

SECTION A – READING

1. Passage 1 (Saffron)

(i)

Tone: Informative/objective/appreciative

The writer gives factual information about saffron's historical use and medicinal value without personal bias.

(ii)

Answer: (C)

(iii) Any two:

- Used since ages in royal foods
- Contains medicinal properties
- Strong aroma and unique flavour
- Backbone of many iconic dishes

(iv)

Answer: (B) widely recognized

(v)

Saffron cultivation involves hand-picking stigmas and drying them over charcoal fires.
(accept any two: hand-picking, drying, spreading on trays, 40 hours labour)

(vi)

True

(vii)

Answer: (C)

(viii) Any two:

- Beetroot/pomegranate used to enhance colour
- Silk fibres/oil/wax added for bulk
- Powder mixed with turmeric/paprika
- Adulteration common due to high price

2. Passage 2 (Silk)

(i)

Silk has luxurious qualities as it is soft, smooth, comfortable on skin and absorbs moisture, keeping the body cool and dry.

(ii)

Answer: (A)

(iii)

Silk is costly because it requires labour-intensive cultivation, skilled expertise and careful production process.

(iv)

China and India

(v)

Silk production is limited and costly due to natural factors.

(vi)

Though strong, silk is easily damaged and loses strength when wet.
(accept: weakened by sunlight/insects/poor elasticity)

(vii)

Most: Karnataka

Least: Uttar Pradesh

(viii)

...production of 1 kg of silk

(ix)

It requires specialized knowledge and skilled labour.

SECTION B – GRAMMAR

3. Grammar (Any 10)

(i) considering

(ii) trapping ☒ trapped

(iii) Yukti asked Sanjay if/whether that restaurant served good South Indian food.

(iv) (B) if she was sure she could manage

(v) migrate

(vi) Error: much ☒ more/something

(vii) (C) between ☒ among

(viii) (C) enjoyed

(ix) She had finished the project the previous day/the day before.

(x) (B) will be held

(xi) (B) ensure

(xii) Error: upto ☒ into

SECTION C – LITERATURE

6. Extract (A Letter to God)

(i) (C) There was a hailstorm

(ii) Devastated

(iii)
He refers to all his hard work in the fields that was destroyed by the hailstorm. His crops were ruined and he would not earn anything, leaving his family hungry.

(iv)
A plague of locusts would have left some crops; hailstorm destroyed everything.

7. Poem – For Anne Gregory

(i)
It shows affection and familiarity between speaker and listener.

(ii)
“Yellow hair” symbolizes physical beauty. Humans often love based on appearance, but God loves a person for inner qualities, not outward beauty.

(iii)
Selfless

(iv)
(As per CBSE marking scheme: 1 mark to all students – options incorrect)

8. Short Answer (Any four)

(i)
The word “wound” refers to deep pain caused by apartheid. It represents years of oppression, discrimination and suffering faced by black people in South Africa.

(ii)
Nature: Crow and hemlock tree change poet’s mood.
Simplicity: Small natural act brings big positive change.

(iii)
Rajvir was excited seeing tea gardens for first time.
Pranjol, from Assam, was used to them so not excited.

(iv)
Wells uses humour and rhyme to describe animals’ traits in an entertaining way. Exaggeration makes learning about animals interesting and memorable.

(v)
Mijbil was packed in a small box and became restless. He escaped in plane causing chaos. The journey was uncomfortable and stressful for the author.

9. Short Answer (Any two)

(i)
Mrs. Pumphrey overpampered Tricky with food and no exercise. It shows irresponsible pet ownership and need for discipline and proper care.

(ii)
A nursery rhyme book saves Earth as aliens misunderstand it as history and fear humans, preventing invasion. It highlights power of literature.

(iii)
Griffin becomes arrogant and misuses invisibility for crime. Later he suffers due to his actions and realizes his powers have become a burden.

Long Answers (Final exam-ready)

10(a) Amanda & Valli – Freedom (120 words)

Amanda and Valli both represent a longing for freedom. Amanda feels constantly controlled and instructed by her parents, which makes her imagine a free life where she can live peacefully. Her desire for independence highlights the need for understanding children’s feelings. Similarly, Valli longs to explore the world beyond her village. Being curious and determined, she saves money and plans her bus journey carefully to experience independence. Both characters show a strong urge to break free from restrictions and explore life on their own terms. While Amanda escapes into imagination, Valli takes practical steps to achieve freedom. Thus, both portray the universal desire for independence and self-exploration.

11(a) Horace – A Question of Trust (120 words)

Yes, Horace’s own foolishness was responsible for his arrest. Though he was a careful thief who planned his robbery well, he blindly trusted a lady in red who pretended to be the owner of the house. Without verifying her identity, he opened the safe for her and even removed his gloves, leaving fingerprints everywhere. The lady tricked him and escaped with the jewels while Horace was arrested. His mistake was trusting a stranger without confirming facts. Despite being intelligent and experienced, he failed to act wisely at the crucial moment. In the end, Horace regretted his actions and realized that one should never trust anyone blindly without knowing the

truth.