<table>
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<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Questions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q.1</td>
<td>SECTION - A (READING)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Air pollution is an issue which concerns us all alike. One can willingly choose or reject a food, a drink or a life comfort, but unfortunately there is little choice for the air we breathe. All, what is there in the air is inhaled by one and all living in those surroundings.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Air pollutant is defined as a substance which is present while normally it is not there or present in an amount exceeding the normal concentrations. It could either be gaseous or a particulate matter. The important and harmful polluting gases are carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, ozone and oxides of sulphur and nitrogen. The common particulate pollutants are the dusts of various inorganic or organic origins. Although we often talk of the outdoor air pollutions caused by industrial and vehicular exhausts, the indoor pollution may prove to be as or a more important cause of health problems.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Recognition of air pollution is relatively recent. It is not uncommon to experience a feeling of 'suffocation' in a closed environment. It is often ascribed to the lack of oxygen. Fortunately, however, the composition of air is remarkably constant all over the world. There is about 79 per cent nitrogen and 21 per cent oxygen in the air – the other gases forming a very small fraction. It is true that carbon dioxide exhaled out of lungs may accumulate in a closed and overcrowded place. But such an increase is usually small and temporary unless the room is really airtight. Exposure to poisonous gases such as carbon monoxide may occur in a closed room, heated by burning coal inside. This may also prove to be fatal.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>What is more common in a poorly ventilated home is a vague constellation of symptoms described as the sick-building syndrome. It is characterized by a general feeling of malaise, head-ache, dizziness and irritation of mucous membranes. It may also be accompanied by nausea, itching, aches, pains and depression. sick building syndrome is getting commoner in big cities with the small houses, which are generally over-furnished. Some of the important pollutants whose indoor concentrations exceed those of the outdoors include gases such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and gases such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, oxides of nitrogen and organic substances like spores, formaldehyde, hydrocarbon aerosols and allergens. The sources are attributed to a variety of construction materials, insulations, furnishings, adhesives, cosmetics house deists fungi and other indoor products.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>By-products of fuel combustion are important in house with indoor kitchens. It is not only the burning of dried dung and fuelwood which is responsible but also kerosene and liquid petroleum gas. Oxides of both nitrogen and sulphur are released from their combustion.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Smoking of tobacco in the closed environment is an important source of indoor pollution It may not be high quantitatively, but significantly hazardous for health. It is because of the fact that there are over 3000 chemical constituents in tobacco smoke, which have been identified. These are harmful for human health.</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Micro-organisms and allergens are of special significance in the causation and spread of diseases. Most of the infective illnesses may involve more persons of a family living in common indoor environment. These include viral and bacterial diseases like tuberculosis.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Besides infection, allergic and hypersensitivity disorders are spreading fast. Although asthma is the most common form of respiratory allergic disorders, pneumonias are not uncommon, but more persistent and serious. These are attributed to exposures to allergens from various fungi, molds, hay and other organic materials. Indoor air ventilation systems, coolers, air-conditioners, dampness, decay, pet animals, production or handling of the causative items are responsible for these hypersensitivity -diseases.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Obviously, the spectrum of pollution is vary wide and our options are limited. Indoor pollution may be handled relatively easily by an individual. Moreover, the good work must start from one's own house.</td>
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Answer the following:

1. What is an air pollution?
   **Ans.1** Air pollution is the condition in which air gets contaminated by foreign substances, or the substances themselves. It occurs when the air contains gases, dust, fumes or odour in harmful amounts.

2. In what forms are the air pollutants present?
   **Ans.2** There are two forms of air pollution considered to be most harmful to humans one is gaseous and the other a particulate matter. The important and harmful polluting...
gases are carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, ozone and oxide of sulphur and nitrogen whereas the common particulate pollutants are the dusts of various inorganic or organic origins.

(3) Why do we feel suffocated in a closed environment?
**Ans.3.** We feel suffocated in a closed environment because of lack of oxygen.

(4) What is sick building syndrome? How is it increasing?
**Ans.4** Sick building syndrome is a vague constellation of symptoms such as malaise (feeling of discomfort or fatigue), headache, dizziness accompanied by nausea, itching, pains and depression. It is increasing due to the growing number of small and over furnished houses in big cities.

(5) How is indoor smoking very hazardous?
**Ans.5** Indoor smoking is very hazardous as tobacco smoke contains 3000 chemical constituents which are harmful for human health.

(6) How can one overcome the danger of indoor air pollution?
**Ans.6** One can overcome the danger of indoor air pollution by ensuring that our homes are properly ventilated. We should also ensure that our homes are free from the sources of indoor pollution such as dust and tobacco smoke.

B. Find the words from the above passage which mean the same as the following:
(i) giddiness (para 4)  
(ii) constant (para 8)  
(iii) humidity (para 8)
**Ans (i).** Dizziness  
**Ans (ii).** Persistent  
**Ans (iii).** Dampness

Q.2 Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:
The term dietary fibers collectively to indigestible carbohydrates present in plant foods. The importance of these dietary fiber came into picture when it was observed that people having diet rich in these fibers, had low incidence of coronary heart disease, irritable bowel syndrome, dental caries and gall stones. of coronary heart disease, irritable bowel syndrome, dental caries and gall stones.
The foodstuffs rich in these dietary fibers are cereal and grains, legumes, fruits with seeds, citrus, carrots, green leafy vegetables, apples, melons, peaches, pears etc. The dietary fibers are not digested by the enzymes by the stomach and the small intestine whereas most of other carbohydrates like starch and sugar are digested and absorbed. The dietary fiber have the property of holding water and because of it, these get swollen and behave like a sponge as these pass through the gastrointestinal tract. The fiber add bulk to the and increasetransit time in the gut. Some of these fibers may undergo fermentation in the colon. In recent years, it has been considered essential to have some amount of fibers in the diet. Their beneficial effects lie in preventing coronary heart disease, and decreasing cholesterol level. The fiber like gums and pectin are reported to decrease post-prandial (after meals) glucose level in blood. These types of dietary fibers are recommended for the management of certain types of diabetes. Recent studies have shown that the fenugreek (Methi) seeds, which contain 40 per cent gum, are effective in decreasing blood glucose and cholesterol levels as compared to other gum containing vegetables. Some dietary fibers increase time and decrease the time of release of ingested food in colon. The having less fibers is associated with colon cancer and the dietary fibers may play a role in deceasing the risk of it. The dietary fiber may have some adverse effects on nutrition by binding some trace metals like calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, zinc and other and therefore preventing their proper absorption. The may pose a possibility of nutritional deficiency especially when diets contain marginal levels of mineral elements. This may become important constraints on increasing dietary fibers. It is suggested that an intake of 40 grams dietary fibers per day is desirable.

(a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage make notes on it in points only, using recognizable abbreviations wherever necessary. Also suggest a suitable title.
SOLUTION:
(a) Title: A Fibrous Diet, a Healthy Diet!

Notes:

1. Dietary fib. & its sources
   a) Indigestible carbs in plant foods
   b) Cereals, grains & legumes
   c) Fruits with seeds
   d) Vegetables: green and leafy, carrots, cabbages

2. Mechanisms of digestion
   a) Undigested by enzymes of stomach and small intestine
   b) Property of holding water: swell up & behave like sponge on passing through guts
   c) Increase transit time to gut & add bulk to diet

3. Imp. Of fib.
   a) Decrease cholesterol
   b) No heart disease
   c) Decrease blood glucose
   d) Relieves constipation
   e) Dietary fibres reduces colon cancer
   f) Less desire to eat: Checks obesity

4. Over consumption of fib.
   a) Bind trace metals, e.g. Ca, Mg, P, Zn: Increase nutritional deficiency
   b) 40 gm/day is desirable
B) Write a summary of the above in about 80 words:

Ans. The term dietary fiber refers to indigestible carbohydrates present in plant foods such as cereals, fruits and vegetables. Fibers cannot be digested by our body. It holds water and so swell up and act like sponge in the gut. The fiber add bulk to the diet and increase transit time in the gut. Fibers prevent heart diseases, high cholesterol, blood glucose level, constipation, colon cancer and obesity. They bind important metals and help to prevent their absorption by the body. Its over consumption results in nutritional deficiency therefore, it is advisable to consume forty grams dietary fibres per day.

Q.3 You are Smitha/ Sunil, secretary AVM Housing Society. You are going to organize a blood donation camp. Write a notice in not more than 50 words, urging the members of your society to come in large number for this noble cause. Invent all the necessary details:
Ans 3

AVM Housing Society, New Delhi

NOTICE

Jan. 3, 2015  BLOOD DONATION CAMP

All the residents are hereby informed that a blood donation camp is going to be held in our society from January 5, 2015 to January 6, 2015 between 10:00 am to 11:00 am, at the Jain Park of the society. Blood donors should be above 18 and should be healthy. Residents are requested to spread this news to their known so that the camp would be a success. For further details contact the undersigned. I hope you donate the blood.

Sign

OR

You are General Manager, Hotel Dosa, Gurgaon. You need a lady Front Office Assistant with sound knowledge of computers. She must be a graduate and good in communication skills with pleasing manners. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in Gurgaon Times.

Ans

SITUATION VACANT

Hotel Dosa, Gurgaon requires a lady Front Office Assistant with an experience of up to 3 to 4 years with sound knowledge of computers. The applicant must be graduate and good in communication skills with pleasing personality. Attractive salary with perks. The candidate must come on any working day of this week between 9:00 am to 11:00 am with complete biodata and a recent sized photograph to the General Manager.

Q.4 You are General Manager, Hotel Dosa, Gurgaon. You need a lady Front Office Assistant with sound knowledge of computers. She must be a graduate and good in communication skills with pleasing manners. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words to be published in Gurgaon Times.

Ans 4

Your school, Sea View Public School, Kochi, organized a Blood Donation camp on the occasion of the Republic Day celebration. As Cultural Secretary of your school, write a report on the event in 100-125 words.

Ans 4
Sea View Public School, Kochi
A Report
On
January 28, 2014
BLOOD DONATION CAMP
A blood donation camp was organized under the NSS wing of the school on Saturday, i.e., on 25th Jan., 2014 celebrating the auspicious occasion of Republic Day. It began at around 10 am and continued up to 1 pm, with a steady stream of donors throughout. The chief guest for this occasion was Dr. B.M Shukla, a renowned heart surgeon at Fortis. He inaugurated the event by donating blood.
Special efforts had been made to create awareness about the same almost a week ago. This encouraged the donors to donate blood without apprehensions. The donors were given juice and fruits after the donation. Later, a Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to the volunteers by the respected chief guest. He congratulated everyone for this noble deed.
Venue- School Campus
Cultural Secretary
Madhumita Singh

Or
Traffic police has launched drive against pollution vehicles. This has led to traffic jams and crowds at important intersections. Write a report in 100-125 words to be published in 'Chennai Times'. You are Prince/ Priya, 12 M.G Road, Adyar, Chennai.
Drive Against Pollution

By Prince/ Priya
12 M.G. Road
Adyar, Chennai
March 1, 2014

A mega three day drive was launched by Chennai traffic police against pollution caused by vehicles. The drive began on 25th Feb., 2014 and lasted for three days. The motto of the drive was to ensure pollution free movement of the vehicles to make the environment pollution free. It caused a lot of inconvenience to the public as people faced huge traffic jams. It was difficult to manage the traffic during the peak hours. Hopefully, the government will be a lot more careful and sensitive towards the general public next time before carrying out such an event.

Q.5 You have noticed many stray animals on the road during the busy hours of the day. These animals cause traffic jams as well as accidents. You have already written to the concerned authorities but no action has been taken so far. Write a letter to the Editor, The Hindu, drawing attention of the municipal Commissioner, Chennai. You are Shantha/ Suresh, 12 M.G. Road, Chennai.

Ans.5
12 M.G. Road,
Chennai

March 15, 2014

The Editor
The Hindu
V.T. Road, Chennai

Subject: Menace caused by stray animals

Sir,

Through the esteemed columns of your newspaper, I would like to draw the attention of Municipal Commissioner towards the menace created by stray animals across the city.

Animals such as cows, dogs and pigs can be found sitting or randomly moving on the roads, thereby causing problem in the swift movement of the traffic. At times, they end up creating huge traffic jams. They urinate and relieve themselves on the road which causes the already existing problem of cleanliness. Most of them eat garbage from the municipal dustbins and in this process disseminate litter on the road.

I believe, these animals would do well if they were to be placed in animal care units. I have already written to the concerned authorities but no action has been taken to improve the existing conditions. Therefore, I request the authorities to do the needful in this matter. Their efforts in this regard would be appreciated by everyone

Yours truly
Shantha

Or

You are Nalini/Vishal, Hostel Warden, Zenith Public School, Kosikalan. Write a letter to the Sales Manager, Bharat Electronics and Domestic Appliances, New Delhi, Placing an order for a few fans microwave and geysers that you wish to purchase for the hostel. Also ask for the discount permissible on the purchase.
March 15, 2014

Sales Manager
Bharat Electronics and Domestic Appliances Ltd.
New Delhi

Subject: Bulk purchase of Electronic and Domestic appliances

Sir

We wish to place a bulk order of fans, microwave ovens, geysers for our hostel at kosikalan. It would be kind of you if you send your terms and condition for the above mentioned. The particulars of the items and their numbers to be supplied are given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Particular of the items</th>
<th>Number of items to be supplied</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Fans</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Microwave Ovens</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Geysers</td>
<td>60</td>
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</table>

Kindly let us know the discount you offer on the bulk purchases. We would also like to know the mode of payment. Kindly make sure that no item is defective or of low quality for further relations.

We would like to hear from you the earliest as possible.

Yours truly

Nalini
Your family has recently shifted from Kota in Rajasthan to Ernakulam in Kerala, where your is situated in the midst of beautiful flowering plants and fruit-yielding trees. Every minute and every second, you are experiencing the joy of being in the lap of nature. Write an article in 150-200 words on the diversity of nature that you have experienced. You are Lata/Lalit of class XII.

Ans

### Beauty of Nature

By Lata

All around us, we see it every day, but hardly observe it. We hear it, but never listen to its sweet calls. We feel it everywhere, but how many times have we really experienced it? Ever since the dawn of time, we were gifted with its presence. Nature is a wonderful and awesome creation of God. The beauty of nature mesmerizes every human being. India being a land of diverse geographical features gives its inhabitants a chance to experience nature at its best.

I have recently received a chance of experiencing it during my stay at Kota, Rajasthan and Kerala.

I have experienced a difference in climate. On the one hand, Kota has extreme climate and scanty rainfall with less flora and fauna whereas Kerala is blessed with the beauty of greenery everywhere because of the heavy rainfall. The climate here is moderate with the rich variety of spices, articles and medicinal oils. Kerala is also a land of several architectural masterpieces in the form of ancient temples.

The beauty of nature is also the source of inspiration for many poets and writers.

OR

Write an article in 150-200 words on the topic, ‘Poverty is the cause of all evils,’ to be published in the Young Worlds of the ‘The Hindu’, Chennai.

Ans

**Poverty Is The Cause Of All Evils**

By XYZ

The saying a hungry man is an angry man has always been the true reflection of what mankind is capable of; once the biological and basic need for food, water, shelter and other necessities are not attended. Poverty, scarcity or poorness is the lack of income source to buy basic necessities of life. In some cases it is not only the state of having income that is below the line of poverty but it is also the inability to sustain a specified level of well being. It is the basic cause of all the social evils. As the developments around the world are prospering, the ratio of poverty is also increasing. Due to poverty people fall in
depression and anxiety. People find a way to become rich by selling such things which are banned in societies. Poverty is also the main reason of poor health and early death as they can’t afford the medical expenses and medicines. The educational facilities are also limited for poor. It also increases hate, anger, selfishness and jealousy among the people. If someone else is getting more than you and you are not doing better, then how can you be happy? It raises discrimination, classism and corruption because the society classifies the rich and poor. The solution of all the evil activities is that there should be a sound economic and social setup. The job opportunities should be given to such people, so that, they could earn income and contribute to the development of country and for their selves as well.

Q.7

Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow:

Perhaps the Earth can teach us
As when everything seems dead
And later proves to be alive.
Now I’ll count up to twelve
And you keep quite and I will go.

a) What does the Earth teach us?
Ans. a) The Earth teaches us that there can be life under apparent stillness.

b) What does the poet mean to achieve by counting up to twelve?
Ans. b) By counting up to twelve poet means to achieve peace and tranquility through introspection and self analysis.

c) What is the significance of ‘keeping quiet’?
Ans. c) ‘Keeping quiet’ signifies the importance of silence, self examination and introspection.

Or

A flowery band to bind us to the Earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman deaath
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o’er-darkened ways
Made for our searching:

a) What are we doing every day?
Ans. a) Every day we are wreathing a flowery band that binds us to the Earth With a beautiful creation.

b) Which evil thing do we possess and suffer from?
Ans. b) The evil thing we possess and suffer from includes despondency, depression, disappointments and despair.

c) What are the circumstances that contribute towards making humans unhappy and disillusioned with life?
Ans. c) The circumstances that contribute towards making humans unhappy and disillusioned with life includes lack of noble souls, and the unhealthy and the dark ways that human take up to acquire their goals.

Q.8

Answer any three of the following in 30-40 words each:

a) Why has the poet’s mother been compared to the ‘late winter’s moon’?
Ans. a) The poet has compared her mother to the ‘late winter moon’ to convey the idea of her old age. Winter comes in the last phase of the year, in the same way, the mother is approaching the last phase of her life.

As late winter’s moon lacks brightness and looks hazy and misty, in the same way the mother is looking pale, old and weak. She has also lost the charm and the strength of her youth.
b) What message does Stephen Spender convey through the poem: ‘An Elementary School Classroom in a Slum’?

**Ans.**
Stephen Spender conveys the message of social justice and class equalities by presenting two contrasting and incompatible worlds.

c) What was the plea of the folk who had put up the roadside stand?

**Ans.**
The poor farmers pleaded the passerby city dwellers to stop at their roadside stalls and buy something so that they too get a chance to earn their living and also to be able to afford some comfort in life.

d) What will happen to Aunt Jennifer’s tigers when she is dead?

**Ans.**
Even though death would not be able to free Aunt Jennifer from the shackles of her oppressive marriage, the tigers created by her will still prance with pride and fearlessness.

Q.9 Answer any three of the following questions in 30-40 words each:

a) How did Franz react to the declaration that it was their last French lesson?

**Ans.**
The declaration of their last lesson of French was like thunderstorm to Franz’s ears. The weight of the books which were hard to carry suddenly felt so light. He was apologetic for not learning his lesson on time and wished if he had done little more efforts. He felt very sorrowful.

b) What made the lawyer lose his job? What was about it? (Poets and Pancakes)

**Ans.**
The lawyer lost his job because the poets were asked to go home. At Gemini Studio the lawyer lost his job when the boss decided to close the department. Thus, the author says that it was probably the only incident in human history when the lawyer lost his job because the poets were asked to go home.

c) How did the instructor turn Douglas into a swimmer?

**Ans.**
The instructor worked gradually on Douglas’ psychology and moved on to his physical movements or steps. He made Douglas master each step till he gained perfection. Finally, he integrated each part to build a swimmer out of Douglas.

d) Why did Sophie like her brother, Geoff more than any other person?

**Ans.**
Sophie liked her brother, Geoff, more than anybody else because he did not talk much and remained lost in his own thoughts. She envied his silence and thought that he had access to an unknown world, of which she too wanted to be a part.

Q.10 Answer the following in 125-150 words:

What made the American publisher think that the novel, ‘The Name of the Rose’ won’t sell well in America? What actually happened? What was the secret of its success?

**Ans.**
The American publisher thought that the novel *The Name of the Rose* won’t sell in America because it was a country where nobody had seen a cathedral or studied Latin. Also, a lot of books had been written on medieval past far before him but they were not huge successes. The novel, however, sold two or three million copies in the U.S. Umberto Eco rightly pointed out that the success is a mystery. It is not possible to know the exact reason behind a book’s success or failure; one can only make wild guesses. Perhaps the time in history when it was written proved favorable for its success. According to Mukund, the novel’s setting in the medieval past might have contributed to its success even though many novels on the same topic have failed to get as much success.

**OR**

How did the peddler feel robbing the crofter? What course did he adopt and how did he react to the new situation? What does his reaction reveals?

**Ans.**
Immediately after robbing the cobbler, the peddler was very pleased with his own smartness. He made his escape through the forest for he dared not take the public highway.
However, he soon got lost in the woods and realized that he had been walking around in the same area. Left in despair, he recollected his own thoughts on the world being a giant rattrap. A sudden realization came to him that he had finally got himself caught in the rattrap because he allowed himself to be tempted by the bait, the thirty kronor bills.

This reveals that the rattrap peddler was not a downright evil character. He was a victim of his situation. His conscience was not dead as yet. He had to resort to begging and stealing because his business was not profitable enough to make both ends meet. His condition of penury does not allow him to be fully righteous.

**Q.11**
**Answer the following in about 100 words:**
Exploitation is a universal phenomenon. The poor indigo farmers were exploited by the British landlords to which Gandhiji objected. Even after our independence we find exploitation of unorganized labour. What values do we learn from Gandhiji's campaign to counter the present day problems of exploitation?

**Ans.11**
Exploitation is a universal phenomenon, irrespective of time and place. The poor indigo farmers of Champaran were exploited by the Britishers. Such exploitation, especially of unorganized labor, has continued into the present times. Gandhiji's objection to the exploitation of the indigo planters was nonviolent yet effective. This episode, therefore, teaches us prompt ways to counter the present day problems of exploitation. The victims should be relieved from fear and made self-reliant. They need to understand their own strengths and not fear to question the authority of the bureaucrats and the rich. Education can go a long way in making this possible.

**Q.12**
**Answer the following in 125-150 words:**
What is the bond that unites the two - the old Mr. Lamb and Derry, the smallboy? How does the old man inspire the small boy?

**Ans.12**
The protagonists of the play, Mr. Lamb and Derry, were both physically impaired. Derry's half face had been disfigured by acid while Mr. Lamb had a tin leg. Both of them were ridiculed and mocked at by others. Moreover, none of them had friends. The similarities they shared became the bond that united the two.

Derry was inspired by Mr. Lamb's positivity. He noticed that though Mr. Lamb also had a disfigured body part, he did not give in and was living his life happily. He helped the boy to love and live life without any contempt for his own self. Furthermore, Mr. Lamb spoke words of encouragement, hope and zest for life, which no one had ever spoken to Derry. He made the boy aware of his physical strength and explained the importance of emotional well being. Besides, he inspired Derry to mingle with people and not to hate anyone.

**OR**
Do you think Dr. Sadao's final decision was the best possible one in the circumstances? Why / Why not? Explain with reference to the story, 'the Enemy'.

**Ans.12**
Dr. Sadao saved and tended the injured soldier as a part of his duty. However, the burden of hiding an American soldier illegally weighed heavy on him. In a bid to get rid of this burden, he revealed the secret to the General, who promises to get the prisoner killed through some assassins. Thus, by telling the truth to the General, he proves his loyalty to his country. However, when he noticed that the soldier was to be killed not for the benefit of the country but only to save his life, his humane side asked him to ply with the voice of his soul. He then went out of his way to help the enemy soldier flee safely. Thus, in such a situation, the doctor's final solution to the problem was the best possible one.

**Q.13**
**Answer the following in 30-40 words each:**

a) Why do you think the booking clerk refused to accept the money? Why did the narrator get out so fast?

**Ans.a** The clerk refused to accept the money as it was from a different time; in 1894, the currency used was different from that used now. Therefore, he thought that Charley was duping him with fake currency notes. Realizing this, Charley got out of the place fast as he did not want to be jailed.

b) Why could the Russian research vessel, 'The Akademik Shokaskiy' not move any further? What did the captain decide then?

**Ans.b** The Russian vessel, 'The Akademik Shokaskiy' could not move any further as it was wedged in ice between the peninsula and the Tadpole Island. Due to this, the captain decided to head back north. However, the students were instructed to climb down and walk on the ocean.
c) What sort of hunts did the Maharaja offer to organize for the high ranking British officer? What trait of the officer does it reveal?

**Ans. c)** The Maharaja offered to organize a boar hunt, a mouse hunt or a mosquito hunt for the high ranking British officer. This reveals that the officer did not have much respect in the eyes of the Maharaja.

d) What did Jo want the wizard to do when Mommy Skunk approached him?

**Ans. d)** Jo was not happy with the ending of the story. She wanted the wizard to hit the Mommy Skunk with the magic wand and chop her plump arms forcefully, “right over the head”.