

CBSE Class 12 2025 English Question Paper (1/7/2) With Solutions

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

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

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

SECTION A
(READING SKILLS)

1. Read the following passage carefully :

(1) In the heart of a bustling city, amidst the cacophony of traffic and the incessant buzz of urban life, there lies a sanctuary of tranquility — a sprawling public park that offers a respite from the daily grind. This park, with its verdant lawns and serene water features, attracts visitors from all walks of life, seeking solace and rejuvenation.

(2) A public park is an area of open space owned and maintained by the local government, providing recreational opportunities for citizens. Public parks are places of leisure integrated into the community and are generally considered safe places. They provide essential environmental, aesthetic, and recreational benefits to our cities.

(3) As the sun rises, joggers and fitness enthusiasts can be seen navigating the winding paths, their faces set with determination. Meanwhile, yoga practitioners find their own quiet corners, their movements graceful and meditative. The air is filled with the chirping of birds and the rustling of leaves, creating a natural symphony that soothes the soul.

(4) By midday, the park transforms into a lively gathering spot. Families spread out picnic blankets, sharing meals and laughter, while children chase each other across the grass, their joyous shouts echoing through the trees. Elderly couples sit on benches, reminiscing about days gone by as they watch the world go by.

(5) As dusk approaches, the park takes on a magical quality. The setting sun casts a golden hue over the landscape, and the water features glisten in the fading light. Street performers and musicians add to the enchantment, drawing crowds with their captivating acts. The park, now aglow with lanterns, becomes a haven for stargazers and dreamers alike.

(6) In this urban oasis, people find a connection with nature and one another, a reminder that amidst the chaos of modern life, moments of peace and tranquility are still within reach. Especially in cities, parks encourage native flora and fauna to thrive.

Answer the following questions, based on the above passage:

(i) Why does the writer refer to the park as a ‘sanctuary of tranquility’ in paragraph (1) ?

Solution:

The writer uses the phrase ‘sanctuary of tranquility’ to highlight how the park offers relief

from the noisy, stressful urban environment. Surrounded by traffic and noise, the park stands out as a calm and peaceful place where people can rest, relax, and rejuvenate amid nature. Its lush greenery and serene water features make it an ideal escape from city chaos.

Quick Tip

When asked why something is described a certain way, look for words that describe feelings or atmosphere in that part of the passage.

(ii) Why is it important for governments to set up public parks ?

Solution:

Governments should set up public parks because they provide recreational opportunities, promote environmental sustainability, and improve the quality of life for citizens. Parks offer a safe, open space where people can connect with nature, enjoy leisure time, and build community ties. They also help improve air quality, support biodiversity, and add beauty to urban areas.

Quick Tip

Focus on social, environmental, and health benefits when asked about the importance of public infrastructure like parks.

(iii) According to the passage, what activities can be observed in the park during the early morning hours ?

Solution:

In the early morning, joggers and fitness enthusiasts can be seen running along the park's winding paths with determination. Yoga practitioners find peaceful corners to perform graceful and meditative movements. The environment is calm, enhanced by the chirping of birds and rustling of leaves, creating a soothing and refreshing start to the day.

Quick Tip

Look for specific times mentioned in the passage and note the activities and atmosphere described during those times.

(iv) Describe the transformation of the park by midday.

Solution:

By midday, the park becomes a lively and vibrant social space. Families gather for picnics, sharing meals and laughter. Children play energetically, their voices echoing across the grass. Elderly couples sit quietly on benches, reflecting on their past. The park, once quiet in the morning, transforms into a joyful place filled with community interaction and cheerful activity.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to how the park's atmosphere and use change over different times of the day as described in each paragraph.

(v) The park at dusk is described as taking on a magical quality because of _____.

- (A) the setting sun casting a golden hue and water features glistening
- (B) the bustling activities of joggers and fitness enthusiasts
- (C) the lively gathering of families and children playing
- (D) the quiet solitude and meditation of yoga practitioners

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(A) the setting sun casting a golden hue and water features glistening.**

According to paragraph (5), the magical quality at dusk is created by the golden hue of the setting sun and the shimmering water features. These visual elements transform the park into a dreamlike environment. The addition of lanterns, music, and performances adds to this magical ambiance.

Quick Tip

Focus on vivid imagery and descriptive phrases in the passage when choosing an option that explains atmosphere.

(vi) Provide one textual evidence with reference to paragraph (4) to prove the following:

Elderly couples feel a sense of nostalgia.

Solution:

Textual evidence: “*Elderly couples sit on benches, reminiscing about days gone by as they watch the world go by.*”

This line shows that elderly couples are recalling the past and thinking about their memories, which is a clear expression of nostalgia—fond reflection on earlier times.

Quick Tip

When giving textual evidence, find the phrase that directly supports the emotional or factual idea stated in the question.

(vii) In the line “The park, now aglow with lanterns, becomes a haven for stargazers and dreamers alike,” what does the phrase ‘haven for stargazers and dreamers’ refer to? (Paragraph 5)

Solution:

The phrase refers to the peaceful and dreamy ambiance of the park at dusk. With lanterns glowing and music filling the air, the park transforms into a serene retreat where people can relax, think, and enjoy the beauty of the moment. “Stargazers and dreamers” metaphorically describe those seeking imagination, peace, and inspiration.

Quick Tip

When a phrase seems symbolic or poetic, ask yourself what emotion or image it is trying to convey in the setting.

(viii) Complete the analogy with one word from paragraph (6).

urban life : chaos :: park : -----

(A) connection (B) reminder (C) tranquility (D) oasis

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(C) tranquility.**

The analogy compares urban life with chaos, so the park must be compared with something that contrasts chaos. Paragraph (6) specifically mentions “moments of peace and tranquility are still within reach,” clearly linking tranquility with the park. Hence, the best fit is tranquility.

Quick Tip

Look for opposite or complementary relationships in analogies—what quality does each word represent?

(ix) Why is it fair to say that the statement “In this urban oasis, people find a connection with nature and one another” from paragraph (6) is significant ?

- (A) It highlights the park’s role in promoting physical activities.
- (B) It emphasizes the park’s importance as a social and natural retreat.
- (C) It mocks the idea of nature within a bustling city.
- (D) It underplays the park’s significance in modern life.

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(B) It emphasizes the park’s importance as a social and natural retreat.**

The statement from paragraph (6) highlights how the park allows people to reconnect with both nature and one another, creating a shared space for emotional well-being and community bonding. The phrase “urban oasis” emphasizes that even in chaotic cities, parks offer a rare place of peace and unity.

Quick Tip

For inference-based MCQs, eliminate options that are extreme or unrelated to the tone of the passage.

2. Read the following passage carefully :

(1) **Introduction** : As the world grapples with climate change, renewable energy has emerged as a crucial solution. This case study aims to analyze the increasing use of renewable energy in India, its adoption across different sectors, and the implications for society and the environment.

(2) **Methodology** : A survey was conducted among households, businesses, and industries across various regions in India. Participants were asked about their primary source of energy (traditional fossil fuels or renewable energy) and the reasons for their preferences. The data was then analyzed to identify trends and patterns among different demographics and sectors.

(3) **Survey Examination** : The survey encompassed a comprehensive examination of energy consumption habits, not only focusing on the preferred sources of energy but also delving into the underlying motivations and influences guiding these choices. Beyond mere preference, participants were encouraged to articulate the reasons behind their selections, providing invaluable insights into the multifaceted nature of energy consumption.

(4) **Results** : The survey results revealed interesting insights into the energy preferences among different groups :

S. No.	Demographic Preferences	%	Preferred Source	Reasons for Preference
1.	Households	62%	Renewable	Environmental concerns, cost savings, g
2.	Small Businesses	55%	Renewable	Cost efficiency, public image, sustainab
3.	Large Industries	48%	Renewable	Long-term savings, corporate responsib
4.	Rural Areas	71%	Renewable	Accessibility, reliability, local employm
5.	Urban Areas	58%	Renewable	Environmental awareness, modern infra

(5) **Implications for Interventions** : By discerning the diverse preferences among different demographics, policymakers, and energy providers, one can tailor interventions to address specific needs. For instance, increasing government incentives and subsidies for renewable energy can encourage more households and businesses to adopt sustainable practices.

Concurrently, efforts to improve the infrastructure for renewable energy can enhance its reliability and accessibility. By harnessing the insights gleaned from this study, stakeholders can collaboratively work towards building a cleaner and more sustainable future for generations to come.

Answer the following questions, based on the given passage:

(i) Complete the following suitably:

In the introduction, the researcher links climate change with the rise of renewable energy by highlighting -----.

Solution:

The researcher highlights that renewable energy is a crucial solution to tackle the challenges of climate change. The introduction clearly states that as the world struggles with climate change, renewable energy is gaining importance due to its potential to reduce environmental impact and promote sustainability.

Quick Tip

Focus on the purpose of the introduction and what issue it connects with the main topic.

(ii) What would the following be classified as ?

To examine energy preferences across various demographics in detail, and assess their implications.

Select the appropriate response :

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

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(A) Primary purpose.**

This objective forms the core reason for the study — to examine energy preferences and implications. It is mentioned in the introduction as the main aim of the research.

Quick Tip

Primary purposes usually appear early in research descriptions, particularly in the introduction.

(iii) Mention the two steps adopted in the survey methodology.

Solution:

The two steps in the methodology were:

- (1) A survey was conducted asking participants about their primary source of energy and their preferences.
- (2) The collected data was analyzed to identify trends and patterns among demographics and sectors.

Quick Tip

For methodology questions, look for procedural or step-by-step descriptions in the text.

(iv) Paragraph (3) includes the words – ‘motivations’ and ‘influences’. Classify the following sentences as influence or motivation.

Sentence 1 : Government incentives lead households to prefer renewable energy over traditional fossil fuels.

Sentence 2 : The desire for long-term savings makes large industries choose renewable energy.

Solution:

Sentence 1 is an **influence** because it refers to an external factor — government incentives.

Sentence 2 is a **motivation** because it refers to an internal goal — the desire for savings.

Quick Tip

Influences are external factors; motivations are internal drivers or goals.

(v) Read the following text:

Rajan, a rural household head, prefers using solar panels for energy due to their reliability and the local employment opportunities they provide. His neighbour, Rama, a small business owner, values renewable energy for its cost efficiency and sustainability. Meanwhile Suresh, who runs a large industry, opts for renewable energy due to corporate responsibility and compliance with regulations.

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

- (A) Rajan – household worker; Rama – small business owner; Suresh – large industry owner
(B) Rajan – rural employee; Rama – urban worker; Suresh – household head
(C) Rajan – rural household head; Rama – small business owner; Suresh – large industry owner
(D) Rajan – urban worker; Rama – large industry owner; Suresh – rural worker

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(C)**. Rajan is a rural household head, Rama is a small business owner, and Suresh is a large industry owner. Each of their energy preferences and reasons align with the demographic details provided in the survey results.

Quick Tip

Match each character’s reasoning and role with the demographic data given in the table.

(vi) Although both rural and urban areas prefer renewable energy, why is the preference percentage higher among rural areas ?

Solution:

Rural areas show a higher preference (71%) for renewable energy primarily because of factors like accessibility, reliability, and the local employment opportunities it creates. These benefits are crucial in rural contexts where traditional energy infrastructure may be limited.

Quick Tip

Look for direct comparisons in data percentages and supporting reasons from the passage.

(vii) Analyse how targeted interventions based on diverse energy preferences of different demographics can lead to improved environmental outcomes. (Paragraph (5))

Solution:

By identifying demographic-specific preferences, policymakers can implement focused strategies such as increasing incentives for households or improving infrastructure in rural areas. These tailored actions encourage broader adoption of renewable energy, reduce

reliance on fossil fuels, and ultimately contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

Quick Tip

Use paragraph (5) to understand the cause-effect relationship between intervention and environmental improvement.

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

- (A) increase profitability through enhanced renewable infrastructure
- (B) build a sustainable future
- (C) reduce the cost of energy
- (D) expand the range of renewable energy products available

Solution:

The correct answer is: **(B)**. The passage emphasizes that stakeholders aim to build a cleaner and more sustainable future by leveraging insights into demographic preferences and tailoring interventions accordingly.

Quick Tip

When asked about the “ultimate goal,” focus on the long-term, overarching intent described in the final paragraph.

SECTION B

(CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)

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

(a) Your school is starting a ‘Mid Day Meal’ facility on a monthly payment basis. Write a notice informing students about the introduction of the same. Specify the charges (daily/monthly) and food items on the menu. Mention contact details for further information. Put your notice in a box.

Solution:

ABC Public School, New Delhi

NOTICE

Mid Day Meal Facility

Date: 26 June 2025

This is to inform all students that the school is introducing a 'Mid Day Meal' facility from 1st July 2025. Meals will be available at a nominal charge of 30 per day or 600 per month.

The menu includes nutritious items like rice, dal, vegetables, chapati, and fruit.

For more details, contact the undersigned.

Head Boy / Head Girl

ABC Public School

Quick Tip

For notices, follow the format strictly: heading, title, date, body, and signature. Be brief and factual.

(b) As President of the School Cultural Society, write a notice announcing the schedule of the school events for the forthcoming year. Specify dates and participating grades.

Put your notice in a box.

Solution:

ABC Public School, New Delhi

NOTICE

Annual School Event Schedule

Date: 26 June 2025

All students are hereby informed about the schedule of school cultural events for the academic year 2025–26:

- **Independence Day – 15th August – Grades VI to XII**
- **Talent Show – 10th September – Grades III to XII**
 - **Annual Day – 20th December – All Grades**
- **Sports Day – 10th February – Grades I to XII**

For participation details, contact the undersigned.

President

School Cultural Society

Quick Tip

Always use a formal structure for notices and focus on clarity. Include only relevant and important information.

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

(a) Draft a formal invitation letter in not more than 50 words from Anjana Sibbal, coordinator of Women Empowerment Initiative, inviting corporate leaders to a panel discussion on ‘Gender Equality in the Workplace’. Mention a compelling highlight of the discussion along with necessary details.

Solution:

Anjana Sibbal, Coordinator of Women Empowerment Initiative, cordially invites corporate leaders to a panel discussion on “Gender Equality in the Workplace” on 5 July 2025 at 10 a.m. at Hilton Convention Hall, New Delhi. Key speakers will highlight inclusive leadership and workplace equity strategies.

Quick Tip

A formal invitation should include who is inviting, the event title, date, venue, and a compelling highlight. Keep it within 50 words.

(b) You are Rita/Ramesh Jain, a renowned author. You have been invited by the head librarian, Capital Library, to inaugurate a Book Fair for elementary school children. Draft a formal reply in not more than 50 words, declining the invitation, giving a suitable reason.

Solution:

Rita Jain sincerely thanks the Head Librarian of Capital Library for the kind invitation to inaugurate the Book Fair on 10 July 2025. However, due to a prior overseas commitment, she regrets her inability to attend. She wishes the event great success and enthusiastic participation.

Quick Tip

A formal reply should acknowledge the invitation, clearly accept or decline, give a polite reason, and offer best wishes if declining.

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

(a) Write a letter to the editor of a local daily on the need for water conservation. Suggest simple ways in which every individual can work towards this common cause.

Solution:

Rani Sharma

Shyam Nagar, Vayunagar

26 June 2025

The Editor

The Daily Times

New Delhi

Subject: **Urgent Need for Water Conservation**

Sir/Madam,

Through this letter, I wish to raise awareness about the growing water crisis. With industrialisation, urban expansion, and rising population, water scarcity is worsening. Our limited resources can't meet the growing demand.

Citizens must adopt practical measures—fixing leakages, using buckets instead of showers, reusing water for gardening, and rainwater harvesting. Community drives and media campaigns should promote awareness. Government must act with strict water regulation policies.

Together, we can avert this crisis.

Sincerely,

Rani Sharma

Quick Tip

In editor letters, use formal tone, present the issue clearly, offer practical suggestions, and sign off respectfully.

(b) You are Radhika/Rajesh of Joy Street, Calpur. Write a job application for the position of a Data Analyst at Infotech Services along with your bio-data.

Solution:

Radhika Sharma

42 Joy Street

Calpur

26 June 2025

The Head

HR Department

Infotech Services

76 Park Lane

Calpur

Subject: Application for the post of Data Analyst

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to apply for the post of Data Analyst. I have a degree in Statistics and over five years of experience in data analysis. I possess strong technical and soft skills, including communication, problem-solving, and programming proficiency.

Please find my bio-data enclosed. I look forward to an opportunity.

Sincerely,

Radhika Sharma

Bio-Data:

- **Name:** Radhika Sharma
- **Qualification:** B.Sc. in Statistics
- **Experience:** 5 years in data analysis
- **Skills:** Technical skills, communication, problem-solving, proficiency in Python and SQL
- **Contact:** radhika.sharma@email.com

Quick Tip

Start the application with a formal structure, summarize your skills, and provide a neat, bulleted bio-data for clarity.

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

(a) Write an article exploring the importance of road safety awareness among citizens providing examples to illustrate your points. You are Prem/Piya, a Class XII student.

Solution:

Road Safety—A Shared Responsibility

by Piya, Class XII

Road safety is vital for pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike. Increasing incidents of road mishaps demand awareness among citizens. Everyone must follow traffic rules, such as wearing helmets, obeying signals, and avoiding phone use while driving.

Schools and colleges should conduct road safety workshops. Posters, street hoardings, and awareness drives can make people more conscious. Media must promote responsible driving

habits.

Government initiatives and community efforts can together reduce accidents and ensure safer roads for all.

Quick Tip

For articles, use a headline, short paragraphs, and examples. Emphasize collective effort and practical suggestions.

(b) Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of an English Literary Programme. Use the cues given. You are Radha/Rahul Sharma.

Solution:

Report on English Literary Programme

By Radha Sharma, Class XII

The English Literary Programme was conducted on 10 June 2025 in the school auditorium.

It was organized by the English Department to enhance students' literary skills.

Students participated in debates, poetry recitations, and creative writing contests. Over 300 students from Grades IX–XII took part. Esteemed authors and critics served as judges.

The event encouraged public speaking, critical thinking, and creativity. It concluded with a prize distribution ceremony. The programme was impactful and helped boost students' confidence in English expression.

Quick Tip

A good report includes what, when, where, who participated, and how it impacted the students. Use subheadings or paragraph structure.

SECTION B (LITERATURE)

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

(a)

If we were not so single-minded about keeping our lives moving, and for once could do nothing, perhaps a huge silence might interrupt this sadness of never understanding ourselves and of threatening ourselves with death.

— (Keeping Quiet)

(i) Select the phrase from the above extract that suggests the following:

The ceaseless activity in our daily life.

Solution:

The phrase is: **“keeping our lives moving”**. It reflects our constant engagement in activities without pause for self-reflection.

Quick Tip

Look for a phrase that refers to motion, daily routine, or unending engagement when asked about “ceaseless activity.”

(ii) What does the imagery of ‘single-mindedness’ *not* represent in the given extract?

- (A) flexibility
- (B) unwavering determination
- (C) dedication
- (D) persistent efforts

Solution:

(A) flexibility is not represented. The poet criticizes rigid focus, which lacks openness or flexibility.

Quick Tip

When a question asks what is *not* represented, eliminate all options that match the tone of the extract. Look for contrasts.

(iii) Complete the following suitably:

In the line, ‘might interrupt this sadness’, the phrase ‘this sadness’ refers to

Solution:

The phrase ‘this sadness’ refers to the sorrow of living an unexamined life, never understanding ourselves, and constantly being engaged in harmful activities, even self-destruction.

Quick Tip

To interpret symbolic words like “sadness,” examine the lines before and after for emotional or psychological clues.

(iv) The poet has used phrases like ‘never understanding ourselves’ to illustrate the ____ (irony/humour) in continuous movement without reflection.

Solution:

The correct word is: **irony**. The poet highlights the irony that despite all our movement and actions, we fail to understand ourselves.

Quick Tip

Check the tone of the poem. If it expresses contrast or contradiction between action and result, it is usually irony, not humour.

(v) Read the assertion and the reason below, with reference to the given extract:

Assertion: The poet emphasizes the need for productive silence and reflection.

Reason: Purposeless continuous movement leads to sadness and existential threats.

Choose the correct option from the following:

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

Solution:

(B) Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason is the correct explanation

of the assertion.

Quick Tip

Always check if the reason provides a direct cause for the assertion to judge option B.

(vi) State in one sentence, what advice you would give to people who are always busy.

Solution:

Take a pause from your busy life to reflect and understand yourself, as constant activity without self-awareness leads to emotional exhaustion.

Quick Tip

Frame advice in a positive tone that aligns with the message of the poem.

(b)

For simple sheep; and such are daffodils
With the green world they live in; and clear rills
That for themselves a cooling covert make
'Gainst the hot season; the mid forest brake,
Rich with a sprinkling of fair musk-rose blooms;
And such too is the grandeur of the dooms
We have imagined for the mighty dead;
All lovely tales that we have heard or read;
An endless fountain of immortal drink,
Pouring unto us from the heaven's brink.

— (A Thing of Beauty)

(i) Select the phrase that suggests the following:

The small streams make a shelter for themselves.

Solution:

The phrase is: “**cooling covert**”. It means a protective or sheltered place created by the streams against the hot weather.

Quick Tip

Look for imagery that implies refuge or natural protection when answering such identification questions.

(ii) What does the phrase ‘An endless fountain of immortal drink, Pouring unto us from the heaven’s brink’ *not* imply in the extract?

- (A) unlimited beauty
- (B) eternal inspiration
- (C) finite resources
- (D) everlasting joy

Solution:

(C) finite resources is not implied. The phrase speaks of something endless and divine, which rules out anything limited or exhaustible.

Quick Tip

Focus on the key words like “endless,” “immortal,” and “heaven” to rule out any meaning of limitation.

(iii) Complete the following suitably:

In the line, ‘the grandeur of the dooms’, the word ‘dooms’ refers to _____.

Solution:

The word ‘dooms’ refers to the **glorious fate or heroic destinies of the mighty dead**. It suggests the noble legacy left behind.

Quick Tip

In poetry, archaic words like “dooms” often signify destiny or fate rather than destruction.

(iv) The poet has used phrases like ‘mighty dead’ to illustrate the _____ (irony/satire) in

the lasting impact of beauty and heroism.

Solution:

The correct word is: **irony**. Even though the heroes are no more, their tales and the beauty of their deeds continue to inspire.

Quick Tip

Irony is used when something contrary to expectations continues to exist — like inspiration from the dead.

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

Assertion: The poet views beauty as a fine source of inspiration.

Reason: Natural elements and tales of heroism provide a continuous flow of joy and inspiration.

Choose the correct option regarding their relationship:

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

Solution:

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

Quick Tip

Always verify if the reason directly explains or supports the assertion to select option (A).

(vi) State in one sentence, what message you would give to those seeking inspiration from nature.

Solution:

Nature and timeless stories are fountains of inspiration—immerse in them to find endless joy and purpose.

Quick Tip

Messages should reflect the poet's theme of finding eternal value in nature and past heroism.

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

(a)

My journey began 13:09 degrees north of the Equator in Madras, and involved crossing nine time zones, six checkpoints, three bodies of water, and at least as many ecospheres.

By the time I actually set foot on the Antarctic continent I had been travelling over 100 hours in combination of a car, an aeroplane, and a ship; so, my first emotion on facing **Antarctica's expansive white landscape** and uninterrupted blue horizon was relief, followed up with an immediate and profound wonder.

— (*Journey to the End of the Earth*)

(i) Complete the following suitably.

The passage suggests that the author's journey to Antarctica was

Solution:

The author's journey to Antarctica was **exhausting and extensive**, involving multiple modes of travel and long hours, but ultimately awe-inspiring.

Quick Tip

Pay attention to words describing travel duration and the author's reaction to the destination.

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

The author highlights the numerous challenges and difficulties to emphasise the ----- (remoteness/proximity) of Antarctica.

Solution:

The correct word is: **remoteness**. The long and difficult journey showcases how distant and isolated Antarctica is from the rest of the world.

Quick Tip

Identify the core idea being emphasised through effort, distance, and struggle.

(iii) How does the mention of crossing multiple time zones, checkpoints and bodies of water impact the writer?

- (A) is excited by the adventure of travel
- (B) feels indifferent towards the journey
- (C) is surprised by the number of obstacles
- (D) feels overwhelmed by the logistical challenges

Solution:

(D) feels overwhelmed by the logistical challenges. The author describes over 100 hours of travel using multiple means of transport, which reflects a tiresome and complex journey before finally arriving with a sense of relief and wonder.

Quick Tip

Look for emotional keywords like “relief” to understand the impact of the travel experience.

(iv) How does the description of the journey reflect the author’s initial emotions upon arriving in Antarctica?

Solution:

The journey’s exhaustion made the contrast of Antarctica’s serene, expansive white landscape even more powerful, evoking in the author a deep sense of wonder and immediate

relief.

Quick Tip

Contrast between effort and reward often amplifies emotional response—look for that in the text.

(b)

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. As usual, he wished to hunt tigers in Pratibandapuram. But the Maharaja was firm in his resolve. He refused permission. “I can organise any other hunt. You may go on a boar hunt. You may conduct a mouse hunt. We are ready for a mosquito hunt. **But tiger hunt! That’s impossible!**”

— (*The Tiger King*)

(i) **Complete the following suitably.**

The passage suggests that the Maharaja was in danger of losing his throne because

Solution:

Because he denied a British officer’s request to hunt tigers in his kingdom, defying colonial authority and risking political backlash.

Quick Tip

Look for implied political risks and power dynamics when discussing monarchy or colonial settings.

(ii) **What phrase in the above passage indicates that the Maharaja was a determined man who stuck to his decision?**

Solution:

The phrase is: “**The Maharaja was firm in his resolve.**” This shows he did not give in to pressure and remained committed to his principles.

Quick Tip

Look for strong words like “firm,” “refused,” or “resolved” to identify determination in characters.

(iii) By saying ‘that’s impossible’, the Maharaja in the above passage means

- (A) he will not give up his throne
- (B) that the British officer cannot go on a tiger hunt in his kingdom
- (C) he would pass a law which forbade hunting of boars
- (D) that the Maharaja would accompany the officer on a tiger hunt

Solution:

(B) that the British officer cannot go on a tiger hunt in his kingdom. The Maharaja clearly sets a strict boundary against tiger hunting to protect his interests and fulfill the prophecy.

Quick Tip

Interpret character dialogue literally and in context with their broader motivations.

(iv) List any one characteristic of the Maharaja as demonstrated in the above passage.

Solution:

The Maharaja was **assertive and courageous**, as he upheld his decision despite the risk of offending a powerful British officer.

Quick Tip

Character traits are often revealed through bold actions and difficult choices.

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

(b):

(a)

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 a studio and left. He was succeeded by a Maharashtrian who was assisted by a Dharwar Kannadiga, an Andhra, a Madras Indian Christian, an Anglo-Burmese and the usual local Tamils. All this shows that there was a great deal of national integration long before A.I.R. and Doordarshan began broadcasting programmes on national integration. This gang of nationally integrated make-up men could turn any decent-looking person into a hideous crimson hued monster with the help of truckloads of pancake and a number of other locally made potions and lotions.

— (*Poets and Pancakes*)

(i) Why does the author compare the make-up room to a salon?

Solution:

Because the make-up room was equipped with lights and mirrors all around, similar to a hair-cutting salon, creating an intense environment for applying makeup.

Quick Tip

Always look for visual imagery and comparisons made to common places for easier understanding.

(ii) The term ‘crimson hued monster’ refers to the make-up applied to actors to make them look ugly so that they look _____ (beautiful/terrified) on screen.

Solution:

The correct word is: **terrified**. The exaggerated make-up made actors appear grotesque to suit certain roles.

Quick Tip

Match the phrase tone—“monster” implies fear, not beauty.

(iii) The make-up team’s ability to transform actors reveals two things about their

skills:

First, their ----- and second, their use of -----.

Solution:

First, their **creativity** and second, their use of **locally available resources**.

Quick Tip

Skills include both technique and resourcefulness—include both in your answer.

(iv) Give textual evidence to prove that the make-up team reflected national integration.

Solution:

The make-up team included people from Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Anglo-Burmese and Christian communities, reflecting unity in diversity.

Quick Tip

List members' regional identities to show national representation.

(v) Explain the phrase 'fiery misery' with reference to the extract.

Solution:

It refers to the unbearable heat and discomfort caused by strong incandescent lights during make-up sessions in the studio.

Quick Tip

Fiery = heat; misery = discomfort. Combine both aspects in your explanation.

(vi) What does the line showcase? "With the help of truck-loads of pancake and locally made potions and lotions."

- (A) creativity
- (B) normalcy
- (C) exaggeration
- (D) simplicity

Solution:

(C) Exaggeration. The line humorously exaggerates the quantity of make-up used.

Quick Tip

Look for expressions that appear over-the-top or extreme to identify exaggeration.

(b)

So it is hardly surprising that opinions of the interview — of its functions, methods and merits — vary considerably. Some might make quite extravagant claims for it as being, in its highest form, a source of truth, and, in its practice, an art. Others, usually celebrities who see themselves as its victims, might despise the interview as an unwarranted intrusion into their lives, or feel that it somehow diminishes them.

— *(The Interview)*

(i) What does the author mean by the phrase ‘extravagant claims’?

Solution:

It means that some people make over-the-top statements glorifying interviews as truthful and artistic, beyond reasonable limits.

Quick Tip

Extravagant means excessive; check the context to see what is being exaggerated.

(ii) The phrase ‘hardly surprising’ indicates that the writer is _____ (taken aback/unsurprised) at the varied opinions of the interview.

Solution:

The correct word is: **unsurprised**. The variation in opinions is expected due to the interview’s controversial nature.

Quick Tip

“Hardly surprising” always signals familiarity or expectation, not shock.

(iii) The people have diverse opinions about an interview. Some consider it -----, while others -----.

Solution:

Some consider it **a source of truth and art**, while others **find it intrusive and diminishing**.

Quick Tip

Present both positive and negative views clearly and contrastively.

(iv) What does the phrase ‘unwarranted intrusion’ illustrate about an interview?

- (A) celebration
- (B) confession
- (C) invitation
- (D) interference

Solution:

(D) interference. The phrase shows how interviews are viewed as violations of personal space.

Quick Tip

Unwarranted = unjustified; intrusion = entry. Together they indicate interference.

(v) Select the textual option that is closest to indicating a feeling of deep dislike:

- (A) celebrities see themselves as victims
- (B) extravagant claims
- (C) despise the interview
- (D) vary considerably

Solution:

(C) despise the interview. “Despise” means to hate or detest something intensely.

Quick Tip

Match emotional tone — “deep dislike” = hate = despise.

(vi) Why do celebrities feel that interviews ‘diminish’ them?

Solution:

Because they feel that personal exposure through interviews invades their privacy and damages their public image.

Quick Tip

Use the verb “diminish” to show reduction in dignity or image.

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

(i) What is the complaint of the country folk against the ‘party in power’? (*A Roadside Stand*)

Solution:

The country folk complain that the party in power makes false promises and exploits them. They feel ignored and cheated as development never reaches them, and they are used only for votes.

Quick Tip

Focus on political betrayal and unmet expectations when answering such questions.

(ii) Why did Sophie dream of having a boutique after leaving school? (*Going Places*)

Solution:

Sophie dreamt of having a boutique because she wanted to achieve something glamorous and rise above her mundane surroundings. It reflected her escapism and desire to do something exceptional.

Quick Tip

Relate dreams with character aspirations and background.

(iii) Why is the Englishman’s visit referred to as an unexplained mystery? (*Poets and Pancakes*)

Solution:

The Englishman’s visit is a mystery because no one knew his purpose. He did not interact much, nor did he explain his presence. His silent observation and departure left everyone confused.

Quick Tip

”Mystery” implies lack of clarity, so focus on what was unknown or odd.

(iv) Why did Gandhi agree to a settlement of 25 percent refund to the farmers? (*Indigo*)

Solution:

Gandhi agreed to the 25 percent refund as he wanted to establish the farmers’ right to challenge injustice, not focus on the money. It was a moral victory, showing landlords that peasants had agency.

Quick Tip

When the outcome seems low, consider symbolic or strategic gains.

(v) Explain why Umberto Eco said, “I started writing novels by accident.” (*The Interview*)

Solution:

Umberto Eco said this because he was primarily an academic, and his novel-writing began later, unexpectedly. His scholarly interests naturally transitioned into fiction, blending knowledge with storytelling.

Quick Tip

Highlight unplanned beginnings and link to character's profession.

(vi) How would humanity benefit if people maintained silence? (*Keeping Quiet*)

Solution:

Humanity would benefit through deeper self-awareness, reduced conflict, and greater peace. Silence would allow reflection and halt destructive actions.

Quick Tip

Silence symbolizes peace, so reflect on inner and global calm.

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

(i) Why does the Tiger King get a wooden tiger for his son? (*The Tiger King*)

Solution:

The Tiger King gifts a wooden tiger to his son because he believes he has killed all real tigers and is now safe. Ironically, the wooden tiger causes his death, fulfilling the prophecy.

Quick Tip

Use irony when answering questions related to fate or prophecy.

(ii) Why didn't the General send Sadao to the front? (*The Enemy*)

Solution:

The General did not send Sadao to the front because he trusted only Sadao's medical skills and feared that no other doctor could save his life if needed.

Quick Tip

Highlight character motives when explaining plot choices.

(iii) What shows that Charley was clumsy and absent-minded? (*The Third Level*)

Solution:

Charley bought old currency at the wrong counter, went to the third level by mistake, and often lost track of time and place. These acts reveal his clumsiness and tendency to daydream.

Quick Tip

List small incidents or behavior to support personality traits.

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

(a) Analyse how freedom is curbed in the context of Franz in ‘The Last Lesson’ and Saheb in ‘Lost Spring’.

Solution:

Franz’s freedom is curbed when he realizes he can no longer learn his language due to the imposition of German by the Prussians. His sudden awareness of losing cultural identity brings regret. Saheb’s freedom is curtailed by poverty. Despite being called ‘Saheb-e-Alam’ (Lord of the Universe), he scavenges garbage for survival. Lack of education and opportunities trap him in child labour. Both characters face suppression: Franz by political dominance and Saheb by socio-economic conditions. Their dreams and voices are silenced by circumstances beyond their control.

Quick Tip

Compare both protagonists’ loss of freedom in different contexts – political vs. economic.

(b) Illustrate how symbols and images in the poems, ‘My Mother at Sixty-six’ and ‘Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers’ enhance the reader’s understanding of the characters’ experiences and emotional landscapes.

Solution:

In ‘My Mother at Sixty-six’, the image of the mother sleeping with an ashen face symbolizes approaching death, reflecting the poet’s fear of loss and separation. The familiar

surroundings passing by the car, like trees sprinting, represent the fast passage of time. In ‘Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers’, the tigers embroidered by Aunt Jennifer symbolize freedom and fearlessness, which contrast her own oppressed life. The image of the heavy wedding band on her hand shows her burdened existence under patriarchal control. Both poems use strong visuals and metaphors to convey deep emotional struggles and the contrasting realities of strength and vulnerability.

Quick Tip

Focus on how metaphors reflect emotional and psychological conditions.

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

(a) Compare and contrast the characters of Mr Lamb and Derry in the play ‘On The Face Of It’.

Solution:

Mr. Lamb is optimistic, open-hearted, and encourages acceptance and positivity. He sees beauty in life despite having a physical disability (a tin leg). In contrast, Derry is initially bitter, withdrawn, and feels unloved due to his facial burns. While Mr. Lamb embraces life, Derry avoids people. However, under Mr. Lamb’s influence, Derry transforms, learns to appreciate life, and becomes more confident. The two characters represent contrasting attitudes toward disability and society’s perception. Their interaction emphasizes that inner strength, not appearance, defines one’s worth.

Quick Tip

Focus on attitude differences and eventual transformation.

(b) Untouchability is not only a crime, it is inhuman too. Why and how does Bama decide to fight against it? (*Memories of Childhood*)

Solution:

Bama witnesses her brother’s humiliation and learns about caste discrimination. She realizes how lower caste people are made to feel inferior. Inspired by her brother’s advice, she

studies hard to gain respect and prove her worth. She decides to fight untouchability through education and awareness, believing knowledge is power. Her decision represents a silent rebellion against the oppressive social structure and emphasizes the importance of self-worth, dignity, and perseverance in bringing about change.

Quick Tip

Focus on emotional awakening and how education becomes a tool of resistance.
