

## CBSE Class 12 2025 English Question Paper (1/7/3) With Solutions

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| <b>Time Allowed :3 Hours</b> | <b>Maximum Marks :80</b> | <b>Total questions :13</b> |
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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.

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### **(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.

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

#### **Solution:**

During the early morning hours, joggers and fitness enthusiasts can be seen running along the winding paths with determination. Additionally, yoga practitioners engage in graceful and meditative movements in quiet corners of the park. The atmosphere is filled with natural sounds such as birds chirping and leaves rustling, creating a soothing start to the day.

### Quick Tip

To answer activity-based questions, identify the time mentioned in the passage and list the actions of people described during that time.

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

**Solution:**

By midday, the park transforms into a bustling social hub. Families gather for picnics, spreading blankets and sharing meals while enjoying each other’s company. Children play cheerfully, their laughter resonating through the park. Elderly couples sit on benches, reflecting nostalgically on the past while watching the vibrant scenes unfold around them.

### Quick Tip

Transformation-based questions require comparison of changes across time. Look for keywords like “by midday,” “as dusk approaches,” etc.

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**(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

**Correct Answer:** (A) the setting sun casting a golden hue and water features glistening

### Quick Tip

Look for descriptive imagery and sensory details in the paragraph to identify what contributes to the described mood.

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**(vi) Provide one textual evidence with reference to paragraph (4) to prove the following : Elderly couples feel a sense of nostalgia.**

**Solution:**

The textual evidence from paragraph (4) is: “Elderly couples sit on benches, reminiscing about days gone by as they watch the world go by.”

**Quick Tip**

Look for direct phrases or quotes in the paragraph that match the idea stated in the question.

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**(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 how the park at night becomes a peaceful and enchanting space where people can gaze at the stars and dream freely. It symbolizes a place of calm, imagination, and reflection away from the busy city life.

**Quick Tip**

When interpreting figurative phrases, think about what kind of mood or feeling they are trying to convey.

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

urban life : chaos :: park : \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Correct Answer:** (D) oasis

### Quick Tip

In analogies, find the word in the second pair that plays the same contrasting role as the first pair.

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**(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.

**Correct Answer:** (B) It emphasizes the park’s importance as a social and natural retreat.

### Quick Tip

Focus on how the park bridges the gap between people and nature when evaluating such statements.

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

#### **Solution:**

Urban parks offer a wide range of benefits. They serve as green lungs for the city, improving air quality and supporting biodiversity. Socially, they provide a common space for people of all ages to gather, interact, and participate in recreational activities. Emotionally and mentally, parks offer a peaceful escape from the hectic pace of urban life, promoting well-being and relaxation. They also support physical health by encouraging exercise like jogging and yoga. Overall, urban parks play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life.

### Quick Tip

List benefits under environmental, social, emotional, and health categories when asked to assess advantages.

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## 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 saving     |
| 2.     | Small Businesses        | 55% | Renewable        | Cost efficiency, public image, sustain  |
| 3.     | Large Industries        | 48% | Renewable        | Long-term savings, corporate respon     |
| 4.     | Rural Areas             | 71% | Renewable        | Accessibility, reliability, local emplo |
| 5.     | Urban Areas             | 58% | Renewable        | Environmental awareness, incentives     |

(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:**

...by highlighting renewable energy as a crucial solution to address climate change and its impact on society and the environment.

**Quick Tip**

Pay attention to how the introduction connects the global issue with the topic of the study.

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(ii) What would the following be classified as? To examine energy preferences across various demographics in detail, and assess their implications.

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

**Correct Answer:** (A) Primary purpose

**Quick Tip**

Look for the main intention of the research when asked about classification.

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

**Solution:**

1. Participants were asked about their primary energy source and reasons for their preferences.
2. The collected data was analyzed to identify demographic and sector-wise trends.

**Quick Tip**

Methodology steps usually include how data is collected and how it is analyzed.

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**(iv) 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 are internal desires or goals; influences come from external factors like policies or social trends.

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**(v) 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

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

**Quick Tip**

Use details from the passage to match names with roles and locations accurately.

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**(vi) Why is the preference percentage higher among rural areas compared to urban areas?**

**Solution:**

Rural areas have a higher preference for renewable energy due to better accessibility,

reliability, and the local employment opportunities it creates, which are more impactful in rural contexts than urban settings.

**Quick Tip**

Look at the specific reasons mentioned in the passage for each demographic.

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

**Solution:**

Targeted interventions such as increasing incentives for households or improving renewable infrastructure for industries can address unique needs, encouraging wider adoption of renewable energy. This can reduce dependency on fossil fuels, lower carbon emissions, and collectively contribute to a cleaner environment.

**Quick Tip**

Refer to paragraph (5) when analyzing the connection between tailored efforts and outcomes.

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**(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

**Correct Answer:** (B) build a sustainable future

**Quick Tip**

Always check the concluding paragraph for the overall goal or message of a study.

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**SECTION B**  
**(CREATIVE WRITING SKILLS)**

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

**(a)**

**NOTICE**

**Weekend Trek to Mussoorie**

The School Mountaineering Club is organizing a weekend trek to Mussoorie on 5th August 2025. Students of classes XI–XII interested in participating must register by 30th July with the undersigned. Transport, meals, and safety will be arranged by the school.

**President, Mountaineering Club**

**Quick Tip**

When writing a notice, include What, When, Where, Who is it for, and Contact information. Always keep it within a box and maintain formal tone.

**(b)**

**NOTICE**

**Auditions for Annual Ballet**

The Dance Club will hold auditions for the annual ballet on 25th July 2025 in the school auditorium. Students from classes XI–XII may participate. Auditions start at 10:00 a.m. Selection will be based on technique and creativity.

**President, Dance Club**

**Quick Tip**

Always mention the purpose clearly, followed by date, venue, eligibility, and selection criteria. Close with contact details or sign-off.

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**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 Dr. Singh, Director of the Clean Water Initiative, for a panel discussion on 'Access to Safe Drinking Water', inviting Dr. Rajesh Gupta to be one of the panelists. Mention a compelling highlight of the panel discussion along with other necessary details.

**Solution:** Dr. Singh, Director of the Clean Water Initiative, cordially invites Dr. Rajesh Gupta to be a panelist in a discussion on 'Access to Safe Drinking Water' on 30th June 2025 at India Habitat Centre, Delhi. The session will emphasize actionable solutions for clean water access in rural India.

#### Quick Tip

Mention who is inviting, whom they are inviting, the purpose, event name, date, venue, and highlight of the session in a crisp and formal manner.

(b)

An invitation has been issued by Dr. Jacob, HR head of your company inviting you to chair a session on 'Digital Detox'. Draft a reply in not more than 50 words accepting the invitation.

**Solution:** Dr. Jacob, HR Head, invites you to chair a session on 'Digital Detox' at the Annual Corporate Wellness Meet on 2nd July 2025 at Taj Convention Hall, Mumbai. The session aims to explore strategies for balancing technology use and mental well-being in corporate environments.

#### Quick Tip

Formal event invitations must clearly state who, what, when, where, and why in no more than 50 words. Keep the tone professional and informative.

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**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 expressing your concern about the cutting down of trees in your city to make space for huge commercial complexes. Discuss the environmental

impact and suggest ways to raise awareness about green environment.

**Solution:** 42, Model Town,

Khushnagar

27 June 2025

The Editor

The Daily Chronicle

Khushnagar

**Subject: Concern Regarding Rampant Tree Cutting**

Sir/Madam,

I wish to draw attention to the increasing felling of trees to accommodate commercial projects. This has resulted in biodiversity loss, increased temperatures, and deteriorating air quality. The absence of green cover is alarming and unsustainable. I urge civic bodies to prioritize green infrastructure and preserve urban trees. Creating green spaces like vertical gardens and community parks must be incentivized. Awareness can also be raised through eco-campaigns and school-based drives. A balance between development and ecology is the need of the hour.

Yours sincerely,

Sheetal Khanna

#### Quick Tip

Always include sender's address, date, receiver's designation, subject, followed by a structured letter body stating the problem, its effects, and solutions. End with a formal closing.

**(b)**

You read the advertisement and wish to apply for the post of Junior Accountant. Write this job application along with your bio-data.

**Solution:** 47G, Alfa Colony

Nalbagh

27 June 2025

The HR Director

Financial Solutions Ltd.

37 Meghdoot Towers

Nalbagh

**Subject: Application for the post of Junior Accountant**

Sir/Madam,

In response to your advertisement, I would like to apply for the position of Junior Accountant. I hold a degree in Accounting and possess over five years of experience using accounting software. I am adept at preparing financial reports and managing accounts. I have enclosed my bio-data for your perusal and hope to be considered for this role.

Yours faithfully,

Madhumita

**BIO-DATA**

**Name:** Madhumita

**Address:** 47G, Alfa Colony, Nalbagh

**Email:** madhumita@example.com

**Qualifications:** B.Com in Accounting, Proficient in Tally and MS Excel

**Experience:** 5+ years as Accountant at XYZ Pvt Ltd

**Skills:** Report generation, invoice management, account auditing

**Quick Tip**

Start with a short formal letter. Include a neat, concise bio-data highlighting qualifications, skills, and experience relevant to the job role.

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

**(a)**

Write an article exploring the phenomenon of lost playgrounds in metro cities. Provide examples to illustrate your points. You are Sangeeta/Saket, a concerned citizen.

**Solution: Lost Playgrounds in a Concrete Jungle**

By Sangeeta, a concerned citizen

With rapid urbanization, parks and playgrounds are vanishing, replaced by high-rises and

malls. Children are confined indoors, glued to screens and losing vital social and physical development. Playgrounds not only foster friendships but also teach discipline, teamwork, and creativity. The loss of such spaces has triggered obesity and rising mental health issues. For example, in our locality, a popular park was demolished for a parking lot. Since then, children seldom interact outdoors. The government must intervene and formulate policies that preserve and promote green spaces. Community parks, rooftop gardens, and school grounds must be protected. Let's reclaim childhood from concrete walls.

#### Quick Tip

Start with a strong statement of concern, highlight causes, effects, and support with examples. End with a call for action or solution.

(b)

Write a report detailing the activities undertaken by students as part of the Road Safety Awareness Campaign. Include event description, participation details, and overall impact.

#### **Solution: Report on Road Safety Campaign**

By Aarushi, Class XI

The Road Safety Awareness Campaign was organized by our school on 20th June 2025. Students of Classes IX–XII participated in various activities like slogan writing, poster making, street plays, and quizzes. The event took place in the school auditorium and main entrance area. The objective was to spread awareness on traffic rules, helmet safety, and consequences of reckless driving. Experts from the Traffic Police Department addressed the students, sharing real-life cases. Over 300 students actively participated. The event received positive feedback and was covered in the local newspaper. The campaign not only educated students but also inspired them to be responsible citizens.

#### Quick Tip

Use the format of Who – What – When – Where – Why – How to structure a clean, chronological and factual report. Maintain a formal tone.

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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:** “*Keeping our lives moving*” suggests the ceaseless activity in our daily life.

Quick Tip

Look for a phrase that metaphorically describes constant motion or 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 by ‘single-mindedness’.

Quick Tip

‘Single-mindedness’ implies a rigid, one-track focus—opposite of flexibility.

(iii) Complete the following suitably:

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

\_\_\_\_\_.

**Solution:** the sadness of never understanding ourselves and always being in a rush, causing harm to ourselves.

#### Quick Tip

Interpret “sadness” using earlier lines of the extract that describe emotional disconnection.

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

**Solution:** The poet has used phrases like ‘never understanding ourselves’ to illustrate the **irony** in continuous movement without reflection.

#### Quick Tip

Choose between irony or humour based on tone—this poem carries a serious and contemplative mood.

(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

Use logic to test if the reason supports the assertion directly and contextually.

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

**Solution:** Take time to pause, reflect, and understand yourself amidst the busyness of life.

#### Quick Tip

Give a simple, reflective suggestion aligned with the theme of the poem.

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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 passage suggests that the author's journey to Antarctica was long, exhausting, and filled with logistical challenges.

#### Quick Tip

Focus on the details showing travel effort and personal experience.

(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 answer is **remoteness**.

### Quick Tip

Use the logic that difficulties in travel signify how far and hard-to-reach a place is.

(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.

### Quick Tip

Look at phrases like “over 100 hours” and combinations of transport for context.

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

**Solution:** The author felt a sense of relief followed by immediate and profound wonder upon reaching Antarctica after a long and tiring journey.

### Quick Tip

Use exact emotional words given in the text for accuracy.

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(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 refused to allow a high-ranking British officer to hunt tigers in his kingdom.

**Quick Tip**

The threat to his throne is directly linked to denying permission to a powerful figure.

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

**Solution:** The phrase is: *“But tiger hunt! That’s impossible!”*

**Quick Tip**

Look for strongly worded refusal or exclamatory lines showing firmness.

(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.

**Quick Tip**

Infer the meaning of “impossible” by noting the officer’s request and Maharaja’s reply.

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

**Solution:** The Maharaja is shown to be determined and resolute in protecting tigers and upholding his decision.

### Quick Tip

Identify a trait based on his response and tone to authority.

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 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?

**Solution:** Because the room was brightly lit with mirrors on all sides, resembling the setup of a typical hair-cutting salon.

### Quick Tip

Compare visual aspects—mirrors and lights help justify the comparison.

(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 answer is: **terrified**.

### Quick Tip

Use context clues like “hideous” to pick the correct adjective.

(iii) Complete the sentence appropriately:

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 exaggerated techniques.

### Quick Tip

Infer from their extreme transformations using basic materials.

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

**Solution:** The team included people from Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Anglo-Burma and Christian communities.

### Quick Tip

Look for mention of diverse states, regions or religions.

(v) Complete the phrase ‘fiery misery’ with reference to the given extract.

**Solution:** It refers to the discomfort caused by the heat of the incandescent lights in the make-up room.

### Quick Tip

Explain “misery” using physical sensations or effects.

(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: (C) exaggeration**

**Quick Tip**

Hyperbolic phrases hint at exaggeration—watch for those.

(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 some people excessively praise the interview, calling it a form of truth or art.

**Quick Tip**

“Extravagant” means excessive or over-the-top—apply that meaning.

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

**Solution:** The correct answer is: **unsurprised**

**Quick Tip**

“Hardly surprising” means something is expected, not shocking.

(iii) Complete the sentence suitably:

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

**Solution:** Some consider it a form of truth and art, while others feel it invades their privacy.

### Quick Tip

Balance the sentence using opposite opinions mentioned in the text.

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

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

**Solution: (D) interference**

### Quick Tip

“Unwarranted” means unjustified, and “intrusion” means interruption or 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**

### Quick Tip

“Despise” directly means to strongly dislike—look for such intense emotion words.

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

**Solution:** Celebrities feel interviews reveal too much personal information and reduce their mystery or public image.

### Quick Tip

Focus on how public exposure affects reputation or image.

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**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 to improve their lives. Despite assurances, their poverty and hardships remain unchanged. They feel deceived as development and prosperity are only meant for the cities, not rural areas.

Quick Tip

Identify the betrayal or neglect by authorities towards rural people.

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

**Solution:** Sophie dreamed of having a boutique to escape the reality of her lower-middle-class life. It symbolized glamour, success, and independence, all of which she longed for in contrast to her mundane surroundings.

Quick Tip

Link Sophie’s imagination with her desire to rise above her social class.

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

**Solution:** The Englishman’s visit is mysterious because nobody knew why he came, what he was observing, or what his exact purpose was. He sat silently watching everything, making the people feel uneasy and unsure of his intentions.

Quick Tip

Focus on the unexplained nature and lack of communication from the visitor.

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

**Solution:** Gandhi agreed to a 25% refund because it symbolized the landlords’ surrender and acceptance of injustice. He wanted moral victory for the farmers rather than a full monetary gain. The settlement boosted the confidence of the peasants.

### Quick Tip

Highlight Gandhi's belief in ethics and symbolic gestures over full compensation.

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

**Solution:** Umberto Eco said this because he was a professor and academic writer primarily, but his first novel became unexpectedly successful. He viewed fiction as an extension of his scholarly interests, not a planned career shift.

### Quick Tip

Focus on how his primary identity was academic and fiction came unexpectedly.

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

**Solution:** According to the poem, silence would lead to self-reflection, mutual understanding, and harmony. It would allow people to pause their destructive activities and appreciate life, leading to peace and oneness among nations and individuals.

### Quick Tip

Silence is portrayed as a tool for peace, introspection, and global unity.

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

(i) What did the dewan do to procure the hundredth tiger for the king? (The Tiger King)

**Solution:** The dewan, fearing the king's anger and obsession with killing a hundred tigers, arranged an old tiger from a circus. He released it in the forest where the king was hunting so that the king could shoot it and fulfill his ambition.

### Quick Tip

Focus on the dewan's manipulation and fear-driven action to satisfy the king's ego.

(ii) What was the dilemma faced by Sadao on seeing the prisoner of war? (The Enemy)

**Solution:** Sadao was torn between his duty as a doctor and his loyalty to his country.

Ethically, he couldn't let the injured prisoner die, but legally and patriotically, he wasn't supposed to help an enemy soldier during wartime.

#### Quick Tip

Highlight the conflict between professional ethics and national duty.

(iii) How does Charley describe himself?

(The Third Level)

**Solution:** Charley describes himself as a typical modern man—stressed, full of anxiety, and desperate for peace. He is imaginative and nostalgic, craving an escape from the present chaos to a simpler, more secure past.

#### Quick Tip

Focus on his mental state and longing for escape from modern life.

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**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:** In 'The Last Lesson', Franz's freedom is curbed by political forces as German authorities ban the French language, depriving him of the opportunity to learn in his mother tongue. This suppression evokes guilt and helplessness. Similarly, in 'Lost Spring', Saheb's freedom is crushed by poverty and child labor. Though he longs for education and play, he is forced to work as a ragpicker and later in a tea stall. Both texts reveal how social and political forces can rob children of their innocence, identity, and rights. Franz loses his cultural freedom while Saheb is denied economic and educational freedom.

#### Quick Tip

Compare how external forces (politics, poverty) limit personal growth and freedom in both stories.

(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 poet uses the image of a ‘wan, pale face’ to symbolize aging and approaching death, reflecting her fear of losing her mother. The ‘trees sprinting’ and ‘children spilling’ symbolize vitality and contrast with the mother’s frailty. In ‘Aunt Jennifer’s Tigers’, the embroidered tigers symbolize courage and power, while Aunt Jennifer’s trembling hands and heavy wedding band symbolize her oppression in marriage. These vivid symbols and images help readers grasp the emotional struggles, fears, and repressed desires of the women, deepening empathy and understanding.

#### Quick Tip

Discuss how poetic imagery deepens emotional impact and character portrayal.

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**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 an optimistic and warm man who has accepted his disability and lives freely, welcoming everyone. He believes in overcoming isolation by embracing life. In contrast, Derry is a teenage boy who is bitter and withdrawn due to his burned face. He avoids people and fears judgment. Mr Lamb influences Derry by encouraging him to break out of his shell and view life positively. The two characters represent contrasting attitudes—Lamb’s acceptance and resilience against Derry’s insecurity and self-pity. Their interaction brings emotional growth and a turning point in Derry’s perspective.

#### Quick Tip

Compare mindset, behavior, and transformation through their interaction.

(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 becomes aware of untouchability when she sees a man from her community carrying food in a humiliating way. She learns from her brother that education is the way to

fight social discrimination. Determined to gain respect and equality, Bama studies hard and becomes a successful writer. Her resolve to use knowledge as a weapon against caste oppression shows her courage and awareness. Bama's fight is not with violence but through self-empowerment and dignity. She inspires others to break the chains of caste bias with education and perseverance.

#### Quick Tip

Focus on Bama's realization, her choice of education, and moral strength.

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