

# MODEL TEST PAPER 1

## ENGLISH (Core)

### CLASS XI

(With Solutions)

Time Allowed : 3 Hours

Maximum Marks : 80

#### General Instructions :

- (i) This paper is divided into five Sections A, B, C, D and E. All the sections are compulsory.
- (ii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully.
- (iii) Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the question.

#### SECTION A – READING

(15 Marks)

1. Read the passage given below and answer the questions given below.

(8 marks)

India's economy is doing well and we have a right to celebrate that. But what we do not like to acknowledge, let alone address, is another fact : our economy and society, is still extremely biased against women. Perhaps paying attention to such inconvenient truths would distract us as we march towards superpower status. In the latest gender gap index report released by the World Economic Forum (WEF), India keeps company with the worst in the world. Among the 128 countries that have been evaluated by the WEF, India is ranked 114, followed among others by Yemen, Chad, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Even China, Philippines, Sri Lanka and Botswana fare much better than us.

The survey considers the proportion of resources and opportunities made available to women on educational, economic, political and health fronts. It is only in the realm of political empowerment that we seem to have done somewhat OK, ranking 21st. That's also thanks to a long spell of prime ministership by Indira Gandhi. It raises the question why women are so badly off in our country if they are politically empowered.

To begin with, we are still largely a feudal and patriarchal society. In many parts of our country – especially in UP, Bihar, Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab – women are often treated as if they were a piece of property. In these parts, the sex ratio is most skewed because families often snuff out the lives of girl children before, or immediately after, they are born. In many parts of India, women are viewed as an economic liability despite contributing in several ways to our society and economy.

The state has not covered itself with glory either in bridging the gender divide. Its policies and projects for women are woefully inadequate. For instance, the literacy rate for females is a mere 48 per cent against 73 per cent for males. Unless we put more of our girl children in school and equip them with quality education – as opposed to making them merely literate – we can forget about sustainable progress. Public health is another area of failure. Hundreds of women in rural India die every year during childbirth for want of medical attention. There are thousands more who do not even have access to a primary health centre. Importantly,

reforming property laws more rigorously so that gender parity becomes a reality must rank among the government's priorities. While these changes are necessary, they will amount to nothing if we, as a society, continue to deny our women the dignity, liberty and opportunities that are rightfully theirs. No society will ever prosper as a whole as long as half of it is constantly treated as somehow less than the other half.

**(A) Answer the questions briefly :**

- (a) **Why is India ranked 114 by the World Economic Forum ?** (1)
- (b) **In which field are the women in India empowered ?** (1)
- (c) **What has killing of girl children before or after the birth affected the most ?** (1)
- (d) **What should we do for women to have sustainable progress ?** (1)
- (e) **The most important rights of women are \_\_\_\_\_.** (1)

**(Complete with the correct option)**

- (i) dignity and society
- (ii) dignity and literacy
- (iii) dignity and liberty
- (iv) dignity and health

**(f) A society can prosper only if \_\_\_\_\_.** (1)

**(Complete with the correct option)**

- (i) half of it is given its special rights
- (ii) it recognises the importance of women
- (iii) it treats men and women differently
- (iv) it constantly treats women no less than its other half

**(B) (a) Choose the correct option and fill in the blank :** (1)

**The synonym of miserably is \_\_\_\_\_.**

- (i) inadequate
- (ii) woefully
- (iii) skewed
- (iv) sustainable

**(b) Find out words (from the above passage) having opposite meaning to :** (1)

- (i) attract (para 1)
- (ii) asset (para 3)

**Answers :**

(A) (a) India is ranked 114 by the World Economic Forum because India is biased against women.

(b) The women in India are empowered in the field of political power.

(c) Killing of girl children before or after the birth has affected sex ratio the most.

(d) In order to have sustainable progress, we should put more girl children in school and provide quality education.

(e) (iii) dignity and liberty

(f) (iv) it constantly treats women no less than its other half

(B) (a) (ii) woefully

(b) (i) distract

(ii) liability

**2. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow : (7 marks)**

English is the language of the future and it opens up the whole world to you.

It is this realisation of opportunities which English offers that is persuading a growing number of Indian parents to opt for sending their kids to English-medium school. And the poor are often more desperate to do so, rejecting the option of free education in a government school,

where the medium of instruction is usually Hindi or the primary language of the respective region. They willingly bear the burden of not so-cheap private school education to have their children learn a language that might take them where they, their fathers and grandfathers never went.

Official data on the number of children enrolled in recognised English medium schools show that it has more than doubled within just half a decade from over 61 lakh in 2003 to over 1.5 crore in 2008. Data collected by the National University for Education Planning and Administration (NUEPA) shows that the number of those opting for English medium from class I-VIII has grown by 150 per cent in these years, while the number of students opting for Hindi grew by just 32 per cent.

Several studies have shown that a large number of students study in unrecognized schools as well. Prof. Arun Mehta of NUEPA says there are thousands of unrecognized English medium schools. "Hence, the number of those studying in English could actually be a lot more than what the official data indicates," says Mehta.

A British Council study cites official figures to show that the shift from public schools to private schools may be because parents are aware of the importance of English medium education. According to the Annual State Education Report 2009, 26 per cent of children in rural areas study in private schools, an increase of 9.6 percentage points since 2005. In 2006, English as a medium of instruction was fourth — behind Hindi, Bengali and Marathi — but by 2007, it had climbed to second place and grew even further in 2008, eating into Hindi numbers.

Ironically, despite all these figures showing a steady increase in the number of people learning English, studies show that the growth is still not fast enough and the skill level remains poor. The British Council study pointed out that the rate of improvement in English language skills of the Indian population was "too slow" compared to many other countries, especially China. It says that a "huge shortage" of teachers and quality institutions is hampering India despite a growing demand for English skills. The study further states that China may now have more people who speak English than India. This could threaten India's English advantage in the global market.

On its part, the government seems aware of the need to retain the English advantage. "An English speaking skilled work force" is listed among India's strengths in a brochure titled 'Advantage India' — brought out by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology. The seriousness with which the need to acquire English is regarded can be gauged from the fact that even the Supreme Court thought it fit to warn the government that China would overtake India as the largest English speaking country if the government did not pay attention to the education sector.

(a) *On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes, using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary.* (5)

(b) *Write a summary of the above passage, using the notes made. Suggest a suitable title as well.* (2)

**Ans. (a) Notes :**

1. Eng. — lang. of future

(a) Indian parents prefer sending kids to Eng. Med. school.

(b) Poor — desperate to do so

(i) reject free edn. in govt. school.

(ii) ready to bear expensive edn. in pvt. schools

2. Children, enrolled in Eng. Med. schools
  - (a) 61 lakh in 2003 to 1.5 crore in 2008
  - (b) Acc. to NUEPA — 150% rise in students, opting for Eng. Med. upto Cl. VIII.
  - (c) A British Council study & the Annual State Education Report endorse (b)
3. Problems :
  - (a) Growth — not fast enough
  - (b) Imp. in Eng. Lang. skills — very slow.
  - (c) Shortage of teachers and quality institutions.
4. Looking ahead
  - (a) Govt. aware of need to retain Eng.
  - (b) Eng. spk. skilled work force — India's strengths in 'Advantage India'.

Key to Abbreviations and symbols					
1. Eng.	—	English	6. pvt.	—	private
2. lang.	—	language	7. Cl.	—	Class
3. med.	—	medium	8. imp.	—	improvement
4. govt.	—	government	9. spk.	—	speaking
5. edn.	—	education	10. str	—	strengths

**Title :** Importance of Learning English – An Indian Response.

(b) **Summary** — English is the language of future. No wonder, Indian parents prefer sending their kids to English-medium schools. Even the poor are desperate to do so, thus rejecting the option of free education in a government school. They are ready to bear expensive education in private schools. The number of children, enrolled in English-medium schools, has risen from 61 lakh in 2003 to 1.5 crore in 2008. According to NUEPA, there has been 150% rise in the number of students, opting for English medium up to Class VIII.

A British Council study and the Annual State Education Report 2009 endorse this rise. However, the growth and improvement in English language skills has been quite slow. Besides, India suffers from shortage of teachers and quality institutions to fulfill the need.

Government seems aware of the need to retain the English advantage. An English speaking skilled work force is listed among India's strengths in the official brochure titled 'Advantage India'.

### SECTION B — WRITING

(20 Marks)

3. As Principal of Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, Lucknow, draft a notice in not more than 50 words, informing students of the change in school timings, with effect from the 1st of October. State valid reasons for the change. (5 marks)

Ans.

Sardar Patel Vidyalaya, Lucknow

#### NOTICE

August 6, .....

School timings will be 10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with effect from the 1st of October. This change has been decided on demand from many parents due to the approaching winter. Besides, from October onwards the national level coaching and practice of the sports like football and basketball (senior classes) will take place in the school from 8 to 9.30 in the morning.

The Principal.

Or

You are Manisha of 10, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore. You want a Maths teacher for your son who is a class 10 student. Draft a suitable advertisement in not more than 50 words stating your requirements.

Ans.

**Situation Vacant**

Required a well-qualified and trained Maths teacher willing to devote quality time for a class X student at Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore. Preference will be given to some one who can give the student two hours for three sittings in a week from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. The interested candidates may contact immediately Manisha (Phone : 25531208) of 10, Rajaji Nagar, Bangalore.

Remuneration : Negotiable.

4. You are Pratik, a member of Heritage Club of your school. Recently, you visited some historical monuments and found them littered, encroached, defaced and in a decaying condition. Write an article on the need to preserve and protect historical monuments. (Word limit : 150-200 words). (8 marks)

Ans.

**Need to Preserve Historical Monuments**

*Pratik (Heritage Club)*

Recently our school Heritage Club took us for a tour to the major historical places in Delhi like the Red Fort, the Humayun's Tomb, the Jantar Mantar, the Qutab Minar, the Tughlaqabad Fort, the Old Fort etc. The magnificence of these buildings impressed us a lot, but we were really saddened by the apathy of the visitors to these historical monuments. We found the surroundings of these monuments completely littered with plastics or used as public toilets. In some cases a part of the area has been encroached upon illegally. It seems the Archeological Survey of India has no time or resources to maintain these places which are in a very shabby condition. Graffiti is another growing menace in these monuments. Such outbursts of creativity on heritage sites are not limited only to their personal details. Some even inscribe animal and human motifs, face profiles and their favourite gods. Though we have enough laws to deal with vandalism of historical monuments what is required is to sensitize people towards the preservation and conservation of our archaeological heritage.

Or

The Railway Station of Kanpur had a train accident. As an eye-witness, give a report of the situation at the station. Mention about time-date and damage to life and property in your report. You are a Staff Reporter of The Times of India. (Word limit 150-200 words).

Ans.

The Times of India,  
Kanpur.

15th March, 20.....

**A Terrible Train Mishap – A Report**

*(by a Staff Reporter)*

A train accident of a rare seriousness hit the Railway Station of Kanpur on 14th March at about 4 p.m. While standing at the Platform No. 1 of Kanpur Railway Station, I saw a train speeding on the rail tracks and an engine coming from the other side suddenly entering into a

deafening collision. While the Kalka Mail, bound for Kolkata was in great speed, an engine from the opposite direction came up to the same track and the terrible mishap took place. In no time, the front three bogies of the train toppled and the hapless passengers were found hurtling out in total panic and shock as the engine driver had lost balance and collided with the train which came to a jerky halt. The train driver was thrown off balance and his head struck against his seat and he fell unconscious, bleeding profusely. The engine driver failed to survive the impact.

Many passengers were injured, some of them seriously. A few were in terrible pain and they were groaning and crying hysterically for help.

Two women and three children died on the spot. It was a heart-rending sight with the dead and the injured, lying about and the blood spots seen all over the tracks. The engine and a few bogies of the train had been smashed and were damaged badly. A huge crowd had already gathered. Some people helped lift the injured. Soon an ambulance arrived and took away the wounded and the dead. There was an obvious chaos at the station.

**5. You are Raj/Rani, Secretary of Harmony Residents' Welfare Association, Chetna Vihar, Delhi, much concerned about the environmental degradation and pollution in your locality. Write a letter to the Editor of 'The Herald', throwing light on the problems faced and giving suggestions for improving the health and hygiene in your locality. (7 marks)**

**Ans.**

Harmony Residents' Welfare Association,  
Chetna Vihar,  
Delhi.

8th July, .....

The Editor,  
'The Herald',  
Delhi

Sir/Madam,

**Subject : Environmental Pollution in the Locality**

Please allow me to use some space in the columns of your reputed daily to draw the attention of the concerned authorities and the right thinking people to the environmental degradation and pollution in our locality. During my stay in this locality in Delhi for the last ten years, I have seen this area expand and develop and with it has also risen the level of pollution. As a result, our locality has gone through a gradual environmental degradation. The present scene of environment here is a matter of grave concern, specially when nothing much has been done to improve the situation. Needless to say, the environmental pollution is at the root of many diseases and ailments. Residents of Chetna Vihar are obviously affected by this state of things. With the ever increasing number of cars and the smoke around, the residents have no escape from the impure air. Besides, dumping of the garbage in the open yard impurifies the air further. The Municipal Authorities take their own time to clear the garbage. Sometimes, garbage is dumped in water that pollutes the water as well.

The major victim of this has been the general well-being of the people. The respiratory, cardiac, genetic and other physical disorders are the result of this relentlessly polluted environment. The health and hygiene in the locality needs to be addressed immediately. As

residents, of course, we need to be more alert in dealing with the sanitary conditions around. We should plant more trees, have fewer vehicles and machines, protect water from filth and waste and so on.

Steps also need to be taken by the concerned authorities like Municipal Corporation, Environment Ministry and non-governmental organisations towards bringing about a pollution free environment for the residents. Hope this voice of concern is shared by the concerned people and something better will soon come up.

Your truly,

Raj

(Secretary)

Harmony Residents' Welfare Association

*Or*

**You are Prantik/Prantika, the Secretary of the Historical Society of Nalanda Senior Secondary School, Mumbai. You want to take a group of forty students of your school on a trip from Mumbai to Delhi by a deluxe bus. Write a letter to Global Travels, Mumbai, enquiring about conditions for the package tour. You can ask about duration of the trip, boarding and lodging charges, mode of payment and discount available, if any.**

**Ans.**

Nalanda Senior Secondary School,  
Mumbai.

5th October, ....

The Manager,  
Global Travels  
Mumbai

Sir/Madam,

**Subject : Package Tour to Delhi**

I, Prantik, the Secretary of the Historical Society of the school, would like to take a group of forty students on a trip from Mumbai to Delhi by a deluxe bus.

I would like to know about the package tour that you offer and about your terms and conditions. I would appreciate if you could send me information as underheads :

- (i) Duration of the trip (the package tour)
- (ii) Boarding and lodging charges.
- (iii) Transport charges etc.
- (iv) Mode of payment (cheque or cash)
- (v) Discount offered to the students in groups.

Please respond to my queries at your earliest convenience at the above stated address or call 9812245930.

Thanking you,  
Yours sincerely,

Prantik  
(The Secretary,  
Historical Society)

**SECTION C – GRAMMAR**

**(10 Marks)**

**6. The following passage has not been edited. There is one error in each line. Write the incorrect word and the correction in your answersheet as given below against the correct blank number. (½ × 8 = 4 marks)**

	<i>Incorrect</i>	<i>Correct</i>
Required Sale Engineer : Graduates or	e.g., Sale	Sales
Commerce Diploma holders. Should possessed	(a) _____	_____
excellent communication skills. Might	(b) _____	_____
have minimum two year experience	(c) _____	_____
in marketing or sales. Only	(d) _____	_____
serious candidates by relevant	(e) _____	_____
qualifications need to application.	(f) _____	_____
The selected candidates should be	(g) _____	_____
give attractive remuneration.	(h) _____	_____

<i>Ans. Incorrect</i>	<i>Correct</i>
(a) possessed	possess
(b) might	must
(c) year	years
(d) or	and
(e) by	with
(f) application	apply
(g) should	will
(h) give	given

**7. Fill in the blanks using correct forms of the words given in the brackets : (4 marks)**

In an attempt (a) \_\_\_\_\_ (prevent) beneficiaries of its free laptop scheme from (b) \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) the product or its diversion to the open market, the Tamil Nadu government (c) \_\_\_\_\_ (order) the manufacturers supplying the laptops to burn their logo on the chip so that it is (d) \_\_\_\_\_ (display) when the machine is (e) \_\_\_\_\_ (switch) on. Similarly, the state government's logo should also (f) \_\_\_\_\_ (print) on the laptop's motherboard, (g) \_\_\_\_\_ (engrave) and screen printed at suitable places as per instructions of the Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu Ltd. (Elcot), the issuer of the tender. Elcot (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (issue) an international competitive tender for sourcing 912,000 laptops.

**Ans.**

(a) to prevent	(b) selling
(c) has ordered	(d) displayed
(e) switched	(f) be printed
(g) engraved	(h) has issued

**8. Rearrange the following jumbled words to make meaningful sentences. (2 marks)**

- (a) *past three / goes / the last bell / our school / of / at half*  
 (b) *students / out / their / class / joyfully / all / rooms / run / of*

**Ans.**

- (a) The last bell of our school goes at half past three.  
 (b) All students run out of their class rooms joyfully.

9. Read the given extract and answer the questions that follow : (3 marks)

Silence surrounds us. I would have  
Him prodigal, returning to  
His father's house, the home he knew,  
Rather than see him make and move  
His world. I would forgive him too,  
Shaping from sorrow a new love.

**Questions :**

- Where are these lines from and who is the poet ?
- Why does silence surround the father and the son ?
- What is father's desire ?

**Answers :**

- These lines are from the poem 'Father to Son' and the poet is Elizabeth Jennings.
- Silence surrounds the father and the son due to some misunderstanding in the past. They have not spoken since then.
- The father wants to forgive his extravagant and careless son now by forgetting all the past bitterness.

*Or*

Read the extract given below and answer the questions by choosing the most appropriate options in your answersheet.

The cardboard shows me how it was  
When the two girl cousins went paddling,  
Each one holding one of my mother's hands,  
And she the big girl – some twelve years or so.  
All three stood still to smile through their hair  
At the uncle with the camera.

**A. The 'cardboard' here refers to \_\_\_\_\_.**

- the cardboard of the poet's pencil box
- the cardboard in which books were packed
- the photograph of the poet's mother
- none of the above

**B. Whose girl cousins are mentioned here ?**

- The poet's girl cousins
- The poet's father's girl cousins
- The poet's uncle's girl cousins
- The poet's mother's girl cousins

**C. Who does the big girl refer to ? How old is she ?**

- The poet's mother. She is 12 years old.
- The poet. She is 15 years old.
- The poet's aunt. She is 10 years old.
- The poet's father's sister. She is 12 years old.

**Answers :**

- (c) the photograph of the poet's mother
- (d) The poet's mother's girl cousins.
- (a) The poet's mother. She is 12 years old.

10. Answer any THREE of the following questions in 30–40 words :

(2 × 3 = 6 marks)

(a) What effect did Crocker's classical jokes have on Taplow ?

**Ans.** Crocker's classical jokes went above everyone's head but Taplow laughed at them only for the sake of being polite and because he felt sorry for Crocker who had cracked a flat joke and nobody seemed to have understood it.

(b) How does the rain describe herself in the poem 'The Voice of the Rain' ?

**Ans.** The rain describes herself as the poem of the Earth which rises out of the land and the bottomless sea intangibly. It gets itself formed vaguely. Though it is changed, yet it is still the same. It falls on the earth making it pure and beautiful.

(c) What does he realise about adults ? What act of adults led him to this new realisation in the poem 'Childhood' ?

**Ans.** The poet realises that adults are hypocritical and often follow double standards in life. They often say one thing and practice something else. They speak a lot about love but in their real life they don't practice what they preach.

(d) What do you think was the cause of the grandmother falling sick ?

**Ans.** The grandmother was very old and she had strained a lot in singing, beating the drums while celebrating the narrator's home coming. She got fever immediately after this incident and eventually breathed her last. The reasons appear to be over excitement, overstrain and old age.

(e) To which tribe did Mourad and Aram belong ? Which traits of the tribe are highlighted in the story "The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse" ?

**Ans.** Mourad and Aram are two Armenian boys who belonged to Garoghlanian family. This tribe had a good reputation of being upright, honest and trustworthy. They were proud of this fact. They practised honesty and did not ever steal. The author of the story, 'The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse' wants to convey that children may deter from the path of honesty because of environment or temperament but with good guidance they would correct their behaviour.

(f) Who is Elsa ? What advice does she give to Albert to clear the diploma ?

**Ans.** Elsa happens to be Albert's cousin who is studying in Munich. Normally, she lived in Berlin where her father had a business. She advises Albert to clear the diploma by learning things by heart and by repeating the memorised facts in the exams as this, she feels, is the only way to pass the examinations. According to her, there is no need to know and understand what is taught to clear the exams – just the ability to repeat and reproduce is enough.

### VALUE BASED QUESTION

11. 'The Portrait of A Lady' partly dwells on the loneliness and insecurity of the old age and the effort of the old to fit in. Driven by such thoughts while reading the lesson, you think about the life of many old men and women in India, who lead a lonesome existence in the fag end of their life. Write an article in about 100 words on 'Growing Old'.  
(5 marks)

**Ans.**

**'Growing Old'**

The old age, an integral part of human life, is the evening of man's existence. It is unavoidable, unwelcome and often the problem-ridden phase of life. It is really interesting to note that everybody wants to live a long life but not to be old! As we think of old age, visions of

loneliness and neglect emerge in mind. The picture gets all the more tragic with the failing health and illness.

Every phase of life has its problems but with energy, strength and courage, in youth one can overcome these difficulties. But in old age, man becomes dependent on others largely due to his physical infirmity. He is also filled with emotional insecurity. Nobody seems to have enough time for him/her. Even his own children, to whom he dedicates his life, do not find time for him. The problem gets accentuated especially as the world ceases to have any resemblance to what the elderly were once accustomed to and changes at a bewildering pace with every passing moment.

At this age, they also begin to realize that time is now not their friend. It passes very quickly. After the loss of someone close to them, they come face to face with their own mortality. For spiritual persons, Godly matters gain more importance.

Growing old is a point in time, a chapter at the end of a journey that began long ago. Those grown old should take satisfaction in the accomplishments obtained. We, as their younger counterparts should take care of them when they most need us.

**12. Answer the following questions in about 150 words :**

**(6 marks)**

**“Our optimistic attitude helps us to face extremely dangerous situations.” Discuss with reference to the story ‘We Are Not Afraid To Die.... if We Can All Be Together’.**

**Ans.** The title of the lesson ‘We Are Not Afraid To die.... if We Can All Be Together’ clearly conveys the message of optimism to the readers. The statement, in fact, was uttered by a young Jonathan who, very naturally, muttered the essence of life. If people are together in their efforts at the time of adversity, they can subdue the problem in no time.

The writer is on his sea voyage of 105,000 km around the world, a voyage done by Captain Cook, some 200 years ago. He, with his family and two other crewmen, prepared his boat ‘Wavewalker’ to face any kind of bad weather at sea. His boat was equipped with most modern systems so that even in an odd weather it could be steered-out without problem. But all its systems failed and gave way in front of the frightening storm which they had encountered two days after leaving the Cape Town. What, eventually, steered them through was the fighting spirit of all. Beginning from the captain to the children, Sue and Jonathan, everyone was full of hope and optimism. It is more important to have mental courage than just to have physical strength. No wonder, our optimistic attitude helps us to face extremely dangerous situations.

**Or**

**Compare and contrast Mrs Pearson and Mrs Fitzgerald on the basis of the play ‘Mother’s Day’.**

**Ans.** ‘Mother’s Day’ portrays a contrast picture of two different personalities, Mrs Pearson and Mrs Fitzgerald. Mrs Pearson is a meek and non-assertive kind of a person who feels that her life revolves around her husband George and her two children Doris and Cyril. Her children give her commands to do work and her husband, George has no regard for her life and personality. She has been exploited so much that she is not able to enjoy her own life. Being submissive, she has surrendered to the family’s wishes. Yet, she feels guilty if she is not able to finish the jobs they tell her to do.

Mrs Fitzgerald is just the opposite of Mrs Pearson. She is an educated, enlightened woman who knows all about women’s rights. She is vocal, assertive, dominating, unemotional, rational and level headed. She provokes Mrs Pearson to interchange the bodies and tells her that she would set everything right in Pearson’s household.

13. What is a ghost story? In what way is 'The Canterville Ghost' a ghost story with a difference? Write your answer in about 150 words. (8 marks)

**Ans.** A Ghost story belongs to the genre of horror literature. Its purpose is to frighten the reader by creating atmosphere and situations that invoke horror. The main themes of such ghost stories are death and evil. They have a terrifying effect on the readers and this effect lingers for a long while.

'The Canterville Ghost' is a ghost story in the conventional sense but with a twist of its own. The story has a ghost who haunts Canterville Chase which has all the elements of a traditional haunted house. There are gothic elements, the macabre, creaking floorboards, clanking chains, ancient prophesies and so on. But there is a difference here. The ghost is supposed to haunt but he gets terrorized in return. The author portrays Canterville ghost as a miserable, pitiable, bedraggled image instead of a scary one. The ghost fails in all his attempts to scare any of the members of the family of Mr Otis.

When he laughs demoniacally, he is offered tincture. When he drags his heavy chains making the sound of clanking metal, he gets lubricator. His victims get overpowering and the ghost falls sick and virtually becomes an invalid. "I must rattle my chain, groan through keyholes, walk at night" he says, but instead of a terror, he becomes a helpless caricature who is beaten by the twins many times.

The ghost, no doubt, has a dark past. He has killed his wife, terrified housemaids and drove members of aristocracy to madness and suicide. His skelton lies awaiting release. He has to trod on till Virginia offers him a ray of hope and finally he is liberated. This ghost story is told from the perspective of Sir Simon and not from the perspective of the castle occupants. And that makes it a ghost story with a difference.

14. Elaborate upon the various attempts, made by the Canterville ghost to frighten the Otis family in about 130 words. (7 marks)

**Ans.** In keeping with his habit, nature and tradition, the Canterville ghost was forever bent upon frightening the Otis family. One night at around 11 o'clock, Mr Otis was awakened by a curious noise in the corridor. Mr Otis opened the door. Right in front of him he saw an old man in a horrible condition, with burning red eyes, matted hair and heavy chains. But to the ghost's indignation and surprise, Mr Otis unaffected, quietly offered him lubricator to oil his chains. The ghost, angry and humiliated, decided to take revenge.

On Sunday night, the family was awakened by a loud, crashing sound and they discovered that a large suit of old armour had fallen from its stand and the Canterville ghost had been injured. The twins fired two pellets at him and Mr Otis, with his revolver, ordered the ghost to hold up his hands. This enraged the ghost. He fled, giving out frightening sounds of laughter. On 17th August, he made another attempt. He selected a special dress and at midnight glided through the corridors when he suddenly saw a horrible ghost before him. Soon he realized that he had been tricked again by the twins.

The ghost now planned to appear in a grand disguise. He wore big leather boots took a horse-pistol and crept into the corridor. To frighten the twins, at once, he flung their door wide open. But a jug of water fell right down on him, wetting him thoroughly. The twins burst into laughter and the ghost fled.

## UP FROM SLAVERY

**13. What is the main theme of the autobiography 'Up From Slavery' ? How does Booker highlight this theme in relation to education ? Write your answer in about 150 words. (8 marks)**

*Or*

**Bring out Booker's ideas about education by giving examples from his autobiography in about 150 words.**

**Ans.** 'Up From Slavery', written by Booker T. Washington, depicts a slave's struggle to seek freedom from the bonds of slavery and gain dignity. This, essentially, is the theme of the autobiography. The book is devoted to Booker's pursuit of education and upliftment of Negroes through education. Booker strongly felt that education was the only way to rise above these racial prejudices.

Booker realized very early in life that slavery, despite freedom, is a life-long bondage and it would be tough to rise above the mindset of the whites, that blacks were meant for only menial work. He worked in coal mines, households, did cleaning and washing, worked as a waiter only to pay for his education. Booker's perseverance to seek admission in Hampton school can inspire many. He struggled to pay for his boarding expenses at Hampton, won praises and this proved to be the ground for the Tuskegee Institute which he founded.

Tuskegee was an ideal platform for his race to become self-reliant. In this school, dignity of labour and mastering skills went hand in hand with academics. Booker initiated a new work ethics whereby industrial labour was as significant as bookish knowledge. It was the skill-based education which, he felt, could empower the lives of the down-trodden. For him a school room was no less than "getting into a paradise". It was this paradise that Booker wished to create for the underprivileged.

*Or*

**14. How did Booker T. Washington manage to go to a Day School. Could he continue there ? Answer in about 130 words. (7 marks)**

**Ans.** After freedom, Booker and his family settled near Malden, a mining town where his step father secured a job. The neighbourhood was terrible, with poverty, filth, drinking, gambling people around. Washington and his brother were put to work at a furnace.

Washington was desperate to go to a day-school but his father could not spare him from work. After earnest requests of his mother, however, he was allowed to go to a day-school, only if he finished his work at the furnace.

His work got over at 9 o'clock and his school also started at the same time. As a result, by the time he reached the school, the class was underway and he couldn't keep up with the lessons. He manipulated the clock of the school for some days. His mother sewed a homespun cap for him and taught him not to have complexes. Washington remained forever grateful to his mother for all this.

Unfortunately, Washington's days in the day-school were numbered. Soon, he had to go back to work in the depressing, dark and dirty atmosphere at the furnace. Later in life, things, of course, changed.