

**Answers – Board Paper – July 2023**

**Section I : Language Study**

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

(1) Make a meaningful sentence of your own using the following phrase: (1)

‘by fits and starts’.

**Ans.** She did not lose much weight as she started dieting by fits and starts.

(2) Spot the error in the following sentence and rewrite it: (1)

I doesn't need beautiful armour made to my measure.

**Ans.** Error – doesn't

I don't need beautiful armour made to my measure.

(3) Identify the type of sentence: (1)

Give it to me quickly.

**Ans.** Imperative sentence

(4) Form present participle in which the last letter is doubled. (1)

**Ans.** cutting, running, knitting, slipping

(5) Find out the hidden words from the given word (Minimum four letters each): (1)

ORNAMENTATION

**Ans.** term, rate, rent, neat, earn, nation

**A2. Do as directed (any two):** [4]

(1) Make two sentences of your own to show the difference of Homograph: (2)

TRAIN

**Ans.** (i) I am a football coach and train school students to play at the district level.

(ii) By the time we reached the station, the express train had already left.

(2) Science and technology enhance the overall comfort and quality of human life: (2)

[Begin the sentence with: The overall comfort.....]

**Ans.** The overall comfort and quality of human life is enhanced by science and technology.

(3) Smita felt alone in their midst. (2)

(Identify the tense and rewrite the sentence using Future Continuous Tense.)

**Ans.** Simple Past Tense

Future Continuous Tense – Smita will be feeling alone in their midst.

**(B) Do as directed (any one):** [2]

(1) Pick out the Modal Auxiliary and state its function: (2)

He could still feed himself.

**Ans.** Modal – could

Function – ability

(2) Identify the clause and state its kind: (2)

It takes the shape that the water commands.

**Ans.** It takes the shape – Main Clause

that the water commands – Subordinate Adjective Clause

## Section II : Textual Passages

(Reading Skills, Vocabulary and Grammar)

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

[10]

**A1. Complete the given table:**

(2)

**Ans.**

	Sentence	Who said	To whom
(i)	You really think that?	Captain Robert de Baudricourt	Monsieur de Poulengy
(ii)	Right, squire.	Joan	Captain Robert de Baudricourt

**A2. From the passage find what the following are compared to and why?** (2)

**Ans.**

	Phrase/Sentence	Comparison	Reason
(i)	as mad as	she(Joan) is	Captain Robert de Baudricourt says this to Monsieur de Poulengy as the latter tried to convince him that there was no harm in giving a chance to Joan to prove herself, whereas he felt that Joan's demands, ideas and plans were ridiculous and would never work out.
(ii)	The Dauphin in Chinon is like	a rat in a corner	Monsieur de Poulengy says this to Captain Robert de Baudricourt to describe the Dauphin's cowardice.

**A3. He can't work Miracles. (2)**

(Change the underlined word into an adverb and make a meaningful sentence of your own using the same).

**Ans.** A portion of the ceiling came crashing down, but miraculously no one was hurt.

**A4. Do as directed. (2)**

(1) He beat the English the year before last at Montargis. I was with him.

(Join the above sentences by using a subordinating conjunction.)

**Ans.** I was with him when he beat the English the year before last at Montargis.

(2) What is wrong with it?

(Begin the sentence with: There is .....)

**Ans.** There is nothing wrong with it.

**A5. Personal Response (2)**

**What are the essential qualities to be a good soldier?**

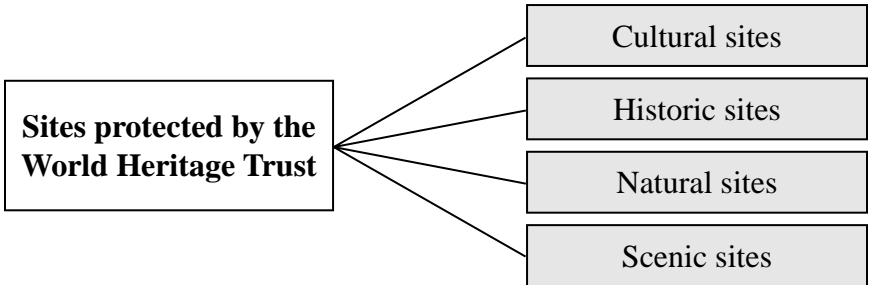
**Ans.** A soldier must uphold numerous values with utmost responsibility to save the interest and integrity of his nation. Besides good training, the four core qualities that a good soldier must possess are the 3CIs which stands for courage, commitment, comradeship and integrity. A good soldier displays exemplary courage in any given situation. He shows his commitment by working without complaints in harmony with his superiors, compatriots and subordinates. A good soldier shows his comradeship by getting along well with other soldiers in both formal and social settings and displays his integrity by being honest in his service throughout. A soldier must be disciplined and physically fit to endure gruelling training sessions and hardships. Apart from core qualities, a soldier must also possess core skills like using different weapons, having knowledge of field craft, using time efficiently, and reacting to commands favourably. All these qualities help a soldier to perform his duty rightfully and serve the nation.

**(B) Read the following passage and do the given activities. [10]**

**B1. Complete the following boxes:**

**(2)**

**Ans.**



**B2. Complete the following flow chart of History of World Heritage Sites:**

**(2)**

**Ans.**

1954:	Egypt started plans to build the Aswan High Dam to collect and control water flow from the Nile River.
1959:	UNESCO launched an international campaign to protect the Abu Simbel temples and Egyptian artefacts.
1965:	A White House conference in the United States called for a World Heritage Trust to protect the world's significant historic, cultural, natural and scenic sites.
16 Nov, 1972:	UNESCO's General Conference adopted the Convention concerning the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage.

**B3. Match the following words from Column 'A' with meanings given in Column 'B':** (2)

	'A'	'B'
(i)	Artefacts	(a) began
(ii)	Dismantling	(b) plenty of
(iii)	Scores of	(c) pulling down
(iv)	Initiated	(d) objects made by human beings

**Ans.** (i) – (d), (ii) – (c), (iii) – (b), (iv) – (a)

**B4. Do as directed.** (2)

(i) To protect the temples and artefacts, UNESCO launched an International Campaign.

(Identify whether the above sentence is Simple, Compound, Complex.)

**Ans.** Simple sentence

(ii) The state parties are responsible for identifying and nominating new sites.

(Use 'not only ..... but also' in the given sentence.)

**Ans.** The state parties are responsible not only for identifying but also nominating new sites.

**B5. Personal Response** (2)

**What role can you play to protect the World Heritage Sites?**

**Ans.** Preservation and protection of world heritage sites helps us to transmit our understanding of the past to future generations. So, as responsible citizens, when we visit these places, we must not mar their beauty and grandeur. We must refrain from scratching, scribbling, writing or carving on the ancient walls of the historical site. It is important to maintain cleanliness and prevent one another from spitting or littering around these historical sites. We can participate in periodic cleanliness drives. Those structures that are in desperate need of renovation

can be restored with the help of affluent residents in the area or NGOs. We must persuade the government to become more responsible towards preservation and conservation of historical sites. World heritage sites are a nation's treasure. They bring about a sense of identity, a symbol of pride and belonging to residents.

**Section III : Poetry**

**Q.3. (A) Read the following extract and answer the following activities: [5]**

**A1. Choose the correct alternatives according to the given extract: (2)**

- (i) If you want a thing bad enough .....

  - (a) argue for it
  - (b) fight for it
  - (c) sleep for it

**Ans.** fight for it

- (ii) We need to give up our ..... for our dreams.

  - (a) time
  - (b) money
  - (c) energy

**Ans.** time

- (iii) To accomplish our scheme we gladly need to .....

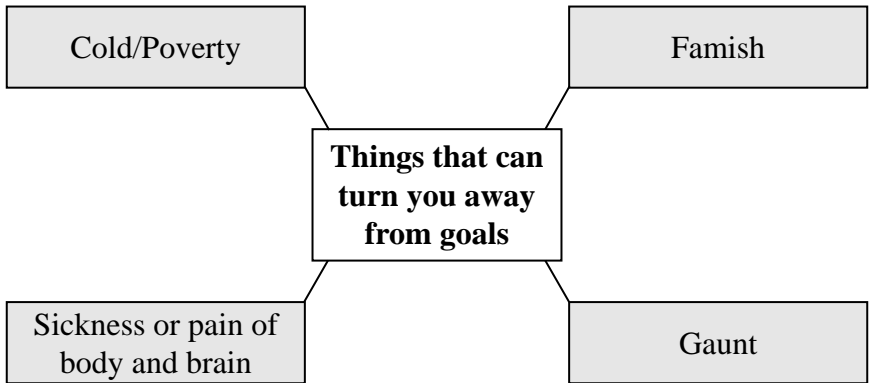
  - (a) earn for it
  - (b) live for it
  - (c) sweat for it

**Ans.** sweat for it

- (iv) To simply go after a thing you want, you should have .....

  - (a) faith
  - (b) brains
  - (c) power

**Ans.** faith

**A2. Complete the web:****(2)****Ans.****A3. Pick out one example of Tautology from the extract. (1)****Ans.** Life seems useless and worthless without it.**(B) Read the following poem and write an appreciation of it with the help of the given points in a paragraph: [5]****Ans.**

The poem 'Animals' is written by the American poet Walt Whitman who is also called the father of 'Free Verse'. The poem is of sixteen lines. The extracted section of the poem contains three stanzas. It is written in free verse with no rhyme scheme or specific line lengths.

The poet makes a liberal use of figurative language - particularly - in the line "They bring me tokens of myself" where tokens have been used metaphorically for human qualities. The poet has used the figure of speech Anaphora where the poet has repeated the same beginning 'They do not' in lines 4, 5 and 6 and 'Not one' in lines 7 and 8 with the purpose of emphasizing the absence of evil qualities. Other figures of speech are Repetition, Tautology, Hyperbole and Onomatopoeia. The central idea of the poem is that the poet feels more at home with the animals than with human beings. He wishes to live with animals. The poet tells us that human beings have become complicated in the process of being civilized. They are involved in the materialistic race whereas animals are more placid and self-



contained. Humans have forgotten their true nature and have turned avaricious, restless and sinful. He maintains that animals are free from all types of trivial anxieties and thus they are still living their natural life. The poet wants to bring home the urgent need of man to get back to his God-given virtues.

**Section IV : Non-textual Passage**

**(Reading Skills, Vocabulary, Grammar and Summary)**

**Q.4. (A) Read the following passage and do the given activities. [10]**

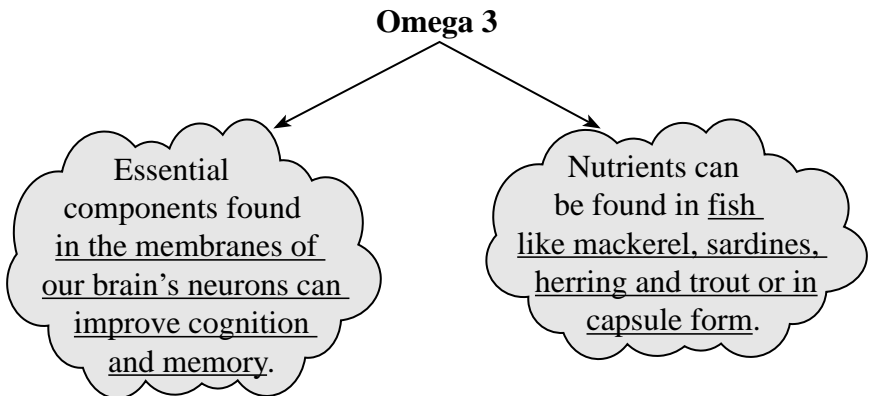
**A1. State whether the following sentences are true or false: (2)**

**Ans.**

- (i) Caffeine is good for health. False
- (ii) Healthy fats are powerful tools. True
- (iii) Our brain becomes acceptable to oxidative stress. False
- (iv) Medications can help shore up your focus. True

**A2. Complete the following given clouds: (2)**

**Ans.**



**A3. Give the noun forms of the following: (2)**

**Ans.**

- (i) recommend – recommendation
- (ii) improve – improvement

(iii) concentrate – concentration

(iv) provide – provision

**A4. Do as directed:** (2)

(i) We are used to drinking coffee.

(Make Interrogative)

**Ans.** Aren't we used to drinking coffee?

(ii) A diet adjustment may not be enough.

(Pick out the modal auxiliary and state its function).

**Ans.** May (not) – expresses insufficiency

**A5. Personal Response:** (2)

**How will you nourish your concentration by including proper nutrients in your day to day diet?**

**Ans.** Food is the fuel that our body needs to stay focused. Hunger causes headaches, fatigue and brain fog. First of all, I don't skip breakfast as it happens to be the first meal of the day that keeps me going for the rest of the day. To improve my concentration, I will include blueberries which are rich in antioxidants in my diet. Besides, I will occasionally include eggs, fatty fish containing omega-3 fatty acids and DHA, a handful of nuts and seeds, leafy vegetables and green tea in my diet. It is very important that we choose the right healthy foods that support mental health, develop concentration and improve focus — whether at work or studies. Apart from having a healthy diet, I do moderate exercise and refrain from multi-tasking as far as possible.

**(B) Summary Writing** [5]

**Read the passage given in question 4(A) and write a summary of it in a paragraph. Suggest a suitable title.**

**Ans. Ways to increase focus and concentration**

Though drinking coffee may heighten alertness, too much of caffeine also leads to anxiety, irritability and insomnia. Instead of coffee, consuming healthy fats help the brain to focus. Omega 3 fatty acids found in fish or in capsule form improve cognition and memory. Vitamin E found in avocados; seeds and nuts also improve concentration.

As we age, oxidative stress leads to cognitive decline. Including dark-coloured fruits and vegetables in our diet may help to combat this problem. At the same time, just a diet adjustment may not be enough for those adults whose lives are adversely affected due to attention deficit disorder. In such cases, a doctor's diagnosis and medications to improve focus is necessary.

## Section V : Writing Skills

**Q.5. (A) Letter Writing:**

**[5]**

**A1. Formal Letter**

**Write a letter to the Editor of a local newspaper asking him to spread awareness about the addiction of online games and its effect on children.**

**Ans.**

53, Hari Smruti Heights

Gokul Colony

Akola – 444005

10 April 2023

The Editor

Times of India

Mumbai – 400001

Subject: Awareness about the addiction of online games and its effect on children.

Dear Sir,

We all know that online gaming is an integral part of the global media and entertainment market that grows drastically every year. Online games refer to playing games over the internet. There are many websites that offer online games that can be played through a web browser. It is said that mobile gaming is estimated to bring the largest proportion of total gaming revenue worldwide by 2023. No doubt online gaming can be a fun and engaging way to socialise and compete with others, there are potential risks like cyberbullying, scams, addiction, health issues and many others.

The great danger of online gaming is that the younger generation especially children are cut out from the real world. They are so

obsessed with these games that they have forgotten to relate with their own family members. Children are so caught up in this virtual world that they don't feel the need for a friend or to converse with their beloved parents. They have forgotten to socialise. Children find it difficult to verbally express their feelings and emotions due to a lack of vocabulary and a low level of emotional development. Most of the children suffer from obesity as they are not involved in any physical activities. They have no control over their eating habit as they continuously munch and play online games. They suffer physical ailments like lack of sleep, back pain from poor posture, poor eyesight, constant headaches, and damage to the hands and fingers from using a mouse and keyboard or game controller. Children have no time to pursue good habits like reading or developing their creative skills like writing, drawing, swimming or playing outdoor games. The brain is not put to full use due to addiction to these online games. Few of these online games are played with people across the globe. Children don't know each other. They begin relating to these strangers of all ages which affects their relationship with their own family members. There is no control of language and children tend to be aggressive, and violent in order to win the game. This virtual world takes hold of the child's life. We know of various instances where such children have gone violent and harmed others. At times children have innocently shared their personal information and have got themselves and their families into trouble. We know how children tend to fall prey to buying items or in-game currency for real money. In-game shopping can be very tempting for kids, and they are often encouraged to spend more money in real life.

Things have further worsened after Covid-19 as the world is moving towards 'online' for everything. Two years of no school or college have further hooked students to online gaming. It won't be surprising if strong emotions and feelings like love, empathy, sympathy, concern, patience remain mere words. Before our children become objects let us unitedly work on this grave problem of online gaming and save our future generation.

Yours truly,  
Mohan Verma

## **A2. Informal letter writing**

**Your close friend Arnav/Arnavi Sharma plays online games. He/she does not read, go out or do anything creative. Write a letter to him/her with the help of the points given in the above newspaper cutout. You may add your own points to support your subject.**

**Ans.**

53, Hari Smruti Heights  
Gokul Colony  
Akola – 444005  
10 April 2023

Dear Arnav,

It has been very long that we met each other. Being summer vacation I thought you would come to play cricket with us. I tried calling you but no response. Hope all is well with you. I am a bit worried about your health so took the liberty of penning my thoughts and concern for you.

Of late, I realised that you are hooked to online games. You don't attend calls nor reply to any of your friends' messages because you are 24 by 7 playing online games. It was brought to my notice that you have no time to eat or to take care of your health and hygiene. You eat in a haste and at times forget to eat. Sleep has disappeared from your eyes. Arnav, you have been a bright student, a person full of life. We all enjoyed your company. Your passion for reading, singing, dancing, drawing and playing quizzes would motivate us to get involved in some or the other creative activities. It is because of you that today I excel in general knowledge and cricket. Have you realised that you have not kept in touch with any of us. You forgot to give your name for the inter-society quiz competition. We missed your presence on the cultural day celebrated by our society. I admired your calm and composed nature. Your face used to be lit with joy and happiness. Your addiction to these online games have got you aggressive, irritated and always lost in your own world. Dear friend it is high time you come out of this addiction. We friends are always willing to help you. Before you get into grave problems like

cyberbullying and other health-related issues take help from your parents and come out of it. I am there to help you get out of this dangerous obsession.

I am praying to God to set you free from this vicious games. I long to see the same Arnav who through his laughter and zeal brought people together. I know for sure you will pay heed to my words. Longing to see you play cricket, sing, dance and quiz with us. Waiting for you.

With love,  
Mohan

**Q.6. (A) Information Transfer.**

**[5]**

**(A1 or A2) Do any one of the following:**

**A1. Verbal to Non-Verbal:**

**Read the following paragraph about ‘The causes of pollution and the possible solutions’ and tabulate the same information:**

**Ans.**

**POLLUTION**

Type	Caused by	Possible Solutions
(1) Air pollution	(a) Industrial pollutants (b) Increased level of RSPM due to high flow of vehicular traffic	(a) Tree plantation (b) Citizens and NGO’s taking up green causes with civic authorities. (c) Protection of forests and conservation of mangroves.
(2) Water pollution	(a) Industrial effluents (b) Immersion of POP idols	(a) Develop effective waste management techniques (b) Using eco-friendly idols during festive time

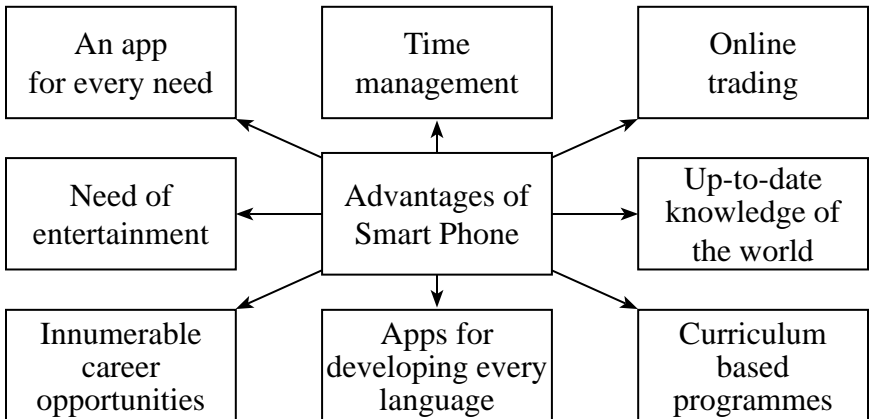
(3) Sound pollution	(a) Blaring loud speakers during festival times (b) Increased volume of traffic	(a) Creating general awareness among populace to solve the problem of sound pollution (b) Strict enforcement of decibel levels by the police during occasions and festival times
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**OR**

**A2. Non-Verbal to Verbal**

**Transfer the information into a paragraph:**

**Read the following web diagram and transform it into a paragraph. Give a suitable title:**



**Ans.**

**Smart phone – Bringing people closer, making lives better**

A life without smartphones is unimaginable in today's world. Mobile apps have saved so much of our time, effort and dependencies. From the comfort of your home, you can shop for groceries, fruits and vegetables, order food or even book a cab, bus, train, airline or movie ticket with just a few clicks. Through financial apps, all banking transactions can be done online in a jiffy.

Mobile calendars help us to manage a busy schedule, and organize our daily work tasks and personal schedule. Instant alerts remind us of a doctor's appointment or a loved one's birthday. In the event of an accident, injury, sickness or other emergencies, a smartphone enables us to contact our family and friends immediately without wasting precious time. Countless news channels offer live updates of events happening across the world. Social networking sites like Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, etc. enable us to remain connected at all times. Online learning has revolutionised education. Most colleges, universities and institutions offer curriculum-based programmes and provide online courses, and study materials in the form of PPTs, videos, pictures, text, PDFs, etc. During Covid times, the majority of the children attended online classes. A smartphone has the biggest reference library where you can search for just about anything. It can be used to translate foreign languages as well. Job seekers can search and apply for jobs. Employers can also post about vacancies, job openings, read submitted resumes and connect with job seekers. Every second person uses a smartphone for amusement and entertainment. We can view movies, listen to music or play games on the latest upgraded smartphones while travelling or at home. Thanks to services like Netflix, Amazon Prime Time, Disney Hotstar, etc. Mobile trading apps provide access to online trading platforms to execute trades instantly. Customers, traders and investors can trade directly from any part of the world as long as they have an internet connection. This small gadget has truly made our lives so comfortable and convenient.

**(B) Speech/view-counterview:**

**[5]**

**B1. Speech writing:**

Prepare a speech to be delivered for 'Sports Day' in your school. The topic you have to speak is 'Sports: Essential for overall development of an Individual'.

**Ans.**

**Sports: Essential for overall development of an Individual**

Dear Principal, teachers and my fellow students,

It is indeed an honour to stand before you this morning as the Sports Captain of this esteemed school. What a joy to inaugurate the Sports



Day with a speech on my favourite topic ‘Sports: Essential for overall development of an Individual’.

We all know it takes more than just academics to raise brilliant and active students. As I stand here today on this massive sports ground, I can proudly say that my school is one of those educational institutions that gives equal importance to sports and outdoor extracurriculars along with academics. It has been proved that brain health is directly proportional to playing a sport.

Long-term playing of any sport makes a child alert and prompt. Such children have superior cognitive skills, improved hand-eye coordination, better attention spans and memory power. Sports encourage children to work as a team, communicate well with their fellow sportsmen and make new friends. They develop leadership qualities.

As a team captain, a child learns to motivate his teammates, make critical decisions during the game and guide his team on the sports ground. Moreover, playing a sport burns extra energy, releases toxins from the body and boosts the overall mental health. It also improves stamina and is highly beneficial for developing the muscular system.

Last but not the least, playing a sport prepares children to face the realities of life in a better way. They learn to take defeats in their stride, gain the confidence to move on and try harder. They do not feel jealous and regardless of the outcome of the game, they respect the opponent team, and congratulate them on their victory like a true sportsman. These values in turn helps to build good relationships and leads to a healthy and respectful society.

Wishing everyone a fun-filled day. Do make this sports day a memorable one. Learn values, learn life even while you play.

*OR*

**Write your conterview on:**

**B2. “Social networking sites are not a necessity.”**

**Ans. Social networking sites are a necessity**

Social networking sites use internet-based social media platforms that help to connect with people around the world. These sites have the ability to reach large audiences as millions of people

all over the world use these platforms to connect not only with their friends and loved ones but also with unknown individuals who share the same interests, goals and experiences. Some of the most popular social networking sites are Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and WhatsApp. Facebook remains the largest and most popular social network around the globe. These sites are a boon to students as they can explore various topics for completion of their projects, assignments, etc. In the business and marketing fields, companies use social networking sites to connect better with the potential clients and business partners for increasing brand recognition and encouraging brand loyalty. Besides, job seekers can use these sites to connect better with employers and firms. Moreover, there is no need to sit in front of the TV or read newspapers anymore since live updates and news are available on social network platforms. Just like two sides of the same coin, social networking sites also have their pros and cons. Anything in excess is harmful, there can be negative impacts when social media is misused or operated irresponsibly. However, by being alert, monitoring and limiting their usage and following a few personal safety precautions, we can use these sites to our benefit and advantage. Life today without social media is unimaginable. It is a part of our daily lives and is surely here to stay.

## Section VI : Creative Writing

### (Expansion of theme/News Report)

**Q.7. (A) A1. Expand the theme: [5]**

**Expand the following proverb into a paragraph of 100 words:**

**Nothing succeeds like success**

**Ans.** People who have enjoyed their first success had to go through adversaries, failures, sleepless nights, tirelessly working and disappointments. They did not give up on their dream. These people were dedicated, committed, persevered and loved what they did. It was only then did they enjoyed the fruit of their hard work namely success. For example at the age of 16, late Mr Dhirubhai Ambani had to move to Yemen to work at a petrol pump as he belonged to a

low-income family. After some time, he started a textile business and gained much marketing knowledge. After that, he began Reliance Corporation in 1996, now known as Reliance Industries. Once you meet success, you are in a better position to succeed at the next step. Success gives a person confidence, opens more opportunities, a new outlook towards life, fame and support from people. Success leads to more success for we feel encouraged to try our best at everything we do. When we succeed once we know through the ups and downs how to succeed again. Gradually we learn to master the art of being successful in all that we do. Our approach to everything we do tends to be positive and this is one of the biggest criteria of success. Our initial success teaches us to appreciate people who have lent a helping hand in our journey. These people who have seen our hard work pay and were appreciated for all their help, will always walk the journey with us.

In this way, we realise that success breeds success for having accomplished one thing, accomplishing the next will be even easier.

## **A2. News Report:**

**Write a news report based on the given headline:**

**‘Indian origin Abhijit Banerjee wins Nobel Prize for Economics for his work on global poverty’**

**Ans.** The Royal Swedish Academy awarded the 2019 Nobel Prize for Economics (the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel) to Abhijit Banerjee an Indian-origin economist along with his wife Esther Duflo, and Michael Kremer, for their experimental approach to alleviating global poverty. Abhijit and his wife Esther work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Michael works at Harvard University. The trio received a 9 million-kronor, or about \$918,000 cash award, a gold medal, and a diploma. Abhijit and Esther Duflo who are married, are the sixth married couple to jointly win a Nobel Prize.

The trio often working with each other, focussed on relatively small and specific problems that contributed to poverty and identified the best solutions through carefully designed field experiments, which they conducted in several low-and middle-income countries over the course of more than two decades. They also explored

methods for generalizing the results of particular experiments to larger populations, geographic regions and different authorities among other variables. Their fieldwork led to successful public policy. According to the Academy the research by these economists has considerably improved their ability to fight global poverty and has benefitted five million children.

Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee who was born in Mumbai received his school education in South Point High School in Calcutta. After his schooling, he took admission at Presidency College, then an affiliated college of the University of Calcutta where he completed his degree in economics in 1981. Later, he completed his M.A. in economics at the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi in 1983. He went on to obtain a PhD from Harvard University in 1988. The subject of his doctoral thesis was “Essays in Information Economics.” He taught economics at Princeton University from 1988 to 1992, at Harvard from 1991-93, and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) from 1993. At MIT, he was eventually appointed Ford Foundation Internal Professor of Economics. He has been actively involved in the field of economics, following which in 2003 he founded the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) along with Sendhil Mullainathan and Duflo. He is also known for serving for the Post-2015 Development Agenda at the UN Secretary-General High-Level Panel of Eminent personalities.

This is not the first time that an Indian or an Indian-origin academic has received the award. In 1998, Amartya Sen became the first Indian to receive the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for his contribution to welfare economics.

**(B) Developing a story/Narration: [5]**

**B1. Developing a story:**

**Develop a story suitable to the conclusion/end given below.  
Suggest a suitable title.**

..... It was a dream come true for an ordinary child like me.

**Ans. Dare to Dream**

I live in a hamlet in the Velhe taluka in the Pune district. Nearly

40 villages out of 130 in Velhe are remote and are situated on the hills. We need to draw water from the well. Life gets even tougher in my village due to the unavailability of electricity and no good roads for transport. My taluka is entirely rural. We need to go to Panshet, a village near the Panshet dam for it has a bank, post office, grocery and a flour mill. My parents are simple villagers working tirelessly on the field to fulfil our basic needs. I am their only child and they wish to see me as a highly educated man. So I am with my grandparents at Panshet attending the village school.

Being born and brought up in a village one tends to be closer to nature. I enjoy spending time admiring the sky, the sun, the moon and the stars. I have a great fascination for the solar system and the various planets. We don't have internet service so I read books available in my small school library. My teachers from the village have recognized my desire to join the city school for further education for I dream of becoming a scientist. For a boy coming from such a poor background, this dream is indeed taller than the Everest. But I dream and am sure I will excel.

Dreaming is not enough, so with the help of my teachers, I have begun participating in various science and maths competitions and quizzes that features in various magazines, newspapers and interschool. I have been doing well in it. All the credit goes to my teachers. They spend time going to Pune during weekends in order to find out websites and other information to help me fulfil my dream. It's already been three years since I have been working day and night to strengthen my hold on the English language. I have already appeared for nearly 100 quizzes and 50 competitions on various topics from Science and made my school proud.

Of late, I had been to Pune along with my Principal and Science teacher to take part in an inter-school competition. Around 50 schools participated in the competition. Most of the students were from the city schools. I was the odd one out among them. I heard them speak fluently in English with each other. I kept asking myself whether I could at least come among the first twenties. Negative thoughts caught hold of me but I decided to channelize the positive energy within me for I had a long way to go. I represented my school, my

parents, my village and above all my taluka, how could I fail them? It was an extempore speech and the topic I had to speak on was 'Abdul Kalam's dream for India'. I read two books: Ignited Minds and Wings of Fire by the late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and a few stories that featured in my textbooks. I spoke with passion on the great man who had always inspired me and I wished to follow in his footsteps. I only knew that I was filled with awe for this great scientist of our land and every word I spoke came from my being. I forget the concept of winning and I only spoke the dream of this great man. After I finished my speech and was about to take my first step to move out of stage I saw the audience stand to give me a standing ovation. Tears rolled down my cheeks. It was a dream come true for an ordinary child like me.

**B2. Narrate an experience:**

I was in the class, teacher was teaching when the peon came and called out my name and said the Principal had called  
.....  
.....

**Ans.**

**Act of Bravery**

I was in the class, the teacher was teaching when the peon came and called out my name and said the Principal had called immediately to his office. I started perspiring, fear gripped me and my mind ran a marathon race of a thousand negative questions. My classmates looked at me with a big question mark on their face. What had made my principal call for me? It was a million dollar question before me. My teacher told me to go along with the peon to the principal's office. With trembling hands and feet I entered the office and with great difficulty greeted the principal. He too replied to my greeting in a soft tone. Listening to that tone, I was a bit relaxed for it meant there wasn't any complaint against me. He told me to sit and handed a letter to be read aloud by me. I couldn't believe what I was reading. I was to receive the National bravery Award from the Prime Minister on Republic Day.

My Principal asked me why I was selected for this honour. I

told him that I had spent my first five years as a toddler with my grandparents for my parents were out of India. My village had ponds, wells, a stream and a river. I used to accompany my village friends to the small and big water bodies in and around the village and so swimming became part and parcel of our lives. I did not receive any formal training in swimming but I enjoyed it and learnt every move of it from the seniors of our group. I was confident of myself when it came to shallow or deep waters. On my coming to Mumbai, I did not take much interest in swimming and got busy with academics and other co-curricular activities. My grandparents too came and settled with us and most of the time we kept touring other parts of the world.

Nearly after five years we decided to go back to the village for our summer holidays and also to enjoy the village fair. Being the festive week, there were guests in every house. The unpredictable rain too came in with heavy showers practically every day. The ponds, streams, wells, tanks and the river were over-flowing. I tried getting hold of my old friends but all were busy with some or the other work. As I was heading in the direction of the river, I heard a group of toddlers screaming and shouting for help. They were the guests who had come to the village for the first time. One of their fellow companions was sinking in the deep river. He was drowning. I had not swam for nearly five years. But I was sure that one does not forget any skill so easily. I jumped into the river and swam towards him to pull him out. The water was very deep and fighting the force wasn't easy, but I put in all my might to save the boy and myself. At some point, I felt that I wouldn't make it because the force of the current was just too much, but I pushed myself harder and summoned all my strength until I finally reached him. I caught hold of him and drew him out. Meanwhile the villagers and other guests had arrived on the shore. They rushed to pump water out of the boy's body and he was saved. One of the guests was a journalist and he promised to write an article on me. I had just done my duty of saving a life. It was not for name or fame. I did not know what happened after that. I came back to Mumbai. Nearly seven months have gone by and this comes to me as a greatest surprise. ★★★