

CBSE Class 10 English set 2-1 -1 2025 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :2 hours	Maximum Marks :80	Total Questions :11
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SECTION A

Reading Skills

1.Read the following passage carefully :

(1) Saffron is a spice that's long been revered across the globe,captivating hearts and palates with its deep-red hue and complex flavour. It is one of the most prized spices that you can find on this planet. Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world,saffron means the same in the world of spices. Also known as 'kesar' in Hindi, it has a rich history and is often called an ancient spice.Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the royals and the elite as it contains medicinal properties.

(2) Originating from the delicate stigma of the saffron crocus flower, it transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary, infusing dishes with a subtle, earthy sweetness that adds a special taste to the palate.Saffron has a strong exotic aroma and a unique flavour and is used to colour and flavour many Mediterranean and Asian dishes, particularly rice, fish and English, Scandinavian, and Balkan breads.

(3) Saffron forms the backbone of several iconic dishes from around the world, such as the Spanish rice, seafood dish Paella, the French stew Bouillabaisse, Italian rice dish Risotto Milanese, the Indian ice cream Kesar Kulfi, Pakistani rice dish Biryani, and baked Iranian rice Tachin. Saffron's rich red colour is attributed to crocin; its bitter taste, to picrocrocin; and its distinctive aroma, to safranal.

(4) Saffron is cultivated chiefly in Iran but is also grown in Spain,France, Italy, and parts of India. A labour-intensive crop, the three stigmas are handpicked from each flower, spread on trays, and dried over charcoal fires for use as a food flavouring and colouring agent.

(5) Most historians speculate it was first domesticated in Iran, but south-western Greek islands remain strong contenders. Traders,conquerors, and world explorers introduced it to China, India and the Middle East. From there, it travelled to Mediterranean Europe.

(6) The high retail value of saffron is maintained in world markets because of labour-intensive

harvesting methods, which require some 444,000 hand-picked saffron stigmas per kilogram - equivalently, 150,000 crocus flowers per kilogram. Forty hours of labour are needed to pick 150,000 flowers. Almost all saffron grows in a belt from Spain in the west to India in the east. Iran is responsible for around 88% of global production. Afghanistan comes second, and Spain is the third largest producer, while the United Arab Emirates, Greece, the Indian subcontinent and Morocco are among minor producers.

(7) Given its high price, adulteration is quite common, unfortunately. Adulterants like beetroot or pomegranate are used to enhance red colour; silk fibres, oil, or wax are used to add bulk, and powdered saffron can be adulterated with turmeric and paprika.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

i. What is the tone of the writer in the given lines?

Rationalise your response in about 40 words.

“Saffron is being used since ages in various foods made for the royals and the elite as it contains medicinal properties.”

Solution:

The tone of the writer is **reverent and appreciative**. The writer highlights saffron’s long-standing use among royals and elites and emphasizes its medicinal value. This tone suggests deep admiration for the spice’s historical significance and beneficial qualities.

The sentence reflects the writer’s high regard for saffron by mentioning its historical importance and medicinal properties. The reference to its use by royals and elites further emphasizes its prestige and value. The tone is clearly admiring and respectful.

Quick Tip

Look for emotionally charged or respectful language when identifying tone—words like “royals,” “elite,” and “medicinal properties” often signal an admiring or appreciative tone.

ii. Which of the following statements best describes the comparison made in the sentence?

“Just like gold is among the most valuable metals in the world, saffron means the same in the world of spices.”

- (A) Gold and saffron have similar physical properties.
- (B) Gold and saffron have equal monetary value.
- (C) Saffron is considered the most valuable spice, similar to how gold is valued among metals.
- (D) Gold and saffron are both rare commodities in the global market.

Correct Answer: (C) Saffron is considered the most valuable spice, similar to how gold is valued among metals.

Solution:

The sentence draws a symbolic comparison between saffron and gold to highlight saffron’s high value among spices, just as gold is among metals. It is not about physical or monetary similarity but rather about relative worth and recognition. Option (C) clearly conveys this intended analogy.

Quick Tip

When interpreting comparisons, focus on the attribute being compared—in this case, *value* or *status*, not physical or monetary traits.

iii. List any two points why saffron is revered across the globe.

(A) Saffron has a rich history and has been used since ancient times in foods prepared for royals and elites due to its medicinal properties. (B) It enhances the flavour, aroma, and colour of various global dishes like Paella, Risotto, Biryani, and Kesar Kulfi, making it highly valued in culinary traditions.

Quick Tip

Look for keywords like “medicinal,” “royals,” “elite,” “aroma,” and “global dishes” in the passage when asked about saffron’s global reverence.

iv. Fill in the blank from the given options:

In the phrase ‘backbone of several iconic dishes’, the word ‘iconic’ refers to -----.

- (A) delicately cooked
- (B) widely recognized
- (C) peculiar and rare
- (D) strange and infamous

Correct Answer: (B) widely recognized

Solution:

In the context of the passage, the word ‘iconic’ refers to dishes that are highly popular and well-recognized around the world. These dishes are representative and celebrated in their respective cuisines. Hence, “widely recognized” best fits the meaning.

Quick Tip

Words like “iconic” often describe something with enduring fame or broad recognition—especially in cultural or culinary contexts.

v. Complete the sentence appropriately:

Saffron has a labour-intensive cultivation process which involves -----.

Answer:

hand-picking the delicate stigmas from each saffron flower and drying them carefully over charcoal fires.

Solution:

According to Paragraph 4, saffron cultivation involves manually collecting three stigmas from each flower, which is a highly time-consuming and delicate process. These are then dried to be used as a spice.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to procedural details in the text when the question involves a “how” or “what process” type of query.

vi. State whether the following statement is True or False:

According to historians, saffron was first used in the kitchens in Iran.

Answer: False

Solution:

The passage (Paragraph 5) mentions that most historians speculate saffron was first domesticated in Iran, but it does not state it was first used in Iranian kitchens. Therefore, the claim in the statement is false.

Quick Tip

Be cautious of minor wording changes in True/False questions; compare directly with the text.

vii. Which of the following statements best describes the reason for saffron’s high retail value?

- (A) Due to its magical or mystical properties.
- (B) Because it can only be grown in specific regions.
- (C) Due to its labour-intensive cultivation process and its relatively low yield per plant.
- (D) Because traders, conquerors, and world explorers hoard it.

Correct Answer: (C) Due to its labour-intensive cultivation process and its relatively low yield per plant.

Solution:

The passage (Paragraph 6) clearly states that the high retail value of saffron is attributed to the extensive manual labour required and the large number of flowers needed to produce just one kilogram. Hence, option (C) accurately explains the reason.

Quick Tip

Look for quantitative and effort-based clues in the passage when evaluating price or value-related questions.

viii. Support the writer's view with evidence from the text that saffron is often adulterated.

Solution:

The passage (Paragraph 7) mentions that adulterants like beetroot, pomegranate, turmeric, and paprika are added to enhance colour and volume, showing that saffron is frequently adulterated.

The writer supports the claim by providing specific examples of substances added to saffron to fake its appearance or increase its bulk. These include natural dyes and other spices, confirming that saffron is often subject to adulteration.

Quick Tip

When asked for textual evidence, quote specific examples or phrases directly mentioned in the passage.

2.Read the following passage carefully :

(1) Silk is a natural protein fibre, some forms of which can be woven into textiles. Silk has a long history in India. It is known as Resham in eastern and northern India, and Pattu in the

southern parts of India. India is the second largest producer of silk in the world after China.

(2) Silk is renowned for its luxurious qualities with a natural soft and smooth texture that feels comfortable on the skin. One of its unique qualities is to absorb and release moisture, regulating the body temperature, and keeping the wearer cool and dry.

(3) Silk is one of the strongest natural fibres, but it loses up to 20% of its strength when wet. Its elasticity is moderate to poor: if elongated even a small amount, it remains stretched. It can be weakened if exposed to too much sunlight. It may also be attacked by insects, especially if left dirty.

(4) The process of silk production is known as sericulture. Silk is produced by several insects; but, generally, only the silk of moth caterpillars has been used for textile manufacturing. To produce 1 kg of silk, 104 kg of mulberry leaves must be eaten by 3000 silkworms.

(5) So what makes silk so costly ? Firstly, cultivation of silk is a labour-intensive work. Secondly, the silk fabric is carefully derived from the larva of the silkworms which spin silk threads around themselves to make cocoons from natural sources. This makes the production limited due to factors like - climate, availability of quality mulberry leaves and time required by silkworms to complete their lifecycle. Thirdly, the intensive work can only be carried out with specialized knowledge and expertise by skilled artisans and craftsmanship. Lastly, superior quality silk fabrics are made from long and uniform silk fibres giving them a smooth and lustrous appearance. Thus, production requires careful selection, adding to the cost.

In 2021, Karnataka was the highest producer of raw silk at 8483 metric tonnes followed by Andhra Pradesh at 5520 metric tonnes with Assam close behind at 5038 metric tonnes. At the other end of the spectrum there was Chhattisgarh (248 metric tonnes), Nagaland (230 metric tonnes) and UP trailed behind at 179 metric tonnes.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

i. What does the phrase ‘luxurious qualities’ in paragraph (2) tell you about the silk fabric? Write in 40 words with evidence from the text.

Solution:

The phrase “luxurious qualities” refers to silk’s soft, smooth, and comfortable texture. It also

highlights silk's unique ability to absorb and release moisture, keeping the wearer cool and dry—qualities that make it feel rich and desirable.

Paragraph (2) describes silk's natural softness, smoothness, and ability to regulate body temperature by absorbing and releasing moisture. These features collectively contribute to the luxurious feel of silk, making it a prized and comfortable fabric.

Quick Tip

When interpreting descriptive phrases, identify the characteristics listed in the passage that justify the use of such adjectives.

ii. Select the option that is true for the assertion and reason given below:

Assertion: Silk production requires careful selection.

Reason: Long and uniform silk fibres give silk a glossy appearance.

- (A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
- (B) Both the assertion and the 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, but the reason is true.

Correct Answer: (A) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

Solution:

Paragraph (5) confirms that silk production requires careful selection and highlights that high-quality silk is made from long, uniform fibres, which contribute to its lustrous and glossy look. Hence, both the assertion and reason are correct, and the reason explains the assertion well.

Quick Tip

For assertion-reason questions, verify both statements in the text and check if the reason directly supports or explains the assertion.

iii. Justify the following statement:

Silk whispers luxury! Its price reflects not just its rarity but the value of the meticulous process behind its creation.

Solution:

Silk is expensive not only because of its rarity but also because it undergoes a time-consuming, labour-intensive process requiring skilled artisans. Additionally, high-quality silk is derived from long and uniform fibres, making its production exclusive and valued.

Quick Tip

For justification questions, combine details about uniqueness, effort, and quality mentioned in the passage.

iv. According to the passage, mention the top two countries that produce silk.

Solution:

The top two silk-producing countries mentioned in the passage are China and India.

Quick Tip

Scan the introductory paragraph for global facts and rankings to identify such factual answers.

v. “Factors like climate, availability of quality mulberry leaves and time required by silk-worms to complete their lifecycle are important factors for the production of silk.”

State any one inference that can be drawn from this.

Solution:

Silk production is highly dependent on natural conditions and biological cycles, making it a delicate and time-bound process.

Quick Tip

Look beyond what's stated—what is the passage implying or suggesting about the process?

vi. Complete the following with a suitable reason from the text:

Though silk is considered one of the strongest fibres, it is

Solution:

it loses up to 20% of its strength when wet.

Quick Tip

Use contrasting details from the same paragraph when dealing with “though/but” constructions.

vii. Based on the given text, mention the states which produced the most and the least amount of raw silk in India in the year 2021.

Solution:

In 2021, Karnataka produced the most raw silk (8483 metric tonnes), and Uttar Pradesh produced the least (179 metric tonnes).

Quick Tip

Numerical and comparative data are often found in the concluding section of a passage.

viii. Complete the sentence suitably:

104 kgs of mulberry leaves eaten by 3000 silkworms results in

Solution:

1 kilogram of silk.

Quick Tip

Identify cause-effect details when working with “results in” or “leads to” patterns in the text.

ix. With reference to the given passage, give one reason why silk production is considered labour-intensive.

Solution:

Silk production involves carefully extracting silk threads spun by silkworms into cocoons and requires skilled artisanship and extensive manual effort.

Quick Tip

Focus on tasks that require human skill, precision, and time when explaining labour-intensive processes.

SECTION B

Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

Grammar

3. Complete any ten of the following twelve tasks, as directed.

(i) Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the brackets, for the given portion of a letter.

“Thank you for ----- (consider) my application. I look forward to working in your organization.”

Correct Answer: considering

Solution:

The correct form of the verb is “considering” because it follows the preposition “for.” In English grammar, a verb that comes immediately after a preposition should be in its gerund (-ing) form.

Quick Tip

When a preposition like “for” is followed by a verb, it must be in the gerund form (verb + ing).

(ii)

Question:

Read the given sentence. Identify the error and supply the correction in the sentence.

Ninety-seven percent of the Earth’s water is salty ocean water and another two percent is trapping in the Earth’s ice caps and glaciers.

Error	Correction
is trapping	is trapped

Solution:

The verb “is trapping” is incorrect because it implies an active ongoing process. However, the sentence describes a state, so the correct form is the passive “is trapped.”

Error: is trapping

Correction: is trapped

Quick Tip

Use the passive voice (“is trapped”) when describing a condition or result, not an ongoing action.

(iii) Question:

Yukti and Sanjay had a conversation about going to a restaurant. Report Yukti's question.
"Does this restaurant serve good South Indian food?"

Solution:

To report a yes/no question in indirect speech, we use "if" or "whether" and change the tense from present to past. Here, "does serve" changes to "served" and "this" becomes "that."

Reported Speech: Yukti asked if that restaurant served good South Indian food.

Quick Tip

For reporting questions, remove the question format, shift the tense, and introduce the reported clause with "if" or "whether."

(iv) Question:

Read the dialogue between Amit and his sister Ananya, regarding her travel to the railway station.

Amit: Are you sure you can manage to go to the railway station on your own?

Ananya: Oh yes! I have already booked a cab.

Select the correct option to report the above dialogue.

Amit asked Ananya ----- to go to the railway station on her own. Ananya replied in the affirmative and said that she had already booked a cab.

- (A) if she is sure she can manage
- (B) if she was sure she could manage
- (C) if she surely can manage
- (D) if she was sure to managing

Correct Answer: (B) if she was sure she could manage

Solution:

In reported speech, tense shift is necessary: “are” becomes “was” and “can” becomes “could.” Also, indirect questions require “if.” So the grammatically correct form is “if she was sure she could manage.”

Quick Tip

When converting dialogue to reported speech, change present to past, pronouns appropriately, and use “if” for yes/no questions.

(v) Question:

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option, to complete the sentence taken from a book about ‘Birds’.

Each year, thousands of birds (migrate/immigrate/emigrate) southwards to avoid the harsh winter, embarking on an incredible journey that spans thousands of miles.

Correct Answer: migrate

Solution:

The correct word is “migrate.” Birds travel seasonally from one region to another, and this process is called migration. “Immigrate” and “emigrate” refer to movement into or out of a country by humans, not animals in seasonal patterns.

Quick Tip

Use “migrate” for seasonal movement of animals or birds; “immigrate” and “emigrate” are used for permanent human relocation.

(vi) Question:

Identify and correct the error in the given line taken from an agency’s advertisement.

Tell us much about your project and we'll select suitable candidates for you to hire.

Use the given format for your response.

Solution:

The word “much” is incorrect when referring to countable or specific information in informal English. The correct word here is “more,” as it better fits the intended meaning.

Error	Correction
much	more

Quick Tip

Use “more” instead of “much” when referring to additional specific or countable information in informal contexts.

(vii) Question:

Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction for the following line taken from an article about growing obesity.

Obesity in teenage children is a major concern between parents today.

Option No.	Error	Correction
(A)	teenage	teenagers
(B)	concern	concerns
(C)	between	among
(D)	today	now

Correct Answer: (C) between → among

Solution:

The word “between” is used for two entities, but “parents” implies more than two individuals. The correct word is “among,” which is used for more than two people or things.

Quick Tip

Use “between” for exactly two entities and “among” for more than two.

(viii) Question:

Complete the given narrative with the correct option to fill in the blank.

Yesterday, Tanu walked to the park and _____ a breezy evening.

- (A) to enjoying
- (B) will enjoy
- (C) enjoyed
- (D) did enjoyed

Correct Answer: (C) enjoyed

Solution:

Since the sentence is in the past tense (“Yesterday, Tanu walked. . .”), the verb should also be in simple past tense. “Enjoyed” fits the grammatical structure of the narrative correctly.

Quick Tip

Match the verb tense with the rest of the sentence; look for time indicators like “yesterday.”

(ix) Question:

Report the dialogue between two friends by completing the sentence.

Bhawna: I finished the project yesterday.

Sohail: That’s great! Are you going to present it tomorrow?

Bhawna told Sohail that _____ Sohail responded that it was great and asked if she were going to present it the next day.

Answer: she had finished the project the previous day.

Solution:

In reported speech, “I finished the project yesterday” becomes “she had finished the project the previous day.” The pronoun changes, the verb shifts to past perfect, and “yesterday” becomes “the previous day.”

Quick Tip

In indirect speech, shift past simple to past perfect and adjust time references (e.g., “yesterday” to “the previous day”).

(x) Question:

Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option to complete the notice on a school notice board.

We are pleased to announce that our Annual Sports Day ----- on 30th April, 2025 at the school playground from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- (A) is held
- (B) will be held
- (C) had been held
- (D) to be held

Correct Answer: (B) will be held

Solution:

The future date “30th April, 2025” requires the use of future tense. The formal and correct way to express this in an announcement is “will be held.”

Quick Tip

In notices or formal announcements for future events, always use the simple future passive: “will be held.”

(xi) Question:

Complete the slogan on “Save Earth”, by filling in the blank with the correct option.

Let’s join hands, cultivate conservation, and _____ a greener tomorrow for generations to come.

- (A) ensuring
- (B) ensure
- (C) ensures
- (D) ensured

Correct Answer: (B) ensure

Solution:

The sentence uses parallel structure: “join,” “cultivate,” and the next verb should match that base form. Therefore, “ensure” is the correct verb to complete the series of actions.

Quick Tip

Use parallel verb forms when listing actions in the same sentence: all should be in the same grammatical form.

(xii) Question:

Identify the error and supply the correction for the following note in an air purifier’s instruction manual.

The plug should fit upto the outlet. If it doesn’t fit, do not force it in.

Use the given format for your response.

Solution:

The word “upto” is incorrect. The correct form is “up to” as it is a two-word preposition.

“Upto” is not recognized in standard English usage.

Error	Correction
upto	up to

Quick Tip

“Up to” is always written as two separate words when used as a preposition.

Writing

Note : All details presented in the questions in writing section are imaginary and created for assessment purpose.

4. Attempt any one from (a) and (b) given below :

(a) You are Soumya Hansal / Sumit Hansal living at F-32, Shanti Nagar, Vayugarh. Seeing the inadequate healthcare infrastructure in your town, write a letter to the MLA of your area, in about 120 words, suggesting the need for improving existing healthcare facilities and creating more “Wellness Centres” including a specialized hospital for children and women.

Solution:

To

The Hon’ble MLA

Vayugarh Constituency

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am Soumya Hansal, a resident of F-32, Shanti Nagar, Vayugarh. I wish to draw your attention to the inadequate healthcare infrastructure in our town. The existing facilities are not sufficient to meet the growing population’s needs.

I request you to take immediate steps to upgrade the current health centres and establish more “Wellness Centres” in our area. There is an urgent requirement for a specialized hospital focusing on the health of children and women, who are most vulnerable due to the lack of focused care.

Your prompt attention and action will greatly benefit our community’s well-being.

Sincerely,

Quick Tip

Keep letters concise and formal. Mention the issue, suggest a solution, and appeal respectfully.

OR

(b) You are Risha Khan / Zuhaan Khan, the sports captain of Highrise Public School, New Line, Rai Nagar. You believe that games and sports are an integral part of a student's life. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, in about 120 words, sharing your views on the importance of physical education and suggesting the need to establish a dedicated sports university, so that students can pursue and focus on their favourite sport.

Solution:

To

The Editor

The National Daily

City Name

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am Zuhaan Khan, the sports captain of Highrise Public School, Rai Nagar. I am writing to express my views on the need for promoting physical education and games in academic life.

Sports not only boost physical fitness but also instill discipline, teamwork, and leadership skills in students. Yet, many talented sportspersons lack facilities and a focused environment to develop their skills.

I urge the authorities to consider establishing a dedicated sports university to help students pursue their passion professionally. Such institutions would enhance sporting culture and help bring more laurels to our nation.

Sincerely,

Zuhaan Khan

Quick Tip

When writing to an editor, begin with the issue, support it with reasoning, and end with a public-interest suggestion.

5. Attempt any one from (a) and (b) given below :

(a): In the past few years, the teaching-learning process has taken a leap and gone beyond the four walls of the classroom. Today, it has become possible to learn not just by sitting in a physical classroom, but from anywhere. Given below is a chart depicting the differences between E-learning and Classroom learning. Write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words, assessing the benefits and drawbacks of both, by selecting features that support your analysis.

E-learning	Classroom learning
accessible anytime anywhere	same place, same time
at your own pace	caters to the needs of the class
no travel costs, saves time	transportation cost and time consuming

Solution:

In recent years, education has evolved significantly, and E-learning has emerged as a flexible alternative to traditional classroom learning. One major benefit of E-learning is its accessibility—it can be done anytime and anywhere, allowing learners to study at their own pace. It also eliminates travel time and costs. However, it may lack the discipline and structure that classroom learning provides. On the other hand, classroom learning offers a fixed schedule and personalized interaction, which caters to the collective needs of students. But it requires physical presence and incurs transportation time and expenses. While both methods have their own strengths and limitations, a blended approach combining the flexibility of E-learning with the engagement of classroom instruction might be the most effective.

Quick Tip

Use comparison tables to organize ideas clearly before writing analytical content. Conclude with a balanced opinion.

OR

(b) Read the given details of a computer.

- electronic device that can store and process information
- makes life easy and simple
- physical description — monitor, keyboard, CPU and mouse
- computer technology used in all fields — education, medicine, commerce, entertainment

Analyze the details and write an analytical paragraph in about 120 words about the description and role of computers in today's world.

Solution:

Computers have become an essential part of modern life. As electronic devices, they are capable of storing and processing vast amounts of data efficiently. Physically, a computer consists of a monitor, keyboard, CPU, and mouse, all working together to perform various tasks. Their ability to simplify life and save time has made them indispensable. In today's world, computers are used in every field—be it education for online learning, medicine for diagnosis and research, commerce for transactions, or entertainment for gaming and media. Their versatility and speed have revolutionized how we live, work, and communicate. As technology advances, the role of computers will continue to expand, making them even more integral to daily life.

Quick Tip

Start with a definition, add functional and physical aspects, and conclude with broad impact across domains.

SECTION C

Literature

6. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b) :

(a) Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho's soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons, "A plague of locusts would have left more than this. The hail has left nothing. This year we will have no corn."

That night was a sorrowful one.

"All our work, for nothing."

"There's no one who can help us."

"We'll all go hungry this year."

(A Letter to God)

(i) Question:

Why were there no leaves left on the trees?

(A) The locusts ate them up.

(B) An earthquake had occurred.

(C) There was a hailstorm.

(D) The animals grazed on them.

Correct Answer: (C) There was a hailstorm.

Solution:

The passage clearly states that the hailstorm destroyed everything—including leaves, corn, and flowers. Thus, the correct answer is that the hailstorm caused the damage.

Quick Tip

Always locate the exact cause-effect clue in the extract before selecting the answer in reading comprehension MCQs.

(ii) Question:

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets.

Lencho felt _____ (jubilant/devastated) when he saw his destroyed corn fields.

Correct Answer: devastated

Solution:

Lencho's reaction in the passage—standing sad, talking about the destruction, and predicting hunger—shows he was heartbroken. The correct word is “devastated.”

Quick Tip

Use emotional cues from the passage to choose the most appropriate vocabulary word.

(iii) Question:

When Lencho says, “All our work, for nothing,” what does he refer to? Explain in about 40 words.

Solution:

Lencho is referring to the hard work he and his family put into preparing and nurturing the corn crop. The hailstorm destroyed all their efforts, leaving them with no yield to harvest. It was a complete loss for the entire year.

Quick Tip

When quoting characters, link their words directly to the situation described in the text.

(iv) Question:

Why would Lencho have preferred a plague of locusts to a hailstorm?

Solution:

Lencho believed that a plague of locusts would have left behind at least some of the crops,

whereas the hailstorm completely destroyed everything. The comparison highlights the total devastation caused by the hail.

Quick Tip

Look for comparative statements in the passage to understand character preferences or opinions.

OR

(b) Later, he patted me on the head and said never mind, he'd teach me to cook. He also taught me to write my name and said he would soon teach me to write whole sentences and to add numbers. I was grateful. I knew that once I could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what I could achieve.

It was quite pleasant working for Anil. I made the tea in the morning and then would take my time buying the day's supplies, usually making a profit of about a rupee a day. I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind.

(The Thief's Story)

(i) Question:

What does the following line tell us about the character of Anil?

"I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind."

Solution:

This line shows that Anil was kind, understanding, and forgiving. He noticed Hari Singh's small acts of dishonesty but chose to ignore them, perhaps because he believed in reforming the boy rather than punishing him.

Quick Tip

Look at a character's reaction rather than just actions to infer personality traits.

(ii) Question:

Which of the following best describes the realization Hari Singh had while working for Anil?

- (A) that he would become a rich person one day
- (B) that Anil was a very intelligent master but a miser
- (C) that he would be able to accomplish a lot if he gets educated
- (D) that Anil made a lot of money from his job

Correct Answer: (C) that he would be able to accomplish a lot if he gets educated

Solution:

Hari Singh realizes that literacy is powerful and that education could open limitless possibilities for him. This awareness is triggered by Anil's willingness to teach him to read and write.

Quick Tip

When identifying realizations, focus on internal changes in the character's thinking or values.

(iii) Question:

What did Anil promise to teach Hari Singh, and how did Hari Singh feel about the opportunity to learn? Answer in about 40 words.

Solution:

Anil promised to teach Hari Singh how to cook and write. He began by teaching him to write his name and planned to teach him sentences and basic math. Hari Singh felt grateful and realized that education could transform his future.

Quick Tip

Mention both what was promised and how the character emotionally responded for full marks.

(iv) Question:

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets.

The narrator earned extra money by making a/an _____ (profit/investment) of about a rupee a day.

Correct Answer: profit

Solution:

The context is about small daily earnings made while shopping for groceries. “Profit” is the correct word here because it refers to the extra money he kept for himself.

Quick Tip

Use “profit” when referring to small earnings; “investment” refers to money put into ventures expecting future returns.

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two,

(a) or (b) :

”I heard an old religious man
But yesternight declare
That he had found a text to prove
That only God, my dear,
Could love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair.”

(For Anne Gregory)

(i) Question:

Complete the sentence appropriately:

The speaker addresses the person he is speaking to as “my dear” because _____.

Solution:

The speaker uses the phrase “my dear” to show affection and familiarity. It reflects a tone of endearment and conveys the speaker’s emotional connection and concern for the person he is addressing.

Quick Tip

Contextual tone and emotional closeness help determine why certain terms of endearment are used.

(ii) Question:

The poet mentions “yellow hair.” What is its significance in the context of the statement? Answer in about 40 words.

Solution:

“Yellow hair” symbolizes external beauty and physical attraction. The poet uses it to highlight that most people love others based on appearance. In contrast, only God can love someone for their true inner self, beyond physical traits.

Quick Tip

Symbolic references often contrast deeper meanings—link them to broader themes like love, identity, or values.

(iii) Question:

Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets.

The poet suggests that God’s love in comparison to that of a human being is _____ (selfish/selfless).

Correct Answer: selfless

Solution:

The poet states that only God can love a person for who they truly are and not for their outer appearance. This love is pure and unconditional, and therefore, selfless.

Quick Tip

Contrast divine qualities with human behavior to understand the intended meaning in philosophical poetry.

(iv) Question:

As per the above extract, what attributes does God not love a person for? Select the correct option.

1. Wealth
2. Physical appearance
3. Intelligence
4. Inner qualities

5. Youth

(A) 1 and 4

(B) 3, 4, and 5

(C) 2 and 4

(D) Only 4

Correct Answer: (C) 2 and 4

Solution:

God's love, according to the poem, is based on inner qualities, not physical appearance like "yellow hair." Therefore, while humans may value appearance, God sees the inner self and not external beauty.

Quick Tip

Match symbolic elements like "yellow hair" to listed attributes in MCQs to identify implied values.

OR

7. (b). Read the following extract and answer the questions:

*He stalks in his vivid stripes
The few steps of his cage,
On pads of velvet quiet,
In his quiet rage.
He should be lurking in shadow,
Sliding through long grass
(A Tiger in the Zoo)*

(i) Question:

Identify and name any one figure of speech in the above extract.

Solution:

One figure of speech used in the extract is **Oxymoron** – “quiet rage.” It combines two opposite ideas, showing the suppressed anger of the tiger, emphasizing the contrast between his calm appearance and inner frustration.

Quick Tip

Look for phrases that contrast or exaggerate ideas to identify figures of speech like oxymoron or metaphor.

(ii) Question:

Fill in the blank with one word.

The tiger’s stalking on ‘pads of velvet’ suggests a movement that is _____.

Correct Answer: silent

Solution:

The phrase “pads of velvet” refers to the tiger’s soft paws, implying a movement that is gentle

and noiseless. Therefore, the correct word is “silent.”

Quick Tip

Focus on descriptive imagery—words like “velvet” usually indicate softness or silence.

(iii) Question:

Based on the given lines from the poem, which words would best describe the feelings of the tiger?

- (A) Calm and content
- (B) Both subdued and angry
- (C) Both frustrated and happy
- (D) Both angry and famished

Correct Answer: (B) Both subdued and angry

Solution:

The tiger is shown to be pacing within the limited space of his cage, indicating he is subdued and restrained. The term “quiet rage” reflects suppressed anger, not external aggression.

Quick Tip

Link mood-related words (like “rage” or “quiet”) to emotional states such as anger or suppression.

(iv) Question:

Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the first four lines of the given extract.

- (A) The people along the sand
All turn and look one way
They turn their back on the land

They look at the sea all day

(B) Along the sand, the people

All turn and look one way

They turn back on the sand

They look at the sea all day

(C) The people along the sand

Look one way and all turn

Their backs on the land

They look at the sea all day

(D) The people along the sand

They turn their back on the land

They look one way

At the sea all day

Correct Answer: (A)

Solution:

The rhyme scheme of the first four lines of the poem is A B C B (stripes – A, cage – B, quiet – C, rage – B). Option (A) follows the same pattern with the second and fourth lines rhyming (way – day).

Quick Tip

Match the end words of lines and look for repeated rhymes at alternate lines to spot patterns like A B C B.

8. Answer any *four* of the following five questions in 40–50 words each:

(i) Question:

Mandela in his speech says, “The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in my country and my people.” Explain the significance of the word “wound” as used by Mandela.

(Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom)

Solution:

By “wound,” Mandela refers to the emotional and psychological damage caused by apartheid. It symbolizes the pain of racial discrimination, loss of dignity, and years of injustice suffered by Black South Africans. The wound signifies a deep scar that requires healing through equality and reconciliation.

Quick Tip

Look for symbolic meanings of physical words like “wound” when used in abstract or emotional contexts.

(ii) Question:

‘Dust of Snow’, by Robert Frost is a poem about nature and simplicity. Elaborate.

Solution:

In “Dust of Snow,” Robert Frost shows how a simple act of nature—a crow shaking snow onto the speaker—changes his mood. The poem celebrates how small, ordinary moments can positively impact our day, highlighting the beauty and healing power of nature and simplicity.

Quick Tip

Summarize both the literal event and its emotional effect when analyzing short poems.

(iii) Question:

Explain the reasons for Rajvir’s excitement on seeing the plantation and Pranjol’s lack of enthusiasm.

(Glimpses of India – Tea from Assam)

Solution:

Rajvir was visiting Assam for the first time and was amazed by the vast tea plantations. His

excitement stemmed from curiosity and learning. In contrast, Pranjol, who lived in Assam, saw such views daily and didn't find them unusual, hence his lack of enthusiasm.

Quick Tip

Highlight contrasting perspectives when the question compares two characters' reactions.

(iv) Question:

Analyze how Wells employs humour, rhyme, and exaggerated traits to not only entertain, but also educate readers about various wild animals. Explain.

(How to Tell Wild Animals)

Solution:

In "How to Tell Wild Animals," Wells uses humour and exaggeration to describe dangerous animals in amusing ways. The rhyming verses make learning fun, while traits like "if he roars at you and kills you" create exaggerated but memorable imagery to educate readers about animals.

Quick Tip

Identify literary devices and explain how they serve both an entertaining and informative purpose.

(v) Question:

Mijbil's transportation to England was no less than a nightmare for the author. Justify the statement using incidents from the lesson.

(Mijbil the Otter)

Solution:

Transporting Mijbil to England was extremely difficult. The author faced problems like acquiring a box, Mij escaping, and airport formalities. During the flight, Mij was nearly lost and

caused chaos. These incidents made the journey stressful and unforgettable for the author.

Quick Tip

When justifying a statement, use specific incidents from the story to support the claim.

9. Answer any *two* of the following three questions in 40–50 words each:

(i) Question:

Analyze how Herriot uses Tricki and Mrs. Pumphrey’s relationship to comment on societal attitudes towards pets and the responsibilities associated with their care.

(A Triumph of Surgery)

Solution:

Herriot uses Tricki’s pampered lifestyle and Mrs. Pumphrey’s overindulgence to highlight how excessive affection can harm pets. It reflects a societal trend where emotional attachment overshadows responsibility. The story promotes balanced care, advocating love coupled with sensible treatment of animals’ health and well-being.

Quick Tip

When analyzing relationships, focus on actions and what they symbolically reveal about broader society.

(ii) Question:

Today reading books is on the decline because of the prevalence of electronic media. Contrarily, Earth is saved by a ‘Book’ in the chapter “The Book That Saved the Earth.” Elaborate.

Solution:

The story humorously shows how a nursery rhyme book confuses Martians and prevents an invasion. While society drifts toward digital media, the lesson reminds us that books hold timeless knowledge and unexpected value. Books may still “save” us in ways technology

cannot foresee.

Quick Tip

Connect the theme to both the fictional incident and real-world relevance for full marks.

(iii) Question:

Discuss the character development of Griffin, as he grapples with the repercussions of his actions and attempts to navigate a world, where his once extraordinary abilities have become a burden.

(Footprints without Feet)

Solution:

Griffin starts as a brilliant but arrogant scientist. His invisibility, initially a marvel, becomes a curse due to his lack of morality. His isolation and failure to adapt show a downfall shaped by his choices. Instead of mastering his gift, he is destroyed by it.

Quick Tip

Highlight how the character evolves (or regresses) due to internal flaws and external consequences.

10. Answer any one of the following two questions in 100 - 120 words :

(a): Amanda and Valli both represent a longing for freedom. Examine the above observation with reference to the two texts.

(Amanda and Madam Rides the Bus)

Solution:

Amanda and Valli, though from different contexts, both express a strong desire for freedom. Amanda escapes into her imagination to avoid the constant nagging of her parents. She dreams of being a mermaid, an orphan, and Rapunzel—figures who symbolize solitude and liberty.

On the other hand, Valli desires real-world independence. Despite being a child, she plans and executes a bus journey on her own without informing anyone. Both characters showcase the struggles of young girls trying to break free from the restrictions placed upon them—Amanda through fantasy and Valli through action. Their stories highlight a universal theme: the yearning for personal space and autonomy in a controlling environment.

Quick Tip

Compare both characters' actions and desires to frame a thematic answer effectively.

OR

(b): In 'The Ball Poem', Berryman explores the themes of loss, growing up, and transformation. Mandela also experienced loss of freedom and suffering along with his countrymen during his growing years on the basis of his race and colour.

Compare and contrast the commonality of themes in both the texts.

(The Ball Poem and Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom)

Solution:

Both *The Ball Poem* and *Long Walk to Freedom* explore the emotional journey of loss and growth. In Berryman's poem, the boy loses his ball—a symbol of innocence—and learns the harsh reality of loss, leading to maturity. Mandela, too, speaks of the painful loss of freedom under apartheid and the collective suffering of his people. His transformation into a resilient leader came through years of struggle. While the poem addresses personal emotional growth through a small loss, Mandela's story is one of national pain and political awakening. Both texts highlight how suffering fosters inner strength and maturity.

Quick Tip

To compare texts effectively, link their core themes and contrast their scope—personal vs. societal.

11. Answer any one of the following two questions in 100 - 120 words :

(a): Horace ends up in prison only to regret that a man should not trust anyone blindly without finding out the truth. Do you think his own foolishness was responsible for his arrest? Give a reasoned answer.

(A Question of Trust)

Solution:

Yes, Horace's own foolishness led to his arrest. Despite being a careful planner, he blindly trusted the young woman who posed as the owner's wife. Without verifying her identity, he helped her by opening the safe. His misplaced confidence and arrogance caused him to overlook the basic precaution of confirming facts. He underestimated others and believed only he could commit the perfect crime. His experience teaches the lesson that cleverness without caution is dangerous. Trust must be earned, not assumed.

Quick Tip

When assigning blame in a story, focus on the character's choices and overlooked warning signs.

OR

(b): Matilda's character embodies the journey of change or progression throughout the story, encapsulating the transformations she endured as a consequence of her experiences, trials, and engagements with other characters.

In the light of the above information, trace the transformation seen in Matilda's character in the story.

(The Necklace)

Solution:

Matilda begins as a vain and dissatisfied woman who dreams of luxury and despises her modest life. After losing the necklace, she undergoes a transformation. She takes responsibility,

works hard, and leads a life of poverty for ten years to repay the debt. This hardship changes her from a dreamy, ungrateful person into a mature, resilient woman. Her transformation is both external and internal, as she learns the value of honesty, humility, and endurance. Ironically, the necklace was fake, making her suffering avoidable, yet essential for her growth.

Quick Tip

Track character changes from start to end—describe who they were, what happened, and what they became.
