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**NEW METHOD
HIGH SCHOOL
ENGLISH COMPOSITION**

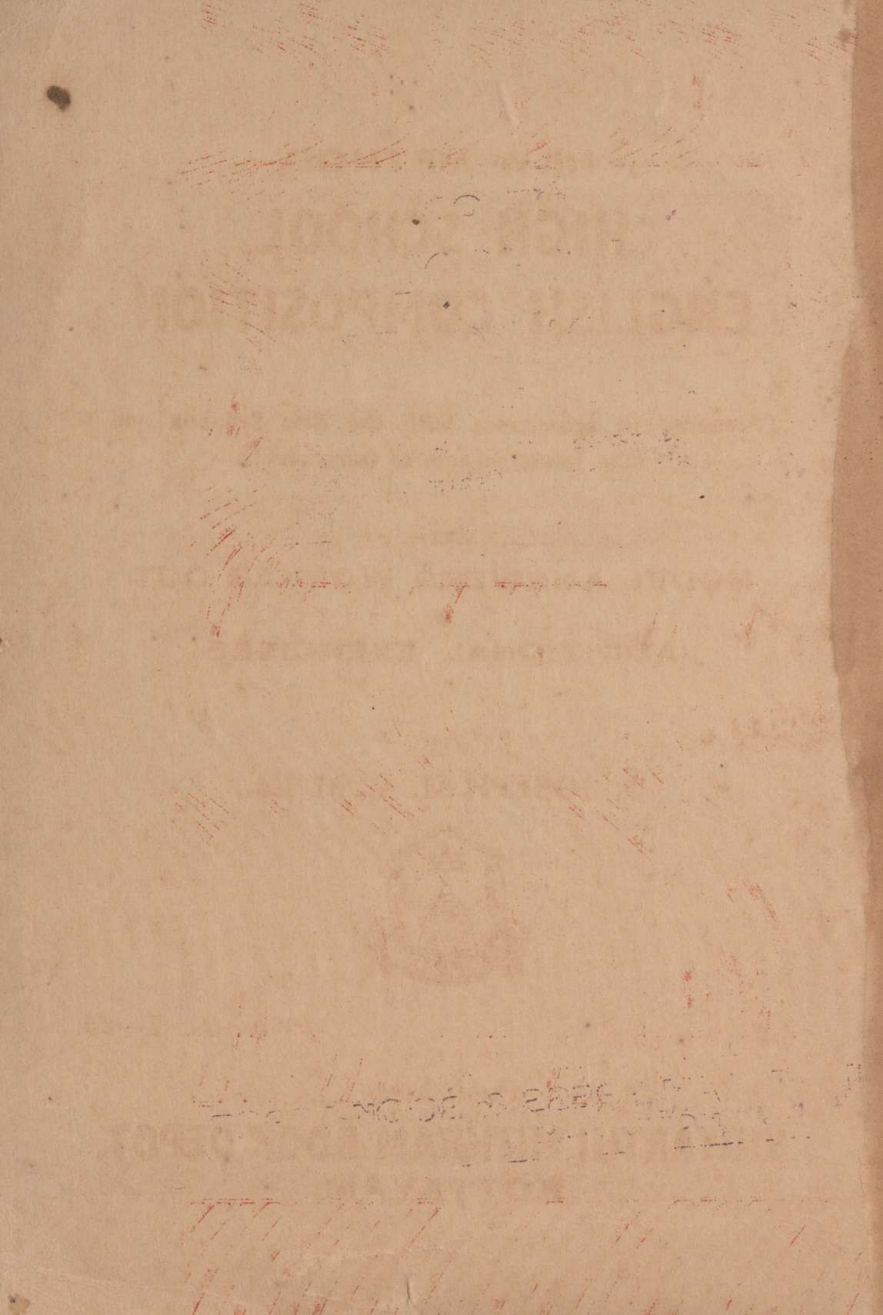
By J. JOSEPH M. A., M. Ed.

(Prepared in accordance with the New Syllabus
and the latest scheme of Questions.)

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WITH
**MODEL ANSWERS WORKED OUT
&
ADDITIONAL EXERCISES**

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PREFACE

This book aims at thoroughly acquainting the pupils in High School classes with different kinds of composition exercises and enabling them to gain practice in working out those exercises by themselves. This book is prepared in accordance with the new syllabus and the latest scheme of S. S. L. C. Examination questions.

Relevant portions from the new "Syllabi for Secondary Schools" are quoted below:-

Syllabus for Standard VIII.

Written Work : The following types of composition exercises may be set:-

1) Brief summaries of events learned from the general reader and supplementary reader (after oral preparation).

2) Exercises in comprehension. Unseen passages with a few questions.

3) Reproduction of a story contained in a narrative poem, in the words of one of the characters.

4) Construction of a paragraph on a familiar theme. Examples may be cited from the Reader. Attention should be drawn to the key-sentence, and the unity of paragraph.

5) Letters to friends and relatives in simple, familiar style.

6) Short descriptions of objects or pictures observed and events witnessed.

7) Simple accounts of happenings heard or read about or experienced.

Syllabus for Standard IX.

Written Work : The types of composition suggested for Std VIII may be continued, a higher standard being aimed at. Exercises on expansion of ideas contained in proverbs and quotations may be given. Letters may include letters of invitation and replies thereto.

Syllabus for Standard X.

Written Work : All the types given under Std. VIII and IX may be repeated. The following additional exercises are suggested :—

- 1) Simple dialogues.
- 2) Essays for free composition on subjects like "How to improve our village", "Cottage industries and their improvement", "The scout movement" etc.
- 3) Preparation of speeches for Literary Association and Debating Societies.
- 4) Story-writing—Developing story from an outline.
- 5) Completion of a story of which part is given.

- 6) Summarising a story.
- 7) Simple business letters asking for price list, ordering goods, applying for posts etc.
- 8) Exercises on expansion of ideas contained in proverbs or quotations.

S. S. L. C. EXAMINATION

II Paper—Non-detailed Texts and General English

- 1) 12 out of 15 questions to be attempted on the non-detailed Texts. (Answers to be short and to the point: two or three sentences only).
- 2) A well-planned paragraph (not more than 15 lines) on some simple topic. (A choice of 3 to be given.)
- 3) An outline to be amplified. (The outline is to consist of grammatically complete sentences. The candidate must tell the story with more details supplied from his imagination. 20-25 lines.)
- 4) A letter of any of the types recommended for written work in the High school. Business letters should be in ordinary English, avoiding such jargon as "Yours to hand", "5th ultimo" etc.

5) The summary of a prose passage or a comprehension test on an unseen prose passage.

6) A comprehension test on an unseen poem.

Comprehension Tests :

Three different types of comprehension tests are now included in the S. S. L. C. English Papers:-

1) "Implication Questions"—based upon a prose passage taken from the Detailed Text—answers to be selected from those given within brackets after each question. (These questions are included in the First Paper though pupils can gain practice by studying unseen passages also.)

2) "True—False Tests": Pupils are expected to read and understand a given, unseen prose passage and say whether certain statements, based upon the given passage, are true or false.

3) Short-answer Questions: (to be answered in two or three sentences each) based on a given, unseen, prose passage.

All the three types of comprehension questions can be based upon the same prose passage for giving practice to pupils. Comprehension exercises are worked out in this book

on several prose passages. Pupils will, it is hoped, study all the models worked out in each section, and then proceed to work out the exercises by themselves. They will do well to get their answers corrected by competent teachers.

The importance of gaining practice in composition cannot be over-stressed. Under the new scheme of questions almost 80% marks in part II (English second paper) are allotted for composition. Therefore it is clear that without scoring marks on composition nobody will get through. Besides, in the case of those who go for higher studies, proficiency in composition will stand them in good stead in the higher classes. Summarising prose passages (precis-writing) is the most important composition exercise at the University Previous and Degree examinations, and so pupils will do well to be familiar with this exercise although they may not have to do it at the S. S. L. C. Exam. (However, 'summarising' is included in the syllabus for the S. S. L. C. Exam.)

Writing the "substance" of an unseen poem is an important exercise at the university previous exam. The comprehension exercises on

unseen poems included in this book will enable pupils to give the substance of poems, in their own words. A few models are given which will be specially useful to those who intend to join the Pre-Degree course.

On the whole this book is quite unlike other "compositions" (and so it does not add to the large number of books on English composition already available in the market) and, it is hoped that, it will be of great use to both High School and Pre-Degree students.

The Author.

CHAPTER ONE

Comprehension Tests and Summarising

(PRECIS-WRITING)

Passage No. I.

In olden times when the Hindus were the lords of India, there was a great king of Mewar named Samar Singh. He was a great warrior, brave and skilful in battle and was famed far and wide for his charity and wisdom. Not only his own chiefs, but all people loved and respected him.

Great kings usually like to wear jewels and rich robes, but Samar Singh never cared for such things. Instead of a diamond necklace, he wore only a single necklace made of the seeds of the lotus. His hair, too, he twisted like a yogi and so everyone called him Yogindra, chief of the yogis.

He married Pritha the sister of Prithvi Raj, who was the king of Delhi at that time. Whenever the king of Delhi needed help in his battles, he sent for Samar Singh; but although he was glad enough to get his help in time of trouble, he did not always listen to the wise advice that Samar Singh gave.

It is only the wise man who listens to good advice. The foolish man does not like it when it is given him. Perhaps if Prithvi Raj had listened more carefully to Samar Singh, Mohammad of Ghor would not have conquered India. At least he would have found it more difficult to do so.

Aids to Comprehension :

lords = masters, rulers.

famed = famous.

far and wide = over a large area; in far off places also.

charity = kindness in giving help (money, food.....) to poor people.

chiefs=nobles, important persons in the country.

care for = take interest in; to be interested in.....

Comprehension Questions :

(Read the above passage carefully and answer the following questions):-

I. True / False Test :

(Say whether the following statements are True or False):-

- 1) Samar Singh wore jewels and costly clothes.
- 2) Because he led a simple life and twisted his hair like a yogi, people called him Yogindra.
- 3) Prithvi Raj had married the sister of Samar Singh.

4) Samar Singh defeated Prithvi Raj in battle.

5) Mohammad of Ghor conquered India by defeating Prithvi Raj.

N. B. Students must answer every exercise by themselves and refer to the answers only in case of doubt or to check up their answers.

Answers:- 1) False. 2) True. 3) False.
4) False. 5) True.

II. Implication Questions:-

(Choose the correct answer from those given in brackets after each Question):-

1) What did Samar Singh wear? (jewels; diamond necklace; lotus-seed-necklace.)

2) Who was Prithvi Raj? (King of Mewar; King of Delhi; brother of Samar Singh.)

3) How was Samar Singh related to Prithvi Raj? (brother-in-law; cousin; brother.)

4) What did Mohammad of Ghor do? (killed Samar Singh; conquered India; advised Prithvi Raj.)

5) "Yogindra means..... (chief of the gods; King of Mewar; chief of the yogis.)

Answers:- 1) lotus-seed-necklace. 2) King of Delhi. 3) brother-in-law. 4) conquered India. 5) chief of the yogis.

III. Short Answer Questions:-

(Answer in two or three sentences each):-

- 1) Who was Samar Singh ? What were his good qualities ? How was he famous ?
- 2) What kind of life did he lead ? What did he wear ?
- 3) What did people call him ? Why ?
- 4) Who was Prithvi Raj ? How was Samar Singh related to him ?
- 5) What did Samar Singh do for Prithvi Raj?
- 6) Did Prithvi Raj listen to Samar Singh ? What happened as a result ?

Answers:-

- 1) Samar Singh was a great king of Mewar. He was a brave warrior, skilful in battle. He was famous for his charity and wisdom.
- 2) He led a simple life. He did not wear jewels or costly clothes. (Instead of a diamond necklace, he wore a necklace made of the seeds of the lotus.)
- 3) People called him Yogindra for he led a simple life and twisted his hair like a yogi.
- 4) Prithvi Raj was the king of Delhi at that time. Samar Singh was his brother-in-law. (OR: Samar Singh had married his sister Pritha.)
- 5) Samar Singh helped Prithvi Raj in his battles. Besides, he gave him wise advice.

6) Prithvi Raj did not always listen to Samar Singh. As a result Mohammad of Ghor conquered India easily.

Summarising (Precis-writing)

(Summarise the above passage—No. I—into a third of its length and give it a suitable title):-

Answer:-

Rough Work:-

Possible Titles:-

- 1) Samar Singh the Famous King of Mewar.
- 2) " " the Yogindra of Mewar.
- 3) The Yogi King of Mewar.
- 4) Samar Singh and Prithvi Raj.

Points:- Samar Singh—King of Mewar—great warrior—famous for charity and wisdom—simple life — “lotus-seed-necklace” twisted hair — called ‘Yogindra’—helped brother-in-law Prithvi Raj — Prithvi did not listen to the wise advice —so Mohammad of Ghor conquered India—

Fair Draft:- (Model Answer)

Samar Singh the Great King of Mewar.

Samar Singh, King of Mewar, was famous for his courage, charity and wisdom. He led a simple life. He wore no jewels, only simple clothes. People called him Yogindra. Prithvi Raj King of Delhi, was the brother-in-law of Samar

Singh. He helped Prithvi Raj in his battles and gave him good advice. But Prithvi Raj did not always listen to the wise advice that Samar Singh gave. As a result Mohammad of Ghor conquered India easily.

(76 out of 222 words)

OR :

The Yogi King of Mewar.

Samar Singh was the King of Mewar, brave in battle and famed for his charity and wisdom. People called him Yogindra for he led a simple life wearing no jewels but a lotus-seed-necklace, his hair twisted like a yogi's. He helped his brother-in-law Prithvi Raj King of Delhi, in times of trouble. If Prithvi Raj had always been wise enough to listen to the Yogi's good advice, perhaps Mohammad of Ghor would not have conquered India.

(76 / 222)

Note:- In the above example the summary (precis) is elaborately worked out, with two model answers. In the following examples only one model answer for each passage is given. Pupils should note the following *important points about summarising (precis-writing):-*

Precis-writing is a very difficult exercise. The passage to be summarised should be read several times and the main (important) ideas grasped. Rough work is essential. (Nobody

can arrive at a ready-made, perfect summary at the first attempt.) All rough work may be done on the answer book itself, marked "Rough Work" in the margin. The method of procedure should be as follows:— All important points should be noted down. A title (heading) should be given whether asked for or not. The central idea should be given as the title. The number of words in the passage should be roughly (approximately) noted. A rough draft should be composed first by expressing the main points noted down, in complete sentences. All corrections should be done on the rough draft. In writing the first(rough)draft start with the central idea and add to it all the other important details. All unimportant details, explanations and repetitions should be left out. Adjust the length of the summary. It is to be about one-third (not necessarily exactly one-third of the total number of words in the passage—the precis may contain a few words more, or less, than the exact one-third). The precis should be in simple style. As the final step copy down the fair draft (as neatly as possible) under the heading chosen. (It is desirable to give the number of words in the precis, as shown in the examples worked out in this book.)

Precis-writing is a very useful exercise too. The ability in making intelligent summary of a passage, letter or book read, is of great value in practical life.

Passage No. II.

Princes Jahanara was the eldest child of the great Moghul Emperor Shah Jahan. The Emperor who loved her best of all his children, educated her, and allowed her to travel, which was an uncommon thing in those days. She was a good woman and so wise that the Emperor and her brothers often sought her advice on matters of state. Never once did she advise them wrongly. For her great goodness and wisdom, her father gave her the title of Padeshah Begum.

Many great and beautiful princesses are haughty and proud and never think of helping the poor, but the great Padeshah Begum was not like that. She was as good and kind as she was beautiful, and no one ever appealed to her in vain.

The Emperor loved her all the more for her kind heart and her goodness to the poor, and he showered costly gifts on her. He gave her the richest port in India at that time, Port Surat, for her very own. All the income from it which was not less than one lakh of rupees a year, was her own to spend in any way which she liked.

Though the Emperor loved Princess Jahanara very much, he would not give his consent for her to marry. It is said that during Akbar's time

his daughter married a man who later turned against him. Akbar then made a law that henceforth no Moghul princess should be allowed to marry, but, of course, any of the later emperors could have changed this law if he had wished.

Prince Dara loved his sister very much; and he promised that he would allow her to marry when he became Emperor. Princess Jahanara was unhappy about this unjust custom of the Moghuls, and she turned her attention to God seeking out all the great religious teachers of that time.

Aids :

(Note these words:- prince; princes; prince's princess; princesses; princess's.)

old, older, oldest.

eld, elder, eldest.

well, better, best.

(v) educate; educated. (n) education.

seek; sought.

to seek advice = to ask for advice.

never once = not even once.

(n) advice; (v) advise.

for her goodness = because of her goodness = as a result of or owing to, her goodness.

appeal (v. & n). in vain = uselessly.

all the more = still more.

showered gifts on her=gave her so many gifts.

consent (v. & n.); consented.

It is said (by people) = People say.

during Akbar's time=during the time when Akbar was Emperor.....

henceforth = in future; after this (or that) time; hereafter or thereafter.

of course = certainly.

could have changed = had the power or authority to change but (they) did not do so.

(n) justice × injustice.

(adj.) just × unjust.

(v) attend; (n) attention.

Comprehension Tests.

I. True / False Test:-

1) Princess Jahanara was the youngest daughter of Shah Jahan.

2) Jahanara was beautiful, wise and kind-hearted.

3) Shah Jahan did not love Jahanara

4) Jahanara was too proud and haughty to help the poor.

5) Akbar had made a law that no Moghul princess should be allowed to marry.

6) Shah Jahan allowed Jahanara to get married.

Answers:- 1) False. 2) True. 3) False.
4) False. 5) True. 6) False.

II. Implication Questions:-

1) What did Shah Jahan do for Jahanara?
(gave her rich gifts; allowed her to marry; made her Padeshah)

2) Why did Shah Jahan give the title of "Padeshah Begum" to Jahanara? (because she was kind hearted; she was very wise; she was proud)

3) How do great princesses usually behave?
(they help the poor; they are very wise; they are haughty and proud.)

4) Why did Shah Jahan not allow Jahanara to get married? (Because of Akbar's law; because he loved her much; because he did not love her)

5) What did Jahanara do at last? (She got married; she killed herself; she led a religious life.)

Answers:- 1) gave her rich gifts; 2) because she was very wise. 3) They are haughty and proud. 4) because of Akbar's law. 5) she led a religious life.)

III. Short-Answer Questions :

1) Who was Princess Jahanara? What were her good qualities?

2) How did she get the title of "Padeshah Begum"?

3) How was she different from other princesses ?

4) What did her father do for her ?

5) Why was Jahanara unhappy ? What did she do as a result ?

Answers:-

1) Princess Jahanara was the eldest child of the Moghul Emperor Shah Jahan. She was very beautiful, learned, wise and kind hearted.

2) Jahanara was so wise that the Emperor and her brothers often sought her advice on matters of state. She never advised them wrongly. And for her wisdom and goodness her father gave her the title of "Padeshah Begum."

3) Great and beautiful princesses are usually haughty and proud, and they never think of helping the poor. But Jahanara was different. She was very kind hearted, and helped the poor always.

4) Her father (Shah Jahan) loved her very much and gave her many costly gifts. He had educated her and allowed her to travel. (But he would not allow her to marry.)

5) Shah Jahan did not allow Jahanara to marry, for Akbar had made a law prohibiting the marriage of Moghul princesses. She was unhappy about this unjust custom. And she turned her attention to God. (She led a religious life.)

Precis (summary) of Passage No. II.

Rough Work :-

- Possible Titles:-**
- 1) The Princess Jahanara.
 - 2) The Padeshah Begum.
 - 3) The Great Moghul Princess Jahanara etc.

Points:- Princess Jahanara—eldest child of Shah Jahan—beautiful, educated, wise, kind-hearted—advised her father and brothers—got title “Padeshah Begum”—very kind to the poor and helped them always—Emperor loved her very much—gave her costly gifts—but did not allow her to get married—because of Akbar’s law—Jahanara unhappy—led a religious life—

Rough (First) Draft.

Write a rough draft expanding the points given above, into complete sentences.

Fair Draft (Model Answer).

Princess Jahanara the Padeshah Begum.

Princess Jahanara, the eldest child of the Moghul Emperor Shah Jahan, was a noble lady of great beauty, wisdom and kindness. Her father educated her and allowed her to travel. She advised her father and brothers on matters of state. She was so wise that her father gave her the title of “Padeshah Begum”. Unlike other princesses, she was very kind to the poor and helped them always. The Emperor loved her

very much and gave her many costly presents. But he would not change the unjust custom which prohibited the marriage of Moghul princesses. Jahanara was unhappy about this, and she turned her attention to God.

(107 / 320 words)

Passage No. III.

The best friend a man has in this world may turn against him and become his enemy. His son or his daughter, that he has reared with loving care, may prove ungrateful. Those who are nearest and dearest to us, those whom we trust with our happiness and reputation, may turn out to be deceitful and false. The money that a man has he may lose. It flies away from him perhaps when he needs it most. A man's good name may be sacrificed in a moment of thoughtless action.

But the one absolutely unselfish friend that a man can have, the one that never deserts him, the one that never proves ungrateful or treacherous, is his dog. A man's dog stands by him in prosperity and in poverty, in health and in sickness. He guards him as if he were a prince. When all other friends desert he remains. And when death overtakes his master and his body is laid away in the cold ground, there by the graveside will the noble dog be found, faithful and true even to death.

Aids:

- (v) rear = bring up. reared = brought up.
(n) gratitude (= thankfulness) × ingratitude
(adj) grateful × ungrateful.

reputation = good name; fame.

deceit = deception; dishonesty.

False = dishonest.

- (v) desert = forsake = leave.

(adj) treacherous. (n) treachery = deception;
dishonest practice.

- (n) prosperity × poverty.

(adj) prosperous. Guard = protect.

- (v) overtake = defeat; lay, laid, laid.

- (v) lay away = bury. laid away = buried.

- (n) grave = pit in which dead body is buried.

Comprehension Questions.

I. True / False:-

1) A man's dearest friends will never become his enemies.

2) A man may lose his money when he needs it most.

3) A dog deserts his master when the master becomes poor or unhealthy.

4) The most unselfish friend that a man can have on earth is his dog.

Answers:- 1) False 2) True 3) False
4) True.

II. Implication Questions:-

1) Who is it that stands by a man always ?
(his friends; his dog; his relatives).

2) When will a man's dog guard him ?
(in prosperity; in poverty; always).

3) Where can we see the dog after his master's death ? (in his house; near his master's grave; wandering on the road)

Answers:- 1) his dog. 2) always.
3) near his master's grave.

III. Short-Answer Questions:-

1) Prove that worldly possessions are temporary and not permanent.

2) Why is the dog called "Man's best friend" ?

Answers:-

1) Even the best friends or nearest relatives we have may turn against us. We may lose our money and good name. So it is clear that worldly possessions are temporary (and not permanent.)

2) A man's dog will never desert him. It will stand by him even in poverty and sickness. The dog will be faithful to his master even after his death. So the dog is called "Man's best friend."

Precis (Summary) (one-third)

Rough Work :

Titles:- The Love and faithfulness of a dog.
Man's Best Friend.

The Most Unselfish Friend of Man.

The Deepest Devotion and Strongest
Love on Earth.

Points:- A man may lose everything — money, good name, friends, relatives. But his dog never leaves him — It stands by him always, in poverty, sickness—even after death the dog guards his grave —

Model Answer:-

Man's Best Friend.

A man may lose his money or good name. Even his dearest friends and relatives may leave him. But the most unselfish friend that a man can have is his dog. It will stand by him in all difficulties, in poverty and sickness, and it never deserts him. A dog may be seen by his master's grave faithful even in death.

(60 / 181 words)

Passage No. IV.

Among the many misfortunes that may befall humanity, the loss of health is one of the severest. All the joys that life can give cannot outweigh the suffering of the sick. Give the

sickman everything and leave him his sufferings, and he will feel that half the world is lost to him. Lay him on a soft silken couch, he will still groan sleepless under the pressure of his sufferings; while the miserable beggar, blessed with health, sleeps sweetly on the hard ground. Spread his table with dainty meats and choice drinks, and he will thrust back the hand that offers them and envy the poor man who thoroughly enjoys his dry bread. Surround him with the pomp of kings; let his chair be a throne, and his crutch a sceptre swaying the world; he will look with an indifferent eye on marble on gold and on royal robes, and would deem himself happy, if he could enjoy, under a thatched roof, the health of the poorest of his servants.

Aids :

befall = happen to; (befell, befallen)

humanity = 1) mankind, 2) human feelings.

severe = painful, serious.

....that life can give =that there are in life.

(n) weight; (v) weigh; weighed.

outweigh = to weigh more than; to be heavier than, to be more than.....

lay = put; (laid)

silken = made of silk.

coach = bed.

groan = weep with pain.

sleepless = without sleep; unable to sleep.

under the pressure of = pressed by; suffering from. blessed with health = healthy. ('health is a blessing'.)

spread the table with = spread on the table.....

(serve food.... ..) dainty = tasty. meats-foodstuffs

choice drinks = best (selected) drinks.....

thrust back = push back.

(v) envy = feel jealous of.

thoroughly = fully; very well.

pomp = grandeur. crutch = stick or staff used by sick or old people to support themselves.

sceptre = staff carried by a king as a sign (of his power.)

sway = rule. indifferent = without interest.

royal = kingly. robes = clothes.

deem - consider. thatched roof = roof made of leaves etc., not tiled.

Comprehension Tests.

True / False:-

1) A healthy man can sleep on the hard ground and enjoy even poor food.

2) A sickman will be happy if he is allowed all other pleasures.

3) A sickman will not be satisfied even if you make him king.

Answers:-

1) True 2) False 3) True.

II. Implication Questions:-

1) What is the greatest misfortune? (loss of health; loss of money; loss of friends.)

2) Why should a sickman feel that half the world is lost to him? (Because he is not made king; he is ill; he has no power over the world.)

3) Why does the poor beggar sleep sweetly on the hard ground? (Because he likes it; he is asked to; he is healthy.)

4) What will a sickman feel if he is laid on a silken bed? (very happy; still unhappy; indifferent.)

5) What is the king's palace made of? (gold; marble; silver.)

Answers:- 1) loss of health.

2) Because he is ill.

3) Because he is healthy.

4) still unhappy. (5) marble.

III. Short-Answer Questions:-

1) Why do you say that loss of health is a great misfortune?

2) What will a sickman feel if you make him king?

3) Give a suitable title to the passage.

Answers:-

1) A sickman cannot enjoy good food;

sweet drinks or other comforts of life. He cannot enjoy sleep. All the pleasures of life cannot outweigh the suffering of the sick. So loss of health is indeed a great misfortune.

2) A sickman will not be interested in gold, marble or royal clothes. Even if he is made king, he will not feel happy.

3) "Health is Wealth" OR: The Value of Health.

Precis (Summary)

Titles:- Loss of Health. The Value of Health. The Greatest of all Misfortunes. "Health is Wealth."

Points:- Loss of health – greatest of all misfortunes – the suffering of a sick man – greater than all the pleasures of life – a poor but healthy man is happier than a sick king –

Model Answer:-

Health is Wealth.

Loss of health is a great misfortune. A sick man cannot enjoy the pleasures of life. Even if we give him a soft bed, rich food and the wealth and power of a king he will still be unhappy. He will feel jealous of the healthy beggar eating his poor food and sleeping on the hard ground.

(57 / 171 words)

EXERCISES.

Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions given after each:-

Passage No. I.

A great part of Arabia is desert. Here there is nothing but sand and rock. The sand is so hot that you cannot walk over it with your bare feet in the daytime. Here and there in the desert are springs of water that come from deep down under the ground—so deep that the sun cannot dry them up. These springs are few and far apart, but wherever there is one, green grass very soon covers the ground all around it. Soon fig trees and palm trees grow tall and graceful, making a cool, green, shady place around the spring. Such a place is called an oasis.

The Arabs who are not in the cities live in the desert all the year round. They live in tents that can be put up and taken down very easily and quickly, so that they can move from one oasis to another, seeking grass and water for their sheep, goats, camels and horses. These desert Arabs eat ripe, sweet figs, and also the dates that grow upon the palm trees; they dry them, too and use them as food all the year round.

The Arabs have the finest horses in the world. An Arab is very fond of his riding

horse, and loves him almost as much as he loves his wife and children. He never puts heavy loads upon his horse, and often lets him stay in the tent with his family.

The camel is much more useful to the Arab than his beautiful horse, however, for he is much larger and stronger. One camel can carry as much as or more than two horses. The Arab loads the camel with goods and rides him too, for miles and miles across the desert. Hence the camel is called the "Ship of the Desert".

Aids :

nothing but=nothing except - only.

bare=naked, uncovered. dry (v) - make dry.
dried. far apart - far away from each other...

all the year round - throughout the year;
from the beginning to the end of the year.

seek - search for. fond of - having special
love or liking for. ride - travel on (the back of)

Hence - therefore.

QUESTIONS

I. True / False:- (Say whether the following statements are true or false):-

- 1) The Arabian deserts are covered with sand.
- 2) All the Arabs live in the desert.
- 3) The Arabs in the desert live at a place permanently.

4) The Arabs keep no animals except the horse and the camel.

5) The Arabs use their horses to carry heavy loads over long distances.

II. Implication Questions:-

1) Why is it that the sun cannot dry up the springs of water in the desert? (Because the sun is not hot enough; they come from deep down under the ground; there is plenty of water.)

2) Why do the desert Arabs live in temporary tents? (Because they are very poor; they do not know how to build houses; they have to move from place to place.)

3) Why does an Arab allow his horse to stay in the tent with his family? (He is fond of the horse; he fears that his horse might be stolen by thieves; there is no other place for the horse.)

III. Short-Answer Questions:-

1) What kind of place is an Arabian desert?

2) What is an oasis?

3) How do the desert-Arabs live?

4) What kind of horses do the Arabs keep? How does an Arab care for his horse?

5) Why is the camel called the "Ship of the Desert"?

3. Summarise the above passage into about a third of its length and give it suitable title.

Passage No. II.

Civilization had already flourished for a thousand years in the Indus Valley, when the fair-skinned Aryans, probably from Central Asia, came down the northwest passage of India and went on towards the great river Ganges which flows eastward into the Bay of Bengal. They settled in the fertile plains and called their state Aryavarta. The people already there were the dark-skinned, black-haired Dravidians, and only after some struggle did the two peoples settle down to live together with the newcomers in the victorious position.

The Aryans brought with them their own ways of living. They had a good family system, they lived in villages, they had their own arts and crafts, they understood the art of agriculture and irrigation, and they knew how to make butter and various foods from milk. Perhaps it was they who began the veneration for the cow as a source of food and therefore of life, which has become through the centuries a part of the Hindu religion. They were a vigorous, sport-loving people, and they left behind them pictures and carvings of their games and musical

instruments, their dancing and chariot racing. They divided themselves into groups, the priests or teachers at the top, then warriors, then the farmers and artisans and after they had conquered the dark-skinned people they made these into a fourth group, the workers who were sometimes slaves, too.

The Aryans worshipped the sun as their god, and after him all the other gives of light. Some of the most beautiful poetry that has ever been written grew out of his love of light. For many centuries these poems were memorised and sung. They became sacred and were compiled into books about 1500 B. C. These poems which the Aryans sang are known as the Vedas, and the best known of them all is the Rig-Veda.

Aids :

flourish - prosper; to be in a state of good growth or pleasant life.

fair-skinned - white skinned.

fertile - fruitful. irrigation = system of or practice of watering plants

Veneration for - worship of; respect for...

source - place of origin.

vigour (n); vigorous (adj) - energetic.

artisans - workers; craftsmen.

(v) memorise - learn by heart.

QUESTIONS:

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I. True-False :-

1. The Indus valley civilization was an Aryan civilization.
- 2) The Aryans were a white race of people
- 3) The Dravidas defeated the Aryans.
- 4) The Aryans were not so civilized as the Dravidas.
- 5) The Aryans were lazy and easy-going people.
- 6) The vedas were composed by the Dravidas.
- 7) The Aryans did not have any arts or crafts.

II. Implication questions :

- 1) To which race did the Aryans belong ? (white, yellow, black)
- 2) What did the Dravidas do when the Aryans came? (they welcomed the newcomers; they ran away from the Aryans in fear; they fought against the Aryans)
- 3) How did the early Aryans live? (In tribes; in families; they lived singly)
- 4) Why did the Aryans begin to worship the cow? (they thought the cow was a goddess; they were afraid of the cow; the cow was a source of food and of life.)

5) How did the Aryans divide themselves into groups? (According to:- (1) colour; (2) occupation; (3) physical strength.)

III. Short answer questions :-

1) Which was the original home of the Aryans? Which way did they come down to India?

2) Who were the original inhabitants of India? Did they have any civilization of their own?

3) Where did the Aryans settle down? What were their relations with the native Dravidians?

4) What was the social organisation of the Aryans?

5) What were the various occupations of the Aryans?

6) What kind of entertainments did they have?

7) How did the Aryans divide themselves into groups?

8) How were the Vedas composed?

9) What do you know about the religion of the Aryans?



CHAPTER TWO

Story-Writing

(Expansion of out-line)

Question: Expand the following outline into a complete story adding more details from your imagination.

Models:

I. Outline

Two women were quarrelling for a child. They had no witness. They went to King Solomon. The king ordered to cut the child into two and give one half to each. One woman agreed. The other cried loudly and begged not to kill the child. The king found out the real mother.

Model Answer :

The Wisdom of King Solomon.

King Solomon was the wisest of all men. His wisdom was very famous. He heard the complaints of his people and judged all cases wisely and justly. Here is one of the many stories which tell us of his great wisdom.

Two women lived in the same house, together. Each of them had a child. Both children were of the same age. One day one of the

children died. Its mother then became jealous of the other woman whose child was alive. So she quarrelled with that woman saying that the living child was hers. They went to King Solomon to settle their quarrel. They had no witness who could say who was the real mother of the living child.

The king thought out a plan to find out who was the real mother of the living child. He called his executioner and ordered him to cut the child into two halves and give one half to each of the women. Now the first woman agreed to this. But the second woman cried loudly with great sorrow and begged the king not to kill her child. She even agreed to give the child to the other woman if only no harm was done to the child.

Now King Solomon knew that she was the real mother of the child and that the first woman was a wicked and cruel one. So he ordered the child to be given to its real mother and gave very severe punishment to the first woman.

2. Outline:-

A woman was going to market. A man followed her. She asked, "Why do you follow me?" He said, "Because I love you." She said, "My sister is more beautiful than I. She is

coming behind.” The man turned back. He saw an ugly woman. He went to the first one and said, “Why did you tell a lie?” She said, “If you really loved me, why did you go after another woman?”

Model Answer :-

The False Lover.

One day a young woman was going to the market. She had a basket in her hand. She was going to buy vegetables. She was very beautiful. A man followed her a long way. At last she saw him and knew that he was following her. She asked him why he was following her like that. He answered that he was deeply in love with her and that he wished to marry her. So he was following her.

Now the young woman was very clever too. She did not believe that the man was telling the truth. So she wanted to find out whether he really loved her or not. So she told him that she had a sister who was much more beautiful than she was. Her sister was coming after her, she told him. The man believed her words. He wished to see that very beautiful woman. So he turned back and waited. Soon a very ugly woman came on her way to the market. The man realised that the young woman had told him a lie. So he walked fast

and went to the young woman and asked her why she had told him a lie. Now she told him that he was also telling a lie when he told her that he was deeply in love with her. If he had really loved her, he would not have gone after another woman, she told him.

Hearing this the man was very much ashamed. And he went his way in silence.

Exercises :

Expand the following outlines into a complete stories, adding more details from your imagination:-

I. A cruel giant kills and eats many people. A boy goes to him and tells him he saw a beggar giant on the way. The giant gets angry and tells boy "Where is he? I will kill him." The boy takes him to a deep well and asks him to look down. Giant sees his own face in the water. "There he is," he roars, and jumps into the well.

II. A hungry dog got a bone. It ran off with the bone in its mouth to a safe place. On the way the dog went over a bridge to cross river. It saw another dog in the water with a bone. It wanted the other bone too and opened its mouth.

III. Some boys were going to school. They were thirsty but there was no water. They saw a coconut tree on the road side. A monkey was sitting in the tree. The boys threw stones at the monkey. The monkey pulled off coconuts and threw them at the boys.

IV. A thirsty crow saw a jar with some water. He could not reach the water. He picked up small stones and put them into the jar. The water level in the jar rose and rose.

V. A farmer's dog lay in the manger on the warm hay. The farmer's ox came hungry. The dog did not allow the ox to eat the hay. He said, I cannot eat it but I will not allow anybody else to enjoy it.

Moral lesson: Some people do not allow others to enjoy or use what they themselves do not need.

VI. A Village schoolmaster told his pupils that the Inspector of schools would visit them the next day. "He may ask you about the shape of the earth. If you forget it you must look at me. I shall have my snuff box in my hand", he said.

The schoolmaster had two snuff boxes. He had a round one on sundays and a square one on other days.

The inspector came and asked a boy, "What is the shape of the earth?" The boy remembered that the earth was like his master's snuff-box and said, "Round on Sundays and square on other days."



CHAPTER THREE

LETTER-WRITING

I. Social Letters (to Friends and Relatives).

Models:-

1) Write a letter to a friend asking him to return the book he had borrowed a long time ago.

Place

Date

Dear Friend,

It is long time since we met last time. I hope you have not forgotten about the book (the novel 'David Copperfield' by Charles Dickens) that you borrowed from me. I hope you have finished reading it by now. My brother who is studing in Standard IX wants to read it. So I request you to return the book soon.

As the examination is fast approaching I am working hard at my studies. I hope you are also doing the same.

Hoping to meet you soon,

Yours sincerely,

(Signature)

2) Write a letter to your parent or guardian asking for permission to go on an excursion.

Place,

Date.

My Dear Father,

I got your letter yesterday. I am very glad to know that all of you are happy at home.

A party of students and teachers will be going on an excursion to Cape Comorin next month. I should like to join the excursion party as I have not yet gone to the Cape. You know that excursions are useful to students, in many ways. So I request your kind permission for joining the excursion party. I shall give my name to our class teacher as soon as I get your approval.

With love,

Your loving son (or daughter)

(Signature).

3) Write a letter to a friend in Madras saying that you mean to stay there for a day or two on your way to Delhi and that you wish him to show you the sights of the city,

Place,

Date.

Dear Balan,

I was very glad to get your letter last week. I hope you will be glad to hear that I propose to pay a visit to you next week.

Perhaps you will remember that I had applied for a job under the Central Government. I had written to you about it a few weeks ago. Now I am called for an interview at Delhi. I propose to start from here next Monday and call on you on the way. I shall be glad to spend a day or two in Madras if you will kindly show me round the city. I know it will be very inconvenient for you to spare so much of your valuable time. Still I hope you will do me that favour.

Awaiting your reply,

Yours Sincerely,

(Signature.)

4) Write a letter to your father who wants you to go for higher studies, explaining to him

the reasons why you have made up my mind to serve the country by joining the army, instead of continuing your studies.

Place,

Date.

My Dear Father,

I was very glad to get your letter yesterday. I must be very thankful to you for asking me to think about my future and to make up my mind as to what I should do after leaving school.

I am glad that you want me to continue my studies at the university. But I must beg your pardon for wishing to choose a different course. I should really wish very much to go for higher studies. But you know that now our country is facing a difficult situation. The Chinese attack has showed us the need for making our country strong enough to resist any attack from outside. And at present our country needs a large number of young men in the army for her defence. As such I consider it my duty to join the army and serve our country. If, after a few years, our defences are very strong, I hope, I shall be able to come back home and continue my studies. So I request you to kindly give me your consent in this matter.

Yours affectionately,
(Signature)

Note :

In letters to friends it is better to address the person by adding “Dear”, “My Dear”, etc to the person’s name.

In writing to relations ‘Dear’ or ‘My Dear’ is added to the word which you use usually in calling the person at home, as:—

Dear (or My Dear) Father, or Dear Papa (or Mamma), My Dear Uncle, etc.

The conclusion (or subscription) in letters to close friends and relatives may be:—

Yours Affectionately, Your affectionate (or loving) son, (daughter. nephew etc.)

OR: With Love,

or: With Love and Best Wishes,

Your dearest friend,

OR: Your loving son, etc. etc.

Exercises :-

1) Write a letter to your father explaining to him the importance of the N. C. C., and asking his permission for you to join the N. C. C.

2) Write a letter to a friend of yours who is in the army, praising him for having volunteered to serve the country.

3) Write a letter to your friend describing what you propose to do during the summer vacation.

4) Write a letter to your friend of yours telling him of your plans after passing the examination.

5) Write a letter to a friend of yours telling him that you have decided to join the army, and asking him also to do so.

6) Write a short letter to your uncle thanking him for the gift of a bicycle.

7) Write a short letter of congratulation to a friend on his winning a scholarship.

8) Write a short letter of thanks to a relative for a handsome birthday or Christmas present.

9) Write a letter to your father or guardian telling him what profession you would like to choose.

10) Write a letter to a friend of yours, congratulating him on his securing admission to the Medical (or Engineering) College.

11) Write a letter to your friend describing a pleasant dream you dreamt recently.

12) A friend of yours is about to give up his studies and work as a clerk in an office. Write a letter advising him against the step (and asking him to go for higher studies)

II. Business Letters. (Letters of Application, Official Letters, Letters ordering books and articles, etc.)

Models :

1) Write a letter to the Headmaster of your school requesting him to give you a conduct certificate.

From Name,
 Address.

To The Headmaster,
 Name of School.

Respected Sir,

Owing to financial difficulties, I find it difficult to continue my studies. I should like to take up some work and earn some money so that I may be able to help my poor parents. Now I am told that a businessman in town requires the services of a clerk. Perhaps he will take me if you will kindly give me a certificate to the effect that I bear a good character and that I have been a hardworking student at school. So I request you to issue me such a certificate.

Thanking you,

Place, }
Date. }

Yours obediently,
(Signature)

2) Write a letter to the Manager of a Publishing Company or Bookshop ordering some book you require.

From (Name,
&
Address.)

To The Manager,
Higginbothams Ltd.
Trivandrum.

Dear Sir,

Kindly send me a copy of "An Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English" by V. P. P. as soon as possible.

Thanking you,

Place, } Yours Truly,
Date. } (Signature)

3) Write a letter to your late Headmaster (or Headmistress) asking for a testimonial and stating fully why you want it.

For answer see model letter No. (1)

4) Write a letter of application for the post of clerk in a Bussiness Firm.

From Name and Address.

To The Manager,
Address of Firm,

Respected Sir,

I wish to apply for the post of clerk advertised in yesterday's "Indian Express".

I am seventeen years of age and have passed the S. S. L. C Examination in First class. If required I can produce a Certificate of character from the Headmaster of my school.

If I am appointed to the post, I shall discharge my duties to give you satisfaction.

I am,

Yours Faithfully,
(Signature)

Place, }
Date. }

EXERCISES.

1) Write a letter to the Officer in charge of the Employment Exchange in your district, requesting him to send you a form for registering your name for suitable employment.

2) You have passed the S. S. L. C. Examination and wish to join a college for higher studies. Write a letter to the Principal of a college asking him to send you a copy of the Application Form and Prospectus.

3) You had ordered a few books from a Bookseller. In the parcel you received, one book was missing. Write a letter to the Bookseller about it.

4) You forgot to take your bag when you got off the bus. Write a letter to the District Transport Officer, making enquiries about it.



CHAPTER FOUR

Paragraph-Writing

(On familiar topics)

Questions : Write a paragraph (of not more than 150 words) on *one* of the following: -

- a) Sunrise.
- b) Floods.
- c) Domestic Animals.

(S. S. L. C. March 1964)

Model Answers :-

1. Sunrise.

Sunrise is one of the beautiful sights in nature. The clouds in the eastern sky appear golden or red in colour. This sight early in the morning makes all creatures joyful. The morning rays of the sun give strength and energy to all living things on earth. To people who live among hills sunrise is more beautiful. The sun's rays come from beyond the hills in the east, spreading out to cover the whole world. If we climb to the top of a hill early in the morning we can see sunrise more clearly. If we look at the sun rising up slowly from the sea in the east we can see the most beautiful sunrise of all. The sun appears much larger than he is at noon. It is a beautiful red ball

and we can look straight at it. If the sky is clear, without clouds, the red rising sun looks more beautiful against the vast blue sky. If we go to Cape Comorin we can see two of nature's most beautiful sights, sunrise and sunset.

2. Floods.

Floods are one of the dangers in nature. They cause great loss to people. Floods are caused by too much of rain (which is as bad as absence of rain). In a country like India floods occur almost every year. Many rivers overflow in the rainy season. Floods destroy the crops and cause great loss to farmers. Sometimes men and animals are carried away by the waters. Houses and other buildings fall down. Roads are flooded and it will be difficult for people either to escape or to receive help. Man is trying to control floods in many ways. Dams are constructed in rivers for storing up the water and using it later on. Governments take many steps in sending help to people who are affected by floods. We may hope that in course of time we shall be able to control floods everywhere.

3. Domestic Animals.

Man began to tame (domesticate) wild animals and keep them at home, many thousands

of years ago. All wild animals could not be tamed. Still man could tame many kinds of animals. Now there are so many different kinds of animals which are kept at home by man. Many of them are very useful. Today human beings depend very much on certain domestic animals like the cow. Dogs, cats, cattle and sheep are the most important domestic animals. Horses are important but people can live even without them. To the Arabs who live in the desert the camel is the most useful animal. The desert Arabs will find it almost impossible to live without camels. The Dog has been 'Man's Best Friend' for the last many thousands of years. There are various kinds of dogs kept for different purposes. The watch dog is perhaps the commonest today. But in olden days when people lived in the forest dogs were very useful for hunting. People in different parts of the world use oxen, horses, camels and donkeys for carrying burdens, drawing carts, for ploughing the land, for riding and other purposes. The most useful of all domestic animals is the cow which gives us milk which is so very necessary for human life.

4. The N. C. C.

(National Cadet Corps)

The N. C. C. is an organisation which gives military training to boys and girls. It is becoming

more and more important today because we are realising the importance of making our country strong. The chinese attack has shown the great need for making our country strong against all attacks. If our country is weak other countries may attack us. Every country today has an army, navy and airforce. But in case of war we shall need larger forces. The N. C. C. serves the purpose of preparing a large reserve force which can be used if the need arises. There are N. C. C. Units now in many schools and colleges and every year new units are being started in more schools and colleges. The N. C. C. gives very good training to young men and women. In addition to physical training, instruction is given in many useful subjects. Camp life gives valuable training in social life to the cadets. They get very good training in leadership too. In short, there is no doubt that the N.C.C. is a very useful and important organisation.

5. The Value of Reading.

A great man by name Bacon said, "Reading makes a full man; writing makes an exact man, and speaking makes a ready man". Reading, writing, and speaking, are all very necessary for the full development of every person. We get knowledge mainly by reading books,

magazines and newspapers. To become a good writer or speaker, one must have a good store of knowledge. "Knowledge is power", it is said. This power can be used in every field of life. So the first thing we should do is to acquire (get) knowledge. For this we must read plenty of books. So we see that reading is more important than writing or speaking. Even if we do not wish to become writers or speakers we should have knowledge. Because much knowledge can be gathered from books, reading is of great value to everybody. Different kinds of books give us different kinds of knowledge. Almost all great men of the world have been great readers. Great men like Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Nehru were great readers of books. Reading is a great help in learning languages too. Besides, reading is a great pleasure in itself. So the habit of reading should be cultivated very early in life.

Exercises :

Write a paragraph on :-

- 1) How you spent a day.
 - 2) Your Village or Town.
 - 3) How to improve your Village or Town.
 - 4) Your School.
 - 5) Cottage Industries.
 - 6) The Scout Movement.
-

CHAPTER FIVE

Proverb Expansion

(Expanding the idea contained in a proverb or quotation into a paragraph).

Models:-

1. No pains, No gains.

This is a famous proverb. It means that without suffering difficulties and troubles (pains) we cannot gain or achieve anything. If we want to pass an examination, for example, we must work hard. Great men like Abraham Lincoln and Mahatma Gandhi suffered great difficulties in their lives. We can also become great if we take pains and work hard.

2. There is no crown without a cross.

OR

**3. "The Heights by great men reached and kept.
Were not attained by sudden flight."**

Answers to (2) and (3) can be the same as answer to (1) with the meaning of each quotation added thereto.

4. Time and Tide Waits for none

OR

5. Strike the Iron while it is hot

OR

6. Make hay while sun shines

OR

7. Tomorrow never comes.

This proverb means that we must do our work when we get the chance. We should not let a chance go for we may not get it again. "Time lost is lost for ever." We must never put off till tomorrow what we can do today. For example, if we do not work hard before the examination we shall fail. A blacksmith who works with iron must strike it while it is hot. And a farmer should make hay while the sun shines. It will be of no use weeping over lost chances afterwards.

8. Slow and steady wins the race

OR

9. Rome was not built in a day

OR

10. More haste, less speed.

This well-known proverb means that we cannot do anything great very quickly or easily. If we run a race very fast we become tired soon and we shall not be able to finish the race. If we run more slowly we can go on steadily and win the race. The great and wonderful city of Rome was built not quickly, in a short time, but gradually, over a very long period of time. If we are in a great hurry we are not able to do anything quickly and well. So we

should do our work calmly and slowly but steadily and regularly.

Exercises (with points to be developed):—

1. Take care of the pence and the pounds
will take care of themselves.

OR

2. Little strokes fell great oaks.

OR

3. Many a mickle makes a muckle.

One thing at a time and that done well is the best way to success in life. We must save money by cutting unnecessary small expenses.... The vast ocean is made up of small drops of water. Little things added together become great things.

4. All that glitters is not gold.

(Appearances are deceptive).

Many things glitter like gold but are useless. A man may appear to be decent and honest but.....

5. A Rolling Stone gathers no Moss.

A man who always changes his work will never succeed in any work a "*Jack of all trades but master of none.*" One who

continues the same work becomes skilled.....an expertsuccessful.....rich.

5. Self-help is the best help.

(God helps those who help themselves.)

.....the story of Hercules and Lazy Carter...

It is foolish to expect other people to come and help us..... The more work we do, the more skilful and able we become.

6. A stitch in time saves nine.

We can save money, time and labour by doing our work at the correct time A student should study his lessons each day.....

7. Prevention is better than cure.

Curing a disease is not easy..... dangerous diseases kill..... not difficult to prevent..... better work before the examination and prevent failure.....

CHAPTER SIX

Exercises on Unseen Poems

(Comprehension questions; substance of poem or story contained in the poem.)

Examples:-

I. In the Heart of a Seed.

In the heart of a seed

Buried deep so deep

A dear little plant

Lay fast asleep.

“Wake”, said the sunshine,

“And creep to the light.”

“Wake”, said the voice

Of the raindrops bright.

The little plant heard

And it rose to see

What the wonderful

Outside world might be.

(Prose Order:- Buried deep in the heart of a seed, a dear little plant lay fast asleep. The sunshine said, “Wake, and creep to the light.” The voice of the bright raindrops (also) said, “Wake”. The little plant heard, and it rose to see the wonderful outside world.)

Questions:-

(a) Comprehension questions:-

1) Where and how did the little plant lie?

2) What did the sunshine and rain drops say to it ?

3) What did the little plant do then ?

(b) Write in your own words the substance of the poem (given above).

Note:- Answer these questions yourself and refer to the answers below only to check up your answers.

Answers:-

(a) 1) The little plant lay in the heart of a seed, buried deep and fast asleep.

2) The sunshine said to the little plant to wake and creep to the light. The raindrops also said to it to wake.

3) The little plant heard what the sunshine and the raindrops said, and it rose to see the wonderful world outside.

(b) **Substance.** A little plant (the embryo of a plant) lay inside a seed as if it was buried in it and fast asleep. But when it got sunshine and rain it came out of the seed and grew up.

OR

(A little plant sprang up from inside a seed when it got rain and sunshine.

OR:

When there were favourable conditions—rain and sunshine—a seed germinated and a little plant grew up out of it.)

II. Abou Ben Adhem.

Abou Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,
And saw, within, the moonlight in his room,
Making it rich, and like a lilly in bloom,
An angel writing in a book of gold.
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,
And to the presence in the room he said,
“What writest thou?”—The vision raised
its head,
And, with a look made of all sweet accord,
Answered, “The names of those who love
the Lord.”

“And is mine one?” said Abou.

“Nay, not so,”

Replied the angel. Abou spoke more low,
But cheerily still and said, “I pray thee, then,
Write me as one that loves his fellow-men.”

The angel wrote, and vanished. The next night
It came again with a great wakening light,
And show'd the names whom love of God
had blessed;

And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.

Aids :

bloom = flower. exceeding = great.

angel = a messenger of God.

the presence in the room = }
the vision = } the angel.

accord = agreement. the Lord = God.

cheerily = cheerfully = joyfully.

vanish = disappear.

wakening light = very bright light that can awaken a sleeping person.

awake = wake up. (awoke). nay = no.

lo! = look! see!

Questions:-

(a): 1) What did Abou Ben Adhem see when he awoke from the dream ?

2) Why did Ben Adhem feel bold ? What did he ask the angel ?

3) How and what did the angel say in answer to Ben Adhem's question ?

4) What did Abou request the angel to write in his book ?

5) Why did the angel come the next night?

6) What is the moral of the poem?

(b) Narrate in your own words the story contained in the poem "Abou Ben Adhem."

Answers:-

1) Abou Ben Adhem saw that his room was filled with beautiful moonlight. And he saw an angel writing in a book made of gold.

2) There was great peace and calm in the room. So Ben Adhem felt bold and he asked the angel what he was writing.

3) The angel raised its head, and with a sweet expression of love and friendship, answered Ben Adhem's question. He said he was writing the names of those people who loved God.

4) Abou request the angel to write his name among the names of those who loved their fellow-men.

5) The angel came again the next night to show Abou the names of those people whom God loved. Ben Adhem's name was the first in the list.

6) The moral of the poem is that God loves only those people who love their fellow-men.

(b) **Story :**

Once there lived a man by name Abou Ben Adhem. He had no great faith in religion. He did not say that he loved God. But he was a very goodman and he loved his fellow-men.

One night he woke up from a peaceful dream. He saw that his room was filled with beautiful moonlight. As he looked again he saw an angel in his room writing something in a book made of gold. There was great peace in the room. The angel was calm and quiet. So Abou felt bold. He asked the angel what he was writing. The angel raised its head. There was a sweet expression of love on his face, and

he told Abou that he was writing the names of those who loved God. Abou asked the angel if his name was written in the book. The angel replied that it was not. Abou felt a little sad. But he requested the angel to write his name among the names of those who loved their fellowmen. The angel wrote and disappeared.

The next night the angel came again with a bright light that awakened Abou from his sleep. The angel showed Abou the names of those people whom God loved. Abou could not believe his eyes, for his name was the first in the list !

Exercise:-

Write the story in the words of Abou Ben Adhem (in the first person, as if narrated by Abou).

III. The Noble Nature.

It is not growing like a tree,
In bulk, doth make man better be:
Or standing long an oak three hundred year,
To fall a log at last, dry, bald, and sere:

A lily of a day

Is fairer far in May,

Although it fall and die that night—

It was the plant and flower of light.

In small proportions we just beauties see;

And in the short measures life may

perfect be.

Aids :

bulk = size. doth = does.

a log (of wood) = a fallen or cut tree trunk;
a piece of wood.

dry = bald = sere = leafless; withered.

fair = beautiful.

just beauties = correct, perfect beauties.

(Prose:- Growing like a tree in bulk does not make man better. Standing long like an oak for three hundred years, to fall, as a dry log of wood at last, also does not make man better. A lily that lives for a day in May is far fairer than an oak. It may fall and die that night but it was the pleasant and flower of light. We see very beautiful things in small proportions and even in short measures life may be perfect.)

Questions:-

(a) 1) How does a tree grow ?

2) How long does an oak tree stand ?

What happens to it at last ?

3) How is a lily flower different from an oak tree ?

4) What moral lesson does the poem teach?

(b) Give in your own words the substance of the poem "The Noble Nature."

Answers:-

(a) 1) A tree grows in size. It grows big and tall.

2) An oak tree stands for three hundred years or more. But at last it falls down as a useless log of wood.

3) A lily flower is very small in size and it lives only for a day. But it is far more beautiful than an oak.

4) From the examples of the lily flower and the oak tree we learn that even very small things can be very beautiful and useful. Life can be noble and perfect even if one lives only for a short period.

(b) Substance :

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A man is not like a tree. A man does not become better by growing big or tall like a tree. An oak tree grows very big and lives for three hundred years or more. But in the end it falls down as a useless log of wood. On the contrary, a lily flower which is very small in size and lives only for a day (in May) is far more beautiful. It spreads joy around. Thus we see that even very small things can be very beautiful. And a man's life and character may be noble and perfect even if he lives only for a short period. By doing good to other, one can lead a noble life.

Exercises :

The Bundle of Sticks

1. A good old man was very sad :
For though three sturdy sons he had,
Alas! they hated one another,
Each quarrelled daily with his brother.
He felt he could not live in peace
Till he had made their quarrels cease.

One day he made a servant bring
Some sticks, and tie them with a string
Together in a bundle thick;

He lay in bed, for he was sick,
Then called his sons around his bed,
And to his eldest son he said:—

“Just try to break these sticks, my son”

He tried, but it could not be done.

The second tried and then the third;

Each tried his best, as I have heard;

They tugged and tugged, but tugged in vain,

They could not break the sticks, 't was
plain.

Then said the father, “Boys, be quick!

Break, each of you, a single stick.”

No sooner had the words been spoken,

Than every stick to bits was broken.

“Union is strength!” the father cried,

“So long as you stand side by side,

Shoulder to shoulder, arm to arm,

None can hurt you, none can harm.

- c) How were the sticks broken at last ?
d) What advice did the old man give his sons?

2. The Wasp and the Bee

A wasp met a bee that was just buzzing by,
And he said, "Little cousin, can you
tell me why
You are loved so much better my people
than I ?

"My back shines as bright and
as yellow as gold,
And my shape is most elegant, too,

to behold,
Yet nobody likes me for that, I am told."

"Ah, friend," said the bee "it's all very true
But if I were half as much mischief to do,
Indeed they would love me no better than
you.

You have a fine shape and a delicate wing;
They own you are handsome; but then
there's one thing
They cannot put up with, and that is your
sting.

My coat is quite homely and plain,
as you see,
Yet nobody ever is angry with me,
Because I'm a humble and innocent bee."
From this little story, let people beware,

Because, like the wasp, if ill-natured
they are,
They will never be loved if they're
ever so fair.

Aids :

buzzing by = flying with a buzzing sound.

elegant = beautiful. behold=see.

mischief = harm. delicate = nice.

put up with = suffer, tolerate.

homely = simple, not very beautiful.

beware=take care. fair=beautiful.

Questions :

a) Give the substance of the poem.

b) 1) Describe the beautiful appearance
of the wasp.

2) Why do people dislike the wasp ?

3) Why do people like (love) the bee ?

4) What moral lesson does the poem
teach ?



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CHAPTER SEVEN

Additional Exercises

I Passages for comprehension tests and summarising.

No: 1) Read the following passage carefully, and give it a suitable title and answer the questions given below: —

Late one night a young prince stood before his father the king. His hair and clothes were untidy. It was plain that he had been feasting as was his custom. He looked unhappy because the king was speaking severely to him.

“I am not pleased with your behaviour”, said he. “You are altogether too pleasure loving. Though you have a good head, you never study anything seriously. What do you know about the history of our country or the agriculture that feeds us all? How will you be able to lead your soldiers in time of war? You must be more strict with yourself. A king’s character is important to his people. How will you train others if you know nothing of discipline and duty yourself?”

To this the prince answered, “I have been taking a holiday”.

“Holidays ought to come after work”, said the king, “but you have taken a holiday before

you have done your work. No one ought to behave like that, and in your heart you know it". All this and more the king said. The prince hung his head in shame. He knew it was true.

Later, in his own room, the prince stood looking out on the moonlit garden. He wondered how he could give up his pleasures and his gay companions. At last he lay down and went to sleep.

That night he had a dream. A shining stranger appeared beside his bed, holding out gifts to him. In one hand the figure held a heavy book and in the other a gay coat.

Questions.

- 1) Describe the appearance of the prince as he stood before his father.
 - 2) What do you gather about the character of the Prince from what his father the king says?
 - 3) What did the king say about holidays?
 - 4) What did the prince do on going back to his own room?
 - 5) What did the prince see in his dream?
- No. 2) Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below:-

Every country has a government. There are three main reasons for this. The first is that there must be someone to keep order among the people. A country is not just a large area of land; it is a large group of persons living together in that area. These persons are separate individuals—men, women, boys and girls—each with his or her own wants and wishes. But it would hardly do for all of them to act in every way just as they pleased. We all know that we must not steal, or cheat or cause danger to others. When food is short, we must each take our fair rations. We must not use counterfeit money. If you are a shopkeeper you must not give short weight. To prevent people from doing these things laws are made. Laws are also made about other things. There are laws about getting married, laws which say who shall have a person's property after he is dead, laws saying how masters shall deal with their servants, and so on. All these laws are made so that the people shall behave properly towards one another.

The second reason for having a government is that someone must make arrangements for the defence of our country. We have to have an army, navy and air force to ward off enemy attacks. The power of a country

is often measured by the strength of its defence forces.

The third reason is that, in a country like ours, there have to be proper roads, schools, hospitals, water supply and drainage, electricity, parks, libraries and many other facilities. These things are known as public services.

To see to all these things—public order, national defence and public services—there has to be a Government to decide what to do and to see that it is done. Courts of justice are provided to decide when any laws have been broken. Police forces are maintained to see that law breakers are caught and punished.

Questions.

- 1) What is the first reason for having a government ?
- 2) Give a few examples of the wrong ways in which people should not behave ?
- 3) Why are laws made ? Mention some matters that come under the laws of the country ?
- 4) What is the second reason for having a government ?
- 5) Mention some of the public services.
- 6) Why do we have courts of justice and police forces ?

No. 3.

The spirit of the age is in favour of equality though practice denies it almost everywhere. We have got rid of slavery in the narrow sense of the world, that a man can be the property of another. But a new slavery, in some ways worse than the old, has taken its place all over the world. In the name of individual freedom, political and economic systems exploit human beings and treat them as commodities. And again though an individual cannot be the property of another, a country and a nation can still be the property of another nation, and thus group slavery is tolerated.

Yes the spirit of the age will triumph. That does not and cannot mean that everybody is physically or intellectually or spiritually equal or can be made so. But it does mean equal opportunities for all and no political, economic or social barriers in the way of any individual or group. It means a realisation of the fact that the backwardness or degradation of any group is not due to inherent failings in it but principally to lack of opportunities and long suppression by other groups. It should mean an understanding of the modern world wherein real progress and advance, whether national or international have become very much a joint affair and a backward group pulls back others. Therefore, not

only must equal opportunities be given to all, but special opportunities for educational, economic and cultural growth must be given to backward groups so as to enable them to catch up with those who are ahead of them.

Questions.

- 1) What is slavery in the narrow sense of the word ?
- 2) What is the new slavery that has taken the place of the old one all over the world ?
- 3) What is the meaning of saying that “the spirit of the age will triumph”?
- 4) What is the special nature of the modern world as regards “progress”?
- 5) Why should special opportunities be given to the backward groups ?
- 6) What is the real meaning of equality? How can it be brought about in the modern world ?

No. 4.

At one time in Europe there were many poets who were also musicians. They made poems and sang them at the courts of kings and great men. Noble men and their ladies welcomed these musicians. Often they gave them rich presents.

One of the most famous of these singers was a man called Walter. He was a native of South Germany. Everyone praised him and his music. "Where did you learn to sing so sweetly?" said they. "Everyone asks me where I learnt to sing", he answered "I learnt my music from the birds in the fields and forests. Everything in nature is full of beauty, and I specially love the birds with their sweet voices".

When Walter was an old man, he went to a place where holymen lived together and spent their time in prayer and praise. He said, "I know that I shall not live much longer. I want you to do something for me. When I am dead, lay my body in the earth near your church, and every day feed the wild birds on my resting place. They taught me how to sing, and I owe them something in return. You know that the poor little things are often very hungry, specially in the cold weather when there is snow on the ground. What can they find to eat when they have eaten all the berries from the bushes? They cannot find any insects then nor any grain because every thing is covered with snow. I am a rich man now because I have had so many presents. If you promise to feed the birds for me, I will give you all my wealth."

Questions.

- 1) What did the musicians do ?
- 2) Who gave presents to the muscians and why ?
- 3) Who was Walter ? To which country did he belong ?
- 4) From where had Walter learnt to sing ?
- 5) Where did Walter go in his old age ?
- 6) What did Walter want the holymen to do ?
- 7) What did the Walter say to them about the wild birds ?
- 8) How had Walter became a rich man ?

No. 5.

Everyone eats salt because no one can live without it. It is quite necessary to life and health. If we get too little salt or no salt at all, then we become weak and tired.

Where do we get salt from ? We get most of it from the sea. If you taste sea water, it is certainly salt. Rain water has no salt in it at all. River water has very little salt. It is not nearly so salt as the sea. It has so little salt that you can hadly taste it at all.

You may perhaps ask why sea water is salt. It has become salt through thousands of years.

There is a little salt in the earth in most places, and the rain and the rivers have been washing this salt away for a very long time. It has been flowing down to the sea and remaining there. This is still happening. The water itself goes up into the clouds again but the salt remains in the sea. Clever men have been trying to find out the age of the world by measuring the saltiness of the sea.

Questions :

- 1) Why do people use salt ?
- 2) From where do we get salt ?
- 3) How did sea water become salt ?
- 4) How can we try to find out the age of the world ?

No. 6.

It is very easy to acquire bad habits, such as eating too many sweets or too much food, or drinking too much fluid of any kind, or smoking. The more we do a thing, the more we tend to like doing it; and if we do not continue to do it, we feel unhappy. This is called the force of habit, and the force of habit should be fought against.

Things which may be very good when only done from time to time, tend to become very harmful when done too often and too much. This applies even to such good things as work

or rest. Some people form a bad habit of working too much, and others of idling too much. The wise man always remembers that this is true about himself, and checks any bad habit. He says to himself, "I am now becoming idle", or "I like too many sweets", or "I smoke too much", and then adds, "I will get myself out of this bad habit at once."

One of the most widely spread of bad habits is the use of tobacco. Tobacco is now smoked or chewed by men; often by women and even by children almost all over the world. It was brought into Europe from America by Sir Walter Raleigh for centuries ago, and has thence spread everywhere. I very much doubt whether there is any good in the habit, even when tobacco is not used to excess; and it is extremely difficult to get rid of the habit when once it has been formed.

Alcohol is taken in almost all cool and cold climates and to a very much less extent in hot ones. Thus it is taken by people who live in the Himalaya mountains but not nearly so much by those who live in the plains of India. Alcohol is not necessary in any way to anybody. Millions of people are beginning to do without it entirely. In India it is not required by the people

at all and should be avoided by them altogether. The regular use of alcohol, even in small quantities, tends to cause mischief in many ways to various organs of the body. It affects the liver, it weakens the mental powers and lessens the general energy of the body.

Questions :—

- 1) What is the “force of habit” ?
- 2) Mention some bad habits usually found in people.
- 3) What does the wise man do to check his bad habits ?
- 4) How was tobacco brought into Europe?
- 5) How do people use tobacco ?
- 6) What are the effects of alcohol on the human body ?

No. 7

You must have seen many advertisements in the daily newspapers and also on posters in the streets or at the stations. In the old days there were no such things as advertisements. But when men in modern industry found that they made larger profits if they advertised, then advertisements became common, and sometimes well-known artists are asked to draw pictures for the advertisement, and are paid well for them. From these pictures large coloured posters are made, and these are costly to print.

The advertisers know that if people see a statement in print, they generally believe it. If they see a statement day after day on the posters, they think it must be true. For instance, there are many advertisements which say that a certain kind of soap gives good complexion. Actually a good complexion is due chiefly to good diet and good health. But people rush after the newly advertised soap as if it could make everyone as handsome as a Cinema star.

There are numbers of advertisements of medicines, and some of these medicines are rubbish, and are really harmful. People ought not to be allowed to advertise medicines that are rubbish and charge high prices for them.

There was once a woman who was rather too fat, and she was anxious to grow slim. When she read in the papers an advertisement of a medicine to make people slim in a very short time, she thought that she would try it. It was of course expensive, but she only thought that it must be good if it cost so much money. So she sent for it, and when it arrived, the parcel contained a single pill. Then she stopped to think, and it seemed strange to her that one pill could work the miracle of making a fat woman into a slim one. So she very wisely took the pill to a

scientist and asked him to test the pill for her. He did this and found to his horror that the pill contained the egg of a tapeworm! If this woman had swallowed that, she would certainly have become thin, but not in health, but with a slow and weakening disease. It is foolish to trust to patent drugs unless trustworthy doctors advise them.

Questions :—

- (1) Who are the people who make advertisements? Why do they do so?
- (2) Where do we see the advertisements?
- (3) How are advertisements made?
- (4) What is a good complexion due to?
- (5) Do advertisements produce any effect on the people?
- (6) What did the fat women read in the papers?
- (7) Why did she think the medicine must be good?
- (8) Why did she “stop to think”?
- (9) What did she do as a result of the thinking?
- (10) What discovery did the scientist make?
- (11) What would have happened if the woman had swallowed the pill?
- (12) What lesson do you learn from the story?

No. 8

(S. S. L. C. March 1964)

The Gypsies are a strange race of people. They are scattered all over the globe. Gypsies have no fixed homes, no written laws, and no government. Nor have they a religion of their own. When they have at all it is that of the country in which they happen to be living.

It is difficult to say where the gypsies came from originally. The word gypsy has led some people to believe that they came from Egypt. But this is not very likely. They speak among themselves a language called Romany, which is very like the language spoken in India many centuries ago. So it is highly probable that they came from India.

The gypsies live in caravans, and often own horses, mules or donkeys. These are necessary to move the caravan place to place.

They are not only fond of music but have much musical talent. They generally earn their living by some form of craft, such as basket-making or simple metal work. They go about selling their handiwork from door to door.

The women are fond of gaudy colours, and often wear colourful dress. By claiming to be

able to tell fortunes they are able to add to the family income.

Their life in the open air tends to make them hardy. They would be hardier still if they had a greater liking for soap and water.

The gypsies make little progress from generation to generation. For they have no books, they have no written history of their race and they do not teach their children to read and write.

(a) Answer the following questions:—

- (1) Which country is most probably the original home of the gypsies?
- (2) Where are they now found?
- (3) What is their religion?
- (4) What are their sources of income?
- (5) Why are the gypsies of the present day not very different from those of the last century?

(b) Say whether the following statements are true or false:—

- (1) Romany is an ancient Indian language.
- (2) Gypsies wear plain clothes
- (3) Gypsies are hardy, but dirty.
- (4) Gypsies lead an outdoor life.

No. 9.

In our community development programme the most important person is he who is sent to carry the message of a better life to the

village people. We call him the Gram Sevak, the village level worker. He is the key-man of the whole programme. He lives with the villagers and discusses their problems. They come to know him very well, and finally they listen to what he has to say. He may ask whether a new road to the nearest market wouldn't save time in selling their produce. He then suggests that if they would gather a little money and provide the labour, the Government would help them.

Questions

- (1) Why is the Gram Sevak sent to the village?
- (2) What is the work of the Gram Sevak?
- (3) How does the Gram Sevak suggest improvements in the village?
- (4) Who is the most important person in our community development programme
Why?

No. 10.

Of course, almost everyone in India does live under some shelter, whether it be a lordly palace or a wretched mud hut. Our problem is that most of our houses are very, poorly built and that they are generally overcrowded. We must have more and better houses so that people can live in greater comfort.

Houses, however, cost a lot of money to build. There is the price of the land to be paid, the cost of building materials and the workman's wages. Very few people can afford to own even small houses.

Here too, our Plans have helped. The Government has been providing money so that the State Governments as well as private employers can build houses for factory and mine workers. New colonies of houses have sprung up in industrial towns in place of the bustees and chawls where workers lived a miserable life before. The Government has also been giving loans to people with low incomes so that they can build houses of their own.

Questions:—

- (1) What is the problem regarding our houses?
- (2) Why should we have more and better houses?
- (3) What are the expenses involved in building houses?
- (4) How have our Plans helped in building houses for the people?
- (5) Who can get loans from government and for what?

No. 11.

Once China was ruled by an emperor. He was informed that people in one of the provinces

of his empire had revolted against him. He thereupon said to his generals, "Come, follow me and we will quickly destroy them." When he reached the province, the rebels surrendered and begged for pardon. The generals now thought that the emperor would order to kill all prisoners of war; but they were surprised to find that the emperor began to treat them with great kindness. 'How!', cried the Commander-in-Chief, 'Is this the way your mejesty fulfils promises? You royal word was given that you would destroy your enemies; and now we see that you have pardoned them all and treated many of them with gentleness and favour.' 'It is very true I promised to destroy my enemies; and have I not fulfilled my word? For see, these rebels are my enemies no longer—I have made friends of them.

Questions :—

- (1) What was the emperor informed?
- (2) What did he then tell his generals?
- (3) What did the rebels do?
- (4) What did the generals think when the rebels surrendered?
- (5) Why were the generals surprised?
- (6) How had the emperor fulfilled his word?

No. 12.

Many people think that proverty is a great evil. They think that poverty is a great mis-

fortune. It seems to be an accepted belief that if people have plenty of money, they will be happy and useful. They will, it is thought get more joy out of life and their path will be unclouded and ever cheerful from year to year and from month to month; and in fact there are many who declare that for happiness in daily life wealth is quite necessary. As a rule however, there is more satisfaction, more contentment, more happiness in the humble cottages of the poor than in the palaces of the rich where there is plenty of money. It is a great pity to see the sons and daughters of rich men attended by money, servants and surrounded by all comfort, growing up careless and proud, attempting little, achieving practically nothing in comparison with the efforts of the poor who work hard and go up steadily in the path of peace and cheerfulness with little money and no comforts worth mentioning. Still the belief that riches bring happiness may be seen everywhere.

It is encouraging to see how sweet and happy how pure and blessed is the home of honest poverty, how free from cares of all sorts and from envy, quarrel and jealousy. How loving and united are the poor in the common interest of supporting the family. I sympathise with the richman's boy and encourage and congratulate the poor man's son. It is from the poor men's

houses that so many strong, eminent, courageous and worthy men have sprung and have become leaders of the nation. Careful observation will make this clear.

Questions :—

- (1) What do people think about poverty ?
- (2) What is the accepted belief about having money ?
- (3) Compare the happiness in the humble cottages of the poor with that in the palaces of the rich ?
- (4) How do the children of the rich grow up ?
- (5) How do the poor go up ?
- (6) What are the evils which are not seen in the home of honest poverty ?
- (7) What is it that "careful observation" will make clear ?

II. Outlines for Story Writing

1) Villagers sent a boy to look after their sheep. He was told to cry "Wolf!" if he saw one. After many days the boy wanted to have some fun and cried "Wolf". Villagers came running and he laughed at them. He repeated the joke after some days. They beat the boy. After some days a wolf really came. He cried. Nobody came. The wolf killed the boy.

2) A hungry fox sees grapes growing up tall poles. He jumps many times but in vain. At last says "Grapes are sour!" and goes away.

3) A tired capseller lies down under a tree and falls asleep. Some monkeys in the trees picks up his caps and puts them on. The capseller wakes up and sees that his caps are gone. Looks up and sees the monkeys wearing caps. Tries many ways. At last he throws down his own cap in despair. Monkeys do the same.

4) A king was worried because his people were lazy. He decides to teach them a lesson. He puts a big stone in the road. Next day many people pass along the road—merchants, an officer in his carriage, a young soldier on horseback. All of them cursed the stone and blamed the king for not removing it. After a week the king himself removed the stone and took a box full of money from under it. The people were ashamed.

5) The beautiful Queen of Sheeba came to test the wisdom of King Solomon. She showed him two garlands; one of them was artificial, and asked the king to say which was which. Solomon had the windows opened. Bees came to the real garland and the king found it out.

6) An old lady became blind and called in a doctor. The doctor delayed the treatment and took away the lady's fine furniture. At last cures her. She refuses to pay him. She told the judge that she was not cured as she could not see the furniture in her house. The judge gives verdict in her favour.

7) An ant was drinking water at the edge of a stream. It slipped and fell into the water. A dove seeing this plucked a leaf and put it into the water and saved the ant. Next day the ant saw a hunter aiming his gun at the dove. Just as he pulled the trigger the ant bit him on the foot. He missed his aim and the dove was saved.

8) Three bad men walked through a forest. They found a bag of gold. Each one wished to get it for himself. One of them brought some poisoned food for the others. They killed him and ate the food.

9) The dead body of the warrior was brought home. His wife was too sad to cry. They feared that her heart would break and tried to make her cry but in vain. An old woman brought the warrior's child and put it in her lap. She burst out crying, "My child, I live for you."

10) A blind beggar met a lame and weak brother and agreed to carry him. So they could walk and see the way.

11) A cat was afraid of the rats because there were many rats. The master of the house caught a rat and tied a bell round its neck. It went to the other rats and they ran away in fear. The cat boldly caught the lonely rat.

12) A woodcutter's axe fell into the river. He prayed. The river-god took a golden axe. The woodcutter said it was not his. The god showed a silver one. The man said "No". The god took the man's own axe. He thanked the god. The god gave him the others too.

13) A hungry wolf once put on sheep's skin and mingled with the sheep. The sheep began to bleat. The wolf tried to bleat but could not. He howled and the shepherd found him out and killed him;

14) A lion killed and ate many animals. The animals discussed plans to save themselves. A hare thought out a plan. It went to the lion and told him he had met a bigger lion. He led the lion to a deep well. The lion looked in and saw his face in the water. He roared and jumped into well.

15) An old farmer was about to die. He was sad because his sons were lazy. He told

them that a treasure lay hidden in their field. They must dig for it. The farmer died. The sons dug in every place but found no treasure. They sowed the field and got a rich harvest as treasure.

16) A king defeated in battle was hiding in a cave. He saw a spider making its web. The spider jumped from one side to the other but fell. It jumped many times and at last succeeded. The king learned a lesson. He fought again and won.

Letter-Writing

(Additional Questions)

1) Write a letter to a friend about your favourite game or any interesting book you have read.

2) Write a reply to your friend's letter telling him that you are not in a position to lend him the money he had asked for.

3) Write a letter to a friend telling him about how you propose to spend the midsummer vacation.

4) Suppose your uncle has offered to give you a present—a bicycle or a camera or a wrist watch. Write a letter telling him which you choose, giving reasons for your choice.

5) Write a letter to your friend describing a meeting you have attended or a celebration you have witnessed.

6) Write a letter to your father asking him for some money to buy a new fountain pen.

7) Write a letter to a friend inviting him to come and spend the vacation with you

8) Write a letter to the Manager of a Sports Company asking him to send you some badminton bats, net and balls by Lorry or Railway parcel and send the receipt by V. P. P.

IV Paragraph Writing

Topics :

- 1) Social Service League.
- 2) School Excursions.
- 3) Libraries.
- 4) Your father's occupation.
- 5) The members of your family.
- 6) Hobbies.
- 7) The rain.
- 8) Sunlight.
- 9) The use of roads.
- 10) Forests.

V Proverbs Expansion.

(Additional Proverbs for expansion)

- 1) Where there is a will, there is a way.
- 2) The pen is mightier than the sword.

- 3) A fool and his money are soon parted.
- 4) Still waters run deep.
- 5) Peace hath her victories no less renowned than war.
- 6) Look before you leap.
- 7) There is no rose without thorns.
- 8) Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime.
- 9) As you sow, so must you reap.
- 10) Cleanliness is next to Godliness.
- 11) An honest man is the noblest work of
God.
- 12) He who tries to please everybody pleases
nobody.
- 13) Example is better than precept (advice)
- 14) Union is strength.
- 15) Waste not, want not.
- 16) Pride goes before a fall.
- 17) The noblest men that live on earth are
men whose hands are brown with toil.
- 18) Neither a borrower nor a lender be.
- 19) Well begun is half done.
- 20) Experience is the best school.
- 21) Empty vessels make most sound.
- 22) A bad workman quarrels with his tools.
- 23) Necessity is the mother of invention.
- 24) Charity begins at home.

- 25) Idleness is the root of all evil.
(Industry is the mother of good luck)

VII Additional Exercises on unseen poems

1. A Nation's Strength.

Not gold, but only men, can make
A people grant and strong—
Men who for truth and honour's sake
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep
Who dare while others fly—
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.

Questions:-

- a) Give the substance of the poem.
 - b):
 - 1) How can a nation become great?
 - 2) What kind of people make their nation great?
 - 3) Who were the people that build up a nation up to the sky?
2. A little bird with feathers brown
Sat singing on a tree,
The song was very soft and low,
But sweet as could be.
And all the people passing by
Looked up to see the bird

That made the sweetest melody
That ever they had heard.

But all the bright eyes looked in vain,
For birdie was so small;

And with a modest dark-brown coat
He made no show at all.

“Why, father,” little Gracie said,
“Where can this birdie be?”

If I could sing a song like that
I’d sit where folks could see.”

“I hope my little girl will learn
A lesson from that bird,
And try to do what good she can,
Not to be seen and heard.”

Questions :—

- 1) What kind of song did the bird sing ?
- 2) Why did people look up ?
- 3) Why could they not see the bird ?
- 4) What little Gracie tell her father ?
- 5) What did her father say ?

3. Read the following poem carefully and answer the questions given below:—

A little fairy comes at night,
Her eyes are blue, her hair is brown,
With silver spots upon her wings,
And from the moon she flutters down.

She has a little silver wand,
And when a good child goes to bed,
She waves her wand from right to left
And makes a circle round its head.

And then it dreams of pleasant things,
Of fountains filled with fairy fish,
And trees that bear delicious fruit
And bow their branches at a wish.

[flutters = flies (like a butterfly) — wand =
magic stick.]

Questions:—

- 1) Describe the fairy.
- 2) What does she do at night ?
- 3) What does the child dream of then ?
- 4) Give a suitable title to the poem.

4. Lead the following poem carefully and
answer the questions given at the end:-

(S S. L. C. March 1964)

A lion, prowling through the woods,
In eager search of prey,
By chance was caught within a net,
And could not get away.

He tried in vain to free himself
From this unpleasant house,
When, lo ! from out its hole there crept
A tiny little mouse.

It nibbled, with its teeth so small,
The cords that formed the net
Till, one by one, the strings gave way,
And free the lion set.

This shows that we should not despise
The humblest thing that lives;
The strongest at some time may need
The help the poor man gives

(Prowling = going about in search of prey.
nibbled = took small bites at.
despise = look down upon.)

Questions:-

- (a) Tell in your own words the story contained in the poem.
- (b) Tell the story in the words of the lion.
- (c) Tell the story in the words of the mouse.
- (d) **Comprehension questions :**
 - 1) Why was the lion prowling through the woods ?
 - 2) What happened to him then ?
 - 3) How did the mouse set him free ?
 - 4) What do you learn from this story ?



It nibbled, with its teeth so small,
 The cords that formed the net
 Till, one by one, the strings gave way,
 And free the lion set.

This shows that we should not despise
 The humblest thing that lives;
 The strongest at some time may need
 The help the poor man gives.
 (Prowling - going about in search of prey.
 nibbled = took small bites at.
 despise = look down upon.)

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- (a) Tell in your own words the story contained in the poem.
 - (b) Tell the story in the words of the lion.
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- 1) Why was the lion prowling through the woods?
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