



**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL**  
**Class X: English (184)**  
**First Term Examination: 2024-25**

Time: 3 hours

MM: 80

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains three sections- Reading, Writing & Grammar and Literature.
2. Attempt the questions in order.
3. Write the serial number of questions and sub-parts clearly.
4. Read the question-related instructions carefully.
5. Keep to the word limit.

**Section A- Reading**

(20 marks)

**Q1 Read the passage carefully and answer any ten questions that follow.**

(1x10=10)

Telling tough truths

- Divya Venkattu

1. We live in strange and chaotic times where there's hardly a breather between the catastrophes that continually wreak havoc in the world. We do not need to seek out information about these terrible happenings for if you have managed to avoid the blaring news headlines on television, there is always anxiety-inducing content on your social media feed that you must navigate. However, they only momentarily catch the fancy of audiences and soon, we have moved on to the next set of headlines that can be turned into memes, relished for entertainment, and then discarded without a care. Especially if you are an avid social media user, you begin to see that this cycle tempts people into haphazardly adopting half-baked popular opinions, simply to advertise their position on issues to friends and followers alike. This often does not allow for deeper, impactful conversations around serious issues plaguing society.
2. Contrary to daily news, literature helps you build a fundamental understanding of issues, think critically and independently, and arrive at an informed stance. I believe a crucial step in engaging with real-life social issues is to read a book about them. For a very long time, my reaction to watching or reading a news piece about a terrorist attack remained the same: it was shock and horror at how inhumane the perpetrators of the attack were, and more importantly, sympathy for the victims and their families. And then, I read *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid. The book is about a young Pakistani Muslim, living in the U.S., who holds a high position at a consulting firm and is pretty comfortably settled with a social circle, and then, the 9/11 attack happens. His world is upturned in a day, and neither his professional standing nor his educational accomplishment protects him from the relentless discrimination and Islamophobic attacks he begins to face. Up until I read this book, I had not given a thought to what the larger repercussions of a terrorist attack are, to how ordinary Muslim citizens in Western nations suddenly become "suspects" and live in constant dread.
3. I recently read and enjoyed another book 'Such a Fun Age' by Kiley Reid. It is about a young black woman, Emira, who works as a babysitter for a well-off, white family. Late one night, when Emira is requested to babysit, she takes Briar to a nearby supermarket, where she is wrongly accused of kidnapping the white child. The story is about the incidents that follow this episode. Written thrillingly with a gripping plot, the entertaining nature of the story does not take away from the fact that it is dealing with racism, and not just in its obvious form that unfolded in the supermarket incident. Subtle, everyday racism is portrayed in the attitude, language, and behaviour of white people in the story, and in their treatment of Emira.
4. While there is nothing like first-hand experience to truly understand why some things are problematic, our identities, sometimes, prevent and shield us from experiencing every type of discrimination or inequality there is in the world. But there is nothing worse than living in a bubble. This is where literature steps in, it allows us to live many lives. By putting yourself in the shoes of someone radically different from you, you

live their life, even if only for a short while, and you understand their feelings and motivations. Literature helps you develop a keen sense of empathy by tackling harsh realities in a nuanced manner. Perhaps this is the strength of books — they tell tough truths by making you see the world in all its twisted glory, and they make you care enough to want to change it for the better.

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1. What example does the author cite to indicate that it is difficult to miss “catastrophes/bad news” that take place in the world?
2. How are active social media users responsible for the neglect of serious concerns that vex society?
3. What are the principal differences the author draws between the opinions of social media users and literature readers?
4. Which of the following is not a merit of literature highlighted by the author?
  - a) Seeking refuge from the catastrophes of the world
  - b) Meaningful conversation about issues plaguing society
  - c) Analytically evaluating issues of society
  - d) Looking at the world through other’s eyes
5. Identify a phrase/word from Para 1 that can be used to complete the following sentence.  
*Although there were quite a few designs, nothing could \_\_\_\_\_ of the artists.*
6. Why does the book “Such a Fun Age” leave a deep impression on the author?
7. Why do you think the author warned the readers against falling into a “bubble”?
8. Why do you think the values fostered by literature are relevant in society today?
9. The term ‘half-baked’ in Para1 has been used to indicate that the opinions were \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) not baked properly
  - b) not understood completely
  - c) not well-considered
  - d) baked half on demand
10. The phrase *to arrive at an informed stance* used in Para 2 means \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) to arrive well in advance
  - b) to arrive with a definite position of the feet
  - c) to reach an informed position
  - d) to arrive at an informed place
11. The synonym for the word *unyielding* in Para 2 is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) crucial
  - b) fundamental
  - c) inhumane
  - d) relentless
12. According to Venkattu, the values that literature fosters in human beings are \_\_\_\_\_
  - 1) empathy
  - 2) desire to change the world
  - 3) realise realities of life
  - a) 1 and 2
  - b) 2 and 3
  - c) 1 and 3
  - d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q2. Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow. (10)**

What’s so funny?

1. The joke comes over the headphones: ‘Which side of a dog has the most hair? The left.’ No, not funny. Try again. ‘Which side of a dog has the most hair? The outside.’ Hah! The punchline is silly yet fitting, tempting a

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smile, even a laugh. Laughter has always struck people as deeply mysterious, perhaps pointless. The writer Arthur Koestler dubbed it the luxury reflex: 'unique in that it serves no apparent biological purpose'.

2. Theories about humour have an ancient pedigree. Plato expressed the idea that humour is simply a delighted feeling of superiority over others. Kant and Freud felt that joke-telling relies on building up a psychic tension which is safely punctured by the ludicrousness of the punchline. But most modern humour theorists have settled on some version of Aristotle's belief that jokes are based on a reaction to or resolution of incongruity when the punchline is either nonsense or, though appearing silly, has a clever second meaning.

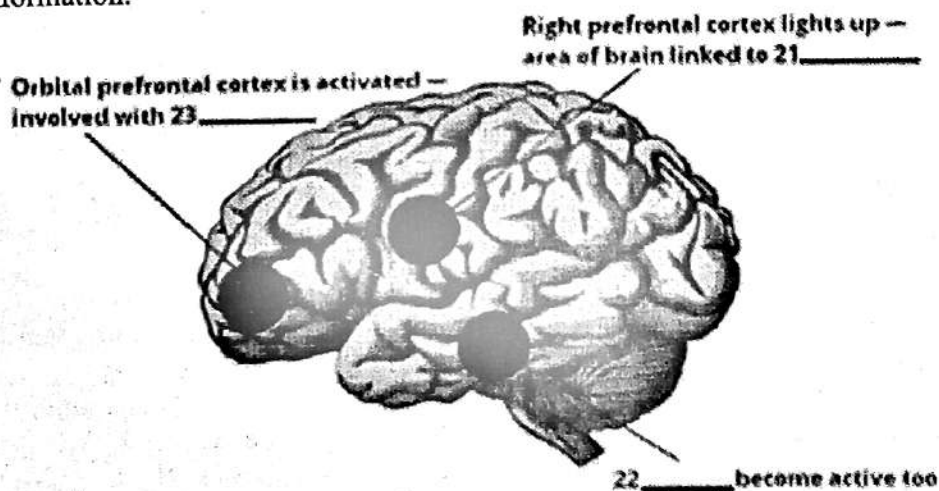
3. Graeme Ritchie, a computational linguist in Edinburgh, studies the linguistic structure of jokes to understand not only humour but language understanding and reasoning in machines. He says that while there is no single format for jokes, many revolve around a sudden and surprising conceptual shift. A comedian will present a situation followed by an unexpected interpretation that is also apt.

4. However, there is another type of laughter, the laughter of social appeasement and it is important to understand this too. Play(ing) is a crucial part of development in most young mammals. Rats produce ultrasonic squeaks to prevent their scuffles from turning nasty. Chimpanzees have a 'play-face' – a gaping expression accompanied by a panting 'ah, ah' noise. In humans, these signals have mutated into smiles and laughs. Researchers believe social situations, rather than cognitive events such as jokes, trigger these instinctual markers of play or appeasement.

5. Both social and cognitive types of laughter tap into the same expressive machinery in our brains, the emotion and motor circuits that produce smiles and excited vocalisations. However, if cognitive laughter is the product of more general thought processes, it should result from more expansive brain activity.

6. Psychologist Vinod Goel investigated humour using the new technique of 'single event' functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). Until recently, MRI scanners needed several minutes of activity and so could not be used to track rapid thought processes such as comprehending a joke. New developments now allow half-second 'snapshots' of all sorts of reasoning and problem-solving activities.

7. Although Goel felt being inside a brain scanner was hardly the ideal place for appreciating a joke, he found evidence that understanding a joke involves a widespread mental shift. His scans showed that at the beginning of a joke the listener's prefrontal cortex lit up, particularly the right prefrontal believed to be critical for problem-solving. But there was also activity in the temporal lobes at the side of the head (consistent with attempts to rouse stored knowledge) and in many other brain areas. Then when the punchline arrived, a new area sprang to life – the orbital prefrontal cortex. This patch of brain tucked behind the orbits of the eyes is associated with evaluating information.







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technological progress in the domain of chemistry, (vii) \_\_\_\_\_ (couple) with wider cultural changes, and the pragmatic need to find acceptable substitutes for (viii) \_\_\_\_\_ (dwindle) supplies of 'luxury' materials such as tortoiseshell and ivory.

**Q4. Identify the errors in the given lines and write down the correct word for them. (1/2x6=3)**

	e.g	Incorrect are	Correct is
Smiling are one of the most effective means			
to dissolving anxiety, anger and over-reaction. If you	(a)	_____	_____
ensure that you keep half a smile in your face even in	(b)	_____	_____
a most difficult situation, you will be able to deal with	(c)	_____	_____
negative emotions, in a far more logical and effective way.			
A constant smile reinforce that state of peace and	(d)	_____	_____
joyfulness, which are the most critical foundation	(e)	_____	_____
by holistic health.	(f)	_____	_____

**Q5. Report the following conversation. (1x3=3)**

Reshma: Though setting up a technology-driven system is not an easy task, it has many benefits. India is making giant strides in improving its education system.

Rekha: I agree. The introduction of IT will not only aid the students but also the faculty.

Reshma: The overall efficiency of the system is bound to improve and 'learning' will be the buzzword.

Reshma said that (a) \_\_\_\_\_

She also exclaimed that (e.g.) India was making giant strides in improving its education system.

Rekha agreed and added that (b) \_\_\_\_\_

Reshma continued that (c) \_\_\_\_\_

**Q6. Answer any one of the questions in about 100-120 words. (5 marks)**

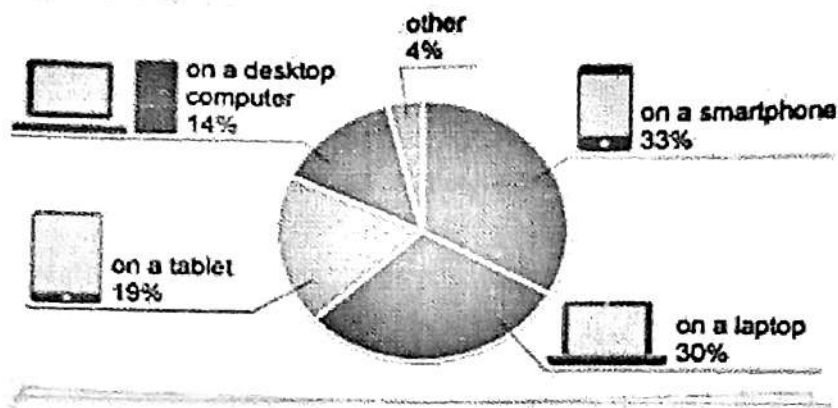
(i) As a young, budding artist of your country, write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing concern about how folk art and artists have been relegated to 'Celebrated Past' and are thereby in need of a critical revival. You are Vineet/Vineeta of Jangpura, New Delhi.

**OR**

(ii) Rampant wildfires and a warmer Arctic Circle call for a genuine introspection of our pollutive lifestyles. As a concerned global citizen, write a letter to the editor sharing your views on how efforts to develop a responsible bond with the environment should be the order of the day. You are Rohit/Reema of Karolbagh, Delhi.

**Q7. Answer any one of the questions in about 100-120 words. (5 marks)**

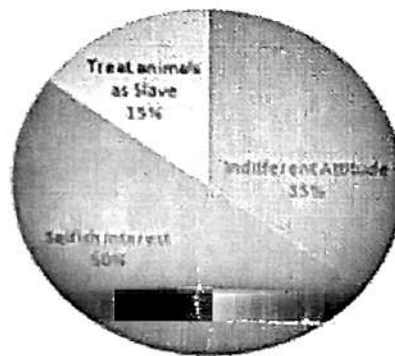
(i) The pie chart below illustrates how internet users aged 16+ prefer to access the internet at home and in other places. Write an analytical paragraph based on the information in the pie chart by selecting and analysing the main features.



OR

(ii) 'It is distressing to see the attitude of people towards animals and find that cases of cruelty towards animals are increasing. The following pie chart represents the attitude of people towards animals.' Write an analytical paragraph based on the given pie chart.

### iii Treatment of Animals



### Section C - Literature

(40 Marks)

Q8. Read the extracts give below and answer the questions that follow.

(5+5=10)

*A. Freedom is indivisible; the chains on any one of my people were the chains on all of them, the chains on all of my people were the chains on me. I knew that the oppressor must be liberated just as surely as the oppressed. A man who takes away another man's freedom is a prisoner of hatred; he is locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. I am not truly free. I am taking away someone else's freedom, just as surely as I am not free when my freedom is taken from me. The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity.*

1. What did Mandela mean by freedom being indivisible? (1)
2. Who was being referred to as the 'oppressor'? (1)
3. Why must the oppressor be liberated? (1)
4. What does Mandela think about 'oppressor' and 'oppressed'? (1)
  - a) they both are sufferers
  - b) oppressor is more powerful.
  - c) oppressed is more powerful.
  - d) we must empathise with both of them.

5. From the following persons, who do you think will value freedom more? (1)
- one who is born with freedom.
  - a person having all the basic rights.
  - one who is denied even basic freedom and put behind bars.
  - all of the above

**B. What is the boy now, who has lost his ball,  
What, what is he to do? I saw it go  
Merrily bouncing down the street and then  
Merrily over - there it is in the water!  
No use to say 'O there are other balls':**

- The first two lines of the extract indicate the \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
  - helplessness of the boy
  - suffering of the boy
  - dilemma that the poet faces
  - bafflement that the poet faces
- How has the poet created a contrast between the boy and the ball? (1)
- Identify a poetic device used to refer to the ball in the above lines. (1)
- Explain the line *No use to say 'O there are other balls'*. (1)
- In the above lines, the poet wants to convey that the ball \_\_\_\_\_. (1)
  - can be retrieved from the water
  - is lost forever in the water
  - looks happy in the water
  - will eventually submerge in water

**Q9. Answer any four questions in about 40-50 words each. (4x3=12)**

- How is the theme of 'faith' portrayed in different ways in 'A Letter To God'?
- Why did Londoners consider Mijbil the otter to be an alien creature? How did they attempt to identify it?
- How does the depiction of the majestic tiger in "A Tiger in the Zoo" differ from the portrayal of animals in "How to Tell Wild Animals"?
- Discuss the pervasive silence in the poems "A Dust of Snow" and "Fog."
- Using relevant examples from the lessons 'Coorg' and 'A Baker From Goa', explain how the Coorgis have preserved their heritage more effectively than the Goans.

**Q10. Answer any two questions in about 40-50 words each. (2x3=6)**

- 'Tricki was a victim of over-indulgence and neglect'. Discuss this statement in view of Mrs. Pumphrey's role as a pet parent in The Triumph's Surgery.
- Do you think that Fowler's opinion about spies in general and Ausable in particular remained the same throughout the story A Midnight Visitor? Why /why not?
- 'Matilda's personality was a mix of contrasts.' Do you agree with this statement? Discuss with suitable examples from the lesson 'The Necklace'.

**Q11. Answer any one of the two questions in 100-120 words.**

**(6 marks)**

A. Do you think the context of home and family became a propelling force in the Two Stories about Flying? Why/Why not? Substantiate your argument with examples.

**OR**

B. 'Amanda' and 'The Diary of Anne Frank' highlight the importance of a healthy and open minor-adult bond for a favourable nurturing of aptitudes. Comment.

**Q12. Answer any one of the two questions in 100-120 words.**

**(6 Marks)**

A. Do you think that for Horace in 'A Question of Trust' and Anil in 'A Thief's Story' stealing was more than a mere act. Give reasons for your answer.

**OR**

B. Explore the contrasting scientific pursuits of Richard E. Bright in "The Making of a Scientist" and Griffin in "Footprints without Feet."