

SECTION A – READING

I. Passage 1

- i. B
- ii. D
- iii. C
- iv. Climbing mountains is an experience that is hard to put into words.
- v. Both require dedication and endurance.
- vi.

It requires special training and preparation.

Climbers must develop endurance, perseverance and survival skills.

- vii. Unpredictable weather makes it crucial to decide whether to set up camps or move ahead safely.
- viii. A (survival)
- ix. Impulsive behaviour can be deadly in dangerous mountain conditions.
- x. D

II. Passage 2

- i. Because despite its diversity and beauty, the North-East is lesser explored by tourists.
- ii. A (1 & 3)
- iii. colours
- iv. B
- v. A (Option 1)
(For visually impaired: Rising)
- vi. B (encouraging)
- vii. experienced
- viii. Enhancement of tourist facilities; tourism financing.
- ix. To ensure long-term growth and preservation of tourism resources.
- x. B

SECTION B – GRAMMAR

- i. B (blew up)
- ii. that he did not stay in a good mood.
- iii. C (will)
- iv. C – the → a
- v. D (washed)
- vi. seek
- vii. that anyone who shows kindness and compassion to others are his superheroes.
- viii. error: balancing
correction: balance
- ix. Tariq asked Sunil if he had enjoyed travelling by sea.
- x. D (CAN)
- xi. A (keep asking till one does.)
- xii. error: citizen
correction: citizens

SECTION B – CREATIVE WRITING

Letter to Editor (Option A)

Sunidhi Prakash
Vice Captain

Brilliant Vidyalaya, Barra
Kanpur

20 February 2026

The Editor
The DWA
Kanpur

Subject: Harmful effects of misleading diet advertisements

Sir/Madam,

Through your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw attention to hazardous posters around schools promoting quick weight loss through “wonder diets”. Such advertisements mislead youngsters and encourage unhealthy eating habits, negatively affecting their physical and mental health.

Schools must instead promote balanced nutrition. I propose the implementation of a “Wholesome Lunch Month” to spread awareness about healthy eating. It will encourage nutritious meals, develop positive body image and prevent eating disorders among students.

Workshops, expert sessions and poster campaigns can foster healthy routines and self-acceptance. Strict monitoring of misleading advertisements near schools is also necessary.

I hope the authorities will take prompt action.

Yours sincerely,
Sunidhi Prakash

Analytical Paragraph (Option A – Gurmeet Kaur)

Gurmeet Kaur should join the public-funded engineering college as it offers strong academic and professional opportunities. The college has a strong curriculum, quality faculty and vibrant clubs that will support her growth. Its green location and proximity to residential areas are additional advantages. Although there are weaknesses like lack of hostel facility and limited technological exposure for Gurmeet, she can overcome these through self-learning and peer support. The college provides opportunities such as practice-based research, professional partnerships and student exchange programmes that can enhance her skills and exposure. Despite threats like declining interest in technical education and low publicity, the institution’s strengths and opportunities outweigh its limitations. With dedication and support, Gurmeet can successfully build a promising engineering career by joining this college.

SECTION C – LITERATURE

V. Extract (Glimpses of India)

- i. C
- ii. Assam has the highest number of tea plantations in the world.
- iii. familiarity
- iv. B (Traditional tales)
- v. B

VI. Short Answers (40–50 words)

- i. The baby seagull’s fear existed only in his mind. Though he believed he would fall, once he jumped, he realised he could fly. His fear vanished when he trusted his wings, proving that fear is

often psychological and disappears when faced with courage.

ii. The poet believes the world will end in fire because fire symbolises human desires and greed. These destructive emotions can lead to conflict and destruction, ultimately causing the end of the world if not controlled.

iii. Yes. Living in a small village allowed Valli to observe daily bus journeys closely and gather information. The safe environment and limited distractions helped her plan and confidently take her first bus ride independently.

iv. 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' is more a fable because it conveys a moral lesson that appearances can be deceptive and true courage is revealed in difficult situations.

v. Natalya maintained an upper hand by constantly arguing and asserting her claims confidently. For example, she strongly defended her ownership of Oxen Meadows, overpowering Lomov in the argument.

VII. Short Answers

i. Dr. Herriot understood both animals and their owners deeply. He knew Tricki's illness resulted from overfeeding by Mrs. Pumphrey and treated him accordingly, showing his understanding of animal behaviour and human emotions.

ii. Ausable's unusual appearance makes him seem harmless and unfit to be a secret agent. This helps create surprise when he outwits the criminal, highlighting intelligence over physical appearance.

iii. Richard Ebright's small experiments and hobbies like collecting butterflies developed his curiosity and scientific temperament. These fun learning tasks gradually built his research skills and led to his success as a scientist.

VIII. Long Answer (B)

The Buddha's message teaches that grief and attachment do not bring peace of mind. I would advise the boy to accept the loss of his ball as a natural part of life. Losses help us grow and understand responsibility. By accepting reality calmly, he can develop maturity and inner strength. However, it may be difficult for him to understand this lesson because he is young and emotionally attached to his ball. For him, the ball represents childhood innocence and joy. At his age, material loss feels deeply personal. Only with time and experience will he realise that acceptance and letting go lead to true peace of mind.

IX. Long Answer (The Thief's Story)

Fiction writers often create grey characters to reflect real human nature. In The Thief's Story, both Hari Singh and Anil are grey characters. Hari Singh is a thief but also shows honesty and a desire to change. He steals money yet returns it, showing moral conflict. Anil is kind and trusting but careless with money. He understands Hari's situation and forgives him, showing wisdom and compassion. Neither character is completely good or bad. Their actions reflect human weaknesses and virtues. This complexity makes them realistic and relatable. Through these characters, the story highlights themes of trust, redemption and the possibility of personal transformation.