**** **SINDHI HIGH SCHOOL**

**HALF YEARLY EXAMINATION (2023-24)**

**SUBJECT – English**

**Class: X Marks: 80**

**Date: 21/9/2023 Reading Time: 8:30 to 8:45 am Number of printed sides: 11 Writing Time: 8:45 to 11:45 am**

**General Instructions:**

**1. 15-minute prior reading time allotted for Q-paper reading.**

**2. The Question Paper contains THREE Sections READING, GRAMMAR**

**& WRITING and LITERATURE.**

**3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.**

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**SECTION A- READING (20)**

**I. Read the passage given below.**

1. Detachment is not physically renouncing our possessions, profession, home and family as

many of us think. It is the ability to let go of all the desires, habits, emotions, thoughts, speech

and behaviour patterns that are negative or detrimental to our well-being in any way.

Detachment and discrimination are interdependent; they mutually strengthen each other and

empower us. The more we are able to discriminate, the more we are able to segregate our

harmful desires and discard them. The more mental trash we discard this way, the more we

empower our faculty of discrimination.

2. There is a simple technique we can all practise to strengthen our discrimination and

detachment and get rid of unnecessary desires. This will generate the awareness we need to

control our senses and mind and make them stop churning out desires every moment. To

practise this technique, we should select a quiet place when we have some leisure time.

3. Sit down with a few sheets of paper and pen or a computer and make two lists. In the first

list, understand and write down your most important goal or agenda in this life. Then

meticulously add all the other goals that you would like to achieve. While you make this list,

you shouldn’t think only about yourself. Include what you would like to contribute to the

welfare of your dependents, children and their forthcoming generations.

4. Once you complete this, set it aside and begin the second list. List all your desires here. They

may be big or small, important or insignificant, right or wrong, demonic or divine. Just

remove the lid on the Pandora’s Box and allow them all to spill out freely. Don’t try to censor

or edit the list of desires at this stage. Complete the list first. After you have made an

exhaustive list, go over it to see which of these desires are truly necessary, conducive to your

meditation, helpful and favourable to you and beneficial to others.

5. If you have been serious and honest in doing this exercise, you will have long lists of goals

and desires and many of them may be selfish or detrimental to your goal of meditation,

visualisation, self-realisation, peace, happiness and bliss. This exercise will help you develop

frankness and honesty with yourself. You will touch your true feelings and bring many of

your hidden ambitions and desires into the open.

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below.** **(1x10=10)**

**i. Why does the writer say that detachment is empowering?**

(a) It helps us to physically renounce our possessions.

(b) It strengthens our sense of discrimination.

(c) It helps us get detached from family and relations.

(d) It makes us let go of our desires.

**ii. Select the option that does not correspond to the following relationship below.**

**Detachment and discrimination are interdependent**.

(a) Both have a symbiotic relationship.

(b) Both complement each other.

(c) Both are locked in an inequitable equation.

(d) It is a reciprocal relationship.

**iii. Select the option that displays what the writer projects, with reference to the following:**

**Just remove the lid on the Pandora’s Box and allow them all to spill out freely.**

(a) encouragement (b) caution

(c) provocation (d) honesty

**iv. Complete the following with a word or phrase from paragraph 1.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Opinion** | **Reason** |
|  | Isolate something |

**v. The writer correlates detachment and discrimination and says that we should make**

**serious efforts to strengthen them (Paragraph 2).**

**State the most important outcome of this process.**

**vi. Based on your reading of the text, list 2 reasons why the writer implies that human**

**mind is full of trash.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**vii. What advantage does the writer says we will earn if we are meticulous in making the**

**lists of goals we wish to achieve in our lives?**

**viii. The writer asks us to pen down our personal goals in the second list and label it the**

**Pandora’s Box. (Para 4)**

**Select the point of comparison between the two.**

1. both aid in survival

2. both contained all kinds of life experiences

3. both contained demonic wishes

4. both contained divine desires

(a) only 2 (b) 1 and 2 (c) 3 and 4 (d) all of these

**ix. Supply 1 point to justify the following.**

Awareness puts a lid on our mind which keeps churning out desires every moment.

**x. Evaluate the INAPPROPRIATE outcome after the completion of both the lists.**

(a) They may be censored or edited.

(b) They are conducive to our meditation.

(c) They are beneficial to others.

(d) They contain goals that are truly necessary

**II. Read the passage given below.**

1. Uttarakhand is located at the foothills of the Himalayan Mountain ranges. The state shares

borders with China (Tibet) in the north & Nepal in the east & inter-state boundaries with

Himachal Pradesh in the west & northwest & Uttar Pradesh in the south. Hindi, Garhwal &

Kumaoni are commonly spoken in the state. English is the medium of education in many

of its schools. Uttarakhand has diverse geographical features ranging from snowcapped

mountain peaks in the north to tropical forests in the south; its climate & vegetation vary

accordingly. The state was formed in November 2000 by carving out the 13 hill districts of

Uttar Pradesh. It was formerly named Uttaranchal.

2. The main railway stations in the state are Dehradun, Haridwar, Roorkee, Kotdwar, Kashipur,

Udham Singh Nagar, Haldwani, Ramnagar and Kathgodam. Uttarakhand had 339.80 km of

rail routes. The state is focusing on increasing the share of railways in cargo and passenger

transport. Initiatives have been undertaken to start monorails at Dehradun, Haridwar

and Rishikesh, on the inter-city linkage routes.

3. The state has two domestic airports : one at Jolly Grant in the Dehradun district and another

at Pant Nagar in the Udham Singh Nagar district. The state intends to position air transport

as a reliable all-weather transport option for the hills. With Uttarakhand emerging as a hot

tourist and industrial destination, the state government is focussing on upgrading the

Jolly Grant airport as an international airport, in coordination with Airports Authority of

India. In 2018-19, Dehradun airport handled 7,374 aircraft movements and 709,227

passengers, approximately.

|  |
| --- |
| **VISION 2023**  Transport • Strengthen road network in urban areas and upgrade national  highways.  • Develop two major all-weather airports with connectivity to metro cities.  Health • Affordable healthcare with focus on disease prevention.  • Provide state funded maternal and child healthcare, especially in rural  areas.  Tourism • Promote the state as a global tourist destination by showcasing its spiritual,  cultural and adventure tourism  • Target 0.5 million international tourists by 2023.  Agriculture • Improve yield and quality by providing irrigation facilities and latest  technology.  • Create cold chain infrastructure and success to market intelligence for  farmers.  Infrastructure • Harness hydro-power for 100% electrification in the state and supply  power to other states.  • Connect major cities through multi-lane highways and proper roads for  villages.  Environment • Promote the state as a green economy by focusing on section such as IT.  Agriculture, tourism, hydro-power and education.  • 100% solid waste management, waste water treatment and recycling.  Industries • Become a world leader in green energy by leveraging hydro-power  potential.  • Promote micro and small enterprises. Education of skill development  • Quality primary education to be provided to all children.  • Job oriented vocational training facilities and establishment of higher  education institutions. |

**Based on your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below. (1x10=10)**

**i. Which of the following language is not a commonly spoken language in Uttarakhand?**

(a) Kumaoni (b) Hindi (c) Punjabi (d) Garhwali

**ii. State whether the following statement is TRUE or FALSE:**

The state of Uttarakhand was formed by carving out the 11 hill districts of Uttar Pradesh.

**iii. Which of the following states/countries do not surround Uttarakhand from any side?**

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Nepal (c) China (d) Bangladesh

**iv. Based on your reading of the text, list any 2 features of Uttarakhand.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**v. When talking about environment, by 2023, Uttarakhand wants to :**

I. have perfect waste water management in the state

II. harness hydropower for 100 % electricity in the state

III. have a 100 % solid waste management in the state

IV. promote the state as a green economy

(a) I and II (b) I and III (c) II, III and IV (d) I, III and IV

**vi. Choose an option that lists the main factors considered in Uttarakhand’s vision of 2023.**

1. Education 2. Agriculture 3. Development

4. Transport 5. Tourism 6. Mining 7. Environment

(a) 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 (b) 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7

(c) 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 (d) 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7

**vii. Supply 1 point to justify the following:**

Uttarakhand is emerging as a hot tourist and industrial destination.

**viii. What is the international tourist visitation target of the state of Uttarakhand by the**

**year 2023?**

**ix. Complete the following analogy correctly with a word from paragraph 2:**

rickshaw : carry :: elevator : \_\_\_\_\_

(Clue : Just like a rickshaw is used to carry people, similarly an elevator is used to...)

**x. Which of the following clearly explains the meaning of the word ‘initiatives’?**

(a) standards (b) visions (c) talks (d) measures

**SECTION B (GRAMMAR AND WRITING) (20)**

**III. Attempt ANY TEN of the following questions: (1 x 10 = 10)**

**i) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the blank.**

The story of English in India \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ between the conceptions of the

language as an idea and as an object, to date.

a) will toggle b) have toggled c) had toggled d) toggles

**ii) Read the conversation between a man and his nephew. Complete the sentence by**

**reporting the dialogue.**

Uncle : Let us go and see the Great Apollo Circus this weekend.

Nephew : The ticket is on you because you lost all the games in carrom yesterday.

Uncle invited his nephew to see the Great Apollo Circus coming weekend, but the

nephew reminded him that since he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the ticket was on him.

**iii) Select the correct option to fill in the blanks for the given line, from a short story.**

But he was tired and weak with hunger and he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ not rise, exhausted

by the strange exercise.

[

a) could b) would c) need d) should

**iv) Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line:**

The pleasure in being outdoors is fundamental for humans happiness.

|  |
| --- |
| **Option No. Error Correction** |
| **(a) being be** |
| **(b) The A** |
| **(c) humans human** |
| **(d) in at** |

**v) Complete the given narrative, by filling in the blank with the correct option.**

All sorts of cruelties \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ upon them but the farmers remained united.

a) are being inflicted b) had inflicted

c) were inflicted d) might be inflicted

**vi) Identify the error in the given sentence, from a newspaper report and supply the**

**correction.**

There have also been several films, television and theatrical productions, and even an opera,

based over the novel.

Use the given format for your response.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ERROR | CORRECTION |
|  |  |

**vii) Report and complete the dialogue between two people, by filling up the blanks**

**choosing the correct option.**

Priest : Trust and compassion can reform a person more than punishment.

Ira : Don’t you think the reverse of this approach is more effective?

When a priest told Ira that trust and compassion can reform a person more than punishment,

she asked him if \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) didn’t he think that the reverse of that approach was more effective.

b) did he not think that the reverse of that approach could be more effective.

c) he didn’t think that the reverse of that approach is more effective.

d) he didn’t think that the reverse of that approach was more effective.

**viii) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets, for the given**

**portion of a letter.**

Subject : Complaint regarding defective TV.

I regret to inform you that the TV has started giving me trouble only after three days and

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (develop) some technical snags.

**ix) An author and his friend were talking. The writer said to his friend, “My first novel**

**would be published in a day.” Report the question of the writer to the friend.**

**x) Identify the error in the given sentence and supply the correction.**

Discipline in life ensure peace and harmony, which in turn, offers the impetus for a

nation’s progress.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ERROR | CORRECTION |
|  |  |

**xi) Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option.**

At first they did not come \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ any obstacle.

a) in b) across c) with d) about

**xii) Fill in the blank with the correct option.**

Unfortunately, I have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ talent for music although I have always wanted to be

a famous singer.

a) a few b) plenty of c) little d) few

**IV.** Write a letter to the Editor of a local newspaper complaining about employing minor

children both boys and girls as full domestic help which is a common feature. Also

advocate the need to stop such practice which deprives the children of their basic rights.

You are Kumar/Nita, B-30, Mayur Vihar, Phase-II, Delhi. **( 5 MARKS )**

**OR**

You recently came across an advertisement by A New Dimension, Bangalore, which offers

various bridge courses in Creative Writing for students of Class X. You are Prakash/Pratishtha

of B 905, Smart Homes, Jayanagar, Bangalore, interested in pursuing a course during your

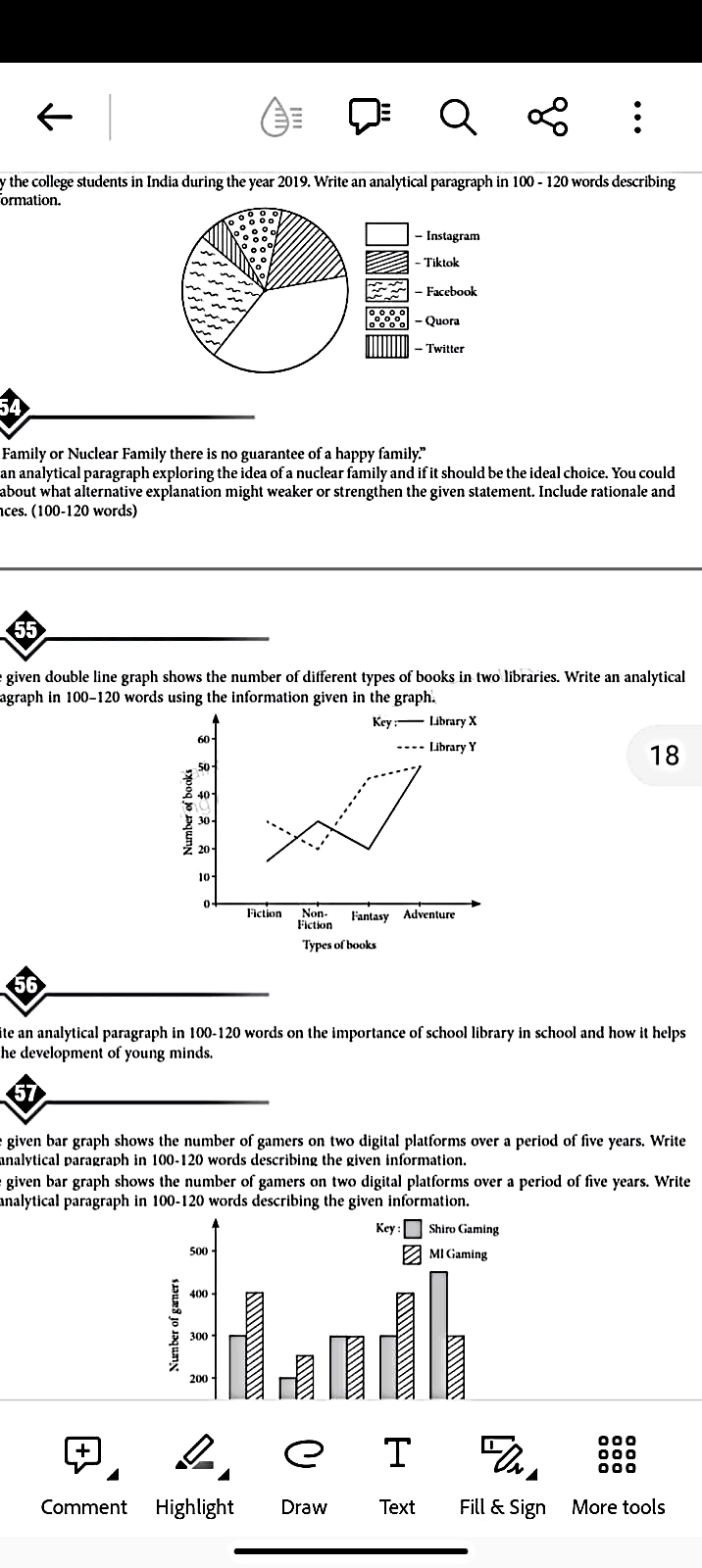
summer break.

Write a letter enquiring about the course details. (100-120 words)

**V.** The given double line graph shows the number of different types of books in two libraries.

Write an analytical paragraph in 100 – 120 words using the information given in the graph.

**( 5 MARKS )**



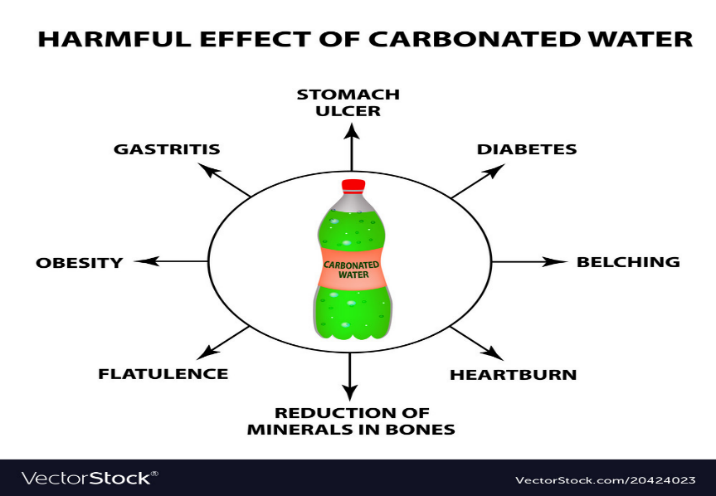
**OR**

**Read the following lines on the harmful effects of carbonated drinks.**

According to a health report, the soft carbonated drinks are harmful to health. A latest

research has revealed that it is not safe for children. Unfortunately, children are addicted to

soft drinks nowadays.



Write an analytical paragraph in 100-120 words on ‘Harmful Effects of Soft Drinks’.

**SECTION C- LITERATURE**

**VI. Attempt ANY TWO of three extracts given. (5 x 2 = 10)**

**A**. If ever you should go by chance

To jungles in the east;

And if there should to you advance

A large and tawny beast,

If he roars at you as you’re dyin’

You’ll know it is the Asian Lion…

i) What is the poet’s tone in the extract?

1. Thoughtful 2. Humorous 3. Reflective 4. Funny 5. Argumentative

Select the appropriate option.

a) 2 and 3 b) 2 and 4 c) 2 and 5 d) 1 and 5

ii) Find the trait that would help the reader to identify the animal in the extract?

a) To go to the jungles of east. b) Large and Tawny

c) Make you die by roaring d) You may meet him by chance.

iii) The word **‘dyin’** as used in the poem is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

a) Allusion b) Anaphora c) Poetic licence d) Metaphor

iv) Select the sentence in which the word ‘advance’ is used in a similar manner as the 3rd line

of the extract.

a) Her salary was paid to her in advance.

b) Soldiers had to advance as per the orders.

c) You need to be advanced in your approach.

d) Too much protein in diet may advance the ageing process.

v) Complete the analogy about the trait of the animal in the extract.

Grey : Mice :: Tawny : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**B**. Writing in a diary is a really strange experience for someone like me. Not only because I’ve

never written anything before, but also because it seems to me that later on neither I nor

anyone else will be interested in the musings of a thirteen-year-old schoolgirl. Oh well, it

doesn’t matter. I feel like writing, and I have an even greater need to get all kinds of things

off my chest. ‘Paper has more patience than people.’ I thought of this saying on one of those

days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands,

bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out. I finally stayed where I was,

brooding: Yes, paper does have more patience, and since I’m not planning to let anyone else

read this stiff-backed notebook grandly referred to as a ‘diary’, unless I should ever find a

real friend, it probably won’t make a bit of difference.

i) Why was writing in a diary a strange experience for Anne?

1. She had never written anything before.

2. She didn’t know how to write.

3. Neither she nor anyone else would be interested in it.

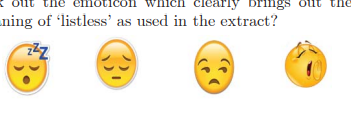
4. She had to get it off her chest.

a) Option 1 only b) Option 2 only.

c) Option 3 and 4 only d) Option 4 only.

ii) Pick out the emoticon which clearly brings out the meaning of ‘listless’ as used in the

extract



(i) (ii) (iii) (iv)

(a) Option (i) (b) Option (ii) (c) Option (iii) (d) Option (iv)

iii) If the diary were a ‘real friend’, what qualities would Anne expect it to have?

Pick the option that lists these correctly.

1. optimistic 2. good listener 3. confidant

4. energetic 5. non-judgemental 6. outgoing

7. ambitious

(a) 1 and 4 (b) 5, 6 and 7 (c) 2, 3 and 5 (d) 3 and 7

iv) What according to the extract was the reason for Anne believing in her diary the most?

a) Diary had a password.

b) Diary would patiently listen to whatever she said.

c) Diary will not allow anyone else to read it.

d) Diary was locked in the vault.

v) Explain, ‘Paper had more patience than people’.

a) Paper goes through many difficult processes when it is made.

b) People can write their emotions on paper and it does not get exhausted of listening to

people’s feelings.

c) People tear papers when they get angry but it remains calm.

d) People gossip for hours together but paper doesn’t.

**C**. He dropped his legs to stand on the green sea. His legs sank into it He screamed with fright

and attempted to rise again flapping his wings. But he was tired and weak with hunger and

he could not rise, exhausted by the strange exercise. His feet sank into the green sea,

and then his belly touched it and he sank no further. He was floating on it and around him

his family was screaming praising him and their beaks were offering him scraps of dog fish.

*(Two Stories About Flying)*

i) How did the seagull feel when his belly touched the green sea?

ii) Why was he so scared to dive?

a) because it was his last flight b) because he was sick

c) because he had no legs d) because it was his first flight

iii) An antonym for the word ‘scrap’ is:

a) whole b) piece c) chunk d) bits

iv) Complete the following analogy correctly with a word from extract:

abandon : reclaim :: energized : \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Clue : Just like to abandon is an antonym of to reclaim, similarly energized is an antonym

of ..)

v)Why did his family praise him?

a) because he successfully made his first flight

b) because he caught a fish

c) because he grabbed his own food

d) none of the above

**VII. Answer ANY FOUR of the following in about 40 to 50 words. (3 x 4 = 12)**

i) What does Nelson Mandela thank the international leaders for?

ii) What made the speaker term it as ‘an easy flight’ in ‘The Black Aeroplane’? Did his

predictions come true?

iii) What message does the poet want to give through the poem, ‘Amanda’?

iv) What is the story behind the origin of the people of Coorg?

v) Elaborate on the idea that one should learn to accept and let go and not stick to something

that we cannot have, with reference to the poem, ‘The Ball Poem’.

**VIII. Answer ANY TWO of the following in 40 to 50 words. (3 x 2 = 6)**

i) Why was ‘the strange scientist strongly suspected of having had a hand in the burglary at

the clergyman’s house? *(Footprints without Feet)*

ii) The story ‘A Triumph of Surgery’ is a powerful example of the importance of saying

‘No’. Explain.

iii) What are the subtle ways in which the lady manages to deceive Horace Danby into

thinking she is the lady of the house? (*A Question of Trust)*

**IX.** **Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 100 to 200 words. (6 x 1 = 6)**

i) Describe Lencho’s qualities in light of his faith in God. Was Lencho’s reaction towards

the post office employees justified? Elaborate.

ii) Rajvir felt too excited on reaching Assam while Pranjol showed least interest in his

excitement. What could be the reason behind this ? Do you think it is appropriate on

Pranjol’s part to react like this? Justify you answer with reason.

*(Glimpses of India)*

**X.** **Answer ANY ONE of the following questions in about 100 to 200 words. (6 x 1 = 6)**

i) Looking back at the story, when do you think Ausable thought up his plan for getting rid of

Max? Do you think he had worked out his plan in detail right from the beginning? Or did

he make up a plan taking advantage of events as they happened?

*(The Midnight Visitor)*

ii) ‘The Thief’s Story’ is an in-depth study of the human mind. Discuss.

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