desert areas, soldiers have to endure extreme heat and fierce sandstorms that make visibility and breathing difficult.
- Despite these harsh conditions, soldiers never complain and continue to perform their duty with dedication.

**(d) Why should we be grateful to our soldiers? (2 marks)**

We should be grateful to our soldiers because:

- They sacrifice their comfort, time with loved ones, and sometimes even their lives for our safety.
- While we sleep peacefully in our homes, soldiers stand guard at the borders day and night.
- Our peaceful life is possible only because of the dedication and courage of these brave men and women.
- They face dangers every day to protect us from external threats.

**(e) Find a word from the passage that means 'tribute' (para 4). (1 mark)**

Answer: homage

The word "homage" in paragraph 4 means tribute or respect paid to someone.

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*Marking: (a) 1 mark, (b) 2 marks (1 mark each reason), (c) 2 marks, (d) 2 marks, (e) 1 mark = Total 8 marks*

## **Answer 2: Passage-2 (Gopal and Hilsa Fish)**

### **Solutions:**

**(a) Why was the king annoyed? (1 mark)**

The king was annoyed because during the season of Hilsa fish, everyone in the kingdom was talking about nothing but Hilsa fish. This constant talk about the fish irritated him.

**(b) What challenge did the king give to Gopal? (2 marks)**

The king challenged Gopal to buy a Hilsa fish from the market and bring it to the palace without anyone talking about the fish on the way. This was a very difficult challenge because during the Hilsa season, everyone was obsessed with talking about the fish. The king wanted to test Gopal's intelligence and wit.

**(c) How did Gopal dress himself before going to the market? (2 marks)**

Gopal dressed himself in a very strange and unusual manner:

- He shaved only half of his face, leaving the other half unshaven
- He smeared ash all over his body
- He wore torn rags instead of proper clothes

This bizarre appearance was part of his clever plan to attract people's attention away from the Hilsa fish.

**(d) Why didn't anyone talk about the Hilsa fish? (2 marks)**

Nobody talked about the Hilsa fish because:

- Gopal's strange and shocking appearance attracted everyone's attention
- People were too busy discussing why Gopal looked so crazy and unusual
- His half-shaven face, ash-covered body, and torn clothes were more interesting to people than the fish
- This was exactly what Gopal had planned - to divert people's attention from the fish to himself

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*Marking: (a) 1 mark, (b) 2 marks, (c) 2 marks, (d) 2 marks = Total 7 marks*

## SECTION B - WRITING SKILLS & GRAMMAR ANSWERS

### Answer 3: Informal Letter (Funny Incident)

**Solution:**

23, Green Park Colony  
Indore, Madhya Pradesh  
Date: February 10, 2026

Dear Rahul,

How are you? I hope you and your family are doing well. I am writing to tell you about a hilarious incident that happened in our school last week.

It was during the English period on Monday. Our English teacher, Mrs. Sharma, was teaching us about poems. Suddenly, a monkey entered our classroom through the open window! Everyone was shocked and started screaming. The monkey jumped from one desk to another, creating chaos.

The funniest part was when the monkey grabbed Mrs. Sharma's bag and started pulling out things from it. First, it took out her tiffin box and ate her sandwich! Then it found her lipstick and started applying it on its face, looking like a clown. We all burst into laughter, even Mrs. Sharma couldn't control her laughter.

Our PT teacher, Mr. Singh, finally managed to shoo away the monkey with a stick. It jumped out of the window taking the lipstick with it! Mrs. Sharma said, "Well, at least someone appreciated my lipstick!" We all laughed even more.

The whole school was talking about this incident for days. It was the most entertaining day ever! I

wish you were there to see it. How are things at your new school?

Give my regards to your parents.

Your friend,

[Your Name]

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*Marking: Format 2 marks (Address, Date, Salutation, Closing), Content 2 marks, Expression 1 mark = 5 marks*

### **Answer 4: Short Story**

#### **Solution:**

The Surprise in the Garden

One day, while walking in my garden, I saw something moving in the bushes. I went closer and was surprised to see a tiny rabbit with soft brown fur and long ears. It seemed to be stuck in the thorny bushes and was struggling to get free.

I carefully removed the thorns and freed the little rabbit. It was shivering with fear. I gently picked it up and took it inside. My mother gave me some vegetables to feed it. The rabbit ate hungrily, and soon it looked much better.

We made a comfortable bed for the rabbit in a cardboard box. My sister and I took care of it for two days. We named it "Brownie" because of its beautiful brown color. On the third day, we noticed

Brownie was looking sad. We realized it was missing its family.

My father suggested we should release Brownie near the forest area where it might find its family. Though we were sad, we knew it was the right thing to do. We took Brownie to the forest edge and set it free. Brownie hopped away happily, turning back once to look at us as if saying "thank you."

That experience taught me that wild animals belong in nature, not in our homes. I will never forget my little friend Brownie and the joy of helping a creature in need.

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

## **Answer 5: Grammar Section**

### **Solutions:**

#### **(a) Direct to Indirect Speech: (2 marks)**

(i) "I will visit my grandmother tomorrow," said Ravi.

Answer: Ravi said that he would visit his grandmother the next day.

Explanation:

- "Said" remains "said"
- "Will" changes to "would" in indirect speech
- "Tomorrow" changes to "the next day"

- First person pronoun "I" changes to third person "he"

(ii) The teacher said to the students, "Complete your homework on time."

Answer: The teacher ordered/advised the students to complete their homework on time.

Explanation:

- Commands in direct speech become infinitive (to + verb) in indirect speech

- "Said to" changes to "ordered" or "advised"

- "Your" changes to "their"

**(b) Main Clause and Subordinate Clause: (2 marks)**

(i) Although it was raining heavily, we went to school.

Main Clause: we went to school

Subordinate Clause: Although it was raining heavily

Explanation: The main clause can stand alone as a complete sentence. The subordinate clause begins with "although" (subordinating conjunction) and depends on the main clause.

(ii) The book which I borrowed from the library is very interesting.

Main Clause: The book is very interesting

Subordinate Clause: which I borrowed from the library

Explanation: The relative clause "which I borrowed

from the library" modifies "book" and cannot stand alone.

**(c) Correct forms of verbs (Tenses): (2 marks)**

(i) She studies (study) for two hours every day.

Explanation: Simple present tense is used for habitual actions. With third person singular subject "she", we add 's' to the verb.

(ii) They were going (go) to the market when I met them yesterday.

Explanation: Past continuous tense is used to show an action that was in progress when another action occurred in the past.

**(d) Change the Voice: (2 marks)**

(i) The children are flying kites. (Change to Passive)

Answer: Kites are being flown by the children.

Explanation: Present continuous active → Present continuous passive

Structure: Object + am/is/are + being + V3 + by + subject

(ii) A letter was written by him. (Change to Active)

Answer: He wrote a letter.

Explanation: Simple past passive → Simple past active

The subject "he" performs the action "wrote"

**(e) Combine sentences using conjunctions: (2 marks)**

(i) He is rich. He is not happy. (Use: although)

Answer: Although he is rich, he is not happy.

OR: He is not happy although he is rich.

Explanation: "Although" shows contrast between two ideas. It introduces the subordinate clause.

(ii) Work hard. You will succeed. (Use: and)

Answer: Work hard and you will succeed.

Explanation: "And" connects two related ideas showing cause and effect in imperative sentences.

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

## **Answer 6: Notice Writing**

### **Solution:**

ABC PUBLIC SCHOOL

NOTICE

Date: February 10, 2026

CLEANLINESS DRIVE

This is to inform all students that our school is organizing a Cleanliness Drive on Sunday, February 16, 2026. All students from Classes VI to X are

requested to participate in this important initiative.

Details:

Date: Sunday, February 16, 2026

Time: 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Venue: School Campus and nearby areas

Assembly Point: School Main Gate

Students are requested to bring:

- Old brooms or cleaning tools
- Gloves
- Caps or hats
- Water bottles

This drive aims to promote cleanliness in our school and surrounding areas. Students will be divided into groups and assigned different zones. Refreshments will be provided.

Interested students must give their names to their respective class teachers by February 12, 2026.

Your active participation will make this event successful.

[Your Name]

Head Boy/Girl

ABC Public School

*Marking: Format 2 marks (School name, Notice heading, Date, Content structure, Issuer's name and designation), Content 2 marks, Expression 1 mark = 5 marks*

## SECTION C - LITERATURE ANSWERS

### Answer 7: Questions from "Gopal and the Hilsa Fish" (Any TWO)

#### Solutions:

**(a) Why did the king want no more talk about Hilsa fish?**

The king wanted no more talk about Hilsa fish because:

- It was the season of Hilsa fish and everyone in the kingdom, including his courtiers, was obsessed with talking about it
- Wherever the king went, people were discussing only Hilsa fish - its price, taste, size, and where to buy the best quality
- The king was completely fed up and annoyed with this constant chatter about fish
- He felt that people were wasting time on unnecessary discussions instead of focusing on important matters
- Even in the royal court, the courtiers could not stop talking about Hilsa fish, which irritated the king greatly

**(b) How did Gopal prove his cleverness by winning the king's challenge?**

Gopal proved his cleverness through a brilliant strategy:

- When the king challenged him to bring a Hilsa fish without anyone talking about it, Gopal understood that he needed to create a bigger distraction
- He deliberately made himself look absolutely ridiculous by shaving only half his face, smearing ash all over his body, and wearing torn rags
- This strange appearance was so shocking and unusual that it completely diverted everyone's attention from the Hilsa fish he was carrying
- People on the streets, in the market, and even the palace guards were all talking about Gopal's bizarre appearance instead of the fish
- Thus, Gopal successfully completed the impossible challenge, proving that with intelligence and creative thinking, any problem can be solved
- His wit lay in understanding human psychology - people are more interested in unusual and shocking things

**(c) What qualities of Gopal are highlighted in this story?**

The story highlights several admirable qualities of Gopal:

- Intelligence and Wit - He could think of creative solutions to difficult problems
- Confidence - He readily accepted the king's impossible-looking challenge without hesitation
- Understanding of Human Nature - He knew that

people would be more interested in his strange appearance than in the fish

- Courage - He was not afraid to make himself look foolish in public to prove his point
- Determination - Once he accepted the challenge, he was determined to succeed
- Loyalty to the King - He wanted to prove his worth and maintain the king's trust in him
- Sense of Humor - He could laugh at himself and wasn't worried about his reputation

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

### **Answer 8: Extract from "A Tiger in the House"**

#### **Solutions:**

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

Chapter: A Tiger in the House

Author: Ruskin Bond

**(b) Who is Timothy? What were his clean habits? (2 marks)**

Timothy was a tiger cub who was found in the forest by Grandfather. He was brought up as a pet in the household.

Timothy's clean habits:

- He would scrub his face with his paws exactly like a cat, showing cleanliness and grooming behavior

- He maintained personal hygiene by regularly cleaning himself
- He was particular about his cleanliness, which is unusual for a wild animal
- These habits made him more like a domestic cat than a wild tiger

**(c) Where did Timothy sleep at night? (1 mark)**

Timothy slept at night in the cook's quarters (the room where the cook stayed).

**(d) How did Timothy show his affection for the cook? (2 marks)**

Timothy showed his affection for the cook in the following ways:

- He was very fond of the cook and enjoyed his company
- He would rub against the cook's legs, which is a common way animals show love and affection
- When rubbing against the cook's legs, Timothy would make a deep rumbling sound, similar to a cat's purring
- This rumbling sound and physical contact showed that Timothy trusted the cook and felt comfortable with him
- The cook became one of Timothy's favorite people in the household

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

## Answer 9: Poem "The Shed"

### Solutions:

**(a) Name the poet: (1 mark)**

Poet: Frank Flynn

**(b) Describe the condition of the shed: (2 marks)**

The shed was in a neglected and spooky condition:

- It was located at the bottom of the garden, somewhat isolated from the main house
- A spider's web was hanging across its door, indicating that it hadn't been opened for a long time
- The hinges of the door were rusty, showing lack of maintenance and use
- The rusty hinges would creak when moved by the wind, making eerie sounds
- The shed had a dusty old window with three cracked panes of glass
- Overall, it looked abandoned, mysterious, and somewhat frightening

**(c) What does the child do when he is in bed? (1 mark)**

When the child is in bed, he lies and listens to the creaking sound made by the rusty hinges of the shed when the wind blows.

**(d) Why is the child afraid of going to the shed?**

**(2 marks)**

The child is afraid of going to the shed for several reasons:

- His brother has told him scary stories about a ghost hiding under the rotten floorboards inside the shed
- The shed looks spooky with its spider webs, rusty hinges, broken window panes, and creaking sounds
- The mysterious appearance of the shed and the stories have created fear in the child's imagination
- He thinks someone might be staring at him from inside through the dusty window
- These imaginary fears, combined with the shed's neglected condition, make him hesitant to enter it
- However, the poem shows that the child's curiosity is gradually overcoming his fear

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

### **Answer 10: Short Answer Questions (ANY FOUR)**

#### **Solutions:**

**(a) Why did Gopal's wife think he had gone mad?**

Gopal's wife thought he had gone mad because:

- She saw him shaving only half of his face and leaving the other half with beard
- He smeared ash all over his body and face
- He wore torn, disgraceful rags instead of proper clothes

- When she asked him why he was doing this, his explanation seemed strange to her
- His bizarre appearance and unusual behavior made her genuinely worried that he had lost his mind
- She couldn't understand his plan and thought only a mad person would dress like this

**(b) How did Timothy behave with the other animals in the house?**

Timothy's behavior with other animals was playful and sometimes mischievous:

- He played with the pet dog and they became good friends
- When Toto the monkey pulled Timothy's tail, Timothy would pretend to be angry but never seriously hurt Toto
- When Timothy lost his temper, Toto would climb up the curtains to escape
- He would stalk anyone (including animals) who would play with him, showing his natural hunting instincts in a playful way
- Despite being a tiger, Timothy was gentle and friendly with the household pets
- He treated them as playmates rather than prey

**(c) What message does the poem "Chivvy" give to grown-ups?**

The poem "Chivvy" gives an important message to grown-ups:

- Adults should not constantly nag and give too many instructions to children

- Continuous commands like "Do this," "Don't do that," "Speak up," "Don't talk" can be confusing and irritating
- Children need freedom to think independently and make their own decisions
- The contradictory nature of adult instructions (first telling children what to do, then asking them to decide for themselves) is unreasonable
- Grown-ups should give children some space to grow and learn from their own experiences
- Excessive control and nagging can hinder a child's natural development and creativity

**(d) Describe the humorous situation in the poem "Dad and the Cat and the Tree".**

The poem presents a very funny situation:

- Dad confidently volunteered to rescue the cat stuck in a tree, claiming it was "easy as winking" for a climber like him
- Plan A: He got a ladder but it slipped, and he fell into the flower bed
- Plan B: He tried swinging himself on a branch but the branch broke, and he fell again
- Plan C: He successfully climbed up but when he jumped to rescue the cat, he landed right on top of it
- The frightened cat then overcame its fear and jumped down to safety on its own
- Meanwhile, Dad got stuck in the tree himself and couldn't come down
- Finally, the fire brigade had to be called to rescue Dad instead of the cat!

- The irony is that the cat was fine while Dad needed rescuing - a complete reversal of the original plan

**(e) What did the bear learn from the lady?**

The bear learned several important lessons from the lady:

- Good behavior and discipline - he was trained to follow certain rules
- Not to pluck apples from trees - the lady set this rule and the bear obeyed it
- Not to attack beehives - this was another important lesson for his own safety
- To respect boundaries and follow instructions
- He learned to be gentle and friendly with humans
- The bear understood that when he disobeyed, there would be consequences (being chained)
- Overall, the lady domesticated the wild bear cub and taught him to live peacefully with humans

**(f) How does the poet describe the garden snake in the poem "Garden Snake"?**

The poet describes the garden snake in a gentle, non-threatening manner:

- The snake is described as very thin and small, not dangerous or frightening
- It has a green color, which helps it blend with the garden vegetation
- The snake "wiggles" away when it sees people, showing it is more afraid of humans than humans should be of it

- The poet emphasizes that it is harmless and should not be feared
- The description aims to remove children's fear of garden snakes
- The poet wants to convey that the snake is just another beautiful creature in nature
- The gentle tone teaches children not to harm small, harmless creatures unnecessarily

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

### **Answer 11: Matching**

#### **Solution:**

Correct Matches:

(a) Hilsa fish challenge → (iii) Gopal and the Hilsa Fish

Explanation: The story revolves around the king's challenge to Gopal regarding Hilsa fish.

(b) Timothy → (i) A Tiger in the House

Explanation: Timothy is the name of the tiger cub in Ruskin Bond's story.

(c) Spider's web → (ii) The Shed

Explanation: The poem describes a shed with a spider's web hanging across its door.

(d) Nagging adults → (iv) Chivvy

Explanation: The poem "Chivvy" is about adults constantly nagging children with instructions.

(e) Dad's rescue mission → (v) Dad and the Cat and the Tree

Explanation: This humorous poem is about Dad's failed attempts to rescue a cat from a tree.

(f) Thin green snake → (vi) Garden Snake

Explanation: The poem "Garden Snake" describes a thin green snake that wiggles away.

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*Marking: 1 mark each = 6 marks*

## SECTION D - LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS ANSWERS

### Answer 12: Option 1 - Gopal's Intelligence and Wit

#### Solution:

Gopal's Intelligence and Wit - A Masterclass in Problem Solving

Gopal was a courtier in the king's court who was famous throughout the kingdom for his exceptional intelligence and wit. The story "Gopal and the Hilsa Fish" beautifully demonstrates how he used his clever thinking to solve what seemed like an impossible challenge.

The challenge presented to Gopal was unique and difficult. During the Hilsa fish season, everyone in the kingdom was obsessed with talking about Hilsa fish - its price, quality, taste, and

availability. This constant chatter annoyed the king greatly. To test Gopal's intelligence, the king gave him what appeared to be an impossible task: to buy a Hilsa fish from the market and bring it to the palace without a single person talking about the fish on the way.

Gopal's genius lay in his understanding of human psychology. He realized that to stop people from talking about the fish, he needed to create an even bigger distraction - something so unusual and shocking that the fish would become completely insignificant. This insight showed his deep understanding of how people's minds work.

His solution was brilliant and creative. Gopal deliberately made himself look absolutely ridiculous. He shaved only half of his face, leaving the other half with a full beard. He smeared ash all over his body and face. He wore torn, ragged clothes instead of proper attire. When his wife saw him in this condition, she thought he had gone mad and tried to stop him. But Gopal was confident in his plan.

When Gopal went to the market dressed this way, carrying the Hilsa fish, something remarkable happened. People were so shocked and amazed by his bizarre appearance that they completely forgot about the fish. Children thought he was a comic character. Some men thought he was a madman. Others wondered if he was some kind of mystical person. Everyone was talking about Gopal's strange

appearance, his half-shaven face, his ash-covered body, and his torn clothes - but nobody mentioned the Hilsa fish!

Even when Gopal reached the palace, the guards were so stunned by his appearance that they let him in without questioning. In the royal court, the king and all the courtiers were shocked to see Gopal in such a condition. The king initially couldn't understand what was happening, but then he realized that Gopal had successfully completed the impossible challenge.

Gopal's success proved several important lessons:

- Intelligence is not just about knowledge but about creative thinking and problem-solving
- Understanding human nature and psychology is crucial to solving social challenges
- Sometimes, unconventional methods are needed to achieve difficult goals
- Confidence and determination can help overcome any obstacle
- Thinking "outside the box" can lead to brilliant solutions

What makes Gopal truly clever is that he was willing to make himself look foolish in public to prove his point. He wasn't worried about his reputation or what people would think of him. His focus was solely on completing the challenge successfully. This shows not just intelligence but also courage and self-confidence.

In conclusion, Gopal's wit and intelligence in the story teach us that with creative thinking, understanding of human behavior, and the courage to be different, we can solve even the most difficult problems. His cleverness wasn't just in his knowledge but in his ability to think differently and act boldly. This makes him a true genius and a worthy courtier of the king.

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

### **Answer 12: Option 2 - Character Sketch of Timothy**

#### **Solution:**

Character Sketch of Timothy - The Unusual Tiger

Timothy was an extraordinary tiger cub who became an inseparable part of Grandfather's household. His character, as portrayed in Ruskin Bond's story "A Tiger in the House," reveals a fascinating blend of wild instincts and domesticated behavior that made him truly unique.

Timothy's origin itself was dramatic. Grandfather found him in the Terai jungle when he was just a tiny cub, about eighteen inches long, hiding among the roots of a banyan tree. His mother had been killed by hunters, leaving him orphaned and helpless. This vulnerable beginning shaped Timothy's personality - he grew up surrounded by human love and care rather than in the wild with

his tiger family.

One of Timothy's most remarkable characteristics was his cleanliness and grooming habits. Unlike typical wild animals, Timothy had impeccable hygiene. He would scrub his face with his paws exactly like a domestic cat. This behavior showed his adaptability and how he had internalized domestic habits. He was particular about staying clean, which made him more acceptable as a household pet.

Timothy's playful nature was another defining trait. He loved playing with everyone in the household. He would stalk anyone who would play with him, showing his natural hunting instincts but in a harmless, playful manner. His relationship with Toto the monkey was especially entertaining. When Toto pulled Timothy's tail, Timothy would pretend to be angry and chase him. Toto would then escape by climbing up the curtains. These playful antics showed that Timothy, despite being a tiger, could coexist peacefully with other pets.

His friendly behavior extended to all members of the household. Timothy slept at night in the cook's quarters and was very fond of the cook. He would rub against the cook's legs, making a deep rumbling sound similar to a cat's purr. This affectionate behavior demonstrated his trust and comfort with humans. When Grandfather came to live in the house, Timothy made him one of his favorite companions, showing his ability to form bonds with different

people.

However, Timothy's dual nature - part wild, part domesticated - eventually became evident. As he grew older, his natural tiger instincts started emerging. He began stalking the cook around the house with what Grandfather described as "a rather evil gleam" in his eyes. He started behaving strangely with the pet dog. These changes worried the family, as they realized that a tiger, no matter how well-trained, remains a wild animal at heart.

What made Timothy different from other wild animals was his remarkable adaptability. Most wild animals cannot adjust to domestic life, but Timothy managed to live peacefully in a human household for a considerable time. His clean habits, playful nature, and affectionate behavior were unusual for a tiger. He enjoyed the comforts of domestic life - sleeping indoors, playing with pets, and receiving regular meals - something wild tigers would never experience.

Yet, Timothy also retained his tiger characteristics. His stalking behavior, his natural curiosity, and his growing aggression as he matured were reminders of his wild heritage. This combination of domestic manners and wild instincts made him a fascinating but ultimately unsuitable pet.

The story of Timothy teaches us important lessons.

First, wild animals, no matter how lovingly raised, retain their natural instincts and may become dangerous as they mature. Second, true companionship between humans and wild animals has limitations. Third, while Timothy's story is entertaining, it also reminds us that wild animals belong in their natural habitats, not in our homes.

In conclusion, Timothy was a remarkable character - playful, clean, affectionate, and entertaining, yet ultimately wild. His story is both heartwarming and educational, showing us the beauty of wild creatures while reminding us to respect their nature and needs.

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

### **Answer 13: Option 1 - Letter from a Soldier**

#### **Solution:**

Siachen Base Camp

Ladakh

Date: February 10, 2026

Dear Aarav/Priya,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am doing well here at the border, though I miss you and the whole family terribly. I wanted to share with you what life is like here and why I am proud to wear this uniform.

Life at the border is extremely challenging, quite different from our comfortable home in Indore. Right now, I am posted at one of the highest battlefields in the world - Siachen Glacier. The temperature here often drops to minus 40 degrees Celsius! Can you imagine? Your hands and feet feel numb within minutes if you're not properly dressed. We wear special thermal clothing and multiple layers to protect ourselves from the extreme cold.

Our daily routine is very strict. We wake up at 5 AM and after physical training, we take our positions at various posts. We have to remain alert 24/7 because the enemy can attack at any time. Sometimes we stand guard for 8-10 hours continuously in freezing temperatures. The oxygen level here is very low, which makes even simple tasks like walking difficult. Many of my fellow soldiers suffer from frostbite and altitude sickness, but we never give up.

The challenges don't end with weather. We face constant threats from the enemy across the border. There are times when we hear gunfire and have to respond immediately. The terrain here is treacherous - steep mountains, deep valleys, and dangerous glaciers. Even a small mistake can be fatal. Supply lines are difficult to maintain, so sometimes we have to survive with limited food and resources.

What makes it even harder is being away from

family. I haven't seen you all for six months now. I missed your birthday, Diwali, and New Year celebrations. When I see your photos, I feel a deep ache in my heart. I think about home, mom's cooking, dad's stories, and your laughter. These memories keep me going during difficult times.

You might wonder why I chose this life if it's so difficult. Let me tell you, dear - I am proud to be a soldier because I am protecting our motherland. Every night when I stand guard in this freezing cold, I think about millions of Indians sleeping peacefully in their warm beds, including you and our family. They can sleep without fear because we are awake, watching over them. This thought fills my heart with immense pride and gives me strength.

Being a soldier has taught me discipline, courage, and the meaning of sacrifice. I have learned that our comfort is nothing compared to the safety of our nation. The tricolor that flies at our border post reminds me every day why I am here - for India, for our freedom, for our future.

My dear brother/sister, I want you to study hard and make our parents proud. Remember that freedom and peace are not free - someone has to guard them. Respect your country, honor its flag, and always be ready to serve your nation in whatever capacity you can.

Give my love to mom and dad. Tell them not to worry about me. I am strong, and I am doing what I love -

serving my motherland.

Jai Hind!

Your loving brother,  
Lieutenant Vikram Singh  
Indian Army

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*Marking: Format and Content 3 marks, Expression and Emotional connect 1.5 marks, Relevance and Patriotic tone 0.5 marks = 5 marks*

### **Answer 13: Option 2 - Humorous Story about Pet**

#### **Solution:**

Bruno's Birthday Cake Disaster

Last year, we adopted a Labrador puppy named Bruno. He was cute, playful, and absolutely loved food. Everyone in our family adored him, but we had no idea that this innocent-looking puppy would create the most hilarious chaos in our house.

The incident happened on my mother's birthday. We had secretly planned a surprise party for her. My father ordered a beautiful chocolate cake from the best bakery in town. The cake was expensive and looked absolutely delicious with cream flowers and "Happy Birthday Mom" written in colorful icing. My sister and I carefully placed it in the kitchen and went to decorate the living room.

Here's where Bruno comes into the picture. This

naughty dog somehow sneaked into the kitchen. The delicious smell of chocolate was too tempting for him to resist. We had kept the cake on the dining table, thinking it was safe. But Bruno, being a clever dog, dragged a chair, climbed on it, and reached the table!

When we returned to the kitchen, we witnessed a sight we would never forget. Bruno had planted his face straight into the cake! There was chocolate cream all over his nose, ears, and paws. Half the cake was already in his stomach, and he was wagging his tail happily, completely unaware of the disaster he had created. The carefully written "Happy Birthday Mom" now read "appy M" because Bruno had eaten the rest!

We were shocked, angry, and then we just burst out laughing. Bruno looked so funny with cream all over his face, looking at us with innocent eyes as if asking, "What? Wasn't this for me?" My father tried to scold him, but Bruno started licking dad's hand, leaving cream marks on his shirt too!

My sister quickly took pictures of Bruno's cream-covered face. We had to rush to buy another cake, but this time we were very careful to keep it in a locked room. When mom came home, we told her about Bruno's cake adventure. Instead of being upset, she laughed and said, "Well, at least someone enjoyed the first cake!"

Now, whenever we have food on the table, someone

has to guard it from Bruno. He has become famous in our neighborhood as "Bruno the Cake Thief." Every time guests visit and bring sweets, the first thing we say is "Watch out for Bruno!"

That incident taught us an important lesson - never underestimate a Labrador's determination when food is involved. Despite the chaos, Bruno brought so much joy and laughter to our home. He may be naughty, but he's our beloved naughty dog, and we wouldn't have it any other way!

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*Marking: Content and Creativity 3 marks, Humor and Expression 1.5 marks, Coherence and Conclusion 0.5 marks = 5 marks*

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

**Total Marks: 80**

**All Questions Solved with Detailed Explanations**

Best wishes for your examination!