

SECTION – A

(Reading Skills)

1. (I) The phrase "has a surprisingly long and diverse history" means that pancakes have existed for a very long time (thousands of years) and have developed in many different forms across various cultures and regions.
(II) The correct option is:
(b) it can be used for cooking and also for eating.
(III) American pancakes were made light and fluffy by the use of baking powder. They gained popularity in the 18th century.
(IV) True.
Every culture has adapted pancakes according to its own ingredients, flavours, and traditions.
(V) The correct option is:
(a) Dosa and appam
(VI) The correct option is:
(a) Like a painter starts with a blank canvas, a diner can get creative.
(VII) Any two points are:
(1) Pancakes continue to evolve with new recipes such as vegan, gluten-free, fruit-infused, and protein-rich varieties.
(2) They connect people through shared history, creativity, regional identity, and food traditions.
(VIII) The correct option is:
(a) comfort food that provides a sense of emotional security.
2. (I) (d) People who use internet actively
(II) (b) Both the Assertion and the Reason are true, but the Reason is not the correct explanation of the Assertion.
(III) "relatively"
(IV) (b) 2023 to 2025
(Internet reach increased from 51.5% to 55.3%, the highest values in the table.)
(V) Digital divide (gender gap) / lack of awareness about the internet.
(VI) Infrastructure limitations impedes digital adoption.
(VII) An increase in the number of connections in urban areas is because of a higher density of population.
(VIII) (1) Targeted awareness campaigns
(2) Digital literacy programs
(IX) The author justifies this statement by mentioning that Indians use the internet extensively for information and research, shopping, entertainment, and smart-home living, showing widespread acceptance of digital living.

SECTION-B

(Grammar and Creative Writing Skills)

3. (I) (c) have not eaten
(II)

Error	Correction
identifying	identify

Correct sentence: To identify your goal is the biggest step in your success story.

- (III) Yamini asked Shifa if/whether she would like to come for her birthday party the next day.
- (IV) The verdict is yet to come since the members of the jury are divided in their opinion.
- (V) Somil asked his mother to teach him to swim.

(VI)

Error	Correction
then	than

- (VII) (b) Minimum 75% attendance is mandatory to appear for the final examinations.

(VIII)

Error	Correction
this	these

Correct sentence: After the meeting it was obvious that most stakeholders would not support these proposals.

- (IX) The flight attendant asked the passenger if he had had his dinner. The passenger replied in affirmation and thanked him.

(X).(d) 'When I was the team Captain, I would often organise get-togethers to develop bonding among the teammates.'

(XI).(d) Yesterday you loved the spicy Indian curry, didn't you?

(XII) The student asked the writer what had prompted him to become a professional writer.

(Creative Writing Skills)

4. (A) The Editor

The Daily News

Jaipur

18 June 2026

Subject: Need and Importance of Skill Education for Youth

Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I would like to draw attention to the growing need for skill and vocational education among today's youth.

In the present competitive world, academic qualifications alone are often not sufficient to secure employment. Many educated young people remain unemployed because they lack practical skills required by industries and businesses. Skill education helps students develop job-oriented abilities such as communication, technical expertise, entrepreneurship, and problem-solving skills.

Vocational training not only increases employability but also encourages self-employment and innovation. Young people can start their own businesses, become financially independent, and contribute to the nation's economic growth. It also reduces dependence on traditional jobs and promotes an entrepreneurial mindset.

Therefore, schools, colleges, and government agencies should give greater importance to skill development programmes. Such initiatives will help create a confident, self-reliant, and productive generation.

I hope the concerned authorities and the public will recognize the importance of skill education and take necessary steps to promote it.

Yours sincerely,

Divya Kumar

Director, Nurturing India

OR

(B) The Commissioner

Works Department

Jhunjhunu

18 June 2026

Subject: Urgent Need for Installation of Street Lights in Jhunjhunu Colony

Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Jhunjhunu Colony and wish to draw your attention to the poor street lighting in our area.

For the past few months, there has been a rise in accidents and petty crimes in the colony. The main reason is that many streets remain poorly lit after sunset. Pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists find it difficult to move safely at night. Darkness also provides an opportunity for anti-social elements to engage in theft and other unlawful activities.

Residents, especially senior citizens, women, and children, feel unsafe while stepping out in the evening. Several complaints have already been made, but no effective action has been taken so far.

I request you to take immediate steps to install new street lights and repair the non-functional ones. Adequate lighting will greatly improve public safety and help prevent further accidents and crimes.

I hope you will treat this matter as urgent and take prompt action.

Yours faithfully,

Nirmala

Resident, Jhunjhunu Colony

5. (A) Improvement in sports infrastructure is essential for enhancing India's performance at the international level.

Multipurpose and sustainable sports facilities provide athletes with access to quality training environments throughout the year. The integration of modern technology, such as performance analysis tools, fitness tracking devices, and advanced coaching methods, helps athletes improve their skills and achieve better results. A grassroots-centric approach is equally important as it identifies and nurtures talent from rural and remote areas. Well-equipped training centres, qualified coaches, and regular competitions motivate young players to pursue sports professionally. Sustainable infrastructure also ensures long-term development without excessive

maintenance costs. When athletes receive proper facilities, guidance, and opportunities, they can compete confidently on the world stage. Therefore, investing in modern sports infrastructure is a crucial step towards bringing more medals and recognition to India.

OR

(B) India's start-up ecosystem is one of the largest and most dynamic in the world. Start-ups drive innovation by introducing creative solutions to challenges in healthcare, agriculture, e-commerce, and many other sectors. Their growth generates employment opportunities, boosts economic development, and improves the quality of life for citizens. The future of start-ups in India appears promising due to increasing digital adoption, skilled youth, and expanding markets. Government initiatives such as Startup India, along with funding support from investors, have created a favourable environment for entrepreneurship. However, continued support in the form of easier regulations, access to capital, mentorship, and technological infrastructure is necessary. With sustained encouragement and innovation, Indian start-ups can achieve global success and contribute significantly to the nation's progress and competitiveness.

SECTION – C

(Literature Text Book)

6. (A) Nelson Mandela - Long Walk to Freedom

(I) (c) conflicted

(II) Mandela believed that true emancipation means not only achieving political freedom but also freeing people from poverty, deprivation, suffering, gender discrimination, and all forms of inequality. Real freedom includes social and economic justice for all.

(III)

Mandela's speech swings between references to the past and a promising future.

(IV)

Mandela means that South Africa's achievement of freedom, equality, and democracy is a historic and remarkable accomplishment. It is so great that it will always be remembered and celebrated throughout the world.

OR

(I) (a) patronizing

(II) Omega calls Think-Tank great and mighty because he is the ruler and leader of Mars, and the Martians regard him as highly intelligent and powerful.

(III) After viewing the book closely, Think-Tank concludes that Earth creatures enjoy eating food.

(IV) Oop has never seen a book before and does not know what it is. He thinks it might be a hat, so he opens it and puts it on his head.

7. (A) Fire and Ice

(I) According to Robert Frost, fire refers to desire.

(II) The poet believes both fire and ice can destroy the world equally because fire symbolizes uncontrolled desire and ice symbolizes hatred. Both are powerful negative emotions that can lead to destruction.

(III) In the line "But if it had to perish twice", it refers to the world.

(IV) (b)

Fire and Ice (Stanza 1) rhyme scheme: ABAABCBCB

follows the same pattern in its first three lines: ABA.

OR

(B) How to Tell Wild Animals

(I) The poet uses the word 'nonplus' instead of confused because it is more poetic and helps maintain the rhyme and humorous tone of the poem.

(II) The irony in the last two lines is that hyenas are known for their smiling appearance, while crocodiles are associated with fake tears ("crocodile tears"). The poet humorously reverses expectations to distinguish the two animals.

(III)

The word 'novice' signifies a/an inexperienced person.

(IV) (a)

The lines create a humorous atmosphere because the poet playfully describes the animals. They can also seem confusing due to the amusing and unexpected way of distinguishing a crocodile from a hyena.

8. (I) A Letter to God

Lencho's last letter to God shows his deep and unwavering faith. He firmly believes that God will help him after the hailstorm destroys his crops. However, the irony lies in the fact that when he receives money collected by the postmaster and his employees, he does not thank them. Instead, he thinks the post office employees have stolen part of the money and calls them "a bunch of crooks." Thus, his faith in God remains strong, but he fails to recognize the human kindness through which God answered his prayer.

(II) Mifbil the Otter

The relationship between Mijbil and Maxwell conveys emotions of love, affection, companionship, and trust. Maxwell treats Mijbil like a family member and enjoys observing his playful activities. Mijbil responds with loyalty and attachment. Their bond highlights the intelligence and sensitivity of wild animals and encourages people, especially city dwellers, to respect and care for wildlife. The story shows that humans and animals can share a deep emotional connection.

(III) Fog

The extended metaphor in the poem compares fog to a cat. Through this comparison, the poet describes the fog as silent, mysterious, and gentle. Like a cat, the fog arrives quietly, sits over the city and harbour, and then moves away unnoticed. This metaphor makes the poem vivid and imaginative, helping readers visualize the movement and nature of fog in an interesting and memorable way.

(IV) Madam Rides the Bus

The narrative style of the story effectively brings out Valli's character and experiences. Through simple descriptions, dialogues, and observations, readers learn about her curiosity, determination, confidence, and independence. The bus journey allows her to explore the world beyond her village and gain new experiences. The narrative also captures her excitement, wonder, and maturity as she observes life closely and learns valuable lessons from her trip.

(V) The Ball Poem

Time is one of the most valuable possessions because once it is lost, it can never be regained. In The Ball Poem, the boy's loss of the ball symbolizes the inevitable losses that occur in life. Just as the ball cannot be brought back, lost time cannot be recovered. People often regret wasting time because it could have been used productively. The poem teaches us to value time and learn from our experiences of loss and responsibility.

9. (I) Ebright collected and tagged monarch butterflies, carefully observed their behaviour and recorded data. He conducted experiments, asked questions and searched for logical explanations. These activities developed his curiosity, analytical thinking and scientific approach, helping him become a successful scientist.
- (II) Ausable remained calm even in dangerous situations. When Max entered his room, Ausable quickly invented the story of a balcony and the arrival of the police. Max believed him and jumped out of the window, proving that Ausable's intelligence kept him ahead of everyone.
- (III) Bholi's mother neglected and underestimated her because of her appearance and speech defect. She showed little affection towards Bholi and considered her a burden. She also supported the unfair marriage proposal from Bishamber, ignoring her daughter's dignity and happiness.
10. (I) The tiger and Custard the dragon are both powerful animals, but they are portrayed differently. Both possess great strength and have the ability to inspire fear. However, the tiger is shown as a majestic wild animal confined in a zoo, suffering due to loss of freedom. He silently expresses his anger and helplessness. In contrast, Custard appears timid and cowardly, constantly asking for a safe cage. Yet, when danger arrives, he proves to be the bravest of all by defeating the pirate. While the tiger remains a victim of captivity, Custard emerges as a hero. Thus, the tiger symbolizes suppressed power, whereas Custard represents hidden courage and true bravery.

OR

(II) Both "The Sermon at Benaras" and "For Anne Gregory" explore important truths about love and life. In "The Sermon at Benaras", Buddha teaches Kisa Gotami that death is a natural part of life and that attachment leads to sorrow. The lesson emphasizes acceptance, wisdom, and the reality of human existence. In "For Anne Gregory", the poet discusses the nature of love, suggesting that people often admire external beauty rather than inner qualities. True love, however, values a person's soul and character. Thus, while the first text focuses on understanding life and overcoming grief, the second highlights the difference between superficial attraction and genuine love. Both encourage a deeper understanding of human relationships and values.

11. (I) "A Triumph of Surgery" teaches an important lesson about thoughtful parenting through the character of Mrs. Pumphrey and her dog, Tricki. Mrs. Pumphrey loved Tricki dearly, but her excessive pampering harmed him. She overfed him with rich food and gave him little exercise, making him unhealthy and inactive. Dr. Herriot understood that genuine care involves discipline, balance, and concern for long-term well-being. By providing

Tricki with proper food, exercise, and a healthy routine, he restored the dog's health. The story shows that true parenting is not about fulfilling every desire but about making wise decisions that help a child grow strong, healthy, and responsible. It emphasizes love guided by understanding and moderation.

OR

(II) "The Necklace" criticizes society's obsession with appearances and social status through the character of Matilda Loisel. Although she belongs to a modest family, she constantly dreams of wealth and luxury. Her desire to appear rich leads her to borrow a necklace for a grand party. When the necklace is lost, she and her husband spend ten years in poverty repaying the debt incurred to replace it. Ironically, the original necklace was only an imitation. Through this twist, the story highlights the dangers of vanity, pride, and social pretensions. It shows how the pursuit of outward appearances can lead to suffering and disappointment, while true happiness lies in contentment and honesty.

