

Answers to this Paper must be written on the paper provided separately.

You will not be allowed to write during the first 15 minutes.

This time is to be spent in reading the question paper.

The time given at the head of this Paper is the time allowed for writing the answers.

Attempt all five questions.

The intended marks for questions or parts of questions are given in brackets [].

You are advised to spend not more than 30 minutes in answering **Question 1** and **20 minutes** in answering **Question 2**.

Question 1: (Do not spend more than 30 minutes on this question.)

Write a composition (300 - 350 words) on **any one** of the following: [20]

- Write an original story that begins with the line- 'Suddenly the door burst open ...'
- Narrate the events that led you to believe in the present moment, 'NOW'.
- Nobody is perfect. Our imperfections often make us who we are. Describe an imperfection in yourself that defines you and makes you completely unique. What do you feel about it? How have you come to terms with it?
- Peer pressure is beneficial to teenagers. Argue for or against this statement.
- Study the picture given below. Write a short story or description or an account of what the picture suggests to you. Your composition may be about the subject of the picture or you may take suggestions from it.



Question 2: (Do not spend more than 20 minutes on this question.) Select **one** of the following:

Write a letter to your cousin about the time you were falsely accused of disrupting the discipline in your classroom. Give details of the incident and how you managed to prove your innocence. Mention what you learnt from the experience. [10]

OR

Write a letter to the manager of a mall near your house informing him/her about your pleasant experience with one of the saleswoman working in the mall. Give details about the incident and this person's attitude which touched you.

Question 3

a) You are the Secretary of the Social Service Club of your school. Your club has initiated an adult literacy programme in your area. Draft a notice inviting students to join this programme.

b) Write an e-mail to the Principal of a neighbouring school seeking permission to display a notice regarding the 'Adult Literacy Programme' initiated by your Social Service Club and invite the students to be part of this programme too.

Question 4.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow:

Today I wanted to discourse on the philosophy of brown coffee, but there were other (line 1) breakfasters, holding their trays, standing behind me inexorably, to secure their coffee and race for a table space. They were too well-mannered to push, but I knew they were fretting inside, each must have had a dozen things to do after breakfast, and how dare I block their business? Still I was in a communicative mood; I smiled at those behind me and said, 'Sorry'. I told the coffee server, 'When you have more time, come to me, I'll tell you all about brown coffee'. I bore away my tray and sat at a secluded table and began to work my way through cornflakes and milk, marmalade and toast, which were to be my main diet for the next ten months. A man in a sports-jacket came over and asked, 'Do you mind?' 'Not at all,' I said. He set his tray on the table, and said, 'I overheard your remark about coffee. You know of any special trick in making it?' God-given opportunity for me to start off a lecture on coffee, its place in South India (in the North they favour tea), its place in our social life, how the darkest condemnation of a family would be the warning uttered at their back, 'Their coffee is awful', how at wedding parties it was the responsibility of the bride's father to produce the best coffee and keep it flowing all day for five hundred at a time; how decoction drawn at the right density, on the addition of fresh warm milk turned from black to sepia, from which ultimately emerged a brown akin to the foaming edge of a river in flood, how the whole thing depended upon one's feeling for quality and eye for colour; and then the ding of sugar, just enough to mitigate the bitterness but without producing sweetness. Coffee making is a task of precision at every stage. I could not help mentioning my mother who has maintained our house-reputation for coffee undimmed for half a century. She selects the right quality of seeds almost subjecting every bean to a severe scrutiny, roasts them slowly over charcoal fire, and knows by the texture and fragrance of the golden smoke emanating from the chinks in the roaster whether the seeds within have turned the right shade and then grinds them into perfect grains; everything has to be right in this business. A daughter-in-law who comes into the family will have to go through several weeks of initiation before she may dare to make the family coffee. 'Three spoons for six persons. Place the powder at the bottom of a stainless steel vessel and pour boiling water over it and then strain it slowly through a piece of cloth'. She is a fanatic and insists on straining coffee only through thin cloth; no power on earth can ever make her change over to a percolator or the more common brass coffee-filter. She considers all such contraptions inimical to her coffee ideals. She gleeftfully boasted once, 'I have made over a hundred (line 32)

