

## CBSE 12 English (1/3/1) 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 question, 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 an unyielding source of love and support, which fosters a sense of acceptance and security. This unconditional affection is particularly beneficial for young adults who may be struggling with their identity and social acceptance.

#### Quick Tip

A dog can offer emotional support, instill a sense of responsibility, and create a feeling of belonging, all of which can help young adults navigate the complexities of social acceptance.

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(ii) A dog can encourage its owner to lead a healthier life by \_\_\_\_\_. Complete the above sentence appropriately, in about 40 words, with a characteristic or description.

**Correct Answer:** Regular exercise.

**Solution:** A dog promotes a healthier lifestyle by requiring regular physical activities, such

as walking or running, which encourage the owner to stay active. This leads to improved physical health, mental clarity, and higher energy levels.

#### Quick Tip

Regular walks with a dog not only provide physical exercise but also contribute to mental well-being, reducing stress and enhancing the owner's overall health.

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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.**

**Correct Answer:** Dogs are the healer of our human species.

**Solution:** Dogs act as emotional support animals, offering a calming presence through their affectionate nature. Their ability to sense their owners' emotions provides comfort, particularly for those experiencing anxiety or depression, making them essential companions for mental well-being.

#### Quick Tip

Dogs are known to alleviate feelings of loneliness and anxiety, offering consistent companionship and reducing stress levels, making them effective in supporting those with mental health challenges.

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

**Correct Answer:** Dogs are social in nature and give love to every human being.

**Solution:** Dogs naturally spark conversations and facilitate connections due to their friendly and approachable nature. They help people interact with others, especially in social settings like parks or events, enabling young adults to build new friendships with ease.

#### Quick Tip

A dog's presence can create opportunities for social interactions, as people are often drawn to engage with a dog, leading to easier communication and socialization.

**(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:** Consistently walking and feeding a dog require adherence to routines, which fosters a sense of responsibility and self-discipline. These activities not only ensure the dog's well-being but also encourage personal growth and time management in its owner.

#### Quick Tip

Daily tasks like walking and feeding a dog help cultivate responsibility and encourage young adults to develop a structured routine, fostering self-discipline.

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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 is primarily focused on outlining the various advantages of owning a dog. It emphasizes emotional support, increased physical activity, and improved social connections, all of which make owning a dog beneficial for young adults.

#### Quick Tip

This article serves to inform readers about the numerous advantages of dog ownership, particularly for young adults, covering physical, emotional, and social benefits.

**(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’ conveys a sense of readiness to face challenges and assume responsibilities with confidence. It reflects a proactive attitude towards overcoming obstacles in life.

#### Quick Tip

The phrase ‘take on the world’ embodies the spirit of taking on new challenges and responsibilities with determination and a positive mindset.

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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 the idea of adopting a dog. The sentence emphasizes how having a dog as a companion can provide emotional and social support, helping the individual face life’s challenges confidently.

#### Quick Tip

The phrase suggests finding a dog as a companion, someone who will provide emotional support and help face life’s challenges with you.

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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 maintains a positive and informative tone, focusing on the various benefits of owning a dog. It presents useful insights and encourages young adults to consider how a dog can enhance their lives both physically and emotionally.

#### Quick Tip

The tone of the article is both positive and informative, aiming to educate readers on the multiple advantages of owning a dog, with a focus on physical and emotional well-being.

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**2. Read the following passage carefully:**

**(1) Without specialised equipment, humans would be lost in these deep-sea habitats, so how do fish make it seem so easy? Much of this is due to a biological phenomenon known as electroreception—the ability to perceive and act upon electrical stimuli as part of the overall senses. This ability is only found in aquatic and amphibious species because water is an efficient conductor of electricity.**

**(2) One fascinating use of electroreception has been observed between the weakly electric fish. When two such electric fish meet in the ocean using the same frequency, each fish will then shift the frequency of its discharge so that they are transmitting on different frequencies. Doing so prevents their electroreception faculties from becoming jammed.**

**(3) Electroreception can also play an important role in animal defences. Rays are one such example. Young ray embryos develop inside egg cases that are attached to the sea bed. The embryos keep their tails in constant motion to pump water and allow them to breathe through the egg's casing. If the embryo's electroreceptors detect the presence of a predatory fish in the vicinity, however, the embryo stops moving (and in doing so, ceases transmitting electric currents) until the predator has moved on.**

**(4) Many people fear swimming in the ocean because of sharks. Sharks hunt with extraordinary precision. They initially lock on to their prey through a keen sense of smell. As the shark reaches the proximity of its prey, it tunes into electrical signals that**

ensure a precise strike on its target. This sense is so strong that the shark even attacks blind by letting its eyes recede for protection. In areas where shark attacks on humans are likely to occur, scientists are exploring ways to create artificial electroreceptors. These would disorient the sharks and repel them from swimming beaches.

(i) Infer the advantage that aquatic or amphibious species have over human beings.

Answer in about 40 words.

**Solution:**

Aquatic or amphibious species can perceive and act upon electrical stimuli using electroreception, which humans lack. This ability helps them navigate, defend themselves, and interact in deep-sea habitats efficiently.

Electroreception allows species like fish and rays to detect electrical currents, giving them an advantage in navigation, defense, and communication. Humans lack this sense, making them reliant on tools for survival in underwater habitats.

#### Quick Tip

Aquatic and amphibious species have an advantage due to their ability to detect electrical signals in water, which helps them navigate, hunt, and avoid predators, while humans lack this ability in their natural environment.

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(ii) A possible use for electroreception that will benefit humans is to:

- (A) Use water as it is an efficient conductor of electricity.
- (B) Act on electrical stimuli.
- (C) Change electrical frequency to prevent it from being jammed.
- (D) Jam electrical frequencies.

**Correct Answer:** (B) Act on electrical stimuli.

**Solution:** Electroreception enables humans to develop technologies that detect and react to electrical signals, which could aid in underwater navigation, surveillance, and preventing hazards in deep-sea environments.

### Quick Tip

Electroreception can benefit humans by allowing them to detect electrical stimuli, which can be used in technology to improve communications, sensing, and safety systems.

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**(iii) Explain in about 40 words the use of electroreception between the weakly electric fish.**

**Solution:**

Weakly electric fish use electroreception to avoid interference when meeting others using the same frequency. Each fish shifts its discharge frequency to transmit on unique channels, preventing jamming and maintaining effective communication.

Electroreception prevents confusion during interactions by enabling weakly electric fish to adjust their signal frequencies. This adjustment ensures smooth communication and avoids overlap in the transmission of electrical signals.

### Quick Tip

Weakly electric fish use electroreception to navigate their environment, detect prey, and communicate with other fish by emitting electric fields and sensing disturbances in these fields.

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**(iv) Identify a young ray embryo from the following:**

- (A) It fears electric signals.
- (B) It keeps its tail in constant motion.
- (C) It stations itself on land.
- (D) It disorients sharks.

**Correct Answer:** (B) It keeps its tail in constant motion.

**Solution:** Young ray embryos use constant tail movement to pump water and enable breathing inside their egg cases. This adaptation supports survival while allowing electroreception to detect predators and trigger a motionless response for defense.

### Quick Tip

The young ray embryo disorients sharks by emitting electrical signals, which helps protect it from predators.

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**(v) Complete the sentence appropriately: A shark hunts with accuracy because .....**

**Solution:**

A shark hunts with accuracy because it uses electrical signals to precisely locate and strike its prey even in challenging conditions.

Sharks utilize electroreception to detect prey's electrical signals. This sense, coupled with their acute sense of smell, allows them to hunt accurately, even without relying on vision.

### Quick Tip

A shark hunts with accuracy because it can detect electrical fields produced by the movements of potential prey, allowing it to track and hunt effectively.

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**(vi) Why does a shark recede its eyes when it attacks?**

**Solution:** It protects its eyes from damage during the attack.

Sharks retract their eyes into their sockets as a defense mechanism to shield them from potential injury while attacking prey. This ensures the eyes remain unharmed when the shark's head makes contact with the prey or other obstacles during an aggressive attack.

### Quick Tip

A shark retracts its eyes to protect them from injury or damage when it attacks its prey, as the head may come into contact with the prey or obstacles.

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**(vii) In areas where shark attacks on humans are likely to occur, scientists:**

(A) suggest putting barriers.

(B) are exploring ways to create artificial electroreceptors.

(C) suggest blinding them.

(D) are exploring ways to warn swimmers.

**Correct Answer:** (B) are exploring ways to create artificial electroreceptors.

**Solution:** Scientists are investigating the development of artificial electroreceptors that can detect the electrical signals emitted by sharks. These devices could help alert swimmers and humans to the presence of sharks, potentially reducing shark attacks by allowing for timely warnings.

#### Quick Tip

Scientists are investigating the creation of artificial electroreceptors to detect the electrical fields emitted by sharks, helping to prevent attacks on humans by detecting shark movements.

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(viii) **State True or False.**

**The title – ‘Understanding Electroreception and its Uses is Significant for Human Beings’ is appropriate for this passage.**

**Correct Answer:** True

**Solution:** The title of the passage accurately reflects the content, which discusses electroreception in aquatic animals and its potential applications for humans, such as improving safety and technology. This makes the title relevant and suitable for the subject matter.

#### Quick Tip

The title accurately reflects the content of the passage, which explains the importance of electroreception in aquatic species and its potential applications for human beings.

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## SECTION B- Creative Writing Skills

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

**(a) You are Akhil/Amala, the Secretary of the History Club of Margaret Public School, Utsavnagar. The club has decided to conduct an educational tour to the local historical**

**sites for students of class XI. Draft a notice informing the students of the proposed tour. Invent all necessary details.**

**Solution:**

**Notice**

**Margaret Public School, Utsavnagar**

**NOTICE**

**Educational Tour to Historical Sites**

Date: 20 March 2024

The History Club is organizing an educational tour to local historical sites for Class XI students on 5th April 2024. The tour will include visits to the Old Fort and City Museum. Interested students must register with the undersigned by 30th March 2024. For details, contact the History Club Office.

**Akhil/Amala**

Secretary, History Club

**OR**

**(b) You are Roshni/Rahul, Secretary of ABC Colony Welfare Association, Naveenbagh.**

**Write a notice for the society notice board informing residents that there will be no water supply in your colony on 24th and 25th April, 2024 due to maintenance work.**

**Invent necessary details.**

**Solution:**

**Notice**

**ABC Colony Welfare Association, Naveenbagh**

**NOTICE**

**Water Supply Disruption**

Date: 20 April 2024

Residents are informed that there will be no water supply in the colony on 24th and 25th April 2024 due to essential maintenance work by the municipal department. Please store adequate water in advance. We regret the inconvenience caused. For queries, contact the Welfare Office.

**Roshni/Rahul**

**Quick Tip**

While drafting a notice, always include a title, date, purpose, and relevant details. Keep the language clear and concise.

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

**(a) You are Suresh/Surbhi Gupta, the Principal of Goodwill Public School, Akash Nagar. Your school is organizing an Inter-School Economics Seminar on Critical Analysis of the Financial Budget, 2023–2024. Send a formal letter of invitation to the Finance Secretary of your State to be the Chief Guest. Invent necessary details.**

**Solution:**

**Goodwill Public School**

Akash Nagar

Date: 15 March 2024

To,

The Finance Secretary

State Name

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is our privilege to invite you as the Chief Guest for the Inter-School Economics Seminar on “Critical Analysis of the Financial Budget, 2023–2024,” to be held on 10th April 2024, at 10:00 a.m., in our school auditorium. Your presence and insights would greatly enrich the event.

Kindly confirm your availability. We look forward to your positive response.

**Sincerely,**

Suresh/Surbhi Gupta

Principal

**OR**

**(b) You are the PA to the Chairman, State Book Trust. The Chairman has been invited to inaugurate the annual book fair to be held at Olympic Maidan from 5th March, 2024**

**to 12th March, 2024. Write an appropriate formal letter of acceptance on his behalf.**

**Solution:**

**State Book Trust**

Delhi

Date: 1 March 2024

To,

The Organizing Committee

Annual Book Fair

Olympic Maidan

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Chairman of the State Book Trust, I am pleased to confirm his acceptance to inaugurate the Annual Book Fair on 5th March 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at Olympic Maidan. The Chairman looks forward to being part of this esteemed event.

**Sincerely,**

PA to the Chairman

State Book Trust

#### Quick Tip

In formal letters, always use a polite tone, include the date, address, subject, and ensure the purpose is clearly stated.

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

**(a) Divya/Diwakar Awasthi of 24/7, Hill View Apartments, Shrigram has come across an advertisement in Indian News and decides to apply for the post of Sales Executive.**

**Write a letter applying for the post to the Personnel Manager.**

**Amarish Ayurveda Pvt. Ltd.**

Requires Sales Executives

- Qualification: Graduate in any subject
- Skills: Good communication skills  
Basic computer skills
- Willing to travel
- Knowledge of ayurvedic products

Please send your resumé within ten days to the Personnel Manager.

[personnelmanageramarish@gmail.com](mailto:personnelmanageramarish@gmail.com)

Amarish House 35, Shanti Nagar, Shrigram

**Solution:**

24/7 Hill View Apartments,

Shrigram,

Date: 15 March 2024

To,

The Personnel Manager,

XYZ Enterprises,

New Delhi

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to apply for the post of Sales Executive, as advertised in *Indian News* on 12th March 2024. I am a graduate in Business Administration with two years of experience in sales and marketing. My strong communication and interpersonal skills, coupled with a proven track record of meeting targets, make me a suitable candidate for this role.

I am enthusiastic about contributing to the growth of your esteemed organization. Please find my resume attached for your reference. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss my application in an interview.

**Sincerely,**

Divya/Diwakar Awasthi

Phone: 9876543210

Email: divya.awasthi@email.com

**OR**

**(b) Your school organized a week-long campaign to create awareness of the plight of senior citizens in old age homes and ways of volunteering to bring smiles to their faces. This effort by the students was greatly appreciated. You decide to write a letter to the**

**editor of a local daily to create awareness amongst people all over the city. You are Deepika/Deepak, Raja Vas School, Tri Bagh.**

Help the Senior Citizens  
Make Them Smile

- panel discussion on 'How to help the elderly'
- visit to old age homes
- distribution of hampers
- cultural programmes
- pledge to volunteer one hour a week

**Solution:**

Raja Vas School,

Tri Bagh,

Date: 15 March 2024

To,

The Editor,

City Times,

New Delhi

Dear Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your esteemed daily, I wish to draw attention to the plight of senior citizens living in old age homes. Recently, our school organized a week-long campaign to raise awareness about their struggles and to encourage volunteering initiatives to bring joy to their lives.

Many senior citizens face loneliness, neglect, and a lack of emotional support. As responsible citizens, we must extend our care and attention to these individuals, ensuring their dignity and happiness. Volunteering at old age homes and organizing recreational activities can make a significant difference.

I urge the readers to take active steps in supporting senior citizens and creating an inclusive society.

**Sincerely,**

Deepika/Deepak

**Quick Tip**

When writing formal letters, always include proper salutation, purpose, and closing. For letters to editors, highlight the issue and suggest actionable solutions.

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

**(a) The newspapers today have more of full-page advertisements than news items or editorials. Write an article to be published in a national daily on how these advertisements take away the purpose of a newspaper and mislead the reader. Suggest how journalism can become more responsible. You are Madhu/Mahesh.**

Impact of advertisements :

- advertisements should not overwhelm the reader and distract from the purpose of news information
- gradual decline in newspaper readership
- newspapers lose credibility and appeal
- merely as a promotional medium

Suggestions :

- reinforce idea that newspapers and other print media are gateways to information
- focus more on news — rather than commercial visibility
- focus on in-depth coverage
- direct advertisements to a designated section of the paper

**Solution:**

### **Are Advertisements Hijacking Newspapers?**

By Madhu/Mahesh

Today, newspapers seem to be more about advertisements than news. Full-page advertisements have overtaken editorials, often misleading readers with exaggerated claims. The primary purpose of a newspaper — to inform, educate, and present unbiased opinions — is compromised in the quest for revenue.

Journalism needs to become more responsible. Newspapers must prioritize quality news and allocate specific sections for advertisements without overshadowing editorial content. Fact-checking should be enforced to prevent misleading advertisements. Responsible journalism, coupled with ethical advertising practices, can help regain the trust of readers and uphold the true purpose of newspapers.

#### **Quick Tip**

Focus on the core issue and provide constructive solutions. Use a professional tone for articles to maintain credibility.

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**(b) The Literary Society of your school organized a library week. As student editor of the school magazine, draft a report on the week-long activities. You are Rani/Rahul.**

- exhibition-cum-discount sale of books by leading publishers
- meet the author session
- creative writing – creating a graphic story and book cover making workshops
- inter-school literary quiz
- short story writing competition

## **Solution:**

### **Library Week: A Celebration of Reading**

By Rani/Rahul

The Literary Society of our school recently organized a week-long Library Week from 10th to 16th March 2024, aimed at fostering a love for reading. The event included activities like book exhibitions, storytelling sessions, and an inter-school quiz competition.

Renowned authors were invited for interactive sessions, inspiring students to explore literature. The highlight of the week was the creative writing workshop, where students showcased their writing skills. The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, recognizing the winners of various contests.

The Library Week was a resounding success, leaving students motivated to embrace the habit of reading.

#### **Quick Tip**

A good report should be structured, highlighting key events and their impact. Use concise and engaging language.

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## **SECTION C - Literature**

**(7) Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two,**

**(a) or (b):**

**(a) I saw my mother,**

**beside me,**

**doze, open-mouthed, her face**

**ashen like that**

**of a corpse and realized with**

**pain that she was as old as she  
looked but soon  
put that thought away, and  
looked out at young  
trees sprinting, the merry children spilling  
out of their homes. (My Mother at Sixty-six)**

**(i) The poet realizes from the extract that the mother is:**

- (A) Frustrated.
- (B) Depressed.
- (C) Dead.
- (D) Weak.

**Correct Answer: (D) Weak.**

**Solution:** The poet compares the mother's face to that of a corpse, reflecting her frailty and advanced age. This highlights the weakness and vulnerability of the mother as perceived by the poet.

**Quick Tip**

Look for descriptive phrases like "ashen like that of a corpse" to infer the condition of the mother in the poem.

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**(ii) State whether the following statement is True or False, with reference to the extract:  
"The poet feels optimistic about her mother's health."**

**Correct Answer:** False.

**Solution:** The poet feels a deep sense of pain and fear about her mother's frailty and mortality. She momentarily tries to distract herself by looking outside, but the realization of her mother's declining health prevails.

**Quick Tip**

Focus on the poet's emotional reaction to the mother's frailty to determine the tone of the statement.

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

- (A) Life is short and one must enjoy it.
- (B) Ageing and Mortality.
- (C) Sleeping and Playing.
- (D) Art of Parenting.

**Correct Answer: (B) Ageing and Mortality.**

**Solution:** The poem reflects on the inevitable process of ageing and the fear of mortality, as evident in the poet's observation of her mother's frail and corpse-like appearance.

**Quick Tip**

Themes in literature often focus on universal truths like ageing, death, or the cycle of life.

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**(iv) The word "spilling" in the extract conveys a sense of:**

- (A) Rahul was responsible for spilling the beans by telling everyone the secret.
- (B) He opened the bag, spilling all its contents on the table.
- (C) Try to keep that crowd from spilling onto the main street.
- (D) The cat spilled all the milk.

**Correct Answer: (C) Try to keep that crowd from spilling onto the main street.**

**Solution:** The word "spilling" in the context of "children spilling out of their homes" refers to movement in a lively and energetic manner, akin to a crowd overflowing onto a street.

**Quick Tip**

Context helps identify the precise meaning of a word in different scenarios. Look for its usage within the extract.

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**(v) The phrase "Young trees sprinting" represent:**

- (A) Youth.
- (B) Old age.
- (C) Disease.
- (D) Travel.

**Correct Answer: (A) Youth.**

**Solution:** The phrase "Young trees sprinting" contrasts the mother's ageing with the energy and vitality of youth, symbolized by the lively movement of the trees as seen through the poet's window.

**Quick Tip**

Symbolism often contrasts key ideas in poetry, such as youth versus old age in this poem.

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**(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately:**

'She was as old as she looked.'

The repetition of the word 'as' suggests that:

**Correct Answer:** The poet is emphasizing the undeniable truth of the mother's ageing and frailty.

**Solution:** The repetition of the word 'as' reinforces the poet's realization that her mother's appearance truly reflects her advancing age and vulnerability. This adds to the emotional impact of the realization.

**Quick Tip**

Look for repetitive words in literature to understand their emphasis and purpose in conveying key themes or emotions.

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**(b) What I want should not be confused  
with total inactivity.**

**Life is what it is about;**

**I want no truck with death.**

**If we were not so single-minded**

**about keeping our lives moving,**

**and for once could do nothing,**

**perhaps a huge silence**

**might interrupt this sadness**

**of never understanding ourselves  
and of threatening ourselves with death. (Keeping Quiet)**

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

- (A) Silence alleviates sadness of our life.
- (B) Life and death are part of our existence.
- (C) We must keep our lives moving.
- (D) Life is stressful and monotonous.

**Correct Answer: (A) Silence alleviates sadness of our life.**

**Solution:** The poet advocates for introspection and stillness, suggesting that silence can bring clarity and help alleviate the sadness of misunderstanding ourselves.

**Quick Tip**

Themes in poetry often address broader reflections on life, human behavior, and emotions.

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

The poet feels that quiet productivity in place of all activities is desirable.

**Correct Answer:** True

**Solution:** The poet advocate for quiet productivity but rather for a complete pause in activity to introspect and understand oneself. This quietness is meant to alleviate sadness and bring clarity, not replace activities with productivity.

**Quick Tip**

When analyzing poetry, focus on the poet's intended message rather than literal interpretations of individual phrases.

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**(iii) The sadness being referred to (line 9) is due to:**

- (A) Failure to understand ourselves.
- (B) Failure to understand others.
- (C) Loss of peers in life.
- (D) Inability to achieve what we desire.

**Correct Answer: (A) Failure to understand ourselves.**

**Solution:** The poet refers to the sadness that arises from a lack of self-awareness. This failure to pause and reflect on our inner selves leads to a sense of incompleteness and a continuous threat of dissatisfaction.

**Quick Tip**

Sadness in poetry often symbolizes deeper philosophical concerns, such as lack of self-awareness or detachment from reality.

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**(iv) The poem has been written from the point of view of a/an:**

- (A) Environmentalist.
- (B) Feminist.
- (C) Social activist.
- (D) Linguist.

**Correct Answer: (C) Social activist.**

**Solution:** The poet's perspective reflects the concerns of a social activist, focusing on self-reflection, human behavior, and the need for a collective pause to overcome existential sadness.

**Quick Tip**

Identify the poet's perspective by analyzing their core message and the societal concerns addressed in the poem.

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**(v) Based on the rhyme scheme, which of the following does not rhyme with line 1?**

- (A) Cruised.
- (B) Complaint.
- (C) Mused.
- (D) Bruised.

**Correct Answer: (B) Complaint.**

**Solution:** The word "complaint" does not match the rhyme pattern of line 1. The other options (cruised, mused, bruised) align with the rhyming scheme used in the poem.

### Quick Tip

Pay attention to sound patterns and endings of words to identify deviations from the rhyme scheme.

**(vi) Complete the sentence appropriately:**

**In "Keeping Quiet," the poet is talking about .....**

**Correct Answer:** The importance of silence and introspection to overcome sadness and achieve self-awareness.

**Solution:** The poet emphasizes the value of stillness and reflection to help individuals understand themselves better and break free from the sadness caused by the chaos of life.

### Quick Tip

Completing sentences in literature often requires interpreting the broader themes and underlying messages of the text.

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

**(a) To make sure, I walked over to a newsboy and glanced at the stack of papers at his feet. It was *The World*; and *The World* hasn't been published for years. The lead story said something about President Cleveland. I've found that front page since, in the Public Library files, and it was printed June 11, 1894.**

**I turned toward the ticket window knowing that here — on the third level at Grand Central — I could buy tickets that would take Louisa and me anywhere in the United States we wanted to go.**

*(The Third Level)*

**(i) Why does the narrator resort to wishful day-dreaming and want to travel back in time?**

**Correct Answer:** The narrator wishes to escape the pressures and insecurities of modern life, particularly those stemming from the aftermath of the two World Wars.

**Solution:** The narrator fantasizes about living in 1894, a peaceful time before the wars, seeking solace in a simpler, conflict-free era. His daydreaming reflects a longing to escape the complexities of the present.

**Quick Tip**

Focus on the narrator's emotional state and his dissatisfaction with modern times. Look for evidence of escapism or nostalgia in the text.

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**(ii) The year 1894 holds so much importance because .....**

**Correct Answer:** It symbolizes a peaceful, simpler time before the chaos of modern conflicts, offering an escape from the harsh realities of the present.

**Solution:** The year 1894 represents a pre-war era, untouched by the devastations of the two World Wars. It embodies the narrator's idealized vision of tranquility and simplicity.

**Quick Tip**

Consider historical references in the text and their significance to the narrator's yearning for a simpler time.

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**(iii) *The World*, the news about President Cleveland — what do they hint at?**

- (A) The narrator used to like reading the newspaper.
- (B) The narrator fantasizes about past events.
- (C) The narrator wants to escape to a world that was unaffected by the two World Wars.
- (D) The narrator tends to forget things.

**Correct Answer:** (C) The narrator wants to escape to a world that was unaffected by the two World Wars.

**Solution:** The mention of the newspaper and President Cleveland highlights the narrator's longing for a simpler era, specifically 1894, which he perceives as a time of peace, untouched by modern conflicts.

### Quick Tip

Focus on the symbolic meaning of historical references like the newspaper or President Cleveland to understand their connection to escapism.

**(iv) Give one reason why the writing style of the extract can be called autobiographical.**

**Correct Answer:** The extract reflects the narrator's personal experiences, emotions, and desire to escape from the stress of modern life into an idyllic past.

**Solution:** The narrative's first-person perspective and focus on the narrator's feelings and fantasies give it an autobiographical tone. It conveys his inner conflicts and nostalgia for a bygone era.

### Quick Tip

To identify autobiographical elements, look for personal reflections, emotions, and first-person narration in the text.

**(b) But at this moment the door opened and she looked out, a dark-blue woollen haori over her kimono. ... He had met Hana in America, but he had waited to fall in love with her until he was sure she was Japanese. His father would never have received her unless she had been pure in her race.**

*(The Enemy)*

**(i) Complete the sentence appropriately.**

**Hana was attired in .....**

**Solution:** A dark-blue woollen haori over her kimono.

The extract explicitly mentions Hana's attire as a dark-blue woollen haori worn over her kimono, showcasing her traditional Japanese appearance.

### Quick Tip

Focus on descriptive details in the text to answer questions about attire or appearance.

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**(ii) With reference to the above, how will you describe Dr. Sadao as a son?**

- (A) Indifferent
- (B) Obedient
- (C) Defiant
- (D) Practical

**Correct Answer:** (B) Obedient.

**Solution:** Dr. Sadao ensured that Hana was of pure Japanese lineage before allowing himself to fall in love with her, adhering to his father's expectations and demonstrating obedience.

**Quick Tip**

Look for the character's actions and their alignment with familial or societal expectations to determine traits like obedience or defiance.

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**(iii) What is 'this moment' all about?**

It is a moment of:

- (A) Emotional turmoil.
- (B) Tranquility.
- (C) Agitation.
- (D) Conflict.

**Correct Answer:** (B) Tranquility.

**Solution:** The moment describes a sense of calm and contentment as Sadao admires Hana and reflects on their relationship, even while considering societal expectations.

**Quick Tip**

Analyze the tone and emotions conveyed in the text to determine whether the moment reflects turmoil, tranquility, or conflict.

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**(iv) From the extract, what can you infer about Dr. Sadao and Hana's relationship?**

**Solution:** Dr. Sadao and Hana share mutual respect and understanding, with Sadao ensuring

their relationship aligns with familial and cultural expectations.

Their relationship is built on a foundation of mutual respect, as reflected in their shared values and cultural sensitivity. Despite meeting abroad, they remain committed to traditions and familial expectations.

#### Quick Tip

Look for evidence of mutual respect, shared values, and cultural considerations in the text to infer the dynamics of their relationship.

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

**(a) For a moment I thought of running away and spending the day out of doors. It was so warm, so bright! The birds were chirping at the edge of the woods; and in the open field back of the sawmill the Prussian soldiers were drilling. It was all much more tempting than the rule for participles, but I had the strength to resist, and hurried off to school.**

*(The Last Lesson)*

**(i) List two sensory details present in the extract.**

**Solution:** 1. The chirping of birds at the edge of the woods (auditory detail).

2. The brightness and warmth of the outdoors (visual and tactile details).

The sensory details in the extract include auditory imagery, such as the "chirping of birds," and visual and tactile details, like the "brightness" and "warmth" of the environment, which make the outdoors appealing to the narrator.

#### Quick Tip

Look for phrases that engage the senses, such as descriptions of sounds, sights, or physical sensations.

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**(ii) Why is the narrator tempted to spend the day out of doors?**

**Solution:** The narrator is tempted by the pleasant weather, the chirping of birds, and the sight of Prussian soldiers drilling, which seem more enjoyable than studying the rule for participles.

The extract vividly describes the appeal of the outdoors with its warm, bright weather, the sounds of nature, and the captivating activities of the soldiers, making it a stark contrast to the mundane schoolwork.

#### Quick Tip

Focus on the external factors described in the text that draw the narrator's attention away from school.

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**(iii) Complete the sentence appropriately: I hurried off to school resisting .....**

**Solution:** I hurried off to school resisting the temptation of the warm, bright outdoors and the distractions outside.

Despite the allure of the pleasant weather and lively scenes outside, the narrator chose to focus on his responsibilities and attend school.

#### Quick Tip

Identify the distractions described in the text that the narrator overcomes to fulfill his duties.

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**(iv) Why does the narrator want to bunk school?**

- (A) He doesn't like the teachers.
- (B) He doesn't like his classmates.
- (C) He wasn't prepared for the test on participles.
- (D) He had forgotten to complete his homework.

**Correct Answer:** (C) He wasn't prepared for the test on participles.

**Solution:** The narrator's reluctance to attend school stems from his unpreparedness for the participles test, which adds to the temptation of skipping school.

### Quick Tip

Look for explicit mentions of reasons in the text, such as fear of tests or lack of preparation, to identify the cause of hesitation.

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**(v) Which trait of the protagonist is revealed in the sentence ‘I had the strength to resist’?**

- (A) Sincerity
- (B) Determination
- (C) Bravery
- (D) Kindness

**Correct Answer:** (B) Determination.

**Solution:** The narrator demonstrates determination by overcoming his desire to indulge in the distractions of the outdoors and choosing to attend school instead.

### Quick Tip

Focus on the character’s internal qualities that help them make difficult but responsible choices.

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

- (A) The Drilling of Prussian Soldiers
- (B) The Rule of Participles
- (C) Strength to Resist
- (D) Out of Doors

**Correct Answer:** (C) Strength to Resist.

**Solution:** The central idea revolves around the narrator’s ability to resist temptation and make a responsible decision, encapsulated by the headline ”Strength to Resist.”

### Quick Tip

Identify the primary theme or message of the passage when choosing a headline that represents the main conflict or resolution.

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**(b) My introduction to the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears. But in a little while I gathered confidence. I paddled with my new water wings, watching the other boys and trying to learn by aping them. I did this two or three times on different days.**

*(Deep Water)*

**(i) Identify the phrase from the given extract that bears evidence to the fact that the narrator’s association with ‘childish fears’ was not a recent one.**

**Solution:** The phrase “revived unpleasant memories and stirred childish fears” indicates the narrator’s association with such fears dates back to earlier experiences.

The word ”revived” suggests that the narrator’s fears were rooted in past experiences and were rekindled upon visiting the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool.

**Quick Tip**

Look for words or phrases that reference earlier events or lingering feelings from the past.

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**(ii) How does the writer try to learn it? Mention any two ways.**

**Solution:** 1. The writer used new water wings to build confidence.

2. The writer imitated other boys to learn swimming techniques.

The writer employed two main strategies to overcome his fear of water: using water wings for support and observing and mimicking the actions of other boys to gain confidence and learn swimming.

**Quick Tip**

Focus on specific actions or methods described in the text that highlight the writer’s attempts to learn or overcome fear.

---

**10: Answer any five of the following six questions in 40 – 50 words each: 5×2=10**

**(i) Why is Mukesh’s dream compared to a mirage? (Lost Spring)**

**Solution:** Mukesh’s dream of becoming a motor mechanic is compared to a mirage because it seems unrealistic in the context of his family’s poverty and the socio-economic conditions of Firozabad. Despite his determination, societal constraints make his aspirations appear unattainable.

Mukesh’s aspirations to break free from the generational glassblowing occupation seem like an illusion due to his family’s poverty and the oppressive social structures of Firozabad. His ambition highlights his hope for change despite the challenges.

**Quick Tip**

Highlight Mukesh’s dreams and aspirations. Contrast his determination with the lack of ambition among other boys who passively accept their fate.

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**(ii) Why did Gandhi say: ‘Freedom from fear is more important than legal justice for the poor’? (Indigo)**

**Solution:** Gandhi believed that courage and self-reliance were essential for the poor to stand against injustice. Overcoming fear enabled the peasants to unite and demand their rights, making empowerment more significant than a legal solution.

Gandhi emphasized that instilling courage in the poor was crucial for their empowerment. Legal victories alone could not ensure their freedom unless they overcame their fear of exploitation and united to demand justice.

**Quick Tip**

Highlight Gandhi’s belief in self-reliance and empowerment. Explain how overcoming fear enables the poor to fight injustice and demand their rights.

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**(iii) Stephen Spender’s visit to the Gemini Studios was viewed as an unexplained mystery by the Gemini family. How did Asokamitran solve this mystery years later? (Poets and Pancakes)**

**Solution:** Asokamitran discovered years later that Stephen Spender, a poet and editor of a

political magazine, had visited Gemini Studios as part of a cultural exchange program. His visit was to promote his magazine, not for filmmaking, solving the mystery surrounding his presence.

The Gemini family initially misunderstood Stephen Spender's presence, assuming it was related to filmmaking. Asokamitran later uncovered that Spender's visit was part of a cultural exchange program to promote his political magazine.

#### Quick Tip

Mention the misunderstanding about Stephen Spender's identity and Asokamitran's later discovery about his role as a poet and editor, clearing the confusion.

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#### (iv) What do you understand by “interstices”? How does Umberto Eco utilize his interstices? (The Interview)

**Solution:** “Interstices” refer to the small gaps or spaces in one's schedule. Umberto Eco utilized these gaps efficiently to work on his projects, such as writing books and essays. His ability to manage time productively allowed him to accomplish much in his academic and literary career.

Eco viewed interstices as valuable intervals of time, which he used productively for intellectual pursuits. These small gaps enabled him to multitask effectively, contributing to his prolific output as a writer and academic.

#### Quick Tip

Define “interstices” as gaps or intervals of time. Highlight how Eco used his free moments productively for creative and intellectual pursuits.

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#### (v) Explain how ‘The tigers in the panel ... Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.’ (Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

**Solution:** The tigers in Aunt Jennifer's embroidery symbolize her unfulfilled desires for freedom and strength. While Aunt Jennifer lives a life of oppression, the tigers will continue to represent her inner spirit of courage and resilience, unaffected by societal constraints.

The tigers in Aunt Jennifer's panel are eternal symbols of strength and fearlessness. They represent her inner spirit, which remains untamed and unoppressed despite the burdens she endures in her life.

#### Quick Tip

Focus on the symbolism of the tigers representing strength, fearlessness, and freedom, in contrast to Aunt Jennifer's constrained life.

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**(vi) 'Resignation was no sudden thing.' What is the implication of this remark in the context of Sophie's character? (Going Places)**

**Solution:** The remark reflects Sophie's gradual acceptance of the disparity between her dreams and reality. Although she dreams of escaping her mundane life, she subconsciously knows the limitations of her circumstances and eventually resigns herself to them without rebellion.

Sophie's dreams often led to disappointment, but over time, she began to accept her reality. Her resignation to her circumstances indicates a deeper understanding of her limitations and an end to her fantasies of an ideal life.

#### Quick Tip

Explain how Sophie's unrealistic dreams often led to disappointment. The remark shows her gradual acceptance of reality after repeated letdowns.

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

**(i) What were the two 'amazing' things of the royal infant? (The Tiger King)**

**Solution:** The two 'amazing' things about the royal infant were:

1. He spoke his first words, which were a prophecy about his own death being caused by a tiger.
2. He grew up to challenge his fate and declared war on all tigers, symbolizing his bold and defiant nature.

The royal infant's first words predicted his death, which was extraordinary for a baby. As he

grew, his determination to defy fate by waging a war against tigers demonstrated his audacity and highlighted the satire in the narrative.

#### Quick Tip

Focus on the context of the story and the satire surrounding the royal infant's predictions. Identify how these 'amazing' things symbolize irony in the narrative.

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#### (ii) What are Geoff Green's reasons for including high school students in the 'Students on Ice' expedition? (Journey to the End of the Earth)

**Solution:** Geoff Green includes high school students in the 'Students on Ice' expedition to instill in them a sense of responsibility towards the planet. He believes that young minds, being more impressionable, can better understand the impact of climate change and work towards creating a sustainable future.

Geoff Green aims to create awareness among students about environmental challenges by bringing them closer to the pristine yet endangered landscapes of Antarctica. This exposure encourages them to understand their role in combating climate change.

#### Quick Tip

Highlight the educational benefits and environmental awareness goals of the expedition. Focus on the importance of exposing young minds to ecological realities.

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#### (iii) Why does Derry not like being with people? (On The Face Of It)

**Solution:** Derry dislikes being with people because they pity him for his facial scar caused by an acid burn. He feels judged and alienated, as most people fail to look beyond his physical appearance and acknowledge his individuality and capabilities.

Derry's insecurity stems from society's superficial behavior, which focuses on his appearance rather than his personality. This constant judgment makes him feel isolated and hesitant to interact with others.

### Quick Tip

Reflect on Derry’s insecurities and the prejudice he faces due to his physical appearance. Focus on his internal struggles and the societal rejection he experiences.

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

**(a) If you were the poet of “A Thing of Beauty,” how would you interpret the need for quiet introspection as mentioned in “Keeping Quiet”?**

**Solution:** Quiet Introspection and the Beauty of Life

If I were the poet of “A Thing of Beauty,” I would interpret the need for quiet introspection, as mentioned in “Keeping Quiet,” as a way to reconnect with the eternal beauty of nature and the simple joys of life. Just as beauty provides solace and removes negativity, introspection allows one to pause and reflect on the deeper meaning of life. Both poems highlight the importance of taking a step back from chaos—be it through appreciating a beautiful object or embracing silence—to restore balance and peace. While “A Thing of Beauty” celebrates the healing power of beauty, “Keeping Quiet” emphasizes how silence and self-reflection can help us understand ourselves and the world better, fostering harmony and a renewed appreciation for life’s wonders.

### Quick Tip

Relate the themes of silence, introspection, and beauty in both poems to emphasize the importance of finding peace amidst chaos.

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**OR**

**(b) Umberto Eco (*The Interview*) has a talk with Danny Casey from the story *Going Places*. Danny, being a football prodigy, feels his popularity may affect his game as he can’t devote much time to it. What advice will Umberto Eco give Danny about time management? Write a paragraph on the interaction between the two and the advice given by Umberto Eco.**

**Solution:** Umberto Eco’s Advice to Danny Casey

Umberto Eco, known for his time management skills, would offer valuable advice to Danny Casey, the football prodigy from *Going Places*. Understanding Danny’s concern that his rising popularity might hinder his performance, Eco would suggest prioritization and discipline. He would emphasize the importance of setting boundaries between his professional commitments and public appearances. By allocating specific time slots for practice, matches, and media engagements, Danny could manage his responsibilities without compromising his game. Eco might also advise Danny to adopt a structured schedule, maintaining a balance between personal time and public obligations. Eco’s own belief in “interstices” — utilizing small intervals of time productively — would encourage Danny to make the most of every moment, ensuring his growth as a player while managing his popularity effectively.

**Quick Tip**

Highlight Eco’s philosophy of using “interstices” (small gaps of time) effectively. Explain how Danny can balance his fame and football career by utilizing his free moments wisely.

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

**(a) Physically impaired people have to suffer pain and a sense of alienation due to the behaviour of the people around them. It’s ironical that people who should be treated with empathy are either avoided or pitied. Discuss. (On The Face Of It)**

**Solution:** The Plight of the Physically Impaired

Physically impaired individuals often experience pain, not only because of their condition but due to the insensitive behaviour of others. Society tends to either pity or avoid them, emphasizing their differences rather than their capabilities. In *On The Face Of It*, Derry’s disfigurement leads to him being judged and alienated, which causes emotional turmoil. Instead of receiving empathy, he faces prejudice and is made to feel inferior. This reflects the need for a societal shift in attitude where people focus on inclusivity and respect for the dignity of the impaired. Empathy and understanding can foster an environment where they

feel valued and empowered, rather than excluded or defined by their disabilities.

#### Quick Tip

Focus on how societal attitudes, such as pity or avoidance, contribute to the alienation of physically impaired individuals. Emphasize the need for empathy, inclusion, and respect in transforming these attitudes.

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**OR**

**(b) In the two stories of Bama and Zitkala-Sa in the lesson of “Memories of Childhood,” there are certain similarities of strength in the face of social challenges. Write a diary entry sharing your observations.**

**Solution:** Diary Entry on Bama and Zitkala-Sa’s Strength

#### **Diary Entry**

(Insert Date)

Today, I reflected on the stories of Bama and Zitkala-Sa in “Memories of Childhood.” Both of them displayed immense strength while facing social discrimination. Bama, as a Dalit, dealt with caste-based prejudice but transformed her anger into determination to excel in education. Zitkala-Sa faced racial discrimination and cultural suppression as a Native American but resisted attempts to erase her identity. Their stories highlight resilience and the power of self-awareness in overcoming injustice. Despite the challenges, both stood up for their rights, inspiring others to confront societal inequalities. Their courage reminds me that strength lies in acknowledging one’s worth and fighting for equality, regardless of the odds.

– [Your Name]

#### Quick Tip

Highlight how both Bama and Zitkala-Sa confronted societal injustices with resilience. Discuss the importance of their courage and determination in overcoming discrimination and inspiring change.