

# CBSE Class 12 English Core

## Sample Paper – 4

Duration: 180 Minutes

Maximum Marks: 80

### General Instructions

- This question paper contains **13 questions**. All questions are **compulsory**.
- The paper is divided into **three sections**: **Section A** (Reading Skills – 22 marks), **Section B** (Creative Writing Skills – 18 marks) and **Section C** (Literature – 40 marks).
- Attempt all questions based on the specific instructions given for each part.
- Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
- **Adhere to the prescribed word limit** while answering the questions.
- There is **no overall choice**, but an **internal choice** has been provided in some questions. Attempt only one of the alternatives in such questions.
- Marks for each question/part are indicated against it in [ ].

### Section A – Reading Skills (22 Marks)

**Q1.** Read the following passage carefully.

[12]



1. In the crooked heart of the old market, where the lanes were too narrow for cars, there stood a bookshop no wider than a railway carriage. Its owner, Mr. Dinshaw, had sat behind the same wooden counter for nearly sixty years, and the shop smelled of dust, old paper and the sweet decay of leather bindings. Customers came less often now, for the world had learned to read on glowing screens, yet Mr. Dinshaw opened his shutters every morning as faithfully as a priest unlocking a temple.

2. Among the thousands of volumes crowding his shelves was one he never displayed. It was a slim first edition of a poet long forgotten by everyone but him, printed on paper so fine it seemed to breathe. He had found it decades ago in a crate of discarded books, and over the years it had become less a possession than a companion. On quiet evenings he would take it down, read a single poem, and put it back as one returns a friend to rest.

3. One rainy afternoon a young woman entered, shaking the water from her umbrella. She was a collector, she said, and she had heard—though she hardly dared believe it—that his shop held the very edition she had hunted for years. Her grandfather had owned a copy once; it had been sold in a hard winter, and she had promised herself she would find it again. She named the book, and Mr. Dinshaw's hands grew still upon the counter.

4. He could have said he did not have it. Instead he brought the little volume out and laid it before her, and he watched her face open like a window at dawn. She offered him a sum that would have kept the failing shop alive for another year—money he badly needed, money that would silence the letters from the landlord piling in his drawer. For a long moment the old man said nothing, weighing a lifetime's affection against a year's survival.

5. At last he closed the book and pushed it gently towards her. "Some things," he said, "are meant to go on being loved, not merely kept." He would not take her money for its full worth; he asked only a fair price, enough to mend his roof, and let the rest go. She left with the book pressed to her chest, and Mr. Dinshaw returned to his stool, poorer by one friend and richer by something he could not quite name. The rain, he noticed, had stopped. (438 words)

**Answer the following questions, based on the passage above.**

- (i) Which detail in paragraph 1 tells us that the bookshop was extremely narrow? (1)
- (ii) Complete the following suitably: The writer compares Mr. Dinshaw opening his shop to \_\_\_\_\_ in order to suggest \_\_\_\_\_ . (1)
- (iii) The writer suggests all of the following about Mr. Dinshaw EXCEPT — (1)
- A. that he was devoted to his shop
  - B. that he was deeply attached to the rare book



- C. that he was indifferent to his money troubles  
D. that he was moved by the collector's story
- (iv) Why does the writer describe the book as "less a possession than a companion"?  
Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (v) Based on paragraph 3, state *one* way the writer shows the depth of the young woman's longing for the book. (1)
- (vi) The word "weighing" in paragraph 4 ("weighing a lifetime's affection against a year's survival") is closest in meaning to: (1)  
A. lifting carefully    B. considering and comparing    C. measuring on scales    D. doubting quietly
- (vii) What does the image "her face open like a window at dawn" reveal about the young woman? (1)
- (viii) How does the final paragraph reveal what Mr. Dinshaw values most? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (ix) Complete the following with the most suitable option. The central idea of the passage is \_\_\_\_\_ . (1)  
A. the slow decline of old bookshops  
B. the greed of book collectors  
C. the loneliness of old age  
D. that some things are treasured for love rather than for their price
- (x) Why did Mr. Dinshaw feel "poorer by one friend" at the end? (1)

**Q2.** Read the following passage carefully.

**[10]**



1. Air quality has become a daily concern for people living in large Indian cities, and Rehanpur is no exception. Over one week in December, the city’s environmental board recorded the Air Quality Index (AQI) each afternoon at a busy central crossing. The readings, shown in the bar graph below, offer a snapshot of how quickly the air a city breathes can change from one day to the next.

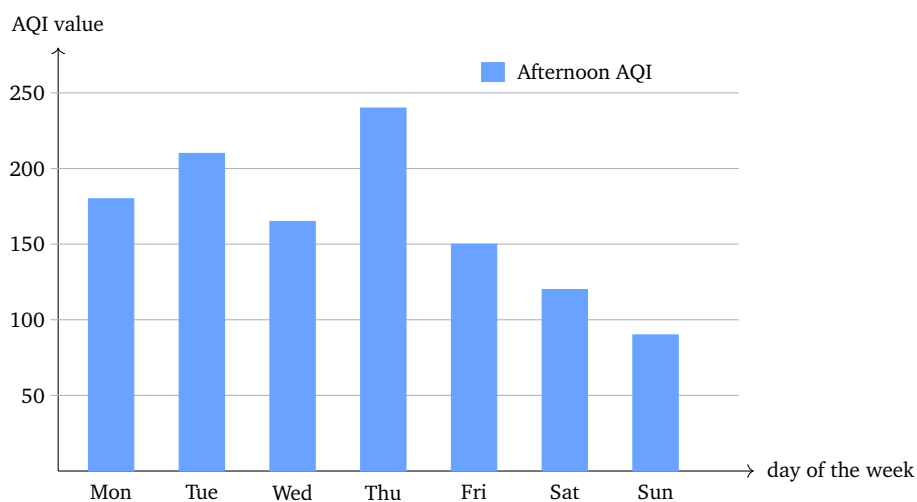
2. An AQI value below 100 is generally considered satisfactory, while readings between 100 and 200 are labelled moderate. Anything above 200 is treated as poor, and prolonged exposure at such levels can trouble the elderly, young children and those with breathing difficulties. The board publishes these numbers so that residents can plan their outdoor activities sensibly.

3. The week began on a moderately polluted note and worsened towards the middle. Thursday recorded the highest reading of the week, driven by still winds and heavy evening traffic that trapped dust and smoke close to the ground. Health workers advised residents to avoid morning walks and to keep their windows shut on that day.

4. From Friday onwards the picture improved. A spell of light rain on Saturday washed much of the dust from the air, and by Sunday the AQI had fallen to its lowest point of the week. Cleaner winds blowing from the north helped carry the pollution away.

5. The board noted that no single cause explained the swings; weather, traffic and construction all played a part. It urged citizens to use public transport, avoid burning waste, and treat clean air as a shared responsibility rather than a matter of luck.

*(Created for academic usage / 285 words)*



**Answer the following questions, based on the given passage.**

- (i) What was the main purpose of the board’s recording and publishing the daily AQI?  
(1)  
A. To compare Rehanpur’s air with that of other cities

- B. To help residents plan their outdoor activities sensibly  
C. To measure the volume of traffic at the crossing  
D. To predict when the next rain would fall
- (ii) Fill in the blank with the correct option from those given in brackets. An AQI reading of about 90, recorded on Sunday, would be described as \_\_\_\_\_ (*satisfactory / moderate / poor*). (1)
- (iii) Based on the bar graph, on which day did the city record its highest AQI? (1)
- (iv) According to the passage, why did Thursday record the highest reading of the week? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (v) Complete the sentence with reference to the bar graph: The AQI fell to its lowest value of the week on \_\_\_\_\_ . (1)
- (vi) What does the passage suggest about the effect of the Saturday rain on the city's air? (1)
- (vii) How, according to the passage, can ordinary citizens help keep the city's air clean? Answer in about 40 words. (2)
- (viii) Select the option that is NOT stated in the passage. (1)
- A. Readings above 200 are treated as poor.  
B. Still winds and traffic worsened Thursday's air.  
C. The board fined residents who burned waste.  
D. Cleaner winds from the north helped clear the air.

### Section B – Creative Writing Skills (18 Marks)

All the names and addresses used in the questions are fictitious. Resemblance, if any, is purely coincidental.

**Q3.** Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words. [4]

**(A)** You are Nisha Kapoor, the Sports Secretary of Vidya Mandir School, Indore. The school is organising a **Yoga Workshop** in the school gymnasium next Wednesday to mark Health Week. Write a notice in about 50 words informing students of the event and inviting them to register. Put your notice in a box.

**OR**

**(B)** You are Karan Bhalla, the Head Boy of St. Andrew's School, Bhopal. The school is organising a **Career Guidance Seminar** for Class 12 stu-



dents, with speakers from various professions. Write a notice in about 50 words informing students and inviting them to attend. Put your notice in a box.

**Q4.** Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in about 50 words. [4]

**(A)** As the Head Girl of Meridian Public School, Lucknow, draft a formal invitation to Dr. Anil Sethi, a distinguished scientist, requesting him to be the chief guest at the school's **Founder's Day** celebration. Provide the essential details.

**OR**

**(B)** You are Dr. Anil Sethi. Write a formal reply in about 50 words accepting the invitation to be the chief guest at the Founder's Day celebration of Meridian Public School, Lucknow, and expressing your gratitude.

**Q5.** Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in 120–150 words. [5]

**(A)** You are Sanjay Rao of 15, Green Avenue, Nagpur. Write a letter to the Editor of *The Central Post* drawing attention to the **poor city bus service** in your locality, and suggesting measures to improve it. Use the cues below along with your own ideas.

- long waits and irregular timings
- overcrowded and poorly maintained buses
- need for more routes and frequency
- role of a public grievance helpline

**OR**

**(B)** You are Priya Menon of 9-C, Palm Residency, Kochi. Your bank has debited a **wrong charge** of 750 rupees from your savings account. Write a letter of complaint to the Branch Manager, City Trust Bank, MG Road, Kochi, requesting a reversal of the charge. Use the cues below along with your own ideas.

- account and transaction details
- nature of the wrong charge
- earlier attempts to resolve it



- request for a prompt refund

**Q6.** Attempt **any one** of the two, (A) or (B), in 120–150 words. [5]

(A) Fast, packaged food has become a daily habit for many young people, often at the cost of their health. You are Aditya Sharma. Write an article for your school magazine titled “**The Dangers of Junk Food**”, discussing the problem and how it can be tackled. Use the cues below along with your own ideas.

- why junk food is popular
- its effects on health
- role of schools and families
- healthier choices and habits

**OR**

(B) The Red Cross Unit of your school recently organised a **Blood Donation Camp** in the school premises. As the unit’s Secretary, Meghna Iyer, write a report for the school magazine describing the event. Use the cues below along with your own ideas.

- purpose and organisation
- participation of donors
- units of blood collected
- overall outcome

**Section C – Literature (40 Marks)**

*Prescribed texts: Flamingo and Vistas.*

**Q7.** Read the following extract and solve **ANY ONE** of the given two, (A) or (B). [6]

(A)

*Aunt Jennifer’s tigers prance across a screen,  
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.  
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;  
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty. (Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers)*

(i) What are Aunt Jennifer’s tigers shown doing on the screen? (1)



- (ii) Complete the following suitably: The tigers are described as “denizens of a world of \_\_\_\_\_”. (1)
- (iii) What does the phrase “sleek chivalric certainty” suggest about the tigers? (1)
- (iv) That the tigers “do not fear the men” stands in contrast to Aunt Jennifer’s own \_\_\_\_\_ (*fear / wealth / courage*). (1)
- (v) What do the tigers symbolise in the poem? (1)
- (vi) State one poetic device used in the extract, with an example. (1)

**OR**

**(B)**

*Driving from my parent’s  
home to Cochin last Friday  
morning, I saw my mother,  
beside me, doze, open mouthed,  
her face ashen like that  
of a corpse and realised with pain  
that she was as old as she  
looked . . .*

*(My Mother at Sixty-six)*

- (i) Where was the poet travelling, and when? (1)
- (ii) Complete the following: The mother’s ashen face is compared to that of a \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
- (iii) What does the word “ashen” suggest about the mother? (1)
- (iv) The simile “like that of a corpse” fills the poet with \_\_\_\_\_ (*joy / pain / anger*). (1)
- (v) What painful realisation strikes the poet as she looks at her mother? (1)
- (vi) Identify the poetic device in “her face ashen like that of a corpse”. (1)

**Q8.** Read the following extract and solve **ANY ONE** of the given two, (A) or (B). [4]

**(A)**



*At the moment of his birth the astrologers foretold that one day the Tiger King would have to die. . . . “The child was born in the hour of the Bull, and the Bull and the tiger are enemies; therefore the tiger will be the cause of his death.”* (The Tiger King)

- (i) What did the astrologers foretell about the newborn prince? (1)
- (ii) Complete the sentence suitably: To defy the prophecy, the King vows to kill a hundred \_\_\_\_\_ . (1)
- (iii) What chain of events does this prophecy set in motion in the story? (1)
- (iv) The writer’s attitude to the King’s obsession is best described as \_\_\_\_\_ (respectful / satirical / fearful). (1)

**OR**

**(B)**

*“This man is a white man,” Sadao said. . . . “He is wounded,” said Hana. . . . The man was a prisoner of war, an escaped enemy, and yet he was also a human being who would surely die unless someone helped him.* (The Enemy)

- (i) Who is the wounded man that Sadao and Hana discover? (1)
- (ii) Complete the sentence suitably: Sadao is a Japanese \_\_\_\_\_ by profession. (1)
- (iii) What conflict does Sadao face on finding the wounded man? (1)
- (iv) Sadao finally decides to \_\_\_\_\_ the soldier (kill / operate on / hand over). (1)

**Q9.** Read the following extract and solve **ANY ONE** of the given two, (A) or (B). [6]

**(A)**

*Since its invention a little over 130 years ago, the interview has become a commonplace of journalism. . . . Yet opinion remains sharply divided. Some celebrities regard it as “an unwarranted intrusion into their lives”; V. S. Naipaul “feels that some people are*



*wounded by interviews and lose a part of themselves”.* (The Interview)

- (i) According to the extract, what has the interview become? (1)
- (ii) Why does the extract say opinion about interviews “remains sharply divided”? (1)
- (iii) Complete the sentence suitably: Some celebrities view the interview as an “unwarranted \_\_\_\_\_ into their lives”. (1)
- (iv) What does Naipaul feel interviews do to some people? (1)
- (v) What “part of themselves” might a person fear losing in an interview? (1)
- (vi) Identify the tone of those who dislike being interviewed. (1)

**OR**

**(B)**

*“When I leave,” Sophie said, coming home from school, “I’m going to have a boutique.” . . . Jansie . . . said, “You have to have money to start a business. . . . And you’ll need money for that sort of thing.” . . . “I’ll be a manager first,” Sophie said.* (Going Places)

- (i) What does Sophie dream of having when she leaves school? (1)
- (ii) Who is Jansie in relation to Sophie? (1)
- (iii) Complete the sentence suitably: Jansie reminds Sophie that to start a business she will need \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
- (iv) What does Sophie say she will do first? (1)
- (v) What does this exchange reveal about Sophie’s character? (1)
- (vi) Identify the main contrast between Sophie and Jansie. (1)

**Q10.** Answer **any five** of the following six questions in 40–50 words each.

**[5 × 2 = 10]**

- (i) How did Gandhi help the indigo sharecroppers of Champaran? (*Indigo*) (2)
- (ii) What was distinctive about the make-up department at Gemini Studios? (*Poets and Pancakes*) (2)
- (iii) What contrast does the poet draw between the rich and the rural poor in *A Roadside Stand*? (2)



- (iv) What do Aunt Jennifer's tigers symbolise in contrast to her own life? (2)
- (v) Why is the chapter about the ragpickers of Seemapuri titled *Lost Spring*? (2)
- (vi) Why do many well-known writers dislike being interviewed? (*The Interview*) (2)

**Q11.** Answer **any two** of the following three questions in 40–50 words each.  
[2×2=4]

- (i) How did Zitkala-Sa feel when her long hair was cut in *The Memories of Childhood*? (2)
- (ii) What is “the third level”, and why does Charley long to find it? (*The Third Level*) (2)
- (iii) How does the Tiger King finally meet his death, and what is ironic about it? (*The Tiger King*) (2)

**Q12.** Answer **any one** of the following two questions in about 120–150 words.  
[5]

**(A)** In *The Rattrap*, the peddler is transformed by Edla's kindness. Discuss how the story suggests that goodness lies buried in every human being.

**OR**

**(B)** *Poets and Pancakes* is memorable for its gentle humour and affectionate insight into the people of Gemini Studios. Discuss with reference to the text.

**Q13.** Answer **any one** of the following two questions in about 120–150 words.  
[5]

**(A)** “The third level was a medium of escape.” Analyse how Charley's search reflects a common human desire to flee from a stressful present.

**OR**

**(B)** In *The Enemy*, Dr. Sadao places his humanity above national enmity. Discuss how the story shows that compassion can rise above hatred.



**Model Answers & Marking Scheme**

The answers below are indicative. Credit should be given to any other valid, well-expressed response. In writing tasks, marks are for format, content, and expression.

**Q1.****Model Answer****Section A — Passage 1 (Reading).**

- (i) The detail that the bookshop was “no wider than a railway carriage” shows how extremely narrow it was. (1)
- (ii) He is compared to “**a priest unlocking a temple**”, suggesting his devotion and the faithful, almost sacred routine with which he ran the shop. (1)
- (iii) **C** — indifferent to his money troubles. (The text says he “badly needed” the money and dreaded the landlord’s letters.) (1)
- (iv) Over the years the book had become a source of quiet companionship rather than mere property; he read from it on lonely evenings and returned it “as one returns a friend to rest”, so it comforted him like a living companion. (2)
- (v) Any one: her grandfather had once owned a copy that was sold in a hard winter; she had “hunted for years”; she had “promised herself” she would find it again. (1)
- (vi) **B** — considering and comparing. (1)
- (vii) It reveals her sudden joy, relief and hope on realising the long-sought book was really there. (1)
- (viii) He lets a beloved book go to someone who will truly love it and refuses its full price, taking only enough to mend his roof; this shows he values love, generosity and the right home for a treasure above money or ownership. (2)
- (ix) **D** — that some things are treasured for love rather than for their price. (1)
- (x) Because he had parted with the rare book that had been a close, personal companion to him for decades. (1)

[Go Back to Q1](#)

Q2.

**Model Answer****Section A — Passage 2 (Reading).**

- (i) **B** — to help residents plan their outdoor activities sensibly. (1)
- (ii) **satisfactory** (a value below 100). (1)
- (iii) **Thursday** (the tallest bar, about 240). (1)
- (iv) Thursday's reading was highest because still winds and heavy evening traffic trapped dust and smoke close to the ground, preventing the pollutants from dispersing and pushing the AQI to its peak for the week. (2)
- (v) **Sunday** (the shortest bar, about 90). (1)
- (vi) It suggests the rain cleaned the air by washing much of the dust out of it, so the AQI improved from Saturday onwards. (2 acceptable as 1) (1)
- (vii) Citizens can use public transport, avoid burning waste, and treat clean air as a shared responsibility—together reducing the traffic and pollution that raise the AQI. (2)
- (viii) **C** — the board fined residents who burned waste (the passage only *urges* citizens not to burn waste; no fine is mentioned). (1)

[Go Back to Q2](#)

Q3.

**Model Answer**

**Section B — Notice (any one).** *Format (1): box + name of issuing body + “NOTICE” + date + heading + body (what/when/where/whom) + signature, name, designation.*

**(A) Yoga Workshop — indicative answer:**



## VIDYA MANDIR SCHOOL, INDORE

## NOTICE

2 July 20XX

**Yoga Workshop — Health Week**

The school is organising a Yoga Workshop in the gymnasium on Wednesday, 9 July, from 8 a.m. to 9.30 a.m. A certified instructor will guide simple asanas and breathing exercises. All students are invited to register with the undersigned by 7 July. Carry a mat.

Nisha Kapoor  
Sports Secretary

Marks: format 1, content 2, expression 1. (4) [Go Back to Q3](#)

Q4.

**Model Answer****Section B — Formal Invitation / Reply (any one).**

**(A) Invitation — indicative:** Meridian Public School, Lucknow, cordially invites Dr. Anil Sethi to grace its Founder's Day celebration as chief guest on Saturday, 26 July 20XX, at 10 a.m. in the school auditorium. Your presence would inspire our students and honour the occasion. (*RSVP with name/designation.*)

**(B) Reply — indicative:** Dr. Anil Sethi thanks Meridian Public School, Lucknow, for its kind invitation and is delighted to accept the role of chief guest at the Founder's Day celebration on 26 July. He looks forward to an inspiring morning with the students and staff.

Marks: format 1, content 2, expression 1. (4) [Go Back to Q4](#)

Q5.

**Model Answer**

**Section B — Letter (any one).** *Format (1): sender's address, date, receiver, subject, salutation, body, complimentary close.*

**(A) Letter to Editor (poor bus service) — key content:** draw attention to the poor city bus service; long waits and irregular timings that make commuters late; overcrowded, poorly maintained buses; suggest more routes and higher frequency, especially at peak hours; propose a public grievance helpline; urge the authorities to act for daily commuters.

**(B) Complaint to Bank (wrong charge) — key content:** state account number and the disputed transaction; explain that 750 rupees was wrongly debited;



mention earlier attempts (call/branch visit) that brought no resolution; request a prompt reversal of the charge and written confirmation; ask for corrective steps to prevent a recurrence.

Marks: format 1, content 2, expression 2. (5) [Go Back to Q5](#)

Q6.

### Model Answer

**Section B — Article / Report (any one).**

**(A) Article “The Dangers of Junk Food” — key content:** title + by-line; junk food is popular because it is tasty, cheap, quick and heavily advertised; its effects—obesity, low energy, poor concentration and long-term health risks; schools and families should model and encourage balanced eating; healthier choices—home-cooked meals, fruit, water over fizzy drinks, and moderation.

**(B) Report “Blood Donation Camp” — key content:** title + by-line/reporter; purpose (meeting the hospital’s need for blood, spreading awareness); organised by the Red Cross Unit with a district hospital team; enthusiastic participation by students, staff and parents; around 60 units of blood collected; a smoothly run, successful camp that ended with a pledge to donate regularly.

Marks: format 1, content 2, expression 2. (5) [Go Back to Q6](#)

Q7.

### Model Answer

**Section C — Poetry extract (any one).**

**(A) Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers:**

- (i) They prance freely and confidently across the embroidered screen. (1)
- (ii) ... “a world of **green**”. (1)
- (iii) It suggests the tigers are graceful, brave, dignified and utterly unafraid—like proud, noble knights. (1)
- (iv) **fear**. (1)
- (v) They symbolise the fearless freedom, strength and spirit that Aunt Jennifer herself lacks in her oppressed married life. (1)
- (vi) Alliteration — “prance”/“pace”; also imagery — “Bright topaz denizens”. (Any one valid device with example.) (1)



**(B) My Mother at Sixty-six:** (i) from her parents' home to Cochin, on Friday morning (1); (ii) ... a **corpse** (1); (iii) it suggests she looks pale, colourless and drained of life by age (1); (iv) **pain** (1); (v) that her mother has grown truly old and that loss may not be far away (1); (vi) simile (1). [Go Back to Q7](#)

Q8.

### Model Answer

**Section C — Vistas extract (any one).**

**(A) The Tiger King:** (i) that one day a tiger would be the cause of his death (1); (ii) ... **tigers** (1); (iii) it drives the King to hunt down a hundred tigers, ban others from hunting and bend everyone to his will—until a toy tiger kills him (1); (iv) **satirical** (1).

**(B) The Enemy:** (i) a wounded American prisoner of war, an escaped enemy soldier (1); (ii) ... **doctor/surgeon** (1); (iii) his patriotism and fear of the law pull one way, while his duty as a doctor to save a dying man pulls the other (1); (iv) **operate on** (1). [Go Back to Q8](#)

Q9.

### Model Answer

**Section C — Flamingo extract (any one).**

**(A) The Interview:** (i) a commonplace, everyday feature of journalism (1); (ii) because some see it as a valuable art and source of truth, while others resent it as an intrusion (1); (iii) ... “unwarranted **intrusion** into their lives” (1); (iv) they are wounded by interviews and lose a part of themselves (1); (v) their privacy, dignity or a private sense of self (1); (vi) resentful/critical (defensive) (1).

**(B) Going Places:** (i) a boutique of her own (1); (ii) her classmate and friend (1); (iii) ... **money** (1); (iv) she says she will first work as a manager (1); (v) that she is a dreamer, ambitious and given to fantasies beyond her means (1); (vi) Sophie is a romantic dreamer, whereas Jansie is down-to-earth and realistic (1). [Go Back to Q9](#)

Q10.

### Model Answer

**Section C — Short answers (any five; 2 marks each).**

(i) Gandhi reached Champaran, studied the peasants' grievances against the harsh indigo-sharing system, faced the authorities calmly, and won a set-



tlement that refunded part of the money and freed the sharecroppers from unjust dues, teaching them self-reliance.

- (ii) Its make-up room, once a Hindu god's brick house, worked under harsh lights that made faces glow like pancakes; a mixed team of assistants from many communities transformed actors, and the department was headed and later organised by loyal figures like Subbu.
- (iii) The poet contrasts the comfortable, indifferent city dwellers with the rural poor who wait hopelessly at their roadside stand for a little trade and money, their pleas ignored by a society that offers false promises of help.
- (iv) The tigers stand for fearless freedom, energy and dignity—qualities absent from Aunt Jennifer's timid, dominated life; through her art she creates the bold, unafraid world she cannot live in herself.
- (v) The “spring” of childhood—its joy, play and hope—is lost to the ragpicker children, who spend their early years in poverty and grinding work instead of learning and freedom, hence the ironic title *Lost Spring*.
- (vi) Many writers feel an interview is an intrusion that wounds them, robs them of privacy and a part of themselves, or reduces their real selves to a distorted public image, so they dislike or resent the process.

(Any five  $\times$  2 = 10) [Go Back to Q10](#)

Q11.

### Model Answer

**Section C — Vistas short answers (any two; 2 marks each).**

- (i) Zitkala-Sa felt utterly humiliated and helpless; among her people shingled hair was a mark of cowards and mourners, so having her long hair forcibly cut stripped her of dignity and identity, and she cried in anguish.
- (ii) The third level is an imagined third platform at Grand Central Station leading to the calm world of 1894. Charley longs to find it as an escape from the fear, war and worry of his stressful modern life.
- (iii) After killing ninety-nine tigers, the King is finally “killed” by the hundredth—a cheap wooden toy tiger, a sliver of which infects his hand and causes his death. The irony is that a lifeless toy defeats the mighty tiger-hunter.

(Any two  $\times$  2 = 4) [Go Back to Q11](#)



Q12.

**Model Answer****Section C — Long answer, Flamingo (any one; 5 marks).**

**(A) The Rattrap:** The cynical peddler believes the whole world is a rattrap that baits and traps the greedy. His theft from the crofter shows his hardened view. Yet Edla Willmansson treats him as a welcome guest—a captain, a fellow human—and her warmth awakens the goodness buried in him. Ashamed, he leaves the stolen money and a note signed “Captain von Stahle”. Lagerlöf suggests that even a fallen man carries hidden goodness, which kindness and dignity can draw out. *(Value points: peddler’s philosophy; his theft; Edla’s kindness; his transformation; the message. Content 3, expression 2.)*

**(B) Poets and Pancakes:** Asokamitran paints the Gemini Studios with warm, gentle humour—the make-up that made faces glow like pancakes, the crowd of hangers-on, the ever-loyal Subbu, the puzzled “poet” from England, and the office boy’s frustrated ambitions. The comedy is affectionate, never cruel; through small ironies he reveals the vanities, kindnesses and quiet struggles of ordinary studio workers, leaving us amused yet sympathetic. *(Content 3, expression 2.)* [Go Back to Q12](#)

Q13.

**Model Answer****Section C — Long answer, Vistas (any one; 5 marks).**

**(A) The Third Level:** Overwhelmed by the “insecurity, fear, war and worry” of modern life, Charley imagines a third level at Grand Central Station leading to the peaceful world of 1894. His restless search—and the “proof” of Sam’s old letter—is a psychological escape, a wish to flee an anxious present for a gentler past. Finney shows escapism as a common human response to stress, and the third level as a symbol of that longing for safety and calm. *(Content 3, expression 2.)*

**(B) The Enemy:** Dr. Sadao’s loyalty to Japan and fear of the law urge him to abandon or report the wounded American, but his conscience as a doctor forbids letting a man die. He operates on and shelters the enemy, and finally helps him escape. Buck shows that true humanity and compassion can rise above national hatred, and that the duty to save a life outweighs the enmity of war. *(Content 3, expression 2.)* [Go Back to Q13](#)

