

ENGLISH – First Language

Time: 3 hours

Max. Marks: 80

SECTION I: Language Study

Q. 1 (A) A1. Do as directed (any four): 4

(1) Pick out the infinitive from the following sentence:

Every child is free to grow.

(2) Write the collocations for the following:

ticket

..... drizzle.

(3) Punctuate the following sentence:

dr kalam sat contemplating deeply

(4) Write any two present participles in which the last letter is doubled.

(5) Find out any two hidden words of minimum four letters from the given word:

Reverberated.

Solution:

1. Infinitive: to grow

2. Collocations:

ticket counter / collector

light drizzle

3. Punctuated Sentence:

Dr. Kalam sat contemplating deeply.

4. Present Participles with Doubled Last Letter:

Running (run → running)

Stopping (stop → stopping)

5. Hidden Words (minimum four letters) from "reverberated":

rever

Rated

A2. Do as directed (any two): 4

(1) Identify the verb in the given sentence and state whether it's finite or non-finite:

He gave the reward to none.

(2) Make two meaningful sentences to bring out the difference between the given two homophones:

ware, wear

(3) Rewrite the sentence using 'as soon as':

No sooner is the bill passed than it will become an act.

Solution:

1. Verb: gave → Finite Verb

2. Sentences using homophones:

Ware: The shop sells kitchenware and home decor items.

Wear: She loves to wear traditional dresses on special occasions.

3. Rewritten Sentence:

As soon as the bill is passed, it will become an act.

(B) Do as directed (any one):

2

(1) Use the given two words into one meaningful sentence:

Rest; routine

(2) Change the following sentence into a compound sentence:

I awoke late next morning to find that Anil had already made the tea.

Solution:

1. Sentence using "rest" and "routine":

After a long week of work, I took a day of rest before returning to my daily routine.

2. Compound Sentence:

I awoke late next morning, and I found that Anil had already made the tea.

SECTION II: Textual Passages (Reading skills, Vocabulary and Grammar)

Q. 2 (A) Read the following passage and do the given activities:

10

My second story is about love and loss. I found what I loved to do early in life. Woz (Steve Wozniak) and I started Apple when I was 20. In 10 years Apple had grown

from just the two of us in a garage into a billion company. And then I got fired. It was devastating.

But something slowly began to dawn on me-I still loved what I did. And so I decided to start over.

The heaviness of being successful was replaced by the lightness of being a beginner again. It freed me to enter one of the most creative periods of my life.

During the next five years, I started a company Next, another company named Pixar, and I fell in love with an amazing woman who would become my wife.

Pixar is now the world's most successful animation studio, Apple bought Next. I returned to Apple and the technology we developed at Next is at the heart of Apple's current renaissance. And Laurene and I have a wonderful family together.

Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith. The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle.

A1. Name the following with reference to the passage: 2

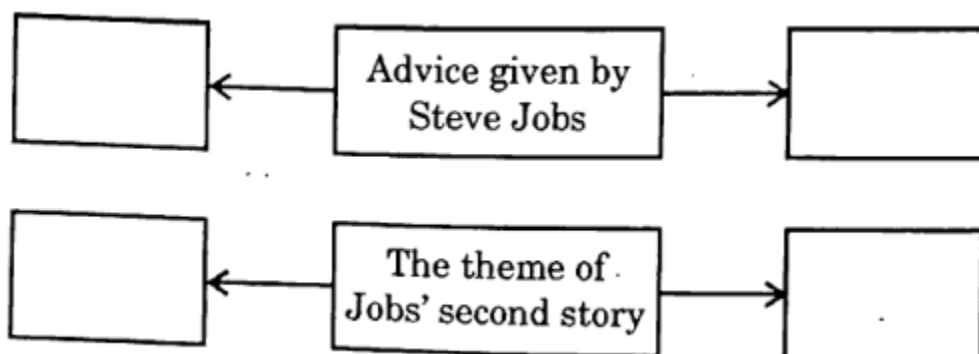
Activity	Name
(i) The company started by the narrator and Woz.	
(ii) The second company started by the narrator.	
(iii) An amazing woman the narrator fell in love with	
(iv) World's most successful animation studio	

Solution:

A1. Name the following with reference to the passage:

- (i) The company started by the narrator and Woz: Apple
- (ii) The second company started by the narrator: Next
- (iii) An amazing woman the narrator fell in love with: Laurene
- (iv) World's most successful animation studio: Pixar

A2. Complete the following web diagram: 2



Solution:

Two pieces of advice given by Steve Jobs:

"The only way to do great work is to love what you do." – Passion and dedication lead to success.

"If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle." – Keep striving until you find your true passion.

Two themes of Steve Jobs' second story:

Love and Passion for Work – Success comes when you truly love what you do.

Resilience and Starting Over – Failure is not the end; it can lead to new beginnings and greater achievements.

A3. Fill in the blanks choosing the correct phrases in their proper form from the bracket:

2

(to get fired, devastating, begin to dawn on)

(i) On committing persistent mistakes the employee _____ from his post.

(ii) When the teacher explained the solution of the problems in Maths, it _____ the students that the problems were easy.

Solution:

(i) On committing persistent mistakes, the employee got fired from his post.

(ii) When the teacher explained the solution of the problems in Maths, it began to dawn on the students that the problems were easy.

A4. Do as directed :

2

(i) Identify the tense of the underlined verb:

If you haven't found yet, keep looking.

(ii) I found what I loved to do early in life.

(Identify the main and subordinate clause.)

Solution:

(i) Tense of the underlined verb ("haven't found"): Present Perfect Tense

(ii) Main Clause: I found what I loved to do early in life.

Subordinate Clause: what I loved to do (acts as a noun clause, functioning as the object of "found").

A5. 'Failure is the key to success.' Explain in your own words. 2

Solution:

Failure teaches valuable lessons that lead to success. In the passage, Steve Jobs was fired from Apple, which was a devastating experience, but he did not give up. Instead, he started over, founded NeXT and Pixar, and later returned to Apple, making it even more successful. This shows that setbacks can open new opportunities and pave the way for greater achievements.

(B) Read the following passage and complete the activities. 10

One morning in a small apartment in Bombay a girl of about sixteen looked up from the newspaper and said excitedly, 'Pandit Ravi Shankar's playing tomorrow at Shanmukhananda auditorium'.

'Sh-sh,' said her mother pointing to the figure sleeping on the bed. 'You'll wake him up. You know he needs all the sleep and rest he can get.'

But the boy on the bed was not asleep. 'Pandit Ravi Shankar!' he said. 'Pandit Ravi Shankar, the sitar maestro? He raised himself up on his elbows for one second and then fell back. But his eyes were shining. 'We mustn't miss the chance,' he said. 'I've - I've - always wanted to hear him and see him'

'Lie down son, lie down.' His mother sprang to his side. 'He actually raised himself without help,' she murmured with a catch in her throat and her eyes turned to the idols on a corner shelf. The prayer, which she uttered endlessly, came unbidden to her lips.

'I must hear him and see him,' the boy repeated. 'It's a chance of a lifetime.' Then he began to cough and gasp for breath and had to be given oxygen from the cylinder that stood under the bed. But his large eyes were fixed on his sister.

Smita bit her lip in self-reproach. She had been so excited at seeing the announcement that she had not remembered that her brother was very ill. She had seen how the doctors had shaken their heads gravely and spoken words that neither she nor even her parents could understand. But somewhere deep inside Smita had known the frightening truth - that Anant was going to die. The word cancer had

hung in the air - her brother was dying of cancer even though she pretended that all would be well and they would return together, a small family of four, to their home in Gaganpur. And he was only fifteen and the best table-tennis player in the school and the fastest runner. He was learning to play sitar; they were both taking sitar lessons, but Anant was better than her as in many things. He was already able to compose his own tunes to the astonishment of their Guru.

B1. State whether the given statements are true or false: 2

- (i) The age of the girl was six.
- (ii) The boy on the bed was fast asleep.
- (iii) Pandit Ravi Shankar was a tabla maestro.
- (iv) She had seen how the doctors had shaken their heads gravely.

Solution:

- (i) False
- (ii) False
- (iii) False
- (iv) True

B2. Complete the following statements giving reasons: 2

- (i) Anant was better than his sister in playing sitar because
- (ii) The girl was excited because

Solution:

- (i) Anant was better than his sister in playing sitar because he was already able to compose his own tunes, which astonished their Guru.
- (ii) The girl was excited because she saw the announcement that Pandit Ravi Shankar was playing at Shanmukhananda Auditorium the next day.

B3. (i) Find any two adverbs from the passage ending with 'ly' 2

- (ii) Find any two compound words from the passage.

Solution:

- (i) Two adverbs from the passage ending with 'ly':
endlessly
gravely
- (ii) Two compound words from the passage:
newspaper

table-tennis

B4. Do as directed: 2

(i) "I've always wanted to hear him and see him," he said.

(Change into indirect speech).

(ii) His mother sprang to his side.

(Add a question tag).

Solution:

(i) He said that he had always wanted to hear him and see him.

(ii) His mother sprang to his side, didn't she?

B5. Describe your experience of any musical concert that you have attended. 2

Solution:

I once attended a classical music concert featuring Ustad Zakir Hussain on the tabla and Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia on the flute. Their mesmerizing performance and rhythmic jugalbandi captivated the audience. It was an unforgettable experience that deepened my love for Indian classical music.

SECTION III: Poetry

Q.3 (A) Read the following extract and do the given activities. 5

All the world's a stage,
 And all the men and women merely players;
 They have their exits and their entrances,
 And one man in his time plays many parts,
 His acts being seven ages. At first, the infant,
 Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms.
 Then the whining schoolboy, with his satchel
 And shining morning face, creeping like snail
 Unwillingly to school. And then the lover,
 Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad
 Made to his mistress' eyebrow. Then a soldier,

Full of strange oaths and bearded like a pard,
 Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,
 Seeking the bubble reputation
 Even in the cannon's mouth. And then the justice,
 In fair round belly with good capon lined,
 With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,
 Full of wise saws and modern instances;
 And so he plays his part. The sixth age shifts
 Into the lean and slippered pantaloon,
 With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;
 His youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide
 For his shrunk shank, and his big manly voice,
 Turning again toward childish treble, pipes
 And whistles in his sound. Last scene of all,
 That ends this strange eventful history,
 Is second childishness and mere oblivion,
 Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

A1. Identify the stages in man's life from the given description and complete the table:

2

Actions	Stage
(i) Full of strange oaths	
(ii) Creeping like a snail	
(iii) Sighing like furnace	
(iv) Having fair round belly	

Solution:

Actions	Stage
(i) Full of strange oaths	The Soldier
(ii) Creeping like a snail	The Schoolboy
(iii) Sighing like furnace	The Lover
(iv) Having fair round belly	The Justice (Middle-aged man)

A2. Write down the similarities between the first and the 7th (last) stage of man's life: 2

Solution:

Similarities between the first and the seventh (last) stage of man's life:

In both stages, a person is dependent on others for survival.

Both stages exhibit weakness and helplessness.

Just like an infant lacks awareness and abilities, an old man in the last stage also loses his senses (teeth, eyesight, taste, and memory).

A3. Choose the correct alternative to identify the figure of speech used in the following line: 1

All the world's a stage.

- (a) Simile
- (b) Metaphor
- (c) Personification
- (d) Alliteration

Solution:

Figure of Speech:

The correct alternative is (b) Metaphor, as the line "All the world's a stage" directly compares the world to a stage without using "like" or "as."

(B) Read the following poem and write an appreciation of it with the help of the given points in a paragraph. 5

The Height of the Ridiculous

I wrote some lines once on a time
 In wondrous merry mood,
 And thought, as usual, men would say
 They were exceeding good.
 They were so queer, so very queer,
 I laughed as I would die;

Albeit, in the general way,
 A sober man am I.
 I called my servant, and he came;
 How kind it was of him
 To mind a slender man like me,
 He of the might limb.
 "These to the printer," I exclaimed,
 And, in my humorous way,
 I added (as a trifling jest,)
 "There'll be the devil to pay.
 He took the paper, and I watched,
 And saw him peep within
 At the first line he read, his face
 Was all upon the grin
 He read the next; the grin grew broad

 And shot from ear to ear;
 He read the third; a chuckling noise
 I now began to hear.
 The fourth; he broke into a roar;
 The fifth; his waistband split;
 The sixth; he burst his five buttons
 And tumbled in a fit.
 Ten days and nights, with sleepless eye,
 I watched that wretched man,
 and since, I never dare to write
 As funny as I can.

- Oliver Wendell Holmes

Points:

The title and the poet of the poem.

Rhyme scheme

Figures of speech

Central Idea/Theme.

Solution:

Appreciation of the Poem "The Height of the Ridiculous"

The poem "The Height of the Ridiculous" is written by Oliver Wendell Holmes. It is a humorous poem that describes the poet's experience of writing amusing lines and their unexpected effect on his servant.

The rhyme scheme of the poem is ABCB, which adds to its rhythmic and lighthearted tone.

The poem uses various figures of speech, including Hyperbole (exaggeration for comic effect), such as "The sixth; he burst his five buttons and tumbled in a fit." Another figure of speech used is Alliteration, as seen in "He read the next; the grin grew broad."

The central idea of the poem revolves around humor and exaggeration. The poet, in a cheerful mood, writes funny lines, expecting appreciation. However, the extreme reaction of his servant, who laughs uncontrollably to the point of physical distress, makes the poet realize the unexpected power of humor. This leads him to humorously conclude that he will never dare to write such funny lines again. The poem highlights the joy of laughter while playfully exaggerating its effects.

(Section IV: Non-textual Passage)

(Reading Skills, Vocabulary, Grammar and Summary)

Q. 4 (A) Read the following passage and complete the given activities: 10

Kerala is the land of magic, ayurvedic massages and Kathakali. Most visitors generally begin their sojourn in this lovely state with Kochi. This city reflects the eclectism of Kerala. Here, you can see the oldest European built church in India, a small 16th Century synagogue that serves a proportionate community of Jews, a palace built by the Portuguese, given to the Raja of Cochin and renovated by the Dutch and some world-class performances of the Kathakali dance drama. Make sure you take a boat trip on the Malabar Const. It will take you out to the Dutch town and fort, an area that also has some surprisingly good book shops.

Alternatively, you could start with Thiruvananthapuram, which also has a laid-back charm of its own. Here, you can visit the Padmanabhaswamy temple, the Napier museum, the Puttan Mallika Palace and the neighbouring beaches. These include Kovalam, now a pleasant spot to spend an evening.

The backwaters are also famous as a holiday option. For that, you have to move on to Alleppey or Allappuzha a district made unique by an intricate network of canals. Or you could head to Munnar, sheer beauty in the hills. Rolling oceans of tubby green tea bushes, crisp mountain air, craggy hills, wildlife and a throwback to colonial times makes Munnar a lovely getaway.

Or you could visit Thekkady, which is also a charming town and has an added advantage of being close to the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. At Thekkady you can wander through plantations of cardamom, tea and coffee.

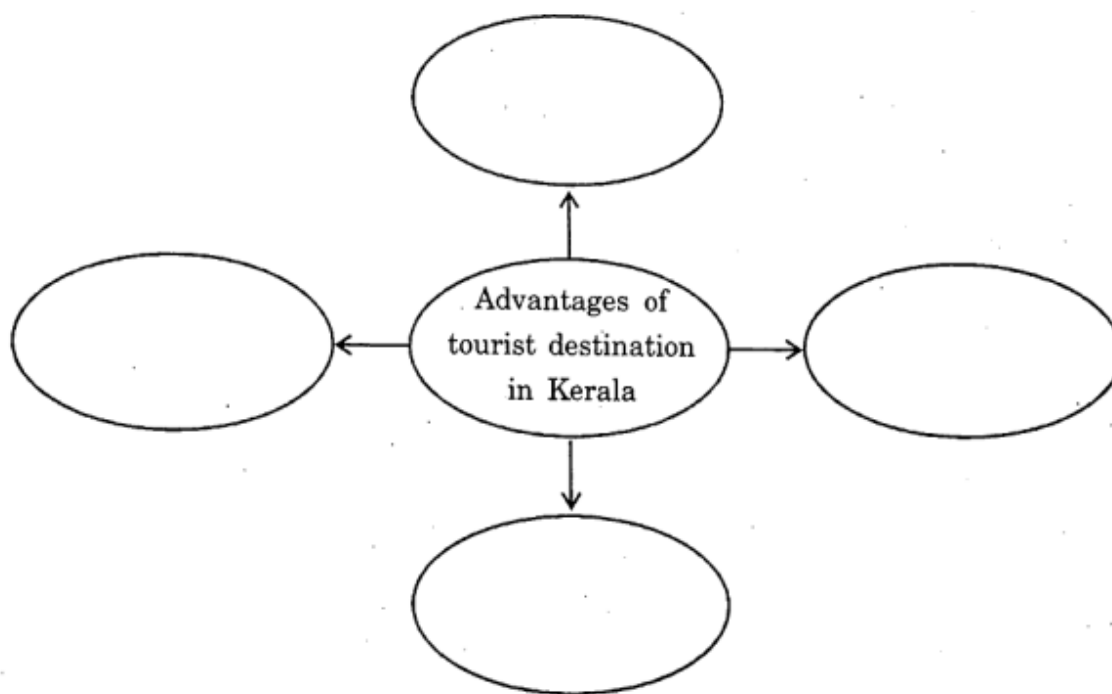
Of the three options, you can surely choose a place of your dreams where you can chill out!

You can take a meandering cruise down the backwaters, spend a lazy day by the sea, take a trek up the winding hills or enjoy ayurvedic health holidays. These are some of the advantages no other destination offers.

Welcome to this unique land of spellbinding adventures. It's the most refreshing holiday you could ever have.

A1. Complete the following web chart:

2



Solution:

Unique Cultural Experiences

Scenic Backwaters

Hills and Tea Plantations

Wildlife and Nature

A2. Complete the following table:

2

City	Speciality
(i) Kochi	
(ii) Thekkady	
(iii) Thiruvananthapuram	
(iv) Alleppey	

Solution:

City	Speciality
(i) Kochi	Historical sites, Kathakali performances, and a mix of cultures
(ii) Thekkady	Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary and spice plantations
(iii) Thiruvananthapuram	Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Napier Museum, Kovalam beach
(iv) Alleppey	Backwaters and canals

A3. Match the words in Column 'A' with their meanings in Column 'B':

2

Column 'A'	Column 'B'
(i) Charm	(a) throw back light or heat
(ii) Craggy	(b) enthralling
(iii) Reflect	(c) magical spell
(iv) Spellbinding	(d) steep

Solution:

- (i) - (c)
- (ii) - (d)
- (iii) - (a)
- (iv) - (b)

A4. Do as directed:

2

(i) You can choose a place of your dreams.

(Use the modal auxiliary showing compulsion and rewrite the sentence)

(ii) Kerala is the land of magic and ayurvedic massages. (Rewrite the sentence using not only.....but also').

Solution:

(i) You must choose a place of your dreams.

(ii) Kerala is not only the land of magic but also of ayurvedic massages.

A5. Why is tourism industry important for the Indian Economy to flourish? 2

Solution:

Tourism is vital for the Indian economy as it generates significant revenue, creates employment opportunities, and contributes to foreign exchange earnings. Kerala, with its unique offerings like cultural experiences, backwaters, and wildlife, plays a key role in promoting domestic and international tourism, thus helping the economy flourish.

(B) Summary Writing : 5

Read the passage given in Q.4. (A) and write its summary in a paragraph.

Suggest a suitable title.

Solution:

"Exploring the Wonders of Kerala"

Kerala, known for its magic, ayurvedic massages, and Kathakali, offers a variety of experiences for tourists. Visitors often begin their journey in Kochi, a city rich in history with European-built churches, a 16th-century synagogue, and Kathakali performances. Alternatively, one can start in Thiruvananthapuram, which has its own charm, including the Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Napier Museum, and Kovalam beach. Kerala's backwaters, especially in Alleppey, offer unique cruising experiences, while Munnar presents breathtaking views of tea plantations and hills. Thekkady, with its proximity to the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, is perfect for nature lovers. Kerala also offers various activities such as trekking, ayurvedic health holidays, and relaxing by the sea, making it a refreshing and one-of-a-kind destination.

(Section V: Writing Skills)

Q. 5 (A) Letter writing:

Imagine you are Soham/Sohini Dargan residing at 208, Swarnadham, Hira Colony, Mumbai-400052.

Read the following snippet and write a letter based on it:

Sports and games are activities which make a person more capable with high level efficiency. It removes the mental exhaustion and makes us capable to do any hard work. It improves blood circulation all through the body, thus improves the physical and mental well being of the person.

A1. Formal Letter

Write a letter to the Editor of a newspaper to create awareness about the role of sports in a student's life.

OR

A2. Informal Letter

Write a letter to your friend Neha/Nishant describing the advantages of sports and games.

Solution:

A1.

208, Swarnadham, Hira Colony

Mumbai-400052

15th January, 2025

The Editor

The Times of India

Mumbai

Subject: Importance of Sports in a Student's Life

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to draw the attention of your readers to the vital role that sports and games play in a student's life. In today's fast-paced world, students often focus entirely on academics, neglecting the physical and mental benefits that sports offer. Engaging in regular physical activities not only enhances one's physical strength but also boosts mental efficiency.

Sports and games are essential for reducing stress and mental exhaustion, promoting blood circulation, and improving overall well-being. A healthy body leads to a healthy mind, which in turn increases the capacity for hard work and productivity. It is important to recognize that sports are not just a source of recreation, but also an integral part of a balanced and successful life.

I urge schools, parents, and educational authorities to prioritize physical activities alongside academic education to ensure the holistic development of students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Soham/Sohini Dargan

Q. 6 (A) Information transfer

5

A2. Non-Verbal to Verbal:

Transfer the given information into a paragraph. Suggest a suitable title:

Caused by man	Caused by nature	Solutions
Too many people	Droughts	Stricter laws to control population
More agricultural land required to meet the needs of the evergrowing population.	Floods	Stricter laws and proper execution of laws
Cutting of forests for wood etc.,	Forest fires	Use alternative products
Poaching by hunters	—	Reduce demand for illegal wildlife parts and products by not purchasing products made from these items.

Solution:

Causes and Solutions for Environmental Issues

Environmental issues can be caused by both man-made and natural factors. Human activities such as deforestation, cutting down forests for wood, and poaching by hunters are significant contributors to environmental degradation. Additionally, the ever-growing population exacerbates problems like droughts and floods, which are further intensified by human actions. To address these issues, solutions include implementing stricter laws to control population growth and ensuring proper execution of laws to protect forests and wildlife. Moreover, efforts to reduce the demand for illegal wildlife products, use alternative materials, and increase agricultural land can help mitigate these challenges and promote a more sustainable future.

(B) B1. Drafting a speech:

5

Prepare a speech to be delivered in your school assembly:

The topic given to you is:

'Nothing is more important than self-study.'

You may use the following points:

- Learn more efficiently
- Learn at your own pace
- Encourages curiosity
- Boosts student's self-esteem.

Solution:

Speech: "Nothing is More Important Than Self-Study"

Good morning, respected Principal, teachers, and dear friends,

Today, I would like to talk about the importance of self-study. While teachers and classrooms guide us, self-study is key to learning efficiently. It allows us to learn at our own pace, revising and exploring topics in depth. This freedom helps us focus better and understand concepts thoroughly.

Self-study also encourages curiosity, as we can dive deeper into subjects that interest us. It boosts our self-esteem by giving us the confidence to solve problems on our own, making us more independent learners.

In conclusion, self-study not only enhances academic knowledge but also develops our critical thinking skills and self-reliance. Let's make self-study a part of our daily routine and unlock our true potential.

Thank you!

(Section VI: Creative Writing)

Q. 7 (A) Attempt any one of the following:

5

A1. Expand the theme:

Expand the following idea into 100 words:

Trees: Nature's Gift to Man.

Solution:

Trees: Nature's Gift to Man

Trees are one of nature's most precious gifts to humanity. They provide us with oxygen, making them essential for life on Earth. Their roots hold the soil together, preventing erosion and maintaining the balance of the ecosystem. Trees also help in

purifying the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. Moreover, they provide shelter and food for various wildlife species and even humans. The shade of trees cools the environment, especially in urban areas. Their beauty enhances the landscape, promoting mental well-being. Protecting trees is crucial for our survival and the preservation of nature's harmony.

(B) Developing a story/Narrating an experience:

5

B1. Develop a story in about 80-100 words with the following beginning. Give a suitable title.

Anita was in a cake shop to buy a cake for her birthday.

She saw a small beggar boy outside the shop

Solution:

A Birthday Gift for the Beggar Boy

Anita was in a cake shop to buy a cake for her birthday. As she stepped out, she saw a small beggar boy outside the shop, holding out his hands, looking hungry and cold. His worn-out clothes made her feel deeply sad. Without a second thought, Anita went back inside and bought a small cupcake, along with her birthday cake. She handed it to the boy with a smile, wishing him a happy day. The boy's eyes lit up, and he thanked her profusely. Anita realized that her birthday gift was far more special when shared with others.