

Time allowed: 3 hours

Max. Marks: 80

General Instructions: Same as CBSE Sample Question Paper–2023 (Solved).

SECTION–A
(Reading Skills)

(20 Marks)

I. Read the passage given below:

(10 marks)

- (1) Meditation has become a mainstream activity in many parts of the world. Though the main reason to meditate is for spiritual awareness, there are additional benefits from learning to focus our attention within. One of these is the healing it brings about in our physical bodies. Over the past few decades, doctors and scientists have been studying the body-mind connection and its relationship to physical health. Medical research has indicated a link between certain illnesses and our state of mind and emotional condition.
- (2) It has been found that when we undergo mental stress, emotional pain or depression, our physical resistance to disease drops. We become more susceptible to catching a disease because our ability to keep our immune system in top working order decreases.
- (3) Science has pinpointed that certain diseases such as digestive problems, breathing problems, heart disease, and migraine headaches, to name a few, may sometimes be caused due to stress. Thus, we arrive at the possibility that by reducing stress in our lives, we can improve our physical health and well-being.
- (4) To begin to explore this possibility, it is imperative to understand the root cause of stress in our lives. In this hectic and fast-paced world, we are constantly being bombarded with information, and stimuli.
- (5) Life has become increasingly complicated. With competing priorities, family and social obligations, increasing responsibilities, and looming deadlines, people seem to have too much to do and not enough time to do it. We hold jobs that require long hours and too much responsibility.
- (6) Medical research has shown that meditation, the process of taking our attention away from the stresses and strains of the outer world, and focusing it within ourselves, can help reduce stress in our lives. In doing so, it can reduce our chances of developing a stress-related illness.
- (7) When we meditate on the inner light and sound of God, we come in contact with God's love within us, which fills us with inner peace, joy, bliss and happiness. This experience takes our attention away from the stresses and pains of the outer world. As we spend time in meditation, we create a calm haven in which we restore equilibrium and peace to our mental functioning.
- (8) Researchers have recorded that the brain activity in people who meditate reflects a state of deep relaxation. Their mind becomes calmer. The tranquil effect of meditation lasts

beyond the time spent in meditation. The carry-over effect helps us maintain peace of mind as we continue our activities throughout the day.

- (9) We become more in control of our reactions and maintain an even keel in the face of conflict, or in the midst of turmoil and strife. It also gives us a private retreat of bliss and peace within us that we can retreat to anytime we wish. This refuge helps take our attention away from the pains of the world and gives us another mechanism by which we can reduce stress in our lives.

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below:

(1 × 10 = 10)

- (i) Why has meditation become a mainstream activity in many parts of the world?
- (a) Because it helps us maintain peace of mind
 - (b) Because it gives us a private retreat of bliss and peace
 - (c) Because it reduces our chances of developing a stress-related illness
 - (d) All of these
- (ii) Select the option that displays what the writer projects, with reference to the following:
- Researchers have recorded that the brain activity in people who meditate reflects a state of deep relaxation. (Paragraph 8)
- (a) Reflection
 - (b) Meditation
 - (c) Vexation
 - (d) Both (a) and (c)
- (iii) Discuss the main objectives of meditation.
- (iv) Based on your reading of the passage, list two reasons why the writer says that: We become more in control of our reactions and maintain an even keel in the face of conflict, or in the midst of turmoil and strife. (Paragraph 9)
- (v) What are the findings of doctors and scientists about meditation?
- (vi) What are the ill-effects of stress according to the passage you have read above?
- (vii) Supply 1 point to justify the following:
- We become more susceptible to catching a disease because our ability to keep our immune system in top working order decreases.
- (viii) How does meditation relieve us from stress? Answer the question with reference to paragraph 6.
- (ix) Select the option that displays what happens when we come in contact with God's love.
- (a) It fills us with the feeling of resurrection.
 - (b) It fills us with the feeling of pessimism.
 - (c) It fills us with inner peace, joy, bliss and happiness.
 - (d) It fills us with the feeling of prejudice and parochialism.
- (x) How are the people who meditate significantly different from others?

II. Read the passage given below:

(10 marks)

- (1) Overall global handset profits declined 11% YoY to USD 12 billion in Q3 2019 due to an increased mix of entry to mid-tier products and a fall in revenues for key smartphone OEMs.

- (2) Apple dominates the global handset market by capturing 66% of industry profits and 32% of the overall handset revenue. The loyal premium user base in the major markets like the USA, EU and Japan is one of the reasons that Apple can still operate at a profit level that its competitors can only wish for. Now with a strong service strategy, Apple's overall ecosystem is strong enough to guarantee it a steady inflow of revenue in the coming years. In the immediate future, we believe that Apple's profit for the holiday season will increase with the new line up of iPhones gaining good traction.



- (3) Samsung is a distant second, taking 17% of the overall handset Industry profits. The increased mix of Galaxy A Series along with the positive start of Galaxy Note 10 Series was the key reason for the growth.
- (4) Chinese smartphone brands operate at low-profit margins, but better than in previous years, even though they are expanding outside China and also penetrating high-tier price bands. Chinese brands offer attractive propositions to mature smartphone users with new feature-packed flagships at affordable prices. Some of these Chinese brands are also now looking at monetizing their userbase by launching services like financial services, IoT products and others. However, it is becoming a challenge for Chinese brands to increase their smartphone ASPs and margins due to a combination of longer consumer holding periods and Apple lowering pricing on some key SKUs, which has limited the headroom that Chinese vendors had used to increase their ASPs.
- (5) In coming quarters, the adoption of 5G will drive some upgrades. This will likely lead to revenue growth for OEMs which are already preparing themselves ahead of full 5G commercialisation.

—Karn Chauhan, Counterpoint Research

Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.

(1 × 10 = 10)

- (i) Infer one reason for the following, based on the information given in paragraph 1. Overall global handset profits declined 11% YoY to USD 12 billion in Q3 2019.
- (ii) Select the appropriate option to fill in the blank.
From paragraph 2, we can infer that _____ is one of the reasons why Apple can still operate at a profit level.

- (a) loyal premium user base in the major markets
 - (b) revenue growth for OEMs
 - (c) positive start of Galaxy Note 10 Series
 - (d) Apple's overall ecosystem
- (iii) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word/a phrase from paragraph 2.
expunge : abolish : : _____ : income
- (iv) Select the correct option to complete the following sentence:
Chinese smartphone brands operate at low-profit margins, and are _____ outside China. (Paragraph 4)
- (a) deteriorating
 - (b) expanding
 - (c) reducing
 - (d) excelling
- (v) What are the overall global handset profits decline in 2019?
- (vi) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option.
The adoption of 5G in the coming quarters will likely lead to _____ for OEMs.
- (a) revenue growth
 - (b) operate at low-profit margins
 - (c) become a challenge for Chinese brands
 - (d) increase their ASPs
- (vii) Substitute the word 'concept' with ONE WORD similar in meaning, in the following, sentence from paragraph 4.
The new theory rejects the basic concept that humans evolved from apes.
- (viii) List any two reasons as reflected for the handset profits decline in Q3 2019.
- (ix) List one reason why the writer says Samsung will be at number 2.
- (x) Select a reason that displays a challenge for Chinese brands.
- (a) To increase their smartphone ASPs and margins
 - (b) To guarantee a steady inflow of revenue
 - (c) To gain good traction
 - (d) To lower the profit margins

SECTION-B
(Grammar)

(10 Marks)

III. 1. Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions.

- (i) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete an online update.
A new understanding of the fundamental connection between mind and body explains phenomena such as phantom limbs, and _____ surprising implications.
- (a) have
 - (b) are
 - (c) is
 - (d) has

- (ii) Read the conversation between Sudhir and Riya. Complete the sentence by reporting Riya's reply correctly.

Sudhir : Riya, what is the reporting time for photoshoot tomorrow?

Riya : I have no clue as I was not there during the briefing.

Sudhir asked Riya what was the reporting time for photoshoot the following day. In response to his question, Riya answered that _____.

- (iii) Select the correct option to fill in the blank for the given line, from a magazine.

When our cherished ideas are contradicted by the facts, we _____ avoid the human tendency to double down on those ideas.

- (a) must (b) need
(c) can (d) could

- (iv) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line, from a news report.

As per the report, India will allowed food processors to import duty-free wheat against a commitment to export flour.

Option no.	error	correction
(a)	the	a
(b)	will	would
(c)	allowed	allow
(d)	against	for

- (v) Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option:

The two parks in our locality have virtually _____ over by undesirable elements.

- (a) been taking (b) take
(c) taken (d) been taken

- (vi) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket, for the given portion of a letter.

Subject: Request for kind perusal

Dear Sir

This is to respectfully submit that the students of Agatha House _____ (seek) approval for organising an Inter-house Rangoli Making Competition to be undertaken by the house.

- (vii) Report the dialogue between a father and his son, by completing the sentence.

Father : Why are you late from school, Amit?

Amit : While coming from school to bus stop, I slipped by stepping on a banana peel.

Father asked Amit _____ late from school. In response to the question, Amit replied that while coming from school to bus stop, he had slipped by stepping on a banana peel.

- (viii) Identify the error in the given sentence, from a school magazine report and supply the correction.

Exploring solutions to brought awareness about celebrating festivals without harming ecology was the second objective of the competition.

Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

- (ix) Ahmed shared some information with Anmol about his visit to a book fair. Report Anmol's question.

Did you buy any book from the fair?

- (x) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the slogan by the Ministry for Child Welfare.

_____ we ask our children to reject junk food?

- (a) Should (b) Should't
(c) Can (d) Can't

- (xi) Select the correct option to complete the narration of the dialogue between Sanskriti and her friend Pranika.

Sanskriti : I couldn't find you on the school bus this morning. Did you miss the school bus?

Pranika : No, my dad was enroute to the school. So, he offered me to drop me to the school.

Sanskriti told Pranika that she couldn't see her on the school bus that morning and further asked _____. In response to her question, Pranika replied that her father was enroute to the school and offered her to drop her to the school.

- (a) that if she had missed the school bus (b) if she had missed the school bus
(c) that if she missed the school bus (d) that if you had missed the school bus

- (xii) Identify the error on a shop's hoarding and supply the correction, for the following sales offer.

SUPER SAVER DEALS !!!

With Mom and Me Super Saver Days Offers, got discounts on daily essentials, personal care, baby care, fashion, kitchen & dining, nutrition, and more.

Use the given format for your response.

error	correction

SECTION-B
(Creative Writing Skills)

(10 Marks)

IV. 1. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

(5 marks)

- (A) Drinking water is becoming a rare commodity. Industrial development is filling our rivers, seas and oceans with toxic pollutants which are a major threat to human health. You are deeply saddened to see water pollution as an appalling problem,

which is powerful enough to lead the world on a path of destruction.

Write a letter to the Editor of Express News to make the public aware about the causes of water pollution and also suggest the measures to prevent water pollution. You are Parul Aggarwal, C-316, Jaswant Lane, New Delhi.

OR

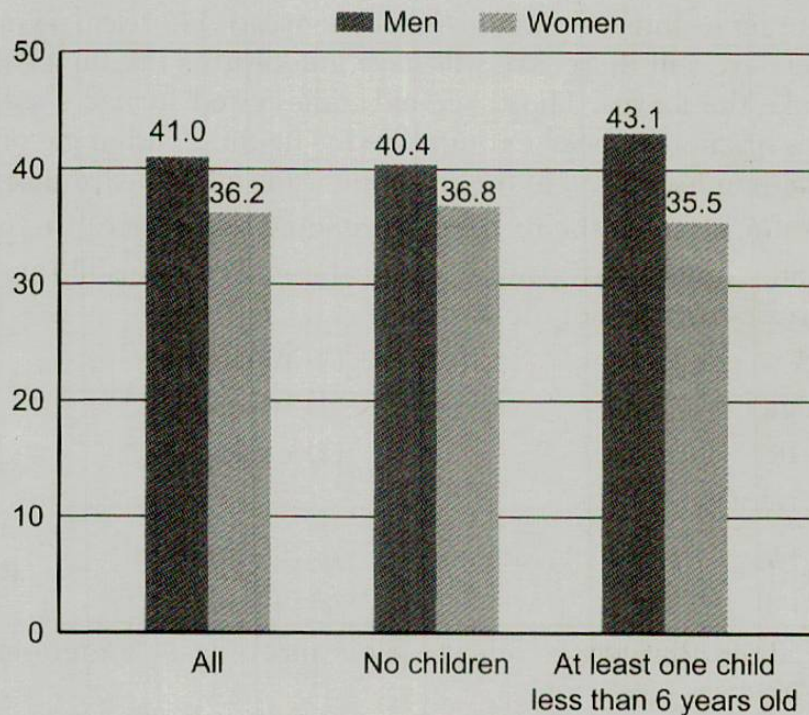
(B) You are Christopher Joanne, a resident of C-216, Margaret Green Avenue, Loni Road, Delhi. Three students of grade 10 from your residential complex went around the city at midnight and covered shelterless people with blankets without waking them up. You think that their work deserves appreciation and recognition.

Write a letter to the Secretary of your society, seeking recommendation for these youth, to be nominated for 'Star Volunteers Award'. Suggest other ways how such acts of kindness could be recognised and awarded in the future.

2. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.

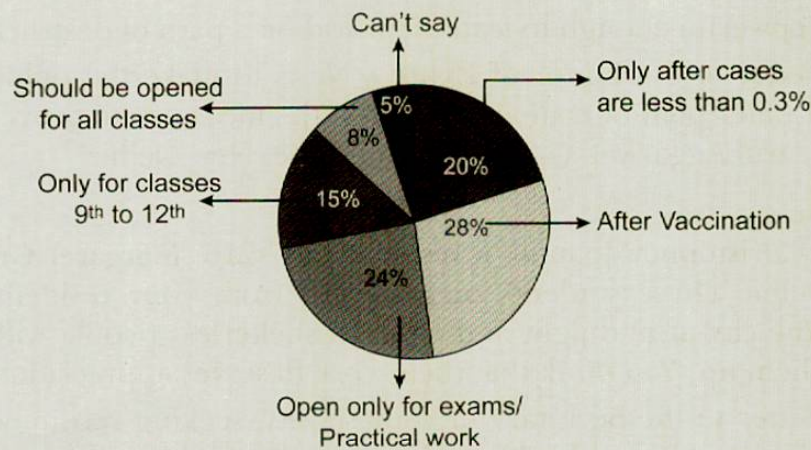
(5 marks)

(A) After the birth of a child, fathers spend more time in office, whereas mothers spend less. Given below is a graph showing average weekly hours worked by gender and household type of the year 2014. Write an analytical paragraph by summarising the information given below.



OR

(B) A group of enterprising young adults conducted a survey on reopening of educational institutions in the National Capital.



Write a paragraph, in about 100–120 words, analysing the listed responses.

SECTION-C (Literature)

(40 Marks)

V. Reference to the Context

(10 marks)

1. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

(5 marks)

(A) Our elders are often heard reminiscing nostalgically about those good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread. Those eaters might have vanished but the makers are still there. We will have amongst us the mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves. Those age-old, time-tested furnaces still exist. The fire in these furnaces has not yet been extinguished. The thud and jingle of traditional baker's bamboo, heralding his arrival in the morning, can still be heard in some places.”

- (i) The narrator says that the furnaces were 'time-tested' because _____.
- (ii) 'Those eaters might have vanished but the makers are still there.' Pick the option that expresses the tone of the narrator.
- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| (1) elated | (2) morose |
| (3) nostalgic | (4) hopeful |
| (5) sarcastic | (6) critical |
| (7) celebratory | |
| (a) 1 and 7 | (b) 2 and 6 |
| (c) 3 and 4 | (d) 4 and 5 |
- (iii) Pick the idiom that brings out the same meaning of 'reminiscing' as used in the passage.
- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (a) train of thought | (b) commit something to memory |
| (c) a trip down memory lane | (d) jog somebody's memory |
- (iv) Why do you think the baker came in with 'a thud and a jingle'?
- (v) The 'fire in the furnaces has not yet been extinguished' implies that:
- | |
|---|
| (a) the furnaces are still being used to bake the loaves of bread |
| (b) the fire is in the process of being reviewed as a respectable method for heading furnaces |
| (c) the furnaces are very strong and cannot be shifted for use in other areas |
| (d) the fire in the furnaces takes a long time to cease burning, once lighted |

OR

- (B) **Natalya** : Excuse my interrupting you. You say, "my Oxen Meadows". But are they yours?
Lomov : Yes, mine.
Natalya : What are you talking about? Oxen Meadows are ours, not yours!
Lomov : No, mine, honoured Natalya Stepanova.
Natalya : Well, I never knew that before. How do you make that out?
Lomov : How? I'm speaking of those Oxen Meadows which are wedged in between your birchwoods and the Burnt Marsh.
Natalya : Yes, yes... they're ours.
Lomov : No, you're mistaken, honoured Natalya Stepanova, they're mine.
Natalya : Just think, Ivan Vassilevitch! How long have they been yours?

- (i) Select the option that displays how the author makes very effective use of highlighting how social conflicts develop owing to _____.
- (a) trivial issues (b) communication failures
(c) ordinary spat (d) insolent exchange of conduct
- (ii) Complete the analogy by selecting the suitable word from the text.
me : mine :: our : _____
- (iii) Select the reason that displays why Natalya interrupted Lomov.
Because:
- (a) her father appeared in the scene.
(b) Lomov had just received an attack of palpitation.
(c) Natalya wanted Lomov to rectify himself about his claim for Oxen Meadows.
(d) Natalya wanted Lomov to discuss only about his marriage proposal.
- (iv) What was the reason of the spat between the two, according to the extract?
(a) Oxen Meadows (b) Guess and Squeezer
(c) Lomov's contemptible appearance (d) Chubukov's derogatory remarks
- (v) Based on the extract, recall any two incidents of verbal spat over which the two characters indulged into.

2. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

(5 marks)

- (A) His ball went. I would not intrude on him;
A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now
He senses first responsibility
In a world of possessions.

- (i) The loss of the ball will help the child to understand his:
- (a) possessions (b) mood
(c) first responsibility (d) life
- (ii) Giving another ball to the child is:
- (a) intruding on him (b) worthless
(c) going to make him upset (d) going to make him happy

- (iii) The boy is sad because _____.
- (iv) What do the following lines suggest about the boy?
 “Now he senses first responsibility
 In a world of possessions”.
- (a) It suggests that he is thinking of getting another ball.
 (b) It suggests that he now hates life.
 (c) It suggests that he wants to transform himself.
 (d) It suggests that the boy is nothing now that his ball is gone.
- (v) The ball is called worthless because it costs only _____.

OR

(B) Pistol in his left hand, pistol in his right,
 And he held in his teeth a cutlass bright,
 His beard was black, one leg was wood;
 It was clear that the pirate meant no good.

- (i) What thought does the stanza evoke in the reader’s mind?
 That the pirate was _____.
- (a) coward (b) spooky
 (c) scary (d) valiant
- (ii) The first line in the given stanza possesses _____ which is used to reuse words, phrases, images, or structures multiple times within a poem.
- (a) imagery (b) repetition
 (c) anaphora (d) simile
- (iii) The rhyme scheme of the given stanza is _____.
- (a) aabb (b) abab
 (c) abcb (d) acbc
- (iv) The pirate’s descriptions make it even scarier. Comment.
- (v) The pirate held a _____ in between his teeth since his hands were occupied.

VI. Answer ANY FOUR of the following in about 40-50 words each. (4×3=12)

- (i) ‘Every journey of a thousand miles begins with but a single step.’ With reference to the chapter ‘His First Flight’, analyse the statement and show your acquaintance.
- (ii) The poem ‘Fire and Ice’ uses the metaphor of the end of the world to characterise this destruction. Do you agree? Support your answer with reasons.
- (iii) Valli’s unique maiden bus ride experience was pleasant because the bus conductor was an affable man. Do you agree? Why/Why not?
- (iv) What does the poet want to demonstrate through the poem ‘A Tale of Custard the Dragon’?
- (v) How can we say that Chubukov was continuously trying to reconcile the differences between Natalya and Lomov?
 (Any one example)