

Answers – Board Paper – March 2023

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

(1) Punctuate the following given sentence: (1)

he will not be able to stop them

Ans. He will not be able to stop them.

(2) Pick out an infinitive from the given sentence: (1)

The sun began to sink.

Ans. to sink

(3) Give a new blending word, after combining two words: (1)

(i) Breakfast + lunch = _____

(ii) Smoke + fog = _____

Ans. (i) Brunch (ii) Smog

(4) Fill in the blank with proper form of the verb as per the subject: (1)

Stephen Hawking _____ continued to write at a prolific rate. (has/have)

Ans. has

(5) Write the 'root word' after dropping the prefix or suffix: (1)

relationship

Ans. relation

A2. Do as directed (any 2): [4]

- (1) Change the following sentence into indirect narration: (2)
“Will you buy my hair ?” asked Della.

Ans. Della asked if she would buy her hair.

- (2) Make a word register of four words related with: (2)
‘Universe’

Ans. galaxy, stars, planets, comets

- (3) Change the voice of the following sentence: (2)
Don’t make any mistake.

Ans. Let not any mistake be made by you.

(B) Do as directed (any 1): [2]

- (1) Use the given words into one meaningful sentence: (2)
afraid, admires

Ans. Though Tom admires his sister’s paintings, I am afraid he doesn’t express it.

- (2) Change the given simple sentence into complex sentence: (2)
He took me to a gramophone room.

Ans. He took me to a room that had a gramophone.

Section II : Textual Passages

(Reading Skills, Vocabulary and Grammar)

Q.2. (A) Read the following passage and do the given activities. [10]

A1. State whether the following statements are ‘True’ or ‘False’: (2)

- (i) Steve Jobs was diagnosed with cancer.

Ans. True

- (ii) We should be trapped by dogma.

Ans. False

- (iii) Have the courage to follow our heart and intuition.

Ans. True

- (iv) Our time is unlimited.

Ans. False

A2. Complete the following web:**(2)**

Steve Jobs Life lessons From this Passage	1. Your time is limited.
	2. Don't waste time living someone else's life
	3. Don't be trapped by dogma.
	4. Let other's opinion not drown out our inner voice
	5. Have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.
	6. Stay hungry, stay foolish.

A3. Fill in the blanks using the phrases given in the brackets. (2)

[Signed off, drown out, turned out, trapped by]

- (i) We should not be _____ superstitions.
- (ii) The movie _____ to be a disappointment.
- (iii) He _____ with a very important message for all of us.
- (iv) We should not let the opinion of others _____.

Ans. (i) trapped by

(ii) turned out

(iii) signed off

(iv) drown out (our own inner voice)

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

- (i) It was their farewell message.

(Add a question tag)

Ans. It was their farewell message, wasn't it?

- (ii) I lived with that diagnosis all day.

(Underline the verb and state its tense)

Ans. lived – Simple Past Tense

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

What is your opinion regarding the farewell message ‘Stay Hungry, Stay Foolish’?

Ans. Steve Jobs’ farewell message ‘Stay hungry, stay foolish’ is profound and has a deep meaning. In life, never be satisfied with what you’ve achieved in the past and bask in the former glory for the rest of your life. If you do so, your life will come to a standstill in a world that’s always moving. So, continue challenging yourself even after success has been achieved. Keep your hunger alive to learn more and achieve more. Staying foolish is all about taking risks that other people find impractical and irrational. Do not be afraid of failing or being ridiculed for what you believe in. Sometimes we lose a golden opportunity just because we are afraid of challenging the standard norms set by society. It takes guts to stand out from the crowd. Great inventions took place only because great personalities were foolish enough to take risks.

(B) Read the following passage and do the given activities. [10]**B1. Complete the following sentences from the passage: (2)**

(i) He was only fifteen and _____

Ans. He was only fifteen and the best table-tennis player in the school and the fastest runner.

(ii) Her apartment was not big but _____

Ans. Her apartment was not big but there was always room for them.

(iii) Whenever they came to Bombay _____

Ans. Whenever they came to Bombay, they stayed with Aunt Sushila.

(iv) He was already able to compose his own tunes _____

Ans. He was already able to compose his own tunes to the astonishment of their ‘guru’.

B2. Why did Smita become nervous ? (2)

Ans. Smita’s brother Anant was suffering from cancer and his condition was deteriorating day by day. With the doctors giving up hope, Smita knew that her brother was nearing death. The thought of losing her brother made her nervous.

B3. Match the pairs with proper antonyms from the passage:
(2)

	A	B
(i)	Forgotten	(a) deep
(ii)	Misunderstand	(b) together
(iii)	Separate	(c) remembered
(iv)	Shallow	(d) understand

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

B4. Do as directed:
(2)

(1) He was learning to play the sitar.

(Frame 'Wh' question to get the underlined part as an answer)

Ans. What was he learning?

(2) He could be treated at the cancer hospital in the city.

(Pick out the modal auxiliary and state its function)

Ans. could – possibility

B5. Personal Response:
(2)

What would you prefer: music or sports? Give reasons to support your answer.

Ans. Though it is said that music and sports are complementary, I would any day prefer music to sports. Music is something that almost anybody can access and use as an easy stress buster. Listening to calming music before going to bed improves sleep patterns and can be used to treat insomnia. Music has the ability to lower stress and anxiety levels and leads to improved overall health and well-being. Music calms the mind, fills the soul with peace and transports one to the realm of divinity.

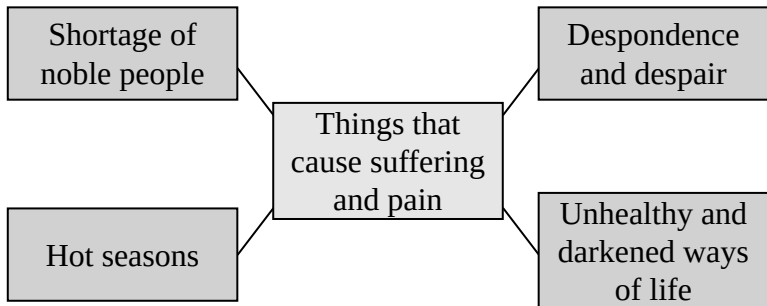
Section III : Poetry

Q.3. (A) Read the following extract and do the given activities.

[5]

A1. Complete the web:

(2)



A2. List down two impacts of beautiful things on us.

(2)

Ans. Two impacts of beautiful things on us are as follows:

(i) A beautiful thing gives long-lasting happiness and joy.

(ii) It gives peace of mind and inspires us to move ahead in life.

A3. Write down the Rhyme-scheme of the first four lines.

(1)

Ans. The rhyme-scheme of the first four lines of the poem is ‘aabb’.

(B) Read the following poem and write an appreciation of it with the help of the given points in a paragraph.

[5]

Ans. Appreciation of the poem

‘All the world’s a stage’ is an excerpt from William Shakespeare’s well-loved play, *As You Like It*. Specifically, it is a monologue of twenty-eight lines and is in part written in blank or free verse or unrhymed iambic pentameter. There are a number of figures of speech in this poem namely Simile, Metaphor, Alliteration, Inversion, Onomatopoeia, Repetition, and Transferred Epithet, but the one that stands out is Metaphor. In the lines “All the world’s a stage and all the men and women merely players”, there is an implied comparison between two different things. The poet compares the world to a giant stage where the drama of life is enacted and every

human needs to play his/her role like a professional actor till he/she has to quit the stage at the time of death. The central idea of this monologue is the cycle of life with its seven stages from birth to death. William Shakespeare has beautifully described each stage of man's life and laid emphasis on the temporary nature of life.

Section IV : Non-textual Passage

(Reading Skills, Vocabulary, Grammar and Summary)

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

A1. Match the columns A with B correctly: (2)

A	B
(i) Rocket programming	(a) IIT (Bombay)
(ii) Graduation	(b) ISRO
(iii) Masters in Engineering	(c) S. T. Hindu College
(iv) Ph.D	(d) IISC

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

A2. Answer the following questions in few words. (One or two words): (2)

(i) What is Dr. Sivan known as?

Ans. 'Rocket Man'

(ii) In which subject Dr. Sivan scored 100% marks in B.Sc.?

Ans. Mathematics

(iii) When did Dr. Sivan join ISRO?

Ans. 1982

(iv) In which space centre Dr. Sivan was the director?

Ans. Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

A3. Match the word connectors from the passage and use one of the connectors in your own sentence. (2)

A	B
(i) Tamil	(a) School
(ii) Government	(b) Medium
	(c) Centre

Ans. (i) – (b), (ii) – (a)

(i) There are several Tamil medium schools in Chennai.

(ii) Free midday meal is provided to students in a government school.

A4. Do as directed: (2)

(1) Sivan is the first graduate in his family.

(Rewrite as a negative sentence)

Ans. No other person in Sivan's family had graduated before.

(2) His brother and two sisters were unable to complete higher education due to their poverty.

(Rewrite the above sentence using 'neither nor')

Ans. Neither his brother nor his two sisters were able to complete higher education due to their poverty.

A5. Personal Response: (2)

What inspiration can we draw from Dr. Sivan's success ?

Ans. From having to go barefoot in his childhood, studying in a Tamil medium government school and later having to help his father in his field while in college, to becoming ISRO's chairman, Dr K Sivan's journey is truly inspiring. He grew up among hardships and studied amidst a lot of struggle to reach where he is. Today, people from his village speak about him with a sense of pride. Several other scientists in India and across the world draw inspiration from Dr K Sivan. He is exemplary and has become a role model for the youth. His life story tells us that no feat is unachievable.

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

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

Ans.

Dr K Sivan – India’s Rocket Man

The humble son of a farmer from Tamil Nadu’s Kanyakumari district, Dr K Sivan went on to become ISRO’s Chairman and led the Chandrayaan 2 mission to the moon. The first graduate in his family, Dr K Sivan scored 100% marks in Mathematics in BSc. His siblings couldn’t complete higher education due to poverty. After his graduation, he completed his Master’s in 1982 and received his PhD in Aerospace Engineering from IIT Bombay. He joined ISRO in 1982 and worked on almost all rocket programmes. Prior to becoming ISRO’s chairman in 2018, he was the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre that develops rockets. No wonder, Dr K Sivan is known as ISRO’s ‘Rocket Man’.

Section V : Writing Skills**Q.5. (A) Letter Writing****[5]**

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

Read the following instructions given by Mumbai Police Department before the celebration of Holi; and write a letter based on the same.

You are Raj/Rajani Malhotra, residing at 101,
Shivsiddhivinayak Apartment, Vileparle, Mumbai-400057.

A1. Formal Letter:

Write a letter to the
Commissioner of Police,
Mumbai thanking him
for the instructions and
appealing advertisement.

OR

A2. Informal Letter:

Write a letter to your friend
Rohan/Rohini appealing to
him/her to play ‘Safe Holi’.
Make use of the points given
in the advertisement. You
may add your own points.

Ans. A1. Formal Letter

Rajani Malhotra

101, Shivsiddhivinayak Apartment

Vile Parle

Mumbai 400 057

4 March 2023

To

The Commissioner of Police

Mumbai

Subject: Appreciation of the Mumbai Police for instructions and advertisement on safe Holi

Dear Sir,

The step taken by the Mumbai Police Department to promote a safe 'Holi' through instructions and advertisement is highly commendable. For the first time, the Police Department has given clear-cut instructions on how to go about celebrating this beautiful festival of colours. Emphasis on avoiding throwing of water, coloured water or rubber balloons containing water at pedestrians and also on keeping away from applying colour on people without their consent is worth a salute. The stress on using natural colours, on refraining from eve-teasing and above all on 'no drink and drive' which is a common feature on a festival day need to be appreciated. The Police Department has gone all out giving reminders to bike riders to wear helmet and about no triple riding, thereby promoting safety of the Mumbaikars.

These instructions and advertisement are displayed at every nook and corner of the city and also seen in all social and print media. Hats off to your department for this innovative idea of making the residents aware of the don'ts on this auspicious festival. I am sure this year we shall enjoy 'Holi' in the true spirit.

Thanking you and your department for this unique way of educating people and making them responsible for their action.

Yours faithfully,

Ms Rajani

OR

Ans. A2. Informal Letter

Raj Malhotra
101, Shivsiddhivinayak Apartment
Vile Parle
Mumbai 400 057
4 March 2023

Dear Rohan,

I hope you are keeping good health and enjoying your stay with all your cousins who have come from far and wide to celebrate the festival of Holi. I know how you long for this festival and always invite all your relatives over to your place to enjoy the day. The reason for writing this letter is to inform you and your relatives about the instructions and appealing advertisement the Mumbai Police Department has come up with for a safe 'Holi'.

You know when it comes to celebrating the festival of Holi how some people enjoy violating all rules and regulations for their own pleasure. We read about people being injured because of water balloons thrown at them, and about allergy and other skin diseases caused due to the use of chemical-laden colours on their bodies. Alcohol consumption, rampant eve teasing and other immoral behaviour lead to crime and unsafe environment all around. The Mumbai Police Department has already come forward with the dos and don'ts one must follow this 'Holi'. Instructions and appealing advertisement on the same are displayed throughout the city. They have warned people not to throw water, coloured water or rubber balloons filled with water on anyone. Prior permission from the person concerned needs to be taken if colours are to be applied on him/her. There shouldn't be any use of chemicals; only natural colours are to be used. The department has warned people to avoid eve-teasing and observe the 'no drink and drive' rule. The Police department has gone all out giving reminders to bike riders to wear helmet and have no triple riders on two wheelers, thereby promoting safety of the Mumbaikars.

Kindly go through the advertisements and instructions seen across the city and also on social media. Hope you will share this valuable

information with your relatives and other friends. Let's follow the instructions of the Mumbai Police and give them a helping hand to promote a healthy and safe 'Holi' festival where the various colours of life bind us together as one big family. Do enjoy your 'Holi' and convey my love to all.

Yours lovingly,

Raj

Q.6. (A) Information Transfer

[5]

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

A1. Verbal to Non-Verbal:

Read the following information and write it into Do's and Don'ts. Give a suitable title for it.

Ans.

RULES FOR BOOK LOVERS

Dos	Don'ts
Enter your name and registered number in the registry before entry.	Write anything on the book/magazine you have taken.
Pay your monthly/annual membership on time.	Take any library book or magazine without prior permission and registration.
Maintain pin-drop silence in the library.	Eat, drink, chat or smoke inside the library.
Return the books or magazines on time.	Disturb other members and the librarian when in the library.

OR

A2. Non-verbal to verbal:

Write a paragraph of 100 words based on the information given in the following table and give a suitable title for it.

Ans.

Forests – a Source of Life

Forests are an important part of our ecosystem that support and sustain various forms of vegetation and wildlife. Different types of forests are found all over the world. Two types of forests are mentioned here - the equatorial evergreen forests and the marshes.

Trees like mahogany, rosewood, ironwood and oil palm thrive in the equatorial evergreen forests. They are also home to different species of monkeys, snakes, lizards and bats. Marshes are large expanses of wetlands where mangroves and creepers flourish well. Marshes support a wide variety of insect species and flies. Reptiles like snakes and crocodiles are also found here.

*[**Please note that tsetse flies are found only in Sub-Saharan African regions. Tall trees don't grow in marshes.]*

(B) Drafting a speech/view-counterview

[5]

Attempt any one of the following B1 or B2.

B1. Speech writing:

Prepare a speech to be delivered in the school assembly on 'Save Nature'. Use the following points.

- * We survive only if nature survives.
- * All our resources directly or indirectly come from nature.
- * Prevent deforestation.
- * Balancing nature by saving plants, animals and birds.
- * Add your own points.

Ans.

Respected Principal, teachers and my dear friends,

Mother Nature is under great stress and it is not a hidden fact anymore. The occurrences of natural disasters and calamities, drastic climatic changes and melting glaciers are increasing all over the world. The threat she is facing right now is alarming and it is our duty to save nature before it gets too late.

We freely enjoy the direct gifts of nature like sunlight, air, water, land, and flora and fauna without batting an eyelid. We separate and create goods from natural resources and enjoy material goods provided by nature like raw materials, minerals, food etc. So, in one way or the other, all our resources directly or indirectly come from nature. It is for us to make sure that instead of over-exploiting nature's resources, we conserve them as even small actions impact the environment directly or indirectly.

Forests carry the potential to make the air cleaner and enhance air quality. Every year, the rate at which we are losing large tracts of forests is quite alarming leading to global warming, floods and uneven climatic changes. Therefore, we must stop deforestation and plant more trees. Preserving natural habitats will save not only our flora but also our fauna including wildlife. This in turn will lead to balance in nature. After all, it is because of our mindless activities that our ecological balance has been disturbed.

As inhabitants of this earth, let us come together to do our bit to save our environment. So, let us teach our children from a young age to be responsible and work towards a better and greener future. Remember, we survive only if nature survives.

B2. View-counterview:

Dog: Man's Best Friend

Prepare a paragraph of counterviews on the given topic. Use the following viewpoints to express your counterviews:

Viewpoints:

- Friendly and playful.
- Safeguard our homes.
- Stress busters.
- Honest and faithful to their masters.
- Create liveliness in the family.
- Add your own points.

Ans. Dogs: Today's Greatest Concern

A dog is commonly referred to as 'man's best friend'. They are supposedly honest and faithful to their masters. Certainly, dogs make for wonderful companions. Playing with them relieves stress. In most instances, a dog is considered a part of the family. All these factors may be true to a certain extent. Unfortunately, a dog can also be a great cause of concern. The statistics involving dog related attacks and injuries are quite frightening. There have been instances where even pet dogs have caused serious injuries leading to death of humans. They are carriers of fleas and ticks that can cause respiratory issues. We have heard about incidents of rabid stray dogs biting or chasing children and senior citizens. They damage properties, bark

at odd hours and create an unhygienic environment with poop all around. Senior citizens find it difficult to go for morning walks and late-night strolls because of the stray dog menace. Disturbed sleep due to constant barking is another big issue. Newspaper vendors, milkmen, delivery boys and housemaids have had close encounters with stray dogs on numerous occasions. Despite all these pressing issues, the so-called animal activists and animal lovers support these strays. It is very difficult to live in an environment surrounded by too many dogs. I would like to end my speech by saying ‘Do listen to our voice, not their noise’.

Section VI : Creative Writing

Q.7. (A) Do any *one* of the following (A1 or A2): [5]

A1. Expand the theme:

Expand the given quote into a paragraph of 100 words.

“Education is the most powerful weapon to change the World.”

Ans.

Education, the most powerful weapon to change the world

The root word ‘education’ is derived from the Latin words ‘educare’, ‘educere’ and ‘educatum.’ The word ‘educare’ means to nourish or to bring up, while ‘educere’ means to lead out or to draw out. The Latin word ‘educatum’ itself is composed of two terms ‘e’ and ‘duco.’ ‘E’ implies a movement from inside to out and ‘duco’ means developing or progressing. Thus, education means the preservation and passing down of knowledge and shaping the young minds, and preparing them for the changes that are to come, readying them to create solutions to problems yet unknown. Education is not just academic learning or rote-learning restricting it to textbooks; it transforms the lives of people. Education provides us the tools to improve our quality of life be it social, economic and even spiritual. It broadens our outlook towards life. Education empowers individuals to pursue self-knowledge and the skills that will help not only themselves but will be of service to mankind. It helps an individual to think intensively and critically. It helps in the application of values, skills and abilities. Education helps us to do away with social evils like gender inequality, discrimination of any

form and even poverty. Education equips a person with necessary skills and abilities that would help them to provide themselves with the basic necessities of life.

Thus, education bridges the socio-economic gap and it helps in building sound mind and sound character. Leaders like Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Martin Luther Jr, Nelson Mandela, Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Jyotiba Phule, Savitribai Phule, Mahatma Gandhi and many more across the globe understood the true meaning of education and therefore felt the need of promoting education to one and all for a better world. They realised the productive role of education in an ever-changing world. Thus, Nelson Mandela was right when he said, “Education is the most powerful weapon to change the world.”

OR

A2. News Report:

“Air pollution is question of life and death,” says Supreme Court, Delhi.

Ans. Air Pollution – a Question of Life and Death

By Times Correspondent

Delhi, 28th February: After studying the report on increase in death rate in the NCR-Delhi prepared by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Supreme Court of India on Tuesday very strongly stated that air pollution is a question of life and death for Delhi. The CPCB, a statutory organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) surveyed the National Capital Region (NCR) covering the whole of NCT-Delhi and certain districts of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The CPCB which is entrusted with the powers and functions under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 brought to light the environmental problems in Delhi that are a threat to the well-being of the people as well as the flora and fauna. Delhi is one of the most heavily polluted cities in India.

The air quality index of Delhi is generally good between March to September and then it drastically deteriorates between October and February, due to various factors including stubble

burning, burning of effigies during Vijayadashami, bursting of firecrackers during Diwali and the cold weather. During the autumn and winter months, some 500 million tons of crop residue are burnt, and winds blow from India's north and northwest towards east. This annual crop burning results in smoke and air pollution over Delhi and adjoining areas. Vehicles and industry are the predominant sources of air pollution while solid fuel combustion also contributes a small amount to air pollution. Solid fuels include fuel woods, cow dung cakes, crop residues and municipal solid waste. Another known cause of pollution is road dust and slow-moving traffic due to frequent pedestrian crossings. South-Delhi has an increasing number of planes landing and taking off at the Indira Gandhi International Airport. This too adds to the air pollution as jets expels huge amount of pollutants. The Supreme Court ordered the NCR-Delhi ruling party to work for the welfare of the people. It insisted that strict actions will be taken if the ruling government does not immediately take measures to curb stubble burning and reduce air pollution. It ordered various agencies working under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) to come together as one body to combat air pollution.

(B) Developing a story/Narration: [5]
Do any one of the following: (B1 or B2)

B1. Developing a story

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

..... and I realised I must never ignore the words of the wise.

Ans. Journey with the Wise

The teen years are full of curiosity, fun and frolic. The young mind wants to investigate every aspect of life. Explanation on any topic by family members or elders fall on deaf ears. The teenager wants to perceive the world from his point of view and so comes the demand for total freedom and independence from everything. When I was in my teens, I too was one among them. My group of friends were used to late-night parties, weekends at someone's house, late night movies or drives. My parents weren't against outings or good

entertainment, but they insisted that I reach home latest by 10 p.m. They constantly reminded me that there is a fine line, probably an invisible one, between good and bad and one does not know when he has crossed over from a moral to an immoral life. They had seen how innocent children were hooked to drinks, drugs and other vices just because of one wrong irrational decision.

My dad would give me living examples of youngsters struggling in rehabilitation centres and their family members going not only through shame but also fear of losing their dear ones. I laughed at my parents and kept repeating that I have complete control over myself. I boasted about my self-determination, self-discipline and how people also looked up to me for my intelligence. My parents would say that it hardly takes time for one rotten mango to spoil the entire basket. They realised that I was not paying attention to them and that time would teach me to value their words. I began to do as I pleased. Long night drives were fun; so were those parties and stay-outs. I began to enjoy them. Weekends meant staying out of the house for nearly 48 hours. I didn't miss my parents for friends were everything to me at that time. I had rich friends to sponsor my expenses, so 'Why worry' was my attitude.

I will never forget that long weekend of the last week of March 2022 when I came home exhausted. I didn't know what was happening to me for I had taken my first drink that weekend. My friends had challenged me that I couldn't manage even a sip of alcohol and that I was not a part of the group. To keep up with them, I tried the first sip and then took nearly two glasses of alcohol. My friends dropped me home and all that I did was rush to my bedroom and go to sleep. When I woke up, I couldn't find my parents. I got hold of a note pinned to the board saying dad had been taken to the hospital. I began to shiver and called up my mom to only know that my dad had suffered a heart attack and was in the ICU. I rushed to the hospital. My mother was seated as though lifeless waiting for the doctors to come out of the ICU. Luckily my dad's life was saved. I was ashamed of my behaviour. My parent's words and advice kept ringing in my ears and I realised I must never ignore the words of the wise.

OR

B2. Narrate an experience:

Narrate an experience of your own. Write it in about 100 words (Beginning is given below):

After the recess, we were chatting and fighting in the class

.....

Ans. After the recess, we were chatting and fighting in the class when suddenly the peon entered the classroom and asked for me. I was surprised to know that the Principal wanted to meet me immediately. All eyebrows in the classroom rose high, there was silence in the class and the question that echoed aloud was, ‘What have you done to be called by the Principal?’ I began to shiver; thousands of thoughts ran across my mind. Of late I was like an innocent lamb far from mischief. Was my past record going to get me in trouble? Why me of so many students and that too after recess time? My feet refused to support me. I began to drag myself in the direction of the Principal’s office. Few of my friends accompanied me up to the door of the office and then ran for their lives.

I was in queue. There were other students from different divisions, and they too had been called by the Principal. We couldn’t speak as the Assistant Head Mistress was parading the area. My heart was in my mouth. I kept consoling myself and tried to put positive thoughts in my mind. One by one, the Principal called the students inside. Already ten students were ahead of me, I was the eleventh one, and four others were to follow me. The students who entered the office did not come out so it was difficult to know what was going on.

I entered and wished the Principal. He smiled and said that he had always enjoyed watching me play cricket. He liked my strokes and fielding ability. I was shocked for twice I had paid fine for breaking the glass windows while playing cricket. He asked me whether I would be interested in being a part of the school cricket team. For a moment it seemed like a fairy tale. The Principal repeated his statement and I nodded affirming his invitation. I looked around and saw the other ten students, all with big smiles on their faces. They too were in the team. The next four to follow were added to the team as substitutes. I wanted to jump, scream and dance with joy for my dream of representing the school was going to come true. I couldn’t control my happiness and in a loud voice thanked the Principal and touched his feet to take his blessings.

★★★