

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

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

Read the following instructions very carefully and strictly follow them:

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

SECTION A
(READING SKILLS)

1. Read the following passage carefully :

(1) In 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 calls the park a ‘sanctuary of tranquility’ because it provides peace and relief

from the noise and stress of city life. With its lush greenery and calming water features, the park offers a space where people can relax, rejuvenate, and escape the hustle and bustle of urban surroundings.

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 offer recreational opportunities, enhance the beauty of cities, and contribute to environmental well-being. They are safe, open spaces where citizens can relax, connect with others, and improve their physical and mental health.

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 hours, joggers and fitness enthusiasts can be seen navigating the paths, while yoga practitioners engage in graceful, meditative movements in quiet corners. The air is also filled with bird songs and rustling leaves, creating a peaceful atmosphere.

Quick Tip

Scan the paragraph for time references like “early morning” to locate relevant activities.

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

Solution:

By midday, the park becomes a lively social space. Families enjoy picnics, children play joyfully, and elderly couples sit on benches reminiscing. The once calm park turns into a vibrant, community-filled place of joy and interaction.

Quick Tip

Transformation questions ask you to contrast before and after — focus on what changes with time or setting.

(v) Complete the following suitably.

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:

- (A) the setting sun casting a golden hue and water features glistening

Quick Tip

Look for visual and descriptive clues in the paragraph to identify what makes the scene “magical”.

(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.”

Quick Tip

For textual evidence questions, copy the exact line from the paragraph that supports the statement.

(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 park becoming a peaceful and enchanting place at night where people can relax, imagine, and find inspiration under the lantern lights and night sky. It symbolizes a space for reflection and creativity.

Quick Tip

Metaphorical phrases often describe mood or feeling — explain what they mean emotionally or symbolically.

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

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

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

Solution:

- (C) tranquility

Quick Tip

Look for opposites or contrasts in analogies — chaos vs tranquility is the core contrast here.

(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:

- (B) It emphasizes the park’s importance as a social and natural retreat.

Quick Tip

Focus on the emotional and communal value described in the paragraph — not just physical uses.

(x) Assess the potential benefits of an urban park.

Solution:

Urban parks offer numerous benefits. They provide citizens with spaces for recreation, relaxation, and physical fitness. Parks promote mental well-being by offering a peaceful environment amidst city chaos. They also encourage social interaction, support biodiversity by nurturing local flora and fauna, and enhance the aesthetic appeal of cities. Additionally, parks contribute to environmental health by improving air quality and reducing urban heat.

Quick Tip

Use keywords like health, community, nature, and environment when assessing urban benefits.

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 concerns, modern infras

(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 importance of renewable energy as a crucial solution and the need to analyze its increasing use and implications across India.

Quick Tip

When completing a statement, refer to how the first paragraph sets up the central theme of the passage.

(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:

- (A) Primary purpose

Quick Tip

Identify the main goal of the passage by focusing on the objective stated in the introduction.

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

Solution:

Step 1: Participants were asked about their primary energy source and reasons for their choice.

Step 2: The collected data was analyzed to identify trends and patterns among demographics and sectors.

Quick Tip

Look for process words like “was conducted” and “was analyzed” to extract methodology steps.

(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: Influence

Sentence 2: Motivation

Quick Tip

Motivations come from within (goals, desires), while influences are external factors (incentives, rules).

(v) Select the option that identifies the correct demographic they belong to.

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.

(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:

(C) Rajan – rural household head; Rama – small business owner; Suresh – large industry owner

Quick Tip

Match keywords from the question like “rural”, “business”, or “industry” with the demographic table.

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

Solution:

According to the passage, the preference for renewable energy is higher in rural areas (71%) because of factors like accessibility, reliability, and local employment opportunities. These reasons are more significant in rural contexts where infrastructure and job creation are major concerns.

Quick Tip

Focus on the “Reasons for Preference” column in the table to compare rural vs. urban.

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

Solution:

Targeted interventions such as government incentives, improved infrastructure, and subsidies can encourage more people to adopt renewable energy based on their specific needs. For example, enhancing accessibility in rural areas or offering cost benefits to industries can lead to increased use of clean energy. This, in turn, reduces dependence on fossil fuels, lowers carbon emissions, and supports sustainable environmental practices.

Quick Tip

Use paragraph (5) to link tailored interventions with environmental improvements.

(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:

- (B) build a sustainable future

Quick Tip

Look at the concluding lines of paragraph (5) to find the broader vision or purpose for stakeholders.

SECTION B

(CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)

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

(a) Your school is celebrating its Annual Awards Function. As the school counsellor, write a notice for the school notice board informing students about the details of the programme, asking them to submit their achievement forms for selection of awardees. Include necessary details. Put your notice in a box.

Solution:

ABC PUBLIC SCHOOL, DELHI

NOTICE

Date: 26 June 2025

Subject: Annual Awards Function – Form Submission

This is to inform all students that our Annual Awards Function will be held on 20 July 2025. Students who wish to be considered for awards must submit their duly filled achievement forms to the school office by 5 July 2025.

(Rishita Singh)

School Counsellor

Quick Tip

Always include school name, date, subject, and contact details in the notice format.

(b) Your school will be conducting the annual ‘Student Council Elections’. As school Director, write a notice informing students of the same. Remember to include eligibility, last date of form submission and details of the election procedure. Put your notice in a box.

Solution:

ABC PUBLIC SCHOOL, DELHI

NOTICE

Date: 26 June 2025

Subject: Student Council Elections – 2025

The annual Student Council Elections will be held on 10 July 2025. Students of Classes IX to XII are eligible to contest. Interested students must collect and submit nomination forms by 2 July 2025. Further details of the election procedure will be shared soon.

(Rishita Singh)

Director

Quick Tip

For election-related notices, include eligibility, dates, and roles clearly.

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

(a) As activity incharge of your school, draft an invitation card in not more than 50 words inviting parents and students to the school career fair (for students of Class XI and XII). Mention a compelling highlight of the event along with necessary details.

Solution:

INVITATION

You are cordially invited to the Career Fair 2025 organised by ABC Public School on 5 July 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the School Auditorium. Representatives from top universities and industries will guide Class XI XII students about future career opportunities.

Quick Tip

Keep the invitation short, formal, and focused on key event details and purpose.

(b) An invitation had been issued by Leena/Lokesh Kapoor, the HR Head of your company, inviting you to a workshop on diversity and inclusion. As Rajni/Rakesh Sharma, senior analyst, draft a reply in not more than 50 words, consenting to attend.

Solution:

REPLY

Thank you for the kind invitation. I, Rakesh Sharma, Senior Analyst, confirm my participation in the workshop on Diversity and Inclusion to be held on 30 June 2025 at 11:00 a.m. Looking forward to gaining insights from the session.

Quick Tip

While replying to an invitation, express gratitude and confirm attendance clearly.

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 about the significance of voting and encouraging young people to participate in elections. Also suggest the importance of making informed decisions. Use the given cues and your own ideas. You are Ragini/Raghu, a responsible citizen, residing at M-5, View Nagar, Vayupur.

Solution:

M-5, View Nagar

Vayupur

26 June 2025

The Editor

The Vayupur Times

Vayupur

Subject: Encouraging Youth Participation in Elections

Sir/Madam,

Through the columns of your esteemed newspaper, I wish to highlight the importance of youth voting in a democratic nation like ours. With a large youth population, they form a substantial vote bank and are future stakeholders in governance.

Youth must be motivated to vote responsibly and make informed decisions. Voting empowers them to be agents of change. It fosters accountability, strengthens democracy, and ensures that their voice is heard in the political process.

Educational institutions, social media campaigns, and awareness drives can play a pivotal role in instilling the values of citizenship, responsibility, and democracy in our youth.

I hope this message will inspire many young voters to actively participate in shaping our nation's future.

Yours sincerely,

Ragini

Quick Tip

Stick to letter format, keep language formal and persuasive, and use cues logically.

(b) You are Shanti/Satwik from, 375/P-I, Rasalpur, Bahutnagar. You came across the following advertisement for the post of a dance teacher in a reputed public school.

Write an application for the position advertised along with your bio-data.

Solution:

375/P-I, Rasalpur

Bahutnagar

26 June 2025

The Director

Sunshine Public School

14A Michael Road

Bahutnagar

Subject: Application for the Post of Dance Teacher

Respected Sir/Madam,

This is in reference to your advertisement regarding the vacancy for a Dance Teacher for junior classes. I wish to apply for the same.

I hold a degree in Performing Arts and have been training students in both classical and contemporary forms of dance for the past five years. I am a creative, innovative, and student-friendly choreographer who has directed many school events.

Please find my bio-data enclosed for your kind consideration. I assure you of my dedication and passion for dance education.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Satwik

Bio-data:

Name: Satwik

Address: 375/P-I, Rasalpur, Bahutnagar

Qualification: Degree in Performing Arts

Experience: 5 years teaching dance in schools

Skills: Classical Contemporary Dance, Choreography, Communication, Creativity

Contact: +91-XXXXXXXXXX

Quick Tip

Write applications formally, attach a clear bio-data, and tailor it to job requirements.

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

(a) You are Suman/Sharman, a Class XII student. Write an article for the school magazine exploring the importance of digital literacy for Indian youth. Provide examples to illustrate your points. You may use the following cues along with your own

suggestions.

Solution:

Digital Literacy – A Pathway to Empowerment

By Suman, Class XII

In today's digital era, advancements in technology have transformed education and employment. For Indian youth, digital literacy is no longer optional—it is essential. The ability to navigate digital tools opens doors to remote learning, online certifications, and better job opportunities.

However, many youths, especially in rural areas, struggle due to limited access and guidance. Institutions must provide training in digital tools and soft skills. Digital fluency enhances career prospects and equips students to adapt to changing job markets.

Moreover, educational institutions should collaborate with tech firms to offer internships and workshops. With such support, youth can transition from passive consumers of technology to empowered digital citizens ready for future challenges.

Quick Tip

Use a suitable title, write in a semi-formal tone, and include practical suggestions and examples.

(b) You are Radha/Rahul Batheja, a Class XII student and a member of the school magazine editorial board. Write a comprehensive report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of Environment Awareness Week, including description of the event, participation details, and overall impact of these activities on the school community.

Solution:

Report on Environment Awareness Week

By Rahul Batheja, Class XII

The Environment Awareness Week was observed from 10th to 15th April 2025 at Green Valley School to sensitise students towards environmental issues.

The event began with a tree plantation drive inaugurated by the Principal. Students from

classes VI to XII participated in poster-making, slogan writing, and street plays to spread awareness on pollution control and conservation.

Workshops were also held on waste segregation, composting, and plastic alternatives. On the final day, a pledge was taken by all students to adopt sustainable habits.

The week-long initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation, creating awareness and a sense of responsibility among the student body. It left a lasting impact and inspired everyone to contribute towards a greener planet.

Quick Tip

Maintain a formal report structure. Address all cues—Who, What, When, Where, Why, How—and highlight outcomes.

SECTION C (LITERATURE)

7(a) Read the following extract and answer the following questions:

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 extract that suggests the ceaseless activity in our daily life.

(ii) What does the imagery of 'single-mindedness' **not** represent?

(A) flexibility

(B) unwavering determination

(C) dedication

(D) persistent efforts

(iii) Complete the sentence:

In the line, '*might interrupt this sadness*', the phrase 'this sadness' refers to _____.

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

(v) **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:

(A) Both are true, but reason is not the correct explanation.

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

(C) Assertion is true, reason is false.

(D) Assertion is false, reason is true.

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

Solution:

(i) "*about keeping our lives moving*"

(ii) (A) flexibility

(iii) the sadness of not understanding ourselves and always being in a rush

(iv) irony

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

(vi) Pause regularly to reflect and find peace within, rather than being constantly consumed by busyness.

Quick Tip

Focus on the poet's deeper message: self-awareness, reflection, and silence. Use literal meanings only where necessary—poetry often speaks in metaphors.

7(b) Read the following extract and answer the following questions:

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.

(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

(iii) Complete the following suitably:

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

(iv) The poet has used phrases like ‘mighty dead’ to illustrate the _____ (irony/satire) in the lasting impact of beauty and heroism.

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

Assertion: The poet views beauty as a finite 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.

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

Solution:

- (i) “clear rills that for themselves a cooling covert make”
- (ii) (C) finite resources
- (iii) the glorious fate or destiny imagined for the great people of the past
- (iv) irony
- (v) (D) The assertion is false, but the reason is true.
- (vi) Nature offers abundant, everlasting beauty and wisdom if we take the time to observe it.

Quick Tip

Always link poetic metaphors with deeper meanings—“fountain of immortal drink” symbolizes infinite beauty and inspiration. Avoid literal interpretations unless clearly intended.

8(a) Read the following extract and answer the following questions:

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 _____.

- (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.

- (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

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

Solution:

- (i) long, tiring and filled with logistical challenges
- (ii) remoteness
- (iii) (D) feels overwhelmed by the logistical challenges
- (iv) The author’s sense of relief and profound wonder reflects the emotional release after an exhausting journey, highlighting the surreal beauty and isolation of Antarctica.

Quick Tip

When answering travel-based extracts, identify the tone and keywords related to effort, distance, and emotional reactions to contrast the journey with the destination.

8(b) Read the following extract and answer the following questions:

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

_____.

- (ii) What phrase in the above passage indicates that the Maharaja was a determined man who

stuck to his decision?

(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

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

Solution:

(i) he refused permission to the British officer to hunt tigers, risking royal displeasure

(ii) "*But the Maharaja was firm in his resolve.*"

(iii) (B) that the British officer cannot go on a tiger hunt in his kingdom

(iv) Determined or courageous or assertive or firm (any one valid trait)

Quick Tip

Always look for direct speech and character actions to infer traits like determination or risk-taking. Strong expressions or denial often show strong willpower.

9(a) Read the following extract and answer the following questions:

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 truck-

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

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.

- (iii) Complete the following sentence appropriately.

The make-up team’s ability to transform actors reveals two things about their skills:

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

- (iv) Give textual evidence to prove that the make-up team reflected national integration.
- (v) Explain the phrase ‘*fiery misery*’ with reference to the given extract.
- (vi) What does the following line from the extract showcase?

“With the help of truck-loads of pancake and a number of other locally made potions and lotions.”

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

Solution:

- (i) Because it had many mirrors with lights around, just like salons, creating a similar setup.
- (ii) terrified
- (iii) First, their imagination and second, their use of technique.
- (iv) The make-up team consisted of people from various parts of India—Bengali, Maharashtrian, Kannadiga, Andhra, Tamil, etc.
- (v) The lights created unbearable heat for those wearing make-up, hence the term ‘fiery misery’.
- (vi) (C) exaggeration

Quick Tip

Focus on figurative language like ‘crimson hued monster’ or ‘fiery misery’—these show exaggeration or emotion, not literal meanings. Also, connect character backgrounds with the theme of integration.

9(b) Read the following extract and answer the following questions:

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*’?

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

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

(iii) Complete the following sentence suitably.

The people have diverse opinions about an interview. Some consider it _____, while others _____.

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

(A) celebration

(B) confession

(C) invitation

(D) 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

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

Solution:

(i) That interviews are glorified or praised as truth or art, which may be an exaggeration.

(ii) unsurprised

(iii) Some consider it revealing, while others consider it intrusive.

(iv) (D) interference

(v) (C) despise the interview

(vi) Because they feel that interviews reduce their dignity or misrepresent their image in public.

Quick Tip

When analyzing literary extracts, note tone words like ‘despise’ or ‘extravagant claims’. These help identify opinions, exaggeration, or criticism directly.

10. Answer any **five** of the following six questions in 40–50 words each. **5** × 2 = 10

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

They complain that the party in power does not care about them and exploits them with false promises. The city people only stop for selfish reasons and the rural folk are never truly helped.

Quick Tip

Link political promises to rural neglect in the poem. Think of city vs village conflict.

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

Sophie dreamt of having a boutique because she was ambitious and wanted to escape the monotony of her lower middle-class life. It was part of her fantasy world where she imagined success and glamour.

Quick Tip

Focus on Sophie's imagination and desire to rise above her background.

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

The Englishman's visit is unexplained because no one at the studio knew his purpose. He came and went without clarification, leading to confusion and speculation among the staff.

Quick Tip

Look for irony and absurdity in the situation described.

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

Gandhi agreed to the 25% refund because he valued the principle of justice over monetary gain. The partial refund symbolized the landlords' defeat and restored dignity to the farmers.

Quick Tip

Gandhi focused on moral victory, not just financial compensation.

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

Eco said this because he was a professor and semiotician first. His fiction writing began unexpectedly when he tried to narrate serious ideas through a novel, which turned out successful.

Quick Tip

Note Eco's multiple interests and his shift from academic to fiction writing.

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

If people maintained silence, they would reflect more deeply, reduce conflicts, and understand each other better. It would promote peace and self-awareness.

Quick Tip

The poet emphasizes introspection and unity through silence.

11. Answer any **two** of the following three questions in 40–50 words each. **2×2=4**

(i) How did the Maharaja's harmless wooden tiger lead to his death? (The Tiger King)

A sliver from the poorly made wooden tiger pierced the Maharaja's hand and caused an infection. Though it appeared harmless, the toy led to his ironic and unexpected death due to septicemia.

Quick Tip

Focus on irony — the king killed 99 tigers but was killed by a toy tiger.

(ii) Why were the servants not in favour of Sadao's decision to keep the American prisoner of war in their house? (The Enemy)

The servants feared repercussions from both the Japanese authorities and the American prisoner. They were uncomfortable harboring an enemy and considered it unpatriotic and dangerous.

Quick Tip

Think about wartime fear, loyalty, and consequences faced by common people.

(iii) What, according to the psychiatrist, was Charley's problem? (The Third Level)

The psychiatrist believed Charley was suffering from a waking dream wish fulfillment. He thought Charley was unhappy with the modern world and subconsciously sought escape to a simpler past.

Quick Tip

Understand the theme of escapism and psychological interpretation.

12. Answer any **one** of the following two questions in 120–150 words. **1×5=5**

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

In 'The Last Lesson', Franz loses his linguistic freedom when French is banned by the invading Prussians. He realizes too late the value of his language and education. This sudden curbing of rights reflects political domination.

In ‘Lost Spring’, Saheb’s freedom is constrained by poverty and child labor. He dreams of education and playing tennis but ends up collecting garbage and working in a tea stall. His circumstances deny him basic rights like education and dignity.

Both stories emphasize how children’s freedoms—either educational or economic—are curtailed by forces beyond their control, whether colonial rule or social inequality.

Quick Tip

Link both stories to the theme of lost childhood and denial of basic rights.

(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.

In ‘My Mother at Sixty-six’, the poet uses the image of the mother’s pale face to symbolize ageing and approaching death. The contrast between the children playing outside and the poet’s mother inside the car evokes fear and emotional distance.

In ‘Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers’, tigers symbolize the courage and freedom that Aunt Jennifer lacks in her own life. The embroidery contrasts with her reality—where she is dominated and oppressed by a patriarchal marriage.

These poems use imagery—pale faces, tigers, heavy rings—to express emotional states and inner struggles. They deepen the reader’s empathy for both characters by reflecting themes of mortality, fear, and gender oppression.

Quick Tip

Use symbolism to analyze deeper emotional and psychological states.

13. Answer any **one** of the following two questions in 120–150 words. **1×5=5**

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

Mr Lamb is an old man with a positive outlook despite his physical disability. He believes in embracing life and people, and keeping his mind open to all experiences.

Derry, on the other hand, is a young boy with a burned face who isolates himself due to societal rejection. He is bitter, insecure, and angry.

While Mr Lamb encourages openness and positivity, Derry is fearful and withdrawn. However, Mr Lamb's influence inspires Derry to change his perspective. By the end of the play, Derry learns to accept himself and live confidently. Their contrast helps highlight the power of optimism and human connection in overcoming physical and emotional scars.

Quick Tip

Use contrast to show character development and the message of acceptance.

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

Bama, a Dalit girl, experiences humiliation when she sees an elder carry food for an upper-caste man without touching it. She realizes the deep-rooted discrimination in society. Her brother advises her to study hard to earn respect and challenge the caste system. Bama uses education as a weapon against untouchability.

She decides to break the cycle of submission by becoming independent and self-respecting. Her fight is not physical but intellectual and moral.

This incident marks her awakening and strengthens her resolve to oppose inhuman practices like untouchability.

Quick Tip

Focus on Bama's realization, education, and inner resistance to injustice.