

## CBSE 12 English (1/2/1) 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) 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.

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**(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.

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

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

ence.

#### Quick Tip

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

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**(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.

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**(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.

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**(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.

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**(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.

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(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.

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(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.

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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.

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**(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.

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**(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.

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**(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.

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**(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.

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**(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.

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

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

### Quick Tip

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

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

(b) financial status

(c) family support

(d) stress

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

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

### Quick Tip

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

## SECTION B- Creative Writing skills

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

**(a) You are the President of the Cultural Club of Marigold Public School, Vir Nagar. As part of the Annual Community Service Week, you are planning to put up a cultural per-**

formance in 'Ahista', a senior citizens home. Draft a notice for the school notice board inviting participation by the students. Invent necessary details.

**Solution:**

**Marigold Public School, Vir Nagar**

**Date:** [Insert Date]

**Subject: Call for Participants for Cultural Performance**

As part of the Annual Community Service Week, the Cultural Club is organizing a cultural performance at 'Ahista', a senior citizens home.

**Event Details:**

**Date:** [Insert Date]

**Time:** [Insert Time]

**Venue:** Ahista, Senior Citizens Home

Students interested in participating are requested to register with the undersigned by [Insert Deadline]. Let us come together to spread joy through our performances!

**President, Cultural Club**

**Quick Tip**

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

(b) As Chief Librarian of Little Wood Library, Birpur, draft a notice informing members about the change in winter timings, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2024. Also inform the members about the newly introduced electronic international journal support service with a remote accessing facility. Invent necessary details.

**Solution:**

**Little Wood Library, Birpur**

**Date:** [Insert Date]

**Subject: Change in Winter Timings and New Journal Facility**

This is to inform all members that the winter timings of the library will change to:

**New Timings:** 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2024.

Additionally, we are pleased to announce the launch of an electronic international journal support service with remote accessing facilities. Members can access journals online from the comfort of their homes. For details, contact the library desk.

**Chief Librarian**

**Quick Tip**

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

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

**(a) You are the Secretary of the Civil Medical Doctors Association, Sheesh Nagar. On the occasion of World Health Day, you are arranging a workshop on Drug Free Pain Management and Reversal. Draft a formal letter of invitation to be sent to all the members to attend the workshop. Request them to be punctual. Invent relevant details.**

**Solution:**

**Date:** (Insert Date)

**Subject: Invitation to Workshop on Drug Free Pain Management and Reversal**

Dear Members,

On the occasion of World Health Day, we are pleased to invite you to a workshop on **Drug Free Pain Management and Reversal**.

**Details of the Workshop:**

**Date:** (Insert Date)

**Time:** (Insert Time)

**Venue:** Civil Medical Hall, Sheesh Nagar

We request all members to attend punctually and participate actively in this important session. Your presence will greatly enrich the discussions.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Secretary**

Civil Medical Doctors Association

**Quick Tip**

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

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**(b) You are Shri E.A.S. Prasad, a well-known local cricketer. You have been invited as a chief guest for an inter-school cricket championship in K.P.S School, Mahabagh. Create an appropriate formal letter of acceptance.**

**Solution:**

**Date:** (Insert Date)

The Principal,

K.P.S School, Mahabagh

**Subject: Acceptance of Invitation as Chief Guest**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am honored to accept your kind invitation to be the **Chief Guest** for the inter-school cricket championship at K.P.S School, Mahabagh.

**Details Confirmed:**

**Date:** [Insert Date]

**Time:** (Insert Time)

I look forward to encouraging the young cricketers and sharing my experiences with them. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

**Yours sincerely,**

**E.A.S. Prasad**

**Quick Tip**

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

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

**(a) You are Priti/Pramod Vats, a resident of 317, Rajdhani Enclave, Rajbagh. You saw the given advertisement in the newspaper and wished to apply for the same. Write a letter to the Personnel Manager along with your bio-data, expressing your interest in the advertised post.**

HARRISON & SIMPSON Ltd.  
want  
college graduates  
for  
marketing a new cosmetic range  
'I Wish'  
Whom do we need  
Graduates, comfortable in English and Hindi, good interpersonal skills.  
Contact : Director Personnel 10:00 am 5:00 pm  
# 9877763240

**Solution:**

**Priti/Pramod Vats**

317, Rajdhani Enclave

Rajbagh

Date: (Insert Date)

**To,**

The Personnel Manager

Harrison & Simpson Ltd.

(Insert Address)

**Subject: Application for the Post of Marketing Executive**

**Dear Sir/Madam,**

This is with reference to your advertisement in [Insert Newspaper Name] dated [Insert Date], inviting applications for the post of marketing graduates for your cosmetic range ‘**I Wish**’. I am keenly interested in applying for this position.

I am a graduate with excellent command of both English and Hindi and possess strong interpersonal skills. My academic background, combined with my ability to communicate effectively, makes me a suitable candidate for this role.

Please find my bio-data attached for your consideration. I am confident that I can contribute to the success of your marketing initiatives. I am available for an interview at your convenience.

Thank you for considering my application.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Priti/Pramod Vats**

### Quick Tip

When applying for a job, include a clear and concise cover letter and detailed bio-data, emphasizing skills relevant to the position.

**(b) You have been making documentaries on how rivers, the lifelines of our nation, are under serious threat due to river pollution. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily, examining the reasons for this pollution and suggesting ways of tackling the issue. You are Srishti/Suraj, a concerned student.**

<p><b>Reasons:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pollution</li><li>• Industrial waste</li><li>• Agricultural runoff</li><li>• Human sewage</li></ul> <p><b>Solutions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Strict laws</li><li>• Monitoring committees</li><li>• Waste handling process</li><li>• Educate the masses</li></ul>
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**Solution:**

**Srishti/Suraj**

(Insert Address)

Date: (Insert Date)

**To,**

The Editor

(Insert Newspaper Name)

**Subject: Concern Over River Pollution and Its Mitigation**

**Dear Sir/Madam,**

I am writing to express my deep concern over the escalating pollution of rivers, which are the lifelines of our nation. As highlighted in my documentaries, rivers are under serious threat due to rampant industrial waste disposal, agricultural runoff, human sewage, and general neglect.

The consequences are devastating, affecting not only aquatic life but also human health and agriculture. To tackle this issue, I propose the following measures:

- Enforce strict laws against polluters and impose heavy penalties.
- Establish monitoring committees to oversee industrial waste disposal and ensure compliance.
- Improve waste handling processes, including better sewage treatment plants and waste segregation systems.
- Conduct awareness campaigns to educate the masses about the importance of preserving rivers.

I urge your esteemed newspaper to highlight this pressing issue and encourage citizens and authorities to take immediate action. Together, we can restore the health of our rivers and secure the future of our nation.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Srishti/Suraj**

*A Concerned Student*

#### Quick Tip

When writing to an editor, clearly state the issue, back it up with evidence, and propose actionable solutions to ensure maximum impact.

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

(a) With rapid digitalization, students have started depending on digital devices for entertainment. This has impacted their lives, both positively and negatively. Write an article with the help of the given cues and your own ideas, highlighting the advantages and disadvantages of using digital devices. You are Rohini/Rohit.

Digital Devices and Children	
<b>Enhance skills</b>	<b>Ill effects of long use</b>
- academics	- physical inactivity
- psychomotor	- poor interpersonal skills
- visual intelligence	- addictive disorders
- research	- aggressive behaviour
	- lack of concentration
<b>Solutions</b>	
- adult supervision	
- strict timings	
- spread awareness of addiction	

### **Solution:**

#### **The Impact of Digital Devices on Students' Lives**

*By Rohini/Rohit*

The advent of digital devices has revolutionized the way students engage with education and entertainment. These devices enhance skills in academics, research, psychomotor development, and visual intelligence, providing numerous opportunities for learning.

However, overuse of digital devices has its drawbacks. Prolonged screen time leads to physical inactivity, poor interpersonal skills, and lack of concentration. Many students develop addictive disorders and exhibit aggressive behaviour, affecting their mental and social well-being.

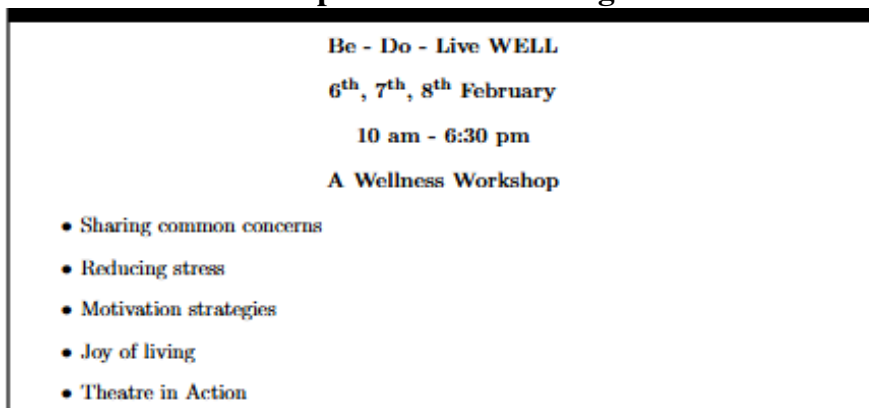
To address these issues, parents and educators must enforce strict timings for digital usage and supervise children's activities. Raising awareness about the dangers of addiction and encouraging alternative activities like sports and reading can also reduce the harmful effects of digital dependence.

In conclusion, while digital devices are indispensable tools for modern learning, their usage must be balanced to ensure students' holistic growth.

### Quick Tip

When discussing the impact of technology, always present a balanced view highlighting both advantages and drawbacks.

(b) The student counselling department in your school put up the following poster regarding an event in the community centre. As Rita/Rahul, student editor, write a report on the above workshop for the school magazine.



### Solution:

#### Report on the Wellness Workshop

*By Rita/Rahul, Student Editor*

The student counselling department of our school organized a three-day **Wellness Workshop** from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> February at the community centre. The workshop, titled “*Be - Do - Live WELL*”, aimed at fostering emotional well-being and personal growth among participants.

Each day featured interactive sessions on sharing common concerns, effective stress reduction techniques, and motivation strategies. Participants explored the **joy of living** through engaging activities and learned innovative approaches to face life’s challenges with positivity.

One of the highlights of the event was **Theatre in Action**, a creative module that combined drama and personal expression to address emotional issues and promote self-discovery.

The workshop was a resounding success, with participants expressing their gratitude for the valuable insights gained. Events like this play a crucial role in promoting mental health and well-being within the community.

### Quick Tip

In school reports, ensure to include details of the event, its purpose, and feedback from participants to provide a comprehensive overview.

## 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.

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**(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.

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**(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, 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.

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**(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 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.

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**(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.

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**(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.

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**(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.

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**(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.

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**(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.

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(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.

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(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.

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**(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.

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**(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.

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**(b)**

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.*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, "Noth-

ing 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.

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**(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.

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**(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 liveli-

hood.

**Quick Tip**

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

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**(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.

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**(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.

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**(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 es-

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.

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**(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.

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**(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.

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**(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.

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**(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.

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**(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.

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

**(i) What was the ‘thunderclap’ the narrator received as M. Hamel began the lesson?**

**Solution:** The ‘thunderclap’ was the shocking news that this was M. Hamel’s last French lesson. The school and teaching of the French language were being banned as a result of Prussian rule in Alsace and Lorraine.

### Quick Tip

Focus on the emotional and historical context of M. Hamel’s last French lesson, emphasizing the loss of linguistic and cultural identity.

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

**Solution:** This sentence refers to poor children in rural areas who collect garbage and waste early in the morning to support their families. By noon, they disappear as they return home, highlighting their difficult life of survival.

### Quick Tip

Consider how the metaphor of “morning birds” reflects the fleeting childhood and hardships of poor children.

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

**Solution:** Yes, the lesson is entertaining with its suspenseful plot and the peddler's interactions, while it is philosophical in conveying the idea that the world is a rattrap of materialistic temptations. It emphasizes human compassion and redemption through love and kindness.

#### Quick Tip

Focus on the blend of narrative style and moral lessons in 'The Rattrap' to understand its depth.

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

**Solution:** Jansie is realistic and practical, accepting her modest background and future as a worker. Sophie, on the other hand, is a dreamer with unrealistic aspirations of a glamorous life, such as becoming an actress or meeting a famous footballer.

#### Quick Tip

Highlight the stark contrast in personalities and aspirations between Jansie and Sophie.

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

**Solution:** The make-up department at Gemini Studios had people from various parts of India—Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Tamil Nadu—working together. This diversity reflected a sense of national integration despite linguistic and cultural differences.

#### Quick Tip

Focus on how the make-up department serves as a microcosm of India's diversity.

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

**Solution:** No, Umberto Eco did not like to be identified solely as a novelist. He considered himself a scholar and professor who wrote novels in his free time. His academic pursuits and work in semiotics were more central to his identity.

**Quick Tip**

Understand Umberto Eco's perspective on balancing his academic and literary pursuits.

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**(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.**

**Solution:** Yes, the prediction was indisputably disproved. The state astrologer predicted that the hundredth tiger would cause the Tiger King's death. However, the Tiger King was killed by a wooden toy tiger, highlighting the irony of fate and invalidating the astrologer's prediction.

**Quick Tip**

Focus on the irony and symbolism in the astrologer's prediction and its eventual outcome.

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

**Solution:** Zitkala-Sa felt this way when her long hair was forcibly cut, despite her resistance. She perceived the cutting of her hair as a violation of her cultural identity, which symbolized strength and dignity in her Native American tradition. This experience left her feeling defeated and broken.

### Quick Tip

Focus on Zitkala-Sa's struggle to preserve her cultural identity in the face of oppression.

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

**Solution:** Yes, the programme was a success. It provided students with firsthand experience of the fragile ecosystems in Antarctica, fostering environmental awareness. Tishani Doshi believed that such exposure was vital to understanding climate change and its global impact, which the students carried forward as ambassadors for sustainability.

### Quick Tip

Highlight how experiential learning can create environmental awareness and inspire change.

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

**(a) Franz in "The Last Lesson" realizes the importance of going to school while Saheb in "Lost Spring" yearns to go to school. Write a paragraph exploring the different perspectives of these two young boys on learning and education.**

**Solution:** Franz realizes the value of education when it is too late—after learning that it will be his last French lesson. This moment awakens his regret for not valuing school earlier. Saheb, on the other hand, is deprived of the opportunity to attend school due to poverty. While Franz's realization stems from a loss of privilege, Saheb's yearning represents the aspirations of the underprivileged. Both stories highlight the significance of education, yet through contrasting lenses—one of complacency and the other of unfulfilled dreams.

Additionally:

- deprived of educational opportunity
- nurtures hope to join a school when author promises
- has a desperation to attend school
- denied an opportunity by false promises

#### Quick Tip

Compare the role of education in Franz and Saheb's lives, focusing on themes of privilege, regret, and aspiration.

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**(b) Write a comparative analysis for your study group focusing on how the poems “Keeping Quiet” and “My Mother at Sixty-six” illuminate the different facets of human introspection and the significance of quiet reflection in understanding oneself.**

**Solution:** “Keeping Quiet” emphasizes the need for introspection and silence to foster unity, self-awareness, and peace. It advocates a pause from chaos to reflect on the essence of life.

Conversely, “My Mother at Sixty-six” delves into personal introspection, portraying the poet's realization of her mother's mortality and the inevitability of aging.

Both poems underscore the importance of quiet reflection, with “Keeping Quiet” focusing on collective introspection and “My Mother at Sixty-six” exploring an intimate emotional journey.

#### Quick Tip

Highlight how silence and introspection in the two poems contribute to different aspects of understanding—one collective and the other personal.

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**(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:** The seeds of rebellion are often sown during childhood, as seen in “Memories of Childhood.” Zitkala-Sa’s resistance to having her hair forcibly cut symbolizes her refusal to accept the oppressive cultural norms imposed on her. Though she ultimately succumbs, her inner spirit of defiance remains intact. Similarly, Bama’s realization of caste discrimination leads her to excel in education as an act of resistance. Both instances show how early experiences of oppression inspire individuals to challenge injustice later in life.

Additionally, Zitkala-Sa:

- insults faced at Carlisle Indian school
- tight fitting clothes, hard shoes, eating by formula, all these are a blow to her self-respect
- felt like a coward, cattle
- puts up a fight Bama
- provoked on understanding the situation why the man was holding the packet like that
- infuriated at the thought of discrimination

#### Quick Tip

Focus on the role of early experiences in shaping an individual’s response to injustice and oppression.

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**(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 killing tigers to avoid his prophesied death ironically leads to his demise by a wooden toy tiger. His arrogance and misplaced priorities highlight the folly of absolute power. While the king believes he has outwitted fate, the audience is aware of his impending doom. The story

critiques the vanity and self-importance of rulers who focus on trivial pursuits while ignoring their responsibilities.

And, also:

- readers know the hundredth tiger is not killed
- king's death is anticipated
- killing of hundred tigers but ultimately dies due to a sliver / a wooden tiger - operation is successful but the king is dead

#### Quick Tip

Understand the use of dramatic irony in the story to emphasize the satirical portrayal of power and its consequences.

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