

# **THE FINISHING TOUCH**

**a resource book in english for std x  
students**

Prepared by  
State Institute of English, Kerala  
Ramavarmapuram, Thrissur 680631

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## FOREWORD

How to prepare for examinations? Most of us are nervous of examinations. A moderate nervousness is often an advantage if you are to perform at your best. Taking examinations is really an art. The process of preparing for examinations can feel overwhelming if you don't have good study skills. Oftentimes this is the difference between those students who score high grades and those who get low grades.

The most important types of questions for the SSLC English examination are those that test your knowledge and skills in constructing various discourses. There will be questions for writing diaries, notices, letters, news reports, profiles, conversations, speeches, narratives, essays etc. There will also be questions for assessing your knowledge in the use of language elements and reading comprehension of passages and poems from your English Textbook.

Do you think examination is a challenge? How will you choose to respond to the challenge? The margin between **A** grade and lower grades is extremely small. One extra effort will be sufficient to go from lower grades to **A** grade. The choice is yours. Always choose to finish strong.

State Institute of English, Kerala is glad to release a Resource Book in English for class X students titled 'The Finishing Touch' to help them face SSLC English examination confidently. I hope that this material will boost your skills and knowledge in performing well in the examination.

Wish you all the best.

**P.K.Jayaraj**

Director,

State Institute of English, Kerala.

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## WRITING A NARRATIVE

### How can we write a narrative?

To answer this question we should understand what a narrative is. Let's read a piece of narrative taken from the textbook.



### Narrative - A Sample

<i>Then, when I was crossing a street I could tell that someone had come out of a doorway. I turned around but couldn't see anything. I began to walk faster. A moment later I could</i>	<i>hear the scuff of huaraches on the warm stones. I didn't want to look back, even though I knew the shadow was catching up with me. I tried to run. I couldn't. Then I stopped short. And before I could defend myself I felt the</i>	<i>point of a knife against my back, and a soft voice said, 'Don't move, senor, or you're dead.' Without turning my head I asked, 'What do you want?' 'Your eyes, senor.' His voice was strangely gentle, almost embarrassed.</i>
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### Let's analyse the features of a narrative

We can consider this part of the story 'The Blue Bouquet' a good piece of narrative. It has a unique style of narration.

#### Here the events are developed properly.

Eg: I was crossing a street ...

I could hear the scuff of huaraches.

I felt the point of a knife against my body.

#### There are varieties of sentences...

What do you want? (interrogative/ question)

## Writing a Narrative



Don't move (imperative/command)

I began to walk faster. (statement)

### Use of sensuous images

... I could hear the scuff of huaraches ...

I felt the point of a knife against my back, ....

I couldn't see anything ...

### Appropriate choice of words

Strangely gentle

From the above analysis, it is clear that writing a narrative is a creative effort. Apart from the features mentioned above, the following aspects also can be considered while assessing a narrative.

- Proper beginning and ending
- Time and place of action
- Organisation of ideas
- Creativity and imagination

### Some samples of narratives prepared by students

Pepe felt very sad watching Balthazar moving away from his house with a broken heart. Write the thoughts of Pepe in the form of a narrative in about 120 words.

#### Sample 1

Oh! I feel so sad about Balthazar. He likes me very much. That is why he made such a beautiful cage for

me. How marvellous it is! He gifted it to me. If he had sold it to someone, he would have got

sixty or seventy pesos. But my father didn't pay for it . What made my father so angry? I

TELL  
COMBINATION  
REACTION  
LINKED  
EVENTS  
HAPPENED  
USE  
OCCURRED  
ORDER  
NARRATE  
WRITING



## Writing a Narrative



don't know. Sometimes he is like that. How can I make him understand? I placed the order for the cage without his permission. Is it a crime? I am ready to ask

apology for that. But why did he insult Balthazar? He didn't do anything wrong. Anyway my father's reaction shocked Balthazar very much. Today I should meet him. Can I get

sixty pesos from my mother? Let me try. Everyone says that Balthazar is an excellent artist; but for me he is an excellent friend. I should not miss him.

### Sample 2

Pepe is a twelve year old boy. Balthazar, who is a gifted carpenter, made a beautiful cage for him. Many rich people like Dr Otavio Giraldo offered him a very high prize for the amazing work of art but he wanted to give it to the boy. He took it to the boy's house. The boy was not at home from school as he reached there. Pepe reached home

and saw the beautiful cage. He was very excited and thrilled on seeing the cage Balthazar made for him. But his joy was short lived. His angry father grabbed him by hair and asked him why he placed the order to make the cage without his permission. The hapless boy turned pale at unfettered fury of his father. He was totally confused not knowing what to do. He loved the beautiful cage

but he never knew he had to pay a lot of money to get it. He knew his father was poor but he liked the beautiful works of Balthazar and he asked to make a cage for him. Balthazar felt sorry for Pepe and he gave the cage to Pepe free and walked away. Pepe felt happy and embraced the cage in great joy. He looked at Balthazar walking away with an unspeakable gratitude.



## Writing a Narrative

### Sample 3

I got a cage today. A beautiful cage. Balthazar gave me. My father is cruel. He insulted B a l t h a z a r . Balthazar is a good carpenter. He made a beautiful cage for me. Today he came to my house and gave it to me. He loves me. My father is bad. My mother is good. Father did not give money. My father behaved to him very rudely. I want to give money to Balthazar. I will ask my mother. She will help me. I am going to ask her money. I will go to meet Balthazar. He will happy.

### Assess the narratives based on the following indicators

	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3
Does he/she fix the events properly?	Yes	Yes	No
Has the setting been described clearly?	Yes	Yes	No
Have the characters been portrayed well?	Yes	Yes	No
Are there varieties of sentences?	Yes	No	No
Is the narrative appropriate to the context?	Yes	No	Yes
Are the dialogues relevant?	Yes	No	No
Has the message been conveyed properly?	Yes	No	No
Are there any grammatical errors?	No	No	Yes
Have sensuous images been used?	Yes	No	No
Are the ideas well organized?	Yes	Yes	No
Effectiveness of the opening and ending -	Good	Average	Below average

### Tasks

1. After the eventful day Swami returned from school disappointed. He narrated to his mother what had happened at the school. Prepare the likely narrative.
2. You have enjoyed reading the play 'The Beggar and the King'. Narrate the events that happened at the palace.
3. Imagine that the stranger in the story 'The Blue Bouquet' narrates what happened in the street that night to his wife. Prepare the narrative.

## PREPARE A WRITE-UP

### What is a write-up?

Write-up is a small article.

It describes a person's attitude or point of view on an event, a book, an incident, a character a place etc. Striking points, supporting ideas and simple and correct language which makes a write-up attractive.



### Here is a task for you

The characters in the one-act play, 'The Beggar and the King' are true representatives of the present society. Do you agree with this statement? Prepare a brief write-up in about 120 words justifying the statement.

Now, look at the write-ups prepared by some of your friends. Compare them with the ones you have prepared on the basis of the indicators and refine it.

### Sample 1

#### THE RULER AND THE RULED

I agree with the statement that the characters in the one act play, 'The Beggar and the King' are true representatives of the present society because the issue of the	suffering and the resistance against exploitation as it seen in the play really exist in the present day society too. Dictators everywhere suppress the demands of the	people. The king in the play symbolises power and he behaves like a dictator. He doesn't give ear to the demands of the common people. The beggar, who represents the
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## Prepare a Write-up



landless and the poor continues the cry for food.

Like the king in the play, our rulers seldom consider the demands of the people. They always try to run away from problems of the common mass. The rulers tried to punish people who oppose their policies. As they have power they use it only to satisfy their selfish ends. They lead a luxurious life ignoring the poverty and suffering of the people. Like the beggar, the common people continue their strikes, demonstrations

and picketing of so called rulers. The servant takes multiple roles in the play. He is a servant, mediator, translator to the king. In this present society we know a lot of assistants of the political leaders. They made money by admiring their leaders. Here the servant did the same at the beginning. But he realizes the power of common people. He knew that the power of the king is nothing in front of the strength of common people. He felt sympathy towards the beggar. He wanted to give a

piece of bread for the beggar. The servant is trying to convince the king by saying the beggar had a magical power. The servant realised that never dictator can suppress the truth. It will rise again. But he didn't stand opposite to the king because he needs money to live. So he silences himself. Servant is just an example. In our world there are a lot of servants.

### Sample 2



Yes; I agree with the statement. There are three characters in the play 'The Beggar and the King' by Winthrop Parkhurst. The king, the beggar and the servant. The rulers of the period try to suppress the subjects. Here the king unaware even the basic needs of the people, food etc. he asked the servant that why he cried for bread. The king ordered to cut off the beggar's tongue. Now we can see a lot of

political leaders in our world who behave like the king.

The beggar, he can't bear the hungry. There is a lot of people in our society representing the beggar. The beggar asked the king whether he was the king. It suggested that he is not going to obey such a king who is pays no attention towards his subjects. The beggar mean by asking the king to throw the crown into the street that the crown is for the royal power. So the political power threw the street where the common people

lived. The conversation between him and the king testifies the fact that he becomes incompetent and helpless. He is struggling to retain his power. On the other side the beggar stands firm in his position getting taller and taller. We can find the increasing confidence of the beggar. The courage and conviction he shows makes the king, his attitude towards the people. So the beggar is not a single individual representative of the present society.

## Prepare a Write-up



### Sample 3

The very title of the play 'The Beggar and the King' suggests the importance of the beggar in the play. The king in the play represents power with its least concern for the poor and the beggar stands for the poor and landless. Class struggle is as old as the most ancient of human civilizations. It depicts the constant struggle among the social class that exists. The world exist in constant negotiation and tussle between the haves and the have not's. The seemingly

oppressed in a bid to secure a more conducive situation of living will start a struggle against those perceived to be their oppressors. The powerful will inflict more hardship to maintain the status quo, so that poverty and human misery remain a means of control. The rich remain rich while the poor at best can only get poorer in such a world. The actions and attitudes of the king and the beggar show this. The servant is a clever middleman in the play. In the opening of the

play he seems to favor the king while towards the end he gradually and slowly gravitate towards the beggar. It is only an attempt to grab power from the king in the changed situation as he understands the collective strength of the people. The play does not solve the issue it raised in it. The beggar's demand for bread reverberates as cry in wilderness in it. It seems to suggest that the issue remains unresolved in real world.

## Prepare a Write-up

Look at the important features of a write-up.

- A suitable title
- Begins with a striking idea
- Ideas are presented using specific and clear language.
- Ideas are organized well.
- Used variety of sentences.
- Appropriate conclusion is given.



On the basis of the indicators given assess the sample write-ups.

### TASKS

1. 'Balthazar's Marvellous Afternoon' is a story which looks into the complex ways in which an artist/craftsman expresses his mind.' Do you agree with this statement? Justify your answer in the form of a write up in about 120 words.
2. 'R. K. Narayan's story 'Father's Help' poses serious questions about teacher-pupil relationship.' Do you support this view? Prepare a write-up to support your answer.
3. The story 'The Blue Bouquet' can be read as a shocking tale of violence or as a narrative on romantic love. How do you comment on this statement? Prepare a write-up on how you have enjoyed reading the story focusing Octavia Paz's style of narration.
4. Hope you have enjoyed reading the play, 'The Beggar and the King' by Winthrop Parkhurst. Prepare a write-up discussing the relevance of reading the play in the present context.



## PREPARE A SPEECH

### What makes a good speech?

The speaker introduced the topic well.

The speaker logically and appropriately divided the topic into its component ideas.

The topic was developed with a variety of supporting materials.

The speaker has chosen words meticulously to present the ideas.

The speaker presented his/her own views in the speech.

The speaker made use of effective words for voice modulation.

The speaker concluded the speech effectively, summing up all the points.

Go through the speeches prepared by some of your friends and identify how well they have prepared the speech based on the indicators given above.

### Sample 1

In connection with the film festival organised in your school, you are asked to deliver a speech on the topic 'Social Relevance of Films'. Prepare the likely speech in about 120 words.



## Prepare a Speech

Distinguished guests and my dear friends,  
Film is not only for entertainment. It influenced in our character formation. We are very interested in watching movies. Films give a lot of good pictures in our world. But we do not imitate them blindly. We try to identify the negatives also. Some types of films visualized the cruelty of the world. It stands as a

mirror before us. When we visualize an atmosphere of happy family through the movie, we think about our family. Cinema raises our ideas.

Cinema says the history, culture and the life of human beings. Thus students can study the local history from films. It reflects the age's features. Men do not forget the happenings in the film and the heroes in it. The message of the film will survive in

our heart. Films deal with the day today situations. We shouldn't imitate movie blindly. The young generation imitates the dressing style, hair style, fashion etc. of the heroes and heroines. There are a lot of bad films, but bad people forced men to see this. But we have to select good films and we should realize the message only. It is not our real life. The film show is good. But we must imbibe the values.



### Sample 2

Respected teachers and friends, a very good morning.

I am very happy to speak a few words about the social relevance

of films. I believe that films are not just a medium of enter-tainment;

## Prepare a Speech



they are the representation of our culture. We feel the deep breathing of culture in every sphere of life and films are in no way isolated from this influence. Films create a forceful dimension of the social background of a society. Let us look at the cast of tea-shops in Malayalam films. Tea-shops play a significant role in the cultural life of

Kerala as we find it documented in the films of that period.

Tea-shops serve as a public space which accommodates all sections of society at a time. It is highly restricted and segregated. The tea-shops play a pivotal role as the centre of social change which is called renaissance movement in Kerala society. We find the caste and religious barriers

slowly breaking down and a new social order taking shape. People freely interact and share their life experiences here. Therefore friends I would like to say films not only represent social and cultural life but also in a way pave the way for a social change.

Thank you all and wish you a nice day.

## TASKS

1. Prepare a speech on the importance of an ideal teacher-pupil relationship in developing a child's personality, in the light of the story, 'Fathers Help'.
2. Prepare a speech on the topic 'Film as a means of social transformation'.
3. 'Centres of power that are engaged in exploitation need to be restricted'. Do you support this statement? Justify your answer by preparing a speech on the topic 'My Views of an Ideal Ruler'.

## DRAFT A LETTER

This unit deals with two types of letters:

- a) Formal/official
- b) Informal/friendly

### Formal letter

While writing a formal letter, you may follow certain conventions regarding the format and structure. It's better to use simple and short sentences which make ideas clear. You are not supposed to use informal language or contracted forms in a formal letter. Ideas may be arranged in a logical way for easy comprehension.

### Tips for writing a formal letter

#### Address:

Write the addressee's name on the top.

Mark the receiver's name and address below the sender's address.

#### Date:

Date can be put in between the two addresses or at the bottom of the page.

It is better to write the name of the month in words.

#### Salutation

Below the addressee, you skip a line and then start with

the salutation.

You may use the salutations like 'Dear Sir or Madam', 'Sir', or the designation of the officer you are addressing.

Put a comma after the salutation.

#### Subject

Here, the purpose of the letter is stated in one sentence. Make it clear and short.

#### Content

The beginning states your reasons for writing the letter. It tries to lead the reader to the issue. A couple of lines can be used for this.



## Draft a letter



You may give more details about why you are writing the letter. The relevant information regarding the issue, causes, effects etc. are detailed in this part. But don't explain too much. Linking words like 'Moreover', 'Furthermore', 'In

addition to' can be used to link the sentences together.

The closing of the letter may suggest the action you expect from the part of the receiver.

### **Complementary close**

You may conclude the letter using expression like: Yours obediently,

Yours truly,  
Yours faithfully  
etc.

### **Signature**

Put the signature below the complementary close.

## Let's attempt a formal letter

The narrator of the story 'The Blue Bouquet' was terrifically embarrassed by the strange experience he had in the street. As a victim of brutal manhandling in a public place, he decided to react against it. He prepares a letter of complaint to the Sub Inspector of Police as the first step. How would it be? Prepare the likely letter.

Octavio Paz  
36, Apex Complex  
Park Avenue  
H Town, Russia  
16<sup>th</sup> August, 2013.



To  
The Sub Inspector of Police  
H Town.

Sir,

Sub: Growing incidence of violence at night in the street:  
I write this letter to draw your attention on the growing violence in the streets at night. People are not secure in the streets at night. It's quite impossible to walk alone at night. Incidents of robbery and manhandling are frequent reports. Last night I too had a similar experience in the street.

As it was too hot in my room, I went out for a walk. It was too dark outside and there were no street lights. When I reached the city centre, a man tried to attack me with a knife. He demanded my eyes and he tried to gouge it out. I was totally embarrassed when he said that he was in search of blue eyes to make a bouquet for his beloved. I think that he is a drunkard or a lunatic.

I request you to take necessary steps to make the street free from such antisocial elements.

Yours faithfully

Sd/

**Octavio Paz**

## Draft a letter



### Answer 2

From  
Octavio Paz  
Novelist  
Park Avenue Hotels

To  
The Sub Inspector of Police  
H Town Station.

A tourist living in a famous hotel was attacked by a stranger here yesterday night. As it was so hot inside the room, the tourist went out for a walk. There were no street lights. Suddenly a stranger attacked him from his back. The stranger asked him for his eyes. The strange experience shocked the man very much. The stranger asked the tourist whether his eyes are blue or not. He wants to make a bouquet of blue eyes for his beloved. Such incidents increase in this area. But the police are inactive in this regard. We have a lot of such experience here. I request the police to take immediate action.

**Octavio Paz**

### Let's evaluate

The first letter conveys the message clearly. It has a proper beginning and a conclusion. Address, date, salutation, subject, closing and signature are written in the proper order. The content part is properly paragraphed.

## Draft a letter

The second letter fails to detail the experience of the writer. Certain essential factors like date, salutation, subject, complementary close etc. are missing here. Hence, the first letter will be awarded higher grade than the second one.



## Further questions

### Unit One

Swaminathan's father writes a letter to the headmaster of Albert Mission School complaining about the teacher, Samuel. Write the likely letter.

### Unit Three

Film Club of your home town decides to conduct a film festival in the town. Write a letter to the Sub Inspector of Police for granting permission to conduct the programme.

### Unit Four

The standard ten students of your school have decided to raise a fund to help the financially challenged students in your school. Being the coordinator of the programme, write a letter to the President, District Panchayath to allot a sum towards the fund.

### Unit Five

At the end of the story 'Balthazar's Marvellous Afternoon' Balthazar realises his potentialities as an artist. He enjoys the freedom and the happiness of an artist and recognises the need to promote artists. He writes a letter to the Minister for Cultural Affairs to take necessary steps to promote various art forms in the state. Prepare the likely letter.

## Draft a letter

### Informal Letter

Informal letters usually address our friends, parents, relatives or the people we know well. Here we can use informal language and expressions.

#### Tips for writing an informal letter

##### Heading

The heading includes the place from where the letter is written and the date. It is written either in the upper right or left hand corner of the page.

### Greeting/ Salutation

Salutation is written under the heading at the left margin. It begins with a capital letter and ends with a comma. It can be:

My dear friend,

Dear friend,

My dear father,  
etc.

### Body

This part marks the message you want to convey. This part may be paragraphed. Use simple sentences

to make the message clear.

### Closing

The closing usually begins with a capital letter and ends with a comma.

It may be:

Yours lovingly,

With love,

Yours affectionately,  
etc.

### Signature

The signature is marked directly under the closing.

## Let's attempt an informal letter

Ursula in the story 'Balthazar's Marvellous Afternoon' is very much depressed by her husband's decision to present the cage to Pepe. Suppose she writes a letter to one of her friends voicing her concerns. How would it be? Prepare the likely letter.





**Letter 1**

35, Magic Crafts Village  
Colombia  
01-04-2013



Dear Friend

Hope you are doing well. I write this letter to share a few concerns of me about my husband. I don't know what happens to him. He was a much disciplined man who always takes care of me and our family. He would never be late to reach home. Being a loving husband he never takes dinner from outside because he always prefers to dine with me. But everything has changed. Now he has the habit of coming late at home, consuming too much alcohol and taking dinner from outside. I heard that he presented a beautiful cage that costs a huge amount, to a child. People say that he spends most of the time in the bar, enjoying with his friends. I can't rely completely upon what they say. They are good at fabricating stories.

Let me stop for the time being. Hope you may come and meet him.

Convey my regards to all. Wish you a nice time.

With love,

Ursula

## Draft a letter

### Letter 2

35, Magic Crafts Village  
Colombia

Dear Friend

I don't know what happens to my husband. Now he has the habit of coming late at home, consuming too much alcohol and taking dinner from outside. I heard that he presented a beautiful cage costs a huge amount, to a child. People are saying that he spends most of the time in the bar, enjoying with his friends. They are good at fabricating stories.

Let me stop for the time being.

Ursula

### Let's evaluate the letters

The first letter is very clear and well organised. It has a proper beginning and conclusion. Place and date, salutation, closing and signature are written in the proper order. All the points are arranged logically.

The beginning and ending of the second letter are not suitable for an informal letter. Date and complementary closing are missing here.

Hence, answer one will be awarded higher grade than the second.



**More questions****Unit One**

Swaminathan writes a letter to his friend describing the incident that happened in the classroom. How would it be? Write the likely letter.

**Unit Two**

Suppose the narrator of the story 'The Blue Bouquet' writes a letter to his wife describing the events that happened in the street. How would it be? Prepare the likely letter.

**Unit Three**

The film club of your school has conducted a film festival. 'Sunshine through the Rain' by Akira Kurosawa was one of the films widely discussed in the festival. Write a letter to your friend describing your experience as a viewer of the film 'Sunshine through the Rain'.

**Unit Four**

Std X students of your class have staged the play 'The Beggar and the King' in the school annual day celebrations. You played the role of the beggar in the play. Write a letter to your friend describing your experiences in acting in the play.



## PREPARE A CHARACTER SKETCH



When you write a character sketch, you are trying to introduce a character to the reader. You want the reader to form a good mental image about the person, to know how the person talks, to know the person's characteristic ways of doing things, to know something about the person's value system etc. Character sketches usually give snapshots of people; therefore, you should not try to write a history of the person.

### Tips to prepare a character sketch.

Mark the significance of the character.

Analyse the reactions of the character in different occasions.

Examine the language used by the character.

Use enough examples from the work to substantiate the points.

Sequence the points noted.

Begin with a striking sentence

Give a suitable title.

### Let's attempt a character sketch

Balthazar in the story 'Balthazar's Marvellous Afternoon' is an exemplary character. The story tells us about the changes that happen to him. Prepare a character sketch of Balthazar.

## Prepare a Character Sketch

### Answer A

#### **Balthazar, the Artist**

The story 'Balthazar's Marvellous Afternoon' by Gabriel Garcia Marquez develops through the changes that happen in the attitude of Balthazar, the central character of the story. The story naturally discloses the incidents that changed Balthazar, a mere craftsman to an artist. Balthazar is a carpenter by profession. Even though he works hard, he doesn't count

himself as an important figure in his work. He considers himself as a mere artist. The making of a huge cage becomes a turning point in his life. The people begin to praise the cage and its maker. When Balthazar feels the cage he has made, the people gathered in front of his house remarked that it was the most beautiful cage they had ever seen. Here he realises the fact that he is something more than a craftsman. Ursula, his wife is well aware of the pains her

husband has taken to finish the cage and compels him to demand more money from the buyer. But Balthazar is not greedy. When Jose Montiel denies to pay for the cage, Balthazar says 'I made it expressly as a gift for Pepe. I didn't expect to charge anything for it' and gives the cage to Pepe as a gift. It elevates the character from an ordinary carpenter to an extraordinary artist who sacrifices the material pleasures for the spiritual heights.



## Prepare a Character Sketch



### Answer B

Balthazar is a carpenter by profession. The story tells the change that happens in the attitude of Balthazar, who is the central character of the story. He works hard. He doesn't consider himself as an artist. He

makes a huge cage. The people begin to praise the cage and its maker. He recognises the fact that he is something more than a craftsman. When Balthazar considers the cage as the one he has previously made, the people

remarked that it was the most beautiful cage they had ever seen. Ursula, his wife is greedy where as he is so generous. At last he presents the cage to Pepe as a gift.

### Let's evaluate

#### Answer 1

States the significance of the character very clearly

Quotes from the text are used to substantiate the writer's arguments.

All the points are sequenced well.

The concluding sentence gives an overall view of the character.

An apt title is given.

#### Answer 2

Arguments are not clearly substantiated.

Beginning and conclusion are not striking.

Title is not given.

Hence, answer one will be awarded higher grade than the second.

## Prepare a Character Sketch

### Further examples

#### Unit One

Prepare a character sketch of Samuel, the teacher, in the story 'Father's Help'.

#### Unit Two

Prepare a character sketch of the hotelkeeper in the story 'The Blue Bouquet'.

#### Unit Four

Prepare a character sketch of the beggar in the play 'The Beggar and the King'.



## PREPARE A DIARY ENTRY



Diary entry is the note of one's personal feelings and opinions. As it records the emotions of the diarist, incomplete sentences and expressions may be used in a diary entry. The language used in a diary may be highly informal.

### Tips to write a diary entry

A diary entry:

Conveys the feelings and emotions of the writer. It is a first person narrative.

Highlights the important event/s happened on a particular day.

Uses expressions and broken sentences

Never records the routine activities

### Sample 1

The narrator of the story "The Blue Bouquet" reaches back in his room after the terrible incident in the street. Imagine he penned his experience in his diary. How would it be? Prepare the likely diary entry.

### Answer A

March 15, 2013

It was too hot inside the room. Got up and decided to go out for a walk. The hotel keeper was sitting in the reception

counter. He advised me to stay back in the room. Oh! I didn't mind his words. That made all the problems..... I went out. It was too dark. There

were no street lights. When I reached in the junction I heard approaching footsteps. A stranger held a knife on my back and demanded



## Prepare a Diary Entry

for my eyes. I was shocked terribly. He wanted to make a bouquet of blue eyes to present to his

beloved! What an odd idea! Fortunately he found my eyes are not blue. He let me go. I rushed to my room in panic.

Who was he? What was his real intention? I don't know. Any way this is not a good place to stay.



## Answer B

**March 15, 2013**

Strange incidents happen unpredictably! Today becomes the most horrible day for me. Really strange experiences. I should not go outside. I didn't even imagine that such an incident would

take place. That hotel keeper also warned me but..... Nobody can prevent certain things happen in our life. Why that strange man choose me! Does he really need blue eyes? He may be an eccentric man. I was completely out of my mind at that time. Who

was he? Really what was his intention? I can't even now believe what he told me! Making a bouquet of blue eyes! That too for his beloved! What a strange thing rather foolish! In future I will not go out during night. This world had changed like anything.

## Prepare a Diary Entry



### Let's evaluate

#### Answer A

The language used is spontaneous and natural.

Succeeded in expressing the emotions and feelings of the writer.

The diary is appropriate to the context.

The focus is on an important incident in the life of the writer.

#### Answer B

Context is not clear.

Fails to express the feelings and thoughts of the writer.

Hence, Answer A gets better than the Answer B.

### Further examples

#### Unit One

The incident happened in the class disturbed Swami very much. He repented on his behaviour towards Mr Samuel. He writes his feelings in his diary. How would it be? Prepare the likely diary entry.

#### Unit Four

The beggar in the play 'The Beggar and the King' impressed you very much. Suppose you note your feelings about the character in your diary. How would it be? Prepare the likely diary entry.

#### Unit Five

Jose Montiel behaved very rudely towards Balthazar. After the incident he repents on his behaviour. He noted down his feelings in his diary. Prepare the likely diary entry.

## DRAFT A NOTICE

### Why do we write a notice?

The idea of writing notice is to draw readers' attention to something or some event that would take place. In a notice you must write all the required information in a simple concise and attractive manner so that people will notice it. What are the features of a good notice? What does a teacher look at when he/she evaluates a notice?



### Indicators for preparing a notice

- uses appropriate format and layout of a notice
- uses proper salutation
- mentions the date, time and venue of the programme
- uses clear and brief language
- includes the details of the programme
- specifies the agency/authority which issues the notice

### Here are two samples of answers written by students

The English Club of your school has decided to organise a function to release the screenplay of the movie 'Manas' written by the students of class X. The famous actor Mohanlal has consented to release the screenplay. As the Secretary of the club, draft a notice to invite your friends to the function.

## Draft a Notice



### Answer 1

#### NOTICE

friends,  
our school students written screenplay film: Manas.  
Mohanlal releasing on 15. 03. 2013. School  
auditorium.  
All are invite

### Answer 2

#### NOTICE

#### ENGLISH CLUB

#### RELEASING OF SCREENPLAY: MANAS

Palakkad  
2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2013

Friends,

The English Club of our school has decided to organise a function to release the screenplay of the movie 'Manas' written by students of Class 10. The famous actor, Mohanlal has concented to release the screenplay. The function will be held in the school auditorium on 15th March 2013.

All are invited.

**Secretary**  
**English Club**

## Draft a Notice

**Venue:** School Auditorium

**Date:** 15 March, 2013

### **PROGRAMME**

10:00 AM

Prayer

Welcome Speech

**Secretary, English Club**

Book Release

**Sri. Mohanlal**

Address by the Chief Guest

Felicitations

**Headmaster**

**Staff Secretary**

**School Leader**

Vote of Thanks

National Anthem



## Let's analyse the two answers.

The first notice has:

- proper salutation
- details of the programme such as the date, venue and the name of the chief guest
- Invitation to the readers

However the writer should have:

- Used proper format and layout
- Mentioned time and details of the programme
- Mentioned the name of the issuing authority



The second notice has:

- a proper salutation
- a proper format and layout
- clear and brief language
- details of the programme
- Invitation to the readers

However the writer has to give attention to punctuation and spelling.

### Sample 2

The Health Club of your school has decided to conduct a meeting in connection with Anti-Tobacco Campaign. Prepare a notice inviting the students to take part in it.

### Answer 1

#### **Health Club, XYZ School**

#### **Anti-Tobacco Campaign**

The Health club of our school has decided to conduct an anti-tobacco campaign. A pre campaign meeting is to be held in our school on January 23, 2013. Dr. Meena Bhagath, District Medical Officer will deliver the Keynote address.

All are invited.

Venue: school hall

Time: 5 pm

Sd

**Secretary**

**Health Club**

## Draft a Notice



### Programme

**Prayer**

**Welcome speech** : Secretary, Health Club

**Presidential address** : Headmaster

**Keynote Address** : **Dr. Meena Bhagath** (DMO)

**Felicitations:**

Staff Secretary

School Leader

**Vote of thanks** : Senior Assistant

## Answer 2

### Meeting: Anti Tobacco

The health club is conducting a campaign on tobacco.  
It is on January 23.

We invite you

Sincerely

Secretary

## Analysis

The first notice has:

- a proper salutation
- clear and concise language
- proper format and layout
- details of the programme
- Invitation the readers

## Draft a Notice



The second notice has:

- a proper salutation
- Invitation to the readers

However the writer should have:

- Used proper format and layout
- Mentioned time and details of the programme
- Mentioned the name of the issuing authority

## Sample Questions

1. The Scouts and Guides of your school has decided to observe a Clean Village Week. As part of the programme you have decided to clean the premises of the Government Health Centre. The MLA of the constituency has agreed to inaugurate the programme. Draft a notice of the programme.

2. The Social Science Club of your school has decided to conduct a seminar on the topic 'Violence against Women'. The eminent human right activist Sunitha Krishnan has consented to deliver the keynote address. Prepare a notice inviting the students and teachers of your school to take part in the seminar.





## PREPARE A CONVERSATION

Conversation is the most widely used form of the spoken language. The basic unit of a conversation is an exchange. An exchange consists of two moves, an initiative move and a response. In the examination you may be asked to write four or five exchanges.



### Question 1

After the terrifying incident, the narrator in the story, 'The Blue Bouquet', meets his friend back home and tells him about the incident. Write the likely conversation between the two.

### Answer 1

**Narrator:** I thought I would never meet you.

**Friend:** What happened?

**Narrator:** I had a horrible experience on the tour.

**Friend:** Really?

**Narrator:** I was just having a walk outside my hotel when I found somebody following me.

**Friend:** Following you, why?

**Narrator:** I don't know; but I ran. I was gripped with fear.

**Friend:** Then what did he do?

**Narrator:** He chased me and caught me. Then I felt the chillness of the knife on my neck.

**Friend:** Hey man, I can't believe it.

**Narrator:** I still can't believe what he demanded. He asked me for my eyes!

**Friend:** Eyes! What for?



## Prepare a Conversation

**Narrator:** Want to present to his wife... for making a bouquet or something...

**Friend:** Interesting man! You've still got your eyes on your face, haven't you?

**Narrator:** He wanted blue ones. Mine, you see, are brown!

**Friend:** Are you alright now?

**Narrator:** Yes, I am. But still I can't forget it.

## Answer 2

**Friend:** I did not see you for long?

**Narrator:** I was on tour and had a strange incident

**Friend:** what?

**Narrator:** a man tried to take my eyes out.

**Friend:** why?

**Narrator:** he wanted to gift his wife

**Friend:** Oh...

## Analysis

Which answer do you think will score better?

The first conversation has an appropriate initiation and response, it is focused on the topic concerned, it uses wide range of words to express ideas, it has a good flow and a sense of closure.

The second conversation is brief and crisp. It conveys the message. However, it does not have proper initiation and response. The writer has not use a wide range of words and expressions. It also lacks a flow and a sense of completion. Hence, answer one will score better than the answer two.

## Prepare a Conversation

### Question 2

Imagine that one of Swami's friends asked about Swami's strange behaviour in Samuel's class. What would be the likely conversation between Swami and his friend? (Write at least six exchanges.)



### Answer 1

Friend: What happened to you today?

Swami: I wanted to provoke Samuel.

Friend: why?

Swami: I wanted him to punish me.

Friend: Why do you want to get a punishment?

Swami: I told my father that Mr Samuel is a cruel man.

Father: why did you say so?

Swami: I don't like to come to the class.

### Answer 2

Friend: What made you quarrel with Mr Samuel?

Swami: That's a big story.

Friend: Ok, tell me?

Swami: I don't like going to school. I tried many lies, but of no use.

Friend: Invented a new one?

Swami: That's right. I told my father that Mr Samuel is a very cruel man and he punishes everyone brutally especially who comes late to the class.

Friend: Why did you say that?

Swami: I thought father will allow me stay at home, as I am late.

## Prepare a Conversation



Friend: Instead he sent you to school?

Swami: Yes. He asked me to give a letter of complaint to the headmaster.

Friend: No.

Swami: How can I give it, unless Samuel beats me?

Friend: Now I understand. I wonder how cruel you are! Making false statements about your teacher!

### Analysis:

The first conversation is brief and crisp. It conveys the message. However, it does not have proper initiation and response. The writer could not use wide range of words and expressions. It also lacks flow and a sense of completion.

The second conversation has appropriate initiation and response, it is focussed on the same topic, it uses wide range of words to express ideas, it has good flow and it has a sense of closure.

Hence, answer one will score better than the answer two.

### Features of a good conversation

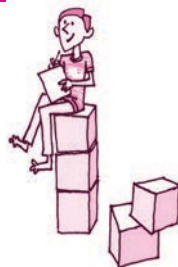
- identifies relationships and age of persons engaged in the conversation
- uses of apt initiation and response
- focuses the conversation on the assigned topic
- uses a wide range of words to express their ideas
- uses informal expressions (interjection, contracted forms)
- maintains a good flow in the dialogues exchanged
- creates a feeling of completion as the conversation ends



## WRITE A PARAGRAPH

Paragraph writing may be in the form of an essay or a paragraph with 50 or 60 words.

It describes a point of view on an event, a book, an incident, a character, a place etc. The striking ideas, supporting details, simple and apt language make a paragraph attractive and readable.



### Sample paragraphs

The article 'Tea-shops in Malayalam Cinema' and the screenplay 'Sunshine through the Rain' document the cultural elements of two societies. Still there are similarities. Justify the statement comparing the article and the screenplay. Prepare a paragraph expressing your views. The following hints may help you:

*(Tea-shop – documents the history of Kerala – the social movements – how and when tea-shops emerged – different people – their different lives – screenplay – documents the dress code – the beliefs – customs of people of Japan – the myth shown in the film seen in the belief system of Kerala)*

### Answer 1

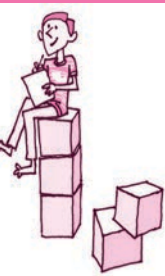
#### **Cinema: A Cultural Document**

Every art form reflects the culture of the society from where it is being created. Cinema also is

not an exception to this. Our films of all periods record the cultural elements of our times in a way or the other. The article Tea-shops in Malayalam

Cinema by Dr. C.S. Venkateswaran tries to document the role played by tea-shops in the social transformations that took place in the cultural domain of Kerala.

## Write a Paragraph



According to the author tea-shops in Kerala initiated a revolution in our hot dining habits. Dining together is marked as a mile stone in the fight against the prevailing caste system in Kerala then. The tea shop was considered as secular spaces where the only criterion for entry was the possession of money. Anybody could have tea and snacks if they have money with them. The customers were not belittled according to their caste or creed. The writer points

out that the tea shops emerged at a time when wages began to be paid in cash. It was also the time when people began to travel extensively for their livelihood.

The film 'Sunshine through the Rain' by Akira Kurasova portrays the customs and belief systems of Japan in a striking way. The film was very nice and the thread of the film is taken from an Asiatic myth which is prevalent even today. The boy in the film prohibited to go out by his mother when the rain and sunshine come together as it is

the time of fox's marriage. Apart from the portrayal of a myth that is also seen in Kerala culture of the film also documents the dress code, architecture, flora and fauna of Japan in a vivid fashion. Thus these two pieces of writings try to emphasise the fact that film is a medium for documenting the culture way of living. It also tries to record the similarity in belief systems of people living in different cultures.

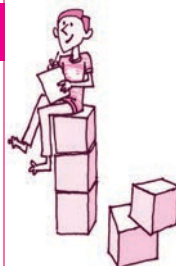
## Write a Paragraph

### Answer 2

The tea shop documents the history of Kerala. The tea shop is a secular place. Every individual have the right to go to tea shop. Tea shop started when wages began to paid in cash. Those who have money they can

go to the tea shop and buy tea and snacks. People from different places sit together and share views and also take decisions. In the screenplay 'Sunshine through the Rain' document the culture and dress code of Japanese.

It shows us a belive of Japanese. It shows us a beliv which as exist in the Kerala too. Through these two articles we can see the culture of Kerala and Japanese. These two articles define about 2 societies.



### Analysis

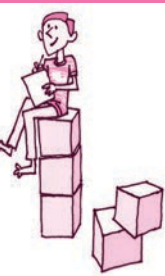
In Answer 1:

- A heading is given.
- Included specific and clear ideas
- organised the hints in a specific manner
- style is natural
- chosen lively and natural words
- has a good beggining and ending
- used a variety of sentences

In Answer 2 some of the above said elements are missing, though it conveys the message.

Hence we can say that answer 1 is better than answer 2.

## Write a Paragraph



The title of the one-act play is 'The Beggar and the King' and not 'The King and the Beggar'. What is your justification to the statement? Prepare a paragraph in about 60 words.

In the one act play 'The Beggar and the King', the king is not powerful than the beggar. The beggar define that he is more powerful. It shows that he is

not a single individual. The beggar says I'm more powerful that the mountain etc... these all shows that the beggar is more powerful and also the main

character in the play. So the beggar is more important. Therefore the title give more important to the beggar.

### Answer 2

The one-act play 'The Beggar and the King' has got an unusual title because as per custom, the King is far more important than a beggar. If so, the title should have been 'The King and the Beggar'. The author has his reasons for selecting the formerly

mentioned title. As one reads the play he understands the insignificance of the king as an individual. The author portrays the king as someone immersed in the physical pleasures of luxurious living. He is unaware and least bothered of the

hardships of life faced by the majority of his subjects. He gets very much irritated by the cries of the beggar for food and orders to slain him instead of giving him a crumb of bread as pleaded by his servant. But the beggar who

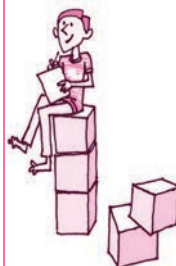


## Write a Paragraph

withstands all the hardships and punishments of the king's men proves himself to be superior and supernatural as a human being when compared

to the king. He grows as powerful as to command the king to throw away his crown out of the window, yet he is not ready to obey the king's command to stop begging. The king

turns so feeble and powerless in front of the great force and power with which the beggar speaks to him. These situations justify the title 'The Beggar and the King'.



## Extra questions

### Unit I – Father's Help

'Swami felt that a little more effort Samuel could be made to deserve dismissal and imprisonment'. What effort was taken by Swami and why did he want to make Samuel deserve dismissal and imprisonment?

### Unit II – The Blue Bouquet

Do you think that the incident narrated by the author of 'The Blue Bouquet' is real? Justify your answer in about 60 words.

### Unit 5 – Balthazar's Marvellous Afternoon

'Art has a value that no money can buy'. How will you substantiate this statement in view of the story 'Balthazar's Marvellous Afternoon'?



## PREPARE A PROFILE



### What is a Profile?

Profile is a short description of a person. Information regarding a person may be given as points. The student has to write a profile of the person using the information given. He can use linkers to connect the information provided. A student is not expected to add more information about the person. Yet one can add more information if he/she is sure about it.

### Let's see an example of how to prepare a profile

Given below are some information about Dr Sukumar Azhikode. Read the information carefully and prepare a profile.

Born	:	May 26, 1926, Azhikode, Kannur
Died	:	January 24, 2012
Scholar	:	Sanskrit, Malayalam, English
Famous as	:	Writer, Social Critic, Orator, Pro Vice-Chancellor
Notable work(s):		<i>Tatvamasi, Aasante Seetakavyam, Ramananum Malayalakavitayum, Mahatmavinte Margam, Malayala Sahityavimarsanam</i>
Awards and Honours	:	Twelve awards for Tatwamasi, Kendra Sahithya Akademi Award, Kerala Sahithya Akademi Award, Vayalar Award, Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam Sahithya Puraskaram Lifetime Achievement Award.

One of the students in Standard X prepared a profile as given below.

## Prepare a Profile

### Dr Sukumar Azhikode

He was born on May 26, 1926, Azhikode, Kannur. He died on January 24, 2012. He scholar in Sanskrit, Malayalam and English. He famous as writer, social critic, orator

and pro vice-chancellor. He notable work(s) Tatvamasi, Aasante Seetakavyam, Ramananum Malayalakavitayum, Mahatmavinte Margam, Malayala Sahityavimarsanam. He get awards like

Twelve awards for Tatwamasi, Kendra Sahithya Award, Kerala Sahithya Award, Vayalar Award, Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam Sahithya Puraskaram Lifetime Achievement Award.



### Let's see how the profile is:

- Student has given the name of the person as the title of the profile.
- He has included all information provided.
- He has written it in a paragraph.

But there are some errors in his profile. Let's examine what they are.

- The first sentence of the profile should start with the name of the person.
- It is better to enter the date of death at the end rather than at the beginning.
- Some grammatical errors are seen.
- Linkers are not properly used.

How can we say that a profile is a good one? There are some indicators to assess a good profile. They are:

### Features of a good profile

Effective introduction and ending  
Well organised important details  
Use of appropriate descriptive vocabulary  
Hints developed using supporting details.  
Use of proper linkers for connecting the ideas.  
Use of appropriate language.

Considering the indicators let's prepare another profile of Dr Sukumar Azhikode.

#### Dr Sukumar Azhikode

Dr Sukumar	include	Award, Kerala
Azhikode was an	<i>Tatvamasi,</i>	Sahithya
Indian writer,	<i>Aasante</i>	Akademi Award
critic and orator.	<i>Seetakavyam,</i>	and Vayalar
He was born in	<i>Ramananum</i>	Award. He was
Azhikode, Kannur	<i>Malayalakavitayum,</i>	felicitated with
District on May	<i>Mahatmavinte</i>	the Bahrain
26, 1926. He was	<i>Margam,</i>	Keraleeya
a scholar in	<i>Malayala</i>	Samajam
Sanskrit,	<i>Sahityavimarsanam.</i>	Sahithya
Malayalam and	He bagged twelve	Puraskaram
English languages.	awards for his	Lifetime
He worked as the	notable work,	Achievement
Pro Vice-	Tatvamasi	Award too. He
Chancellor. His	including the	died on 24
notable works	Kendra Sahithya	January, 2012.

## Prepare a Profile

### Attempt more questions

Write a short profile of Akira Kurosawa using the details given below.

Born	:	1921
Nationality	:	Japan
Famous as	:	Director, Producer, Screen writer, Editor
Major works	:	Drunken angel (1948) Rashomon (1950) Seven Samurai (1954)
Awards and Honours	:	Asian of the century (posthumously) achievements Oscar award for lifetime achievements (1990)
Died	:	1998

Prepare a profile of Khushwant Singh, an Indian writer in English from the given information.

Born	:	1915
Famous as	:	Journalist, writer, editor
Notable works:		<i>Train to Pakistan, The Company of Women, The Mark of Vishnu and other stories</i>
Awards/Honours :		Padma Bhushan (1984), Rajya Sabha Member (1980 - 86)

In order to get proficiency in preparing a profile, the students should practice more profiles.





## **LANGUAGE ELEMENTS**

## LANGUAGE ELEMENTS

### DIALOGUE COMPLETION

#### Question 1

- Pepe : Good morning, uncle.
- Balthazar : Good morning, Pepe. ....(a).....
- Pepe : I came to thank you for your wonderful gift.  
It costs sixty pesos, .....(b)....?
- Balthazar : How do you know that?
- Pepe : My neighbour told me. ....(c ).....?
- Balthazar : Because I didn't want to hurt you. If I had  
not given it to you, .....(d).....
- Pepe : .....(e).....?
- Balthazar : It took a week to complete the cage.
- Pepe : Oh! You are a great artist!

#### POSSIBLE ANSWERS

- a) It's a pleasant surprise to see you here. / Its good to see you. / any suitable response.
- b) doesn't it?
- c) Why did you give it to me free of cost?
- d) you would have been disappointed.
- e) How many days did you take to complete the cage?

#### Question 2

- Policeman** : You were walking alone when you  
were attacked, .....(a).....?
- Narrator** : Yes sir. He attacked me from behind.
- Policeman** : .....(b).....?
- Narrator** : No sir, I couldn't see his face.

**Policeman** : If you had seen his face, .....(c).....  
**Narrator** : Yeah, but it was too dark.  
**Policeman** : .....(d).....?  
**Narrator** : I have been staying here for the last two days.  
**Policeman** : You had better .....(e).....  
**Narrator** : Yes, I will.

### POSSIBLE ANSWERS

- a) weren't you?
- b) Could you see his face?
- c) it would have been easier to find him.
- d) How long have you been staying here?
- e) file a petition.

The questions may be from any of those given below.

#### Get familiar with .....

- question tags
- conditional sentences
- yes or no questions
- wh questions

#### Structures and Functions

- giving advise
- making request
- asking apology
- expressing gratitude
- so.....that
- neither.... nor etc.
- the more..... the more



## EDITING

There are certain errors in the following passage. They are underlined. Edit them.

The stranger disappeared into darkness. He was totally disappointed. The thought of blue eyes **were** (a) still haunting him. He **walks** (b) desperately towards the cottage of his beloved. 'Dear,' in an embarrassed tone he said, 'I didn't **found** (c) anyone who has blue eyes. I am extremely sorry. If you give me one more chance, I **should** (d) bring them for you.' 'A blue eye from a man! What **you do** (e) think about me?' she asked.

Let's see the answers

a) was (Here, the head word in the subject 'thought'. It is singular and hence 'were' can't be used as helping verb.)

b) walked (The entire narration is in past.)

c) find (Past form of the verb can't be used with the helping verb 'did')

d) shall (Here the 'If clause' is in present form. So 'should' cannot be used in the main clause)

e) do you (The helping verb should come before the subject in an interrogative sentence)

### Expected errors for editing

**Wrong Tense form:** You may see the errors like using present tense in the place of past tense and vice versa.

For example:

Ramu write a letter yesterday.

**Aspectual Errors:** There are two aspects in English: The Perfective (e.g. The girl *has cleaned* the room.) The Progressive (e.g. The girl *is cleaning* the room.)

There may be errors in the use of correct verb forms in sentences.

For example:

The girl has *clean* the room.

The girl is clean the room.

**The Passive:** You may meet errors in the passage with regard to passive constructions.

For example:

The story written by Anton Chekhov.

**Agreement:** There are three kinds of agreement: Agreement in terms of Person, Number and Gender. The agreement may be violated in a sentence.

For example:

I has a car. (Person agreement violated)

The girls is reading newspaper. (Number agreement is violated)

Subhash loves herself. (Gender agreement violation)

**Affixes:** There are prefixes and suffixes. Together these are called affixes.

**Wrong prefix:**

Suma was worried about her inability to run fast. (inability)

**Wrong suffix/ no suffix:**

I want to practice driving quick. (quickly)

The mother was shocked at Swami's laziness (laziness).

Cinema is a good form of entertaininess. (entertainment)



### Questions for you

There are certain errors in the following passage. They are underlined. Edit them.

Everybody approves the fact that cinema is a medium of expression for the film maker. It goes far beyond mere entertainment to **becoming** (a) a record of time and space. It **record** (b) everything that move before the camera. Its history is the history of **we** (c) culture. Cinema tries to capture the way **on** (d) life of the people, their body language and dress code.

#### Answers:

- a) become
- b) records
- c) our
- d) of

Read the following passage. There are certain errors in it. They are underlined. Edit them.

I am really scared of losing all my wealth. Everyone think **(a)** that I am crazy. But who cares my problems? I want to win the bet. If I fail, I would **(b)** become mad. One of my friends have **(c)** promised to help me. He call **(d)** me yesterday. I want to consult with him.

- a) thinks
- b) will
- c) has
- d) called



## PHRASE/SENTENCE STRUCTURES

There will be a question that demands you to analyse the structure of a phrase or sentence. Let's examine some of the structures.

### **Noun Phrase:**

A noun phrase must have at least a noun; it can also have other constituents. Let's examine some noun phrases.

1. girl
2. a girl
3. a pretty girl

In the first noun phrase, there is only one noun (girl). The word 'girl' is a noun and a noun phrase as well.

The second noun phrase consists of two words: An article 'a' and a noun 'girl'. They together form the part of the noun phrase.

The third noun phrase consists of three words: An article 'a' an adjective 'pretty' and the noun 'girl'.

In the entire above noun phrases 'girl' is the head noun.

Now, look at the phrase: Girl with a pearl earring.

How many noun phrases are there?

We can say that it has got two noun phrases: 'Girl' and 'a pearl earring'.

If we examine closely we will find that the entire phrase 'Girl with a pearl earring' is a noun phrase. In it we can find the noun 'Girl', a prepositional phrase 'with a pearl earring' another noun phrase 'a pearl earring', an adjective 'pearl' and another noun 'earring'.

Now, let's look at questions that are likely to be asked for the examination related to noun phrase?

## 1. Word pyramid

City  
The city  
The large city  
The beautiful large city  
The beautiful large city in India  
The beautiful large city in India where I live

This word pyramid is an expansion of the noun phrase 'city'. What are the words that can be added to enlarge a noun phrase? An article 'the', adjectives like 'large and beautiful', prepositional phrases like 'in India' and 'where you live'. You can also use the ordinals ('first', 'second', etc.), quantifiers ('all' or 'both' etc.), numerals (one, two etc.)

Now, make the word pyramid using the word, 'school', 'actor'.

Now let's take another example.

The sentence 'The girls visited the police station' has got two noun phrases: 'The girls' and 'the police station'. We can also say that the first noun phrase (the girls) takes the subject position and the second noun phrase (the police station) takes the object position.

You may be asked to write sentences on the same structure. Sometimes there may be two noun phrases at the object position.

E.g. He gave me a book.

Here the noun phrases are 'he' 'me' and 'a book'. The subject is 'he'. There are two objects. The direct object is the noun phrase 'me' and the indirect object is 'a book'.

Now, try writing similar sentences with direct and indirect objects.

**Clues:**

They drew pictures on the wall.

I bought a pen for her.

Now, look at other type of questions:

**Read the following sentences.**

1. Both Latha and her sister are in the hospital.
2. Reeba wrote neatly and legibly.
3. My son is thin but healthy.
4. You can either sing or dance at the festival.

**Clues:**

In sentence 1, the linker 'both... and' combines two noun phrases - 'Latha' and 'her sister'.

In sentence 2, the linker 'and' combines two adverbs - 'neatly' and 'legibly'.

In sentence 3, two adjectives 'thin' and 'healthy' are combined by the linker 'but'.

In sentence 4, two verbs 'sing' and 'dance' are combined using the linker 'either... or'.

Use 'both... and', 'and', 'but' and 'either... or' in sentences of your own to combine the same category of words. Avoid using the same words given in the examples.



## CLOZE TYPE

A passage with some words missing will be given. The missing words are usually items viz. prepositions, articles, linkers and relative clauses.

Prepositions are short words normally placed in front of nouns and in front of gerund verbs. It links nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in a sentence. Preposition shows the place, position, time or method of the word which is linked to it.

Some of them are listed here:

aboard, about, above, across, after, against, along, amid, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beneath, beside, besides, between, beyond, by, despite, down, during, except, for, from, in, inside, into, like, near, of, off, on, onto, opposite, outside, over, past, round, since, than, through, to, towards, under, underneath, unlike, until, up, upon, with, within, without.

Let's go through some of the functions of prepositions:

- on
- with days of a week - on Monday, on Tuesday
  - on a surface - on the table, on the bench
  - attachments - the picture is on the wall, the car is on the shed
  - with a place near a river - London lies on the Thames
  - a certain side - on the left, on the right
  - a floor in a house - on the first floor, on the ground floor
  - public transport - on the bus, on a plane
  - television, radio - on TV, on the radio
  - walking or riding - on foot, on horse back

- entering a vehicle - get on the bus, get on a train
- in
  - with months/seasons - in May, in December
  - with time of day - in the morning, in the evening
  - with year - in 2012
  - room, building, street, town country - in the room, in Pala
  - car, bus - in the car, in the bus
  - book, paper - in the book, in the paper
  - picture, world - in the picture, in the world
- at
  - with night - at night
  - with weekend - at the weekend
  - a certain point of time - at half past ten
  - next to/near an object - at the door, at the station, at the table
  - during events - at the party, at the meeting, at school, at work
  - for age - at 40. He wrote the book at 45.
- since
  - from a certain point of time in the past till now - since 1999
- for
  - over a certain period of time in the past till now - for 3 years
- ago
  - a certain time in the past - 3 years ago
- before
  - earlier than a certain point of time in the past - before 2007
- to
  - telling the time - ten minutes to eight (7.50)
- to/till
  - marking the beginning and end of a period of time
  - from Monday to/till Friday



to - movement to a person/thing/building - to bed, to cinema, to the country, to Kalady

towards - movement in the direction of something – towards the rainbow

until - how long something will last - He is on leave until Saturday.

by - at the latest - I will be back by 6'0 clock.  
 - who made it - a story by Chekov, a statue by Kanayi  
 - rise or fall of something - prices rise by 10%  
 - travelling - came by bus/car

by/next/beside - position - Joy is standing by/next/beside the bus

under - lower than something - the bag is under the table

below - lower than something else above the ground - the fish are below the surface of water

above - higher than something else - the bridge above the lake

over - covered by something - put a coat over the shirt  
 - more than - over 12 years of age  
 - across - over the bridge  
 - overcome an obstacle - climb over the wall

across - getting to the other side - across the bridge, swim across the river

through - something within limits on all sides - through the tunnel

into - enter a room/building - into the kitchen, into the house

- onto - movement to the top of something - onto the table, onto the platform
- from - where from - from the garden, from the store  
- who gave it - a gift from John
- of - who/what it belongs to - a page of the book, umbrella of Vinni  
- what it shows - the picture of a palace
- off - leave a vehicle - get off a train

A preposition and a noun following it can be named a prepositional phrase. eg: at night, before lunch, through the street, at 9'0 clock etc.

Some prepositions usually follow certain words: accustomed to, beware of, amalgamation of, afraid of, angry with, annoyed with, interested in, similar to etc.

Read the following passage containing prepositions:

**In** the morning, the peon comes exactly **at** 9'0 clock and cleans the classrooms **before** the Headmaster arrives. **After** cleaning, he arranges the registers **for** the teachers **in** proper order.

Now, try to answer the following:

1. Read the following passage. Some words in it are missing where '/' is marked. Fill in the words choosing the correct word from the brackets.

The camera gives you / (a) idea about the visual aspects of the film; that's the cameraman's job. We do / (b) same with sound. A film's soundtrack is an amalgamation / (c) different kinds of sounds. Sound designers put all these elements together in such / (d) way that it gives the

audience a complete auditory experience and it comes across as a new composition different / (e) music.

**(of, from, an, by, the, a)**

2. Read the following passage in which some words are missing where '/' is marked. Choose the correct word from the brackets.

Customers were never belittled at a tea-shop / (a) account of their caste or religion. Anybody could get tea / (b) snacks if they had the money / (c) buy them. The tea-shop was a secular space / (d) the only criterion for entry was the possession / (e) money.

**(where, and, of, on, to, when)**

3. Read the following passage. Some words in it are missing where '/' is marked. Fill in the words choosing the correct word from the brackets.

The tea-shop represents a time / (a) space free from the drudgery / (b) work, and therefore teems with / (c) wide cross section of society. Along / (d) genial villagers, one also finds local toughs and political workers / (e) the tea-shop.

**(a, and, by, at, of, with)**

4. Some words in the following passage where '/' is marked are missing. Fill in suitably choosing the correct word from the bracket.

The front yard / (a) a traditional Japanese house with tiled roofs. There is bright sunshine. The walls that stretch / (b) either side from the gatehouse can be seen. There are three reed baskets / (c) things to be dried / (d) the sun.

**(to, of, from, in, with, be)**

5. Read the following passage in which some words are missing where '/' is marked. Choose the correct word from the brackets.

The boy is in a garden full / (a) flowers. Misty hills are seen / (b) the distance. There is / (c) rainbow outlined against / (d) sky. Holding the sheathed dagger in his hands, the boy walks / (e) the rainbow.

**(in, the, towards, to, a, of)**

**Answers and hints to the above questions.**

1. a. 'Idea' is the succeeding word where '/' is marked. Think of the word which suits to the word 'idea'. a/an. The answer is 'an'.

b. The word 'same' is usually preceded by the word 'the'.

c. The word 'amalgamation' is followed by the preposition 'of'.

d. 'in such a way' is the common usage.

e. In this context 'different' should be followed by the preposition 'from'.

2. a. 'on account of' is the common usage.

b. Anybody could get tea. Anybody could get snacks. These two sentences are combined using the conjunction 'and'.

c. 'to buy' is a common usage

d. tea-shop is a secular space – 'space' refers to place and hence the word 'where' is to be used.

e. The word 'possession' is followed by the preposition 'of'.

3. a. The tea-shop represents a time free from drudgery. The tea-shop represents a space free from drudgery. These two sentences are combined using the conjunction 'and'.

- b. 'drudgery of' is the common usage.
  - c. As the sentence is singular 'a' can be used.
  - d. Usually the word 'along' is followed by the preposition 'with'.
  - e. 'at' is the word to be used. 'at the tea-shop'.
4. a. 'of' is the preposition to be used.
- b. 'from' is the suitable preposition.
- c. baskets containing things – baskets 'with'
- d. 'in' is the preposition to be used.
5. a. normally the word 'full' follows the preposition 'of'.
- b. 'at' is the suitable preposition
- c. 'a' rainbow
- d. The word 'against' is normally followed by the preposition 'the'.
- e. 'walk towards' movement in a certain direction

It is advisable to practice more examples to get confidence in attempting cloze type questions.



## REPORTED SPEECH

We use reported speech when we report what other people say. In the SSLC question paper, questions appear in the form of conversation followed by two questions. This carries 2 marks.

We must be aware of some tips before attempting writing sentences in reported speech.

### How to report?

Read the following conversation and answer the questions given below.

Boy : Where do foxes live?

Mother : Foxes live under rainbows.

The first sentence is a question. The boy asks a question to his mother. Look at the structure of a question.

Where do foxes live?

Question word      auxiliary verb      subject

Where - is the question word, do - is the auxiliary verb, foxes - is the subject. If the structure is in the form - Question word + auxiliary verb + subject - then we call it a question and we put a question mark at the end of such sentences.

If the above form changes, then it may not be a question.

For eg: What is your name? - is a question because the form is - Question word (what) + auxiliary verb (is) + subject (your name).

If the form changes to - What your name is. - This is not a question but a statement. Here the form changes to Question word (what) + Subject (your name) + auxiliary verb (is). The position of auxiliary verb and subject

interchanges and the sentence changes from a question to a statement. We avoid putting question mark as it becomes a statement.

This should happen when reporting a question.

Question word + auxiliary verb + subject – changes to –

Question word + subject + auxiliary verb

Now, try to report what the boy said to his mother.

Look for the changes:

a. Reporting verb – question – asked

b. Question should change to a statement – interchange of auxiliary verb and subject – ‘do foxes live’ changes to ‘foxes do live’

c. Change in tense – present tense to past tense – ‘do live’ – ‘did live’ or ‘lived’

Now, how will you report the question?

The boy asked his mother where foxes lived.

What did the mother reply? – is the next question.

Mother: Foxes live under rainbows.

Look for the changes:

a. Reporting verb – statement – said

b. As this is a statement add ‘that’ after the reporting verb.

c. Then follow the changes mentioned above

d. ‘live’ – present tense to past tense – ‘lived’

The reported form of this statement is –

The mother said that foxes lived under rainbows.

Boy : Where do foxes live? (The boy asked the mother where foxes lived.)

Mother : Foxes live under rainbows. (The mother replied that foxes lived under rainbows.)

Attempt reporting the following questions:

1. Read the following conversation and answer the questions that follow:

Swami : I have a headache.

Mother : Why don't you go in a jutka?

a. What did Swami say to his mother?

b. What did his mother ask him?

2. The following is a conversation between the narrator and the stranger in the story 'The Blue Bouquet'. Read it carefully and answer the questions given below:

Narrator : Why do you want my eyes for?

Stranger : I want to make a blue bouquet for my wife.

a. What did the narrator ask the stranger?

b. What was the stranger's reply?

3. Read the following conversation and answer the questions that follow:

Ursula : Why don't you shave?

Balthazar : It's bad to shave in the afternoon.

a. What did Ursula ask Balthazar?

b. What did Balthazar reply?

4. Read the following conversation and answer the questions that follow:

King : Why does the beggar cry for bread?

Servant : The beggar's stomach is quite empty.

a. What did the king ask the servant?

b. What did the servant reply?



5. The following is the conversation between the boy and his mother in the screenplay 'Sunshine through the Rain'. Read them and answer the questions below:

Boy : Why did the fox come here?

Mother : The fox came here to give this baton.

a. What did the boy ask the mother?

b. What did the mother reply?

Answers for the above questions:

1. a. Swami **said** to his mother **that** he **had** a headache.

b. His mother **asked** why **he didn't** go in a jutka.

2. a. The narrator **asked** the stranger **why he wanted** (did+want) **his** eyes for.

b. The stranger **replied that he wanted** to make a blue bouquet for **his** wife.

3. a. Ursula **asked** Balthazar **why he didn't** shave.

b. Balthazar **replied that** it **was** bad to shave in the afternoon.

4. a. The king **asked** the servant **why** the beggar **cried** (did + cry) for bread.

b. The servant **replied that** the beggar's stomach **was** quite empty.

5. a. The boy **asked** the mother **why** the fox **had come there**.

b. The mother **replied that** the foxes **had come there** to give **that** baton.



## READING COMPREHENSION



**I. Read the following passage from 'The Beggar and the King' and answer the questions that follow.**

THE KING: Send the beggar here.

THE SERVANT: O King!

THE KING: Ha! I rather fancy the fellow will stop his noise when the king commands him to. Ha, ha, ha!

THE SERVANT: O King, thou wilt not have a beggar brought into thy royal chamber!

THE KING: (pleased with his idea) Yea. Go outside and tell this fellow that the king desires his presence.

THE SERVANT: O great and illustrious king, thou wilt surely not do this thing. Thou wilt surely not soil thy royal eyes by looking on such a filthy creature. Thou wilt surely not contaminate thy lips by speaking to a common beggar who cries aloud in the streets for bread.

THE KING: My ears have been soiled too much already. Therefore go now and do as I have commanded thee.

THE SERVANT: O great and illustrious king, thou wilt surely not—

THE KING: (roaring at him) I said, Go! (The Servant, abashed, goes out.) Forsooth, I fancy the fellow will stop his bawling when I order him to. Forsooth, I fancy he will be pretty well frightened when he hears that the king desires his presence. Ha, ha, ha, ha!

1. What does the king think the beggar will do?
2. What does the servant suggest and why does it please the king?

3. Why does the servant not want the beggar be brought to the palace?

4. Why does the king want the beggar be brought to the palace?

5. Look at the sentence: 'My ears have been soiled too much already' (by the cries of the beggar).

Begin the sentence with 'The cries of the beggar.....'

**II. Read the following passage from 'The Beggar and the King' and answer the questions that follow.**

THE BEGGAR: (in a faint voice, after a slight pause) Art thou the king?

THE KING: I am the King.

THE SERVANT: (aside\* to the beggar) It is not proper for a beggar to ask a question to a king. Speak only as thou art spoken to.

THE KING: (to the servant) Do thou likewise. (to the beggar) I have ordered thee here to speak to thee concerning a very grave matter. Thou art the beggar, I understand, who often cries aloud in the streets for bread. Now, the complaint of thy voice annoys me greatly. Therefore, do not beg any more.

THE BEGGAR: (faintly) I—I do not understand.

1. The king feels that the beggar doesn't understand him'. Why?
2. Why does the servant reproach the beggar for asking such a question to the king?
3. Why does the beggar fail to understand what the king said to him?
4. What do you think is the attitude of the king towards the beggar?
5. Look at the sentence : 'The complaint of thy voice annoys me greatly'

Now, begin the sentence with 'I am greatly.....

### **Answers**

1. The king expected the beggar to obey him but he seems unable to understand him.
2. The servant reproaches the beggar for asking an impertinent question to the king because the king expects total obedience from all.
3. The beggar seems to be totally alienated from the civil society and behaves as if he is the least bothered about the rules of the kingdom.
4. The king shows an unsympathetic attitude towards the beggar.
5. I am greatly annoyed by the complaint of thy voice.

### **III. Read the following passage from 'The Bet' and answer the questions that follow.**

The old banker remembered all this and thought: 'Tomorrow at twelve o'clock he will regain his freedom. By our agreement I ought to pay him two millions. If I do pay him, it is all over with me: I shall be utterly ruined.' Fifteen years before, his millions had been beyond his reckoning;

now he was afraid to ask himself which were greater, his debts or his assets. 'Cursed bet!' muttered the old man, clutching his head in despair, 'Why didn't the man die? He is only forty now. He will take my last penny from me, he will marry, will enjoy life, will gamble on the Exchange; while I shall look at him with envy like a beggar, and hear from him every day the same sentence: 'I am indebted to you for the happiness of my life, let me help you!' No, it is too much! The one means of being saved from bankruptcy and disgrace is the death of that man!'

1. Who are the two characters involved in the story?
2. What does the banker curse? Why?
3. Why does he wish the man be dead?
4. Why is the banker envious of the man?
5. Pick out a word which means 'inability to discharge one's debts as they come due'

### **Answers**

1. The banker and the young lawyer are two characters in the story.
2. The banker curses the bet. He lost the bet and he is going to lose a huge sum of money.
3. He wanted the man to be dead because he had to give huge sum of money to him for the bet he lost.
4. The banker is envious because the man is going to become rich if he wins the bet.
5. Bankruptcy.

#### **IV. Read the following passage from ‘The Bet’ and answer the questions that follow:**

At the table a man unlike ordinary people was sitting motionless. He was a skeleton with the skin drawn tight over his bones, with long curls like a woman's and a shaggy beard. His face was yellow with an earthy tint in it, his cheeks were hollow, his back long and narrow and the hand on which his shaggy head was propped was so thin and delicate that it was dreadful to look at it. His hair was already streaked with silver and seeing his emaciated, aged-looking face, no one would have believed that he was only forty. He was asleep.... In front of his bowed head there lay on the table a sheet of paper on which there was something written in fine handwriting. ‘Poor creature!’ thought the banker, ‘he is asleep and most likely dreaming of the millions. And I have only to take this half-dead man, throw him on the bed, stifle him a little with the pillow, and the most conscientious expert would find no sign of a violent death. But let us first read what he has written here...’

1. Who is the man sitting at the table? How does he look ?
2. What does the banker think on seeing the man?
3. Why does the banker want to kill him?
4. Look at following sentence from the passage:-

‘In front of his bowed head there lay on the table a sheet of paper on which there was something written in fine handwriting’. Here ‘in front’ is used before subject ‘his bowed head’ Pick out another example for such a usage from the passage.

**Answers:**

1. The young lawyer. He looked like a skeleton with the skin drawn tight over his bones, with long hair like a woman's and a shaggy beard.
2. The banker was envious of the man and wanted to kill him for becoming rich and making him a bankrupt.
3. The banker wanted to kill him because he was going to become bankrupt.
4. At the table a man unlike ordinary people was sitting motionless.

**V. Read the following lines from 'The Cactus' and answer the questions given below.**

One thorn for each rare drop of water.  
I don't tempt butterflies.  
No bird sings my praise.  
I don't yield to droughts.  
I create another beauty  
beyond the moonlight,  
this side of dreams,  
a sharp, piercing,  
parallel language.

1. Who is the 'I' mentioned in the poem?
2. Why does the poet say "no bird sings my praise?"
3. Which line tells that the cactus is a tough fighter?
4. What does the poet mean by 'parallel language'?



## Answers

1. 'I' in the poem is the cactus.
2. The cactus is not a beautiful flower.
3. 'I don't yield to droughts'. This line tells that the cactus is a tough fighter.
4. The language of cactus is the language of the marginalized.

## VI. Read the following lines from 'The Cactus' and answer the questions given below.

Once these thorns were flowers.  
I loathe lovers who betray.  
Poets have abandoned the deserts  
to go back to the gardens.  
Only camels remain here, and merchants  
who trample my flowers to dust.  
One thorn for each rare drop of water.  
I don't tempt butterflies.  
No bird sings my praise.  
I don't yield to droughts.

1. Why does the poets abandon the deserts?
2. Who according to the poet are the merchants and camels in the poem?
3. Why does the speaker hate lovers?
4. Why does the poet say 'I don't tempt butterflies/No bird sings my praise'?

## Answers

1. The poets abandon deserts because they don't see the 'the beautiful' in the deserts. Their concept of beauty is very much conventional.

2. The merchants are people who commodify and make everything consumer product.
3. The speaker hates lovers because they cheat.
4. The speaker has lost all hope of true love and he laments that others don't see its beauty.

**VII. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.**

Then, when I was crossing a street I could tell that someone had come out of a doorway. I turned around but couldn't see anything. I began to walk faster. A moment later I could hear the scuff of huaraches on the warm stones. I didn't want to look back, even though I knew the shadow was catching up with me. I tried to run. I couldn't. Then I stopped short. And before I could defend myself I felt the point of a knife against my back, and a soft voice said, 'Don't move, senor, or you're dead.' Without turning my head I asked, 'What do you want?' 'Your eyes, senor.' His voice was strangely gentle, almost embarrassed. 'My eyes? What are you going to do with my eyes? Look, I've got a little money on me. Not much, but it's something. I'll give you everything I've got if you'll let me go. Don't kill me.' 'You shouldn't be scared, senor. I'm not going to kill you. I just want your eyes.' 'But what do you want them for?' 'It's my sweetheart's idea. She'd like to have a bouquet of blue eyes. There aren't many people around here that have them.'

1. 'I began to walk faster.' What made the narrator walk faster?
2. How did the narrator try to escape from the stranger?

3. Pick out the expressions that make you feel that the stranger is gentle in his behaviour.
  4. Pick out the word which means 'an arrangement of flowers' from the passage
  5. Complete the sentence suitably.
- If the narrator's eyes were blue, the stranger.....

**VIII. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow.**

At first I couldn't see anything at all. I groped my way along the stone-paved street. I lit a cigarette. Suddenly the moon came out from behind a black cloud, lighting up a weather-beaten white wall. I stopped in my tracks, blinded by that whiteness. A faint breeze stirred the air and I could smell the fragrance of the tamarind trees. The night was murmurous with the sounds of leaves and insects. The crickets had bivouacked among the tall weeds. I raised my eyes: up there the stars were also camping out. I thought that the whole universe was a grand system of signals, a conversation among enormous beings. My own actions, the creak of a cricket, the blinking of a star, were merely pauses and syllables, odd fragments of that dialogue. I was only one syllable, of only one word.

1. Why couldn't the narrator see anything?
2. Why did the narrator stop walking?
3. What quality of the night is felt quite striking for the narrator?
4. Pick the word from the passage which means 'to take shelter temporarily'

**IX. Read the passage taken from 'The Method of Sherlock Holmes' and answer the questions that follow:**

Mr. Sherlock Holmes, who was usually very late in the mornings, was seated at the breakfast table. I stood upon the hearth-rug and picked up the stick which our visitor had left behind him the night before. It was a fine, thick piece of wood, bulbous headed. Just under the head was a broad silver band nearly an inch across. 'To James Mortimer, M.R.C.S., from his friends of the C.C.H.,' was engraved upon it, with the date '1884.' It was just such a stick as the old fashioned family practitioner used to carry dignified, solid, and reassuring. 'Well, Watson, what do you make of it?' Holmes was sitting with his back to me, and I had given him no sign of my occupation. 'How did you know what I was doing? I believe you have eyes in the back of your head.'

1. Pick out the sentence which says that Mr. Sherlock Holmes usually gets up late.
2. Who is the narrator of the passage?
3. What does the expression 'what do you make of it?' mean?
4. What impression do you get about Sherlock Holmes from the passage?

**X. Read the lines from the poem 'The Himalayas' and answer the questions that follow:**

At that time  
I am seventeen, and have just started  
to wear a sari every day.  
Swami Anand is eighty nine  
and almost blind.

His thick glasses don't seem to work,  
they only magnify his cloudy eyes.  
Mornings he summons me  
from the kitchen  
and I read to him until lunch time.  
One day he tells me  
'you can read your poems now'.  
I read a few, he is silent.  
Thinking he's asleep, I stop.  
But he says, 'continue.'

1. Cite the line that says Swami Anand was an aged man.
2. Why was Swami Anand silent while the poet read out her poem?
3. Why did the poet stop reading her poem?
4. What impression do you gather about Swami Anand after reading the above lines?

**XI. Read the lines from the poem 'Skimbleshanks: The Railway Cat' and answer the questions that follow:**

There's a whisper down the line at 11.39  
When the Night Mail's ready to depart,  
Saying "Skimble where is Skimble has he gone to hunt  
the thimble?  
We must find him or the train can't start."  
All the guards and all the porters and the  
stationmaster's daughters  
They are searching high and low,

Saying "Skimble where is Skimble for unless he's very nimble  
Then the Night Mail just can't go."

1. Why do you think Skimbleshanks is very important in the night train?
2. Which is the train mentioned in the above lines?
3. Who are searching for Skimbleshanks?
4. Pick out the word from the stanza which means 'move quickly'.

**XII. Read the passage from the story 'Balthazar's Marvellous Afternoon' and answer the questions that follow:**

There were a lot of people in the dining room. The cage was on display; with its enormous dome of wire, three stories inside, with passageways and compartments especially for eating and sleeping and with swings in the space set aside for the birds' recreation, it seemed like a small-scale model of a gigantic ice factory. Doctor Octavio Giraldo, an old physician who had come in to see the cage inspected it carefully.

'This is a flight of the imagination,' he said. 'You would have been an extraordinary architect.'

Balthazar blushed.

'Thank you,' he said.

'You wouldn't even need to put birds in it,' he said, making the cage turn in front of the audience's eyes as if he were auctioning it off. 'It would be enough to hang it in the trees so it could sing by itself.'

1. What did the cage look like?

2. What made Octavio Giraldo say that Balthazar is an extraordinary architect?
3. Why did Octavio Giraldo say that 'It would be enough to hang it in the trees so it could sing by itself.'?
4. Pick out the word from the passage that means 'a person who designs buildings'.
5. Why were there a lot of people in the dining room?

**Answers:**

1. The cage
2. Because Balthazar made a beautiful piece of art.
3. The cage is a work of art in itself and hence it has more value than its utilitarian purpose.
4. architect
5. To see the cage on display.

**XIII. Read the passage from the speech 'Art that Heals' and answer the questions that follow:**

One of my parents' deepest fears, I suspect, was that society would not properly value me as a musician, that I wouldn't be appreciated. I had very good grades in high school, I was good in science and math, and they imagined that as a doctor or a research chemist or an engineer, I might be more appreciated than I would be as a musician. On some level, I think, my parents were not sure themselves what the value of music was, what its purpose was. And they loved music, they listened to classical music all the time. They just weren't really clear about its function. We live in a society that puts music in the 'arts and entertainment' section of the newspaper. Serious music, the kind your kids

are about to engage in, has absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with entertainment. In fact it's the opposite of entertainment. Let me talk a little bit about music, and how it works.

1. What was the speaker's parents afraid of?
2. How does the society look at music?
3. Though the speaker got good grades in school, why did he opt music?
4. Do you think that the speaker's parents were fond of music? Why?
5. Pick out a word from the passage that means 'actively involved'.

**Answers:**

1. That the society would not value their son as a musician.
2. Society views music as mere entertainment.
3. His passion for music and to find peace for humankind.
4. 'And they loved music, they listened to classical music all the time.'
5. Engaged in

**XIV. Read the following lines from 'The Master' and answer the questions that follow:**

When Han Kan was summoned  
to the imperial capital  
it was suggested he sit at the feet of  
the illustrious senior court painter  
to learn from him the refinements of the art.



'No, thank you,' he replied,

'I shall apprentice myself to the stables.'

1. Why was Han Kan summoned to the capital?
2. Why was Han Kan made to sit at the feet of the senior court painter?
3. What impressions do you get about the painter from the given lines?
4. What was Han Kan's reply to the order?

**Answers:**

1. To do artistic work for the king
2. To learn from him the refinements of art
3. Real artist
4. He would apprentice himself to the stables.

**XV. Read the following lines from 'The Arrow and the Song' and answer the questions that follow:**

I shot an arrow into the air,  
It fell to earth, I knew not where;  
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight  
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,  
It fell to earth, I knew not where;  
For who has sight so keen and strong  
That it can follow the flight of song?

1. What is common with an arrow and a song?
2. Pick out the line which shows that the speaker could not trace the arrow?
3. Write the rhyme scheme of the first stanza.
4. Why can't the speaker follow the flight of a song?

**Answers:**

1. Both are launched and lost
2. It fell to earth, I knew not where;
3. aabb
4. No one has the sight to follow a song.

**XVI. Read the following passage from the article 'Tea-shops in Malayalam Cinema' and answer the questions that follow:**

The tea-shop represents a time and space free from the drudgery of work, and therefore teems with a wide cross section of society. Along with genial villagers, one also finds local toughs, political workers and, of course, a host of strangers at the tea-shop. The sheer variety of the customers and the possible activities -reading newspapers, exchanging local news, discussing politics, gossiping or just chatting - makes the tea-shop an ideal place to reveal the 'messages' and concerns of the film. In every film which depicts the conflict between the individual/family and society, the tea-shop, one can say, is a prominent character.

1. How does tea-shop in a film become an instrument to reveal the messages and concerns of the film?

*Tea-shops in a film become an instrument to reveal the messages and concerns of the films because it is a platform where a variety of customers and the possible activities like*

*reading newspapers, exchanging local news, discussing politics, gossiping or just chatting take place.*

2. 'Tea-shops provide a wide cross section of the society'. How can you justify this statement?

Tea-shop is a secular place where genial villagers, local toughs, political workers and a host of strangers gather and depicts the culture of a society's speech, body language, dress codes and ways of living and making.

3. Do you think that in recent films tea-shops are losing their prominence as characters?

*In the article 'Tea-Shops in Malayalam Cinema', it is substantiated that tea-shops had prominent role in Malayalam films as conveyances of the messages and themes of the respective films. But in the present society we can hardly see a tea-shop in our villages. Tea-shops are largely replaced by cafes and cool bars. The same change is depicted in recent films as well because films are a direct documentation of real life and society.*

4. Identify from the passage the word which means hard and boring work.

*Drudgery*

**XVII. Read the following passage from the article 'Tea-shops in Malayalam Cinema' and answer the questions that follow:**

In the 1954 film *Neelakkuyil*, directed by Ramu Kariat and P. Bhaskaran, the human drama unfolds through the shuttling of the narrative between the closed space of the home and the open space of the world outside. In a way, the local tea-shop is the centre of activity in the film. Most of the characters are trapped in their own space and time.

But the tea-shop stands in their midst as the only modern and secular space, a space where hawkers, fishmongers, peasants and the local postman appear regularly as in a photo session. The tea-shops with an occasional rush hour also provide a counterpoint to the quiet and uneventful life of the village. It is not a co-incidence that the protagonist Sreedharan Nair (played by Sathyan) appears not even once at the tea-shop, while Shankaran Nair, the postman (played by P. Bhaskaran) makes it his favourite hangout. The only other 'high born', we come across there, is a member of a declining tharavad. For him the tea-shop is a trading centre where he can sell the things he has spirited away from the tharavad.

1. How is the space of a tea-shop different from the life of a village?

*Tea-shops with an occasion of rush hour counter the life of a village which is quiet and uneventful.*

2. Why do you think that the protagonist of the film 'Neelakkuyil' doesn't appear even once at the tea-shop?

*The protagonist of the film Neelakkuyil doesn't appear even once at the tea shop because he belongs to the so called high born community and such people considered it a disgrace to be with members of low communities.*

3. Who is the only 'high born' who visits the tea-shop?

*Shankaran Nair is the only high born who visits the tea-shop.*

4. Why does the high-born visit the tea-shop?

*He visits the tea-shop to sell away the things he spirits away from the tharavad.*

**XVIII. Read the following lines from 'Sunshine through the Rain'.**

The boy's house.

*As he walks up to the house, he finds Mother standing under the eaves of the gatehouse.*

Mother: You watched something you shouldn't have. I can't let you in. An angry fox came looking for you. He left this for you.

*Mother hands the boy a baton. The boy turns it in his hands and finds it is a sheath that encloses a dagger. The boy draws out the dagger and then puts it back into the sheath.*

Mother: You are supposed to kill yourself. Go quickly and ask their forgiveness. Give the knife back and tell them how sorry you are.

*Mother turns, walks to the front door, half closes the door and turns.*

Mother: They don't usually forgive. You must be ready to die. Get going. Unless they forgive you, I can't let you in.

Boy: But I don't know where they live.

Mother: You'll find out. On a day like this, there are always rainbows. Foxes live under rainbows.

*The Mother closes the door on the boy's face. The boy stares at the closed door. Then he walks to another door on the side and knocks at it uncertainly. He then walks back to the front door and stands facing the camera, his head bowed, holding the sheathed dagger in his hands.*

1. 'You watched something you should not have.'- What did the boy watch?

*The boy watched fox's wedding.*

2. Why did the fox leave the dagger with the boy's mother?

*The fox left the dagger with the boy's mother for the boy to kill himself as a penalty for watching the procession of the boy's wedding.*

3. 'On a day like this, there are always rainbows'. What is special about the day?

*The day had sunshine through rain.*

4. 'The mother closes the door on the boy's face'. Do you justify the action of the mother? Why?

*Yes, because the mother is a staunch believer of Japanese customs and superstitions.*

**XIX. Read the following lines from 'Celluloid Heroes' and answer the questions that follow:**

"And those who are.....never really die"

1. Why does the poet say that life is a non stop Hollywood movie show?

*In real sense life has a continuous nature in which things happen unexpectedly.*

2. "Success walks hand in hand with failure". Explain.

*Success and failure are the two sides of the same coin. So, a successful person may face a failure tomorrow.*

3. Why does the poet say that celluloid heroes never die?  
*They live in the minds of the people.*

4. Who are 'those' referred to here?

*The people who are successful in the field.*

**XX. Read the following lines from 'Celluloid Heroes' and answer the questions that follow:**

'Everybody's a dreamer.....written in concrete"

1. Why does the poet call every people dreamers?

*Every people dream to lead a star's life.*

2. Why does the poet say "Everybody a star"?

*Everybody is a star in their life in one way or the other.*

3. Which place is referred to in these lines?

*The place referred to in these lines is Hollywood.*

4. Pick out the word from the passage which means 'a wide city road'.

*Boulevard*

