INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

ASSESSMENT 1 - (2025-26)

SUBJECT – ENGLISH (Ans. Key)

Class: XI Maximum Marks: 80

Date: 18.9.2025 Time allowed: 3Hours

General Instructions:

(i) This paper is divided into three sections:

Section A- Reading 26 marks
Section B- Grammar & Writing 23 marks
Section C- Literature 31 marks

(ii) All questions are compulsory.

(iii) Separate instructions are given with each section and question, wherever necessary. Read these instructions very carefully and follow them.

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(iv) Avoid using correction pen.

SECTION A: READING SKILLS (26 marks)

1. Read the following passage carefully.

- 1. We live in an age of wonders and miracles. It has been called the 'Age of Science' and different aspects of our life that changed in the preceding centuries have been attributed to science. This is completely true, but it is only one side of the coin. The flip side is that as we have advanced more in the field of technology, something fundamental to humanity has been left behind. Values such as empathy and concern for our fellow human beings are gradually being eroded due to the onslaught of our ever-evolving lifestyles, aided by the marvels of technological advancements
- 2. Take the example of the Internet. On the one hand, access to information and knowledge at the click of a button is a veritable boon to everyone (especially students) and this has made our lives much simpler. On the other hand, it has severely limited actual contact with teachers, friends and elders. Thus, the learning that a person gain is incomplete as he or she cannot easily take the advice that another person can give on the basis of knowledge and practical experience that is at his or her disposal.
- 3. Today, a small child can access and navigate the Internet with an ease that still astounds those from the older generation. But what is even more astounding is the neglect of the basic human traits of friendship, relationship and family values. Owing to all the technological advancements and the gadgets available today, children often miss out on the most enriching childhood experiences such as playing outdoor games with friends, which apart from being immensely enjoyable and physically exhilarating, also develop traits such as teamwork and discipline at an early age.
- 4. But now when the concept of friend is gradually being limited to virtual friends on social networking sites, one shudders to think of the implications for the personality development of

a child because the time spent with computers or mobile phones for entertainment can never really substitute for the holistic benefits of outdoor play. Such examples can be found in plenty.

- 5. Now if we compare the hustle and bustle of modern city life and the peace and calm of a rustic village life, we can see that in cities, life is a race with a variety of factors. It is a race that everyone tries their level best to win, but nobody actually wins as it never ends.
- 6. As for me, I think this age of rapid development has created at least as many problems as it has solved, if not more. The reason is that the basic goal of life, which should be the pursuit of happiness, has now been replaced by the pursuit of money. Money and happiness are considered analogous in our present society, but they actually are not so. In this mindless pursuit of money, nobody has time now to appreciate the beauty of life, which consists not of multi- billion-dollar skyscrapers, but a simple act of kindness to someone in a time of need.
- 7. So there is an urgent need to stop for a moment and think about where we are actually heading, is it development or destruction? Do we have to wait until people have grown so much apart from each other that we cannot see the suffering of our own species due to our mindless greed, or can we still mend our ways?
- 8. To answer this question, I will take the help of that most magnificent of human feelingshope. I sincerely wish that we, as the most intelligent species on earth, would take our fair share of responsibility and sincerely think about the path we should follow. Though mankind will possibly last for a long time thanks to its determination and sheer ingenuity, we have to make sure we do not lose our humanity somewhere along the way.

On the basis of your understanding of the above passage, answer the questions given below:

i. According to the passage, "one side of the coin" has changed owing to science as______(1)

- (a) age of science has brought wonders and miracles.
- (b) different aspects of life have changed due to science.
- (c) there is another side of the coin to look at.
- (d) this side of coin is true and sufficient to look at.

Answer:

Option (C) is correct.

Explanation: There is also a flip side to the technology because we have advanced more in the field of technology and left behind humanity.

ii. Which of the following is not true about the internet?

(1)

- (a) It provides an easy access to information and knowledge.
- (b) It has made our lives simpler.
- (c) It has limited actual contact with teachers and friends.
- (d) It can easily give advice based on personal experience.

Answer:

Option (D) is correct.

Explanation: Internet does not provide personal advice.

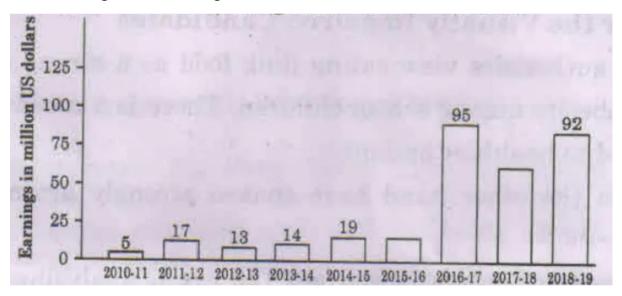
iii.	How does the internet hamper the holistic growth of a child? (2) Explanation : Children get so addicted to virtual friends and gadgets that they miss out on the most enriching childhood experiences.
iv.	According to the passage, true happiness lies in (1) (a) simple acts of kindness (b) rapid development (c) multi-billion-dollar skyscrapers (d) pursuit of money Answer: Option (A) is correct.
	Explanation: True happiness lies in a simple act of kindness and not mindless pursuit of money.
v.	The word 'veritable' in para 2 means (1) Answer : Veritable in para 2 means big or exciting.
vi.	Antonym of holistic : deficient, fragmentary, incomplete, partial, abbreviated, reduced, scattered (1)
vii.	Identify the statement as true or false. (1) The personality development and holistic growth of a child is hindered due to the virtual friends replaced the actual ones in their life. Answer: True
viii.	What responsibility should be taken by us to save us from the virtual destruction? (2)
	Answer: We have to make sure that humanity does not get lost anywhere and take cessary measures to keep the usage of technology in limit in way that we don't lose any man traits.

2. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow: -

- 1. The story of Joanne Kathleen Rowling's near magical rise to fame is almost as well known as the characters she creates. Rowling was constantly writing and telling stories to her younger sister Dianne. "The first story I ever wrote down was about a rabbit called Rabbit." Rowling said in an interview. "He got the measles and was visited by his friends including a giant bee called Miss Bee. And ever since Rabbit and Miss Bee, I have always wanted to be a writer, though I rarely told anyone so.
- 2. However, my parents, both of whom come from impoverished backgrounds and neither of whom had been to college, took the view that my overactive imagination was an amusing personal quirk that would never pay a mortgage or secure a pension.

- 3. A writer from the age of six, with two unpublished novels in the drawer, she was stuck on a train when Harry walked into her mind fully formed. She spent the next five years constructing the plots of seven books, one for every year of his secondary school life.
- 4. Rowling says she started writing the first book, Harry' Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, in Portugal, where she was teaching English. At first nobody wanted to publish Harry Potter. She was told that plot was too complex. Refusing to compromise, she found a publisher.
- 5. In 1997 Rowling received her first royalty cheque. By book three, she had sky rocketed to the top of the publishing world. A row of zeroes appeared on the author's bank balance and her life was turned upside down. Day and night she had journalists knocking on the unanswered door of her flat.
- 6. Rowling's quality control has become legendary, as her obsession with accuracy. She's thrilled with Stephen Fry's taped version of the books and outraged that an Italian dust jacket showed Harry minus his glasses. "Don't they understand that the glasses are the clue to his vulnerability."

Annual earnings of J.K. Rowling from 2010 to 2019



On the basis of your understanding of the passage, answer the questions given below: $(1x\ 8=8\ marks)$

i) Explain J.K. Rowling's 'near magical rise to fame'.

Answer: The story of Joanne Kathleen Rowling's near magical rise to fame is almost as well known as the characters she creates.

(ii) The reason that the publishers rejected Rowling's book was

Answer: She was told that plot was too complex. Refusing to compromise, she found a publisher.

- (iii) The nuisance of becoming successful for Rowling is
 - a) She had many journalists waiting to meet her
 - b) She had many jobs offers given by the publishers
 - c) The fame restricted her new launches
 - d) She met many publishers
- (iv) The Italian dust jacket hints affected the trait of Harry Potter and she denies the concept written in that book.
 - a) Both statements are true.
 - b) Both statements are false.
 - c) Only the first statement is true
 - d) Only the second statement is true
- (v) Find a word in the last para that means the same as 'insecure/helpless.

Answer: vulnerability

(vi) According to the graph, how many years did it take Rowling to become very successful?

Answer: SIX TO SEVEN years

- (vii) Harry Potter is her Only success.
 - a) True
 - b) False
 - c) Not given
 - d) It is an assumption

e)

(viii) Identify whether the given statement is true or false.

Rowling's parent felt that her sensitive imagination was an amusing quirk that would always pay a mortgage or secure a pension.

Answer: False

3. Read the passage given below and answer the questions that follow:

1. How does television affect our lives? It can be very helpful to people who carefully choose the shows that they watch. Television can increase our knowledge of the outside world; there are high quality programmes that help us understand many fields of studies, science, medicine, various arts and so on. Moreover, television benefits very old people, who can't leave the house, as well as patients in hospitals. It also offers non-native speakers the advantage of daily informal language practice. They can increase their vocabulary and practise listening.

- 2. On the other hand, there are several serious disadvantages of television. Of course, it provides us with a pleasant way to relax and spend our free time, but in some countries, people watch television for an average of six hours or more a day. Many children stare at the TV screen for more hours a day than they spend on anything else, including studying, playing and sleeping. It's clear that TV has a powerful influence on their lives but its influence is often negative.
- 3. Recent studies show that after only thirty seconds of television viewing, a person's brain 'relaxes' the same way that it does just before the person falls asleep. Another effect of television on the human brain is that it seems to cause poor concentration. Children who view a lot of television can often concentrate on a subject for only fifteen to twenty minutes. They can pay attention only for the amount of time between commercials.
- 4. Another disadvantage is that television often causes people to become dissatisfied with their own lives. Real life does not seem so exciting to these people. To many people, television becomes more real than reality and their own lives seem boring. Also, many people get upset or depressed when they can't solve problems in real life as quickly as television actors seem to.
- 5. Before a child is fourteen years old, he or she views eleven thousand murders on the TV. He or she begins to believe that there is nothing strange about fights, killings and other kinds of violence. Many studies show that people become more violent after viewing certain programmes. They may even do the things that they see in a violent show.
- (a) On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it, using headings and subheadings. Use recognizable abbreviations (wherever necessary-minimum five) and a suitable format. Also supply an appropriate title to it. (5 marks)
- (b) Write a summary of the passage in about 50 words. (3 marks)

SECTION B -GRAMMAR AND CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS- (23 Marks).

- 4. Convert the following sentences to reported speech. Attempt any **THREE**. (3 marks)
 - a) My mother said, "I had a headache yesterday."

My mother said that she'd had a headache the day before.

b) Krish told Rita, "It's been raining since this afternoon."

Krish said to Rita that it'd been raining since that afternoon.

c) Sherly said, "I haven't seen them since last week."

Sherly said she hadn't seen them since the previous week.

d) The interviewer questioned me, "Do you have any experience working with people?"

The interviewer asked me if I had any experience working with people.

5. Fill the blanks with the correct form of the tenses given in the bracket. Attempt any Γ WO: (1 x 2 = 2 marks)
One of the reasons why university students fail in English is because they a) (not, speak) the language regularly with friends or parents. Another reason is that they b) (rarely, read) English novels or stories to improve their grammar and vocabulary. In addition, they c) (not, take) the subject seriously.
Answers: a) do not speak b) rarely read c) do not take
6. Rearrange the following jumbled words to form meaningful sentences. Attempt any ΓWO . (2 x 1 = 2 marks)
a. lies / salt / of / grain / statements / people / sometimes / his / he / tells / so / take / with / a
He sometimes tells lies so people take his statements with a grain of salt.
b. admitted / betrayal / guilt / having / act / his / the / was/ cashier / imprisoned / for/ his/ of
The cashier having admitted his guilt was imprisoned for his act of betrayal.
c. letters / ward / to / his / strong / his / good / forbearance / his / serve / sense / as / testimony / and / his
His letters to his ward serve as strong testimony to his forbearance and good sense.

A. You are Shweta/ Shashwat from Imphal and want to rent out a house. Prepare an advertisement for publishing in a newspaper, giving the location of the building, nature of accommodation, etc. in not more than 50 words.

7. Attempt ANY ONE of the two in about 50 words:

(4 marks)

Format: 1 mark

Content: 2 marks

Expression: grammatical accuracy, spellings: 1 mark

OR

B. You are Gaurav Singh of 42 A, Enclave, Dwarka, New Delhi. You want to sell your car. Draft an advertisement in not more than 50 words for publication in the Times of India giving details of make, model, condition and giving your contact address.

8. Attempt ANY ONE of the two in about 50 words:

(4 marks)

A. You are a fitness trainer in a health club. Design a poster in not more than 50 words, to emphasize the importance of exercise in maintaining mental and physical fitness. You are Prem/Priya.

Title -1 mark

Content: 3 marks

name of issuing authority

reasons- remedial measures (if relevant)

Date, Time, Venue (if relevant) Any other relevant information.

OR

B. You are the environmental club leader at Greenfield High School, Delhi. Your school is organising an awareness campaign on the importance of saving water. Prepare a poster for the campaign, including all essential details.

9. Attempt ANY ONE of the two in about 120-150 words:

(8 marks)

A. Manish is preparing a speech about everyday life in a particular country. Using the notes provided below, craft a well-structured speech in about 150 words that reflect his ideas clearly and effectively.

peace and quiet—soothing air—fresh and pure green fields all around—lovely sight helpful neighbours

vehicles—smoke

industries—smoke-pollution

crowded streets
people hurry—never relax

Marking scheme

Format:1 mark

- topic introduction, addressing the audience, mention for /against the

motion

Content: 3 marks

- use hints, addressing the issue, current situation, reasons in favour

or against, possible suggestions

Expression: 1 mark

Grammatical accuracy, appropriate words and spelling [1½]

Coherence and relevance of ideas and style [1½]

OR

B. Write a speech in about 150 words on 'Benefits of early rising' to be delivered by you in the morning assembly. You are Karuna/Karan, Head Girl/Head Boy.

SECTION C – LITERATURE (31 MARKS)

- 10. Read the given extract and answer the questions for $\underline{ANY\ ONE}$ of the two given: (3 x 1 = 3 marks)
- A. "Till the goldfinch comes, with a twitching chirrup

A suddenness, a startlement, at a branch end."

- i. What effect is produced at the branch end at the sitting of the mother goldfinch bird on it?
- ii. Why is the mother goldfinch bird 'alert' while entering the thickness?
- iii. Which figure of speech is used to describe the movement of the mother goldfinch bird?

Ans i) At the sitting of the mother goldfinch bird at the branch end a suddenness and a startlement are produced.

Ans ii) The mother goldfinch bird is alert while entering the thickness because she does not want the enemies to know about the existence of the baby goldfinch birds there.

Ans iii) The figure of speech used to describe the movement of the mother goldfinch bird is alliteration/ Onomatopoeia / simile

OR

B. "...the sea, which appears to have changed less,

washed their terribly transient feet."

i) Read the given statements and choose the most appropriate answer from the options given below:

Assertion: The sea in the photograph remains the same.

Reason: The sea touched the girl's feet in the picture.

- a) Both assertion and reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
- b) Both assertion and reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.
- c) The assertion is true, but the reason is false
- d) The assertion is false.

Answer: b) Both assertion and reason are true, but the reason is not the correct explanation of the assertion.

ii) What is meant by "the sea, which appears to have changed less"?

Answer:

This suggests that the sea has remained relatively unchanged over time, in contrast to the lives of human beings. It emphasizes the permanence of nature compared to the transience of human life.

iii) Complete the sentence:	
The theme highlighted in the line is	

Answer:

The central theme is the transience of human life contrasted with the enduring nature of the natural world. It also touches on loss and memory.

11. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for <u>ANY ONE</u> of the two given: $(3 \times 1 = 3 \text{ marks})$

A. After Akhenaten's death, a mysterious ruler named Smenkhkare appeared briefly and exited with hardly a trace. And then a very young Tutankhaten took the throne – King Tut as he's widely known today. The boy king soon changed his name to Tutankhamun, living image of Amun, and oversaw a restoration of the old ways. He reigned for about nine years - and then died unexpectedly.

- i) The statement "appeared briefly and exited with hardly a trace" is the same as
 - (a) had a small role
 - (b) his stage performance was average
 - (c) he ruled for a short time only
 - (d) his reign was short and without any impact

Ans: (d) his reign was short and without any impact

- ii) The expression "oversaw a restoration of the old ways" means ------
- Ans: he re-established the old practices and beliefs
- iii) What does the expression "took the throne" refer to?

Ans: He ascended the throne.

OR

- B. At dawn on January 2, the waves were gigantic. We were sailing with only a small storm jib and were still making eight knots. As the ship rose to the top of each wave, we could see endless enormous seas rolling towards us, and the screaming of the wind and spray was painful to the ears.
- i) Which figure of speech has been used in this line 'the waves were gigantic'?
- (a) simile
- (b) oxymoron
- (c) irony
- (d) Hyperbole
- ii) Which kind of fear was evident in the mind of the author during the incident given in the extract?

Ans: fear of shipwreck

iii) Complete the analogy with a word from the extract: huge: massive: colossal: gigantic

12. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for $\underline{\text{ANY ONE}}$ of the two given: (4 x 1 = 4 marks)

- A. "It wasn't morning yet, but it was summer and with day break not many minutes around the corner of the world it was light enough for me to know I wasn't dreaming. My cousin Mourad was sitting on a beautiful white horse. I stuck my head out of the window and rubbed my eyes. Yes, he said in Armenian. It's a horse. You are not dreaming. Make it quick if you want to ride."
 - i) Why couldn't Aram believe when he saw Mourad with the horse?

Because they were too poor to afford a horse

- ii) 'Make it quick' here means
 - (a) to be sad
 - (b) to hurry up
 - (c) to hide
 - (d) to be content
- iii) Why did Mourad wake his cousin?

Answer- Mourad woke Aram up in order to give him a chance to enjoy horse riding.

iv) Assertion: The narrator initially thought he was dreaming when he saw Mourad on a white horse.

Reason: It was still dark outside, and seeing a horse in their possession was unexpected.

- a. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b. Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c. A is true, but R is false.
- d. A is false, but R is true.

Answer: A. Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

OR

B. "Perhaps I was mistaken. I thought, perhaps it isn't her. I had seen her only once, fleetingly,

and that was years ago. It was most probable that I had rung the wrong bell. The woman let go of the door and stepped to the side. She was wearing my mother's green knitted cardigan. The wooden buttons were rather pale from washing. She saw that I was looking at the cardigan and half hid herself again behind the door. But I knew now that I was right."

- (i) The lady hid herself behind the door because the author was looking at
 - (a) the lady
- (b) things placed in the house
- (c) the cardigan
- (d) the name plate
- (ii) Which of the following doubts the author had about the lady of the house?
 - (i) author had reached the wrong house
 - (ii) author was not wearing red cardigan
 - (iii) author forgot to carry proof of address
 - (iv) author could not recognize the face of the lady
 - (v) probably it was not the lady she was looking for
 - (a) 1,2, 3
- (ii) 1,4,5
- (iii) 2,4,5
- (iv) 3,4,1
- (iii) Why did the colour of the buttons of the cardigan fade?

due to washing

(iv) Identify whether the given statement is true or false.

The narrator initially thought he was dreaming.

Answer: True

13. Answer ANY TWO of the following four questions in about 40-50 words:

 $(3 \times 2 = 6 \text{ marks})$

a. King Tut's body had been subjected to repeated scrutiny". Why?

Answer. King Tut's body and burial chamber were found intact. The archaeologists hoped to discover many truths about King Tut and Egypt of his time. Therefore, they investigated them repeatedly.

b. Describe the boat 'Wave walker'.

Answer: The narrator wanted to duplicate the round-the-world voyage made by Captain James Cook 200 years ago. In order to undertake this journey, they got a boat built

professionally. The boat, named Wavewalker, was 23 meters long, 30 ton wooden hulled sailboat. They had spent months fitting it out and testing it in the roughest weather conditions.

c. What did the poet mean by 'that girl lived' from 'A Photograph'.

Answer. Now, it has been twelve years since her mother passed away. Also, twelve years old girl when the photograph was taken. The girl in the photograph seems like a different person altogether. That's why the poet has used the words, 'that girl'.

d. Mention the odd ways in which the author's grandmother behaved just before she died.

Answer: She had omitted to pray; she was not going to waste any more time talking to them. She lay peacefully in bed praying and telling her beads. Even before they could suspect, her lips stopped moving and the rosary fell from her lifeless fingers.

14. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in about 40-50 words:

 $(3 \times 1 = 3 \text{ marks})$

a. What do you think induced the boys to return the horse to its owner?

Answer- The boys were impressed by John Byro's attitude towards their parents and family. He knew their parents very well and so believed whatever the boys said. Secondly, the fame of their family for honesty was well-known to him. The conscience-stricken boys decided to return the horse to the rightful owner. The boys returned the horse to him for the sake of family pride and dignity.

b. Why did the old possessions of the narrator lose their value?

Answer: After war, when the life returned to normalcy, the narrator decided to see her old possessions at Number 46, in Marconi Street. But as he reached there the things lost their, value firstly because they were arranged in a tasteless way. Secondly and more importantly, the things had an association with the relations which no more existed. So, the narrator better felt it right to leave them behind.

15. Answer <u>ANY ONE</u> out of two questions: - (1x 6 = 6 marks)

a. How does the poem express the sentiment of co-dependency? How do the laburnum and the goldfinch help each other? Elaborate.

Answer. The poem The Laburnum Top beautifully captures the essence of co-dependency through the relationship between the laburnum tree and the goldfinch. The tree, standing still and quiet, seems lonely, almost as if waiting for something. Then comes the goldfinch, bringing warmth and energy, filling the branches with life. In return, the tree offers the bird a safe home for her little ones. They complete each other—one providing shelter, the other bringing joy. Just like in human relationships, where different souls find comfort and meaning in each other, the tree and the bird show how true connections are built on giving and receiving. Their bond reminds us that life is richer when we support and nurture those we love. The entire tree, an integral aspect of its symbiotic relationship with the bird.

b. Draw a character sketch of Khushwant Singh's grandmother as portrayed by him in the lesson 'The Portrait of a Lady".

Answer: The narrator's grandmother was a true picture of love, affection and care. She had all those virtues which grandmother's generally have for their grandsons. She was highly religious but a conservative lady. The grandmother presented a picture of peace and contentment. Her spotless white dress and her silver white hair gave her spiritual beauty. The grandmother was not physically very attractive. She had deep love and affection for her grandson. She got him ready for the school and came back home with him. She was a very religious lady. She was always telling the beads of her rosary. She had compassion even for animals and birds. She fed the village dogs. She took to feeding the sparrows in the city. But the grandmother was a conservative lady. She didn't like the English language and Science. She hated music. She associated music with prostitutes and beggars.

16. Answer <u>ANY ONE</u> out of two questions: - (1x 6 = 6 marks)

a. Justify the appropriateness of the title "The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse".

Answer- The title seems quite appropriate for the timbre of the story. Initially, one can suggest that it is set in a summer- like time period. The boys can focus on the horse, and are not necessarily burdened with school work. Additionally, the ideas presented in the story lend themselves with the fruition and full bloom of summer. These ideas relate to maturation, experiences, and companionship. The story revolves around this beautiful white horse. Initially, we know that the boys are poor. They are of an immigrant Armenian family that is not wealthy. We know this because it is inconceivable that either of the boys would own a white horse. The fact that Aram is awakened one morning by Mourad sitting atop a white horse prompts Aram to question if it was stolen. From abject or dirt poverty to a stunningly white horse, one sees that the horse is a symbol, a representation of the boys' desires. Throughout their summer experiences with the horse, they learn essential values such as compassion for the animal, trust amongst themselves, honesty and dignity. These come about as a result of the beautiful horse. The story reaches its climax when the horse is returned, in better shape and temperament than before, and the boys have a renewed sense of faith in both

themselves and their love of the horse. The short story is aptly titled for each part of it relates to an experience with the beautiful horse in the story.

b. Why did the narrator wish to forget the address?

Answer: Mrs. Dorling kept the valuable objects in her house until the war was ended because she didn't want them to be lost if they decided to leave the area during the war. Mrs. Dorling's address, '46, Marconi Street', was given to her by her mother. She remembered her address and decided to pay her a visit. She was apprehensive about returning to the location because it triggered so many memories from her past. When she saw all of the belongings, she found them to be arranged in an unappealing manner, and she became disinterested in them. She couldn't connect with the items and decided she wouldn't stay at the house any longer since she didn't want to ruin the nice memories she had with them. She eventually chose to forget the address and avoid returning to the location.