



विद्या सर्वार्थ साधिका

ANANDALAYA  
PREBOARD EXAMINATION  
Class : XII

Subject : English Core (301)

Date : 16-01-2023

M.M : 80

Time : 3 Hours

**General Instructions:**

1. The Question Paper contains four sections.
2. Section A-Reading Section has 2 passages for comprehension.
3. Section B-Writing Section has 4 questions with options in each question. Adhere the word limit as given in the instructions with each question.
4. Section D-Literature Section has 7 questions. Do not exceed the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

**SECTION-A**

**Reading Section (20 Marks)**

I. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow. (Any 10) 10x1=10

1. In the book *Whiplash: How to Survive Our Faster Future*, he and Jeff Howe write, "In an increasingly unpredictable world moving ever more quickly, a detailed map may lead you deep into the woods at an unnecessarily high cost. A good compass, though, will always take you where you need to go. It doesn't mean that you should start your journey without any idea where you're going.

2. What it does mean is understanding that while the path to your goal may not be straight, you'll finish faster and more efficiently than you would have if you had trudged along a preplanned route."

In business, the creative professions, and education alike, it is important to reflect on what we hope to achieve before starting to work, study or make something.

3. Having a clear objective is important in achieving flow, but we also have to know how to leave it behind when we get down to business. Once the journey has begun, we should keep this objective in mind without obsessing over it.

4. When Olympic athletes compete for a gold medal, they can't stop to think how pretty the medal is. They have to be present in the moment-they have to flow. If they lose focus for a second, thinking how proud they'll be to show the medal to their parents, they'll almost certainly commit an error at a critical moment and will not win the competition.

One common example of this is writer's block.

5. Imagine that a writer has to finish a novel in three months. The objective is clear; the problem is that the writer can't stop obsessing over it. Every day she wakes up thinking, "I have to write that novel," and every day she sets about reading the newspaper and cleaning the house. Every evening she feels frustrated and promises she'll get to work the next day.

6. Days, weeks, and months pass, and the writer still hasn't gotten anything down on the page, when all it would have taken was to sit down and get that first word out, then the second... to flow with the project, expressing her *ikigai*. As soon as you take these first small steps, your anxiety will disappear and you will achieve a pleasant flow in the activity you're doing. Getting back to Albert Einstein, "a happy man is too satisfied with the present to dwell on the future."

An extract from the book **Ikigai** by Francesc Miralles and Hector Garcia

i. Why is it important not to obsess over the objective once you start working?

A. to achieve flow in life

B. it may make you lose focus

C. obsession brings downfall

D. it clouds judgement

- ii. Person A: I need to get an A+ in tomorrow's exam at any cost.  
 Person B: I need to sleep and be well rested for tomorrow's test.  
 Person C: I want to make my parents proud.  
 According to the passage, who is bound to perform better and why?
- iii. What is a writers' block?  
 A. a wall in every writer's home where she lays the plans for her next book  
 B. a block where writer's meet to discuss their future works  
 C. a virtual block in the writer's mind which prevents her from writing  
 D. a block which helps the writer write better.
- iv. What did the writer have to do to get over the writer's block according to the passage?
- v. "Worrying makes you suffer twice." Do you agree? Justify your answer with the help of the passage.
- vi. Read the following statements and choose the odd one out.  
 1. You need to know a path before you decide on the destination.  
 2. If you are focused on the destination, you will find your way.  
 3. If you know the path, you can eventually find a destination you like.  
 A. 1 only  
 B. 2 only  
 C. 3 only  
 D. none of these
- vii. Read the following statements and choose the ones which are incorrect.  
 1. A writer is unable to write because she is too hung up on the deadline.  
 2. An objective is important to achieve flow in life.  
 3. An objective can mislead you but following a concrete way will get you to your destiny.  
 4. Your objective should be your obsession only then will you be able to perform well.  
 5. Destiny is decided by fate no matter what you do you will reach in the place you are supposed to be.  
 6. just focus on giving your best towards your objective. Everything else will figure itself out.  
 A. 1,3  
 B. 2,5  
 C. 1,6  
 D. 3,5
- viii. Om: I am clueless about what stream to choose next year, I don't know what to do.  
 Hari: I think you should start by thinking what profession you want to pursue.  
 Mani: I think you should simply take Science, we can think about the profession after we graduate school. There is a lot of time.  
 Who do you think is right according to your reading of the passage?  
 A. Hari  
 B. Mani  
 C. both of them  
 D. none of them
- ix. Which word in paragraph 1 means the same as "fickle"?
- x. What advice would you give the writer experiencing writer's block?  
 A. journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step/ a thing begun is half done  
 B. a rolling stone gathers no moss  
 C. Rome wasn't built in a day  
 D. time waits for no one
- xi. Which of the following words can best replace the word "anxiety" in paragraph 6?  
 A. tranquility  
 B. disquietude  
 C. placidness  
 D. compunction
- II. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow. (Any 10) 10x1=10

1. Digital payments have grown exponentially in India in recent years, thanks notably to the real time payment system, Unified Payments Interface (UPI). The rise has largely been driven by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), supported by commercial banks and India’s rich fintech ecosystem.
2. The growth in digital payments in India dovetails with the country’s goal to enhance financial inclusion, in an economy with a sizeable unbanked population and large informal sector, and where cash use remains all pervasive. The local success of UPI could also serve as a catalyst for the creation of a central bank digital currency, and foster efficiency gains in cross border payments, which remain costly and complex, as in all emerging economies.
3. In recent years, India has experienced a revolution in retail digital payments. Thanks to the wide array of solutions on offer backed by public authorities, the country now ranks first worldwide for real time, account to account digital transactions, with a share of over 40% of all such payments made throughout the world in 2021, well ahead of China.
4. As in other emerging countries, the rise of digital payments in India has been fueled by increased internet penetration, notably via smartphones (54.2% of the population owned a smartphone in 2020, up from 4.7% in 2011), in an economy that remains predominantly informal – the informal sector accounts for at least 80% of jobs (Ramana Murthy, 2019) – and where a sizeable share of the population remains unbanked.
5. The shift towards digitalisation was facilitated by the launch in 2009 of the national electronic and biometric identity scheme, Aadhaar, and the provision of a digital foundational infrastructure as a public good within the India Stack (D’Silva et al., 2019). It subsequently intensified with the demonetisation of the INR 500 and INR 1,000 banknotes in 2016, and then the Covid 19 crisis in 2020-21.
6. The trend therefore serves a twofold objective: the modernisation of the economy and the expansion of financial inclusion, which is understood as ensuring the broadest and cheapest possible access to financial products and services for both individuals and firms.

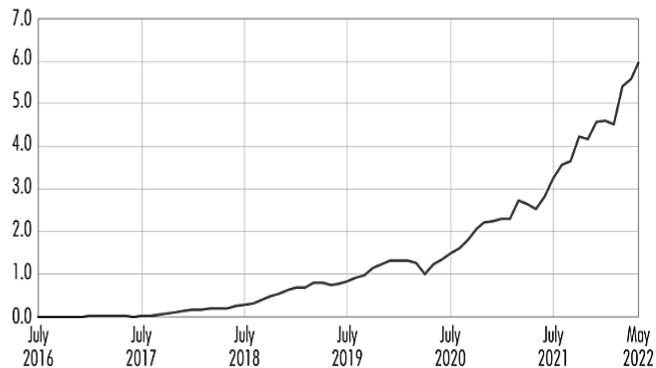
Source: Banque De France (An economic journal)

**200** million  
number of transactions per day recorded on India’s real-time payment system, UPI, in May 2022

USD **940** billion  
value of transactions carried out on UPI in 2021, i.e. 31% of India’s GDP

USD **83** billion  
value of remittances by Indian migrant workers in 2020

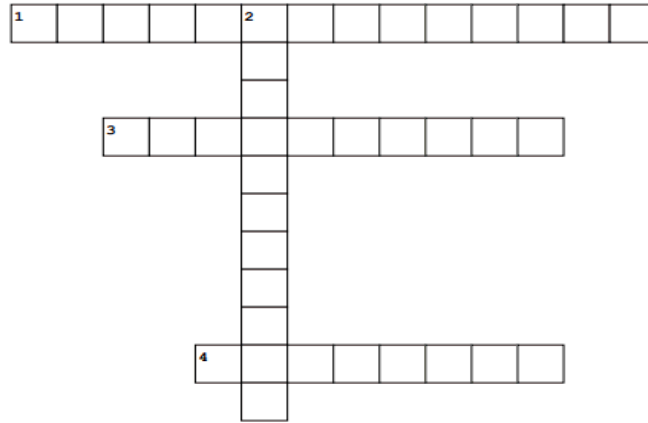
Volume of transactions carried out on UPI since its launch (billions)



Source: National Payments Corporation of India.  
Note: UPI stands for Unified Payments Interface

**On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the following questions.**

- i. Fill in the crossword with words from the passage with the help of the clues given. (4)



**Across**

- 1. to deprive of value for official payment (ver.)(para 5)
- 3. a sudden, radical, or complete change (n.)(para 3)
- 4. an agent that provokes or speeds significant change or action (n.)(para 2)

**Down**

- 2. characterised by rapid increase or growth (adj.)(para 1)

- ii. Which factor played as the catalyst in the UPI revolution?
    - A. internet penetration
    - B. no cash policies
    - C. rebates and cashbacks on digital payment
    - D. lower taxes on cashless payments
  - iii. What makes digital payments secure in India?
    - A. real time payment system
    - B. techno-savvy citizens
    - C. secure mobile phone servers
    - D. good internet
  - iv. Number of smartphone users has increased through the years. Justify the statement and state one reason for the rise in users.
  - v. Volume of digital payments in India have been on a constant rise. Justify the statement and state two most prominent reasons behind this rise.
- State whether the following statements are true or false. (2)
- vi. Rise in digital payments will lead to financial inclusion.
  - vii. Support of government authorities like RBI and NPCI has helped raise the number of e-payment transactions.
  - viii. What is the two-fold objective of digitalization of payments in India? Why is financial inclusion a challenge in the Indian economy?

**SECTION B**

**Creative writing skills (20 Marks)**

- III. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below.
    - A. Ram Lakhani is the Head Boy of Bhavan Vidyalaya, Chandigarh. He and some other students of the school are touched by the plight of the poor and the destitute in the state-run homes, and wish to make a difference in their lives by lessening their sufferings. They decide to raise funds for this purpose. Write a notice, not exceeding 50 words, making an appeal for generous donations.
- OR**
- B. An inter-section debate for all the students of Class IX to XII is going to be held on the topic ‘Tobacco companies should not sponsor sports events’. As the cultural secretary, draft a notice providing all relevant details in not more than 50 words.

1x5=5

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

- A. Your brother has successfully passed his Chartered Accountancy Course. You wish to celebrate the occasion by hosting a grand party. Write out the invitation to be sent to all the relatives and friends giving details of the date, time and venue. Do not exceed 50 words.

**OR**

1x5=5

- B. The Sports Captain of Keshar Public School, Jodhpur, invited Sh. Mohamad Yunus Khan, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, to be the Chief Guest on the occasion of the Annual Sports Day of the school. On behalf of the minister, draft a reply to the invitation expressing your inability to attend the function. Do not exceed 50 words.

V. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (120-150 words)

- A. Rajendra/Kavya Chauhan has recently participated in a debate competition on the topic 'System in India is responsible for all types of corruption but not just politicians'. While preparing for the debate she/he came across various reasons for corruption in India. She/He was astounded to realise the gravity of this problem. Using the hints given below write a letter to the editor of Indian Express attracting the attention of concerned authorities towards the problem and solutions to eradicate this evil from Indian society.

1. Excessive regulations
2. Complicated tax and licensing systems
3. Numerous government departments with opaque bureaucracy and discretionary powers
4. Monopoly of government-controlled institutions on certain goods and services delivery
5. The lack of transparent laws and processes
6. Moderate punishment and social acceptance

**OR**

1x5=5

- B. Arrowal Industries wishes to hire Accounts Manager for which an advertisement is published in The Hindu. Write a job application and Curriculum-vitae for the said post.

Arrowal Industries

# WE'RE HIRING

## Account Manager

**Qualifications:**

- Male / Female
- Bachelor degree in business, marketing or communication
- Can work individual and team
- Has 1 year experience in accounting field

**Send Your CV and Cover Letter To Email :**

hello@reallygreatsite.com

Arrowal Industries  
+123-456-7890  
123 Anywhere St., Any City

VI. Attempt ANY ONE from A and B given below. (120-150 words)

- A. Qatar has predicted that hosting the FIFA World Cup will create more than 1.5 million new jobs in key sectors like construction, real estate, and hospitality. The tourism industry is also expected to benefit from the event. India being a sport enthusiast country has limited itself to only Cricket. Write an article for the magazine 'Voice of Youth' expressing potential of sport tourism in India and other benefits the country can have through sports.

**OR**

1x5=5

- B. Your school organised an exhibition-cum-sale of the items prepared under Work Education by your school students. There was an overwhelming response from the parents and students. Prepare a report for your school magazine 'Antarchetna'. You are the Coordinator, S.U.P.W. activities, Nita School, Gurgaon.

### SECTION C

#### Literature (40 Marks)

- VII. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

1x6=6

- A. *“Or beauty rest in a beautiful mountain scene,  
You have the money, but if you want to be mean,  
Why keep your money (this crossly) and go along.  
The hurt to the scenery wouldn't be my complaint  
So much as the trusting sorrow of what is unsaid  
Here far from the city we make our roadside stand  
And ask for some city money to feel in hand”*

- i. What attraction does the place offer?
- A. The place offers a scenic view of the beautiful mountains.
  - B. The roadside stand which offers commodities at cheap rate
  - C. The behaviour of the vendors of the roadside stand
  - D. Variety of commodities which are available only at the roadside stand
- ii. What should one do if one wants to be mean?
- A. should show off his money and power
  - B. can exploit the vendors
  - C. can keep his money and move on ahead.
  - D. doesn't show any concern
- iii. What does the poet not complain about?
- A. about not appreciating the beautiful landscape
  - B. for not purchasing anything from the roadside stand
  - C. for breaking the trust of the poor roadside vendors
  - D. about the landscape which has been spoilt because of the artless painting done on the building.
- iv. What do you think is the real worry of the poet?
- A. The poet's real worry is the unexpressed sorrow of the people who have put up the roadside stand
  - B. The rebel of the vendors against city dwellers which if becomes violent can burn the cities.
  - C. Atrocities of the political parties making false promises to these people may break their trust in the system
  - D. Next generations of these vendors won't be able to come out of this vicious cycle of poverty.
- v. Which figure of speech is used in the second and third lines?
- vi. On the basis of the extract choose the correct option with reference to (1) and (2);
- 1. Roadside vendors want to live luxurious life like that of city dwellers.
  - 2. Roadside vendors want to have a satisfactory life with no interference of city people.
- A. Both (1) and (2) are true
  - B. (1) is false but (2) is true
  - C. (1) is true but (2) is false
  - D. Both (1) and (2) are false

**OR**

B. *“For simple sheep; and such are daffodils  
With the green world they live in; and clear rills  
That for themselves a cooling covert make  
‘Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,  
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;  
And such too is the grandeur of the dooms  
We have imagined for the mighty dead;  
All lovely tales that we have heard or read;  
An endless fountain of immortal drink,  
Pouring unto us from the heaven’s brink.”*

- i. What is the rhyming scheme of the extract given above?
 

A. aa,aa,bb,bb,cc	B. ab,ab,ba,ba,cc
C. aa,bb,cc,dd,ee	D. abc abc abcc
- ii. The word “simple” associated with sheep denotes \_\_\_\_\_.
 

A. innocence	B. foolishness
C. simple mindedness	D. naivety
- iii. What does the “hot season” symbolise?
 

A. summer days	B. period of draught
C. difficulties of worldly life	D. feeling of lack
- iv. What do you think the poet means by “*And such too is the grandeur of the dooms  
We have imagined for the mighty dead*”?
- v.
  1. An endless fountain of immortal drink denotes the holy drink “nectar” which grants immortality.
  2. Things of beauty are immortal.

If both these statements are assumed to be true, which of the following can you conclude?

- A. Poet compares things of beauty to the heavenly drink Nectar.
  - B. Poet thinks that beauty exists in heaven
  - C. Beauty is ephemeral
  - D. Beauty is transient
- vi. Identify the figure of speech in the lines below;  
*“With the green world they live in; and clear rills  
That for themselves a cooling covert make”*
- |              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| A. symbolism | B. simile          |
| C. hyperbole | D. personification |

VIII. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

1x6=6

- A. Then, from one thing to another, M. Hamel went on to talk of the French language, saying that it was the most beautiful language in the world — the clearest, the most logical; that we must guard it among us and never forget it, because when a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison. Then he opened a grammar and read us our lesson. I was amazed to see how well I understood it. All he said seemed so easy, so easy! I think, too, that I had never listened so carefully, and that he had never explained everything with so much patience.
  - i. Why do you think, M. Hamel believed that “when a people are enslaved, as long as they hold fast to their language it is as if they had the key to their prison”?
 

A. because our language gives us a sense of common identity and unites us	B. because we can conspire in our language and the enslaver would not understand
C. because it is easy to communicate in our language and so connect with our people	D. education in our language is easier and hence a country can prosper

- ii. The last lesson was so well understood by Franz because\_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the lesson was very easy and the teacher taught well.
  - B. he was a good student and could understand even when the teacher didn't teach well
  - C. he gave it his undivided attention and the teacher taught patiently
  - D. he finally understood that French was a logical language and M. Hamel taught it logically
- iii. Use the word “enslave” in your own sentence without changing its context as used in the extract.
- iv. On the basis of the extract choose the correct option with reference to (1) and (2):
- 1. We should protect our language to remember it.
  - 2. We should protect our language to take pride in our culture, heritage and history.
- A. Both (1) and (2) are true
  - B. (1) is false but (2) is true
  - C. (1) is true but (2) is false
  - D. Both (1) and (2) are false
- v. “If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.” Do agree with Nelson Mandela? Justify with the help of the extract.
- vi. Which proverb do you think best explains the sudden love for French language among the citizens of Alsace and Lorraine.
- A. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step
  - B. All good things must come to an end
  - C. A watched pot never boils
  - D. Absence makes the heart grow fonder

**OR**

- B. In structures of mud, with roofs of tin and tarpaulin, devoid of sewage, drainage or running water, live 10,000 ragpickers. They have lived here for more than thirty years without an identity, without permits but with ration cards that get their names on voters' lists and enable them to buy grain. Food is more important for survival than an identity. “If at the end of the day we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that gave us no grain,” say a group of women in tattered saris when I ask them why they left their beautiful land of green fields and rivers. Wherever they find food, they pitch their tents that become transit homes. Children grow up in them, becoming partners in survival. And survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking.
- i. Living conditions for the Bangladeshi immigrants are horrible but they still prefer to live in India. Why?
- A. They get better living conditions in India.
  - B. India gives them food which is their only need.
  - C. They get Indian citizenship and can live a respectful life.
  - D. It is a better place for educating their children.
- ii. When it is a choice between food and identity, identity become a luxury. Do you agree? Justify with the help of the extract.
- iii. What is the criteria for choosing place of residence among the ragpickers?
- A. Wherever they find opportunity to earn food.
  - B. Wherever is closer to children's school.
  - C. Wherever is affordable
  - D. Wherever there is space
- iv. Which proverb can aptly describe the conditions of the ragpickers?
- A. Fortune favors the bold
  - B. Easy come, easy go
  - C. Beggars can't be choosers
  - D. Good things come to those who wait



- v. What happens to the children of these ragpickers?
  - A. they study hard and make a future for themselves and for their families
  - B. they only lend a hand in the household chores and remain liabilities
  - C. they also work as ragpickers to be in this vicious cycle of poverty
  - D. they play around in the dirty surroundings without education
- vi. On the basis of the extract choose the correct option with reference to (1) and (2):
  - 1. Those ragpickers who have full stomachs think of better living.
  - 2. Food is the most basic need for the ragpickers of Seemapuri.
  - A. Both (1) and (2) are true
  - B. (1) is false but (2) is true
  - C. (1) is true but (2) is false
  - D. Both (1) and (2) are false

IX. Attempt ANY ONE of two extracts given.

1x6=6

- A. “I can organise any other hunt. You may go on a boar hunt. You may conduct a mouse hunt. We are ready for a mosquito hunt. But tiger hunt! That’s impossible!” The British officer’s secretary sent word to the Maharaja through the dewan that the durai himself did not have to kill the tiger. The Maharaja could do the actual killing. What was important to the durai was a photograph of himself holding the gun and standing over the tiger’s carcass. But the Maharaja would not agree even to this proposal. If he relented now, what would he do if other British officers turned up for tiger hunts? Because he prevented a British officer from fulfilling his desire, the Maharaja stood in danger of losing his kingdom itself. The Maharaja and the dewan held deliberations over this issue. As a result, a telegram was dispatched forthwith to a famous British company of jewellers in Calcutta. ‘Send samples of expensive diamond rings of different designs.’ Some fifty rings arrived. The Maharaja sent the whole lot to the British officer’s good lady. The king and the minister expected the duraisani to choose one or two rings and send the rest back. Within no time at all the duraisani sent her reply: ‘Thank you very much for your gifts.’
  - i. The tone of the writer here is \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. Sarcastic
    - B. Forlorn
    - C. Angry
    - D. Comical
  - ii. “Durai” here refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
    - A. Emperor
    - B. Dewan
    - C. British Official
    - D. British Viceroy
  - iii. The king did not want the durai to hunt, even in name, in his kingdom. Why?
    - A. He did not want to anger the citizens
    - B. He did not want anyone but himself to get the credit for hunting tigers
    - C. He thought the Durai wouldn’t be satisfied with just taking the credit for the hunt
    - D. He feared that it would make other Durais seek hunting permissions too
  - iv. Comment on the condition of Indian kings in colonial India by drawing examples from the extract.

**OR**

- B. To visit Antarctica now is to be a part of that history; to get a grasp of where we’ve come from and where we could possibly be heading. It’s to understand the significance of Cordilleran folds and pre-Cambrian granite shields; ozone and carbon; evolution and extinction. When you think about all that can happen in a million years, it can get pretty mind-boggling. Imagine: India pushing northwards, jamming against Asia to buckle its crust and form the Himalayas; South America drifting off to join North America, opening up the Drake Passage to create a cold circumpolar current, keeping Antarctica frigid, desolate, and at the bottom of the world.
  - i. Why do you think Antarctica is a part of history?

- ii. Which of the following statement is NOT TRUE considering Antarctica's importance?
- The weather conditions in Antarctica have changed in million years.
  - The continents have drifted apart from each other.
  - Antarctica is a continent with no habitation and hence is useless.
  - Antarctica serves precious opportunities to know of our past.
- iii. On the basis of the extract choose the correct option with reference to (1) and (2):
- Scientists are puzzled to see the evidences Antarctica reveals about our past.
  - Other than Scientists Antarctica is of no use to anyone.
- Both (1) and (2) are true
  - (1) is false but (2) is true
  - (1) is true but (2) is false
  - Both (1) and (2) are false
- iv. Use the word 'grasp' in your own sentence without changing the context.
- X. Answer ANY FIVE of the following in about 40-50 words each. 5x2=10
- It is natural for teenagers to have unrealistic dreams. What would you say are benefits and disadvantages of such fantasising?
  - Why did Umberto Eco prefer himself to be called an academician than a novelist?
  - Why was Subbu considered number two at Gemini Studios?
  - The author says, "The instructor was finished. But I was not finished." Why?
  - What do the parting words of the poet and her smile signify?
  - Why has Aunt Jennifer made 'prancing, proud and unafraid' tigers?
- XI. Answer ANY TWO of the following in about 40-50 words each. 2x2=4
- Why did Zitkala-Sa resist the shingling of her hair?
  - To choose between professional loyalty and patriotism was a dilemma for Dr Sadao. How did he succeed in betraying neither?
  - Do you think that the third level was a medium of escape for Charley? Why?
- XII. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words. 1x5=5
- Why is the Champaran episode considered to be the beginning of the Indian struggle for Independence?

**OR**

- There is a saying 'Kindness pays, rudeness never'. In the story, 'The Rattrap' Edla's attitude towards men and matters from her father's attitude. How are the values of concern and compassion brought out in this story?
- XIII. Answer ANY ONE of the following in about 120-150 words. 1x5=5
- Derry said, "It (acid) ate me up." How did this fact affect his attitude towards life?

**OR**

What kind of discrimination did Bama and Zitkala experience? How did they respond to their respective situations?