

CBSE Class 12 2025 English Question Paper (1/6/3) With Solutions

Time Allowed :3 Hours	Maximum Marks :80	Total questions :13
------------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------------

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, the rise of digital education has revolutionized the way students in India learn. With the advent of high speed internet and widespread smartphone use, online learning platforms have become increasingly popular. These platforms offer a wide range of courses, from academic subjects to vocational skills, enabling students to learn at their own pace and convenience. The flexibility of digital education is beneficial where traditional classroom learning cannot take place. Many students and educators have now embraced this new mode of learning, recognizing its potential.

(2) However, this shift to digital learning is not without its challenges. One major issue is the digital divide, which refers to the gap between those who have access to the internet and those who do not. In rural areas and among economically disadvantaged communities, many students lack the necessary devices or reliable internet connections to participate in online classes. This has led to concerns about unequal access to education and the potential for widening educational disparities. For instance, a study by the National Sample Survey Office revealed that only 24% of Indian households have internet access, highlighting the extent of the digital divide.

(3) Another significant challenge is the effectiveness of digital learning. While some students thrive in an online environment, others struggle with the lack of face-to-face interaction and the self-discipline required to stay on track. Teachers also face difficulties in both engaging students as well as providing personalized feedback in a virtual setting. The absence of a structured classroom environment can lead to distractions and reduced motivation among students. Furthermore, the lack of direct social interaction impacts social skills and emotional development.

(4) To address these issues, various initiatives have been launched. Government programmes aim to provide digital devices and improve internet connectivity in far-off areas. Educational platforms are developing more interactive and engaging content to enhance the online learning experience. Blended learning models, which combine online and offline methods, are being explored to offer a more balanced approach. The government's Digital India campaign has also made strides in promoting digital literacy and bridging the technological

gap.

(5) The potential of digital education extends beyond formal schooling. Online platforms provide opportunities for lifelong learning, allowing individuals to acquire new skills and knowledge throughout their lives. This is particularly relevant in a rapidly changing job market, where continuous upskilling and reskilling are essential. Digital education empowers individuals to take control of this learning journey, breaking down traditional barriers to education. Moreover, it offers flexibility for working professionals and homemakers, who can access educational resources without disrupting their daily schedules.

(6) As we navigate this digital revolution in education, it is crucial to ensure that no one is left behind. Bridging the digital divide, supporting teachers and students, and fostering an inclusive and effective online learning environment are essential to realizing the full potential of digital education in India. Policy-makers, educators, and the private sector must collaborate to create sustainable solutions that address the diverse needs of the population. Only then can we harness the power of digital education.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

(i) According to paragraph (1), what advantages do online learning platforms offer to students?

Solution:

According to paragraph (1), online learning platforms offer flexibility, allowing students to learn at their own pace and convenience. They provide a wide range of courses, from academic subjects to vocational skills, which is especially beneficial when traditional classroom learning is not possible.

Quick Tip

Online learning platforms make education more accessible by allowing students to study at their own pace and convenience, even from remote locations.

(ii) How does the author describe the ‘digital divide’ in the context of education?

Solution:

The author describes the ‘digital divide’ as a significant barrier in the context of education.

This term refers to the gap between individuals or groups who have access to digital resources like internet connectivity and electronic devices, and those who do not. According to paragraph (2), this issue is especially severe in rural areas and among economically disadvantaged communities in India. Many students in such regions are unable to join online classes because they lack either a stable internet connection or the necessary digital devices such as smartphones, tablets, or laptops. This technological disparity results in unequal access to educational opportunities and contributes to widening existing socio-economic gaps. The author highlights that only 24% of Indian households have internet access, emphasizing how widespread and urgent this problem is. Hence, the digital divide poses a direct threat to inclusive education and must be addressed to ensure equitable learning for all students.

Quick Tip

The digital divide is about unequal access to the internet and devices, which prevents many students, especially in rural or poor communities, from participating in digital learning.

(iii) Read the following sentence:

‘In rural areas and among economically disadvantaged communities, many students lack the necessary devices or reliable internet connections.’

The concern the above statement points towards is _____.

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

A. an increasing gap between those living in cities and those living in villages

B. a growing divide in the educational opportunities for children

Correct Answer: B. a growing divide in the educational opportunities for children

Solution:

The concern in the given sentence is not merely about geographical differences but about how those differences result in unequal access to education. The sentence highlights that students in certain areas, especially in rural and economically weaker sections, cannot attend online classes due to lack of internet access or digital devices. This clearly reflects a

widening gap in educational opportunities—those with access to digital tools can continue learning, while those without are left behind. Hence, option B correctly captures the educational consequence of the problem discussed.

Quick Tip

Always focus on the implication of the sentence—here, it’s not just location, but how it impacts learning chances.

(iv) How does the lack of social interaction in digital learning affect students’ overall development?

Solution:

The lack of social interaction in digital learning significantly hampers students’ overall development, especially in areas beyond academics. As explained in paragraph (3), traditional classroom environments offer face-to-face communication, peer discussions, and teacher-student interactions, which help in developing social and emotional skills. When students are confined to online platforms, this natural interaction is lost. As a result, students may become socially isolated, which can impact their confidence, teamwork skills, emotional intelligence, and motivation. The absence of peer interaction also reduces opportunities for collaborative learning, which plays a crucial role in developing empathy, respect, and effective communication. Furthermore, teachers may find it difficult to provide personalized attention and emotional support, which are often more effectively conveyed in physical settings.

Quick Tip

Social interaction in classrooms helps develop emotional and social skills—digital learning can limit this crucial aspect.

(v) Provide one textual evidence with reference to paragraph (3), to prove the following:

The absence of a structured classroom environment can lead to distractions among students.

Solution:

Textual evidence from paragraph (3): “The absence of a structured classroom environment can lead to distractions and reduced motivation among students.”

This sentence directly supports the idea that a lack of structured learning spaces—such as classrooms with regular schedules, disciplined environments, and face-to-face interaction—can hinder a student’s focus and motivation. In digital learning, where students often study alone at home without supervision or a formal routine, distractions from devices, surroundings, or lack of interest are common. Therefore, this line from the passage precisely validates the concern mentioned.

Quick Tip

Use exact phrases from the paragraph as evidence when the question asks for textual proof.

(vi) Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph (4):

flexibility : adaptability :: integrated : _____

(A) paced (B) blended (C) balanced (D) created

Correct Answer: (B) blended

Solution:

The analogy compares related concepts. “Flexibility” is to “adaptability” as “integrated” is to what? According to paragraph (4), the idea of blending different learning methods—combining both online and offline approaches—is central to the integrated learning experience. This blended model ensures a more balanced and effective learning environment. Hence, “integrated” corresponds to “blended” in the same way “flexibility” relates to “adaptability,” both being complementary and supportive concepts.

Quick Tip

For analogies, look for words in the same paragraph that reflect a similar relationship—“integrated” in education refers to a “blended” method.

(vii) Give one benefit of continuous upskilling and reskilling.

Solution:

One major benefit of continuous upskilling and reskilling is that it prepares individuals to adapt to the rapidly changing demands of the job market. As technology evolves and industries undergo transformation, new roles emerge while old ones become obsolete. Upskilling enables individuals to acquire advanced or updated skills in their current profession, while reskilling allows them to shift to a different career path altogether. This ongoing learning process not only enhances job security but also makes individuals more competitive and confident in their abilities. Digital education plays a vital role in this by offering flexible, on-demand learning opportunities that fit into people's daily lives, especially for working professionals and homemakers.

Quick Tip

Continuous learning helps individuals remain relevant, adaptable, and employable in a fast-changing world.

(viii) Assess the potential challenges or benefits of lifelong learning through digital platforms, as outlined in paragraph (5).**Solution:**

Lifelong learning through digital platforms presents both benefits and challenges. Among the most significant benefits is the accessibility it offers—learners of all ages and backgrounds can engage in education at their own pace. This flexibility is particularly valuable for individuals like working professionals, homemakers, or those unable to attend traditional institutions due to time or location constraints. It allows them to gain new qualifications, enhance existing skills, or explore new interests without disrupting their daily schedules. Another key advantage is the empowerment it provides—individuals can take control of their learning journey, enabling personal and professional growth. In a dynamic job market where skills are constantly evolving, such platforms support upskilling and reskilling, which is critical for career progression and adaptability.

However, challenges include the need for self-motivation, digital literacy, and reliable internet access. Learners must be disciplined and proactive, as digital learning lacks the

immediate supervision and structure of physical classrooms. Overall, the benefits outweigh the challenges when digital learning is supported by inclusive infrastructure and accessible content.

Quick Tip

Digital platforms make lifelong learning possible for all, but success depends on accessibility, motivation, and support systems.

(ix) To realize the full potential of digital India, it is important to _____ an environment that provides education for all.

(A) refrain (B) replicate (C) nurture (D) commemorate

Correct Answer: (C) nurture

Solution:

The sentence emphasizes the importance of creating a supportive and inclusive atmosphere that promotes education for everyone. The verb “nurture” means to care for and encourage the development of something, which perfectly fits the context of building a positive environment for learning. In contrast, the other options—“refrain” (to avoid), “replicate” (to copy), and “commemorate” (to honor)—do not convey the idea of fostering growth. As mentioned in paragraph (6), it is essential to foster an inclusive and effective learning environment so that digital education can reach all sections of society.

Quick Tip

Choose words that fit both grammatically and contextually—“nurture” aligns with the goal of promoting inclusive education.

(x) We can harness the power of digital education if _____.

(A) educators and policy-makers help create sustainable solutions.

(B) we further extend the digital divide.

(C) we do not work towards digital inclusion.

(D) we ignore the needs of rural communities.

Correct Answer: (A) educators and policy-makers help create sustainable solutions.

Solution:

The passage concludes by emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts among educators, policy-makers, and the private sector to create sustainable solutions that address the diverse needs of the population. This is necessary to fully harness the power of digital education in India. Option (A) aligns with this idea by suggesting that meaningful progress is only possible through the active involvement of key stakeholders in developing inclusive strategies. On the other hand, options B, C, and D present negative outcomes that would hinder progress, not promote it. Therefore, the correct choice is (A), as it supports the goal of ensuring no one is left behind in the digital revolution.

Quick Tip

Look for positive, action-oriented solutions that align with the passage's central message—inclusion, access, and collaboration.

2. Read the following passage carefully :

(1) **Introduction** : In the face of rapid urbanization, effective waste management has become a critical issue in Indian cities. This case study aims to analyze the recycling practices among different demographics in urban India and their implications for sustainable urban development.

(2) **Methodology** : A survey was conducted among residents of various urban areas, ranging from teenagers to elderly citizens, to determine their waste management and recycling habits. Participants were asked to indicate their preferred methods of waste disposal and recycling and provide reasons for their choices. The data was then analyzed to identify trends and patterns among different age groups.

(3) **Survey Examination** : The survey comprehensively examined waste disposal habits. Participants were encouraged to share the reasons for their selections, providing invaluable insight into waste management behaviour.

(4) **Results** : The survey results revealed interesting insights into waste management and recycling practices among different age groups.

S. No.	Age group for preference	%	Preferred Method	Reasons for Preference
1.	Teenagers	55%	Recycling	Environmental awareness, school pr
2.	Young adults	68%	Recycling & Reuse	Sustainability, convenience, social r
3.	Middle-aged	73%	Segregation at source	Health concerns, civic responsibility
4.	Elderly	62%	Traditional disposal	Habit, lack of awareness, convenien

(5) **Implications for Interventions** : By discerning the diverse preferences among different age groups, policy-makers and environmental activists can not only make interventions to address specific demographic needs, but also delve into the underlying motivations and influences guiding these choices. For instance, targeting educational campaigns towards teenagers and young adults could empower them to adopt sustainable waste management practices. Concurrently, efforts to enhance the infrastructure for segregation at source and provide incentives for recycling could improve overall waste management.

(6) **Conclusion** : The survey outcomes serve as a roadmap for designing targeted interventions that not only cater to diverse demographic needs but also foster a culture of sustainability. By harnessing the insights gleaned from this study, stakeholders can collaboratively work towards building cleaner and more sustainable urban environments for future generations.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:

(i) Complete the following suitably:

In the introduction, the researcher links rapid urbanization with waste management by highlighting that _____.

Solution:

...effective waste management has become a critical issue in Indian cities.

The passage opens by stating that due to rapid urbanization, waste management is now a critical concern in Indian cities. The researcher emphasizes this link to justify the importance of the case study, which analyzes how people in different age groups manage and recycle waste.

Quick Tip

Always look for direct links or cause-effect relationships in the introduction to complete such sentence-based questions accurately.

(ii) What would the following be classified as?

To examine waste management practices across various age groups in detail.

Select the appropriate response.

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

Correct Answer: (A) Primary purpose

Solution:

The given sentence clearly outlines the main goal of the study, which is to examine waste management practices across different age groups. Since this is the central focus of the research as stated in the “Introduction” and “Methodology” sections, it qualifies as the primary purpose rather than a side objective or methodology.

Quick Tip

Look at the aim stated in the introduction or methodology to identify the primary purpose of any case study or report.

(iii) Give two points to support why it is likely that recycling was given as an option to the survey participants to choose from, in the study on waste management practices.

Solution:

1. According to the table under the “Results” section, a significant portion of participants across all age groups reported recycling or recycling-related habits (e.g., 55% of teenagers and 68% of young adults). This suggests that recycling is a common and popular waste disposal practice.
2. The “Implications for Interventions” section discusses targeting campaigns for sustainable practices like recycling, indicating that it was a focus area in both the survey and the analysis.

Quick Tip

Use both statistical data and supporting statements from the passage to justify options given to participants in a survey.

(iv) Paragraph (5) includes words like ‘motivations’ and ‘interventions’. Classify the following sentences as motivation or intervention:

(A) Targeting educational campaigns towards teenagers and young adults could empower them to adopt sustainable waste management practices.

(B) Efforts to enhance the infrastructure for segregation at source.

Correct Answer:

(A) – **Motivation**, (B) – **Intervention**

Solution:

Sentence (A) is a motivational factor because it speaks about empowering individuals through education and awareness—strategies that influence behavior internally. Sentence (B), on the other hand, refers to an actionable step taken to improve the waste management system, which classifies it as an intervention.

Quick Tip

Motivations inspire behavior change; interventions are direct actions or strategies applied to address issues.

(v) Read the following text:

Radhika actively participates in school programmes that promote recycling. Her neighbour, Ragini, prefers recycling and reusing items for their environmental benefits. However, their neighbour Mrs. Gupta sticks to traditional disposal methods out of habit.

Select the option that identifies the correct demographic they belong to:

(A) Radhika – middle-aged; Ragini – young adult; Mrs. Gupta – elderly

(B) Radhika – teenager; Ragini – young adult; Mrs. Gupta – elderly

(C) Radhika – young adult; Ragini – elderly; Mrs. Gupta – middle-aged

(D) Radhika – elderly; Ragini – middle-aged; Mrs. Gupta – teenager

Correct Answer: (B) Radhika – teenager; Ragini – young adult; Mrs. Gupta – elderly

Solution:

From the data in the table:

- Radhika’s participation in school programs and peer-based recycling indicates she is a **teenager**, which matches the description in the table (Teenagers: 55% prefer recycling due to school programmes and peer pressure).
- Ragini prefers recycling and reusing due to environmental concerns, which aligns with the **young adult** group (68%) whose reasons include sustainability and social responsibility.
- Mrs. Gupta sticks to traditional disposal out of habit, matching the **elderly** demographic (62%) who prefer traditional methods due to habit and lack of awareness.

Quick Tip

Match behavioral clues in the question with the reasons for preference provided in the data table to correctly identify age groups.

(vi) Why is the percentage to adopt recycling methods higher among young adults?

Solution:

According to the results table, 68% of young adults preferred recycling and reuse. This high percentage can be attributed to:

- A stronger sense of **sustainability and social responsibility**, where young adults are more aware of the environmental impacts of their actions.
- **Convenience and access to resources** such as local recycling facilities and digital awareness campaigns that promote eco-friendly habits.

Young adults are in a transition phase where civic awareness, access to information, and environmental consciousness are typically higher, leading to greater adoption of sustainable practices like recycling.

Quick Tip

When asked "why" something is more common among a group, refer to both their motivations and accessibility mentioned in the data.

(vii) Analyze how targeted interventions based on the diverse waste management preferences of different age groups can lead to improved environmental outcomes.

(paragraph 5)

Solution:

Paragraph 5 highlights that understanding the distinct preferences and motivations of different age groups enables policymakers and environmental activists to create customized solutions. For instance:

- **Teenagers and young adults** can be targeted with educational campaigns and school programs to build early awareness and responsibility toward sustainable practices.
- **Middle-aged individuals**, who already show high preference for segregation, can be provided with better infrastructure to enhance source-level waste separation.
- **Elderly individuals** may benefit from awareness drives and simplified systems to overcome resistance caused by habit or lack of understanding.

Such interventions align with people's motivations and make it easier for them to adopt better practices, thereby enhancing overall environmental outcomes and building a more sustainable waste management system.

Quick Tip

Use data-driven insights to explain how tailoring actions for different groups improves participation and results in better ecological impact.

(viii) What is the ultimate goal for stakeholders, based on the insights from the study?

(A) Increase profitability through enhanced recycling infrastructure

(B) Build cleaner urban environments

- (C) Reduce the cost of waste management
- (D) Expand the range of recycling programmes available

Correct Answer: (B) Build cleaner urban environments

Solution:

Paragraph 6 (Conclusion) clearly states that the outcomes of the study are intended to help stakeholders design targeted interventions that lead to “cleaner and more sustainable urban environments.” The study is not focused on economic returns or program expansion alone, but rather on the broader goal of improving urban cleanliness and sustainability for future generations. Hence, (B) is the most accurate and aligned choice.

Quick Tip

Look for concluding statements to understand the broader vision or long-term goal of any study or intervention.

SECTION B

(CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)

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

(a) Your school is organising its annual ‘Interhouse Athletic Meet’. As the President of the Sports Club, write a notice for the school notice board mentioning the schedule of the event with time, date, venue and sport. Also include participation criteria, registration process and contact information. Put your notice in a box.

ABC PUBLIC SCHOOL, NEW DELHI

NOTICE

Date: 25 June 2025

Interhouse Athletic Meet

Our school is organising the Annual Interhouse Athletic Meet on 30 June 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the school playground. Events include races, long jump, and discus throw. Interested students (Classes VI–XII) may register by 28 June with the undersigned.

Rishabh Mehta

President, Sports Club

Quick Tip

Always include the name of the school, the word "NOTICE," a suitable heading, date, body with all event details, and the signature with designation. Keep it concise and factual.

(b) You are Gaurav / Garima, School Pupil Leader of Aryan Public School. Your school is hosting a literary fest. Write a notice for the school notice board giving details for the event and urging students to participate. Include date, time, venue and contact information. Write the notice in a box.

ARYAN PUBLIC SCHOOL, NEW DELHI

NOTICE

Date: 25 June 2025

Literary Fest 2025

Our school is organising a Literary Fest on 2 July 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the school auditorium. Events include poetry, quiz, and debate. Interested students may contact the undersigned by 29 June to register.

Garima

School Pupil Leader

Quick Tip

Stick to the format: name of school, “NOTICE”, heading, date, concise content, and signature with designation. Include key details like event type, date, time, venue, and how to participate.

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

(a) You are Rajni/Rakesh Gupta, Director of Green Earth Foundation. Draft an invitation inviting Roohi, Project Head, ‘Save our Cities’. Mention a compelling highlight of the discussion along with other necessary details.

Solution:

Green Earth Foundation

25 June 2025

Dear Ms. Roohi,

You are cordially invited to an interactive panel on “Urban Waste Solutions for a Greener Tomorrow,” to be held on 29 June at 11:00 a.m. at Eco Hall, New Delhi. Your insights as Project Head, ‘Save our Cities’, would greatly enrich the discussion.

Rakesh Gupta

Director

Quick Tip

Formal invitations should include event name, date, time, venue, a compelling reason to attend, and the sender's designation.

(b) An invitation had been issued by Nishika/Nitin, HR Head of your company, inviting you to attend the annual cultural festival. As Neha/Nishant, Assistant Manager, HR, draft a reply in not more than 50 words, consenting to attend.

Solution:

P-11, Sector 9, Delhi

25 June 2025

Dear Nitin,

Thank you for the kind invitation to the annual cultural festival. I am pleased to confirm my attendance and look forward to the festivities on 1 July at the Head Office Auditorium.

Warm regards,

Neha

Assistant Manager, HR

Quick Tip

Keep replies concise and polite. Acknowledge the invite, confirm attendance, and re-state event details when needed.

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

(a) Write a letter to the editor of a national daily highlighting the issue of plastic waste and the importance of reducing the use of single-use plastics. Also suggest effective ways to raise awareness about the issue. You are Mukesh/Mahima of 473, Hembagh.

Solution:

Mukesh Kumar

473, Hembagh

Patna

25 June 2025

The Editor
The Times of India
New Delhi

Subject: Need to Reduce Plastic Waste and Promote Awareness

Sir/Madam,

Through your esteemed daily, I wish to raise concern about the growing menace of plastic pollution. Single-use plastics damage soil quality, choke animals, and leach toxins into groundwater, harming both environment and public health.

Microplastics also pose severe health risks through inhalation and absorption. Citizens must be encouraged to carry reusable bags, and authorities should enforce stricter bans and penalties.

Schools and public campaigns must raise awareness about plastic alternatives and proper waste disposal methods. Public cooperation is crucial to eliminate plastic dependence and build a cleaner India.

I hope this pressing issue receives your urgent attention.

Yours sincerely,

Mukesh Kumar

Quick Tip

State the problem clearly, support it with causes/effects, and end with strong, practical suggestions. Use a formal, solution-driven tone.

(b) You are Maya/Mohit from P-3, New Colony, Ranbagh. You came across an advertisement from Mega Corporation Ltd. for the post of HR Consultant. Write your application along with your bio-data.

Solution:

P-3, New Colony

Ranbagh

25 June 2025

The Director

Mega Corporation Ltd.

27A, Jhalapur

Ranbagh

Subject: Application for the Post of HR Consultant

Sir/Madam,

This is with reference to your advertisement seeking an HR Consultant. I wish to apply for the position. I hold a graduate degree and possess strong communication, negotiation, and training skills. I have experience in recruitment and performance evaluation.

Please find my bio-data below for your kind consideration. I shall be grateful for an opportunity to contribute to your organisation.

Yours faithfully,

Maya

BIO-DATA:

- **Name:** Maya Sharma
- **Address:** P-3, New Colony, Ranbagh
- **Contact No.:** 9876543210
- **Email:** mayasharma@gmail.com
- **Date of Birth:** 12 March 2004
- **Qualifications:** B.A. in Psychology
- **Experience:** 2 years in HR recruitment and training
- **Skills:** Negotiation, leadership development, confident communicator

Quick Tip

Begin with a formal application, state purpose, match your skills to job profile, and attach a neat, brief bio-data with clear headings.

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

(a) With the increasing popularity of social media, there is a threat, a new form of addiction impacting young and old alike. Write an article exploring the positive and negative effects of social media on people today. You are Sumita/Sumit, a concerned citizen.

Solution:

Social Media: A Double-Edged Sword

by Sumit, a concerned citizen

Social media has become an inseparable part of modern life. It offers numerous benefits like easy access to information, low-cost marketing, and powerful awareness campaigns. It helps people stay connected globally and promotes causes.

However, its misuse is equally dangerous. Misinformation spreads rapidly, and excessive screen time can affect mental health. Both youth and adults suffer from sleep disorders, increased stress, and poor attention spans due to social media addiction.

The need of the hour is mindful usage. Limiting screen time, fact-checking sources, and using social platforms for productive purposes can help harness its positives. Social media is a powerful tool — how we use it determines its impact.

Quick Tip

Begin with an overview, list pros and cons clearly, and conclude with balanced suggestions. Use examples where possible and maintain a formal tone.

(b) You are Anirudh/Aarushi, a Class XI student and editorial board member. Write a report detailing the Environment Week activities held in your school. Include events, participation, and their impact. Use cues: Who, What, When, Where, Why, How.

Solution:

Environment Week Celebration at Green Valley School

by Aarushi, Class XI

Green Valley School celebrated Environment Week from 5–10 June 2025 to raise ecological awareness among students. The events were held across classrooms and the school auditorium, involving all classes.

Activities included poster making, slogan writing, a cleanliness drive, tree plantation, and a special seminar on plastic pollution. Over 600 students participated enthusiastically, guided by the Eco Club. The campaign “Say No to Single-Use Plastic” was a major highlight. The event aimed to sensitize students towards environmental conservation. It created awareness about sustainable practices, reduced plastic usage, and promoted civic responsibility. The Principal appreciated the initiative and urged students to adopt green habits in daily life.

Quick Tip

Use third-person narration, keep it factual and structured (Who–What–When–Where–Why–How), and highlight outcomes clearly.

SECTION C (LITERATURE)

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

(a)

What I want should not be
confused
with total inactivity.
Life is what it is about;
I want no truck with death.
If we were not so single-minded
about keeping our lives moving

(Keeping Quiet)

(i) Explain with reference to the given extract, “What I want should not be confused with total inactivity.”

(ii) What does the term single-mindedness *not* imply in the given extract? (A) persistence (B) determination (C) narrow-mindedness (D) tenacity

- (iii) In the line 'Life is what it is about', the phrase 'it' refers to _____.
- (iv) The poet has used the phrase 'total inactivity' to illustrate _____ (irony/satire) in the perception that peace means doing nothing.
- (v) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract: **Assertion:** The poet values an active and meaningful life. **Reason:** Inactivity is equated with leisure, which the poet rejects. Choose the correct option: (A) Both the assertion and the reason are true. (B) The assertion is true, but the reason is false. (C) Both the assertion and the reason are false. (D) Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason is *not* the correct explanation of the assertion.
- (vi) State in one sentence, what advice you would give to those engaged in ceaseless mechanized activity.
- (i) The poet clarifies that his call for silence and introspection should not be misunderstood as a desire for complete stillness or lifelessness. He supports living meaningfully, not embracing death or doing nothing.
- (ii) (C) narrow-mindedness
- (iii) life and meaningful existence
- (iv) irony
- (v) (B) The assertion is true, but the reason is false.
- (vi) Take a pause from your busy routine to reflect and reconnect with the purpose of life.
-

(b)

Therefore, on every morrow, are we wreathing
A flowery band to bind us to the earth,
Spite of despondence, of the inhuman dearth
Of noble natures, of the gloomy days,
Of all the unhealthy and o'er-darkened ways
Made for our searching: yes, in spite of all,
Some shape of beauty moves away the pall
From our dark spirits.

(A Thing of Beauty)

- (i) Select the phrase that suggests the following: In difficult times, beauty comes to our aid, in some form or the other, to make us overcome these difficulties.
- (ii) What does the imagery of ‘flowery band’ *not* represent in the given extract? (A) connections to life (B) a thing of beauty (C) imprisonment (D) earthly ties
- (iii) Complete the following suitably. In the line, ‘moves away the pall from our dark spirits’, the phrase ‘the pall’ refers to _____.
- (iv) The poet’s use of the phrase ‘inhuman dearth’ illustrates the _____ (scarcity/plenitude) of noble human qualities.
- (v) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract: **Assertion:** The poet values beauty as it overcomes despondence and gloom. **Reason:** *Beauty, despite the world’s hardships, provides comfort and lifts our spirit.* 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.
- (vi) State in one sentence, what advice would you give to those facing dark times.
- (i) Some shape of beauty moves away the pall from our dark spirits.
- (ii) (C) imprisonment
- (iii) sadness, despair, or depression
- (iv) scarcity
- (v) (A) Both the assertion and the reason are true and the reason is the correct explanation of the assertion.
- (vi) Always find hope and strength in the beautiful things around you, even during hardships.

Quick Tip

Focus on interpreting the poetic devices, tone, and meaning of key phrases. Pay attention to contrast (e.g., life vs. death, activity vs. inactivity) and explain figurative language clearly. For MCQs, eliminate options logically based on context.

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

or (b):

1×6=6

(a)

Six hundred and fifty million years ago, a giant amalgamated southern supercontinent — Gondwana — did indeed exist, centred roughly around the present-day Antarctica. Things were quite different then: humans hadn't arrived on the global scene, and the climate was much warmer, hosting a huge variety of flora and fauna. For 500 million years Gondwana thrived, but around the time when the dinosaurs were wiped out and the age of mammals got under way, the landmass was forced to separate into countries, shaping the globe much as we know it today.

(Journey to the end of the Earth)

- (i) What was the climate like in Antarctica before the humans arrived on the global scene?
- (ii) Gondwana existed nearly _____.
- (iii) Select the suitable option to complete the following: Gondwana, separating into countries, contributes to the reader's understanding of the _____.
 - (A) complexity of geological processes
 - (B) simplicity of continental formation
 - (C) speed of geological changes
 - (D) stability of ancient landmasses
- (iv) What difference does the author draw between then and now?

Solutions:

- (i) The climate was much warmer and supported a wide variety of flora and fauna.
- (ii) 650 million years ago
- (iii) (A) complexity of geological processes
- (iv) The author highlights that earlier the Earth had one huge landmass, warmer climate, and rich biodiversity. Now it is divided into countries and inhabited by humans.

Quick Tip

Look for time references and contrast phrases to identify historical versus present conditions. Use elimination and reasoning for MCQs based on key terms like “separating into countries”.

(b)

Not that he faced no dangers. There were times when the bullet missed its mark, the tiger leapt upon him and he fought the beast with his bare hands. Each time it was the Maharaja who won.

At another time he was in danger of losing his throne. A high-ranking British officer visited Pratibandapuram. He was very fond of hunting tigers. And fonder of being photographed with the tigers he had shot.

(The Tiger King)

(i) Complete the following suitably: The passage indicates that the British officer visited Pratibandapuram because _____.

(ii) What danger was faced by the Maharaja on the tiger hunt?

(iii) From the given extract, it is evident that the Maharaja was a _____ man.

(iv) Select the suitable option to complete the following: The phrase ‘fonder of being photographed with the tigers’ contributes to the reader’s understanding of the officer’s _____.

(A) indifference towards hunting

(B) desire for recognition/fame

(C) love for tigers

(D) love for photography

Solutions:

(i) The officer was fond of hunting tigers and wanted to be photographed with them.

(ii) Sometimes the bullet missed the tiger and the beast attacked him.

(iii) brave and fearless

(iv) (B) desire for recognition/fame

Quick Tip

In character-based extracts, observe actions and motives. Identify what phrases imply about personality traits and use them to make inferences.

9. Read the following extracts and answer the questions for any one of the given two, (a) or (b): 1 × 6 = 6

(a)

The make-up department of the Gemini Studios was in the upstairs of a building that was believed to have been Robert Clive's stables.... The make-up room had the look of a hair-cutting salon with lights at all angles around half a dozen large mirrors. They were all incandescent lights, so you can imagine the fiery misery of those subjected to make-up. The make-up department was first headed by a Bengali who became too big for the studio and left.

(Poets and Pancakes)

(i) The phrase 'fiery misery' in the given text refers to the _____ of the actors. (A) realization

(B) confusion

(C) expectation

(D) discomfort

(ii) Select the correct option from those given in brackets to fill in the blank. The description of the make-up room is a/an _____ (criticism/admiration) of the make-up department in Gemini Studios.

(iii) Complete the following suitably: The historical significance of the make-up room was _____.

(iv) With reference to the given extract, what does the reference to 'half a dozen large mirrors' suggest?

(v) Select the textual option that is closest to indicating a sense of discomfort.

- (A) The make-up room had the look of a hair-cutting salon.
- (B) The make-up department was first headed by a gang of nationally integrated make-up men.
- (C) They were all incandescent lights, so you can imagine the fiery misery.
- (D) The make-up department head was at first a Bengali, who soon quit.
- (vi) What was the fate of the head of the make-up department?

Solutions:

- (i) (D) discomfort
- (ii) criticism
- (iii) It was believed to have been Robert Clive's stables.
- (iv) It suggests intense lighting from all angles, contributing to discomfort.
- (v) (C) They were all incandescent lights, so you can imagine the fiery misery.
- (vi) He became too big for the studio and left.

Quick Tip

Use context clues and tone to identify criticism or satire. Visual descriptions (like mirrors and lights) often hint at discomfort or exaggeration for effect.

(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. Similarly, we have a lot of empty spaces in our lives. I call them interstices. Say you are coming over to my place. You are in an elevator and while you are coming up, I am waiting for you. This is

an interstice, an empty space. I work in empty spaces.

(The Interview)

(i) What does Umberto's *statement on his philosophical interest* reveal about him?

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

His academic work and children's books both reveal _____ (similar/experimental) interests.

(iii) What example of an interstice does Umberto Eco give?

(iv) The phrase '*as big as my fist*' most nearly means _____ with reference to the given text.

(A) strong

(B) stingy

(C) very small

(D) abundant

(v) What secret is Umberto referring to?

(vi) Umberto Eco says, he works in interstices. By this, he means that he works _____.

(A) in empty spaces

(B) when he is in the university

(C) on his philosophical interest

(D) when he is with children

Solutions:

(i) It reveals that he is deeply thoughtful and consistent in pursuing his ethical and philosophical ideas across all forms of his writing.

(ii) similar

(iii) Waiting for someone in an elevator is an example of an interstice — a small, empty pause in life.

(iv) (C) very small

(v) The secret is that if empty spaces were removed from the universe and atoms, everything would shrink immensely — symbolizing how much of life is composed of such empty spaces.

(vi) (A) in empty spaces

Quick Tip

An interstice means a small gap or pause. Authors often use metaphors from science or everyday life to express deeper philosophical thoughts. Pay attention to symbolic language.

10. Answer any five of the following questions in 30–40 words each: 5×2=10

(i) How does the poet highlight the mean and selfish nature of the city dwellers?

Solution:

The poet shows that city dwellers are indifferent to the villagers' needs. They speed past the roadside stand without stopping, ignore the products, and offer only false hope, reflecting their selfish and uncaring attitude.

(ii) How did Sophie's family react when she announced that if she ever had money, she would buy a boutique?

Solution:

Sophie's family mocked her. Her father became angry and dismissed her dreams as childish fantasy. Geoff ignored her, while Derek laughed, showing that they all believed she was disconnected from reality.

(iii) What caused the lack of communication between the Englishman and the people at Gemini Studios?

Solution:

The Englishman spoke in complex literary English with a heavy accent, which the studio workers could not understand. This linguistic and cultural gap led to confusion and a lack of meaningful communication.

(iv) Give a brief account of the reception that Gandhi got in Motihari.

Solution:

Thousands of peasants gathered to support Gandhi in Motihari, demonstrating solidarity and faith in him. Their overwhelming presence startled British officials and marked the beginning of a non-violent movement in Champaran.

(v) Why was Douglas determined to get over his fear of water?

Solution:

Douglas felt humiliated and restricted by his deep fear of water. He believed such fear would limit his life, so he decided to confront and conquer it through rigorous training and perseverance.

(vi) What were the positive qualities of Subbu that the author admired?

Solution:

The author admired Subbu's creativity, storytelling ability, loyalty, and cheerful nature. Subbu could solve problems easily, support the studio efficiently, and always remained positive despite being overshadowed by others.

Quick Tip

Answer precisely in 30–40 words. Stick to the core idea of the question and avoid general statements. Mention key actions, reactions, or traits directly from the text.

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

2×3=6

(i) How did the ironmaster react on seeing the stranger lying close to the furnace?

Solution:

The ironmaster mistook the stranger for an old regimental comrade and felt sympathy seeing his miserable condition. He insisted the man come home with him for Christmas, thinking it would help him recover.

(ii) Why does Jo call the Skunk's mother stupid?

Solution:

Jo calls the Skunk's mother stupid because she forced the wizard to reverse his magic, making Roger smell bad again. Jo felt the mother was unfair and didn't consider Roger's happiness or his friends' acceptance.

(iii) What had been haunting Derry? How did Mr. Lamb give him a new vision of life?

Solution:

Derry was haunted by his burnt face and people's cruel reactions. Mr. Lamb's kindness, optimism, and open-mindedness taught him to value inner beauty, ignore judgments, and live

life with confidence and courage.

Quick Tip

Focus on specific turning points or emotional moments. Summarize characters' reactions or lessons learned clearly and directly.

12. Answer any one of the following two questions in 120–150 words : 1×6

(a) M. Hamel in 'The Last Lesson' and Edla in 'The Rattrap' are the guiding lights of self-realization to Franz and the peddler respectively. Comment.

Solution:

M. Hamel and Edla play transformative roles in the lives of Franz and the peddler respectively. M. Hamel's passionate final lesson makes Franz realise the importance of language and education. He regrets not valuing French earlier and experiences a deep sense of patriotism. On the other hand, Edla's compassion and trust bring out the peddler's latent goodness. Her kind treatment makes him shed his dishonest ways and return the stolen money with a note, proving that empathy can transform even a thief. Both characters serve as guiding lights, helping others discover their inner worth.

Quick Tip

Focus on the emotional and moral awakening brought about by M. Hamel and Edla. Use one sentence each to describe the change in Franz and the peddler.

(b) The poems 'My Mother at Sixty-six' by Kamala Das and 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers' by Adrienne Rich explore the themes of pain and conflict. Explain.

Solution:

Both poems reflect personal struggles and emotional conflict. In 'My Mother at Sixty-six', Kamala Das expresses her pain on seeing her ageing mother, fearing loss and separation. The contrast between youthful scenes outside and her mother's lifeless face enhances the emotional depth. In 'Aunt Jennifer's Tigers', Adrienne Rich portrays the inner conflict of a woman burdened by marital oppression. While the aunt is submissive, her embroidered tigers represent strength and fearlessness, symbolizing her suppressed desires. Both poems

highlight pain—emotional and social—and the human response to it.

Quick Tip

Compare both poems briefly and focus on how each poet expresses personal or social conflict. Use imagery and symbolism to support your answer.

13. Answer any one of the following two questions in 120–150 words : 1×6

(a) Dr. Sadao emerges as both a true patriot and a compassionate human being.

Elaborate. **(The Enemy)**

Solution:

Dr. Sadao is portrayed as a loyal Japanese citizen who is also deeply humane. As a patriot, he hesitates to shelter the American enemy soldier because of his duty to his nation. Yet, his sense of compassion and ethics as a doctor make him treat and save the enemy’s life, even at great personal risk. Despite informing the authorities, he discreetly helps the soldier escape when he realizes the threat to his own family. This duality makes Sadao a symbol of moral courage, as he balances his national duty with humanitarian values.

Quick Tip

Highlight Dr. Sadao’s internal conflict between duty and humanity. Mention how he resolves it through wise and courageous actions.

(b) ‘Memories of Childhood’ deals with autobiographical episodes of Zitkala-Sa and Bama. They both come from marginalized communities, and look back on their childhood to reflect on their relationships with mainstream culture. Elaborate.

Solution:

‘Memories of Childhood’ presents two powerful autobiographical accounts by Zitkala-Sa and Bama, both from marginalized communities. Zitkala-Sa, a Native American, experiences cultural oppression in a boarding school where her hair is forcibly cut—a symbol of loss of identity. Bama, a Dalit girl from India, recalls the discrimination she faced due to caste, especially the incident of a man carrying food without touching it. Both stories

underline the pain and injustice faced by marginalized groups. However, they also show the protagonists' growing awareness and their resolve to resist and rise against discrimination.

Quick Tip

Focus on one incident from each writer's life. Show how these childhood memories reflect the social discrimination they faced and how it shaped their identity.
