

CBSE Class 12 2025 English Question Paper (1/4/2) With Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :80	Total questions :13
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General Instructions

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

1. Please check that this question paper contains 19 printed pages.
2. Please check that this question paper contains 13 questions.
3. Q.P. Code given on the right hand side of the question paper should be written on the title page of the answer-book by the candidate.
4. Please write down the Serial Number of the question in the answer- book at the given place before attempting it.
5. 15 minute time has been allotted to read this question paper. The question paper will be distributed at 10.15 a.m. From 10.15 a.m. to 10.30 a.m., the candidates will read the question paper only and will not write any answer on the answer-book during this period.
6. This Question Paper has 13 questions. All questions are compulsory.
7. This question paper contains three sections - Section - A: Reading Skills, Section B: Creative Writing Skills and Section - C: Literature.
8. Attempt all questions based on specific instructions for each part. Write the correct question number and part thereof in your answer sheet.
9. Separate instructions are given with each question/part, wherever necessary.
10. Adhere to the prescribed word limit while answering the questions.

SECTION A
(READING SKILLS)

1. Read the following passage carefully:

(1) Gossip. All humans partake in some form, despite the age-old adage, "If you have nothing nice to say, don't say anything at all." Whether it's workplace chatter, the sharing of family news or group texts between friends, it's inevitable that anyone who participates in the above, talks about other people.

(2) People tend to think of gossip as synonymous with malicious rumours, put-downs, or the breathless propagation of a tabloid scoop. But researchers often define it more broadly as "talking about people who aren't present," says an assistant professor of psychology. "It's something that comes very naturally to us" - an integral part of conversation, information sharing, and even community building.

(3) "It's not necessarily negative," adds a professor of psychology. "It can be positive or neutral." Some researchers argue that gossip helped our ancestors survive.

Evolutionary psychologists first pioneered this idea, comparing gossip to the grooming primates engage in as a means of bonding.

(4) People are usually resistant to thinking about gossip as anything but bad. It is true that there are some types of gossip that should be avoided, such as gossip that is purely harmful and serves no purpose like mean comments on someone's way of dressing. In such a scenario no one benefits. Gossip can also be both active and passive. Active gossiping refers to directly sharing negative information about someone else. An active gossiper initiates the conversation and actively spreads it. Passive gossiping on the other hand involves more subtle behaviour like hinting, dropping suggestive comments or participating in gossip by listening without actively contributing, but still allowing the gossip to spread through their presence.

(5) It's interesting to note that gossiping also says something about relationships people have with one another. The act of gossiping often implies a level of trust and closeness with someone, which are key aspects of a good friendship.

(6) Research has found that gossip can stave off loneliness, while other studies have found it can facilitate bonding and closeness and serve as a form of entertainment. So, keep on talking. And when your conversation turns to gossip, as it inevitably will,

remember that some good can come of it - with the right intentions, of course.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

(i) Complete the following suitably.

..... think of gossip as synonymous with malicious rumours, put-downs in paragraph (2).

By the phrase 'put-downs' the writer means

Solution: The writer uses the phrase '*put-downs*' to refer to remarks or comments intended to insult, belittle, or discredit others.

Quick Tip

Phrases like 'put-downs' are often used to indicate derogatory or insulting comments aimed at diminishing someone's worth.

(ii) Despite the bad reputation of 'gossip', mention any two benefits that it offers.

Solution: Two benefits of gossip are:

- It helps in community building by sharing information and engaging in conversation.
- It fosters trust and closeness in relationships, strengthening bonds between individuals.

Quick Tip

Not all gossip is harmful — some forms promote bonding and information sharing.

(iii) Read and complete the following suitably.

The phrase 'It's something that comes very naturally to us' suggests that gossip should not merely be associated with malicious rumours.

Choose the correct response from the two options to complete the sentence.

The concern this phrase points towards is about:

- A. that some types of gossip should be avoided.

B. that gossip can be viewed as part of our daily interaction and bonding.

Solution: The correct response is **B**. Gossip can be viewed as part of our daily interaction and bonding.

Quick Tip

Gossip naturally integrates into conversations, often serving as a medium for social bonding.

(iv) Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph (2).

Praise : Commend :: _____ : Malevolent

- (A) Scoop
- (B) Propagation
- (C) Malicious
- (D) Conversation

Solution: The correct answer is **(C) Malicious**.

Quick Tip

Analogies test your ability to recognize relationships between word pairs.

(v) What type of gossip does the author disapprove of and why?

Solution: The author disapproves of gossip that is purely harmful and serves no constructive purpose, such as mean comments about someone’s appearance or actions. Such gossip benefits no one and only spreads negativity.

Quick Tip

Always distinguish between harmless, bonding gossip and hurtful, malicious gossip in reading comprehension.

(vi) Complete the following suitably with one difference between the author’s opinion and that of people about gossip.

Generally, people do not readily accept

Solution: Generally, people do not readily accept that gossip can be positive, neutral, or even beneficial by fostering closeness, while the author believes it can serve useful social functions when not malicious.

Quick Tip

Understanding contrasts between public perception and an author’s perspective is key to grasping nuanced comprehension questions.

(vii) “There’s also a physiological distinction to be drawn between active and passive participation in gossip.” (paragraph (4))

Based on the above statement, classify the following sentences as active and passive participation.

Sentence 1 : Ranjan told Raman and Shah the sensational facts he had heard about his friend Vineet from others.

Sentence 2 : Kumar stayed silent while his friends criticized his close friend Vijay in his absence.

Solution:

- Sentence 1 — **Active Participation**
- Sentence 2 — **Passive Participation**

Quick Tip

Active gossip involves speaking and spreading information, while passive gossip involves quietly listening or allowing it to happen.

(viii) Why does the author say that gossip is a reflection of relationships?

Solution: The author says gossip is a reflection of relationships because it indicates the level of trust and closeness people share. Gossiping often involves confiding in others, which suggests emotional proximity and friendship.

Quick Tip

Gossip often reveals the strength of social bonds and trust between individuals.

(ix) Choose the correct option:

..... *gossip can 'stave off loneliness'.* (paragraph (6))

The above statement is true as :

- (A) we always enjoy talking ill of others.
- (B) we believe what we read about people in the print media.
- (C) we are free to talk loosely in the absence of the person.
- (D) in order to gossip, you need to feel close to people.

Solution: The correct answer is **(D)** — in order to gossip, you need to feel close to people.

Quick Tip

Statements about emotional needs like loneliness are often linked with social connection and closeness in comprehension passages.

(x) Complete the following suitably:

The author puts forth the fact that man can never gossiping.

Solution: The author asserts that gossip is an inevitable part of human conversation and interaction, making it impossible for people to completely stop gossiping.

Quick Tip

Always infer key conclusions from the closing lines or summative remarks in a passage.

2. Read the following passage carefully:

(1) Introduction: Humans are social creatures with a deep desire to interact with one another. Recent developments in technology have made it possible for billions of people worldwide to use cell phones to satisfy this need. The current study aims to analyse the impact of smartphone use among various categories of people in Kerala, India. The present study will provide an insight into the extent and magnitude of people's reliance on smartphones to communicate in this modern age and the dwindling nature of social relationships.

(2) Methodology: A google form created questionnaire was used to gather information on the subject from a sample of participants who were from various districts in Kerala, India.

(3) Survey Examination: Among the 131 study participants, 66 were men and the remaining 65 were women. For convenience, the study considered only the main purpose for which a smartphone is used by any given individual.

(4) Results:

S.No	Purpose	Frequency	Percentage
1.	Academic	21	11.11
2.	Communication	56	29.63
3.	Entertainment	48	25.40
4.	Others	64	33.86

Individuals differed in their interests and preferences regarding their choice of communication medium. Some preferred direct conversation, while others conveyed their messages through virtual mediums of communication, that did not involve any face-to-face interaction.

(5) Implications for Interventions: It was observed that individuals were interested in using their smartphones even when they were dining. This constant use can have

several disadvantages such as reckless use of mobile phones, including prolonged hours of radiation exposure, over-calorie intake due to binge eating, leading to obesity, and other health problems. It is also a vital tool to achieve social progress.

The use of phones while travelling can sometimes detract from an individual's enjoyment of the serenity of the environment, the scenic beauty of picnic spots, and affect the way an individual behaves and interacts with his or her co-travellers.

(6) Conclusion: It is true that most of the population under different age and gender categories use smartphones every day, but there is no significant fall in the duration spent in direct face-to-face conversation with fellow beings, except in very few individuals. The majority of people agree that traditional face-to-face communication is more comfortable, reliable, and expressive than text messages, phone calls, or electronic mail.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

(i) Complete the following suitably.

In paragraph (1), the author highlights the use of smartphones to

Solution: The author highlights that humans are social beings with a desire to connect, and smartphones conveniently fulfill this by enabling interaction anytime and anywhere.

Quick Tip

Look for introductory lines in a passage to locate the primary reason or purpose.

(ii) How does the author validate the fact that smartphones take away the joy of beauty around us?

Solution: The author explains that excessive smartphone use while travelling affects individuals' enjoyment of natural surroundings and the serenity of the environment, thus diminishing real-life experiences.

Quick Tip

When asked to validate a fact, search for evidence or examples mentioned in the text.

(iii) Paragraph (4) includes the phrases, direct communication and virtual communication.

Classify the following sentences as direct and virtual communication:

Sentence 1 : Most of the students attend online classes on mobile phones.

Sentence 2 : He arranged for a get-together to meet his school friends.

Solution:

- Sentence 1 — **Virtual Communication**
- Sentence 2 — **Direct Communication**

Quick Tip

Direct communication involves face-to-face interaction while virtual communication occurs via digital means.

(iv) In paragraph (5), ‘By reckless use of mobile phones’ the author blames:

- (A) binge eating
- (B) mobile phones
- (C) responsibility of man
- (D) demands of society

Solution: The correct answer is **(A) binge eating**.

Quick Tip

Watch for effects or consequences mentioned in connection with a cause to answer blame-related questions.

(v) Give two points to support how smartphones make a major impact on man's life.

Solution:

- Smartphones have led to prolonged exposure to radiation and unhealthy eating habits, causing health issues.
- They reduce the time people spend enjoying nature and engaging in direct social interactions.

Quick Tip

Pick effects or consequences highlighted in implications or result sections of the passage.

(vi) What would the following be classified as?

There is no significant fall in the duration spent in direct face-to-face conversation.

Select the appropriate response:

- (A) Primary purpose
- (B) Secondary objective
- (C) Method of analysis
- (D) Research outcome

Solution: The correct answer is (D) **Research outcome**.

Quick Tip

Look for concluding findings or final observations to identify research outcomes.

(vii) 'Technological development is a double-edged sword.'

Analyse the above statement with reference to the text.

Solution: The text highlights that while smartphones enable connectivity and convenience, their overuse can lead to health problems, reduced appreciation of natural surroundings, and weakened social relationships, illustrating both benefits and drawbacks of technology.

Quick Tip

For analysis-based questions, balance both advantages and disadvantages from the passage context.

(viii) The study is very relevant in the contemporary times, because:

- (A) we are living in the 21st century.
- (B) it is an era of IT revolution.
- (C) mobile phones have penetrated everyone's life.
- (D) mobile phones are used by students for academic purposes.

Solution: The correct answer is **(C) mobile phones have penetrated everyone's life.**

Quick Tip

Focus on the central idea or overall finding of a study for relevance-based questions.

SECTION B

(CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)

Note: All details presented in the questions are imaginary and created for assessment purpose

3. Attempt ANY ONE of the two (a) or (b) in about 50 words:

(a) You are Aruna/Arun, Head girl/Head boy of Kohinoor Public School, Hawapuri.

Your school is organising an inter-house book review competition. Draft a notice

informing the students of classes IX–XII about the competition and invite registrations for the same. Include other necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

Solution:

KOHINOOR PUBLIC SCHOOL, HAWAPURI

NOTICE

INTER-HOUSE BOOK REVIEW COMPETITION

All students of Classes IX–XII are hereby informed that an Inter-House Book Review Competition will be organised on 30th June 2025 in the School Library from 11:00 a.m. onwards. Each house may nominate 2 participants. Interested students must register with the undersigned by 27th June.

Aruna / Arun

(Head Girl / Head Boy)

Quick Tip

State the event title, date, venue, eligibility, registration deadline, and signatory neatly inside a box.

OR

(b) You are Renuka/Rahul Bhatia, President of J.M. Colony, Pawanshahr, Residents Welfare Association. You are planning to organise a free eye care camp in collaboration with a reputed hospital for the senior citizens of your locality. Draft a notice informing the residents about the camp. Include all necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

Solution:

**J.M. COLONY RESIDENTS WELFARE ASSOCIATION,
PAWANSHAHR**

NOTICE

FREE EYE CARE CAMP FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

All residents are informed that a Free Eye Care Camp will be organised on 5th July 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Community Hall in collaboration with Shanti Hospital. Senior citizens of our colony are requested to avail this opportunity.

Renuka / Rahul Bhatia

(President, RWA)

Quick Tip

For community notices, include the purpose, date, venue, collaborating organisation, and authorised signatory.

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

(a) Your school is planning to host the Annual Awards Function on Saturday, 9th April. On behalf of the Principal, draft a formal invitation card to be sent to the parents and other guests inviting them for the function. Mention a compelling highlight of the celebration along with other details.

Solution:

SUNBEAM PUBLIC SCHOOL, LUCKNOW

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU

The Principal, staff, and students of Sunbeam Public School, Lucknow, cordially invite you to the **Annual Awards Function** to be held on **Saturday, 9th April 2025 at 5:00 p.m.** in the school auditorium.

Highlight: Felicitation of National Topper and Live Cultural Performances.

Principal

Quick Tip

A formal invitation must include the host's name, event title, date, time, venue, a highlight, and formal closing.

OR

(b) You are Sonali/Sohail of 4, A.C. Nagar, Akashgarh. Your friend Jyoti has invited you to a party to celebrate her appointment as Junior Scientist in ISRO. Write an informal letter of reply accepting the invitation.

Solution:

4, A.C. Nagar

Akashgarh

22nd June 2025

Dear Jyoti,

I was thrilled to receive your invitation for the party to celebrate your appointment as a Junior Scientist in ISRO. Heartiest congratulations to you on this remarkable achievement! I am delighted to attend the celebration and look forward to spending time with you.

See you soon!

Yours lovingly,
Sonali / Sohail

Quick Tip

An informal letter should include date, greeting, expression of happiness, acceptance, a personal closing, and sender's name.

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

(a) You are Anjali/Ajit Kumar of 12, Oldams Road, Vijaybagh. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write this job application along with your bio-data.

Adarsh Public School, Vijaybagh
Requires Counsellor

Qualification : Graduation in Psychology/Counselling education.
Experience : Minimum 2 years in students counselling.
Skills : Problem solving, empathetic listening,
communication and computer competency.

Apply with bio-data to The Principal, Adarsh Public School, 40,
Sarojini Nagar, Vijaybagh.

Solution:

12, Oldams Road

Vijaybagh

22nd June 2025

The Principal

Adarsh Public School

40, Sarojini Nagar

Vijaybagh

Subject: Application for the Post of Counsellor

Sir/Madam,

In response to your advertisement for the post of Counsellor, I would like to apply for the same. I am Anjali/Ajit Kumar, a graduate in Psychology with over two years of experience in student counselling.

I possess strong problem-solving skills, empathetic listening, and excellent communication abilities. I am confident that my training and hands-on experience with students will make me a suitable candidate for the role. Kindly consider my bio-data attached below.

Thank you. I shall be grateful for an opportunity to discuss further in an interview.

Yours sincerely,

Anjali/Ajit Kumar

Bio-data:

- **Name:** Anjali/Ajit Kumar
- **Address:** 12, Oldams Road, Vijaybagh
- **Date of Birth:** 18th February 1998
- **Qualification:** B.A. in Psychology, Diploma in Counselling Education
- **Experience:** 2 years as student counsellor
- **Skills:** Empathetic listening, communication, computer competency, problem-solving
- **Languages Known:** English, Hindi
- **References:** Available on request

Quick Tip

Job applications should highlight qualifications, relevant experience, and skills that match the advertisement. Include a formal salutation, subject line, and a clear bio-data format.

OR

(b) You are Srishti/Somesh Chawla of 46, M.G. Road, Aarmannagar. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your views and creating awareness among people on India's space exploration and its role in transforming India as a potential superpower.

- India's contribution to global science and research.
- Promotion of economic growth of our country.
- Role of space technology in strengthening national security.
- Enhancement of India's reputation at the global level.
- Create more job opportunities.

Solution:

46, M.G. Road

Aarmannagar

22nd June 2025

The Editor

The Times Chronicle

New Delhi

Subject: India's Space Programme – A Giant Leap Towards Global Leadership

Sir/Madam,

I wish to express my pride and concern through your esteemed newspaper on the remarkable achievements of India's space programme, particularly the success of Chandrayaan-3. This mission is a testimony to India's growing capabilities in science and space technology.

India's space exploration not only contributes to global scientific progress but also strengthens national security and economic growth. The promotion of indigenous innovation and job opportunities will empower our youth. It is crucial to spread awareness and encourage more investment in space research.

I urge the media and government to highlight and support these achievements, as they reflect India's emergence as a potential superpower.

Yours sincerely,

Srishti/Somesh Chawla

Quick Tip

Use a formal tone in letters to the editor. Clearly state your opinion, support it with facts or examples, and offer constructive suggestions to raise awareness or resolve an issue.

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

(a) You are a travel enthusiast. You strongly feel that travelling is essential to a person's development as it increases knowledge and widens intellect. Write an article for your school magazine stressing on the importance of travel. You may use the cues given along with your own ideas to compose the article. You are Dipanshi/Dipesh of Class XII-C.

- Enhances learning process.
- Encourages resourcefulness.
- Changes outlook.
- Promotes communication skills.
- Increases cultural awareness.

Solution:

The Importance of Travel in Personal Growth

– By Dipanshi/Dipesh, Class XII-C

Travelling is not just a leisure activity; it is an enriching experience that enhances one's personality and intellect. It exposes individuals to diverse cultures, languages, and lifestyles, thereby expanding their worldview.

The learning that comes from navigating unfamiliar places encourages independence and resourcefulness. It also boosts communication skills and adaptability, as one often has to interact with strangers in new settings. Travel transforms perspectives, making people more open-minded and tolerant.

Additionally, travelling builds cultural awareness and empathy, which are vital for personal

and social development. It breaks the monotony of routine and adds meaning to life through real-life exposure and exploration.

Thus, travelling should be seen as an investment in one's development and not just a recreational luxury.

Quick Tip

Use an engaging introduction, logically grouped ideas, and a suitable conclusion. Articles should reflect a balanced view and use vivid, informative language.

OR

(b) Your school organised a workshop on 'Health and Wellness' for Classes IX–XII. As a student reporter, write a comprehensive report of the event to be published in your school newsletter. You are Aditi/Aditya of Class XII-A. You may use the cues given along with your own ideas to compose the report.

- Who – What – Where – When – Why – How

Solution:

Health and Wellness Workshop Conducted at DPS Greenfield – Report by Aditi/Aditya, Class XII-A

A workshop on 'Health and Wellness' was held at DPS Greenfield from 17th to 19th June 2025 in the school auditorium for students of Classes IX to XII. The aim was to educate students about healthy lifestyle choices and mental well-being.

The sessions were conducted by health professionals and nutritionists who covered topics such as stress management, healthy eating habits, physical fitness, and sleep hygiene.

Students actively participated in yoga sessions, group discussions, and interactive Q&A rounds.

The initiative received enthusiastic response and proved to be highly informative. Students gained practical tips on self-care and were motivated to prioritize their health. The event

ended with a pledge to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Quick Tip

While writing a report, focus on factual accuracy, event flow, and past tense. Use a clear headline, who-what-when-where-why-how structure, and a formal tone.

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 Uncle's wedding band

Sits heavily upon Aunt Jennifer's hand.

When Aunt is dead, her terrified hands will lie

Still ringed with ordeals she was mastered by.

The tigers in the panel that she made

Will go on prancing, proud and unafraid.

(Aunt Jennifer's Tigers)

(i) Complete the following suitably:

The massive weight of 'wedding band' symbolises _____.

Solution:

The massive weight of 'wedding band' symbolises the burden of marital responsibilities and male dominance in Aunt Jennifer's life.

Quick Tip

In poetry, objects like the “wedding band” often carry symbolic meaning. Here, it reflects the oppression and emotional burden experienced by Aunt Jennifer in her marriage.

(ii) By the phrase ‘fingers fluttering’, the poet portrays Aunt Jennifer in a constant state of _____. (nervousness/happiness)

Solution:

By the phrase ‘fingers fluttering’, the poet portrays Aunt Jennifer in a constant state of **nervousness**.

Quick Tip

The phrase “fingers fluttering” highlights Aunt Jennifer’s fear and anxiety, symbolising her lack of control and the deep psychological effects of her oppressive marriage.

(iii) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion: Aunt Jennifer lives a life full of agony and pain.

Reason: She is a victim of the male dominant society.

- (A) Both the assertion and the reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
- (B) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is **not** the correct explanation of the assertion.
- (C) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
- (D) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

Solution:

(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

Quick Tip

Use logical analysis to connect assertion and reason. Aunt Jennifer's painful life is clearly a result of male domination, as indicated by the imagery in the poem.

(iv) Complete the following suitably:

'The tigers in the panel will go on prancing

The above line refers to the _____ of art.

Solution:

The above line refers to the **immortality** of art.

Quick Tip

Art outlives human suffering. Aunt Jennifer's embroidered tigers symbolise how creative expression can achieve permanence and freedom, even if the creator lived in fear.

(v) The expressions 'terrified hands' and 'ordeals' used in the above extract highlight the _____ of women in marriage.

Solution:

The expressions 'terrified hands' and 'ordeals' highlight the **oppression** of women in marriage.

Quick Tip

These phrases depict Aunt Jennifer's fearful state and her lifelong suffering, revealing the emotional and social suppression faced by women in patriarchal marriages.

(vi) Choose the correct option:

'Tigers in the panel' symbolise:

1. Aunt Jennifer's interest in wildlife.

2. Tigers in the green forest.
3. Aunt Jennifer's deep desire for freedom.
4. Tigers that are yellow in colour.

Solution:

(C) Aunt Jennifer's deep desire for freedom.

Quick Tip

The prancing tigers represent strength, confidence, and independence—qualities Aunt Jennifer longs for but cannot embody in her own life.

OR

(b)

**Driving from my parent's
home to Cochin last Friday
morning, I saw my mother, beside me,
doze, open mouthed, her face
ashen like that
of a corpse and realised 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) Complete the following suitably:

The expressions ‘doze’ and ‘open mouthed’ are used by the poet to indicate the poet’s mother’s _____.

Solution:

The expressions ‘doze’ and ‘open mouthed’ are used by the poet to indicate the poet’s mother’s **old age and physical frailty**.

Quick Tip

These expressions create a visual image of a weak and ageing woman, reflecting the poet’s deep emotional response to her mother’s declining health.

(ii) Give the phrase that suggests the following.

The image of exuberance and youthfulness affects the poet’s thoughts.

Solution:

Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes.

Quick Tip

This phrase contrasts the poet’s mother’s aging with youthful images of movement and vitality, deepening the emotional effect.

(iii) What does the imagery of ‘Trees sprinting’ *not* represent in the given extract?

(A) energy (B) liveliness (C) shade (D) vitality

Solution:

(C) shade

Quick Tip

‘Trees sprinting’ conveys movement and life, not shelter or stillness. Shade does not fit the dynamic mood of this imagery.

(iv) Select the correct option from those given in the brackets, to fill in the blank.

The poet's use of the phrase 'ashen like that of a corpse', illustrates the poet's use of _____ . (irony/imagery)

Solution:

The poet's use of the phrase illustrates the use of **imagery**.

Quick Tip

Imagery involves vivid descriptions that appeal to our senses. Here, the phrase helps the reader visualise the mother's lifeless appearance.

(v) Choose the correct option:

The poet is unable to bear the sight of her ageing mother, because _____ .

1. her mother had refused to accompany her
2. she is upset with her mother dozing off
3. it upsets her to see the ageing face of her mother
4. she is in a hurry to reach the airport

Solution:

(C) it upsets her to see the ageing face of her mother.

Quick Tip

The poet is emotionally distressed by her mother's appearance, which reminds her of mortality and separation.

(vi) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract.

Assertion: The mother was accompanying her daughter to the airport.

Reason: The daughter was leaving her mother behind and flying off.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship:

1. Both the assertion and the reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
2. Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is **not** the correct explanation of the assertion.
3. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
4. The assertion is false, but the reason is true.

Solution:

(A) Both the assertion and the reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

Quick Tip

The mother accompanies the daughter to the airport, while the daughter's departure brings out the pain of parting and ageing.

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

(a)

"That young master is so proud of his skill to save life that he saves any life," the cook said contemptuously.

"It is the children of whom we must think," Yumi said sadly.

"What will be their fate if their father is condemned as a traitor ?"

They did not try to hide what they said from the ears of Hana as she stood arranging the day's flowers in the veranda near by, and she knew they spoke on purpose that she might hear. (The Enemy)

(i) Complete the following suitably:

The tone of the cook while speaking about her *master's skill* is _____.

Solution:

The tone of the cook is **contemptuous**. She ridicules the doctor's pride in his skill, implying that he saves lives blindly without moral discretion, even if it means saving an enemy. Her choice of words reflects bitterness and a lack of respect for the doctor's ethical priorities.

Quick Tip

To identify tone, observe descriptive words and the speaker's attitude. "Contemptuously" shows disapproval and sarcasm in the cook's statement.

(ii) 'They spoke on purpose that she might hear'.

They wanted her to hear to convey their:

1. interest
2. disapproval
3. sympathy
4. respect

Solution:

(B) disapproval.

The servants deliberately spoke within Hana's hearing to express their dissatisfaction and moral disagreement with their master's decision to shelter and treat an enemy soldier. Their open criticism reveals passive resistance and lack of acceptance of his choice.

Quick Tip

Look for emotional cues. "Spoke on purpose" implies intention and "might hear" suggests a deliberate act of expressing dissent.

(iii) How is Yumi's concern for the children justified?

Solution:

Yumi's concern is justified as she fears the social consequences for the children if their father is seen as a traitor. In a deeply patriotic society during wartime, helping an enemy could lead to shame, punishment, or social rejection. She worries about the future of the children if their father is condemned for going against national loyalty. Her concerns reflect the harsh realities and moral dilemmas faced during war.

Quick Tip

Character concern is justified when it arises from real threats or consequences, especially during sensitive situations like war.

(iv) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank:

The above extract reveals a _____ (superficial/close) association between the master and the servants.

Solution:

The extract reveals a **superficial** association. Despite living and working under the same roof, the servants express open disapproval and do not hesitate to criticise their master's decisions. They lack emotional closeness or mutual understanding, indicating a formal, detached relationship rooted in hierarchy rather than respect.

Quick Tip

Superficial relationships show politeness or functionality but lack emotional depth or mutual respect, as seen in servant-master dynamics here.

OR

(b)

The British officer's secretary sent word to the Maharaja through the dewan that the durai himself did not have to kill the tiger. The Maharaja could do the actual killing. What was important to the durai was a photograph of himself holding the gun and

standing over the tiger's carcass. But the Maharaja would not agree even to this proposal. If he relented now, what would he do if other British officers turned up for tiger hunts? Because he prevented a British officer from fulfilling his desire, the Maharaja stood in danger of losing his kingdom itself. (The Tiger King)

(i) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank:

The last line of the extract reflects _____ attitude of the British officers. (an oppressive/a courageous)

Solution:

The correct answer is: **an oppressive** attitude.

The British officer's desire was not motivated by the love of hunting but by the wish to display dominance through a symbolic photograph. This demand, backed by a threat to the Maharaja's kingdom, shows how colonial powers used personal whims to assert political control.

Quick Tip

Colonial officers often used their authority oppressively. Their demands, if denied, could lead to political consequences for native rulers.

(ii) Why did the *durai* want to take a photograph with the tiger's carcass?

Solution:

The *durai* wanted the photograph as a symbol of pride and status. He did not care about hunting the tiger himself but desired to be seen standing over the tiger's carcass with a gun in hand. This would allow him to boast of his involvement in the hunt without actually participating in it. It highlights the superficial arrogance and performative nature of colonial authority.

Quick Tip

The *durai*'s desire reflects colonial vanity—seeking recognition without effort, valuing appearances over substance.

(iii) The Tiger King's refusal to the request of the *durai* reflects:

1. his concern for the tiger population.
2. his courage to deny permission to the British officer.
3. his ego and selfishness.
4. his strained rapport with the British officer.

Solution:

(C) his ego and selfishness.

The Maharaja's refusal was driven by his personal vow to kill all tigers himself and prove a prophecy wrong. It was less about the environment and more about fulfilling his own agenda. His unwillingness to compromise even for a photograph highlights his inflated ego and obsession with the prophecy.

Quick Tip

Sometimes actions that appear brave may stem from self-interest or obsession rather than principle.

(iv) Complete the following suitably:

Maharaja's _____ action put his kingdom in danger.

Solution:

Maharaja's **adamant and ego-driven** action put his kingdom in danger.

By refusing even a symbolic request from a British officer, he risked offending colonial authorities, which could have had dire political consequences. His obsession with killing tigers and defending his pride overtook his political wisdom.

Quick Tip

Rulers must balance pride with diplomacy. The Maharaja's rigidity shows how personal obsessions can endanger public duty.

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

(a)

He thought of the thirty kronor. To go up to the manor house would be like throwing himself voluntarily into the lion's den. He only wanted a chance to sleep here in the forge and then sneak away as inconspicuously as possible. The ironmaster assumed that he felt embarrassed because of his miserable clothing. "Please don't think that I have such a fine home that you cannot show yourself there", He said... "Elizabeth is dead, as you may already have heard. My boys are abroad, and there is no one at home except my oldest daughter and myself. We were just saying that it was too bad we didn't have any company for Christmas. Now come along with me and help us make the Christmas food disappear a little faster." (The Rattrap)

(i) What does the narrator mean by the expression 'throwing himself into the lion's den'?

Solution:

The narrator uses the expression to highlight the fear and danger the peddler felt at the thought of going to the manor house. He feared being caught or exposed, just as one would fear walking into a lion's den. It symbolizes a situation of perceived great risk or threat.

Quick Tip

"Lion's den" is a metaphor for danger or confrontation, often used when someone faces a threatening or intimidating situation.

(ii) What does the expression 'sneak away' reveal about the intention of 'he' in the above extract?

Solution:

The expression 'sneak away' shows that the peddler intended to leave quietly without being noticed. It reveals his guilt, fear, and desire to avoid confrontation or suspicion, especially

since he had stolen the thirty kronor.

Quick Tip

The phrase “sneak away” highlights a guilty conscience and the desire to escape unnoticed—an insight into the character’s mindset.

(iii) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.

“..... there is no one home” indicates that the ironmaster was leading a life.
(peaceful/lonely)

Solution:

Correct answer: **lonely**.

The phrase suggests that the ironmaster had very few people around—his wife had passed away, his sons were abroad, and only his daughter was with him, reflecting loneliness during a time meant for family togetherness.

Quick Tip

Look for emotional cues—absence of family during a festival often indicates loneliness rather than peace.

(iv) “We didn’t have any company for Christmas.” The essence of Christmas spirit with reference to the above statement is:

- (A) to make a special dish to mark the celebration.
- (B) to invite guests to join the celebration.
- (C) to show off his wealth.
- (D) to conduct communal prayers.

Solution:

Correct answer: **(B)**

The statement reflects the desire for human company during the festive season, showing that the true essence of Christmas lies in togetherness, warmth, and shared joy.

Quick Tip

Festivals often symbolize community, not solitude—focus on emotional and social aspects.

(v) Complete the following statement suitably:

The peddler was feeling uncomfortable at the *ironmaster's* invitation because the peddler only wanted to

Solution:

The peddler only wanted to rest for the night and leave unnoticed. He feared exposure and did not want any interaction or attention.

Quick Tip

The peddler's intent was to remain invisible—notice how discomfort reveals deeper anxiety.

(vi) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank.

“Please don't think that I have such a fine home.”

The ironmaster uttered the above statement to make the peddler feel

(awkward/comfortable)

Solution:

Correct answer: **comfortable**

The ironmaster was trying to ease the peddler's embarrassment and make him feel welcomed, by downplaying the grandeur of his home.

Quick Tip

Consider the speaker's intention: comforting words are meant to reassure and invite ease.

OR

(b)

”They wouldn’t make you manager straight off, Soaf.” ”I’ll be like Mary Quant,” Sophie said. ”I’ll be a natural. They’ll see it from the start. I’ll have the most amazing shop this city’s ever seen.” Jansie, knowing they were both earmarked for the biscuit factory, became melancholy. She wished Sophie wouldn’t say these things. When they reached Sophie’s street Jansie said, ”It’s only a few months away now, Soaf, you really should be sensible. They don’t pay well for shop work, you know that, your dad would never allow it.” (Going Places)

(i) Choose the correct option:

What trait of the speaker is reflected in the first line of the extract?

- (A) optimistic
- (B) pessimistic
- (C) realistic
- (D) fatalistic

Solution:

Correct answer: **(B) pessimistic**

The first line reflects a pessimistic attitude, as the speaker doubts Sophie’s chances of becoming a manager immediately.

Quick Tip

Pessimism shows in negative expectations or disbelief in positive outcomes.

(ii) Choose the correct option from those given in the brackets to fill in the blank.

“They’ll see it from the start.”

The above statement reflects Sophie’s (modesty/overconfidence)

Solution:

Correct answer: **overconfidence**

Sophie assumes others will immediately recognize her talent, which reveals an inflated self-image.

Quick Tip

Statements of certainty about future success usually signal overconfidence.

(iii) **“They don’t pay well for the shop work.” Jannie’s statement depicts her as a:**

- (A) happy-go-lucky girl.
- (B) practical friend of Sophie.
- (C) casual friend of Sophie.
- (D) jealous friend.

Solution:

Correct answer: **(B) practical friend of Sophie**

Jansie’s response is rooted in realism and concern for Sophie’s impractical dreams.

Quick Tip

Realistic and grounded advice often comes from practical characters.

(iv) **Complete the following suitably:**

“Your dad would never allow it ...” The image of Sophie’s father as we infer from the above statement is that he

Solution:

He is a strict and practical man who prefers realistic ambitions and doesn’t encourage fanciful dreams.

Quick Tip

Family reactions often reflect generational or socioeconomic realism.

(v) What does the following line from the extract showcase about Jansie’s emotions?

“Soaf, you really should be sensible.”

- (i) indifference
- (ii) concern
- (iii) regret
- (iv) envy

Solution:

Correct answer: **(ii) concern**

Jansie genuinely cares for Sophie and doesn’t want her to be disillusioned.

Quick Tip

Tone and word choice often reveal emotional intent—“should be sensible” suggests caring advice.

(vi) “They were both ‘earmarked’ for the biscuit factory.” What does the word ‘earmarked’ convey?

Solution:

The word ‘earmarked’ means pre-decided or assigned for a particular purpose. It shows that their future has already been decided based on their socio-economic background, leaving little room for personal aspirations.

Quick Tip

Words like “earmarked” suggest destiny shaped by external factors, not individual dreams.

10. Answer ANY FIVE of the following six questions in 40-50 words each:

(i) Why does M. Hamel refer to language as a key to freedom from slavery? (*The Last Lesson*)

Solution: M. Hamel believes that a person’s language carries their identity and heritage. Losing it means losing self-respect and the strength to resist oppression. For him, preserving the French language is a form of resistance and empowerment. He views language as a symbol of freedom and national pride.

Quick Tip

When a character links language with power, think in terms of identity, culture, and resistance.

(ii) Explain how Mukesh in 'Lost Spring' stands as a ray of hope for the bangle making community. *(Lost Spring)*

Solution: Mukesh dares to dream beyond the tradition-bound world of bangle making. He wants to become a motor mechanic, showing courage to break free from generational poverty. His ambition reflects a shift in mindset and brings hope to the oppressed community, proving change is possible with determination.

Quick Tip

Use individual aspirations to explain larger social change or resistance to tradition.

(iii) What is the importance of beauty in a man’s life? *(A Thing of Beauty)*

Solution: Beauty brings joy, comfort, and inspiration to human life. According to Keats, it provides an escape from the harsh realities of the world and nourishes the soul. Beautiful things create lasting impressions and are a constant source of happiness and positivity in our daily struggles.

Quick Tip

Highlight how beauty in poetry is both literal and metaphorical—soothing both eyes and emotions.

(iv) How did Umberto Eco display his innovative style in the presentation of his dissertation?

(The Interview)

Solution: Umberto Eco adopted a non-traditional approach by structuring his dissertation like a narrative rather than a dry academic thesis. His unique style combined scholarly depth with creative storytelling. This method later shaped his success as a novelist, blending fiction with intellectual themes.

Quick Tip

Link writing style to the person's future success or uniqueness in their field.

(v) What is Robert Frost's complaint in 'A Roadside Stand'?

(A Roadside Stand)

Solution: Robert Frost criticizes the indifferent attitude of city dwellers towards poor villagers. He laments how rural people's simple hopes for a better life are ignored. The roadside stand symbolizes this neglect, as passing cars do not stop to support the villagers' efforts at self-improvement.

Quick Tip

Focus on contrast between urban privilege and rural suffering to identify poet's critique.

(vi) What was the link between the makeup department and national integration as described in 'Poets and Pancakes'?

(Poets and Pancakes)

Solution: The makeup department at Gemini Studios symbolized national integration because it included people from all regions and backgrounds—Maharashtra, Andhra, Madras, and others. Despite linguistic and cultural differences, they worked together in harmony. It reflected the unity and diversity found across India.

Quick Tip

Look for subtle examples where workplace diversity mirrors national unity in texts.

11. Answer ANY TWO of the following three questions in 40-50 words each:

(i) How did the ‘Students on Ice’ programme provide a unique educational opportunity?

(Journey to the End of the Earth)

Solution: The ‘Students on Ice’ programme gave students a rare chance to visit Antarctica, a place most people never see. It offered firsthand exposure to its unique ecosystem and climate. By witnessing the effects of global warming, students developed a deeper understanding of environmental issues and became more conscious of sustainable living. It was a transformative educational experience.

Quick Tip

Highlight how personal experience strengthens environmental awareness and connects students with real-world challenges.

(ii) What was Zitkala-Sa’s reaction when she realized that her hair was going to be cut?

(Memories of Childhood)

Solution: Zitkala-Sa felt shocked, helpless, and humiliated when she realized her hair was going to be cut. As a Native American, she considered long hair a symbol of her cultural pride and identity. Despite resisting, she was forcibly restrained. The incident left a deep emotional scar and reflected the oppressive practices of the boarding school system.

Quick Tip

Focus on emotional reactions and cultural significance in character responses to injustice.

(iii) “The Maharaja vowed he would attend to all other matters only after killing the hundred tigers.”

What image of the Maharaja is reflected in the above statement? *(Tiger King)*

Solution: The statement shows the Maharaja as an obsessive and superstitious ruler. He was deeply influenced by the astrologer’s prediction and prioritized killing a hundred tigers over administrative duties. It highlights his eccentricity, stubbornness, and irrational behaviour driven by fear and ego rather than logic and leadership.

Quick Tip

When asked about character portrayal, describe traits supported by actions or decisions from the text.

12. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 120-150 words:

(a) Compare how Gandhi’s courage and his determination in ‘Indigo’ helped him get justice for sharecroppers with William Douglas’ courage and persistence in the chapter ‘Deep Water’. *(Indigo and Deep Water)*

Solution: Gandhi and William Douglas are two figures who show us different but equally powerful faces of courage. In ‘Indigo’, Gandhi demonstrates moral and political courage by fighting for the rights of oppressed sharecroppers in Champaran. Despite being a newcomer in the British legal system, Gandhi refuses to be intimidated. His strength lies in non-violence, truth, and unwavering commitment to justice. His calm but persistent resistance forces the authorities to address the plight of the farmers. His actions highlight the power of civil disobedience and selfless leadership.

William Douglas, in contrast, faces a personal internal battle in ‘Deep Water’. Traumatized by a childhood experience of nearly drowning, he is plagued by intense fear. But he chooses not to be defined by it. Through self-discipline, rigorous training, and mental fortitude, Douglas overcomes his phobia and regains control over his life. His courage lies in confronting invisible, internal demons—a victory that brings him true freedom.

While Gandhi’s courage takes on social and political systems, Douglas’ is psychological and

deeply individual. Yet both characters exemplify the same core values—resilience, commitment, and the refusal to give in to fear. Their journeys underline that true courage is not the absence of fear but the will to act in spite of it.

Both men also challenge the odds within their circumstances—Gandhi against a colonial empire and Douglas against trauma and self-doubt. Importantly, their stories inspire not just because of their victories, but because of the process they undertook to reach them. Gandhi shows how one man’s conviction can shift national consciousness, while Douglas demonstrates how personal struggle can lead to profound inner strength. Together, they prove that courage can manifest both in service to others and in healing oneself.

Quick Tip

Maintain balance between the two texts by comparing themes, characters, and contexts with equal weight.

OR

(b) "Why the devil did I take that fellow's money?" he thought" *(The Rattrap)*

"Oh, how sorry I was for not learning my lessons." *(The Last Lesson)*

How do the characters of Franz in 'The Last Lesson' and the Peddler in 'The Rattrap' compare and contrast in terms of their conduct and regret?

Solution: Franz and the Peddler are characters who both undergo emotional awakenings that lead them to regret their earlier attitudes. In 'The Last Lesson', Franz begins as a careless student who takes his education for granted. However, when he learns that this is his last lesson in French due to Prussian rule, he feels ashamed and deeply regrets his lack of seriousness. His transformation is subtle yet sincere—he becomes a symbol of lost opportunity, patriotism, and national pride.

The Peddler in 'The Rattrap' is a cynical, selfish man who sees the world as a trap, mirroring his own inner despair and marginalization. His moral shift begins after he receives unexpected kindness from Edla, the ironmaster's daughter. Her compassion and trust ignite a sense of self-worth in him. Overcome with guilt for stealing money from a generous host, he

returns it with a heartfelt note and a rattrap as a symbolic gift. His remorse is deep and redemptive, suggesting that goodness can bring out the best in even the most hardened souls. Both Franz and the Peddler experience regret, but in different ways. Franz's regret is immediate and emotional, tied to missed chances and national loss. The Peddler's is moral and reflective, evolving into a journey of redemption. Franz's awakening is sparked by external political change; the Peddler's by internal moral transformation.

While Franz represents the guilt of youthful negligence, the Peddler symbolizes how kindness can lead to introspection and moral revival. Both narratives highlight the capacity of individuals to grow when they confront the consequences of their actions. Ultimately, their regret is not a sign of weakness, but a starting point for change—proving that self-awareness and redemption are always possible, regardless of age, background, or past conduct.

Quick Tip

When discussing conduct and regret, show how each character evolves and how their turning points reflect human values.

13. Answer ANY ONE of the following two questions in 120-150 words:

(a) Do you think that the third level was a medium of escape for Charley? Justify. (*The Third Level*)

Solution: Yes, the third level served as a psychological escape for Charley from the pressures and anxieties of modern life. In Jack Finney's "The Third Level," Charley, a thirty-one-year-old man, finds himself increasingly overwhelmed by the complexities of the 20th century—work stress, war paranoia, and the fast pace of urban life. His discovery of the mysterious third level at Grand Central Station, which supposedly leads to the peaceful world of 1894, symbolizes his yearning for a simpler and safer past.

Charley's desire to escape is not literal, but emotional and mental. His visits to the third level reflect a subconscious retreat into fantasy. This alternate world offers him comfort, nostalgia, and psychological relief. His obsession even leads him to consult a psychiatrist, who dismisses it as a symptom of modern stress.

However, the story cleverly blurs the lines between reality and imagination. The letter from his friend Sam, who allegedly reaches the third level, further complicates this boundary. Whether real or imagined, the third level reveals Charley's deep need to disconnect from modern chaos and reclaim a sense of peace.

Thus, the third level stands as a metaphor for escapism, a place created by the mind to cope with the harshness of reality. It emphasizes how the modern individual, often disillusioned and stressed, finds refuge in memories or idealized versions of the past. Charley's experience serves as a gentle critique of urban alienation and the human tendency to escape when reality becomes unbearable.

Quick Tip

Focus on how psychological escapism is portrayed through symbolism and setting, and how it reflects Charley's internal conflict.

OR

(b) 'Mr. Lamb is portrayed as a wise and experienced man with a positive attitude.'

Analyse the character of Mr. Lamb with reference to the above statement. (*On The Face Of It*)

Solution: Mr. Lamb, in Susan Hill's play "On The Face of It," is a symbol of optimism, wisdom, and emotional strength. Despite having lost a leg in war and living in isolation, he radiates warmth, acceptance, and joy in the small things of life. His ability to embrace life without complaint sets him apart as a character of immense strength and experience.

Mr. Lamb's outlook is rooted in empathy and understanding. When Derry, a young boy with a burnt face and negative attitude, enters his garden, Mr. Lamb welcomes him without judgment. He encourages Derry to shed his fear of rejection and believe in his own worth. Through stories and simple observations, he teaches Derry the importance of openness, courage, and not letting physical limitations define a person.

He refuses to lock himself indoors or pity his condition. Instead, he keeps his gate open, picks apples, reads books, and welcomes all who visit. Mr. Lamb's actions and words reflect

a mature understanding of life. His loneliness does not make him bitter but compassionate. He embraces human connection, no matter how fleeting, with an open heart. Thus, Mr. Lamb stands as a powerful contrast to Derry's initial negativity. His character demonstrates how positivity, when rooted in wisdom, can transform not only oneself but others too. In a world often clouded by superficial judgments and self-pity, Mr. Lamb teaches that one can choose to be free, open, and happy despite physical or emotional scars.

Quick Tip

In character analysis, support your points with both actions and dialogues, and relate them to the story's message.
