

CBSE 12 English (1/1/1) 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) The term Artificial Intelligence spells a future in which this emerging technology will impact every aspect of human existence. In fact, little do we know, it has already crept into our lives, slowly, but surely. Look around you — education, health care, industry, innovation, robots, robotic surgeries, transportation, home service — it's already there. It will change the lifestyle of everyone from the technology industry to normal people.

(2) The past fifteen years have seen considerable AI advances in education. You enter school and AI takes your attendance using face recognition. Various applications are in wide use by educators and learners today. AI technologies assist teachers in the classroom. Learning at home is likely to expand significantly, along with learning based on

virtual reality applications. Though quality education will always require active engagement by human teachers, AI promises to enhance education at all levels, especially by providing personalization at scale.

(3) The evolution of new technologies, mobile, and the Internet are changing lifestyles. Artificial intelligence is playing an important role in every sector such as banking, driving, education, e-commerce, electronics, robotics. Systems of artificial intelligence are aiming to stimulate execution and decision-making that is human-like. In targeted applications, substantial increases in the future uses of AI technologies, including more driverless cars, healthcare diagnostics and targeted treatments, and physical assistance for elder care can be expected. AI and robotics will also be applied across the globe in industries struggling such as agriculture, food processing and factories. They will facilitate delivery of online purchases through flying drones, self-driving trucks or robots.

(4) AI-based applications could improve health outcomes and quality of life for millions of people in the coming years — prime applications include clinical decision support, patient monitoring and coaching, automated devices to assist in surgery or patient care, and management of healthcare systems. Recent successes, such as mining social media to infer possible health risks, machine learning to predict patients at risk, and robotics to support surgery have expanded a sense of possibility for AI in healthcare.

(5) People's future relationships with machines will become ever more personalized as AI systems learn to adapt to individual personalities, ambitions and goals. These AI applications will help monitor people's well-being, alert them to the impending risks, and deliver services when needed or wanted.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

1: Answer the following questions in about 40 – 50 words each:

(i) Select the word that most appropriately defines Artificial Intelligence today.

- (A) rewarding
- (B) universal
- (C) luxurious
- (D) temporary

Correct Answer: (B) universal

Solution: The passage highlights how Artificial Intelligence has infiltrated diverse domains like education, health care, and transportation. This indicates that AI has become a universal concept, influencing various aspects of life.

Quick Tip

Focus on the wide-ranging applications of AI mentioned in the text to choose the most relevant option.

(ii) What is the connection between ‘face recognition’ in school education and AI?

Solution: The passage explains how AI simplifies school administration by using face recognition for attendance, reducing manual efforts and making processes efficient.

Quick Tip

Relate your answer to specific technological applications of AI mentioned in the passage, such as automation or personalization.

(iii) Which one of the following do you infer from para 2?

- (A) School education will become a virtual engagement.
- (B) The teacher will be replaced by AI.
- (C) Human teachers will play a passive role in the classroom.
- (D) Human teachers are irreplaceable.

Correct Answer: (D) Human teachers are irreplaceable.

Solution: The passage emphasizes that while AI enhances education through tools like personalization, the active engagement and emotional support of human teachers remain crucial, making them indispensable.

Quick Tip

Focus on the passage's discussion about how AI complements but does not replace the emotional and instructional roles of human teachers.

(iv) Share evidence from the text, in about 40 words, about how AI can support the field of education.

Solution: The passage demonstrates how AI aids education by offering technological tools like face recognition and virtual reality, helping teachers and students achieve better learning experiences.

Quick Tip

Use specific examples like face recognition or personalized learning to highlight the role of AI in education.

(v) The phrase 'stimulate execution' in para 3 nearly means:

- (A) imitate creations
- (B) strategise destructions
- (C) shake inventions
- (D) motivate implementation

Correct Answer: (D) motivate implementation.

Solution: The phrase 'stimulate execution' refers to the encouragement or motivation required to implement ideas or systems, as discussed in the context of AI's decision-making capabilities.

Quick Tip

Understand the context in which the phrase is used to determine its meaning accurately.

(vi) With evidence from the text, explain in about 40 words, two ways in which AI will help in the healthcare sector.

Solution: AI enhances healthcare by offering decision support and patient monitoring tools, as well as enabling advanced treatments like robotics-assisted surgeries and health-risk predictions, as mentioned in the passage.

Quick Tip

Refer to specific benefits of AI in healthcare from the passage, such as improved diagnostics or robotic interventions.

(vii) According to the passage, why does the author conclude that people’s relationships with machines will become more personalised?

Solution: The passage highlights how AI systems can tailor their functions to suit the unique needs and preferences of individuals, fostering a more personalized and interactive relationship between humans and machines.

Quick Tip

Understand how AI’s adaptability can improve human-machine interactions by focusing on personalized services and tailored experiences.

(viii) Complete the following statement: AI will make the commercial supply chain smoother by

Solution: AI optimizes supply chains by introducing technologies like drones, automated trucks, and robotics, which enhance the speed and efficiency of deliveries while reducing human intervention. This revolutionizes logistics and makes the supply chain seamless.

Quick Tip

Focus on how AI-driven technologies contribute to automation and efficiency in logistics and supply chains.

(ix) Read the five headlines given below (I – V):

I. AI WILL IMPACT EVERY ASPECT OF OUR LIVES

II. AI WILL BE A BOON TO THE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

III. SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS WILL BE CONTROLLED BY AI

IV. AI IS A MAJOR REASON FOR RISING UNEMPLOYMENT TODAY

V. FACTORY OWNERS WILL NOT USE AI FOR FEAR OF ITS UNPREDICTABILITY

Identify the option that displays the headline/s that does/do not correspond with occurrences in the passage.

(A) only V

(B) II and III

(C) IV and V

(D) III, IV and V

Correct Answer: (D) III, IV and V.

Solution: Headlines III, IV, and V do not correspond with the passage. The text discusses AI's positive impact on various domains, such as healthcare and logistics, but does not claim that social relationships will be controlled by AI, that AI causes unemployment, or that factory owners avoid using AI.

Quick Tip

Always refer back to specific claims in the passage to identify inaccuracies or unsupported statements in comprehension questions.

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:

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.

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 hap-

piness of Indian youth. The data highlights the urgent need to address these issues through counseling and other supportive measures.

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

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

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) To encourage students to participate in outdoor activities, your school has planned a 7-day trek to Rohtang Pass for students of classes VIII – X during the summer vacation. Write a notice for the school notice board giving all the necessary information. You are Raghav/Ragini, Secretary Trekking Club, Amar Bahadur School.

Solution:

Notice

Amar Bahadur School, Trekking Club

NOTICE

7-Day Trek to Rohtang Pass

Date: 15 April 2025

This is to inform all students of Classes VIII – X that the school is organizing a 7-day trek to Rohtang Pass during the summer vacation. The trek will include activities such as hiking and camping.

Interested students must submit their names and a participation fee of 5000 to the undersigned by 30th April 2025. For further details, contact the Trekking Club Office.

Raghav/Ragini

Secretary, Trekking Club

OR

(b) The problem of the residents' parking of vehicles, often leading to minor scuffles, has become a source of growing concern. As Secretary of Goodwill Flats Welfare Association, Shripur, write a notice informing the residents about a meeting to discuss the problem and find an acceptable solution. Invent necessary details.

Solution:

Notice

Goodwill Flats Welfare Association, Shripur

NOTICE

Meeting on Parking Issues

Date: 5 April 2025

This is to inform all residents that a meeting will be held to address the ongoing parking issues in the colony and find a suitable resolution to avoid conflicts.

Date: 15 April 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Venue: Community Hall, Goodwill Flats

Your presence is crucial for resolving this matter effectively. For any queries, contact the Welfare Association Office.

Secretary

Goodwill Flats Welfare Association

Quick Tip

When drafting a notice, always include a clear title, purpose, and relevant details such as date, time, and venue. Keep the tone formal and concise.

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

(a) You are the Student Head, Cultural Affairs Club at Newton Public School. The school is holding its annual function on Saturday, April 20th, 2024 at 11 am. The Honourable Education Minister, Dr. Shah has consented to be the Chief Guest. Design an invitation card to be sent to the parents and other invitees. Mention necessary details.

Solution:

Invitation Card

Newton Public School

Cordially Invites You

The Cultural Affairs Club of Newton Public School is delighted to invite you to the **Annual Function 2024**.

Date: Saturday, April 20th, 2024

Time: 11:00 AM

Venue: School Auditorium

The Honourable Education Minister, **Dr. Shah**, will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest.

RSVP: Cultural Affairs Club

Contact: 1234-567-890

OR

(b) You are a renowned doctor and have been invited by your school alumni as Chief Guest to the Annual Graduation Ceremony of Green School on Sunday, March 24th, 2024. Write a letter to the President of the Alumni Association expressing your inability to attend due to a prior commitment. Also convey your congratulations to the graduating students.

Solution:

Dr. Renowned Name

XYZ Hospital, Main Road

City, State

Date: March 15th, 2024

To,

The President

Alumni Association

Green School

Subject: Regret for Inability to Attend Graduation Ceremony

Dear President,

I am honored to have been invited as the Chief Guest for the Annual Graduation Ceremony on March 24th, 2024. However, due to a prior professional commitment, I regret to inform you that I will be unable to attend the event.

Please convey my heartfelt congratulations to the graduating students and best wishes for their future endeavors.

Warm regards,

Dr. Renowned Name

Quick Tip

When drafting a formal letter or invitation, include all essential details, use polite language, and maintain a concise structure.

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

(a) You are Amar/Anita, a fresh MBA graduate from Singla Institute of Management, Khushbagh. You saw the given advertisement in a newspaper and wish to apply for the position advertised. Write a letter to India Helptel Company along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post.

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES REQUIRED
by
INDIA HELPTEL COMPANY
for its
INDIA-WIDE LOGISTICS Department
Whom Do We Need

- Fresh MBA Graduates
- Specialization in Marketing
- Skills Excellent communication skills, both written and verbal
- Languages English and State language

Solution:

Amar/Anita

C-123, Green Valley

Khushbagh

Date: March 20, 2025

To,

The HR Manager

India Helptel Company

Mumbai

Subject: Application for the Position of Management Trainee

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to express my interest in the position of Management Trainee in your INDIA-WIDE LOGISTICS Department, as advertised. I am a fresh MBA graduate with a specialization in Marketing from Singla Institute of Management, Khushbagh.

My qualifications, skills, and experience align well with the requirements of the position. I possess excellent communication skills, both written and verbal, and am proficient in English and my state language. I am confident that my academic background and enthusiasm to contribute to a dynamic organization like India Helptel Company will make me a valuable addition to your team.

Enclosed herewith is my bio-data for your perusal. I would be honored to discuss my application further in an interview.

Thank you for considering my application.

Yours sincerely,

Amar/Anita

Quick Tip

When writing a formal letter of application, include a clear subject line, concise paragraphs, and relevant enclosures like a bio-data to support your candidature.

(b) An increase in the number of vehicles on the road has increased instances of traffic snarls, road rage, and accidents. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily showing your concern and examining the reasons for such behaviour. Provide suggestions on how to manage the situation. You are Brinda/Bharat.

REASONS

- Increase in vehicles
- More cars per family
- Budgeted cab services
- People not adhering to traffic rules

SUGGESTIONS

- Improve traffic management during peak hours
- Stricter implementation of laws
- Role of media in creating awareness

Solution:

Brinda/Bharat

45, Green Meadows

New Delhi

Date: March 20, 2025

To,

The Editor

The National Times

New Delhi

Subject: Concern Over Increasing Traffic Issues and Road Rage

Dear Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to draw attention to the alarming rise in traffic snarls, road rage, and accidents. The exponential increase in vehicles, budget-friendly cab services, and lack of adherence to traffic rules are significant reasons for this issue.

This problem can be mitigated by improving traffic management during peak hours, stricter enforcement of traffic laws, and promoting awareness about road safety through media campaigns. Initiatives like carpooling and upgrading public transport systems can also significantly reduce congestion.

I urge both authorities and citizens to address this critical issue and contribute towards safer and more efficient roadways.

Yours sincerely,

Brinda/Bharat

Quick Tip

When writing a formal letter, always include specific suggestions and maintain a professional tone. Structure your letter clearly with an introduction, body, and conclusion.

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

(a) India is emerging as one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. Write an article on “India as a popular choice of Foreign Visitors”. You are Leela/Laksh.

Importance

- The new influx generates jobs for local people
- Local culture, food and handicrafts promoted
- Medical, religious and ecotourism bring India on the world map

What needs to be done

- Strengthening the efforts of the authorities
- Media's role in creating awareness
- Information centres to be created for all tourists

Solution:

India as a Popular Choice of Foreign Visitors

By Leela/Laksh

India has become a hotspot for global tourists, owing to its rich culture, history, and diversity. The influx of foreign visitors has brought significant economic benefits, generating jobs for local people and promoting traditional crafts, food, and culture. Destinations for medical, religious, and ecotourism have placed India on the global map as a preferred choice.

To strengthen its position further, the authorities need to focus on better infrastructure, including creating information centers for tourists. Media can play a pivotal role in raising awareness about lesser-known attractions. Strict measures to ensure cleanliness and safety would also enhance the tourist experience.

With continued efforts, India can not only attract but also retain the interest of visitors from across the globe, making tourism a key driver of economic and cultural growth.

Quick Tip

For articles, focus on key points, structure content in paragraphs, and use a professional tone. Emphasize solutions and future prospects.

OR

(b) The senior residents of your colony have initiated a Reading Club for the children of

a neighbourhood slum. As Ramesh/Ranjita, the local correspondent of the neighbourhood newsletter, write a report covering the project.

- Senior citizens' initiative
- 2 hour voluntary service on Sunday morning
- Support reading of school texts
- Comprehension quizzing
- Read newspaper – share information – encourage discussion

Solution:

A Noble Initiative: Reading Club for Slum Children

By Ramesh/Ranjita, Local Correspondent

The senior citizens of our colony have taken a commendable step towards the betterment of society by initiating a Reading Club for the children of a nearby slum. This project, which involves a two-hour voluntary service every Sunday morning, aims to support the educational growth of underprivileged children.

The activities include assistance with reading school textbooks, organizing comprehension quizzes to enhance learning, and reading newspapers to encourage discussions and information sharing. The club provides these children with not only academic guidance but also an opportunity to develop critical thinking and communication skills.

Such initiatives demonstrate the power of community efforts in fostering education and creating a positive impact on society. This Reading Club is a shining example of how small steps can bring significant changes to the lives of those in need.

Quick Tip

A report should include the purpose, key activities, and impact of the initiative. Use clear and concise language while highlighting the community's efforts.

SECTION C- Literature

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

(a) A thing of beauty is a joy forever.

Its loveliness increases, it will never

Pass into nothingness; but will keep

A bower quiet for us, and a sleep

Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.

(A Thing of Beauty)

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

(A) Beauty provides security and peace.

(B) Beauty lies in possession of expensive things.

(C) Beauty is synonymous with power and riches.

(D) Beauty lies in our rich heritage and palaces and temples.

Correct Answer: (A) Beauty provides security and peace.

Solution: The lines emphasize that beauty is eternal and provides joy, comfort, and peace. The phrase "a bower quiet for us" symbolizes tranquility and refuge, making beauty a source of security and solace for the human soul.

Quick Tip

Focus on how the poet portrays beauty as a timeless and peaceful entity, providing a haven of joy and restfulness.

(ii) A thing of beauty never passes into nothingness because it is

Correct Answer: eternal.

Solution: The poet emphasizes that beauty is everlasting and never fades away. It continues

to inspire and bring joy across generations.

Quick Tip

When answering descriptive questions, focus on key phrases in the text that highlight the meaning and intent of the author.

(iii) ‘Quiet bower’ means a pleasant, shady, quiet place under trees or in the woods. This creates a sense of _____.

Correct Answer: peace and calm.

Solution: ‘Quiet bower’ means a pleasant, shady, quiet place under trees or in the woods. This creates a sense of **peace and calm**, highlighting the soothing and restorative power of nature.

Quick Tip

When interpreting poetic phrases, focus on the imagery and emotions they evoke to understand their deeper meaning.

(iv) State whether the given statement is *True* or *False* with reference to the extract: The quality of a thing ensures that its beauty lasts forever.

Correct Answer: True.

Solution: The statement is **True**. The extract highlights how a thing of beauty is a joy forever, never fading into nothingness, and continues to provide solace and inspiration.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to the key ideas in a poetic extract to identify statements that align with the poet’s intended message.

(v) Based on the rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4 of the given extract, which word will

rhyme with them?

- (A) please
- (B) sweep
- (C) help
- (D) self

Correct Answer: (B) sweep.

Solution: The rhyme scheme in lines 3 and 4 suggests that the word **sweep** rhymes with **keep** and fits naturally within the rhythm and structure of the poem.

Quick Tip

Identifying the rhyme scheme requires matching the ending sounds of lines to determine the correct rhyming word.

(vi) The use of the word ‘health’ in the extract suggests that beautiful things will give us a happier and more wholesome life. It creates a powerful image of

- (A) rejuvenation
- (B) attachment
- (C) long life
- (D) eternity

Correct Answer: (A) rejuvenation.

Solution: The word ‘health’ conveys how beauty rejuvenates us, providing emotional and physical well-being. Beautiful things act as a source of positivity, replenishing our spirit and giving a sense of renewal and happiness.

Quick Tip

Analyze the emotional and symbolic meaning of words like ‘health’ in poetry to uncover their impact on the theme.

**(b) Aunt Jennifer's Tigers prance across a screen,
Bright topaz denizens of a world of green.
They do not fear the men beneath the tree;
They pace in sleek chivalric certainty.**

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

(i) Which of the following are symbolised by the 'tigers' in the extract above?

- I. Masculine world
- II. Feminine world
- III. World of bold, fearless creatures
- IV. World of beautiful handicrafts

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

Correct Answer: (D) I, III and IV

Solution: The tigers symbolize the bold, fearless spirit Aunt Jennifer aspires to, while also representing the creativity in her embroidery. The feminine world of handicrafts contrasts with her suppressed life.

Quick Tip

Identify the symbolic elements in the poem to understand the deeper meaning of the imagery used by the poet.

(ii) State whether the given statement is True or False:

The creator of the tigers was fearless and assertive like the tigers.

Correct Answer: false.

Solution: The statement is **False**. Although Aunt Jennifer was timid and oppressed, her cre-

ation, the tigers, symbolizes fearlessness and assertiveness, reflecting her unfulfilled desire for strength and freedom.

Quick Tip

When analyzing poetry, focus on the contrast between the creator and their creation to identify underlying themes and emotions.

(iii) Complete the following sentence:

The use of the word ‘topaz’ suggests that the image of the tiger on the screen is

Correct Answer: bright and glowing.

Solution: The word ‘topaz’ refers to a precious gem known for its bright, radiant glow. Its use in the poem emphasizes the vivid and striking appearance of the tigers.

Quick Tip

Focus on symbolic words like ‘topaz’ in poetry to understand the imagery and connotations they bring to the text.

(iv) ‘Tigers do not fear the men beneath the tree’ because they are:

- (A) tamed
- (B) in a cage
- (C) fearless
- (D) kings of the jungle

Correct Answer: (C) fearless.

Solution: The tigers are portrayed as bold and confident creatures. They symbolize strength and fearlessness, which stands in stark contrast to Aunt Jennifer’s timid and suppressed life.

Quick Tip

Understand the symbolic traits of characters or objects in poetry to grasp the poem's deeper meaning and themes.

(v) Based on the poem's rhyme scheme evident in lines 1 and 2, which of the following will rhyme?

mean, akin, cream

Correct Answer: mean

Solution: The rhyme scheme in lines 1 and 2 suggests that 'mean' rhymes as they share a similar ending sound.

Quick Tip

Identifying rhyme schemes helps in understanding the poem's structure and the rhythmic flow of its lines.

(vi) 'Chivalric certainty' refers to which poetic device?

- (A) Alliteration
- (B) Metaphor
- (C) Simile
- (D) Repetition

Correct Answer: (A) Alliteration.

Solution: 'Chivalric certainty' is an example of alliteration, as the repetition of the 'c' sound in consecutive words creates a rhythmic effect, emphasizing the bold and confident nature of the tigers.

Quick Tip

Identify alliteration by looking for the repetition of consonant sounds at the beginning of closely connected words.

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

(a) Derry: I....there....I thought this was an empty place. I didn't know there was anybody here....

Mr. Lamb: That's all right. I'm here. What are you afraid of, boy? That's all right.

Derry: I thought it was empty....an empty house.

Mr. Lamb: So it is. Since I'm out here in the garden. It is empty. Until I go back inside. In the meantime, I'm out here and likely to stop. A day like this. Beautiful day. Not a day to be indoors.

Derry : (Panic) I,ve got to go.

(On The Face Of It)

(i) Derry was stammering because of:

(A) A speech defect.

(B) Excitement.

(C) Anger.

(D) Fear.

Correct Answer: (D) Fear.

Solution: Derry was stammering out of nervousness and discomfort, which stemmed from his fear and hesitation in social situations.

Quick Tip

Understand the emotions and behavior of characters to interpret their dialogue and actions correctly.

(ii) Complete the sentence appropriately.

Derry insisted on going back because

Correct Answer: He wanted to prove his determination and build his self-confidence.

Solution: Derry insisted on going back to Mr. Lamb to overcome his fears and doubts, showing his determination to rise above his insecurities and take control of his life.

Quick Tip

When analyzing characters, focus on their motives and emotional development as reflected in their actions and dialogues.

(iii) Mr. Lamb was trying to tell Derry that:

- (A) It was a matter of perception.
- (B) Derry could stay with him.
- (C) He spent all his days in the garden.
- (D) He was fond of company.

Correct Answer: (A) It was a matter of perception.

Solution: Mr. Lamb emphasized that Derry's view of his scar was shaped by his perception. He encouraged Derry to embrace positivity and focus on his inner self rather than external appearances.

Quick Tip

Understand the deeper message of dialogue to identify life lessons imparted by characters in literature.

(iv) From the extract, one can infer that Mr. Lamb was a/an:

- (A) Compassionate man.

- (B) Mysterious character.
- (C) New neighbour.
- (D) Unreasonable man.

Correct Answer: (A) Compassionate man.

Solution: The extract shows Mr. Lamb's empathy and wisdom as he attempts to comfort Derry and help him build his self-confidence, highlighting his compassionate and kind nature.

Quick Tip

Empathy and kindness are key traits that define impactful characters in literature. Observe their actions and words to understand their personality.

(b) Anyway, here's what happened at Grand Central. One night last summer I worked late at the office. I was in a hurry to get uptown to my apartment, so I decided to take the subway from Grand Central because it's faster than the bus.

(i) List any two details about how Charley was dressed up.

Correct Answer: Charley was dressed in:

1. A tan gabardine suit.
2. A straw hat with a fancy band.

Solution: Charley's description of his attire provides a vivid picture of his appearance, which reflects the fashion trends of a past era.

Quick Tip

Descriptions of attire and setting are often used to establish the time period or mood in a narrative.

(ii) Charley decided to use the subway because it was:

- (A) Quicker.

- (B) Cheaper.
- (C) More fashionable.
- (D) Safer.

Correct Answer: (A) Quicker.

Solution: Charley chose the subway as it was faster than taking the bus, indicating his urgency to reach his apartment quickly.

Quick Tip

Analyze choices made by characters in specific situations to understand their priorities or constraints.

(iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately.

Landing at the third level was due to Charley's flight of

Correct Answer: Imagination.

Solution: Charley's experience at the third level symbolizes his escapism, driven by his imagination and a longing to escape the harsh realities of life.

Quick Tip

Imagination in literature often serves as a medium to explore alternative realities and emotional coping mechanisms.

(iv) Which time frame is represented through the kind of outfit mentioned in the extract?

- (A) Pre-World War era.
- (B) The present times.
- (C) The eighteenth century.
- (D) In the future.

Correct Answer: (B) The present times

Solution: The outfit described, including the tan gabardine suit and straw hat with a fancy band, reflects the fashion style prevalent aligning with the narrative’s nostalgic setting.

Quick Tip

Fashion and cultural references in a story can help pinpoint the timeline of the narrative.

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

(a) They have lived here for more than thirty years without an identity, without permits but with ration cards that get their names on voters’ lists and enable them to buy grain. Food is more important for survival than identity. “If at the end of the day we can feed our families and go to bed without an aching stomach, we would rather live here than in the fields that gave us no grain”, say a group of women in tattered saris when I asked them why they left their beautiful land of green fields and rivers. Wherever they find food, they pitch their tents.

(i) The ragpickers have been living there for ____ decades.

- (A) three
- (B) four
- (C) two
- (D) five

Correct Answer: (A) three.

Solution: The extract states that the ragpickers have been living there for more than thirty years, which corresponds to approximately three decades.

Quick Tip

Focus on numerical details in the text to determine the correct time periods or durations.

(ii) Why do these people have ration cards?

Correct Answer: To get their names on voters' lists and buy grain for survival.

Solution: Ration cards ensure access to essential resources, helping them secure food and basic rights despite their lack of identity or permits.

Quick Tip

Understand how basic necessities like food and identity documents shape the lives of marginalized communities.

(iii) What do you infer about their lifestyle from the phrase 'pitch their tents'?

Correct Answer: It indicates a nomadic and uncertain lifestyle.

Solution: The phrase reflects their transient existence, dictated by their need for food and survival. They move from place to place, setting up temporary shelters wherever sustenance is available.

Quick Tip

Focus on figurative expressions like "pitch their tents" to infer the lifestyle or conditions described in the text.

(iv) In spite of the hardships, they are not willing to go back to their homeland because

-----.

Correct Answer: Their homeland provided no grain or sustenance.

Solution: The extract shows that the people prioritize food and survival over identity and comfort. Their homeland lacked resources to sustain them, forcing them to leave in search of a better life.

Quick Tip

Understand the motivations behind the decisions of marginalized groups, especially in relation to survival and basic needs.

(v) **The women had a/an _____ approach towards life.**

- (A) idealistic
- (B) passive
- (C) indifferent
- (D) practical

Correct Answer: (D) practical.

Solution: The women show a practical approach by prioritizing survival and food over identity or emotional attachment to their homeland. They adapt to their circumstances to ensure the well-being of their families.

Quick Tip

Focus on actions and decisions described in the text to determine the nature of a character's approach to life.

(vi) **What does the term 'go to bed without an aching stomach' indicate?**

Correct Answer: It indicates having enough food to eat and satisfying their basic need for survival.

Solution: The phrase reflects their struggle to fulfill the basic necessity of food. Their priority is to ensure that their families are fed and do not experience hunger.

Quick Tip

Interpret idiomatic expressions like "aching stomach" in the context of the text to understand the characters' struggles and priorities.

OR

(b) Their spontaneous demonstration, in thousands, around the courthouse was the beginning of their liberation from fear of the British. The officials felt powerless without Gandhi's cooperation. He helped them regulate the crowd. He was polite and friendly. He was giving them concrete proof that their might, hitherto dreaded and unquestioned, could be challenged by Indians. The government was baffled. The prosecutor requested the judge to postpone the trial. Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors.

(i) The result of the demonstration was that

Correct Answer: The demonstration marked the beginning of the liberation from the fear of the British.

Solution: The spontaneous demonstration of thousands around the courthouse symbolized the unity and strength of the Indian people, challenging the authority of the British and overcoming their fear.

Quick Tip

Understand the significance of collective action in historical contexts to identify key outcomes of events.

(ii) The participants of the spontaneous demonstration were:

- (A) Gandhi's lawyers.
- (B) people of Champaran.
- (C) Indigo landowners.
- (D) Indian soldiers.

Correct Answer: (B) people of Champaran.

Solution: The people of Champaran demonstrated in support of Gandhi, symbolizing their

resistance to British rule and their determination to fight for their rights.

Quick Tip

Identify participants in historical events based on the context provided in the extract.

(iii) Gandhi cooperated with the British by:

- (A) not going to the court.
- (B) remaining quiet when he was accused.
- (C) helping to manage the mob of people.
- (D) leaving Champaran for Delhi.

Correct Answer: (C) helping to manage the mob of people.

Solution: Gandhi cooperated with the British by regulating the crowd peacefully. This highlighted his leadership and his constructive approach toward the freedom movement.

Quick Tip

Focus on Gandhi's actions to understand his principles of nonviolence and cooperation in achieving goals.

(iv) The statement 'Apparently, the authorities wished to consult their superiors' was indicative of the Britishers'

Correct Answer: uncertainty.

Solution: The British officials were baffled and unsure about how to handle the situation. This revealed their confusion and hesitation in addressing Gandhi's influence and the unity of the Indian people.

Quick Tip

Analyze the behavior of characters in the extract to infer their state of mind and decision-making process.

(v) With reference to the extract, the word ‘baffled’ most nearly means:

- (A) strengthened.
- (B) disgusted.
- (C) frightened.
- (D) confused.

Correct Answer: (D) confused.

Solution: The term ‘baffled’ describes the British government’s confusion and lack of preparedness in responding to the unity and resolve of the Indians.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to context clues in the extract to determine the meanings of challenging words.

(vi) Whose ‘might’ did this demonstration question?

Correct Answer: The British government’s might.

Solution: The demonstration challenged the unquestioned authority and power of the British government, proving that their control could be resisted by a united Indian populace.

Quick Tip

Historical events often highlight resistance to oppressive powers. Focus on the text’s central idea to understand the implications.

(10) Answer any *five* of the following six questions in 40–50 words each: $5 \times 2 = 10$

(i) What inference can you draw about Sophie’s relationship with her father from the story ‘Going Places’?

Solution: Sophie’s father is indifferent to her dreams and advises her against building castles in the air. His practical nature contrasts sharply with Sophie’s aspirations, leading to a lack of emotional connection between them. Sophie’s father is a practical man who discourages her unrealistic fantasies and focuses on family realities, creating a distant relationship.

Quick Tip

Analyze how family dynamics and contrasting perspectives shape relationships in narratives.

(ii) We miss a thing when we are in fear of losing it. Substantiate this statement with two examples from ‘The Last Lesson,’ how the people in the story suddenly realized how precious their language was to them.

Solution: The villagers, who previously ignored their native language, showed respect during the last lesson, acknowledging its significance. Franz also regretted taking the language for granted and recognized its value when it was no longer accessible.

1. The villagers regretted not learning their language earlier and attended the last lesson to show respect.
2. Franz realized the importance of his native language when it was about to be taken away.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to moments of realization and regret in the text to identify key themes.

(iii) What did the peddler say in his defence when it was clear that he was not the person the ironmaster thought him to be? (The Rattrap)

Solution: The peddler clarified that it was the ironmaster's assumption, and he went along with it to benefit himself. He accepted his mistake with honesty when confronted. The peddler stated that he never pretended to be the ironmaster's old acquaintance and merely played along to take advantage of the situation.

Quick Tip

Focus on character responses in challenging situations to understand their motives.

(iv) What does 'The God That Failed' refer to? (Poets and Pancakes)

Solution: The Communist ideology, once hailed as a revolutionary system, ultimately left its followers disillusioned due to its inability to achieve its ideals of fairness and societal equality. 'The God That Failed' refers to the Communist ideology, which failed to deliver on its promises of equality and justice.

Quick Tip

Relate ideological references in texts to their broader historical and political context.

(v) What according to Umberto Eco is the belief that most journalists and publishers have? (The Interview)

Correct Answer: Journalists and publishers think Umberto Eco's essays are boring, while his novels are entertaining, though he believes both are equally complex.

Solution: Umberto Eco explains that the public perceives his essays as less engaging, while his novels are viewed as entertaining. He emphasizes that both forms of his writing carry equal depth and complexity.

Quick Tip

Identify contrasts between public perception and the writer's perspective for deeper insights.

(vi) It is said that the 'Face is a mirror of one's emotions.' Why did the poet 'smile and smile'? (My Mother at Sixty-six)

Solution: The poet concealed her deep emotional turmoil with a smile, trying to provide comfort to her mother and mask her own fear of impending separation due to her mother's frailty. The poet smiled to hide her sadness and fear of losing her aging mother, reassuring both her mother and herself.

Quick Tip

Expressions and gestures often convey unspoken emotions. Pay attention to their use in the text.

(11) Answer any *two* of the following three questions in 40–50 words each: 2×2=4

(i) What confusion does the Dewan have when the Tiger King broaches the topic of his marriage? (The Tiger King)

Solution: The Dewan struggles to understand why the Tiger King's marriage is contingent on the bride's family owning tigers. This request highlights the king's determination to avoid death by fulfilling the astrologer's prophecy. The Dewan is confused by the Tiger King's request to marry a girl whose father owns many tigers, reflecting the king's obsession with fulfilling the prophecy.

Quick Tip

Unusual character demands often reveal their hidden fears or motives.

(ii) “My Antarctic experience was full of such epiphanies,” says Tishani Doshi. Which experience does she consider the best and why? (Journey to the End of the Earth)

Solution: The sight of icebergs and unspoiled nature left a lasting impression on Tishani Doshi. This experience highlighted the need for sustainable practices to protect Earth’s delicate ecosystem. Tishani Doshi considers witnessing the vast icebergs and pristine wilderness as her best experience, which made her realize the planet’s fragility and the importance of conservation.

Quick Tip

Focus on personal realizations in travel narratives to understand their larger significance.

(iii) Zitkala-Sa says, “Eating by formula wasn’t the hardest trial in that first day.” What does she mean by ‘Eating by formula’? (Memories of Childhood)

Solution: Zitkala-Sa struggled to adapt to the regimented and unfamiliar customs at the boarding school, including the strict rules for eating, which clashed with her cultural background and personal freedom. ‘Eating by formula’ refers to the strict table manners and rules imposed on Zitkala-Sa at the boarding school, contrasting with her free and natural way of life.

Quick Tip

Contrast cultural norms in texts to understand the struggles of individuals adapting to new environments.

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

(a) Imagine you are John Keats, the poet of ‘A Thing of Beauty.’ What advice might you offer to Robert Frost, the poet of ‘A Roadside Stand’ in the context of his ‘The sadness that lurks near the open window’? Pen down your advice in a letter to Frost on how to

deal with sadness.

Dear Robert,

**I have recently read your poem ‘A Roadside stand’ and You may end this way :
Despite the fact that our lives are full of sorrow and suffering, the beautiful things
around us give us the strength to endure the sadness of life.**

Warmly

John Keats

Solution: Suggested value points-

- life is full of sorrow and sufferings
- life has a cycle of ups and downs
- inspite of despondence, inhuman dearth of noble nature, gloomy ways of life
- nature provides solace
- enjoy the beautiful mountain scene / country side / village land / natural and fresh products
- things of beauty around us provide us eternal joy
- being close to nature brings peace and harmony
- should not lose hope
- have an optimistic view of life

Quick Tip

When addressing sadness in literature, focus on finding beauty and solace in nature and art to uplift the human spirit.

(b) Create a comprehensive comparison of the themes present in ‘Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers’ and ‘My Mother at Sixty-six’. Specifically discuss the different ways each poem addresses the concept of struggle and resilience.

Solution: Suggested value points- Aunt Jennifer’s tigers

- suppressed by patriarchal society
- endures the ordeals of her marriage

- desirous of strength and freedom
- resilience able to express herself beautifully through her art - creation of tigers
- tigers symbolic of freedom and chivalry / fearlessness and pride

My Mother at Sixty Six :

- reflects true struggle of fulfilling worldly duties and duties as a daughter - leaves her mother with reassurance
- hides her emotions through her smile
- makes a promise to see her soon
- mother's ageing and appearance reflects her struggle and resilience

Quick Tip

Compare the use of symbols and emotions in poems to highlight their treatment of universal themes like struggle and resilience.

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

(a) Dr. Sadao is disturbed and in a dilemma since he has decided to help the enemy soldier. Describe his conflict and the challenges faced in the form of a diary entry.

Solution:

Diary Entry: Date: [Insert Date]

Today was one of the most challenging days of my life. I found myself caught between my duty as a doctor and my loyalty to my country. Treating the enemy soldier was the only humane option, yet I am haunted by the thought of aiding an enemy. My conscience cannot ignore the Hippocratic Oath, which binds me to save lives, but my patriotism makes me question my actions. The pressure from society, my wife's concerns, and the fear of being labeled a traitor have added to my turmoil. I only hope my decision will not have dire consequences for my family.

- Dr. Sadao

Quick Tip

When writing diary entries, explore the emotional and ethical dilemmas faced by the character to add depth to the response.

(b) In the story ‘The Third Level,’ reality and fantasy are interwoven. Justify.

Solution: In ‘The Third Level,’ Jack Finney blends reality with fantasy to create a nostalgic escape. The protagonist, Charley, discovers the third level of Grand Central Station, which serves as a portal to the past. While Charley’s experiences suggest a fantastical dimension, the story also captures his longing to escape the stress of modern life. The blend of fantasy and reality is evident when Charley receives a letter from his friend, supposedly sent from the third level. This interplay between real and imagined events highlights the protagonist’s desire for solace in a simpler time.

Suggested value points- Reality :

- post world war II scenario of 20th century
- only two levels exist at the Grand Central Station
- Sam, his psychiatrist calls it a waking dream wish fulfillment
- buys old style currency from all his money
- keeps looking for 3rd level but never finds it again
- Sam goes missing – finds Sam’s letter in grandfather’s collection of first day covers

Fantasy:

- old locomotive, smaller rooms , fewer ticket windows and train gates, Old looking information booth
- open gas flame lights, brass spittoons on the floor, pocket gold watch with cover
- “The World” news paper edition dated 11th June 1894

Quick Tip

Identify elements of fantasy in a realistic setting to understand how they reflect the character’s inner conflicts or desires.

