
INSTRUCTIONS: All the answers should be written on the answer paper provided to you. First 10 minutes should be allotted to reading the question paper.

QUESTION 1 – COMPOSITION (Write ANY ONE topic) (20)

- a. Write a narrative essay about meeting a stranger who unexpectedly changed your life or your way of thinking.

WORD BANK: stranger, kindness, conversation, inspire, opportunity, confidence, challenge, encourage, transform and memorable

- b. One day, while cleaning your attic or storeroom, you discover a mysterious box. Narrate what happened next.

WORD BANK: dusty, curious, ancient, secret, locked, clue, discover, adventure, treasure, astonished

QUESTION 2 – LETTER WRITING (Write ANY ONE topic) (10)

- a. Write a letter to your friend describing how you spent an entire day without using a mobile phone, television, or the internet.
- b. Write a letter to your cousin about an occasion when you helped someone and how it made you feel.

QUESTION 3- COMPREHENSION

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: (20)

When people think of libraries, they often imagine quiet rooms filled with rows of books and students whispering as they study. However, in a small town called Ashford, there was a library that became famous not because of its size, but because it was open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. There were no locks on its doors, no security guards at the entrance, and no fines for returning books late. Surprisingly, very few books were ever lost.

The idea began with an elderly librarian named Mrs. Eleanor Brooks. She believed that knowledge should never be locked away. "People don't stop learning when the sun goes down," she often said. Many people laughed at her suggestion. They warned that books would be stolen, furniture would be damaged, and the library would soon become a place of chaos. Despite the criticism, Mrs. Brooks convinced the town council to give her experiment a chance.

At first, only a few people visited during the late hours. Night-shift workers borrowed novels after work, students prepared for examinations, and travellers found a quiet place to rest while waiting for early buses. Slowly, the number of visitors increased. Something unexpected happened. People began treating the library with even greater respect because they realised that the town trusted them.

The library soon became much more than a place to borrow books. Local artists organised free painting workshops, retired teachers volunteered to help children with homework, and senior citizens shared stories about the history of the town. Every Saturday evening, people gathered to exchange books they had personally recommended. Friendships developed among strangers who had never spoken before.

One winter night, a heavy snowstorm struck Ashford. Roads were blocked, electricity failed in many homes, and several families found themselves without heating. The library's backup generator kept the lights and heaters running. Volunteers quickly opened the reading hall, arranged blankets, and prepared hot drinks using portable stoves. More than eighty people spent the night safely inside the building. For many residents, it was the first time they realised that the library was not only protecting books but also protecting people.

The story of Ashford's library spread across the country. Visitors came to study how such a simple idea had succeeded. Experts discovered that the secret was not expensive technology or strict rules. Instead, it was trust. When people felt that they were trusted, they usually behaved responsibly. The community had created an environment where everyone believed they had a duty to care for something valuable.

Inspired by Ashford's example, several other towns started similar programmes. Some kept community gardens open at all times, while others introduced honesty-based cafés where customers served themselves and left payment in a box. Although these ideas did not work perfectly everywhere, they encouraged people to think differently about responsibility and cooperation.

Mrs. Brooks retired a few years later, but she often visited the library to see children reading on colourful cushions or adults attending workshops. A small plaque near the entrance carried her favourite words: "Knowledge grows best where trust lives." Visitors who read those words understood that the library's greatest achievement was not the number of books it owned, but the community it had helped to build.

The library still stands today as a reminder that when people are given responsibility instead of suspicion, they often rise to the challenge. It teaches an important lesson: trust, like knowledge, becomes stronger when it is shared.

A. Answer the following questions.

1. Why was the library in Ashford considered famous? (2)
2. What criticism did Mrs. Brooks face before starting her experiment? (2)
3. Describe the early success of the experiment. (3)
4. How did the library help the people during the snowstorm? (2)
5. How did the library act as an inspiration to the other towns? (2)
6. According to experts, what was the real reason behind the library's success and why? (2)
7. What lesson does the passage teach about trust and responsibility? (2)

8. If a similar library started in your neighbourhood, how would you help to make it successful? (1)

B. Give meanings from the passage which means the following: (4)

- a) expression of disapproval or negative opinions-
- b) people who offer to help willingly without being paid-
- c) the duty or obligation to take care of something or behave properly-
- d) working together to achieve a common goal-

QUESTION 4- MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

(10)

1. Which of the following is an abstract noun?

- a) chair
- b) honesty
- c) garden
- d) tiger

2. Which sentence contains a collective noun?

- a) The birds flew away.
- b) The team celebrated its victory.
- c) The child laughed loudly.
- d) The flowers bloomed

3. The book on the table is ____.

- a) mine
- b) me
- c) my
- d) I

4. This is the student ____ won the prize.

- a) whom
- b) whose
- c) who
- d) which

5. Which adverb shows frequency?

- a) Tomorrow
- b) Carefully
- c) Always
- d) Outside

6. Which word is an adverb of place?

- a) Yesterday
- b) Silently
- c) Everywhere
- d) Quickly

7. She bought the ____ dress in the shop.

- a) more expensive
- b) most expensive
- c) expensive

d) expensively

8. Which sentence contains a demonstrative adjective?

a) These books are interesting.

b) She is very kind.

c) He ran quickly.

d) We arrived late.

9. Which is an interrogative adjective?

a) What is the time?

b) Which is the word you do not understand?

c) Whose shoes are these?

d) All of these

10. The box is too _____ for me to lift.

a) heavily

b) heavy

c) heaviness

d) heavier

QUESTION 5- GRAMMAR

(20)

A. Rewrite the following sentences using the correct form of the verb given in brackets.

(5)

1. Riya _____ (complete) her homework before dinner yesterday.
(Simple Past Tense)

2. Listen! The birds _____ (sing) beautifully in the garden. (Present Continuous Tense)

3. We _____ (visit) our grandparents every summer. (Simple Present Tense)

4. By next year, they _____ (live) in this city for ten years. (Future Perfect Tense)

5. If you practise regularly, you _____ (improve) your English. (Simple Future Tense)

B. Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions.

(5)

1. The keys are _____ the drawer.

2. We have been waiting _____ twenty minutes.

3. The cat jumped _____ the wall.

4. My birthday falls _____ 15th August.

5. The children ran _____ the playground.

C. Change the following sentences into indirect speech.

(5)

1. Rohan said, "I am feeling tired."

2. The coach said to the players, "Do not lose hope."

3. The teacher said, "The Earth revolves around the Sun."

4. He said, "Can you solve this problem?"

5. Anita said, "We have won the match."

D. Write the meanings of the following idioms:

(3)

1. To fight tooth and nail:
2. Pay through the nose:
3. To keep an eye on:

E. Complete the following proverbs:

(2)

1. Absence makes _____.
2. A bird in hand _____.
