

UNIT TEST 4

Time: 1/12 hrs

ENGLISH CORE CLASS XII
SET A

Marks : 40

SECTION A : READING

1. Read the passage and answer any Eight of the following questions 8 x1 =8

Realizing the potential of knowledge power of India is a little bit difficult to assess. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a good effort for universal access to quality school education- a minimum necessary condition to make India a knowledge society', as the 2006 report of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) puts it-remains a distant goal. The reason can be the number of school buildings for elementary and secondary education falls far short of requirements and so does the number of qualified teachers. The government budgets, which enables to hire teachers on contract paying a pittance of a salary, is playing havoc with quality. While the incursion of the private sector in the field is providing some competition, mechanisms to enforce the required standards are lacking.

Not that there are no national standards or standards-enforcing agencies. We have the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) to bring out textbooks in various subjects for school education, several model schools and The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to conduct examinations at central level. The states too have their school boards to conduct exams and enforce minimum standards. However, the standards vary widely. In their anxiety to show spectacular performance, some states are overly lenient-in marking answer papers

Questions arise even over the standards applied by CBSE. Going by the number of students securing 90% or more in their higher secondary exam, it would appear India is on the brink of a knowledge revolution. The numbers are so large that the cut-off point for admission to top colleges is now above 90%.It is not difficult to see why. In 2019, the CBSE class XII exams, over 8000 students scored more than 90%in Economics in the Delhi region alone; in English it was above 9000.The numbers seem to be growing every year. If the country produces so many such children, we can expect India to produce Amartya Sens by the dozens.

While scoring high marks or even 100 out of 100 may not be out of a good student's reach in subjects like Mathematics or Physics, in Economics or English, it is surprising. It leaves a big gap between what students learn at school and what they have to face on entering institutions of higher learning.

In an attempt to remedy the situation, NCERT had recently commissioned experts to rewrite textbooks and these new texts should go some way in helping beginners get acquainted with the basic concepts in the subject and their applications. Not surprisingly, Teachers do not like to be compelled to look at textbooks they are not

familiar with. Lastly, even teaching shops see red as they fear loss of business if the higher secondary finalists can get their skills upgraded without buying their help. One wonders if our Knowledge Commission is aware of these insidious impediments to India's knowledge ambitions.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the following questions by choosing the most appropriate option.

- i. Why is quality school education a distant goal?
 - (a) There are no fundamental rights.
 - (b) There is no legislation at the national level.
 - (c) Measures to enforce the required standards are not there.
 - (d) There are no minimum necessary conditions.
- ii. What is the tone of writer when he remarks: 'India is on the brink of a knowledge revolution?'
 - (a) Optimistic
 - (b) Imaginative
 - (c) Sarcastic
 - (d) Presumptuous
- iii. What are some states doing for ensuring good performances?
 - (a) Lenience in marking
 - (b) Following their own school boards
 - (c) Following CBSE
 - (d) All of these
- iv. Why do teachers oppose the new textbooks?
 - (a) They are not familiar with them.
 - (b) They want students to score good marks.
 - (c) They are happy with the old books.
 - (d) Teaching shops would lose their business.
- v. What remains a distant goal?
 - (a) Distant education
 - (b) Quality education
 - (c) Specialization in education
 - (d) Board of education
- vi. Why does the author state, "we can expect India to produce Amartya Sens by the dozens"?
 - (a) Due to unimaginable higher scores of the students
 - (b) Due to dedication of the students
 - (c) Due to the opportunities available to the students
 - (d) None of these
- vii. Scoring 100/100 is not easy in subjects like
 - (a) Maths and Physics
 - (b) English and Economics

- (c) Four of these
 - (d) None of these
- viii. The text books should clear the students
- (a) Language and use
 - (b) Basic Concepts and application
 - (c) stories and narration
 - (d) None of these
- ix. Which word in the passage means the same as, 'Impressive '(para 3)
- (a) Effective
 - (b) Spectacular
 - (c) Runs
 - (d) Standards

SECTION B-WRITING

2. You are D.R. Verma, Physical Education Teacher, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kanpur. You want to select the school hockey team for the Inter-School Hockey Tournament. Write a notice in about 50 words inviting those who are interested in being selected to give their names. 5

OR

You are Sports Secretary of ABC School, Agra. Write a notice in not more than 50 words for the school notice board, asking the students interested in hockey to give their names for selection for your school hockey team.

3. Today the 24-hour television news channels give us instant news from every nook and corner of the world. But the fact remains that the importance of the newspaper remains intact. Write an article in 150-200 words expressing your views on "The relevance of newspapers". You are Sunil/Sunita. 5

OR

Write a report in 150-200 words for publication in your school magazine describing how the Teacher's Day was celebrated in your school. You are Priyanka/Piyush of XI A.

SECTION C-LITERATURE

4. **Answer any one of the following extract** 5

A. *Saul Bellow, who has consented to be interviewed on several occasions, nevertheless once described interviews as being like thumbprints on his windpipe. Yet despite the drawbacks of the interview, it is a supremely serviceable medium of communication. "These days, more than at any other time, our most vivid impressions of our contemporaries are through interviews," Denis Brian has written. "Almost everything of moment reaches us through one man asking questions of another. Because of this, the interviewer holds a position of unprecedented power and influence."*

- i) How would you describe Denis Brian's opinion on interviews? Choose the most appropriate option.
- (i) appeasing (ii) utilitarian (iii) approving (iv) praising
- a) Options (i) and (ii) b) Options (iii) and (iv)
- c) Options (ii) and (iii) d) Options (i) and (iv)
- ii) According to Saul Bellow, interviews are like thumbprints on his windpipe. What emotion might best describe such an image?
- a) sadness b) frustration c) pain d) fear
- iii) Denis Brian states that the interviewer occupies a position of power and influence as
- a) everything reaches us through one man asking questions of another.
- b) the interview is a supremely serviceable medium of communication.
- c) our most vivid impressions of our contemporaries are through interviews.
- d) interviews are like thumbprints on the interviewee's windpipe
- iv) The use of the word "serviceable" implies that interviews are _____
- a) significant. b) powerful. c) advanced. d) useful.
- v) Umberto Eco mentioned that he was not puzzled by the tremendous mass popularity of his novel, *The Name of the Rose*. What does this tell you about Umberto Eco?
- a) He believes he understands readership trends well, and writes accordingly to ensure mass appeal.
- b) He elevates himself above publishers and journalists who were surprised by the success of the book.
- c) He respects and understands that there are variations in people's reading choices and experiences.
- d) He feels that the success of a book is a mystery, and there was no point pondering over it.

B. Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
 A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
 Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
 Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
 Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
 Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,

- i). Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
- A flowery band to bind us to the earth –How do we tie ourselves to the Earth?
- a. life
- b. band of flowers

- c. gloom
 - d. beautiful things
- ii). Why do we need to tie ourselves to the Earth?
- a. Earth is a beautiful place
 - b. Earth is a Spiteful place
 - c. Earth is a busy place
 - d. Earth is a bountiful place
- iii). What do you understand by the inhuman dearth?
- a. Lack of beauty
 - b. Lack of power
 - c. Lack of noble ideals
 - d. Lack of humanity
- iv). "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." -Which line in the extract reflect the poetic device used in in the opening of The Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens.
- a. 'are we wreathing, A flowery band to bind us to the earth'
 - b. Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
 - c. Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
 - d. Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
- v) What is the meaning of gloomy?
- a) unhealthy things
 - b) dark spirits
 - c) sad
 - d) none of these

5. **Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each:** 4 x 3 =12

- i. What drawbacks of interviews have been pointed out by Lewis Carrol?
- ii. How can the importance of interview be justified in modern journalism?
- iii. What does the line, 'Therefore, are we wreathing a flowery band to bind us to earth' suggest to you?
- iv. Why did Zitkala-Sa resist the shingling of her hair?
- v. How did Zitkala-Sa feel when her hair was shingled?

6. **Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words each:** 5

- A. After reading the interview, taken by Mukund Padmanabhan, what idea do you form of Umberto Eco and his works?
- B. Both the writers of the lesson Memories of Childhood were subjected to humiliation in their childhood. How did they resist the oppression?

UNIT TEST 4

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ENGLISH CORE CLASS XII

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SET B

SECTION A READING

1. Poverty estimation in India

The percentage of the population living below the poverty line in India decreased to 22% in 2011-12 from 37% in 2004-05, according to data released by the Planning Commission in July 2013. This blog presents data on recent poverty estimates and goes on to provide a brief history of poverty estimation in the country. National and state-wise poverty estimate: The Planning Commission estimates levels of poverty in the country on the basis of consumer expenditure surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

National poverty estimates (% below poverty line) (1993 - 2012)

Year	Rural	Urban	Total
1993 – 94	50.1	31.8	45.3
2004 – 05	41.8	25.7	37.2
2009 – 10	33.8	20.9	29.8
2011 – 12	25.7	13.7	21.9

2. **Source:** Press Note on Poverty Estimates, 2011-12

The current methodology for poverty estimation is based on the recommendations of an Expert Group to Review the Methodology for Estimation of Poverty (Tendulkar Committee) established in 2005. The Committee calculated poverty levels for the year 2004- 05. Poverty levels for subsequent years were calculated on the basis of the same methodology, after adjusting for the difference in prices due to inflation. The table shows national poverty levels for the last twenty years, using the methodology suggested by the Tendulkar Committee. According to these estimates, poverty declined at an average rate of 0.74 percentage points per year between 1993-94 and 2004-05, and at 2.18 percentage points per year between 2004-05 and 2011-12.

Pre-independence poverty estimates: One of the earliest estimations of poverty was done by Dadabhai Naoroji in his book, 'Poverty and the Un-British Rule in India'. He formulated a poverty line ranging from Rs 16 to Rs 35 per capita per year, based on 1867-68 prices. The poverty line proposed by him was based on the cost of a subsistence diet consisting of 'rice or flour, dhal, mutton, vegetables, ghee, vegetable oil and salt'. Next, in 1938, the National Planning Committee (NPC) estimated a poverty line ranging from Rs 15 to Rs 20 per capita

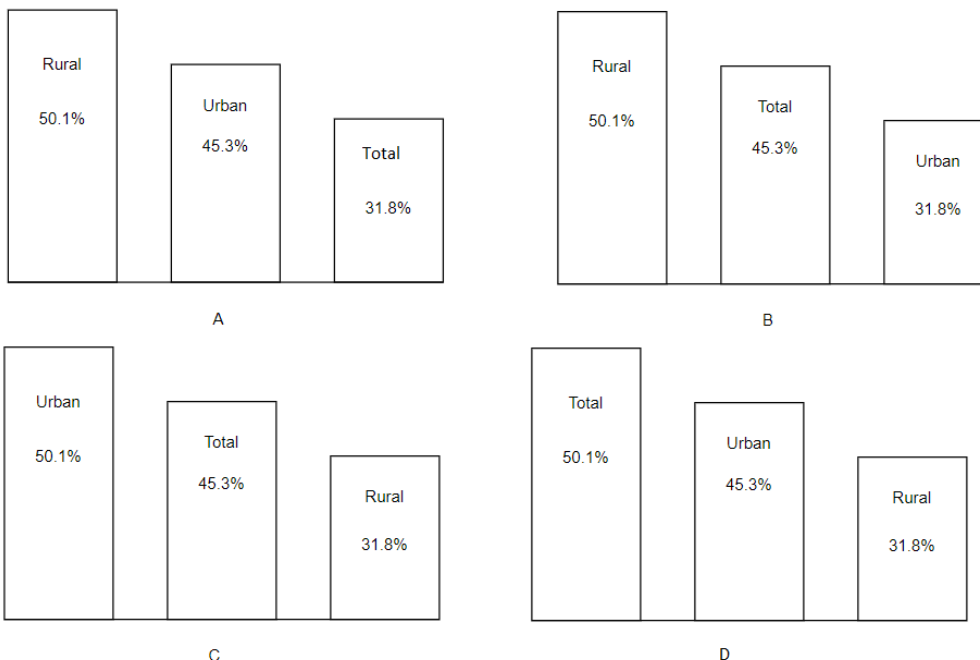
per month. Like the earlier method, the NPC also formulated its poverty line based on 'a minimum standard of living perspective in which nutritional requirements are implicit'. In 1944, the authors of the 'Bombay Plan' (Thakurdas et al 1944) suggested a poverty line of Rs 75 per capita per year. **Post-independence poverty estimates:** In 1962, the Planning Commission constituted a working group to estimate poverty nationally, and it formulated separate poverty lines for rural and urban areas – of Rs 20 and Rs 25 per capita per year respectively. VM Dandekar and N Rath made the first systematic assessment of poverty in India in 1971, based on the National Sample Survey (NSS) data from 1960-61. They argued that the poverty line must be derived from the expenditure that was adequate to provide 2250 calories per day in both rural and urban areas. This generated debate on minimum calorie consumption norms while estimating poverty and variations in these norms based on age and sex.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer ANY Eight questions from the eleven given below:

- i. The Planning Commission estimates levels of poverty in the country on the basis of:
 - a. surveys conducted by the NSSO
 - b. consumer expenditure survey conducted by NSSO
 - c. expenditure surveys conducted by NSSO
 - d. after adjusting for the difference in prices due to inflation
- ii. According to the passage, the percentage of the population living below the poverty line in India has decreased up to _____ from 2004-05 to 2011 -12:
 - a. 12%
 - b. 15%
 - c. 13%
 - d. 25%
- iii. "Like the earlier method, the NPC also formulated its poverty line..." The earlier method here means:
 - a. Method formulated by Tendulkar Committee
 - b. Method of conducting a survey of consumer's expenditure
 - c. Method formulated by Dadabhai Naoroji
 - d. The method mentioned in the book **Bombay Plan**
- iv. "This generated debate on minimum calorie consumption norms while estimating poverty and variations in these norms based on age and sex." This here refers to:
 - a. A poverty line ranging from Rs 16 to Rs 35 per capita per year
 - b. A poverty line ranging from Rs 15 to Rs 20 per capita per month.
 - c. Poverty lines for rural and urban areas – of Rs 20 and Rs 25 per capita per year respectively.

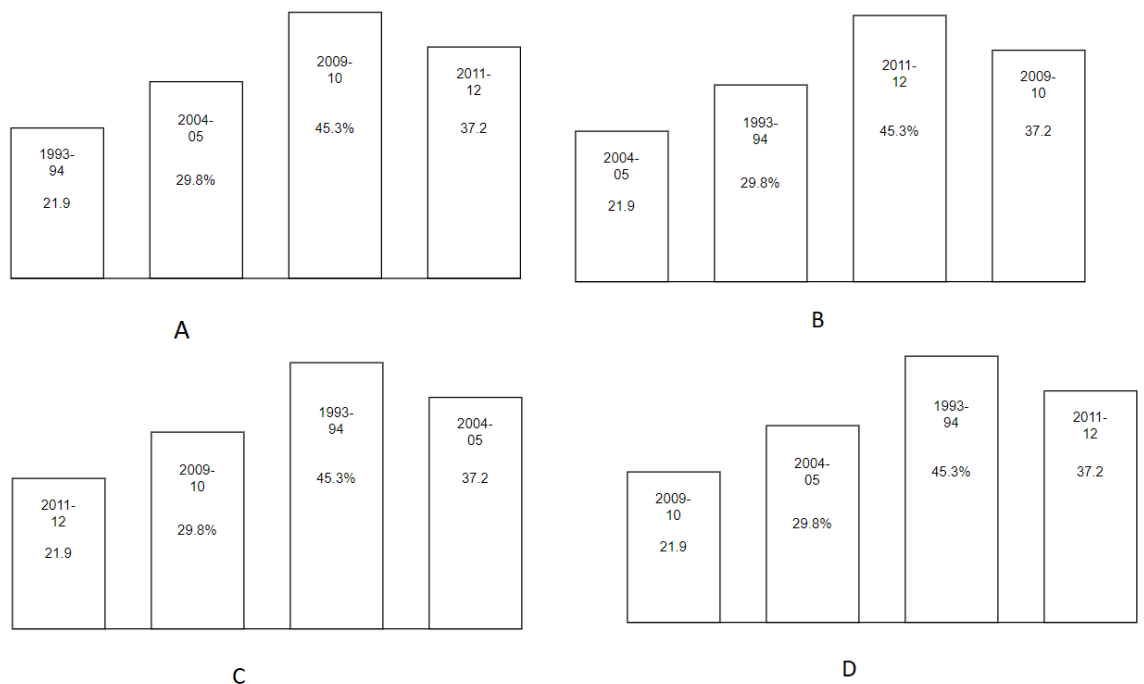
- d. Poverty line derived from expenditure that was adequate to provide 2250 calories per day in both rural and urban areas.
- v. Based on the passage, choose the options that list the statements that are TRUE according to the information:
- A. In 1962, the Planning Commission constituted a working group to estimate poverty nationally.
- B. The NPC did not formulate its poverty line based on 'a minimum standard of living perspective in which nutritional requirements are implicit'.
- C. In 1938, the National Planning Committee (NPC) estimated a poverty line ranging from Rs 15 to Rs 20 per capita per month.
- D. VM Dandekar and N Rath made the second systematic assessment of poverty in India in 1971
- a. A and C
- b. B and D
- c. B and C
- d. A and B

- vi. Based on the passage, choose the option that correctly demonstrates the poverty estimates for 2009-10:



- a. Image C b. Image A c. Image B d. Image D
- vii. Based on the information given in the passage, choose the correct option:
- a. The percentage of the population living below the poverty line in India increased to 37% in 2011-12 from 22% in 2004-05.

- b. The current methodology for poverty estimation is based on the recommendations of Tendulkar Committee.
- c. Poverty declined at an average rate of 2.18 percentage points per year between 1993-94 and 2004-05.
- d. In 1944, the authors of the **Bombay Plan** (Thakurdas et al 1944) suggested a poverty line of Rs 100 per capita per year.
- viii. Which of the following statement is NOT substantiated by any information from the passage?
- a. The NPC based its poverty estimate calculation on Dadabhai Nairoji's methods.
- b. VM Dandekar and N Rath made the first systematic assessment of poverty in India in 1971, based on the National Sample Survey (NSS) data from 1960-61.
- c. In 1962, the Planning Commission formulated separate poverty lines for rural and urban areas – of Rs 20 and Rs 25 per capita per year, respectively.
- d. In 1938, the National Planning Committee (NPC) estimated a poverty line ranging from Rs 15 to Rs 20 per capita per month.
- ix. Based on the information given in the passage, choose the option that represents an accurate graphic of National Poverty Estimates from 1993 - 2012:



- a. Image A b. Image B c. Image C d. Image D

SECTION B-WRITING

2. Sarvodaya Education Society, a charitable organisation, is coming to your school to distribute books among needy students. As Head Boy/Head Girl, Sunrise Public School, Surat, write a notice in about 50 words asking such students to drop the list of books they need in the box kept outside the Principal's office. You are Navtej/Navita. 5

OR

You are Rani/Raj, Secretary Health Club, National Public School, Ramnagar. You find that after the lunch break the school playground and verandahs are littered with wrappers, paper/polythene bags, etc. Write a notice in about 50 words advising students to refrain from doing so.

3. Information Technology has provided new avenues to the students for knowledge, creativity, discovery as well as job opportunities at home and abroad. Computers have brought in a silent revolution. Write an article in 150-200 words showing how the information technology has provided the younger generation new opportunities, joys of discovery and thrill of creativity. You are Madhu/Mudit. 5

OR

You are Latha/Lalith of Gurgaon. You had attended the inaugural ceremony of the newly opened vocational stream and hobby classes at the secondary school level in Paras Public School, Gurgaon. Draft a report in 100-125 words to be published in 'Gurgaon Times/ Invent other details.

SECTION C-LITERATURE

4. **Read the extract and answer the following questions. Attempt any one** 5
- A. *Maybe I give the impression of doing many things. But in the end, I am convinced I am always doing the same thing... And then I have a secret. Did you know what will happen if you eliminate the empty spaces from the universe, eliminate the empty spaces in all the atoms? The universe will become as big as my fist. Similarly, we have a lot of empty spaces in our lives. I call them interstices. Say you are coming over to my place. You are in an elevator and while you are coming up, I am waiting for you. This is an interstice, an empty space. I work in empty spaces.*
- i) Read the questions given below. Imagine they were interjections raised by the interviewer based on the above extract. Choose the option that correctly describes the given questions.
- (i) If you are "always doing the same thing", isn't your work lacking in originality?
- (ii) Could you elaborate on these larger ethical, philosophical interests that inform your work?
- (iii) All writing happens in empty spaces. In fact, why don't I tell you all about my experiences?
- a) (i) is not relevant; (ii) is appropriate; and (iii) is unnecessary

- b) (i) is appropriate; (ii) is repetitive; and (iii) is useful information
 - c) (i) is inappropriate; (ii) is relevant; and (iii) is not relevant
 - d) (i) is unnecessary; (ii) is intrusive; and (iii) is extrapolatory
- ii) Based on your reading of Part I of 'The Interview', which one of the following may NOT be an appropriate title to the above extract?
- a) The *Empty Spaces* of Umberto Eco
 - b) Big Exposé: Eco's *Secret* Revealed!
 - c) "*I am always doing the same*
 - d) Umberto Eco, Mr. Prolific!
- iii) "*I work in empty spaces*". Choose the option that most accurately captures Eco's idea of *empty spaces*.
- (i) management of time (ii) organization of space
 - (iii) philosophical inclination (iv) command of thought
- a) Options (i) and (ii)
 - b) Options (iii) and (iv)
 - c) Options (i) and (iii)
 - d) Options (ii) and (iv)
- iv) Umberto Eco states that 'empty spaces' actually fill spaces, and without them the universe would be the size of the human fist. He also goes on to say that it is in an interstice such as waiting, which the dictionary defines as a time for pause, that he works. That is, passive waiting is essentially active writing time. Choose the literary device that best describes what Eco does with the concepts of 'empty spaces' and 'waiting'.
- a) juxtaposition
 - b) irony
 - c) oxymoron
 - d) symbolism
- v) According to Christopher Silvester, the interview can be "in its highest form, a source of truth". Choose the option that does NOT enable this?
- a) An interview allows for discovery of new knowledge about the interviewee and/ or the subject being discussed.
 - b) An interview enables the interviewer to probe deeply, seek clarifications, and confirm understandings.
 - c) An interview represents an opportunity to open doors to experiences that may not otherwise find a voice.
 - d) An interview requires the interviewer to have in-depth prior knowledge of the interviewee and the subject.

B. *Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
 From our dark spirits. Such the sun, the moon,
 Trees old, and young, sprouting a shady boon.
 For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
 With the green world they live in; and clear rills*

*That for themselves a cooling covert make
'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;*

- i. What sprouts a shady boon for sheep?
 - a. Cave
 - b. Hills
 - c. Rills
 - d. Trees
- ii. The pall refers to
 - a. Shelter
 - b. Happiness
 - c. Sadness
 - d. A dark cloud of smoke
- iii. The mid forest brake is made rich by
 - a. Musk rose flowers
 - b. Daffodils
 - c. Rills
 - d. Cooling coverts
- iv. The figure of speech in 'Cooling covert' is
 - a. Simile
 - b. Metaphor
 - c. Personification
 - d. Alliteration
- v. What image does the poet use to convey that beauty is everlasting?
 - a. bower quiet for us
 - b. Some shape of beauty
 - c. endless fountain of joy
 - d. Sprouting a shady boon

5. Answer any four of the following questions in 30-40 words each: 4 x 3 =12

- i. Umberto Eco's written output is staggeringly large and wide-ranging? How?
- ii. How can the importance of interview be justified in modern journalism?
- iii. What does the line, 'Therefore, are we wreathing a flowery band to bind us to earth' suggest to you?
- iv. Why was Zitkala-Sa so averse to having her hair cut?
- v. "I felt like sinking to the floor," says Zitkala-Sa. When did she feel so and why?

6. Answer any one of the following questions in 120-150 words each: 5

- i. Why do some celebrities despise interview? Are they justified? comment.
- ii. Bama's experience is that of a victim of the caste system. What kind of discrimination does Zitkalasa's experience depict? What are their responses to their respective situations