

1. Read the following passage and answer the question A.

I was ten years old. My grandmother sat on the string bed, under the mango tree. It was late summer and there were sunflowers in the garden and a warm wind in the trees. My grandmother was knitting a woolen scarf for the winter months. She was very old, dressed in a plain white sari; her eyes were not very strong now, but her fingers moved quickly with the needles, and the needles kept clicking all afternoon. Grandmother had white hair, but there were very few wrinkles on her skin. I had come home after playing cricket on the maiden. I had taken my meal, and now I was rummaging in a box of old books and family heirlooms that had just that day been brought out of the attic by my mother. Nothing in the box interested me very much, except for a book with colorful pictures of birds and butterflies. I was going through the book, looking at the pictures, when I found a small photograph between the pages. It was a faded picture, a little yellow and foggy; it was a picture of a girl standing against a wall and behind the wall there was nothing but sky; but from the other side a pair of hands reached up, as though someone was going to climb the wall. There were flowers growing near the girl, but couldn't tell what they were; there was a creeper too, but it was just a creeper. I ran out into the garden. "Granny!" I shouted. "Look at the picture! I found it in the box of old things. Whose picture is it?" I jumped on the bed beside my grandmother and she walloped me on the bottom and said, "Now I've lost count of my stitches, and the next time you do that I'll make you finish the scarf yourself." She took the photograph from my hand, and we both stared at it for quite a long time. The girl had long, loose hair, and she wore a long dress that nearly covered her ankles, and sleeves that reached her wrists, and there were a lot of bangles on her hands; but, despite all this drapery, the girl appeared to be full of freedom and movement; she stood with her legs apart and her hands on her hips, and she had a wide, almost devilish smile on her face. "Whose picture is it?" I asked. "A little girl's of course", said Grandmother. "Can't you tell?" "Yes, but did you know the girl?" "Yes, I knew her", said Granny, "but she was a very wicked girl and I shouldn't tell you about her. But I'll tell you about the photograph. It was taken in your grandfather's house, about sixty years ago and that's the garden wall, and over the wall there was a road going to town." "Whose hands are they?" I asked, "Coming up from the other side?" Grandmother squinted and looked closely at the picture, and shook her head. "It's the first time I've noticed", she said. "That must have been the sweeper boy's. Or maybe they were your grandfather's." "They don't like grandfather's hand," I said. "His hands are all bony." "Yes, but this was sixty years ago. "Didn't he climb up the wall, after the photo? "No, nobody climbed up. At least, I don't remember. "And you remember well, Granny." "Yes, I remember ... I remember what is not in the photograph. It was a spring day, and there was a cool breeze blowing, nothing like this. Those flowers at the girl's feet, they were marigolds, and the bougainvillea creeper, it was a mass of purple. You cannot see these colors in the photo, and even if you could, as nowadays, you wouldn't be able to smell the flowers or feel the breeze." "And what about the girl?" I said. "Tell me about the girl." "Well, she was a wicked girl", said Granny. "You don't know the trouble they had getting her into those fine clothes she's wearing" "Who was the girl?" I said. "You must tell me who she was." "No, that wouldn't do, said Grandmother, but I pretended I didn't know. I knew, because Grandmother still smiled in the same way, even though she didn't have as many teeth.

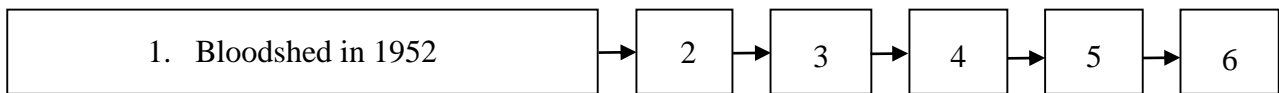
A. Answer the following questions.

2x5=10

- From reading of the passage, give a description of the look of the narrator's grandmother in your own language within 2/3 sentences.
- Why did the girl in the picture appear to the narrator to be full of freedom and movement?
- Do you think that the grandmother actually dislikes the boy as she wallops him for making her lose counts of her stitches? Why?
- Why didn't the grandmother like to confess that she was the girl in the picture?
- Did the boy ultimately get the answer anyhow that it was his grandmother's picture? How did he get it?

2. Read the following passage and make short notes in each of the boxes in the flow-chart showing the chronological political history of Bengal. [No. 1 has been done for you.] 2x5=10

The history of Bengal is the history of a people who have repeatedly made their highways crimson with their blood. We shed blood in 1952; even though we were the victors in the elections of 1954 we could not form a government then. In 1958 Ayub Khan declared Martial Law to enslave us for the next ten years. In 1966 when we launched the six-point movement our boys were shot dead on 7 June. When after the movement of 1969 Ayub Khan fell from power and Yahya Khan assumed the reins of the government and he declared that he would give us a constitution and restore democracy; we listened to him then. A lot has happened since elections have taken place.



3. Write a summary of the following passage.

10

As a child you must have been told to greet your elders and visitors to your home according to your culture and tradition. You must also have been taught to be polite in company and keep quiet while others, especially your elders, spoke. Possibly, you at times grudging such schooling. Possibly, at times you even protested such disciplining. Now, certainly you know that you can't always behave the way you want specially in the presence of others. There are rules of behavior you have to follow in a company. We are social beings and have to consider the effect of our behaviour on others, even if we are at home and dealing with our family members. We have two terms to describe our social behaviour- 'etiquette' and 'manners.' 'Etiquette' is a French word and it means the rules of correct behaviour in society. The word 'manners' means the behaviour that is considered to be polite in a particular society or culture. Manners can be good or bad. For example, it is a bad manner to speak with food in one's mouth. No one likes a bad-mannered person. Remember that etiquette and manners vary from culture to culture and from society to society. We learn etiquette and manners from our parents, families and various institutions, such as schools, colleges or professional bodies. There are rules of behaviour for all kinds of social occasions and it is important to learn them and practice them in everyday life. The manners that are correct in a wedding reception will not do in a debating club. Therefore, we have to be careful about etiquette and manners. We know how important it is to say 'please' and 'thank you' in everyday life. A few polite expressions such as 'pardon me,' 'excuse me', 'may I,' are bound to make your day smooth and pleasant.

4. Fill in each gap with a suitable word from the box. There are more words than necessary. 1x10=10

consider	concern	crucially	come	ensure	discuss
pandemic	prudent	give	available	do	distance

We highly believe the governments (a) ----- to reopen schools & colleges on a limited scale (b) ----- priority to the SSC and the HSC students is a (c) ----- move. The plan in (d) ----- is to get this year's SSC and HSC examinees to the classroom first. While it is (e)----- for students to get back to schools & colleges, the government is rightly (f)----- about the risks involved. Even if the reopening is (g)----- in phases with only Class 10 and 12 students (h)----- to schools & colleges in the first phase, the issues of safety must be given priority. This means mandatory mask wearing, physical (i) -----, hand-washing, and regular sanitizing of the classrooms and other areas of the schools & the colleges must be (j) -----.

5. The following sentences are jumbled. Rearrange in a proper sequence.

10

- (i) There was a pontoon bridge across the river.
- (ii) There were not so many carts now and very few people on foot, but the old man was still there.
- (iii) Carts, trucks, and men, women and children were crossing it.
- (iv) But the old man sat there without moving.
- (v) An old man with steel rimmed spectacles and very dusty clothes sat by the side of the road.
- (vi) The mule-drawn carts staggered up the steep bank from the bridge with soldiers helping push against the spokes of the wheels.
- (vii) He was too tired to go any farther.
- (viii) I did this and returned over the bridge.
- (ix) The trucks ground up and away heading out of it all and the peasants plodded along in the ankle deep dust.
- (x) It was my business to cross the bridge, explore the bridgehead beyond and find out to what point the enemy had advanced.

6. Write a paragraph on "Events leading to the 7th March Speech & the Significance of the Speech" based on the answers to the following questions in about 200 words.

10

- (a) What are the major events that led to the 7th March Speech? How was the history of those years?
- (b) What are two main parts of the 7th March Speech?
- (c) What are the directives given to the different sections of people in the 7th March Speech?
- (d) How did Bangabandhu unite the whole nation in his Speech?
- (e) Has the 7th March Speech have any impact in your personal life? How?

7. Write down the theme of the following poem. (Not more than 50 words)

10

All people dream, but not equally,
Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their mind,
Wake in the morning to find that it was vanity.

But the dreamers of the day are dangerous people,
For they dream their dreams with open eyes,
And make them come true.