

CBSE Class 10 English set 2-6 -2 2025 Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 hours	Maximum Marks :80	Total Questions :11
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper comprises 11 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. The question paper contains THREE sections —
 - Section - A : Reading Skills
 - Section - B : Grammar and Creative Writing Skills
 - Section - C : Literature Textbook
3. Attempt questions based on specific instructions for each part.

SECTION A

Reading Skills

1.Read the following text :

(1) Creativity is our most precious resource and the most inexhaustible one. As anyone who has ever spent any time with children knows, every single human being is born creative; every human being is innately endowed with the ability to combine data and perceptions, materials and ideas and devise new ways of thinking and doing. What fosters creativity ? More than anything else : the presence of other creative people, contrary to that creativity is the province of great individual geniuses. In fact creativity is a social process. Our biggest creative breakthrough comes when people learn from, compete with, and collaborate with other people. (2) Cities are centres of creativity. With their diverse populations, dense social networks and public spaces, people can meet spontaneously and spark or catalyse new ideas. With their infrastructure for finance, organization and trade, they allow the idea to swiftly reach its destination.

(3) A study tracking the decline of unconventional thinking ability as children age, states that while 98 percent of 3 to 5 years olds exhibited creative thinking, this dwindled to 10 percent

among 13 to 15 years olds and a mere 2 percent among 25 years olds. Thus, adulthood witnesses the erosion of innate creativity. There is a variance in creative vitality across cities. Although all cities harbour creative individuals by default, some are saturated with leaders, institutions, and people that inhibit creativity.

(4) Creativity (or the lack of it) follows the same general contours of the great socio-economic divide - our rising inequality - that plagues us. According to estimates, roughly one-third people are able to do work which engages our creative faculties to some extent, whether as artists, musicians, writers, techies, innovators, entrepreneurs, doctors, lawyers, journalists or educators. That leaves a group termed "the other 66 percent", in which their creativity is subjugated, ignored or wasted.

(5) Creativity itself is not in danger. It is flourishing all around us - in science and technology, arts and culture, in our rapidly revitalizing cities. But we still have a long way to go if we want to build a truly creative society that supports and rewards creativity of each one of us.

(Created for academic usage / 410 words)

1. Answer the following questions, based on the passage above :

(i):

The central idea of this passage is that:

- (A) social interaction is necessary to nurture creativity.
- (B) creativity and ideas are gradually declining in all societies.
- (C) the creativity divide is widening in societies in line with socio-economic trends.
- (D) more people should work in jobs that engage their creative faculties.

Correct Answer: (C) the creativity divide is widening in societies in line with socio-economic trends.

Solution:

The passage discusses how creativity is innate in all human beings and can be nurtured socially. However, as people grow older, creative thinking declines. Furthermore, the text highlights how only a minority work in fields that utilize creativity, leaving the majority's creative potential untapped. This highlights a divide aligned with social and economic patterns, making option (C) the central idea.

Quick Tip

For central idea questions, identify the recurring concern or problem discussed across all paragraphs.

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

Assertion: Creativity is the province of great individual genius is not true.

Reason: Creativity is a social process.

(A) Both the Assertion and Reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

(B) Both the 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, but the Reason is true.

Correct Answer: (A)

Solution:

The passage clearly states that creativity is not limited to individual genius but is fostered through social interaction and collaboration. Hence, both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason correctly explains the assertion.

Quick Tip

For assertion-reason questions, always evaluate if the reason directly supports or just coexists with the assertion.

iii: Identify the word in paragraph 1 which means something that cannot be used-up or depleted.

Correct Answer: inexhaustible

Solution:

The word “inexhaustible” from paragraph 1 means something that cannot be used up. It is used in the context of creativity being an endless and renewable human resource.

Quick Tip

Look for contextual clues like "most precious" and "cannot be depleted" to find such vocabulary matches.

iv: What important trends does a study tracking the decline in creative thinking ability in children reveal? Answer in about 40 words.

Solution:

The study shows a sharp decline in creative thinking as children age. While 98% of children aged 3–5 show creative potential, only 10% of teenagers and just 2% of adults retain this ability, suggesting creativity fades with age and societal conditioning.

Quick Tip

Focus on numbers and age groups to answer trend-based questions.

v: Read the given prompt and select the correct option in the brackets to fill in the blank. Creativity is thus a _____ (economic, industrial, social) process.

Correct Answer: social

Solution:

The passage repeatedly emphasizes that creativity arises from collaboration, learning, and competition with others, making it fundamentally a social process.

Quick Tip

Match the blank with the most repeated concept from the passage's main argument.

vi: According to the passage, where does creativity thrive apart from arts and culture?

Solution:

Creativity also thrives in fields like science and technology, education, law, journalism, medicine, and innovation—anywhere that engages human intellect and imagination.

Quick Tip

Scan for examples that extend beyond the obvious domain when answering scope-based questions.

vii: Complete the following with a suitable reason:

About thirty-three percent citizens engage their creative faculties in tasks that use

Correct Answer:

...tasks that use innovation, imagination, and problem-solving—such as in education, law, medicine, entrepreneurship, and design.

Solution:

These fields require thinking beyond routine work and involve challenges that need creative input, making them ideal for nurturing creativity.

Quick Tip

Revisit examples of professions or activities in the text when filling in inference-based completions.

viii: In the context of the last paragraph, explain how does the passage view the future of creativity in society.

Solution:

The passage views the future of creativity with optimism. It states that creativity is thriving in various sectors like science and revitalizing cities. However, to build a truly creative society, everyone's creative potential must be supported, not just a privileged few.

Quick Tip

Look to the tone and concluding lines of a passage to infer the author's outlook on the topic.

2. Read the following text:

(1) In today's contemporary online shopping landscape, a perfect storm of choices engulfs consumers. Research consistently indicates that individuals presented with a limited selection tend to make more confident and efficient decisions compared to those confronted with overwhelming choices.

(2) Consequently, assisting consumers in navigating the vast expanse of options available online has evolved into a thriving industry on a global scale. Many brands and retailers now employ marketing strategies revolving around the aspects given in the table below:

Aspect	Description
Industry	Helping consumers decide what to buy online.
Marketing tools	Selecting, differentiation and discovery.
Data utilization	Digital advertising, cataloging people by gender, income level, personal interests and more.
Retail Assistance	Algorithms, influencers and ad tech.
Challenge	Choice fatigue due to the overwhelming volume of consumer choices.
Solution	Lifestyle influencers on Instagram providing aspirational content and product recommendations.

(3) For a relatively new breed of consumer product startups, a different approach emerges entirely. Rather than attempting to navigate the existing sea of products, these companies claim to revolutionize conventional consumer choices. Some brands offer limited, functional, mid-priced products, instilling customer confidence and breaking the cycle of consumerism.

(4) The global product abundance could be more equitable. Unfortunately, creators often prioritize wealthier consumers.

(5) For startups promising accessible simplicity, their very structure may eventually lead them back to an overwhelming array of choices. Most of these companies rely on hundreds of millions of dollars in venture capital funding, and their investors typically expect rapid growth. *(Adapted for academic usage)*

i: What does the use of the phrase "a perfect storm of choice," by the writer, in paragraph 1, tell us about their feelings?

(A) The consumers are elated

- (B) The consumers are confused
- (C) The consumers are confident
- (D) The consumers are decisive

Correct Answer: (B) The consumers are confused

Solution:

The phrase "a perfect storm of choice" suggests chaos and being overwhelmed. It reflects how excessive options in online shopping confuse rather than empower consumers.

Quick Tip

Look for metaphors and exaggeration to understand implied emotions and tone.

ii:

Identify the word in paragraph 2 that indicates that the writer feels assisting consumers has become a profitable industry.

Correct Answer: thriving

Solution:

The word "thriving" in paragraph 2 suggests that assisting consumers in decision-making has evolved into a successful and profitable business sector.

Quick Tip

Look for adjectives that describe business success or growth when identifying positive sentiment.

iii: Based on the aspects mentioned in the table, mention the marketing approach that is primarily concerned with understanding consumers based on various factors.

Correct Answer: Data utilization

Solution:

The "Data utilization" row in the table refers to categorizing people by demographics and preferences. This clearly shows it deals with understanding consumer behavior based on data.

Quick Tip

Match keywords like "income", "interests", and "cataloging" to find the right category.

iv: Complete the following analogy appropriately, based on your understanding of the table: Cataloging people by gender, income level, personal interests etc. is to **Data utilization** as Algorithms, influencers, and ad tech are to _____.

Correct Answer: Retail assistance

Solution:

The first part of the analogy describes consumer analysis; the second part describes tools that act on that data. According to the table, "Algorithms, influencers, and ad tech" fall under "Retail assistance."

Quick Tip

Use the structure of the table to determine categories of examples.

v: Which aspect in the table pertains to presenting consumers with carefully selected choices to assist decision-making?

- (A) Challenge
- (B) Data utilization
- (C) Marketing trends
- (D) Retail assistance

Correct Answer: (D) Retail assistance

Solution:

"Retail assistance" includes algorithms and influencers, which help filter and present tailored choices to consumers, making decision-making easier.

Quick Tip

Identify which aspect of the table describes helping consumers decide, not just analyzing them.

vi: Based on your understanding, fill the blank with the appropriate option:

The solution to combat choice fatigue is to _____ (follow / employ / recommend) lifestyle influencers on Instagram who provide self-improvement content and product references.

Correct Answer: employ

Solution:

According to the table, brands employ lifestyle influencers to guide consumers. Therefore, “employ” best fits the sentence contextually and grammatically.

Quick Tip

Use clues from the table’s “Solution” row to determine the correct verb that aligns with marketing strategy.

vii: Complete the sentence suitably:

The different approach to revolutionise consumer choices is to _____.

Correct Answer: offer limited, functional, mid-priced products to instill customer confidence.

Solution:

As stated in paragraph 3, some startups break away from overwhelming choices by simplifying options and building trust through curated, focused offerings.

Quick Tip

For completion tasks, refer to sections describing contrast or unique methods in the passage.

viii: Complete the following with a suitable reason:

The writer believes that the global product abundance cannot be equitable because _____.

Correct Answer: creators often prioritize wealthier consumers when designing and offering products.

Solution:

Paragraph 4 highlights that despite product abundance, access remains unequal since creators design products catering to high-income groups, neglecting the needs of less affluent consumers.

Quick Tip

Tie cause-effect logic to the author's opinions stated directly in the passage.

ix: In the context of the last paragraph, explain how does the passage view the future of creativity in society?

Solution:

While startups aim to simplify choices, the passage warns that their business model, dependent on venture capital, may lead them back to offering a wide range of products. This creates a cycle where efforts to reduce choice overload ultimately fall into the same trap due to market pressures.

Quick Tip

Always evaluate concluding paragraphs for potential irony or unintended consequences highlighted by the author.

SECTION B

Grammar and Creative Writing Skills

Grammar

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

i:

Read the given sentence from a story. Fill in the blank by using the correct form of the word in the bracket:

As I entered the room, the first thing that struck me as odd, was the candle still ----- (burn) on the table. The curtains had been drawn back and the room was bright.

Solution:

The correct form of the verb is “burning” because it acts as a present participle describing the state of the candle at that moment.

Answer: burning

Quick Tip

Use present participle (-ing form) when describing an ongoing action or state at a particular time.

ii: Identify and correct the error in the sentence taken from the article ‘The Hidden Health Risks of Bread Consumption’:

Health experts worldwide are concerning about the surge in health problems.

Solution:

The verb “concerning” is incorrect here. The correct verb is “concerned” because it refers to the state or emotion of the subject. “Are concerned about” is the appropriate passive construction.

Error	Correction
concerning	concerned

Quick Tip

Use “concerned” (past participle) to describe someone’s feelings or state, not the active “concerning.”

iii: Complete the given statement, by filling the blank with the correct option:

A mask is used to hide the identity ---- a person.

(A) of

(B) for

(C) being

(D) at

Correct Answer: (A) of

Solution:

The correct preposition is “of” as it connects “identity” with “person.” The phrase “identity of a person” is grammatically correct and commonly used.

Quick Tip

Use “of” to show possession or relation, especially with abstract nouns like identity, idea, or name.

iv: Read the following conversation:

Student: Hello. I’ve come to ask about the English courses you run for international students.

Administrator: Are you a student at the university?

Select the correct option to complete the reporting of the above dialogue:

The student greeted and mentioned that she ____ to inquire about the English courses for international students. The administrator enquired if she was a student at the university.

(A) has come

(B) has came

(C) had came

(D) had come

Correct Answer: (D) had come

Solution:

In reported speech, present perfect (“I’ve come”) changes to past perfect (“had come”). “Had came” is grammatically incorrect as “come” is the past participle of “come.”

Quick Tip

In reported speech, change present perfect to past perfect: “have/has + verb” becomes “had + past participle.”

v: Identify the error and supply the correct word in the format given below:

“Embrace change as an opportunity for personal growth and allowed it to improve your life.”

Error	Correction
allowed	allow

Solution:

The sentence is in the present tense and uses an imperative structure. “Allowed” should be corrected to “allow” to maintain grammatical consistency.

Quick Tip

Imperative sentences use the base form of the verb (e.g., allow, accept, learn).

vi: Report the dialogue between a shopkeeper and Ramesh:

Shopkeeper: What book do you want?

Ramesh: A reference book for Physics which I can use for my project work.

Solution:

The shopkeeper asked Ramesh which book he wanted. Ramesh replied that he wanted a reference book for Physics which he could use for his project work.

Quick Tip

Use backshift in tense and change pronouns appropriately when converting to reported speech.

vii: Fill in the blank by choosing the correct option:

There are many inventions of science ---- have benefitted human beings in many ways.

- (A) those
- (B) which
- (C) such
- (D) who

Correct Answer: (B) which

Solution:

“Which” is the correct relative pronoun here because it connects the noun “inventions” to the clause “have benefitted human beings.”

Quick Tip

Use “which” for things and “who” for people when forming relative clauses.

viii: Complete the statement made by a career counsellor:

In our country, ____ universities offer a range of courses. That’s why foreign students prefer Indian universities.

(A) more

(B) each

(C) many

(D) few

Correct Answer: (A) more

Solution:

“More” implies comparison and abundance, which fits the context of a wide range of options offered, making Indian universities attractive to foreign students.

Quick Tip

Look for contextual hints indicating comparison or quantity to pick the correct quantifier.

ix: Report the dialogue between the residents and the city planner:

City Planner: The new park is a result of several months of research and planning.

Residents: We don’t know who is more excited – we or our children!

Solution:

The city planner said that the new park was a result of several months of research and planning. The residents expressed their excitement, stating that they were unsure who was more excited – they or their children.

Quick Tip

In reported dialogue, change present to past, adjust pronouns, and restructure exclamatory sentences into statements.

x: Choose the correct statement:

- (A) He swore that he had not stolen the bag.
- (B) He swore that he had not stolen the bag.
- (C) He was swearing that he had not stolen the bag.
- (D) He swears that he had not stolen the bag.

Correct Answer: (B) He swore that he had not stolen the bag.

Solution:

“Swore” is the correct past tense of “swear.” The sentence is in reported speech and refers to a past event, so past tense is appropriate.

Quick Tip

Always use the correct past tense form in reported speech — “swear” becomes “swore.”

xi: There is an error in the statement. Select the option that identifies the error and supplies the correction:

Kanyakumari is popular for its beautiful beaches, unique Vivekananda Rock Memorial and stunning sunrise and sunset view.

Error	Correction
view	views

Solution:

The noun “view” should be pluralized to “views” since both sunrise and sunset are being referred to, which makes the subject compound.

Quick Tip

For compound subjects joined by “and,” use plural nouns to match plurality.

xii: Fill in the blanks by choosing the correct options to conclude the report.

The report concludes that ___ learners have ___ knowledge of astrophysics.

- (A) very few / some

(B) some / every

(C) every / no

(D) no / a lot of

Correct Answer: (A) very few / some

Solution:

The sentence highlights a contrast — “very few learners” implies a small number, and “some knowledge” appropriately fits the context of limited understanding.

Quick Tip

Choose quantifiers that align logically — “very few” with “some” reflects a realistic and balanced tone.

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:

As a resident of B/66 Mall Road, Guwahati, and a parent of a Grade X student, you are deeply concerned about the declining writing habits among students in today’s digital age. This trend significantly impacts their academic performance.

Write a letter in 100–120 words to the editor of ‘The Geo Youth Times’ expressing your concern about this issue. Also, suggest measures to emphasize the importance of reading and writing skills in schools.

You are Vidhi/Vaibhav.

Solution:

To

The Editor

The Geo Youth Times

Guwahati

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am Vidhi, a resident of B/66 Mall Road, Guwahati, and a concerned parent of a Grade X student. I wish to highlight the alarming decline in writing habits among students due to excessive reliance on digital platforms. This affects their ability to think critically and express creatively.

To address this, schools must encourage regular handwriting practice, conduct creative writing competitions, and integrate reading periods into daily timetables. These efforts will improve vocabulary, comprehension, and communication skills.

I hope this concern is given serious attention through your esteemed platform.

Sincerely,

Vidhi

Quick Tip

A formal letter should clearly state the concern, provide context, and suggest actionable solutions.

OR

b: You are Anuradha/Ashish, residing at 45, Westwood Street, Nainital. After being inspired by a billboard advertisement for a seaside resort promoting relaxation and rejuvenation, you are interested in planning a family getaway.

Let the waves of the water drench you with the ultimate bliss of being alive ! Book a stay with us and experience the best holiday ever !

Write a letter (100–120 words) to the Resort Manager requesting details about the costs, room options, nearby attractions and available activities. Please include any additional necessary information for planning the trip.

Solution:

To

The Resort Manager

Bliss Shore Seaside Resort

Goa

Respected Sir/Madam,

I am Anuradha, a resident of 45, Westwood Street, Nainital. I recently came across your billboard advertisement and am very interested in planning a family trip to your seaside resort.

Kindly share the details regarding room tariffs for a family of four, available room categories, and any current packages. Additionally, please inform us about the nearby attractions, recreational activities offered at the resort, and meal inclusions. We are looking at visiting in the first week of May and would appreciate any booking guidelines or suggestions.

Looking forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Anuradha

Quick Tip

When writing inquiry letters, mention your interest, list clear questions, and request timely information.

5(a):

The pros and cons of using the internet in everyday life are numerous. The internet is like a double-edged sword. Based on the information provided in the table below, write an analytical paragraph on the topic 'Advantages and Disadvantages of the Internet' in not less than 120 words.

Pros and Cons of Internet

Pros	Cons
(1) Connectivity	(1) Data Security
(2) Communication speed and versatile working	(2) Social Isolation
(3) Learning Re-defined	(3) Addiction towards it
(4) Transfer of Data	(4) Plagiarism and copyright

Solution:

The internet has become an integral part of daily life, offering numerous benefits. It enhances connectivity, facilitates high-speed communication, and enables flexible working

environments. Education has been redefined through online learning platforms, and the transfer of data has become quicker and more efficient. However, the internet also brings several drawbacks. Data security remains a major concern as personal and sensitive information is vulnerable to misuse. Overuse of the internet often leads to social isolation and addiction, affecting both physical and mental health. Furthermore, issues like plagiarism and copyright violations have increased with easy access to online content. Hence, while the internet offers immense potential, it must be used responsibly to balance its advantages and limitations.

Quick Tip

Begin with benefits, contrast with drawbacks, and conclude with a balanced view or cautionary note.

OR

5(b):

Students today are becoming victims of cyber-crime and cyber bullying in schools, which is affecting the mental health of students.

Write an analytical paragraph in 120 words on the problems and causes of cyber-crimes.

⇒ **Misuse of Information Technology** with the intention to trouble others.

⇒ It comes in various forms – hacking, negative comments – spreading rumours.

Impact – spoils image, self-doubt, results in insecurities and complexes.

Causes – desire of power, seeking entertainment, escapism, inadequate regulations.

Solution:

Cyber-crime among students is a growing concern in the digital age. Misuse of information technology to harm or trouble others has led to serious psychological consequences.

Cyber-crimes appear in the form of hacking, spreading false rumours, and posting negative

comments. Victims often suffer from self-doubt, insecurity, and social withdrawal. These experiences can damage their self-esteem and impact academic performance. The causes behind such behaviour include a desire for control or power, a misguided search for entertainment, and lack of strict digital regulation. Moreover, anonymity online often encourages unethical behaviour. Schools and parents must work together to educate students about digital ethics and establish stronger safeguards to prevent such harmful incidents.

Quick Tip

Use cause-effect structure: describe the issue, illustrate the impact, and explain root causes.

SECTION C

Literature

6. Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any one of the two given:

(a): It is from these comrades in the struggle that I learned the true any one of the two meaning of courage. Time and again, I have seen men and women risk and give up their lives for an idea. I have seen men and women stand up to attacks and torture without breaking, showing a strength and resilience that defies the imagination. I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.

(Nelson Mandela: A Long Walk to Freedom)

i: What effect does the experience as described in the lines below have on the speaker?

Time and again, I have seen men and women risk their lives for an idea.

Solution:

The speaker feels deeply inspired and humbled by the bravery of others who risked their lives for freedom and justice. These experiences shaped his understanding of courage and strengthened his commitment to the cause.

Quick Tip

Focus on the emotional and motivational impact the events had on the speaker.

ii: Select one inference about the idea of courage from the given context:

“I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.”

- (A) being fearless
- (B) absence of fear
- (C) feeding your fears
- (D) ability to overcome fear

Correct Answer: (D) ability to overcome fear

Solution:

Mandela clarifies that courage involves facing fear and rising above it—not the lack of fear, but conquering it.

Quick Tip

When interpreting philosophical statements, always distinguish between literal meaning and deeper moral insight.

iii: According to the author, what does true courage entail? How does this perspective differ from a common misconception about courage?

Solution:

According to Mandela, true courage is the strength to face fear and overcome it. It is not the absence of fear. Unlike the common belief that brave people do not feel fear, Mandela learned that bravery means fighting through fear, not being unaffected by it.

Quick Tip

Clarify the contrast between the author’s insight and popular belief.

iv: Fill in the blank with the correct phrase from the bracket in the context of the given extract:

Men stood up to torture showing strength and resilience that is

(bracket: impossible to understand / seeped in reality)

Correct Answer: impossible to understand

Solution:

The phrase “impossible to understand” correctly conveys the awe-inspiring level of courage that the speaker describes as beyond imagination.

Quick Tip

Choose phrases that match the emotional intensity and tone of admiration in the extract.

OR

(b): *There was a fifty rupee note between his fingers. My heart sank. I thought I had been discovered. "I made some money yesterday," he explained. "Now you'll be paid regularly." My spirits rose. But when I took the note, I saw it was still wet from the night's rain. "Today we'll start writing sentences," he said.*
He knew. But neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything.
(The Thief's Story)

i: In the context of the given extract, what was the feeling **UNLIKELY** to have been on seeing “a fifty rupee note between his fingers”?

- (A) joyous
- (B) sad
- (C) unhappy
- (D) worried

Correct Answer: (A) joyous

Solution:

The narrator initially fears discovery when he sees the money, indicating emotions like worry or sadness. Joy is the least likely feeling because he suspects he has been caught.

Quick Tip

Look for emotional shifts in the extract—fear and guilt override any positive emotion.

ii: How does the prospect of being paid regularly affect the narrator's motivation and hope for the future?

Answer in about 40 words.

Solution:

The prospect of regular payment encourages the narrator to stay honest and hopeful. It makes him feel valued and gives him a sense of belonging and trust. This assurance motivates him to improve himself and start writing sentences as promised.

Quick Tip

Mention both the emotional boost and the behavioural change sparked by hope.

iii: Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket:

The person spoken about did not let the narrator realise that his act of stealing was caught. It reflects the _____ (nobility / dishonesty) of his character.

Correct Answer: nobility

Solution:

The character's silence and kindness show his nobility. Rather than confronting or shaming the narrator, he gently guides him toward honesty, which reflects his generous and wise nature.

Quick Tip

Use context clues—positive behaviour like forgiveness indicates a noble trait.

iv: Compare the meanings of the expressions:

“My heart sank” and “My spirits rose”

Solution:

“My heart sank” indicates a feeling of sudden fear, disappointment, or guilt. The narrator thought he had been discovered. “My spirits rose” shows relief and joy when he realizes he is not in trouble and will be paid regularly. The expressions show emotional contrast.

Quick Tip

When comparing expressions, contrast the emotional states they represent.

7: Read the given extracts and answer the questions for any ONE of the given two, given.

(a) My head is full of whispers

which tomorrow will be silent.

Listen. The glass is breaking.

The trees are stumbling forward

into the night. Winds rush to meet them.

The moon is broken like a mirror,

its pieces flash now in the crown

of the tallest oak.

(The Trees)

i:

The metaphorical expression used by the poet to describe the movement of the trees is

Correct Answer: “*The trees are stumbling forward into the night.*”

Solution:

The poet uses the expression “The trees are stumbling forward into the night” to metaphorically describe the movement of the trees as they break free and move out into the natural world. This gives the trees a human-like action, emphasizing their struggle and liberation.

Quick Tip

Look for personification or symbolic verbs when identifying metaphorical expressions.

ii: Based on the tone, discuss how Adrienne Rich presents the conflict between man and nature.

Solution:

Adrienne Rich presents the conflict between man and nature through a tone of quiet rebellion

and unease. Nature, symbolized by the trees, is shown as suppressed by human civilization but striving to break free. The imagery of glass breaking and trees stumbling into the night reflects nature's desperate attempt to return to its rightful place, highlighting the strained relationship between the two.

Quick Tip

Focus on symbolic actions and tone to explain deeper thematic conflicts in poetry.

iii: What is the mood or atmosphere conveyed by the imagery in the passage?

- (A) Calm and tranquil
- (B) Eerie and foreboding
- (C) Joyful and celebratory
- (D) Melancholic and traumatic

Correct Answer: (B) Eerie and foreboding

Solution:

The imagery of breaking glass, stumbling trees, and a fragmented moon evokes a sense of disturbance and eerie anticipation. The poem's tone suggests something unnatural is being corrected, and nature's reassertion feels both urgent and unsettling.

Quick Tip

When analyzing mood, visualize the imagery and think about its emotional impact.

iv: Why would the whispers be silent tomorrow?

Solution:

The whispers represent the quiet resistance and longing of the trees to return to nature. Their silence the next day signifies that their struggle is over—they have broken free and returned to their natural habitat. It symbolizes the end of suppression and the restoration of freedom.

Quick Tip

Interpret figurative language by linking it to the poem's central message or transition.

OR

(b):

*((I am Rapunzel, I have not care;
life in a tower is tranquil and rare;
I'll certainly never let down my bright hair !)
Stop that sulking at once, Amanda !
You're always so moody, Amanda !
Anyone would think that I nagged at you,
Amanda !
(Amanda))
(Amanda! by Robin Klein)*

i: Complete the following suitably:

Amanda sulked and became moody because ----.

Solution:

Amanda sulked and became moody because she was constantly being nagged and scolded by her guardian. She felt suffocated by the repeated instructions and criticism, which made her retreat into her imagination.

Quick Tip

Link Amanda's behaviour to the adult's tone and repetitive commands.

ii: What does the girl constantly yearn for? What do you pattern about Amanda from the poem?

Solution:

Amanda yearns for freedom, peace, and an escape from the rigid expectations of her guardian. She imagines herself as Rapunzel or a mermaid to retreat into a world where she is free and unbothered. This reveals her creative mind and desire for independence.

Quick Tip

Notice Amanda's recurring use of fantasy figures—it reveals her deep inner wish.

iii: What kind of picture is painted by the poet through the line,
“life in a tower is tranquil and rare”?

Solution:

The poet paints a picture of peaceful isolation and escape from reality. Amanda sees the tower as a sanctuary where she can be alone, free from nagging and commands. It symbolizes her longing for undisturbed freedom and calm.

Quick Tip

Interpret symbols like the “tower” as metaphors for emotional refuge.

iv: The tone of the speaker in the exclamation “Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!” is:

1. uncertain
2. aggressive
3. dominating
4. meek
5. moody

(A) 1, 2, 4

(B) 2 and 3

(C) 2, 4 and 5

(D) 4 and 5

Correct Answer: (B) 2 and 3

Solution:

The speaker's tone is clearly aggressive and dominating, as shown by the firm command. There is no softness or uncertainty in her voice, reflecting her attempt to control Amanda's behaviour.

Quick Tip

Tone is revealed through punctuation and command words like “Stop!” and “at once.”

8. Answer any four of the following five questions in about 40–50 words.

i: What did Buddha say about death and suffering? Explain this with reference to the story ‘A Sermon at Benares’.

(A Sermon at Benares)

Solution:

Buddha said that death is inevitable and part of the human experience. In the story, he teaches Kisa Gotami that grief is universal and no one can escape suffering. By accepting this truth, one can achieve peace and wisdom.

Quick Tip

Summarize the core teaching of Buddha and link it to Kisa Gotami’s journey.

ii: ‘Dust of Snow’ highlights the poet’s positive attitude towards nature. Comment on how Robert Frost presents the power of nature in his poem.

(Dust of Snow)

Solution:

In ‘Dust of Snow’, Robert Frost shows how a small moment in nature—a crow shaking snow off a hemlock tree—can change one’s mood. The poet’s gloomy day turns joyful, reflecting nature’s subtle but powerful ability to uplift the human spirit.

Quick Tip

Focus on the turning point caused by a natural event and its emotional effect.

iii: Faith is like a ray of hope in a distressful situation. Discuss ‘A Letter to God’ with reference to Lencho’s unflinching faith in God.

(A Letter to God)

Solution:

Lencho had unwavering faith in God. Despite losing his crops to a hailstorm, he wrote a letter asking God for help. His trust was so strong that he believed even incomplete help came from God, showing how faith can bring hope in adversity.

Quick Tip

Use Lencho's letter and belief as evidence of deep spiritual conviction.

iv: Why was the seagull afraid to fly? Why was the young seagull alone?

(Two Stories about Flying)

Solution:

The seagull was afraid to fly because he feared that his wings wouldn't support him. Unlike his siblings, he lacked confidence. He was left alone as his family flew away to encourage him to take his first flight on his own.

Quick Tip

Highlight fear and separation as tools that lead to growth.

v: The tiger in the zoo is denied its natural habitat. Describe its behaviour and routine as a captive in the concrete cell.

(A Tiger in the Zoo)

Solution:

The tiger walks silently in his concrete cell, angry but helpless. He cannot hunt or roam freely. His strength is wasted behind bars as he stares at the stars with quiet rage, longing for the forest—his true home.

Quick Tip

Contrast the tiger's majestic nature with his restricted routine to show the impact of captivity.

9. Answer any two of the following questions in about 40–50 words each.

i: “The only way was to get Tricki out of the house for a period.”

Evaluate why James Herriot had planned this in advance and how did he execute this plan at the surgery?

(A Triumph of Surgery)

Solution:

James Herriot knew Tricki was suffering due to overfeeding and pampering. He decided that taking Tricki away from home was necessary to help him recover naturally. At the surgery, he gave no medicine—just controlled diet and exercise. Tricki’s health improved within days.

Quick Tip

Explain both the reason (pampering) and method (controlled environment) used by Herriot.

ii: Considering ‘The Necklace’ as a tale of dissatisfaction and excessive materialism, analyze Matilda’s primary flaw.

(The Necklace)

Solution:

Matilda’s primary flaw was her discontent with a modest life. She longed for luxury and social status. Her obsession led to borrowing a necklace, which she lost and repaid over ten years—only to learn it was fake. Her pride and vanity brought unnecessary suffering.

Quick Tip

Use the necklace incident to show how superficial desires can lead to downfall.

iii: According to a popular quote – “Kindness is stronger than iron bars.”

Anil did not hand the thief over to the police. In what way did Anil’s act of wisdom and forgiveness transform Hari Singh?

(The Thief’s Story)

Solution:

Anil's kindness changed Hari Singh more than punishment could. By not confronting or reporting him, Anil gave Hari a chance to reform. This act of silent trust inspired guilt and self-reflection in Hari, leading him to return the stolen money and desire an honest life.

Quick Tip

Focus on the emotional and moral effect Anil's actions had on Hari's transformation.

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

(a): Examine the role of Nature in the poems 'The Dust of Snow' and 'Fog'.

Solution:

In both poems, Nature plays a powerful and symbolic role. In 'Dust of Snow', Robert Frost shows how a simple moment in nature—a crow shaking snow off a hemlock tree—can lift one's spirits and change the tone of an entire day. Nature becomes a healer, a source of unexpected joy. In 'Fog', Carl Sandburg presents nature as mysterious and independent. The fog arrives silently, like a cat, and leaves without warning, symbolizing life's unpredictability and quiet transitions. Both poets use nature to reflect emotional states and deeper philosophies. While one poem highlights nature's ability to heal, the other shows its quiet, detached influence over the world.

Quick Tip

Compare tone, imagery, and the symbolic presence of nature across both poems.

OR

(b): The journeys of Anne Frank and Valli teach us the vital lesson that optimism and self-assurance empower women to rise above circumstances and overcome obstacles. Examine the similarities.

(Diary of Anne Frank & Madam Rides the Bus)

Solution:

Both Anne Frank and Valli reflect courage, independence, and a strong voice. Anne, despite facing isolation during the Holocaust, maintained hope and expressed her thoughts in her

diary. Her reflections reveal resilience and a deep sense of observation about life and humanity. Similarly, Valli in ‘Madam Rides the Bus’ shows remarkable determination for a young girl. She plans and experiences a bus journey on her own, challenging the idea that children—especially girls—lack agency. Both characters display self-assurance and maturity beyond their years. Through their journeys—emotional and physical—they inspire others to believe in themselves and rise above limitations.

Quick Tip

Highlight both emotional growth and independence in your comparison.

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

(a): Ebright’s journey of becoming a leading scientist conveys a strong message to us. His inquisitiveness and competency drove him to become a great scientist. In what manner does Richard Ebright’s perseverance, dedication and inquisitiveness inspire you to pursue your dreams?

(The Making of a Scientist)

Solution:

Richard Ebright’s life is a shining example of how perseverance and curiosity can lead to great success. From collecting butterflies to winning science competitions, his commitment to learning never stopped. He used every setback as a stepping stone and never gave up on exploring new ideas. His journey teaches that passion and consistency are key to achieving goals. Ebright inspires me to stay curious, ask questions, and work hard despite challenges. His story proves that true scientists—and achievers—are not born, but made through constant effort, reading, and self-belief.

Quick Tip

Relate the character’s journey to your own inspiration or learning goals.

OR

(b): It is truly said that a good teacher is the light that helps one cross even the darkest of

paths. In what ways does Sulekha's teacher epitomize this saying? How did she become the pillar of support and strength for Sulekha?

(Bholi)

Solution:

Sulekha's teacher truly embodies the qualities of a good mentor. When everyone else saw Bholi as weak or foolish, her teacher saw potential in her. She spoke gently, encouraged her to attend school, and gave her confidence. The teacher's support helped Bholi grow into a self-respecting and educated young woman. Her guidance enabled Sulekha to take a bold stand against injustice, like rejecting a greedy groom. The teacher's faith and patience helped transform Sulekha's life, proving that a teacher can be the strongest force of change, confidence, and empowerment.

Quick Tip

Show the transformation in Bholi's life through the consistent support of her teacher.