

CBSE 12 English (1/2/2) Question Paper with Solutions

Time Allowed :3 hours

Maximum Marks :100

Total questions :13

General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. This question paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
2. This question paper contains three sections Section A : Reading Skills, Section B : Creative Writing Skills and Section C : Literature
3. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
4. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
5. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A

Reading Skills

1. Read the following passage carefully:

(1) As a young adult, life can be stressful and overwhelming at times. Juggling among school, work, social life, and other responsibilities, it can be easy to feel alone and disconnected from the world around us. Dogs are the ultimate companions for anyone looking to alleviate stress and loneliness. We'll explore many reasons why dogs make the best companions for young adults.

(2) Unconditional love: Dogs are known for their loyalty and love for their owners, no matter what. They don't judge us, criticize us, or hold grudges against us. No matter how flawed or imperfect we may be, our dogs will always love us unconditionally. This kind of unwavering support and affection can be incredibly comforting for young adults struggling to find their place in the world.

(3) Social connection: Dogs are great ice-breakers and conversation starters. Whether you're walking them in the park, taking them to the dog beach, or simply hanging out at home, dogs have a way of bringing people together. For young adults who may feel isolated or disconnected from their peers, having a dog by their side can be a great way to connect with others and form new friendships.

(4) Increase physical activity: Dogs require regular exercise in order to stay healthy and happy. This means that young adults who own dogs are more likely to engage in physical activity themselves. Whether it's going for a run, playing frisbee, or simply taking a leisurely stroll, getting out with your dog can be a great way to boost your mood and energy levels.

(5) Emotional support: Dogs are also great emotional support animals for those struggling with mental health issues such as anxiety and depression. Their presence alone can provide a sense of calm and comfort, and their ability to sense their owner's emotions can be incredibly comforting. For young adults dealing with mental health challenges, having a dog as a companion can be a life-changing experience.

(6) Improve responsibility and self-care: Owning a dog also comes with a great deal of responsibility and self-care. Dogs require regular feeding, grooming, exercise, and attention, which can be a great way for young adults to develop a sense of responsibility and self-discipline. Additionally, having a dog as a companion can encourage young adults to take better care of themselves, such as making sure they get enough sleep, eat healthy, and engage in regular exercise.

(7) For all these reasons and more, dogs make fantastic companions for young adults. Whether you're looking for emotional support, social connection, increased physical activity, or simply someone to love and be loved by, a dog can provide all these things and more. So the next time you're feeling stressed or overwhelmed, consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

(i) What is the significance of owning a dog for a young adult who is striving for acceptance in society?

(A) It means increased physical activity.

- (B) It builds a sense of responsibility.
- (C) It helps young adults get more sleep.
- (D) It is a source of unconditional love.

Correct Answer: (D) It is a source of unconditional love.

Solution: Owning a dog provides unconditional love and unwavering support, as highlighted in paragraph 2 of the passage. This kind of love helps young adults feel accepted and secure, which is especially comforting for those struggling to find their place in society.

Quick Tip

When identifying key themes in a question, focus on the emotional and social implications mentioned in the text.

(ii) A dog can encourage its owner to lead a healthier life by

Solution: A dog encourages its owner to lead a healthier life by requiring regular exercise, such as daily walks, runs, or playful activities. This promotes physical activity, improves mood, and boosts energy levels, benefiting the owner's overall health and well-being.

Quick Tip

Relate textual evidence to practical life examples when answering such descriptive questions.

(iii) Share evidence from the text, in approximately 40 words, to support the view that dogs provide a sense of calm and comfort to those struggling with mental health issues.

Solution: Dogs are excellent emotional support animals. Their presence alone offers a calming influence, and their ability to sense their owner's emotions provides additional comfort. For those struggling with anxiety or depression, having a dog can be a life-changing experi-

ence.

Quick Tip

While answering such questions, highlight specific examples from the text to substantiate your response.

(iv) Explain in about 40 words the statement that ‘dogs are great ice-breakers’.

Solution: Dogs help initiate conversations and bring people together. Walking a dog in the park or attending social events with them often leads to interactions with others, enabling young adults to connect with peers and form new friendships more easily.

Quick Tip

Look for phrases that imply social interactions or relationships while tackling such questions.

(v) Which of the following activities help(s) young adults, owning a dog, build their sense of responsibility and self-discipline?

- (A) Walking the dog daily.
- (B) Feeding it regularly.
- (C) Engaging the services of a dog trainer.
- (D) Both (A) and (B).

Correct Answer: (D) Both (A) and (B).

Solution: Regularly walking and feeding the dog require consistent effort and routine, helping young adults develop a sense of responsibility and self-discipline. These activities ensure the dog’s well-being while fostering personal growth in its owner.

Quick Tip

Identify daily routines or habits mentioned in the text to understand their role in fostering personal growth.

(vi) What does this article aim to do?

- (A) Explain the benefits of owning a dog.
- (B) Provide advice on how to get a dog.
- (C) Discuss how to take proper care of a dog.
- (D) Describe the experiences of dog owners.

Correct Answer: (A) Explain the benefits of owning a dog.

Solution: The article primarily highlights the numerous advantages of owning a dog, such as emotional support, increased physical activity, and improved social connections, making it a valuable companion for young adults.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to the overall message or theme of the article to identify its primary aim.

(vii) Select the option that is similar in meaning to the phrase ‘take on the world’.

- (A) Travel the world.
- (B) Accept a responsibility.
- (C) To be pessimistic.
- (D) Have a global outlook.

Correct Answer: (B) Accept a responsibility.

Solution: The phrase ‘take on the world’ implies being ready to face challenges and accept responsibilities with confidence and determination.

Quick Tip

Understand figurative language in context to deduce the correct interpretation.

(viii) What does the underlined part in the sentence “consider finding a furry friend to take on the world with you” refer to?

Solution: The phrase “consider finding a furry friend” refers to getting a dog as a companion. The article emphasizes how having a dog can help young adults face life’s challenges with confidence and support, both emotionally and socially.

Quick Tip

Focus on context clues around the underlined phrase to interpret its meaning.

(ix) What is the tone of the article?

- (A) Critical but supportive.
- (B) Indifferent and bored.
- (C) Positive and informative.
- (D) Humorous and casual.

Correct Answer: (C) Positive and informative.

Solution: The article adopts a positive and informative tone, highlighting the numerous benefits of owning a dog for young adults. It provides practical insights and encouragement, making it both engaging and educational.

Quick Tip

Analyze the choice of words and overall structure to determine the tone of the article.

2. Read the following passage carefully:

(1) A recent survey conducted by an independent research firm sought to measure levels

of happiness among youth aged 16–24 years in seven countries. The findings revealed some intriguing insights into what makes today’s youth happiest, as well as which factors influence their overall well-being. In India, an overwhelming majority of the youth reported feeling satisfied with their lives, with 87% rating their overall happiness as ‘high’ or ‘very high.’ Financial security was identified as the primary source of happiness for 66%, followed by family support (89%), having a purpose in life (50%), and work or studies (40%). Unfortunately, 65% reported feeling stress related to academic performance or workload, while 25% reported feeling lonely. These figures point to a need for increased mental health support among India’s youth.

(2) These surveys also revealed that family support is an important source of contentment for young people across countries. In Europe, 59% of respondents said that their families were a major source of happiness; in France this figure was 67%, and 63% in Germany. In North America, 64% rated family as an important factor for well-being in Canada, while 61% did so in the United States. Similarly, 89% of survey respondents in India named family support as a major contributor to their overall contentment level.

(3) It is clear that stress has a significant impact on the happiness of today’s youth. The findings suggest that young people need better resources to manage their mental health and well-being. This may include access to counselling services, mindfulness activities and support groups to help them cope with challenging circumstances. It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures.

(4) In India, 65% of youth surveyed reported feeling anxious about their academic performance or workload, while 25% felt lonely. These figures are especially significant given how important family support is for young people’s overall contentment.

Answer the following question, based on the above passage:

1: Answer the following questions based on the passage:

(i) What are the two findings that the survey mentioned in paragraph 1 reveals? Answer in about 40 words.

Solution: The findings of the survey highlight that financial security and family support are

major contributors to happiness, while stress from academics and loneliness negatively impact the mental well-being of Indian youth. The survey reveals that financial security is a significant source of happiness for 66% of Indian youth, while 89% report family support as a major contributor. However, 65% experience stress due to academic workload, and 25% feel lonely.

Quick Tip

Focus on percentages and their significance in the survey when summarizing key findings.

(ii) Explain in about 40 words the statement “It is also important to provide financial support so as to reduce some of the economic pressures.”

Solution: The passage suggests that providing financial support reduces economic burdens, allowing youth to focus on academics and personal growth without the stress of meeting basic financial needs.

Quick Tip

Highlight how financial assistance directly reduces stress and improves overall well-being.

(iii) Elaborate, giving data, the statement “Stress has a significant impact on the happiness of today’s youth.”

Solution: Stress caused by academics and feelings of isolation significantly reduce the happiness of Indian youth. The data highlights the urgent need to address these issues through counseling and other supportive measures. The passage mentions that 65% of Indian youth face stress related to academic workload or performance, while 25% feel lonely. This stress adversely impacts their overall happiness and points to the need for mental health support.

Quick Tip

Refer to the data provided in the passage to support your explanation of the impact of stress.

(iv) Which of the following factors, with reference to the given passage, does *not* play a substantial role in the well-being of Indian youth?

- (A) Family support and strong ties
- (B) Social connection and technology
- (C) Books and literature
- (D) Economic stability

Correct Answer: (C) Books and literature

Solution: The passage emphasizes financial security, family support, and mental health support as key contributors to youth well-being. Books and literature are not mentioned as significant factors.

Quick Tip

Use elimination to find the correct answer by checking which factors are not referenced in the passage.

(v) State whether True or False, with reference to the given passage:

It is not necessary to provide financial support to the youth as only academic performance plays an upper hand in deciding the stress level.

Correct Answer: False

Solution: The passage highlights financial support as an essential factor in alleviating economic pressures, which significantly contribute to youth stress. Academic performance alone does not account for the stress levels of today's youth.

Quick Tip

Identify keywords in the statement and refer to the passage to confirm its accuracy.

(vi) What are the top choices which are of maximum value to today's youth?

- I. Collectivism
- II. Social media
- III. Individualistic society
- IV. Family ties

Options:

- (A) I and II
- (B) II and III
- (C) I and IV
- (D) II and IV

Correct Answer: (C) I and IV

Solution: The passage highlights collectivism and family ties as key contributors to the happiness and well-being of today's youth, emphasizing the importance of strong social and familial support.

Quick Tip

Refer to the specific values mentioned in the passage and choose options that align with those values.

(vii) The mental health of today's youth can be managed by resources like _____ and _____.

Solution: The passage suggests that resources such as counseling services and mindfulness activities help young people cope with stress and challenging circumstances.

Quick Tip

Focus on mental health-related support systems mentioned in the passage, like counseling or mindfulness.

(viii) Write the following sources that provide happiness to today's youth in descending order:

- (a) purposefulness
- (b) financial status
- (c) family support
- (d) stress

Correct Answer: (c) *family support*, (b) *financial status*, (a) *purposefulness*, (d) *stress*

Solution: According to the passage, family support (89%) is the most significant contributor to happiness, followed by financial status (66%), purposefulness (50%), and stress, which negatively impacts happiness.

Quick Tip

Use percentages or rankings from the passage to determine the correct order of the sources of happiness.

SECTION B- Creative Writing skills

3. Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words.

(a) You are Nidhi/Nihal, student editor of your school magazine 'Jyoti.' Write a notice

for the school notice board inviting short stories, poems, articles, etc. from students of all classes for the school magazine. Invent all necessary details.

Solution:

NOTICE

Date: 18th February 2025

Invitation for Contributions to 'Jyoti' - The School Magazine

All students of classes VI to XII are invited to submit their creative works for the upcoming issue of our school magazine, 'Jyoti.' We are looking for short stories, poems, articles, essays, and artwork that showcase the talent and creativity of our student body.

Submission Guidelines:

- Each student can submit up to two entries.
- Entries must be original and should be written in English or Hindi.
- All submissions must be typed and submitted in printed form.
- The last date for submission is 28th February 2025.

Kindly submit your entries to the undersigned at the magazine office (Room No. 101) or email them to jyotimagazine@school.com by the deadline.

We look forward to your creative contributions!

Nidhi/Nihal

Student Editor, 'Jyoti'

Quick Tip

When writing a notice, include key details such as the purpose, date, time, and venue. Ensure the language is concise and clear to grab attention.

OR

(b) You are Secretary of Vishal Housing Society, Prem Nagar. Draft a notice for the society notice board informing and inviting residents to the annual get-together to be held

in the society compound, followed by dinner, on 28th March, 2024 from 7 pm onwards. Invent other details like contribution per family, guest charges, etc.

Solution:

VISHAL HOUSING SOCIETY, PREM NAGAR NOTICE

Date: 18th February 2025

Invitation to Annual Get-Together

The residents of Vishal Housing Society are cordially invited to our Annual Get-Together, which will be held on 28th March, 2024, in the society compound. This will be followed by a dinner and a night of fun and camaraderie.

Details of the Event:

- **Date and Time:** 28th March, 2024, from 7:00 PM onwards
- **Venue:** Society Compound, Vishal Housing Society
- **Contribution per Family:** Rs. 500/-
- **Guest Charges:** Rs. 200/- per guest
- **Special Attractions:** Music, Games, and Entertainment

Please ensure that your contributions are submitted by 25th March, 2024, to the society office (Room No. 102) or to the event coordinator. For any queries, contact the office during working hours.

We look forward to your participation and a wonderful evening together!

Secretary

Vishal Housing Society, Prem Nagar

Quick Tip

Notices for libraries or academic institutions should include specific operational updates, dates, and new services in a structured format.

4. Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in about 50 words.

(a) You are the President, Literary Society of Hans Public School, Railpura. Draft a formal invite to the renowned author Ms. Savita Patil, requesting her to conduct a work-

shop on Creative Writing in your school. Invent necessary details. You are Anita/Amit.

Solution:

HANS PUBLIC SCHOOL, RAILPURA

Date: 18th February 2025

To,

Ms. Savita Patil

Renowned Author

[Address Line 1]

[Address Line 2]

Subject: Invitation to Conduct a Workshop on Creative Writing

Dear Ms. Savita Patil,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am Anita/Amit, the President of the Literary Society at Hans Public School, Railpura. On behalf of our society, I am writing to extend a formal invitation to you to conduct a workshop on Creative Writing for our students.

Our school has always believed in nurturing creativity and honing the literary talents of students, and we feel that a session led by someone of your caliber would be an invaluable experience for them. We have been following your remarkable work and the way you inspire young minds through your writing, and it would be an honor to have you share your insights with our students.

Details of the Workshop:

- **Date:** 5th March 2025

- **Time:** 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

- **Venue:** School Auditorium, Hans Public School, Railpura

We would be thrilled if you could spare some time to conduct this workshop and engage with our budding writers. Your presence will not only enrich their writing skills but also motivate them to explore the world of creative writing.

We eagerly look forward to your positive response. Please feel free to contact us at [phone number] or [email address] for any further details.

Thank you for considering our invitation, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Anita/Amit

President, Literary Society

Hans Public School, Railpura

Quick Tip

In formal invitations, maintain a polite tone and ensure all details are clearly stated. Mention the purpose and request punctuality if required.

OR

(b) You have received an invite on the wedding of your friend, Akshat. As Radhika/Rakesh, write a letter expressing your extreme happiness at the news and explaining your inability to attend the function. Convey your best wishes for the future to the couple.

Solution:

[Your Address]

[City, Postal Code]

Date: 18th February 2025

Dear Akshat,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of spirits. I was overjoyed to receive your wedding invitation and could not be happier for you. I want to express my heartfelt congratulations to both you and your bride-to-be. It's wonderful to see you take this important step in your life, and I am sure that you both will create a beautiful future together.

Unfortunately, I regret to inform you that I will not be able to attend the wedding due to a prior commitment. I truly wish I could be there to celebrate this joyous occasion with you, but my thoughts and best wishes will certainly be with you.

I am confident that your wedding day will be filled with love, happiness, and beautiful memories. I wish you both a lifetime of love, laughter, and togetherness. May your union be blessed with joy and prosperity.

Once again, congratulations! I look forward to hearing all about the wedding, and I hope we can catch up soon after.

Warm regards,

Radhika/Rakesh

Quick Tip

When accepting a formal invitation, express gratitude, confirm details, and show enthusiasm for the opportunity.

(5) Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 – 150 words.

(a) You are Amit/Amita, a resident of Sujata Towers, Khelnagar. You came across the following advertisement and consider yourself an ideal candidate for the same. Apply for the job giving all details.

<p>UPKAR TRANSPORT LTD. REQUIRES HR MANAGER WHOM DO WE NEED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Qualified – MBA• Minimum – 5 years experience• Willing to travel <p>SKILLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellent verbal and written skills• Excellent interpersonal negotiation and conflict resolution skills• Organizational ability <p>CONTACT : DIRECTOR, UPKAR TRANSPORT LTD. 76/A2 - PRABHA NAGAR, VAYUBAGH</p>

Solution:

The Director

Upkar Transport Ltd.

Subject: Application for the Post of HR Manager

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my interest in the position of HR Manager at Upkar Transport Ltd., as advertised. I am confident that my qualifications and experience make me an ideal candidate for this role.

I hold an MBA degree from [University Name] and have over [X years] of experience in the Human Resources field, with a particular focus on employee relations, conflict resolution, and organizational development. In my previous position at [Company Name], I successfully managed recruitment, employee engagement, and training programs, which I believe aligns well with your requirements.

Additionally, I have excellent verbal and written communication skills, strong interpersonal skills, and the ability to resolve conflicts effectively. I am highly organized and accustomed to working in dynamic environments that require constant problem-solving and effective decision-making. Furthermore, I am willing to travel as required for the role.

I am very excited about the opportunity to contribute to your company and I am looking forward to the chance to further discuss how I can contribute to the continued success of Upkar Transport Ltd.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

Amit/Amita

Quick Tip

Ensure that your job application highlights your qualifications, experience, and relevant skills. Keep the tone professional and concise.

(b) The concept of working from home has been a significant shift in the world today. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, sharing your views on this trend and examining both, the benefits and the negative effects of remaining indoors for work. Use

the given cues along with your own ideas to compose this letter. You are Rachit/Rachana, a concerned citizen.

- **Benefits:**
 - Flexible hours
 - Relief from travel hours
- **Disadvantages:**
 - Isolation and loneliness
 - Communication challenges
 - Digital fatigue
- **Solutions:**
 - Set daily routine
 - Maintain clear boundaries
 - Build social connections
 - Practice self-care exercises

Solution:

Rachit/Rachana

(Insert Address)

Date: (Insert Date)

To,

The Editor

(National Daily Name)

(Newspaper Address)

Subject: The Impact of Work-From-Home Culture

Dear Sir/Madam,

The work-from-home model has brought about a drastic transformation in the professional world. While it offers flexibility, convenience, and reduced commuting stress, it also presents

challenges such as isolation, decreased collaboration, and an imbalance between work and personal life.

Employees have enjoyed increased productivity and better time management, but excessive screen time and lack of social interaction have led to mental and physical health concerns. Moreover, distractions at home and difficulty in maintaining professional discipline have affected efficiency.

While remote work is a viable option, a hybrid model combining office and home-based work could be the ideal solution. I urge your esteemed publication to initiate discussions on strategies that optimize work efficiency while ensuring employee well-being.

Yours sincerely,

Rachit/Rachana

A Concerned Citizen

Quick Tip

When writing a letter to the editor, maintain a formal tone and structure. Present balanced arguments with supporting points for a persuasive impact.

(6) Attempt any one of the two, (a) or (b), in 120 – 150 words.

(a) With constant emphasis on improvement of road infrastructure, there is a widening of roads to accommodate the growing traffic, yet leading to traffic congestion and incidents of road rage. Write an article to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your observations, concerns and suggestions. Support your ideas with the outline cues given below. You are Sucheta/Sanjay.

Infrastructure Development		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Benefits</u> • wide roads • increased connectivity • smooth traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Disadvantages</u> • air pollution • traffic jams • road rage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Suggestions</u> • organized development • manned signals • meeting timelines

Solution:

The Paradox of Road Widening: A Growing Concern

By Sucheta/Sanjay

The rapid urbanization and increase in vehicle ownership have led to the constant expansion of road networks. However, instead of solving traffic woes, road widening has ironically resulted in congestion and incidents of road rage.

The primary reasons for this paradox include poor urban planning, lack of efficient public transport, and reckless driving. Wider roads encourage more vehicles, leading to longer commute times and frustration among drivers. The growing impatience results in aggressive behavior, endangering lives.

To address this issue, authorities must focus on improving public transportation, promoting carpooling, and implementing strict traffic regulations. Additionally, better pedestrian pathways and cycling tracks can reduce dependence on private vehicles.

A sustainable approach to urban transport is essential for a smooth, congestion-free future.

Quick Tip

While writing an article, present clear arguments supported by relevant observations and logical solutions.

(b) A one-day cricket match was played by your school, Ratan Public School, against Wali Public School. Ratan Public School won the match by 14 runs. Write a report on the same for your school magazine. You are Sonakshi/Sohan. You may use the given

cues.

- **finals of Inter-school tournament**
- **Ratan Public School is defending champion**
- **venue, day, date, time**
- **team details**
- **highlights**
- **result - Chief Guest closing speech**

Solution:

Ratan Public School Triumphs in Cricket Showdown

By Sonakshi/Sohan

The much-awaited inter-school one-day cricket match between Ratan Public School and Wali Public School was held on [Insert Date] at our school grounds. The match witnessed an exhilarating display of sportsmanship and competitive spirit.

Ratan Public School won the toss and elected to bat first. With a solid start and an impressive half-century by our captain, the team managed to post a respectable total of 210 runs in 40 overs. The bowlers from Wali Public School displayed commendable effort but struggled to contain the run flow.

In response, Wali Public School put up a strong fight but fell short, scoring only 196 runs. The highlight of the match was our star bowler's brilliant five-wicket haul, which sealed our victory by 14 runs.

The match was a thrilling experience, and the players exhibited exemplary teamwork and determination.

Quick Tip

A sports report should include key details such as the match outcome, highlights, and notable performances to engage the readers.

SECTION C- Literature

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

(a) Aunt Jennifer's fingers fluttering through her wool

Find even the ivory needle hard to pull. The massive weight of wedding band Uncle's sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

(i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

- (A) The maturity of adulthood
- (B) The glory of femininity
- (C) Victim of male domination
- (D) The superficial beauty

Correct Answer: (C) Victim of male domination

Solution: The extract symbolizes Aunt Jennifer's oppression and the patriarchal constraints she faces in her marriage. It portrays her struggle as a victim of male domination.

Quick Tip

Identify imagery and symbolism in poetry to uncover themes like oppression, resilience, and freedom.

(ii) State whether the following statement is True or False, with reference to the extract: Aunt Jennifer is nervous and traumatized because of the constraints of her marriage.

Correct Answer: True

Solution: The trembling of Aunt Jennifer’s fingers and her inability to pull the needle signify her nervousness and the oppressive weight of societal and marital expectations.

Quick Tip

Look for emotional cues in characters’ actions to interpret underlying themes in literary works.

(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately: The fingers fluttering through her wool symbolize

Solution: The fingers fluttering through her wool symbolize Aunt Jennifer’s fear, her nervousness, lack of confidence, and the constraints of her marriage.

Quick Tip

Symbolism often reflects deeper emotions or societal conditions; identify such details for nuanced interpretations.

(iv) The use of the words “massive weight” creates a powerful image of

Solution: The use of the words “massive weight” creates a powerful image of the male dominance and oppressive burden of marital and societal expectations.

Quick Tip

Focus on descriptive words or phrases that create strong imagery to understand a poem’s emotional depth.

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4, which word would rhyme with ‘band’

and ‘hand’?

- (A) stand
- (B) wind
- (C) bent
- (D) tent

Correct Answer: (A) stand

Solution: The rhyme scheme in the lines connects “band” and “hand” with “stand,” indicating thematic continuity and poetic symmetry.

Quick Tip

Identifying rhyme schemes helps establish connections between lines and strengthens the understanding of poetic structure.

(vi) The heavy wedding ring is a source of:

- (A) joy.
- (B) freedom.
- (C) dignity.
- (D) burden.

Correct Answer: (D) burden.

Solution: The heavy wedding ring symbolizes the oppressive societal and marital constraints that weigh Aunt Jennifer down, stripping her of freedom and joy.

Quick Tip

Look for metaphors and symbols in objects to decode hidden meanings in a literary context.

(OR)

**(b) Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching:**

(A Thing of Beauty)

(i) Which of the following themes is best represented in the given extract?

- (A) The beautiful things in nature
- (B) Things that cause unhappiness
- (C) The immortality of human beings
- (D) The early morning fragrance of flowers

Correct Answer: (B) Things that cause unhappiness

Solution: The extract highlights the enduring and uplifting power of beauty in nature, which causes human overcome despair and stay connected to the earth despite challenges.

Quick Tip

Focus on how natural beauty acts as a unifying force, inspiring joy and resilience in human lives.

(ii) State whether the given statement is True or False, with reference to the extract:

The paths we follow are often not worthy of our noble nature.

Correct Answer: True

Solution: The extract suggests that human lives are often marred by despondence, unhealthy

practices, and a lack of noble qualities. This creates a contrast with the uplifting influence of natural beauty.

Quick Tip

Analyze the contrast in poetry to understand how positive elements counter negative themes.

(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately: We wreath for ourselves a flowery band every morrow because

Solution: It helps us to remain connected to the beauty of life despite challenges.

Quick Tip

Identify recurring metaphors like “flowery band” to interpret their symbolic significance in a poem.

(iv) The use of the word ‘dearth’ creates a powerful image of

Solution: The use of the word ‘dearth’ creates a powerful image of a lack of noble qualities and human virtues.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to words like “dearth” to understand the poet’s critique of societal or moral shortcomings.

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 4 and 5, which of the following words will rhyme with ‘days’ and ‘ways’?

- (A) craze
- (B) pays

- (C) haste
- (D) waste

Correct Answer: (B) pays

Solution: The rhyme scheme connects “days” and “ways” with “pays,” reflecting the continuity of themes and poetic structure.

Quick Tip

Understanding rhyme patterns enhances comprehension of the musicality and thematic cohesion of poetry.

(vi) The lack of punctuation at the end of line 3 in the extract is to:

- (A) create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line.
- (B) encourage the reader to understand grammar.
- (C) forewarn the reader of gloomy days ahead.
- (D) keep us connected to this earth.

Correct Answer: (A) create a sense of continuity and flow that connects it with the fourth line.

Solution: The lack of punctuation ensures a seamless connection between the lines, emphasizing the continuous and unbroken influence of beauty in overcoming life’s challenges.

Quick Tip

Look for structural techniques like enjambment to understand the poet’s stylistic choices and their effect on meaning.

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

(a) “If I am able, are you?” Sadao asked.

“No,” Hana said, “But if you can do it alone...”

Sadao hesitated again. “The strange thing is,” he said, “that if the man were whole I could turn him over to the police without difficulty. I care nothing for him. He is my enemy. All Americans are my enemy. And he is only a common fellow. You see how foolish his face is. But since he is wounded...”

(The Enemy)

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately. The dilemma faced by the couple was

Solution: The dilemma faced by the couple was whether to help the enemy soldier and save his life or to prioritize their loyalty to their country by handing him over to the authorities.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to the moral and patriotic conflict faced by the characters, as it is central to the story’s theme.

(ii) What does Hana ask Dr. Sadao to do alone?

- (A) Treat the wounded soldier.
- (B) Give him shelter in the outhouse.
- (C) Throw him back into the sea.
- (D) Hand him over to the authorities.

Correct Answer: (A) Treat the wounded soldier.

Solution: Hana asks Dr. Sadao to treat the wounded soldier alone because she is apprehensive about assisting him but trusts her husband’s decision to save the soldier’s life.

Quick Tip

Understand character dynamics and their responses to ethical dilemmas to interpret their decisions.

(iii) Explain the expression: “if the man were whole.”

Solution: The expression “if the man were whole” implies that if the soldier were uninjured, Dr. Sadao would have turned him over to the police without hesitation, as there would have been no moral conflict about saving his life.

Quick Tip

Consider how the soldier’s condition evokes empathy, challenging societal and personal biases.

(iv) Dr. Sadao says, “All Americans are my enemy.” What character trait of Dr. Sadao does it reflect?

Solution: This statement reflects Dr. Sadao’s patriotism and loyalty to his country during the war. Despite his duty as a doctor, he acknowledges his internalized prejudice against Americans due to the ongoing conflict.

Quick Tip

Analyze how the author portrays characters grappling with national loyalty and moral obligations.

(b) Derry: I’d not come to steal anything.

Mr. Lamb: No, no. The young lads steal...scrump the apples. You’re not so young.

Derry: I just...wanted to come in. Into the garden.

Mr. Lamb: So you did. Here we are, then.

Derry: You don't know who I am.

Mr. Lamb: A boy. Thirteen or so.

Derry: Fourteen. [Pause] But I've got to go now. Good-bye.

Mr. Lamb: Nothing to be afraid of. Just a garden. Just me.

Derry: But I'm not...I'm not afraid. (Pause) People are afraid of me.

(On The Face Of It)

(i) Why does Mr. Lamb feel that Derry has not come to steal?

Solution: Mr. Lamb feels that Derry has not come to steal because Derry seems timid and hesitant. Mr. Lamb believes that stealing is something young, mischievous boys do, and Derry does not fit that description.

Quick Tip

Focus on the interaction between Mr. Lamb and Derry to understand their contrasting perceptions.

(ii) Cite instances from the extract which show that Mr. Lamb is trying to put Derry at ease.

Solution: Mr. Lamb tries to put Derry at ease by being kind and welcoming. He reassures Derry by saying, "Here we are, then," and downplays Derry's nervousness by stating, "Nothing to be afraid of. Just a garden. Just me." His gentle tone and understanding nature help Derry feel more comfortable.

Quick Tip

Observe how dialogue reveals character traits and interpersonal dynamics in literature.

(iii) Choose the correct statement:

(A) Derry entered the garden as he was fascinated by the bees.

- (B) Derry came to meet Mr. Lamb.
- (C) They were well acquainted with each other.
- (D) Derry entered as he wanted to see the garden.

Correct Answer: (D) Derry entered as he wanted to see the garden.

Solution: Derry admits in the extract that he wanted to come into the garden, showing curiosity about the place rather than any premeditated purpose.

Quick Tip

Identify the motivations behind a character's actions to understand their role in the story.

(iv) People are afraid of Derry because

Solution: People are afraid of Derry because of his facial disfigurement, which makes him self-conscious and causes others to react unkindly or awkwardly, further deepening his sense of isolation.

Quick Tip

Focus on how physical appearance influences societal perception and character development in the narrative.

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

(a) "Children grow up in them, becoming partners in survival. And survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking. Through the years, it has acquired the proportions of a fine art. Garbage to them is gold. It is their daily bread, a roof over their heads, even if it is a leaking roof. But for a child it is even more." – (*Lost Spring*)

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately. Children become partners in survival suggests that

Solution: Children become partners in survival suggests that they contribute to their family's income from a very young age, often by engaging in activities like rag-picking, to ensure their basic needs are met.

Quick Tip

Focus on the socio-economic conditions of marginalized communities to understand their dependence on children for survival.

(ii) Rag-picking has acquired the proportion of a fine art means:

- (A) Artistic bend of mind is required.
- (B) It has proportionately displaced art.
- (C) It has become a highly skillful activity.
- (D) It has discovered pieces of art.

Correct Answer: (C) It has become a highly skillful activity.

Solution: Rag-picking is described as a fine art because children develop a keen eye and skill to pick items of value from garbage, treating it as a means of survival and a source of livelihood.

Quick Tip

Understand how necessity drives children to acquire specialized skills for survival.

(iii) State whether the given statement is True or False with reference to the extract: The children and their parents have left Dhaka to live in Seemapuri.

Correct Answer: True.

Solution: The extract mentions that the children and their families have migrated to Seemapuri from Dhaka in search of better opportunities and survival.

Quick Tip

Migration often reflects the pursuit of survival and better living conditions among marginalized groups.

(iv) Why does the author say ‘survival in Seemapuri means rag-picking’?

Solution: The author says this because rag-picking is the primary means of livelihood for the people in Seemapuri. It provides them with their daily bread, a roof over their heads, and sustains their existence.

Quick Tip

Link the theme of survival to the economic realities depicted in the extract.

(v) What does the phrase “for a child it is even more” reveal about the children’s dreams?

Solution: The phrase reveals that for children, rag-picking represents more than survival—it symbolizes hope, dreams, and a way to find small treasures in their harsh reality, which keeps their spirits alive.

Quick Tip

Focus on how the author portrays the resilience and aspirations of children despite their struggles.

(vi) Which of the following headlines suggests the central idea of the extract?

(A) Seemapuri, A Pot of Gold

- (B) Rag-picking – Different Perspectives
- (C) Art in Delhi and in Seemapuri
- (D) Saheb-e-Alam in Seemapuri

Correct Answer: (B) Rag-picking – Different Perspectives

Solution: The central idea of the poem extract is Rag-picking : A different perspective to see things .

Quick Tip

Identify key metaphors in the text to understand the author’s message.

(b) “This settlement was adopted unanimously by the commission. Gandhi explained that the amount of the refund was less important than the fact that the landlords had been obliged to surrender part of the money and, with it, part of their prestige. Therefore, as far as the peasants were concerned, the planters had behaved as lords above the law. Now the peasant saw that he had rights and defenders. He learned courage.” –
(Indigo)

(i) What was Gandhi’s purpose in agreeing to the settlement, even at a lesser amount?

Solution: Gandhi’s purpose in agreeing to the settlement, even at a lesser amount, was to establish the principle that the landlords could not exploit the peasants indefinitely. He wanted to show the peasants that they had rights and could fight for justice, thereby boosting their courage and self-respect.

Quick Tip

Focus on Gandhi’s strategies in empowering the marginalized through symbolic victories.

(ii) Complete the sentence with one word: The commission agreed by common consent, or in other words, they agreed to the settlement

Solution: The commission agreed by common consent, or in other words, they agreed to the settlement **unanimously**.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to the language that reflects collective decision-making in historical events.

(iii) Explain the impact on the landlords as a result of the settlement.

Solution: The settlement forced the landlords to surrender part of their money and, more importantly, part of their prestige. This marked a significant shift in power dynamics, showing the landlords that they were no longer above the law and that their dominance over the peasants could be challenged successfully.

Quick Tip

Analyze how the settlement affected both parties' power dynamics and societal status.

(iv) Based on the content provided in the extract, select the most likely option about the behaviour of the landlords:

- (A) The landlords were sorry for their behaviour.
- (B) The landlords were obstinate and refused Gandhi's suggestion.
- (C) The landlords had to refund the money.
- (D) The landlords and the planters became partners in the Indigo plantation.

Correct Answer: (C) The landlords had to refund the money.

Solution: The landlords were compelled to refund a part of the money to the peasants, which

also marked a loss of their prestige and power.

Quick Tip

Understand the significance of symbolic victories in social justice movements.

(v) What did the peasants realize from the Champaran incident?

Solution: The peasants realized that they had rights and could assert them. They learned that with courage and proper support, they could challenge the unjust practices of the landlords and secure justice.

Quick Tip

Focus on how the incident fostered awareness and empowerment among the oppressed.

(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately. The phrase ‘lords above the law’ suggests that -----.

Solution: The phrase ‘lords above the law’ suggests that the landlords considered themselves superior and beyond the reach of legal or moral accountability, exercising unchecked power over the peasants.

Quick Tip

Consider how language in the extract reflects societal hierarchies and power structures.

10 Answer any five of the following six questions in 40 – 50 words each:

(i) What was more tempting for Franz than the rule for participles? Did he get tempted? (The Last Lesson)

Solution: Franz was more tempted by the bright weather, chirping birds, and the Prussian soldiers drilling in the open fields than the rule for participles. He wanted to skip school, but he did not get tempted because of his conscience and duty towards learning made him attend the last lesson.

Quick Tip

Franz's realization about the importance of learning his native language highlights the value of education and culture.

(ii) Explain the sentence “an army of barefoot boys who appear like the morning birds and disappear at noon.”

(Lost Spring)

Solution: The sentence refers to poor ragpicker children who start working early in the morning, just like birds leaving their nests. By noon, they disappear as they return home. Their struggle for survival forces them into child labor instead of education.

Quick Tip

The metaphor compares the children's life to nature, emphasizing the harsh realities of poverty and survival.

(iii) The lesson ‘The Rattrap’ is both entertaining and philosophical. Do you agree with the statement? Give reasons.

(The Rattrap)

Solution: Yes, ‘The Rattrap’ is both entertaining and philosophical. It is engaging because of the peddler's adventures, deception, and ultimate redemption. Philosophically, it conveys the idea that the world is like a rattrap, where people are lured by materialistic desires and need kindness for salvation.

Quick Tip

Selma Lagerlöf's story teaches the importance of compassion and redemption in transforming human nature.

(iv) Bring out the contrast between Jansie and Sophie in the story 'Going Places'.

(Going Places)

Solution: Jansie is practical and realistic, understanding the limitations of her working-class background. In contrast, Sophie is a dreamer who indulges in fantasies about meeting celebrities and achieving an unrealistic future. This contrast highlights Sophie's escapism and Jansie's grounded nature.

Quick Tip

The story emphasizes the struggle between aspirations and reality in the life of young dreamers.

(v) How was there a great deal of national integration in the make-up department?

(Poets and Pancakes)

Solution: The make-up department at Gemini Studios had artists from different regions of India, including Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Bengal, and Maharashtra. Despite their linguistic and cultural differences, they worked together, symbolizing India's diversity and national unity.

Quick Tip

R.K. Narayan's humor in 'Poets and Pancakes' subtly highlights India's unity in diversity.

(vi) Did Umberto Eco like to be identified as a novelist? Give reasons in support of your

answer.

(The Interview)

Solution: No, Umberto Eco did not like to be solely identified as a novelist. He considered himself primarily a scholar and academician. Writing novels was just a part of his diverse intellectual pursuits, which included philosophy, semiotics, and media studies.

Quick Tip

Umberto Eco's identity as a thinker extended beyond literature, showing his multidisciplinary expertise.

11 Answer any two of the following three questions in 40 – 50 words each:

(i) Do you think the prediction made by the state astrologer “was indisputably disproved”? Give reasons in support of your answer.

(The Tiger King)

Solution: The prediction made by the state astrologer in "The Tiger King" was indeed indisputably disproved. The astrologer predicted that the king, who had killed many tigers, would die at the hands of a tiger. However, the king's death occurred in a completely different manner, disproving the prediction. He was killed by a bullet, not by a tiger as foretold. This contradiction directly disproves the astrologer's prediction.

The prediction was based on the king's actions towards the tigers, but the outcome defied the astrologer's claim. While astrologers may predict the future based on various astrological signs, the king's death in a different way shows that predictions do not always hold true and are sometimes just a matter of chance rather than destiny.

Quick Tip

The story is a satire on human pride and the illusion of controlling destiny.

(ii) “Then I lost my spirit.” What are the incidents that led Zitkala-Sa to feel this way?

(Memories of Childhood)

Solution:

Zitkala-Sa, in "Memories of Childhood," experienced a profound sense of loss and disillusionment due to the cultural shock and emotional trauma she endured when she was taken away from her home. Several incidents led her to feel that she had "lost her spirit."

Incidents:

The first major incident was when Zitkala-Sa was forcibly taken from her home and placed in a boarding school, where the school's practices conflicted with her native Sioux culture. She was made to cut her long hair, which was a deeply personal and cultural act for her. This event left her feeling stripped of her identity and pride.

The second incident was the harsh treatment and rigid rules at the school, which disrespected her native customs and traditions. The school's effort to assimilate her into Western culture caused her immense frustration and a loss of her cultural roots. This led to the feeling that her spirit had been taken away, as she was forced to abandon her sense of self and heritage.

Quick Tip

The story highlights the struggles of indigenous people against cultural oppression.

(iii) Tishani Doshi considered the programme 'Students on Ice' a success. Do you agree with her? Why/Why not?

(Journey to the End of the Earth)

Solution: Yes, I agree with Tishani Doshi's assessment that the programme 'Students on Ice' was a success.

In "Journey to the End of the Earth," Doshi describes how the programme gave students a unique opportunity to visit Antarctica and experience its stark beauty, wildlife, and the impact of climate change. This exposure to such an environment helped the students develop a

deeper understanding of the world’s ecosystems and the urgency of protecting them. It was not just an educational trip, but a transformative experience that gave the students a sense of responsibility toward preserving the planet.

The programme also allowed the students to reflect on their role in the global community and gave them hands-on knowledge of environmental issues. This experience shaped their perspectives, making the programme a true success in terms of raising awareness and encouraging active participation in climate conservation.

Quick Tip

Experiential learning is a powerful tool for environmental awareness and action.

12 Answer any one of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words:

(a) If Aunt Jennifer speaks to Pablo Neruda, the poet of “Keeping Quiet,” about her problems and constraints, would it be right for her to accept his response of introspection, reflection, and silence? Write a letter to Pablo Neruda expressing her views.

Solution:

Aunt Jennifer (Insert Address)

(Insert Date)

Dear Pablo Neruda,

I recently read your poem “*Keeping Quiet*” and found its message of reflection and silence thought-provoking. However, I must express my reservations. As a woman trapped in societal constraints, mere silence and introspection cannot bring me liberation. Silence has, in fact, been a tool of my suppression.

While I understand the importance of self-reflection in fostering peace, I believe that for individuals like me, action is essential. Women suffering under patriarchal oppression need empowerment, not just quietude. I wish to break free, to have a voice, to assert my identity. I respect your philosophy but urge you to consider the plight of those who cannot afford to be silent. True liberation lies in challenging injustice, not just in contemplation.

Sincerely,

Aunt Jennifer

Quick Tip

When analyzing literature, consider different perspectives and the implications of silence versus action.

(b) Imagine you are Mukund Padmanabhan (“The Interview”) and you interviewed M. Hamel, after he had finished delivering the last lesson (“The Last Lesson”). Write a paragraph on individual responsibility and nationalism.

Solution:

After M. Hamel delivered his last lesson, I had the opportunity to discuss the idea of individual responsibility and nationalism with him. M. Hamel emphasized that nationalism is not just about love for the country or political independence, but about a deeper, more personal connection to one’s culture and heritage. He explained that language, as a reflection of culture, is a powerful symbol of a nation’s identity. For him, it was clear that the responsibility to preserve and protect the language rested on every individual, especially in times of foreign domination.

He spoke about how the people of Alsace, particularly the younger generation, had taken their language for granted and neglected the responsibility to safeguard it. By allowing external forces to undermine their identity, they were not fulfilling their role as patriotic citizens. M. Hamel argued that each individual has a role in protecting their culture — whether through teaching, speaking, or simply valuing what is theirs. For M. Hamel, nationalism was embodied in the everyday actions of people who took pride in their language and heritage, making it their personal responsibility to defend them.

Nationalism goes beyond political allegiance; it is a personal responsibility to protect and preserve one’s language, culture, and identity.

Quick Tip

Nationalism is more than political allegiance—it is rooted in preserving language, culture, and knowledge.

13 Answer any one of the following two questions in 120 – 150 words:

(a) Justify the statement, “It may take a long time for oppression to be resisted, but the seeds of rebellion are sowed early in life.”

(Memories of Childhood)

Solution:

In “Memories of Childhood,” the statement “It may take a long time for oppression to be resisted, but the seeds of rebellion are sowed early in life” is significant because it highlights the impact of early experiences on the development of resistance to oppression. The oppression experienced by Zitkala-Sa, a Native American girl, begins when she is taken away from her native culture and placed in a boarding school that seeks to erase her heritage. Although it takes years for her to fully resist the oppressive forces, the early experiences of being forced to cut her hair and abandoning her culture deeply planted the seeds of rebellion. These experiences shaped her identity and fuelled her determination to stand up against the injustice.

This shows that the effects of early oppression cannot be underestimated. They serve as the foundation for future resistance, even if it takes years for the oppressed individuals to recognize their strength and act upon it. The seed of rebellion grows over time, as the person becomes more aware of the injustice they face.

Quick Tip

Social change begins with awareness; early experiences shape future resistance against injustice.

(b) The story “The Tiger King” is a satire on the conceit of those in power. How does the author employ the literary device of dramatic irony in the story?

(The Tiger King)

Solution:

In “The Tiger King,” the author employs dramatic irony to expose the arrogance and foolishness of those in power, specifically the king. Dramatic irony occurs when the

audience knows something that the characters do not. In the story, the king is confident that he will kill 100 tigers, believing it will solidify his power and legacy. The reader, however, is aware that the king's obsession with tigers and his arrogance are leading him to his downfall. The king's efforts to kill the tigers, driven by the advice of an astrologer, are ironically undermined by the very act of killing one tiger, which leads to his death.

The most striking example of dramatic irony is when the king, who is initially portrayed as invincible, meets his end in an unexpected and ironic manner, highlighting the futility of his pursuit and his own conceited nature. The king's downfall reveals how the abuse of power, when combined with arrogance, can lead to inevitable failure.

Quick Tip

Dramatic irony adds depth to satire, highlighting the folly of those in power.
