

CBSE Class 12 2025 English Question Paper (1/4/3) 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 Kanika/Kavin of 7, Lake View Road, Jheelpur. You read the given advertisement and wish to apply for the post advertised. Write an job application along with your bio-data.

Golden Jewellery Mart, Khushibagh

Requires Business Development Executive

Qualification : Graduation in business/marketing/management

Experience : Minimum 3 years in relevant field.

Skills : Negotiation skills, presentation skills,
marketing strategies.

Apply to the Manager, Golden Jewellery Mart, 46, Besant Road,
Khushibagh.

Solution:

7, Lake View Road

Jheelpur

23rd June 2025

The Manager

Golden Jewellery Mart

46, Besant Road

Khushibagh

Subject: Application for the Post of Business Development Executive

Sir/Madam,

With reference to your advertisement, I wish to apply for the position of Business Development Executive. I am Kanika/Kavin, a graduate in marketing with over three years of experience in sales and brand development.

I possess strong negotiation skills, strategic planning abilities, and professional presentation techniques. I believe my experience in client engagement and market analysis makes me a suitable fit for your organization. Please find my bio-data enclosed for your kind consideration.

Looking forward to an opportunity to discuss this further.

Yours faithfully,
Kanika/Kavin

Bio-data:

- **Name:** Kanika/Kavin
- **Address:** 7, Lake View Road, Jheelpur
- **Date of Birth:** 10th March 1997
- **Qualification:** B.B.A. in Marketing
- **Experience:** 3+ years in business development and sales
- **Skills:** Negotiation, presentation, client management, marketing strategies
- **Languages Known:** English, Hindi
- **References:** Available upon request

Quick Tip

Match your qualifications and skills with the job requirement. Keep the tone formal, structure clear, and ensure your bio-data follows the application.

OR

(b) You are Tanya/Tanmay of 58, S.K. Nagar, A.K. Town, Veershahar. Write a letter to the editor of a national daily expressing your concern over the issue and stressing the importance of teaching children how to deal with cyberbullying.

- Cyberbullying – a problem.
- Importance of creating awareness among children.
- How can schools educate children on cyberbullying ?
- Role of parents in helping children cope with the situation.
- Help of Anti-Bullying Helpline and how to access it.

Solution:

58, S.K. Nagar

A.K. Town

Veershahar

23rd June 2025

The Editor

The National Herald

New Delhi

Subject: Addressing the Rising Threat of Cyberbullying Among School Children

Sir/Madam,

I am writing to bring attention to the growing concern of cyberbullying among school children. With one in six students facing such harassment, it is imperative that immediate action is taken. The mental and emotional toll on adolescents is alarming and cannot be ignored.

Awareness programmes in schools must educate children on the nature and consequences of cyberbullying. Teachers and parents should work together to build digital resilience and promote safe online behaviour. Access to Anti-Bullying Helplines must be ensured and publicised.

Children should be taught how to respond to online threats and how to seek help when needed. Creating a safe digital environment is a shared responsibility, and your esteemed newspaper can play a key role in promoting this awareness.

Yours sincerely,
Tanya/Tanmay

Quick Tip

Start with a strong concern, explain the issue, suggest actionable solutions, and end on a constructive note. Stick to a formal tone.

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

(a) Today’s youth is ready to take up challenges and become successful entrepreneurs. Nurturing skills and an entrepreneurial mindset in schools can spur creativity and enhance career prospects for young people. Write an article stressing on the importance of including entrepreneurship education in schools. You may use the cues given along with your own ideas to draft the article. You are Niti/Nitin Chopra, a career counsellor.

- Entrepreneurship education can promote creative thinking.
- Teaches students to be resilient and adaptable.
- Opens up more career choices.
- Increases employability skills.

Solution:

Fostering Entrepreneurship in Schools

– By Niti/Nitin Chopra, Career Counsellor

In today’s rapidly evolving world, students need more than just academic knowledge—they need the skills to adapt, innovate, and lead. Introducing entrepreneurship education in schools can foster creativity and prepare students to navigate real-world challenges.

This form of education nurtures critical thinking, resilience, and adaptability. It teaches students to view failure as a stepping stone and empowers them with confidence and independence. Through projects, simulations, and real-life problem solving, students learn how to build solutions and explore multiple career pathways.

Moreover, entrepreneurship education enhances employability by encouraging goal setting, teamwork, and communication. It opens doors to a variety of professional opportunities, both in business and beyond.

By planting the seeds of enterprise early on, we prepare youth not just for jobs but to become job creators. Schools must embrace this shift to help build an innovative and self-reliant generation.

Quick Tip

An article should include a title, byline, introduction, discussion of key points, and a meaningful conclusion. Keep the tone informative and engaging.

OR

(b) You are Mohit/Minakshi of Class XII-C and a member of the school editorial board. Your school recently organised a science exhibition wherein the students showcased their science projects and models. Write a comprehensive report of the event to be published in the school newsletter. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas to compose the report.

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

Solution:

Innovative Ideas Shine at Science Exhibition

– Report by Mohit/Minakshi, Class XII-C

Starlight Public School organised its annual Science Exhibition on 20th June 2025 in the school auditorium. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Rajan Mehta, a noted environmentalist, and attended by students, teachers, and parents.

Students from Classes VI to XII displayed innovative models on topics like renewable energy, robotics, health tech, and space research. A highlight was a working model of a solar-powered water purifier by Class X students, which drew appreciation from all.

Workshops and interactive demonstrations were also conducted. Judges evaluated the exhibits on creativity, scientific approach, and presentation. The event not only boosted scientific curiosity but also encouraged teamwork and communication among students. Principal Mrs. Renu Sharma praised the participants and encouraged more such practical explorations. The exhibition successfully promoted a culture of research and innovation in the school.

Quick Tip

Reports should begin with details of the event, followed by major highlights and conclude with the overall impact. Use a formal tone and past tense.

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) **What was the aim of the ‘Students on Ice’ programme?** (*Journey to the End of the Earth*)

Solution: The aim of the ‘Students on Ice’ programme was to provide young learners with a unique educational experience that could not be replicated in a classroom. By taking students to Antarctica, it helped them understand the importance of preserving the environment and combating climate change. The journey inspired future leaders to think critically about sustainability and encouraged them to become responsible global citizens.

Quick Tip

Focus on how the programme connects education with global environmental awareness.

(ii) **The man behind the success of Dr. Sadao is his father. Bring out the truth in the above statement with evidences from the text *The Enemy*.** (*The Enemy*)

Solution: Dr. Sadao’s success was shaped significantly by his father’s values and vision. His father was a strict disciplinarian who prioritized education and instilled in Sadao a deep sense of duty. He sent Sadao to study medicine in America, ensuring he received the best training. At the same time, he ensured Sadao remained loyal to his heritage by approving only a Japanese wife. Sadao’s skill as a surgeon and his moral courage during the war are rooted in the strong foundation his father laid. Thus, his father’s guidance was instrumental in shaping Sadao’s success both as a doctor and as a principled human being.

Quick Tip

Use character influence and upbringing to explain how a mentor figure shapes another's success.

(iii) How can we say that the description of Galesburg gives us a peep into the stress-free world of the past? *(The Third Level)*

Solution: Galesburg, as described by Charley, represents an ideal, peaceful world of the past. It is portrayed as a calm town with big old houses, huge lawns, and people enjoying simple pleasures like evening walks and lemonade. There is no rush, no fear of war, and no anxiety about the future. This tranquil image stands in stark contrast to the stressful, fast-paced modern life Charley leads. His longing for Galesburg reflects his deep desire to escape to a less complicated and more joyful time, making Galesburg a symbol of a stress-free world.

Quick Tip

Focus on descriptive imagery and contrast with modern life to highlight escapism.

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

(a) How do the characters of Umberto Eco from 'The Interview' and Subbu from 'Poets and Pancakes' compare in terms of their resourcefulness? *(The Interview and Poets and Pancakes)*

Solution: Umberto Eco and Kothamangalam Subbu are portrayed as highly resourceful individuals, each thriving in vastly different fields through intelligence, adaptability, and multidimensional skill sets. Eco, a renowned professor of semiotics and a celebrated novelist, balances academia with creative writing. In the interview with Mukund Padmanabhan, Eco reveals how he utilises the "interstices"—small moments of time—to write. His ability to produce profound academic texts while also authoring bestselling fiction like **The Name of the Rose** illustrates a rare blend of intellect and productivity. Eco's resourcefulness lies in his disciplined time management and his capacity to turn deep philosophical insights into accessible narratives.

Subbu, on the other hand, is a central figure at Gemini Studios in **Poets and Pancakes**. He may not have formal literary acclaim, but his versatility is unmatched. As a writer, poet, actor, and assistant to the boss, he could handle multiple creative tasks with flair. Subbu always found innovative solutions to filming challenges and offered spontaneous creativity that elevated the studio's work. His loyalty and enthusiasm made him indispensable. His resourcefulness lies in his practical wisdom, emotional intelligence, and artistic improvisation.

While Eco's resourcefulness is intellectual and grounded in scholarly rigour, Subbu's is pragmatic, rooted in a keen sense of the industry's needs. Both men adapt to their contexts with grace—Eco in the academic-literary world, and Subbu in the cinematic space. They demonstrate that resourcefulness is not just about intelligence, but also about initiative, adaptability, and the ability to contribute meaningfully to one's environment.

Quick Tip

Compare character traits across texts by focusing on how each one applies their abilities uniquely in their context.

OR

(b) Discuss how the poems 'Keeping Quiet' and 'A Thing of Beauty' draw attention to the importance of beauty and introspection. (*Keeping Quiet and A Thing of Beauty*)

Solution: The poems **Keeping Quiet** by Pablo Neruda and **A Thing of Beauty** by John Keats explore how introspection and appreciation of beauty can transform the human experience. Both poets call for a moment of pause from the chaos of daily life and encourage a deeper connection with the self and nature.

In **Keeping Quiet**, Neruda advocates for silence and stillness, suggesting that humanity should stop all activity for a moment to reflect. This brief suspension of routine would foster understanding, unity, and peace. The poem critiques modern life's restlessness and war-driven motives, proposing that quietude can lead to self-awareness and a renewed respect for life. Introspection becomes a tool for personal and collective transformation.

Keats' *A Thing of Beauty*, on the other hand, celebrates beauty as a source of eternal joy and spiritual healing. Nature, art, and noble human deeds are seen as antidotes to despair and negativity. Beauty provides a shelter, uplifting the human spirit and helping people cope with life's struggles. For Keats, beauty is not superficial—it is a deep, soul-enriching force that renews hope and encourages contemplation.

While Neruda seeks transformation through silence and inward reflection, Keats finds it through the outward appreciation of nature's beauty. Yet both poets converge on the idea that stepping away from materialism and violence into a state of mindful awareness—whether through quiet or beauty—can restore balance and meaning in life.

Quick Tip

In poem comparisons, focus on how poetic devices express key themes like introspection, healing, or transformation.

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

(a) **How did Zitkala-Sa react to the cultural impositions at school?** (*Memories of Childhood*)

Solution: Zitkala-Sa reacted with resistance, fear, and emotional trauma to the cultural impositions forced upon her at the boarding school. As a Native American child, she was brought to a missionary school where her cultural identity was systematically stripped away. One of the most traumatic experiences she recounts is the forcible cutting of her long hair—a sacred symbol of pride and dignity in her culture.

Despite being just a child, Zitkala-Sa showed great courage and defiance. She tried to hide under a bed to escape the haircut, symbolising her desperate attempt to preserve her cultural identity. The fact that she was physically dragged out and shorn reflects the cruelty and insensitivity of the institution.

Her reaction was not just one of personal fear but also of symbolic resistance against colonial domination. The imposed dress code, unfamiliar food, new language, and suppression of her traditions left her feeling dehumanised and alienated. The loss of her hair became a metaphor for the loss of self.

Zitkala-Sa's narrative powerfully highlights the deep psychological scars left by forced assimilation. Her emotional response—shock, anger, humiliation—shows the internal conflict she endured as she was torn away from her roots. Yet, her vivid recollection and voice in writing reflect resilience and the undying spirit of preserving one's identity even in oppressive conditions.

Quick Tip

Emphasise the emotional and symbolic significance of personal experiences when discussing cultural impositions.

OR

(b) 'A beautiful appearance will last a few decades, but a beautiful personality will last a lifetime.' Mr. Lamb with his personality successfully influenced Derry to understand the essence of the above quote. Analyse the characters of Mr. Lamb and Derry in the light of the above statement. *(On The Face Of It)*

Solution: Mr. Lamb and Derry are two contrasting characters in *On The Face Of It* who come together in a meaningful interaction that reveals the value of inner beauty and personality. Mr. Lamb, an elderly man with a physical disability, has developed a wise, optimistic, and open-hearted view of life. In contrast, Derry, a teenage boy with a burnt face, is withdrawn, bitter, and full of self-pity.

Despite his own injury, Mr. Lamb never lets his disability define him. He welcomes everyone, enjoys nature, and lives without fear of judgment. His beautiful personality, filled with acceptance and positivity, becomes a source of inspiration. He teaches Derry to break free from the cage of societal prejudice and his own insecurities.

Derry's transformation begins when Mr. Lamb helps him realise that physical appearance is temporary, but a kind heart and courageous spirit can leave a lasting impact. Derry, initially full of resentment, begins to admire Mr. Lamb's outlook. He starts to believe in his own worth and gains the confidence to face the world.

Through their conversation, the play conveys the core message that true beauty lies in one's character and outlook. Mr. Lamb's influence on Derry proves that compassion, acceptance, and a positive attitude can reshape someone's life. While Mr. Lamb's personality continues to inspire, Derry's growth reflects that inner change leads to true empowerment.

Quick Tip

When analysing characters, focus on how one character's qualities influence another's transformation.
