

# Unit 15

## Tours and Travels

### Objectives:

After the completion of this unit, you will–

- read, understand and enjoy stories.
- narrate stories.
- summarise texts.
- ask and answer questions.

### Overview:

Lesson 1: Travelling to a Village in Bangladesh

Lesson 2: Arriving in the Orient

Lesson 3: Imaginary Travel

Lesson 4: The Wonders of Vilayet

### Answer Key

## Lesson 1: Travelling to a Village in Bangladesh

### 1. Warm-up activity:

- In a group discuss the last journey you made out of your village/town/city.
- Now share the following introduction with a friend.



2. *Bangladesh, despite a fast paced urbanization, still remains predominantly rural. How many villages are there now? Sixty four thousands or more? Have the villages changed much over the years? How did they respond to the onslaught of urbanization or march of development or growth in education? Write down your answer. In the following extract, we will see a Bangladeshi village and the villagers through the eyes of an English professor from England who taught in Dhaka university twice-first between 1947 and 1951 and again in 1972.*



### 2. Read the text below and answer the questions that follow:

We set out on the evening of July 21st. Food was scarce in the village so Abdul packed a suitcase with two loaves and some tea and tins of milk, cheese and jam. We travelled Intermediate class in a cross-country train not uncomfortably crowded, through a country of shadowy loveliness. It was a moonlit night of broken soft clouds; the land was mostly under water, with paddy and coco-palms growing from it, and a few raised cart-tracks and groups of cottages islanded among clumps of bushes, all reflected among shadows. Here and there was the red glow of a cooking-fire or the lantern of a fisherman's boat in open water. At dawn we reached Sonaimuri, a small canal-side station among wide fields, from there we had eight more miles by country boat, some of it along the canal, some of it across the flooded paddy fields. I was looking forward to that tranquil water-journey in the early morning, and tranquil it must have been, for I fell instantly asleep and knew no more till we reached the landing-ghat at Khorshed's house, in a blaze of sunlight. It turned out that his letter saying that he was bringing me was still on its way, but they rallied to the crisis and gathered round to make me welcome, though as none of them spoke any English they could only stare and laugh and offer me coco-nut juice.

Khorshed set me up a camp, a wooden bed, chair and table in a thatched bamboo outhouse. It was a lovely spot among bamboo and coco-palms, facing a tank where fireflies wove intricate dances at night. He put his own bed beside it for protection, and there I stayed, holding permanent court from dawn to bedtime. Within village memory-and that went back for some two centuries, I was the first European to go there: it was too remote even for a District Commissioner to pass through. Also since I was a woman, the women could come (at different times from the men) to look at me without losing their characters. People kept coming and coming: only the rains and the fact that few of them were rich enough to have boats prevented them from coming from ten miles round. When he saw that they would not stop coming Khorshed fixed some curtains round the bed so that I could crawl behind them

when I was tired of being looked at, like a zoo animal into its sleeping hut. Even then the little hut would fill up with women and children. Children followed when I went out, and when Khorshed remonstrated a small boy pleaded, “Don’t send us away! After she’s gone not even a strange bird will come to the village.” I stood up to the celebrity for the two days we had planned, but it was enough.

*[A.G Stock, Memoirs of Dacca University 1947-1951, 1973]*



**3. Put T (true) or F (false) beside the following statements based on the above extract.**

- a. The author carried some food with her because she disliked local food.
- b. She travelled to Sonaimuri by train.
- c. She lived in a tent during her stay in the village.
- d. She was the first European to visit the village.
- e. Khorshed’s father had a brick-built house.

**4. Answer the following questions briefly:**

- a. When and why did the author fall asleep during her journey?
- b. What trees and insects are mentioned in the passage?
- c. Why did the small boy plead, “After she’s gone not even a strange bird will come to the village”?
- d. Why was there a crisis when the author arrived?
- e. Why did the women visit her?
- f. Find three evidences which suggest that the narrator enjoyed her visit.
- g. Why does the narrator compare herself to a sleeping zoo animal?
- h. What is the general tone of the passage?

**5. Write a short paragraph describing your first visit to a place away from home.**

**6. Explain the significance of the statement-“I stood up to the celebrity for the two days we had planned but it was enough.” What feeling is implied here- amusement or mild annoyance?**

**7. What do the following phrases mean in the passage?**

not uncomfortably crowded; knew no more; rallied to the crisis; tried to being looked at; a blaze of sunlight; of broken soft clouds; fireflies wove intricate dances; clumps of bushes; holding permanent court; kept coming and coming.

**8. Find the antonyms for the following:**

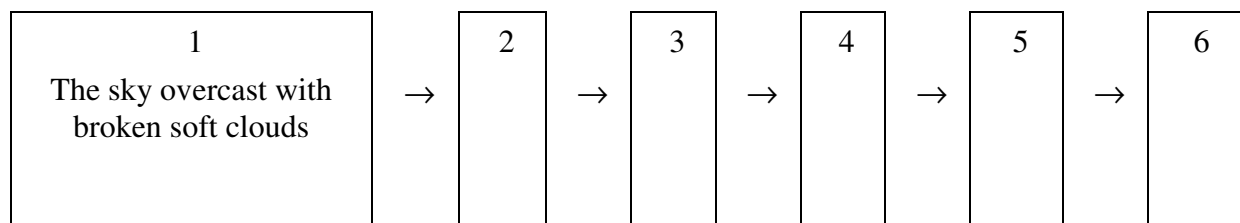
- a. gather
- b. weave
- c. intricate
- d. permanent
- e. remote
- f. remonstrate
- g. tranquil

**9. Join the pair of sentences in each line to make one sentence using the expressions given in the bracket.**

- a. He made fixed a tent. He wanted me to get some sleep. (so that)
- b. None of them spoke English. They welcomed me. (though)
- c. It was dark. He lit a lantern. (as)
- d. I was a woman. Women visited me freely. (since)

**10. Answer the following questions briefly:**

- a. When and why did the author fall asleep during her journey?
- b. Based on your reading of the passage, make short notes in each of the boxes in the flow chart showing the natural backdrops of the writer’s journey. (No. 1 has been done for you.)



**11. Write a brief summary of the passage in your words.**

**12. Fill in the gaps with suitable words from the box. (Make any grammatical changes necessary). There are more words in the box than you need.**

species	extinction	accelerate	conscious	importance	naturally
hearing	beautify	creation	widespread	habitat	unnatural

Birds are our (a) ——— wealth, They are helpful and useful to us in many ways. They have increased the (b) ——— of nature. We sleep at night and rise early in the morning (c) ——— the sweet songs or different birds. But birds are now under the threat of (d) birds will (e) ——— this process. Being a (f) ——— person, we should not be a party destroying the most beautiful (g) ——— of God. Besides hunting, (h) ——— use of chemical and pesticides cause sterility and mass death. We know that like all other (i) ———, birds a important for maintaining ecological balance, So, for the sake of mankind, we should kind to the birds and ensure them a safe (j) ———.

**13. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.**

Modern life (a) \_\_\_\_\_ much of transport. We can very well (b) \_\_\_\_\_ how important transport is when it is (c) \_\_\_\_\_ by natural calamities or during socio \_\_\_\_\_ political crisis. In fact transport has made it (d) \_\_\_\_\_ for us to reach places previously (e) \_\_\_\_\_. It has (f) \_\_\_\_\_ helped the flourish of trade and commerce and to (g) \_\_\_\_\_ new knowledge and ideas. (h) \_\_\_\_\_ transport has (i) \_\_\_\_\_ friendship and understanding among nations and people (j) \_\_\_\_\_ the globe.

## Lesson 2 : Arriving in the Orient

### 1. Warm-up activity:

Discuss the following questions in pairs.

- Have you ever travelled by boat, launch or steamer along a river? Write down your experience in 500-600 words.
- Before the beginning of air travel, people travelling between continents had to do so by ships. What do you think were the pleasures and the dangers of those journeys?

*During the colonial era (1757-1947) the English came to India in great numbers in search of fortune. Many young women in quest of husbands also travelled to India. George Orwell (1903-1950) spent a part of his early life in Burma (now Myanmar), -then an English colony-serving as a police officer. In the following extract taken from his *Burmese Days* (1934), we get the picture of the journey of a young English woman Elizabeth, across the sea by ship and her arrival in Burma. She has a typical colonial mind-set, and fantasizes a glorious life in India. Her attitude to the colony is also characteristic of the colonizer's psyche that liked the land and the landscape but was dismissive of the people-called 'natives'-and their way of life.*



### 2. Now read the text.

Elizabeth spent thirty pounds on summer frocks and set sail immediately. The ship, heralded by rolling porpoises, ploughed across the Mediterranean and down the Canal into a sea of staring, enamel-like blue, then out into the green wastes of the Indian Ocean, where flocks of flying fish skimmed in terror from the approaching hull. night the waters were phosphorescent, and the wash of the bow was like a moving arrowhead of green fire. Elizabeth 'loved' the life on board ship....



She was going to love India, she knew. She had formed quite a picture of India, from the other passenger's conversation; she had even learned some of the more necessary Hindustani phrases, such as '*idher ao*,' '*jaldi*,' '*sahiblog*,' etc. In anticipation she tasted the agreeable atmosphere of Clubs, with punkahs flapping and bare-footed white turbaned boys reverently salaaming; and maidans where bronze Englishmen with little clipped moustaches galloped to and fro, whacking polo balls. It was almost as nice as being rich, the way people lived in India.

They sailed into Colombo through green glassy waters, where turtles and black snakes floated basking. A fleet of sampans came reaching out to meet the ship, propelled by coal-black men with lips stained redder than blood by betel juice. They yelled and struggled round the gangway while the passengers descended. As Elizabeth and her friends came down, two sampan-wallahs, their prows nosing against the gangway, besought them with yells.

“Don't you go with him, missie! Not with him! Bad wicked man he, not fit taking missie!”

“Don't you listen him lies, missie! Nasty low fellow! Nasty low tricks him playing. Nasty *native* tricks!”

“Ha, ha! He is not native himself! Oh no! Him European man, white skin all same, missie. Ha ha!”

“Stop your bat, you two, or I'll fetch one of you a kick,” said the husband of Elizabeth's friend—he was a planter. They stepped into one of the sampans and were rowed towards the sun-bright quays. And the successful sampan-wallah turned and discharged at his rival a mouthful of spittle which he must have been saving up for a very long time.”

This was the Orient. Scents of coco-nut oil and sandalwood, cinnamon and turmeric, floated across the water on to Mount Lavinia where they bathed in a lukewarm sea that foamed like Coca-Cola. She came back to the ship in the evening, and they reached Rangoon a week later.

North of Mandalay the train, fuelled with wood, crawled at twelve miles an hour across a vast parched plain bounded at its remote edges by blue rings of hills. White egrets stood poised, motionless, like herons, and piles of drying chillis gleamed crimson in the sun. Sometimes a white pagoda rose from the plain like the breast of a supine giantess. The early tropic night settled down, and the train jolted on, slowly, stopping at little stations where barbaric yells sounded from the darkness. Half-naked men with their long hair knotted behind their heads moved to and fro in torchlight, hideous as demons in Elizabeth's eyes. The train plunged into the forest, and unseen branches brushed against the windows. It was about nine o'clock when they reached Kyauktada, where Elizabeth's uncle and aunt were waiting with Mr. Macgregor's car, and with some servants carrying torches. Her aunt came forward and took Elizabeth's shoulders in her delicate, saurian hands.

“I suppose, you are our niece Elizabeth? We are so pleased to see you,” she said, and kissed her.

Mr. Lackersteen peered over his wife's shoulder in the torchlight. He gave a half-whistle, exclaimed, “Well, I'll be damned!” and then seized Elizabeth and kissed her, more warmly than he need have done, she thought. She had never seen either of them before.



### 3. Answer the following questions:

- How did the waters of the Indian Ocean look like during the night?
- What frightened the flocks of flying fish?
- Why did Elizabeth think that she would like India?
- What is polo? Who played the polo?
- What did the sampanwallahs fight for?
- Where did Elizabeth go from Rangoon?
- Did Elizabeth enjoy her stay in Colombo?

### 4. Put T (true) and F (false) beside the following statements based on the above extract.

- Elizabeth unwillingly undertook the sea voyage.
- Her companions were unfriendly.
- Before she got into the Indian Ocean she sailed across the Mediterranean.
- The Indians lived a glamorous life.
- The train journey to Kyauktada was a long one.

### 5. Discuss the following questions:

- What picture of the sea do you find here?
- The narrator is rather critical of the local people. What Evidence do you find of the narrator's disapproval of the local people?
- Narrate the competition between the sampanwallahs.

### 6. Choose the right words from the box to fill the blanks in the sentences given below:

Floated	anticipation	ploughed	skimmed	crawled	gleamed
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- The ship \_\_\_ through the Mediterranean.
- The fish \_\_\_ in terror from the approaching hull.
- In \_\_\_ she imagined the agreeable atmosphere.
- The black snakes \_\_\_ basking.
- The train \_\_\_ at twelve miles an hour.
- Piles of drying chilli \_\_\_ crimson in the sun.

### 7. What colours and spices are mentioned in the passage?

### 8. Give synonyms of the following words:

- delicate
- warmly
- discharge

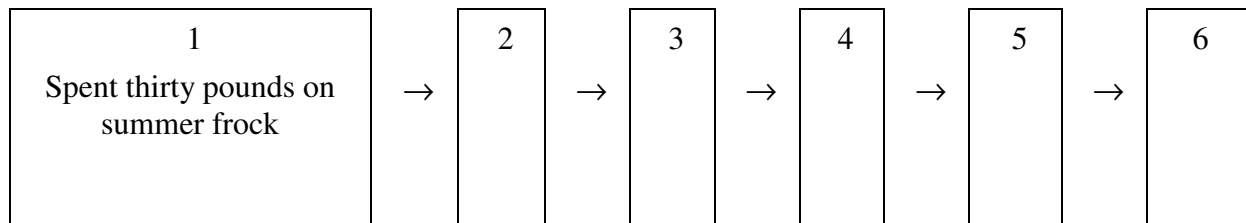


- d. lukewarm
- e. hideous
- f. supine
- g. parched

**9. The narrator has on several occasions compared one thing with another using the word ‘like’. For example, sea foam has been compared to Coca-Cola.**

Find more examples from the text where the word ‘like’ has been used for comparison.

**10. Based on your reading of the passage, make short notes in each of the boxes in the flow chart showing the events of Elizabeth’s voyage to India. (No. 1 has been done for you.)**



**11. Write a brief summary of the passage in your words.**

**12. Fill in the gaps with suitable words from the box. (Make any grammatical changes necessary). There are more words in the box than you need.**

make	build	dig	be	find	history	Well
like	stand	found	religion	suburbs	welfare	Suitable

Though Bangladesh is a small country, it has three world Heritage Sites. The (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Shatgombuj Mosque of Begerhat (b) \_\_\_\_\_ one of them. It is situated in (c) \_\_\_\_\_ of the city of Bagerhat. The mosque was (d) \_\_\_\_\_ during the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Khan Jahan Ali was the (e) \_\_\_\_\_ of it. He was a great (f) \_\_\_\_\_ leader. He did many works for the (g) \_\_\_\_\_ of his people. He made a big lake like tank (h) \_\_\_\_\_ for (i) \_\_\_\_\_ water. Today his mausoleum (j) \_\_\_\_\_ beside the tank.

**13. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.**

For international communication a common language is (a) \_\_\_\_\_. There are many (b) \_\_\_\_\_ for which English has achieved the (c) \_\_\_\_\_ of being that language. Now English has (d) \_\_\_\_\_ the national borders to (e) \_\_\_\_\_ people who speak other languages. It is no longer the (f) \_\_\_\_\_ possession of British or American or other native speakers, but a language that belongs to (g) \_\_\_\_\_ people. This phenomenon has led to a (h) \_\_\_\_\_ variety of English around the world. As more and more people speak English, more and more varieties have (i) \_\_\_\_\_ which are strongly (j) \_\_\_\_\_ by the pronunciation, grammar and idioms of the respective mother tongues.

## Lesson 3 : Imaginary Travel

### 1. Warm-up activity:

- Discuss any travel account that you have read in English or Bengali and the places it describes. Imagine you are walking in a street in London or New York. How is your experience different from that of walking in the roads or streets of your town or city?

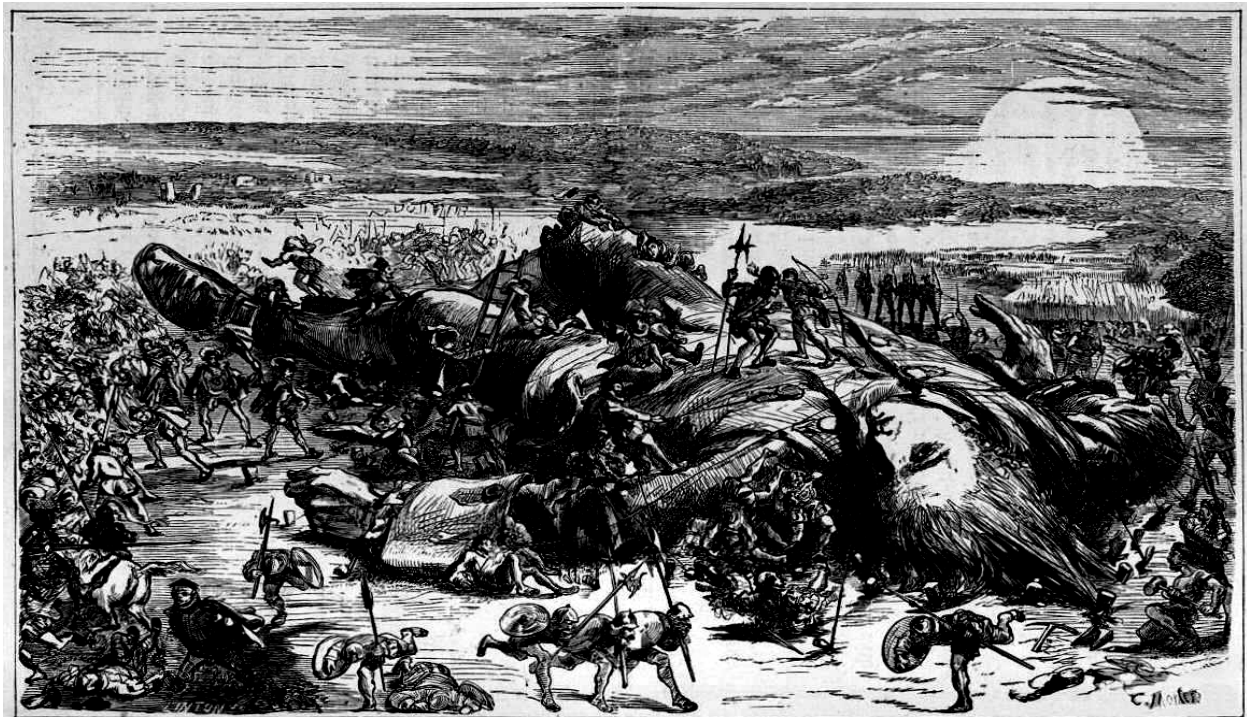
*Travel can be imaginary as well. Authors would sometimes make imaginary voyages to strange places and draw pictures of people and places, manners and morals. Jonathon Swift's (1667-1745) Gulliver's Travels (1726) is an example of imaginary travel. Swift created a fictional traveller named Lamuel Gulliver, a ship doctor who visited the lands of the Lilliputs and Brobdingnags and the island of Laputa. These are all fictitious places inhabited by imaginary people. The travels here, however, carry a serious purpose. They reveal truths about human nature. For example, even today human life is poisoned by evils such as racism, religious extremism, bigotry etc. Gulliver during his visit to the land of the Lilliputs-who are humans, only about six inches tall-discover how strongly prejudiced the Lilliputians are about certain things and how these help nurse hatred and foment fratricidal war. Gulliver, a man of average height, gets a new insight into the pettiness of human nature when he arrives at the land of Lilliputs who are small not only in size but also in their thoughts and perceptions.*



### 2. Now read the following passage.

One morning, about a fortnight after I had obtained my Liberty, Reldresal, Principal Secretary (as they style him) of private Affairs, came to my House, attended only by one Servant. He ordered his Coach to wait at a Distance and desired I would give him an Hour's Audience; which I readily consented to, on Account of his Quality, and Personal Merits, as well as of the many good Offices he had done me during my Sollicitations at Court. I offered to lie down, that he might the more conveniently reach my Ear: but he chose rather to let me hold him in my Hand during our Conversation. He began with Compliments on my Liberty; said, he might pretend to some Merit in it; but, however, added that if it had not been for the present Situation of things at Court, perhaps I might not have obtained it so soon. For, said he, as flourishing a Condition as we appear to be in to Foreigners, we labour, under two mighty Evils; a violent faction at home, and the Danger of an invasion by a most potent Enemy from abroad. As to the first, you are to understand, that for above seventy Moons past, there have been two struggling Parties in this Empire, under the Names of Tramecksan, and Slamecksan, from the high and low Heels on their Shoes, by which they distinguish themselves.

It is alleged indeed, that the high Heels are most agreeable to our ancient Constitution: But however this be, his Majesty hath determined to make use of only low Heels in the Administration of the Government, and all Offices in the Gift of the Crown; as you cannot but observe; and particularly, that his Majesty's Imperial Heels are lower atleast by a Drurr than any of his Court (Drurr is a Measure about the fourteenth Part of an Inch). The Animosities between these two Parties run so high that they will neither eat, nor drink, nor talk with each other. We compute the Tramecksan, or High-Heels, to exceed us in Number; but the Power is wholly on our Side. We apprehend his Imperial Highness, the Heir to the Crown, to have some Tendency towards the High-Heels; at least we can plainly discover one of his Heels higher than the other; which gives him a Hobble in his Gait. Now, in the midst of these intestine Disquiets, we are threatened with an Invasion from the Island of Blefuscu, which is the other great Empire of the Universe, almost as large and powerful as this of his Majesty. Foras to what we have heard you affirm, that there are other Kingdoms and States in the World inhabited by human Creatures as large as yourself, our Philosophers are in much



Doubt; and would rather conjecture that you dropt from the Moon, or one of the Stars; because it is certain, that an hundred Mortals of your Bulk, would, in a short Time, destroy all the Fruits and Cattle of his Majesty's Dominions: besides, our Histories of six Thousand Moons make no Mention of any other Regions, than the two great Empires of Lilliput and Blefuscu. Which two mighty Powers have, as I was going to tell you, been engaged in a most obstinate War for six and thirty Moons past. It began upon the following Occasion. It is allowed on all Hands, that the primitive way of breaking Eggs before we eat them, was upon the larger End; But his present Majesty's Grandfather, while he was a Boy going to eat an Egg, and breaking it according to ancient Practice, happened to cut one of his Fingers. Whereupon the Emperor his Father published an Edict, commanding all his Subjects, upon great Penalties, to break the smaller End of their Eggs. The People so highly resented this Law, that our Histories tell us, there have been six Rebellions raised on that Account; wherein one Emperor lost his Life, and another his Crown. These civil Commotions were constantly fomented by the Monarchs of Blefuscu; and when they were quelled, the Exiles always fled for Refuge to that Empire. It is computed that eleven Thousand Persons have, at several Times, suffered Death, rather than submit to break their Eggs at the smaller End. Many hundred large Volumes have been published upon this Controversy: But the Books of the Big-Indians have been long forbidden, and the whole Party rendered incapable by Law of holding Employments.



### 3. Answer the following questions:

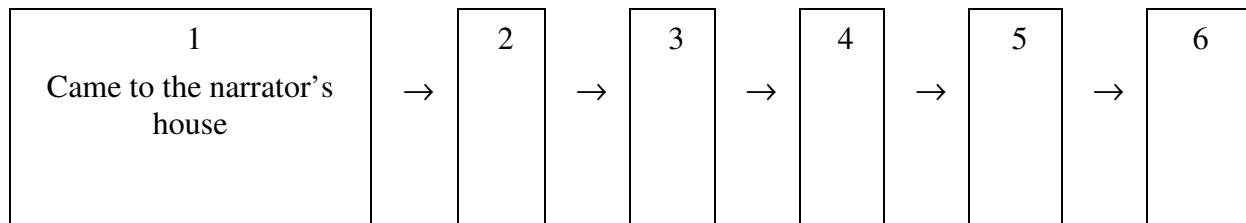
- a. In the extract, who comes to visit Gulliver's house? What is his official position?
  - b. What does he tell Gulliver about his liberty?
  - c. Who are Tramecksan and Slamecksan ? What is the difference between them?
  - d. How long is a Drurr?
  - e. How many people died in the war on breaking eggs?
  - f. Why did the heir to the throne hobble?
4. **Some words have been capitalized in the above extract though they are not capitalized in standard English. Do you have any ideas why?**
  5. **Choose any two lines from the text and rewrite and punctuate them in standard English.**
  6. **What are the two causes of division among the people here? How serious are they? Do you see any reflection of contemporary politics in the extract? Is the narrator critical of the Lilliputians? Has he chosen to laugh at them? Why and how does he ridicule them?**
  7. **What is factionalism? What evidences of factionalism do you find here? What are the bad effects of factionalism?**

**8. Give the contextual meanings of the following words:**

- a. disquiet
- b. heir
- c. conjecture
- d. foment
- e. quell
- f. animosity

**9. List five noun words and five adjectival words from the extract. Now make sentences of your own with them.**

**10. Based on your reading of the passage, make short notes in each of the boxes in the flow chart showing the activities of Reldresal while visiting the narrator. (No. 1 has been done for you.)**



**11. Write a brief summary of the passage in your words.**

**12. Fill in each gap with a suitable word from the box. (Make any grammatical change if necessary.) There are more words in the box than you need.**

embrace	introduce	noticing	introduction	remain	make	friend
reputation	noticeable	make	keep	seldom	interpreted	control

The British have a (a) — for (b) — their emotions private. Some obvious things are (c) —in British behaviour. For example, on public transport a passenger (d) — talksto another. On meeting, people do not (e) — and often simple shake hands on a first (f) —. In theatres, concert halls and often simply shake hands on a first cinemas audiences (g) — quiet during performances. None of these behaviour traits should be (h) — as unfriendliness. If a visitor (i)— the first move to start a conversation, he will find a British citizen rather (j) —.

**13. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.**

Charles karoro (a) \_\_\_ in Nairobi with his wife and children (b) \_\_\_ several years. The prices of the (c) \_\_\_ commodities are very (d) \_\_\_ in Nairobi. But he has to (e) \_\_\_ his family with his (f) \_\_\_ income. Moreover (g) \_\_\_ has to help his brothers (h) \_\_\_ in the villages. He cannot (i) \_\_\_ children to good schools because of his (j) \_\_\_ inability.

## Lesson 4 : The Wonders of Vilayet

### 1. Warm-up activity:

- Discuss in a group any journey you have made to a village/town/city.
- What significant changes have taken place in Bengal (today's Bangladesh) in the field of language and culture since the 19th century?
- Can you find examples of travel writing in English? What are those?

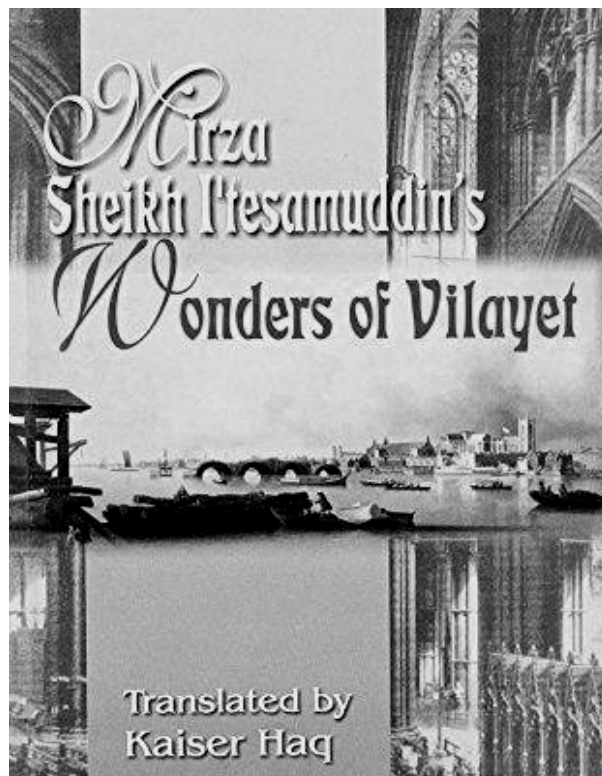
*As countries differ, so do their ways of life and living: How did the people in India and England lay out their houses in the eighteenth century? In the following extract from The Wonders of Vilayet (Vilayet is England in Persian), we get an enchanting picture of the parks, gardens and houses in London including the Queen's Palace. The author also makes references to houses and housing materials used in Bengal at that time. Can you identify some of the significant differences that the author points out? Mirza Sheikh I'tesamuddin, the author of the travelogue visited England in 1765 and recorded his experiences in Persian, the official language of India during the Mughal reign. The book, Shigurf Name-e-Vilayet, was translated into Bangla by the late Professor A B M Habibullah. Dr. Kaiser Haq, Professor of English at Dhaka University and a poet translated the book into English.*



### 2. Now read the text below.

The exterior of the King's palace is neither magnificent nor beautiful. The outer walls are not even plastered. It could easily be passed off as the multi-storied residence of a merchant of Benares. All the mansions in the city are of this sort, but the Queen's palace is very handsome. I was told, however, that the interior of the King's palace is very elegant, and that the suites of rooms and the chambers of the harem are painted an attractive verdigris.

The King's garden, which is outside the city, is very old. It has pleasant walks, lawns, and neatly arranged beds of various shapes - triangles, squares, hexagons and octagons. These are planted with varieties of flowers, green plants, and fruit trees such as the apple, gooseberry, peach, pear, filbert, etc. The garden also uses a special method to grow Indian fruits like the muskmelon, watermelon, cucumber, orange and pomegranate, and Indian flowers like the rose, henna, marigold, tuberose and the cock's-comb flower.



The cold weather in Europe doesn't allow one to grow Indian fruits and flowers in the open. A special kind of house is constructed for the purpose, three sides of which are of brick, while the fourth, which faces south, is made of glass-plates that keep out the cold air but let in the sun's rays. In the cold season stoves are lit in the house for heat, and fruit and flower seeds are sown in troughs filled with mould. The heat of the stoves and the warmth of the sunlight combine to aid the growth of Indian plants. European gardeners grow Eastern fruits in this manner and make a very good profit, charging as much as five rupees for a pomegranate and three for a musk-melon.

The trees along the walks in the King's garden are arranged very tastefully. By cutting the branches many of them have been shaped into human forms, so that at night one may mistake them for real people. It takes many days of work to tailor the trees into these shapes.

The road in front of the Queen's palace is very broad and charming. On one side is the palace, on the other a pond which is part of a park. Deer are kept in the park and the walks in it are lined with shady walnut trees. On Sundays, men and women, old and young, rich and poor, natives and foreigners, all come here to stroll and amuse themselves. In these delightful surroundings a heavy heart is automatically lightened. Sauntering courtesans with lissom figures and amorous maidens with the faces of houris spread a heavenly aura and the visitor's soul becomes a flowering garden.

These fairy-faced ravishers of the heart move with a thousand blandishments and coquetries; the earth is transformed into a paradise, and heaven itself hangs down its head in shame at seeing such beauty.... As soon as I saw this place I involuntarily exclaimed:

If there's a heaven on the face of the earth,

It is this! It is this! It is this!

Brick buildings in Bengal have rooms with high ceilings and large doors and windows, so that there is a soothing current of air in hot weather. It is exactly opposite in Europe. There is extreme cold, frost and snow; the ceilings are low, and the doors and windows small. The roofs are not flat like the roofs of brick buildings in India. Wooden beams and planks are used to build the frame of the roof in the shape of a camel's hump; that is to say, like the slanting thatched roofs of huts in Bengal. But whereas the latter are slightly curved at the end, both slanted halves of European roofs are plain. The frame is then covered with tiles of fired clay or slate. Such roofs last up to two hundred years without repairs, and if they are still intact when the walls have decayed, can be re-utilised. The bricks in the walls are laid with mortar prepared from pulverised stones. Human hair is mixed with the mortar to give added strength to the structure. Houses may be as tall as seven, eight or nine stories, yet the walls are not thicker than a cubit. Consequently the entire building quivers if the wind rises, and strangers may fear for their safety. But there is in reality no cause for fear, though I myself was at first alarmed. The inside walls, instead of being plastered, are lined with wooden planks, which are covered with paper decorated with pretty designs in many colours.

Teak and sal are foreign to Vilayet; houses and ships are built here with oak and walnut. These are light in colour, very sturdy and resistant to white ants and other insects. That is why buildings last so long in this country.



### 3. Answer the following questions:

- a. The narrator was not impressed with the exterior of the King's palace. Why?
- b. What does he say about its interior? How does he describe the Queen's palace?
- c. The author is clearly fascinated by the King's garden. Why?
- d. The narrator mentions a special kind of house which allowed plants to grow in cold weather. What are these houses called? How did they work in the narrator's description and how do they work now?
- e. How many geometrical shapes does the narrator mention in describing the beds in the King's garden? Can you describe them?
- f. Were Eastern fruits available in London when I'tesamuddin visited the city?  
If so, were they produced locally or imported?

**4. Write about the differences between the Indian and the English houses described by the narrator.**

**5. Why was the narrator so fascinated by the road and the park in front of the Queen's palace?**

**6. What makes the narrator describe the park as a 'heaven on earth'?**

**7. Describe how the houses in Europe were built when I'tesamuddin visited it.**

**8. Find out the differences among the following:**

- a. house, mansion, palace
- b. frost, snow, ice
- c. plank, beam, frame

**9. Make a list of flowers and fruits the narrator mentions. How many are unknown to you? Make a Google search and find out their pictures, then write brief description of them.**

**10. Find out the meanings of the following words and make sentences with them:**

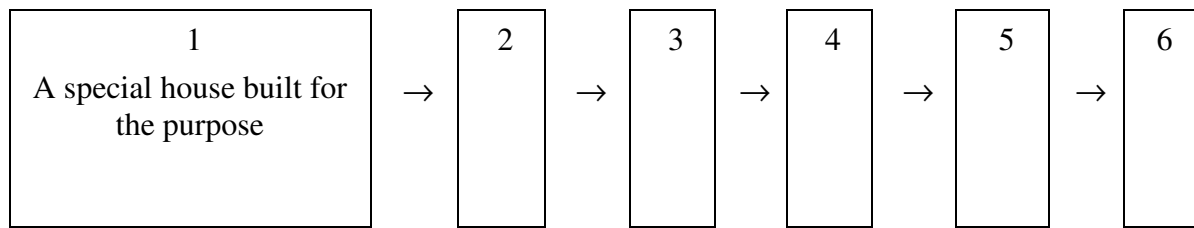
- a. lissome
- b. courtesans
- c. aura
- d. blandishment
- e. curved
- d. slanted
- e. sturdy
- f. quiver

**11. Find antonyms for the following words:**

- a. elegant
- b. broad
- c. soothing
- d. safety
- e. thick



12. Based on your reading of the passage, make short notes in each of the boxes in the flow chart showing the process of producing Indian fruits and flowers in Europe. (No. 1 has been done for you.)



13. Write a brief summary of the passage in your words.

14. Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the box. (Make any grammatical changes if necessary.) There are more words in the box than you need.

chase	row	distance	watch	notice	ride
real	false	races	most	struggle	run

Animals do not race unless they are made to (a) — in some way, though it often seems as if little lambs are running (b) — with each other in the fields in spring. Horses are (c) —, of course. Dogs won't race unless they have something to (d) —and so they are given a hare to run after, either a (e) — one or an imitation one. The (f) — famous boat race in England is between Oxford and Cambridge. It is (g) — over a course on the river Thames, and thousands of people (h) — it. The eight rowers in each boat have a great (i) — and at the end there is usually only a short (j) — between the winners and the losers.

15. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.

10

Housing is one of the (a) \_\_\_ problems of our (b) \_\_\_. Thousands of people in big (c) \_\_\_ like Dhaka and Chittagong well on the footpaths. In rural (d) \_\_\_ also there is an acute (e) \_\_\_ of houses. The cost of construction is (f) \_\_\_ everyday. At present it is very (g) \_\_\_ for the common (h) \_\_\_ to afford the (i) \_\_\_ of construction. This problem needs to be (j) \_\_\_ immediately.



## Answer Key

### Lesson 1

3.

- a. F
- b. T
- c. F
- d. T
- e. F

4.

- a. During the journey, the author fell asleep when she was in the country boat.

- b. In the passage, coconuts, bamboos and coco plams are mentioned as trees and fireflies are mentioned as an insect.
- c. The small boy pleaded, “After she’s gone not even a strange bird will come to the village” as he might believe that the author could not neglect the attraction of the village and she must get there back.
- d. When the author arrived there first, there was a ‘crisis’ that when their boat reached Khorshed’s ghat, he was still on his way or absent and the villagers started gathering round her.
- e. The women visited the author as they were curious. Moreover, the author was a woman visiting the village as the first European.
- f. I think the narrator enjoyed her visit as she describes the time of her journey ‘It was a moonlight night of broken soft clouds’. In another place she describes, ‘...the tranquil water journey in the early morning, and tranquil it must have been, I fell instantly asleep’. We also find that she describes about the location of her camp, ‘It was a lovely spot among bamboo and coco-plam, facing a tank where fireflies wove intricate dances at night.’
- g. When the narrator reached the village, the curious villagers started coming to visit her. They were coming and coming and there was a huge gathering around her. She got tired of being looked at. Some curtains were fixed around her bed. In this context, the narrator compares herself to a sleeping zoo animal.
- h. The general tone of the passage is the beauty of nature and instinctive behaviour of the general people of rural Bangladesh.

6. I think the statement tells us about the narrator’s annoyance. The narrator went to visit the village. She was astonished to see the beauty of rural Bangladesh. Then she decided to stay in the village for two days. But the villagers were very curious. So they started to gather around the narrator. For this reason her peace of mind went away. The mentioned statement reveals it.

7.

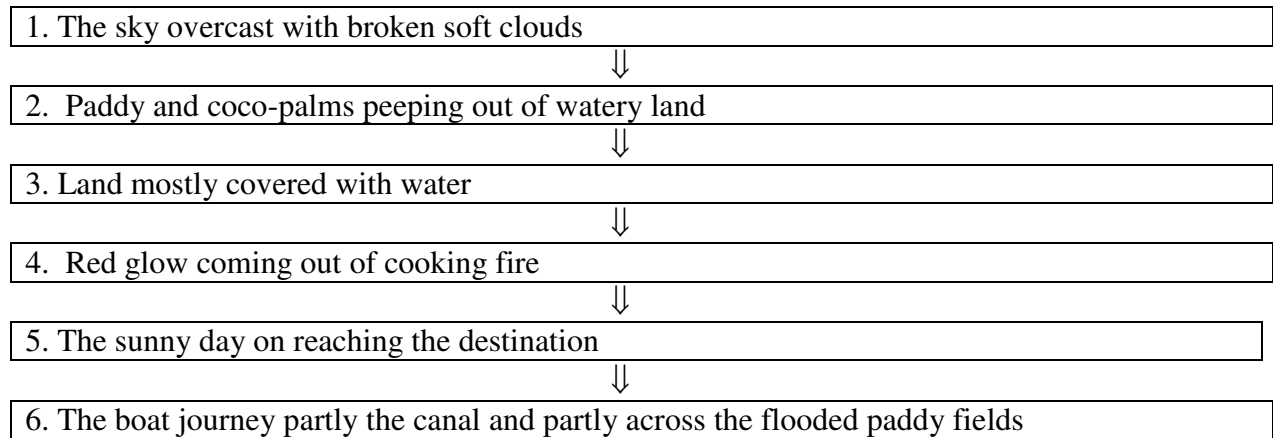
- a. not uncomfortably crowded- the train was crowded but not uncomfortable to the narrator.
- b. knew no more- the narrator knew nothing during her sleeping.
- c. rallied to the crisis-adding to the crisis by gathering around her.
- d. tired of being looked at- the gathering of village people around the narrator made her tired.
- e. a blaze of sunlight- bright sunlight in the morning fell upon the face of the narrator.
- f. of broken soft clouds- pieces of small clouds in the sky of moonlight night.
- g. fireflies wove intricate dances- dancing fireflies in the darkness at night.
- h. clumps of bushes- thick bushes scattering here and there.
- i. holding permanent court - facing the curious faces of the villagers all day long.
- j. kept coming and coming- unending flow of the villagers to visit her.

8.

Words	Antonym
a. gather	leave
b. weave	divide
c. intricate	simple
d. permanent	temporary
e. remote	close
f. remonstrate	support
g. tranquil	clamorous

9. a. He made fixed a tent so that I could get some sleep.
- b. Though none of them spoke English, they welcomed me.
- c. As it was dark, he lit a lantern
- d. Since I was a woman, women visited me freely.

10. A flow chart showing the natural backdrops of the writer's journey is given below:



11. Prepare the answers by yourself and show your tutor.

12.

- a) natural
- b) beauty
- c) hearing
- d) extinction
- e) accelerate
- f) conscious
- g) creation
- h) widespread
- i) spices
- j) habitation

13.

- a) depends
- b) know
- c) destroyed
- d) possible
- e) impossible
- f) also
- g) increase
- h) modern
- i) created
- j) around

## Lesson 2

3.

- a. The Indian Ocean is an ocean of green wastes. At night the water of Indian ocean became phosphorescent, and the wash of the bow was like a moving arrowhead of green fire.
- c. The arrival of the approaching ship frightened the flocks of flying fish.
- d. Elizabeth had a typical colonial mind-set regarding India. Like other colonizers, she fantasized a glorious life in India. She liked the land and the landscape, she anticipated the agreeable atmosphere of clubs, with pankhas flapping and being salaamed by the natives and polo playing. So Elizabeth thought that she would like India.

- d. Polo is a game in which two teams of players riding on horses try to hit a ball into a goal using a long wooden hammers called Mallets. The colonizer bronze Englishman with little clipped moustaches used to play polo.
- e. Whenever any ship anchor there, a fleet of sampans came near to have passenger. The sampanwallahs yelled and struggled round the gangway. When Elizabeth and her friends came down the two sampanwallahs started fighting to have them as passengers.
- f. Elizabeth came to colonized India to enjoy it by ship. Indeed she visited Mayanmar. From Rangoon, she went to Kyauktada.
- g. When the ship carring Elizabeth reached Colombo. She with her friends stepped into a sampan. And when to the sun-bright quays. She enjoyed the scents of coconut oil and sandal wood, cinnamon and turmeric. She floated across the water on to the Mount Lauina where they took shower in a lukewarm sea that foamed like coca-cola. Thus she enjoyed a lot in Colombo.

4.

- a. F  
b. F  
c. T  
d. F  
e. T

6. a. ploughed  
b. skimmed  
c. anticipation  
d. floated  
e. crawled  
f. gleamed

7. There have been mentioned several colours and spices in the text. The mentioned colours are : enamel like blue, green, phosphorescent, black, red, crimson, white etc. And the spices are : cinnamon, turmeric, chilly.

8.

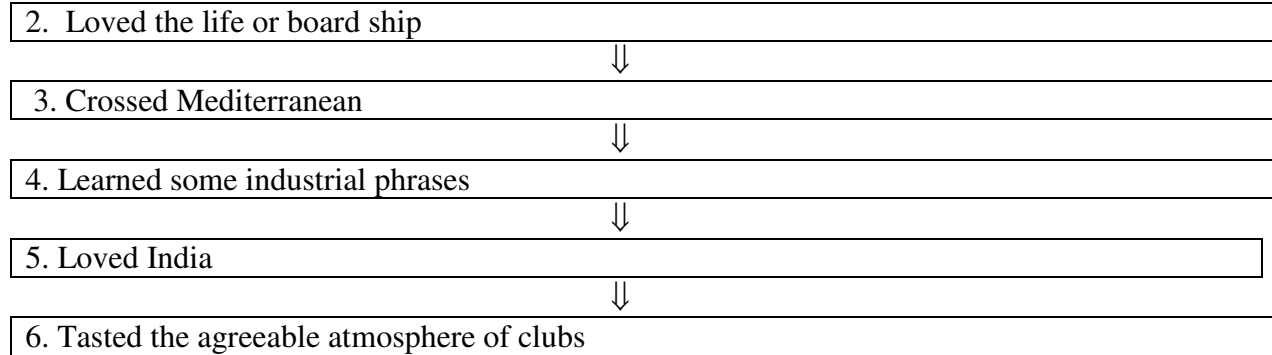
Word	Synonyms
a. delicate	fragile
b. warmly	cordially
c. discharge	removed
d. lukewarm	tepid
e. hideous	revolting
f. supine	lying flat on back
g. parched	very bright

9. Find more examples from the text where the word 'like' has been used for comparison: Enamel like blue, the wash of the bow was like a moving arrowhead of green fire, rose from the plain like the breast of a supine giantess.

10. A flow chart showing the events of Elizabeth's voyage to India is given below:

1. Spent thirty pounds on summer frock
--





- 13.
- a) essential
  - b) reasons
  - c) prestige
  - d) crossed
  - e) reach
  - f) unique
  - g) world's
  - h) bewildering
  - i) emerged
  - j) influenced

### Lesson 3

- 3.
- a. Reldresal came to meet Gulliver. Reldresal was the Principal Secretary of private affairs.
  - b. Reldresal had done many good offices to Gulliver during his solicitations at court. He began with complements on Gulliver's library. He told him that he might pretend to some merit in this library.
  - c. Tramecksan and Slamecksan are two struggling parties in the Empire. Indeed they were two mighty Evils. They are distinguished by the Heels on their shoes. Tramecksan is the high heels while Slamecksan is the low Heels.
  - d. Drurr is a unit to measure length, b which Heels are measured. It is a measure about the fourteenth part of an inch.
  - e. It was unusual that Eggs were broken from the big end. But when the grandfather of the present King cut his figure as a boy, the then emperor, his father, commanded his subjects to break the eggs from the small end. It brought about a war on breaking eggs. It was measured that at several times, eleven thousand persons died in this war.
  - f. The Imperial Highness, the Heir to the throne, had some tendency towards the High-Heels. It was plainly discovered that one of his heels was higher than the other. It gave him a hobble in his gait.
4. There are quite a good number of words capitalized in the above text, though it is not done in Standard English. I think it has been done to give emphasis on those words to make the real meaning clear.

5. The animosities between these two parties run so high that they will neither eat nor drink nor talk with each other. We compute the Tramecksan, or High-Heels, to exceed us in number; but the power is wholly on our side.

7. Factionalism refers to arguments or disputes between two or more small groups within a large group.

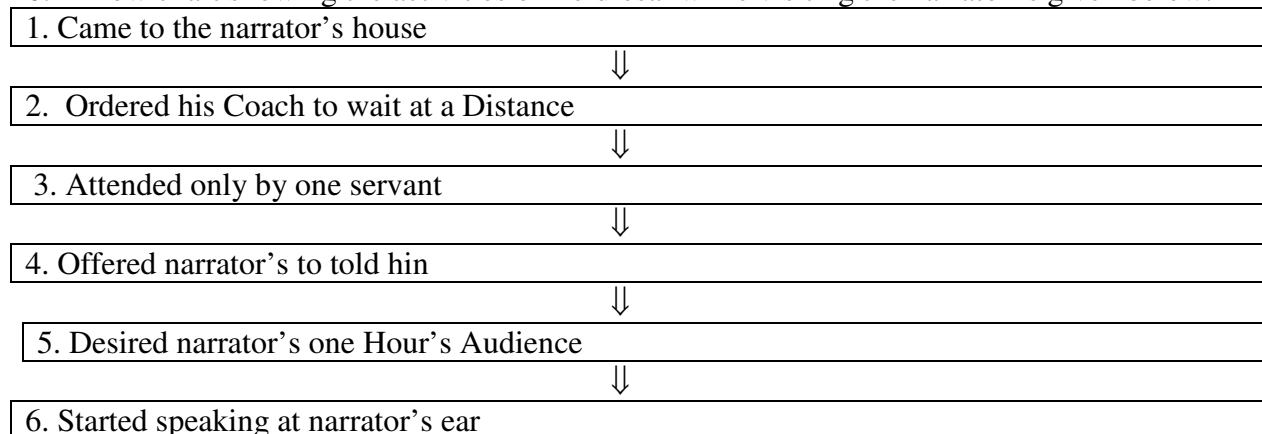
The story serves its purpose through factionalism. There are several evidences of factionalism here. The first prominent dispute in Lilliputs is for the heels of their shoes. Some are High-Heels while the others are Low-Heels. Regarding this there are two parties: Tramecksan and Slamecksan. The former is the High-Heels while the later is the Low-Heels. Another faction as we find is concerned with from which end an egg should be broken. Regarding this, there has been several wars at several times, eleven thousand people died and many have been banished.

Factionalism is totally harmful for a community or state. It divides people and makes the state vulnerable to the enemy. People lose their peace of mind. There prevail chaos, conspiracy and distrust in the society. Even we may face loss of life and property. True development is hampered.

8.

Words	Meanings
a. disquiet	feeling of anxiety
b. heir	inheritor
c. conjecture	assumption
d. foment	provoke
e. quell	suppress
f. animosity	ill feeling

10. A flow chart showing the activities of Reldresal while visiting the narrator is given below:



11. Prepare the answers by yourself and show your tutor.

12.

- reputation
- keeping
- noticed
- seldom
- embrace
- introduction
- keep

- h) interpreted
- i) make
- j) friendly

13.

- a) lives
- b) for
- c) daily
- d) high
- e) manage
- f) fixed
- g) he
- h) living
- i) send
- j) economic

#### Lesson 4

3.

- a. The exterior of the King's palace lacks magnificence and beauty. The outer walls are neither plastered nor decorated. That's why the narrator was not impressed with the exterior of the king's palace.
- b. He says that the interior is very elegant. He describes the Queen's palace in a lofty language.
- c. The author is clearly fascinated by the king's garden because the garden is built blending European and Indian tastes. The flowers, fauna, fruit trees, structures available in the garden bewilder the author.
- d. These houses are called green houses. According to the narrator's description three sides of the house are made of brick while the fourth side is built of glass plate that keeps out the cold air but let in the sun rays. In the cold season stoves are lit to keep the garden warm. As a result, the Indian trees and plants grow easily inside a greenhouse.
- e. The narrator mentions four geometrical shapes in describing the beds in the king's garden.  
Triangle: a flat shape with three straight sides and three angles.  
Square: A shape with four straight sides and four angles of 90° each.  
Hexagon: a flat shape with six straight sides and six angles.  
Octagon: a flat shape with eight straight sides and eight angles.
- f. Yes, the Eastern fruits were available in London when I'tesamuddin visited the city. They were produced locally.

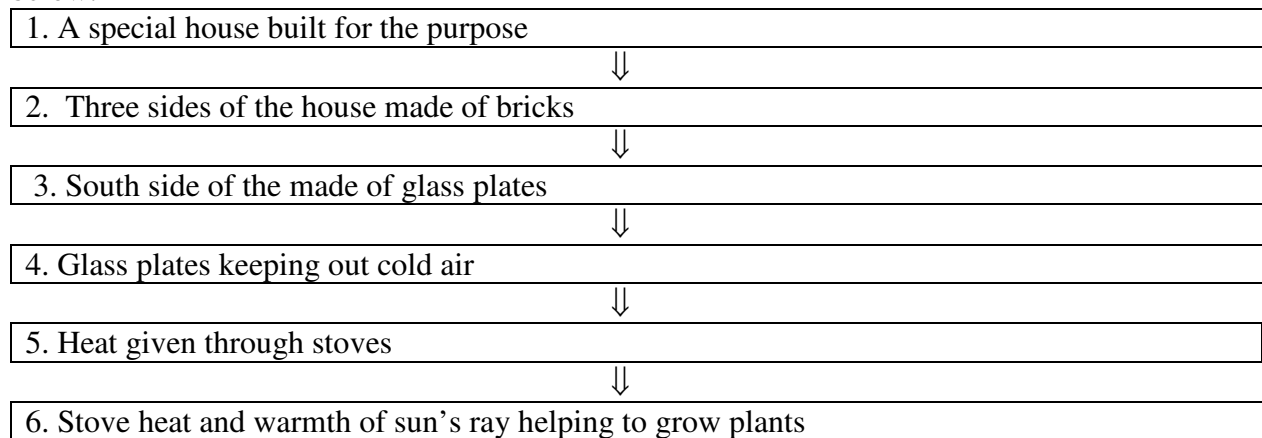
8.

- a. House- A house is a building for people to live in.  
Mansion- A mansion is a large impressive house.  
Palace- A palace is the official home of a king, queen etc.
- b. Frost- A thin layer of ice that forms when the temperature drops below 0 C.  
Snow- Snow is soft small pieces of frozen water that fall from the sky in cold weather.  
Ice- Ice is frozen water.
- c. Plank- Plank is a long, thin, flat piece of timber used specially in building and flooring.  
Beam- Beam is a long, sturdy piece of squared timber used to support the roof or floor of a building.  
Frame- The rigid supporting structure of an object such as building or piece of furniture.

11.

Word	Antonym
a. elegant	dull, inferior, ugly
b. broad	limited, little, small
c. soothing	irritating, uncomfortable, unreassuring
d. safety	danger, mishap, exposure
e. thick	skinny, thin, slim

12. A flow chart showing the process of producing Indian fruits and flowers in Europe is given below:



13. Prepare the answers by yourself and show your tutor.

14.

- a) chase
- b) falsely
- c) running
- d) notice
- e) real
- f) most
- g) rowed
- h) watch
- i) struggle
- j) distance

15.

- a) biggest
- b) life
- c) city
- d) areas
- e) problem
- f) increasing
- g) difficult
- h) people
- i) expenses
- j) solved



**Bangladesh Open University**  
**Sample Question for HSC Programme**

English (Compulsory)

First Paper

HSC – 1852

Time: 3 hours

Full marks: 100

[N. B. The figures in the margin indicate full marks]

Part-I: (Seen Comprehension), Marks-30

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow:

Kuakata, locally known as *Sagar Kannya* (Daughter of the Sea) is a rare scenic spot located on the southernmost tip of Bangladesh. Kuakata in Latachapli union under Kalapara Police Station of Patuakhali district is about 30 km in length and 6 km in breadth. It is 70 km from Patuakhali district headquarters and 320 km from Dhaka. An excellent combination of the picturesque natural beauty, sandy beaches, blue sky and the shimmering expanse of water of the Bay of Bengal and the evergreen forest makes Kuakata a much sought after tourist destination.

The name Kuakata takes its origin from the story of a ‘Kua’ – or well – dug on the sea shore by the early Rakhaine settlers for collecting drinking water. The Rakhaines had landed on Kuakata coast after being expelled from Arakan by the Mughals. Following the first well, it became a tradition to dig wells in the neighborhood of Rakhaine homesteads for fresh water supply.

Kuakata is one of the unique spots which allow a visitor to watch both the sunrise and the sunset from the beach. That perhaps makes Kuakata one of the world’s most attractive beaches. The long and wide beach at Kuakata has a typical natural setting. This sandy beach slopes gently into the Bay and bathing there is as pleasant as is swimming or driving.

Kuakata is truly a virgin beach and a sanctuary for migratory winter birds. Fishing boats plying in the Bay of Bengal with colorful sails, surfing waves and the lines of coconut trees add to the vibrant colors Kuakata. The indigenous culture of the Rakhaine community and hundred year old Buddhist temples indicate the age- old tradition and cultural heritage of this area.

Kuakata is also a holy land for the Hindus and Buddhists. Each year thousands of devotees come here to attend the festivals *Rash Purnima* and *MaghiPurnima*. On these two days, pilgrims take holy bath and enjoy going to the traditional fairs.

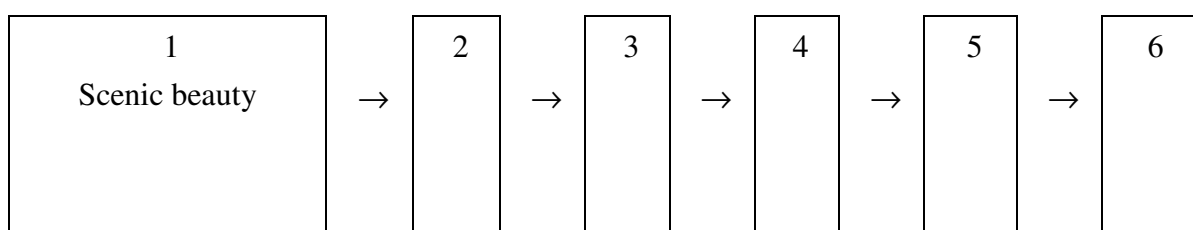
1. Choose the correct answer from the alternatives. 5×1=5
- (a) What would be the closest meaning for ‘rare’?
- i) remarkable    ii) unique    iii) exceptional    iv) excellent
- (b) What does the word ‘virgin’ refer to?
- (a) altered    (b) contaminated    iii) perfect    iv) imperfect
- (c) The word ‘locally’ means ----.
- i) regionally    ii) internally    iii) vividly    iv) truly
- (d) What does the phrase ‘ *Sagar Kannya* ’ mean?

- i) Kuakata ii) Latachapli iii) Bay of Bengal iv) Daughter of the Sea  
 (e) How far is Kuakata from the capital of Bangladesh?  
 i) 130 km ii) 320 km iii) 280 km iv) 170 km

2. Answer the following questions: 5×2=10

- a) Where is Kuakata located?
- b) Where does the name ‘Kuakata’ come from?
- c) What is the most unique feature of Kuakata beach?
- d) What are some traditional events that take place in Kuakata?
- e) Describe the beauty of Kuakata in your own words.

3. Based on your reading of the passage, make short notes in each of the boxes in the flow chart showing the charm and significance of Kuakata. (No. 1 has been done for you.) 5×2=10



4. Write a brief summary of the passage in your words. 5

Part- II: (Vocabulary), Marks- 30

5. Match the words in *Column A* with their meanings in *Column B* in the box below:  
 10×1=10

<i>Column A</i>	<i>Column B</i>
i. stuttering	a. shaking
ii. wrenching	b. tire out
iii. exhaust	c. road and rail network
iv. wriggling	d. faltering
v. suburbs	e. twisting suddenly and violently
vi. wedge	f. in contradiction
vii. pedestrians	g. a residential urban area outside the city
viii. whisk	h. force into a narrow space
ix. paradoxically	i. to move suddenly and quickly
x. infrastructure	j. people who are walking rather than travelling in a vehicle

6. Fill in each gap with a suitable word from the box (make any grammatical changes if necessary). There are more words in the box than you need. 10×1=10

flower	engage	job	create	oneself	raising
also	rearing	sectors	farming	many	opportunities

Self-employment means to create (a) — farming opportunity to (b) — by one's own effort. Various government organizations are trying to (c) — a congenial atmosphere for self-employment. Different NGOs have (d) — rendered their help. Livestock (e) — agriculture (f) —, poultry (g) — are some of the (h) —. There are many (i) — for self-employment in Bangladesh. One can (j) — engage oneself in these jobs.

7. Fill in each gap with a appropriate word. 10×1=10

Student life is a life of (a) — for future struggle. To make him (b) — for the struggle, education is necessary. So the first and foremost duty of a student (c) — to prosecute his studies well. He who (d) — his lessons regularly (e) — well in the examination. On the other (f) — the student who wastes his time cuts a (g) —figure. It should be (h) — in mind that none can get back the (i) — time.

**Part- III: (Writing), Marks- 40**

8. Write a paragraph answering the following questions. Your answer should give as much as detail as possible. 10
- (a) What is traffic education?
  - (b) What are the some regulations in traffic?
  - (c) What may happen if we continue violating traffic rules?
  - (d) What is the importance of traffic Education?
  - (e) Do you think that traffic education is essential for everyone?
9. The following is the beginning of a story. Complete it in your own words. 10
- Once upon a time a dove sat on a tree. The dove saw an ant in the river water. The ant cried for help. The dove was very kind. He wanted to help the ant .....
10. Suppose, you are Hamim. You want to get yourself admitted into the University of London. Now, write an e-mail to the University of London, Admission section, asking them about admission procedure for overseas students. 10
11. Write a dialogue between two friends about the future after passing the HSC examination