

CBSE 12 English (1/2/3) 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 experience.

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) Write a notice for the school notice board requesting Class 8 students to participate in the Earth Day celebrations by each bringing a sapling to school for the Tree Plantation Drive in school. Invent necessary details. You are Radha/Rahul, President of the Eco Club, Shakti School.

Solution:

SHATKI SCHOOL

NOTICE

Date: 18th February 2025

Subject: Participation in Tree Plantation Drive for Earth Day Celebration

The Eco Club of Shakti School invites all Class 8 students to participate in the Earth Day celebrations by contributing a sapling for our Tree Plantation Drive. The drive will be held on 22nd April 2025, to promote environmental sustainability and green cover around our school.

Details of the Event:

- **Date:** 22nd April 2025
- **Time:** 10:00 AM onwards
- **Venue:** School Ground

Instructions:

- Each student is requested to bring one sapling (any type of plant).
- The saplings will be planted in various locations around the school campus.
- Kindly ensure the saplings are well-watered and healthy.

This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the environment and show our commitment to sustainability. We look forward to your active participation.

Radha/Rahul

President, Eco Club

Shakti School

Quick Tip

A notice should be concise, clear, and include essential details like date, time, and venue.

(b) Write a notice informing the residents about the limited water supply on the 7th and 8th of April, 2024 due to annual maintenance. Inform them of the availability of tankers at a subsidized cost in case of an emergency. You are Meera/Mohan, Secretary

of Uphill Society, Anand Nagar.

Solution:

UPHILL SOCIETY, ANAND NAGAR

NOTICE

Date: 18th February 2025

Subject: Limited Water Supply on 7th and 8th April, 2024 Due to Annual Maintenance

Dear Residents,

This is to inform all residents of Uphill Society that there will be limited water supply on the 7th and 8th of April, 2024, due to scheduled annual maintenance of the water supply system. We request all residents to make necessary arrangements in advance.

In case of an emergency, water tankers will be available at a subsidized cost. Please contact the society office at Room No. 102 or call [Phone Number] to place your request.

We apologize for any inconvenience caused and appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

Meera/Mohan

Secretary, Uphill Society

Anand Nagar

Quick Tip

When writing a notice for a society, ensure clarity, include relevant dates, and offer alternative solutions if needed.

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

(a) You are Arushi/Anand, Secretary of the Fashion Design Club in your school. Create a formal letter of invitation, inviting renowned designer Piyush Bahl as chief guest to the fashion show, conceptualized and choreographed by the students themselves. Invent necessary details.

Solution:

[Your School Name]

[School Address]

[City, Postal Code]

Date: 18th February 2025

Mr. Piyush Bahl

Renowned Fashion Designer

[Address Line 1]

[Address Line 2]

Subject: Invitation to be the Chief Guest at the Fashion Show

Dear Mr. Bahl,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Arushi/Anand, and I am the Secretary of the Fashion Design Club at [Your School Name]. I am writing to extend a warm invitation to you to be the Chief Guest at our much-awaited Annual Fashion Show, which is being organized by the students of our club.

The event will take place on 10th March 2025 at 5:00 PM in the school auditorium. The show is entirely conceptualized and choreographed by the students themselves, and we would be truly honored if you could grace us with your presence and share your valuable insights with our young aspiring designers.

The students have worked hard on creating a unique and innovative collection, and we believe your presence will not only inspire them but also make the event even more memorable.

We would be thrilled if you could attend the event and contribute to making it a grand success. Kindly confirm your availability at your earliest convenience.

Looking forward to your positive response.

Sincerely,

Arushi/Anand

Secretary, Fashion Design Club

[Your School Name]

Quick Tip

In formal invitations, maintain a respectful tone, include the event details clearly, and ensure that the invitee understands the significance of their presence.

(b) You have been invited to the grand opening of your neighbour, Ms. Latha's new restaurant. Write a letter of acceptance and congratulate her, expressing your support for her business venture. You are Shruti/Sharad.

Solution:

[Your Address]

[City, Postal Code]

Date: 18th February 2025

Ms. Latha

[Restaurant Name]

[Restaurant Address]

Subject: Acceptance of Invitation for the Grand Opening of Your Restaurant

Dear Ms. Latha,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to express my heartfelt congratulations on the opening of your new restaurant. I am thrilled to have received your invitation and am happy to confirm my attendance at the grand opening on [date of the opening].

Your dedication and hard work have clearly paid off, and I have no doubt that your restaurant will be a great success. It gives me great pleasure to support your business venture, and I am excited to see your vision come to life. I am confident that your restaurant will become a popular spot in our neighborhood, and I wish you all the best in this new venture.

Once again, congratulations, and I look forward to celebrating this wonderful occasion with you.

Warm regards,

Shruti/Sharad

Quick Tip

A letter of acceptance should be warm, appreciative, and express enthusiasm for the occasion. Adding good wishes strengthens personal and professional relationships.

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

(a) You are Simran/Sukhbir, a fresh graduate from the Summit College of Education, Divyabagh. You saw an advertisement in the newspaper and wish to apply for the position advertised. Write a letter to the Director, Maavile Public School, Khushi Nagar. Share your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post.

MAAVILE PUBLIC SCHOOL, KHUSHI NAGAR

REQUIRES

A qualified physics teacher for middle and secondary school

Job – description

- Teach in an engaging, stimulating manner
- Supervise lab activities
- Provide extra support to weak students

Solution:

[Your Address]

[City, Postal Code]

Date: 18th February 2025

The Director

Maavile Public School

Khushi Nagar

Subject: Application for the Post of Physics Teacher

Dear Sir/Madam,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am Simran/Sukhbir, a recent graduate from Summit College of Education, Divyabagh. I came across the advertisement in the newspaper regarding the vacancy for the position of a Physics teacher at Maaville Public School, Khushi Nagar. I would like to express my keen interest in applying for the post.

I have completed my [Degree Name] in Physics and have undergone rigorous training during my time at Summit College. I am confident in my ability to teach Physics in an engaging and stimulating manner, supervise lab activities, and provide extra support to weak students. I am passionate about creating an interactive learning environment where students can develop a deep understanding of the subject.

Please find my bio-data attached for your reference. I am looking forward to the opportunity to contribute to your esteemed institution.

Thank you for considering my application. I am eager to discuss my qualifications further in an interview.

Sincerely,

Simran/Sukhbir [Your Contact Information]

Quick Tip

A job application letter should be concise, professional, and to the point. Clearly mention your qualifications, skills, and enthusiasm for the position.

(b) The early identification of talent has become increasingly important to attain an international status in different sports. Write a letter to the editor of a local daily to highlight the need to tap the sports talent at a young age by the sports coaches so that it does not go unrecognized. You are Amit/Amita, 78-B, Inderpuri, Jai Nagar.

- **coaches are talent scouts**
- **create opportunities for underprivileged**
- **groom development strength building and technique practising**
- **encourage structured participation in sports tournaments**
- **motivate sportsmen and sportswomen**
- **create a larger pool of sportspersons**
- **more opportunities for more athletes**

Solution:

Amit/Amita

78-B, Inderpuri

Jai Nagar

Date: (Insert Date)

To,

The Editor

(Newspaper Name)

Subject: Need for Early Identification of Sports Talent

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to draw attention to the crucial need for early identification and nurturing of sports talent in our country. Many young athletes remain undiscovered due to a lack of structured scouting programs and inadequate coaching at the grassroots level.

Early training helps in refining raw talent, enhancing skills, and preparing athletes for international competitions. Countries excelling in global sports invest in talent identification from a young age, which significantly boosts their medal prospects.

I urge the concerned authorities to establish specialized academies, training programs, and talent hunts to ensure that no potential athlete goes unnoticed. Schools and local sports bodies must collaborate to provide young talent with the resources and coaching necessary to shine on global platforms.

Thank you for considering this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Amit/Amita

Quick Tip

A letter to the editor should highlight a relevant issue, provide strong reasoning, and offer practical solutions to engage the readers and authorities.

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

(a) Social media today has become an unavoidable element in the lives of people. You are concerned when you see young people spending increasing number of hours on free platforms and chat rooms. Write an article highlighting the consequences of "Fear of Missing Out" addiction. You may use the following cues along with your ideas. You are Radhu/Rakesh.

Social Media

- **Advantages:**
 - Connectivity
 - Information and updates
 - Stress reliever
- **Disadvantages:**
 - Affects socio-emotional connection
 - Invades privacy
 - Causes distress
 - Cyber bullying
 - Distracting
 - Peer pressure
- **Suggestions:**
 - Set reasonable timings
 - Encourage face-to-face interaction

Solution:

By Radhu/Rakesh

In today's digital age, social media has become an integral part of our lives, yet it has

brought with it the rising problem of **FOMO (Fear of Missing Out)**. Young people, in particular, spend countless hours on social media, fearing they might miss an exciting event, trend, or conversation.

This addiction leads to serious consequences—**anxiety, reduced self-esteem, and sleep deprivation**. The constant need to stay updated affects productivity and personal relationships. People compare their lives with idealized images online, creating unrealistic expectations and dissatisfaction.

To combat this, individuals must **set time limits on social media usage, engage in real-world activities, and practice mindfulness**. Schools and parents should educate the youth about digital well-being. Awareness and self-discipline can help prevent the negative impact of FOMO and promote a healthier relationship with social media.

Quick Tip

Articles should have a catchy title, clear structure, and strong message. Use real-world examples and solutions to engage the readers effectively.

(b) The RWA (Resident Welfare Association), Medipur, launched a "Clean the Park Drive" engaging the colony children in responsible activities. As Rita/Rahul, the local correspondent of the neighbourhood newsletter, write a report covering this event. Support your ideas with the outline cues given below. Invent necessary details.

Activities picked up litter made posters put up

- street play on “Keep your environment clean.,
- Purpose
- children engagement and responsibility
- create awareness of community service
- awareness of cleanliness and its importance
- respect for the environment and nature

Solution:

By Rita/Rahul, Local Correspondent

Medipur, April 7: The Resident Welfare Association (RWA), Medipur, successfully organized a “Clean the Park Drive” last Sunday, encouraging children to participate in maintaining a cleaner environment.

Over 50 enthusiastic children joined hands with volunteers to clean the local park, picking up litter, planting saplings, and painting benches. The initiative aimed to **instill a sense of responsibility** and environmental awareness among the youth. The RWA President, Mr. Sharma, praised the children’s dedication and announced plans for more such drives. Parents and residents appreciated the initiative, highlighting its role in promoting community bonding and eco-consciousness. The event concluded with a small celebration where children received certificates for their efforts. This drive was a resounding success and set an example for responsible community action.

Quick Tip

A news report should follow the inverted pyramid style—starting with the most important information, followed by details and background. Keep it factual and engaging.

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) Why were the villagers seated in the back benches? (The Last Lesson)

Solution: The villagers sat on the back benches to show their respect and regret for not learning French when they had the chance. Their presence symbolized patriotism and solidarity with M. Hamel as he conducted his last lesson.

Quick Tip

Always link the villagers’ actions to their emotions of regret, patriotism, and solidarity in your answer.

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

Solution: This refers to poor children who scavenge through garbage in the mornings for survival. Like birds, they appear early to search for something valuable and vanish by noon. It highlights their daily struggle for existence and lack of education.

Quick Tip

Use figurative explanations to show how the phrase compares children to birds, emphasizing their poverty and helplessness.

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

Solution: Yes, the story is entertaining because of its suspenseful plot and the peddler’s transformation. It is philosophical as it conveys that temptations in life trap people like a rattrap. The story highlights themes of redemption and kindness.

Quick Tip

For literary analysis, always mention themes, character development, and moral lessons to support your argument.

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

(Going Places)

Solution: Jansie is realistic and practical, knowing they come from a modest background, while Sophie is a dreamer who fantasizes about meeting a famous footballer and living a glamorous life. Their contrasting personalities highlight dreams vs. reality.

Quick Tip

Always compare and contrast key characteristics with examples from the story to support your answer.

(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 employees from various Indian states, including Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu. Despite their regional diversity, they worked together, reflecting national integration and unity.

Quick Tip

For questions on national integration, highlight regional diversity and teamwork as key factors.

(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 consider himself primarily a novelist. He viewed himself as a scholar and professor who wrote novels in his spare time. He was more focused on his academic pursuits in semiotics and philosophy.

Quick Tip

For biographical questions, focus on the subject's perspective and key contributions to justify your response.

(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: Yes, the prediction was disproved in an ironic manner. The state astrologer had foretold that the Tiger King would be killed by a tiger. Although the king successfully hunted down 99 tigers, he ultimately died due to a wooden toy tiger's sharp splinter, proving the prophecy true in an unexpected way.

Quick Tip

Highlight the irony in the Tiger King's fate, emphasizing how fate cannot be escaped, even in unconventional ways.

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

Solution: Zitkala-Sa lost her spirit when her long hair was forcibly cut at the boarding school, despite her protests. In her Native American culture, long hair symbolized dignity

and strength. This traumatic experience made her feel powerless and defeated, as she was forced to conform to imposed norms.

Quick Tip

For cultural oppression questions, discuss how forced assimilation leads to psychological and emotional suffering.

(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, the programme was a success because it allowed students to experience Antarctica’s fragile ecosystem firsthand. This exposure helped them understand climate change’s impact on the planet. Such awareness is crucial for creating future environmental leaders who can work towards sustainability.

Quick Tip

Mention the firsthand experience and awareness-building aspect of the programme to justify its success.

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

(a) How does the use of vivid imagery by Adrienne Rich in “Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers” and by Kamala Das in “My Mother at Sixty-six” contribute to the overall themes of their respective poems?

Solution: Adrienne Rich uses vivid imagery in “Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers” to contrast the fearless tigers with Aunt Jennifer’s oppressive life. The imagery of tigers prancing confidently symbolizes the freedom she longs for but cannot attain.

In “My Mother at Sixty-six,” Kamala Das employs visual imagery to depict her mother’s aging—“her face ashen like that of a corpse.” This evokes the theme of mortality and separation, showing the poet’s fear of losing her mother.

Both poets effectively use visual contrasts to reinforce their central themes—oppression and fear of loss.

Quick Tip

Compare the use of imagery in both poems. One emphasizes strength vs. suppression, while the other highlights aging and emotional turmoil.

OR

(b) The persistent determination of both Raj Kumar Shukla in “Indigo” and Douglas in “Deep Water” reflects a strong will to overcome challenges and achieve one’s goal.

Elaborate with reference to the texts.

Solution: Raj Kumar Shukla in “Indigo” is portrayed as a determined peasant who refuses to give up his fight against British landlords. His persistence persuades Gandhi to visit Champaran, leading to a significant victory for the oppressed farmers.

Similarly, in “Deep Water,” Douglas overcomes his fear of drowning through relentless effort and training. His determination helps him regain confidence in the water, symbolizing overcoming personal fears.

Both individuals exemplify resilience, showing that perseverance leads to success, whether in social struggle or personal fears.

Quick Tip

Draw parallels between both characters—Shukla’s fight for justice and Douglas’s battle with fear.

(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: Oppression often takes time to be challenged, but resistance begins at an early stage. Zitkala-Sa’s struggle in “Memories of Childhood” reflects this. She fights against cultural erasure when her hair is forcibly cut, symbolizing the early seeds of defiance.

Similarly, Bama, in her childhood, recognizes caste discrimination and, through education,

finds her way to resist it.

Both experiences highlight how early exposure to injustice sparks resistance, which later grows into movements for change and equality.

Quick Tip

Discuss how awareness of oppression in childhood leads to lifelong resistance.

OR

(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: Dramatic irony is central to the satire in “The Tiger King.” The king’s obsession with avoiding the prophecy leads him to hunt 99 tigers, believing he has cheated death.

However, in an ironic twist, he dies due to a wooden toy tiger.

This exposes the arrogance of those in power, showing that fate cannot be outwitted.

The irony lies in the fact that the king’s own actions bring about his downfall, proving that vanity and misplaced priorities lead to self-destruction.

Quick Tip

Emphasize how the king’s ignorance and pride contribute to his ironic fate.
