

8. Trees are being cut daily. Forests are being destroyed to provide space for houses, industries and roads. All this is greatly harming the environment. In an article for your school magazine, describe in 100-150 words, the harms caused by deforestation and the steps to be taken to check it.

Ans.

### THE HARMS OF DEFORESTATION

Deforestation means clearing the forests by cutting down or burning trees in a large number. This is done to build homes, roads, bridges, etc., for the comforts and needs of rising population. It has certainly harmful effects on the environment as well as our lives. In the absence of trees which breathe out oxygen, the atmosphere gets more polluted and hotter than before, leading to global warming. Global warming results in freak droughts, floods and storms that cause heavy damage to crops, property and life in general. Trees provide much-needed wood and medicinal material. When they are cut down, the poor people are badly hit. Trees also check soil erosion. When there is no check on soil erosion fertile lands go barren and food production is badly hit.

Therefore, we must take immediate steps to check deforestation. If we need to cut trees in some areas, we should plant more in others. Plants around fields should be grown. People should be encouraged not to use wood for cooking. Alternative fuels should be provided. Some sorts of legal bans on cutting trees should be introduced and implemented strictly.

9. In India we face a common scene of a large family living in unhealthy conditions. Write an article in 100-150 words on how increase in population leads to reduced availability of health services and deteriorating sanitary conditions.

Ans.

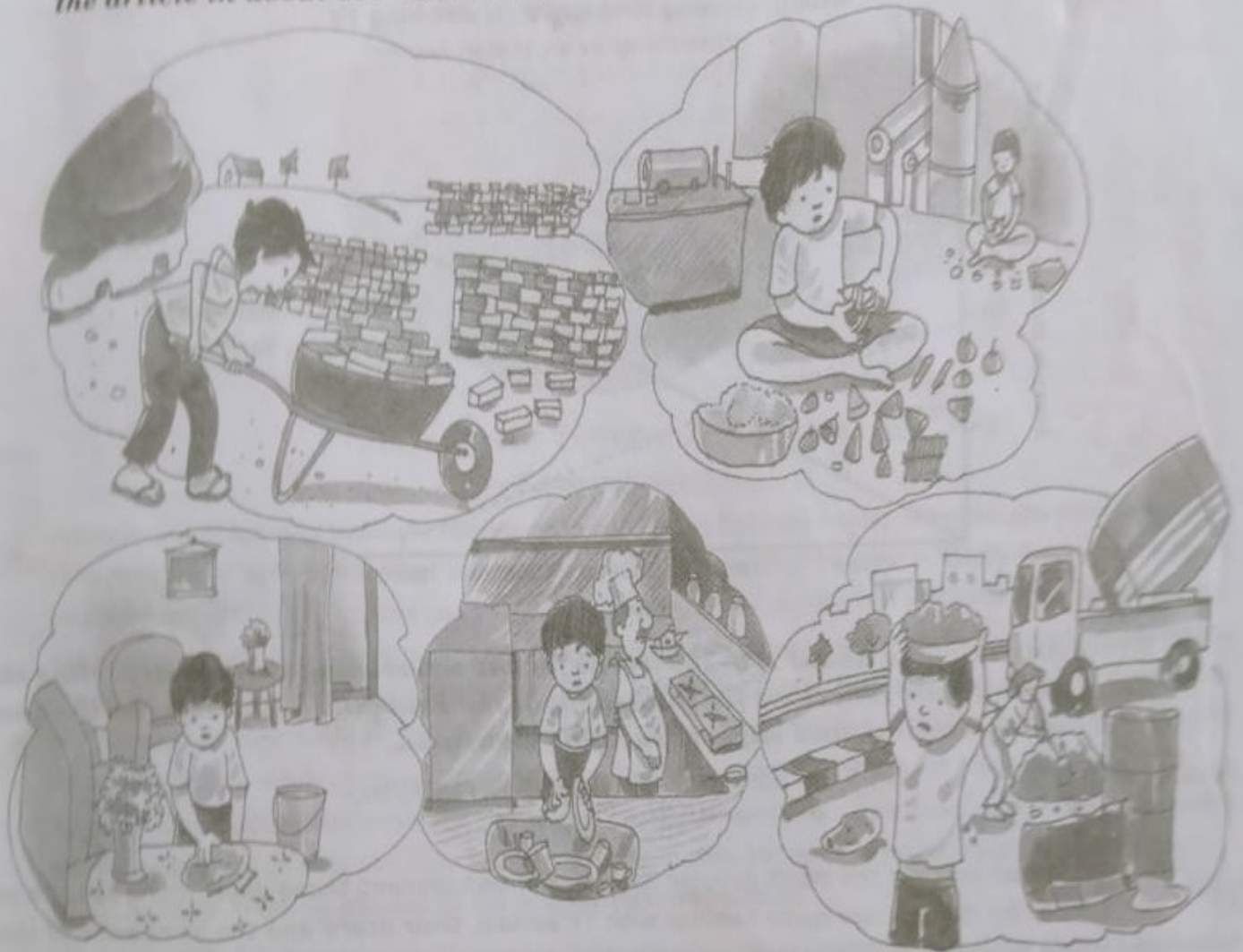
### OVERPOPULATION AND UNHEALTHY CONDITIONS

Overpopulation is the major threat that the nation is facing today. If we can't put a hold on our bursting population, India will overtake China within thirty years. It will become the most populous country in the world. The population explosion has made a mockery of all our plans, developments and achievements. More and more people bring more and more poverty and miseries. The growing population is degrading the environment and the living standards of the people. India has crossed a billion mark several years ago. We produce an Australia every year. More people means more mouths to feed. How will India feed its ever increasing population? People are increasing but the arable land, forests and natural resources are shrinking fast. And what about the health services? The less said the better. It will become increasingly difficult to provide ideal health services to so many people. Forests and green belts are disappearing. The environment and the ecology is being systematically destroyed. Providing shelters to so many people is a huge problem. Extremely unhealthy and unhygienic conditions prevail in all the metros of India.

The Government must find out ways and means to control the rising population. China has imposed the one child system with wonderful success. They have freezed the population. Why can't India? Anyone having more than one child must be heavily taxed. Those who cross the limit must be debarred from the public services. The family planning programme must be implemented in its true spirit.

S No 2

10. Gopal saw young children engaged in the following activities. He is pained to see the exploitation of children and decides to write an article on their plight. As Gopal, write the article in about 100-150 words.



Ans.

### THE PLIGHT OF CHILD LABOUR

(By Gopal)

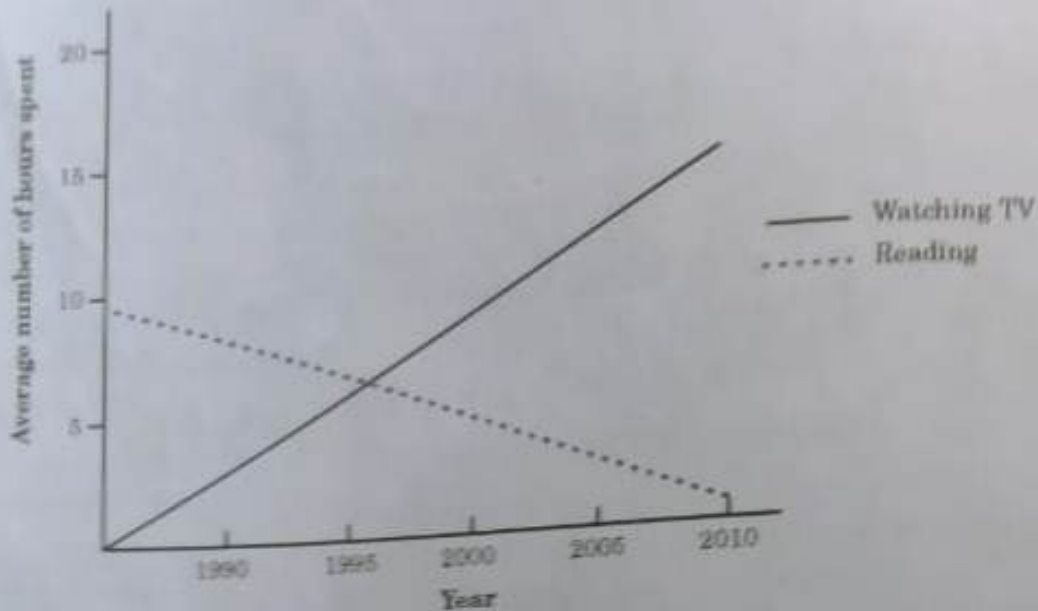
The evil of child labour is rampant in our society. It is a blot on the name of our socialist society. The other day I happened to watch some children engaged in odd jobs. It disturbed me a lot. These children live and work in deplorable and inhuman conditions. They are made to do hard labour. They are underpaid and exploited. They work in homes, restaurants, factories, building sites etc. They are made to work hard for 10 to 12 hours everyday. They are hardly provided any nutritious meals.

The government has passed laws against engaging child labour in hazardous industries. But the laws are not properly implemented. The greed and selfish motive of the poor parents is also at fault. They let their children work to supplement their income. These children need attention and care. They deserve a better childhood. The society must look after them and educate them.

S No 3

11. You are Rohan/Rohini. You came across the following graph showing the time spent on watching TV and on reading in an Indian family.

Graph showing time spent on watching TV and on reading in an Indian family



Write an article in about 100–150 words for the school magazine interpreting the data, giving your reactions for the benefit of the students. Emphasize on the need to promote reading, and suggest suitable measures.

Ans.

#### IMPACT OF TV HABITS ON READING

(By Rohan/Rohini)

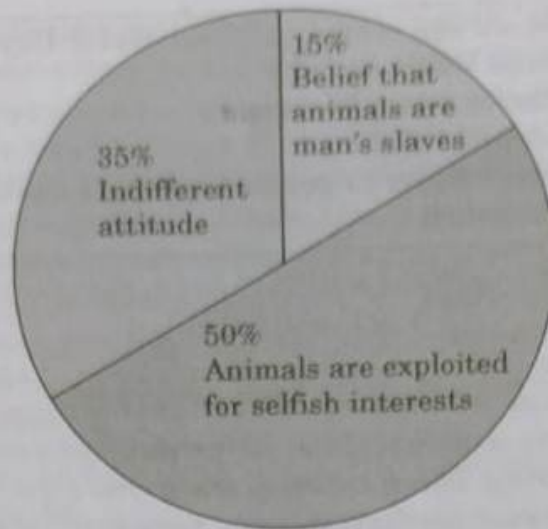
Television has become the most popular source of entertainment these days. Young children are fascinated by it. They are quite familiar with TV serials, their stars and the intricacies of their plots. The greatest casualty is of course reading.

A study of the graph showing the time spent on watching TV and on reading amply supports my contention. Twenty years ago a kid would spend 9-10 hours daily on reading. The number of hours devoted to reading have steadily declined and reached the pathetic figure of two hours a day. On the other hand, TV watching which occupied only two hours then now holds us captive for 8 to 10 hours per day.

The need of the hour is to promote reading habits among students. A love for reading adventure stories, science fiction, books of travel etc. has to be cultivated. Children's magazines may help to develop and sustain their tastes. Parents must exercise restraint on themselves. They are role models for their children. They must read books instead of watching TV, thereby setting an example for their children.

12. You are Ramesh/Ranjini. You are a member of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in your locality. The following pie-chart reflects the attitude of the people towards animals. Write an article in about 100–150 words for publication in the forthcoming issue of the magazine 'The Week' on how animals are being treated and what can be done to prevent it.

S No 4



Ans.

PREVENTION OF ILL-TREATMENT TO ANIMALS  
(By Ramesh/Ranjini)

Animals are ill-treated because fifteen percent of people believe that animals are man's slaves. Fifty per cent of them believe that animals are exploited for selfish interests. Thirty-five per cent have an indifferent attitude. They are used for carrying heavy loads and also as a means of transport. They are killed and their skin hide is sold in the market for money. They are hunted for fun and amusement. Poachers kill various animals for their skin, bones, horns and teeth. They are kept caged in zoos. They are deprived of their habitat and denied freedom of movement. Worst of all is their captivity in the circus where they are trained to amuse people. Thus man exploits animals for his selfish interest. An enlightened approach is needed to prevent cruelty to animals. Laws should be made to prevent the ill-treatment of animals. Sale of animals' skin, bones etc should be banned. Last but not the least, animals must be allowed to live in their natural habitat.

13. Shobhita / Shobhit Arya recently came across several news reports regarding the acute water shortage that the country is likely to face during summers. On the occasion of the World Water Day, she / he decides to express her / his views on the grave situation, the causes behind the crisis and also her / his suggestions in an article for publication in a magazine. Using the inputs given below and your own ideas, write Shobhita's/Shobhit's article in about 100–150 words.



Conserve water—Remember every drop is precious



Country faces worst ever—water crisis—Water table sinking—residents get water only for half an hour a day—parched summer ahead!

How we can celebrate World Water Day.

- ▶ Ensure water security
- ▶ Go for water harvesting
- ▶ Use less water
- ▶ Store water in ponds, tanks and aquifers
- ▶ Recycle it

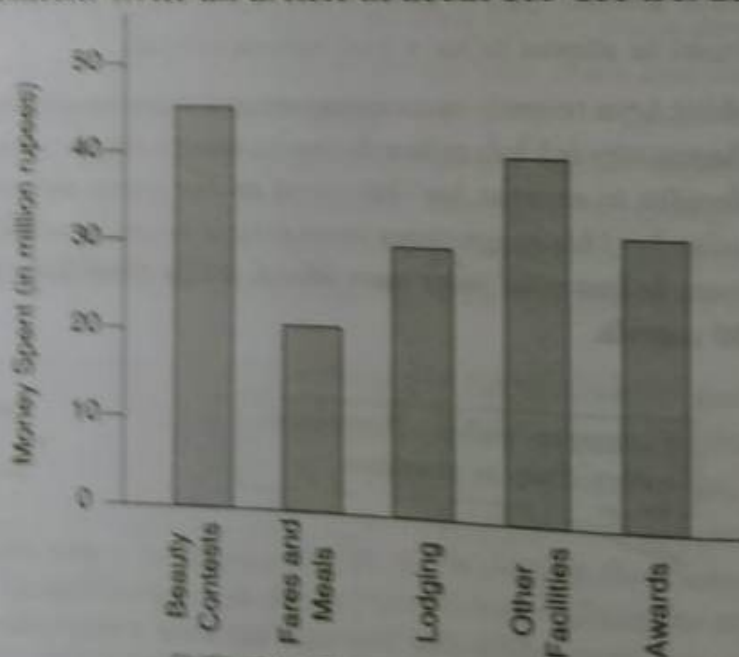


Ans.

**CONSERVING WATER TO OVERCOME SHORTAGE**  
(By Shobhita/Shobhit)

We celebrate World Water Day to propagate the importance of water in our life and the reality of conservation, proper use and checking wastage. The first step is to use less water. We must avoid wasting water. Every drop is precious. Conservation of water thus deserves top priority. Next comes water harvesting. During the rainy season more than 70% of rainwater goes waste or flows into the sea through overflowing rivers. Rainwater harvesting ensures supply of pure water throughout the year. Proper storage facilities should be built and kept neat and clean. The rainwater can be stored in ponds, tanks and aquifers. It can be used for washing and bathing. Separate portions can be earmarked where the animals can easily drink water and lie in the shade. Calwater harvesting can restore the sinking watertable. Another important and effective means of conserving water is by recycling of water. We must purify the dirty water of drains and sewers. This will not only give us fine compost for our crops, but also release water of potable quality. The process of recycling of used water has been adopted successfully in many cities. I am confident that if the above measures are adopted sincerely and in right earnest, the nation will be able to ensure water availability.

14. Mala gets up one morning and learns that her country has won the Miss Universe contest. She is horrified when she looks at the chart showing the amount of money spent by the country on the event. She decides to write an article for a magazine "Sunshine" on the futility of such contests. Write an article in about 100-150 words.



Ans.

**FUTILITY OF BEAUTY CONTESTS**  
(By Mala)

First of all, I want to say that such contests are futile exercises. They are a sheer waste of money.

S- No 6

Crores of rupees are squandered on these meaningless events. I pause to ask: What benefit does the country as a whole derive from them? There is no answer to this question.

Let us analyse the figures. Almost 5 crore rupees are spent on just holding the event and another 3 crores are spent on the fares and meals of the participants. Lodgings and other facilities cost about 5 crores and the awards cost another 1 crore. A simple computation shows that 15 crore rupees are spent on this superficial and glamorous event without any returns to the common man. Isn't it a sheer wastage of national wealth in a poor country like India?

Worse still is the attitude of the educated class. The middle class people are most vocal. But they actively support these contests. They feel proud if an Indian participant wins the contest. However, I feel that the same amount can be used in a better way for relief, rehabilitation and development work in the country.

I am confident your readers will understand my point. I hope they will raise their voice to protest against this national wastage.

### EXERCISE

[Based on Verbal Stimulus]

1. You are Arun / Arushi. You find that the atmosphere is full of smoke and suspended particulate matter. Environmental pollution has caused many problems. **Write an article on environmental pollution in about 100-150 words for your school magazine.**
2. You are Monica / Mukesh. You find fast food joints overcrowded. People find fast foods tasty and cheap and readily available. They do not bother about its damaging effects on their health. **Write an article in about 100-150 words on the health hazards caused by fast foods.**
3. You are Deepak / Deepika. Everyday you watch schoolchildren carrying heavy schoolbags on their backs. Their bags are getting heavier day by day instead of becoming lighter. **Write an article in about 100-150 words expressing your ideas about making schoolbags lighter. You may use the following hints:**

- heavy schoolbags: chronic back pain
- not easy to carry on back
- lockers in school—school books/classwork notebooks
- only homework to be carried home
- use of E-books and computers

4. Crafts Melas are a wonderful way of acquainting people with our cultural heritage. You recently visited the Crafts Mela at Suraj Kund, Haryana. **Write an article in about 100-150 words on what you saw there.** You are Varsha / Vineet.
5. Government has started the **Ladli Scheme** in the government schools to encourage education of the girls. **Write an article on the scheme and its benefits not only for the girls but also for the society.** You are Ravi / Rashmi. (Word limit: 100-150 words)
6. You are Sunil / Shailja of Modern School, New Delhi. As a part of school outreach programme you visited an old home near the banks of the river Yamuna. You talked to some of the old people there. You were emotionally disturbed to see their miserable state, dejected looks, helplessness and isolation. **Write an article in about 100-150 words on 'The Plight of the Aged in Old Homes.'** Offer suggestions for improvement of their lot.