

**PRACTICE QUESTION PAPER - 4 (2020-21)**  
**ENGLISH – Language and Literature CLASS-X**  
**(RATIONALISED SYLLABUS)**

**Time allowed: 3 Hrs.**

**Maximum Marks: 80**

**General Instructions:**

1. This paper is divided into two parts: A and B. All questions are compulsory.
2. Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary.  
Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.
3. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**Part A (40 Marks)**

**READING (20 marks)**

**1. Read the passage given below.**

You have a hobby? Is there anything that you are passionate about? Something creative that you really like doing, or are deeply involved with? Something that grips you, makes you forget all else — even makes you forget to eat or sleep? No, I am not talking about your job or your daily chores.

By developing a parallel line, other than that of your job, and following it like crazy, you energise your life. It will keep you going even when all other activities have stopped. It did not make much sense to me until I ran into a retired officer turned passionate writer. Let's call him Mr. X. What was amazing was his appearance. He looked 10 years younger than his self-proclaimed 75 - dark grey hair, tall and robust. Well-preserved, as some would say. " I don't want to take much of your time, but just wanted to show you my work", he said. In his bag, he was carrying dozens of books that he had written after retirement. Short stories and novels in his mother tongue and in English, for children and adults.

Mr. X retired after putting in 30 years of service. But he did not retire from life. No way. "In fact, I lead a much busier life now - writing." "So writing is your hobby?", I asked him. "No, it is my only interest. While I was working, I did not have enough time to write. But now I work 10 - 12 hours a day writing, writing, writing."

"Why? Is that the way you support yourself?" "No, my writings don't pay me financially, but they fulfill me otherwise.", he said. Mr. X lives on his savings, but he relies on his passion to take care of his mental and physical wellbeing. In fact, such is the energy and sense of satisfaction and contentment that he draws from his writing that he has managed to survive many upheavals in life. Thanks to his passion, retirement never became a sad phase of life for him; instead, it gave him a new lease of life, an opportunity to do that which he missed out on or had no time for earlier.

And his level of commitment was impressive. He does not want publicity nor is he interested in advertising himself. "It will take me away from my writing and pull me into the world of the Internet. I would rather follow my passion," he says. Gathering his books, he was soon ready to leave - eager to go back to his passion. He left me with the motivation to seek one, too. Thank you. Mr. X.

**On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer ANY TEN questions from the twelve that follow.(1x10=10)**

- I. According to the passage, what is a hobby?
  - a. Something you are passionate about
  - b. Something that energises your life
  - c. Something you are deeply involved in
  - d. All of these
- ii. According to the writer, what made Mr. X look 10 years younger?
  - a. He relies on his savings for his expenses
  - b. Writing supports him financially
  - c. His passion takes care of his mental and physical well being
  - d. He is a retired officer
- iii. What did Mr. X do after retirement?
  - a. Advertise his books
  - b. Followed his passion for writing

- c. Continued working even after retirement
  - d. Met new people and motivated them
- iv. How were the retirement years of Mr. X?
- a. Writing gave him a new lease of a happy life
  - b. Full of tragedies and upheavals
  - c. He wrote books and sold them
  - d. It became a sad phase of life
- v. Why was Mr. X not interested in seeking publicity?
- a. He would be motivated
  - b. He would be pulled to the world of Internet
  - c. He is interested in advertising his writings
  - d. He already earns enough for survival
- vi. Mr. X lives on his \_\_\_\_\_
- a. savings
  - b. profit from business
  - c. son's support
  - d. siblings' support
- vii. Mr. X has managed to survive many \_\_\_\_\_ in life
- a. Joys
  - b. Celebrations
  - c. reunions
  - d. upheavals

viii. Mr. X wrote books in how many languages?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. More than 3

ix. The noun form of "fulfil" is :

- a. Fulfilling
- b. Fulfilment
- c. Fulfilled
- d. Fulfil

x. The word which means very enthusiastic in para 1 of the passage is :

- a. Creative
- b. Grip
- c. passionate
- d. forget

xi. The word which means active and energetic in para 4 of the passage is :

- a. Robust
- b. Self-proclaimed
- c. well-preserved
- d. amazing

xii. Mr. X left the narrator with a motivation to seek a \_\_\_\_\_

- a. book
- b. hobby
- c. sport
- d. pen

Q 2. Read the passage given below.

### RIPPLE EFFECTS BEYOND EDUCATION – POST COVID

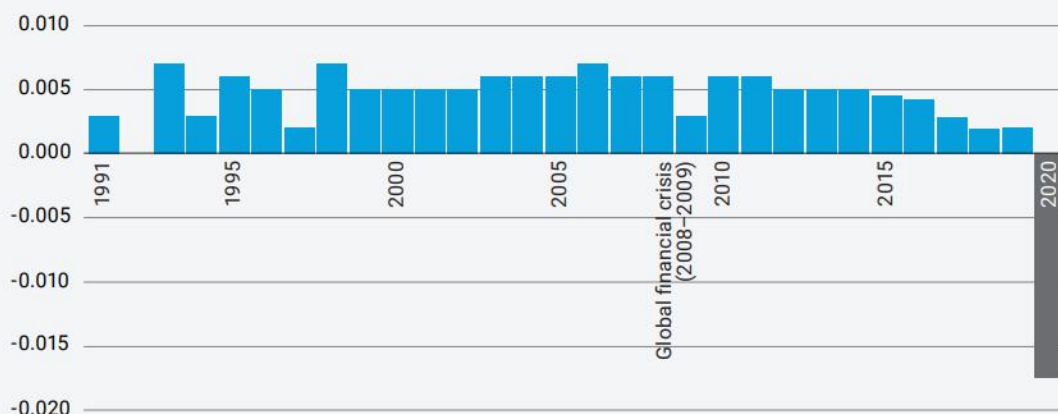
The interruption in the process of education during covid-19 pandemic will continue to have substantial effects, extending beyond education. Many of these have been laid out in previous policy briefs and include, for instance, food insecurity, economic instability, and violence against women and girls. Closures of schools and other educational institutions are hampering the provision of essential services to children and communities. The loss of school meals and other health and nutrition services in the first months of the pandemic affected 370 million children in 195 countries, increasing hunger and nutritional deficiencies for the most disadvantaged. Some countries, however, have been able to adapt and maintain school feeding programmes for example Delhi in India.

The interruption also concerns health and psychosocial services, since education institutions also serve as platforms for prevention, diagnosis, and counselling. As a result, vulnerable groups are experiencing both a loss of essential services and a lack of social protection mechanisms.

As with previous pandemics, COVID-19 has shown that education institution closures represent an increased risk for women and girls, as they are more vulnerable to multiple types of abuse, such as domestic violence, transactional sex, and early and forced marriages. The closures have also affected the ability of many parents to work. A significant share of working parents rely on childcare and schools. In countries such as France, Germany, Italy, the UK, and USA, 60 per cent of parents have been unable to find alternative solutions for schools and day-care centres.

A recent study highlights that women are bearing the greater share of additional time spent on childcare and household tasks. Coupled with the present economic disruption, this will likely contribute to higher earning gaps, thus widening gender inequality. Furthermore, studies project that working-hour losses will represent up to 400 million full-time jobs. As parents who lose income make difficult choices, enrolment and girl's education rates may decline, while child labour, recruitment, and exploitation rise. With the number of people in extreme poverty due to COVID-19 projected to increase between 71 and 100 million, attention should be paid to dropouts, as well as opportunity costs that are likely to affect parent's decisions to support their children's education. School closures will have not only immediate economic consequences, but long-lasting effects. It is estimated that for the first time since its conception, the Human Development Index, of which the education dimension accounts for a third, will show a striking decline (figure 4).

**FIGURE 4: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IS FACING AN UNPRECEDENTED HIT SINCE THE CONCEPT WAS INTRODUCED IN 1990**  
(annual change in human development index)



Source: HDRO and simulations, available at [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/covid-19\\_and\\_human\\_development\\_0.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/covid-19_and_human_development_0.pdf).

The above passage has been sourced and adapted from UN's report on 'Education during Covid-19 and beyond'

**On the basis of your understanding of the passage attempt ANY TEN questions from the twelve that follow. (1x10=10)**

- i. In the line "...hampering the provision of essential services to children and communities .', the word "hampering" DOES NOT refer to
  - a. Hindering
  - b. Obstructing
  - c. Blocking
  - d. Delaying
- ii. According to the report, the disruption in education also leads to,
  - a. Malnutrition among students
  - b. Violence among students
  - c. Financial insecurity among students
  - d. Fear among students
- iii. Who are the 'vulnerable groups' as per the report in paragraph 2?

- a. Teachers
  - b. Students
  - c. Principals
  - d. Parents
- iv. Functioning Day-cares are more important to women compared to men because,
- a. Women are able to look after home
  - b. Women are able to look after children
  - c. Women are able to go out to work
  - d. Women are able to go to school
- v. The report suggests that girls' enrolment in schools may decline because of
- a. Families will get affected by loss of jobs impacting girls' education
  - b. Families don't want girls to study because it is not important
  - c. Families like to marry girls at a very early age
  - d. Families may not find good schools for girls to attend
- vi. According to the report the number of people in extreme poverty will...,
- a. Rise to 71 million from zero
  - b. Rise to 100 million from zero
  - c. Rise from 71 to 100 million
  - d. Rise between 71 to 100 million more
- vii. Based on your understanding of the passage, choose the option that best lists the outcomes of disruption of education.

- 1. Girl's educational opportunities will reduce
- 2. Children may face domestic violence at home
- 3. Women will not be able to find jobs
- 4. Children may have to work to support their families
- 5. Women will open more day-cares

- a. 1,2,3
  - b. 1,5,6
  - c. 2,3,4
  - d. 1,2,4
- viii. According to the report, Human Development Index during the year 2020 will
- a. Show an increase
  - b. Remain as before
  - c. Show a decline
  - d. Not be reflected
- ix. Choose the option which is not true.
- a. Human development Index shows improvement in the year 1993 compared to previous year

- b. Human development Index shows improvement in the year 2000 compared to previous year
  - c. Human development Index shows improvement in the year 2006 compared to previous year
  - d. Human development Index shows improvement in the year 1998 compared to previous year
- x. According to the report what is most appropriate conclusion:
- a. Human Development Index reflects a sharp fall because children did not go to school
  - b. Children, especially girls are at high risk of social-emotional trauma post-Covid-19 pandemic.
  - c. There is a need to ensure food security is provided to all children
  - d. School have no impact on the vulnerable groups and therefore unnecessary for girls.
- xi. The years between 2008 and 2009 reflect a sharp decline in the Human Development Index because of :
- a. Incorrect calculation of data
  - b. Shut down of educational institutions
  - c. Global economic meltdown
  - d. Covid-19 pandemic
- xii. The only year which shows a sharp negative growth in the Human Development Index is
- a. 2009
  - b. 2016
  - c. 2018
  - d. 2020

## LITERATURE

(10 marks)

**Q3. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE, by answering the questions that follow. (5x1)**

Inside the clouds, everything was suddenly black. It was impossible to see anything outside the aeroplane. The old aeroplane jumped and twisted in the air. I looked at the compass. I couldn't believe my eyes: the compass was turning round and round and round. It was dead. It would not work! The other instruments were suddenly dead, too. I tried the radio.

"Paris Control? Paris Control? Can you hear me?"

There was no answer. The radio was dead too. I had no radio, no compass, and I could not see where I was. I was lost in the storm. Then, in the black clouds quite near me, I saw another aeroplane. It had no lights on its wings, but I could see it flying next to me through the storm. I could see the pilot's face — turned towards me. I was very glad to see another person. He lifted one hand and waved.



**i. While flying through the cloud, the narrator felt**

- a) confident
- b) nervous
- c) excited
- d) calm

**ii. The statement that is TRUE according to the passage is**

- a) The compass and the radio were working fine.
- b) The narrator established contact with the Paris Control room.
- c) The narrator had lost all hopes but suddenly a black strange plane appeared.
- d) It was an easy flight.

**iii. Pick the option that correctly classifies fact/s(F) and opinion/s (O).**

I feel the narrator shouldn't have taken the risk of flying through a storm cloud.

1.

Let's not forget that he landed safely.

2.

The second airplane was the narrator's imagination.

3.

*Probably, it was the narrator's own self that helped him through the storm. He was hallucinating.*

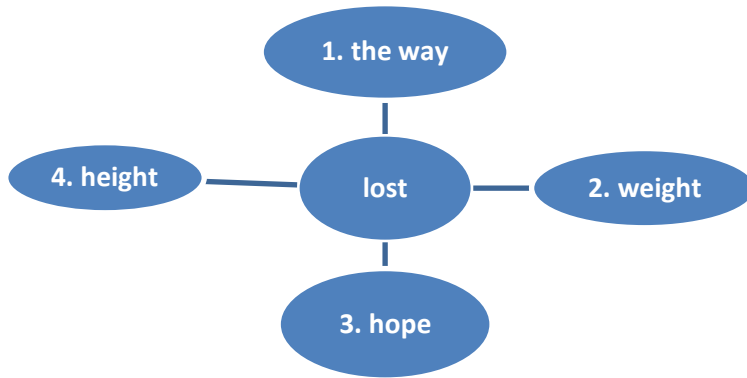
4.

- a) F- 4 and O - 1,2 & 3
- b) F- 2 and O - 1,3 & 4
- c) F- 1 & 2 and O - 3 & 4
- d) F- 3 and O - 1, 2 & 4

**iv. When the narrator says, "I was very glad to see another person", he means that**

- a) He was happy to see that another pilot had lost his way in the storm clouds.
- b) The pilot of the other plane was known to the narrator and he was happy to see him.
- c) The pilot of another aeroplane might help him land safely.
- d) The narrator was bored of flying alone. The other pilot would give him good company.

**v. The extract uses the phrase, 'lost in the storm'. Which of the following expressions is incorrect with respect to the word 'lost'?**



- a) Option (1)
- b) Option (2)
- c) Option (3)
- d) Option (4)

**OR**

**B)**

“Wanda,” Peggy would say in a most courteous manner as though she were talking to Miss Mason. “Wanda,” she’d say, giving one of her friends a nudge, “tell us. How many dresses did you say you had hanging up in your closet?”

“A hundred,” Wanda would say.

“A hundred!” exclaimed all the little girls incredulously, and the little ones would stop playing hopscotch and listen.

“Yeah, a hundred, all lined up,” said Wanda. Then her thin lips drew together in silence.

“What are they like? All silk, I bet,” said Peggy.

“Yeah, all silk, all colours.”

“Velvet, too?”

“Yeah, velvet too. A hundred dresses,” Wanda would repeat stolidly. “All lined up in my closet.”

Then they’d let her go. And then before she’d gone very far, they couldn’t help bursting into shrieks and peals of laughter.

A hundred dresses! Obviously, the only dress Wanda had was the blue one she wore every day. So why did she say she had a hundred? What a story!

**i) How did Wanda feel when Peggy asked her about the number of dresses she had?**

- a) Angry
- b) Confused
- c) Quite embarrassed
- d) Delighted

**ii) Choose the option that lists the set of statements that are NOT TRUE according to the given extract.**

- 1. Wanda was a young Polish girl.

2. Maddie always asked Wanda how many dresses did she have.
3. Wanda replied she had drawings of hundred dresses.
4. Wanda's response to Peggy was rude.
5. Peggy bullied Wanda.
6. Everyday Wanda wore the same blue dress to school.

- a) 1 & 5
- b) 2,3 &4
- c) 1,5 & 6
- d) 2, 3 & 6

**iii. The expression 'What a story !' means**

- a) a story narrated by their teacher.
- b) the variety of dresses that Wanda had in her closet.
- c) a story that Peggy told Maddie.
- d) *it was hard to believe what Wanda said because the only dress she was seen wearing was the blue one that was faded.*

**iv. Which word does 'lined up' NOT correspond to?**

- a) kept in a row
- b) disorganised
- c) organised in a straight line
- d) arranged in a linear manner

**v) Choose the characteristic displayed by Peggy when she says "All silk, I bet"**

- a) friendly
- b) gentle
- c) sarcastic
- d) courteous

**4. Read the extracts given below and attempt ANY ONE, by answering the questions that follow. (5x1)**

(A) Did you finish your homework, Amanda?

Did you tidy your room, Amanda?

I thought I told you to clean your shoes,

Amanda!

(I am an orphan, roaming the street.

I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet.

The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.)

**i. The fact that Amanda wants to be 'an orphan' tells us that she wants**

- a) freedom from the constant nagging she receives from her parents.
- b) to roam on the streets aimlessly because she is lazy.
- c) to escape from her untidy room.
- d) to escape the task of cleaning her shoes.

**ii. What will Amanda NOT do as an orphan-**

- a) roam on the streets
- b) draw pattern using her bare feet
- c) enjoy her freedom
- d) Eat chocolates.

**iii. State the poetic devices used in the line- 'The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet.'**

- a) alliteration
- b) simile
- c) metaphor
- d) oxymoron

**iv. The use of the exclamatory mark in the line- 'I thought I told you to clean your shoes,**

**Amanda!' suggests that the parents**

- a) seem to be losing their cool and are troubled.
- b) want Amanda to enjoy her freedom.
- c) understand the struggles of their daughter, Amanda.
- d) want to send Amanda to a hostel.

**v. The rhyme scheme of the given stanza is-**

- a) ababccc
- b) abcbabb
- c) aabaccc
- d) abcbabc

or

- (B) I would not intrude on him;

A dime, another ball, is worthless. Now

He senses first responsibility

In a world of possessions. People will take

Balls, balls will be lost always, little boy.

And no one buys a ball back. Money is external.

He is learning, well behind his desperate eyes,

The epistemology of loss, how to stand up

Knowing what every man must one day know

And most know many days, how to stand up.

**i. The lines are from the poem, 'The Ball Poem' by -**

- a) Leslie Norris
- b) Walt Whitman
- c) John Barryman
- d) Robert Frost

**ii. The line- 'He senses first responsibility; In a world of possessions' implies that the boy-**

- a) is learning how to deal with a loss, in a world of possessions.
- b) should yearn for worldly possessions.
- c) senses that this world is inhuman.
- d) gives up and wants a new ball.

**iii. The word 'intrude' DOES NOT have a meaning similar to**

- a) Disturb
- b) Interfere
- c) Encroach
- d) Reality

**iv. According to the poet, everyman should know how to overcome the\_\_\_\_\_**

- a) difficulties
- b) profit
- c) problems
- d) loss

**v. A world of possessions means:**

- a) world of deception
- b) world of materialism

- c) world of reality
- d) world of fantasy

**GRAMMAR (10 marks)**

**5. Choose the correct options to fill in the blanks to complete the note about the Tansen Sangeet Samaroh Festival of Madhya Pradesh. (3x1)**

**Tansen Sangeet Samaroh**..... (i) Every year in the month of December in Behat village of **Gwalior** district, **Madhya Pradesh**. It is a 4-day musical extravaganza. Artists and music lovers from all over the world..... (ii) here to pay tribute to the Great Indian Musical Maestro **Tansen**. The event is organized near the tomb of **Tansen** by Ustad Alauddin Khan Kala, under the department of culture, **Government of Madhya Pradesh**. Artists from all over India..... (iii) to deliver vocal and instrumental performances.

- (i) a) celebrates
- b) is celebrated
- c) celebrated
- d) was celebrated

- (ii) a) was gathering
- b) gather
- c) will gather
- d) is gathering

- (iii) a) are invited
- b) has been inviting
- c) is inviting
- d) invited

**6. Choose the correct options to fill in the blanks to complete the narration of Kelvin's conversation with Hobbes.**



Hobbes asked Kelvin .....(i) Kelvin said .....(ii) that would insult a 6 year old. He should know that. When Hobbes asked Kevin why he watched it, he replied that all other shows.....(iii)

- (i)
  - a. what he was watching
  - b. what are you watching
  - c. what he watched
  - d. what was he watching
- ii)
  - a. that he was watching a show
  - b. that he had watched a show
  - c. hthate has watched a show
  - d. he will have watched a show
- iii)
  - a. were even worse
  - b. are even worse
  - c. will be even worse
  - d. could be even worse

7. Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct options for ANY FOUR of the six sentences given below.

- i) My brother is .....university student..
  - a. The

- b. A
  - c. An
  - d. Little
- ii) We ..... follow rules at the examination center.
- a. will
  - b. would
  - c. ought to
  - d. may
- iii) He ..... not worry about the examinations. He has practiced writing the sample papers.
- a. need
  - b. can
  - c. will
  - d. may
- iv) Parents ..... shape the life of children.
- a. can
  - b. may
  - c. would
  - d. must
- v) Leap year falls ..... fourth year.
- a. .Every
  - b. Next
  - c. All
  - d. Many
- vi) Gautam has .....friends who can help him any time he needs.
- a. few
  - b. a few
  - c. much
  - d. little

## WRITING

(2x5= 10 marks)

### 8. Attempt ANY ONE of the following in 100-120 words. (5 marks)

(A) Write a letter to the Horticulture Department of your local Municipal Corporation, requesting them for pruning of trees in your colony. Residents of many houses are facing security and environmental threats because of the overgrown branches of many trees



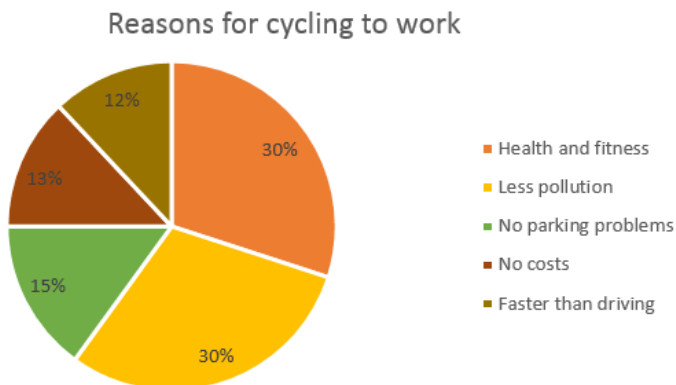
which are entering the balconies of many houses. Sign yourself as Fatima/ Fawad, living at CDS 189-Second Floor, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh.

**OR**

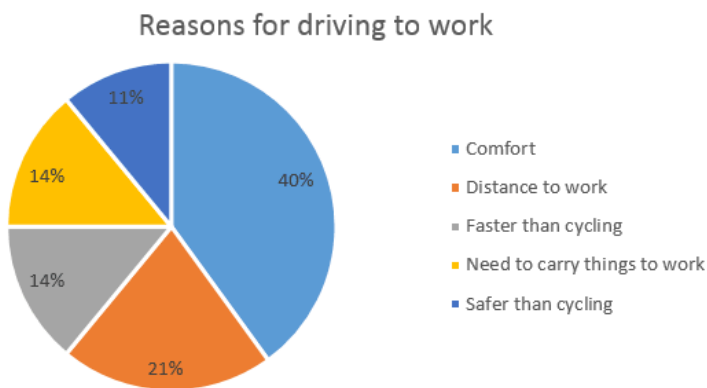
(B) As Satvinder/Simran from 698, UOL Block, Ludhiana, write a complaint letter to the State Pollution Control Board of your city, sharing your concerns about the noise-pollution nuisance caused by frequent late-night events being held at the community-hall, which has recently been constructed next to your house, without the consent of the local residents. The loud noise of the late-night parties and the uncontrolled use of the blaring public-address-system causes a lot of inconvenience to the local residents. You may also suggest an alternative or solution in your letter.

**9. Attempt ANY ONE of the following in 100-120 words. (5 marks)**

(A) The pie-chart below displays data about the reasons people have stated to travel to their workplace by bicycle or by car. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

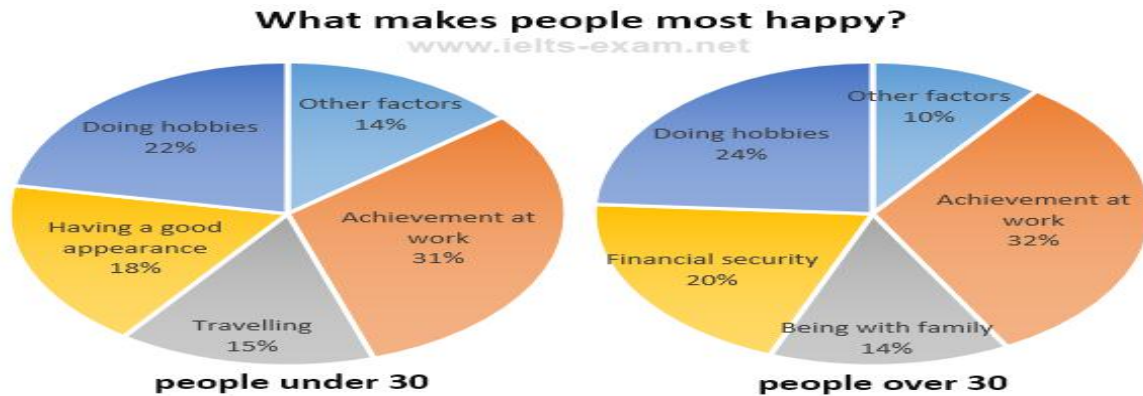


Source credit : <https://www.ielts->



**UK**

(B) The pie-chart below displays data about the factors which make people happy. The data has been collected from people of two age brackets: under 30 years of age and above 30 years of age. Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.



Source credit : <https://www.ielts-exam.net/>

Q10. Answer ANY TWO questions in 20-30 words each, from (A) and (B) respectively.  
(2\*4=8)

**(A)(Any two) (2X2=4)**

- i) What is the impact of repetition on a reader in the poem 'Tale of Custard the Dragon'?
- ii) "I hope it passes quickly." Explain this statement with reference to the chapter 'Letter to God'.
- iii) With reference to the poem 'Fire and Ice', which one does the poet favour that would end the world?

**(B)(Any two) (2X2=4)**

- i) What did Ebright like to do since childhood?
- ii) How did Hari Singh win the trust of Anil?
- iii) How did Mr. Herriot treat Tricki's illness?

Q11. Answer ANY TWO questions in 40-50 words each, from (A) and (B) respectively.  
(3\*4=12)

**(A)(Any two) (3X2=6)**

- i) Do you think that Lomov proposed to marry Natalya out of love? Why/ why not?

- ii) 'Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished'. Explain with reference to the chapter 'Nelson Mandela- A long walk to freedom'.
- iii) 'The sermon reflects the Budha's wisdom about one inscrutable kind of suffering.' Do you agree with this? Why/ why not?

**(B)(Any two) (3x2=6)**

- i) Why did the villagers grow suspicious of Griffin?
- ii) Collection of butterflies paved the way for 'Making of a scientist'. How?
- iii) Give a brief sketch of Mr. Loisel with reference to the chapter 'The necklace'.

**12. Answer ANY ONE the following in 100-120 words. (5x1)**

(A) Anne liked to talk and Mr. Keesing, her Math teacher first tried to do his best to stop her from talking in the class but later he allowed her to do so. Imagine, after some days, Anne realizes that sometimes she disturbs the class. So, she stops talking in the class. Her friend Sanne who had helped her to write a poem about the ducklings, gets worried. Write a dialogue between Anne and Sanne about this situation.

OR

(B) Read the extracts given below and comment on the travelling experience of the characters as described in both the lessons. Highlight the differences and similarities in the two experiences.

- (a) "The train clattered into Mariani junction. The boys collected their luggage and pushed their way to the crowded platform. Pranjol's parents were waiting for them."  
(Glimpses of India)
- (b) "She laughed and jumped down from the bus. Then away she went, running straight for home. When she entered her house, she found her mother awake and talking to one of Valli's aunts, the one from South Street."  
(Madam Rides the Bus)

**13. Answer ANY ONE of the following in 100-120 words. (5x1)**

(A) On her first day at school, Bholi's teacher promised her - "People will listen to you with respect and you will be able to speak without the slightest stammer."  
Did Bholi become what her teacher promised her to be? Elaborate with the help of examples from the text.

OR

(B) Read the following quote by Carl Sagan, famous astronaut.  
"[Science] is not perfect. It can be misused. It is only a tool."  
Justify the quote given above in the light of what Griffin does in the *Footprints without feet*.