

CBSE Class 12 2025 English Question Paper (1/5/1) 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) In recent years, air pollution has emerged as one of the most pressing environmental and public health issues in India. Cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru often record Air Quality Indices (AQI) that fall into the 'hazardous' category, posing several health risks to their inhabitants. The thick blanket of smog that shrouds these urban areas is composed of harmful pollutants such as particulate material (PM 2.5 and PM 10), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂). These pollutants originate from various sources including vehicular emissions, industrial activities and construction dust.

(2) The constant emission of pollutants from vehicles, industrial activities and construction works exacerbate the problem. Residents of these cities are often seen wearing masks and using air purifiers in a desperate attempt to mitigate the effects of polluted air. The 'urban haze' not only affects physical health but also impacts mental well-being. Studies indicate that prolonged exposure to high pollution levels can lead to respiratory issues, such as cardiovascular diseases and even cognitive decline.

(3) Furthermore, children and the elderly are the most vulnerable groups. Children, with their developing respiratory systems, and the elderly, often with pre-existing health conditions face the brunt of this environmental crisis. Schools frequently shut down during peak pollution periods, disrupting education and daily life. The economic cost of air pollution is staggering, with increased healthcare expenses and lost labour productivity. Businesses also suffer as employees' health issues lead to increased absenteeism and decreased efficiency.

(4) Government initiatives, such as the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) aim at reducing air pollution levels across the country. However, these measures require robust implementation and public cooperation to be effective. Simple actions like reducing vehicle use, promoting public transportation and adopting cleaner technologies can significantly alleviate the situation. Additionally, the enforcement of stricter emission norms for industries and vehicles is crucial. Public awareness campaigns can play a pivotal role in encouraging others to adopt environmentally friendly practices.

(5) The role of technology in combating air pollution is also noteworthy. Innovative solutions such as air quality monitoring systems, green buildings and electric vehicles are gaining

attraction. These technologies not only help in reducing pollution but also promote sustainable development. Urban planning that incorporates green spaces can also mitigate the effects of pollution by improving air quality and providing residents with a healthier living environment.

(6) As we navigate this challenge, it is imperative to remember that the solution lies not just in policy changes but also in the behavioural shifts of individuals. Embracing a lifestyle that prioritizes environmental health will pave the way for a cleaner, healthier India. Collective efforts and sustained commitments are crucial for ensuring breathable air for future generations. It is a shared responsibility that requires action from every segment of society from policy makers to ordinary citizens.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) According to paragraph 1, what components make up the 'urban haze' that envelops Indian cities?

Solution: According to paragraph 1, the 'urban haze' enveloping Indian cities is made up of harmful pollutants such as particulate material (PM 2.5 and PM 10), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), and sulphur dioxide (SO₂). These pollutants originate from sources like vehicular emissions, industrial activities, and construction dust.

Quick Tip

Urban haze is caused by a mix of pollutants, including particulate matter and gases, which can have serious health implications for city dwellers.

(ii) The writer refers to air pollution as a 'public health issue' in paragraph (1) because:

- (A) it is a threat to the physical well-being of the people.
- (B) it disrupts the daily activities of urban inhabitants.
- (C) it leads to the closure of schools during peak pollution periods.
- (D) it disrupts industrial activities and construction works.

Correct answer: (A) it is a threat to the physical well-being of the people.

Solution: The writer refers to air pollution as a 'public health issue' in paragraph (1)

because it is a threat to the physical well-being of the people. The passage highlights how pollutants pose significant health risks, such as respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, directly impacting the physical health of urban inhabitants.

Quick Tip

Air pollution affects not only physical health but also has broader implications for mental and cognitive health.

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

blanket : cover :: extended : _____

- (A) composed
- (B) attempted
- (C) declined
- (D) prolonged

Solution: The correct answer is **(D) prolonged**. In the analogy, "blanket" is related to "cover," and similarly, "extended" is related to "prolonged" in the context of duration, as mentioned in paragraph (2).

Quick Tip

In analogies, look for relationships that match in terms of meaning and context. Here, both "blanket" and "cover" imply something that spreads over, and "extended" and "prolonged" refer to time duration.

(iv) Complete the following sentence suitably (Paragraph (2)):

"The prolonged exposure to high pollution levels leads to cognitive decline" indicates that it impacts _____.

- (A) mental health
- (B) economic development

(C) respiratory functions

(D) mobility

Solution: The correct answer is **(A) mental health**. In paragraph (2), the text mentions how prolonged exposure to high pollution levels affects mental well-being, including cognitive decline, indicating that it impacts mental health.

Quick Tip

Cognitive decline is closely related to mental health, highlighting the negative impact of pollution on brain functions.

(v) Provide one textual evidence with reference to paragraph (3), to prove the following: "Children and the elderly are the most vulnerable groups affected by air pollution."

Solution: The textual evidence from paragraph (3) is: "Children, with their developing respiratory systems, and the elderly, often with pre-existing health conditions, face the brunt of this environmental crisis." This shows that both children and the elderly are particularly vulnerable to the effects of air pollution.

Quick Tip

When identifying textual evidence, look for specific phrases or sentences that directly support the claim or statement.

(vi) Complete the following suitably with one advantage with reference to paragraph (4):

Implementing stricter emission norms for vehicles can help to _____.

Solution: Implementing stricter emission norms for vehicles can help to **reduce air pollution and improve public health**. This can decrease the harmful pollutants released into the air, benefiting the overall air quality and the health of the population.

Quick Tip

Stricter emission norms for vehicles are an essential step in reducing vehicular pollution, a major contributor to poor air quality.

(vii) Assess the potential challenges and benefits of promoting public transportation as a solution to air pollution, as outlined in paragraph (4).

Solution: Promoting public transportation can bring several benefits, such as reduced traffic congestion, lower vehicle emissions, and improved air quality. However, potential challenges include the need for significant infrastructure investments, ensuring efficient and reliable services, and encouraging people to switch from private vehicles to public transport.

Quick Tip

Public transportation can significantly alleviate pollution, but it requires investment in infrastructure and public adoption for it to be effective.

(viii) What is the significance of urban planning in mitigating air pollution according to paragraph (5)?

Solution: According to paragraph (5), urban planning that incorporates green spaces can significantly mitigate the effects of air pollution. Green spaces improve air quality and provide a healthier living environment for residents, helping to reduce pollution levels and improve overall well-being.

Quick Tip

Urban planning should prioritize green spaces, as they play a crucial role in absorbing pollutants and improving the air quality.

(ix) How does technology help in resolving the problem of air pollution?

Solution: Technology helps in resolving air pollution by providing solutions such as air quality monitoring systems, electric vehicles, and green buildings. These innovations help reduce pollution levels and promote sustainable development by reducing the reliance on fossil fuels and improving environmental practices.

Quick Tip

Technology, such as electric vehicles and air quality monitoring, plays a key role in tracking pollution and reducing its harmful effects.

(x) Why does the author say that just the policy change is not the solution?

Solution: The author emphasizes that just policy changes are not enough because the solution to air pollution also requires behavioral shifts from individuals. Embracing a lifestyle that prioritizes environmental health, along with policy changes, is necessary for long-term improvements and a cleaner, healthier environment.

Quick Tip

Sustained commitment from both policymakers and individuals is crucial for addressing air pollution effectively.

2. Read the following passage carefully :

(1) **Introduction :** In the digital age, social media has become an integral part of daily life, profoundly affecting how individuals interact and perceive the world. This case study aims to analyze the impact of social media on the mental health of different age groups in Indian society and explore the implications for overall well-being.

(2) **Methodology :** A survey was conducted among individuals across various age groups, ranging from teenagers to seniors, to determine their social media usage patterns.

Participants were asked to indicate the amount of time they spend on social media platforms and describe their feelings and experiences related to its use. The data was then analyzed to identify trends and patterns among different age demographics.

(3) **Survey Examination** : The survey encompassed a comprehensive examination of social media habits, including not only the frequency and duration of usage but also the emotional and psychological effects of social media engagement. Participants were encouraged to articulate their experiences, providing invaluable insights into the multifaceted nature of social media’s impact on mental health.

(4) **Results** : The survey results revealed interesting insights into social media usage and its effects on mental health among different age groups. Teenagers are deeply entrenched in exploring their self image and forming their identity. They are heavily reliant on their peer relationships and are vulnerable to the social aspects of online platforms to connect with friends and share experiences. As a result, their usage is higher than that of other age groups.

S.No.	Age group	%	Average daily usage (hours)	Reported effects
1.	Teenagers	72	3.5	Anxiety, peer pressure, cyberbullying
2.	Young Adults	68	3.0	Stress, depression, Fear of Missing Out (FOMO)
3.	Middle-aged	54	2.0	Information overload, sleep disturbance
4.	Seniors	32	1.5	Loneliness, sense of connection, digital fatigue

(5) **Implications for Interventions** : By discerning the diverse effects of social media among different age groups, policy makers and mental health practitioners can tailor interventions to address specific demographic needs, e.g., educational campaigns aimed at teenagers could empower them to navigate social media more responsibly, while support groups for seniors can enhance their digital literacy and reduce feelings of loneliness.

(6) **Conclusion** : The survey outcomes serve as a roadmap for designing targeted interventions that not only cater to diverse demographic needs but also promote mental well-being. By harnessing the insights gleaned from this study, stakeholders can collaboratively work towards building healthier online communities and promoting sustainable digital practices for generations to come.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage :

(i) Complete the following suitably:

In the introduction, the researchers link the digital age with the impact of social media on mental health to highlight _____.

Solution: In the introduction, the researchers link the digital age with the impact of social media on mental health to highlight **the profound effect social media has on individuals' interactions and their overall well-being**. The focus is on understanding how social media influences mental health across different age groups.

Quick Tip

Linking modern phenomena with their impact on mental health helps frame the relevance of research in addressing current societal issues.

(ii) Choose the correct option:

To examine social media usage patterns across various age groups in detail and assess the mental health implications will be classified as:

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

Solution: The correct answer is (A) **Primary purpose**. The primary purpose of the research, as outlined in the methodology and results sections, is to examine the social media usage patterns across various age groups and assess their mental health implications.

Quick Tip

The primary purpose in research is the main goal the study seeks to achieve, such as examining trends or relationships in data.

(iii) Give two points to support why it is likely that social media usage was a key factor in the study on mental health.

Solution: 1. The survey specifically examined social media usage patterns and their emotional and psychological effects, indicating that social media was a central focus of the study. 2. The results revealed that social media usage is linked to various mental health challenges like anxiety, peer pressure, stress, and loneliness, highlighting its significant role in the mental health of individuals.

Quick Tip

Social media usage is often a key factor in mental health studies due to its widespread impact on emotions and cognitive well-being.

(iv) Paragraph (3) includes the words -'emotional and psychological'.

Classify the following sentences as 'emotional' or 'psychological':

(A) Educational campaigns aimed at teenagers could empower them to navigate social media more responsibly.

(B) Support groups for seniors can enhance their digital literacy and reduce feelings of loneliness.

Solution: (A) **Emotional.** This sentence addresses how teenagers' emotions can be impacted by social media, and how education can help them manage those feelings.

(B) **Psychological.** This sentence focuses on the cognitive aspects of mental well-being, such as improving digital literacy and reducing loneliness in seniors, which affects their psychological state.

Quick Tip

When classifying emotional and psychological effects, consider whether the impact is primarily on feelings (emotional) or mental processes (psychological).

(v) Read the following text:

Rahul has a tendency to spend late night hours engaging in social media to avoid missing out on latest updates on different events. His friend, Rajneesh spends many hours on social media due to peer pressure whereas their close friend, Dr. Sharma uses social media to stay connected with his near and dear ones.

Select the option that identifies the correct demographic Rahul, Rajneesh and Dr. Sharma belong to:

- (A) Rahul - middle-aged, Rajneesh - young adult, Dr. Sharma - teenager.
- (B) Rahul - young adult, Rajneesh - middle-aged, Dr. Sharma - senior.
- (C) Rahul - middle-aged, Rajneesh - young adult, Dr. Sharma - senior.
- (D) Rahul - young adult, Rajneesh - teenager, Dr. Sharma - senior.

Solution: The correct answer is **(D) Rahul - young adult, Rajneesh - teenager, Dr. Sharma - senior**. Based on the description, Rahul is likely a young adult due to his late-night engagement with social media and his desire to stay updated. Rajneesh is identified with peer pressure, which is more common among teenagers. Dr. Sharma is using social media to stay connected with loved ones, which suggests he is a senior who values maintaining connections.

Quick Tip

When identifying demographics based on behavior, consider the motivations behind social media usage. Teenagers are often influenced by peer pressure, young adults by staying updated, and seniors by maintaining social connections.

(vi) Why is the average daily usage of social media highest among teenagers?

Solution: The average daily usage of social media is highest among teenagers because they are deeply engaged in exploring their self-image, forming their identity, and connecting with peers. The social aspect of online platforms plays a significant role in their daily lives, leading to increased usage compared to other age groups.

Quick Tip

Teenagers are particularly vulnerable to the social pressures of social media, making their usage more frequent as they seek peer validation and social connections.

(vii) According to paragraph (5), analyze how targeted interventions based on the diverse effects of social media on different age groups can lead to improved mental health outcomes.

Solution: Targeted interventions based on the diverse effects of social media can lead to improved mental health outcomes by addressing the specific needs of each age group. For instance, educational campaigns for teenagers can help them navigate social media responsibly and reduce the risk of anxiety and peer pressure. Similarly, support groups for seniors can enhance digital literacy and reduce loneliness, fostering a sense of community and improving their mental well-being. Tailoring interventions ensures they are more effective in addressing the mental health challenges each group faces due to social media.

Quick Tip

Customized interventions based on the unique social media impacts on different age groups will lead to more meaningful and effective mental health support.

(viii) Select the appropriate response:

What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insight from the study?

- (A) increase profitability through enhanced social media marketing.
- (B) build healthier online communities.
- (C) reduce the cost of healthcare services.
- (D) expand the range of available social media platforms.

Solution: The correct answer is **(B) build healthier online communities**. The study aims to promote mental well-being by addressing the effects of social media, with the ultimate goal being the creation of healthier online communities through targeted interventions.

Quick Tip

Building healthier online communities involves addressing the mental health challenges of different age groups and creating a safer, more supportive digital environment.

SECTION B (CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)

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

(a) Your school is planning to conduct an inter-school science symposium. As the Head of the school cultural committee, write a notice to inform all students about the event, date, time and venue, with participation details and deadlines, contact information, etc. Put your notice in a box.

NOTICE

Date: [Insert Date]

Subject: Inter-School Science Symposium

This is to inform all students that our school is organising an Inter-School Science Symposium on [insert date] at [venue], from [time] onwards. Interested students are invited to participate in the event and showcase their scientific ideas and projects.

Registration forms are available at the Cultural Committee office. Last date for submission: [insert date]. For further details, contact the undersigned at [contact details].

Head, Cultural Committee

Your Name

Quick Tip

Always mention event details like date, time, venue, and contact clearly to avoid confusion.

OR

(b) The Trips and Treks Department of your school is planning a week-long trip to Rajasthan for the students of class IX during the autumn holidays. Write a notice to inform students about the trip details. Include excursion dates, cost, and last date of payment. Put your notice in a box.

NOTICE

Date: [Insert Date]

Subject: Rajasthan Excursion for Class IX

This is to inform all students of class IX that the Trips and Treks Department is organising a week-long trip to Rajasthan during the autumn holidays, from [start date] to [end date]. The total cost of the trip will be [amount], inclusive of travel, accommodation, and meals.

Interested students should deposit the payment by [last date of payment] at the school office. For further information, please contact the undersigned at [contact details].

In-charge, Trips and Treks Department

Your Name

Quick Tip

Ensure to specify dates, cost, and last payment date clearly to encourage prompt registrations.

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

(a) You are Rubaya/Roopesh Khan, the Principal of St. Rose School, Bhagirath Lane, Uttarbagh. You want to add a new wing to your school building. Write a formal invitation inviting guests to a cultural evening aimed at raising funds. Mention a

compelling highlight of the programme along with other necessary details.

St. Rose School

Bhagirath Lane, Uttarbagh

Date: [Insert Date]

The Principal, staff, and students of St. Rose School, Uttarbagh cordially invite you to a **Cultural Evening** organised to raise funds for the construction of a new school wing. The evening will feature a special performance by renowned classical dancer [insert name] and other cultural presentations.

Date: [Insert Date]

Time: [Insert Time]

Venue: St. Rose School Auditorium

Your gracious presence will be highly appreciated.

Rubaya/Roopesh Khan

Principal

Quick Tip

Include a highlight of the programme to make your invitation more appealing and memorable.

OR

(b) An invitation has been issued by Mr. Rajan, your School Principal inviting you to the graduation ceremony of the outgoing class 12 students. Draft a formal letter in not more than 50 words, consenting to attend the same. You are Paulina/Peter of 14, ABC Lane, Greencity.

14, ABC Lane,

Greencity

Date: [Insert Date]

To

The Principal,

School Name,

Location

Sir,

Thank you for your kind invitation to the graduation ceremony of the outgoing class 12 students. I am pleased to confirm my presence on the occasion.

Yours sincerely,

Paulina/Peter

Quick Tip

Keep formal replies brief, courteous, and clearly confirm your attendance.

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

(a) Write a letter to the editor of a local newspaper expressing your concerns about the increasing “Pollution levels in your city”. You are an environmentalist, Radha/Rakesh, 46, Peak Colony, Haranagar. You may use the following cues along with your own ideas:

- Current pollution levels – reasons
- Impact on health and environment
- Urgent need for action
- Suggestions for reducing pollution
- Request for raising public awareness

Solution:

46, Peak Colony

Haranagar

23rd June 2025

The Editor

The City Times

Haranagar

Subject: Rising Pollution Levels and Need for Immediate Action

Sir/Madam,

I wish to draw your attention to the worsening pollution levels in our city. Vehicular emissions, unchecked industrial waste, and poor waste management are major contributors to this crisis.

The deteriorating air and water quality is severely impacting both public health and the environment. Respiratory illnesses, skin conditions, and waterborne diseases are on the rise. The situation demands urgent intervention.

The administration must promote cleaner fuels, stricter emission norms, and better urban planning. Citizens too must contribute by reducing plastic use and opting for public transport.

Your esteemed daily can play a significant role in raising awareness and urging collective action to combat pollution.

Yours sincerely,

Quick Tip

Focus on presenting the issue logically with clear reasons, impacts, and strong suggestions. End with a call to action and maintain a formal tone.

OR

(b) You are Monika Gupta/Piyush Gupta residing at 57/A, R Street, Morbagh. You read the following advertisement and wish to apply for the job of Content Writer.

Write the job application along with your bio-data.

XYZ Media House
requires
Qualified and Experienced
Content Writer

Job Profile

- Write a wide variety of topics for multiple platforms (website blogs, articles, social updates, etc.)
- Use creative skills to help build a following for a brand on social media.
- Create eye-catching and innovative headlines

Minimum 5 years experience, Graduate in
Journalism, Computer proficiency

Contact : The Director
XYZ Media House,
Madhapur
Morbagh

Solution:

57/A, R Street

Morbagh

23rd June 2025

The Director

XYZ Media House

Madhapur

Morbagh

Subject: Application for the Post of Content Writer

Sir/Madam,

In response to your advertisement, I would like to apply for the position of Content Writer in your esteemed organization. I am Monika/Piyush Gupta, a Journalism graduate with over five years of content writing experience for various online platforms.

I possess strong writing skills, am proficient in social media content creation, and have a track record of producing engaging and SEO-friendly content. I have worked across domains such as technology, lifestyle, and current affairs.

Enclosed below is my bio-data for your kind consideration. I look forward to an opportunity to contribute to your creative team.

Yours faithfully,

Monika Gupta / Piyush Gupta

Bio-data:

- **Name:** Monika Gupta / Piyush Gupta
- **Address:** 57/A, R Street, Morbagh
- **Date of Birth:** 15th September 1995
- **Qualification:** Graduate in Journalism
- **Experience:** 5+ years in content writing
- **Skills:** Article writing, social media, SEO, editing, creative headlines
- **Languages Known:** English, Hindi
- **References:** Available on request

Quick Tip

Use specific qualifications and skills matching the job. Keep the tone formal and concise, and follow up your application with a clear, relevant bio-data.

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

(a) Write an article exploring the importance of mental health awareness among Indian youth, providing examples to illustrate your points. You are Neha/Nitin Kapoor, a class XII student. You may use the cues given below along with your own ideas:

- How have social media and peer pressure influenced mental health in **today's youth** ?
- What are the challenges in addressing mental health issues ? (Lack of resources and awareness)
- What are the benefits of mental health awareness for young people ?
- Suggest ways in which young people and institutions can work together to promote mental health awareness.

Solution:

Mental Health Awareness Among Indian Youth

by Neha/Nitin Kapoor, Class XII

In today's fast-paced world, mental health among Indian youth is a growing concern. Peer pressure, academic stress, and the impact of social media often leave young people feeling overwhelmed and isolated.

A major challenge in addressing mental health issues is the lack of awareness and resources. Many students do not seek help due to fear of judgment. Awareness can help break this stigma and encourage early intervention.

Mental health awareness helps young individuals understand their emotions, manage stress,

and build resilience. Schools and colleges must collaborate with mental health professionals to conduct workshops and counselling sessions.

Creating a safe and supportive environment, both at home and school, is key to nurturing emotionally healthy youth.

Quick Tip

Structure your article with a clear title, introduction, body, and conclusion. Use persuasive tone and facts or examples to support your points.

OR

(b) Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of the World Environment Day celebrations. You are Ranjana/Rajan, a student of class XII and a member of the school magazine editorial board. You may organise your report by using the following cues:

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

Solution:

Report on World Environment Day Celebrations

By Ranjana/Rajan, Class XII

The World Environment Day was celebrated with enthusiasm on 5th June 2025 at Green Valley Public School. The event was organized by the Eco Club in collaboration with the school management.

The day began with a tree plantation drive followed by a poster-making competition on environmental conservation. Students from all classes participated actively. The highlight of the celebration was a street play performed by Class XII students to raise awareness about plastic pollution.

Workshops on waste segregation and composting were also conducted. The Principal addressed the gathering, stressing the need for collective responsibility towards the planet.

These activities left a deep impact on the school community, instilling a sense of responsibility and environmental consciousness among the students.

Quick Tip

Use a title, mention all relevant details (Who, What, When, Where, Why, How), and maintain an objective, report-like tone throughout.

SECTION C (LITERATURE)

7. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for ANY ONE of the given two

(A) or (B):

(a) Those who prepare green wars,
wars with gas, wars with fire,
victory with no survivors,
would put on clean clothes
and walk about with their
brothers
in the shade, doing nothing.

(Keeping Quiet)

(i) Select the line/s that suggests the following :

The so-called victors of the wars are indifferent to the consequences of their actions.

Solution:

The line "would put on clean clothes and walk about with their brothers in the shade, doing nothing" suggests that the so-called victors of the wars are indifferent to the consequences of their actions. Despite having caused harm, they remain unaffected and go about their lives as if nothing happened. This shows their detachment from the devastation caused by their actions.

Quick Tip

Look for lines that imply indifference or apathy to the destruction or consequences of war. This can often highlight the emotional detachment of the perpetrators.

(ii) What does the imagery of 'green wars' not represent in the given extract?

- (A) environmental conflict
- (B) harmful destruction
- (C) sustainable peace
- (D) continuous deforestation

Correct Answer: (C) sustainable peace

Solution:

The term "green wars" is a metaphor that refers to wars fought with environmental consequences such as deforestation, pollution, or the degradation of nature. It does not symbolize "sustainable peace," which would suggest a harmony with the environment. Therefore, the correct answer is (C) sustainable peace.

Quick Tip

"Green wars" usually focus on the negative environmental effects, such as destruction and exploitation, rather than peace or sustainability.

(iii) Complete the following suitably.

"Would put on clean clothes?" 'Clean clothes' here refers to.....

Solution:

'Clean clothes' here refers to the superficial or empty appearance of innocence or normalcy. It symbolizes the unaffected attitude of those who have caused destruction, as they dress themselves in a manner that hides the consequences of their actions. It suggests an attempt to maintain a clean and untroubled exterior despite their involvement in destructive acts.

Quick Tip

Look for symbolic representations in poetry that may imply more than just literal meaning. In this case, 'clean clothes' symbolizes superficiality and indifference.

(iv) Choose a word from the brackets to complete the following suitably :

Phrases like 'victory with no survivors' illustrate the (irony/satire) in the situation where those claiming victory actually achieve nothing of true value.

Correct Answer: irony

Solution:

The correct word is "irony." The phrase 'victory with no survivors' suggests a situation where the supposed victory is hollow and meaningless, which is the essence of irony. Irony occurs when there is a stark contrast between expectations and reality. In this case, the expected result of victory is complete destruction, which undermines the idea of true success or achievement.

Quick Tip

Irony refers to situations where the outcome is opposite to what one would expect. It often highlights a contradiction or discrepancy between appearance and reality.

(v) Read the Assertion and the Reason below with reference to the given context.

Assertion : The poet criticizes the superficial actions of those involved in conflicts.

Reason : The actions described are meant to highlight the futility and destructiveness of wars. **Choose the correct option :**

- (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.

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

Solution:

Both the assertion and the reason are true. The poet indeed criticizes the superficial actions of those involved in conflicts, as they do not reflect the true consequences of their destructive behavior. The reason, which suggests that the poet's actions are meant to highlight the futility and destructiveness of wars, is also true. These actions illustrate the emptiness of war, showing that the so-called victory is often hollow and destructive, which aligns with the poet's criticism. Therefore, the reason correctly explains the assertion.

Quick Tip

When faced with assertion-reason questions, check if both parts are logically connected and whether the reason effectively supports or explains the assertion.

(vi) What is the message that you would give to the warmongers, based on the given extract?

Solution:

The message to the warmongers, based on the given extract, would be to reflect on the futility of war. The poem highlights the emptiness and destruction that comes with conflicts, where so-called victories are achieved at the cost of human lives and the environment. The warmongers should understand that true victory lies in peace, sustainability, and harmony, not in the annihilation of others. Therefore, they should seek peaceful resolutions and abandon the pursuit of senseless violence.

Quick Tip

The poem uses vivid imagery to show how war only leads to destruction and emptiness. Encourage others to embrace peace, as it is the only true victory.

OR

(b) A thing of beauty is a joy forever

**Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness; but will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing.**

(A Thing of Beauty)

(i) Which of the above lines suggests that 'the enduring nature of beauty brings everlasting joy ?'

Solution:

The line "Its loveliness increases, it will never pass into nothingness;" suggests that the enduring nature of beauty brings everlasting joy. The beauty described here is eternal, never fading or disappearing, and it continuously brings joy to those who experience it. This reflects the idea that true beauty, once encountered, continues to bring happiness and peace indefinitely.

Quick Tip

Look for lines that emphasize continuity and eternity in poetry. The phrase 'never pass into nothingness' reflects the idea of something that lasts forever, contributing to everlasting joy.

(ii) The phrase 'A bower quiet for us' does not imply:

- (A) A restful place
- (B) A noisy surrounding
- (C) Peace and calm
- (D) Shelter and protection

Correct Answer: (B) A noisy surrounding

Solution:

The phrase 'A bower quiet for us' refers to a peaceful and restful place, providing a sense of calm and protection. It does not imply a noisy surrounding, as the word 'quiet' suggests tranquility and serenity. Hence, option (B) is the correct answer.

Quick Tip

In poetry, pay attention to adjectives like 'quiet' that give hints about the environment being described. In this case, 'quiet' implies peace and calm, not noise.

(iii) In the line 'Its loveliness increases', the word 'its' refers to

Solution:

The word 'its' refers to 'a thing of beauty.' In this context, the poet is describing how the beauty of a thing continues to grow and never fades. The beauty, symbolized by 'its,' is something that increases over time, bringing joy and comfort.

Quick Tip

When a possessive pronoun like 'its' is used, identify the noun it is referring to, often earlier in the sentence or stanza. In this case, 'its' refers to 'a thing of beauty.'

(iv) Choose a word from the brackets to complete the following suitably :

The phrase 'joy forever' implies that the essence of beauty is a source of.....

(eternal/transient) peace and happiness.

Correct Answer: eternal

Solution:

The phrase 'joy forever' refers to something that lasts indefinitely, which implies that the essence of beauty brings eternal peace and happiness. The word 'eternal' best fits this description, emphasizing the lasting and unchanging nature of beauty.

Quick Tip

'Eternal' refers to something that is timeless and unchanging, while 'transient' would suggest something temporary. Choose the word that aligns with the idea of lasting joy.

(v) Read the following statements :

Assertion : The poet believes that beauty provides everlasting joy and comfort.

Reason : Beauty creates an environment conducive to health and well-being.

Choose the correct option from among the following :

(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.

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

Solution:

Both the assertion and the reason are true. The poet indeed believes that beauty provides everlasting joy and comfort, as described in the line "A thing of beauty is a joy forever." Additionally, beauty does create an environment conducive to health and well-being, offering peace and calm, which supports the idea of everlasting joy. Therefore, the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.

Quick Tip

In assertion-reason questions, evaluate if the reason directly supports or explains the assertion. In this case, both parts are true, and the reason explains the assertion.

(vi) State in one sentence, what you would include in your address to those who seek beauty.

Solution:

In my address to those who seek beauty, I would emphasize that true beauty lies not only in external appearances but in the lasting joy, peace, and comfort it brings to the soul, as described in the lines of the poem.

Quick Tip

When addressing someone seeking beauty, focus on its deeper, lasting qualities rather than fleeting or superficial aspects. True beauty transcends time and brings inner peace.

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

(a) My Antarctic experience was full of such epiphanies, but the best occurred just short of the Antarctic Circle at 65.55 degrees south. The Shokalskiy had managed to wedge herself into a thick white stretch of ice between the peninsula and Tadpole Island which was preventing us from going any further. The Captain decided we were going to turn around and head back north, but before we did, we were all instructed to climb down the gangplank and walk on the ocean. So there we were, all 52 of us, kitted out in Gore-Tex and glares, walking on a stark whiteness that seemed to spread out forever. Underneath our feet was a metre-thick ice pack, In the periphery Crabeater seals were stretching and sunning themselves much like stray dogs It was nothing short of a revelation.

(Journey to the end of the Earth)

(i) Complete the following suitably.

The passage suggests that the author's Antarctic experience was.....

Solution:

The passage suggests that the author's Antarctic experience was **a profound and transformative one**. The use of terms like "epiphany" and "revelation" indicates that the experience had a deep emotional and philosophical impact on the author, providing a new perspective on the world. The scene of walking on the ice in such a remote and stark environment underscores the significance of the moment.

Quick Tip

In descriptive passages, look for words that indicate change or realization (e.g., 'epiphany,' 'revelation') to identify the tone and emotional impact of the experience.

(ii) Choose the correct option:

The Shokalskiy was wedged in a thick stretch of ice. As a result the captain.....

- (A) felt frustrated by the obstacles
- (B) decided to surge ahead
- (C) remained there till the ice melted
- (D) decided to turn around

Correct Answer: (D) decided to turn around

Solution:

The Captain decided to turn around and head back north, as indicated by the phrase "The Captain decided we were going to turn around and head back north." The ice obstruction caused a change in the route, forcing the team to turn back.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to phrases that indicate decisions or actions taken by characters. In this case, the captain's decision to "turn around" is directly mentioned in the text.

(iii) What did the Captain instruct the team to do?

Solution:

The Captain instructed the team to "climb down the gangplank and walk on the ocean." This was an unusual and remarkable experience for the team, as they were walking on a thick ice pack over the Antarctic ocean.

Quick Tip

When analyzing instructions or commands in narratives, pay attention to actions that offer unique or significant experiences. In this case, walking on the ice highlights the uniqueness of the Antarctic adventure.

(iv) Why does the writer describe what happens as an epiphany?

Solution:

The writer describes the experience as an epiphany because it was a moment of profound

realization. The stark whiteness of the Antarctic, the unique experience of walking on the ocean, and the sight of the seals created a sense of awe and insight. The environment was so alien and untouched that it led the author to a new understanding of the world, giving the experience a transformative quality.

Quick Tip

An epiphany in literature often refers to a moment of sudden realization or clarity. Look for descriptions that emphasize awe, revelation, or change in perspective.

OR

(b) It was celebration time for all the tigers inhabiting Pratibandapuram.

The State banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja. A proclamation was issued to the effect that if anyone dared to fling so much as a stone at a tiger, all his wealth and property would be confiscated. The Maharaja vowed he would attend to all other matters only after killing the hundred tigers. Initially the king seemed well set to realise his ambition.

(The Tiger King)

(i) Complete the following suitably:

It was celebration time for all the tigers because.....

Solution:

It was celebration time for all the tigers because **the State banned tiger hunting by anyone except the Maharaja**. This proclamation ensured their safety as no one could harm the tigers without facing severe consequences. The tigers were safe from human threats, giving them a reprieve from hunting.

Quick Tip

Look for phrases that show the results of a particular action or policy. In this case, the ban on tiger hunting directly benefits the tigers, ensuring their safety.

(ii) What strategy does the king use to ensure that he hunts all the tigers?

Solution:

The king uses the strategy of **declaring that he will not attend to any other matters until he has killed the hundred tigers**. This intense focus on his goal, along with his determination to hunt all the tigers, ensures that he remains committed to his mission. By making this vow, he prioritizes the tiger hunt above everything else, demonstrating his determination.

Quick Tip

In stories, characters often use determined strategies to achieve their goals. Look for actions that reflect a strong commitment or focus on the objective, as seen in the king's vow.

(iii) The king's 'vow' indicates that he is a man:

- (A) resilient
- (B) determined
- (C) generous
- (D) cautious

Correct Answer: (B) determined

Solution:

The king's vow indicates that he is a **determined** man. By prioritizing the hunting of a hundred tigers over all other matters, he shows that he is highly focused on his goal and will not be diverted from it, no matter the obstacles. His resolution to achieve this ambition demonstrates determination.

Quick Tip

Look for actions or promises that show a character's commitment to achieving a specific goal. A vow often represents a strong sense of determination.

(iv) What were the consequences of going against the king's proclamation?**Solution:**

The consequences of going against the king's proclamation were severe. Anyone who dared to harm or even fling a stone at a tiger would have **all their wealth and property confiscated**. The proclamation made it clear that defying the king's command would result in significant punishment, emphasizing the king's authority and the importance he placed on his tiger hunting mission.

Quick Tip

In stories, consequences for breaking rules or laws are often highlighted to show the authority of the ruler or the seriousness of the situation. Here, the severe punishment for harming tigers shows the king's control.

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

(a) At last, around four in the afternoon, the poet (or the editor) arrived. He was a tall man, very English, very serious and of course very unknown to all of us. Battling with half a dozen pedestal fans on the shooting stage, The Boss read out a long speech. It was obvious that he too knew precious little about the poet (or the editor). The speech was all in the most general terms but here and there it was peppered with words like 'freedom' and 'democracy'. Then the poet spoke. He couldn't have addressed a more dazed and silent audience - no one knew what he was talking about and his accent defeated any attempt to understand what he was saying.

(Poets and Pancakes)

(i) Give a brief description of the editor.

Solution:

The editor is described as **a tall, very English, and very serious man**. He was an unknown figure to the audience, indicating that he was not familiar to the people present. His serious demeanor added to the formality of the situation, creating a sense of distance between him and the audience.

Quick Tip

Look for adjectives that describe a person's appearance and demeanor. In this case, words like 'tall,' 'English,' and 'serious' help create a clear image of the editor.

(ii) The Boss's long speech and the visitor's serious demeanor indicate.....

Solution:

The Boss's long speech and the visitor's serious demeanor indicate **a sense of formality and unfamiliarity**. Both the Boss's general speech and the visitor's serious manner contributed to an air of professionalism or detachment, further underscoring the sense of unfamiliarity the audience felt towards the poet and the occasion.

Quick Tip

When characters display formal or serious behavior, it often reflects a sense of distance or unfamiliarity with the situation.

(iii) The poet addressed(a puzzled/an enthusiastic) audience.

Solution:

The poet addressed **a puzzled** audience. The extract describes how the audience was dazed and silent, indicating that they were confused and unable to understand the poet's speech. This reaction reflects the audience's puzzled state.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to words like 'dazed' or 'silent' to identify the mood or response of an audience. In this case, these words show that the audience was puzzled.

(iv) What, added as a last straw, made the poet's speech difficult to understand?

Solution:

The poet's speech became even more difficult to understand due to **his accent**. The extract mentions that his accent defeated any attempt to comprehend what he was saying, making it

a significant barrier to understanding his speech.

Quick Tip

Sometimes, difficulties in communication are emphasized through descriptions of accents or speech patterns. In this case, the poet's accent made his speech even harder to follow.

(v) Select the textual option that is closest to indicating a sense of unfamiliarity about the poet (or the editor).

- (A) He was a tall man, very English.
- (B) Battling with half a dozen pedestal fans on the shooting stage.
- (C) Very serious and of course very unknown to all of us.
- (D) The Boss read out a long speech.

Correct Answer: (C) Very serious and of course very unknown to all of us.

Solution:

Option (C) "Very serious and of course very unknown to all of us" indicates the sense of unfamiliarity about the poet (or the editor). The phrase highlights that the poet was unknown to the audience, suggesting a sense of detachment or unfamiliarity with the people present.

Quick Tip

Look for phrases that explicitly mention unfamiliarity or lack of recognition. In this case, 'very unknown' directly expresses this sense of unfamiliarity.

(vi) Why was the speech by The Boss in 'most general terms'?

Solution:

The speech by The Boss was in 'most general terms' because **he knew little about the poet or the situation**. The extract indicates that the Boss was unfamiliar with the poet, so his speech was vague and general, using terms like 'freedom' and 'democracy' without addressing anything specific. This reflects his lack of knowledge about the poet and his work.

Quick Tip

When a speech or statement is vague or general, it often indicates a lack of knowledge or understanding of the subject. Look for references to unfamiliarity or lack of detail.

OR

(b) Umberto Eco : Aah, now that is more difficult to explain. I have some philosophical interests and I pursue them through my academic work and my novels. Even my books for children are about non-violence and peace ... you see, the same bunch of ethical, philosophical interests.

And then I have a secret. Did you know what will happen if you eliminate the empty spaces from the universe, eliminate the empty spaces in all the atoms ? The universe will become as big as my fist.

(The Interview)

(i) Complete the following suitably:

Eco suggests that his books for children also share his ethical interest because they are about..... (violence/peace).

Solution:

Eco suggests that his books for children also share his ethical interest because they are about **peace**. He mentions that even his books for children are centered on non-violence and peace, showing that his ethical concerns are reflected across all his works.

Quick Tip

Look for keywords in the text that describe the themes of the works. In this case, 'non-violence' and 'peace' indicate the ethical direction of Eco's books for children.

(ii) Complete the following suitably:

Umberto Eco's philosophical interests are in his academic work and novels, making them interconnected.

Solution:

Umberto Eco's philosophical interests are **pursued** in his academic work and novels, making them interconnected. He mentions that his philosophical interests are present in both his academic and literary works, indicating a strong connection between his thoughts and creations.

Quick Tip

Look for verbs or phrases that describe how an idea or interest is applied or manifested in someone's work. In this case, 'pursued' indicates that Eco actively incorporates his philosophical interests into both his academic and literary works.

(iii) Select the textual option that is closest to indicating how his philosophical interests are represented.

- (A) Aah, now that is more difficult to explain.
- (B) I have a secret.
- (C) I pursue them through my academic work and my novels.
- (D) The universe will become as big as my fist.

Correct Answer: (C) I pursue them through my academic work and my novels.

Solution:

Option (C) "I pursue them through my academic work and my novels" directly explains how Umberto Eco represents his philosophical interests. It shows that he integrates these interests into both his scholarly and creative works.

Quick Tip

Look for phrases where the author describes how their interests are manifested in their work. In this case, Eco explicitly mentions how he incorporates his philosophical pursuits into his academic and literary creations.

(iv) What does the following line from the extract showcase?

"The same bunch of ethical, philosophical interests".

- (A) separation

- (B) interconnectedness
- (C) isolation
- (D) division

Correct Answer: (B) interconnectedness

Solution:

The line "The same bunch of ethical, philosophical interests" showcases **interconnectedness**. Eco is highlighting how his ethical and philosophical concerns are intertwined, not separate or isolated. This shows that his various interests are closely related and influence each other.

Quick Tip

Look for words that suggest unity or connection between different concepts. In this case, 'same bunch' emphasizes how Eco's philosophical interests are grouped together as one connected set.

(v) "I work in empty spaces." Choose the option that most accurately captures Eco's idea of empty spaces.

- (A) management of time
- (B) integration of work
- (C) management of space
- (D) tasks of a writer

Correct Answer: (C) management of space

Solution:

The option that most accurately captures Eco's idea of "empty spaces" is **management of space**. Eco uses the metaphor of empty spaces to refer to areas of work or thought that he manages creatively. These "empty spaces" may be opportunities for new ideas, concepts, or creative endeavors in his writing and academic work.

Quick Tip

Look for metaphors or phrases that describe abstract concepts like "empty spaces." These often refer to creative or intellectual areas that one can manipulate or work with.

(vi) What according to Umberto Eco will happen if all the empty spaces are eliminated from the universe?

Solution:

According to Umberto Eco, if all the empty spaces are eliminated from the universe, **the universe will become as big as his fist**. This is a metaphorical way of describing how eliminating emptiness would reduce the vastness of the universe to something much smaller and more confined. The statement is a philosophical musing about the role of emptiness in shaping our perception of space and reality.

Quick Tip

Look for metaphors in the text that convey philosophical ideas. Eco is using the elimination of empty spaces as a way to provoke thought about the nature of the universe.

10. Answer any five of the following six questions in 40 - 50 words each :

(i) Comment on the contrast brought out in the poem 'A Roadside Stand'.

Solution:

In "A Roadside Stand," the contrast lies between the rural people's dreams and the urban society's indifference. The rural folk are hopeful for a better future, yet the urban drivers only pass by, unaware of the needs and aspirations of these people. This highlights the disparity between city and village life.

Quick Tip

Look for contrasting images in poems that show a division between two social realities, such as the city and the countryside.

(ii) How does Sophie plan to get the kind of money she wanted for her boutique? (Going Places)

Solution:

Sophie plans to earn the money for her boutique by opening a bank account and saving

money from the job she would get. She dreams of a career in fashion and hopes to invest in her own boutique by setting aside the money she makes.

Quick Tip

Sophie's dream reflects youthful ambition and the desire for independence. Watch for how characters develop plans based on their aspirations.

(iii) Why was Kothamangalam Subbu considered No. 2 in Gemini Studios? (Poets and Pancakes)

Solution:

Kothamangalam Subbu was considered No. 2 in Gemini Studios because of his multifaceted talents. He was a writer, actor, director, and a man of great charm, but his success came from his ability to handle multiple roles effectively, making him indispensable to the studio.

Quick Tip

Look for characters who excel in multiple areas, showing versatility and importance in the context of their work or environment.

(iv) Why is Rajkumar Shukla described as being resolute? (Indigo)

Solution:

Rajkumar Shukla is described as resolute because of his unshakable determination to achieve his goal of obtaining justice for the indigo farmers. Despite many challenges and opposition, he persistently followed Gandhiji and convinced him to take action, demonstrating his unwavering resolve.

Quick Tip

Look for characters whose persistence in achieving goals highlights their strong resolve. Such traits are often emphasized in leadership or social movements.

(v) Bring out Umberto Eco's humility and modesty as evident in "The Interview".

Solution:

In the interview, Umberto Eco displays humility and modesty by acknowledging his philosophical interests and admitting that they are not always easy to explain. Despite his intellectual stature, he does not boast about his achievements and prefers to focus on his work rather than his fame.

Quick Tip

Notice how humility is portrayed in interviews, where the speaker downplays their achievements and focuses on the importance of their work or ideas.

(vi) How is beauty seen in the 'grandeur of the dooms'? (A Thing of Beauty)**Solution:**

In "A Thing of Beauty," beauty is seen in the 'grandeur of the dooms' because the poem suggests that even in destruction or death, beauty can exist. The grandeur of dooms refers to the eternal, awe-inspiring aspects of nature and life, showing that beauty transcends even the harshest realities.

Quick Tip

Look for lines that juxtapose beauty with dark or destructive elements. This can reveal how beauty is viewed as enduring and transcendent.

11. Answer any two of the following three questions in 40 - 50 words each :

(i) Why does Charley say, "He (Sam) certainly can't go back to his old business"? (*The Third Level*)

Solution: Charley says this because Sam, his psychiatrist friend, had disappeared and was later found to be living in the past—specifically in Galesburg in 1894. Since Sam had bought old-style currency and travelled to the third level, it was evident that he had embraced the peaceful and stress-free life of the past. Charley ironically notes that Sam can't go back to his old business—psychiatry—because in the simple, calm world of 1894, no one suffers from the mental stresses of modern life that require psychiatric help.

Quick Tip

Use contextual irony and setting contrast to explain character decisions and motivations.

(ii) What could be the reason for the disintegration of Gondwana? (*Journey to the End of the Earth*)

Solution: The disintegration of Gondwana was caused by powerful geological forces under the Earth's crust. Around 650 million years ago, tectonic shifts led to the breaking apart of this supercontinent into smaller landmasses, which eventually drifted to their present positions. This breakup significantly influenced Earth's evolutionary and climatic history. Antarctica, once part of Gondwana, moved to the South Pole and became isolated, making it a crucial place to study climate change and life's evolution.

Quick Tip

Link geological causes to broader environmental and evolutionary impacts.

(iii) What did the hunters decide to do when they realized that the tiger was not dead? (*The Tiger King*)

Solution: When the hunters realized that the hundredth tiger shot by the King was not dead but merely unconscious, they were terrified. They feared the King's wrath if he found out the truth. To avoid punishment and preserve the illusion of his perfect record, they decided to keep the truth a secret. They quietly killed the tiger themselves and informed the King that he had successfully completed his mission of killing the hundredth tiger.

Quick Tip

Highlight fear of authority and irony in the hunters' reaction to show deeper themes.

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

(a) Both the poems, ‘My Mother at Sixty-six’ and ‘Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers,’ delve into experiences of life. How do these poems bring out the internal conflict in each of the women?

Solution: Both Kamala Das in *My Mother at Sixty-six* and Adrienne Rich in *Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers* use their poetry to reflect the emotional and psychological struggles of women in different life situations. Though distinct in context, the poems reveal the internal conflict faced by the women protagonists, highlighting the universal nature of emotional suppression and helplessness.

In *My Mother at Sixty-six*, the poet observes her aging mother and experiences a wave of fear and sorrow at the sight of her frail figure. The mother, dozing open-mouthed in the car, resembles a corpse—symbolising mortality. Kamala Das is torn between her worldly obligations and the deep, unspoken grief of possibly losing her mother. Her smiling goodbye is an attempt to mask the pain she feels inside. The internal conflict arises from her helplessness in the face of time and death, and the emotional distance that age inevitably brings.

In contrast, *Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers* explores the theme of oppression and lack of agency. Aunt Jennifer, trapped in a patriarchal marriage, finds her only escape in the tigers she embroiders—symbols of strength and freedom. These fearless creatures contrast sharply with her reality of fear and submission. Her internal conflict is rooted in the restrictions imposed upon her by societal norms and gender roles. Even in death, her hands will remain ‘ringed with ordeals’, symbolising the lasting impact of patriarchal control.

Thus, both poems reflect deep-seated emotional turmoil—one due to existential fear and familial bonds, the other due to gender-based oppression. The poets sensitively bring out these struggles, urging readers to recognise and empathise with women’s silent battles.

Quick Tip

Identify the emotional theme in each poem and compare how poetic imagery conveys the inner turmoil of the women characters.

OR

(b) How do the stories ‘*The Last Lesson*’ by Alphonse Daudet and ‘*Lost Spring*’ by Anees Jung illustrate the impact of socio-political factors on education?

Solution: Both *The Last Lesson* and *Lost Spring* depict how socio-political circumstances severely disrupt the right to education, albeit in different historical and social contexts.

In *The Last Lesson*, Alphonse Daudet presents the impact of war and political dominance on cultural identity and education. The story is set in Alsace, where the French language is banned after the Prussian takeover. Franz, the narrator, realises the value of his language only on the day of his final lesson. M. Hamel, the teacher, delivers a heartfelt class, making the students aware of how they had taken their language and education for granted. The story shows how political control can rob people of their identity and educational freedom.

In *Lost Spring*, Anees Jung portrays the harsh socio-economic realities that deprive underprivileged children of basic education. The story focuses on children like Saheb, who are forced into rag-picking due to poverty, and on bangle makers in Firozabad, who are trapped in generational labor. Their families are caught in a vicious cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and exploitation, with little hope of change. The system fails them—education remains a distant dream because of economic compulsion and societal apathy.

While Daudet’s story is rooted in political oppression, Jung’s narrative exposes systemic neglect and economic disparity. Both texts make a powerful statement about how external forces—be it war, poverty, or apathy—can stifle the intellectual and emotional development of children. They underline the urgent need to protect and prioritise education as a fundamental right.

Quick Tip

Compare the causes and effects of educational deprivation in each text. Use characters as lenses to highlight broader social issues.

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

(a) The author vividly describes the trauma of Zitkala-Sa and Bama in ‘*Memories of*

Childhood’. Support with examples from the texts, to illustrate the prejudices that were present in society.

Solution: In *Memories of Childhood*, both Zitkala-Sa and Bama narrate incidents from their early lives that expose the deep-rooted social prejudices they faced—Zitkala-Sa due to her Native American identity and Bama because of her Dalit background. Their stories highlight how societal norms marginalised certain groups, leading to alienation and emotional trauma. Zitkala-Sa recounts her experience at a missionary school where her Native culture is suppressed. She is forcibly made to wear Western clothes and have her long hair cut—a significant violation of her tribal identity. The incident leaves her humiliated and powerless. Her resistance to this cultural erasure becomes symbolic of her inner strength. This reflects how dominant cultures often silenced indigenous voices under the guise of ‘civilisation’. Similarly, Bama, a young Dalit girl, discovers caste discrimination when she sees an elderly man carrying food for an upper-caste landlord with a leaf to avoid ‘polluting’ it. She feels deeply insulted by this display of untouchability. Her brother advises her to study hard to gain respect and equality. The trauma lies in the realisation that her identity limits her opportunities—not due to personal fault, but because of systemic social hierarchies. Both authors portray their experiences with honesty and courage. While Zitkala-Sa faces racial discrimination in America, Bama confronts caste-based injustice in India. Despite the cultural differences, their stories echo the universal pain of being treated as inferior. Their narratives are acts of resistance, affirming the importance of dignity, identity, and education.

Quick Tip

Focus on how personal anecdotes reflect broader societal discrimination. Highlight parallels in the women’s experiences despite different cultural settings.

OR

(b) How did Dr. Sadao plan the American prisoner’s escape?

(The Enemy)

Solution: Dr. Sadao, though a loyal Japanese citizen and an acclaimed surgeon, was torn between his duty to his nation and his humanitarian values. After saving the life of an injured

American prisoner of war, he faces immense pressure from society and personal risk. However, his ethical beliefs prevent him from surrendering the wounded man to the authorities who would surely execute him.

Realising that sheltering the enemy was dangerous for his family and career, Dr. Sadao discreetly arranges for the prisoner's escape. He waits until the man is physically well enough, then provides him with a boat, food, bottled water, extra clothing, and instructions on how to row to a nearby island. From there, the prisoner is to be rescued by a Korean fishing boat. Dr. Sadao even instructs the man to light a signal at night so he would know he was safe.

This carefully thought-out plan shows Sadao's intelligence, compassion, and moral courage. He balances the need for secrecy with the urgency of saving a life. His decision to not betray the prisoner despite being a war enemy reflects the story's larger theme—that humanity transcends national boundaries and wartime hatred.

Quick Tip

Emphasise both the ethical dilemma and strategic planning in Sadao's actions. Link personal values with broader humanistic ideals.