***Competency Based Questions***

**Flamingoes:**

**1. THE LAST LESSON**

1. Justify the title ‘The Last Lesson’.
2. ‘Bah! I have plenty of time. I’ll learn it tomorrow.’ Franz was shocked when he heard that it was the last lesson in French and he hardly knew his mother tongue. Many of us find ourselves in similar situations and regret when all is over. What should we do so that we are able to achieve our goals?

2. **LOST SPRING**

1. Why should child labour be eliminated and how?
2. ‘Lost Spring’ explains the grinding poverty and traditions that condemn thousands of people to a lift of abject poverty. Do you agree? Why/Why not?
3. Justify the title of the story ‘Lost Spring’.
4. Most of us do not raise our voice against injustice in our society. Anees Jung in her story, ‘Lost Spring’ vividly highlights the miserable life of street children and bangle makers of Firozabad. What values do we need to inculcate among the people to bring back the spring in the lives of these children.
5. “None of them knows that it is illegal for children like him towork in the glass furnaces with high temperatures”. What can be done to improve a lot of poor children in India?

**3. DEEP WATER**

1. Have you ever had a fear that you have now overcome? Share your experience.
2. Find and narrate other stories about conquest of fear and what people have said about courage.
3. Imagine you happened to reach the swimming pool and participated in the rescue of the drowning child. Narrate your experience.
4. Write a paragraph about your attempt to learn something new like driving, dancing or painting. Include minute details of what caused the fear, your feelings, the encouragement you got from others or the criticism
5. Are there any water sports in India? Find out about the areas or places which are known for water sports

**4. Ratttrap**

1. There is a difference between the hospitality and kindness shown by the crofter, the ironmaster and his daughter. Discuss how?
2. How does the metaphor of the rattrap serve to highlight the human predicament?
3. The story focuses on human loneliness and the need to bond with others. Discuss.
4. The story has elements of a fairy tale. Discuss how?

***Poetry Section***

**MY MOTHER AT SIXTY SIX By: Kamala Das**

1. With fear and ache inside her heart, and words of assurance on lips and smile on the face, the poet presents two opposite and contrasting experiences. Why does the poet put on a smile?
2. In today’s fast life, children neglect their ageing parents. What do you think children can do to have an involved and inclusive relationship with their elderly parents?
3. Whenever we are faced with problems in our lives, we go to our mother for a sound opinion. We confide in her as for most of us she is our best friend. What emotional bond do you share with your mother?

**KEEPING QUIET: By- Pablo Neruda**

1. Write the central idea of the poem, “Keeping Quiet”?
2. ‘’Though it was written in the last century, yet Neruda’s “Keeping Quiet” is highly relevant in 21 st century also” Elucidate

**A THING OF BEAUTY: BY-John Keats**

1. Why is grandeur associated with the mighty dead? How does the poet glorify nature comparing it with the mighty dead?
2. Discuss the traits of ‘Romanticism’ in the poem.

**VISTAS**

1. **THE THIRD LEVEL**
2. Do you see an intersection of time and space in the story?
3. Apparent illogicality sometimes turns out to be a futuristic projection? Discuss.
4. Philately helps keep the past alive. Discuss other ways in which this is done. What do you think of the human tendency to constantly move between the past, the present and the future?
5. You have read ‘Adventure’ by Jayant Narlikar in Hornbill Class XI. Compare the interweaving of fantasy and reality in the two stories

**2. THE TIGER KING**

1. In the death of The Tiger King, we see the tragedy of a king who tries only to further his self interest. The adage, ‘one cannot change what is written in one’s destiny’ is reinforced.
2. Comment.
3. The story is a beautiful example of political satire. Discuss how?

**3. JOURNEY TO THE END OF THE EARTH.**

1. ‘Take care of the small things and the big things will fall into place.’ Discuss with reference to the lesson.
2. Why is Antartica the place to go to understand the earth’s past, present and future?